

The Prom Date

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM

Under the opening credits, the lights go on to reveal a desktop computer in a cluttered room. A girl sits down in front of the computer. This is ALLIE--a little tired, a little torn.

Allie boots the computer, logs onto her Facebook, and, with a sigh, changes her status from "In a Relationship" to "Single".

INT. LIBRARY- DAY

There are groups of students scattered throughout the library, studying and talking.

ALLIE'S TABLE

Allie sits at a table with her two friends, STEPH and DAN, a rather empty but fun guy.

STEPH

Are you ok? I heard what happened, that's horrible.

ALLIE

Yeah, I'm fine. Don't worry about me, I really didn't want to go to prom anyway.

STEPH

Allie, you have to go to prom! It's your senior year! Besides, you're a great girl! I'm sure there's plenty of guys who'd go with you!

ALLIE

I don't even want to go without Santino.

STEPH

You can't close yourself off just because you got hurt last time.

DAN

You could even go with a group of girls! That's not weird.

ALLIE

Just let it go, guys. That's just embarrassing.

DAN

OK...hey, wanna go to prom with me?

STEPH

Dan!

DAN

(jokingly)

I'll still save you some dances!

The bell rings and the library begins to empty.

INT. JOURNALISM ROOM

Dan and Steph walk into the Journalism room, which is covered with the usual newspaper paraphernalia. The deadline-- TOMORROW!--is written in huge letters on the board.

The teacher, MR. CASHMAN, gets up to greet them.

MR. CASHMAN

Hey, here they are! Alright, guys, you know what to do.

He turns to address the class.

MR. CASHMAN (CONT'D)

Dan and Steph are in charge! Run everything by them. I have a barbershop appointment.

Mr. Cashman walks out.

Dan and Steph turn to the class.

STEPH

Is everything set?

The students nod and grunt in assent.

STEPH (CONT'D)

Ok, we'll be in the pub room. Send over that double truck on the superlatives and back ad page.

They walk out of the room.

INT. PUB ROOM

Steph and Dan come into the room and seat themselves at the computer, opening up the file for the newspaper.

INSERT: COMPUTER SCREEN

The superlatives pop up on the screen. Among the pictures is a picture of Allie, winner of Best Smile.

BACK TO SCENE

STEPH

Look at that. She's got a great smile. There's no way she's staying home on prom night.

Dan takes the computer.

INSERT: COMPUTER SCREEN

Dan clicks off the pictures onto the a page filled with midsized ads.

BACK TO SCENE

DAN

Yeah, but there's nothing we can do at this point.

Dan pauses, looking at the screen, and breaks into a smile.

DAN (CONT'D)

Unless....do you want a haircut?

STEPH

What?

DAN

Neither do I.

Dan leans forward.

INSERT: COMPUTER SCREEN

Dan clicks on an ad for Frank's Hair, and deletes it.

BACK TO SCENE

STEPH

Dan! What are you doing?

DAN

Taking this into our hands.

INSERT: COMPUTER SCREEN

He begins to type in the ad space: "Need a date for prom? So does she." He pastes in the superlative photo of Allie.

BACK TO SCENE

STEPH

You're making Allie a prom ad?!

DAN

Why not? She'll get a date, and we can handle all the details!

Steph stares at him.

DAN (CONT'D)

Come on! Who can it hurt?

Beat. Steph continues staring.

DAN (CONT'D)

It means Mrs. Kelly's brownies at the post-prom party!

Steph laughs and leans forward into the computer.

STEPH

Alright, let's get her a date, for Allie's sake.

INT. ALLIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Allie sits at her table, eating cereal.

The door opens, and her mom, MRS. KELLY, dressed in a pink bathrobe and slippers and perky beyond belief, walks in, carrying the paper and the mail.

As she talks, she opens the paper and begins flipping through.

MRS. KELLY

Morning honey! Ready for school today? You look tired? Are you okay? You know what's really good for bad mornings, a nice hot cup of...

She stops and fixes on one point in the paper.

MRS. KELLY (CONT'D)

Oh! Allie! I didn't know you were that desperate!

ALLIE

What?

She goes over and grabs the paper, staring at it in disbelief. Her mother, oblivious to her distress, keeps chattering while she looks at her photo in an ad for a prom date in the center section.

MRS. KELLY

You know, why don't you ask Billy? He was always such a nice boy. Remember you two used to take baths together, it was the cutest thing--

ALLIE

(embarrassed)

Mom we were three!

Allie has by now registered her shock and has turned it to anger. She has the paper crumpled in her hand. Grabbing her backpack, she flies out the door.

MRS. KELLY (CONT'D)

OK! I love you! Bye Sweetie!

INT. LIBRARY- DAY

Steph and Dan sit at a library table together when Allie storms in and throws the paper down in front of them, open to the ad.

ALLIE

You put an ad in the paper?!

STEPH

Okay Allie, calm dow--

ALLIE

Calm down?! You put my photo in between Julio's Coolio Tacos and Dianne's Driving, and you want me to calm down?!?!

DAN

Come on, give it a shot!

Dan brings out a day planner and shows Allie a page filled with names and numbers.

ALLIE

You can't be serious!

DAN (CONT'D)

Look at how many people we've already got!

Allie snatches the planner and looks at it, then looks hopelessly from Steph to Dan and back to it. Dan looks up at her with a puppy face.

ALLIE

Knock it off, Dan! No!

STEPH

It's just for lunch.

ALLIE

No.

DAN

What can it hurt Allie? It's 20 minutes tops.

ALLIE

Steph...

STEPH

Well, it will only be in the caf...you'll be fine

Allie doesn't respond.

DAN

Come on, Allie.

Beat.

ALLIE

Well, Are they normal?

STEPH
Of course! Stop being so
judgemental!

ALLIE
I don't believe this.
(beat)
Fine. Just lunch.

STEPH
Great!

They get up and grab Allie on either side, steering her out of the library and into the halls towards the cafeteria.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Steph and Dan walk out of the library with Allie. They talk rapidly and right after each other.

STEPH (CONT'D)
Now, you've got your first lunch
today--just a few of the guys.

ALLIE
Hold on, a few?

They ignore her.

STEPH
Your first date is in a few
minutes.

DAN
It'll be great.

Dan sees that Allie is agitated.

STEPH (CONT'D)
Hey, don't sweat it, try not to be
so nervous.

ALLIE
What am I supposed to do? I
mean...who has a date in the
cafeteria?

DAN
Just treat it like you normally
would.

STEPH
You know...open up your options.

They enter the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

The three approach the nearest table, where JOE DONOVAN awaits wearing his flannel jacket.

DAN
Great! Glad you came. Allie, this is Joe. Joe, Allie. Now, have fun kiddos.

Dan winks, and he and Steph walk over to a nearby table.

Allie hesitantly seats herself.

JOE
So...how you doin'?

Joe laughs as Joe does.

ALLIE
I'm fine...

Allie quickly rolls her eyes, and there is an awkward pause. Joe tries to rescue it.

JOE
Yeah..

Joe places arms behind his head

Joe gives a quick, inconclusive head jerk, but says nothing and keeps looking down. Allie looks desperately to Dan and Steph for help. Steph waves at her from happy oblivion, and Dan gives him a smile and a thumbs up.

After another pause, Joe starts eating a messy food like slob and winks at Allie.

ALLIE
(mumbling)
I'll call you.

JOE
(With food in his mouth)
Where you goin'?

She rushes away, to Dan and Steph leaving Joe speechless

ALLIE
I can't do this guys!

STEPH
Hey, it's just one guy--

ALLIE
Did you see that? He's a creep!

DAN
Give it a few more tries.

Dan waves the schedule of guys at her. Allie looks hesitant.

STEPH
Come on. We'll move out of the caf.
How about Rico's? You like it
there.

DAN
(pleadingly)
I'll even buy you a Chicken Kabob
Sub!

Allie still looks hesitant.

DAN (CONT'D)
Every day!

ALLIE
Alright. But no more meetings in
school.

Dan whips out the schedule.

DAN
Okay, now this one...

His voice fades out as the music comes up for the montage.

MONTAGE - ALLIE GOES DATING

--Allie sits in Rico's with a nerd.

--Allie stands in full bleachers, surrounded by people
cheering and wearing Rebel colors. Next to her is an all-out
fanatic, with enough Rebel paraphernalia to outfit a whole
team. He's screaming in his face. She looks uncomfortable.

--Allie is in Rico's sitting with a very feminine boy.

--Allie walks through the halls of school. As she passes, people begin to whisper and turn from their lockers to watch her.

--Allie, in basketball gear and dribbling a ball, starts walking to the court. Dan stops her, shaking his head and holding up the schedule. He points over to the tennis courts where a muscle head kid stands.

--Allie sits in Rico's across from an emo boy who keeps flipping his hair. She shakes her head and pushes him off.

--Allie is in Rico's with ta freshman boy and his mother.

INT. LIBRARY- DAY

Dan and Steph sit at a table together, as a boy stands in front of them. Dan writes in the schedule.

STEPH

Ok, 5:30 Wednesday. See you!

He walks away, passing Allie as she comes in, looking haggard.

DAN

The lady herself! How's it going?

She glares at them and collapses into a chair. They glance at each other.

DAN

So...found anyone yet?

ALLIE

Are you kidding me?

STEPH

Well, there's plenty of nice guys you haven't met yet.

ALLIE

Look, I'm sick of this. I quit.

STEPH

What? You've come so far, what's a few more? Besides, look at all these--

Dan waves the schedule as Steph points to it, but Allie cuts her off.

ALLIE

(mocking)

"Nice guys you haven't met yet!" Be real! No one who signs up for a newspaper ad prom date is gonna be normal.

STEPH

Okay, just one more Allie.

She shakes her head.

STEPH (CONT'D)

Please? I'll look them over and pick him out myself.

She looks angry. Dan gives her a "come-on" face, and she starts to give in.

ALLIE

(exasperated)

One. That's it.

The bell rings, and Dan slaps her on the back as she begins to get up.

DAN

That's what I like to hear! 3:30 at Rico's!

INT. ENGLISH HALLWAY

Dan and Steph walk towards their journalism class, and hear yells coming from it. They look at each other, confused and concerned.

INT. JOURNALISM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dan and Steph walk in to find Mr. Cashman in a rage, throwing newspapers and screaming. Some students sit cowering in the corner, others try to calm him down, but he is inconsolable.

He sees Dan and Steph walk in and is relieved.

MR. CASHMAN

Thank THE GLOBE you're here! I knew you two great editors would come through for me.

STEPH

What's wrong?

MR. CASHMAN

What's wrong? What's *wrong*?!

He throws down the recent newspaper, with the ad circled in red.

MR. CASHMAN

That's what's wrong! My paper is ruined! The highest school institution of reporting turned into a petty date machine! A street corner gossip column! And the worst part--she took out the ad for Frank's Hair! Where I am I supposed to get my beard groomed?! Now, do you two know anything about this?

They glance at each other.

STEPH

(cautiously)

Why should we?

MR. CASHMAN

I didn't think so. You two would never hurt the paper. But this Allie person--I am going to MURDER her dateless guts! I'll ruin the rest of her high school career! I'll--

His voice trails off as he storms out of the room. Steph and Dan look hopeless as they watch him go.

INT. RICO'S

Allie walks in, looking around for her date. Her eye catches on a hot guy behind the counter as she buys a drink. This is PHIL.

ALLIE

Hey.

Allie looks out the window flustered.

PHIL

What no crazy date?

Allie smiles.

ALLIE
How do you know about that?

PHIL
(laughs) You always have your dates
when I'm working.

ALLIE
Oh. Yea, I'm just waiting for
whoever it is to show up. I'm
Allie.

PHIL
I'm Phil, nice to finally meet you.

It is silent until Phil notices the cd.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Oh, you like Ray LaMontagne?

ALLIE
Yeah, me too! I love his first cd,
but his second is the best.

Phil and Allie smile widely.

PHIL
I think that "Trouble" is probably
his best song.

ALLIE
I always thought so too, but all of
my friends--

Their conversation is cut by a voice from across the room.

JOE
Allie!

They look over to see Joe. He walks over.

JOE (CONT'D)
Allie why didn't you call?

ALLIE
Uh-

Looks at Phil for help.

PHIL
Guess I should let you get to your
date.

ALLIE
(To Phil)
No, but I-.

She looks at Joe.

Joe looks at Phil disapprovingly.

JOE
Come on Allie let's get outta here.

Allie just smiles, looking a little baffled.

JOE
Let's go.

She seems hesitant.

ALLIE
Joe I don't have a date with you...

Phil looks at Allie from across the counter, unsure.

EXT. RICO'S PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Joe yanks Allie outside, still chattering. Allie is trying to be polite, but is obviously distracted.

ALLIE
But, Joe you aren't suppose to be
my date.

Steph and Dan pull hurriedly up to them and motion for Allie to get in the car.

JOE
Oh, but Allie. (yelling after car)
We'll talk later.

INT. DAN'S CAR.

Allie rides in the backseat, confused and flustered.

ALLIE
What was that! You told me no more
creeps.

STEPH
There was a mix up in the schedule.

She gives Dan a dirty look.

DAN

I am sorry Allie. I thought it was a different Joe.

ALLIE

I'm done. No more dates. (pause)
And of course the one guy I do find isn't even one of my dates!

STEPH

Wait. You found someone?

ALLIE

Yeah. Well, I don't know.
(looks out the window)
He works at Rico's. I only talked to him today and..

STEPH

Ask him!

ALLIE

I couldn't. I hdon't even know him

STEPH

No you definitely could.

Dan is sitting at the driver's seat agitated.

DAN

Steph...

Dan gives her a look, encouraging her to not avoid the bad news.

STEPH

What? Oh, um Allie..

ALLIE

What?

Steph tries to break it gently.

STEPH

Well, uh...Mr. Cashman found the ad...

DAN

He's gonna kill you.

ALLIE
But I didn't put the ad in!!

DAN
(laughing nervously)
Yeah, he doesn't know that.

STEPH
Just lay low for a little while.
You'll be fine.

ALLIE
I can't believe this.

DAN
Really low. C-money gets antsy
about the paper.

INT. MR. IMBUSCH'S OFFICE - DAY

Cashman stands angry in front of the desk, gesturing angrily at the ad. MR. IMBUSCH, the assistant principal, sits patiently behind the desk.

MR. CASHMAN
And I want *blood!*

MR. IMBUSCH
I understand, Conor. I'll call her in, but I really think that some hours will be enough.

MR. CASHMAN
Enough! She should be punished for what she did--and for why she did it.

Cashman leans in.

MR. CASHMAN (CONT'D)
(his voice growing louder
and angrier)
Ban her from prom, from senior dinner, from field day...everything! Graduation itself! Hand her the diploma and send her home. Forever!

Mr. Imbusch looks hesitant.

MR. CASHMAN (CONT'D)
 (his voice growing louder
 and angrier)
 We're both more than men here--
 we're Irish! We lads need to watch
 out for each other, and keep these
 Anglo-Saxons down!

Mr. Imbusch considers it, then gives in.

MR. IMBUSCH
 Alright. For the Emerald Isle!

He leans into the phone and presses the intercom.

MR. IMBUSCH (CONT'D)
 Kathy, call Allie Kelly down at the
 end of class.

INT. LOBBY

Allie walks towards the main office with Dan and Steph.

ALLIE
 Really guys, can you just tell him
 the truth.

DAN
 Are you crazy? He'd never listen.

They pass Phil, walking in front of them towards the library.
 She does a double take.

ALLIE
 (to Dan and Steph)
 Wait!
 (yelling)
 Phil!

He turns and doesn't recognize her at first, but then it
 registers.

PHIL
 Oh, hi!

ALLIE
 Look, I know we were--I was
 wondering if, uh--do you--

She is cut off by Mr. Cashman, who pushes Phil out of the
 way.

MR. CASHMAN
Time's up, demon child!

ALLIE
But Mr. Cashman if you'll just give
me a second--

MR. CASHMAN
NO! NOW!

He drags Allie into the office.

INT. MR. IMBUSCH'S OFFICE

Mr. Imbusch sits waiting for them when Cashman drags Allie in
and pushes her into a chair.

MR. IMBUSCH
Now, Allie,

ALLIE
Look, I know why I'm here. I didn't
put in the ad. I just have some
weird friends.

MR. CASHMAN
LIES!

MR. IMBUSCH
Allie, I want to believe you but
all the evidence points to you.

ALLIE
I didn't do it! There has to be
some way to prove that!

MR. CASHMAN
That's right, grovel!

MR. IMBUSCH
Conor, please.
(beat)
Tell you what, Allie. We know that
if you had a prom date, you
wouldn't have put in an ad. If you
could prove you had a date before
the paper, then of course we'd know
you were innocent.

MR. CASHMAN
We'll give you five minutes! That's
all!

MR. IMBUSCH
 Conor, be reasonable.
 (To Allie)
 Ten minutes.

MR. CASHMAN
 And if not, there will be blood!

Allie sits there looking at Mr. Cashman with fear.

MR. IMBUSCH
 Now Allie, you must know that if
 you can't show us your date then
 I'll have to bar you from all
 events for the rest of the year.
 That means you don't go to prom,
 you don't walk at graduation, the
 whole shebang.

ALLIE
 Barred from graduation? Can you
 even do that?

MR. CASHMAN
 Don't question him!

MR. IMBUSCH
 That's the game, Allie. Ten
 minutes.

ALLIE
 I--

She looks from Imbusch to Cashman and back again, then runs
 out of the office.

INT. LIBRARY- DAY

Allie runs in and over to his usual table where Dan and Steph
 waits for her.

DAN
 Hey! You're alive!

STEPH
 So what'd you say?

ALLIE
 Listen!! I've got ten minutes to
 show them a prom date or I--

She notices Joe waiting for the preinter. Steph sees the look.

STEPH
Allie, I know what you're thinking.
But be reasonable..

ALLIE
I don't have a choice!

STEPH
Allie! No!

ALLIE
Let me go!

STEPH
ALLIE! Just pretend to take Dan,
ok! Let's go!

She grabs her hand and pulls her out of the library. Dan follows them.

INT. MAIN LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Cashman and Imbusch stand in the main lobby. Cashman looks up and sees the trio walking towards them.

MR. CASHMAN
And Allie, don't even think about
faking it with Dan. She and Dan
have been the journalism class
couple for 4 years.

Allie and Steph look hopelessly at each other, but just then Joe walks by from out of the library.

JOE
Hey, hey. Allie.

Mr. Imbusch looks interestedly at her. Mr. Cashman and Steph are unable to get a word in edgewise and Dan stands gaping.

JOE
Can't wait for Friday.

Joe has a creepy smile on his face.

MR. IMBUSCH
Hold on. Are you Allie's prom date
mister?

JOE

Yeah!

MR. IMBUSCH

When did you ask her?

JOE

Oh, I dunno. Well she's like, in love with me. (nudges Allie's shoulder)

MR. IMBUSCH

So you asked her out before the paper came out?

Joe pauses for just a moment to think about this.

JOE

Uh...yeah! Yeah actually it was right before the paper!

All stand aghast, and Mr. Imbusch looks from Joe to Cashman, and then at Allie.

MR. IMBUSCH

Well, have fun at prom you two. Make sure you buy your tickets soon, Allie, before they send in the numbers.

MR. CASHMAN

But--

He stops, unable to say anything.

Mr. Imbusch walks away. Dan is still gaping at Joe, and Allie stands in disbelief, but Steph looks at them and takes charge, pulling the other students away.

INT. ART HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The four students come into the art wing, where Allie regains her words and turns to Joe.

ALLIE

Joe, you didn't ask me to prom before the paper came out...

He cocks his head to the side, confused.

ALLIE (CONT'D)
You know...the paper...The
Rebellion?

JOE
OH! I thought you meant *this* paper!

He pulls out an essay, and Dan takes it.

DAN
This is a history essay.

JOE
Freshly printed! (really proud of
himself)

ALLIE
Well, Joe, you just did me a favor,
but really I don't think we--

JOE
Allie we gotta talk. You're bring
me down. You're scaring away all
the ladies. You are NOT at my
level, so you really gotta stop
following me around to Rico's and
everywhere. We are not together,
stop creeping on me!

Joe glares at her, grabs his paper and walks away.

Allie, Dan, and Steph turn to each other and laugh.

Joe peeks around the corner and looks at the three of them,
who stop laughing.

JOE
Just making sure you're not
following me.

Joe disappears.

Allie, Dan, and Steph laugh again.

DAN
So...you up for one last date?

Dan smirks and Steph looks at him confused.

STEPH
I thought--

Allie interrupts.

ALLIE

No more dates! I've been through enough, I'm done.

DAN

I think you'll want to go on this one.

ALLIE

No, sorry Dan. Thanks for trying, but prom is tomorrow, it's too late.

Allie walks away.

EXT. RICO'S- DAY

Allie, Dan, and Steph are walking up to Rico's.

DAN

Come-on I'm hungry Allie. Just let me get a sub and then we can leave. I'll buy you guys anything you want.

ALLIE4

Fine, just promise me no surprises?

They walk inside.

INT. RICO'S- DAY - CONTINUOUS

As they begin to walk towards the counter, Dan pretends to be suddenly shocked.

DAN

Steph! I just remembered, we have to do that thing...at that place!

STEPH

What are you--

DAN

Come on! We're gonna be late. We'll catch up with you later Al!

Dan drags Steph out the door.

EXT. RICO'S- DAY - CONTINUOUS

STEPH
What was that all about?

DAN
Just trust me.

INT. RICO'S- DAY - CONTINUOUS

ALLIE
Okay, that was my ride. This
better not be another one of their
charades.

She walks to the counter, where Phil is standing.

PHIL
What happened to those two?

ALLIE
No idea, they're probably up to no
good as usual.

PHIL
Oh, alright, so you in the mood for
pizza.

ALLIE
(distracted)
Um...sure.

PHIL
Pepperoni?

ALLIE
(still distracted)
Yeah, that'd be great...

Phil turns back around, gets the pizza, opens it up and it
says 'PROM?' in the pepperoni.

Camera pans to window to see Steph and Dan, hiding behind a
car, watching Allie and Phil and smiling.

FADE OUT.

Under the closing credits are photo snapshots of the crew at
prom: Phil with Allie, Steph with Dan.

