

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY CLASS - MORNING

Patrick and Chris stand at different lab tables with an aisle between them. Chris is half in the aisle and talks as if he and Patrick are lab partners. From a distance, we see Patrick making precise measurements with his beaker and conferring with his PARTNER. As Chris talks he continuously picks up beakers from the table and nonchalantly pours them into an Erlenmeyer flask.

He appears to be paying no attention to what is being added to the flask or how much. He shakes each beaker vigorously to make sure each drop makes it into the flask.

CHRIS

So what's your plan then?

PATRICK

To move. I don't really have much choice.

CHRIS

Bullshit. You have plenty of choices.

PATRICK

(indulgently)

Okay. Fire away.

CHRIS

Live at the shelter. No rent. And they take anybody.

PATRICK

You almost burned that place down the one time you volunteered there.

CHRIS

But I didn't burn it down, did I? They even signed my volunteer sheet.

PATRICK

I'm pretty sure that was to get you to stop coming back.

CHRIS

Either way that really worked out well. I only had to complete 5 hours, got credit for 25. Not too shabby. I think I grew as a person from that.

PATRICK

Yeah, well in the event that you actually thought I'd say yes to that plan...

CHRIS

Graduate early and go to Remington. Then you could be at the same college as your one true love, Abby.

PATRICK

Last time I checked, Remington doesn't accept high school juniors.

CHRIS

I thought you were way smart. I only took this chem class to copy off you. I don't understand any of this shit.

Chris looks wildly around the room

CHRIS

Science.

PATRICK

Are you even measuring anything?

CHRIS

Does it look like I'm measuring?

PATRICK

No.

CHRIS

Exactly. Abdul does the measuring. I do the pouring.

INDIAN STUDENT

My name is Parakram.

CHRIS

Right. Parakeet and I have a good thing going.

Patrick holds a sarcastic blank stare on Chris.

INDIAN STUDENT

Parakram.

CHRIS

Abdul?

The Indian student starts to talk, but Chris turns away from him before he gets a chance.

CHRIS

Remington. That's it. That's the plan. Go to Remington. Get Abby.

PATRICK

How does that solve anything? What is it even a plan for?

CHRIS

The plan isn't to solve anything. It's to make a stand. Get the girl.

(beat)

For not being a pussy anymore. For not letting the rest of the world dictate your life for you. Your parents can make this moving choice for you. Mr. Wizard can make us concoct this chemical shit and Abdulakeet can make us feel stupid for not reading our math books cover to cover on summer break. But you can make this decision for you.

PATRICK

Aren't you dictating this?

CHRIS

No. I'm politely suggesting it, as your emotional stalwart.

INDIAN STUDENT

Do you know what stalwart means?

Chris swivels back toward the Indian student with feigned shock and disgust.

CHRIS

My last name's Twain, paratrooper. I know a shit ton of big fat words that aren't even in your spelling bee handbook.

(beat)

And I was going to do you a solid and memorize all the syllables of your fifteen-word-long name, but that comment killed my motivation.

(turning back to Patrick)

This is one of those on the pot off the pot things.

INDIAN STUDENT

You didn't even get that cliché right, Mr. Clemens.

CHRIS

Mr. what?

PATRICK

Mark Twain's real name.

Chris puts a hand on Patrick's chest without looking at him.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Stand down.

(beat)

Parakram. When you nail the daily double and win big bucks and Alex Trebek asks you about your life and you say you were bullied in high school and overcame it and all the middle aged ladies say aww. I'll be

CHRIS (cont'd)
smiling wide at all the times I'll
bully you from now till then.

INDIAN STUDENT
Bring it.

CHRIS
(Pausing to contemplate the
challenge)
This sounds too much like a teen
comedy for me to keep bantering
with you.
(beat)
Patrick, It's time for a grand
gesture.

INT. LIBRARY

Patrick and Chris are walking down an aisle of books

CHRIS
You love her, right?

PATRICK
You really can't call it love.

CHRIS
Pine for her?

PATRICK
Really?

CHRIS
Want her junk?

PATRICK
(sarcastically)
Yeah, that's it.

CHRIS
Okay so we're clear. Then what's
the issue?

PATRICK
What are you getting out of this?

CHRIS
Good Karma?

PATRICK
Try again.

CHRIS
Increased self worth?

PATRICK
Last chance.

CHRIS
Fine. I get what everybody but you
seems to want.

PATRICK
And that is.

CHRIS
Titties.

Chris steps past a librarian who obviously hears him.

PATRICK
(whispering)
Titties?

CHRIS
(Emphatically)
Titties.

Chris nearly walks into a group of GIRLS as he says the word
titties.

CHRIS
(whispering)
And not just any titties. College
titties. The Kobe beef of titties.
(beat)
Get it, cause Kobe cows are fed
beer and massaged daily.

Patrick shoots Chris a look.

CHRIS

I thought it was a clever titties metaphor.

PATRICK

Can you stop saying titties.

CHRIS

Oh, sorry. Breasts. Is that more conducive to your character.

PATRICK

Mildly.

CHRIS

Anyway, I get to find out if it's true what they say about college girls doing anything.

PATRICK

Who says that?

CHRIS

Um, you actually want a list. Cause third period starts in like five minutes

PATRICK

I can live without the list.

CHRIS

Good.

(beat)

And you get to profess your undying love for Kyle's sister. I actually get something there too. It'll be fun to see that happen. Can't wait to see Kyle see it too.

PATRICK

Since when is Kyle coming. And we have no way of getting to Remington.

KYLE WASHINGTON walks around the corner nearly into Patrick and Chris. - Political wannabe, neatly parted hair, oxford button down tucked into pleated chinos, carrying a messenger bag on one shoulder instead of a backpack -

CHRIS

Since right now.

(beat)

How do you do, Mr. Washington?

KYLE

I can't wait to be a prosecutor when you come up for trial in ten years.

CHRIS

You honestly think I won't be behind bars already by then.

KYLE

Why do I hang out with you?

PATRICK

I honestly don't know.

CHRIS

Because without me you wouldn't have tickets to the NDT policy debate scheduled for tonight at Remington.

PATRICK

What is that?

KYLE

The National Debate Tournament. The Super Bowl of debate. The final is in Texas this year.

CHRIS

This is a prelim, like a scrimmage. And Remington has a chance with this wiz kid freshman.

KYLE

How do you know about him? And why isn't this on the NDT website?

CHRIS

Kyle, Kyle, Kyle. Politics is about connections. Apparently I have them.

KYLE

I'm calling bullshit.

CHRIS

Fine. Geoff's older brother is a freshman at Remington. He told me.

KYLE

What are you getting out of this?

CHRIS

Titties.

Kyle stares at Chris, waiting for explanation.

CHRIS

We want to spend Friday night at college and we don't have a ride. You have that lovely vehicle.

KYLE

Why should I believe you?

CHRIS

Why would I waste energy making up a fake storyline like that?

Kyle shrugs and breaks off.

PATRICK

How'd you figure out all that stuff?

CHRIS

(smiling)

I didn't. I made it all up.

PATRICK
Pretty intricate lie.

CHRIS
It's not a lie if he believes it,
right?

PATRICK
Um. No.

Chris stares blankly at Patrick as if contemplating his statement, then shrugs it off.

CHRIS
Now we just have to find Geo Geoff
with a G and convince him to come
with.

PATRICK
Why is Geoff coming?

CHRIS
We don't know what party Abby's
going to be at. Geoff's brother and
Abby are friends so Geoff's our
best bet.

INT. STUDY HALL - MINUTES LATER

Patrick and Chris are sitting at desks next to each other.
The teacher sits at a desk enthralled in a book.

PATRICK
Shouldn't you be convincing me
first?

CHRIS
I'm letting you take care of that.

PATRICK
Of convincing myself.

CHRIS

Yup. I think you have it covered.
My next mark is GEOFF PRICE.

CHRIS

Hey. Awkward Geoff.

GEOFF

(completely serious)
I go by Cool Geoff now.

CHRIS

Oh. Okay.
(beat)
Hey. Cool Geoff.

GEOFF

What's up?

CHRIS

What are you doing tonight?

GEOFF

Call of Duty.

CHRIS

Pretty open with the whole nerd
thing. Way to own it.

Geoff looks puzzled, but keeps listening

CHRIS

Anyway, let's go to Remington
tonight. Find a party with your
brother and live it up.

GEOFF

Negative. Impossible to get into
those parties. My brother doesn't
even let people that go to
Remington in.

CHRIS
(to Patrick)
That was more difficult than
expected.

PATRICK
I haven't agreed to even the
smallest part of this plan yet.

Chris winks at Patrick.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Geoff is turning the dial on a locker.

CHRIS
Hey, Cool Geoff. Hold up a minute.

Geoff shrugs, continuing to turn the locker dial.

CHRIS
Find me at gym so we can convince
Patrick to go to Remington tonight.

Geoff turns to Chris and shakes his head, then goes back to
turning the dial.

CHRIS
Hey, Does your brother go by cool
Danny now or is he still Regular
Danny?

GEOFF
Regular Danny.

CHRIS
Do you know if Regular Danny hangs
out with Abby Washington?

Geoff shrugs.

GEOFF

Yeah, they hang out all the time.
Even before they went to Remington
they were always hanging out.

CHRIS

Thanks, cool Geoff.

Chris makes a move to leave, but turns back to Geoff.

CHRIS

Geoff, question?

GEOFF

Shoot.

CHRIS

Do you actually know your locker
combination.

GEOFF

Not my locker.

Chris looks perplexed.

CHRIS

Okay then.

Chris turns to walk away

CHRIS

(emphatically)
Cool Geoff.