

Everything Else is Crooked

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Cast of Characters

<u>ENSEMBLE A::</u>	Any ethnicity, mid twenties
<u>ENSEMBLE B::</u>	Any ethnicity, mid twenties (also plays Harper)
<u>ENSEMBLE C::</u>	Any ethnicity, mid twenties
<u>HARPER::</u>	Any ethnicity, mid teens
<u>KATIE::</u>	White, early twenties
<u>PRINCIPAL::</u>	White, mid fifties
<u>RAE::</u>	Any ethnicity, late twenties

SCENE 1

Lights up on a high school classroom. Katie (23) is teaching a group of high school students that the audience should imagine is there.

KATIE:

Oh, shit the bell's about to ring. Shit! Teachers aren't supposed to say shit. Okay, um don't tell anyone that, and just remember women pee out of their urethra not their vagina.

Bell rings.

KATIE:

(To herself.)

I'm gonna get fired oh my god.

Harper approaches.

HARPER:

Hi, Ms. Peterson?

KATIE:

Katie is fine.

HARPER:

Yeah... You just gave us a lecture about STDs, I'm not calling you Katie.

KATIE:

Okay.

HARPER:

Right so. So anyways um...

KATIE:

What's up?

HARPER:

You're pretty new at this right?

KATIE:

This is my first year teaching, yes.

HARPER:

Okay. Well since you're new and like young and progressive and all I was... well um...

KATIE:

Do you need a tardy slip for your next class?

HARPER:

No. I just wondered if we were going to get to talk about -

Principal enters.

PRINCIPAL:

Ms. Peterson

KATIE:

Principal Saunders!

PRINCIPAL:

(To Harper.)

If you could excuse Ms. Peterson for a moment.

HARPER:

Sure.

Harper exits. Principal pulls up two classroom chairs, indicates for Katie to sit.

PRINCIPAL:

Katie I cleared some time in my schedule so that we could talk about the very long letter you left on my desk last week.

KATIE:

Oh, wow. Okay.

PRINCIPAL:

You didn't think I was actually going to read it.

KATIE:

Nope. I mean, uh, no honestly I didn't. None of the other principals did.

PRINCIPAL:

You know I do my best to pay attention when my teachers have concerns about curriculum. I meant what I said at our staff meeting.

KATIE:

I just didn't think it would be a priority. But you know I wrote my thesis on it so I figured, you have to try right?

PRINCIPAL:

You remind me of myself.

KATIE:

I do?

PRINCIPAL:

You're bright, ambitious, have a firm sense of justice.

KATIE:

Thank you!

PRINCIPAL:

I just hope you are a fast learner.

KATIE:

I've learned so much already from my past two locations, I know today was my first day teaching here but the lesson went really well. The students seem to be more engaged than at the last two schools so hopefully I'm doing something right!

PRINCIPAL:

That's not what I meant.

KATIE:

Oh. Okay.

PRINCIPAL:

I have no doubt in your teaching ability. The county hired you for a reason.

KATIE:

Oh, thank you.

PRINCIPAL:

What I'm wondering is why did you want to become a teacher?

KATIE:

Well it wasn't for the pay!

PRINCIPAL:

Obviously.

KATIE:

Right, well uh. Being a kid sucks sometimes. But having good teachers in my life made it suck less. I was hoping I could do the same for some kids.

PRINCIPAL:

I hate to break it to you, but being an adult sucks sometimes too.

KATIE:

I know.

PRINCIPAL:

So unfortunately, I hear you. In this letter. I really do. But you should know, your job is to teach, not to change the world.

KATIE:

I'm not trying to change the world.

PRINCIPAL:

Your passion in this letter makes me think you're a bit too idealistic for your own good.

KATIE:

Like I said I wrote my thesis on the benefits of comprehensive sex education. I've spent a long time thinking about the topic.

PRINCIPAL:

I don't doubt that you have, but Katie you should know the state standards are set by the school board.

KATIE:

I know! They haven't re-evaluated them in over-

PRINCIPAL:

Ten years. I know. Nothing you brought up in that letter was new to me, believe me.

KATIE:

Exactly! It's been a problem for so long, there are so many studies out there that prove-

PRINCIPAL:

If I could think of a way to fix it I would have by now. Right now, I'm just thankful our state actually allows for sex education, however rudimentary.

KATIE:

That's the problem! Our students get more information about sex from porn than they do from the booklets I'm supposed to give out.

PRINCIPAL:

I really do hear your concerns.

KATIE:

So you'll take a look at my revised lesson plans?

PRINCIPAL:

Katie, can I offer you some advice?

KATIE:

Sure.

PRINCIPAL:

Try to separate your politics from your teaching practices. You don't want to piss off the school board. Especially your first year on the job. I like you. I'd like to keep you around. So just, be careful.

Blackout.

Scene Three

Exterior of an apartment block. Not a particularly nice one, but not the scariest one in the city either.

RAE:

Long day?

KATIE:

Huh?

RAE:

You look tired.

KATIE:

Oh. Yeah. I got sent to the principal's office.

RAE:

They do know you're not a high schooler right? Even though you look like one.

KATIE:

Hey! It is not my fault that I look 16. And, no, it was just a meeting. She was checking in. Giving me career advice.

RAE:

I was just grabbing the last bag of groceries from the car and then was gonna order takeout. You're welcome to join and vent about it if you'd like.

KATIE:

But you just went to the grocery store?

RAE:

Yeah.

KATIE:

And you're ordering takeout?

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
Are you fat shaming me?

KATIE:
What? No! I

RAE:
I'm just teasing.

KATIE:
Oh god, I'm sorry.

RAE:
You're fine. I bought stuff to cook spaghetti but am suddenly craving a heavy dose of msg so Chinese food it is!

KATIE:
Chinese food is superior to most types of food.

RAE:
Except maybe thai food. Ooh now I want thai.

KATIE:
Por que no los dos?

RAE:
What?

KATIE:
It's Spanish. Like from the taco commercial?

RAE:
Oh. Right.

KATIE:
Why not both?

RAE:
Girl, my elementary school Spanish went in one ear and out the other.

KATIE:
Let me change and then - actually, would you like to just go out? There's that Asian fusion place off of-

RAE:
Twelfth. You're right. So good.

KATIE:
Okay so I'll just...

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
Meet you in ten?

KATIE:
Sounds good.

Katie goes in for a fist bump and there is a really awkward but cute moment as the two say goodbye.

Scene Four

Interior, Katie's apartment. She's freaking out. The kind of pop song you would play while getting ready to leave the house is heard. Katie is frantically pulling things out of her closet holding them up, trying to decide what to wear. Meanwhile, the members of the ensemble are also rifling through her drawers.

KATIE:
Oh my god, what did I just do? I can't do this, holy shit how do I do this?

ENSEMBLE A:
Girl, chill. It's just Chinese food.

ENSEMBLE B:
But with a cute girl!

ENSEMBLE C:
Deep breaths.

ENSEMBLE B:
(Holding a dress up to herself)
Too femme?

ENSEMBLE A:
Nah, just too floral.

KATIE:
(Defensive.)
I like flowers.

ENSEMBLE B:
Okay, but flannel is too forward.

KATIE:
(Suddenly noticing that there are a lot of floral things in her wardrobe)

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:
Wow I REALLY like flowers...

ENSEMBLE C:
Plus, Katie only owns yard work flannel.

ENSEMBLE A:
Ugh I forgot.

KATIE:
Flannel just isn't really me...

ENSEMBLE B:
I have never seen a straighter wardrobe.

KATIE:
What's your opinion on hair? Up or down?

ENSEMBLE C:
Well she can't go out looking like Miss Honey from Matilda,
so we'll work with what we've got.

ENSEMBLE A:
Heels?

ENSEMBLE C:
Too formal!

ENSEMBLE B:
Is lace too femme?

ENSEMBLE C:
Yeah I don't know if Rae would really go for-

ENSEMBLE A:
So I say since it's warm that off the shoulder top and-

KATIE:
Jeans. Cute ones.

ENSEMBLE A:
Tight ones.

KATIE:
Oh god!

ENSEMBLE B:
There's got to be something that at least hints at gay in
here somewhere.

ENSEMBLE C:
Oh, my god you know what would be perfect the light-

(CONTINUED)

ENSEMBLE A:
-wash ones with the little...

ENSEMBLE B:
Stars on the pockets! Yes!

ENSEMBLE C:
Bra or no bra?

ENSEMBLE A:
It's 2019 baby I say burn that mother f-

KATIE:
BRA!

ENSEMBLE A:
Such a conformist.

ENSEMBLE B:
You know if you wear this top-

ENSEMBLE A:
Since it's off the shoulder your bra straps will show

ENSEMBLE B:
So just wear a cute one

ENSEMBLE A:
Or let the girls go free!

ENSEMBLE C:
What would your mother think of you?

KATIE:
My mother, good Lord!

ENSEMBLE B:
Why'd you bring up her mother?

ENSEMBLE C:
It's in the back of her mind.

ENSEMBLE B:
Can't you just let her have a good time getting ready for
her date?

KATIE:
This is not a date.

ENSEMBLE:
GIRL PLEASE.

(CONTINUED)

ENSEMBLE A:

You know who's been in the forefront of her mind for the past three months.

ENSEMBLE C:

And now they're going out together for the first time!

ENSEMBLE B:

I'm so excited for them!

KATIE:

I'm terrified.

ENSEMBLE C:

You look beautiful.

ENSEMBLE B:

You have a tiny flyaway.

ENSEMBLE A:

You might want a mint.

KATIE:

Good enough.

(Checks her watch)

Shit I gotta go!

ENSEMBLE C:

Don't forget your wallet!

ENSEMBLE A:

Have fun!

Blackout.

Scene Five

The interior of an Asian Fusion restaurant. The kind of place that is appropriating every culture it could think of, but the food is cheap and good so you go there anyway. Katie and Rae are perusing the menu.

KATIE:

Want to split an appetizer?

RAE:

Dumplings?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:
Are they pork?

RAE:
I think so. Why?

KATIE:
I can't eat pork.

RAE:
You're kidding. You can not move to North Carolina and not eat pork. Barbecue is in our blood.

KATIE:
I know! I'm just legitimately allergic.

RAE:
To pork?

KATIE:
Its a weird one.

RAE:
Why pick North Carolina if you can't enjoy the best thing about this state? I do not understand your life decisions.

KATIE:
Sometimes neither do I.

RAE:
I'm glad you moved here though.

KATIE:
Why's that?

RAE:
It's nice to have another one around, you know?

KATIE:
Another?

RAE:
You know.

KATIE:
Do I?

RAE:
You know.

KATIE:
Oh! Oh, God. You think I'm a... a...

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
It's not a bad word.

KATIE:
(Glances around the restaurant in a
panic)
Here it is!

RAE:
You get used to it.

KATIE:
I'm sorry I...I didn't mean to give you the wrong idea.

RAE:
You didn't.

KATIE:
But you think that I'm...?

RAE:
And you don't think you are?

KATIE:
I... Why do you think I am?

RAE:
Because you keep flirting with me.

KATIE:
What? No I haven't. Have I?

RAE:
You're awfully dressed up for a casual meal out after work
with your neighbor.

KATIE:
I was dressed up for work, I just threw this on.

RAE:
God, if I could just "throw something on" and look like you.

KATIE:
Oh, please.

RAE:
You turned bright red when I asked if you were seeing anyone
the other day.

KATIE:
Well, that's an odd question to ask your neighbor.

(CONTINUED)

RAE:

I just wanted to know if I needed to be prepared to sound proof my apartment. The walls are super thin.

KATIE:

Oh my god.

RAE:

You're doing it again.

KATIE:

Doing what?

RAE:

Turning red.

KATIE:

I'm a very private person!

RAE:

You gave me a vibrator recommendation yesterday!

KATIE:

Shhhh lower your voice!

RAE:

You know for a sex ed teacher you're kind of a prude.

KATIE:

We're in public!

PRINCIPAL:

Katie?

KATIE:

Principal Saunders!

RAE:

Principal Saunders?

PRINCIPAL:

Please, call me Lisa.

RAE:

(Reaches out her hand to introduce herself)

Racheal.

KATIE:

Racheal?

(CONTINUED)

RAE:

(To Katie)

Rae's a nickname.

KATIE:

Oh.

PRINCIPAL:

Nice to meet you Racheal. I'm glad to see you've shown Katie the best place for dumplings in town.

RAE:

Ah yes, well I'm afraid she'll never get to try them. Katie here is allergic to pork.

PRINCIPAL:

A North Carolinian that can't eat barbecue?

RAE:

The traitor right?

PRINCIPAL:

It's certainly a shame.

Beat.

So how did you two meet?

KATIE:

We're not-

RAE:

We're neighbors.

PRINCIPAL:

Oh, that's nice. Good to see Southern hospitality hasn't completely died with my generation. You millennials with your phones, I didn't think anyone talked to their neighbors anymore.

KATIE:

Yeah, well Rae's- Racheal, is different.

PRINCIPAL:

So it seems. Well, I've got some hungry college kids home for the weekend so I'd best go get this takeout. Enjoy your meal.

RAE:

Thanks, you too. Good to meet you!

PRINCIPAL:

Likewise.

(CONTINUED)

Principal exits.

KATIE:

Fuck.

RAE:

What?

KATIE:

That was so weird!

RAE:

No it wasn't.

KATIE:

I have never seen her wear jeans.

RAE:

She seems cool.

KATIE:

No she does not.

RAE:

I mean she seems like a retired soccer mom, so like that kind of cool.

KATIE:

She reminds me of my mom's church friends.

RAE:

And that's a bad thing?

KATIE:

You heard her, good to know "southern hospitality" didn't die with my generation. She's condescending. I get the sense she doesn't trust me.

RAE:

Yeah people here can be pretty traditional. If you eat with the wrong salad fork you'll wind up on someone's shit list.

KATIE:

You're not.

RAE:

What?

KATIE:

Traditional.

(CONTINUED)

RAE:

Haha. No, I'm not.

Beat.

I don't think you are either.

Beat.

You're doing the thing again.

KATIE:

The turning red thing?

RAE:

Mhmm.

KATIE:

Yeah, you seem to be making me do that a lot lately.

RAE:

Oh really?

KATIE:

Yeah.

Beat.

Yeah, so um, do you want to order an appetizer?

RAE:

Oh. Yeah sure. Spring rolls?

KATIE:

Sounds good.

Blackout.

Scene Six

Katie's apartment.

ENSEMBLE A:

Damn girl, I didn't know you could be that bold. Getting your flirt on in front of your boss.

KATIE:

I have a bit of a flirtatious personality! People have said that about me.

ENSEMBLE A:

There's a difference.

KATIE:

I'm just trying to be myself!

(CONTINUED)

ENSEMBLE C:

We're just trying to help you be the best version of yourself.

ENSEMBLE A:

A more confident version of yourself.

ENSEMBLE B:

A gayer version of yourself.

KATIE:

I'm not gay. I've never dated a woman.

ENSEMBLE C:

You know that's not how that works.

ENSEMBLE A:

You remember Miranda right?

ENSEMBLE B:

Or Ella?

ENSEMBLE C:

Or Maddie?

KATIE:

They were friends.

ENSEMBLE A:

Just like Rae is a friend.

KATIE:

Rae *is* a friend.

ENSEMBLE A:

For now.

Blackout.

Scene Seven

High school classroom. After a lesson. Katie is cleaning up classroom materials as a Harper approaches.

HARPER:

Ms. Peterson?

KATIE:

Oh, hi Harper. I'm sorry we got cut off the other day.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER:

It's okay.

KATIE:

Can I help you with anything?

HARPER:

I'm not sure.

KATIE:

Okay.

HARPER:

I have some questions, I'm just not sure you can answer them.

KATIE:

Well that was part of the reason I had you all write down questions on index cards today. If there is something I'm not sure about I'll have time to look it up before class tomorrow.

HARPER:

And you're sure the index cards are anonymous?

KATIE:

I have no idea what any of your handwriting looks like. I'll be addressing the questions holistically unless someone wrote their name on theirs, then I can give them more information personally.

HARPER:

What if... what if I want more information but I don't want you to be able to link my question directly to me? And I don't want any of my classmates to be able to either.

KATIE:

Did you write down a question?

HARPER:

Yeah.

KATIE:

Okay well let's do this, I'll be going over the questions in class tomorrow. If I don't answer yours or you feel like you need more information about it, come talk to me again and we'll see if we can figure something out. In the meantime, here are a few state sanctioned websites where you can find out a little more about some of the topics we've been discussing in class.

Katie hands Harper a pamphlet.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER:

Oh. Thanks.

KATIE:

If there is anything else I can do for you in the meantime, please let me know. I really want to be a resource for you all.

HARPER:

Yeah, sure.

Beat. The Harper lingers a bit longer. Not saying anything, not sure what to say.

I think I may be late to my next class, could you-

KATIE:

Write you a pass? Absolutely.

Blackout.

Scene Eight

Katie's apartment, after work. Rae and Katie are drinking glasses of wine, comparing their work days.

RAE:

(Reading from an index card)

Can you get pregnant from anal sex? How many dicks can you fit in a... Oh my god what in your right mind inspired you to do this?

KATIE:

It's actually been quite fascinating to see what's on their minds. Well, except for that one. That kid's a pervert.

Beat.

Are you allowed to call your students perverts?

RAE:

How the hell should I know? There's a reason I work with buildings not people.

KATIE:

Tomorrow's class is going to be very interesting.

RAE:

(Continues to rifle through the index cards. Pauses.)

Have you read all of these yet?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

Most of them. Why? Is another girl confused about the difference between the vulva and vagina? Because I covered that on Monday.

RAE:

No.

KATIE:

Good. I think their previous teachers put so much emphasis on STIs that I feel responsible for making sure these 15 year olds remember basic anatomy.

RAE:

Have you read this one?

KATIE:

Oh. Yeah. That one.

RAE:

You have a plan for how you're going to answer it?

KATIE:

I can't.

RAE:

"Yes." There, I answered the question. The principle is actually pretty simple. We're just trying to get the rest of the world to catch on.

KATIE:

No. I mean according to policy, I can't.

RAE:

Oh. Riiiiight. Damn school board.

KATIE:

I'm obviously not going to go over all of them in class anyways. We won't have the time. I'm just looking for some common themes. Things the kids feel like haven't been covered before.

RAE:

Well, what do you wish was covered when you were in school?

KATIE:

Soooooooo many things. I didn't know what a condom was until my senior year of high school.

A beat while Rae laughs.

You laugh but I am not even exaggerating.

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
Did you like go to an all girls catholic school or something?

KATIE:
K through 12.

RAE:
(Snickers)
Oh shit.

KATIE:
What?

RAE:
The thought of you in one of those little skirts.

KATIE:
Shut up.

RAE:
All girls school though. That must have been fun for you.

KATIE:
Leave me alone.

RAE:
I'm sorry I just have the hardest time thinking of you as a straight girl.

KATIE:
Is it the haircut?

RAE:
It's a cute haircut.

KATIE:
I try my best.

RAE:
Can I ask you something?

KATIE:
Sure.

RAE:
If we weren't in North Carolina. If you weren't a teacher. Would things be different?

KATIE:
Yeah. I could answer a kid's question honestly without being afraid I'd be fired.

(CONTINUED)

RAE:

You know what I mean. I like you Katie. And my overconfidence has steered me wrong before, but I'm pretty sure you like me.

Beat. Katie doesn't respond.

Or I'm being a presumptuous idiot.

KATIE:

You're not.

RAE:

I'm not?

KATIE:

No.

RAE:

Okay then.

Rae leans in for a kiss.

KATIE:

I can't.

RAE:

Why not?

KATIE:

You don't get it.

RAE:

Try me.

KATIE:

I'm only allowed to teach about homosexual relationships in the context of disease. How am I supposed to be able to have one?

RAE:

I'm not asking you to marry me. I'm not asking you to have sex with me. I'm not even asking you to hold hands in public with me. Okay, I get it. It's scary. But it's okay.

KATIE:

It's okay for you. It's okay for my students. The supreme court says it's okay but...

RAE:

But it's not okay for you?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

I don't know. I... I really just can't.

Katie gets a bit choked up. Rae comforts her.

RAE:

It's okay. Shhhh. It's okay.

Blackout.

Scene Nine

Later that evening, Katie is sitting at her apartment desk preparing for tomorrow's class. The ensemble enters from different directions playing various "students." They each read their question off of their notecard and hand it to her, exit, and re-enter with the next question. Meanwhile Katie may open a book, look up a website, write something down, etc. Interrupting the students, Katie's voice over is heard recalling different women in her life.

ENSEMBLE A:

Why do periods hurt so bad?

KATIE:

You remember Miranda right?

ENSEMBLE B:

What do girls *really* do at sleepovers?

KATIE:

You used to sleep over at her house all the time.

ENSEMBLE C:

Why is one of my boobs bigger than the other?

KATIE:

She had a queen sized bed so you shared it. It wasn't weird.

ENSEMBLE D:

Is it normal to shave your private parts?

KATIE:

And you would fall asleep stroking each others hair.

(CONTINUED)

ENSEMBLE E:

Is it really that bad to have sex?

KATIE:

It was really nice.

ENSEMBLE A:

How can I get access to birth control without my parents finding out?

KATIE:

But then she started dating Jack.

ENSEMBLE B:

Does it hurt to lose your virginity?

KATIE:

And Jack found out about the sleepovers.

ENSEMBLE C:

What does sex feel like?

KATIE:

And he decided it was weird.

ENSEMBLE D:

Is porn bad for you?

KATIE:

So Miranda told you to stay away from her.

ENSEMBLE E:

How do you pick out the right type of condom?

KATIE:

And you never said anything.

ENSEMBLE A:

What the hell is popping a cherry?

KATIE:

Do you remember that summer?

ENSEMBLE B:

Why do guys get morning wood?

KATIE:

When Ella asked you to put sunscreen on her back for her?

ENSEMBLE C:

What's the point of lube?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

And you kept rubbing her shoulders even after the lotion was absorbed.

ENSEMBLE D:

Is it possible to masturbate too often?

KATIE:

Because you liked the way her skin felt under your hands.

ENSEMBLE E:

How do lesbians have sex?

KATIE:

But you never said anything.

ENSEMBLE A:

If you cum in a girl's mouth can she get pregnant?

KATIE:

Remember how your sorority sisters used to complain about their boyfriends?

ENSEMBLE B:

Can you get an STD from a toilet seat?

KATIE:

And joke that it would be so much easier to just be a lesbian.

ENSEMBLE C:

Does the vagina get bigger after sex?

KATIE:

And you would laugh.

ENSEMBLE D:

How come girls are so bitchy when they're on their periods?

KATIE:

But you never said anything.

ENSEMBLE E:

How do people have anal sex without it hurting?

KATIE:

You remember that party?

ENSEMBLE A:

Is a UTI an STD?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:
How you weren't actually drunk?

ENSEMBLE B:
Why do guys like lesbian porn so much?

KATIE:
How all the guys thought it was hot. And Maddie swore she didn't remember it the next day.

ENSEMBLE C:
Is it okay to be gay?

KATIE:
Don't you wish you'd said something?

Blackout.

Scene Ten

Principal's office.

PRINCIPAL:
We already discussed this, my hands are tied.

KATIE:
I know, but state law doesn't actually prohibit anything, it just sets minimum curriculum guidelines. I have some flexibility its just that the school board is so tied to their old ways.

PRINCIPAL:
We live in a pretty traditional community.

KATIE:
This wouldn't break the law.

PRINCIPAL:
It will piss off the school board. And plenty of parents.

KATIE:
Parents can opt their children out, you know that.

PRINCIPAL:
You'd be surprised how many parents care about what children other than their own are learning.

KATIE:
I just want to know if you'll back me up if the school board protests.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL:

You have to understand it's really tricky territory.

KATIE:

Of course. I just want to be prepared. If there's backlash.

PRINCIPAL:

I don't want any bad press.

KATIE:

I can't control the press. But that's why I want to know if you'll support this when it inevitably comes under public scrutiny.

PRINCIPAL:

I'm sure you're familiar with the public outcry when planned parenthood curriculum was adopted by the county next-door last year.

KATIE:

This proposal isn't nearly as explicit as that. Also most of those claims were ridiculous, that curriculum did not teach kids different ways to have sex.

PRINCIPAL:

I didn't examine the curriculum thoroughly so I couldn't tell you one way or another. As it stands our curriculum is on par with the rest of the state. Honestly Katie you said it yourself, you have a surprising amount of freedom.

KATIE:

It's just that these kids have questions that the current curriculum doesn't address.

PRINCIPAL:

You can't make changes mid school year. Parents haven't had the time to review course materials. That would be in violation of the law.

KATIE:

I know. Which is why I want us to start looking at this now. For next year's classes.

PRINCIPAL:

Change within school systems is slow, Katie.

KATIE:

I didn't start this job thinking I'd overhaul the system or anything. But I'm worried about our students. Aren't you?

PRINCIPAL:

I'm worried about a million things. Test scores, school climate, overcrowded classrooms.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

Of course, I didn't mean-

PRINCIPAL:

Katie I'd encourage you not to let your personal life get mixed up with your professional life. You'll get burnt out.

KATIE:

I'm not sure what you mean. This is just professional. About curriculum.

PRINCIPAL:

Most first year teachers are barely getting the grasp of a new environment. You've decided you want to advocate for change six months in to a brand new job. I sense this is about a little more than just curriculum.

KATIE:

I just care.

PRINCIPAL:

Try not to care too much.

KATIE:

Shouldn't we? Isn't that the point of our job as educators?

PRINCIPAL:

Katie, did you sleep last night?

KATIE:

For about three hours maybe.

PRINCIPAL:

You have to care about yourself too. You can't let your students come home with you.

KATIE:

I don't know how to do that.

PRINCIPAL:

You'll learn. Everyone does eventually.

KATIE:

And in the meantime?

PRINCIPAL:

Teach the curriculum as it stands. This job is hard. I don't want you to make things harder on yourself.

Blackout.

Scene Eleven

Friday night. Interior of Katie's apartment. Katie is in PJ's. Rae enters, looking like she had a much longer night than she expected.

KATIE:

Oh my god, are you okay?

RAE:

Just a little shaken up.

They embrace. Katie gestures for Rae to sit on the couch.

KATIE:

You sure?

RAE:

Yeah, no major injuries. The gun never got fired. I filed a police report.

KATIE:

Did you file a police report?

RAE:

Yeah, I just said that.

KATIE:

Right. Right sorry. Where was this again?

RAE:

Like a block or two from here. I ran home, he didn't follow.

KATIE:

A block or two from here, are you serious!?

RAE:

I mean, I don't know exactly. Close enough that I could run it no problem.

KATIE:

Close enough that you could run it no problem could be like ten miles. You're in incredible shape.

RAE:

Wow. Even after near death situations you're still flirting with me.

KATIE:

Shut up! I'm just trying to figure out what happened. I mean you essentially texted me: just got home from being mugged, don't really want to be alone right now, can I come over?

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
Sorry for waking you up so late.

KATIE:
Are you kidding me? It's fine. I wanted to make sure you were okay.

RAE:
I am.
(Off of Katie's look)
Really I'm fine.

KATIE:
This is gonna sound super anti-feminist of me-

RAE:
Oh, God.

KATIE:
But why were you walking home by yourself so late at night?

RAE:
Seriously?

Beat.

KATIE:
Were you on a date?

RAE:
Oh my god, you're jealous.

KATIE:
I'm not.

RAE:
You are, you are jealous of my mugging!

KATIE:
I just want to know what kind of person lets their date walk home alone.

RAE:
The Ubers were mad expensive and Sal's is only like two miles away.

KATIE:
You went on a date at Sal's?

RAE:
I never said it was a date.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

But you did your makeup.

RAE:

And?

KATIE:

And I've only ever seen you with makeup on when you have to go to board meetings and that one time we...

RAE:

What? Ate dinner at a Chinese restaurant? Do you think that was a date, because you were pretty clear to me that it couldn't be so honestly the fact that you suddenly care what I'm wearing and who I'm going out with is really insulting.

KATIE:

I didn't mean to imply...

RAE:

I'm scared okay. What was supposed to be a simple walk home turned into my life being threatened and now I really just don't want to sit at home alone and listen to the radiator make scary noises.

KATIE:

You didn't want to be alone and my apartment is right next door. Convenient.

RAE:

Don't make this about you.

KATIE:

Of all the people in your life you could have called, why me? Why not whoever you were out with?

RAE:

Clearly, this was a bad idea.

KATIE:

Wait! Don't go. I'm sorry. I'm just tired and confused and surprised. And also clearly jealous, but we can unpack that later. What do you need? Tea? Water? some blankets? For me to turn off my radiator so it stops making scary noises?

RAE:

I didn't notice your radiator actually.

KATIE:

Shit, well. I'll turn it off anyway. Also, I'm making you tea.

Beat. Katie goes to make tea.

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
Co-workers, okay? I was out with Co-workers.

KATIE:
You don't have to explain.

RAE:
And Kevin is an asshole.

KATIE:
So you have to wear mascara around him?

RAE:
So I have to look straight around him.

KATIE:
Oh.

RAE:
Yeah.

KATIE:
You're not out to your co-workers?

RAE:
Hell no I'm not out to my co-workers.

KATIE:
Really?

RAE:
Are you out to yours?

KATIE:
Well no, but that's different.

RAE:
Is it though?

KATIE:
I'm not out to anyone.

RAE:
Oh yeah. Not even yourself. I forgot.

KATIE:
So you're not out to your co-workers. That's not that big of a deal.

RAE:
Except when you lie to your co-workers that your boyfriend will come pick you up in order to deny them the satisfaction of patronizingly ordering you a car and then you decide to walk home and get mugged.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

Shit you don't think this was like, a hate crime or anything do you?

RAE:

No. Some crime is just crime. Poor kid honestly just really seemed to need the forty bucks in my wallet.

KATIE:

I don't think anyone that points a gun at you is a "poor" kid.

RAE:

Desperate maybe then.

KATIE:

Do you ever get worried about that here?

RAE:

About what?

KATIE:

Hate crimes.

RAE:

Not really. It's mostly the occasional street harassment. I know which businesses are friendly and which aren't. I know where I can hold a girl's hand and where I need to introduce her as my "friend."

KATIE:

How do you know those things?

RAE:

You learn through experience. Plus, I grew up here. You just kind of go into survivor mode after a while.

Beat.

KATIE:

You know I would have come to pick you up? I will happily be your pretend boyfriend anytime.

RAE:

But you won't be my girlfriend.

KATIE:

I...

RAE:

It's fine. I just hadn't heard from you lately. I figured you had been avoiding me. Didn't want to bug you.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

Okay well next time if your options are between bugging me and putting your life in danger, please bug me.

RAE:

I really didn't think it would be that big of deal, it was a two mile walk through mostly well lit streets.

KATIE:

It's the kind of thing you never think will happen to you until it does I guess.

RAE:

Yeah.

KATIE:

Are you sure you're okay?

RAE:

The adrenaline has worn off so now I'm mostly just thinking of everything I have to do. Cancel credit cards. Verify my statement with the police tomorrow morning. Call my mom in case the incident shows up on the local news.

KATIE:

Anything I can help with?

RAE:

Hold me for a minute?

KATIE:

Sure.

KATIE:

For the record, I'm glad you called.

RAE:

I will try to be mugged more often.

KATIE:

Definitely not what I meant.

RAE:

It is nice to see you again to.

KATIE:

I've just been really caught up with some work stuff lately.

RAE:

Principal ever come around to you?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

She never said yes but she never really said no either. I just feel like I'm failing my students.

RAE:

You're trying. That's more than some of my teachers ever did.

KATIE:

It still just doesn't feel like enough. Nothing I ever do feels like enough.

RAE:

You're enough to me.

Beat.

KATIE:

Rae?

RAE:

Mmm?

KATIE:

Are you asleep?

RAE:

Just about.

KATIE:

Would you like a pillow?

RAE:

You cool with me staying?

KATIE:

You don't snore right?

RAE:

You're about to find out.

KATIE:

I hate you.

RAE:

I love y.

KATIE:

I... I'll get you a pillow.

(CONTINUED)

Katie exits. Returns with a pillow and blanket for Rae, which she gives to her, and a sleeping bag which she lies on the floor next to the couch.

KATIE:

Goodnight.

Rae's snores respond.

Scene Eleven

The next morning. Katie's apartment. Katie is awake and making breakfast.

ENSEMBLE A:

Katie and Rae sitting in a tree K-I-S-S-I-N-G.

ENSEMBLE B:

First comes love.

ENSEMBLE A:

Then comes marriage.

ENSEMBLE B:

Then comes a baby in a baby carriage.

KATIE:

Calm down. We just fell asleep.

ENSEMBLE A:

But she loves you!

ENSEMBLE B:

She told you she loves you!

KATIE:

She was exhausted. I doubt she even remembers. I'm exhausted. We were both delirious.

ENSEMBLE C:

You know this thing you do where you keep almost admitting how you feel and then completely denying it is getting really old.

ENSEMBLE A:

You've been doing it since high school.

ENSEMBLE B:

You're an adult now. With an adult job and an adult apartment.

(CONTINUED)

ENSEMBLE C:

Why are you still so afraid?

KATIE:

Rae slept on my couch last night!

ENSEMBLE A:

Did she snore?

KATIE:

No.

ENSEMBLE B:

Have bad breath?

KATIE:

No.

ENSEMBLE C:

Wet the bed?

KATIE:

God, no!

WHOLE ENSEMBLE:

Then there is no problem.

ENSEMBLE C:

The problem is you, my dear.

ENSEMBLE A:

You keep making these excuses.

ENSEMBLE B:

Here are some facts from the sex ed curriculum you so desperately want to implement that might help you out with your own situation:

ENSEMBLE C:

The process of coming out looks different for everyone.

ENSEMBLE A:

Homosexual relationships can be just as complicated, emotional, exciting, and loving as heterosexual ones.

ENSEMBLE B:

Homosexuality is not a lifestyle choice, you cannot choose who you are attracted to.

KATIE:

No, but you can chose what you do about it.

(CONTINUED)

ENSEMBLE C:
Exactly, so do something about it!

KATIE:
I can't.

ENSEMBLE C:
Why not?

KATIE:
Rae deserves someone better than me.

ENSEMBLE A:
That's not how relationships work.

ENSEMBLE B:
If you wait until you have your entire life figured out to date someone you will die alone.

ENSEMBLE C:
She wanted you to come over here last night when she was scared. You. Not anyone else.

KATIE:
Yeah that's the scary part isn't it.

ENSEMBLE A:
Or the fun part?

Blackout.

Scene Twelve

A high school classroom.

KATIE:
Harper! Hi, I was hoping I'd hear from you again. I wasn't sure if our class discussion addressed whatever your question was. I know you wanted to remain anonymous but I wanted to check in to see if I can point you in the direction of the information you're looking for.

HARPER:
I heard you're lobbying the school board to change the sex education curriculum for next year.

KATIE:
You did?

HARPER:
Apparently some moms were talking about it at the PTA meeting last week. My mom's the treasurer so...

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:
I see.

HARPER:
I'm glad.

KATIE:
You are?

HARPER:
Yeah. It's about time.

KATIE:
I thought so too.

HARPER:
I wasn't sure I could trust you.

KATIE:
I understand that.

HARPER:
Anyways, yeah, um this class usually sucks. Like it's a bunch of old people trying to convince us that boys will do anything to get in our pants and everyone lies about STDs.

KATIE:
The curriculum is incredibly heteronormative. I've tried to combat that but I'm not sure I've done a good enough job.

HARPER:
So anyways um, what I was really wondering is if you know any... ugh never mind its too embarrassing.

KATIE:
You know why I wanted this job? I did not know what the clitoris was until I was 18.

HARPER:
Okay, *that's* embarrassing.

KATIE:
My point is, being curious about our bodies and health and sexuality is totally normal. You shouldn't be embarrassed for being curious.

HARPER:
Okay fine here it is: do you know any sites that have porn made by actual lesbians for lesbians? Everything on PornHub is super heteronormative and I don't think it actually represents how girls have sex with each other.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

Ah. Well. Yes, those types of sites definitely exist. Usually, they are not free.

HARPER:

Ugh yeah.

KATIE:

I understand your curiosity, but you should also know that you don't need to watch porn in order to understand sex. It is something you get to define for yourself with your partner. And, as long as it's consensual, there's no right or wrong way to do it, no matter what representations of it you see in the media.

HARPER:

Sounds like I just have a lot more googling to do.

KATIE:

Just make sure you google the right search terms.

Scribbles some search terms on a sticky note and hands it to Harper.

And if you ever have medical questions, please talk to a doctor, not WebMD.

HARPER:

Will do. Okay I gotta run. Good luck with the school board.

KATIE:

Thanks.

Blackout.

Scene Thirteen

Interior, Katie's apartment the next day. Katie is dancing around the room like a crazy person. Wine glasses sit on the coffee table along with the remnants of snacks.

RAE:

What the hell has gotten into you?

KATIE:

Dance with me!

RAE:

Okay I know you had two glasses of wine but seriously what has gotten into you?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

I just want to have a little fun.

RAE:

Did something happen at work today?

KATIE:

No. Oh, I mean well yeah but nothing bad.

RAE:

Okay, what happened?

KATIE:

I gave a student a recommendation for lesbian porn.

RAE:

You, did what?

KATIE:

Told a student where to find good porn. Oh, maybe that will be my next career, porn star! What do you think my porn name would be?

RAE:

Your porn name?

KATIE:

Yeah.

RAE:

Katie.

KATIE:

No that's my real name.

RAE:

No, Katie. Are you okay?

KATIE:

I'm fine.

RAE:

(Leads Katie back over to the couch)

Sit.

(Fills a glass with water and hands it to her)

Drink.

(Katie takes a sip.)

Talk to me.

KATIE:

I don't think I'm cut out to be a teacher.

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
You're one of the best teachers I know.

KATIE:
You must not know that many teachers.

RAE:
Was it that girl, Harper?

KATIE:
Yeah.

RAE:
Wait this whole time she just wanted to know where to find lesbian porn? I thought kids were supposed to be good with technology.

KATIE:
It's more than that. She doesn't see herself represented in her education, in media, in the porn industry...

RAE:
I get that. But that's not your fault. And it's not your job to fix it.

KATIE:
My students think I'm a fraud.

RAE:
Why do you think that?

KATIE:
Because I want them to be themselves. But I can't even do the same for myself.

RAE:
If you wait until you have yourself figured out to try to teach kids anything, you'll never teach kids anything.

KATIE:
How do you do it?

RAE:
Do what?

KATIE:
Be like, out and proud or whatever.

RAE:
Haha what?

(CONTINUED)

KATIE:

You've been out for like a decade there's a poster of Ellen Degeneres in your room. What's your secret?

RAE:

Oh, hun. You have so much to learn.

KATIE:

So teach me.

RAE:

I'm not gay cinderella.

KATIE:

What?

RAE:

Birds don't dress me in the morning. My life is not a fairytale because I've publicly come out to a handful of people and I'm comfortable with who I am.

KATIE:

Wasn't snow white the one that got dressed by birds.

RAE:

So not the point.

KATIE:

Although, now that you mention it, isn't it about time there was a gay Cinderella. Oh! Or like a lesbian little mermaid!

RAE:

Good point, but again not THE point.

KATIE:

Okay sorry.

RAE:

You think I have my life together.

KATIE:

You do have your life together.

RAE:

In some ways, not all the ways. I can't be your mentor in how to be gay.

KATIE:

You know I've always hated the term straight. It implies that everything else is crooked. There are so many things in between.

(CONTINUED)

RAE:
You think you're somewhere in between?

KATIE:
(Gets up off the couch and pulls Rae to
her feet)
You sure you don't want to dance with me?

RAE:
Okay, okay.

They dance for a beat.

KATIE:
You're so pretty.

RAE:
You're not too bad yourself.

KATIE:
I don't want to lead you on.

RAE:
You're not. I know everyone takes their own time.

KATIE:
I just don't know how much time it will take.

RAE:
It's okay.

KATIE:
You're turning red.

RAE:
Wine has that effect on me.

KATIE:
You have that effect on me.

Katie kisses Rae.

RAE:
Do you need more time?

KATIE:
I think I'm okay.

RAE:
Okay.

They kiss again. Blackout. End of
play. (For now.)