

VYING FOR AFFECTIONS

Written by

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INT. HOPE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Low quality video footage. We hear the voice of WILL ROADS, as he conducts interviews of his fellow classmates. The classroom is a buzz with end of the week energy and the endless possibilities of the weekend.

WILL

Otto! How do you feel about the game tonight?

OTTO, a jock and a thespian, stands over the desk of HAILEY, a popular girl.

OTTO

Are you kidding? It's going to be a piece of cake. Blue Jays don't stand a chance.

WILL

(Laughs) Okay man. Where you gonna be in 10 years?

OTTO

Ten years?

WILL

Yeah.

OTTO

Hm. Playing for the NFL.

HAILEY

Yeah right.

OTTO

What? What?

WILL

Hailey where are you going to be in 10 years?

HAILEY

Anywhere but here.

JON, Hailey boyfriend and jock, appears behind her.

JON

She's going to be on the sidelines cheering me on.

He kisses her on the cheek.

HAILEY

Please. I'm going to have my own fashion line.

WILL
Okay, yeah? What's your-

A loud bang on the door pulls Will's attention. We see TRENT WOODS(17M), senior, loud, attention seeking and rebellious, pounding on the door.

KEVIN
Will! Will!

Will turns to reveal KEVIN, sitting on the writing part of his desk.

WILL
Kevin, where are you gonna be in 10 years?

Behind Kevin is IRENE KIJEK (16F), junior, meek, with a posture that shrinks into itself. She sits there avoiding eye contact with the camera, just staring at the clock.

The camera focuses in on her more and more while Kevin talks.

KEVIN
Jesus. Where won't I be?

WILL
What do you mean?

KEVIN
I'm gonna be famous. I'm going to be everywhere. You're gonna get sick of seeing this face.

WILL
I already am.

They laugh.

INT. KIJEK RESIDENCE - DAY

A nice upper class suburban home decorated with entirely too many knick-knacks. Irene enters. It's quiet.

IRENE
Mom? I'm home.

No response. She looks at the whiteboard on the wall. "Dinner meeting 5PM -Mom". Irene writes back "football game, wont be home till late. - Irene". With a sigh, she heads upstairs.

INT. IRENE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Irene enters her room. It's a cornucopia of old romantic movie posters.

She turns on a small TV, a black and white film plays. MARGARET, the female lead of the film, stands at a train station.

MARGARET

I should've thought he'd be here by now.

Irene energetically acts along with the scene, she knows every word. As she does she looks through her closet trying to pick out an outfit for tonight.

Margaret walks slowly away from the station but HARRY, the male lead, runs after her.

HARRY

Margaret! Wait! Please!

They run into each other's arms.

MARGARET

I thought you'd left for good.

HARRY

I would never leave without you.

MARGARET

Oh, but can't you see this won't work?

HARRY

Don't say that.

MARGARET

It's true. We're from two different worlds.

HARRY

None of that matters. Nothing can change the way I feel about you. Ever since we've met my whole world has been turned upside down.

MARGARET

Oh Harry.

HARRY

Come with me.

Irene plops in front of the TV as the two movie stars kiss. She smiles to herself.

INT. IRENE'S CAR - EVENING

Irene enters the drive thru of local fast food chain - Frosteez's. She taps along to the music playing in her car.

She pulls up to the ordering machine.

IRENE

Hi, can I get a number-

FROSTY'S WORKER

Irene?

IRENE

Elise? I didn't think you were working tonight.

ELISE

Of course I am! Get up here, I already know your order.

Irene pulls up to the first window. ELISE JOHNSON (16F), a junior, Irene's best friend, and a bit of a loudmouth opens the window.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Do you have time before the game? If I take my break now we can eat together.

IRENE

Absolutely.

ELISE

Okay, miss. That'll be \$5.50. I gave you a little discount.

Irene hands Elise some cash.

IRENE

Why thank you kind sir.

They giggle.

ELISE

I'll see you up front in a sec. I'll bring the goods.

Irene pulls around the building. As she does Trent Woods, jumps in front of her car. She nearly hits him.

TRENT

Oh shit.

He starts to laugh, and the sound gets amplified as a GROUP OF BOYS appear from behind the building. Trent runs to catch up to them, barely paying Irene mind.

She seems annoyed.

Finally she parks her car.

EXT. FROSTEEZ'S PARKING LOT - EVENING

Irene exits. Another car passes by her slowly, blasting a fun tune. Much to her surprise she realizes Will Roads (16M), junior, not conventionally attractive but incredibly charismatic, is in the car.

He doesn't seem to notice Irene. Her body melts, nearly dropping her car keys. For years she's been hopelessly in love with him, and yet still no poker face.

He drives off. Irene composes herself, and heads inside.

INT. FROSTEEZ'S - EVENING

Irene sits down at a table. Elise quickly follows suit carrying both of their meals.

ELISE

Did you just almost hit Trent Woods with your car?

IRENE

More like he almost hit my car...with his body.

Elise turns her attention to Trent and the group of boys who are still messing around in the parking lot.

ELISE

Oh god, even outside of school he's still like this. I wonder if I can call the police on them for loitering?

IRENE

Who cares. I wish you could save me from marching band tonight. I don't know why we have to play every game, its not like anyone watches us.

ELISE

Aw, but I've heard the band is pretty good this year.

IRENE

Mr. Jennings seems to think so. But a band of 40 or so people doesn't quite have the wow factor. (Beat) Did you see Will?

ELISE

We are not talking about Will. That boy ordered three cheeseburgers and a chicken sandwich. You do not want to date a boy who orders three cheeseburgers and a chicken sandwich. Where are the fries?

IRENE

Jesus.

A GROUP OF TEENAGERS they know enter.

ELISE

Hey!

GROUP

Hey!/What's up/How's it going?

Irene shrivels into herself, but manages a wave.

ELISE

Frosteez's Friday nights are the worst. I leave school just to see every single person we know. It's hell. It's a never ending hell.

IRENE

Where else is there to go?

ELISE

Touché.

Irene's focus shifts back to Trent and the group of boys.

IRENE

Did you hear Hailey and Jon got in trouble for doing some serious PDA during mass this morning?

ELISE

In Mass? Seriously? We get it, you've been dating since middle school.

IRENE

Come on, it's cute.

ELISE

I don't know. I hope in ten years when they're married they still find one another attractive despite the face that they've literally never kissed anyone else.

IRENE

Pssh. Just let them be happy. It's not hurting you.

ELISE

I'm not so sure about that.

Otto, dressed for the football game, enters.

OTTO

Johnson, nice uniform.

ELISE

Looks better than yours.

OTTO

(Annoyed)

You really think you're so funny.

ELISE

I do, yes. Thank you.

He goes to order.

ELISE (CONT'D)

You wanna hang out after the game?

IRENE

No, I think I'll be pretty wiped. I'll probably just watch a movie or two. You know me.

ELISE

Okay. But don't watch anything too good without me.

IRENE

Oh I wont watch anything good. Like, maybe, I don't know, maybe I'll check out all 6 hours of BBC's Pride and Prejudice?

ELISE

Don't you dare! I've been trying to get you to watch that for years! You cannot do it without me.

IRENE

I don't know, it sounds pretty good.

ELISE

I will end you. I need to see your face when they reveal Mr. Darcy. (British Accent) "And you sir? Are you fond of dancing?"

She turns to Irene dramatically, mimicking the show. They laugh.

EXT. FROSTY'S PARKING LOT - EVENING

Irene exits, giving Elise a last wave. As she walks to her car a voice stops her.

TRENT

Hey, Irene?

Everything about Trent seems different than the boy we saw before. He seems almost nervous.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Thanks for expertly avoiding my body earlier.

IRENE

No problem.

She tries to continue on her way.

TRENT

Hey, are you heading to band warm up right now?

IRENE

Yeah.

TRENT

Do you think you could give me a ride? Guys kind of ditched me.

She looks at him. Considering.

IRENE

Sure.

INT. IRENE'S CAR - EVENING

Irene and Trent sit in awkward silence. Trent thinks of whatever he can to break it.

TRENT

This is a nice car.

IRENE

Thanks. Do you not drive?

TRENT

No, no I do. But I share the car with my mom, so she's at work right now.

IRENE

Oh, yeah. How do you get home from school?

TRENT

She picks me up. Eventually. I've been saving up to buy a used car though. I'm so sick of catching rides.

IRENE

I can imagine.

Beat.

TRENT

Are you, uh, going on the band trip?

IRENE

No, I don't think so.

TRENT

What? You have to go! We miss two days of school and we're going to six flags!

Irene shakes her head negatively.

IRENE

I-

TRENT

We need you, were going to be all brass without you!

IRENE

(Laughs) I'm sure Darren is going.

TRENT

Oh we couldn't convince him not to go. Literally the most eager first chair clarinet there is. You're gonna leave us with him?

IRENE

I don't want to deal with him! You know last year, when we played swan lake, he kept making us rehearse just the ending bit. I think he felt really cool playing those high notes or something.

TRENT

He would! Oh my god.

IRENE

It's my nightmare to be stuck in a line with him at six flags. So I'm good.

Trent laughs. Surprised. Irene seems pleased.

TRENT

Fair enough. Oh shit.

He looks at the clock.

TRENT (CONT'D)

We're gonna be late.

IRENE

What? We don't have to be there till 6:45.

TRENT

Trumpets start at 6:30. If I'm late again Jennings is going to kill me.

Irene looks at the open road, the clock, and then at Trent.

She speeds up.

IRENE

We can make it.

TRENT

Holy shit.

Irene speeds around a corner, just barely running a red light. Trent laughs, completely giddy.

In a flash they make it to the football field. 6:29.

The car comes to a fast stop. Trent sits there for a moment. He looks at Irene as if seeing her for the first time.

TRENT (CONT'D)

That was awesome.

IRENE

What are you doing? Go. Go!

TRENT

Oh god, yeah, right. Shit, thank you!

He runs out of the car. She watches after him.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD BATHROOMS - NIGHT

Irene exits the bathroom, now in her marching uniform. She runs into MS. KIMBLE, the theatre teacher, holding a stack of posters.

MS. KIMBLE

Irene! Looking very sharp.

IRENE

Oh. Hi Ms. Kimble.

MS. KIMBLE

Did you enjoy our reading of Blithe Spirit in class today? I thought it was delightful.

IRENE

Yeah, it's a good show.

MS. KIMBLE

Indeed. Speaking of, I think you should consider switching your monologue for the play audition.

IRENE

Oh-

MS. KIMBLE

I've heard so many people deliver that piece you picked out. I think you should try to pick something a little more personal. You know?

IRENE

Yeah, I just found it online.

MS. KIMBLE

Did you search for "Best Monologues for girls?"

Irene nods.

MS. KIMBLE (CONT'D)

(Laughing) Maybe you should pick one from a movie you like instead. I don't know. I know you have to audition for class, but shake it up. Keep me on the edge of my seat.

IRENE

I'll do my best.

MS. KIMBLE

That's what I like to hear! Now if you'll excuse me. I have to go drum up enthusiasm. Once the football players see this they're going to drop the knee pads for some stage presence.

Ms. Kimble walks away with a wave. Irene rounds the corner and sees a poster for the play. It reads "NO MORE BOATS! A mystery for the ages! Play auditions 10/5 during theatre class or after school 4-5 pm."

She stares at it with a quiet determination.

Her thoughts are interrupted when-

DARREN

Irene! Good you're dressed.

IRENE

(Unenthusiastic) Hi Darren.

They walk up to the practice shed where the rest of the marching band is.

EXT. PRACTICE SHED - NIGHT

DARREN

I have to tell you, and this cannot leave this circle, but the freshmen do not know how to play.

IRENE

They're trying their best.

DARREN

If that's their best then we're hopeless. Also don't look now, but Trent Woods is staring at us.

Over her shoulder she spots Trent. He is indeed staring.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Gross. Anyway we need to have a group meeting ASAP. I've gathered everyone else.

Irene tries to ignore her growing curiosity towards trent. Darren and Irene join THREE OTHER CLARINET PLAYERS.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Clarinets? Alright. Everyone feeling okay about our new song? I know the sixteenth notes can be a little challenging for some.

The group nods affirmatively.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Okay, good. But just in case I think we should run them a few times. Just to check.

Irene locks eyes with Trent once again. He gestures, making fun of Darren. Irene smiles.

DARREN (CONT'D)

We all just need to remember our breath support. We support the notes. No note left behind!