

THE TRYOUT

Written by

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INT. MARK'S CAR - NIGHT

MARK (17) and KIRA (17) are laughing in Mark's car outside of Kira's house.

KIRA  
Wait, you were actually trying? I  
thought you were going easy on me.

MARK  
(sarcastically)  
Oh...ya, of course I was...

The two laugh before Kira reaches out to give Mark a kiss.

KIRA  
I gotta say, this might be the best  
summer vacation yet.

Mark checks the time on his phone.

MARK  
Alright I should go.

KIRA  
It's only 9, stay a bit longer?

MARK  
Sorry me and Sean finally reached  
the next level and I promised  
him...

Kira snaps out of her trance and gets angry.

KIRA  
You're really ditching me *tonight*?

MARK  
(over-dramatically)  
Should I just abandon my  
responsibility to Sean?

Mark reaches over to kiss Kira on the cheek. She recoils.

KIRA  
Why not? You have no problems  
abandoning your other  
responsibilities.

Kira looks down and picks up a pair of dirty socks from the floor.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Like this? Come on Mark!

MARK

Once again, we were having fun, and then you just have to ruin it. Why can't you just relax?

KIRA

Because I'm tired of dating a loser!

Both stop as they realize what has been said. Mark turns on the car engine

MARK

Just get out.

KIRA

Are you serious?!

MARK

Every time we go out you just sit there and nag me I'm tired of it.

Kira looks at Mark in disbelief before opening the car door and stepping out.

KIRA

By the way, *today* was my Birthday.

Kira slams the car door as Mark hangs his head down as he comes to the realization of what he did.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Mark sulks down a hallway of lockers, looking at a crowd watching a GIRL being asked to Homecoming. He stares at one of the faces in the crowd, Kira when he gets hit in the face by a locker door, sending him to the ground.

LINDSEY (18) closes the locker and for the first time sees Mark on the ground. Mark looks up at her, taken back by her attractiveness. Lindsey removes her earbuds.

LINDSEY

That's the worst grovelling I've ever seen.

Mark gets back up, looking to Kira to be sure she is watching him.

MARK

Hey, I know you. We have Physics together. Lindsey right? I've been meaning to ask you-

Lindsey ignores Mark.

MARK (CONT'D)  
So! Uh... homecoming is coming up  
and I was wondering-

Lindsey puts her headphones back in and begins to walk away with her books. Mark looks to see Kira walking away, and gets motivated.

MARK (CONT'D)  
(yelling)  
You wanna go with me?!

Lindsey stops, makes a frustrated noise, then walks back up to Mark. She pulls a piece of paper from her binder and shoves it onto Mark's chest before stomping off.

Star struck, Mark watches her walk away. As she turns the corner, he looks at the paper. It reads, "Want to go to Homecoming with Lindsey Price?"

MARK (CONT'D)  
(reading paper)  
"Come to the theatre on Tuesday  
after school..."

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Mark is showing the paper he got to his friend, SEAN (18), as the two play video games on laptops.

SEAN  
(reading paper)  
"...and prove to us why you are  
worthy to take Lindsey to  
Homecoming". This is a joke right?  
She gave this to you?

MARK  
She wants me to try out, like for  
sports.

SEAN  
No girl is worth that, not even  
Lindsey Price.

Mark notices Kira and a group of her friends enter the library. Sean sees Mark noticing.

SEAN (CONT'D)  
But I guess a hot date isn't your  
only goal.

Mark stops looking at Kira

MARK

What's that supposed to mean?

SEAN

You sure you're not trying to make a certain ex-girlfriend jealous by getting the hottest girl at school?

MARK

It has nothing to do with Kira okay?

SEAN

Whatever, your funeral.

EXT. THEATRE - DAY - TUESDAY

Mark gets to the main theatre door and sees a note taped onto the door. It read, "Wrong door dumbass." Mark looks around confused before heading to the back door.

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

Mark enters a hall as a boy runs into him, dropping a pack of cards as he does.

MARK

Woah hey, you ok?

RANDOM BOY

Get out while you can, she's crazy!

MARK

Wait, what's going on!

The Random Boy runs off, Mark notices the deck of cards on the floor, and picks it up.

Mark looks up to see LUCY (18), smiling at him and beckoning him over. Mark hesitantly walks over.

MARK (CONT'D)

Hey, is there like someone in charge here I can talk to?

Lucy smiles at Mark.

LUCY

Yes, that would be me, how can I help you?

Mark looks around, hesitant to say anything.

MARK

So... what exactly...is going on...

LUCY

I don't understand, I just explained it to everyone five minutes ago.

MARK

Oh ok...well I was...I was just-

LUCY

A complete idiot that showed up late to the most important talent show of his life?

Lucy smiles, playfully slapping Mark's face.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Curtain opens in five.

Lucy walks away, stopping at a table to gesture to a clipboard.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Write your name there, and bring it to me.

Mark looks at the deck of cards, getting an idea.

INT. THEATRE - DAY

A boy on stage is terribly singing as Lucy sits in the middle of a theatre, clipboard in hand.

LUCY

Ok that's, that's enough.

SINGER

Did I make it?

LUCY

You made me want to cut off my ears.

As the boy walks off, Lucy marks a huge red X next to a name.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Next!

Mark walks out onto the stage.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
 (Sarcasticly)  
 Oh shit it's you! Yes!  
 So what are you going to be doing  
 today?

Mark opens his mouth, but Lucy interrupts.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
 If you say singing, I'm going to  
 stab you.

Mark holds up the deck of cards.

MARK  
 No, uhh, I got a magic trick.

LUCY  
 (whisper)  
 Please make yourself disappear,  
 please make yourself disappear...

MARK  
 Pick a card, any card! And be sure  
 not to let me see.

Lucy looks up, pissed.

LUCY  
 So you want me to get up, walk all  
 the way up there, and...

MARK  
 Ok ok, nevermind

Mark fans out the cards, faces towards Lucy.

MARK (CONT'D)  
 Just pick one

LUCY  
 Eight of Spades.

MARK  
 No, not.

Mark reaches into his deck, flustered. Mark pulls out a  
 random card.

MARK (CONT'D)  
 Ok, this is your card.

LUCY  
 Got it Jack of Clubs

Mark rolls his eyes, and begins shuffling the deck

MARK

So now, I'll shuffle it into the deck, you can see it's random, there's no way...

Mark looks up and see's Lucy is looking at her phone. Mark gets angry and walks off.

MARK (CONT'D)

You know what fine, your card is under the clipboard.

Lucy looks under the clipboard, intrigued. She sees indeed her card, the Jack of Clubs, is there.

Lucy Marks a question mark next to Mark's name.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Mark slumps back to his car. He is having a hard time opening the door when he sees Kira in his side mirror. Kira smiles as she sees Mark.

KIRA

(sarcastically)

Is that Mark at school after hours?

MARK

What can I say? I'm a changed man.

Mark tries to look cool, but stumbles.

KIRA

Not the word I would use.

Kira walks past Mark to her car.

Mark watches Kira drive off before climbing into his own car. Silently thinking for a bit before driving off.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY - WEDNESDAY

Mark runs to his locker, grabbing some books. He sees a note inside. The note reads

LUCY (V.O.)

Congrats, loser, you made it, Room 308 at 6:00, be there or be square.  
Signed Lucy.



Mark reads the note and looks around. Mark closes the locker.

INT. ROOM 308 - DAY

Mark hesitantly opens the door to Room 308. Inside, Lucy and her entourage are sitting at the front of the classroom, with the remaining boys sitting in desks.

LUCY

Can you be a little more late next time? It's not like we're on a schedule or anything.

Mark glares at Lucy as he takes a seat. The girls hand out packets.

Mark flips open the packet and sees it's filled with financially related math problems.

MARK

Come on, I already had four tests today.

LUCY

Sucks to suck.

Lucy sits on a table at the front of the room and holds up a timer.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You have one hour. Top three scores get to stay. Go!

The timer has counted down 30 minutes and Mark has drawn a middle finger on the scan-tron. He bubbles in the last part when he hears voices from the hall.

Kira walks past the room talking on the phone. Kira looks at Mark, confused. Lucy ducks her head out the open door.

LUCY (CONT'D)

(to Kira and friends)  
Can you shut the hell up?

KIRA

Excuse me?

LUCY

Can you shut the hell up? Please?

Kira looks past Lucy to look at Mark, who looks down to avoid her gaze.

LUCY (CONT'D)

These boys are competing to take  
Lindsey Price to homecoming, please  
be respectful and quiet!

Kira looks to Mark, shocked.

KIRA

What? Competing?

Lucy shuts and locks the door on Kira.

LUCY

Sorry, can't hear you!

Lucy goes back to her table.

LUCY (CONT'D)

All right guys, hurry it up, we  
gotta dip before Princess Perfect  
calls the principal. 20 more  
minutes, tops.

Mark takes one last look at Kira before he begins furiously erasing his scan-tron and bubbling the right answers.

Lucy calls time as Mark fills in the last bubble.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT - WEDNESDAY

Mark is sitting in his car. He looks down to the passenger side floor board and sees the pair of dirty socks. Mark picks them up to inspect them, and throws them down angrily.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The bell rings as Mark walks across school with another note in his hand.

LUCY (V.O.)

You are confirmed to not be as  
stupid as your hair cut. Cafeteria  
after school, you know what to do.  
Signed Lucy

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Mark and the two other remaining boys are standing in front a table with a shock device on top of it.

LUCY

Looks like the real test is about  
to begin.

GIRL takes the FIRST BOY to the chair and hooks him up to the  
machine.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Why do you think you should take  
Lindsey to Homecoming?

FIRST BOY

Because she's the most beautiful  
girl I've ever seen, and I'd treat  
her like a princess.

The First Boy gets shocked as Mark watches him closely.

CUT TO:

SECOND BOY

I just want her to be happy, and I  
think I'm the one who can make her  
the happiest.

The Second Boy gets shocked. Mark closely watches him too and  
smiles.

CUT TO:

MARK

Look at me, I'm h-o-t. Lindsey  
would be lucky to date me.

Lucy smiles and puts her finger on the button, but does not  
shock Mark.

LUCY

What is the best feeling in the  
world for you?

FIRST BOY

Honestly just being here.

CUT TO:

SECOND BOY

The feeling I get when I look at  
Lindsey.

CUT TO:

MARK

Every moment is the best for me, do  
you know who I am?

The two other boys get shocked again, while Lucy laughs at Mark's answer. The other boys looks with jealousy as he gets up.

LUCY

Have you ever had any past  
relationships? If so how did they  
end?

FIRST BOY

She dumped me because I was "too  
clingy." What a lie. It was a while  
ago though, 798 days to be exact.

Lucy presses the button to shock the First Boy.

CUT TO:

SECOND BOY

I never had a relationship before,  
don't want to weigh down Lindsey  
with baggage right?

Lucy rolls her eyes and shocks the Second Boy. The two boys glare at Mark as he takes his seat.

LUCY

Any past relationships?

MARK

Honestly, no girl is good enough  
for me. Maybe Lindsey will be an  
exception...maybe.

FIRST BOY

He dated Kira Miller, they broke up  
only a month ago.

Lucy looks up with a smirk. Mark glares at the First Boy.

LUCY

Wasn't that he girl from yesterday?  
Poor taste, both of you.

Mark is visibly angry, but is trying to keep it in.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Why'd you break up?

MARK  
I don't know.

Mark is shocked.

LUCY  
Who dumped who?

MARK  
Mutual.

Mark is shocked again as the two other boys look pleased.

LUCY  
So why'd she dump you?

MARK  
Don't know-

Mark is shocked.

MARK (CONT'D)  
-don't care!

LUCY  
You don't care why she dumped you  
or she dumped you because you don't  
care? Or maybe Ms. Ivy League was  
getting tired of dating someone  
like you...

MARK  
Just shut up!

Mark is shocked, and then slams the table.

LUCY  
You talk big, but you don't fool  
me. You here to make her jealous?

MARK  
I'm over her.

Mark is shocked, this time he tears off the wires and stands.

LUCY  
You don't seem like it, you can't  
even talk about the breakup.

MARK  
You're wrong!

LUCY  
Then why did you breakup?

MARK  
(yelling)  
Because I'm a loser!

The room goes silent as Mark realizes what he said. Mark stomps out of the cafeteria.

INT. MARK'S ROOM - DUSK

Mark is watching pointless videos on his computer. He has a call open with Sean.

SEAN (O.S.)  
You sure you don't want to play?

MARK  
Sorry Sean, not tonight. I think I'm just going to start the game over anyways

SEAN (O.S.)  
I still don't get why you would do that. We're so close!

MARK  
I messed up my character, I'm just going to train from level 1 again.

SEAN (O.S.)  
But think of all the memories! Remember when you got Kira to play?

Mark turns from the computer. He notices the same pair of dirty socks from his car, now on his bed.

SEAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Sorry, I shouldn't have- Kevin wants to play do you mind if...

MARK  
Go ahead.

Sean hangs up as Mark picks up the socks. Mark shuts off the videos.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Mark is going through his lockers. He closes it to reveal Lindsey waiting right behind it.

LINDSEY  
Hey Mike!

Mark jumps back.

LINDSEY (CONT'D)  
 Congrats! You're the winner. Pick  
 me up at 7:00?

MARK  
 It's Mark, and thanks but I'm not  
 interested.

LINDSEY  
 Oh God, don't tell me your gay too,  
 the best ones always are.

MARK  
 Straight, and single, but still not  
 going with you.

LINDSEY  
 What? Do you have another date?

MARK  
 Maybe.

Mark grabs a bag from his locker and begins to walk off.

LINDSEY  
 Maybe?! Wait. Please. Everyone else  
 already has dates! I can't go to my  
 senior homecoming single!

Mark turns around and smirks

MARK  
 That's the worst groveling I've  
 ever seen.

EXT. KIRA'S HOUSE

Kira is walking to her car when she sees a pair of socks  
 under her windshield wipers. Kira walks over to the car and  
 notices a note under her windshield wiper.

MARK (V.O.)  
 Every sock needs its pair.

Kira looks up confused and sees Mark with a giant sign.

KIRA  
 I thought you were going with  
 Lindsey? I had a wild Lucy in my  
 face saying Lindsey was asking you  
 after school.

MARK

She did. I said no.

KIRA

Huh!? I thought you wanted to go with Lindsey.

MARK

Ya well, it so happens that Lindsey can't beat me in Galiga, real turn off if you ask me. Plus Sean really misses you.

Kira smirks, but maintains her cold composure.

MARK (CONT'D)

Look ever since we broke up I never stopped thinking about you, and wanting to be with you again.

Mark holds up the sign.

MARK (CONT'D)

It's only one night, what's the worst that could happen?

Kira silently thinks for a bit.

MARK (CONT'D)

(sarcastically)

Not to rush you, but I do have a job interview soon...

KIRA

Mm, good one. \*Beat\* Wait really?

MARK

I need to pay back the loan don't I?

KIRA

The loan for what?

Mark mark motions towards the socks. Kira picks them up and pulls out small box. She opens it, inside is a pair or earrings.

MARK

Those were the ones you wanted for your birthday right? Sorry they're a bit late...



Kira reaches out to kiss Mark.

FADE TO BLACK: