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SF PERUSALS

Samuel French Acting Edition

Hookman

by Lauren Yee

SAMUEL FRENCH

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HOOKMAN received its world premiere at Encore Theatre Company (Lisa Steindler and James Faerron, co-artistic directors) in association with Z Space Theatre in San Francisco, California on May 9, 2015. The performance was directed by Becca Wolff, with sets by James Faerron, costumes by Christina Dinkel, lights by Joshua McDermott, sound by Drew Yerys, and props and blood effects by Devon LaBelle. The Stage Manager was Kevin Johnson, the Assistant Stage Manager was Amber Bryant. The cast was as follows:

LEXI . . . . . Taylor Jones
JESS . . . . . Sarah Matthes
YOONJI . . . . . Katharine Chin
CHLOE . . . . . Aily Roper
KAYLEIGH . . . . . Jessica Lynn Carroll
HOOKMAN . . . . . Devin O'Brien

HOOKMAN was first presented at Company One Boston Center for the Arts as part of the Double X Festival (Shawn LaCount, Artistic Director) in Boston, Massachusetts on March 23, 2012. The performance was directed by Greg Maraio, with sets by Mike Best, costumes by Cara Pacifico, sound by Edward J. Young, lights by Saulius Szelas, makeup and special effects by Lynn Wilcott, and dramaturgy by Ilana Brownstein. The Production Manager was Karthik Subramanian and the Stage Manager was Marjorie Scarff. The cast was as follows:

LEXI . . . . . Erin Butcher
JESS . . . . . Nicole Prefontaine
YOONJI . . . . . Pearl Shin
CHLOE . . . . . Hannah Cranton
KAYLEIGH . . . . . Mimi Augustin
HOOKMAN . . . . . Joe Kidawski

HOOKMAN was also presented at the University of California San Diego's Baldwin New Play Festival (Naomi Iizuka, head of playwriting) in La Jolla, California on April 19, 2012. The performance was directed by Larissa Lury, with sets by Natalie Khuen, costumes by Mary Rochon, sound by Melanie Chen, and lights by Sy Simms. The Stage Managers were Kristina Beerman and Lindy Luong. The cast was as follows:

LEXI . . . . . Sarah Halford
JESS . . . . . Vi Flaten
YOONJI . . . . . Mimi Ngo
CHLOE . . . . . Ngozi Anwanyu
KAYLEIGH . . . . . Annalice Heinz
HOOKMAN . . . . . Matt MacNelly

HOOKMAN was commissioned by Encore Theatre Company with support from the Gerbode Foundation.

HOOKMAN was also developed at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre and the Magic Theatre.

CHARACTERS

LEXI – 17, female. Freshman at UConn. An only child.

JESS – 18, female. Freshman at UC Davis. Possibly Lexi's best friend. Maternal.

YOONJI – 18, female. Freshman at UConn. Lexi's roommate. Korean American. Passive aggressive.

CHLOE – 18, female. Freshman at UConn. Carries a large thermos of coffee. Thrilled to be alive.

KAYLEIGH – 15, female. Sophomore at West Porter High. On a quiet power trip.

HOOKMAN – Old enough to be sketchy, male. Has a hook for a hand. Constantly looks hung over. The actor playing **HOOKMAN** also plays:

> **SEAN –** 20, male. Junior at DePaul University. Plays intramural baseball. May be a rapist.
>
> **ADAM –** 21, male. Senior at UConn. Lexi's residential advisor. The local pot dealer.

TIME / PLACE

1. In the car / the Friday of Thanksgiving break
2. University of Connecticut
3. West Porter High

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Avoid the impulse to play Lexi and the other female characters as vapid valley girls. Everyone is very focused and engaged in what they are saying, even if it sounds meaningless. Dialogue should overlap, correct itself, trail off, just randomly end mid-breath.

("Words in parentheses and quotes") denote an emotion and are not dialogue

(Words in parentheses) are dialogue

[Words in brackets] are implied but not spoken out loud

SPECIAL THANKS

Naomi Iizuka, Adele Edling Shank, Allan Havis, Antje Oegel, and Bailey Williams.

For Gus

Scene

(In the car.)

(A metal scraping sound. Then lights up on **JESS** *and* **LEXI** *leaving the In 'N Out drivethru.* **LEXI** *drives.* **JESS** *in the passenger seat with the tray of fries and her cheeseburger.* **JESS** *occasionally feeds fries to* **LEXI**. *The Friday after Thanksgiving. An unusually cold Northern California night.)*

JESS. So you want to know something weird?

LEXI. Did I ask for ketchup?

JESS. Yeah, it's

It's right there

LEXI. Oh, okay

*(***LEXI** *has the car at the edge of the parking lot, waits to turn into the street into the oncoming traffic.)*

Which way?

JESS. What?

LEXI. Which way should I go?

JESS. I think you can go either way.

(A car pulls up behind **LEXI** *in the parking lot.* **LEXI** *freaks out a little.)*

LEXI. Jess, can I go?

JESS. I don't, um

LEXI. Aaaah, I'm just gonna go.

*(***LEXI** *goes.* **JESS** *winces.* **LEXI** *gestures to the car behind her that she just cut off.)*

Sorry. Sorry!

*(***JESS** *exhales.)*

LEXI. It's 11:59.

JESS. I know.

*(***LEXI** *makes a little upset noise.)*

You wanted to get the In 'N Out!

LEXI. I didn't *ask* for the
You said we had time.

JESS. It's a midnight screening, it's not even midnight yet.

*(***LEXI** *makes another, different upset noise.)*

So you want to know something weird?

LEXI. What.

JESS. So you remember

(A cell phone rings.)

LEXI. Is that your phone?

JESS. Is that my phone?
Yeah, that's my phone.

*(***JESS** *goes in search of her phone.)*

LEXI. Is it your mom?

JESS. No, it's *your* mom.

LEXI. Oh weird,
Lemme talk to her.

*(***LEXI** *grabs the phone from* **JESS**.*)*

Hey, Mom.
Yeah, this is Jess's phone.
Well, you called Jess's phone.

JESS. Hi, Mrs. Gellner!

LEXI. Jess says hi.

(to **JESS***)* She says hi back.

JESS. I want to come visit you!
Lemme talk to her.

LEXI. *(to* **JESS***)* She says she's busy.
(to phone) Well, you are.

What do you mean "with what?"
We have to go
We have to go!
I'm driving!

JESS. Lex, lemme talk to her.

*(***LEXI** *hangs up the phone.)*

LEXI. She had to go.

JESS. I love your mom.

LEXI. My mom's crazy. You have no idea.

JESS. She sent me a text, the other day.
She was like

LEXI. She keeps sending me all these crazy emails
About how kidnappers kidnap you by playing tapes of babies so you'll be like, "oh, a baby" and

JESS. Oh I read about that

LEXI. Or like
How they go to parking lots with scissors and hide under cars
And she's like,
"Watch out for Hookman"

JESS. Hookman… ?

LEXI. "Don't go with Hookman"

JESS. What's Hookman?

LEXI. You know
…
"Hookman."

*(***JESS** *shrugs: "no idea.")*

Wait, you've
EVERYONE's heard of
– or maybe your mom's not crazy –
But anyway, so
HOOKMAN:
You're driving along

LEXI. *(cont.)* Late at night
By yourself and you're a girl
– I think it's a girl…
Yeah, it's a girl –
And you don't have a boyfriend
And not even a guy friend who likes you but you don't like him enough so you're just friends who helps you move your furniture?
And you're in your car
And someone highbeams you.

(Someone highbeams **LEXI**.*)*

Yeah, like that.
But KEEPS highbeaming you and KEEPS following you
And you get really freaked out and you start driving home –

JESS. Why're you driving home if that's just gonna let him know where you live now?

LEXI. Well, like
No
Let me finish.
So you get home and you run in and you're like,
"Omigod, there's a guy in a car who's gonna kill me,"
But actually all this time, there was ANOTHER GUY in the *backseat* of your car

JESS. Ohhh, I've heard this before

LEXI. With a HOOK!
For a HAND!
– Hookman –
Who was trying to kill you
But like
Every time he – Hookman – went up to kill you,
The guy in the car flashed his highbeams
Which, I guess, scared Hookman?
– which makes no sense, I know, but –

Ultimately, the highbeam guy kills the guy with the hook

Or,

Calls the police or something,

I'm pretty sure,

I don't know.

JESS. So what's the point?

LEXI. What.

JESS. Of the story.

LEXI. Exactly! My mom: SO CRAZY.

And I'm like,

First, Hookman's not real, he's just something that happened to people after Vietnam,

And (b.) why're you scaring me if there's nothing I can do about it?

AND sometimes, she'll call me and she'll be like,

"Stay safe,"

And I'm like,

"What makes you think I'm not safe?

And how can I stay safe if I don't even know if I'm safe in the first place?

Like that makes no sense whatsoever basically."

JESS. Maybe she's just wondering how you're doing,

That's all.

…

So you want to know something weird?

LEXI. Did we get both fries?

JESS. I hate how you don't listen to me.

*(***LEXI** *hears this.)*

LEXI. What?!

JESS. That's your problem:

You never listen to people.

Somebody says something and you have no idea what they just said.

LEXI. What're you talking about?

JESS. One day, I'm going to do that to you.

LEXI. What?

JESS. I'm just not gonna listen and then you'll know how it feels.

LEXI. No! Jess.

What was it?

JESS. See? Now I don't even remember!

LEXI. Jessss!

I hear what're you saying, I just didn't hear what you said.

Say it again.

JESS. It was two things.

LEXI. Was it something important?

Was it something about me?

JESS. It was about otters?

LEXI. Otters?

JESS. One was something about otters, I can't remember.

The other thing was –

Oh! So you remember Jiehae?

LEXI. …

Oh yeah

She was such a bitch

I used to hate her.

She slapped me once.

JESS. She slapped you?

LEXI. Not on the face, but yeah.

I mean, she was good at math

But she was such a bitch.

JESS. So

Jiehae

You know she died.

(beat)

LEXI. Omigod, are you serious?

JESS. In Peru.
She was taking a year off.
I saw it on Facebook
Right before you picked me up.

LEXI. That is so weird!

JESS. Are you smiling?
Omigod, Lexi: you're smiling.

LEXI. I'm not
I'm not smiling! I'm just –
Peru?!

JESS. I know!

LEXI. Like BECAUSE it was Peru
Or "Just
Happened to be Peru?"

JESS. I don't know!
Nobody does!

LEXI. What do you mean "nobody?"

JESS. Nobody knows!
Nobody was there!

LEXI. But how did it happen?

JESS. It didn't say.

*(***LEXI** *seems crushed by this.)*

LEXI. What?!

JESS. Maybe she just died
In general.

LEXI. But how're they supposed to figure out who did it then?

JESS. Why does it have to be someone who did it?

LEXI. If she died, then SOMEBODY must've
People our age don't just DIE for no reason
– unless you're like Lindsay Lohan or –
People who kill people should be punished.

LEXI. *(cont.)*People who kill people should not be allowed to LIVE with their lives.
Someone should be doing something.

JESS. Who?

LEXI. I don't know who, but SOMEONE.

JESS. You didn't even really know her.
You were the one smiling, just now!

LEXI. Did she have a boyfriend?

JESS. What?

LEXI. If she'd had a boyfriend,
This would not have happened.

JESS. How do you know she didn't have a boyfriend?

LEXI. Girls without boyfriends are targets.

JESS. What?!

LEXI. At least that's what my dad says.

JESS. Omigod, Lex:
Do you always listen to your dad?

LEXI. Is that a question?
Yeah. Of course.
If I can't listen to my dad, who else is there?
… well, what do you think it was?

JESS. Oh come on, Lex,
Boys hurt other people and girls hurt themselves.
That's just how it is.

*(***LEXI** *makes a sound of "aw, I don't like that.")*

Her profile's still up.
I'm going to wait till after Christmas to defriend her.

*(***LEXI** *makes an offended noise/face.)*

Otherwise people're going to see that we were friends when we weren't and
– I don't know –
I only friended her because she friended me first, basically.

LEXI. You know who really looks like Jiehae? My roommate.

JESS. But isn't your roommate

LEXI. No, she's Korean
And she looks exactly like her.
From New Jersey!

JESS. Oh, I've never met anyone from New Jersey.

LEXI. They pump your gas there. FOR YOU.

JESS. Really?

LEXI. You don't even have to touch it! I might go over and visit her there over spring break.

JESS. Wait,
You're not coming back?

LEXI. I don't know
… you should come!

JESS. Maybe.
…
So you like it there?

LEXI. Great. It's great!

JESS. Great.

LEXI. They've got all these buildings and when I get back, it's supposed to snow!

JESS. East coast.

LEXI. And they've got pizza and you have to hold it like this –

*(***LEXI** *gestures folding a slice of pizza in half.)*

JESS. You seem to really like it.

LEXI. I do!
I guess I do.

JESS. More than here?
You don't wish you'd stayed here?

LEXI. What? And go to Davis?

JESS. What's wrong with Davis?

LEXI. No, Davis is fine, Davis is just… I mean, YOU go to Davis.

JESS. I know.

LEXI. Not that there's anything wrong with that, it's just –
I like UConn, that's all. They've got snow!

JESS. *(re: In 'N Out.)* Though they have don't this.

LEXI. True. It's all pizza there.

JESS. You want the rest of my milkshake?

LEXI. You don't want it?!

JESS. Here:
Have mine.
I didn't do anything to it.
(I had a cold, but I think I'm over it…)

*(***LEXI** *tastes* **JESS***'s milkshake. Eh.)*

You can have the rest.
I know you want it.

LEXI. Yeahhhh.
Wait:
How'm I gonna bring two milkshakes into the theater?

JESS. Put it in your purse

LEXI. What if it spills?

JESS. They're not gonna check
They don't care

LEXI. Maybe if I hold it?

*(***LEXI** *tries this, and then attempts consolidating the two milkshakes into one cup.)*

JESS. Here, let me do it.

LEXI. No, no, no, I can –

JESS. Lex, just let me do it.

*(***JESS** *takes the two milkshakes from* **LEXI**. *A metal scraping noise. Only* **LEXI** *hears this.)*

LEXI. What was that?

JESS. What

LEXI. That noise.

JESS. I didn't hear anything.

LEXI. Like

A scraping?

JESS. No?

LEXI. Oh.

*(**LEXI** hits something. The car gets jostled. **JESS** drops one of the milkshakes on the passenger seat mat.)*

JESS. Aaaah!

LEXI. Sorry. Sorry!

*(**JESS** leans over to pick up the milkshake.)*

So you want to know something weird?

*(**JESS** sits back up, trying to salvage the milkshake remains. She sees something.)*

JESS. Lex, watch out!

Scene

*(**LEXI** and **YOONJI**'s dorm room.)*

*(**YOONJI** sits at her desk, listening to her music. An opened peach Snapple, fresh out of her mini-fridge, is on her desk. She eats from a bag of puffy Korean snacks. There is a care package full of more Korean snacks on her bed. **LEXI** enters with her rolling suitcase and the remains of a pie, covered in foil.)*

LEXI. Hey

*(**YOONJI** wordlessly acknowledges **LEXI**'s presence. **LEXI** unpacks, puts her pie down.)*

I brought a pie!

*(**YOONJI**, not hearing anything **LEXI** has said, sees **LEXI** moving. **YOONJI** takes off her headphones.)*

YOONJI. Did you say something?

LEXI. Oh. No. It's just
I brought a pie
You can have some
If you want.

YOONJI. You *bought* a pie?

LEXI. I *brought* a pie?
From home?
My mom and me, we made it?

YOONJI. You took it on the plane?

LEXI. Yeah.

YOONJI. Like that?

*(**LEXI** becomes self-conscious of her pie.)*

LEXI. Yes… ?

YOONJI. Is it still good?

LEXI. I think it's still good.
Yeah, it's still good.
You want some?

YOONJI. *(shrugs)* Sure.

LEXI. Let me just find something to cut it with.

YOONJI. I think I've got something. Over by the – *(gestures)* somewhere.

*(***YOONJI** *puts her headphones back on.* **LEXI** *searches briefly, then stops.)*

LEXI. – so, um, my friend died.

*(***YOONJI** *thinks she's heard something. She's not sure.)*

Over break.

*(***YOONJI** *takes off her headphones.)*

YOONJI. Did you say something?

LEXI. No, just
My friend
Died
The other day
Over break.
Jess.

(No response.)

YOONJI. Wait, the one who went to *Davis*?
She *died*?!

LEXI. Yeah.

*(***YOONJI** *sees her life passing before her eyes.)*

YOONJI. That, sucks.

*(***YOONJI** *gets up. She's still wearing her headphones, they pull her back. She takes them off clumsily and gets up to hug* **LEXI**. **LEXI** *inadvertently moves the wrong way.* **YOONJI** *stops before hugging* **LEXI**, *instead just kind of stands nearby and folds her arms.)*

YOONJI. *(cont.)*So
…
Are you okay?

LEXI. Yeah,
Though
… can I get a Snapple?

*(**LEXI** gestures to the half-drunk peach Snapple on **YOONJI**'s desk.)*

YOONJI. Oh. Yeah. Sure.

*(**YOONJI** goes into her mini-fridge, hands her a lemon Snapple. **LEXI** looks at **YOONJI**'s peach Snapple.)*

LEXI. Can I get a peach one, though?

YOONJI. Oh
Um
Yeah.

*(**YOONJI** grudgingly trades **LEXI** her peach Snapple.)*

LEXI. Thanks.

YOONJI. I mean:
Your friend died!

*(**LEXI** drinks the cold peach Snapple. Mmm.)*

How did it happen?

LEXI. We were going to the movies and,
This guy?
This drunk driver?
Just blew through a red light and hit us.

YOONJI. Omigod.

LEXI. He's okay
… though he did lose a hand.

YOONJI. Did he get it back?

LEXI. I don't know… ?

YOONJI. Or did they have to give him a hook for a hand?

LEXI. Wait, like
Hookman?!

YOONJI. Hookman… ?

LEXI. I mean,
Yeah, that's probably what they did.

YOONJI. Omigod, that's horrible…
… having a hook for a hand.

*(***YOONJI** *imagines a hook for a hand, is sad.)*

I bet your insurance would have to be really bad for you to get a hook for a hand.

LEXI. Maybe.

YOONJI. What's going to happen to him?

LEXI. I don't know, they wouldn't tell me, but uh
They have him. In custody.
In the hospital.
They said they'd call if there's anything else.
So. Good.
For now.

YOONJI. What was your friend's last name?

LEXI. Gelman. Jess Gelman.
But you want to know something weird?

YOONJI. *(types)* Hm.

(While **LEXI** *says the following,* **YOONJI** *searches around on her laptop, reads an article.)*

LEXI. And it's crazy, but
Getting on the plane, I thought I saw
– I mean, he's in a coma now
So obviously not, but –
I thought I saw the drunk guy
ALSO get on the plane?
Which is so weird.

YOONJI. For a guy to get on a plane?

LEXI. No, like
Um
It's just nice to be home, that's all.

*(***YOONJI** *looks around.)*

YOONJI. I thought you lived in California.

LEXI. I do.

YOONJI. Then how is this home?

LEXI. Just like, school home, you know.
With school friends.

YOONJI. Oh.

LEXI. So: good to be back!

YOONJI. But you'll go back for your friend's thing, right?

LEXI. What?

YOONJI. *(re: laptop)* The memorial they're having.

LEXI. Wait,
How do you know about that?

*(***YOONJI** *angles her laptop away from* **LEXI**.*)*

YOONJI. No, no, no, go on.
Sorry, go on.

LEXI. No, that's it.
Jess's mom keeps calling me, asking me to come back to speak at the thing,
But then I feel like everyone's just gonna ask me all these questions
And
My mom said I didn't have to, so –
I'm back.
Though I DID send her a text,
Jess's mom.
…
Don't tell anyone.
I don't really want to talk about it.

YOONJI. Oh
Totally.
(But I can post it, right?)

LEXI. Post what?

*(***YOONJI** *clicks on something, shuts her laptop.)*

YOONJI. Though it's good that you guys weren't friends.

LEXI. What?

YOONJI. What?

LEXI. Who said that?

YOONJI. You.

LEXI. No.

… I mean, I may have said we weren't like BEST friends. That's all.

YOONJI. Oh.

Okaaay.

So: "it's good that you weren't best friends."

LEXI. Right.

You want to grab some dinner?

YOONJI. Oh, no, we're going out to dinner.

LEXI. … oh.

YOONJI. You should come!

LEXI. Really?

YOONJI. Yeah! Your friend died!

LEXI. She did.

YOONJI. Allie's boyfriend is giving us a ride.

LEXI. In a car?

YOONJI. Yes?

LEXI. Driving?

YOONJI. We're going to Costco and then we're going to Olive Garden for dinner.

LEXI. Um, that's okay

I'll just

Run across the quad and grab something in the dining hall.

YOONJI. *(shrugs)* Okay.

*(***YOONJI** *looks around, as if to see what is making* **LEXI** *so busy.)*

LEXI. I have to talk to Sean anyway.

YOONJI. Who?

LEXI. The guy.

YOONJI. Oh, HIM!
Are you guys still together?

LEXI. … I think so?
Yeah!

YOONJI. Wait, so what about the other guy?

LEXI. What other guy?

YOONJI. Your friend.
The one who came by just now?

LEXI. I don't know what you're talking about.

YOONJI. Is he a grad student?
'Cause he kind of looked like a grad student.

LEXI. What guy?

YOONJI. The guy with a, uh
– what do you call it? –

*(***YOONJI** *mimes something that might be misconstrued as "hook for a hand.")*

LEXI. Hook for a hand?

YOONJI. *(beat)* No?
He just… had a hand for a hand, I think.

LEXI. Oh.

YOONJI. But anyway! He left something for you.

*(***LEXI** *looks around amid the mess on her bed. She finds a note written in bloody red letters stabbed to her pillow with a knife.)*

LEXI. Omigod, Yoonji.

YOONJI. Hm?

LEXI. LOOK.

YOONJI. Oh, you found the knife!

LEXI. What?

YOONJI. For your pie. The one in the – *(gestures vaguely)* somewhere.

*(**LEXI** realizes she's holding the knife over the pie.)*

LEXI. Right.
So the guy who came by

YOONJI. The grad student?

LEXI. What did he say?

YOONJI. Oh, I told him I didn't know when you were coming back.
He said it was okay,
He said he'd come back for you.

LEXI. He did?

YOONJI. He said he'll be waiting.
You can probably still catch him if you want.
I bet he's still outside.

LEXI. That's all right.

*(**LEXI** notices that her pie seems to be full of blood. Or maybe cherry filling! She sets it aside/dumps it. **YOONJI** gets a text.)*

YOONJI. Ooohh, that's them.
You sure?

LEXI. I'm not that hungry anyway.
(I just didn't eat anything all day…)

YOONJI. Okaaay.

*(**YOONJI** almost exits.)*

Wait, were you done?

LEXI. What.

YOONJI. Your friend
She died.

LEXI. Oh
Yeah.
That's it, I guess.

YOONJI. Cool.

*(**YOONJI** exits. **LEXI**'s phone rings. She jumps. Oh wait, just her phone. Whew. She checks her*

phone, silences it, hides her phone. She wipes the knife clean, stashes it under her pillow. Beat. **LEXI** *waits, then grabs handfuls of puffy Korean snacks from* **YOONJI***'s care package.)*

Scene

*(***LEXI** *and* **YOONJI***'s dorm room.)*

*(***LEXI** *asleep on her bed, surrounded by Korean snack wrappers. A menacing figure stands above* **LEXI***, brandishing something.* **LEXI** *wakes up.)*

LEXI. Aaah!

(Maybe **LEXI** *fumbles for the knife under her pillow. It's* **CHLOE***, who juggles a petition clipboard and a giant thermos of coffee, pen raised in the air.)*

CHLOE. HEY!

LEXI. Heyyyyy.

(If **LEXI** *has the knife, she is lowering it because that's super weird.)*

CHLOE. How's it going?!
Fancy seeing you. With all your snacks!

LEXI. Oh, these aren't mine,
These are just Korean –

CHLOE. What is going on, why haven't I seen you lately?

LEXI. Break?

CHLOE. Break. I know.
CrAzy.
We should get coffee sometime.

LEXI. Yeah!

CHLOE. Actually, I'm having coffee with Paloma.
Do you know Paloma?
You know Paloma.

*(***LEXI** *doesn't know this Paloma.)*

You've probably
SOMEWHERE!

*(***CHLOE** *laughs.* **LEXI** *looks around.)*

You should meet her.
You'd like her.

CHLOE. She does environmental stuff.
You do that, right?

LEXI. No?

CHLOE. Well, SOMEBODY told me you do something good.

LEXI. I might want to do Habitat for Humanity?

CHLOE. That's probably
I bet that's it.
You want to sign my petition?

*(***LEXI** *wonders: "for what?")*

LEXI. Sure!

CHLOE. It's not for bombs, I promise!

LEXI. I like bombs!

*(***CHLOE** *laughs.* **LEXI** *laughs with her.* **LEXI** *signs the petition.)*

CHLOE. Be careful, it leaks.

(Oh shoot, the pen is leaking red ink a little bit.)

LEXI. Oh! Yeah, it kind of –

*(***LEXI** *gets distracted and forgets to hand the pen back to* **CHLOE**.*)*

CHLOE. *And* we're having a protest later.

LEXI. For what?

CHLOE. You should come.
You should TOTALLY
TOTALLY come.

LEXI. I don't know, I'm not
I'm *really* busy.

CHLOE. Omigod, tell me about it!
Remind me of your name again?

LEXI. Lexi.

CHLOE. LEXI.
I know this!
(re: self) Chloe.

LEXI. Chloe!

CHLOE. Lexi. LEXI. So HOW WAS BREAK?

LEXI. It was good.
Well
My friend died, the other day.

*(***CHLOE** *is distracted, maybe by something on her phone.)*

CHLOE. What?

LEXI. My friend, died?

CHLOE. *(still on her phone)* Huh?

LEXI. No, it's okay.

CHLOE. No, no, no, say it again

LEXI. My friend?
She DIED?

(Beat, **CHLOE** *computes.)*

CHLOE. Ohhhh, your FRIEND died.
I thought you said your PHONE died.
And I was like,
Was I supposed to call her?
Because my phone? WORST PHONE ever.
You have a Samsung? – don't ever get a Samsung.
But riiiiight, LEXI, I heard about that.

LEXI. What?

CHLOE. The drunk driver,
The guy who hit you?

LEXI. Wait, where did you hear that from?

CHLOE. From you.

LEXI. From me?

CHLOE. You posted about it on your wall, right?

LEXI. … no?

CHLOE. The article? In the paper?

LEXI. What article?

CHLOE. Oh well,

Maybe someone else did then.
But what're you going to do about it?

LEXI. About my wall?

CHLOE. About your friend.

LEXI. Is there something I should be doing about it?

CHLOE. You could start a petition.

LEXI. *("no")* My printer's running out of ink.

CHLOE. Oh no, you can just do it online!

LEXI. Maybe then.

CHLOE. When my little sister died, I did the exact same thing.
And it helped. A lot.

LEXI. Oh, okay.

CHLOE. Or you could write a book.

LEXI. I don't really write books.

CHLOE. Have you read *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion?

LEXI. No?

CHLOE. I was reading about it the other day,
On TV.
Michelle Williams was talking about it
Talking about Heath Ledger,
And it was really uplifting,
To hear her talk about reading it.

LEXI. Oh, maybe.

CHLOE. But I'm sure you'll get what's coming to you.
The truth has a way of making itself known.

LEXI. What?

CHLOE. What.

LEXI. What did you say?

CHLOE. What did I just say, I have no idea what I just said.

*(***CHLOE** *laughs to cover up the awkwardness. She looks for something else to comment on.)*

CHLOE. *(cont.)*I have those shoes.

I have those
Exact
Same
Shoes!

*(***CHLOE** *realizes she's wearing those shoes.)*

And I'm WEARING THEM RIGHT NOW!

*(***CHLOE** *and* **LEXI** *have a moment of "omigod, we are!" togetherness.)*

Anyway! Nice to see you.

LEXI. Yeah!

CHLOE. We should hang out some time!

*(***LEXI** *thinks she hears something.)*

LEXI. Wait!

CHLOE. What?

LEXI. Please don't go!

CHLOE. I have a protest.

LEXI. We should hang out! Get some coffee!

*(***CHLOE** *wrenches the petition out of* **LEXI***'s grip.)*

CHLOE. I have coffee. Tomorrow!

LEXI. Tomorrow?

CHLOE. (Maaaaybe…)
Email me!
I gotta go. (I am SO late.)

*(***CHLOE** *exits.)*

LEXI. Wait! You forgot your –

(The pen explodes red ink all over **LEXI***.)*

– pen.

Scene

*(***LEXI** *and* **YOONJI***'s dorm room.)*

*(***LEXI** *on Skype with* **SEAN***. Throughout this scene,* **LEXI** *tries to get the red ink stains off her hands, just out of* **SEAN***'s view. And also tries to not stain the laptop.* **SEAN** *multitasks.)*

LEXI. – right?

SEAN. Huh?

No. Say it again.

I wasn't

What did you say?

LEXI. I went through the WHOLE ARTICLE and it barely talks about me!

It talks about the accident, the drunk driver, Jess, the memorial, the whole thing but almost nothing about me!

SEAN. What accident?

LEXI. The one I was in. With Jess.

SEAN. And Jess is the friend?

LEXI. Yes.

SEAN. And what is this?

LEXI. The article. The article on my friend.

SEAN. Jess.

LEXI. YES.

And I'm like, WHY would someone post this on my wall if it's not even about me? Or mentions me?

SEAN. I don't, uh…

LEXI. And you want to know what's really stupid?

*(***SEAN** *makes a face/noise: "uhh, no, but you're going to tell me anyway, so yeah.")*

It even talks with this other girl – her roommate from college – who wasn't even there!

(At some point during **LEXI***'s speaking,* **SEAN** *begins IMing with someone else who IMed him first.)*

LEXI. *(cont.)*And *then*
It says
They're having this *roommate girl* say stuff at the memorial!
And I know I said I didn't want to make a speech
Because you know, I'm not a good public speaker.

*(***SEAN** *had no idea this was the case.)*

SEAN. Okay.

LEXI. But just because I said I wasn't speaking doesn't mean you have to go find some roommate girl she didn't even know
To speak instead!
'Cause Jess and me, we knew each other from seventh grade till freshman year
Which is like,
Eight, nine

*(***LEXI** *actually counts the years in her mind.)*

Six straight years we were friends
Out of seventeen years on this planet?

SEAN. Seventeen?

LEXI. And so, maybe it's just me, but like
One semester
– not even one semester! –
Of knowing her?
That's like –

SEAN. I thought you were eighteen.

LEXI. I mean, one day.
But you know?!

SEAN. Yeah.
Though
Maybe she changed.

LEXI. What?

SEAN. What.

LEXI. What did you say?

SEAN. I don't know, like

(An IM ping from **SEAN***'s computer. He mutes his computer. Ping. Oh, wait that won't work. He searches for the correct window. Another ping.)*

Maybe

Maybe she had a really good friendship with her other friend, I don't know.

Or maybe, like

She had it [ping] coming.

Like I heard you could see him [ping] coming?

LEXI. What?

SEAN. Or maybe she'll come around.

Maybe eventually

She'll see the light.

LEXI. She's dead.

How can she see the light if she's dead?

*(***SEAN** *makes a face: "I was just trying to make you feel better.")*

SEAN. Oh. Okay.

(They reach a standstill.)

LEXI. So

How was home?

*(***SEAN** *really wants to look at his IM. He resists.)*

SEAN. What?

Oh. Good, it was uh –

(For a moment, the screens freeze. Which means **SEAN** *freezes and* **LEXI** *waits for* **SEAN** *to unfreeze. Little bits of future* **SEAN** *replace old* **SEAN** *on the screen, creating some in-between image of him.)*

– basically. Yeah.

LEXI. Sorry. It

SEAN. What?

LEXI. My internet's been really weird.

SEAN. Okay.

LEXI. Are you sick?

SEAN. Yeah, I got a cold.

LEXI. Awww.
Me, too.

SEAN. Really?

LEXI. Well, not yet
But the flu's going around
So just a matter of time till it gets to me!

*(***SEAN** *finishes the end of a burrito.)*

Is that a burrito?

SEAN. Yeah.

LEXI. Is it good?

SEAN. I think so… ?

LEXI. I love burritos.

SEAN. You should get one.

LEXI. I was, but I wanted to make sure I caught you.

SEAN. Yeahhhh.

LEXI. I missed you, Sean.

*(***SEAN** *is uncomfortable.)*

SEAN. Yeahh. Like / people I never see people when I'm supposed to –

LEXI. Like I was actually almost was gonna call you

(They realize they are speaking over each other, wait for the other to speak. They make little sputtering noises and say variations on "oh, no, you go.")

SEAN. So
How's your arm?

LEXI. Oh, it's fine.
You can't see it now.
It's fading.

SEAN. Sorry about that.

LEXI. I had a nice time.

SEAN. Yeah, huh.

LEXI. Though not that I'm sensitive or anything
But I kind of wish you'd've asked first.

SEAN. What?

LEXI. I probably would've said yes so like
No big deal but
(swallows) You kind of forced me.

SEAN. Really?
'Cause
I don't think I did.
Yeah
I don't think I did.

LEXI. I'm not gonna say anything,
Just
You kind of did.

SEAN. I don't remember that.

LEXI. But, um
Do you know when you're coming again?

SEAN. Yeah, um
I was thinking:
And Chicago's really far from Connecticut and I don't know how often I'm gonna get out there anymore and, over break
I think Katie and I got back together
I think, is what happened
… if that's okay.

LEXI. Oh. No.
We're not

SEAN. You sure?

LEXI. Yeah.
Don't worry about it.

SEAN. Cool.

LEXI. I'm kind of seeing this other guy anyway.

SEAN. Oh
Awesome!

LEXI. My RA. From New Hampshire.

*(**SEAN** has no idea what New Hampshire is like.)*

It's a swing state.

SEAN. Oh, okay.

LEXI. He's going to be a lawyer,
Like my dad.

SEAN. I love lawyers!

LEXI. And I'm probably going to Egypt for spring break anyway.

SEAN. Oh. Have fun.
I hear there's a lot of, stuff there.
Lemme know if you ever visit, though.
We might get a couch soon.

LEXI. Cool.

SEAN. But have a good year!
It was cool meeting you.
Say hi to my brother for me.

LEXI. I have class with him, on Mondays.

SEAN. Cool. Take care of yourself now.

LEXI. Yeah.

SEAN. Stay safe!

*(**SEAN** signs off. **LEXI** closes her laptop. A sudden, strange noise. **LEXI** jumps. Wait, that's her phone. Oh, it's her phone again. Didn't she just silence this? She looks at her phone.)*

Scene

(In the car.)

*(***JESS** *in the passenger seat,* **LEXI** *in the driver's seat, with In 'N Out as before. Mid-conversation.)*

JESS. You want the rest of my milkshake?

LEXI. You don't want it?!

JESS. Here:
Have mine.
I didn't do anything to it.
(I had a cold, but I think I'm over it.)

*(***LEXI** *tastes* **JESS***'s milkshake. Eh.)*

You can have the rest.
I know you want it.

LEXI. Yeahhhh.
Wait:
How'm I gonna bring two milkshakes into the theater?

JESS. Put it in your purse

LEXI. What if it spills?

JESS. They're not gonna check
They don't care

LEXI. Maybe if I hold it?

*(***LEXI** *tries this, and then attempts consolidating the two milkshakes into one cup.)*

JESS. Here, let me do it.

LEXI. No, no, no, I can –

JESS. Lex, just let me do it.

*(***JESS** *takes the two milkshakes from* **LEXI**. **LEXI** *hits something. The car gets jostled.* **JESS** *drops one of the milkshakes on the passenger seat mat.)*

Aaaah!

LEXI. Sorry. Sorry!

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