

On the Outside

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1

OUTSIDE SCHOOL - MORNING

Students are just arriving at school on a Friday morning. Two average boys (NOAH and Wyatt) walk to school. Behind them, Alfred walks while reading a book. Two tall macho-looking tough guys are also walking behind him and spot him. They approach him and tease him. One of them steals his glasses and holds them high above his head so he can't reach them. He jumps for them while the other guy steals his book. The nerd turns to him and pleads for his book back. The guy with the book first hides it behind his back then tosses it to his friend. The boy turns his attention to the friend, who shoves the book and glasses into the boy's hands, pushes him out of the way, laughs at him then walks on with his friend. Meanwhile a cool dude listening to music and two nerdy girls with books in their arms walk by, avoiding the situation. A nice girl [CLARE] sees what happens and comforts the boy. A pair of geeky girls ogle over the macho tough-guys who are now coolly sauntering out of view. The girls' geeky guy friend rolls his eyes and they all walk inside. After them, CLARE and the nerdy boy walk inside. Then a group of popular girls [SHANNON, ERIN and DONNA] walk proudly past everyone, flipping their hair, talking and pretending not to notice anyone around them. Another girl [BECCA] walks quickly behind them trying to keep up and join their conversation. Two guys are standing around try to act cool but the girls roll their eyes and shoot them repulsive looks. The guys follow them inside. Two athletic dudes (one of which is named JARED and another one JEREMY) walk coolly inside behind everyone else.

2

SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

We see a hallway of lockers with doors at the end. The cool dude and two nerdy girls are at their lockers, as are two average boys. The macho tough-guys come in the doors laughing and acting cool while a average boy at his locker scurries quickly away from them. The three geeks come in acting dramatic. The two nerdy girls look repulsed at the sight of them, the cool dude rolls his eyes and NOAH makes a joke, points and laughs, but the three simply scowl at him ironically then laugh and continue doing what they were doing. CLARE comes in with the nerdy boy, walking him kindly to his locker. The nerdy girls roll their eyes at the sight of them. The cool dude walks off. The nerdy girls look jealous. NOAH comes up to the nerdy boy and CLARE and makes a kissy face then runs off. The pair awkwardly look away from each other then walk to class along behind the cool dude and NOAH. Then the popular girls walk in dramatically. The geeky girls cower away and hide their faces in their lockers and the nerdy girls scatter quickly. The geeky guy

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tries to act cool but the group doesn't pay attention to him. The other guys come in the doors and the geeky guy follows them and the popular girls out of view as the athletic dudes come in. The geeky girls smile and show off then follow them out of view. The hall is empty.

3 CLASSROOM - MORNING

A teacher is pointing to different mathematical figures on a board. The popular girls are listening attentively while CLARE maintains a utterly confused expression. The nerdy boy sitting next to her notices and attempts to explain what the teacher is saying. The macho tough-guys are goofing off in the back of the class. A average boy is snoozing. A nerdy girl is doodling with a bored expression.

4 SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Some guys are sitting at a table, goofing off, playing with their food, making jokes and laughing. The geeky kids are sitting at their table doing something dramatic and interesting. The popular girls are sitting at their table talking. JARED is also sitting with them. He has his arm around SHANNON who is leaning her head on his shoulder. CLARE is sitting alone at another table.

5 CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

A teacher is writing homework assignments on a board. The popular girls whisper inconspicuously amongst themselves while the athletic dudes watch them. They start to whisper amongst themselves and start pushing each other until finally one of them writes a notes, crumbles it up and throws it on SHANNON's desk. Shannon unfolds it and read it, then rolls her eyes and scowls at the boy who threw it, who is laughing in the back of the class. One guy has a bored, lazy expression, but his friend is concentrating, then notices he is not paying attention and elbows him to pay attention. The nerdy girl plays with her pencil lazily. The cool dude sits coolly (with maybe some sunglasses) because he's just cool like that.

6 FRONT PORCH OF SHANNON'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

SHANNON, DONNA and ERIN run through the front door. DONNA and ERIN are both carrying sleeping bags.

7 STAIRWAY IN SHANNON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The girls rush up the stairs, still with sleeping bags in their arms.

8 EXT. SHANNON'S BEDROOM DOOR - CONTINUOUS

The girls run into Shannon's bedroom and slam the door behind them, revealing a NO TRESPASSING sign on the front of the door a long with other colorful decorative things.

The door fades into the title of the film and the screen blacks out.

9 SHANNON'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Three sleeping bags are set out on the floor, SHANNON is sprawled on her back, propped up on her elbows. ERIN is brushing SHANNON'S hair while DONNA is painting her nails next to the others.

SHANNON

I still can't believe my mom is making me invite Clare! This has officially ruined my life.

ERIN makes a face.

ERIN

She's like the official school moron!

DONNA

Everybody in school hates her.

DONNA fishes a piece of popcorn from the bowl beside her and pops it in her mouth. SHANNON rolls her eyes.

SHANNON

But, she's the precious daughter of our precious neighbor who lives in the precious house across the street, and why wouldn't I want to invite her? She doesn't have any friends, it'll be fun!

The doorbell rings.

ERIN

The reason she doesn't have any friends is because she's a freak!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERIN (cont'd)

If she would at least try to be normal, maybe someone would pick her out of the gutter and teach her how to dress right.

SHANNON

The point is, no one wants her and no one cares. If we let her know, she won't want to stick around.

BECCA opens the bedroom door and comes in. SHANNON turns to look at the door.

SHANNON

Geez, what took so long Becca? You get lost during the two minutes it takes for you to walk to my house?

SHANNON turns back and the girls all giggle, except for BECCA, who has an agitated expression.

BECCA

Sorry, it's just...

BECCA walks to a corner where she dumps all of her stuff.

SHANNON

It's just that my entire reputation is going to be ruined if this gets out at school! Clare Cook at my slumber party?!

Shannon groans.

SHANNON

This can't be happening!

BECCA mutters to Shannon.

BECCA

Well, it hasn't happened yet, Shannon.

BECCA plops down into a beanbag chair, holds her hands in her lap and stares down at them.

DONNA

So you really think she'll just leave if we're mean enough?

SHANNON
Absolutely, Donna!

ERIN
What about when she shows up back at her house ten minutes after she was supposed to be here? Won't her mom figure out what happened?

Shannon grabs a piece of popcorn from the bowl.

SHANNON
That's the brilliant part. Her mom is out of town. No one is at the house, which is why I was forced into inviting her. And she's tough. She won't go crying to momma when she gets home on Monday, Erin.

Shannon pops the piece of popcorn into her mouth and chews with a smirk on her face. ERIN raises her eyebrows.

ERIN
That is good, Shannon! So we'll get to have our fun after all.

ERIN puts the hairbrush down and grabs some popcorn.

SHANNON
And everything will be great, as long as word doesn't get out about it. Jared would break up with me in a heartbeat.

DONNA
He wouldn't do that! Not really, over a stupid thing like this?

DONNA blows on her nails to dry them.

ERIN
He would have to be an idiot.

SHANNON grabs more popcorn and smiles wryly.

SHANNON
Aren't all guys?

SHANNON, ERIN and DONNA giggle. SHANNON studies the popcorn in her hand.

SHANNON

The point is, he's been acting really... distant, lately. He even told me that he wasn't sure about us. Something like this might be just the thing to set him off.

ERIN

But this isn't even your fault!

10 DOORWAY OF SHANNON'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The doorbell rings. Shannon's mom opens the door for CLARE.

MRS. MALARK

Oh hello Clare. The girls are already up in Shannon's room. It's the first one on the right.

CLARE

Thanks Mrs. Malark.

Clare smiles and walks past, mounting the stairs carrying a bag and sleeping bag.

11 SHANNON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

DONNA

It's your mom's fault. He wouldn't blame you for this.

DONNA cranes her head to look over at BECCA.

DONNA

Right Beck?

BECCA

Wh-what?

BECCA looks up suddenly.

BECCA

Sorry, what did you say?

SHANNON

Um, my life is in a crisis and all you can do is sit there and stare at your hands? Show a little compassion.

(CONTINUED)

BECCA

Ah, I'm sorry. it's just, well, my parents have been fighting and-

SHANNON interrupts.

SHANNON

And you're worried that your dad will go through with his threat and get a divorce, he'll leave the house, yada yada yada, we've heard this all before Beck, and nothing has come of it. Just chill a little.

SHANNON shrugs and smiles.

SHANNON

Have some fun, stop worrying.

BECCA bites her lip, but says noting. The bedroom door opens and CLARE enters the room awkwardly. SHANNON, ERIN and DONNA all swivel to stare unkindly at her. CLARE shrugs and smiles awkwardly.

CLARE

I'm here.

SHANNON raises an eyebrow.

SHANNON

No, really?

CLARE laughs nervously.

CLARE

Yeah, I can hardly believe it myself. Thanks for having me over, I don't usually get invited to stuff like this.

ERIN

I think it's the hair.

CLARE looks mystified.

CLARE

Hair?

SHANNON

You know, the stringy, greasy, I-haven't-had-a-shower-in-a-week look.

CLARE's face freezes.

SHANNON

It never looks good on anyone, but
you?

SHANNON eyes CLARE up and down, then shakes her head.

SHANNON

It's a crisis.

CLARE

Oh.

Everyone is still for a couple seconds.

ERIN

Well!

ERIN jumps up and grabs CLARE's sleeping bag from her hands
and tosses it in the corner with BECCA's.

ERIN

Sit wherever you like, I think it's
time for Truth or Dare.

CLARE looks puzzled.

CLARE

Um, okay.

CLARE moves to sit down next to SHANNON. SHANNON leans
forward and puts her hand out to stop CLARE from sitting
down.

SHANNON

Um, sorry, not on my bag please.

SHANNON smiles sweetly.

CLARE

Oh, uh, sorry.

Claire sits with her legs crossed on the floor instead.

SHANNON

Oh, don't worry about it. I just
can't stand to have my sleeping bag
smell funny, you know?

CLARE doesn't answer.

DONNA

Good then! Let's start. Clare, you go first.

ERIN

Truth or dare?

CLARE warily replies.

CLARE

Truth.

ERIN

Okay then... have you ever kissed a boy?

SHANNON snorts.

SHANNON

Of course she hasn't!

DONNA elbows SHANNON.

ERIN

Let her answer! You never know, sometimes people can surprise you.

CLARE

Can you ask a different question?

SHANNON rolls her eyes.

SHANNON

Told you!

CLARE

No, I mean, I'm not going to answer that.

ERIN

Dare, then?

DONNA

Hmm... I dare you to kiss our feet. All of them.

CLARE frowns. SHANNON, ERIN and DONNA hold out their feet and snicker. BECCA watches CLARE with a sad expression. CLARE scowls.

CLARE

No!

DONNA tosses her head.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

I don't think you get the rules of
this game, Pear.

CLARE's face turns tense, pale and angry.

CLARE

What did you just call me?

SHANNON rolls her eyes.

SHANNON

It's just a nickname, Pear. You
know, 'cause you're pear-shaped.
It's what everyone at school will
be calling you by Monday morning. I
just texted it to all our friends.

SHANNON holds up her cellphone. Everyone is still for a
moment. CLARE stands up and crosses to the corner, picks up
her bag and slings it over her shoulder.

SHANNON

What, leaving already?

BECCA

Shut up!

BECCA stands in front of the bean-bag, fists clenched and by
her sides.

SHANNON

Becca? What are you d-

BECCA interrupts.

BECCA

I'm tired of being your lapdog. I'm
tired of taking your abuse and I'm
especially tired of sitting by why
you tear into perfectly nice
people.

BECCA marches over to the corner and grabs her stuff.

BECCA

I'm leaving!

SHANNON glares at BECCA.

SHANNON

Becca, if you leave now don't even
think about coming crawling back to
me!

BECCA

Oh believe me, I'm done with crawling on my belly just to please you, Shannon! Clare, let's leave these morons to themselves. Let them find someone else to take their insults.

BECCA crosses the room to open the door for CLARE. CLARE raises her eyebrows, but passes through the door. BECCA follows her and slams the door shut behind her. All the other girls stare at the door.

12 FRONT PORCH OF SHANNON'S HOUSE - SUNSET

CLARE

Thanks.

BECCA nods.

CLARE

Why'd you do that?

BECCA

I... My parents are getting a divorce. They told me tonight. I... I guess I'd just had enough of it all.

CLARE studies the ground awkwardly.

CLARE

My parents got a divorce a couple of months ago. It's why we moved here.

CLARE sighs.

CLARE

It's... it's hard. Do you want to talk about it?

BECCA

Yeah, I would, actually. I tried to tell them, but they wouldn't listen.

BECCA looks over her shoulder to an upstairs window we assume to belong to SHANNON.

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CLARE

They didn't strike me as the listening type.

BECCA shakes her head.

CLARE

Well, why don't you come over to my house. My grandmother is home. We could bake cookies or something. Talk about it.

BECCA snuffles and wipes her cheek.

BECCA

That sounds good. If it's okay, I mean.

CLARE smiles.

CLARE

Cool. We've got lots of chocolate chips and better popcorn than they could ever dream of.

BECCA grins slightly.

BECCA

Really?

CLARE nods and grins back at her.

CLARE

Homemade. C'mon.

13 MOONLIT STREET - CONTINUOUS

CLARE hooks her elbow in with BECCA's. Dramatic, inspiring music draws to a climax, bringing tears to the entire audience as we see the two girls walking arm in arm down the moonlit street.

14 SCHOOL HALLWAY - NEXT DAY

NOAH and the athletic dudes and are at their lockers while other students are walking away from them as CLARE and BECCA shyly come through the doors.

NOAH

Ha ha, hey look it's pear!

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Students turn to look. CLARE looks embarrassed as she walks to her locker.

BECCA

I gotta get to class, will you be okay?

CLARE sighs.

CLARE

Yeah, I'll be fine.

BECCA

Okay. Well I had fun with you last night. Thanks. Maybe we can do it again sometime?

CLARE

That'd be great.

BECCA

Okay, lets talk about it at lunch.

BECCA turns to leave.

CLARE

Okay, see ya!

Just as BECCA is out of sight JEREMY and a ATHLETIC DUDE walk over to her.

JEREMY

Hey Pear, whatcha doing?

They both snicker as CLARE bites her lip.

JARED

Knock it off Jeremy!

JARED pushes JEREMY out of the way.

JEREMY

What's up with you man? Chill!

JARED

Get lost, JEREMY, I'll see you at lunch.

JEREMY wanders off, muttering to himself.

JARED

Are you alright Clare?

CLARE sniffles.

(CONTINUED)

CLARE

Yeah.

CLARE wipes her eyes on the back of her hand.

JARED

Are you sure?

CLARE

Yeah, I'm sure.

CLARE wipes her eyes one last time then smiles sweetly.

JARED

So... um, there's a party at my house tonight. Do you, maybe... wanna come?

CLARE

What's the catch?

JARED

I know you probably think I'm a dolt for hanging around those clowns, but-

The popular girls walk in and SHANNON crosses to JARED and CLARE.

SHANNON

Oh there you are Jared!

SHANNON tries to hug JARED, but JARED pushes her away.

SHANNON

What are you doing over here with-

SHANNON glares at CLARE

SHANNON

Pear?

CLARE has an angry expression.

JARED

Shannon, I actually needed to talk to you.

SHANNON looks expectantly at CLARE.

SHANNON

Well, you heard him Pear. Get lost!

CLARE starts to leave but JARED grabs her shoulder.

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JARED
Hey, see you tonight, right?

CLARE smiles.

CLARE
Right, I guess.

JARED
Seriously, you'll be there?

CLARE
Yeah, okay.

CLARE walks away.

SHANNON
Tonight? What- Huh? What's going on?!

JARED
Oh, she's just coming to my party tonight.

SHANNON
Party? What party? How did I not hear about this!? Did you not invite me?!

JARED
Yeah, pretty much.

SHANNON looks confused/angry.

SHANNON
Why?!

JARED
Shannon, I've seen how you treat people. How you treat Clare...

SHANNON
She's a freak!

JARED
But what did she ever do to you?

SHANNON
Showed up at my slumber party, that's what!

JARED

But that wasn't her fault, she was invited!

SHANNON

Pff! Not by me.

JARED

That's exactly it. You don't care about anyone but your self. I'm through.

JARED walks away.

SHANNON

Wait! Where are you going? Jared!
Come back!

SHANNON stands by herself in the hall in shock for a moment.

The screen fades to black, roll credits.