

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Written by

Connor Lewis and Sanjana Deshpande

INT. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Two janitors stare in awe at an amateur graffiti portrayal of a crude image of a man and a woman sixty-nining each other. The man has an arrow pointed to him labeled Principle M and the woman is labeled Mrs. Peech.

The two janitors exchange glances and shake their heads.

JANITOR #1

Kids these days.

They begin to remove the paint from the wall.

INT. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

MEGAN (18, overachiever), BRODY (18, himbo), and MIRANDA (18, goth) huddle in a small group.

MEGAN

When we go in there, nobody say anything that singles out anyone in the group. Everything we did, we did together.

BRODY

I really don't see what the big deal is. It was just a senior prank. That's harmless.

MIRANDA

Well, it was harmless until Megan painted a picture of the principle and Mrs. Peech suckin' and fuckin'.

Brody snickers. Megan glares at him.

MEGAN

That is *exactly* the type of thing we can't say in there.

The door to the conference room opens and PRINCIPLE MARKS (50s) pops his head out.

PRINCIPLE MARKS

Alright delinquents, it's time.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

MRS. PEECH (60s) sits at the conference room table with her arms crossed. The delinquents shuffle to their seats.

PRINCIPLE MARKS

I'm sure you all know Mrs. Peech,  
the woman you so eloquently painted  
on the wall of the eastern hallway.

MRS. PEECH

Hello, children. I am not amused.  
Not at all.

PRINCIPLE MARKS

I am certainly not amused either.  
Clearly you've all learned nothing  
in anatomy. You really think my  
penis is that small?

The conference room door swings open and in walks  
SUPERINTENDENT DOMICK (50s). Megan's heart drops.

MEGAN

Oh, the superintendent is here? I  
thought he only came for really  
serious issues.

Domick coldly takes a seat in front of the students.

DOMICK

This is a really serious issue.

Megan's throat dries up.

DOMICK (CONT'D)

Now who wants to go first?

MEGAN

I will.

**FLASHBACK:** EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD BLEACHERS - DAY

MEGAN (V.O.)

It all started last Wednesday.

A cartoonishly evil Brody stomps up to Megan. She's eating  
lunch with Miranda, who's hitting her vape.

MEGAN (V.O.)

As student body president, which is  
a role I take very seriously, I  
have a key to the school for my  
duties. Brody told me that if I  
didn't give it to him, he was gonna  
make my life a living hell.

Brody gesticulates angrily with his hands, getting menacingly close to Megan. Megan starts crying. Miranda laughs at her.

Megan pulls the key out of her pocket and hands it to him.

MEGAN (V.O.)

I thought we were done. But he kept going.

Brody continues yelling. Megan cries harder. Miranda laughs harder.

MEGAN (V.O.)

He said that if I didn't help him, he'd shave my head. What was I supposed to do? My head was at stake here. So I did the only thing I could. I said yes and--

DOMICK (V.O.)

(interrupting Megan)

This doesn't explain the graffiti.

MEGAN (V.O.)

Would you give me a second?

**FLASHBACK:** INT. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The students creep along the hallway, stopping at a white brick wall.

MEGAN (V.O.)

I begged him not to do it. I had mentioned earlier that I was unhappy with a grade I received from Mrs. Peech.

Brody reaches into his bag and pulls out spray paint.

MEGAN (V.O.)

He took out a can of spray paint and said, "You know what grade you should have gotten? SIXTY-NINE!"

Brody starts to spray the wall.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The whole room is in shock.

MIRANDA

What the fuck, Megan?

MEGAN

What?

BRODY

You just lied about everything.

MEGAN

Principal Marks, you know you can trust me. Does this seem like me?

PRINCIPLE MARKS

Well... I know you're valedictorian of your class, so I'm inclined to say no. But how about that drawing of me with an itty-bitty penis? Does that seem like me? No. So I don't know what to think.

Domick sets down his pen, clearly annoyed.

DOMICK

Let's take five. When you come back I am expecting you all to be on the same page about what happened here.

INT. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Brody and Miranda surround Megan like an ambush.

BRODY

What are you doing. You're making me seem like a psycho.

MIRANDA

Yeah, what's your problem?

MEGAN

Look, I don't think you guys get it. I'm going to Brown. If we get expelled, they'll kick me out.

BRODY

I have stuff to lose too.

MEGAN

Oh, please. You're just the school mascot. What are you worried about?

BRODY

I need to walk at graduation.

MEGAN

You aren't even going to college!

BRODY

I'm the first person in my family to graduate, Megan. Not all of us were born into your perfect life.

MIRANDA

If you couldn't handle a punishment why did you even decide to do this?

MEGAN

I-- I don't know.

MIRANDA

What are you even doing this for anyways? Sucking up one last time? We graduate in a week, Megan. Do you really want this to be our last impression of you?

Megan steps back, stunned.

MEGAN

Is that-- you really think that?

MIRANDA

Well, you're not really giving us much else to work with, are you?

She rolls her eyes.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Come on, Brody. Let's go.

She storms back into the conference room. Brody throws a hurt glance back at Megan before following her. Megan stands against the wall, hurt but contemplative.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Domick, Peech, and Marks sit at the table as the students reenter.

DOMICK

So what's the story now?

Megan looks at Brody and Miranda, who are watching her.

MEGAN

No story, just the truth.

The students take their seats across from the faculty.

**FLASHBACK:** EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD BLEACHERS - DAY

Megan and Miranda sit on the bleachers. Miranda hits her vape.

MEGAN (V.O.)

I was explaining how I was frustrated that Mrs. Peech marked me incorrect on a test for two questions that weren't even from the unit we were being tested on.

Brody approaches the two of them in a mascot costume.

MEGAN (V.O.)

Just then, Brody came and asked if I had a key to the school for a senior prank he was planning.

Megan leans in, listening to Brody more closely.

**FLASHBACK:** INT. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The students creep through the halls. Brody reaches into his backpack once they reach the white wall.

MEGAN (V.O.)

I brought the spray paint. Brody was just going to fill the water fountain with instant potatoes, and Miranda was helping him, but I...I wanted to do something fun.

Megan stares at the blank wall.

MEGAN (V.O.)

I didn't know what to draw at first and then I thought about my frustrations with Mrs. Peech's class and I knew.

Megan begins to paint, deeply focused.

## INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

MEGAN

I just-- I wasted all of high school trying to be perfect. And the one time I wanted to do something fun, it all went wrong.

She sighs.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

I doesn't matter. It was still a mistake. But it was mine.

Miranda and Brody look at Megan, satisfied and proud.

MRS. PEECH

I can quiz you on anything in the course you know.

MEGAN

Look, if the test says unit 5 at the top, it should be from unit 5.

Domick gestures to the other three students.

DOMICK

Do you all agree with Megan?

The students nod. Domick turns his attention to Megan.

Domick turns his attention to Megan.

DOMICK (CONT'D)

Well then, I can't say I appreciate the lies you told earlier, but I thank you for the truth now.

MEGAN

I'm sorry, sir.

DOMICK

What you've done here is no small matter. However, I do appreciate you taking accountability here. Your punishment will be forthcoming, but I'm okay with a slap on the wrist if you are, Principal Marks.

PRINCIPLE MARKS

Fine. But I think she should spray at least another five... no, six inches onto that penis out there.

Domick gives Marks an incredulous look. He turns his attention back to the students.

DOMICK

You're all free to go.