

BOOKSTORE GIRL

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INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

It's sunny outside. People flip through books. A man looks through bookshelf.

ZOE (20), kind demeanor and a little clumsy, shelves books while talking to CHARLOTTE (20), a little pretentious but charming.

Charlotte's glasses fill up her face. She wears a turtleneck and overalls. She speaks with fervor.

CHARLOTTE  
Gatsby is so overrated.

ZOE  
Please never say that to me ever again.

CHARLOTTE  
Is that really your favorite book?

Zoe looks embarrassed, but puts on a brave face.

ZOE  
Yes. It is. I don't even know why I have these conversations with you.

Charlotte laughs. Zoe pouts.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
It's a classic.

Charlotte pokes Zoe's cheek playfully. Zoe looks flustered and laughs nervously.

JAKE (35), store manager who is overly nice with too bright of a smile, appears.

JAKE  
(smiling)  
Zoe!

Zoe and Charlotte both jump.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
Sorry to crash your little date,  
but we're really backed up and -

ZOE  
(panicked)  
It's not a date!

Charlotte eyes her curiously.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Ah, I mean... sorry, sir. Won't happen again.

JAKE

No worries, Zoe, my favorite employee. Huh, that kind of rhymed.

Zoe feigns a laugh and hurriedly walks towards the other side of the store. Zoe gives Charlotte an apologetic look. Charlotte watches her go.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Zoe shelves books. Lost in thought, she accidentally drops one of the books. Swearing to herself, she picks it up then hears a deep voice -

VOICE (O.S.)

Ugh, pay attention!

Zoe turns around to see who said that, but sees no one. Puzzled, she's about to shelf the book when she hears it again.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I'm talking to you.

Zoe freezes. She looks around. Again, nobody.

Then, she sees the BOOK come ALIVE. Eyes POP out of the cover, while it hops to readjust itself to lie horizontally in Zoe's hands. Its mouth is the pages of the book, speaking as the book opens and closes. The cover says "GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER" on it.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER

That's better.

Zoe jumps back and crashes into the other book shelf. Some people give her a curious look.

Its pages open as it begins to speak again.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER (CONT'D)

Zoe, it's so agonizing watching this.

Zoe's eyes widen completely.

ZOE

What... what did you say?!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
 (frustrated)  
 I said, it's so agonizing watching  
 this.

Zoe's shaking. She rubs her temples and blinks her eyes about  
 10 times.

ZOE  
 This isn't real. I'm hallucinating.  
 I stayed up watching Great British  
 Bake Off too late last night. I'm  
 just tired.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
 Ugh, your life is sad.

Zoe looks offended.

Another book comes to life to join in on the conversation.

This one is smaller with a peppy voice and the title "BE A  
 BETTER YOU."

BE A BETTER YOU  
 Aw, don't be so hard on her! She's  
 trying her best!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
 She's not trying hard enough.

BE A BETTER YOU  
 Everything in her own time! There  
 are no deadlines!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
 She's not using her time wisely.

BE A BETTER YOU  
 Don't let the haters get you down!  
 I know what that feels like...

BE A BETTER YOU stares off in the distance. Zoe stares  
 blankly. GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER regroups.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER (CONT'D)  
 Look, kid, all of us here are tired  
 of watching you pine after that  
 girl who comes in here every week.  
 It's exhausting. You need to GET.  
 YOUR. SHIT. TOGETHER.

ZOE  
I - I don't know what you're  
talking about.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
Yes you do. We're here to help you.

ZOE  
Help me... what?

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER AND BE A BETTER  
YOU  
Ask. Her. Out.

ZOE  
Oh no, no, no. That won't be  
necessary.

Zoe is anxious.

BE A BETTER YOU  
Come on! It'll be fun! Trying new  
things!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
Destroying your inner demons.

BE A BETTER YOU  
Growing as a person!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
Squashing every weakness, like a  
bug.

BE A BETTER YOU  
Forgetting every insecurity that  
holds you back as a person and  
keeps you in a mental cage,  
preventing you from making any real  
connections!

Zoe looks terrified.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
Anyway, I'm going to send you to my  
buddies over in the poetry section.  
They're wiser than me.

ZOE  
But, you're a self-help book.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
 I can't focus on you right now,  
 kid. I have some shit of my own to  
 sort out...

Zoe's nervous. She looks around her, making sure no one is watching.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER (CONT'D)  
 Poetry section. Go.

ZOE  
 What if Jake sees me?

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER  
 Jake sucks.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Zoe makes her way over to the poetry section. She quietly tiptoes around, looking crazy.

She reaches the shelves and crouches down. She whispers to them -

ZOE  
 Hello? Hello? Are you there?

A man in the aisle holding a book stares at her, dumbfounded.

Zoe does not notice him.

The man walks away as Zoe still whispers.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
 "GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER" sent me?

Suddenly, a POETRY BOOK springs to life with the title "PETALS AND YARN", and speaks with a clear and smooth voice.

PETALS AND YARN  
 Hi, beautiful Zoe.

ZOE  
 You know me?

PETALS AND YARN  
 We all know you. You're just so  
 entertaining.

ZOE  
 Thanks?

PETALS AND YARN hops off the shelf into Zoe's hands.

PETALS AND YARN

I really want to help you, my dear.  
You have such a sweet face. Kind  
eyes. Something lurks behind them.  
Something beautiful.

Zoe looks touched.

PETALS AND YARN

But, you're a fool!

Zoe's smile drops.

PETALS AND YARN

Here's what I want you to do. Ask  
her out before sun falls. For the  
sun will fall and she is lost,  
except you will find her in your  
thoughts.

PETALS AND YARN sighs dreamily.

ZOE

That sounds poetic and all, but  
what would I even say?

PETALS AND YARN

It will come to you, just like  
magic. Tell her you like her chunky  
turtleneck sweaters she insists on  
wearing, and how her hair is always  
slightly greasy, and her atrocious  
book opinions -

ZOE

Okay, I get it.

PETALS AND YARN

Fill her ears with... poetry.

Zoe thinks for a bit. She puts PETALS AND YARN back.

She walks around the shop to find Charlotte sitting on a  
chair, reading a book.

She catches a glimpse of Zoe and waves. Zoe enthusiastically  
waves back then does two peace signs with a big smile.

Charlotte just laughs and shakes her head, turning her  
attention back to her book.

Zoe goes back to the poetry section to talk to PETALS AND YARN.

PETALS AND YARN

That was so brave, darling! And horrendous.

ZOE

I'm so stupid.

PETALS AND YARN

Try again. Take a breather. Let your mind forget this ever happened. For the mind can only bear so much, until the waves of regret come crashing down.

Zoe looks scared.

PETALS AND YARN (CONT'D)

I'll be here if you need me, which you clearly do.

INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

Zoe paces then heads straight for the poetry section to go talk to PETALS AND YARN. When she gets to the shelf, she sees it's GONE.

Panicked, she looks through all the books. Nothing.

She goes over to the self-care section and finds GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER.

ZOE

Where is "PETALS AND YARN"?!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER

Sorry, kid, but I heard she got picked up. Haven't seen her since the morning.

Zoe sighs and sits down on the floor.

ZOE

That's just great. It's almost closing time, and I still haven't asked Charlotte out.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER

Do it right now. Just be straight forward and say, "Hey, idiot, I like your face."

ZOE

Yeah, that's not happening.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER hops off the shelf and smacks Zoe in the face.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Um! What was that?!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER

That was me, slapping the SHIT out of you.

ZOE

I got that!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER

You're not a quitter. You're a dreamer. So, go, and chase your dreams before it's too late.

Zoe just stares.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER

Okay, that sounded better in my pages, but you know what I mean. Don't give up, kid. We're all rooting for you.

BE A BETTER YOU comes out of nowhere.

BE A BETTER YOU

Especially me! You're my favorite! I would love to be someone's favorite one day...

(beat)

You got this, Zoe! Yay!

Zoe softly smiles. Jake appears.

JAKE

Hey, Zoe! My favorite employee. Could you go cover check-out? I would really -

ZOE

Yes, got it.

Jake gives her a big "thumbs up."

Bored, Zoe finishes checking out a customer, then PETALS AND YARN gets placed right in front of her on the counter.

Zoe looks up, and CHARLOTTE IS THE ONE BUYING IT. Zoe looks down at the book, and it WINKS at her.

Zoe looks back up nervously, and Charlotte smiles and shrugs.

CHARLOTTE

Heard this was pretty good... I need more poetry in my life.

ZOE

Oh, it's really good.

She stares at PETALS AND YARN again.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Maybe we can discuss it somewhere different... like over dinner?

Charlotte smile grows.

CHARLOTTE

I would love that.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER stares from a distance, like a proud father.

FADE TO BLACK.