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# A Girl Like Her

By Amy S. Weber

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Jess, look over here.

What are you doing?

Where did you get that

and why are you

videotaping me?

- I found it.

- You found it?

OK, I didn't find it,

I bought it.

Do you have

your seatbelt on?

Yes, I do.

Your rearview

mirrors OK?

Mm-hmm.

Oh, my gosh.

I get so scared

when you're driving.

- Why?

- I don't know.

Let's see how well

this turn... oh, no.

- OK, OK, don't judge me, don't judge me.

- Oh, my gosh.

This is exactly why

I get so scared.

Where are your books?

I forgot them.

Oh.

How are you going to study

for that test tomorrow?

There's a test tomorrow?

Yeah.

All right, we need

to make a signature out.

Just say, "I'm Jess"

and "Peace!"

or something.

I'm outtie.

Wait, wait, wait.

- You're embarrassing me.

- What about... what about

just, like, a...

That was good.  
You know, it's not  
every day that you get to come  
to a school anywhere  
in America and see  
this type of excitement  
that doesn't surround sports.  
The National Commission  
for High School Education  
does not hand  
this honor out easily.  
Number Ten  
in the entire nation,  
and they are more  
than proud here because,  
whether or not they knew  
an award was at stake or not,  
they did the right things.  
We cannot go any further  
without interviewing  
the man of the hour.  
We're talking about  
the principal of this school,  
and you're gonna hear  
a lot of cheering  
'cause these students  
love this guy.  
Principal Richard Harris.  
Principal...  
Congratulations to you.  
Thank you.  
Thank you very much.  
The eyes of the nation...  
not on North Brookdale,  
but on South Brookdale.  
Yes!  
Yeah, Brookdale!  
What is it about this school  
that sets it apart?  
I know the students are  
special, but what about  
the way things  
are done here?  
It's a community.

It's the parents  
getting involved  
with the students, getting  
involved with the teachers,  
everybody doing it.

It's a community effort  
and then the kids  
doing it themselves.

Without their hard work,  
without them saying,  
"We want to do this,"  
this couldn't happen.

That's the only way I can  
say it; it's everybody  
doing what they should do,  
and this is it!

We're the best!

Do you know  
an average person laughs  
about 15 times a day?

Really?

That was, like,  
a courtesy laugh.

- I felt bad.

- Ha ha!

What are you doing?

Um, come here.

I went to a little spy  
camera store...

and I found  
this little guy.

That's not a camera.

It is a camera,  
and I know how much  
you like dragonflies,  
so I talked to the guy  
and... just

fancied it up  
a little bit.

- But...

- I don't...

- We'll clip it here.

- Are you messing with me?

I'm dead serious.

It records.  
It's recording  
right now.  
Wait.  
Yeah, it's recording.  
Look.  
That is actually  
a camera.  
Well, where's the...  
where's the lens?  
That's a secret.  
I can't tell you.  
But just know  
that it's wireless  
and I will turn it  
on and make sure  
it's all working.  
I've rigged it  
like a pin,  
and we can put it  
on you.  
We can put it on  
during school  
and record  
everything,  
and it'll just look  
like, you know,  
a necklace or just  
like you're wearing  
a pin, and nobody will  
ever know what it is.  
Jess,  
are you in here?  
Jessica?  
Sweetheart!  
Wake up! Jessica!  
Jessica!  
No.  
No, no, no, no, no!  
What... what did you do?!  
Sweetie, what did you do?!  
What did you do?!  
16-year-old female.  
Overdosed on hydrocodone,

750 milligrams.

OK. Uh-huh. Yeah.

- Her vitals are very low.

- OK.

- 80 over 40.

- OK.

She's been unconscious  
for two hours.

OK, get her in.

All right,

hook up a monitor.

Do an EKG.

Get a CBC,

blood gases,

liver enzymes,

prepare for intubation.

Get a social worker

in here, stat!

96.3, WDVD,

Blaine and Allison.

Another cloudy day, 7:45.

So did you hear this?

In light of all the hoopla  
surrounding South Brookdale's  
tenth ranking in the nation,  
which, by the way,  
totally amazing,  
if you ask me.

I know.

It's pretty awesome!

An award-winning  
filmmaker has decided  
to include the school  
in her important documentary  
that examines the best  
American high schools,  
and South Brookdale  
is the only public school  
featured.

Let's hear it  
for South Brookdale!

The students  
of South Brookdale  
are about to have

their 15 minutes.

Principal Harris.

- Yes.

- What an exciting time  
for South Brookdale.

Well, we are  
the first public school  
ever to make  
the top 100...  
and not only 100,  
we're Number Ten  
in the country.

It was  
a complete surprise.

Go, Maples, baby!

Go, Maples!

Number One!

Everyone's so excited,  
and now we have pep rallies  
coming up for it.

It's kind of cool 'cause,  
you know, all of us are  
together to celebrate  
one big thing.

Good morning, ladies.

How are ya?

- Good.

- Good.

We're excited that  
you have, uh, you've come  
to see our little corner  
of the world.

Getting ready, ladies?

Everybody good?

It's a good day.

- Is she in a hospital?

- I don't know.

I didn't even know anything.

I heard about it  
in the halls.

There's rumors going  
everywhere.

I literally just... just  
talked to her the other day.

I keep thinking  
about the classes  
I've had with her  
since I've gotten here.  
Nothing happens around here  
and, like, this happens?  
Like, it doesn't make  
any sense, you know?  
Like, you see it  
on TV shows, but when  
it's actually happening,  
like, at your school,  
someone you have  
a class with?  
Yeah.  
Yeah.  
You OK?  
I just feel so bad.  
I wasn't really the best  
of friends with her, but  
I did know her  
and she was in my classes.  
I saw her in my classes  
and stuff, but...  
that was about it.  
She's really kind-hearted.  
Really nice girl.  
Kind of shy.  
Jessica was probably one of  
the sweetest girls I ever knew.  
I think she was probably  
one of those people  
that got ran over  
and pushed to the side.  
There's been something  
a little more reserved  
with her lately.  
I did. I did  
and I didn't.  
Wasn't a drastic change  
in her behavior.  
Uh, there was just a...  
um... a little less  
enthusiasm for school.

Most of the time, she said she was fine, but sometimes she just said, uh, she sort of brushed it off by saying, "Oh, I just have a lot on my mind."

Kind of the typical teenage answer, but, as a teacher, I should know better.

This was something a lot deeper and darker for her.

I heard from a few people that there was a few girls who were giving her a hard time.

Mainly I just heard it was, like, bullying over time and, you know, uh, from... someone in the classroom.

I heard that she was getting harassed a lot by some girl that goes to our school.

Yeah, her name's Avery.

I don't really know Avery, but I've kind of heard of her and stay out of her way.

I mean, she doesn't seem mean,

but when she's around Jessica, she just sort of... I guess she just sort of changes.

I've met Avery, and she doesn't seem like that type of person who would do that, but, I mean,

I guess... rumor has it.

You just hear all the rumors.

You don't hear anything

about, like,  
what actually happened,  
you just hear the gossip.  
I thought we were  
gonna go get coffee.  
What time were you  
gonna get coffee?  
Yeah, we can, but I want  
to go shopping  
before Dan's party, so...

Hello, ladies.

- Hi.

- Hi.

- How are you?

- Good.

Can we talk to you  
for a couple seconds?

- Sure.

- Great.

Are you... are you  
Avery Keller?

Yeah.

Nice to meet you.

I'm... I'm Amy.

Nice to meet you.

- Hi.

- Hi.

We have been  
talking to students  
throughout the day  
about...

- about Jessica Burns.

- Mm-hmm.

Did you guys hear  
about Jessica?

- Yeah.

- It's, like,  
all over school.

Did you know Jessica?

We used  
to be friends, but...

You were  
all friends before?

No, I used to be

good friends with her, but...

Oh, you... not anymore?

No, just, like, high school.

You know, you grow up.

But nothing happened  
between the two of you?

- No.

- Oh, just kinda

- grew apart?

- Yeah.

Jessica was

admitted on Friday.

She was unresponsive  
from an overdose  
of hydrocodone.

She has, uh, slipped  
into a coma  
due to lack of oxygen  
to the brain.

It's called hypoxia.

At this point,

it is a waiting game.

We are going to,

uh, run a number

of neurological tests  
on her.

Is she... is she

in any pain?

No, not at all,

but she is there,

so you being here,

talking to her,

holding her hand...

- She can hear us?

- Yes.

And that all helps.

That will help

bring her out.

How... how long

could this last?

We can't tell you

at this point.

We're not sure

of the damage

that has occurred.  
How are you guys  
holding up?  
She... she hasn't left  
the room yet.  
I'm not gonna leave  
the room, no.  
I'm fine.  
I'm fine.  
From here on out,  
though, what's  
most important is  
that you guys  
take care of yourself  
so that you can better  
take care of Jessica when  
she comes out of this state.  
Do you have  
any other children?  
Uh, yeah.  
I took our youngest girl,  
Gabby, to school today.  
The best you can do  
is to try to keep  
a normal routine.  
OK. I don't... I'm sorry.  
Excuse me.  
Her whole life,  
I've been taking care of her.  
In her car seats  
and making sure she's...  
I should have known,  
though, I know.  
She's my kid. I should've known  
what was going on with her.  
I didn't have a clue.  
I'm right here, baby.  
Mama's gonna stay  
here with you  
till you wake up.  
And you're gonna wake up.  
Mommy's right here,  
and you're gonna be just fine.  
I love you.

You know, Jess,  
I normally hate  
romantic comedies,  
but that one was  
actually pretty decent.

- I love rom-coms.

- "Rom-coms"?

- That's what you call it?

- Mm-hmm.

- You're such a nerd.

- I watch them so much that I

- have my own name for them.

- Oh, my gosh.

That's sad.

I...in real life,  
I don't think a girl  
like that would go  
for him.

I thought they were  
cute together.

I don't know.

You got to just  
blow it off.

You can talk to me.

I'm done talking about it.

There's nothing...

there's nothing else  
to talk about.

Can you please turn it off?

Yeah.

Suicide... successful

suicide... is permanent.

Suicide is not temporary.

You will not come back

to see your father,

your mother, your brothers,

your sisters, your

relatives, your friends...

no one.

It's a tragedy for

the whole school,

for the whole community

because this is a...

um, just a wonderful

young lady who, uh,  
had a bright future,  
uh, ahead of her.  
She was pretty much  
a loner, except for Brian.  
In a school of this size,  
you could have  
multiple friends, right?

Brian?

Hi, Brian.

I wanted to talk to you  
a little bit about Jessica.

OK.

Can you tell me  
a little bit about  
your friendship  
with her?

I have heard that you're  
really good friends.

Yeah. Um...

Jess has, like, been  
my only friend since...  
seventh grade, I guess.

Do you know how  
she's doing?

I, uh, I... I don't feel  
comfortable talking  
about her like this.

I understand.

I'm sorry, Brian.

That's OK.

Guys, turn off the cameras.

Turn 'em off.

I'm sorry, Brian.

Any updates  
about Jessica?

No, she's, uh...  
she's no worse.

How's Gabrielle doing?

I don't know.

I mean, she seems OK,  
you know?

Kids seem to...

take it in stride somehow.

I'd love to have  
some answers, you know?  
This doesn't make  
any sense to me.  
Little girls don't just  
start taking drugs  
and don't take  
a whole handful.  
Hey, honey.

Are you getting  
hungry?

- Yes.

- Yeah?

How's your homework  
going?

I didn't do  
my homework yet.

Oh, sweetheart, you've  
got to get that done.

How about after dinner,  
I'll help you  
with your homework,  
all right?

OK.

OK.

Dad, can I tell you  
something?

Sure, sweetheart.

What is it?

It's OK, kitten.

Come here.

Don't be scared.

OK? 'Cause...

Listen, listen.

She's gonna be OK...

all right?

She is, and we're  
gonna get her home.

OK, kiddo?

We'll get her home soon, OK?

And we'll all do  
something fun together.

OK.

But you can't worry

about this thing, OK?

I miss her, too,  
sweetheart.

Why don't you go  
wash up for dinner, OK?

Hey, do you guys  
want to sign  
this get-well card  
for Jessica?

Tell me a little bit  
about South Brookdale's  
social scene.

Um, our school's,  
like, very cliquey.  
Everyone's very organized.

Everyone's got  
their own group.

It's, like, average  
high school.

There are the people  
that like band  
or the people that like theater  
or the people that like  
basketball, the jocks.

Yeah.

Hey, do you guys want  
to sign this for Jessica?

Yeah.

It kind of depends  
what grade you're in,  
but, like, mainly Avery  
and her friends.

All right.

Thank you.

It's just those type of  
people that think they're,  
like, better than everyone  
and, like, no one else  
really matters but them and,  
like, everyone else is  
just kind of, like,  
worthless, you know?

Hey, uh, do you guys  
want to sign

this get-well card  
for Jessica?

Uh, no, it's OK.

Uh, are you sure?

Mm-hmm.

OK.

- Thanks!

- You're welcome.

You sure you don't  
want to sign it?

No, it's OK, thanks.

- Seriously?

- Mm-hmm.

- OK.

- OK.

I just thought  
it would be nice.

Is she serious?

Ha ha!

Oh, my God.

Jess!

Hey, Brian.

What's up, Jason?

Hey, sorry I didn't  
wait for you. I just...

- Is everything OK?

- I just want to go home.

Are you all right?

Yeah, I'm fine.

Jess.

What happened today?

Nothing.

Did she come up  
to you today?

I don't want  
to talk about it.

Jess, are you sure  
you're OK?

I'm fine.

Hi, ladies. How are you?

- Hi.

- Hi. Good to see you again.

Avery, can I talk to you  
for just a second?

- Uh, yeah.
- Do you have a minute?
- Hold on.
- OK.

Gonna close this.

- Will you wait for me?
- OK.

OK.

- How are you?
- Good.

We've talked to a lot of kids in the school, and your name comes up a lot.

You're very popular in this school.

Most of the people we talked to at this school think you're really sweet.

But there has been some talk, though, from students at the school that your relationship with Jessica is a little... it's not as positive as maybe you've told me about.

Uh... I... like I told you, we were friends and...

it's just that now we're not, in high school.

I don't know;

we've both gotten older and made different friends.

It's not anything personal, it's just...

we both... just went different ways.

Yeah, that's understandable.

Mm-hmm.

There is some testimony

about when you  
get around Jessica,  
things kind of change.  
I don't... think  
that anything ever changes  
when I'm around Jessica.  
I behave the same  
with her as I would  
anybody in the halls.  
Maybe if you knew what it's  
like now in high school,  
like, girl world now,  
with being popular  
and everything, it just  
is a lot different.  
People don't really know  
what it's like to be me  
and I don't mean that,  
like... rudely or,  
like, thinking a lot  
of myself, but it's just  
people don't understand  
what it's like to be popular.  
I'm just like any other  
girl in high school.  
I think that perspective  
is kind of important.  
Would you be willing  
to be a part  
of this story  
that we're telling  
about the American  
high school?  
And would you be  
willing to be the face  
of that stereotype of  
the popular girl  
that not a lot  
of people understand  
what it feels like, the  
pressures of feeling...  
- Yeah.  
- that popularity and  
living up

to that popularity?  
But I want  
to caution you that  
what you put out there,  
the world is gonna see.  
The real you.  
Like, the...  
I don't know, like,  
- the popular-girl perspective?  
- Absolutely.  
OK.  
...work this thing?  
Holy crap.  
- How do you...  
- Is it by the red button?  
Yeah. OK.  
OK, so today is Day One  
of Avery's life.  
Her documentary?  
I don't know.  
- This is my girls!  
- Hi!  
Is everybody... wait.  
How do you...  
I don't know.  
It's backwards, so...  
- OK. Hello, ladies!  
- Hi!  
These are my main bitches  
right over here.  
Ha ha! Hey!  
What did you guys do this  
weekend? What did we do?  
- Partied, of course.  
- Partied.  
And made out...  
hooked up with this guy.  
Emily.  
- Oh, my gosh.  
- Ex...  
- Seriously?  
- What the...  
Oh, look! Wait!  
Hold on! It's Brian!

Brian! Brian!

Wait, wait, wait! Hold on!

- Hold on! Brian, wait, wait.

- Hey, Brian!

Hello! Hi. How are you?

- Hey, Bri!

- Hey, Brian!

- Hi Brian!

- Freak.

- Oh, God.

- Bye!

Brian, just say hi.

Just wave, really quick.

- Freak!

- Wave really quick! Hi!

- Bye!

- OK.

That didn't really work out.

As you can tell,

I have losers for friends.

- Hey!

- So... ha!

- That is not fair.

- Love you, too!

So, Day... ha! Day One

kinda... kinda sucked.

So we'll try again tomorrow

if we feel like it.

I don't know. OK!

OK.

Think it's on.

OK, so...

my name is Avery Keller,

and this is my first...

video... journal thing, so...

yeah, I don't really know

what to talk about.

I...am a normal

teenage girl.

I have my 4 best friends...

Maddy, Tessa, Kayla, and Emily...

and they're...

super fun.

All right,

so my girls and I  
want to show you what it's like  
to be the sophomores...  
the popular sophomores...  
of South Brookdale,  
so let's take a look.

South Brookdale  
pride! Ha ha!

- Hey, Trevor!

- Hey, Avery.

- Hey.

- Hi.

- Who was that?

- I don't know.

I pretty much just  
hang out with them at school.

It's not like a clique  
or anything.

It's just... I don't know,  
it's just who I hang out with.

- Hi.

- Hi.

Have you ever talked  
to any of them?

- No.

- Hey.

- Is that her locker?

- Oh.

Jessica's locker.

So, anyways...

- Hey, girls!

- Hi.

- Like your shirt.

- Thank you.

- Don't like yours. No!

- Ha ha!

You know, I think  
that people, like, take it  
that I'm being a bitch because  
I only hang out with my friends,  
but... I don't know; I just  
don't have any interest  
in making  
any more friends, so...

it's not, like,  
anything personal.  
I hate my hair today.  
It looks cute.  
I don't have enough time.  
Here, you do it.  
Yeah, I don't... I want to do  
my eyeliner really quick.  
So, yeah, this is our girl time  
because we never have  
enough time because we're  
always running late.  
So we use this bathroom  
as our "getting ready" bathroom,  
and nobody comes in.  
And that bitch blocks  
the door.  
Yeah, Maddy!  
Hi, dolls.  
So usually no one comes in  
because they kind of know...  
- Right. What the...  
- that this is our place...  
Excuse me.  
Get the... out.  
That is why  
she blocks the door.  
This is high school.  
Nothing...  
nothing different from any other  
high school you'd go to.  
People joke around, and people  
mess around and have fun.  
It's just how  
high school is now.  
I don't really do  
any school activities.  
I used to, uh, I used to dance.  
I have my trophy for dance,  
and my mom would love it  
if I did dance still  
because she's annoying  
and she loves to control my life  
and she would've liked

if I did Pom this year,  
but I didn't... didn't  
want to do that.  
Nose in the books, guys.  
Nose in the books.  
I got you  
for another 20 minutes.  
Twenty minutes.  
Oh, my God.  
This class is so boring.  
I literally hate public  
school, and this is why.  
Because we don't  
learn anything.  
Do you see this?  
And she is texting me.  
I actually like school.  
I do. I get good grades  
because I cannot wait  
to get out of this place.  
I just want to go away  
to college.  
I cannot wait  
to be out of my house.  
But... I don't know.  
Other than that, I'm just  
your normal teenage girl,  
living out  
the high school dream.  
OK.  
It's getting late, honey.  
Listen, why don't you  
go home and stay with Gabby  
and I'll stay here  
tonight, OK?  
Hmm?  
I'm OK. I'm staying.  
Are you sure?  
Yeah.  
OK.  
Good night,  
Jessie-bell.  
I'm sorry.  
I'm sorry.

- It's OK, honey.

- I...

- It's OK.

- No.

It's not OK.

It's not OK if I...

- If I would've known that the...

- What?

I didn't know

those pills were there.

I didn't even know

that they were there.

- Honey...

- How did she find them?

It's not your fault,

all right?

You listen to me.

Listen to me.

- I saw those pills...

- The pills were there.

I saw them

in the cabinet.

I didn't throw them

away, either, OK?

Do you think

it's my fault?

Are you sure?

- No.

- OK.

Then it couldn't be

your fault, OK?

We'll find out

what happened, OK?

But this is not

something you did.

You're a good mom, OK?

It's not gonna stop,

you know?

It's... it's not like

it's just at school.

It's on my phone,

it's online.

It just consumes

my life, and I just...

I can't concentrate  
on anything else,  
no matter how hard I try.  
No matter where I go,  
no matter what I do,  
she always... she just...  
She just always...  
finds a way to get at me.  
There are some allegations  
that Jessica was being harassed.  
"Bullied," actually,  
are the words  
a lot of your students  
were using.  
I don't have any...  
knowledge of that  
right now.  
That's just...  
um, at this point,  
I'd put that in a rumor.  
Kids tease each other  
and call each other names  
and are mean to each other  
all of the time.  
Do you guys have  
a zero bullying policy  
in place here?  
Yes. Ha! We do.  
- You smile about that?  
- I do, because I think  
it's, uh, it's rhetoric.  
There's no forum  
for any one of us  
to say to anyone, "Hey,  
"I think this is happening  
with my kid in my classes."  
They're not going  
to investigate.  
None of the administration  
really wants to talk about it.  
You try to stop something  
happening one day,  
but the next day, you don't know  
if it's gonna escalate

or you don't know what happens  
in the other classrooms, and  
you don't know what happens when  
you do take it that next level;  
if it gets resolved  
or if it just is, like,  
brushed aside  
and hushed over.

And if they do get punished,  
then there's more bullying.

- Yeah.

- For... for the person telling.

One time, a few people  
saw it and they sorta...  
talked to Avery, but  
no one really took it  
any further and it...  
it didn't really stop.

I've never seen it happen,  
but if I did,  
I don't... think I would've  
done anything about it.

They just don't  
want that status of being,  
you know, a tattler tale,  
a snitch.

Someone goes to a  
teacher or a counselor,  
and someone else will start  
to make fun of them  
by saying how they're weak  
or they're a baby.

A teacher might like to put it  
as if we were all zebras,  
and we're watching  
our fellow zebras being eaten  
by a lion, and that's kind  
of what it feels like.

We're just watching people  
get attacked, and we do nothing.

I just  
don't understand why.

I mean, they're popular,  
they have all the nice

clothes, they have friends.

They, like, get things  
they want.

Their parents, like,  
love them to death,  
stuff like that.

They have everything.

Hey, guys!

Welcome to  
the Keller compound!

- Thank you. Good to see you.

- We are so excited

- to have you here.

- Thank you.

Come on into our kitchen.

I wanted to invite you  
by saying come on down.

You are the next contestants  
on "The Cooking is Right,"  
and I am your host,  
Kassie Keller.

Right in here, I've got...

a roast beef,

and right there is

a marvelous macaroni recipe

that came from

my Grandma Marge.

- You have a beautiful kitchen.

- Thank you very much.

My husband paid a lot

of money for it,

uh, when he had a job.

And up here,

I've got what I call

Kassie's Casserole,

which is actually just

chicken Parmesan

with some broccoli.

For Avery, she's trying

to lose weight,

and so she always wants

to eat a lot of vegetables.

Right here, we've got

cucumbers and tomatoes

and a meteor shower  
of herbs  
and spices to jazz it up.  
I think she's still  
reeling over the time  
when she didn't make it  
for Poms, and she came home  
that night and said, "Oh,  
it's... you know what it is?  
It's because I'm too fat."  
Um, I attribute her  
not making that team  
to the psycho coach  
that she had, who was,  
um, giving her a lot  
of attitude about the way  
that she treated other kids  
on the team and chose not  
to select her this year  
for the Poms team.  
This is Josh.  
This is our son.  
- Hi, Josh.  
- Hi. How are you?  
- Good.  
- He recently graduated  
from high school by  
the skin of his teeth.  
- Thanks.  
- Yeah, yeah.  
- Excuse me.  
- Just joking around.  
So Josh lives here  
at home with us,  
and his favorite thing  
to do is play video games.  
I think one day he might  
actually become a video game  
designer; I think that's  
his big aspiration,  
but right now, college  
is not interesting to him.  
- Maybe we stop with that, so...  
- It's all right.

You know, it's... it's  
your one minute of fame.  
You might as well  
suck it up.

You had your chance!  
You could've been  
on camera with your mom!

- Yeah.

- You missed it, buddy!

OK.

Avery!

Avery, can you get  
down here, please?!

You know, you guys might  
consider not eating  
before Avery gets down here.

That's really obnoxious.

Avery!

- Chop chop!

- I'm coming.

Get this show  
on the road.

I made sure you got  
a lot of vegetables,  
a lot of protein because  
I know that you said  
you're worried  
about your weight.

Thank you for sharing that.

- You're welcome.

- So polite of you.

- You're welcome.

- Oh, my God.

- Why are we doing this?

- Can I eat now?

May I?

- May I eat now?

- Sure.

Go for it.

So why don't you tell us  
how your day was today?

It was superb.

Just great.

Well, what kinds

of things make your day  
superb?

I don't know.

Did you get  
any tests back?

No.

What about you, Josh?

What'd you do today?

Um... not much.

Uh... beat

"Call of Duty," so...

I hear that's a pretty  
popular game

with your age group

and the 13-year-olds

in America.

Ahem.

So, Avery, any boys that  
you're interested in?

Not that it's any

of your business, but no.

- Better not.

- Hmm.

Well, why don't you  
tell us... if you  
don't want to talk about

that kind of stuff,

why don't you tell us

why your friends are

here today, filming our

family as we sit here

and dine on

this excellent cuisine?

I don't know, Mom,

because they like me?

I don't know, OK?

Do you think it's

because you are

a beautiful, talented,

intelligent young lady,

and that might be

the reason why you were

selected for this

prestigious opportunity?

Kassie, leave her  
alone, will you?  
Aren't you proud  
of our daughter?  
Don't you think  
that this is  
a great opportunity  
for her...

- Just stop, just stop.

- to really shine?

Cut the bullshit. Just stop.

Just stop. Let's just eat.

- Let's just eat.

- Let's have dinner.

We're just

having fun here.

Can't we have fun

once in a while?

Yeah. Just give her  
a break.

Let's... let's have  
our dinner.

That's what

we're here for.

Well, maybe

when you learn how

to lighten up,

we can do that.

We can have dinner and

have fun at the same time.

OK.

Seriously,

please just stop.

Hmm.

All right.

Well, I think it's pretty  
exciting that they're here,

and I'm glad that we can

be involved

in this film about you.

I'm very proud of you.

Very proud of you.

Mm-hmm.

I'll tell you

what...

Where are you going?

Game's on.

You know where I'll be.

I just wanted

a peaceful dinner

with our family,

and that's what I get.

I think I've lost

my appetite.

Food's good, Mom.

Yeah, it's good.

Thank you.

Raise your hand

if you have a best friend.

Now raise your hand

individually

and tell me what

makes that person

a best friend to you. Yes?

They love me,

no matter what.

They love you,

no matter what.

Yes?

They never

ask me to change.

They never ask you

to change.

Anyone else? Yes?

They're always there for me.

Always there for you.

Phenomenal, but the question

I ask all of you is,

why didn't you say

the grades that person had?

Sports they played?

Cars they drove?

Money that they did

and didn't have? Anybody?

Because that's

irrelevant.

It's not important?

Doesn't matter?

Then why do we believe  
so much that it does matter?  
The big question is, where do  
some of you go to be safe?  
Do you feel safe  
in school?  
Some of you?

- No.

- Truthfully.

- No.

- Why?

'Cause you can't  
be yourself there.

You can't be  
yourself there.

- Yes?

- Uh, I don't think

Jessica Burns  
felt safe here.

Tell me why.

Um, maybe she didn't  
have that person,  
that best friend to make  
her feel safe or make  
her feel comfortable  
and accepted.

So if you could  
change the outcome,  
then what could you  
have done?

Because that... that sometimes is  
where it all falls back.

What could we all do?

Be there for her?

It's OK.

I have something...

that I want

to show you guys.

Hey.

Hi, Brian.

How are you?

- Good. Come inside.

- Good to see you.

I have, uh, everything

set up upstairs,  
so... and I should've  
showed somebody  
a while ago,  
but...  
I didn't.  
I like  
your room, Brian.  
It's pretty cool.  
Thanks.  
That's me and Jess.  
You know, Jess and Avery used  
to be friends and everything...  
- Mm-hmm.  
- you know, since they were kids.  
Really young, and...  
sometime last year,  
it just... something changed.  
They were in class.  
Avery was trying to cheat  
off of Jess... Jess's test,  
and she, like, moved her arm.  
- Jess did?  
- Yeah, and she,  
like, moved her arm  
to try to block it,  
but I don't even think  
she did it on purpose,  
and Avery just went nuts.  
So that was  
the starting point?  
Um, yeah, pretty much.  
It started slow, you know?  
It would be, like, a bump  
here and there in the hallways,  
like, nasty text messages  
or dirty looks.  
It just... escalated  
and blew up.  
You know, Jess  
didn't feel very safe.  
I bought her this backpack,  
hoping that she would use it.  
It's called an iSafe backpack.

You can pull an alarm.  
But she, um...  
she wouldn't use it.  
I told Jessica  
that I wanted  
to document it,  
you know, like, I started  
filming everything.  
I have my own camera  
and, um,  
I gave Jess this little  
tiny camera.  
It was like a hidden  
spy camera, you know?  
We would record  
every day for 6 months.  
Six months?  
Six months.  
We got everything.  
I've rigged it  
like a pin,  
any ordinary safety pin,  
and we can put it  
on you.  
We can put it on  
during school  
and record everything,  
and it'll just look  
like, you know,  
a necklace or just like  
you're wearing a pin.  
And nobody will ever  
know what it is.  
So... what are we using  
this for, exactly?  
Like, at school  
with, you know,  
Avery and stuff.  
Like, filming them.  
I think that's a bad idea.  
I think it's  
a great idea.  
I don't.  
- What if she finds out?

- She's not gonna find out.

You didn't even think  
that this was a camera.

Well, what if it beeps  
or something?

There's no noises.

I've already thought  
this through.

Trust me.

I think it's too risky.

It's not risky.

Can you imagine what she  
would do if she found out?

She's not gonna  
find out.

- No one will ever believe...

- We don't know.

- that this is a camera.

- You don't know that.

Jess, would I ever do  
anything... to...

I'm not saying you would  
intentionally do something,  
but...

We won't talk about it  
in school.

We'll just keep it here.

You don't have to make  
any decisions,  
but just take it home...

and if you want  
to work with it,  
then just put it on  
in the morning.

And I'm gonna be filming  
with my camera, too,  
so it's not just  
gonna be you.

OK?

I promise you I won't  
let anything bad happen.

OK, but...

we can't show this  
to anyone.

Nobody.

I made a promise  
to Jessica  
that I wouldn't show anybody.  
And, um...  
well, I'm breaking  
that promise right now, but...  
She didn't want you  
to show anybody?  
She said it would've  
made it worse,  
but I tried to tell her  
that if you show somebody,  
we can find her help.

Bitch.

And I am at a stop sign.

Who texted you?

Avery.

Jess, don't let that  
bother you, OK?

OK.

Watch it, Jessica.

Move along, Jessica.

Keep going. Keep going.

Go to class. Go to class.

Ha ha ha!

Nice outfit!

Where do you think  
you're going?

Why didn't you  
reply to my texts?

I thought we were friends.

Why didn't you text me back?

I was so nice to you!

You have to get  
to class, really?

You have to get to class?

Oh, you have to get  
to class?

She has to get to class.

I don't give a... if you  
have to get to class.

- Move.

- Ha ha ha!

Later, freaks!  
You're a disrespectful  
little...  
Did you know that?  
What are  
you guys doing?  
Oh, just... opening  
your locker for you.  
Just admiring all  
your cute decorations.  
Are you 5?  
Who decorates their  
locker like this,  
- like, really?  
- Avery, stop.  
This is depressing...  
oh, wait.  
You and Brian.  
- He's so precious.  
- So cute!  
You guys would make  
an adorable couple.  
Was any of this  
manipulated at all?  
And I don't mean any offense  
by this question.  
What do you mean  
by manipulated?  
There was nothing  
set up at all?  
- No.  
- Or Jessica didn't change  
at all, knowing  
that she was filming?  
I mean, she got nervous.  
Did Avery see you  
recording any of this?  
Um...  
Or this was all  
her little button cam?  
It was all her button cam  
when she was with Avery.  
Wait, just say hi  
to the camera for me.

- What?  
- Say hi.  
- Say, "Hi, I'm Jessica."  
- Hi, I'm Jessica...  
You missed a shot!  
You missed it!  
Oh, no!  
Oh...  
How's my little  
bitch doing? Good?  
Go home and crawl  
under a rock.  
You don't belong  
here, OK?  
Hey, Jess.  
Go on.  
Aww! Ha ha!  
I'm really sorry.  
I am so sorry.  
I'm sorry.  
It's fine. I'm...  
I'm really sorry.  
I didn't mean to.  
- Yeah, right.  
- Ha ha!  
Seriously, Jessica,  
if you disappeared,  
the world would be  
a better place.  
You're a... bitch.  
Did you really just  
...push me?  
No. I was pushed.  
Are you... kidding me?  
You weren't pushed.  
You just pushed me.  
You know, that was  
a dumb move, Jessica.  
I am just gonna have  
to beat your ass now.  
Why don't you just go  
kill yourself?  
I have this  
funny, funny feeling

that she thinks  
that everything is just  
gonna get better  
from here on out.  
Just end it.

Oh. Heh!

Well, well, well,  
it's Jessica Burns.

What are you doing  
in my bathroom?

Nothing to say? No?

Well, your bathroom,  
it's down there  
with the rest of  
the little bitches.

Do you get that?

Are you understanding me?

You have nothing to say?

She's not a fighter, is she?

She just stands there.

- Do you understand me?

- Ha ha!

You're gonna be back  
in your little bathroom  
that you love so much.

Get that?

Don't move.

You think that I'm just  
gonna forget about you,  
and I'm gonna get bored of you?

That's not the case  
because I... hate you.

Ha ha ha!

Oh, wow.

- Aww.

- You have no clothes.

Aww, what are you  
gonna do?

- That is so sad.

- That is so sad.

You make my life  
so miserable just by being here,  
and I'm gonna make  
your life miserable, too.

Guys, do you smell anything?  
Kind of embarrassing.  
I think we should  
take care of it.  
Come on, we're gonna  
give you a little...  
a nice, warm shower.  
Hold your nose!  
Ha ha ha!  
Have a really nice shower.  
So I think  
I need to kick your... ass.  
I think it's about that time.  
Are you OK with that?  
Got it?  
- Ha ha!  
- Go to class, Jessica!  
You're gonna be late!  
Jess?  
Jess, are you OK?  
I can't.  
I can't, I can't.  
I can't do it.  
- Jess, what's wrong? Come here.  
- I can't do it anymore.  
What's wrong?  
I just can't  
put up with it.  
I can't... I can't put  
up with it anymore.  
I'm done. I can't.  
I can't do it.  
Jess, I'm so sorry.  
I just...  
I just don't know  
how much more of this  
I can take.  
That's why we have  
to show 'em, Jess.  
We have all this footage.  
We have to do something.  
No, it's  
embarrassing.  
I'm not showing this

to anyone.

It'll get better,

I promise. Just...

It's not gonna get better,

it's gonna get worse.

It's never gonna end.

It's never gonna end.

- Jess...

- It's never gonna get better.

I just feel like

I have no way out.

I can't. I can't.

I can't do it.

- Hey, guys.

- Hi.

- Getting anything done in here?

- Yeah.

Yes.

I am working so hard.

- Heh!

- I really am.

- OK, OK. Bri...

- OK, wait.

Just say hi to

the camera for a second.

- OK.

- Yes, say hi!

- This is gonna be great footage!

- OK.

Millions of people

will see this.

OK, this is the

greatest mom in the world.

- Aww.

- Mwah! OK.

Hey, let me take

a picture of you guys.

I want... enough

with the camera.

We want the laundry

put away,

and then it's

dinner time.

Twenty minutes.

You, too, Brian.  
Get to studying.  
Sweetie, 20 minutes.  
OK.  
I love you so, so much.  
Bullying's been  
going on for... as long  
as there have been people,  
there's been bullying.  
What it is, is we've got to  
see that it... it's changed,  
it's getting worse,  
but why is it changing?  
Why is it getting worse?  
A couple of years ago,  
we had kind of  
the same situation that didn't  
go to this degree, thank God.  
Would you people  
please mind telling me  
what you've done in the last  
two years to change that?  
These things can't  
happen overnight.  
It does take time and it  
takes money, and there's  
a lot of different  
things we have to be...  
that have to get  
approved before we can  
put anything into...  
into action, and  
there are other issues  
besides this going on.  
Well,  
what is it gonna take?  
I mean, a girl is  
in the hospital.  
No one knows what's  
gonna happen with her.  
So is that gonna be,  
like, the awakening?  
And what if it was  
your own children who tried

to take their own life?  
I care about my daughter!  
And I care about how she feels  
when she comes home.  
And she tells me she sees it  
in the classroom,  
she sees the bullying in  
the parking lot,  
she sees it out  
on the playing field.  
And I want to know,  
what are you guys doing?  
What are you doing when  
you see the bullying?  
What policies does  
the school have in place  
to take care of this?  
We believe the issue  
is about engagement.  
Not... not engagement  
with this commission  
or the school,  
but engagement with parents  
and their community,  
with their kids.  
We believe that's  
the real issue.  
The parents  
that are here today  
aren't the parents  
of the children  
who are probably  
the bulliers.  
Most of the time,  
the parents that show up here  
are the parents of the kids  
that are doing well.  
But I... I think that we  
also can't lose sight  
of the fact that  
the mental health  
of these bullying kids  
has to be recognized, too.  
We'll never stop the bullying

until we find some method  
of reaching the bulliers  
and getting inside  
of their heads  
and finding some way  
to bring  
some healing to them.  
You know, I've... I've learned  
over the course of my life  
that hurt people are  
the ones who hurt people,  
and these bulliers  
are hurting.

Look at you,  
watching TV with your  
frickin' clicker,  
lying there on your ass  
and not contributing  
anything to  
this household.

- Four times...

- OK, so, uh,  
this is a typical night  
in the Keller household.

...wash your hands  
because men don't wash  
their hands after they go  
to the bathroom.

Well, when I go down there  
and go to the bathroom,  
I like to wash my hands  
after I take a piss.

- Jesus Christ.

- I'm gonna fix...

I'm on it, I'm on it.

Jesus...

While we're onto  
what we're on,  
are you on to getting  
a job this week,  
or is that gonna go  
another two months?  
Yeah, uh, I got  
an appointment, uh,

with my friend Jerry  
on, uh, Wednesday...  
What the hell  
are you doing?  
Are you... kidding me?  
What the hell are you doing?  
What, are you taping them?  
What are you doing?  
Yes, I'm... taping them.  
Stop asking me questions.  
Get out of my...  
business, Josh.  
Why don't you get out  
of this family's business?  
Is this... are you... is this  
a joke? What are you...  
You better delete that,  
whatever it is.  
Oh, my God! Go back  
to playing video games.  
You... loser! Yeah.  
You're such a bitch.  
Oh, I'm a bitch?  
I'm a bitch?  
Is that the most creative thing  
you could've come up with, Josh?  
Why don't you try  
going back to school?  
- You grow up.  
- Go back to school.  
Grow up, really?  
You're how old  
and you dropped out of college,  
still living at home?  
Yeah. "Grow up."  
...grow 'em, I don't  
know what else I can do...  
Yeah, not only do  
my parents fight,  
my brother's  
a... douchebag, so...  
so, yeah, that's my night.  
Hey.  
- Hey.

- Hey.

Hello.

- Um...

- Tell her. Go ahead.

Tell me what?

Um, there's a...

kind of, like, a rumor  
going around.

Um, a bunch of people  
are saying that

you're the one to blame  
for Jessica's suicide.

OK, wait. Who said this?

It's... it's a huge rumor  
and it's everywhere.

The girl next to me  
in my math class said it, too.

Why is everyone stressing  
out so much about it?

- It's obviously not true.

- Because people are saying  
that the harassment,  
all this, like,  
how much she's being  
messed with, this is what  
caused her to do what she did.

That's what they're saying.

And I'm not blaming you.

I'm not saying it was you...

Yeah, you're obviously  
saying it's me.

I'm not saying it's you.

I'm just trying...

Yeah, obviously you're  
saying that this is  
the whole reason why  
she did what she did!

I'm saying that's what  
other people are saying.

Yeah, you just said that  
that's the reason why  
she did what she did  
to herself.

We're just saying that if

enough people are talking  
about it, they're gonna  
start asking questions.

OK, you all stand  
right next to me  
whenever we talk  
to Jessica.

Is it harassment?  
Is it... harassment?

No, so why don't we  
just drop it?

- Just drop it.

- No! It's not!

Thank you.

It's not harassment.

Oh, really? You're  
really trying to...

...this!

Thank you.

Thank you guys so much  
for starting  
all this bullshit!

She's trying  
to help me, really?

You're starting  
all this drama.

Now people are looking  
at us. Thank you.

I didn't even do anything.

Are you serious right now?

She's not taking  
this seriously enough.

We're not gonna get in trouble.

Nobody's gonna get in trouble.

Yeah, but people  
are gonna start  
asking questions  
pretty soon.

You're supposed to be her  
girl, to be there for her.

I am trying to be there  
for her, but,  
what, throw myself under  
the bus in the process?

Yeah, I'm not about to get in trouble for stuff that she did. Well, I think you just need to keep your mouths shut because we have these cameras walking around.

Hi.

Brian, hi.

They made her a sign at school.

Oh...

that's so sweet.

How's she doing?

She's... doing about the same.

How are you doing?

Not so good.

I know.

This all feels like this weird dream.

I know.

Um, I have to tell you something.

So you know about all the bullying that went on at the school?

About, uh...

6 months ago,

I told her

that we should start documenting everything, like, with cameras and stuff.

It's been going on for 6 months?

Yeah.

Jessica... you guys should've told me.

She was embarrassed about it.

But you should've told me.

Why didn't you tell me?

Because she made me

promise,  
and I couldn't break  
that promise.  
No.  
Sweetie, it's not...  
I know. I wanted  
to tell somebody.  
And you're a good friend.  
That's what...  
that's what you are.  
You are a good friend.  
- But I...  
- And you held her promise.  
You know how much  
we care about you.  
You know that, right?  
I would never, never  
want you to feel bad.  
Can I talk to her  
for a second?  
I'm so sorry, Jess.  
I had to show somebody.  
And everyone's trying to  
stay strong for you...  
because we know that  
you're gonna make it.  
I miss you so much.  
Let me ask her  
the questions  
and, uh, give her a chance to  
tell us her side of the story,  
I mean, because I think  
it's important.  
Um, been principal long enough  
to know there's always  
two sides to every story, um...  
Come in!  
Hi there. Come on in.  
Please, have a seat.  
OK.  
Um, your parents and I  
have been discussing  
this, uh... this letter.  
Well, I'll just

let you read it.  
What is this?  
Well, it's pretty  
obvious what it is.  
Your friends have made  
a statement here  
that you're the cause  
of, uh, the bullying  
and, um, we're here  
to find out  
the complete story.  
Now I'm giving you a chance here  
with your parents here  
to tell us your side  
of this because I know  
there's always two sides  
to every story...  
I didn't do  
any of this stuff.  
I didn't do any  
of these things.  
I didn't... I... let's see,  
I did not harass her,  
I didn't send her  
multiple "mean things,"  
I was not "mean to her"  
relentlessly.  
You didn't... you didn't do  
any of these things?  
No! I didn't do any  
of those things!  
I did not harass her  
or bully Jessica!  
O-OK, all right, if you say  
that, then why would  
your friends put this  
on... on paper,  
put their names to it?  
This is serious.  
This isn't just,  
"Oh, geez, she was not..."  
I'm not... I'm not joking  
around about this!  
Obviously I know

it's serious,  
but I didn't do any  
of those things!  
This isn't something  
I can just pass off  
because you said,  
"I didn't do anything."  
You understand that?  
There are consequences  
for actions,  
and part of  
the consequences are you  
have to take responsibility  
for things that you do.  
Yeah, OK, OK, so... so  
maybe I joked around  
with Jessica.  
Maybe I joked around with her,  
just like those girls were.  
I was joking  
around with her.  
Maybe I took it  
a little bit too far,  
maybe it hurt her feelings;  
I don't know,  
but that's not my problem  
that this girl  
can't handle a joke.  
- Mr. Harris...  
- Everyone blew it way out of...  
Mom! Everyone blew it  
way out of...  
- Don't "Mom" me.  
- Mom!  
Everyone blew it way out  
of proportion  
that that's not even true.  
None of that is true.  
You know, he's  
bullying you right now,  
trying to get you  
to admit to something  
- that you didn't do!  
- Mom.

I know.  
I'm not bullying.  
I am asking questions  
to find out answers.  
My daughter is being  
thrown under the bus  
by these girls over  
something that you know  
damn well happens everywhere  
in schools across America.  
OK, OK, we understand.  
I didn't do anything!  
Everyone understands  
I didn't do anything!  
Look, I don't understand  
that you didn't do anything.  
What I understand is  
that I have a very  
serious situation here that  
I have to take care of,  
and I want to know  
everybody's point of view,  
including yours, so that the  
proper actions can be taken.  
Did the bullying  
put her in the coma,  
or did she put herself  
in the coma  
by swallowing the pills?  
Yeah, that's a actual,  
logical point.  
Thank you,  
and I'm telling you  
that I didn't do  
anything, OK?  
- All right, all right.  
- I joked around with her!  
Seriously, this is  
such bullshit!  
No I'm seriously  
done with this!  
If that's what you want  
to hear, that I'm sorry  
for joking around

with her, then I am  
very, very sorry  
for joking around with her.  
I am so terribly sorry  
that I didn't know  
that some girl doesn't know  
how to take a... joke!  
Sorry, a freaking joke!  
I didn't know that  
somebody can't take a joke!  
Seriously.  
Like, grow the hell up!  
Grow the hell up!  
Take a joke!  
I am so sorry!  
I'm sorry!  
I have to get to class  
'cause I'm a very good student.  
Bullshit.  
...I didn't do shit!  
Calls my parents in there  
and tries to embarrass me.  
It's, like, honestly!  
Does she really think  
anyone's gonna buy this?  
...of actually getting  
to explain...  
And this is my way  
of actually...  
What's going on?  
Avery Keller's,  
like, gone nuts.  
...or people telling me  
that I'm lying.  
This is the only way for me  
to actually put out there  
the way that I feel.  
Everybody here  
at school is blaming me  
for this stupid-ass  
Jessica Burns bullshit.  
I am so sick of everyone  
turning against me  
and blaming me

for what happened.  
This girl did this  
to herself!  
I did not tell her  
to go do what she did!  
No one told her!  
She made that decision!  
For all those girls,  
and they know who they are,  
you've... with  
the wrong girl.  
God.  
That's so messed up.  
Avery? Avery.  
Avery, please, will you  
come talk to me?  
Are you doing OK?  
Yeah. Why?  
Do you want  
to talk to me  
about that video posting  
that I saw online today?  
Why?  
That's not really  
what we agreed to,  
and I'm very concerned.  
That was my own  
personal thing.  
Not your thing,  
that was my thing.  
I know that,  
but I want you  
to understand,  
it's a very damaging  
thing that you did,  
- to post that...  
- Damaging?  
- For yourself.  
- How is it damaging?  
Because it was  
reactionary.  
When we react to things,  
it's never our best selves.  
And you were angry.

Yeah, I wanted everyone  
to see that I was angry.  
I wanted  
everyone to see that,  
'cause now, when I walk  
around, people are scared  
to come up to me and talk  
to me about this anymore.  
That was what the whole  
purpose of this was.  
Is that who you want  
people to see?  
That's how I feel  
right now, though, so...  
"Right now."  
Absolutely  
perfect words.  
"Right now."  
It's going to pass.  
I'm here  
to tell your story,  
and I think it's  
a very important story.  
The most important  
story.  
What if I were  
to tell you  
that I know for certain  
that footage  
of you harassing Jessica  
exists?  
Have you seen it?  
I have.  
We'll come to your house  
and we'll watch it  
together, OK?  
Yeah.  
The footage is very  
real, and I want you  
to prepare yourself  
for that.  
In the meantime,  
will you please,  
please do yourself

a favor  
and take that posting  
down?

- Yeah.

- OK.

I know you got  
to get to class.

- OK.

- All right.

- Hang in there, OK?

- Yeah.

All right.

I don't know

what to do anymore.

I'm kind of embarrassed about  
how I handled the situation.

I'm just so frustrated  
with not having any control,  
and I think that what  
I was trying to do is  
regain some of the control  
over the situation.

Obviously, that didn't really  
work out so well, so...

it just kind of sucks  
right now because I feel  
like everything's  
falling apart slowly.

My friends turned on me.

I have no one to talk to...

I mean, besides you.

I mean, kind of... I feel  
like now I can talk to you.

I feel like now you...

you're the only person that's  
really there for me, you're  
the only person that doesn't...  
judge me and... make me feel...  
like I have to be perfect.

You make me feel  
like I can just be me  
and you're not gonna  
judge me and...

I just feel like I can

actually talk to you and, um...  
I'm not used to... to being able  
to talk to someone.  
I don't know what to do.  
I don't...  
I just feel so...  
I don't know what other word  
to use beside "lost,"  
and I don't really know what  
to expect for tomorrow.  
Hopefully I can ho... like, pull  
myself together before then,  
but...  
we'll see.

Hi.  
Mr. and Mrs. Keller,  
how are you?  
Nice to see you.  
Nice to see you. Hi.  
So you ready  
to get started?

- Yeah.

- OK.

Set up a monitor here, if  
you guys want to take a seat.

No, um, they're  
not gonna stay.

What do you guys have  
going on here?

Well, we're... we're  
sitting down to...

We're just watching  
something,

so you guys  
can just go.

Well, I am not gonna let you  
just sit there by yourself.

I have to watch it,  
too, with you.

I mean, I'm curious  
what's going on here.

No, it's fine. Trust me.

I can do this by my...  
this is my thing

right now with Amy, so...  
But I am your mother,  
and you are going  
to sit with me  
and allow me to be  
your support system.  
I'm not gonna sit  
with you.  
I'm gonna do this  
by myself  
because I'm a big girl  
and I need my privacy  
sometimes,  
so can you please go?  
Let's just give her  
a minute. This is about her.  
You don't have to be here  
right now...  
But she needs somebody  
to support her through this.  
- Uhh! I'm fine!  
- No, she doesn't.  
Yes, she does!  
We'll be in  
the next room, right?  
If you want to go  
to the next room,  
you go right ahead;  
I'm gonna stay with her.  
I'm not leaving her  
in this time of need!  
Listen,  
you're going with me  
in the other room  
to leave these two alone!  
This has been going on  
long enough!  
This is about Avery.  
This is not about you.  
Can you just listen  
to Dad for one time?  
Please, can you just go?  
- Is this gonna go on?  
- Fine.

- Fine.

- Let's go.

Thank you.

- You OK?

- Yeah.

How about we just...

we get started?

Yeah, let's watch it.

Let's just... let's just...

please, I just... I don't

want to have to have her

barging down the stairs

right now and

be annoying again,

so let's just start.

OK.

I was once a star

Shining bright

You pulled me out of the sky

Stole all my light

Why?

Why?

Let's be friends.

Let's be friends.

I heard you got a boyfriend.

I have to go to class.

Go to class? OK.

I was once a boat

Where do you think

you're going?

Sailing off to sea

She's not a fighter, is she?

She just stands there.

You dragged me back

to the shore

Changing my course in life

Why me?

I just don't know why

she hates me so much.

Why you got to pick on me?

Do you understand me?

You're gonna be back

in your little...

And I don't know where

I'm going  
But when I get there,  
I can say  
That I have been  
the kindest me  
That I can be  
Maybe she  
doesn't hate you.  
Can you say the same?  
Maybe she hates herself.  
I don't think so.  
Code Blue!  
I need help here, please!  
What's going on?  
- What... what's happening?  
- Jessie?  
Nurse, please escort Mr.  
and Mrs. Burns out of here.  
- Jessie?  
- All right, we have no pulse.  
- I need Epinephrine, please!  
- Jessie!  
Mrs. Burns, you have  
to go now, please!  
- No!  
- Get the parents out!  
Mr. Burns, please take  
your wife out!  
You have to go, please!  
Let us do what we do!  
I need a cart in here  
immediately!  
Somebody get me a cart!  
Administering Epinephrine!  
But we need  
to help her right now!  
Please do something!  
Do something!  
Jessie!  
Get that camera  
out of here! Nurse!  
- Out! Out! Please!  
- What is going on?  
No response!

Beginning compressions!  
Where's my cart?  
Oh, my God.  
Oh, my God.  
I was once a tree  
Rising from the ground  
Winter, spring,  
summer or fall  
I still grew tall  
Till you cut me down  
And I don't think  
it's gonna stop.  
Are you really happy now?  
Clear!  
- And I don't know where  
- No pulse!  
I'm going  
But when I get there  
I can say  
- That I have been  
- Charging!  
- Clear!  
- The kindest me  
- That I can be  
- No pulse!  
- No pulse!  
- Can you say the same?  
Charging!  
- Charged.  
- Honey.  
- Clear!  
- Clear.  
- No pulse.  
- Oh, my God!  
Again.  
Charging.  
Yeah? Have you guys...  
Your children would be  
really disgusting.  
Can you turn it off?  
Charging!  
Clear!  
No pulse!  
Again!

Oh! Jessie.  
Can you please  
turn it off right now?  
Now I'm a shooting star  
Please turn it off.  
- Can't catch me  
- Clear!  
Clear!  
- Tried to pull me  
- Pulse! We have a pulse!  
Out of the sky  
Steal all my light,  
but look  
- OK?  
- Yeah, yeah, she's OK.  
It's not dimming  
I can't...  
OK.  
It's not OK.  
It's all right.  
What do... what do I do?  
What do I...  
I don't know what to do anymore!  
I mean, she's not...  
Let's take...  
let's just take it  
one step at a time, OK?  
Let's just take it one  
step at a time  
and we'll get you  
some help, OK?  
All right?  
I mean, she's dying.  
I can't even...  
I can't even say  
I'm sorry!  
I can't even tell her  
I'm sorry.  
I know.  
I know there's  
no excuse for that.  
It's just not right.  
I hate myself now.  
I hate it. I hate it.

I'm very proud of you.  
This is...  
this is really hard.  
I think you're a very,  
very powerful young woman  
who people love  
and people follow.  
But I know that's  
not you,  
and I know  
underneath that,  
there's someone who's  
just in a lot of pain,  
who needs to talk to  
somebody and get it out.  
Don't you just want  
to get it out?  
Yeah, but, I mean,  
who would I talk to?  
I have nobody.  
My mom doesn't talk to me.  
My dad doesn't talk.  
My friends don't care  
about real life.  
They care about shopping.  
They don't...  
I don't have  
any real friends.  
I did have one real friend,  
and that was Jessica.  
The one person  
that cared about me,  
the one person that  
would never hurt me,  
and then I go  
and fuck it all up.  
I...hurt her.  
And I can't even say  
I'm sorry.  
Let me  
see the charts.  
We have no...  
I'll know within 24 hours.  
OK.

We need to discuss

Jessica's situation.

- Can we do it outside?

- Absolutely. Please.

Dr. Burns?

After you.

We just checked

Jessica's blood levels,

and it seems that her organs

are not improving,

so she is continuing

down the path

of organ failure,

complete organ failure.

We have her on hemodialysis

at this point...

and... after that,

that's pretty much

all we can do.

What do we do then?

What happens

after that?

I'm sorry.

Mm-mmm.

There's gotta

be something left to do.

We've done pretty much

what we can.

It's just basically

up to her now.

- I'm sorry, Dr. Burns.

- Please.

I'm sorry.

I am...

the one responsible

for Jessica Burns

killing herself.

I wish that it was me...

that couldn't wake up.

I wish it was me that wasn't

breathing, not you.

You don't deserve that,

but I do.

I deserve all of that.

Hey, guys.

What's happening?

Um...

- Hey, Brian.

- Oh, honey.

I thought

everything was OK.

Well, she's had

a rough night.

They're saying

it doesn't look good.

People paid me attention

because of what I was doing.

And even though it wasn't

positive attention,

it was still attention to me.

I didn't care.

I didn't care that

what I was doing was...

affecting someone else so much

that they felt like they

had nowhere to go

and had no one to go to,

that they thought it'd be better

just to... to die than to be here.

She can

hear you, you know?

She can hear you.

I tried to get control

over other people,

and now I'm just totally lost.

I thought it was easier

to put up a wall

and be the one

to control others.

And it's not... it's not right.

And I was lucky enough

to have someone now

care enough to... to show me that

and to tell me that,

and spend the time to talk

with me and listen to me,

which I've never had before.

It wasn't me just playing games

and joking around with someone.

It was me...

ruining somebody.

Jessica...

I know that you might not

ever get to watch this,

but if for some reason you do,

I'm really sorry.

My name is Avery Keller...

and I'm a bully.