

Resting Bitch Face
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The Girls:

They're all in tenth grade.

SARA: heavy on the bronzer

FUNDA: heavy on the eyeliner

ROMY: heavy on the lipstick

HALIE: sticks to chap stick

The Room:

Halie's bedroom.

Carpeted floor. A small amount of generic furniture. An old record player purchased at a thrift store. It's clear her family doesn't have much money. The walls are covered with posters atypical of your average teenage girl's bedroom: old movies, strong female characters (Wonder Woman, Rosie the Riveter, etc.), maybe some leftist political campaigns.

The Rules:

A forward slash (/) in a line indicates the place where the next line of dialogue begins.

“If I want to knock a story off the front page, I just change my hairstyle.”

—Hillary Clinton, 1995

*Sara, Romy, and Funda sit on the floor
taking selfies with their phones that are all covered in sparkly phone cases,
making dumb kissy fish faces.
They each take a picture, look at it, dislike it, and take another.
Maybe they touch up their makeup in the process.
This happens for a while.
Halie does not do this.
Halie studies from a spiral notebook.*

SARA

O-M-G I look like literal garbage.

FUNDA

O-M-G No you don't.

ROMY

O-M-G Sara you're on meth you look amazing.

FUNDA

You look gorge gorge gorge but like I on the other hand look like a homeless person.

ROMY

Meanwhile I have like four chins. (*Pointing.*) One two three four chins.

FUNDA

I look like a troll.

ROMY

Me too. I look like a troll who lives under a bridge and scares small children.

HALIE

Do you guys want to start studying?

SARA

O-M-G Halie you're not our mom chill.

ROMY

(*Pointing her phone at Halie.*) Smile!

HALIE

No, I look awful!

ROMY

(*Showing Halie the picture.*) You look amazing!

HALIE

I look fat.

ROMY

You look amazing.

HALIE

Please don't post that. I look huge.

SARA

It's just like I look at Kim Kardashian's Insta and she looks legit breathtaking in every pic she ever posts and I'm like, gurrrrl your selfie game is on point because every selfie I take I look like an actual manatee.

FUNDA

Sara you're a zillion percent the hottest of any of us so don't say stuff like that it actually makes me want to kill myself.

SARA

Um I'm sorry I'm the hottest? You're the one whose parents are from a foreign country so guys drool over you like you're some kind of like rare exotic bird.

FUNDA

O-M-G not true!!! You're the one with the boyfriend!!!!

SARA

Ugh I don't even care about him anymore seriously he bores me to literal tears.

FUNDA

Fine I'll take him!

SARA

Today Cody told me that Connor told him that Caleb told him that when they were in the locker room the whole lacrosse team was making bets about how much (*obviously a euphemism for pubes*;) hair you have.

FUNDA

O-M-G THAT'S DISGUSTING!

ROMY

Do you grow it out?

FUNDA

UGH! NO-uh!!! I shave it all off what kind of monster do you think I am?!?

ROMY

Some girls do.

FUNDA

Jesus Christ Romy I can't believe you'd even ask me that.

ROMY

They do.

FUNDA

I'm horrified. I'm like actually completely horrified.

ROMY

Some girls do!

FUNDA

I don't even want to think about it. That's the most disgusting thing I've ever heard.

SARA

Cody told me the guys were all standing in the locker room in their jockstraps going, "That's how they do it in Turkey!"

ROMY

O-M-G!

FUNDA

Ugh ugh please stop like for real I'm gonna throw up.

SARA

"That's how they do it in Turkey!"

FUNDA

I'm not even from Turkey. My parents aren't even really from Turkey. They both moved here when they were like babies.

HALIE

It's just so sickening that they were even talking about you like that Funda.

SARA

O-M-G Halie that's how guys talk! It's just life. Like, they were in a locker room. Just with other guys. What else are they gonna talk about? It's kind of sweet actually.

FUNDA

Yeah it's like their way of showing they like me, but they're guys so they do it in, like, their own way.

SARA

I know I say this all the time but you are such a prude and it's, like, so precious. You're like a little girl. Like actually Halie you are *a-dor-a-ble*.

HALIE

Thanks.

I'm gonna microwave some movie theatre popcorn. Anybody else want?

ROMY

Me!

FUNDA

Me!

SARA

(*Sweet.*) Can't. Diet.

Halie walks out of the room.

SARA

If she thinks she looks so fat maybe she shouldn't be eating effing buttery popcorn. Popcorn is terrible for you. Corn in general is terrible for you. Like, it's so funny that fat people are always eating corn because what's going through their mind is O-M-G look at me I'm being so healthy I'm eating a vegetable but corn is like the worst most fattening vegetable there is.

FUNDA

Is popcorn made from corn?

SARA

Yeah.

FUNDA

Oh cool.

SARA

And it has so many calories and so many carbs it's so sad.

FUNDA

Halie *has* gotten a little fat.

SARA

Halie is in bad shape. Like, she can't dress well, she doesn't do her hair, she never wears an ounce of make-up—like she's not even trying. And she walks around with that look on her face. It's like unbearable. I think we should talk to her about it.

ROMY

About what?

SARA

Her resting bitch face.

ROMY

Yeah great idea let's all sit her down and tell her she has an ugly face.

SARA

Okay that is *not* what I said.

ROMY

I think it's mean.

SARA

O-M-G take that back, I am not mean! Take that back!

ROMY

I didn't say *you're* mean, I said telling her that is mean.

SARA

Funda if me and Romy and Halie talked all the time about how you had resting bitch face and we had information that this was keeping people from wanting to be your friend wouldn't you want us to tell you?

FUNDA

I mean I guess.

SARA

See?

ROMY

I wouldn't want you to tell me that.

FUNDA

But like Sara's just trying to help her Romy.

SARA

Yeah I'm being a good friend. This is what a good friend does. A good friend makes sure their friends don't get hurt even if they have to hurt them in order to help them.

ROMY

I guess.

SARA

Because like frankly you guys, I can't be around Halie if she's gonna continue to go around looking like some kind of buzzkill librarian who doesn't ever smile. It makes me feel super judged. If I was in her shoes I'd want us to talk to me about it.

Halie reenters the room just as Sara is finishing speaking.

She is carrying a bowl full of popcorn.

It's completely silent and completely awkward.

Halie sits with her popcorn and eats a kernel.

It's very awkward, so she goes to her record player

and puts on a record like Joni Mitchell's Blue or Carole King's Tapestry.

Whatever it is, it's a female artist from the past.

Halie sits back in her spot.

HALIE

You guys want some popcorn?

A little moment.

SARA

(*Sweet.*) I told you I can't. Diet.

FUNDA

I'm good.

ROMY

No thanks.

HALIE

Didn't you say you wanted some?

ROMY

I don't want to spoil my dinner.

FUNDA

Yeah me neither.

SARA

Halie what is this music? It's totally gay. Is this like the Sound of Music or some crap?

FUNDA

O-M-G I used to love the Sound of Music!

Romy goes to the record player and looks at the record case.

FUNDA

(*"Soprano" voice.*) "I am sixteen / going on seventeen!"

ROMY

I think I used to listen to her with my mom.

SARA

(*Amused.*) You *are* sixteen going on seventeen! / Literally you are!

HALIE

My mom turned me on to her too! She's so amazing—

Sara plays a loud new song from her phone, on full blast.

It's something current, by a male artist.

Sara and Funda sing along and dance.

Romy quickly joins in with them.

SARA

Hal turn that off we can't hear the song.

(With a "cute" smile.) Please.

Halie turns the record off.

Sara grabs Halie and dances with her.

The girls all sing and dance.

It's so fun, and, for the first time, it's clear they've been friends a long time.

They dance.

They dance.

They dance.

Romy's phone buzzes and she looks at it and screams.

ROMY

HE LIKED MY SELFIE!!!

SARA

What?

ROMY

HE LIKED MY SELFIE!!!!

FUNDA

Turn that off I can't hear her.

Sara turns the music off.

ROMY

HE LIKED MY SELFIE ON INSTA!!!!!!!!!!!!

SARA

Who?

HALIE

Benjy Glick?

ROMY

YEEEEESSSSSS!!!

HALIE

ROMY!!!

ROMY AND HALIE

AAAHHH!!!!!!

SARA

I didn't even know you had a crush on him.

HALIE

She does.

ROMY

I told you. Last week we were at the nurse at the same time and he said this thing about my backpack and I was like, "O-M-G."

SARA

Oh. But I didn't know it was, like.

ROMY

It is. And ever since then whenever we pass each other in the hallway he puts out his fist and we like pound it and now he just LIKED MY SELFIE ON INSTA O-M-G I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

FUNDA

Please tell me you're still using your Nuva ring.

ROMY

Of course I am if I didn't I'd still have those horrible cramps but he might not even like me!

HALIE

Are you kidding? He totally likes you.

FUNDA

At least he's not going around talking to his friends about whether or not you have a bush.

SARA

He might be.

FUNDA

You're so bad.

ROMY

I'm so nervous you guys. I won't know what to say to him. I'll freeze. I'm gonna ruin this. I'm so sick of being single.

HALIE

Me too.

FUNDA

Me three.

SARA

I mean you'll be fine he's a total dork.

ROMY

He is?

HALIE

He's not a dork.

SARA

Benjy Glick? Complete and total dork. His dad does something with computers. But he's so cute sweetie I'm so happy for you.

ROMY

Thanks.

SARA

Your mom will *love* him.

HALIE

She will. He gets really good grades. He's the president of the Model UN club.

SARA

I just fell asleep.

FUNDA

You guys, I think we should start studying. I told my mom to pick us up in like a half hour.

SARA

I don't want to studyyyyyyuuhhh.

ROMY

Let's please just get this over with A-Sap. Talking about this stuff always gives me a belly ache. My great-grandparents were in the Holocaust.

HALIE

Really?

FUNDA

They were?

ROMY

Yeah.

Or, like, their friends. Or, like, my great-great-uncle or something. It was really bad.

SARA

My grandpa told me this story that his like mom's cousin was in a concentration camp and when they let her free she was so skinny you could see her ribs and I was like, literally I would give anything to be that thin.

ROMY

Dark.

FUNDA

But, like, me too girl.

HALIE

That's not funny.

SARA

O-M-G Halie take a joke.

FUNDA

What is this test even on?

HALIE

World War Two.

FUNDA

All of it?

HALIE

Yeah, everything we've been covering in this unit.

SARA

Why is everything we ever do in history truly the most boring thing humanly possible?

FUNDA

Is it multiple choice?

HALIE

Yeah.

SARA

Thank actual god.

HALIE

And two short answers.

SARA

Whyyyyuh???

ROMY

I hate short answer.

SARA

Why do they always do short answer?!? Why do I have to, like, write? I'm never going to have to write when I'm an adult.

ROMY

I never know what to say.

HALIE

Her short answers aren't so bad. It's mostly just regurgitating information.

SARA

I already know I'm gonna fail this.

FUNDA

Guys we should start my mom's gonna be here—

SARA

Funda stop saying the same thing seven thousand million times. We know your mom's coming. You told us. It's annoying. You're making me want to have you deported.

HALIE

Should I just drill you guys?

SARA

Yaas Alex Trebek, drill baby drill.

HALIE

Okay. Romy: how did World War II start.

ROMY

Ummm.

Okay, so like, Germany was like really depressed because after World War One they were the losers and they were like what do we do, we're so poor and so sad and then Hitler was like hey listen I can fix it I know the answer it's all the Jews' fault—

HALIE

No, but like, how did the war start?

ROMY

Ummm...

FUNDA

Wasn't it like they thought Germany had these weapons but they didn't?

HALIE

No.

SARA

Oh I know! There was some guy driving in a car and someone shot him.

ROMY

Kennedy!

SARA

God Romy not Kennedy he wasn't the president 'til like the eighties.

HALIE

That's not—

FUNDA

I'm remembering this now Sara. Wasn't he some guy who has the same name as that band my brother likes?

SARA

Your brother is such a freak.

FUNDA

I know but it's like France, or—

SARA

Yes! France Ferdi—ferdi—fertilizer, I don't know!

FUNDA

L-O-L! O-M-G L-O-L.

ROMY

What are you guys talking about?

HALIE

Do you mean Archduke Franz Ferdinand?

SARA AND FUNDA

YES!

HALIE

That was how the first world war started.

FUNDA

Oh.

HALIE

This is the second world war.

SARA

Way to put us in our place there, Hal.

HALIE

Sorry, I was just.

SARA

No it's fine. We were just, like, trying and we almost had the right answer.

FUNDA

True.

HALIE

Yeah.

SARA

So like if we wrote that on the test tomorrow we'd at least get like partial credit.

FUNDA

So what was that guy's name just so I remember?

SARA

France Ferdi—what is it?

HALIE

Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

SARA

Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

HALIE

But we really don't have to worry about that, because it's not on this test.

ROMY

Yeah.

SARA

FINE ROMY WHATEVER.

ROMY

What?

SARA

Halie keep going I wanna get this over with.

HALIE

Okay, um...Sara: talk about the tension between Germany and France during World War Two.

SARA

Oh. Okay. Um. So, like, Germany, like, invaded, like, France?

HALIE

Yeah good job that's right.

SARA

Okay cool. I was like, did they invade France? did they not invade France? Coolcoolcool. Okay so like Germany walks in, like bangs down the door, and they're like we're Germany, I'm Hitler, we hate Jews, you have Jews, we're staying, we're in charge, and France was like so mad at Germany and they were like, Get off our land, but Germany was like, No we won't we're Germany, so they had this like big battle and then Germany like went home—

ROMY

No they didn't.

SARA

Yeah they did.

ROMY

No they didn't. They stayed, right?

SARA

Halie?

HALIE

They didn't go home.

Funda and Romy chuckle.

SARA

Can you guys grow up and like focus? If I fail this test my mom isn't letting me go to the concert next week, and if I fail and it's because you dickheads were acting like dumb idiots and not letting me focus I'm gonna have my mom call your mom and I *promise* you your mom won't let you go to that concert either.

FUNDA

Sorry.

ROMY

God. Sorry.

SARA

It's fine, just like, stop.

Halie, tell me what happened.

HALIE

Well Germany was really powerful and intimidating so France pretty much let Germany take over the country. At first it was only part of the country, like Paris and stuff to the north, and France had control of the stuff to the south, which was called Vichy France because the capital of that "free zone" was a town called Vichy, but by the end of the war Germany had taken over the whole country and the Vichy government was essentially just a puppet state.

SARA

Okay I'll never remember that.

HALIE

It's not really that complicated actually.

ROMY

Yeah Sara.

FUNDA

Yeah it's not that complicated.

They chuckle again.

HALIE

No, I'm just saying, like, all you probably need to know for the test is that France didn't really put up a fight and eventually, piece by piece, Germany took over the whole country. And the term Vichy France. That's important. She'll definitely ask about Vichy France.

ROMY

What is that word you keep saying?

FUNDA

Fishy?

HALIE

Vichy. Vichy France. Sometimes it's called the Free Zone or the unoccupied zone. But Vichy is the important word. She'll definitely ask a question with the word Vichy.

ROMY

How do you spell it?

HALIE

V-I-C-H-Y.

SARA

Why do you look at everyone like that?

Silence.

Romy and Funda look at each other.

HALIE

Me?

Like what?

SARA

Like *that*.

HALIE

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

SARA

See? She's still doing it.

FUNDA

Yeah, she is.