

Derek - M, 20s - Reliving his glory days; athlete and coach

Scene 1. Tyler and Derek practicing soccer.

DEREK

Damn, Tyler. I know I haven't lost my edge, guess you're just that good. Next time, I'll bring even more heat for you. Let's call it here for today.

TYLER

Awesome. I should shower soon, anyway. I'd prefer to not smell like BO at the pep rally.

DEREK

Yeah, I get it. You don't want to chase the cheerleaders away.

TYLER

(laughs)

I'm not really worried about the cheerleaders, Derek.

DEREK

You're not? Take one look at them and tell me you aren't into them. You do realize that cheerleader outfits make them objectively hot, right? Like, a five in a cheerleader skirt is a objectively an eight.

TYLER

I guess.

DEREK

You're one of the best players on the team. That comes with some perks. You can have any girl you want.

TYLER

I don't like any of the cheerleaders, though.

DEREK

What are you using your GOAT status for, then?

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TYLER

Scholarships?

DEREK

Oh god, Tyler. How have I failed you so badly?!

(beat)

Wait, you're not like...one of those.

TYLER

What?

DEREK

You know.

TYLER

I like girls, if that's what you're getting at. You really shouldn't say "one of those."

DEREK

Okay, Mr. Identity Politics. That's not even what I meant. You know I'm woke.

TYLER

Nobody says that unironically anymore.

DEREK

Ugh. Fine. Forget it. No more helpful life advice from Derek.

(beat)

Do I sound like an old man if I talk about teenagers already knowing everything?

TYLER

You're not old. And I like your advice. Mostly. There is this one girl I like.

DEREK

Who? Emily? I don't blame you, man. Dump. Truck.

TYLER

No, not Emily. Her name's Finley. We have study hall together this year, so I've really gotten to know her.

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DEREK

Are you talking about Finley Cosgrave?

TYLER

Yeah, do you know her?

DEREK

I know of her; I've never actually met her. Hasn't she been watching practices lately?

TYLER

I'm not sure. I think I saw her in the stands once or twice.

DEREK

Tyler, you don't have to act cool around me. You're fully aware that your girl is watching you play. Even if it is just at practice.

TYLER

(sheepish, stuttering)

Well, maybe.

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Scene 2. Derek and Olivia practicing outside on the soccer field.

DEREK

Eyes on the prize, Olivia.

OLIVIA

Oh, I see the prize, Derek.

Hard kick and swoosh of a soccer net.

DEREK

Freaking aces. Great job, phenom!

OLIVIA

Well, I did get some good coaching.

DEREK

That footwork though. Sheesh. It's been a while since I've seen such fast feet. So why haven't you scored yet in a game?

OLIVIA

I dunno.

DEREK

Too much pressure?

OLIVIA

Ha! I eat pressure for breakfast.

DEREK

(laughs)

That's right. You did kill in the tryouts. In fact, in the last four years, I've only seen two other freshmen land a varsity spot.

(beat)

Wait a second. I see it.

OLIVIA

What? What do you see?

DEREK

I saw it right there on your face.

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OLIVIA

Complete and utter confusion?

DEREK

No. When I said that "I've only seen two other freshmen," your face got all scrunchy.

OLIVIA

I did not scrunch my face.

DEREK

Yes, you did. It's the other girls, right?

OLIVIA

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

DEREK

Are they...bullying you?

OLIVIA

Don't be so dramatic. They're not mean girls.

DEREK

Then? Spill it, phenom. You should be putting goals on the scoreboard.

OLIVIA

Ughhh. Fine. I don't like to complain. It's an honor just to be on the field with the varsity team.

DEREK

But?

OLIVIA

Okay. So. You know this team has been working together for a couple of years. I think...I'm just invisible to them.

DEREK

I see you.

OLIVIA

Thanks.

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DEREK

You're talented. Yes, you are a freshman, but that also makes you special.

OLIVIA

Right. Fresh face but totally undeserving of their plays.

DEREK

Nope. Screw them. You don't need them.

OLIVIA

Uh, soccer is kind of a team sport. "Team" being the important word.

DEREK

Yes, but a striker doesn't need their friendship or camaraderie. Strikers just need goals. And if I'm being honest, I think they're jealous. They know you're going to surpass all of their talents combined.

OLIVIA

You really think I'm talented?

DEREK

The best I've ever seen, phenom. You just need to strike.