

RAINE - F, 16 - Sarcastic with an edge; big personality

Scene 1. Raine, Nell, and Finley sit in a noisy cafeteria, chatting.

RAINE

OK, but think about this: if I dropped out of high school and really practiced my art, I could do some sweet back-alley tattoos for, like, a year and some change. Then, when I turn 18, I'll be old enough to meet a handsome sugar daddy on Tik Tok that could fund my lifestyle until he kicks it and I can live off his life insurance. It's brilliant.

NELL

It's a horrible idea.

FINLEY

Like, I know you're joking, but I still kind of need you to confirm you're joking.

RAINE

(sighs)

You never let me have any fun.

NELL

It just seems like a lot to get out of a math test, Raine.

FINLEY

I thought the storm last night was going to get all of us out of the math test, honestly. Did you guys hear the wind? It was wild.

Raine hits Fin on the arm.

FINLEY (CONT'D.)

Ow, Raine! What was that for?

RAINE

Gender-exclusive term, no punchbacks! Come on, Finley. You know the rules.

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FINLEY

Sorry. Stupid habit. Did you...
friends...hear the storm last night?

NELL

We'll work on it. But yes. The wind hit
60 miles-per-hour. That's why you heard
it. It was zooming past all the houses,
cars, and fences so quickly that it
caused them to vibrate really fast.
Resulting in weird, high-pitched
noises.

RAINE

Huh. I never knew that.

(beat)

Don't you dare make the my-name-is-
Raine-and-Nell-knows-more-about-weather
comment, Finley Cosgrave. I'm getting
real tired of the dad jokes.

NELL

She's getting way too predictable.

FINLEY

Hey! Am not.

NELL

I like predictable. That's one of the
things I love about weird weather. It's
predictable until it's not. But even
when it's not predictable, it's
explainable. Most of the time.

RAINE

Well, I think I have an explanation on
why Miss Predictable's face is getting
red right now. Tyler sighting?

FINLEY

Shut up, he's coming over here. 3
o'clock.

RAINE

You know how to read a clock?

Tyler approaches.

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TYLER

Hey ladies. How's it going?

FINLEY

Wood. Uh, I mean. Good. Or well.
Whichever is grammatically correct.

RAINE / NELL

(giggle)

TYLER

(smiling)

Awesome. Hey, what are you doing
Saturday?

RAINE

She's free!

(whispers)

Ow. You're wearing pointy-toed shoes.

TYLER

Well, I was hoping all of you might be!
I'm trying to get a group together to
clean up Ash Grove over on Plover St.

NELL

The one we went to for that bio field
trip?

TYLER

Yeah, I guess it got pretty beat up
with the storm last night, so I thought
if we got a big enough group together,
we could get the school to bring out a
bus for us, and people could use the
trip for their service hours.

FINLEY

That's, um, really sweet.

RAINE

Totally. We'll be there.

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Scene 2. Finley and Raine arguing.

RAINE

Oh, Finley. Wake the fuck up! When have you ever done something that you weren't made to do?

FINLEY

What?

RAINE

You can't be stupid enough to think that you're in control of your own life.

FINLEY

I am.

RAINE

What do you ever decide for yourself? I mean something that matters, not like which nail polish to use or which sandwich to eat. Is it your idea to go to school like it's a full-time job except we don't get paid to do it?

FINLEY

We get--

RAINE

If you say we get paid in knowledge, I will fucking punch you. Is it your idea to agonize over test scores so that you can go to a good school, which is definitely also your idea, and then get a good job, which is of course, once again, your idea? You put yourself through all the shit we deal with on a daily basis? School uniforms and SATs and catcalls and dating? Hmmm?

(beat)

Wake the fuck up, Cosgrave! Alarm's going off! Wake up! We have never been in control of our lives. Everything we've done, we've been made to do. From birth.

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FINLEY

As kids, yeah. Because I wouldn't trust kid me to make important decisions. But I control my life now. My actions are my own. My mind is my own. My body is my own.

RAINE

Your body is your own? Finley, our bodies haven't been ours since we got tits and hips. They own them. Women judge them. Men take them.

FINLEY

You're wrong. Yeah, we don't get to decide a lot of the big stuff. Because we're not mature enough to make some adult decisions yet. But that doesn't mean we aren't in control of our lives.

RAINE

You're so idealistic that I wanna barf.