

**FINLEY - F, 16 - Positive attitude but unsure; warm; smart**

Scene 1. Finley, Raine, and Nell 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 sits at the kitchen table with her dad as they eat dinner together.

DAD  
Finley? Hellooo?

FINLEY  
Sorry.

DAD  
Earth to daughter.  
(radio static noise)  
Please return from Planet Weird.  
(radio static noise)  
For dinner.

FINLEY  
Yeah, I'm the one living on Planet  
Weird...

DAD  
Ah, there she is! So, Saturday?

FINLEY  
...is a day of the week?

DAD  
I saaaaid, I was thinking we should take  
advantage of the weather on Saturday  
and get the kayaks out.

FINLEY  
So, about the weather and Saturday. I'm  
actually signed up for a service trip  
to clean up the grove with some kids at  
school. I guess it got pretty beat up  
with the storm.

DAD  
Ooohh, I see. Would any of those kids  
at school happen to be named Tyler?

FINLEY  
Dad!

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DAD

I'm just asking! I have to get all "dad" about something, don't I?

FINLEY

I think you covered that with that scholarship you're always bugging me to apply for. Which, by the way, these service hours will count toward.

DAD

I'm happy to hear it. Just be safe, OK? It may be good kayaking weather, but there's a lot of debris from the winds.

FINLEY

Like, big sticks? So scary. Good thing I don't have a tripping problem.

DAD

(trying to sound hip)

You're tripping if you think it's not a problem! Giiirl!

(sigh)

OK, just be careful so I never have to do that again.

FINLEY

(laughs)

Yep. Planet Weird is definitely your home, Dad. Sorry I won't be around Saturday.

DAD

We'll try kayaking next weekend. Assuming you can set aside some time for your old man.

FINLEY

Oh, stop. You know I love hanging out with you. And...it's only going to get worse, you know. I won't even bring up the "c" word. Don't want you getting all misty-eyed.

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Scene 3. Finley is narrating her internal thoughts.

FINLEY

Oh my god. Oh my god.

(beat)

Oh, wait. Tyler's not moving anymore. This could really work for me. I have all the time in the world to think of the perfect thing to say. Okay, let's run through the possibilities. It has to be equal parts cute, clever, and cool. Okay, let's be casual: Sup bro? Bro?! Flirty? Heya, stud. Am I in a 1950s movie? Sophisticated? Hello, sir. Oh God, is he my DAD?! What would Dad do?

(radio static noise)

Earth to Tyler...

(radio static noise)

Oh, that's so bad. What would Raine say?

(beat)

Okay, yeah, not going there. What about complimenting his outfit? Your shirt looks great in those arms. What?! I can't even think. Take a mental breath in...be cool, be cool, Finley. Oh my god, I have to think of something and get back to the hallway. How about a classic: What's up, Tyler? How was your weekend? Sure, yeah, that'll do. Just need to focus on the present and...