

Secrets Kept; Secrets Shared

written by

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INT. BIOLOGY CLASSROOM - DAY

CASSIE(17) sits next to JOSH(16) in the second-to-last row of seats in the classroom. The two are talking in hushed tones.

Cassie is in a soccer uniform, cleats and all, while Josh is in jeans and a t-shirt of a popular metal band.

A pencil taps slowly nearby. TAP TAP TAP.

CASSIE  
Someone weird messaged me online  
last night.

JOSH  
(uninterested)  
Oh yeah?

CASSIE  
Yeah, they said they had something  
important they wanted to share.

JOSH  
Who was it?

CASSIE  
I have no idea- their name was a  
bunch of gibberish, and they didn't  
have a profile picture.

JOSH  
Probably just some creep.

Cassie shifts uncomfortably, avoiding Josh's eyes.

CASSIE  
They said it was about... us.

Josh bristles. His eyes scan quickly around the room.

JOSH  
You don't think they--

CASSIE  
How *could* they? It's probably  
nothing, I'm just--

A buzzing from Cassie's phone interrupts her. Cassie fishes for it in her purse, bringing it up to the table.

A pencil taps like a metronome on the desk behind them. TAP TAP TAP.

Cassie's phone reads "How are you doing today?" The sender's name is an indecipherable series of letters and numbers.

Cassie hesitates, sharing a look with Josh. She types back, "Who is this?"

Beat.

Her phone buzzes again and reads, "I said I'd check back in with you before I shared the secret."

JOSH  
What's going on?

CASSIE  
Hang on a sec.

Cassie quickly types back, "What secret?"

TAP TAP TAP. The pencil raps against the last desk in the row like a metronome.

Cassie's phone lights up with another buzz, "Don't tell me you didn't know- it involves you and your new boy toy!"

Cassie sinks into her chair. She passes her phone to Josh.

JOSH  
Who the fuck..?

Cassie avoids Josh's eyes.

CASSIE  
(quietly)  
Do you think your girlfriend found out?

JOSH  
Not unless *someone* told her.

Josh holds out his hand.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Here, gimme your phone.

Josh quickly types in "who the fuck is this?" and sends it.

The pencil continues tapping behind them. TAP TAP TAP. Josh darts an irritated eye in its direction briefly.

CASSIE  
I *just* asked them.

Before Josh can respond, an ellipses indicates the recipient is now typing.

"You know, you really out to be more careful about where and when you sneak off to have your little affair."

JOSH  
What the fuck..?

Josh keys back in response, "what do you mean?"

The pencil taps again. TAP TAP TAP.

The phone lights up, "Don't try to play coy now. I've seen way too much of you both for that. I even have pictures!"

Cassie leans over to look at the screen in Josh's hands.

Another message pushes through, "And I'm sick of seeing the two of you scumbags flirt all day. You've hurt people."

Cassie returns to her side of the table and runs her hands through her hair, panic in her eyes.

Josh quickly keys into the phone "what do you want?"

Josh half-throws the phone back into the middle of the science lab table between himself and Cassie.

TAP TAP TAP the pencil drums against the table behind them.

Josh fidgets in place, looking from the phone to Cassie and back. Cassie shrinks further into her chair.

SARAH(18) is sitting behind Cassie and Josh, smirking coldly as she watches them.

On Sarah's table rests her phone. The screen displays a single prompt button: "Send"

Sarah continues tapping her pencil. TAP TAP TAP. Her eyes light up as she presses the button.

Cassie's phone buzzes again. Josh leans in quickly and sees "To see you suffer"

Beat

Phones all around the classroom begin buzzing or playing a short jingle.

Cassie's phone vibrates again. "New Text Message: Open Image?"

Cassie tentatively reaches for her phone on the table and taps the button.

Her face turns white.

FADE OUT