

Liquid Courage

By

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INT. BUS-NIGHT

KENT, DREW, FELIX and TIERA get onto the bus and sit down 2x2 with a row in between them. DREW rushes to get next to TIERA and bumps into GIRL wearing a t-shirt with the single cover of Mariah Carey's We Belong Together.

GIRL

Oww!

DREW

Sorry, my bad.

DREW is average height and average looking, dressed in nice but clearly inexpensive clothing. He is a little overweight.

THE GIRL

Oh, hi.

She says this to DREW's back, as he has stepped past her looking for TIERA. DREW looks up and FELIX has slithered the seat next to TIERA first. He slumps into his seat next to KENT.

KENT

Missed it by *(with his fingers)* that much.

KENT is wider than DREW, but they are about the same height. He also walks with his shoulders slumped, and has a stylish nerd thing going on.

DREW

Here goes wingman of the year, back at his usual tricks.

We watch FELIX and TIERA converse and occasionally laugh inaudibly. TIERA looks back at DREW, DREW winks, TIERA laughs, winks back and turns around and keeps talking with FELIX.

KENT

You should be hype, your best friend from high school is visiting you at college again.

DREW

*(sarcastically)* I'm so hyped, can you see it in my face?

KENT

*(sarcastically)* Totally brah! *(nodding towards Tiera)* You worried about your girl?

(CONTINUED)

DREW

She's not my girl!... Not yet. And I wish I wasn't worried, but you know that no rules apply when Felix visits. I learned that last time. And Tiera... She can be... persuaded.

KENT

For your and my sake, I really hope we don't get an Lyla repeat.

DREW

If that shit happens again I'm never inviting him back up here. Asshole acts like it never happened, and I didn't even want to invite him this time.

KENT

So why did you?

DREW

When I went by his house this summer, I ended up talking to his mom while waiting for him and she guilt tripped me into doing the whole 'good influences rub off thingH.' He's not in school, he's not working, he's still mentally in high school.

TIERA

This is the stop!

TIERA is a little bit taller than DREW, and is naturally pretty. She is dressed in typical college party girl dress, with a little bit of makeup on.

KENT, DREW, TIERA and FELIX get off of the bus and walk up some streets, before they stop outside of a house. TIERA goes up to the guy at the door, says something inaudibly and he waves them all in.

INT. FRAT HOUSE- NIGHT

We see our characters step in and begin dancing and enjoying themselves. FELIX disappears then reappears with two cups, and he gives one to DREW. FELIX chugs it while DREW sips, and FELIX tips the cup so he has to chug it. A little spills.

(CONTINUED)

This happens two more times before FELIX pushes into the crowd, pulling DREW with him. KENT and TIERA stand a little bit behind them as they begin dancing. Soon, a circle forms around DREW and FELIX, who are clearly enjoying themselves.

FELIX  
It's fucking litt!

FELIX is at least 6 feet tall, and stands with nearly perfect posture. He is good-looking, muscular and dressed in visibly expensive clothing. In short, he's the opposite of DREW.

The crowd cheers in agreement with FELIX.

DREW  
I love this place!

The crowd stops cheering.

A girl comes and pushes FELIX away from DREW and they begin to dance in a corner. The smile leaves DREW's face and he stands alone for a minute before he turns to look for KENT and TIERA, who are standing and talking against a wall.

DREW goes over to them and puts his right hand next to TIERA, leaning into talk to her.

DREW  
*(with a deep voice and the Joey face)* How you doin?

TIERA busts out into laughter, KENT smirks and shakes his head.

KENT  
Okay, I'm going to get a drink.

KENT exits, DREW takes his spot next to TIERA.

DREW  
Why are you here? You guys didn't drag me out against my will to stand against a wall and drink. We could've done that in my room.

TIERA  
I'm chilling. It's crowded and we just got here. Just chill with me.

DREW  
I'm not sober, so I want to dance. C'mon and dance with me.

DREW grabs her hand and pulls her up off of the wall, but she falls back onto it.

TIERA

Let me go get a drink first, then maybe we'll dance.

TIERA goes to get a drink, KENT comes back over.

DREW

(to KENT) Tonight might be the night.

KENT

I thought you were waiting for (mockingly) the perfect night.

DREW

I am.

KENT

Where's Felix?

They look over into a corner and FELIX and the same girl he was with early are making out AGGRESSIVELY.

DREW

Fucking guy's in town for 6 hours and already he gets a girl. I've been here for a year and I'm drier than California.

KENT

They. Look. Dis. Gusting.

DREW

It's like watching a zombie eat someone's face.

KENT

It's like a six foot Venus fly trap, but not as cool, and it keeps spitting the fly back out just to pull it back in.

DREW

This is almost as ugly as Sarah Jessica Parker.

KENT

This is almost as ugly as Sarah Jessica Parker.

They both laugh. FELIX comes over, wiping his mouth.

FELIX  
(wiping his mouth) I wish I went here. Maybe I'll transfer. Where's Tiera?

They look over and TIERA is grinding with another guy. DREW does a hard swallow like his heart is in his mouth. FELIX notices his reaction.

DREW  
(mumbling) Interesting drink.

FELIX  
You're overthinking it, just go. Get some drinks, go over there, pull her to dance, then spin her around and kiss her.

DREW  
It's different, alright. I don't just want to hook up with her, I like her!

FELIX  
So do the same shit, just... kiss her tenderly? (guessing) Right?

KENT  
My name's Paul and this is between y'all.

KENT walks off into the party. FELIX goes behind DREW and puffs him up. He gets DREW a drink and makes him chug it. The camera is focused on TIERA from DREW's POV

FELIX  
Now just do like me. Watch.

The camera focuses on FELIX from DREW's POV. DREW goes up to a different girl, and starts dancing with her. DREW steps towards TIERA, but goes stone cold. LYLA walks past DREW and he hides his face so she isn't seen. He bumps into THE GIRL again. TIERA notices this.

THE GIRL  
Oww. (realizing) You? Again?

DREW  
Sorry! Again!

TIERA steps over to him. THE GIRL walks off.

TIERA

Who was that?

DREW

*(laughing)* Oh no, that is a long story that I am not in the mood to tell.

TIERA

Make it short.

DREW looks at TIERA sternly, but she flashes this sad puppy dog type look that melts him. He pulls her to the side.

DREW

That's Lyla, the last girl I liked.

TIERA

I've never seen her before.

DREW

She transferred, so I don't know why she's here.

Lyla turns her head around as DREW looks away, and they lock eyes. She's hype, he's not even slightly amused.

LYLA

OH HH MYYY GOD! HIIIIIIIII!!!

LYLA hugs DREW while he flashes a look that says, "help me" at TIERA. She does nothing, he's on his own.

DREW

*(feigning interest)* How are you?

LYLA

DRUNK!!! HAHA!

DREW

*(pointing at Kent)* Kent's right there, and *(point at Felix)* Felix is right there!

LYLA

OH MY GAWWWD!

LYLA goes to talk with KENT, who glares at DREW before greeting her. DREW looks at TIERA and breathes a sigh of relief. TIERA laughs.

(CONTINUED)

TIERA  
What happened?

DREW  
I told you it's a long story.

TIERA  
Make it short then.

DREW  
Right now?

TIERA flashes that puppy dog look again.

DREW  
I liked her and it seemed like she liked me. We were hanging out a lot, we had a little something. I never said the words, but we were vibing.

TIERA  
Okay.

DREW  
So on her birthday weekend last fall, Felix came up. I went and got a present for her. I invited her to my room the day after he came up and we had all hung out, but when I got there, they were... canoodling.

TIERA  
(*surprised*) Oh... Damn.

DREW  
Yeah... it... it happens.

TIERA and DREW look straight ahead for a beat.

TIERA  
...(disgusted) Fuck her. You deserve better. Life gets better.

Beat.

TIERA  
So there's been no one since?

DREW  
Not really, (*flirting*) But there is one who has... piqued my interest.



TIERA

Oh really?

DREW

Yeah, we're in this really unclear phase, because I like her, but I don't know if she likes me for sure.

TIERA

Well maybe you should tell her. Or show her, girls like that.

DREW and TIERA lock eyes. DREW begins to lean in

DREW and TIERA lock eyes. DREW is finally going for it. DREW begins to lean in, when TIERA's phone goes off. He jerks back.

DREW

I like you.

TIERA

*(awkwardly  
chuckling)* Excuse me.

TIERA walks off, DREW puts his head in his hands. When he looks up, he makes eye contact with THE GIRL.

DREW

This is the first time I haven't physically bumped into you today.

THE GIRL

Yeah, I was just thinking, there's the clumsy asshole who keeps hitting me.

DREW

I am sorry to have been a clumsy, and rude asshole to you. I'm DREW.

He holds out his hand, they shake.

THE GIRL

Eden.

DREW

Eden? Like the garden?

EDEN

Like the garden, and please do not ask if you can plant your seeds. I've heard that one at least three times.

(CONTINUED)

EDEN is . She is holding a cup.

DREW

I'm not NEARLY that bold. I have a friend who might tell you that.

EDEN

You need better friends.

They laugh.

DREW

You joke, but mine can be ridiculous.

EDEN

Oh yeah, you want to have a weird friend competition? (*pointing*) My friend is trying to get alcohol from those guys with the bottle who are clearly not sharing.

The camera shows a girl trying to get a bottle from two taller guys who are passing it back and forth like a game of monkey in the middle.

DREW

That's okay. My roommate over there is going to go up behind that girl right there, only for her to look back, turn away and dance with her friends. Then he's gonna act like it never happened.

The camera shows KENT going up behind a girl, only for her to look back at him and have her girlfriends surround her as they dance. KENT then turns around as if he wasn't interested.

EDEN

Okay, okay. Look, that's my girl Adri and she's faded to the point where she's pretty much a spirit. She just sitting there.

The camera goes to ADRI, who is just sitting on a couch with a smirk watching the party.

DREW

Well that's my friend from high school, Felix. He came up to (*mockingly*) 'get bitches.' Just look at him devouring that poor

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DREW (cont'd)  
girl's face. It's like he hasn't  
eaten in days.

The camera focuses on FELIX, who is kissing a girl who looks very familiar. They turn and it's TIERA. DREW looks like his heart is in his throat and he's about to vomit.

EDEN  
It looks like a lion attacking a  
gazelle. I bet he makes those  
noises like turtles having sex.  
(*imitating the turtles while  
laughing*) Eeee! Eeee!

DREW has not heard anything EDEN has said. He's frozen.

EDEN  
Yeah, that wasn't that funny or  
anything. Look my friend... are you  
okay?

DREW  
Yeah, I... I just need a minute.

DREW goes to sit down, EDEN sits next to him. DREW is breathing heavily and his leg is shaking.

EDEN  
Are you okay? Are you feeling sick  
or something?

DREW  
I'm fine, really, I'm-

DREW grabs her cup, downs it and walks up to FELIX, who has just finished kissing TIERA. DREW punches FELIX. The crowd reacts and the music scratches.

DREW  
(*to FELIX*) GET YOUR SHIT OUT OF MY  
FUCKING HOUSE. (*to TIERA*) And  
really? You knew. I know you knew.

DREW storms out. KENT steps over a laid out FELIX and looks around the room.

KENT  
Sorry, sorry.

KENT runs after DREW.

EXT. FRAT HOUSE-NIGHT

KENT finds drew sitting on a bench with his head bowed.

KENT

Yo man, you good?

DREW

I had my moment for once. But no, here comes Felix, as always to make the spotlight his. Just like the school musical senior year and just like with Elaine last time. I... I don't know... go home or go back to the party. I'm gonna be here.

KENT is about to say something, but DREW flashes him a look that says leave me be. KENT walks off. DREW is idling when EDEN walks over.

EDEN

You got a mean right hook kid.

DREW smirks, EDEN sits down.

DREW

Man, I hate college sometimes.

EDEN

It has its moments. You just gotta learn to love the moments you can and listen to its lessons.

DREW and EDEN sit for a moment.

DREW

Alright, you made me feel better. You can go home to your boyfriend now.

EDEN

If I had one.

DREW perks up subtly. DREW is about to say something, when he spots FELIX and TIERA walking down the street. FELIX is resting on TIERA.

DREW

Can I walk you home?

EDEN

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

DREW  
Give me two minutes.

DREW walks over to FELIX and TIERA.

DREW  
I gotta say, thanks you guys. F,  
You've always been pushing me to be  
more impulsive and live a little,  
well I did it. You finally pushed  
me over the top. And Tiera, god,  
you're incredible. But I was stupid  
to be into you. I hope we can still  
be friends. F, I'm still throwing  
you out. I have a best friend here,  
and I'm good. I'm done letting you  
steal my spotlight, so good luck in  
life.

DREW walks back over to EDEN. EDEN stands up and DREW and  
EDEN walk off, talking inaudibly.