

SAMI

~~Unless the person who actually did it steps forward... I'm done for.~~

NOAH

~~You'll get out of prison.~~

SAMI

~~No one wants to hire a high-school dropout who set fire to their school.~~

NOAH

~~What about camera footage? Can't they track down the right person?~~

SAMI

~~A black figure. Hooded. Could have been anyone. Could have been me. Could have even been you. (laughs) Can you imagine if you set the fire?~~

~~(Noah is silent.)~~

~~SAMI (CONT)~~

~~I mean, wouldn't that be funny? Like, apparently the student was trying to hack into the school's grading system and got frustrated when they couldn't and set the whole lab on fire. Must have been one ambitious hacker to want to change their grades that badly.~~

~~(Noah is silent.)~~

~~SAMI (CONT)~~

~~Who would be that desperate to change their grade? Not me. It's got to be someone with a lot of pressure on them, high stakes, with a future on the line... (lightbulb, then very quietly) Oh my God.~~

~~(Noah refuses to look at her.)~~

SAMI

(a long beat) You... set the fire. (beat) You set the fire. (beat) Say it! You set the fire!

NOAH

All I wanted was to change my grade!

SAMI

You were going to let me go in there and trade my future for yours!

NOAH

If my parents found out / about my grades—

SAMI

You were going to let me go to jail!

FIRE HAZARD

NOAH

I was going to—

SAMI

Would you have told them the truth? (a long silence) *Would you have told them the truth?*

NOAH

I can't afford to have this on my record—

SAMI

Oh, and I can? Because I'm a bad student, and I don't have a future anyway? Is that what you think? All that you-have-a-future crap—that was all bullshit?

NOAH

No, that's not what I meant—

SAMI

This is what privilege looks like.

NOAH

I'm sorry! I'll tell them the truth. I—

SAMI

I want you to remember this moment. The moment you were actually going to let me take the blame for committing your state-level crime. The moment when you thought you could get out of this. The moment when you let an innocent take the consequences for your actions. That's what privilege looks like. Treasure it. Really.

NOAH

I had to do it. If my parents saw my grade that would have been the end of it. And when I couldn't get past the school network barrier, I just—I lost it. I struck a match and the next thing I knew the room was burning. I didn't mean to do it. You don't get it, Sami, you don't understand pressure!

~~SAMI~~

~~I don't blame you for your crime. Everyone messes up. But I accept my own consequences.~~

~~LOUDSPEAKER~~

~~Samantha, will you please come into the principal's office? Principal Keene and Fire Marshall Levy are ready to speak to you.~~

~~SAMI~~

~~I'm not a tattletale. I wouldn't rat you out. But if you do decide to tell the truth, I wouldn't worry about it too much. You'll get off easy. Probably easier than if I had done something like, God forbid, correct someone's grammar on the wall.~~

~~FIRE HAZARD~~