

NOAH

~~Look. I know we haven't talked very much but from what I can tell, you have a bright future. It doesn't matter what you did in the past. What matters is now. (beat) It seems like... you love life. And you're so headstrong, you'll hold on to everything you got, and fight for what you believe in. You have everything it takes. Sami, you have a future. You'll be more than fine.~~

SAMI

~~Not after setting the fire.~~

NOAH

You didn't do it.

SAMI

(faux cheerful)

Yeah. But it's my word against theirs. They're not going to believe me.

NOAH

Why not? You have an alibi, and you usually confess to your crimes anyway—

SAMI

Yeah, but at this point, arson and murder are like basically the two crimes I haven't committed. As for the alibi—God, I really wish I had gone out to party that night. At least people could confirm I was elsewhere.

NOAH

They can't punish someone who's innocent—

SAMI

In my case, I'm guilty until proven innocent.

NOAH

Sami—

SAMI

Noah, you don't understand what it's like to be a bad student. To be seen as the bad student. To be treated as a bad student. Nobody gives you a chance. I don't get the benefit of the doubt... and let's face it, I don't deserve it.

NOAH

I've done bad stuff before—

SAMI

Yeah, like eat junk food in health class. Or chew gum in chemistry. Or “accidentally” slice the pig's heart open during dissection. Or hack the school system. Have you ever flipped off the principal? Have you ever stolen a test? Have you ever smoked on campus? Fucked on

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campus? Do you know what a needle looks like? Ever bring a knife to school? I don't think so, Noah.

NOAH

You've brought a knife to school?!

SAMI

Good God, I'm not a psychopath. I just... The knife was for me. To take my mind off of other things.

NOAH

Shit, Sami. You should get help.

SAMI

You know, if anyone else had told me that, I would have clawed their face off.

NOAH

You're not alone in this. It's okay to feel this way. I just don't want you to hurt yourself.

SAMI

See, you know exactly what to say. To friends, to classmates, to strangers, to teachers, and to college admin, probably. You could get into any college you want.

NOAH

You can get into college too.

SAMI

Empty words, Noah. You can imagine my record of referrals. (beat) See why they won't believe me, even if I tell them the truth?

NOAH

So, what's going to happen?

SAMI

Well, I suspect I'd be suspended in the best-case scenario. Not the first time, I might add.

NOAH

And in the worst case?

SAMI

Pressed charges for burglary and arson. Incarceration. I believe that's the fancy way of saying I go to jail. For years, maybe. It's all over.

NOAH

Isn't there any way out of this?

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