

## Hip to be Square

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EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING

CHAD, a broad-chinned high school jock wearing a Letterman jacket, walks up to the bus stop and sits down with his hands in his pockets.

ALICE, wearing a leather jacket and a beanie, walks from the opposite direction with music blasting through her earbuds. She sits down on the opposite end of the bench and opens a Rolling Stone magazine.

They sit in silence for a minute. Chad glances at Alice. Alice looks up at Chad as he looks the other way.

From a distance TIFFANY and her two friends, JANET and MARTHA, are driving down the street toward the bus stop. Tiffany, a beautiful blonde wearing a white tube top, a pink skirt with pink lipstick to match, is sitting in the back.

The girls whisper among themselves. Martha is driving while Janet is in the back seat next to Tiffany.

JANET

(Harsh whisper)

Ohmygod, ohmygod it's Chad.

TIFFANY

How do I look, girls?

MARTHA

(Admirably)

Like a princess!

TIFFANY

Ugh, shut up Martha.

Alice turns her head back to her magazine as the girls approach the stop. Tiffany rolls down her window and looks at Chad while loudly chewing gum.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

What's up Chad-baby?

Alice glances up from her magazine.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

I called you like three times last night to see if you were free but nothing went through!

CHAD

(indifferent)

Yeah uh... my phone is broken.

Chad proceeds to start texting on his phone.

TIFFANY

(scoffs)

Well anyways, this Friday there's gonna be a party. Everyone's gonna be there. It's at Martha's house.

MARTHA

It is?

Tiffany gives Martha a look.

TIFFANY

Yes. It is. And Martha, try to wear something at least a little cute. I don't want to see you dressed like... that.

Janet laughs.

MARTHA

Dressed like wha-

Tiffany turns to Chad.

TIFFANY

Be there! It'll be fun. I'll see you later, sweetie.

Chad ignores her. Tiffany and her friends drive off as the bus arrives. Chad takes one last look at Alice, who is putting her magazine in her backpack, before Tiffany pulls him onto the bus.

EXT. SCHOOL QUAD - AFTERNOON

Tons of students are hanging out in the quad. Chad and his friend MATT are at the vending machine.

Matt leans on the vending machine, furiously playing a game on his phone, while Chad picks through his wallet for change. As Chad puts in his money, he looks over to a bench where Alice is sitting alone, reading.

As she's reading, she twirls her hair and looks up at Chad. She looks away quickly when she sees Chad looking at her.

CHAD

Yo Matt, what do you think of that girl over there?

Matt keeps his eyes locked on his phone.

MATT

What girl?

CHAD

The one sitting over on that bench. I dunno her name, but she seems cool or whatever.

Matt chuckles.

MATT

Well, why don't you just go up and talk to her?

Chad bends down to get his drink, still looking at Alice.

CHAD

I dunno man...

Matt looks up from his phone and locks his eyes on Chad.

MATT

Dude, I'm pretty sure you could get any girl you wanted if you just went and talked to 'em. Hell, the hottest girl in school wants you and you're not doing jack about it.

CHAD

Yeah... Tiffany's hot and all but... we don't have anything in common.

MATT

Alright well... why don't you just go up to that girl and tell her how you feel?

Chad ponders at the thought. He shakes his head and walks away. Matt rolls his eyes and shakes his head as he follows Chad.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

The school bell rings and Chad sits at the bus stop to go home. Alice walks up with her magazine and sits on the opposite side of the bench, wearing a Smiths shirt. Chad glances at her and notices her t-shirt. His eyes widen.

Beat. Chad glances at her a few times before turning his head.

CHAD

Hey...I like your t-shirt. The Smiths totally rule.

Alice looks up at him.

ALICE

(flatly)

Oh, I only really like the logo design. I don't know the band at all.

Beat. A passerby coughs.

CHAD

Uh...right, yeah it's...it's a pretty cool design, I guess.

Alice laughs and playfully hits his arm.

ALICE

I'm just kidding, relax! The Smiths practically raised me.

Chad's face lights up as he turns toward her.

CHAD

Jeez, you scared me there...

ALICE

Aw, Chad-baby's a wittle scawed...?

CHAD

Oh my God. You did not just call me that.

Alice smirks.

ALICE

I did. And I will keep doing it...Chad-baby.

CHAD

If you keep calling me that, I  
might just start listening to  
Kidz Bop instead.

ALICE

(gasps)  
You wouldn't!

CHAD

I mean it.

Beat. Chad and Alice both laugh.

ALICE

I've actually seen the Smiths  
live a couple times in LA.

CHAD

No way!

ALICE

Yeah, my dad lives down there and  
I've been to a couple festivals  
where they've made appearances.

CHAD

Consider me jealous.

ALICE

I might get to see them more  
often now.

CHAD

Wow you're really just flexing on  
me, huh? How come?

Alice's smile slowly fades.

ALICE

My um...my dad wants me to move  
out to LA to be with him.

Beat. Chad looks shocked.

CHAD

Oh...That's crazy...

ALICE

Yeah...I'm not sure what I wanna  
do.

CHAD

Well I-

TIFFANY (O.S.)

Ummmm...

Chad swivels around to see Tiffany and her friends standing over him. Tiffany's face is scrunched up.

TIFFANY

(overdramatic)

Chad! What the hell is going on here?!

Chad looks up, confused.

CHAD

Wha...

TIFFANY

(hysterical)

Chad, are you cheating on me?

CHAD

What?! I-

(stuttering)

Chad can't find his words. Alice looks shocked.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Well? Go ahead, tell her how you really feel. I'll wait.

Chad still struggles to collect himself. Alice puts in her earbuds and gets up to start walking toward the school. Chad stands and reaches out to Alice.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Wait! Uh... Wait!

Alice turns a little, not looking Chad in the eye.

ALICE

(quietly)

I uh... forgot I actually have a ride today...

Alice continues to walk toward the school, more hurriedly.

CHAD

Wait but-

Tiffany grabs Chad's face, and swivels it so that they're inches apart.

TIFFANY

That's what I thought. You can't even imagine your life without me... don't even try.

Alice turns back and sees Tiffany's hands around Chad's head and Chad leaned into Tiffany. Alice rolls her eyes and walks away. Chad quickly takes Tiffany's hands off him.

CHAD

Tiffany. We are not dating. How many times am I going to have to say that?

Tiffany pulls out her lip gloss and starts applying it in front of a hand-held mirror.

TIFFANY

Oh don't make me laugh Chad-baby! I know you and that punk girl aren't dating.

CHAD

No! I mean you and m-

Tiffany slams her mirror shut and kisses Chad on the cheek.

TIFFANY

It's okay Chad-baby. I forgive you.

The bus arrives and Tiffany and her friends walk away as Chad wipes the lipstick off his face. He turns to the direction where Alice left and doesn't see her anywhere. Chad sighs and gets on the bus.

EXT. BUS STOP - NEXT MORNING

Chad is sitting nervous at the bus stop waiting for Alice and looking in the direction that she comes. His foot taps incessantly and his eyes dart back and forth between where Alice usually comes and where the bus comes. Alice doesn't show up.

Alice's voice rings in his head.

ALICE (V.O.)

"My dad wants me to move out to  
L.A. to be with him...move out to  
L.A...move to L.A...L.A."

Chad stands up quickly.

CHAD

Fu-

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Chad bursts through the library doors and heads straight for the first row of bookshelves on the other side. He snatches the yearbook of the previous school year and flips through the pages of student photos. He mutters to himself.

CHAD

What's her name...what's her  
name?

He lands on the junior class pictures and spots Tiffany's portrait. Chad looks disgruntled and continues to flip through the pages.

As Chad continues to search for Alice's picture, Alice, who is in the next row, sneezes while looking at books with her earbuds in. Chad is too preoccupied with the yearbook to notice anything else.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Where is she?!

Alice continues to look through the books. A person in the same row as Chad shushes him. Chad brushes it off. Out of nowhere, Matt slaps Chad on the back. Chad jumps.

MATT

Hey Chad! What're you doing with  
a yearbook? Oh, are you lookin'  
for Ms. Garder? She's so hot,  
dude. I've searched for her  
picture a couple times, myself.

CHAD

Um...no.

Beat.

MATT

Oh. Well anyways, come out and hang with the guys... it's kinda dead in here.

CHAD

Kinda busy right now...

MATT

Oh... you're still thinking about that girl, aren't you?

CHAD

Dude. She may have left the school for good.

MATT

Well... if she's still around, maybe she'll be at that party on Friday.

Chad looks intrigued.

CHAD

You think so?

MATT

Yeah, dude, everybody's gonna be there. Anyways, let's get outta here.

CHAD

Wait, no I-

Matt grabs Chad's backpack and starts pulling him away from the shelf. Chad drops the yearbook he's holding.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Bro--Bro! C'mon are we in second grade? Bro- what is this?!

The same person shushes both of them as Matt drags Chad down the aisle and away from the shelves of books. Just as they go around the corner, Tiffany and her friends emerge from further down, just missing the two. They hastily strut down the aisle.

TIFFANY

Ugh! Where is he?! We've looked Everywhere for him and now we're in this god-for-saken place.

MARTHA

But you guys are even dating or  
anythi-

TIFFANY

Shut up, Martha. Just don't even  
with me.

They round the corner in the opposite direction to where Chad  
and Matt went and walk down the aisle Alice is in. They stop  
when they see Alice. Tiffany laughs.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Oh? Well look who it is. The girl  
who was trying to steal my Chad.

Janet snickers. Martha looks back and forth at Tiffany and  
Alice. Alice takes out an earbud.

ALICE

Hm? Sorry?

Tiffany's smile fades. She walks right over and takes the  
books Alice is holding from her hands and looks at the cover  
of the one on top.

TIFFANY

"History of Vinyl Records in the  
United States."  
(sarcastically)  
How very intriguing!

Janet snickers while Martha watches in horror. Tiffany  
sloppily throws the books on the ground. Alice smirks.

ALICE

You know those are school  
property, right?

Beat. Tiffany's smile fades. She flips her hair and steps  
closer so that she is inches away from Alice's face.

TIFFANY

You know, there's a party on  
Friday. If I see your face there,  
or anywhere near MY Chad,  
then...um...

Tiffany stutters and tries to recollect her thoughts.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Well...you're gonna be sorry!

Tiffany turns around and struts off. Alice makes a face at her as she leaves. Tiffany and Janet walk off. Martha starts to walk with them but stops when she sees Alice bending down to grab her books.

Martha walks over and bends down to help Alice.

MARTHA

Hey...You can come to the party  
if you want. It's my house so...  
it would be cool if you came.

Alice smiles and nods. They stand up after Alice has picked up all her books. Martha walks off. Alice stands for a second and thinks, then walks the opposite way.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

In a calm, residential neighborhood, booming music can be heard from a particular house with flashing lights shooting from the windows.

Inside the house, crowds of teens are dancing and talking with each other in every room. Red cups and various snacks and trash riddle the kitchen countertops and tables. Martha stands dejectedly in the kitchen and puts her face in her hands.

Chad weaves around couples and cranes his neck, looking for Alice. He sees Tiffany talking with Janet and immediately goes the opposite direction.

He goes up to different people to ask them about Alice, but they are too distracted and Chad doesn't speak up.

CHAD

Excuse me-...Excuse-...Have you  
seen this girl...I'm trying to  
find-...

He continues to look around and ask but people just greet him and continue their own conversations. His face lights up when he sees a girl from the back with the same Brunette hair. Chad approaches her and taps her shoulder.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Hey! You have no idea how long  
I've been looking for you...I  
thought you-

The girl turns around and it's not Alice. It's a dude. Chad looks disappointed.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Oh uh, sorry, wrong person.

He continues to walk around and his voice becomes quieter and his movements become more limp. He eventually gives up entirely. He walks into the living room and sits on the couch. He sighs and puts his face in his hands.

He feels someone sit next to him and he looks to see it's Matt, giving him a concerned look.

MATT

Hey dude... I don't think she's here.

Chad nods, disappointed. Matt turns to face Chad.

MATT (CONT'D)

I know you've been looking for the girl but bro to be honest, I wouldn't really know. You know?

Chad looks at Matt and raises an eyebrow.

CHAD

W-What?

MATT

Dude, you gotta say how you feel. If I were you I'd be yelling and screaming all over the place trying to find this girl I care so much about. You just gotta say it.

Beat.

MATT (CONT'D)

C'mon, it's easy.

Matt gets up off the couch and stands on the table. Chad looks up as his eyes widen.

MATT (CONT'D)

Yo everyone! Excuse me, quiet!

The music turns down and the room starts to go quiet.

MATT (CONT'D)

My lovely, handsome friend, who  
I'm sure you all know, Chad, has  
something very important to say!

Matt looks at Chad and winks. Chad looks shocked. He gulps and stands on the table as Matt gets down. He sees all the faces looking up at him with puzzled looks on their faces. He sighs and inhales.

Standing on the table, Chad hesitates. A couple dudes holler at Chad or slap his leg.

CHAD

Has anyone seen a girl with long,  
brunette hair and...uh...  
possibly wearing a Smiths  
shirt...and earbuds? anyone? No?

The crowd is silent. A PERSON in the crowd yells at Chad.

PERSON

Who gives a crap?

CHAD

Hey! I do! She's really cool and  
she's funny and cute and I dunno  
if I'll ever see her again, okay?  
So please, can someone tell me if  
they've seen her anywhere?

Beat. The music comes back on and everyone starts dancing with Chad still standing on the table. Chad looks down and gets off the table. Matt smirks.

MATT

That was fantastic!

Matt chuckles. Chad doesn't laugh.

MATT (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, dude. Are you... gonna  
stay and hang out with us?

Chad shakes his head.

CHAD

Nah... I'm uh... I'm gonna head  
out.

MATT

Okay... I'll see you later then.

Chad starts to walk away.

MATT (CONT'D)

Hey Chad!

Chad stops and looks back.

MATT (CONT'D)

That was... actually pretty  
fantastic, you know.

Chad half smiles and walks away as Matt watches him go. As Chad walks towards the front entrance, he sees Tiffany on the couch flirting with another guy. He shakes his head as he walks out the door.

EXT. HOUSE ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Chad walks out the door and off the porch with his hands in his pockets and his shoulders slouched. As he walks on the sidewalk, he pauses and looks back at the house. With a heavy sigh, he turns around and walks away.

Just as Chad leaves, Alice, with her earbuds in and her Smiths shirt on, walks up to the house and opens the front door.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - MOMENTS LATER

Alice walks through the door and closes it behind her. A few people and couples notice Alice, they spread the news by whispering around and soon everyone is craning their heads to stare at her. Alice looks puzzled.

Tiffany walks around the corner holding her hot pink stilettos. She sees Alice and drops her shoes.

TIFFANY

What are you doing here?!

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Chad walks over to the stop. He slumps down on the bench. He sighs as he leans back against the bench and looks up at the sky.

He hears the sound of a car pulling up. He looks in front of him and sees a red sports car parked at the curb. The window slowly rolls down and Alice is at the wheel, waving at Chad.

Chad is speechless. He stands up as Alice gets out of the car and walks up to Chad.

CHAD

What-, I thought you-, when did you-, how-

Chad composes himself. Alice smirks.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I...thought you moved to LA.

ALICE

(laughs)

What? I've been around this whole time! You didn't notice?

CHAD

No...You weren't at the bus stop and you weren't at school so...

ALICE

Well, I got my license so I no longer have the...

Alice sarcastically clears her throat.

ALICE (CONT'D)

...absolute privilege of riding that big hunk of metal to school everyday. And you didn't see me at school cause...maybe you're an idiot.

Chad smiles and looks down.

CHAD

Yeah...I'm an idiot. Sorry.

Beat.

CHAD (CONT'D)

How'd you know where to find me?

ALICE

Well, I heard you were maniacally trying to find me at the party, so... I guess I just knew you'd come here.

CHAD

Oh, haha...

Beat.

ALICE  
So...you and Tiffany aren't...you  
know...a thing?

Chad looks puzzled, then widens his eyes at the sudden realization. He stands on the bus stop bench and raises his hands above his head in triumph.

CHAD  
(loudly)  
No, we are not! Never! I like  
you! I like you, and I am saying  
it! I am saying how I feel! And  
how I feel is that I like you!

Chad jumps off the bench and approaches the car.

CHAD (CONT'D)  
I like you.

ALICE  
(giggles)  
Okay, okay, I got it. I like you,  
too.

Chad and Alice both laugh.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
Alright c'mon, let's get outta  
here, Chad-baby.

Chad smiles and opens the car door.

CHAD  
I'd call you something to get you  
back but I dunno your name.

ALICE  
It's Alice. Alice Jackson.

CHAD  
Well I'm Chad.

ALICE  
I already know that, ya loser.

Chad laughs as they get in. They pull out of the curb and drive away.

THE END.