

The Humble Brag

CHARACTERS:

Piper Vauntermore Forty-five-year-old entrepreneur (designer hats). Mother of two teenage girls. Married (for now).

Ally Clemens Forty-five-year-old primary-school teacher. Mother of four boys. Happily married. Piper's best friend from adolescence.

SETTING: Piper's holiday villa in Andalusia, Spain. Pool-side seating area. Afternoon.

PIPER and ALLY are lounging under a sun umbrella next to Piper's private pool. They are in swimsuits. Piper is typing into her phone.

Ally's phone is in a bag under her lounge. She reaches for it when it pings.

ALLY (*Looking at her phone.*)

Why do you always do this? We've been here ten minutes, and you've already posted on Facebook three times!

PIPER

What's wrong with that? My girls worry about me whenever I travel. They want me to keep them updated.

ALLY

Fair play, but do Lottie and Scarlet really need to know their mum is drinking champagne at ten in the morning?

PIPER

What are you on about?

ALLY

Your post from earlier. (*Reading.*) 'Inevitable death if the plane goes down, but traveling in First Class has its perks! #WORTHtheRISK #BAvipLOUNGE' You've posted a photo of your First-Class boarding pass and a glass of bubbly.

PIPER

It's been statistically proven that sitting near the wings in Economy is far safer than sitting in First Class or Business. The more you pay for a ticket, the higher the risk.

ALLY

You're missing the point.

PIPER

Well, it's true. I'll have my personal assistant forward you the article.

ALLY

I'm good, thanks. How about this one? (*Reading.*) 'The Porsche SUV I hired for the week only gets thirty miles to the gallon. #SHOULDhaveGONEelectric #SAFEandSOUNDinSPAIN' Here, you posted a selfie of yourself holding up a Porsche keychain. You could've just called your girls ... or messaged them to let them know you landed safely.

PIPER

Honestly, if I'd known the SUV would be such a petrol lush, I'd have gone with the Carrero Cabrio.

ALLY

Again, you're missing the point.

PIPER

The point being, I care deeply about the environment and regret hiring such a large car. The next time I'm here, I'll be sure to hire the Cabrio. Lesson learnt!

ALLY

Good for you.

PIPER (*After a pause.*)

Why are you being so tetchy? You're on holiday without your boys! Relax. Soak up this gorgeous Spanish sunshine.

ALLY (*Sets the phone down on her lap.*)

You're right. I'm sorry. I really appreciate you inviting me to stay in your villa ... flying me First Class. You've gone beyond generous. Thank you.

PIPER (*Leans over and pats Ally's hand.*)

You're my BFF! I'd do anything for you, you know that. Besides, my business is doing so well, I really don't know what to do with all the extra cash I'm earning. What better way than splurging on my financially less fortunate best friend?

ALLY (*Deep sigh.*)

There you go again.

PIPER

What now?

ALLY

This incessant bragging about how successful you are, Piper. It's not a good quality.

PIPER

I don't brag. I never brag.

ALLY

No, you humble brag. Bragging masked by a complaint or humility, which, in my book, is worse than your common, everyday bragging.

PIPER

I have no idea what you're talking about.

ALLY

Let's look at your latest post, shall we? And thanks a million for tagging me, by the way. (*She picks up her phone and reads off the screen.*) 'The downside of owning a holiday villa is you have to air it out each visit before you can enjoy it. #SpanishVILLAproblems'

PIPER

Surely, you must have smelled the musty air when we first entered It was vile!

ALLY

Here's another one from that time you went to a film premier. 'I can't believe I was invited to another VIP red-carpet event! I felt so out of place! #MargotRobbie #BarbieMovie #glamour'

PIPER

Well, if you'd seen what all the celebs were wearing

ALLY

This one is my favourite. 'My charity work keeps me so busy! #philanthropy #MILLIONAIRESforHUMANITY' You helped organise a charity banquet attended by billionaires.

PIPER

Between you and me, billionaires are *so* snobbish and entitled. Personally, I'd much rather work with the homeless. At least they'd appreciate a hot meal.

ALLY (*Dramatic pause.*)

You know what? I'm done. I love you with all my heart Piper, but I just can't anymore. (*She calls a number, then stands up and begins packing up her belongings.*)

PIPER

Where are you going?

ALLY

I've called an Uber to take me to the airport so I can go home to my boys and my less fortunate life. I'm flying Economy, where it's statistically safe.

PIPER

But I've ordered a dozen bottles of *Chateaux Latour Grand Vin*! You don't expect me to drink £800-pound bottles of wine all on my own, do you?

End