

An Unposted Story

A play in One Act

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Act 1 Scene 1

A high school cafeteria. Kei, Ruby, Manvik are all reading or texting on their phones. Asha is sitting at a table trying to sign up people to audition for her play. But as she fails to sign anyone up for the play, she starts playing with her phone. Manvik looks up from his phone and observes everyone around him.

MANVIK

Did you know that on average we spend close to ten hours a day online? Doing what? One would hope learning something about the world. You know, enriching our minds with something interesting. Quickly, ask yourself in the last five hours what did you look up online? Read? Sorry that doesn't happen as much. What did you last view on Instagram? Or did you just finish texting someone about a picture of yourself or how you hate someone? Did anything inspire you? Or did you watch something completely useless? Let me guess, you watched someone falling off a chair or kittens sleeping? Or did you get a notification from an influencer? What is an influencer? How are they influencing you? Is it important anyway? Is that a real job? An influencer who tells you what to buy? What to wear? Worse, what to think?

KEI

Watch where you're going?

MANVIK

Sorry. I'm just looking down at the world. That's Kei. Kei is everything to everyone at this school. Star soccer player. Obviously. Look at him. But worse, he's a straight A student. Smartest kid in my Chemistry and English class. It's really unfair. I've never met anyone who could write an essay in under a day and still have time for the social media game.

RUBY

Do you mind, you're in my shot!

MANVIK

Sorry. Ruby!!! She's the brightest and happiest person here. But man, is she a pain in everyone's side at times. Okay, mine really. Her smile and cheerfulness can't be real. I mean, her timeline is one constant roll of happy to be alive, hope you're having the time of your life. Life is so good with a triple Frappuccino. I'm going to save the world. She has a small following here, I think. But, it

makes sense, she does a lot here. Usually promoting something for student council. Or raising money for this. She'll either tweet about her new favourite shirt or retweet messages on how we need to save the trees. Most of the time, she's helping people find the fashionista in them one click at a time.

ASHA

Hey Ruby! Do you want to try out for the play?

RUBY

What's it about?

ASHA

It's a musical. Face It!

RUBY

Don't know it.

ASHA

I wrote it.

RUBY

That's nice. But, sorry, I'm busy. Student Council stuff and other stuff!

KEI

Comes over and reads the poster.

You wrote it? What's it about?

ASHA

Being in high school and what we face.

KEI

When are auditions?

ASHA

You want to audition?

KEI

Why not?

ASHA

Because you're Kei.

KEI

Do I sign here?

ASHA

Yes.

KEI

Do I need to prepare something?

ASHA

You're serious?

KEI

Yes.

ASHA

Okay. Tell a story. Sing a song. Auditions are in a week.

KEI

That's it?

ASHA

Yup.

KEI

See you then.

Kei exits.

RUBY

You know what, Asha, sign me up. I'm busy, but if Kei can find the time, I think I can.

ASHA

Okay. Manvik, do you want to try out?

MANVIK

Are you talking to me?

ASHA

Well, you're just standing there, so why not?

MANVIK

Asha, the resident Drama Queen! But not like that. She's not the one you find crying or reading her texts aloud in the hall. Drama Queen 25876 is her online name. She reviews local plays and writes really good fan fiction. She loves to write in her spare time. In school, she's the science student. Her written stuff is online, but this play is her first to be heard aloud where people can hear and judge her in real time.

ASHA

Manvik, can I sign you up?

Manvik looks at his phone.

MANVIK

I don't know how to act. I'm not really into the whole work together group thing.

ASHA

What do you have to lose?

ACT 1 Scene 2

Ruby is in the music room. Ruby is practicing a clarinet piece. As she is practicing, Asha comes in and listens. Asha is carrying a clarinet case.

ASHA

Oh, hey Ruby!

Ruby is surprised. She starts putting her clarinet away.

RUBY

I thought you were practicing with today?

ASHA

No. He said he had to work out today. What are you doing?

RUBY

Where's Manvik?

ASHA

He wasn't needed today.

RUBY

Good, he's not the happiest person to have around.

ASHA

He's funny.

RUBY

Every other word from his mouth is criticism.

ASHA

He's perfect for the role then. Simon is always one constant tweet of judgement.

RUBY

Yes, but its 144 characters of uninspiring and useless information.