

"BAD CONNECTION"

By

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A VIDEO CHAT — MID AFTERNOON

MILLIE

Well hey hey hey Sam-I-Am. I've missed you so much! How's cactus life?

SAM

Hey Millie (laughs) it's not so rough. How the heck is Milwaukee?

MILLE

It's been great! When mom and dad moved me up here for the summer, we went and saw Elvis Presley's motorcycle at the Harley Davidson factory. So... I guess that was cool (laughs).

SAM

I mean you saw what drug the King of Rock n Roll around. That's pretty rad - pretty rad. How are you liking working at the First Stage Theater Academy?

MILLE

I really like it. The kids are all so excited to be here. It's really sweet to be involved with theatre at least somehow - so yeah it's fun - how's life for you? Are you still enjoying your gig?

SAM

Oh yeah - bartending is great. Tucson has some great tippers. Me and Alfie usually have enough to pay the rent within one week of work so that's amazing. I've been thinking about getting a part time hustle doing male modeling. Super casual though. Just another thing to do instead of play Xbox all day.

MILLE

That's a great idea! You'd make a great male model! You definitely have the bone-structure!

SAM

Hey thanks - oh guess what?

MILLE

What?!

SAM

Well Alfie and I were playing Xbox with David the other day and he told us over the mic that he is getting ready to propose to his girlfriend!

MILLIE

Oh my goodness! No way!? (Beat) Awh... that's kind of sad though.

SAM

Sad how?

MILLIE

Well I guess I was always rooting for him and Chloe. You know, to work things out and get back together.

SAM

He does seem really happy with this new chick. I dunno.

MILLIE

Well if he is happy then I'm happy!

SAM

Yeah, me too! It'll be fun to get back together with our group for a wedding - *if everyone is invited* (laughs)

MILLIE

(Laughs) Yeah - gosh I miss you guys!!

SAM

Me, too! We had fun didn't we?

MILLIE

We sure did - those crazy parties. Hey Sam - did you ever think that maybe we would...

SAM

Ah Millie. You know you're like a sister to me. Anyways, I have to run. Have to get a quick power nap before my shift! Cya!

MILLIE

Cya! Tell Alfie I said "hi"!

Millie calls Lila

LILA

Well hey there General Mills!

MILLIE

Hey Lila - quick question, did you know David is getting ready to propose to his girlfriend?

LILA

Uhm no - and I can't believe that Alfie didn't tell me?! We just talked like two friggin days ago.

MILLIE

Yeah I just heard from Sam!

LILA

I'll call Alfie and get the 411 - have you told Chloe yet??

MILLIE

Yeah no... I don't know if I should? You two were always a little closer than she and I were. Maybe you should tell her? Also sidebar - did you know that Sam thinks of me like a sister?!

LILA

Yeah, yeah. I'll take care of Chloe. And aw, that is so sweet! I love my sister!

MILLIE

Hmmm. Is it, though? Because do you remember last year when we -

LILA

I'm gonna call Alfie now!

MILLIE

Cya! Tell Alfie I said "hi"!

Lila calls Alfie

ALFIE

Whaddup whaddup. Hold on let me finish this game (continues playing video games) okay seriously whaddup?

LILA

Did David tell you that he is getting ready to propose to that girl he has known for like two months? I've had leftovers in my fridge longer than he has known that skank.

ALFIE

Ugh LEFTOVERS! I knew I've been meaning to do something. I have so many leftovers I need to eat!! Yeah, he did tell me about the plan to pop the question! He seems super excited about it, too. He is taking

her on this really cool like hiking trail that leads to a waterfall.

LILA

Oh barf. How not Indiana Jones-chic. I can't believe he thinks this girl is marriage material and then he passes up on dime like Chloe.

ALFIE

Chloe's a great girl, too. I don't understand why they can't both be great. I also love Indiana Jones. That switcheroo makes me sweat every time. Like is he going to get crushed by rocks or is he going to get away? I never know. Quality content. Truly, thrilling.

LILA

Alfie, you're simple. Why the eff didn't you tell me about the proposal sooner?

ALFIE

Hey thanks, Lila! You're pretty simple too. I just didn't think you'd care that much about what David had going on. You never really ask about him when we talk. So how'd you hear about it anyway?

LILA

Sam told Mille - and Millie told me... sidebar - Sam also told Millie that he thinks of her like a sister! Can you believe that!? (laughs)

ALFIE

Oh that's gold. He definitely didn't think of her as his sister while he shoved his tongue down her throat at last year's Halloween party. John No am I right?

LILA

Dreadful. Truly. Almost as bad as the ending to Game of Thrones! Also, FYI - I

always want to be in the loop - with like everything that happens, always. I don't like second-hand news, Alfie.

ALFIE

Well like if Sam heard it from David, and told Millie, and then she told you.. wouldn't it be like (counting on fingers) third-hand news?

LILA

Thank you, Alfred. Yes. It would be. Next time just tell me first, kay?

ALFIE

Right on my man. Hang loose.

LILA

I'm going to call Chloe and tell her about it. Bye.

ALFIE

Peace.

They hang up. Alfie calls David

DAVID

Hey Alfie - since when do we FaceTime?
(laughs)

ALFIE

I know it's not the norm. I just wanted to give you a quick heads up, bro.

DAVID

Oh? Okay. What's going on?

ALFIE

Well I just got done talking with Lila - man is she on a war path today. Dude, she even insulted Game of Thrones. Like I know not everyone loved the ending but like -

write a better one yourself then and just like shut up about it, you know?

DAVID

It was rushed - it's true. But definitely not as bad as everyone said it was.

ALFIE

Yeah, word. So anyways we were all like "John No" and shit. And she asked me if I knew about you getting engaged.

DAVID

Oh yeah?

ALFIE

Yeah! So I was like "yeah I know he is planning on asking his girl friend to like marry him and all". Super excited about it, too man. Weddings are awesome! But yeah... Lila kind of gave me the impression that she was going to call Chloe and tell her about it.

DAVID

How'd she give you that impression?

ALFIE

Well she told me that was going to call Chloe and tell her about it.

DAVID

(Laughs) Well Chloe is a cool girl. Besides her and I are ancient history. That was almost a whole year ago that we broke up.

ALFIE

Yeah - people move on - grow up - life is ever changing.

DAVID

You're exactly right, bro. So how's Tucson treating you?

ALFIE

Bro, it's great here. Me and my dealer are like this (crosses middle and index finger).

DAVID

Word. Hold up - Alfie - it looks like Chloe is trying to call me. Let me call you back.

ALFIE

Best of luck, bro. You be on this weekend?

DAVID

Yeah for sure.

David answers a FaceTime call from Chloe

DAVID

Hello?

CHLOE

Hey, David...

DAVID

Didn't think I'd hear from you anytime soon! What've you been up to?

CHLOE

Well I just heard some news and I couldn't help but calling you

DAVID

Oh?

CHLOE

Yeah- I heard that you might be getting engaged soon and before you do I just have to get something off of my chest.

DAVID

Okay sure

CHLOE

David, I knew when we broke up that it was because the timing was wrong. But I haven't stopped thinking about you since. I miss you. I miss your stupid jokes and your contagious laugh. I miss the way we spent Sunday mornings laughing in bed together and talking about what real-life adulting would be like. I miss you. I miss you so much and I know it would eat me up inside if I let you propose to this girl and I didn't tell you how I honestly felt about you. Tell me you want to be together and I will go to the airport and get a flight to you right now. I'm still in love with you.

DAVID

(David pauses for a few beats)Chloe?

CHLOE

Yes David?

DAVID

Hey, Chloe. You broke up. I think we have a bad connection.

CHLOE

Oh.. of course I said "I knew when we broke up that it was because the timing was wrong. But I haven't stopped thinking about you since. I miss you. I miss your stupid jokes and your contagious laugh. I miss the way we spent Sunday mornings laughing in bed together and"..

DAVID

Chloe - Chloe I still can't hear you

CHLOE

David? Hello? Can you hear me? I said I'm still in love with you! David I love you!

DAVID

Ah - Chloe I can't make out anything that you're saying. Your face is frozen. Can I just call you on the phone?

The End.