

Christian

Sc. 1

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Nicole sits at the kitchen counter eating a bowl of cereal.
Her sister SARAH (Early 40s, organized and level headed)
buzzes around trying to get everyone ready for the morning.
Christian tails behind her holding a brochure.

CHRISTIAN

Do you know we get to make candles at
Fort Lee?

SARAH

I'm glad you're excited about today.

CHRISTIAN

Nicole, did you know candles were the
only light source for homes during
colonial times? Aside from fires of
course.

NICOLE

Fires are a touchy subject with me
right now.

WNT. NICOLE BYER

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Sc. 2

NICOLE

Yeah, I burned down my apartment. I'm not getting charged with arson or anything but the super made it clear that I am not to return.

TOM

Well that's--

Nicole's phone **rings**. She hangs up.

NICOLE

I'm sorry, you were just about to ask me out.

TOM

I was?

Nicole's phone **rings** again. It's the same number.

NICOLE

Can you give me one second?
(into phone)
Hello?

Intercut as needed with:

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Christian stands holding the phone in the principal's office, it's clear he's been crying.

CHRISTIAN

I forgot my permission slip, and I can't go on the field trip without it.

NICOLE

Just calm down and tell me why this is my problem.

CHRISTIAN

Mom's not picking up! Can you bring it from home?

NICOLE

But home is like twenty minutes in the other direction.

CHRISTIAN

Please! This means everything to me!

NICOLE

Ugh, fine. But you owe me.

START
→

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Nicole hangs up.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

(to Tom)
I'm really sorry, but I have to go.

Nicole pushes the key to unlock the minivan.

TOM

Nice ride.

NICOLE

Thank you. Maybe you'll get to see the
inside of it some day.

INT. MINIVAN (MOVING) - DAY

Nicole roots around the glove box as she drives. She finds a
piece of paper and starts writing. At the bottom she
carefully signs "SARAH BYER."

NICOLE

Sarah Byer. So much easier than mom's.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Christian watches sadly as the kids file onto the bus. Nicole
enters with form in hand.

CHRISTIAN

Thank god you made it. Where was it?

NICOLE

I don't know. I forged this.

CHRISTIAN

What if the police find out?

NICOLE

Relax, it's not like I changed the
amount on a birthday check. Which is
not that hard to get away with.

CHRISTIAN

Why are you telling me this?

NICOLE

Just play it cool.

CHRISTIAN

I've never done that before.

Nicole hands the form to the TEACHER who looks it over and
waves Christian on the bus. He looks back at Nicole.

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CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)
I played it cool, it worked!

NICOLE
Cool people don't talk about playing
it cool.

Christian enters the bus.

TEACHER
Hey, a chaperone cancelled this
morning. You want to fill in?

Nicole looks at the school bus full of SCREAMING KIDS.

NICOLE
Ugh, no.

TEACHER
I'll pay you twenty bucks.

NICOLE
Ugh, yes.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The kids on the bus are screaming and rambunctious. But Christian is perfectly calm and seated next to Nicole.

CHRISTIAN
The British used mostly tallow for
their candles. But in the Americas--

DING! Nicole gets a text on her new cellphone

ON SCREEN TEXT: Sidd: Tom Welch asked for your number.

A couple of GIRLS in front of them turn to face them.

GIRL #1
Was that a text from a boy?

NICOLE
It was from my friend. He's a boy, but
he was texting me to tell me that
another boy, pretty much the cutest
boy in my class, asked for my phone
number.

The girls **squeal** with delight.

GIRL #1
What's his name?

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INT. HOUSE - EVENING

Nicole enters with the kids. The two Tonys run to the living room and turn on the TV. Christian marches up to Sarah.

START →

CHRISTIAN

I want her gone!

SARAH

What happened?

NICOLE

I might have forged a permission slip... and got caught.

(off Sarah's look)

I didn't have time to make it home! My back was against a wall!

CHRISTIAN

She's lying. She got coffee!

NICOLE

In my defense, I was sleepy. Also I was late because I ran into Tom Welch.

SARAH

From your grade? He's cute.

CHRISTIAN

Stop encouraging her!

NICOLE

If you thought he was cute then, you should see him now.

SARAH

Really?

Christian storms upstairs. //

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