

A Scene From
Last Day of School
A full length play.

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LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

LUKE, 18

JUSTINE, 18

Lights up on D'Angelo's, a local pizza place frequented by many students.

LUKE and JUSTINE are in the middle of eating a late lunch, in mid conversation.

JUSTINE

I don't understand? What do you mean?

LUKE

I don't know, just... do you feel bad? At all?

JUSTINE

About what?

LUKE

That we spent so much time here. Instead of... you know... going to class. The last four years we chose pizza over 7th period like... 80 percent of the time. And I think we missed a lot of stuff.

JUSTINE

Uh... no. Not really. Why do you?

LUKE

I don't know. Think of all the... life lessons we missed. Latin and European history and Gym -

JUSTINE

You feel bad about missing Gym?

LUKE

Kinda. I mean, I don't how to play... like... handball. Everyone else at this school has the universal experience of playing hand ball and I will never know how to play it.

JUSTINE

Trust me. Handball is something that will never... ever come up in the real world. There are no handball leagues or clubs or anything like that, it's just a stupid, time killing... high school sport.

LUKE

I know but that's the point. This was my one chance to play it and... now I never will.

JUSTINE

Luke, come on.

LUKE

What?

JUSTINE

Of all the things that happened to you in high school that is maybe the last thing I would worry about... regretting.

LUKE

What do you mean that's... wait, what are you saying? You think I should have regrets?

JUSTINE

Well no.... I don't know... I mean all I'm saying is that I can think of... a few things you should regret more than skipping seventh period on a regular basis.

LUKE

Oh yeah, like what?

JUSTINE

Like the three M's.

LUKE

Awe come on. The three M's weren't that bad.

JUSTINE

Luke.

LUKE

They weren't.

JUSTINE

Luke!

LUKE

I mean... yes in retrospect, they weren't the best relationships but they weren't disasters.

JUSTINE

They were definitely disasters.

LUKE

Nah uh. They were fun.

JUSTINE

Well I mean... they weren't hurricanes. People didn't die because you dated them but Luke. Come on. They were terrible.

LUKE

Well, I just disagree I guess. I mean I... really don't regret any of them.

Beat. Justine takes a deep breath.

LUKE

What?

JUSTINE

Molly Metzler.

LUKE

Yeah? What about her?

JUSTINE

You dated her for six months freshman year and all she did was bad mouth you to her friends.

LUKE

Yeah but -

JUSTINE

And then she cheated on you. Twice.

LUKE

I agree, not the best choice of girlfriend for me but monogamy may not be her thing, so... you know... I learned a lot. And... I grew from it. And stuff.

JUSTINE

Then there was Maybeline Augsburg, which, first of all, her name was Maybeline.

LUKE

Well that's not her fault, she was literally born with it.

JUSTINE

Fine, but Luke... Maybeline sucked. I mean she was... just... mean. Really mean. Like cruel. Like what the hell was her problem?

LUKE

Well her parents got divorced when she was six.

JUSTINE

So, my parents got divorced when I was ten and I don't *kick dogs*.

LUKE

Yes but, let's remember... it wasn't a dog she kicked as much as it was... a puppy.

JUSTINE

How is that better?

LUKE

It's not! Maybeline was a monster! I was trying to dig myself out of a hole and it didn't work. Maybeline was terrible, yes, I regret dating Maybeline. She kicked a puppy once and didn't feel bad about it. So, yes, that's bad.

JUSTINE

And then of course there was Melanie.

LUKE

Whoa whoa whoa. Wait. Hold on. What's wrong with Melanie?

JUSTINE

Luke. She was, maybe... the dumbest person I ever met. I mean not even dumb she just... she had the deadest eyes. I mean whenever I looked directly at her it was just a void of ... nothing. Like anti-matter. Like time just stopped and all of sudden I was in purgatory. The purgatory of Melanie's non-brain staring back at me.

LUKE

Yes, granted, she was... you know... we didn't talk about politics or anything but Justine. Melanie was so hot.

JUSTINE

Uh.

LUKE

Objectively, you have to admit she was... very... very attractive.

JUSTINE

It doesn't take much with guys, does it?

LUKE

Oh come on! Even you must of been like “daammn” when you first saw her. She’s like... oh what was his name... Phillip Mason! Remember that guy? He left after his sophomore.

JUSTINE

Of course. Who could forget Phillip.

LUKE

And that’s all I’m saying! Phillip was an objectively beautiful man and if he wanted to go out with you, even if he was a dummy, you would’ve done it. And I would’ve totally supported you. Because like... I mean I’m not gay, but, ya know... I got lost in his eyes once or twice.

JUSTINE

He had very blue eyes.

LUKE

So blue. And so did Melanie so... I regret nothing.

Luke takes a triumphant bite of pizza. Smiles.

LUKE

Anyway, it’s not like you did much better.

JUSTINE

I did better than you?

LUKE

Pfff. No! You did not.

JUSTINE

Wait, who’s worse than Maybeline?

LUKE

Chad Rhiner.

JUSTINE

Oh yeah, I forgot about Chad.

LUKE

AKA the Chadster. A nickname he gave himself. Because he’s the worst.

JUSTINE

Yeah.

LUKE

You know who gives themselves nicknames? Idiot monster douche bags.

JUSTINE

I admit Chad was not a great choice, but -

LUKE

You mean the Chadster?

JUSTINE

Shut up. But, you know what? I was fifteen. I had braces, I wore nothing but overalls, so... I was just thrilled that anyone, man, woman, whoever, a breathing person found me attractive. So... yeah. Fifteen. Not my fault.

LUKE

Okay, well then what about Ty. Ty who likes to lie.

JUSTINE

Ty was... you know... he had his flaws.

LUKE

Had flaws like he was a pathological liar. Like he told everyone that his dad worked for the CIA and had secret meetings in the White House.

JUSTINE

Yes, okay, that was... I admit, a weird thing to lie about. But I'll say this for him: At the time we all believed him so... you know, he was at least good at lying.

LUKE

Oh, and what about all those girls he Catfished at Jefferson -

JUSTINE

Ty was a creep! Yes, I dated a lying sociopath okay. Yes, that was a mistake, I regret Ty.

LUKE

And then there was Gordy.

JUSTINE

Whoah, hey! What was wrong with Gordy?

LUKE

Well again. Name. His name is Gordy.

JUSTINE

I don't know, I kind of like that name. "Gordy." It's unique

LUKE

Oof. Really?

JUSTINE

It's a fine name. And he didn't do anything bad to me. What's wrong with Gordy.

Luke thinks. Knows he did something wrong.

LUKE

Didn't he throw up on you? During Gym.

JUSTINE

He had the flu! And honestly... I feel bad about that. I shouldn't have like... you know, never returned his calls it was just... so gross. I couldn't ever look him in the eye after he did that.

LUKE

It was really gross.

JUSTINE

But I don't regret going on a date with him! He's a sweet guy.

Luke nods. Eats a bit of pizza. Thinks.

JUSTINE

All right, well, Gordy aside, the point is we both had bad dating experiences. But who cares. That's what most people do in high school. I mean you know the percentage of couples who meet in high school who then actually go and get married.

LUKE

No.

JUSTINE

It's like... 1 percent. Barely any. So dating, right now, is just... practice.

LUKE

Right.

JUSTINE

A learning experience.

LUKE

Totally. And we have definitely learned... a lot.

JUSTINE

I mean guys are so damn stupid in high school. The only decent one, really, is you. You're all right.

LUKE

I know. I mean of all the relationships and bad dates I've had, I would have much rather... you know, eaten crappy pizza with you.

JUSTINE

Exactly! It's just like... easy.

They continue eating for a bit. Then Luke realizes something.

LUKE

Wait are we idiots?

JUSTINE

What do you mean?

LUKE

I mean... okay, I'm going to be very cautious because, well... I've always considered you like... a sister. Or just, a guy with long hair who smells better than most guys. I've never ever... ever... EVER thought of you in like a dating sense.

JUSTINE

Oh Jesus, Luke, what are you doing?

LUKE

Well it's just -

JUSTINE

Because are you like... suggesting... awe, gross!

LUKE

Well hold on! All I'm saying -

JUSTINE

Luke, you are exactly like a brother to me. But like a completely, sex-less robot brother. I mean I look at you and it's just, either... nothing, like nothing at all or I'm like repulsed. Like I get a little sick.

LUKE

Yeah, dude, I know exactly what you're talking about. To me you are like... that "symbol for woman" you see on bathroom doors. You know, the white outline, with the triangle dress. That's what you are. To me. A girl, only in the sense of a label.

JUSTINE

So what the hell are you even suggesting!?

LUKE

I don't know, it's just... we are such good friends! And we talk to each other every day and in three months we're going to different schools in different states and I just can't help but think... what if... you know, we blew it. What if we were supposed to be together and we never even gave it a try because... we were so repulsed by each other. You know looks wise or... whatever.

JUSTINE

Oh Jesus! Luke! You... is this really the first time you've ever considered this?!

LUKE

Yeah.

JUSTINE

Really?!

LUKE

Yeah, why? You have?

JUSTINE

Of course I have. Mandy and Dana and Katie give me crap about it all the time. They're always like "well if you're gonna hang out with Luke every other day you might as well make out with him!" And I'm like "blah, Luke!? That would be like making out with a life size Ken doll. A ken doll without a face!" And they never believe me and I tell them it's mutual and that you feel the same way about me! But now... I... I...

LUKE

I do! I swear I do! I more attracted to paint than I am to you but... I don't know. It was just a thought.

JUSTINE

But what are you even suggesting. You wanna be boyfriend and girlfriend. You want to turn our awesome hang out time into awkward, terrible dates. You wanna fool around and have -

LUKE

No! I... I guess I thought... maybe we should just kiss. Once. One time. Just so we know. And if it's as awkward and horrible as we're thinking then we'll never have to do it again but... then at least we'll know.

Beat. Justine looks at him.

JUSTINE

This is the worst thing you've ever suggested.

LUKE

I know.

JUSTINE

This is... this sucks. Uh! All right, so what, you wanna kiss? Now?

LUKE

I don't want to I -

JUSTINE

I know, but for the sake fate. For the sake of fate and curiosity you want to kiss, just so that we can live the rest of our lives and know... that... with 155 percent certainty that there would never be anything between us. Because I'm already 150 percent sure I'm not attracted to you but you wanna go the extra five.

LUKE

Yes. That is what I'm suggesting.

Justine takes a deep breath.

JUSTINE

Fine. One kiss. No longer than four seconds. No tongue. And let's never speak of this again.

LUKE

Agreed. Believe me I will take this to my grave.

JUSTINE

Okay, okay. Well let's just... do it. On the count three.

LUKE

Great.

JUSTINE

One, two, three -

And they kiss. For four seconds.

They break apart and look into each other's eyes. For a beat or two neither says a word.

Then...

LUKE

That was the grossest thing I've ever done.

JUSTINE

That was terrible. That was truly terrible.

LUKE

I'm so... sorry. That was awful. I...

JUSTINE

Kissing you was like kissing bread. Like generic, pre-sliced white bread. It was... I mean that was horrible.

LUKE

Terrible. Absolutely terrible. I... this was a terrible idea. I'm so-so sorry.

Beat. They look at each other. Glad they both agree.

JUSTINE

But we didn't... we're still friends right? You're not gonna get all mushy on me.

LUKE

If you consider mushy vomiting in your face, then yes. But otherwise, no... I uh... I'm definitely still your friend. Of course.

JUSTINE

Great. Me too.

Justine playfully punches Luke on the arm. He returns the favor.

LUKE

Still wanna see a movie later?

JUSTINE

I kinda wanna go back to school. I'm curious to see what's gonna happen to Bethany? If she gets detention or -

LUKE

Oh yeah! God that's so crazy she like... high jacked the AV room. You think she's still playing that song...

Luke and Justine continue to talk as they leave D'Angelos.

Lights fade to black as Mr. Roboto plays once more.