

A Scene from
From Last Day of School

A full length play.

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LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

APRIL, 18

TOM, 18

Lights up on outside of school.

Tom is on his phone, waiting for his girlfriend April.

April, a bundle of anxious energy, approaches him.

APRIL

Hey!

Tom puts his phone away.

TOM

Hey, you got my text.

APRIL

Yep. I'm... yep.

TOM

Great.

APRIL

Okay so... just... do it.

TOM

Do what?

APRIL

You know, do what you came here to do.

TOM

Uh... okay. I'm not sure -

APRIL

Tom just break up with me!

TOM

What?

APRIL

Look, I'm a big girl. I get it. We're going to different schools next year. I was willing to give it a shot but I understand. You're a guy. You wanna, "guy it up" next year, with dumb girls named "Mindy" or "Aura." It's different, it's new and you want to explore new. I totally get that.

TOM

Yeah but -

APRIL

So just be a man and tell me to my face. I can take it. I'm a grass fed cow and you are the socially conscious farmer who's putting me out of my misery in a humane and ethical way! So just... shoot me in the head already!

TOM

Would you stop! I'm not... I don't want to break up with you.

APRIL

Yes you do!

TOM

No I don't!

APRIL

I'm sorry but you do.

TOM

Why would I want to break up with you when I told you I don't want to break up with you.

APRIL

Because your text said "we need to talk." And "we need to talk" is the universal code for "we need to break up." And only a sick, twisted, emotional torturer would send a text that says "we need to talk" and mean "we just need to talk about anything."

Beat. Tom looks at the text.

TOM

Okay, well I meant we need talk. But not about breaking up.

APRIL

You did?

TOM

Yeah.

APRIL

You swear?

TOM

Yeah. I just wanted to see what you wanted to do tonight. We've been invited to 3 different graduation parties and I was hoping we could skip one. I was thinking your cousin Derek's because... you know, he kinda sucks and he who won't even notice us if we do go but... maybe we could just stop by briefly.

APRIL

I think we have to stop by. But it can be brief.

TOM

Okay, well let's go early then, like 6-ish.

APRIL

Yeah that's fine.

TOM

Great.

Then April hits him.

TOM

Ow!

APRIL

Don't ever do that again.

TOM

I won't! Wait, you mean the text?

APRIL

Yeah, the text! I really thought... I mean I just assumed that...

TOM

April why would I break up with you. I love you and we've been together for 6 years now. 6 years! That's longer than a lot of marriages these days.

APRIL

I know! That's why I was so... shocked. But then I thought like, "well other people are breaking up." Jessy and Tom. Bella and Cameron. And Sasha told me Aiden might break up with Karen and I just -

TOM

Really? Aiden and Karen?

APRIL

Yes but that's... very new. And they might not so don't tell anyone. But Aiden's thinking about it.

TOM

Well I don't care about them! Yes, great, people break up when they go to college but who says we have to. I mean we've been together since middle school! Middle school! Nothing's worse than a relationship in middle school and we made it through that. And even when you became a drama geek and I got really into wrestling... which, you know, couldn't have been more different, we still figured out a way to make it work. You think, what, a few hundred miles and some dumb sorority girls are going to make me forget about you.

APRIL

Yeah. I do. I think it's gonna be really hard. And, I love you but... you're still a guy. A guy who's susceptible to dumb, blue eyed blonds. Blondes with vocal fry who are like "Wrestling is cool. You must be in amazing shape to be so good at wrestling. I love wrestling."

TOM

I don't think a girl has ever said the words, "I love wrestling."

APRIL

Exactly! But she will. Because she's a pretty idiot with no morals who just wants to get all up in your stuff. She'll lie and pretend to be interested in anything you do just to get you out of the clutches of your lame high school girlfriend.

TOM

You've really put a lot of thought into this.

APRIL

I have a very active imagination Tom! I've already planned out your six next relationships in college and they're all terrible. Except the last one, Emily. Emily's like me but older, wiser, more travelled. You'll marry Emily but only after dating for five years and almost breaking up twice, which you needed because -

TOM

April! Stop. I don't love imaginary Emily or any of the other women you conjured up I love you. Okay, we can make this work.

APRIL

Yeah?

TOM

Of course yeah! Look, we're a seven hour drive away from each other. That's long but totally doable. I'll have my dad's old car. You can take the bus. We'll see each other every other weekend and in between we'll facetime.

APRIL

I guess that's not so bad. I mean sometimes with our schedules we go weeks without seeing each other anyway.

TOM

Yeah. I mean it'll be an adjustment but we can totally make this work. Like, okay, so I go up late August. That first weekend I have orientation stuff but the next week I'll go and visit you.

APRIL

Except my college starts the week after yours, remember? So my orientation is that weekend.

TOM

Oh, well, I'll come the week after that.

APRIL

Great. Yeah, that's like three weeks, right?

TOM

Yeah, that's nothing.

They smile. Connect. Maybe would even kiss but...

APRIL

Wait, what weekend is that? The 13th?

TOM

I don't know. Probably.

APRIL

My cousin's getting married on the 13th. In Michigan, and, so it'll have to be the next weekend.

TOM

Great, well then the 20th... we'll... well, wait. I mean, I think that's the weekend of my first wrestling meet, but it's a home meet so... maybe you could come up to visit me?

APRIL

Great. Yeah, I'd love to see your first meet! Oh, that would be so much fun!

TOM

I mean it's like... apparently a whole thing. It's like an intense 4 day event with parties and traveling and I'll be practicing and working out the whole time -

APRIL

So, I can just, you know, hang out in your dorm room while you're busy. Unless you don't want me to come.

TOM

No! I totally want you to come I'm just worried we won't get much alone time. But... this is dumb, I don't even know what it is really. I'm sure it'll be fine. You should... totally come then.

APRIL

Sure. Yeah. I... yeah...

TOM

What?

APRIL

No, it's just... I realized that around that time I'm sure theatre stuff is going to be happening. Like, even if I don't get cast in a play or anything, I'm sure I'll be doing tech stuff. Building sets or stage managing. Apparently you do a lot of that stuff freshman year. But... maybe I just won't do as much theatre stuff the first semester.

TOM

No, that's idiotic.

APRIL

No, I mean it's important to me that I see your first meet.

TOM

But I don't want you to... look, if you really want to be an actor you have to throw yourself into it. And I don't want to give that up just to... see me wrestle.

APRIL

All right well let's just... see what my schedule looks like then. Maybe it won't even be an issue.

TOM

Yeah, mine too. We're... getting worried about nothing, right?

They sit down, hold hands. Clearly bothered.

TOM

Okay, maybe the first few months will be crazy, but if we can make it through October, then we have Thanksgiving, and then like three weeks later Christmas break. For a month!

APRIL

Yeah, except I'm going to Iowa for Thanksgiving this year.

TOM

Oh right, your grandma. I forgot about that.

APRIL

And don't you always go to Colorado for Christmas?

TOM

I mean... we might. I don't know. We usually do but... maybe we won't this year.

Beat.

APRIL

I don't know, it's just going to be so different. I mean I'm going to this tiny little arts school in the city. I could be like doing crazy Beckett plays, rolling around in my underwear while you're like, at this big state school. Joining a frat or whatever.

TOM

Whoa, wait. Who said I was going to join a frat?

APRIL

Well isn't that what all the wrestling guys do up there?

TOM

But that doesn't mean I'm going to. I mean... well I've heard they're not as intense as you'd think. It's more something you do to be social because you're so isolated, ya know? So if I found a cool one maybe but...

APRIL

Yeah, see like, I can't imagine dating a frat guy. I would rather date, like... a bag of knives then date a frat guy.

TOM

A bag of knives?

APRIL

Yeah, I don't know where that came from. I couldn't think of anything clever. Point is... no. Gross.

TOM

I didn't realize you hated frats that much. I mean... don't you think you're being a little judgemental?

APRIL

I'm sorry but I think they're dumb and misogynistic and... yeah. I just... I really don't like them. My school doesn't even have a greek system and that's like.... one of the reasons I went there.

TOM

Well... I guess... I won't join one then.

APRIL

No, but... I mean it's like you said... I don't want you to miss out on anything because of me. If you want to join a frat you should. Especially if it's the only way to make friends up there.

Beat.

TOM

I mean I don't particularly want to see you roll around in your underwear with some random guy but... you know... if that's what you want to do. I support that.

APRIL

I mean he'll probably be gay. It's a theatre school, so you know, odds are... but... yeah, exactly.

TOM

But if that's what you want to do...

APRIL

Yeah...

They hold each other's hand tightly, both avoiding eye contact because it's too hard right now.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Hey Tom.

TOM

Yeah?

April looks at Tom.

APRIL

I think we need to talk.

Lights fade out on April and Tom. Mr. Roboto plays, but quietly this time, hopefully not distracting too much from the melancholy of this scene.