

JOHN PROCTOR IS THE VILLAIN – SIDES LIST

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~~not too bad in the scheme of things~~

~~BETH~~

~~no of course~~

~~I'm sorry~~

~~I didn't mean to sound like I was complaining~~

MR. SMITH

no no no

I didn't mean to sound like I was minimizing the way you feel
and honestly?

it has been kind of a bummer

that time adds up

and look

let's be real

I know you guys already know about sex...

but you know

I'm gonna level with you

there have been some uh

unfortunate cuts in the last few years

and we're all just pitching in as best we can

at the end of the day, it's now part of my job to make sure you hear this info

so let's just muscle through it together, yeah?

then we'll get to some stuff I actually like teaching

and that you actually like learning.

at least I hope so

some laughter from the class

this next stretch of the semester is my favorite

we've got *The Crucible* up next, for the rest of the month!

we've got *Wuthering Heights* later on

very spooky, very romantic

Beth raises her hand again

STOP

~~BETH~~

~~also!~~

~~sorry!~~

~~just wondering~~

~~I mean speaking of *The Crucible*~~

~~I know on the syllabus it said the drama unit starts today~~

~~is that still true?~~

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Beth

Nell

Ivy

Raelynn

pg. 24-
26

~~RAELYNN~~

~~um since forever??~~

~~remember fifth grade?~~

~~I did that project on the Salem Witch Trials and wrote in my diary as one of the girls~~

~~like in character or whatever?~~

~~IVY~~

~~oh riiiiight oh my god I forgot about that~~

~~BETH~~

~~wait didn't you name one of your dolls Tituba~~

~~RAELYNN~~

~~it's a really pretty name~~

~~NELL~~

~~I saw a production of *The Crucible* where a white girl played Tituba~~

~~so that was a choice~~

~~RAELYNN~~

~~but my dad was Not like~~

~~happy about doll Tituba~~

~~because of the devil~~

~~so I told him I changed her name to Mary~~

~~but her real name is still Tituba~~

~~it's just a secret now~~

~~beat~~

START

BETH

we could talk about Taylor Swift

NELL

jesus Beth

BETH

there is a LOT to unpack!

we can fully address her past mistakes and problematic aspects
and how far she's come

by like

talking about intersectional feminism and stuff

also if we're gonna talk about Me Too, her trial was pretty major

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NELL
pass

IVY
I liked her before her music got all sexual

RAELYNN
you were just talking about Mr. Smith's feet, you perv

BETH
and his *sweatpants*

IVY
I'm not flaunting that to the world through my music!

NELL
okay so Beth, it sounds like we should add sex positivity to the list of ideas

RAELYNN
also speak now came out in 2010 and had lyrics that were very sexually charged
so it's not really a new thing for her

IVY
what
were the sexual lyrics in speak now

RAELYNN
it's like you've never even listened to "sparks fly"

NELL
I do kinda like that song she wrote about John Mayer

IVY
(*singing and clutching her heart*)
"I took your matches before fire could catch me"

IVY and RAELYNN
(*also singing*)
"so don't look now"

ALL
(*singing*)
"I'm shining like fireworks OVER YOUR SAD EMPTY TOWN"

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BETH

I think about that part all the time
I cannot wait to shine like fireworks over this sad empty town

RAELYNN

I kind of hope she murders john mayer one day

BETH

what??

RAELYNN

but like
in a very very sneaky way
like no one will know it's her
but I'll know
he'll just turn up dead one day from like "natural causes"
and I'll be like
yeah girl
yes
you did it

beat

IVY

so wait
have you or have you not been talking to Lee?

RAELYNN

I genuinely want Taylor Swift to murder john mayer
and I don't have anything to say to Lee
so no

IVY

okay

beat

have you talked to Shelby?

STOP

~~RAELYNN~~

~~who?~~

~~BETH~~

~~Raelynn~~

~~I'm sorry~~

START

NELL

I won't like
tell anybody

RAELYNN

I mean everybody already knows
I wasn't like keeping it from you
it was just nice to know that one person wasn't talking about it

pause

fine

so like

(rapid-fire, she wants to get this over with)

Shelby used to be my best friend in the whole world like since we were little kids but last semester she started acting different and then she like seduced my boyfriend and I'm not just letting him get away with it either don't worry but it sucked a lot I mean obviously and then she stopped coming to school and now she's been gone for like three months or like four I guess since November anyway we don't know where she is or if she's coming back and that's what you missed on Glee

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Lee

Raelynn

Pg. 31 - 32

~~it might be good that this happened?~~
~~you know?~~
~~like I think maybe it was supposed to?~~
~~like maybe it's actually better this way?~~

~~Lee lets go of her hand~~

START

LEE

why

why are you saying that?

why are you acting like this?

I just / don't

RAELYNN

we've been together for seven years

Lee that's not normal

we're only sixteen

we've been going out since fourth grade

it's so weird

LEE

I don't think it's weird

RAELYNN

I like

...

...

I think I'm starting to realize like

I don't really um

I have no idea who I am without you?

I mean

being your girlfriend has been like

the main thing in my life, like it's been everything?

and I just

I'm not sure that's the way it should be

LEE

that used to be okay

you used to like that

RAELYNN

I don't know if I did

I think maybe I just didn't think about it

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LEE

you don't have to think about every single thing
you know?
sometimes things can just be whatever they are

RAELYNN

I like thinking about things
I wanna think about more things
I wanna try more stuff

LEE

like what
kissing other guys?

RAELYNN

no!
I mean maybe
one day
but that's not even in like
the top five

LEE

what is?

RAELYNN

I don't know!
that's the point!
I don't even know what I wanna try!
I don't know anything!

LEE

you obviously have Something in mind
or Someone

RAELYNN

you're not listening to me you never listen to me

LEE

I am listening, you're just not telling the truth

STOP

~~RAELYNN~~

~~I don't know!~~

~~I wanna dress different maybe!~~

START

pg 57-60

5.

*two days later
before school
Miss Gallagher and Mr. Smith*

MISS GALLAGHER
thank you for doing this
I know it's early

MR. SMITH
of course

MISS GALLAGHER
I just really want to set her up for success
you know?
from her file at least it seems like she's always been one of the tricky ones

MR. SMITH
there's a lot going on in there
I really think she's got potential

MISS GALLAGHER
I think so too!
and just so you know what you're walking into
this was not a prolonged absence that went through any um proper channels
we don't know a lot about why she was gone, but her parents thought this was their only
option, based on some of Shelby's um concerning behavior

MR. SMITH
right

MISS GALLAGHER
so we're approaching the reentry very delicately
everything's just so crazy lately —
you know, with the mayor
and now Ivy Watkins's father
all these stories
I just want to make her feel supported and safe

MR. SMITH
I love that you're actually trying to do your job

MISS GALLAGHER
well I

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of course

MR. SMITH

it's not "of course"

it's really not

you know?

I've seen other people in your position just keep their heads down

and fill out whatever paperwork it takes to get half our seniors into college

MISS GALLAGHER

I just want to be

I don't know

better than that

I guess

MR. SMITH

well I think that's just so great

MISS GALLAGHER

well thanks

*they smile at each other
beat*

MR. SMITH

hold on

sorry

my memory is terrible

we weren't in school at the same time, right?

MISS GALLAGHER

no

no I'm

I think I'm like eight years? younger than you?

somehin like that

MR. SMITH

right

MISS GALLAGHER

my brother was a couple years below you, though

y'all played basketball together

MR. SMITH

right!

Chip!

I can't believe I don't remember hanging around you more
ol Chip and I were thick as thieves there for a while

MISS GALLAGHER

yeah I guess he

well he's uh mellowed out a little

but he was always real overprotective back then
with me and boys

MR. SMITH

classic big brother

MISS GALLAGHER

yeah plus you were older

you know

it doesn't make a big difference now, but
it did then

MR. SMITH

for sure

MISS GALLAGHER

I guess it didn't help that I always kind of had a little bit of a crush on you

MR. SMITH

is that right

MISS GALLAGHER

back when I was in middle school

forever ago

not anymore

a loaded beat

MR. SMITH

so you're doin okay?

first year and all?

it's a doozy

MISS GALLAGHER

oh

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yeah
no
it's fine

MR. SMITH

I mean ten years in and I feel like I'm definitely still figuring it out too
but I can help
if you want
you can always come to me

MISS GALLAGHER

that's really really nice
thank you
I will

a knock at the door
Shelby peeks her head in

STOP

~~SHELBY~~
~~hey~~
~~sorry I'm late~~

~~MISS GALLAGHER~~
~~Shelby!~~
~~come on in!~~

~~MR. SMITH~~
~~Shelby, it's good to have you back~~

~~SHELBY~~
~~it's good to be back~~

~~MISS GALLAGHER~~
~~thanks so much for takin the time before school~~
~~I know you're a busy girl~~

~~SHELBY~~
~~yeah no it's~~
~~yeah it's no problem~~

~~MISS GALLAGHER~~
~~I just think it's good to start back on the same page after a prolonged absence~~
~~see how you're doing~~

Carter Smith
Beth
Pg 85 - 87

9.

~~later the same day~~
~~Beth eats lunch in Mr. Smith's classroom~~
~~she reads quietly while he grades papers~~

~~BETH~~

~~thanks for letting me do this~~

~~MR. SMITH~~

~~Beth, you always have a place here~~
~~you don't have to say thank you every time~~

~~BETH~~

~~okay~~
~~sorry~~
~~thank you~~

~~MR. SMITH~~

~~I should really be thanking you for the good company~~

~~Beth beams~~
~~beat~~

START

BETH

um so I've been thinking a lot about *The Great Gatsby*

MR. SMITH

I knew you'd love it

BETH

but like in the context of Lorde and *Melodrama*?
do you know Lorde?

MR. SMITH

I know my lord and savior jesus christ

BETH

oh no I
she's a singer

MR. SMITH

I'm kidding
I know who you're talking about
I'm not that old

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BETH

sorry!!

okay well she has all this commentary on party culture like throughout her body of work which totally lines up with *Gatsby* but the main thing I've been thinking about is the song "Green Light" you know?

MR. SMITH

(singing badly, on purpose)

"that green light, I want it"

BETH

oh my god??

MR. SMITH

see?

I know all the cool things

Beth laughs but also melts into the ground from sheer embarrassment

BETH

I'm going to pretend you didn't just do that anyway...

it's interesting because in the context of the song a green light is kinda like permission? to move on? or like that's how I interpret it like she wants to move on which is obviously the connotation at like stoplights or whatever but in the book the green light is like this concrete image of *Gatsby* never moving on and his like inability to realize the American dream, like he's stuck in these ideas so it's just a yeah I'm just thinking about the different meanings I guess like as symbolism

MR. SMITH

or maybe

Lorde was never using it like a stoplight at all maybe she wants her ex to leave the metaphoric green light on for her just like *Gatsby* it seems like there's a commonality there — youth, parties, longing... maybe Lorde is absolutely conscious of that reference

BETH

...

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oh
my god
you totally just blew my mind

MR. SMITH
it's just an idea

BETH
no it's great it's I love it I want to write about it I
you're the best teacher I've ever had

STOP

~~a half-knock on the door~~
~~it's Shelby~~

~~SHELBY~~

~~hey~~

~~sorry~~

~~Beth?~~

~~I was just in the library?~~

~~are you still good / to ?~~

~~BETH~~

~~oh no I'm so sorry I completely forgot!!!~~

~~SHELBY~~

~~no that's fine~~

~~we can do it another time / or something~~

~~BETH~~

~~no no no!!~~

~~now's great!~~

~~(to Mr. Smith)~~

~~I'm helping Shelby get caught up in history~~

~~Miss Gallagher said I can list it as tutoring for college~~

~~MR. SMITH~~

~~that's great, girls~~

~~it's a win-win~~

~~BETH~~

~~(to Shelby)~~

~~sorry~~

~~I just came to eat in here to get away from like~~

~~I mean I've been having kind of a tough time with Ivy's dad and everything?~~

START

12.

*later the same day
after school
Mason and Nell work on their project
they're both studying their books*

MASON
but the devil's not a character in the play

NELL
or is he

MASON
um
yeah
no
he's not
see?
character list
no devil

NELL
he's a character in the minds of the townspeople
and the idea of him is visually represented by the yellow bird

MASON
but are we even allowed to do something like that?
like with characters that aren't there?

NELL
it's an interpretive assignment
we can do whatever we want

MASON
yeah but like
well
okay
how do we do it?

NELL
that's why we're meeting
that's the point of projects
we figure it out

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MASON

oh

okay

last project I got Beth and she basically just like
did all the work

NELL

yeah that's Beth

MASON

I feel like maybe it would have made me feel a little bad
but she seemed to really like doing it

NELL

yeah

that's Beth

also I don't really believe you would've felt bad

MASON

(his feelings are a little hurt)

...I feel bad about stuff

NELL

if you say so

MASON

I say so

NELL

okay

beat

Beth's such a trip

I think she just like

assumes I'm cool because I'm from somewhere else and she wants to *be* somewhere else?

but sometimes I worry everybody here's gonna like

find me out

'cause I'm super not cool

like

at all

I was actually kinda having a hard time before this

in Atlanta

with like

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my friends
or “friends”
blehhh
this is boring, I’ll stop

MASON
I’m not bored
and you *are* cool

Nell makes a face

I mean I think you are
I know you don’t care what I think

NELL
I don’t Not care what you think
...
please don’t tell anybody all that stuff
okay?

MASON
I won’t

a shared smile
they return to their work

wait
yellow birds are symbols for like the devil??
I totally missed that

STOP

~~NELL~~
~~how are you in honors?~~

~~MASON~~
~~I’m like really good at taking tests~~

~~NELL~~
~~not all yellow birds are the devil~~
~~that’s just what it means in *The Crucible*~~

~~MASON~~
~~oh~~
~~okay~~
~~thanks~~

~~14.~~

~~a little later, the same day~~

~~outside a gas station~~

~~Shelby and Raelynn are drinking slushies~~

SHELBY

so yeah

I didn't know how to tell you

but I also didn't know

how to *not* tell you?

it just

fuck

so yeah so I

I didn't like Plan it

with Lee

but I was obviously feeling like really messed up?

I mean I had been

she gestures around wildly, can't quite say "sleeping" or "having sex"

with our *teacher*

for like *months*

which is *insane*

and I felt like

I dunno I think I felt really gross and weird and sad

and you know how sometimes you just need to like

dig yourself a deeper and deeper hole?

and like

boning Lee would make me feel grosser and weirder and sadder

I mean

I'm just gonna stop talking now

beat

Raelynn laughs

STOP

~~RAELYNN~~

~~I can't believe you just said "boning"~~

~~in the middle of this like really serious conversation~~

~~Shelby starts laughing too~~

~~SHELBY~~

~~shut up~~

Raelynn

Pg 143 - 144

~~RAELYNN~~

~~(as Elizabeth)~~

~~they were scared of you~~

~~you made them scared~~

~~SHELBY~~

~~(as Abigail)~~

~~being scary was even more fun than dancing~~

~~they actually paid attention when I was scary~~

~~RAELYNN~~

~~(as Elizabeth)~~

~~but you were lying~~

~~weren't you?~~

~~SHELBY~~

~~(as Abigail)~~

~~I told the truth about John Proctor~~

~~he didn't like that very much~~

~~no one listened when I told the truth~~

~~RAELYNN~~

~~(as Elizabeth)~~

~~I don't know if I've ever been scary~~

~~I don't know if I know how~~

~~maybe things would be different if I did~~

~~SHELBY~~

~~(as Abigail)~~

~~yeah but~~

~~it shouldn't take being scary to make things different~~

~~they shouldn't have to be scared into listening to us~~

~~things should just be different~~

~~they should just listen~~

START

the following unfolds the way fire does:

a spark, then a flame, then a roar, then a sustained burn

RAELYNN

(as Elizabeth)

one day

maybe

the new world we were promised

will actually be new
one day
maybe
the men in charge
won't be in charge anymore
one day we can dance in the forest
and in the streets
and with each other
in our rooms that belong to us and only to us
on our beds we share with no one
under the moon
under the sun
under the shade of our favorite trees
under a shower of the blood and brittle bones of supposedly strong men who failed us
and when that day comes
it won't matter that we're not supposed to dance
it won't matter that once upon a time
I married a man who made me feel smaller than nothing
and like his shame was my shortcoming
it won't matter that when you were sixteen and newly orphaned
a married man two decades older than you made promises he had no intention to keep
and said things in the dark that made you feel like you were made of fire
it *will* matter that you took that fire and burned him down with it
because that same fire will spread
it will scorch the earth to make room for the new world we deserve
it won't matter that he told you and told me it was all our fault
each of us
both of us
it won't matter that we let him think he had reclaimed his goodness in the face of death
it won't matter because that kind of currency has been out of date
for centuries in our new world
those feelings will be so far away from us by then
at first we won't remember their names
and that will plague us
then the faces of those feelings will become blurry
and we'll feel the stirrings of peace
and then we won't remember those feelings at all
we wouldn't even recognize them if they passed us on the street
we'll sleep soundly then
we'll use our fire only for warmth

STOP

~~—Shelby presses play on the music, maybe after they check in with each other first—~~
~~—Lorde's "Green Light" starts to play—~~
~~—god that song is so good—~~