

STAYING FRIENDS

Carly Polistina

INT. CAFE - DAY

BELLA and CHRISTY sit at a table in a cafe.

BELLA

Honestly, I've been surprisingly okay since Rodger and I broke up. It was mutual, and, I mean, we're both really committed to staying friends.

CHRISTY

That's really great, Bel. That's a super like...mature way to look at it all. There's no reason not to be friends!

Bella's phone, which is on the table, vibrates. She looks at it and gets visibly annoyed.

BELLA

Hm. Well maybe there is a reason. He just texted me..."Hey".

CHRISTY

Is that bad?

BELLA

Um, yeah! We *just* broke up. He can't just send me things like "hey" out of the blue. This is...dastardly this is.

CHRISTY

I'm not sure I'd call it dastardly. That feels a bit...extreme? I mean, I don't know, but to me it seems like he might just be trying to be friends.

BELLA

Nonono friends don't just text each other "hey" for no reason!

CHRISTY

I texted you "hey" this morning.

BELLA

How would I even respond to this text?

CHRISTY
 ...uh...maybe say "hey" back?

Bella types.

BELLA
 That's good. Give him a taste of his own medicine.

CHRISTY
 Bella, I don't really think he was -

BELLA
 Chris, I love you. But I really just need you on my side right now.

Bella gets a new text and checks it. She crumples in her chair and starts crying a little bit.

CHRISTY
 Bel, What does it say?

BELLA
 What's up?! This fucking asshole has the AUDACITY to text me WHAT'S UP?

CHRISTY
 I don't think-

Bella shoots Christy a death glare.

CHRISTY (CONT'D)
 He's...he's a real...penis.

BELLA
 He IS! I can't BELIEVE I let him meet my dog. *(crying)* I'm just feeling so SMOTHERED. UGHHHH *(typing)* Nm. What's up with you?

Phone buzzes. Bella looks then throws her chair.

CHRISTY
 Bella!!

BELLA
 SAME HERE!? HE CAN'T JUST RESPOND SAME HERE?! That's a text you're not supposed to respond to. But I HAVE to.

CHRISTY

Just take a -

BELLA

You tell me to breathe I'll throw your family into the river Thames.

CHRISTY

He's so the worst and you're the best.
I can't believe him

BELLA

What do I sa- oooooo (*typing, manic*)
"haha." He'll never see that coming.

Phone buzzes. BELLA sees the next text. She screams and dumps her hot coffee over her head.

CHRISTY

OMG! Doesn't that burn?!

BELLA

Not as much as the fiery blisters of betrayal! (*manic/hysterical*) It says "haha. How are you?" He's laughing. Inside my head. I hear him. Laughing.

CHRISTY

Bel, I really don't -

BELLA

So help me if you take his side I will revenge fuck your brother again!!!

CHRISTY

I'm not I'd never you're so pretty.

BELLA

I don't know what to do. I can't let him know that he affects me this way.

Christy takes the phone.

CHRISTY

What if I just send - (*typing*) "Good how are you?"

Christy sends the text and hands the phone back to Bella.

BELLA

That's good. That degenerate anal

canal will know that despite his BEST efforts I'm doing absolutely AMAZING! So AMAZING that I'm gonna ask him right back.

CHRISTY

Yeah pft. Just WAIT until he gets this text. Won't he be ...be dang sorry.

BELLA

He better be.

Phone buzzes. Christy checks it.

CHRISTY

(*cheerily*) It says "I'm doing well"!

Bella wails loudly and starts throwing a temper tantrum in the cafe. Maybe she destroys some things.

BELLA

Oh he just HAD to say "well" instead of "good"! He just HAD to throw proper grammar in my face to FEEL SUPERIOR ONE MORE TIME. BUT GUESS WHAT HE'S NOT. HE'S NOT BETTER THAN ME. NEVER HAS BEEN NEVER WILL BE.

CHRISTY

You're so right. You're so *justified*. Can we just be a little quieter?

BELLA

HE'S OUT THERE THINKING THAT HE WON WELL GUESS FUCKING WHAT HE DIDN'T WIN ANYTHING. (*typing*) YOU'RE A LOSER WHO WILL LOSE EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. HOW DARE YOU DISRESPECT THE PASSION I HELD FOR YOU YOU DEGENERATE ANARCHISTIC ACORN OF A MAN.

Bella calms down and puts her phone face down on the table.

CHRISTY

Did you send that?

BELLA

Yes. It needed to be done.

CHRISTY

Good for you.

Phone buzzes. No one grabs it.

BELLA

Can you read it to me? I'm scared.

Christy slowly grabs the phone and turns it over.

CHRISTY

(reading) Is something wrong?

Bella takes a deep breath and types calmly.

BELLA

(typing) Not anymore. And BLOCKED.

The two girls squeal excitedly and hug each other.

CHRISTY

I'm so proud of you. You handled that SO well.

BELLA

Thank you. He was the worst.

CHRISTY

Totally! You deserve so much better!

The two walk off stage. The lights change to show it is a different cafe. Rodger and Doug sit down. Rodger is looking at his phone.

DOUG

Bro, Bella's been blowing up your phone! I thought you guys broke up!

RODGER

We did, but she said she wanted to stay friends, and I didn't want that. So I texted her.

DOUG

What'd you text her?

RODGER

"Hey"

DOUG

Woah bro! That is...dastardly that is!

Blackout.