MARK

Ali Hakim?

PPGT 2

HE ALSO MADE THE ACAPELLA GROUP
BUT THIS’LL THROW YOU FOR A LOOP

PPGT 3

HE ALSO HAS A 4.0
BUT THIS IS TEXAS SO YOU SHOULD KNOW

PPGT

IT’S FOOTBALL TIME
THAT’S RIGHT IT’S GAME DAY
SO PROVE YOURSELF SEAN GRAY
AND WON’T YOU LOOK MY WAY?

(Psych Classroom. Ms. KING is greeting students who are all filtering in. SEAN enters and the PPGT blow a kiss at him as THEY exit. SEAN sits down. KATE is sitting at a desk and MARK enters and crosses to her.)

MARK

Hey! Congrats on getting Laurey!

KATE

Aw! Thank you so much! I’m sorry that you didn’t get the lead though. I know how much you wanted that role.

MARK

Yeah but that’s what happens I guess. Of course it had to go to him.

(MARK gestures to Sean).

KATE

He does seem to be everywhere these days. I’ll get to give you the full report on how he kisses, since I’m sure you’re dying to know.

MARK

Ha ha. I mean you’re not wrong, though. How’s Wade doing?

KATE

Just fine. He’s taking notice of yours truly. It’s only a matter of time before I have the upper hand. Now go focus on...your project! (She gives him a wink)

(MARK shoots her a look and then crosses to Sean, sitting down beside him.)

MARK
Hey, Sean!

SEAN

What’s up, Mark?

MARK

Not much, I’m doing some prelim work on Skinner. I shared a Google Doc with you that has a bunch of info.

SEAN

Thank goodness for you, Mark. I’m sorry that I haven’t been able to do more; I’ve been slammed with all these football practices. Wade’s got a tight grip on me these days.

MARK

Well I hope you won’t find me quite as scary.

SEAN

I don’t. Not to worry.

MARK

(Beat) Let’s talk Skinner! So basically, we need to summarize his theory and demonstrate it using some scenarios. We need to talk about a behavior and talk about how it is either reinforced or shut down based on reward or punishment, respectively.

SEAN

That doesn’t sound too bad. Can you give me an example?

MARK

Say a rat is really attracted to another rat. The rat keeps stealing glances across the room and every so often the other rat looks back at him. That makes the first rat feel amazing. Say the second rat looks stunning today and has this confident air about him. Should the first rat look over?

SEAN

(oblivious to subtext) I guess it’s a risk, but the potential reward is huge. Yeah, he should. And so, the behavior is reinforced.

MARK

Yeah…you got it!

SEAN

Cool.

(THEY both fall silent. SEAN goes back to looking at his laptop and KATE mouths “what are you doing” at MARK and he shrugs back in a panicky way. Ms.
KING looks at Kate and SHE looks expectantly at her until KATE gets back to work. KATE points at SEAN, indicating that MARK should get “back to work”

MARK

When is your first game?

SEAN

It’s today, actually.

MARK

Are you looking forward to it?

SEAN

Yeah, I am. Wade has been hyping it up a lot, though. He’s all like (imitating Wade) “Pine Ridge doesn’t have a single decent-sized guy on their team. You’re gonna kill it, man!”

MARK

Sounds like Wade. What a guy, that one.

SEAN

Aw, come on he’s not that bad.

MARK

Not that bad? He walks around like he owns this school, like nobody can touch him. And in the process, he makes the rest of us feel like we inhabit some lesser plane of existence. Honestly, he’s probably the reason I don’t ever go to football games.

SEAN

You’ve never been to a football game?

MARK

Nope.

SEAN

Not a single one?

MARK

I guess I never saw the point in cheering for “a team.” A team is not something I can get behind. Why cheer for people that I don’t know just because of school pride or whatever? But you know what, I think I might go to one this season.

SEAN

Really?

MARK

Yeah! I mean, I can go in good conscience knowing that I’m supporting you. You make football seem a lot less distant. You make me feel...special.
(KATE looks up abruptly.)

That sounds weird.

SEAN

No, you’re fine. Don’t worry.

(THEY linger for a second and then get back to work as the music starts.)

Music 7: “Enjoy the Ambiguity”

MARK

SO HERE WE ARE
TWO FRIENDS
WORKING ON A PROJECT
THERE’S NO PRETENSE
THERE’S NO PRESSURE
AND THAT’S ALL IT HAS TO BE

AND I’LL TRY
TO IGNORE
HIS ATTRACTIVE QUALITIES
HE CHECKS ALL OF THE BOXES
AND HE’S PERFECT FOR ME

I NEVER THOUGHT A BOY LIKE THAT
WOULD APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR
AND I GUESS HE’S STRAIGHT,
AND YEAH, THAT’S GREAT
I’LL JUST PRETEND THAT I DON’T CARE

BUT ONE DAY THERE WILL COME A DAY
WHEN THINGS MAY START TO CHANGE
AND ON THAT DAY THIS RELATIONSHIP
MAY NOT SEEM QUITE SO STRANGE

BUT I WON’T THINK ABOUT THAT DAY
UNTIL THAT DAY IS HERE
AND UNTIL THAT DAY I’LL JUST REJOICE
THAT THIS BOY IS SO NEAR

AND I DON’T KNOW WHAT HE’S FEELING
BUT I GUESS I’LL HAVE TO SEE
UNTIL THEN I’LL ENJOY
THE AMBIGUITY

SEAN

SO HERE WE ARE
TWO FRIENDS
WORKING ON A PROJECT
THERE’S NO PRETENSE
THERE’S NO PRESSURE
AND THAT’S ALL IT’S GONNA BE

AND I’LL TRY
TO IGNORE
THE IMPASSIONED WAY
HE LOOKS AT ME
I MEAN IT’S NOT THAT SCARY
IT’S JUST A DIFFERENT THING TO SEE

I’LL TRY AND KEEP MY DISTANCE
I DON’T WANT TO LEAD HIM ON
BUT I DON’T WANT TO LOSE HIM
‘CAUSE HE’S SOMEONE I DEPEND UPON

BUT ONE DAY THERE WILL COME A DAY
WHERE THINGS MAY START TO CHANGE
AND ON THAT DAY THIS RELATIONSHIP
MAY NOT SEEM QUITE SO STRANGE

AND MAYBE WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW
MAY SIMPLY FADE AWAY
‘CAUSE THAT MIGHT BE THE DAY I HAVE TO SAY
“BRO, I’M NOT GAY”

GOD WHAT IS THIS I’M FEELING
I JUST DON’T KNOW WHAT’S WRONG WITH ME
I GUESS I’LL JUST ENJOY
THE AMBIGUITY

SEAN

AND I’D NEVER WANT TO CAUSE HIM ANY PAIN

MARK

AND I’D NEVER WANT TO MAKE HIM RUN AWAY

SEAN AND MARK

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HE IS WHO HE IS
AND THAT’S JUST FINE WITH ME
SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
I GUESS WE’LL HAVE TO SEE

SO HERE WE ARE
TWO FRIENDS
WORKING ON A PROJECT
HE HAS HIS THING
I HAVE MY THING
DOES HE WANT LESS
OR MAYBE MORE?

I DON’T KNOW
HOW TO KNOW
WHAT IS FAKE
AND WHAT IS REAL
BUT I KNOW WHAT I FEEL RIGHT NOW
I’VE NEVER FELT BEFORE

AND I KNOW THAT WHAT WE HAVE
CAN’T GO ON IN PERPETUITY
BUT FOR NOW I’LL JUST ENJOY
THE AMBIGUITY

(Bell rings. KATE is heading out and waves to MARK as she walks out, giving him a knowing look. MARK waves it off playfully.)

SEAN
I guess I gotta head out.

MARK
Yeah, me too. (BOTH starts to leave.) Hey, this is super random but would you ever consider like, uh, maybe going to get lunch with me sometime? I feel like there’s so much more I want to know about you. (damage control) I mean, there’s so much more work to do on the project.

(HE then silently turns around and freaks out, regretting what he said.)

SEAN
Well, project or not, I’d love to.

(MARK freezes and whips around)

MARK
Wait, really?

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SURE! HOW’S SATURDAY AFTERNOON?

MARK

SOUNDS PERFECT!

SEAN

GREAT! I’LL SEE YOU AT THE PEP RALLY I GUESS.

MARK

OH YOU’VE ALREADY RALLIED MY PEP! (MARK WINCES AT HIS OWN WORDS, AS PER USUAL)

SEAN

(CHUCKLES) YOU’RE SOMETHING ELSE, YOU KNOW THAT?

MARK

IS THAT A GOOD THING?

SEAN

OF COURSE. PEP RALLY’S IN 10 MINUTES. WILL I SEE YOU THERE?

MARK

YEAH!

(SEAN EXITS AND SAME C#7 CHORD IS ARPEGGIATED, SCENE CHANGE.)

AND I WISH THAT I COULD TELL YOU
ALL OF THE THINGS YOU MEAN TO ME
BUT I GUESS I’LL JUST ENJOY
THE AMBIGUITY