

INT. SCHOOL - MR.WALT'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Multiple tables with two chairs per table, a periodic table that hangs on the chalkboard, and various other science-like posters and art across the classroom walls.

SETH, 16, female, runs into class and the bell rings.
STUDENTS, 15-16, unpack their bags. MR. WALT, 48, looks down at Seth.

MR. WALT
You're late again.

Seth gasps for air.

SETH
I missed the bus, and my dad wouldn't take me.

MR. WALT
No, excuse, sit down please. I have a lot to discuss with the class.

She walks to the back of the classroom to her table, and sits down. The other students settle in. NEV, 16, female, stands in front of the class next to Mr. Walt

MR. WALT (CONT'D)
Good morning class. Before we begin, I'd like to introduce the new student.

Seth stares at Nev, she waves at the class.

SETH
Wow, she's.

MR. WALT
You all can call her Nev-

NEV
Nev, Nev is fine.

STUDENTS
Hello Nev.

Mr. Walt clears his throat.

NEV
Where would you like me to sit?

He scans the room. Seth raises her hand.

SETH
She can sit right here.

He nods.

MR. WALT
Thank you, Seth.

Nev walks to Seth's table, puts her things on it, and sits.

SETH
H-hey, I'm Seth.

NEV
Hey, love the glasses. They suit
you a lot.

Seth blushes.

SETH
Really? I look super nerdy.

NEV
You don't look nerdy, it really
suits you.

Mr. Walt holds up a flyer.

MR. WALT
Tonight's the dance, I know many of
you want to attend tonight, but we
need to talk about last weeks quiz.

He pinches the bridge of his nose, and tilts his head down.

SETH
Somebodies upset.

NEV
For more reasons than one I bet.
But what's your grade?

SETH
I believe I have a B.

Nev nods with admiration.

NEV
Okay, genius in the building.

They both laugh.

SETH
Something tells me the true
Einstein here is you.

NEV
I suppose we'll have to see the
next time there's a quiz.

She smirks.

INT. SCHOOL - MR.WALT'S CLASSROOM - LATER

The dismissal bell rings, the students pack up and exit the classroom, Mr. Walt gets up from his desk.

MR. WALT
Enjoy the rest of your day
everyone, I'll see some of you at
tonights dance.

His phone rings, he sits at his desk and answers it.

Seth and Nev pack up their books.

SETH
Hey Nev, do you by chance plan on
going?

NEV
I'm not too sure, being my first
day and all.

SETH
Right, right. Well, if you want I
don't mind.

Seth turns her head away from Nev.

NEV
Don't mind what?

SETH
Gosh this is embarrassing.

NEV
You want to go to the dance?

Seth shoots her head up swiftly.

SETH
Yes, I mean, if you're offering.
I'm sorry if I'm being awkward.

NEV

It's fine. I was actually hoping
you would.

SETH

Wait, really?

Nev puts her bookbag on.

NEV

Yeah, I think you're really cool, I
think it'd be a fun time.

They both smile.

SETH

I think you're pretty cool too.

NEV

I hate to go, but I have to find my
next class. take my number down and
we chat later?

SETH

Yeah sure, here's my phone.

They quickly exchange numbers. Nev waves goodbye to Mr. Walt
and she exits the class.

MR. WALT

She's fitting in just fine...can
you stop worrying? Listen I gotta
go, we'll chat later.

He hangs up his phone. Seth walks to the door.

MR. WALT (CONT'D)

Hold on Seth, your detention slip.

SETH

Detention, why?

MR. WALT

Were you not listening when class
started? I gave after school
detention to all the students who
failed the quiz last week. You were
one of them.

He hands her a pink paper that reads "Detention"

SETH

What? There's no way I failed.

MR. WALT
I'm sorry, but because you're failing my class, you won't be attending the dance.

She takes the detention slip, and starts to tear up.

SETH
But I just asked Nev to go with me tonight. I can't stand her up.

He sighs.

MR. WALT
I'll let her know you couldn't make it, sorry.

He walks out of the classroom, and Seth cries to herself.

INT. SCHOOL - MR. WALT'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Seth and VARIOUS STUDENTS, 15-16, sit at the tables with quizzes in front of them. Mr. Walt at his desk, adjusts his tuxedo.

MR. WALT
So, this is your opportunity to get your grades back up. I'll be at the dance in the meantime.

Seth texts Nev under her table.

MR. WALT (CONT'D)
Before I go, does anyone have a charger I can use for my phone?

The students say nothing, and blankly stare at him.

MR. WALT (CONT'D)
Never mind then. Good luck with the quiz. I'll be back.

He walks out and shuts the door behind him. Seth texts Nev.

SETH
Do...you...think...I should sneak...out?

She sends the text, looks up at the other students. Her phone buzzes, a text from Nev.

NEV (TEXT)

I don't think you should sneak out
just to see me. I'll go home and we
plan something for another time.

SETH

No, no, no.

The other students look at her with various expressions.

SETH (CONT'D)

Heh. sorry about that.

STUDENT #1

You tryna go to that dance?

SETH

Yeah, Nev's waiting for me, but
she's about to go home.

STUDENT #2

You asked the new girl out?

SETH

Not really, I wanted to, but I was
so shy she ended up asking me, and
now I'm stuck here.

Student #2 approaches Seth and sits next to her.

STUDENT #2

Listen, you're only gonna get this
one chance to prove you like her.

STUDENT #1

Right. I know you'd rather be with
her than here. Figure out the quiz
another time.

SETH

You're right. I need to do this.

She gets up and paces out the classroom.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Seth speed walks to the gym.

She bumps into the PRINCIPLE, 40's, Female, and stumbles.

PRINCIPLE

My apologies, I didn't see you.

SETH

No, no, it's my fault, sorry.

PRINCIPLE

Well, why aren't you at the dance having fun?

SETH

Oh, I was just using the bathroom really quick.

PRINCIPLE

Ah, I see. I'll be at the gym shortly. Apparently a few students failed a quiz and Mr. Walt won't shut up about it. Needed some air.

Seth laughs nervously.

SETH

Wow, yeah. That does seem annoying.

PRINCIPLE

Indeed. I must be going now, see you at the gym soon.

She walks away. Seth checks her phone and see's multiple missed calls from Nev.

SETH

Damn, I hope she didn't leave.

MR. WALT

You hope who didn't leave?

Mr. Walt looks down at Seth with a flask in his hand.

SETH

Mr. Walt, I thought you were gone.

MR. WALT

I was, but something told me to check in. Just to see one of you sneaking out.

SETH

It's not like that, I was just.

MR. WALT

Save it. First you fail the quiz, and then you lie to me. I'm calling your parents in the morning.

Seth panics.

SETH

No, please no. My dad would lose his mind if you called.

Mr. Walt puts his free hand on Seth's shoulder.

MR. WALT

What are you talking about? He's not gonna do anything to you.

She backs away from Mr. Walt, breathing loudly and screaming. The other students rush out the classroom.

STUDENT #1

Mr. Walt, what are you doing?

STUDENT #2

Is that a flask? Are you drunk?

MR. WALT

Huh? No.

NEV

Dad, what the hell are you doing to Seth? Leave her alone.

Everyone looks at Nev, in a black dress and heels. Seth looks at her with amazement.

MR. WALT

Honey, why're you here?

NEV

Neither of you were answering your phone, and I got worried.

Nev walks up to Mr. Walt.

NEV (CONT'D)

Why are you doing this? You know how much this dance meant to us. But you're here drinking and scaring Seth.

SETH

Mr. Walt, to be honest, I really like Seth. This dance meant a lot to us.

Mr. Walt tucks the flask in his pocket, and sighs.

MR. WALT

I'm sorry, all of you. we've been dealing with a lot of family issues. But I never meant to power trip, I care about your education.

SETH

I'm sorry, I didn't know. But I forgive you.

He looks at Nev, frowning. Then looks at the other students.

MR. WALT

You all may go home, or the dance. Worry about the quiz another time.

He walks into his classroom and shuts the door.

STUDENT #2

You two alright?

SETH

We outta be okay, thanks.

Nev approaches Seth, blushing at the sight of her.

NEV

How do I look?

SETH

Heavenly.

The other students begin aww'ing them.

Seth grabs her hands and takes in a deep breath.

SETH (CONT'D)

Nev, will you be my date to the dance tonight?

NEV

Of course.

They both hug.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - NIGHT

The ceiling was fitted with various colorful lights, streamers, a disco ball, tables with food and drinks, etc.

Well dressed STUDENTS, 14-18, hang around and dance with each other while TEACHERS, 30's - 50's supervise it. Seth and Nev slow-dance together under the disco ball.

SETH

So, what's Nev short for? I know it must stand for something.

NEV

Inquisitive, aren't you?

SETH

I mean, you did make it a point at the beginning of class.

NEV

Fair enough, but my parents named me Ne'veyah.

SETH

Ne'veyah, like heaven backwards?

Nev smiles.

SETH (CONT'D)

Looks like English is my calling instead of science.

NEV

You sure there's no quiz saying otherwise?

They both start laughing.

SETH

Thought I was a genius to you.

NEV

Well, what chemical would be released if we kissed?

SETH

Dopamine, right?

NEV

See, you'd do great in chemistry.

They look at each other and kiss.