

Casted
Short Film Script
By
Zoe Swanson

401 W. Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33606

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425 681-7076
Zoe.swanson@spartans.ut.edu
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUqJYCWx-uXGRyxSeH3786g>
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CASTED

Written by

Zoe Swanson

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

HARPER (17), ETHEL (17), LEO (17), and PATRICK (17) all walk into their high school and joking around. Harper and Ethel are carrying their backpacks and a stack of books. Patrick isn't carrying anything while Leo is only carrying a basketball.

HARPER

And we had pasta again for dinner. I'm starting to get tired of eating it every single night.

ETHEL

Harper, you shouldn't complain about your mom's cooking. My family has pasta every night too and I love it.

The four lean against the wall.

PATRICK

Ethel's right. You shouldn't complain about your mother at all. Your mom is hot!

ETHEL

Patrick!

PATRICK

Hey! I'm just saying, her mom hasn't aged a day!

HARPER

(annoyed)

Patrick! Ugh, I'm just saying. I'm tired of repetitive dinner food.

The four keep walking to class. Leo stops walking and looks around in a daze. Harper slows down and looks at him with confusion. Ethel and Patrick exchange worried looks. Ethel slows her walk.

ETHEL

It's not time to stop, they shouldn't be doing that.

The loud RING of the first bell signals it's time to head to class.

PATRICK

You can't worry about them, they know where to go. We need to get ourselves to our places.

Patrick grabs Ethel's wrist and they both turn to keep walking to class.

HARPER

Leo? Are you feeling okay? Did you have some sort of late-night basketball practice last night?

Leo stares blankly at Harper and then looks down at his basketball.

LEO

Basketball... You know, I didn't go to practice last night. I got home from school and just couldn't stop thinking about art class yesterday.

Harper looks shocked and grabs Leo's arm, stopping them and shaking him.

HARPER

(confused)

Art class? Leo, you can't like art, you're the athlete.

LEO

I know, I know... But something felt... *different* last night. Like a headache had finally gone away.

Leo drops his basketball and pulls out a folded up picture from his pocket.

LEO (CONT'D)

I drew something, do you want to see?

Two basketball players appear from nowhere. They walk up behind Leo. BASKETBALL PLAYER 2 grabs onto Leo's shoulders.

BASKETBALL PLAYER 2

Hey Leo! We missed you last night. Where were you?

BASKETBALL PLAYER 1

Yeah Leo, where were you? You were *suppose* to be at the courts with us.

BASKETBALL PLAYER 2

You wouldn't be ditching us, right? Cause I'm sure the Principal would want to know if his star basketball player wasn't living up to his role.

HARPER

Guys, I think there has been a misunderstanding, right Leo?

BASKETBALL PLAYER 1

Yeah, you're right Harper. Just a misunderstanding. He wouldn't *break any rules*, right Leo?

Basketball Player 1 picks up the basketball Leo had dropped and shoves it aggressively into Leo's hands, which causes Leo to drop his art.

BASKETBALL PLAYER 2

Why don't you hold onto this a little tighter from now on, don't want to get caught dropping the ball.

Basketball Player 2 throws their arms over Leo's shoulders. The second school bell rings, signaling class has started.

BASKETBALL PLAYER 2 (CONT'D)

Why don't you run along to class Harper, you don't want to get caught skipping. Wouldn't be like you.

HARPER

But what about-

BASKETBALL PLAYER 1

Don't worry about him Harper, we'll take good care of him. Just have to catch up, that's all.

All three basketball players walk away from Harper. Harper watches them walk away, the boys whispering in Leo's ear hurriedly.

HARPER

Wait-

Harper starts to walk to class but steps on Leo's art work. She picks it up and looks at it, then shoves it in her pocket and walks to class.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL GYM- DAY

Harper, Ethel, and Patrick are all sitting on the bleachers of the gym. They each have some food and Ethel has a textbook. Patrick looks bored while Harper is looking around the gym.

ETHEL

...and when he landed on the moon in 1969, he said-

Ethel looks up at the other two.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

Are you even listening to me? Patrick, I know you don't care about school, but Harper, you should.

HARPER

Sorry Ethel, I know. I just can't stop thinking about Leo.

Ethel snaps her book shut.

ETHEL

(annoyed)

Don't even think about it, he won't do it again.

HARPER

(confused)

What? No, I'm wondering where he is. We haven't seen him since this morning. Where did you guys go anyways?

ETHEL

It was time for us to go to class. I'm not about to break our schedule.

PATRICK

You were taking too long. Of course I'm going to leave you in the dirt.

HARPER

(annoyed)

Weren't you guys worried at all? What if something happened to him?

Ethel stands up.

ETHEL

(angry)

Of course I am worried!

Ethel breathes heavily. Then takes a deep breath, wipes down on her clothes, and takes a seat again.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

Of course I'm worried. But, we can't let this distract us from what we're suppose to be doing. And right now, we're suppose to be studying.

Ethel aggressively shoves her textbook into Harper's arms.

HARPER

Why aren't you listening to me? Look, this morning he was telling me about art class and-

PATRICK

Art class? He's an athlete, I'm sure his little stick figures aren't anything to talk about.

HARPER

No look, he was going to show me this, he drew this!

Harper pulls out the crumpled drawing of their friend group. She holds it out for them to see.

ETHEL

Oh my... Is that us? A pink shirt, I wouldn't wear that. I always wear yellow.

Ethel stares at the little hearts next to her drawn self.

PATRICK

Harper, you shouldn't have this. We need to get rid of it before... *he sees.*

HARPER

What do you mean? Who sees?

Patrick grabs the picture out of Harper's hand. He opens the text book in Harper's lap.

PATRICK

Ethel, just get to your boring lesson already.

Ethel shakes her head, pulling out a notebook.

ETHEL

You're right. Won't happen again. Come on Harper.

PATRICK

Trust me Harp, this is the best option for you.

HARPER

What does that mean-

ETHEL

Harper, stop talking and pay attention.

Ethel drones on about some history event while Patrick and Harper stare at each other, questioning each other.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in 1969, he said "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". He landed on the moon in the Apollo 11 and was the first person to step foot on the moon's surface.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The school bell rings as Harper, Ethel, and Patrick exit a classroom. They walk down the hallway as students walk back and forth in the hallway.

ETHEL

Okay, our last class of the day. Aren't you guys excited for English!

PATRICK

Excited to sleep through class? Yeah, pretty siked for that.

Ethel and Patrick laugh, Harper looks lost in thought. Ethel and Patrick stop laughing and stare at Harper.

ETHEL

Harper, are you okay? English is *suppose* to be your favorite subject.

Harper's eyes snap to the other two.

HARPER

Yes, English! I love English!

The other two nod. The three continue to walk. Harper stops walking when she sees Leo walk around a corner down the hall.

HARPER (CONT'D)

Hey, you guys go on ahead of me, I'll meet you there.

ETHEL

What? Why?

HARPER

Uh, I just have to pee really bad. I'll be right there though. I promise, I won't be late.

ETHEL

Well I can go with you-

HARPER

No! I mean, it's okay! I'll just run there really quick. I'll be faster on my own.

PATRICK

Ethel, just leave her... Harper, just be sure you want to know the answer before you ask questions.

Harper nods slowly, looking at Patrick in confusion. She steps away from them slowly and then turns to go down the way she saw Leo heading. The other two turn and walk to class.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Harper walks into the hallway, it's now empty. Harper slowly walks down the hallway, jumping from distant noises of doors shutting and retreating footsteps.

HARPER
(whisper)

Leo?

A loud SLAM echoes and Harper quickly turns towards a cracked open door. The door says PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE on the door tag. She creeps towards the door and peaks through the crack. Leo is sat in front of the Principal's desk and the Principal is stood leaning over his desk, holding the tablet.

PRINCIPAL
(angry)
You either put yourself back into your box, or you'll find out what happens to people who don't.

LEO
But Sir! I didn't-

PRINCIPAL
Quiet! I don't want to see you even so much as pick up a colored pencil. If I hear you're stepping out of line one more time, I'll happily find someone else to be my star basketball player. Do I make myself clear?

Harper softly gasps. At the noise, the Principal whips his head towards the door. Harper stands up and backs away from the door. The Principal's footsteps get louder and Harper looks around for a place to hide.

HARPER
(whisper)
Shoot.

The Principal steps outside his office, looks around and then heads back inside, slamming the door behind him. Harper peaks from around the corner. She sneaks back down the hall, back to her class.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

Harper, Ethel, and Patrick all walk into their high school, joking around. Harper and Ethel are carrying their backpacks and a stack of books. Patrick isn't carrying anything. Harper is no longer wearing her cheer outfit.

ETHEL

Hey Harper, did you have pasta for dinner last night-

HARPER

Leo?

Leo leans against the wall where the group normally stops to talk. He is happy again, now bouncing a basketball.

LEO

Hey guys!

ETHEL

Hello Leo! How was basketball practice last night?

LEO

(cocky)

You know how it is, too easy for me.

PATRICK

Sure, sure, man. You're just are too good at your job.

HARPER

Leo, what's going on?

Ethel and Patrick look at each other in annoyance. Leo keeps a level head.

LEO

I don't know what you mean, Harper.

The Principal appears behind Harper, placing a firm hand on Harper's shoulder.

PRINCIPAL

Maybe I can help clear up any confusion you have Harper. Would you please follow me?

PATRICK

Principal, I'm sure everything will be okay today. I think we were all just stressed, right Harper?

PRINCIPAL

Don't you all have class to get to?

ETHEL

We still have five min-

The school bell rings, signaling for kids to get to class.

PRINCIPAL

Wouldn't make sense for you all to be late.

The school bell rings. Ethel and Patrick quickly nod, and walk off towards class. Leo hesitates, looking from the Principal to Harper and back.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Don't worry Leo. Harper and I are just going to have a short little chat. Why don't you run off to class. You don't want to miss any more school, don't you?

Leo looks scared and shakes his head. He looks at Harper once more, and then turns and catches up with the other two heading to class.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPALS' OFFICE - DAY

Harper stands at the door and the Principal sits down in his seat at his desk. On the desk, sprawled over the desk is the file with all their profiles, Harper's says CORRUPTED. His tablet is also sitting on the table.

PRINCIPAL

Take a seat, Harper.
I've been hearing that you're feeling... *confused* about where you belong in this world. I'm just wanting to check in and make sure you aren't getting any, *silly ideas*.

HARPER

What do you mean?

PRINCIPAL

I just worry about you not finding your place here. It can be dangerous to be *different*, Harper. Things happen all the time to people that don't learn to fit in.

The Principal pauses, staring at Harper.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

A friend of yours brought this to me yesterday.

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

She was worried that you would get distracted from your studies by this nonsense.

Principal pulls out Leo's art from his desk cabinet.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

You know I spoke to Leo yesterday, and he broke a very important rule. But I am very forgiving the first time, so he is getting another chance to fix it. You have done a great job following the rules until now. But you're starting to break the most important rule. *Stay in your box.*

HARPER

And what exactly does that mean?

The Principal chuckles and puts the picture away.

PRINCIPAL

You're a good kid Harper. I wouldn't want you to be *influenced* to do anything you shouldn't do. Stay with cheer. It's who you are. Anything else wouldn't fit in your box.

Harper stands up, walking to the door and putting her hand on the door knob.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

And I hope we won't need to have this conversation again?

HARPER

No, we won't.

Harper leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The school bell rings and Harper walks into the hall. The halls are busy and people keep bumping into her as she walks. Halfway down the hall, someone bumps into her and she falls into the wall. She stares around at everyone walking in the hallway.

HARPER

(whisper)

I can't do this.

Harper turns and starts walking back the way she came and towards the front door of the school. A student steps in front of her.

STUDENT 1

Can I help you get to class Harper?

HARPER

No, thank you, I'm okay.

Harper brushes past them. Another student steps in front of Harper.

STUDENT 2

Hey Harper! Do you want to walk to history class with me?

HARPER

No, I don't.

Harper again pushes past them, now speeding up their walk. A third student steps in front of Harper.

STUDENT 3

Harper! Let's-

HARPER

No!

Harper starts running to the door, multiple students calling out to her behind her. Harper drops her backpack and papers. She reaches the door and runs outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - NIGHT

Harper bursts out of the front of the school. It's dark outside and no one is around.

HARPER

What the...

Clapping noise behind her from the Principal. Harper whips around and stares at the Principal standing to the right of the door.

HARPER (CONT'D)

How are you-

PRINCIPAL

Here? Harper, for as far as you've gotten, you sure as such silly questions.

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

I warned you Harper. I really did like you, you played your role so perfectly.

The principal pulls out a tablet and clicks a few buttons.

HARPER

(yelling)

What does that mean! Stop talking to me like that! Explain!

The Principal sighs, walking closer to Harper. As he steps forward, she backs up until her back hits a wall.

PRINCIPAL

Oh, I'm afraid I don't have the time for that. I need to get going to find Harper.

HARPER

I'm Harper!

The Principal stops right in front of Harper, smiling down at her.

PRINCIPAL

Not anymore.

The Principal clicks a button on his tablet.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

FAKE HARPER (17), Ethel, and Patrick all walk into their high school, joking around. Harper and Ethel are carrying their backpacks and a stack of books. Patrick isn't carrying anything while Leo is only carrying a basketball.

FAKE HARPER

And we had pasta for dinner, my favorite!

ETHEL

Oh, I'm so glad to hear Harper. How was cheer practice last night?

FAKE HARPER

It was amazing, I have never felt so energetic before.

LEO

Yeah, I totally get that. Basketball practice last night went so well too.

ETHEL

(bittersweet)

Oh I'm so glad you two had good days.
Now, lets get to class before we're late!

The four friends laugh and walk down the hallways towards their class.

Down the hall, in the shadows, the Principal stands with his folder of the four friends. He flips through the pages.

The Principal pulled out a new photo, a photo of Fake Harper, and clipped it over top of Harper's picture. He crossed out the word CORRUPTED at the top and wrote RECASTED underneath it. He snaps the folder shut and walks away, into the shadows.

THE END