

'Susan'

Scene 1

2-24-06

Firefly Casting

CHEERLEADER

Well, I dunno. Okay well - A few months ago, we were over at Dustin's house and we like got really smashed. Like a whole bucket of Smirnoff Ice. And... see the only girls there were me and my friend Barbara. And the guys were like...

(football player voice)

Make out. Make out. We totally want to watch you two make out.

(back to normal)

And I'm like - Barbara, are we really drunk enough to dyke out in front of a bunch of horny guys? 'Cause, you know, I didn't have anything against bisexuality or anything, but I didn't like, feel ready. But then I realized that Barbara wanted to. And that made me feel like I had to. So I did.

COUNSELOR (O.S.)

Did that make you feel bad about yourself?

CHEERLEADER

Hells no! Now we do it all the time. In fact - that plus tons more. Sometimes I'm like...

(making a phone with her hand)

Barbara, I'm in heat. Get over here and double click my mouse!

She puts down the imaginary phone and beams with mischievousness.

INT. GARDER HOME - SUSAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Susan leans into her reflection in the vanity mirror to apply a dark lip gloss. The rest of her outfit is all black lace and fish net stockings.

She snatches up a pair of shoes and heads into the...

HALL

...and reaches the door to her father's study where Principal Gardner hunches over a reference book.

START

SUSAN

So one o'clock?

She props herself up in the door frame to strap on her shoes.

1/3

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
What happens at one o'clock?

SUSAN
My curfew. One o'clock, right?

Gardner takes a beat, leaning back in his chair.

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
Susan, this is probably futile but
I have to ask...

SUSAN
I don't know who pulled the alarm.
And if I did, I wouldn't tell you.

Gardner purses his lips - that answers that. Makes an effort
to reach her.

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
Are they doing a musical this year?

Susan impatiently taps her foot against the door frame.

SUSAN
Why?

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
I used to hear you in your room
singing and think - Susan must be
happy today. It's been awhile.

A beat as Susan almost softens. And then an unpleasant memory
overtakes her.

SUSAN
Are you going back to AA this year?

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
What kind of question is that?

SUSAN
I used to see you go out the door
to AA and think - Hmm. Maybe Dad
won't try to hang himself today.

Gardner slams his book closed in resignation.

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
So where are you going - looking
like Paris Hilton?

SUSAN
Down to the brothel. My pimp's
running a gang bang special.
(MORE)

SUSAN (cont'd)
(off her father's blank
expression
The dance, Dad. I'm going to the
dance.

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
With whom?

SUSAN
Does it matter?

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
It soothes me to believe you're
around good influences. So feel
free to lie.

SUSAN
I'm going with Henry. Does that
meet your approval?

She cllops off down the hall.

PRINCIPAL GARDNER
Be home by...

SUSAN (O.S.)
(overlapping)
...one o'clock. I got it.

END

EXT. MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The Jeep Wrangler rocks back and forth, the windows fogging.

INT. JEEP WRANGLER - NIGHT

The two kids under the blanket are Whitney Drummond and
Dustin Lauderbach. Dustin collapses to Whitney's side and
they both lay there breathless. Post coital silence. Then...

DUSTIN
I think I'm going to fail
trigonometry.

WHITNEY
Your dad know?

DUSTIN
I think so. I told him.

WHITNEY
And what'd he say?

DUSTIN
He asked if I was ready for the
game.

Whitney rolls against him and runs her hand down his face.

3/3

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Scene 2

SUSAN
You'll see, Charlie Bartlett.

She takes his hand and leads him into...

INT. BOYS ROOM - NIGHT

They enter and she opens one of the stall doors. She gestures for him to go in.

Charlie hesitates a beat. Then he goes inside and squats on the can. He looks up at Susan with uncertainty.

SUSAN
Don't look so scared. It's just you and me.

She gets into the stall with him and locks the door. She sits down on his lap holding the candle.

SUSAN
I'm going to ask a series of questions, and if you answer honestly, you shall be rewarded.

CHARLIE
Uhm. Okay.

SUSAN
Question number one, and this one is multiple choice: Why does Charlie Bartlett do the things he does? A) Because he wants people to like him? Or B) Because he really wants to help people?

Charlie considers.

CHARLIE
If I'm perfectly honest, C) All of the above. I don't think one invalidates the other.

Susan nods. She gets a little smile and places her free hand on Charlie's cheek. She pulls him to her in a passionate kiss that goes on for some time.

CHARLIE
Was that my reward?

SUSAN
Mmm-hmmm.

Beat.

— trefly Casting

START

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CHARLIE
I think I'm ready for the next question.

SUSAN
Okay. But this one is a little selfish on my part?

CHARLIE
Okay.

SUSAN
Is your interest in me any way related to the fact that my dad is the principal?

CHARLIE
What? Why would it be?

SUSAN
Because I know you get a kick out of doing things that might get you in trouble.

CHARLIE
Well, I won't deny that, but no, I pretty much liked you the moment I saw you. And I didn't know who your father was.

Susan nods. A slightly self-conscious moment where she's not so sure of herself. Then-

She hands Charlie the candle and pulls her shirt off over her head and discards it on the floor. Now only in her bra and skirt.

She kisses Charlie again. They finally break away and she takes the candle from him.

SUSAN
Okay, shall we continue?

CHARLIE
Yes, please.

SUSAN
What's the deal with your father?

CHARLIE
Does that really have to be the next question?

SUSAN
The harder the question the greater the reward.

2/4

But he has a grim expression.

SUSAN

Hey. It's okay. It's just you and me.

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE

He's in prison. He was an accountant, and they caught him embezzling. I was twelve.

(beat)

The goofy part is, my mom inherited a lot of money. So he didn't really need to do it. He just... I guess he just couldn't help himself.

(beat)

My mom kinda became a loony toon when he got arrested. My dad was really worried about her. He was out on bail and he took me to a Friendly's for sundaes. And he told me to take care of my mom. That if I didn't take care of her, he was worried what might happen. So I promised I would. And I've been taking care of her ever since.

A beat as he lapses into silence.

SUSAN

Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

SUSAN

Who takes care of you?

CHARLIE

I don't know. And when I think about that I feel really... alone.

Charlie's eyes go to the floor. Then he gets a smile.

CHARLIE

Hey, I didn't get my reward for the last question.

SUSAN

Yeah, but once I take off my bra I don't think we'll get much done.

3/4

CHARLIE
That's when we in the field say -
I'm sorry, but we'll have to pick
this up next week.

END

~~They both give a little giggle. And as Susan stands and begins to remove her bra, Charlie blows out the candle and plunges us into BLACKNESS.~~

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - VIDEO - DAY

Another taped interview. This one with a 16 year old WIGGER. Cap turned backwards, a gold chain dangling from his neck. He's rapping into the camera.

WIGGER
Wake up, stand up, make yo demands.
It's gonna go through if ya put it
in his hands. He's gonna work it
out, fork it out, and charge a
toll. Rise up teeny boppers, this
shiznit's out of control. You can
call him a delinquent, a rebel, a
crook. But there ain't no
denyin'... Charlie's off the hook!

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

QUICK CUTS of the now integrated cafeteria. Henry Freemont and the other freaks with Whitney and the cheerleaders. Len teaching Murphy to play slaps and the bully getting irritated at his inability. Dustin hunched over his homework as Kip takes him through his Trig. And finally...

Susan and Charlie observing it all. Charlie has on his sunglasses and his feet are propped up on the table.

SUSAN
Did you pick up your tux?

CHARLIE
Yes, dear.

SUSAN
I probably wouldn't be going to
prom if you weren't making me.

CHARLIE
Oh, you're such a rebel.

SUSAN
Shut up.

She throws a fistful of potato chips at him. He watches her go back to eating and contemplates his devotion to her.

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