

Script: Odd Man Out

ROLES: Andrew and Paige, 15-17

Andrew's older sister, Paige, is doing her hair and makeup in the mirror. Suddenly, Andrew wobbles in. His clothes are torn and it looks like he is bleeding.

ANDREW

(Theatrically)

You should have seen it! It was a bloodbath! Right there in the schoolyard, these gang bangers surrounded me! I was doomed! Then, out of nowhere, like some kind of superhero comes Howie Gordon! (now like a salesman) Do you know Howie?

PAIGE

(Barely lifts an eyebrow)

Why are you in my room?

ANDREW

Because Howie Gordon saved my life! I owe Howie Gordon my life, in fact this whole family owes him a huge debt. The Whitney name could have died with me.

She takes a finger, touches the blood on his face, then tastes it.

PAIGE

Barbeque sauce? What, were we out of ketchup?

ANDREW

(deflated)

How'd you know?

PAIGE

You're too chicken to fight, you usually avoid me like the plague and you obviously want something so spit it out.

ANDREW

Actually I want to do you a favor. I want to set you up with Howie Gordon.

PAIGE

You want to set me up with one of your geeky friends? Return to this universe why don't you?

ANDREW

Howie's not my friend, in fact he doesn't even like me.

PAIGE

That's a plus.

ANDREW

He's snide and menacing - your favorite type.

PAIGE

I'm dating only on the college level now.

ANDREW

Look, at least give the poor guy a chance -

Paige grabs Andrew and threateningly points a hot curling iron towards his neck.

PAIGE

You are using up much needed oxygen on this planet and I would be doing humanity a favor if I put that barbeque sauce to use and fry you with this curling iron - so you better tell me what's going on.

ANDREW

(blurting it out in a rush)
I needed two tickets to the Guns N Roses concert so I could ask out Teresa Armstrong 'cause I needed some type of engine for our date. And the only way that Howie Gordon would trade me the tickets, and remember I was desperate, was I promised him you would go on a date with him.

Andrew closes his eyes as if waiting to get struck by lightning or the curling iron.

PAIGE

(back to her make-up)
I'd say you've got a problem.

ANDREW
(changes tactics)
Paige, look, you gotta understand -
the thing is you're beautiful.

PAIGE
Tell me something I don't know.

ANDREW
The whole social thing, it all just
comes to you. You don't have to
work at anything.

PAIGE
You think this eye-liner puts
itself on?

ANDREW
Things are just much tougher when
you are average-looking like me.

PAIGE
Average-looking? Don't flatter
yourself.

ANDREW
Paige, please, I've already asked
Teresa to go to the concert. Howie
Gordon will kill me if I don't
deliver.

PAIGE
You mean if I don't deliver. You
should buy yourself a big velvet
hat and a Cadillac.

ANDREW
(resorts to begging)
Please, please, help me, I will owe
you so big.

PAIGE
Stop with the pathetic routine,
what have you got to offer?

ANDREW
(totally prepared for this
negotiation)
I take the laundry chores for three
months.

PAIGE

Six. What else you got?

ANDREW

Three months washing dishes.

PAIGE

We've got a dishwasher, try again.

ANDREW

I make all the beds, take out the trash and clean the closets for two months.

PAIGE

(the master)

Four. And I'm not going to kiss this guy, hold his hand or even wear a cute outfit.

ANDREW

(victorious)

Done.

PAIGE

One more thing.

ANDREW

What now?

PAIGE

You never tell another human being about how kind, generous and compassionate I've been.

ANDREW

Don't worry, no one would ever believe me.