

SCENE ONE:

Most of the class is still talking - but not about the murders anymore. Lots of other gossip: dating gossip, schoolyard gossip, childish things.

FOCUS ON: Sean. Who's seated near the back. His eyes are on something else, an empty seat. He leans over to Ace.

SEAN

You think they're gonna question us?

ACE

Obviously. It was our friend...  
Take it easy, we were all at the party last night. We have an alibi.

SEAN

I just can't believe he's actually dead.

Sean looks nervous again - looks for a different subject. His eyes meet Hannah's near the middle. She smiles, waves. Sean gives a nervous wave back.

ACE

Why do you still look like you're going to hurl?

SEAN

It's nothing...

ACE

Are you sure? I heard you and Hannah got into it last night. That isn't like you.

SEAN

It's nothing - we were just...  
Having a bit of a spat.

ACE

You're the best couple I know, you don't have spats.

Sean smirks - he rolls his eyes a little. But looks back to the lesson after a moment.

ACE

... Is this about what happened at the Thompson's last week?

SEAN

I don't want to talk about it.

ACE

Did you get her pregnant?

SEAN

Ace, shut up.

ACE

What? I'm just saying. My parents would kill you and you're not even their kid.

Sean gives him a pointed glare - Ace rolls his eyes.

ACE

Fine, what did you get for number 32?

SEAN

You're asking to copy off of my math work?

ACE

Hey - I'm like five more of these from a failing grade. I'll take all the help I can get.

## SCENE TWO:

A dark room - barely illuminated by moonlight. The phone rings nearby as Ace rushes to grab it. Only for his shoulder to be grabbed by ETHAN. He barely stops his right hook.

ACE

Shit, man! Don't do that.

ETHAN

Are you OK? You look winded.

ACE

I feel like I just got jackhammered - fuck. Someone may have spiked my drink.

He rubs his forehead - looks frustrated.

ACE

You know, I'm half-tempted to run out. I still don't trust you worth a damn.

ETHAN

Goes both ways.

ACE

Ha. You think I'm the killer? Really? That's rich. Why would I want to kill my best friend?

ETHAN

Well - you always say everyone has a motive. What would yours be?

ACE

Hypothetically speaking?

ETHAN

Sure.

ACE

I doubt I'd really have a motive. I've got "goofy sidekick" written all over me. But I don't speculate on this shit - I look for the facts.

Something grabs his attention from out of the corner of his eye. Ace turns his head.

ACE

Shit, did you see that too?

ETHAN

See what?

ACE

Did someone follow you over here?

Ethan shakes his head.

ACE

OK. Stay calm. I think someone's in here with us.

ETHAN

You kidding me? I knew I shouldn't have come looking for you!

ACE

Don't shit a brick, man. Start going back the way we came... Here, I got a flashlight.

ETHAN

Seriously?

ACE

You can't overprepare for a situation like this.

Ace hands him his flashlight, Ethan seems to hesitate. Ace insists. Ethan finally takes it.

ACE

Now move. I'll keep an eye out before I follow... I hope.

As Ethan leaves - Ace hears another sound. Ace looks determined rather than afraid.

ACE

Come on, asshole. Try me.