

SCENE 5

School yard at lunch. All the teens are in various groupings. Capshaw stands at a distance keeping an eye on things. Chris sits off to one side by himself. He watches the others for a while and then goes back to reading a book.

ROXANNE: *(to Chris)* Stop staring, you freak!

JULIE: It's cause he never gets this close to real girls. He has no idea what we look like, what we feel like –

JANE: I always thought he was gay.

ROXANNE: No, just pathetic.

JULIE: Did you see that picture of him on Facebook? Justin caught him with his pants down.

Ashley enters and approaches Chris.

ROXANNE: Watch out his bodyguard is here!

ASHLEY: *(ignoring Roxanne, to Chris)* Hey, there you are! Are you hiding from me?

CHRIS: Leave me alone. I'm not in the mood for company.

ASHLEY: Don't let them get to you! Roxy's just upset because she found a pimple this morning! And Julie got dumped last night. Really, we should be feeling sorry for them – they have it so hard!

CHRIS: Don't even try to make me laugh!

ASHLEY: Okay. If I promise not to be funny can I sit here with you.

CHRIS: Why?

ASHLEY: Call me crazy, but I like your company. As my shrink would say, I have a tendency towards co-dependency. He's got this habit of sucking on his teeth during sessions. Like he's got food stuck in them, but there's nothing there. Maybe it's part of a popcorn kernel that has been stuck there for like a year. Those are so hard to get out! I've had one in there that it took me a few days to work out. *(she smiles to show off her teeth)* Anything in there now?

CHRIS: No.

ASHLEY: Some day I'll tell him. One of these times when he's telling me I need to speak up for myself and express my needs. I will simply say, "Excuse me Dr. Freud, but I really need you to stop sucking your teeth."

CHRIS: Your shrink is named Freud?

ASHLEY: Yeah, ironic isn't it?

CHRIS: Bull, you're pulling my leg!

ASHLEY: *(she tugs his leg)* Yep!

CHRIS: *(laughing slightly)* Let go.

ASHLEY: Uh-oh. I made you laugh. Will I be banished from your kingdom now? Must the fool be beheaded?

School bell rings.

CHRIS: Saved by the bell!

ASHLEY: You ever watch that show? I didn't realize high school was like that, until I watched it. Then it was like – oh yeah, that's how teenagers are supposed to act.

CHRIS: *(exiting)* I hate that show!

ASHLEY: *(following him off)* See how much we have in common.