

[In the dark, the sound of a cabin door being forced open, followed by giggles, footsteps, and low voices singing "Cool" from West Side Story.]

RACHEL [O.S.]:

"Boy, boy, crazy boy..."

RACHEL & TEDDY [O.S. HARMONIZING BADLY]:

"Stay cool boy..."

[Lights on the stage flicker on, causing the group to scream off stage. RACHEL enters first - she's wearing a wedding guest dress, just on the wrong end of trendy, her hair too perfect, holding a cocktail. She strikes a pose on stage.]

RACHEL:

"GET OFF THE JUICE BOY" Oh my god look at all the dust coming off the lights! I can't believe that shit still works. Guys, hello? This is fate.

[TEDDY follows, wearing a suit that is successfully trendy, holding another of the same cocktail as Rachel. He hugs her.]

TEDDY:

God I am SO happy I came!

[ANI enters, wearing an obvious bridesmaid dress, her hair barely done. She has a glass of wine.]

ANI:

Try to keep it to a dull roar though, guys. Remember we're high-key not supposed to be here.

DEREK:

Okay but if that was the case why did Sabina high-key have her wedding at the actual, ACTUAL, Footlights Summer Camp?

ANI:

She thought it'd be cute!

TEDDY:

She's right

RACHEL:
Who wants their wedding's chief adjective to be "cute" though?

TEDDY:
Good point

ANI:
Sabina does

RACHEL:
Not surprising from a bitch who literally had pink tap shoes

ANI:
Besides, it's not Footlights Camp anymore. Now it's legit just a wedding venue. And she didn't pick the package with access to this building so let's just—

[DEREK enters last, interrupting her with a Bob Fosse pose.]

DEREK:
POW!

[He's wearing one of those super generic dark blue suits men seem to wear to everything now. He spills some of his beer doing the pose. The group laughs, even Ani.]

RACHEL:
Alright, we get it, you still have all the Tony stuff down pat

TEDDY:
Tony's not even in that song!

DEREK:
Yeah he is!

ANI:
Only because you like begged and pleaded and cried with Emilio to let you be in it

DEREK:
It's like the only actually cool number in the show

[The others gasp]

RACHEL:
No way. God I wanted to do "America" so bad

DEREK:
You're white!

RACHEL:

Ugh I know but come on! It's just camp. They should have just let me be Anita. If for no other reason than the vocals. Or at least a Shark. Way more fun than being a Jet girl.

ANI:

Hey! I liked being Jet Girl #3!

RACHEL:

You liked everything, nerd.

TEDDY:

You even liked being stage crew.

ANI:

I did. I really did. Is that so bad? God I miss it. Oh my god, remember when Emilio would always tell ghost stories in here after the first rehearsal with just the ghost light on? That shit was actually kinda scary.

DEREK:

Wait, and am I remembering this correctly... we also used to like...?

TEDDY:

Assign code names from the ghost stories?

RACHEL:

YES!

ANI:

Oh my GOD I remember that was SO messed up

DEREK:

What was it- it was like-who was Mothman again?

RACHEL:

That was Wayne! Because remember he could do those super high jumps but he was SO pale like a friggin' GHOST

TEDDY:

Oh, and the Jersey Devil? That was that one counselor, Jenna--

RACHEL:

NO we called her the Boston Devil because of her creepy accent and she kept trying to bust us for that hip flask-

TEDDY:

But then SHE got busted for being drunk!

DEREK:

I was there that night! She wasn't even that drunk, total lightweight, she took like two shots of vodka and puked all over—

RACHEL:

No, wait, liar. You did not hang out with the counselors.

DEREK:

They were counselors in training.

RACHEL:

Still. You did not.

DEREK:

Sure did! She totally wanted it too.

RACHEL:

No way. You wish.

TEDDY:

Which summer was that? 2007?

DEREK:

Yeah, the one I was Tony.

TEDDY [*between Rachel and Derek*]:

Weren't you guys dating that summer?

RACHEL:

We were on a break.

DEREK:

And I think we dated the summer I was Seymour.

ANI:

Do you really mark time only by the lead roles you got?

RACHEL:

Wait stop because we're leaving out like, the ghost to end all ghosts.

TEDDY:

Oh no, you don't mean—

DEREK:

Noooooo not—

DEREK and ANI:

Valerie!

RACHEL:
Fucking Valerie!

TEDDY:
Goat face!

RACHEL:
God that poor bitch

DEREK:
Wait why was she Goat Face again?

ANI:
Because she had just gotten cut from West Side - remember, SHE was supposed to be Anita -- and we just heard the Goatman story.

DEREK:
I don't remember that one?

ANI:
Come on! That one was my favorite! It was the one where like, the Goatman is half human, half goat, right? He appears in large groups of people socializing, like, just big enough that he can sort of hang out around the outskirts.

DEREK:
How does he do that if he's half goat?

ANI:
Well, he can kinda shapeshift. But only for a little while. And he does what other people do. And he tries to talk like humans, but he's just repeating noises he heard, so it sounds weird, like... an animal trying to repeat humans talking by just repeating the sounds.

TEDDY:
Ew.

ANI:
Yeah, he'll like morph into someone else from the group and hang out around the edges of it doing weird things.

RACHEL:
Which is why it was the perfect code name for Valerie.

DEREK:
But wait, why does the Goatman do this? Like why does he want to be in the groups?

ANI:

I don't remember. I'll look it up. [*looking at her phone*] Ugh, Sabina just texted me. We have to go back soon. They want to take Footlights alumni photos.

TEDDY:

Didn't we also call her Goat Face because she like could NOT pick up choreography? Like she danced like her feet were hooves?

RACHEL:

Well, yeah. Why do you think they casted her as Anita then suddenly switched her to WARDROBE CREW?

DEREK:

No way. She told me that was because she wanted to learn to sew!

RACHEL:

When did she tell you that?

DEREK:

I don't know. I chatted with her sometimes. Couldn't dance for shit, yeah, but you know. Still hot.

RACHEL:

You can't be serious, because as I recall, there was an entire third reason we called her Goat Face, and it was because her teeth were like eight times too big for her face.

ANI:

Wait, really?

DEREK:

I still thought she was hot.

RACHEL:

At least it distracted from her nose. Like girl. Get a pore strip.

ANI:

God, Rachel, keep your voice down--

RACHEL:

What? It's true.

ANI:

No, I mean, she's like, *here at the wedding*

DEREK:

Valerie's here? No way!

ANI:

Yeah. She was invited.

RACHEL:

I haven't seen her?

ANI:

Or at least she was when Sabina first showed me the guest list.

RACHEL:

God, why?

ANI:

Because I'm a bridesmaid, dude.

RACHEL:

No, I mean, why would anyone invite her to their wedding? Unless they want their dancing to look better.

ANI:

I think Sabina feels sorry for her. She doesn't even seem to have many friends on Facebook or anything.

RACHEL:

That tracks. We wouldn't have been forced to hang out with Goat Face at all if Sabina didn't keep inviting her to stuff out of pity.

ANI:

Did we really mind that much?

TEDDY:

Yes. She even let Valerie be in our "Bat Boy: The Musical" final senior group number and we had to dumb down the choreography like crazy.

ANI:

I don't remember it being this bad.

TEDDY:

Ani, please. You called her Goat Face, too.

DEREK:

You know what? I think I did see her. On like the edge of the dance floor, maybe, right near the DJ booth? Or at least someone with her hair? I passed by her to get a beer and I thought she was trying to make eye contact with me but then I didn't see her again.

RACHEL:
Derek, don't screw Goat Face at this wedding. That's disgusting.

ANI:
God, Rachel.

RACHEL:
Cause of fucking at a wedding in general, Ani! Get off your high horse.

TEDDY:
Also because it's Goat Face.

[Teddy and Rachel laugh. Ani is getting a call.]

ANI:
Oh great, now Sabina's calling me. We really need to go back, guys. We can come back later.

RACHEL:
You know what? I'm not going anywhere until we do "Hold Me, Bat Boy." WITH choreography. The way WE wanted it.

DEREK:
Yes YES Hold Me Bat Boy! With Sabina! Ani, get Sabina to come!

ANI:
Guys, keep it down! *[to phone]* Can you tell them to wait like five minutes? Can't you guys do more pics with your grandparents or something?

TEDDY:
SABINA COME DO HOLD ME BAT BOY!

ANI *[to phone]*:
Ignore him, he's drunk already... yeah, it's Teddy... no we're just walking around—

RACHEL:
Sabina, come to the stage cabin! We're gonna do the opening number from Bat Boy!

ANI:
Would you guys chill for like two seconds?

[Derek snatches her phone, dances away from her, and puts it on speaker. During this phone call, Rachel, Teddy, and Ani all keep

trying to chase him for the phone, falling, giggling, spilling alcohol, etc.]

SABINA [*from the phone*]:

Wait, where are you? Guys, we're gonna get charged extra if you puke in a tree.

DEREK:

Ms. Sabina Metcalfe— I'm sorry, I mean the new Mrs. Sabina Harris— please come on down to the mainstage by Lake Robbins to re-enact Bat Boy The Musical from our senior summer. It's of vital importance.

SABINA:

Please tell me you're not in that cabin. It's supposed to be locked. My dad is gonna freak—

DEREK:

I will pay whatever extra fee it is, and I will pay double if you come right now in your wedding dress to sing the high notes in Hold Me Bat Boy.

RACHEL:

And I will pay triple if you leave Goat Face behind!

SABINA:

What? Who? Wait, do you mean Valerie?

RACHEL:

Who else would we possibly mean?

SABINA:

That's not funny.

TEDDY:

Right, it's hilarious!

SABINA:

After what happened to her? I mean, if that's not gonna make you be nice...

ANI:

Wait, after what happened?

SABINA:

After the car crash?

[Now even Rachel and Teddy are silenced.]

ANI:

After... is she okay?

SABINA:

No, Ani, she's not okay. She was like, dead on arrival. I totally told you she died at the bachelorette party. How drunk were you?

ANI:

A little...

SABINA:

It's soooo sad. Anyway you guys need to come back ASAP. We're gonna cut the cake soon.

[Sabina hangs up. For once, all four are quiet and still.]

DEREK:

I wonder who I saw at the dance floor then.

[An awkward pause. They all think.]

RACHEL:

I guess it was just some ugly girl.

[The tension breaks. All four laugh.]

Then they realize they can hear a fifth voice laughing, one that doesn't sound like any of them. It stops as soon as all their laughter starts to fade.]

RACHEL:

Did anyone else hear that?

TEDDY:

Who else is here?

DEREK *[to the ceiling]*:

Hello?

ANI:

Okay no seriously we should leave now.

RACHEL:

Don't be a pussy, Ani, it's just someone trying to make us feel scared for coming in.

ANI:

Uh, yeah, because we SHOULDN'T be in here!

TEDDY:

Can we focus on whatever the hell that was?

RACHEL:

It was nothing.

TEDDY:

NO, it was something. It wasn't even— it didn't even sound like a PERSON laughing--

DEREK:

I think there's just weird echoes in here, Teddy. It's meant for musicals, after all.

TEDDY:

Echoes that sound like an entire other person?

DEREK:

Yeah the sound carries crazy well in here. Watch, go back outside for like one minute, I'll start singing and you'll be able to hear me from out there and it'll bounce off everywhere and sound like four other people.

[Teddy looks doubtful. Derek ushes him out the door. Teddy is standing with one foot out the door and one foot in.]

TEDDY:

Okay. Sing.

DEREK:

"In a cave many miles to the south... lived a boy born with fangs in his mouth..."

TEDDY:

Derek there is zero echo in here

DEREK AND RACHEL:

"Sleeping in the fading light... flying through bloody dreams..."

TEDDY:

Rachel it's not even your part

DEREK:

"When he awakes the summer night..."

[He shoves Teddy out the door and slams it shut.]

DEREK:

"... Is filled with screams!"

[Rachel laughs, maybe nervously. Teddy starts pounding on the door. Derek holds it shut.]

TEDDY [O.S.]:

Hey! Derek! What the fuck!

DEREK:

Dude, if you don't be quiet, you can't hear the acoustics!

TEDDY [O.S.]:

This is not funny! I'm seriously freaked out! It got crazy dark out here!

ANI:

Guys, let him back in. We already made so much noise.

RACHEL:

I'm not doing anything!

DEREK:

Teddy, how do we know it's you and not Goat Face?

TEDDY [O.S.]:

God! Fuck you!!

[His voice went high. Derek laughs and loses his grip on the door. Teddy storms back in and makes a beeline for his drink.]

TEDDY:

Real mature. I thought we were all having a good time together.

DEREK:

Sorry, dude, sorry. Come on, you know I can't resist doing a bit with you.

TEDDY:

That wasn't a bit. I don't want to be out in the forest all by myself with Goatmans and Mothmans and whatever the hell else.

DEREK:

I wasn't going to leave you out there. Who else am I gonna do Shakespeare with?

TEDDY:

Any of the girls you were trying to fuck all summer every summer
I bet...

DEREK:

Come on, Teddy. You can totally get me back later. *[he tries to make eye contact with Teddy, who's biting his fingernails]* "Do you bite your thumb at me, sir?"

RACHEL:

I need more alcohol.

DEREK:

Come onnnnn "Do you bite your thumb at me sir!!"

TEDDY *[reluctantly]*:

"I do bite my thumb, sir."

DEREK:

"Do you bite your thumb at US, sir?"

RACHEL:

Teddy can I have some of yours?

TEDDY:

"No, sir, I do not bite my thumb AT you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir!"

RACHEL:

Derek can I have one of your beers?"

DEREK:

"Do you quarrel, sir?!"

RACHEL:

DEREK

DEREK:

WHAT

RACHEL:

I'm taking one of your beers.

DEREK:

I only have one.

[He's holding it. They're all holding their drinks. At some point, another beer appeared on the ground near them.]

TEDDY:
Oh my god—

RACHEL:
Oh my GOD—

DEREK:
Oh my god what?

TEDDY:
You didn't bring that in?

DEREK:
I don't think so. Did you?

TEDDY:
Ew, no, I don't drink P.B.R.!

DEREK:
Then I must be more lit than I thought and brought in two beers.
It was smart of me.

[He goes toward the beer to toss it back.]

RACHEL:
wait maybe don't do that

DEREK:
maybe you do it so you can chill out

RACHEL:
Maybe suck my dick, Derek, I am chill!!!

[There is an uneven knocking at the door.]

ANI *[whispered]*:
I said. I said we shouldn't be here. I said we should be
quieter.

DEREK *[whispered]*:
And I said drink some beer and chill

*[When the voice at the door speaks, it
sounds strange - halting, genderless, and
does not speak with a human cadence.]*

VOICE *[O.S.]*:
Hey. Derek. What the fuckkkk.

[They are all dead silent.]

VOICE [O.S.]:

This is. not funny. I'm. seriously freaked out. It's crazy dark. dark out here... It's. out here.

DEREK:

Yo cut it out. I'm not kidding around.

VOICE [O.S.]:

Godddddd... fuck you...

[Derek summons every ounce of scary straight boy energy he can for this outburst where he storms the door:]

DEREK:

I'M SERIOUS CUT THIS SHIT OUT BEFORE I POP OFF!

[But when he throws open the door, no one is there. He tries to recover and play it off like he thinks this is funny.]

DEREK:

Wow, someone is really bored at this wedding...

RACHEL:

Okay I need some of someone's drink right now. My mouth is so dry I just tried to swallow and I can't even swallow.

TEDDY:

Take mine, I can't drink anything else, I'm going to puke.

ANI:

GUYS can we PLEASE go we ARE MISSING THE CAKE—

DEREK:

GUYS! CHILL!

ANI:

I don't feel like chilling! I feel like leaving to see the cake get cut and be part of the wedding!

DEREK:

Well, I want to chill with my best camp friends and get drunk. And I'm not going to let some wannabe prankster scare me. You know that's all this is, right? Someone trying to scare us?

ANI:

Why would someone do that?

DEREK:

Because we were cool and got cast every summer and they didn't?

ANI:

Do you really think that?

DEREK:

Yeah, actually, I do. This is just someone like Goat Face Valerie trying to get back at us by following us to the cabin and freaking us out with our own ghost stories. These are OUR ghost stories, guys! Some idiot who can do a creepy voice can't just take them from us.

ANI:

Their not OUR stories. Everyone at camp heard them.

RACHEL:

Well, they're OUR code names.

ANI:

I don't think we should be proud of that.

DEREK:

You guys stay here. Do some vocal warm-ups. I'm getting more beer and I'm coming right back. We all need like eight beers.

TEDDY:

Maybe you shouldn't leave the cabin.

DEREK:

Maybe YOU shouldn't leave the cabin. What with the Goatmans and the Mothmans.

TEDDY:

It's not a bit, Derek, I think you should just stay here for a minute.

DEREK:

Yeah, I know it's not a bit. I'm sobering up super fast because everyone won't stop freaking out. I'm going to get us more drinks and come right back.

RACHEL:

I don't like mine, can you get me a different drink?

TEDDY:

Rachel, NO! He shouldn't go!

[But Derek is already headed to the door, singing West Side Story again.]

DEREK:

"Got a rocket in your pocket... keep coolly cool, boy..."

[He exits. We can hear him singing off stage, walking off into the woods, leaves crunching, etc.]

DEREK:

"Don't get hot, 'cause man, you got some high times ahead. Take it slow—"

[His singing suddenly cuts off at the same time as the noise of him walking through the leaves.]

They notice. Teddy tries not to hyperventilate. Ani downs the rest of her wine. Rachel shouts:]

RACHEL:

Very funny!

ANI:

I don't think anyone's kidding anymore.

[Teddy goes toward the door.]

TEDDY:

These bits stopped being funny a long time ago, Derek!

RACHEL:

Where are you going?!

TEDDY:

Oh, it's soooo funny when I'm scared, and it's soooo funny to lock me out of the cabins, and soooo fucking funny to put yourself in MY number!

[She tries to pull him away from the door, but he shoves her off.]

TEDDY:

Because you know Tony is the most boring part of *West Side Story* and you're not interesting enough to be Riff! "Take it slow, and Daddy-o, you can live it up and die in bed!"

[He throws open the door and exits.]

TEDDY [O.S.]:

"Boy, boy, crazy boy, stay loose, boy..."

[His singing fades off, as does his walking. After a pause, he audibly screams. Rachel screams in response.]

RACHEL:
What is going on?!

ANI:
Maybe there's bears?

RACHEL:
They have bears in Connecticut?!

ANI:
I don't know!

RACHEL:
Shouldn't you know? You're a bridesmaid!

ANI:
YEAH and I'm the one who said we shouldn't just break into the fucking mainstage, we should ASK THE GROUNDSKEEPER POLITELY if he can let us in before brunch tomorrow! But no! We had to go do what you said! Again!

RACHEL:
What the hell does that mean?

ANI:
We always did what you wanted and look where it got us!

RACHEL:
Bullshit! You all wanted to come out here and have the same weird reunion and do our Bat Boy song again! Just as much as me!

ANI:
Teddy would have been fine staying back there and getting drunk on the dance floor. He just does what you want to do.

RACHEL:
How is that my problem?

ANI:
Because you should be NICER, Rachel, and do what other people want to do for once!

RACHEL:
If you're still actually just mad about what we did for our senior group number, guess what, Ani? NO ONE CARES ABOUT THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL EXCEPT YOU!

ANI:

You're such a bitch and now we're getting haunted by the Goatman because of it!

RACHEL:

The Goatman isn't real and doesn't matter!

ANI:

Then we're getting haunted by Valerie!

RACHEL:

VALERIE ISN'T REAL AND DOESN'T MATTER!

[This hangs for a moment.]

RACHEL:

I mean, she's dead. I mean, Valerie is dead. so she's not here. That's all.

[Ani goes toward the door.]

RACHEL:

Are you seriously leaving me here alone?

ANI:

You can come back to the wedding too. And try to have a good time with other people. If you can bear it.

RACHEL:

I'm not walking back now! Someone is out there waiting to do... I don't know what. Something.

ANI:

It's just someone doing sick prank on us. Except I'm going back to Sabina, so it'll just be a prank on you, which you deserve.

RACHEL:

No no no wait!

[But Ani exits out the door. We don't hear her walking away under Rachel's crying.]

RACHEL:

Wait, I'm sorry! Whoever is listening, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to be a bitch. It's just so hard in college and I can't even get into a fucking acapella group. We can sing anything you guys want. We can sing The Scarlet Pimpernel! Or we can just do Bat Boy again! Please, I just want to sing Bat Boy again. It was so good when we do it. And you can be in it, Valerie... you can be in it if you want... I'm sorry we acted like we didn't want you in

it. We did want you in it and not just because we needed an alto but because you have really good facial expressions. Please, Valerie, you can be in the group, just come back, someone, please come back!

[There is a knock at the door. If anything, it actually scares Rachel more at first, until the door opens. It's Ani, and she seems very calm.]

RACHEL:

OH THANK GOD! You came back for me! Ani, I'm sorry! I'm so sorry I was being such a bitch. We can go back to the wedding now. I just want to go back and have another cocktail and dance with Sabina.

[She picks up their empty drink containers and makes her way to the door past Ani, who watches her.]

RACHEL:

I mean this whole thing was honestly kind of a bitch move but I get it. I know we shouldn't speak ill of the dead and all that. And I know we had our good times with Goat... with Valerie. So we should reminisce on that. Right?

Ani?

[When Ani sings (or "sings", rather) it's the same distorted, inhuman rhythm we've been hearing before - the Goatman's voice.]

ANI/GOATMAN:

"Boy... boy... keep cool, boy..."

[Rachel drops the drinks and runs for the door, but the Goatman is quicker.

Blackout as Rachel screams.]