

"Ashlyn"
Sc. 2

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL: THE MUSICAL

E.J./ ASHLYN sides

INT. E.J.'S CAR - MORNING

E.J., behind the wheel, scrolls messages on his phone as his breathless cousin, ASHLYN, climbs in to the passenger seat.

Start

ASHLYN

Why so early? Is that coffee for me?

E.J.

And the muffin.

ASHLYN

Wait, you never let me eat in your car.

E.J.

There's a dustbuster under the seat. Suck up your crumbs while you're chewing.

(then)

You look different.

ASHLYN

I brushed my hair.

E.J.

It's not your hair. You're glowing.

ASHLYN

I used a new soap.

E.J.

Do you have a thing for somebody?

ASHLYN

I have a thing for my soap. I got it from this amazing healer at the flea market. And it's good stuff. Two parts aloe, three parts breast milk.

E.J.

Ew. Whose breast milk?

ASHLYN

You can't ask that.

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

2/5

E.J.
You can if you're washing your face
with it.

ASHLYN
Why aren't we moving?

E.J.
Because you're my family, Ashlyn. I
don't want you buying hygiene
products from strangers lactating
at a flea market.

ASHLYN
(reaches for door handle)
Going back to sleep.

E.J.
Stop. I need your help.

Ashlyn turns back to him, unsteady. His tone is... *desperate*.

E.J. (CONT'D)
I want you to steal Nini's phone.
(off her shock)
Just for an hour. I need to know
what's going on between her and
Ricky.

ASHLYN
Oh, no. No no no no no no --

E.J.
Please, Guppy, I can't win if I
don't know what I'm up against.

ASHLYN
You're up against yourself, E.J.
For once, just once, could you not
see everything as a contest --

E.J.
She's not over this guy. And I
can't figure out why. It's not his
talent -- we've heard him sing --

ASHLYN
He's incredible.

E.J.
He sounds like his testicles got
caught on a fence. And it's not
like he's ever had an original
thought --

ASHLYN
Define original.

E.J.
He hangs with a kid who's got the
I.Q. of a marshmallow peep!

ASHLYN
Wow. You've gone up, like, three
levels of scary.

E.J.
I'm not scary --

ASHLYN
You are. You always were. You used
your stuffed animals to act out
scenes from *House of Cards*. But
this is... full-blown sociopath.

E.J.
(raw, dropping his guard)
Why? Because I don't wanna lose the
best thing that's ever happened to
me? I really like Nini --

ASHLYN
So do I! And I'm not gonna screw up
my friendship with her. She's,
like, the only junior who doesn't
treat me like medical waste.

E.J.
Guppy, I need intel.

ASHLYN
Stop calling me that. And you can't
bribe me with a banana-nut muffin.

E.J.
It's carrot.

ASHLYN
Really? Is there frosting?

E.J.
She keeps her phone in the front
pocket of her --

ASHLYN
(closing the muffin bag)
No, I can't. I can't. I won't.
Nini's good to me. And so is Ricky.

E.J.

Whoa, whoa. Why did you have to look away when you said his name?

ASHLYN

I didn't.
(blushing)
Did I?

E.J.

Oh my God. It's him. You have a thing for my mortal enemy!

ASHLYN

I'm walking to school.

E.J.

I'm first cousins with a snake!

ASHLYN

Hey, I'm not the one who's slithering into people's backpacks.
(moment, then)
Can I ask you something? Nini got that part in last summer's show because the girl playing opposite you got food-poisoning, right?

E.J.

Low-grade salmonella.

ASHLYN

From a deviled egg.

E.J.

Wasn't life-threatening. What's your question?

ASHLYN

Did you have anything to do with that bad egg?
(off his silence)
Don't answer that. I'm definitely walking to school.

As Ashlyn jumps out of the car and a busted E.J. SLAMS the steering wheel --

End

5/8