

ALICIA SIDE 2 - HOTC PILOT

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

ALICIA'S ELATED SHE HELPED DANNY AND MILES MAKE-UP THROUGH A DEBATE. SHE SMILES, THEN FREEZES. BEAT, THEN:

ALICIA

This is an awesome moment for me. I'm taking a mental picture. (ROBYN ROLLS HER EYES) Robyn, don't move, you'll be blurry. (CLOSES EYES) Got it.

ROBYN

Seriously?.

ALICIA

Look, I know how you all feel: stressed, overwhelmed. It's like you have to figure out your entire lives right now. And one mistake could derail everything.

MAKAYLA

She really can read our minds.

ROBYN

(SCOFFS) No offense, Ms. A. But you don't get what it's like to be us.

ALICIA

Yes I do. Because... in high school I was exactly like you. (POINTED AT ROBYN) Some more than others. I was a GPA junky who thought I had it all figured out.

(MORE)

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ALICIA (CONT'D)

When I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Yale and got hired by Google -- my life was supposed to be set. But, I was so driven for "success," I forgot to figure out what made me happy. Which I didn't realize until a very public breakdown that started with me spilling a mango smoothie on myself. And ended with me sitting on the floor, crying through a morning meeting while I said, "I don't want to be here, I'm so sticky" over and over.

ROBYN

That does not make me want to take your advice.

ALICIA

I just want you all to be open. Form your own opinions. (POINTED AT MILES) Find your voice. And your passion, so you don't burn out on what you're "supposed" to want. When I was in school, I wish a teacher, or Michelle Obama, had taught me that.

BEAT. EVERYONE LOOKS TO ROBYN.



ALICIA (CONT'D) ROBYN

Well, being open to new stuff is kinda cool. (WITH A SMILE) So, I guess... your advice isn't totally garbage.

I know, I'm ALICIA but remember when I I know how much that must've hurt you to say, so thank you. all said, 'who's

STUDENTS MURMUR, HAPPY, WHEN -- THE BELL RINGS! THEY PACK UP.

all six seasons of "Gossip Girl?" Well, today's delay was caused by a squirrel who may be John Cusack's twin. You know, "Say Anything?" He held a boombox over his head. Boomboxes were a thing that played music, and --

-- THE ENTIRE CLASS NERVOUSLY STANDS, WAITING.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

What's happening? Is this a protest?

MARAYLA

Maybe you should ask Danny.

REVEAL: DANNY CASUALLY SITS IN A CHAIR.

DANNY

All I did was pick a seat for class.

MARAYLA

Luke's seat. And it's a domino effect. He takes Luke's, Luke takes Miles', Miles takes mine, and --

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