

Gabby's Letter

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A group of friends sit around the table with a letter in the middle of it.

DANIEL (Male 17-18) is usually active and energetic. He is the star of his soccer team. Currently He sits in his seat high stung as he nervously taps his leg on the floor.

ASHER (Male 17-18) Often a jokester who doesn't take life seriously. He believes in just chilling in through life and not letting the negative affect him. He currently sits in his seat with his arms folded across his chest and a scowl on his face.

BRIDGET (Female 17-18) Is usually very confident fashionista who is very intuitive. She can often be blunt but she never says something to be hurtful. She sits in her seat her knees to her chest as she cries into her knees.

DESMOND (Male 17-18) He is a High strung grammar who's only concern is getting good grades and winning top scores. He now sits slumped in his seat. He looks exhausted and drained.

ALLY (Female or Male 20's) Is often reserved and tries to be very positive. They carry themselves very mature yet it's obvious they carry a lot of stress. They sit in their chair hand folded neatly in their lap.

DANIEL

This is a joke right? It has to be.

ALLY

I know it's hard to believe Daniel but it's true.

DANIEL

No it has to be a joke! Watch we will open the letter and it will say Jk got you! and then she'll pop up with her smile like she always does.

ASHER

Just accept it! Gabby won't be back. She made a selfish choice and we have to deal with it.

BRIDGET

No, no Gabby is not selfish there had to be a reason.

DESMOND

Reason? That reason was us, isn't it obvious. That's why this letter is addressed to all of us.

DANIEL

No! You are all wrong... because... because she, she made plans with me last week! That's right she made plans and she was happy, and excited.

A WEEK EARLIER

INT. HIGHSCHOOL, CAFETERIA -DAY

GABBY (Female 17- 18) a seemingly happy lively girl with a soft smile. she is often found lost in thought when she is by herself. She sits at a cafeteria table staring out the window. Daniel walks over with a big grin on his face.

DANIEL

Hey Gabby!

GABBY

(Happy but distant)
Oh, hi Daniel

DANIEL

So, the big game is next week

GABBY

Big game?... Oh, you have the finals in soccer for the season right? I bet you're super excited to bring home another trophy like last year.

DANIEL

You know I have to dominate that field! I hope you will be there cheering me on.

Gabby stares out the window again as Daniel was talking. She has come completely lost in thought. Daniel waves his hand trying to get her attention.

DANIEL

Earth to major space-case. Don't tell me you have more volunteer work to do I want all my best friends there to witness the legend before it becomes one.

GABBY

Right, next week. I'm not

Gabby Looks at Danial and puts on a smile

GABBY (CONT)

Not going to miss it.

DANIEL

Fantastic! I know with you there we can't lose. See you later captain good vibes.

Daniel gives a small salute before walking away.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Daniel, Asher, Bridget, Desmond, and Ally all sit in the living room around the table. Danial stands up tears in his eyes.

DANIEL

She said she wouldn't miss it. she made plans, so, so this has to be a cruel prank. She was happy wasn't she? She was smiling, she was excited. She... she couldn't have done that... right?

Danial sits down with a defeated look.

ASHER

She did! She decided to be selfish and not tell us anything! She had plenty of opportunities to say something, anything! We would have done anything to help her.

EARLIER THAT WEEK

INT. A LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Asher and Gabby sit at a table in the library working on math home work. Gabby is easily working through the problems. Asher scratches his head with a pencils as he looks down at his home work his face full of confusion.

ASHER

Gabby, do you understand how to get number three on the homework? I am

absolutely stumped.

Gabby looks up with a soft chuckle.

GABBY

Are you remembering to carry over your variables?

ASHER

Yes... maybe... when am I supposed to do that again?

GABBY

You really need to pay more attention in class.

ASHER

Why? You take way better notes than me.

GABBY

Ha-ha, so funny you joker.

With a sigh Gabby's tone turns more solemn

GABBY (CONT)

You know I won't always be there for you to steal my notes.

ASHER

Untrue I will be following you to whatever college you go to and take the exact same classes so you are stuck with me.

GABBY

(A low sad chuckle)

Right college.

Asher gives Gabby a concerned look.

ASHER

Is something wrong? Are you worried about getting into college, because you have like stupid good grades.

GABBY

NO it's... it's not that.

ASHER

Is it me?

Asher reaches across the table and puts a hand over Gabby's.

ASHER (CONT)

Are you worried about me? Because I promise with your notes there is no way I won't be able to slide into the lowest spot on the college roster.

Gabby takes her hand away and fiddles with her pencil.

GABBY

I... I... never mind it's not important, but you passing your class is. Here take my notes.

Gabby slides her note over to Asher.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Asher sits on the edge of his seat his fist clenched. Bridget gently rubs his arm. Daniel and Desmond look at the ground. Ally sits listening intently.

ASHER

We always asked her. We made it clear she could come to us. She didn't. She decided she couldn't. She ... should have come to us.

Asher put his face in his hands and tried to take a deep breath.

BRIDGET

But she didn't. There had to be something else we could have done. We had to have done something that caused her to turn away from us.

DESMOND

Obviously we must of done something.

ASHER

It still isn't an excuse to make such a selfish choice. Didn't she know we loved her? Didn't we make it obvious she was wanted here with us? Why wouldn't she just let us help her?

BRIDGET

There must have been something we could have said or done to stop this. We could have stopped this.

DESMOND

Like being better friends.

ALLY

Desmond, we were all very good friends to Gabby. Bridget there was nothing you could have done, okay.

BRIDGET

Not okay not okay, I know I could have done something.

TWO WEEKS EARLIER

EXT. HIGHSCOOL BUILDING- MORNING

Bridget walks towards the front of the school. She sees Gabby and runs up to catch up as she is walking.

BRIDGET

Hey Gabb's.

GABBY

Bridget! How are you doing today?

Gabby tries to pull down her sleeves as she talks to Bridget. Bridget Immediately notices and sees the fresh cuts on her arms.

BRIDGET

I'm fine but... what happened to your arm?

Bridget points to the fresh cuts.

GABBY

My Arm?

Gabby tries to hide behind her back, but Bridget grabs her wrist and slightly pulls back her sleeve.

BRIDGET

That looks like a pretty nasty cut. I mean no wonder you're wearing long sleeves today, that looks gnarly.

GABBY

I ... um.

BRIDGET

Were you trying to save another cat from a tree?

Gabby pulls her arm away and nods.

GABBY

Yes a cat... in a tree... she was very scared and swiped at me a lot.

BRIDGET

Of course it was stuck in a tree... but that really looks more serious than just a cat scratch or two. You sure it was only the cat that did that?

GABBY

Well I may have gotten my arms caught on the tree a few times.

Bridget gives Gabby a suspicious look.

BRIDGET

Alright I guess that makes sense. Just be careful and try not to be so klutzy you wouldn't want ugly scars for prom pictures.

GABBY

We wouldn't want that would we?

Bridget hooks her arm with Gabby's and the to walk into the school.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bridget paces around her room as Daniel, Asher, Desmond , and Ally listen intently.

BRIDGET

You see I could have done something! I

could have... looked into it... said something. I-If I... there had to be something.

DESMOND

It would have been pointless Bridget. She made her choice. She made it for a reason.

Bridget stops in her trunks and stares at Desmond.

BRIDGET

Maybe if we could have changed her mind. She trusted us, she would have listened. If we could have just known we could have done something.

Ally stands up and places a gentle hand on Bridget's shoulder.

ALLY

No, I don't think you could have.

DESMOND

Of course we couldn't have said anything. She had no faith in us, she couldn't trust us. There were signs. We didn't listen. We were all too busy for her. She felt she had no other choice because we made her feel that way. We are the worst.

Ally looks back to Desmond with a tired frown.

ALLY

Do you really think that Desmond? You think honestly you could stop this?

DESMOND

No I don't think we could. We are terrible friends. That's why she did this. We are the reason and that's what that letter will say. This is my fault. And we deserve this because we didn't deserve her.

THREE DAYS EARLIER

EXT. HIGHSCOOL BUILDING- MORNING

Desmond walks up to Gabby who is sitting on the bench in

front of the school. Gabby looks drained and tired as she holds onto her book bag full of books.

DESMOND

Gabby, you don't look so good? You feel okay.

GABBY

No, I'm just really tired today.

DESMOND

Oh boy I know how that feels. If my gaming isn't keeping me up it's insomnia am I right?

GABBY

Yeah... insomnia. It's... it's something.

DESMOND

I would suggest melatonin. It works wonderfully and the gummies taste delicious.

GABBY

Yeah so I hear.

DESMOND

Any ways you are ready for the test today?

GABBY

Test?

DESMOND

Well you got like twenty minutes to study. I would help but I got to meet the gamer club to discuss the game-a-thon this weekend.

Desmond starts to walk away.

GABBY

Hey... Desmond-

Desmond stops and turns to look at Gabby.

DESMOND

Make it quick Gabby, time's-a-wastin' and they can't start

without me.

GABBY
Desmond... I-I need to-

DESMOND
(Slightly annoyed)
I can't help Gabby I got to go.

GABBY
I just need to say goodbye.

DESMOND
(Confused)
Yeah uh bye Gabby... good luck on that.

PRESENT DAY

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Desmond sits with his head in his hands as he holds back tears. Ally has a look of sympathy as she stands with Bridget. Asher and Daniel look at Desmond in disbelief.

DESMOND
She tried to tell me.
(Sobbing)
She tried to tell me and I did nothing. Absolutely nothing. I shrugged it off. We all did.

Ally kneels down next to Desmond.

ALLY
You forget she is my little sister. Desmond, I've known her much longer than you.

DANIEL
So?

ASHER
You're not her, you can't say anything for her.

Bridget sits next to Asher putting her hand on his lap. Asher puts an arm around Bridget.

BRIDGET
if any one could have done something, it would be you Ally. She always

talked proudly of you.

DESMOND

Not if Gabby didn't tell her anything.
We must have hurt her so much.

ALLY

I do know about things she often kept
from you all. I was there before it
started, when it started, and now the
end.

THREE YEARS PRIOR

INT. CAR - DAY

Ally sits behind The steering wheel anxiously waiting. Gabby
Opens the door and sat down with a frustrated sigh. Ally
looks at Gabby through the rear view mirror.

ALLY

So... how was the appointment?

GABBY

(Gloomy)

It went as usual.

ALLY

So not much progress then.

GABBY

Well he wants to put me on new meds
again.

ALLY

Another one? Isn't that the 5th one
this year?

GABBY

6th actually and it wont work like
last time.

ALLY

Hey, we don't know that yet. We need
to try first.

GABBY

That's what mom and dad said last
time.

ALLY

I know... look What can I do to help with just today. Maybe your favorite ice cream?

GABBY

(With some cheer back in her voice)
Well no one can say no to ice cream.

ALLY

Got that right depression has nothing on double chocolate mint chip swirl.

PRESENT DAY

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ally sits in her chair visibly trying to hold back tears as Daniel, Asher, Bridget, and Desmond sit where they gaze on the floor.

ALLY

This is something that has been going on for years. She...

(Shaky)

she... she just lost her battle after all this time. Understand it is not anyone's fault... Even if it feels like we all failed her.

Ally picks up the letter, opens it, and begins to read it out loud.

ALLY (CONT)

Dear friends, I am sorry...

As Ally begins to read her voice is replaced by Gabby's as we watch each person react to the letter as it is read.

GABBY (V.O.)

I am sorry I had to end things like this. I just couldn't take the emptiness I felt. No matter how much joy you brought me, how much love you gave me, how much you made me feel wanted, and how much service I did. Nothing filled that ever present emptiness. Daniel I'm sorry I won't make your game.

GABBY (V.O.)

I just didn't have the heart to tell you that I won't be there. I know you will do amazing things one day so keep going and bring home more trophies. Asher please don't be angry. I know you think you won't be able to make it to college, but make it for me. I know you won't have my notes, but you can make it. Bridget, I'm sorry for lying so much to you. You are so observant and I didn't want you to blame yourself or feel like there was something you could do. Desmond I'm so sorry. I know you have so much on your plate. For you to hear my last goodbye must weigh heavy on you. Please know that being able to say goodbye in person gave me some peace before I end it all. Ally, I know you know what life has been like for me. I know you will tell yourself I am free and happy. But please don't forget to cry. It's okay to be sad, it's sad. Please don't bottle it up, you deserve to miss me and say goodbye. Thank you all for the happy moments in my life. I was truly blessed in my short time.

END