

@rudymocha has entered the chatroom

by

Bailey Jordan Garcia

baileyjordangarcia@gmail.com  
(805) 377-4752

BETSY  
18 / F OR NB  
Righteous and out for justice  
Will do anything to avenge their best friend

LEXI  
18 / F  
Your stereotypical mean girl  
With a sensitive side and some secrets

PETER  
19 / M  
A fictional creation  
Of the most average guy

Place

A high school in Fayette, Ohio

A Chatroom on the Internet

Time

Now

Notes:

Text speak should be a little silly, but clear. Pronounce the letters/words how you would pronounce them by themselves. Ex. "wbu" should be "W. B. U. ?"

The Internet world and School should be two distinct places -- the internet world should at the very least start out separate and cold. Lexi and Peter should never touch. Very little physical interaction should happen until the last scene.

Peter should be played earnestly -- with none of Betsy's mal-intentions

AT RISE:

INTERNET

hey baby  
PETER

hey honey  
how was ur day  
LEXI

it was ok  
urs?  
PETER

a lotta bullshit  
i just wish i could b w/ u  
LEXI

i wish u were here 2  
PETER

can i tell u something  
LEXI

anything  
PETER

BETSY appears. LEXI and PETER freeze.

BETSY

The story starts with a blue stuffed Elephant named Rudy and a pink stuffed rabbit named Mocha. My mother got them for me and my best friend Margot as birthday presents. And even though we were already in the 3rd grade when we got these guys, we carried them around everywhere. School, playdates, Rainforest Cafe, bail bondsmen, playgrounds -- everywhere. And we'd protect these things with our lives. I remember once, a kid on a swing set tried to rip Rudy away from Margot and she straight up punched him in the nose. Rudy's trunk needed some stitches, and so did the kid's face. It's what we do for the things we love, you know? I've still got Mocha. She's on my bed in my bedroom as we speak. And as of two months ago, I got custody of Rudy. Guess I was next of kin. Life sucks without her. There's no real reason to go to school now, so I spend my time finding ways to get a quick dopamine hit. Whether that is drugs, some class clowning, or finding ways to piss off the people who piss me off.

## SCHOOL

LEXI

Hey, asshole! We gonna do this thing or?

BETSY

Right, sorry.

(to us)

This is Lexi. The one from before. Mega bitch and head of the whole crew of asswipes. Would call Margot and I “megadykes” on a daily basis. And being in rural Ohio, the whiff of something queer gets you beat up at school and grounded at home real quick. On the flip side, her mom does pay me \$17 an hour to tutor her in math. She’s a nightmare on a good day and Margot got stuck with her for a lab partner. She was the last call on Margot’s phone and I still can’t help but think --

LEXI

Can you just finish this problem for me? It doesn’t make sense

BETSY

The whole point is I’m suppose to teach //you about --

LEXI

Jesus, I know you’ve got a stick up your ass, but if you could just shut up and do this shit, that’d be much appreciated.

BETSY forces a smile and nods.

## INTERNET

BETSY

(back to us)

After getting bullied relentlessly at school, Margot and I would always jump on some random chat site, into our own little world, and freak people out. We’d pretend to be long lost twins finding each other, a super old couple falling in love, or sometimes just the FBI. I was okay at it, but Margot was the real mastermind behind the operation. She’d get people to believe that we were really journalists who desperately needed interviews about how many times people fart a day. It was never malicious. No one ever got hurt. It was always the highlight of my day. Recently my chat group of choice has been the Fayette County Depression Support Group. No jokes, no pranks. Just sad. And before I could lament about my shit show of a day. A message appears.

LEXI

**@ lil\_lex has entered the chatroom**

hi everyone! i’m lexi. f 18

i’m kinda going thru some stuff

looking for someone to talk to  
 who doesn't know me irl  
 lol

BETSY

Holy. Shit. Before I can even think. I log out. And then decide to bring back Margot's legacy. I sign back in as:

PETER

**@rudymoca has entered the chat room**  
 hey im peter. m 19  
 moved here a month ago  
 lookin 4 friends or maybe smthing more haha  
 just graduated highschool last year  
 thinkin bout learning how to b a mechanic  
 love cars  
 sports  
 and music

BETSY

So basically the most average fucking guy to exist. I created the photos on some AI website and put in the prompt, "most average fucking guy to exist" and it popped out this. And so, I wait. You never make the first move.

Bing.

BETSY

It takes 3 seconds.

LEXI

heyyyyy @rudymocha

PETER

hey @lil\_lex whats up lol

LEXI

nothing much haha wbu

PETER

saaaaame

BETSY

A pause. Was he too lame? Has the conversation died. I almost go in for a second message when --

LEXI

PM me

BETSY

And just like that, I was in. "Peter". I thought about it for a little bit. Getting to fuck around with the emotions of Lexi Kennedy alone would be great, but revenge for all the shit she's put us through? I think Margot would eat that shit up. So, I make sure Peter starts off slow.

PETER

what's ur favorite movie

LEXI

really?

PETER

really

LEXI

all the other guys pming me just want to talk dirty

PETER

well thats ok 2 if u want  
but i wanna get to know u

LEXI

:) u r sweet  
hereditary  
the ari aster one

BETSY

That was Margot's favorite.

PETER

that's my favorite!

LEXI

i love the really uncomfy gory stuff you know  
but if my friends ask  
tell them it's the notebook lol  
my ex showed it to me  
big fan of horror

BETSY

Then it started to pick up speed

PETER

grew up in michigan  
moved to ohio cause of my dumb mom :(

BETSY

They were already spilling secrets

LEXI

my ex dared me to go skinny dipping once and we did in my  
neighbor's pool!!!  
don't tell !!

BETSY

And exchanging hopes and dreams

PETER

i kinda just wanna fix trucks all day  
or be a mailman

BETSY

And so the first day we talked for -- or well, Lexi and *Peter* talked from 7 at night until 3  
in the morning. The next two weeks they talked incessantly. Peter and Lexi were  
officially "boyfriend and girlfriend" -- even with Peter's "phone being broken" so they  
could only talk online. Margot and I never went this deep into a sting. She'd probably do  
a better job at me if she was here.

SCHOOL

LEXI

Betsy.

BETSY

Ah, what? Hi.

LEXI

Here's my homework. Can't stay for the session today, but I'll pay you double.

BETSY

You have some hot date to get to?

LEXI

Yeah, your dad, you stupid dyke.

LEXI freezes

BETSY

(to us)

Sometimes you just want to explode. You want to say:

(to a frozen LEXI)

"You know who's stupid? The bitch falling in love with someone who isn't real.

A figure of your fucking imagination. And you deserve to have that all come crashing down on you just like I did when you --"

(to us)

But you know her day of reckoning is coming soon. So you hold it in. And you smile. And you nod. And you do the algebra problems. And you wait.

INTERNET

PETER

**@rudymoca has entered the chat room**

hey baby

LEXI

hey honey  
how was ur day

PETER

it was ok  
urs?

LEXI

a lotta bullshit  
i just wish i could b w/ u

PETER

i wish u were here 2

LEXI

can i tell u something

PETER

anything

BETSY

Anything

LEXI

U make my days better  
b4 u  
i felt so lost  
but now  
i feel like i can breathe again  
so i just wanted 2 thank u  
4 making life beautiful again

PETER

ur welcome

BETSY

You're welcome



BETSY stares at LEXI, longingly. Then snaps back into her mission.

PETER

hey  
btw  
did i ever tell you why my user name is @rudymocha

LEXI

no

PETER

well

BETSY

Well

PETER

my best friend and i  
we had these stuffed animals as kids  
hers was a blue elephant

LEXI

that's funny

PETER

what?

LEXI

my ex had a stuffed animal  
a blue little elephant

PETER

what did it look like

BETSY

She sends a cropped picture. -- And there he is, Rudy, on a shelf in a room in a bedroom that looks all too familiar.

PETER

send me the rest of the picture

BETSY

Clear as day. Lexi ...and Margot. Kissing.

LEXI

that's my ex girlfriend

BETSY

What?

LEXI

we had to stay quiet about it at school  
cause -- well -- u get it  
but i loved her  
like i've never loved anyone

BETSY

I was out of my body

LEXI

she died two months ago  
i've been kind of a mess ever since  
but then u came along

BETSY

This was a prank

LEXI

and i've just felt so much better  
and i know we haven't met in person yet

BETSY

Margot never told me -- How did Margot never tell me?

LEXI

but you remind me so much of her  
you have her spirit  
is that weird to say

BETSY

And this girl -- this bitch -- this awful fucking person --

LEXI

is it weird that  
i think i love u  
same way i loved her

BETSY freezes in shock.

LEXI

peter?  
peter?

PETER

**@rudymocha has left the chat room.**

## SCHOOL

BETSY faces us -- trying to speak again -- but she can't. There are no words.

LEXI walks in, wiping away tears.

LEXI

Let's get this shit over with.

BETSY

Have you been crying?

LEXI

Just stupid boy drama. ... Ghosted. By a guy I was really starting to like.

BETSY

They can be completely blind to the whole situation at times. Boys. I mean. They don't know what they're doing and act from // the heart

LEXI

Their crotch -- oh, that too.

A smile between the two. A breath.

BETSY

... It's hard. Without her.

LEXI

She told you?

BETSY

I ... figured it out.

LEXI

You won't tell anyone. Cause my friends --

BETSY

No, no.

LEXI

And parents would kill me if they --

BETSY

No, don't -- secret's safe with me.

A long moment of silence. They both try to find words to say.

BETSY

Did she love you?

LEXI

That's what she told me. The first person I truly... You know she talked about you, like, all the time.

BETSY

Really?

LEXI

Oh yeah. She loved you. So much. She told me all about your adventures. The airboat story, the times you'd go to rainforest cafe, that time you guys went skiing -- that one's a favorite. And she'd always do the same voice // for every person in a story

BETSY

For all the people when telling a story -- yes! Oh my god it was like a

(funny voice)

“Do do do I'm being a dumbass and didn't think I needed //to strap in my skis”

LEXI

Yes! Yes -- it was the

(funny voice)

“Do do do” -- always started off with the “do do do”

The two laugh and laugh which turns into sobs from LEXI, then BETSY.

BETSY hugs LEXI and cries with her.

BETSY

I miss her too.

**END OF PLAY.**