

9/27/23 Reading Draft

THE WE HEART CHRISTOPHER H. MAHONEY
THROUGH TIME AND SPACE FOREVER CLUB

by

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AMANDA
F // 12
President of the Fan Club
Compassionate, but precise and loyal

HILLARY
F // 12
Vice President of the Fan Club
Out of her depths, anxiety fueled, loving

RHYS
M // 12
Secretary and Treasurer of the Fan Club
Passionate, keen, a follower

PLACE

Amanda's Bedroom
New York City

TIME

Now

Notes:

// imply when the next line should begin -- overlapping

This play should go fast -- like middle schoolers who talk faster than their brain can move. Let the pauses be the pauses, otherwise, pick it up.

AT RISE:

AMANDA'S BEDROOM

Best friends and middle schoolers AMANDA, RHYS, and HILLARY excitedly rush in with their backpacks.

HILLARY

-- and then he called me a // freakin' dweeb

AMANDA

Freakin dork -- oh he changed it up this time.

RHYS

At least they don't have to watch you change and comment on your "tiny peen"

HILLARY

I'm gonna beat those 8th graders up. I'll take a punch for y'all. I'll take a million punches if need be.

RHYS

I hate the boys at our school. Well, not all the boys...

AMANDA

Speaking of, I hear Christopher finds scars and bruises hot.

RHYS

Maybe we *should* start a fight, then.

HILLARY

So Christopher can heal our battle wounds together.

They all lovingly sigh in unison.

AMANDA

Did I tell you guys, Christopher looked at me for 6 1/2 seconds during dodgeball before throwing a dodgeball at me

RHYS

Wow.

HILLARY

Wow.

Rhys, why aren't you writing this down.

RHYS

We haven't started the meeting yet. [Gasp] We haven't started the meeting yet!

Simultaneously:

HILLARY runs around the room, and pulls out buttons with Christopher's face on it -- they each put them on.

RHYS grabs a trifold that says "We Heart Christopher H. Mahoney Through Time and Space Forever Club".

AMANDA grabs black cloaks and hands them out to the others.

Then, they pause to do an elaborate special three-way-hand-shake.

AMANDA

Meeting #36 of The We Heart Christopher H. Mahoney Through Time and Space Forever Club begin! Roll Call.

HILLARY

Hillary Streetly. Vice President. Here.

RHYS

Rhys Walters. Secretary and now Treasurer since Lindsey and her dumb mom moved to Idaho. Here.

AMANDA

Amanda Flores. President. Here. Okay. Now we begin with our prayer.

They all bow their heads and hold hands.

ALL

Dearest Christopher Harold Mahoney
 We honor your sacrifice of being the hottest boy in school
 By promising to one day be your sister-slash-brother-wives
 We praise you for blessing us
 With your luscious golden hair
 Your beautiful pearly whites
 The mumbled Childish Gambino raps
 And really cool basketball playing skills
 May you ace every math test

Score every basket hoop
 And land every ollie
 And if we fail you
 May the unthinkable happen to us
 Something like
 being swallowed down to the pits of hell
 Tormented for eternity
 Having to run the mile in P.E.
 Or an equal equivalent
 Amen

They all pick their heads back up and resume

AMANDA

Rhys. The minutes from last session?

RHYS

Of course. Last Thursday we met at Hillary's apartment at 4:32pm. We started off with our regular prayer. Then a reading of Christopher's tweet of the day. After, we went around and asked why we are grateful for Chris. Later, we went on to updates where I brought to everyone's attention that Chris ran out of his regular cologne after P.E. so he borrowed Dylan S.'s Blue Lightning Axe Body Spray. We made our love potion out of Chris's socks that Hillary stole from his gym bag during basketball rehearsal. Then we went into our presentation on which hat would look best on Chris and after narrowing it down we decided that it was either backwards snapbacks -- if his hair is swooshy -- or bucket hats -- if he's got a shorter cut and is feeling a little silly. After was our debate -- Christopher Mahoney: Straight or Bi.

AMANDA

Do we still think --

RHYS

LET A BOY DREAM. 3 in one shampoo/ body wash/ conditioner doesn't mean someone's straight. We cannot, as a society, make that assumption! ... And then we end, as always, with our closing dance to Chris's song he mixed on his brother's computer entitled "Deez Nuts".

AMANDA holds up a thin strip of paper. While
 HILLARY brings out a huge book from her
 backpack

AMANDA

Beautiful. And the tweet of the day is: "yooo u ever think that goldfishes have dreams cuz there brainz so small?"

RHYS

(amen)
Wow

HILLARY

(amen)
Wow

HILLARY takes the small scrap and glues it into the book.

AMANDA

Now, today I am grateful for Christopher H Mahoney because I was having a really hard day in gym today, but when he made eye contact with me for those 6 1/2 seconds -- get that down -- 6 1/2 seconds it was like he made all my troubles melt away. Until the dodgeball hit me in the face and I got a nosebleed -- but it was *the* best nosebleed ever.

RHYS

Today, I am grateful for Christopher H Mahoney because he teaches me that it's okay to privately pick my nose when no one is looking except for my future husband who's watching from the bushes. Holding onto secrets is okay. Like the fact that he's definitely bi.

HILLARY

Today, I am grateful for Christopher H. Mahoney because... because... It usually comes to me so easily... and it's um.... Can I tell you guys something. In secret. Not as members of the We Heart Christopher H. Mahoney Through Time and Space Forever Club, but as friends?

RHYS and AMANDA slowly nod.

HILLARY

(streamlined)

Christopher H Mahoney and I were in math and he asked
 "do you have a pencil"
 and i said
 "yes"
 and gave him one and he said
 "thanks"
 and I was like
 "no problem"
 and he was like
 "cool pencil"
 and I said
 "thanks it's from staples"
 and he was like
 "cool"
 and I was like
 "cool"

and then we had class and then after class he gave it back and said
 “thanks”
 and I said
 “yeah”
 and then he smiled at me for 2 seconds
 and then he walked away
 and then it was lunch

RHYS

He flirted with you.

AMANDA

You’re the chosen one. The first out of the three of us to be his middle-school lover.

RHYS

The prophecy has come true.

(quiet freakout)

I am so so happy for you. The first one. Not that I wanted to be the first one or --

AMANDA

Rhys, we’ll all join this relationship together, you and I just have to wait our turn. But
 Hil! This is a win! We have to celebrate!

HILLARY

No! I -- I don’t think it’s me. In the scripture, Book of “Dope-ness”, Section 3, Line 27 --
 quote -- “When our savior Christopher H. Mahoney finally comes to his senses and
 chooses his soulmates, thou chosen shalt feel lighter than air. Thy will tingle from thine
 feet to thine heart to thine privates. Not a thing will feel close to the feeling.” -- end quote
 -- Not a thing. And it’s not like I haven’t had that feeling about Christopher before,
 because the *tingling* has been present. But I don’t feel it anymore. And I went home and
 consulted *the* love guru Wendy Williams. And Wendy Williams said -- quote -- “You
 should know the score by now, You’re a Native New Yorker.” -- end quote -- And I know
 she only said that when she was singing “Native New Yorker” on the Masked Singer as
 the pair of lips and I grew up in Michigan-- but...

AMANDA

So what are you saying?

HILLARY

(tears starting to well)

I don’t know if I heart Christopher H. Mahoney through time and space forever.

A long pause.

HILLARY

There's something wrong with me. Hold me down. WITHDRAW THE SPIRIT OUT.

RHYS and AMANDA look at each other and nod.

Each takes ahold of one of HILLARY's arms and pushes her to the ground.

AMANDA

EVIL SPIRIT THAT HAS TAKEN OVER
HILLARY'S BODY, LEAVE HER
VESSEL AND BRING BACK THE GIRL
WHO TRULY LOVES ONE CHRIS H.
MAHONEY.

RHYS

(quietly chanting)
Chris Mahoney. Chris Mahoney. Chris
Mahoney. Chris Mahoney. Chris
Mahoney. Chris Mahoney. Chris
Mahoney. Chris Mahoney. Chris
Mahoney. Chris Mahoney.

RHYS

Alright. That's enough.

AMANDA

What color are Chris's eyes?

HILLARY

Blue.

RHYS

What outfit did he wear last January 14th?

HILLARY

Red basketball shorts, Nike t-shirt, and a little gold cross.

AMANDA

Fictional celebrity crush

HILLARY

Susan Storm but only in the failed 2015 reboot

RHYS

Okay, it's you. How do you feel?

HILLARY

The same?

AMANDA cradles HILLARY in her arms.

AMANDA

Sssshhh.. It's alright. It's alright. We're gonna get you back. Rhys. Get the pictures

RHYS

It's gonna be all okay, Hil. We're gonna fix you up real good. Just, just picture it -- the four of us on our joint wedding day. You and Amanda in gorgeous Christian Siriano Dresses with lace trimming around the skirt. Me in a stylish as hell white suit. And Chris - - mat black tuxedo. Hair... so swoopy. With the backwards snapback. We stand at the alter. He holds my hands and blinks in that way he always does. He leans in "Rhys," he whispers softly, "You never gave up on me. You always knew I was bisexual."

AMANDA

The pictures!

RHYS sighs and pulls out a ton of printed out pictures from his pockets

RHYS

Right! Right! We've got baby Christopher, Christopher during basketball rehearsal, Christopher on the family ski trip to Big Bear circa 2022, Christopher sleeping in history class, Christopher's face photo-shopped onto Kawaki from Naruto's body, Christopher's body photo-shopped onto Kawaki from Naruto's face --

AMANDA

This sounds like a ski trip situation.

RHYS hands AMANDA the picture

AMANDA

Hillary. I need you to take this picture. And make out with it as hard as you possibly can.

HILLARY

Like.... With tongue?

AMANDA

(serious as hell)

Oh, with all the tongue you got. Rhys, you start chanting things he likes to bring his spirit into the room. I'll drum to the speed of his heart beat -- 78 beats per minute. Ready? Go.

HILLARY starts going to town, while AMANDA drums.

RHYS

SPRAY CHEESE. LIZARDS. KIM KARDASHIAN'S BOOBIES. DIPPING FRIES IN MILKSHAKES. DIGIORNO. THE MOVIE ANTZ. CHEWING HIS FINGERNAILS. OFF BRAND CHEESE-ITS. THE STRAND BOOKSTORE BATHROOM WHICH IS HIS FAVORITE PLACE TO TAKE A POOP. TECH-DECKS. HIS COUSIN CRAIG. ROBLOX.

The picture rips.

They all gasp.

AMANDA

How do you feel?

HILLARY
(numb lips)

My lips feel numb. But that's it.

RHYS
(pulling Amanda aside)

I'm getting worried.

AMANDA

I know, I know. But, she'll be fine. I've got an idea. I think it's time to whip it out.

RHYS

Wait -- really, for this?

AMANDA

This is dire.

(turning to HILLARY)

We're going to use *it*. Today.

HILLARY
(lips still numb)

You guys would whip it out for me?

AMANDA

Of course we would. We want you to heart Christopher H Mahoney through time and space forever more than anything.

HILLARY smiles weakly.

AMANDA goes into her backpack and pulls out a tiny box. RHYS grabs a Ouija board.

AMANDA unveils it: it's a tooth on a string -- a beautiful tooth pendulum.

RHYS

(in awe)

Christopher H. Mahoney's last baby tooth.

HILLARY

(in awe)

Christopher H. Mahoney's last baby tooth

AMANDA

As we know, this is a very precious tool. It's only used every so often so we don't lose it's truth telling abilities. It connects us to Christopher H. Mahoney's subconscious. All hands on the pendulum.

They all hold the string together.

AMANDA

Oh dear Christopher H. Mahoney's last baby tooth, does Christopher have a crush on Hillary?

As the tooth moves, AMANDA recites the letters.

AMANDA

Y-E ... S.

AMANDA and RHYS wildly squeal. HILLARY attempts to match their energy.

AMANDA

One out of three of us! This is incredible -- see, we are putting in the work and seeing amazing results! Once he sees how great you are, obviously all he'll want is to date your bestest friends as well.

RHYS

Hillary, I'm so happy -- if you were Christopher, I'd kiss you on the lips right now.

HILLARY

Thank you?

AMANDA

Shush. We have business to attend to. Oh dear Christopher H. Mahoney's last baby tooth, what can we do to bring back Hillary's feelings?

The tooth moves.

AMANDA

N-O-T-H-I-N...

HILLARY

No no no that can't be.

RHYS

The tooth of truth.

AMANDA

Oh dear Christopher H. Mahoney's last baby tooth, is Hillary Streetly the one to fulfill the prophecy and become your first girlfriend slash future wife forever and always?

The tooth moves.

AMANDA

N....O

A moment of silence.

HILLARY

This is all I've wanted. For a year and a half, this is all I ever wanted. We would pray and make potions and discuss discussion topics to bring up with him during passing period. And now... I have everything I wanted. But I... maybe... oh god... maybe I don't want it anymore. I mean, maybe there's more to it all, you know? Maybe... Oh god if Christopher isn't the only one. Think about other boys from other schools.

AMANDA

(in a beautiful trance)

Other boys from other schools

RHYS

(in a beautiful trance)

Other boys from other schools

AMANDA

(snapping back out of it)

Hillary, my sister in Chris, you don't know what you're saying.

HILLARY

But I want to. I want to want to like him and only him. I want to still be in the club. I want us to all get married together in one of those weddings where they all walk barefoot on the beach and say "leave only footsteps, take only memories".

RHYS

But do you love him?

HILLARY

...No. But I love you guys.

AMANDA

But this isn't the We heart Amanda Flores and Rhys Walters through time and space forever club.

HILLARY

But...

AMANDA and RHYS are holding back tears.
HILLARY lets hers flow.

AMANDA

Per the rules of the Book of Chris, I must ask for your badge and cloak.

HILLARY, weepy, turns in her items.

RHYS

And the text.

HILLARY

No. No. You're not going to make me --

AMANDA

It's ritual.

HILLARY pulls out her phone -- she texts.

HILLARY
(teary-eyed)

Hi Chris. It's Hillary S. I think you're an asshole and I wouldn't want to be seen with you in a million years let alone kiss you.

RHYS

And?

HILLARY

Poop emoji. Send.

RHYS and AMANDA turn their backs to
HILLARY.

HILLARY

I'll see you guys at school tomorrow?

RHYS begins to turn around. AMANDA stops him.

AMANDA
(trying to keep it together)

You may exit.

HILLARY leaves.

A long pause.

RHYS

Did we really need to --

AMANDA
(sharp)

She stopped loving Christopher. Rule one of the club. We tried. We really really did try. There was nothing we could do.

A long pause.

RHYS

...But, hey, at least...um...there's more Christopher for us?

AMANDA

...Exactly. Exactly! We get way more time with Christopher that way.

RHYS and AMANDA start to do the elaborate three-way-hand-shake. It doesn't work with just two.

They pause.

AMANDA

Back to the agenda?

RHYS

Right. Right. We have what Halloween costumes do we think Chris would look good in. Through my fake Facebook account, Cord Roberts. I saw that Linda Mahoney posted a poll on which costume to get him this year. By the way, Linda is an expert at words with friends. Who knew kerfuffle was a playable word. Anyway. First costume up is a pirate.

AMANDA

Yum. Absolutely. The sword alone. Danger!

RHYS

I'm a yes on that too. Next is Raphael from the Mutant Ninja Turtles.

AMANDA

Ugh, everyone knows he's so much more of a Donatello.

RHYS

(wavering)

Totally.

A beat.

RHYS

....Do you think Christopher's bi?

A pause.

“Deez Nuts” by Christopher H. Mahoney -- a terribly made rap about cool things, probably made on garage band at 11pm on a school night -- plays us out.

END OF PLAY.