

Acceptance Letter

by: Japheth Gordon

INT. STEVENS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

It's well furnished with touches of class all around. The heavy oak front door BURSTS open and in flies KELLY STEVENS, 16 years old and full of energy. She throws off her backpack and searches frantically.

KELLY
(yelling upstairs)
Mom, where's the mail!?!

KYLI STEVENS, Kelly's identical twin, comes tumbling through the open front door - so fast that she's tripping over herself.

KYLI
Where are they? Did we get 'em?

KELLY
I dunno yet.
(calling out)
Mom where's the...

Kelly see's a stack of letters on the table.

Both girls DART over to the stack and flip through the papers wildly, until:

KYLI
(reads)
Ms. Kelly Stevens.

Kyli presents an envelope to Kelly. Kelly bows and hands an identical envelope to Kyli.

KELLY
And Ms. Kyle Stevens.

KYLI
Thank you.

KELLY
This is it!

KYLI
Ready?

KELLY
Go!

The two girls tear through the envelopes like Christmas wrapping. They read the letters simultaneously:

KYLI
Dear Ms. Stevens. Thank you
for your - blah blah blah. We
are pleased to inform you...

KELLY
Dear Ms. Stevens. Thank you
for - yada yada, skip that -
We regret to inform you...

KYLI
What?

KELLY
Looks like I didn't get in.

KYLI
That's crazy. Let me see that.

Kyli takes the letter from Kelly's hand and reads to herself.

KELLY
Listen, ~~blat~~ I'm really happy for
you.

KYLI
(off the letter)
It says you're on the waiting list.
There's still a chance that you'll
get in.

KELLY
(faking it)
That's good.

KYLI
I...I don't know what I'm supposed
to say.

KELLY
It's ~~blat~~ good. I'm proud of you.
This was your dream and you got it.

KYLI
This was our dream.

KELLY
As long as one of the Stevens
sisters got in, then we're
both winners.

KYLI
You gonna be okay?

KELLY

Of course. We knew this might happen.

KYLI

Why would they accept one, and not both of us?

KELLY

I don't know.

Beat. Kyli looks at the letter again. Then Kelly.

KYLI

I'm not going.

KELLY

Of course you are. And I'll end up going to State. We'll only be like an hour away.

KYLI

We're gonna spend the next four years at different schools? With new, different friends? Different classes, different dorms?

KELLY

We're gonna have to. It's not like we can't live without each other.

Beat. Kelly is lost in thought for a second.

KYLI

You okay?

KELLY

Yes. I said yes already. C'mon Kyli. This'll work out for us. We gotta grow up at some point, right?

KYLI

I guess you're right.

KELLY

You have to be your own person. No more leaning on each other. Time for us to stand alone.

KYLI

"Alone" sounds so...lonely.

KELLY

And now we can stop running home to check the mail everyday. Like two crazy people- all because some stupid letter.

KYLI

Yeah.

KELLY

That was like all we talked about day and night, for months. Glad we can move on...finally.

Kelly calmly unpacks the books from her bag and sits at the table to study. Kyli watches her.

KYLI

You're so calm. You sure you okay?

KELLY

(snaps)

Stop asking me that! Just stop.

(beat, then calmly)

██████████ I'm cool. They don't want me. That's all.

KYLI

I'm sorry.

KELLY

Why? Why are you sorry? We're supposed to strive for excellence, and you achieved it.

KYLI

It's not fair.

KELLY

Well that's the way it is.

KYLI

I don't want to go ██████████ without you.

KELLY

I've got to study okay?

KYLI

Okay.

Kelly flips open her text book like everything's okay. We know it's not.

Kyli walks up over to her sister, bends down, and hugs her.