



**HONESTY**

by: J. Gordon

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

An upscale three-story condo full of teenage hipsters, actors, musicians, models, and dancers. HOLLYWOOD'S YOUNG 'IT' CROWD. Music is bumping!

TARA and STELLA stand in the entry way.

STELLA

How long do we have to stay?

TARA

We don't *have* to do anything. It's a party. We're here to have fun.

STELLA

Everyone is staring at us.

TARA

'Cause we just walked in.

Tara spots JAY and waves him over.

TARA (CONT'D)

(TO STELLA) Try not to look like you're being held hostage.

JAY

You made it!

Jay and Tara hug.

TARA

Stella, this is Jay. Jay, Stella; she's my best friend from back home.

STELLA

Nice to meet you.

TARA

Jay is the guy I told you keeps trying to hook up with me.

JAY

'Trying'? What about Jaime's birthday?

TARA

One drunk kiss doesn't count.

JAY

Does to me.

TARA

Seriously, how many girls in this party have you made out with?

Jay scans the room, counting in his head.

TARA (CONT'D)

(TO STELLA) I swear he's like an un-neutered dog. If you feel something trying to hump your leg, you have my permission to squirt him with a spray bottle.

Jay is done counting.

JAY

Seventeen, including you.

TARA

You're so full of shit.

JAY

(TO STELLA) So, how do you like LA?

STELLA

I haven't seen much so far. We basically came straight here from the airport.

JAY

Well then, allow me to officially welcome you to La-La Land.

Jay holds out an ELECTRONIC VAPORIZER PEN.

STELLA

What's that?

TARA

A vaporizer.

STELLA

Uh, no thanks.

JAY

You don't vape?

STELLA

I'm cool. You go ahead.

TARA  
Where are the drinks?

JAY  
Upstairs.

TARA  
Wait here. (OFF STELLA'S LOOK) I'll  
be quick.

Tara leaves.

JAY  
Are you still in school?

STELLA  
Yeah, I'm only fifteen...

JAY  
So am I.

STELLA  
But you don't go to school?

JAY  
Most of us tested out. Some  
homeschool, but no one here like,  
goes to school.

STELLA  
And everyone here drinks and  
smokes?

JAY  
Pretty much.

BEAT.

STELLA  
Can I be honest?

JAY  
Honesty? Wow, you really aren't  
from around here. (THEN) Sure, go  
'head.

STELLA  
I think you're all trying to be  
cooler than you are, but really  
every person in here is as insecure  
as the kids back at my school.

(MORE)

STELLA (CONT'D)

I mean, is it just a coincidence that every guy here is wearing the same exact swag'd out jeans and Ray Bans? (MOCKING) Oh, look at us, underage drinking and smoking. Let's all do whatever the latest hip-hop songs say to do!

JAY

Okay, can I be honest now? I think you don't try new things because the unknown scares you. You've never had a drink because you think you might become an alcoholic, you never cheated on a test because you think it might lead to a life of crime, and you've never let a guy touch you because you think it might get you pregnant. You're not mad because these things disgust you, you're mad because you want to try them so bad...

Jay moves intimately close. Stella is tense, but it seems like they might kiss. After a BEAT, Stella moves away.

JAY (CONT'D)

...but like I said. You're scared.

They stand there for moment. Tara returns.

TARA

Ugh, sorry, that took forever.  
(THEN) What'd I miss?

JAY

Nothing.

TARA

(TO STELLA) Ready to go?

STELLA

We just got here. Let's chill for a little while.