



INSIDE JOKES

by Japheth Gordon

INT. ANSLEY'S ROOM - MORNING

Emma, grounded and vulnerable, is scrolling through her phone. Something catches her attention and causes her thumbs to stop. Ansley is causally taking selfies.

ANSLEY

These new filters suck.  
(off the silence)  
What're you looking at?

EMMA

Just...crap. (then) So what's our project gonna be about?

ANSLEY

I thought we decided on 'Marine Habitats'.

EMMA

'Cause you wanna go to the beach?

ANSLEY

Exactly. All we need is a few videos of something in the water, add a little music, some voice over. Easy.

EMMA

Fine, but *you* have to do all the work.

ANSLEY

Yay. My mom will drive. And Charlotte and her boyfriend are gonna meet us there.

EMMA

She has a boyfriend now?

ANSLEY

I know right?

EMMA

I bet she thinks she's so ... I don't know....whatever.

ANSLEY

Charlotte's hilarious. I don't know why you hate her.

EMMA

I don't hate her. She's just not part of our original group so like, the inside jokes are different.

ANSLEY

You should give her a chance. You guys have basically the same sense of humor.

EMMA

No we don't. She's always the weirdest one on our group text. By the way, can we start a new text thread with less people on it?

ANSLEY

You mean without Charlotte?

EMMA

Just anyone who isn't... y'know, part of the group.

ANSLEY

She *is* part of the group. (beat) Why are you being like this?

EMMA

Like what?

ANSLEY

I don't know. Are you mad at me?

EMMA

No.

BEAT.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Your last five posts are like selfies with Charlotte like you two are besties now.

ANSLEY

'Cause we kinda are.

EMMA

I know. (beat) I know that.

EMMA (CONT'D)  
What? You think I don't know that?

ANSLEY  
It's just... you we're acting like -- I'm sorry.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Don't be sorry. It's cool. I gotta go.

Emma packs her backpack and starts to exit.

ANSLEY

Emma. Wait --

EMMA

Send me the footage and I'll edit it on my laptop at home.

And Emma is gone.