

WRONG GIRL

written by: Japheth Gordon

INT. SOUTHLAND MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

Noisy clusters of tables are circumferenced by a ring of fast-food, pizza, and Asian food spots. The Saturday lunch crowd is primarily unchaperoned teens and tweens. Chatting, shopping, just hanging out.

We find Jennifer and BRIAN sitting alone at a small table. Jennifer is blowing on her cup of Chai Tea. The tea bag bobs in the hot liquid as she tugs on the string.

Brian, sits across from her, reading a text on his iphone. He smiles as he write a reply - his thumbs zipping around the screen.

Jennifer is watching him. She shakes her head subtly, but says nothing, blows her tea again, and takes a sip.

BRIAN

What?

JENNIFER

Nothing. Did I say something?

BRIAN

No, but you had that look.

JENNIFER

You swear you can read me.

BRIAN

That's because I can.

JENNIFER

Oh yeah? What am I thinking?

BRIAN

You're thinking...that you hate my girlfriend.

JENNIFER

Who - what's-her-face? I don't hate her. I don't even know her.

BRIAN

Her name is Lacey and you've met her twice now.

JENNIFER

Yeah, but I don't, like, "know her", know her. Y'know?

BRIAN

That's 'cause every time she comes to hang out with us, you're always busy doing something.

JENNIFER

Doesn't mean I hate her.

BRIAN

So what is it?

JENNIFER

Nothing. I'm happy for you.

BRIAN

But?

JENNIFER

The truth is...honestly...I think you can do better.

BRIAN

Oh whatever. You've gone out with some of the biggest douches in our school.

JENNIFER

Just an honest opinion from a friend...

BUZZ - Brian's phone vibrates. He checks a new message.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Like I said, I don't even know her.

BRIAN

(re: phone)

She just left Forever 21. She's coming over to meet us.

JENNIFER

What time is it?

BRIAN

No, Jen. You have to stay. I want all three of us to hang out.

JENNIFER

Maybe five minutes then I got A.C.T. prep.

BRIAN

What is it, specifically, that you don't like about Lacey?

JENNIFER

Her name is very slutty, first of all.

BRIAN

No it's not.

JENNIFER

(mock sexy voice)

"My name is *Lacey*. Hi, I'm *Lacey*.  
*Lacey* wants you baby -"

BRIAN

You made your point. What else?

JENNIFER

I don't know. She doesn't seem like a good fit for you.

BRIAN

You should know that I really like her. We're getting kinda serious.

JENNIFER

You're just saying that 'cause she let you dry hump in the band room during lunch.

BRIAN

No, that's not it. There's something about Lacey. She's funny and smart and...I can't stop smiling when I think about her.

JENNIFER

Gag! When you're that sweet, it's kinda revolting.

BRIAN

Sometimes, we just hang out, all day, doing nothing.

JENNIFER

So what? We do that everyday.

BRIAN

True.

(beat)

That's funny. You know, she reminds me of you a lot.

JENNIFER

Really?

BRIAN

Yeah. You both have a sweet, chewy center surrounded by a tough-bitch candy shell.

JENNIFER

Thanks, sort of.

BRIAN

It's weird 'cause you and me would never hook up. That would be so creepy - like dating your sister or something.

JENNIFER

I know, right? We know way too much about each other to ever be together like that.

Beat of silence as that hangs between them.

It's long and awkward.

Jennifer stands abruptly with:

JENNIFER

I'll see you later.

BRIAN

Jennifer...

JENNIFER

(cuts him off)

I just want you to know, you're my friend...and I think you're with the wrong girl. That's all.

BRIAN

Okay.

She leaves Brian sitting alone. His face: "What did that mean?"