

To Go Out or Not

Written by Rachel Kruglyak

Made in Highland

**INT. MODERN HOUSE FOYER- NIGHT**

ALISON MCCORMICK (17, redhead, lots of makeup, slim, tight black minidress, black strapped heels, designer handbag) walks on her tiptoes across the room. She is about to turn the doorknob when...

TARA (O.S.)  
Going somewhere?

Alison turns to see her sister TARA (13, hair in a bun, button-down shirt, pleated skirt) leaning against the wall with her arms crossed.

ALISON  
Oh my god, Tara. What are you doing?

TARA  
Making sure you don't sneak out again. If you get caught, our summer Europe trip is canceled!

ALISON  
You can't be serious.

TARA  
Oh, I'm dead serious. I'm sick and tired of covering for you.

ALISON  
That only happened one time!

TARA  
More like a dozen! The last time it happened, you came to school after lunch, and I had to tell Mom and Dad that you were kidnapped. They called everyone they knew trying to find you. And then you tried to cover for yourself saying that you "lost track of time" and they grounded me for lying. I'm not doing it again.

ALISON  
I guarantee that won't happen this time.

She starts to turn the doorknob, but Tara jumps in front of her.

TARA  
It's already 11:30!  
(MORE)

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TARA (CONT'D)

You're going to ruin our chances  
of having the most epic summer  
ever! You can't keep me from  
seeing the Leaning Tower of Pisa!

ALISON

It will still be leaning next  
year.

Tara scoffs.

TARA

What is so important that you'd  
risk our entire summer?

Alison looks as defiant as possible.

ALISON

It's Mariah McPherson's 18th  
birthday and she personally  
invited me.

Tara claps her hands together and jumps up and down.

TARA

(excitedly)

Oh my god, Ali! *The* Mariah  
McPherson invited you to her  
birthday party? You are so lucky!

She crosses her arms again and glares at Alison.

TARA (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

Wow. Big deal.

ALISON

Actually, it is.

TARA

It still doesn't hold a candle to  
the Eiffel Tower.

ALISON

You just don't get it. All of  
Mariah's friends are so happy and  
successful now! Lilia Wilder is  
even on the radio! Once you're in  
with Mariah, you're in *everywhere*.  
I want to be the prom queen and I  
think having an in with Mariah  
will help me achieve that. I can't  
skip the party!

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TARA

I see. You still can't go.

ALISON

What if I promise to be back by 7?

TARA

Is that a promise you can actually keep? I've heard that Mariah's parties are *legendary*. Her sister Aria says that they can last for *several days*.

ALISON

Oh my god, are you serious? That would be *amazing*.

TARA

And I would be forced to cover for you. Which I won't do.

ALISON

Is there something you want, Tara?

TARA

Yes. For you to stay home.

ALISON

Tara, please. I heard that Jake Cochran will be there. I've liked him since freshman year and I want him to be my date to the prom! Just let me know what you want. I'll do anything.

Tara smiles mischievously.

TARA

Anything?

ALISON

Yes. I promise.

TARA

Well, I *guess* there's something you could do for me.

ALISON

What?

TARA

I want to be on the radio.

Alison blinks at her, surprised.

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ALISON  
Um, what?

TARA  
I want to be on the radio and I think Mariah could help me get there. After all, she helped Lilia Wilder do just that.

ALISON  
And where do I come into this?

TARA  
I've recorded several songs and I want you to show them to her. I'll go get my flash drive.

Tara leaves the room with a bounce in her step. Alison starts pacing. She looks impatient. When Tara returns, she is holding a flash drive in the shape of a unicorn.

TARA  
Here.

ALISON  
A unicorn? There's no way I'm giving this to Mariah.

TARA  
You do this or I wake Mom and Dad up now.

ALISON  
You wouldn't.

TARA  
Mom!

ALISON  
Okay, okay. I'll do it. Just be quiet.

Alison takes the flash drive from Tara and turns the doorknob.

TARA  
Alison?

ALISON  
What now? I'm already late.

TARA  
When you give Mariah the flash drive, take a picture.

ALISON

No.

TARA

Alison, if I don't see proof that Mariah received the flash drive, I'm going to release your eighth grade cheerleading audition tape.

ALISON

You wouldn't.

TARA

I need a picture and your word that you will be back by 7 or everyone will know you can't do gymnastics or a basket toss to save your life.

ALISON

Why are you doing this?

TARA

I will not be denied Big Ben!

Alison sighs.

ALISON

Fine. You'll get your picture.

TARA

I better.

Alison hurries across the street to her car and gets inside.  
Tara watches.