

EXT. BACKYARD — DAY

A YOUNG WOMAN, LAUREL, hastily exits the house leaving the noise and chaos of the party behind her. Finally alone, she allows herself to exhale, laugh and slump down onto a patio chair. After a moment, she realizes she isn't the only one out there.

The hostess of the party and Laurel's work colleague, EMMA CHEN, is sitting on a patio chair and is scrolling through her phone. She looks bored.

LAUREL

Emma?

Emma, surprised, looks up.

EMMA

Oh, hey, Laurel.

LAUREL

What are you doing out here?

EMMA

I just needed a break.

LAUREL

From your own party?

Emma sighs.

EMMA

Someone had to throw the Christmas party.

LAUREL

It's nice of you to host.

EMMA

Yeah, well, it was my turn.

LAUREL

It's going a lot better than last year's. Remember when Madison swung on Zoe's chandelier and broke both her arms?

EMMA

And the year before when Raven accidentally lit Aaron's bed on fire?

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LAUREL

Oh, I think she did that on purpose. Didn't she find him making out with her sister?

EMMA

Twice!

Emma and Laurel laugh. They look out at the pool, where a GUY pushes a GIRL in.

LAUREL

Why do we keep working with these people? They can be so immature.

EMMA

I wonder about that too, but the money's good.

LAUREL

Yeah, I like being able to spoil the girls I date.

Emma looks at Laurel in a new light.

LAUREL (CONT'D)

I bought the last one a Birkin Bag. Then she dumped me because I never had time for her.

A tipsy girl, SABRINA, dressed in a minidress and high heels approaches. She is holding a champagne flute.

SABRINA

Emma? Come back to the party! You're missing everything! Alison and Diana are trying to build the Eiffel Tower out of cream puffs!

EMMA

I'll be there in a minute.

Sabrina heads inside. Emma sighs.

EMMA

I should probably go.

Emma and Laurel stand.

LAUREL

Well, this has been fun, but it's been a long day.

EMMA

You can't stay a bit longer? I was hoping we could talk some more.

LAUREL

Maybe some other time.

Laurel begins to walk away. Emma hurries to catch up.

EMMA

Look, Laurel, you're the only colleague I can stand. Please stay.

Laurel hesitates.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I promise we'll have fun.

LAUREL

I don't know, Emma. I left because I felt claustrophobic.

Emma leans in so her lips are right next to Laurel's.

EMMA (CONT'D)

We could hang out in my bedroom. It's incredibly spacious.

Laurel and Emma walk into the party together.

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