

dark until he sneaks in? Turn over as if I'm still asleep when he slips into bed? Pretend that everything is as it was?

ABE: I don't know. Maybe you should confront him. I'm going to confront Lydia soon.

SUSAN: And what can he say to amend this? What can he say to bring back a marriage after this?

ABE: You sound as if you've known for quite some time.

SUSAN: Maybe I have. But it's hard to admit failure. All I know is it's lonely. Waiting. My life is lonely. Not as I expected. At all. *(Pause.)* Anyway, we have a cottage. *(Chuckles.)* I have a cottage. We could head there tonight? Just both call in sick tomorrow to hang out on the beach. I'm not talking sex. Actually, I don't want it either. I know I'm all over the place tonight. We'll just go, get on the road, and continue this conversation till whenever. Get up, put our toes in the water. I like you a lot too. And I don't know what that means right now. But I know I don't want to be alone again tonight. Waiting. I don't want him to feel the comfort of me being there again. So I'll call and leave a message, telling him where I went. You could call Lydia and tell her something. *(Beat.)* What do you say?

ABE: It's dramatic. Are you sure it isn't all for revenge or show?

SUSAN: Not sure—no. But it appeals to me. *(Beat.)* I've always thought of the cottage as a healing place.

ABE: *(He looks out at the view.)* Umm. Don't know. But I certainly love the beach.

SUSAN: Me too.

♦ A SWEET PLAN

Katelin and Silvio, 16, have been friends since grade school. They have shared the hard knocks that kids who are a little out of the ordinary face. Both have been bullied by jocks in their high school. Over the last few years, they have joined up with two other boys—outcasts as well—who have formed a “clique.” Marky, the leader of the pack, encouraged them to express their anger toward fellow students and their school by reprogramming some computers a few months ago. Now, he suggests that they do a full-fledged attack on the jocks’ lockers and a trophy case. Silvio starts to get nervous once he learns that Marky has a gun. In this scene, Katelin is picking up Silvio to go on this “locker rage” they had planned the night before. Silvio is resistant to the idea now. He feels things will get out of hand. He wants to discourage Katelin, who he has a crush on, from going as well. As the scene begins, Katelin comes into his house to find him ill-prepared.

KATELIN: What are you doing? You're supposed to be ready to go.

SILVIO: I know.

KATELIN: The guys are already heading over to the school.

SILVIO: Yeah.

KATELIN: What's goin' on, Silvio? Don't get all chicken on me. Put your shoes on, grab your face mask—let's go.

SILVIO: I'm not sure I want to.

KATELIN: What are you talking about? We promised last night. We all made a pact.

SILVIO: I just didn't feel comfortable saying no to Marky.

KATELIN: He didn't force you. None of us did.

SILVIO: No offense, Katelin, but you're kinda blinded by

things. You don't know how he gets when you piss him off. You haven't seen him when he feels betrayed.

KATELIN: Look how much fun you had when we reprogrammed the school's computers.

SILVIO: No one got hurt then.

KATELIN: Oh, I don't know. You weren't the kid who got suspended for using the computer that went right to the porn site.

SILVIO: That was totally different.

KATELIN: Besides, who's to say anyone's going to get hurt today? We're just gonna shoot up some lockers. Scare a few people. We're not gonna pull a Columbine on them.

SILVIO: I've been thinking all night. Things like this can get out of hand.

KATELIN: It's not going to get out of hand, Silvio. It's going to be fun. And nobody's going to catch us because they wouldn't expect it from us.

SILVIO: I think you're doing this because of Marky.

KATELIN: What?! No I'm not. You know we have a thing for each other, but I'm doing this for me.

SILVIO: He doesn't have a thing for you, Katelin.

KATELIN: That's total bull! I know he does. Don't be stupid. Now, let's get out of here.

SILVIO: Have you thought about what would happen if we did get caught?

KATELIN: It's not going to happen. We have too good a plan. And even if everything went wrong—all we'd get is a slap on the wrist. None of us have a record. None of us have even been sent to detention. You're practically valedictorian. My dad's Mr. Moola. We're a couple of white kids with a higher-than-3.5 grade point average. Sad to say, but we aren't going to do any jail time. They'll say the pressure got to be too much—which it did.

SILVIO: And what if in the whole craziness of things, someone comes after one of us? What makes you so sure no one would get shot?

KATELIN: I know who you think would do that. So you don't have to make it all general sounding.

SILVIO: So what happens then?

KATELIN: We made several promises. I know him. He'll keep his. *(Beat.)* Silvio, I really want you to come with us. I thought we were buds. I thought we were gonna do this thing together. Like when we did the devil's night thing?

SILVIO: This is not toilet papering the trees, Katelin. This is really serious.

KATELIN: Well, I don't get you. Last night we were all shooting off our mouths about all the stuff we wanted to do to that hellhole. I mean, you kept joining in. Like about how all those guys stuffed your head in the sink. You were going on about how all the faculty values is good looks and athletic ability. They treat you like crap. Don't you want to get revenge?! What's happened between now and last night?

SILVIO: Well, I'm not drinking for one. It's easy to get pissed off and complain about teachers and the school when you're hanging out drinking with friends. And secondly, and more importantly, I didn't know he was going to bring a gun till we already promised to do this thing. It's one thing to spray paint the lockers or break chairs, but it's another to shoot a gun at things. That's crazy!

KATELIN: It wasn't crazy to you last night.

SILVIO: Well, he didn't take out the gun till the end. And I didn't feel I could say no by then.

KATELIN: Why? Because Marky was holding the gun to your throat or something?

SILVIO: No. But it did scare the crap out of me when he pulled that thing out. I've never seen one of those before. I didn't even know he had one. Did you?

KATELIN: No. But now we can really scare them. So why do you say Marky doesn't have a thing for me all of a sudden? Did he say something to you?

SILVIO: I met his girlfriend.

KATELIN: What are you talking about?!

SILVIO: She's older. Out of high school.

KATELIN: That's bull. You're totally lying. We just started going out. He doesn't have time for another girlfriend. We're going to hang out tonight after this thing.

SILVIO: I'm not lying. You're just reading way too much into what Marky tells you, Katelin. It's wishful thinking. He even calls you a good friend. Do you not hear that? *(Beat.)* What's it about him that you like so much?

KATELIN: I gotta go. If you don't want to come, fine, but don't sit there making up stories.

SILVIO: I'm not. Why would I lie about that?

KATELIN: You have a lot of reasons. Anyway, if you don't come, it's all right, but don't think that they're gonna hang out with you anymore. I may not even hang with you.

SILVIO: Wait! Don't be like that. I just don't want to get in trouble. I don't want to hurt anyone. Maybe I don't like how things are done at school sometimes, but that doesn't mean that I want to shoot a gun at some lockers. What does that prove? So I don't want to be another stupid statistic about troubled smart kids. Does that mean I'm not cool enough to hang out with?

KATELIN: No, but you don't just agree to do something with your best friends and then back out at the last minute. When it's too late for them.

SILVIO: But it's not too late for you, Katelin. You don't have to go. Neither do they. We can call his cell and say it's off.

KATELIN: But don't you get it, Silvio? I want to go. So do they.

SILVIO: Do you? Or are you just trying to keep Marky's attention? Show him how cool you are?

KATELIN: No, I want to do it for me. For all those years of being made fun of, or for being tortured by those guys. I can't wait till Marky pulls out that gun. I can't wait till I see the looks on their faces. Scare them for a change. Threaten them for a change. I'm gonna grab that flagpole and smash that damn trophy case so fast they won't even know what happened. And I'll love it. I'll love every minute

of it. It will be incredible. For once, I'll feel empowered. And we won't be caught. It's too sweet a plan. You have to come with us, Silvio. I know you'll get into it once we're there.

SILVIO: This doesn't even sound like you.

KATELIN: It is me. *(Beat.)* I knew this would happen. I'm taking off. It's late.

SILVIO: Wait! *(She stops.)* You think it's so brave to destroy property? Then go do it without the masks.

KATELIN: That's not brave, that's just stupid!

SILVIO: And if he goes nutty on you—like he did in that video store?

KATELIN: He gave the guy a shiner. He didn't kill him or anything.

SILVIO: He didn't have a gun in his hand, Katelin!

KATELIN: *(Starts to leave.)* I don't have time to chat about this. We've got a schedule.

SILVIO: *(Grabbing her.)* Don't! Please.

KATELIN: *(Pulling away.)* Let go of me!

SILVIO: *(Not letting go.)* No. I only came over last night to hang out with those guys because I wanted to see you.

KATELIN: You're hurting my arm.

SILVIO: I only said I'd do those things because I wanted to impress you.

KATELIN: Well, this isn't impressing me at all. You're turning your back on all of us.

SILVIO: When those kids did that school shooting a few months ago, a couple of them didn't really know what they'd do when they got there.

KATELIN: So that was them. We have a foolproof plan.

SILVIO: Listen to me! They thought they'd scare a bunch of people by firing some shots in the auditorium—not at people, but it didn't turn out that way. I'm sure somebody didn't keep their promise.

KATELIN: I trust Marky and Todd completely. It's you I'm worried about.

SILVIO: Eight kids were injured. One died. They just kept talking about all the blood.

KATELIN: You're hurting me, Silvio!

SILVIO: You're hurting me. Since I was thirteen, all I've tried to do is protect you. I'm trying to now. Do you want to hate yourself over the next, oh say, ten years because you made one lousy choice and it ruined a good life that could have been? You want to be lumped in with the pasty-faced kids who play Dungeons and Dragons all day and kill their classmates for no good reason?

KATELIN: Ahhh! We're not talking about killing anyone! How many times do I have to—

SILVIO: So what would we be doing? What statement is made by destroying some lockers and a trophy case? Jocks suck? How deep! How amazing! The problem is the message gets lost anyway. The message becomes nothing next to the crime. And I'm not just talking about jail time. I'm talking about how you feel about yourself afterwards. Have you thought about that?

KATELIN: How does invigorated sound? Is that the right word? Maybe exhilarated—maybe alive for once.

SILVIO: Well, if that's what makes you feel alive, maybe I'm wrong about you. *(He lets go of her.)*

KATELIN: Maybe I was wrong about you. You think you'll feel bad—like you did something wrong against God or karma or something? You're just scared. *(Putting on a voice.)* "If Mommy ever found out, whew, would you be in trouble. She's hard." You're a coward. Later.

SILVIO: What if I told you I'm going to call the police?

KATELIN: What? No way. You wouldn't do that to us.

SILVIO: I'll tell them who you all are and what you're planning to do before it even starts.

KATELIN: If you do, I'll never speak to you again.

SILVIO: I would do anything to stop you from getting hurt. I don't care if you hate me.

KATELIN: You're so chicken! Marky was so right about you.

SILVIO: Don't go, Katelin. Please don't go!

KATELIN: I'd hate you, Silvio. I'd hate your guts if you did that. Why can't you just let us have one glorious day where we rule? Is that so much to ask?

SILVIO: And what about the day after? What are you gonna have to do next to get a thrill? Because it's gonna keep having to escalate—to outshine what you've already done—until you *do* wind up killing someone.

KATELIN: Are you coming or what? *(He shakes his head no.)* You can meet up with us later if you change your mind.

SILVIO: I won't.

KATELIN: I know you, Silvio. You may want to narc on all of us, but you won't. You and I are buds from way back, right? Sometimes I wish I could like you the way you want me to, but I just don't feel that, ya know? I'm not trying to hurt you. But you can't force things that aren't.

SILVIO: No. You can't.

KATELIN: So see you later. 'Kay? I know you won't turn on us.