

FIRST DANCE

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SOPHIA and her best friend RAIN,
seventh graders, are sitting on
folding chairs.

SOPHIA
This is so embarrassing. There's nobody here.

RAIN
(looks at watch)
They said it started at seven. It's six-forty-seven.

SOPHIA
I knew we should've come later.

RAIN
My mom has to pick my dad up at the train station at seven.
If she'd brought us here afterward, we'd have been late.

SOPHIA
I'd rather be late than have everybody see me just sitting
here.

RAIN
You just said there was nobody here, so how could anybody be
looking at us?

SOPHIA
Oh, you know what I mean. We look desperate.

RAIN
We do not. We look punctual.

SOPHIA
Punctual? Since when do boys care about that?

RAIN
Good point. If they did, there'd be some here. But don't
worry, Soph, they'll come, and when they do you'll be the
first one on the dance floor.

SOPHIA
Oh, Rainy, that's so sweet. But I don't think so. I think
they'll pick you.

RAIN
I only want to dance with Keating.

SOPHIA
(sighs)
So do I.

Sophia and Rain glance at each
other.

RAIN
We could, you know, share him.

SOPHIA
I don't believe in sharing.

RAIN
Since when?

SOPHIA
Since I fell in love with Keating Osborne.

RAIN
Well, I love him, too, but I'm willing to share.

SOPHIA
I don't think that's what love is, Rain.

RAIN
I doubt he's coming, anyway.

SOPHIA
He said he might.

RAIN
You talked to him?

SOPHIA
Uh-huh. At band practice.

RAIN
Just my luck I play the piano.

SOPHIA
What do you mean?

RAIN
Soph, I don't know how to break this to you, but there's no piano in a marching band.

SOPHIA
Shh. Look who just came in.

RAIN
Amy. Who's she with?

SOPHIA
I don't know. I've never seen her before.

RAIN
(starts to stand)
Let's—

SOPHIA

No!

(as Rain sinks back down)

These are good seats. I picked them on purpose. You can see the door.

RAIN

I know where the door is.

SOPHIA

Look, do you want to sit with me or not?

RAIN

Of course I do. I mean, at least until we get asked to dance.

SOPHIA

Look. There's Mrs. Brown.

RAIN

I hope she's got brownies.

SOPHIA

My mom said she'd be a chaperone if she didn't have to bake. She says baked goods are woman's greatest enemy.

RAIN

Your mom's cool.

SOPHIA

Thanks.

RAIN

But I still like brownies. Congo bars, too.

SOPHIA

When I was a child, I ate like a child. But then I became a woman and I gave up childish things.

RAIN

What?

SOPHIA

It's from the Bible, sort of.

RAIN

Oh. My mom says chocolate keeps her sane.

SOPHIA

My mom says when she eats chocolate her heart beats faster.

RAIN

My heart beats faster just thinking about chocolate.

SOPHIA

Mine beats faster thinking about Keating Osborne. I wish, I wish, I wish he'd come through that door right now.

RAIN

(stands, peering stage left)

Soph, you are magic.

SOPHIA

(hisses)

Sit!

RAIN

(ignores her)

Yikes, he's with like half the eighth grade boys.

SOPHIA

(hisses)

Stop looking over there, Rain, or I'll leave.

RAIN

Don't worry, they're going the other way.

(She gasps.)

Oh, no!

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