

1

INT. BEDROOM DAY

You hear a metronome in the background. It is keeping perfect time. On DARIA in her bed. Her alarm goes off, the alarm sound is Asleep by the smiths.

She wakes up and steps out of bed, quickly checking her phone. There are no new messages. She goes into the bathroom and brushes her teeth to perfect time.

She then runs downstairs, and sits at the table, quickly eating her food. Her mom is cooking the in the kitchen.

MOM

Daria, do you have plans for this weekend?

Daria's mouth is full of food.

DARIA

Um, I was thinking of writing another song.

MOM

I mean with friends.

Daria stands, grabbing her bag and walking out the door.

DARIA

I have to go mom! Have a nice day.

She runs out the door and her mom sighs looking at her daughter leave.

2

INT. CLASSROOM DAY

DARIA sits in the back of the classroom.

She is reading a copy of Mozipedia: The Encyclopedia of Morrissey and The Smiths, not paying attention to the classroom around her.

Kids talking notes, talking with friends, passing notes, and sleeping. The TEACHER tries to quiet the class but to no avail.

The bell finally rings and the class comes to eery silence. The teacher starts to teach, but her speech is muddled. DARIA is too focused on her book.

But out of nowhere, the door swings open, making a loud thud. In walks a boy, with hair not stylistically messy.

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He wears a tan suit, Polo, Sweatband, and a pair of Aviators. He smiles a kind of awkward yet charming smile, his mouth full of braces.

He is adorable, in a kind of innocent first love way. His name is MARCUS.

He tries to sneakily sit in the back of the room, but before he can sit, the teacher looks at him with a look that screams, "I know why you're late."

She keeps contact and speaks loudly as she speaks.

TEACHER

MARCUS, so nice for you to join us.
I know you're new, but that's no
excuse. Why are you late?

Marcus smiles sheepishly.

MARCUS

(Signs in american sign
language)

I do apologize, I woke up late.
Sorry.

Daria can't help but stare. His hands are mesmerizing to her. She studies him like a textbook as he sits down. He looks to her and smiles.

She whispers, "Hi." He frowns and looks forward. She is confused. The teacher, trying to move past the late student.

She talks but the words don't matter to Daria. But the bell rings, and the students run out of the classroom.

3 INT. HALLWAY DAY

Daria walks out of the classroom and waits by the door. When Marcus finally walks out, Daria turns in front of him and starts speaking very fast.

DARIA

Hi, I'm not sure if we've met, but
I'm Daria. You seemed kinda
confused, I was wondering if I
could help you with anything.

When Daria speaks, Marcus only hears muffled noise. He is confused and angry that she can't communicate with him. He feels disrespected, like she's mocking him.

MARCUS

(Signs in American sign
language)

If I seem a little strange, that's
because I am. But please leave me
alone. Thanks.

The boy walks away, leaving Daria confused and hurt. She wants to know more.

4 EXT. QUAD DAY

A girl, YOSHIMI, sits under the pergola. She's wearing all black, with white paint splattered all over her clothes. She's on her computer. DARIA runs over to Yoshimi, sitting next to her. Yoshimi looks confused but friendly.

DARIA

(Happily)

Well good morning Yoshimi.

Yoshimi continue to type.

YOSHIMI

What do you want Daria?

DARIA

(Her face falls)

I want to know about the new kid.
The deaf one.

Yoshimi smiles. This is what she lives for. She closes her laptop half way.

YOSHIMI

Give me a second.

Yoshimi reopens her laptop and starts typing away. Daria starts drawing on her hand. Yoshimi then quickly turns the laptop to face Daria.

YOSHIMI

(Satisfied)

Marcus Fryer, 15 years old,
straight, VERY into Star Wars,
plays guitar, and is deaf. He's
currently in a Smiths cover band
and plays tennis in his spare time.
Spends most of his time with other
deaf people, so he probably is not
interested in you.

Daria become more enamored with Marcus with each description. She's then thrown off guard.

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DARIA

(Badly lying)

What? I totally don't like him come
on!

YOSHIMI

I really don't care. I just think
it's a dumb idea to try and date a
guy who you can't even communicate.

Daria's eyes light up, she has an idea.

DARIA

You're right. I need to be able to
talk to him...

Yoshimi interrupts her

YOSHIMI

No, stop I know what you're
thinking, that is bad idea.

DARIA

I'm gonna learn sign language.

YOSHIMI

Sign language is one of the
hardest languages in the world.
Even if you learn sign language,
that doesn't guarantee him liking
you.

DARIA

(Ignoring Yoshimi)

I have to go now.

Daria starts to walk away.

YOSHIMI

(Yells)

This is a terrible idea.

5 INT. YOSHIMI'S HOUSE DAY

On the front door slamming. Daria happily runs to her room.

6 INT. BEDROOM DAY

Daria sits down at her computer. She cracks her knuckles and types in, "How to learn sign language fast." Hundreds of results come up. She clicks on a couple and starts to try to learn. She tries for hours, but nothing seems to stick. Her hands become sweaty, she starts breathing heavily. She hears Yoshimi as she types.

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YOSHIMI

it's a dumb idea to try and date a guy who you can't even talk to. Sign language is one of the hardest languages in the world. You'll never learn. You'll never learn.

Daria puts her hand over her heart. She is having a panic attack. She manically grabs her ipod and blasts girlfriend in a coma by the smiths. She closes her eyes, trying to let the music surround her. She falls asleep and starts to dream.

7 EXT. DREAM DAY

In her dream, she sees MARCUS. He says nothing, but he[U+0092]s staring at her. She tries to speak but no words come out.

MARCUS

(signs)

Speak to me.

She cant.

MARCUS

(signs)

Sign to me.

She shakes her head no.

MARCUS

(signs)

Sing to me.

She opens her mouth and before she can sing, she wakes up.

8 INT. BEDROOM DAY

She runs to her computer and looks up [U+0091]The smiths sign language.[U+0094] She presses search and clicks on the first video(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YIBdwvWKAI.>) She watches the whole thing, entranced by the boy[U+0092]s hands. She watches the video on repeat, covered in blankets.

9 INT. HALLWAY DAY

The next day at school, she starts signing as she walks to her classes. Deaf girl and her hearing friend notice and go up to her.

DEAF GIRL
(Signs)
Do you enjoys the smiths?

Her hearing friend translates everything Deaf girl says.

DARIA
They're my favorite band.

DEAF GIRL
(signs)
Mine too! God I could listen to
Morisssey all day!

DARIA
But I prefer his music with the
smiths to his solo albums.

DEAF GIRL
(Signs)
I disagree, his solo stuff is just
as good!

Daria rolls her eyes as they sit down in the quad.

10 EXT. QUAD DAY

Daria sits down in the quad with DEAF GIRL and Hearing friend. They start chatting again and MARCUS, who is sitting with them, notices her. He is smiling a goofy grin.

MARCUS
(TO hearing friend)
(Signs)
Who is that girl?