UNDERCLASSMEN - EPISODE 4 "TRY"

by

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FADE IN:

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Eric stands in the cafeteria with a full tray of food.

BOOM (O.S.)

Hey Eric!

Eric looks to his left and sees Chris and Boom sitting at a lunch table, calling him over.

STACY (O.S.)

Eric!

Eric looks to his right to see Stacy and Liz sitting at another lunch table, waving him over.

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ERIC (V.O.)
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Oh no.

CHRIS (O.S.) Eric, come on.

Eric looks left again.

ERIC (V.O.)

Oh no no.

LIZ (O.S.) Eric, come over here.

Eric looks right again.

ERIC (V.O.) Oh no no no no no.

ALL FOUR

Eric!

Eric looks to the right, the left, the right, and left again, and then down to his tray. He picks up his juice and "accidentally" spills it.

> ERIC Oops. I need another drink now.

Eric turns around and MRS. YORK stops him.

## MRS. YORK Did you just spill your drink?

ERIC Umm...yeah. It was an accident.

## MRS. YORK

Yeah, an accident. You know what else is an accident? When someone comes along not knowing you left a puddle of cranberry juice on the floor for them to slip on, and then trips and falls breaking every bone in their body. Do you want that to happen? Do you like hurting people? Do you enjoy spilling cranberry juice?

ERIC (nervous) ...It was orange juice.

MRS. YORK You trying to be funny?

> ERIC (nervous)

Kind of.

MRS. YORK Really? Well Jerry Seinfeld, why don't you go mop up this mess?

ERIC (nervous) Okay. Sorry. Thank you. Sorry.

Eric leaves to go get a mop. Mrs. York leans down and touches the spilt juice and then sniffs her hand.

MRS. YORK Hmm...it is orange.

Mrs. York leaves.

ERIC (V.O.) It seemed like of recent everyone has been having social troubles...that is, everyone but Amy and Dom.

Amy and Dom walk to the lunch tables. They stop somewhere in between the guys' table and the girls' table.

AMY

Come on guys, this is stupid. Can't we just sit together.

STACY

I know how to say it briefly but I just plain don't want to ever sit with him ever (ever again)--

### CHRIS

--No.

BOOM Nice brief skills, Chris.

Chris and Boom high five.

# DOM

(to Amy) Look, this is pointless, I'll sit with the guys, you sit with the girls and we'll catch up later.

AMY

Okay, see you later.

Dom and Amy separate. Dom sits down with the guys and Amy sits down with the girls.

#### CHRIS

Yo, so what's up, dude? You with Amy now?

BOOM Yeah, you tipping that?

CHRIS (correcting Boom) Tapping that.

BOOM That's what I said.

CHRIS No, you said "tipping". The word is "tapping".

BOOM What does it matter if I said ("tipping" or "tapping"...)--

DOM --Guys, guys. Look, we're-- Across the cafeteria, the girls are having the same talk except that Dom is hopeful of a relationship while Amy is hesitant.

AMY --just friends. Nothing more.

STACY But do you want to be more?

AMY

CUT TO THE GUYS

Well--

DOM --hell yeah.--

CUT TO THE GIRLS

AMY I mean, he's nice and all but--

CUT TO THE GUYS

DOM --her body is just awesome.

BOOM So you going to ask her out?

DOM I don't know, but I want to.

CUT TO THE GIRLS

AMY I guess I wouldn't mind it, but I just think there might be better guys out there.

STACY Trust me, there aren't.

The bell rings.

AMY Ugh, already?

LIZ Lunch is way too short. Boom, Chris, Dom, Stacy, Liz, and Amy get up to clear their trays. On the way, they pass Eric, who is mopping up his mess. Eric tries to leave but Mrs. York.

MRS. YORK Ah, ah, ah...where do you think you're going?

ERIC The bell rang, I have class.

MRS. YORK And I have a wet, dirty floor that needs mopping.

ERIC But I cleaned it up already.

MRS. YORK Until I can see the reflection of my Scottish face in that floor, it's not clean.

Mrs. York leaves.

ERIC (V.O.) If I body-slammed you to the ground, your Scottish face could be all over this floor.

INTERCUT:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Eric is walking down a hallway.

ERIC (V.O.) Mrs. York wasn't the only one coming to me with a problem.

Boom approaches Eric.

BOOM I've got a problem.

CUT TO EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - NEXT

Eric is walking and Liz runs after him.

LIZ Hey Eric! Hold up! CUT TO INT. LOBBY - NEXT

Chris is sitting down and Eric walks by him.

CHRIS Yo, dude, come here for a second.

CUT TO INT. LIBRARY - NEXT

Eric sits down next to Stacy.

STACY Eric, can I talk to you for a minute?

ERIC (V.O.) Who the hell do they think I am?

FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. PSYCHIC HOTLINE - DAY

Eric sits by a phone dressed in a psychic's outfit.

### ERIC

(Jamaican accent) Hello and welcome to Mr. Cleo's psychic advice hotline, call in now for a flat rate of \$2.99 a minute now and have your future told.

The phone on "Mr. Cleo's" desk rings and he picks it up.

ERIC (Jamaican accent) Hello my child, can I have your zodiac signn and credit card number.

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

CUT TO INT. HALLWAY - NEXT

Boom and Eric are walking down the hallway.

ERIC (to himself) The Jamaican accent would help with the ladies.

BOOM

What?

ERIC Nevermind, what's your problem.

BOOM Well...I understand that Liz and I broke up but it's just really awkward that we're fighting.

CUT TO EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - NEXT

Liz and Eric are standing in the courtyard.

LIZ Boom's an nice guy and all but I don't want to just forgive him for being an ass instead of a boyfriend.

CUT TO INT. LOBBY - NEXT

Eric stands next to Chris, who is still seated.

CHRIS I'm just really tired of how much Stacy demands from me and how no matter what I do, it's not enough. It might be for the best that we broke up.

CUT TO INT. LIBRARY - NEXT

Eric and Stacy are sitting next to each other in the library.

STACY Chris has just acted like such a jerk to me recently, I don't want to forgive him.

FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. PSYCHIC HOTLINE - DAY

"Mr. Cleo's" phones are all ringing non-stop and he tries to answer as many as possible.

ERIC (Jamaican accent) Mr. Cleo, please hold. Mr. Cleo, please hold. Mr. Cleo. Mr. Cleo. (normal) JUST HOLD ON! END FANTASY SEQUENCE

CUT TO INT. HALLWAY - NEXT

ERIC Look I don't like to tell people what to do.

CUT TO EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - NEXT

ERIC I don't like to tell people what to do.

CUT TO INT. LOBBY - NEXT

ERIC I don't like to tell people what to do.

CUT TO INT. LIBRARY - NEXT

ERIC

I don't like to tell people what to do.

CUT TO INT. HALLWAY - NEXT

ERIC

You need to just apologize to her for being inconsiderate. Whether or not you're wrong, the fact is she thinks she's right.

CUT TO EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - NEXT

ERIC

You need to understand Boom's an immature kid. Maybe you can't accept that as his girlfriend, but you should accept it as his friend.

CUT TO INT. LOBBY - NEXT

ERIC You need to accept the fact that Stacy expects a lot out of you, but she's a great girl and you know that. It's why you dated in the first place.

## CUT TO INT. LIBRARY - NEXT

ERIC There's nothing to excuse Chris, but he isn't a bad guy. Just try and understand that we all have our bad days.

CUT TO INT. HALLWAY - NEXT

BOOM

I don't want to apologize, I didn't do anything wrong.

ERIC (V.O.) The advice business is tricky.

CUT TO EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - NEXT

LIZ

Why should I just accept him, he should at least be sorry.

ERIC (V.O.) People usually don't like to hear what you have to say.

CUT TO INT. LOBBY - NEXT

CHRIS I may have dated her before but I just don't feel that way about her anymore.

ERIC (V.O.) Sometimes it feels like you shouldn't even try.

CUT TO INT. LIBRARY - NEXT

STACY Yeah...I guess so...

ERIC Stacy, you okay?

STACY

I don't know.

ERIC Do you want to talk about it? STACY

Not really.

ERIC Look, if you ever need to talk, just know I'm here.

STACY Thanks, Eric.

ERIC (V.O.) But giving advice does have it's nice moments.

ERIC

Anytime.

END INTERCUT

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY

Dom and Amy are sitting next to each other in the back of the classroom as the class works on some problems. Dom looks up at Amy and then pokes her thigh with his pencil. She doesn't respond, so Dom does so again, and once more Amy doesn't respond. Dom pokes her in the time and she squirms.

AMY

Ah, what the hell?

Dom smiles weakly, trying to show that his actions were just cute playfulness. Amy simply glares back at him.

AMY

Stop it, Dom.

Dom and Amy return to their work.

Pause. Dom pokes Amy once more.

AMY

I'm serious, stop it.

Dom's smirk goes away.

DOM Sorry, I was just...I don't know, sorry.

Pause.

AMY What did you get for number three? Dom doesn't respond, Amy pokes him. DOM Ow! AMY What did you get for number three? DOM I didn't do it yet. Why are you allowed to poke me and I can't poke you? AMY Because I poked your fat. It's like padding. DOM So I can't poke your fat? AMY Are you calling me fat? DOM No, that's not it. AMY Ugh. DOM Amy. Amy doesn't respond and the two go back to their math problems. FANTASY SEQUENCE INT. PSYCHIC HOTLINE - NIGHT Eric, no longer as Mr. Cleo, is standing, starting to leave. ERIC Yo Ron, I'm going to head out a bit early today. RON (O.S.) Okay.

Eric begins to leave but then the phone starts to ring and he pauses.

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

INTERCUT:

INT. ERIC' BEDROOM - NIGHT

INT. DOM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eric, as if waking from a dream, realizes his cell phone is ringing and picks up the call from Dom.

ERIC (on phone) Hello?

Dom is casually lounging at his desk but sits up when Eric picks up.

DOM (on phone) What's up, Eric?

ERIC (on phone) Not too much, you just woke me up.

DOM (on phone) Well it's 7:30, you shouldn't be sleeping.

Eric looks at his clock, which reads "10:13".

ERIC (on phone) Dom, it's 10:13.

DOM (on phone) Really...the damn clocks never work in my house.

ERIC (on phone) Yeah, I bet.

Pause.

ERIC (on phone) Why'd you call, Dom?

## DOM

(on phone) What the hell should I do about Amy?

ERIC (on phone) What happened with Amy?

# DOM

(on phone) Nothing, I just like her and I'm not sure if she likes me. I really want to go out with her.

## ERIC (V.O.)

I think guys all guys pursue their crushes the same way: with blind ambition.

# ERIC

(on phone)
Just get to know her better, girls
usually tell you what they're
really thinking sooner or later.

DOM

(on phone) Yeah, you're right. Thanks, man.

ERIC (V.O.) That doesn't mean a guy's friends won't give him false hope.

ERIC (on phone) Welcome.

Pause.

ERIC (V.O.) Ever notice how hard it is to get out of a conversation?

ERIC (on phone)

So...

DOM (on phone) Yeah... ERIC (on phone) Yo, listen, I got to go.

DOM (on phone) Yeah, I got to go too.

ERIC (on phone) I'm getting another call.

DOM (on phone) Oh, okay, you should pick that up.

ERIC Yeah, definently. Bye.

> DOM (on phone)

Bye.

Eric and Dom hang up.

END INTERCUT

Eric throws his phone onto his blanket. It starts to ring.

ERIC (to himself) Damnit.

Eric searches through his blanket to find the phone.

ERIC (to himself) Damn, damn, damn.

The phone stops ringing shortly before Eric finds it. He quickly redials the number.

INTERCUT

INT. ERIC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stacy, laying face down in her bed picks up Eric's call.

STACY (on phone) Hello?

ERIC (on phone) Stacy? STACY (on phone) Yeah. ERIC (on phone) It's hard to hear you. Stacy flips over onto her back. STACY (on phone) Can you hear me now? ERIC (on phone) Yeah. STACY (on phone) Good. ERIC (V.O.) This moment brought to you by Verizon Wireless. ERIC (on phone) So what's up? STACY (on phone) I don't know... ERIC (on phone) You okay? STACY (on phone) I don't know... ERIC (on phone) Stacy, just tell me what's wrong. STACY (on phone) I just can't look at him, you

(MORE)

STACY (cont'd) know? Even seeing him makes me so...angry...so upset.

## ERIC

(on phone) Chris?

STACY (on phone) Yeah, Chris. Who else?

# ERIC

(on phone) Yeah, sorry...but the thing is, Chris isn't a bad guy. He just doesn't get it sometimes. He doesn't get what other people want from him. So you have to meet him halfway.

## STACY

(on phone) That's the thing. I'm tired of trying. And I'm tired of having to work for him. If he loves me he should be willing to put in the work.

# ERIC

(on phone) Well...I do think he's trying.

Pause.

## ERIC (V.O.)

I'm so dumb...why do I keep making excuses for Chris when I like Stacy? That's it.

## ERIC

(on phone)
You know what, forget it. If he
isn't willing to try hard enough
to make you happy maybe you
shouldn't bother with him. You
just got to think of who's there
for you when you need someone. I
know I would be willing to do
anything for the girl I love.

## STACY

STACY (cont'd) can't I just have a boyfriend like you?

ERIC (V.O.) Tell her she can have you.

ERIC

(on phone)
Well, there are plenty of guys out
there like me.

ERIC (V.O.) Tell her you're one of them.

ERIC (on phone) I mean...I'm like me. There are others like me.

ERIC (V.O.) And for the finishing touch...

ERIC

(on phone) So maybe instead of focusing on how Chris is bad to you, you should reach out there and find something better.

STACY

(on phone)
Thanks Eric, you're a great
friend. Really, you help me out so
much. But I got to go, I'll see
you in school tomorrow?

ERIC

(on phone) Yeah, definently. Good night.

Eric and Stacy hang up. Eric pumps his fist in the air.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Eric and Chris walk out onto the field for Gym class. The rest of the class is there as well. Their GYM TEACHER comes outside.

GYM TEACHER Okay, two laps around the field!

The class starts running. Eric and Chris run side-by-side.

CHRIS Yo Eric, did you say anything to Stacy?

ERIC (V.O.)

Uh-oh.

ERIC (nervous) What is there to say? I didn't say anything. Why? What's wrong? What's up?

CHRIS Nothing, Stacy didn't call me last night. She usually does.

ERIC Well, she's pissed at you, right?

CHRIS Yeah but she still usually calls to bitch about something. I'm just kind of surprised she didn't call.

Chris starts to pull in front of Eric.

ERIC Hey, are we racing?

CHRIS

...Sure.

Chris pulls ahead of Eric even more.

ERIC Chris, I don't want to race. Chris! Chris!

Eric desperately struggles to catch up to Chris, who easily jogs faster than Eric can run. They reach the end of the field. Eric bends over, trying to catch his breathe.

> CHRIS Ha! Faster than you, as always.

ERIC (panting) You had a head start.

CHRIS Don't make excuses. Chris lightly shoves Eric, making him fall over in a heap.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Boom and Liz are sitting at opposite ends of the library. Boom looks over at Liz, who is by herself. He then gets up and goes over to her.

#### BOOM

Hey.

Liz looks up at Boom upset.

LIZ Can you please leave me alone?

BOOM No, I want to talk to you.

Liz starts to pack up her books.

LIZ

I don't want to talk to you.

BOOM

Hold on.

Boom puts his hand on top of Liz's stuff to stop her from packing up.

BOOM (cont'd) Can you just hold on a minute. I want to talk to you.

Boom and Liz glare at each other for a moment.

#### LIZ

What do you want?

Boom removes his hand from Liz's stuff and takes a seat next to her.

BOOM Liz, we've been friends for a while. Long before we started dating.

LIZ We never said a word to each other until a month ago. BOOM More than a month.

LIZ Not much more.

## BOOM

That's not important. What's important is that we were good friends. I don't think we should stop talking just because we broke up.

Pause.

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So do you want to try dating again?

BOOM Oh balls no, we make a terrible couple.

# LIZ

Okay.

Pause.

LIZ That's good for me because you were a bad kisser.

BOOM

Hey, I am an excellent kisser.

LIZ

Says who?

BOOM Says...the people I've kissed.

LIZ

Really? Would you like to name some?

BOOM I would like to name some...but I'm a gentleman. I don't kiss and talk.

LIZ "Kiss and tell."

21.

BOOM Yeah, kiss and tell.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Eric stands outside of the locker room waiting for Chris. As he waits for Chris, JIMMY exits the locker room.

## ERIC

Hey Jimmy.

JIMMY Hey Eric, what's up?

### ERIC

Dude, you went crazy at Jonsey's party.

JIMMY Yeah I know, I smoked a bit too much, the stuff got to my head.

ERIC

Yeah it did. Do you even remember what you were saying? All that stuff about reality and our existence.

#### JIMMY

Yeah I do. It was enlightening stuff, man.

## ERIC

...Really?

#### JIMMY

Yeah, I remember every word. It's my path to proper knowledge. I'm going to save the world with my rhetoric, Eric.

### ERIC

Can you repeat any of it?

## JIMMY

I don't want to. I tried to tell you the answer to the universe last Saturday and you weren't ready. Why should I bother now?

#### ERIC

I guess you shouldn't.

## JIMMY

Then I won't.

Jimmy leaves, Chris exits the locker room.

CHRIS Hey, what class do you have now?

ERIC

I have Science.

CHRIS Oh, okay. Go on ahead. I'm going to wait up for someone.

ERIC

Alright, see you later.

Eric leaves. Chris stands outside the locker room until AARON exits.

CHRIS

Hey, Aaron.

AARON Oh hey, the frosh from Saturday night. What are you doing, man?

CHRIS

Not too much. It's Chris, by the way.

AARON

Yo listen, me and some of the boys were going to go out this weekend, you in?

CHRIS

That would be excellent. What are we going to do?

AARON Don't worry about it, we'll figure it out.

CHRIS Alright, sweet. Can I get your cell number or something?

Aaron pulls a pen out of his pocket.

AARON Give me your hand.

## CHRIS

# I've got a piece of paper.

Aaron grabs Chris' hand and writes his number.

AARON I'll see you around, frosh.

Aaron leaves and Chris smirks.

INT. LOCKERS - DAY

Amy is removing books from her locker. Dom walks over and leans against the locker next to her.

DOM

Hey, Amy.

AMY Hey, what are you doing?

DOM Nothing, got a free. What about you.

AMY I got a class.

DOM

What class?

AMY English I think.

DOM

With Evans?

AMY No, Barkley. And I haven't done my homework yet so can we talk later?

DOM

Oh, well...what's your homework, maybe I can help you out.

Amy closes her locker and starts to walk down the hall, Dom follows.

AMY I doubt that. DOM

Why?

AMY Are you in honors English?

DOM Well, no.

AMY That's why you can't help.

DOM I didn't apply. I mean, I could have gotten in, I have an A...I just didn't apply.

Amy stops and turns to Dom.

AMY

Look, I have to go to class, is there anything you came to talk to me about or can I go?

DOM

Umm...well, it's Friday so I was hoping we could go downtown later.

AMY

Who else is going?

DOM No one, I was just thinking we could hang out. Just you and me.

AMY Are you asking me out on a date?

DOM Well...no, maybe...

AMY

Dom, I thought we're just friends. We talked about this, okay. We're just friends.

Pause.

DOM Do you still want to hang out after school? Amy sighs, and turns back to walk to her next class. Dom stays still, dissapointed. INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY Eric enters the Science classroom to see Liz and Boom sitting next to one another chatting. ERIC (V.O.) This is new. ERIC You guys are sitting next to each other again? LIZ Yeah. ERIC Are you dating again? BOOM No. ERIC Cool. Eric walks over to Liz and Boom and sits down. ERIC So we're all just friends. LIZ Yeah ERIC Sweet. Hey, so have you guys seen Stacy today? LIZ I haven't seen her around. BOOM Me either. ERIC Hmm...

Eric enters his bedroom and throws his backpack down. He takes out his cell phone and dials Stacy. The phone rings a couple times but no one answers and the call goes to voicemail.

STACY (on phone, filtered) Hey, you've reached my voicemail, leave a message.

The voicemail beeps.

### ERIC

(on phone) Hey Stacy, I didn't see you in school today so I was just wondering what's up. Give me a call back later. See you.

Eric hangs up. He paces for a moment before sitting down, deep in thought.

ERIC (V.O.) It's moments like these where I wish my life was a movie.

FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stacy sits on her bed, dressed in a very fancy Spanish dress. Eric busts in through the door with a black cape, black mask, and sword.

STACY Zorro, you've come for me.

ERIC I have indeed, my lady.

STACY Oh Zorro, kiss me.

ERIC It would be my pleasure, but regrettably, I must journey into the night. I bid thee fairwell.

Eric jumps out the window.

Ciao, Zorro.

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

ERIC (V.O.) Even as Zorro I don't get the kiss.

Eric's phone buzzes from a new text message. He opens the phone to read a message from Boom reading "Movie tonight?"

His phone buzzes once again with another text message from Stacy reading "I really need someone, can you come over now?"

ERIC (V.O.) Sorry Boom, it's my time to be a hero.

INT. BOOM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Boom's phone buzzes with a text message from Eric reading "Sorry Boom, it's my time to be a hero."

BOOM (to himself) What the Christ?

INT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

Eric hustles down the streets. He arrives in front of Stacy's house and is ready to knock on the door but stops to bend over and pant heavily.

> ERIC (V.O.) Okay, a minute to rest before being a hero.

Eric sits down on the steps to Stacy's house.

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eric bursts through Stacy's bedroom door.

ERIC Stacy, I'm here.

Eric looks up and notices Stacy kissing Chris. They stop and notice Eric.

CHRIS

Oh hey, Eric.

ERIC What-what are you doing here?

CHRIS Stacy sent me a message that she needed someone so I showed up.

Stacy kisses Chris again.

ERIC (V.O.) He's faster than you and he always will be.

ERIC Oh, well...that's great for you guys.

Stacy and Chris, who are making out, don't pay attention to Eric.

ERIC (cont'd) I'm going to leave...so yeah, I'm going.

Eric starts to back out and accidentally knocks over a lamp on Stacy's night table, which breaks as it falls to the floor.

> ERIC (cont'd) Oh, damn, sorry. I think it's broke...you know what? I'll just leave this here.

Eric picks the broken lamp up and places it back on Stacy's night table.

ERIC (cont'd) So I'll pay you back for this...I'll pay you back, and I'm going to leave. I'm leaving. Just pretend I was never here.

Eric exits.

ERIC (V.O.) Just pretend I don't exist.

The End