

Exclusion Suite

"Episode 2: Two Truths and a Lie"

by  
Sam Roberts

Sam Roberts  
6108 Lerner Hall  
New York, NY 10027  
914.715.9748

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1 INT. THE SUITE - COMMON ROOM - DAY 1

ROB and SIMON sit, Rob playing video games, Simon strumming his guitar and singing quietly, pausing occasionally to figure out if he's getting the song right. \*

SIMON  
Do you think this sounds alright?

ROB  
(distracted)  
Eh? Oh, yeah, it sounds great, man.  
(To the video game) \*  
Agh! Why won't you jump higher?! \*

A faraway voice begins singing. \*

SIMON  
Hey, you hear that?

ROB  
(still distracted)  
Huh?

SIMON  
I think Brooke is singing. Did you know Brooke could sing?

ROB  
(To the video game) \*  
Yes I want to try again! \*

Simon gives Rob a **peevd look**, then stands up and **saunters** downstairs, guitar in hand. The camera follows him into: \*

2 INT. THE SUITE - BROOKE AND NATALIE'S ROOM - DAY 2

BROOKE is **sitting** at her desk, reading a book. Music is playing from her computer and Brooke is singing along absent-mindedly but loudly. **If she notices Simon come in, she doesn't show it.** \*

SIMON  
**Whatcha singing?** \*

BROOKE

Oh! Simon. Hey. Was I bothering you? Sometimes I don't even realize I'm singing.

SIMON

It was cacophonous.

BROOKE

Oh, really?

SIMON

Sheer brutality. You are a danger to innocent eardrums everywhere.

(beat)

But seriously, I didn't know you were a singer.

\*  
\*  
\*

BROOKE

I'm hardly a "singer."

\*

SIMON

You just sing along loudly to your itunes in the hope that people will hear you?

\*

BROOKE

(laughing)

Harsh! Something like that I guess.

SIMON

(pausing for a moment first)

Hey, ADP's having an open mic tonight and I was planning on playing.

(indicating guitar)

Wanna do a song with me?

\*  
\*

BROOKE

What were you going to play?

\*

SIMON

What do you have on your itunes?

Simon reaches over to her computer and clicks a button.

\*

ROLL OPENING CREDITS.

3 EXT. CAFE 212 - DAY 3

A few shots of people milling around. We move to the door as... \*

4 INT. CAFE 212 - DAY 4

NATALIE enters through the main Lerner entrance. It's lunchtime and the cafe is crowded. GREG is waiting in line to get a sandwich and notices Natalie as she enters. As Natalie heads toward the sandwich line, she spots him but he's already averted his gaze. She gets in line behind him and they both awkwardly avoid eye contact. \*

NATALIE  
(finally)  
Okay, this is ridiculous.

GREG  
What?

NATALIE  
You can't even say hi to me? \*

GREG  
You didn't say hi to me either. \*

NATALIE  
So? That's not the point.

GREG  
What is your point then?

NATALIE  
My point is that it's ridiculous!  
It was just sex. We don't need to  
be this awkward! It was just  
DRUNKEN SEX. \*

As Natalie gets louder, some of the people nearby notice and react accordingly. While Natalie is yelling, the two move toward the counter.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
I don't want to have to worry about  
whether you're in the common room  
every time I want to get some  
cereal. \*

212 WORKER  
(during Natalie's speech)  
Next.

NATALIE

I want to be able to say hi to you  
when we stand next to each other in  
line to get-

\*  
\*  
\*

She suddenly becomes aware that Greg has turned away from her  
toward the counter.

\*  
\*

GREG

(To the 212 worker)  
Could I have the rough riding  
turkey?

\*  
\*  
\*

NATALIE

(seething)  
You know what? You were not nearly  
good enough in bed to treat me like  
this.

\*  
\*  
\*

GREG

(wheeling around,  
offended)  
That's not what you said that  
night!

\*  
\*  
\*

NATALIE

I WAS FAKING IT!

GREG

(genuinely surprised)  
What?  
(regaining his composure)  
Well, you sounded like a dying  
animal doing it.

\*  
\*  
\*

NATALIE

At least I didn't ask you to lick  
my-

\*  
\*  
\*

GREG

(Cutting her off)  
I lied when I said I liked that  
thing you did with your tongue!

\*  
\*

Natalie gives Greg a "that's bullshit and you know it" look.  
Greg tries to stay angry for a moment... but caves. He did  
like it and he knows it.

\*  
\*

GREG (CONT'D)

(insincerely)  
I hate you so much.

NATALIE

You wish. You know, I think I'm actually feeling HamDel today.

Natalie sassily turns and **struts** out the door. Greg stares at her, a combination of disbelief and lust on his face. \*

**212 WORKER** \*

Damn, man.

5 INT. THE SUITE - COMMON ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

5

Brooke is sitting on the couch, with a sheet of paper and her ipod headphones on, singing **to** herself, trying **to** learn the words **to** "We're Going **to** be Friends". **[NOTE THIS SONG SUBJECT TO CHANGE]** \*

BROOKE

(softly)

Here we are, there's no one else, we walked **to** school all by ourselves. \*

(resetting her ipod)

Here we are, there's no one else we walked **to** school all by ourselves. \*

Natalie enters through the front door, sandwich from Hamdel in hand. Brooke doesn't notice.

NATALIE

Whatcha working on?

Brooke ignores her and keeps practicing. Natalie walks over **to** her. \*

NATALIE (CONT'D)

(Waving her hand in front of Brooke's face)

Bro-oke... \*

BROOKE

Oh!

(taking her headphones off)

Hey! Sorry. I was practicing.

Natalie **sits down next to Brooke** and begins unwrapping her sandwich. \*

NATALIE

Practicing what?

BROOKE

Oh, uh, Simon asked me to sing at some open mic tonight and I figured hey, why not?

\*

NATALIE

(taking a bite of her sandwich)

You sing?

\*

BROOKE

You've heard me sing before!

NATALIE

Yeah but I mean, in front of people?

BROOKE

Same thing.

NATALIE

If you say so.

\*

BROOKE

(pausing first)

You'll come tonight, right?

\*

NATALIE

Well, I mean...

\*

BROOKE

Nat!

NATALIE

I'm kidding. Of course I'm coming. Are the guys gonna be there?

BROOKE

I know Simon and Rob are going.

NATALIE

Is Greg? Wait, you know what? I don't really care if he shows up.

BROOKE

As glad as I am to hear you say that, I don't think you need to worry about it. From what I understand, he's going to some senior night instead.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

SMASH CUT TO:

\*

6 INT. ADP COMMON ROOM - EVENING

6

The open mic is going on and a girl is playing guitar. A small crowd surrounds her, drinks in hand, listening and/or talking quietly. Simon, Brooke, Rob, Natalie, and Greg **are coming up the stairs**. Simon is in the lead carrying a guitar case. Brooke is nervous but trying **to** hide it. Greg **is clearly annoyed**.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

GREG

I can't believe I'm missing senior night for this.

BROOKE

You'd miss my rock star debut?

GREG

Honestly? Yeah.

SIMON

Well, I appreciate it, Greg.

(To Brooke)

Hey, I'm gonna go sign us up.

\*

BROOKE

**Great.**

\*

Simon leaves **to** find the sign up sheet.

\*

ROB

Anybody want a drink?

GREG

**Do you have to ask?**

\*

\*

ROB

Natalie? Brooke?

BROOKE

Vodka Cranberry?

NATALIE

Can I get a Jack and Coke?

(handing Rob some cash)

That's for both of us.

ROB

Sweet.

\*

7 INT. ADP BAR AREA - MOMENTS LATER

7

Rob heads over **to** the bar and the camera follows him. The bar is not particularly crowded.

\*

MILES is behind the bar, mixing drinks. Rob does not have to \*  
 wait very long or try very hard to get Miles's attention. In \*  
 fact, he's looking away when Miles comes over to him. \*

MILES

Hey, what can I get for you?

ROB

Oh! Wow. uh, I'm just gonna have  
 a beer, but my suitemates would  
 like a Vodka Cranberry and a jack  
 and coke. Oh, and another beer.

MILES

(mixing the drinks)  
 Stella alright?

ROB

Eh, sure. Whatever's cheapest.

MILES

Don't worry 'bout that. Drinks are  
 on me.

ROB

Really?

MILES

Yeah don't worry about it. I'm  
 Miles, by the way.

ROB

I'm Rob.

MILES

(knows the answer already) \*  
 Didn't we have Frontiers section \*  
 together? \*

ROB

Oh shit, you're right! I knew you  
 looked familiar. Man, that class  
 was a breeze.

MILES

Speak for yourself.

ROB

Oh, sorry. I didn't mean it like  
 that. Just that I'm a math major  
 so I should probably be able to \*  
 take averages, right? \*

MILES

A math major. Fancy. I wish I could do that, but I hit my limit with calculus.

ROB

(laughing)

Sounds like you've got the basics down.

MILES

Huh?

ROB

Oh, uh, you know... you learn about limits in calculus class?

MILES

Wow. You just reaffirmed every dorky math major stereotype with one sentence. Not bad.

ROB

That's how I roll.

MILES

With goofy math puns?

ROB

Oh, I don't stop at MATH puns. Hey, I'm gonna get these drinks to the girls before all the ice melts... I'll be back.

\*

MILES

You'd better.

Rob takes the drinks and walks away from the bar. As he does, he smiles. Miles looks at him for a moment and then returns to his bartending duties.

\*

8

ADP COMMON ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

8

\*

Rob gets to where Greg, Nat, and Brooke are standing and distributes their drinks.

\*

BROOKE

Thanks dude.

Nat gives him a nod. Simon returns to the group.

\*

SIMON

What, none for me?

ROB  
You didn't ask!

As Rob is talking, MEREDITH enters, drink in hand.

MEREDITH  
Do my eyes deceive me? **Are my  
former floormates** actually at an  
ADP rush event?

She walks over **to** them.

ROB  
Is it really that shocking? I  
mean, everyone knows Simon is  
totally gay.

GREG  
Yeah, we're just here for the moral  
support.

SIMON  
(ignoring them)  
Hey Mer. Long time no see. I hear  
you're rush chair this year.

MEREDITH  
You hear correctly.

SIMON  
**Congrats.**

**For a moment they stand there, Meredith, Brooke, and Natalie  
making awkward eye contact. Finally, Simon gets it.**

SIMON (CONT'D)  
Oh! **These** are our suitemates Brooke  
and Natalie. Brooke, Natalie, meet  
Meredith. **We lived in Carman  
together.**

BROOKE  
It's a pleasure.

**Meredith is impressed by Brooke's choice of words.**

MEREDITH  
**So. You finally decided to rush.**

SIMON, ROB, AND GREG  
Nope.

BROOKE  
Sure.  
(**then**)  
I'm thinking about it.

The guys all give Brooke a glare. \*

SIMON

You know, I think I'm gonna go grab  
a drink.

ROB

I'll come with you.

The two hastily exit. For an awkward moment, Greg stands  
with the girls. \*

GREG

Yeah... no. \*

He walks off in the other direction. \*

NATALIE

What was that?

MEREDITH

I think I just got monitored. \*

NATALIE

Monitored? \*

MEREDITH

Like served, only not so early  
aughts. \*

Brooke raises an eyebrow. \*

MEREDITH (CONT'D) \*

You heard it here first. \*

(beat)

Anyway, tell me what you know about  
ADP. \*

BROOKE \*

All I know is that you have open  
mic nights and **apparently** no rules  
about smoking inside. \*

MEREDITH

That's an impressive breadth of  
knowledge right there.

BROOKE

I did my research beforehand.

MEREDITH

I can tell. Okay, basically, ADP  
is a co-ed literary society.

BROOKE  
 (smiling)  
 So a frat with girls and a fancier  
 name.

MEREDITH  
 Sure.

BROOKE  
 So what made you decide to pledge?

MEREDITH  
 I was actually a sophomore like  
 you. I found that my kickass group  
 of friends from freshman year...  
 didn't kick as much ass as I'd  
 thought.

As she talks, Brooke looks away for a moment and sees KYLE,  
 an attractive man, looking at her from across the room. They  
 make eye contact and he raises his beer bottle. She smiles,  
 unnecessarily brushes her hair out of her face.

BROOKE  
 (nodding, but not  
 listening)  
 Mmhm.

MEREDITH  
 And I didn't really want to hang  
 with them anymore.

Natalie nudges Brooke and she resumes listening to Meredith.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)  
 ADP was a good way to make new  
 friends. Their liking LCD  
 Soundsystem and Jim Jarmusch just  
 sweetened the deal.

These last sentences really strike a chord with Brooke, who  
 feels an instant kinship with Meredith. As this is going on,  
 the musician playing finishes the song and people applaud  
 politely.

BROOKE  
 I LOVE LCD Soundsystem! I've  
 listened to their new album  
 basically exclusively since  
 it came out.

EMCEE (O.S.)  
 Up next we have... Brooke and  
 Simon.

NATALIE  
 (nudging Brooke)  
 Look, he put your name first.

Simon returns, guitar in one hand.

SIMON  
(grabbing Brooke by the  
arm)  
Hey. Brooke. We're up!

Brooke flashes Natalie a nervous "save me" look.

NATALIE  
Go get 'em rock star!

Simon leads Brooke up to the...

\*

9

INT. ADP STAGE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

9

\*

Simon pulls up two stools. The two of them sit down. Simon strums a chord and, hearing a wrong note, adjusts the tuning slightly.

\*

SIMON  
(To Brooke)  
You wanna introduce us?

\*

BROOKE  
You can.

SIMON  
Okay.  
(To the crowd)  
Hey everyone. I'm Simon and this  
is Brooke. We're gonna play a song  
by the White Stripes.

\*

Simon begins to play the opening notes to "We're Going To Be Friends". Brooke stares at the audience, increasingly nervous. When Simon gets to the entrance of the vocals, he looks over at Brooke, who is still staring and gives her a "that's your cue" look. She begins singing, weakly at first, barely audible, but by the time she finishes the first two lines she's really into it and singing beautifully. They alternate verses (roughly) and provide harmonies. The chemistry between the two is visible, but not too overwhelming. When they're finished the crowd applauds wildly. Simon smiles while Brooke looks giddy. Jumping off the stool, she gives Simon a huge hug, much to his surprise.

\*

\*

\*

\*

The moment ends and Rob, Greg, and Meredith go over to Simon to congratulate him, but we instead follow Natalie as she attempts to congratulate Brooke. Before she gets there, she is cut off by Kyle and steps back, choosing not to cockblock.

\*

\*

\*

\*

KYLE  
Hey, nice job...

He pauses, expectantly.

BROOKE  
Um.

KYLE  
I was hoping you'd fill your name  
in.

BROOKE  
It's Brooke. And thanks.

KYLE  
Brooke. Kyle. That your  
boyfriend? \*

BROOKE  
No, just my suitemate. \*

KYLE  
In that case, can I get you a  
drink? \*

In this moment, Brooke can clearly see the flowchart that  
will take her from that drink to Kyle's bedroom. For a  
millisecond, and without even realizing it, she glances over  
at Simon. \*

BROOKE  
I think I can get my own drink. \*

Nice meeting you, Kyle. \*

Brooke leaves Kyle in shock and heads to the... \*

10 INT. ADP BAR AREA - MOMENTS LATER 10 \*

Rob is standing, drinking a beer and laughing at something  
Miles just said. \*

MILES  
Another Vodka Cranberry?

BROOKE  
Good memory.

Miles goes to mix her drink. \*

ROB  
So what was that about? \*

BROOKE  
What do you mean?

MILES  
(returning with the drink)  
He means a cute guy just started  
talking to you and you totally gave  
him the cold shoulder. \*

Brooke takes the drink from Miles and sips from the straw. \*

BROOKE  
Oh that? Whatever. He just  
thought he was gonna nail the hot  
singer girl tonight. \*

ROB  
And you don't do that.

BROOKE  
(defensive)  
Sure I do.

ROB  
I mean, on the first night. Isn't  
that your rule?

BROOKE  
Yes! Right! That's my rule!

RANDOM BAR PATRON  
Hey, is anyone tending this bar?

MILES  
Urgh.  
(To some other people)  
What can I get you? \*

Brooke watches as Miles goes to help the other bar patrons  
Rob and Brooke are left alone. After a long pause... \*

BROOKE  
(choosing her words  
carefully)  
Rob, I'm a virgin too. \*

ROB  
You? No way.

BROOKE  
Yeah.

ROB  
Wow. Actually, that makes sense.

BROOKE  
What do you mean?

ROB  
No I just mean, the way you've acted whenever anyone's brought it up.

BROOKE  
Oh.

ROB  
So what's your reason?

BROOKE  
I dunno. I mean, I've had plenty of opportunities. I guess I want to really like a guy first. And I haven't yet. \*

ROB  
Aw, she's waiting for true love.

BROOKE  
Shut up.

ROB  
I'm just teasing you. That's a totally reasonable reason.

BROOKE  
(pausing first)  
Hey what's yours? You never said the other night.

ROB  
Y'know, I'm not really sure. \*

BROOKE  
You should probably figure that out. Well, that or go get yourself laid.

ROB  
(laughing)  
For a virgin, you're a terrible influence! \*

BROOKE  
Yep. Hey, I gotta go find Nat. But could you not tell anyone about this? I haven't even told her. \*

ROB

Your secret is safe with me. And hey, chin up. I'm sure there's at least one likeable guy at Columbia, and knowing my luck he's probably straight.

Brooke smirks and nods to indicate Miles, who has returned. Rob gives her a "shh" and she turns away to leave the bar.

PAN TO:

11 INT. ADP COMMON ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

11

Simon gazing at her, beer in hand. His phone vibrates and he looks at the caller ID; it's Julia, his girlfriend. He thinks for a moment and then presses ignore. As this is happening, Greg comes up behind Simon.

GREG

In a fight with the ladyfriend?

SIMON

Wha? Oh, no.

GREG

Then why are you ignoring her phone calls?

SIMON

Oh y'know, bad reception, loud party. I'll call her back when we leave. She probably just wants to know how the open mic went.

GREG

I'm sure that's it. I'm sure it has nothing to do with Brooke.

SIMON

Dude. What are you talking about?

GREG

(sarcastically)

Oh good. For a second I thought you had a crush on Brooke.

SIMON

What? I do not have a crush on Brooke.

GREG  
And that explains why you're  
ignoring calls from your girlfriend  
to gaze longingly at your cute new  
singing partner.

\*

SIMON  
(almost pleading)  
Greg...

\*

GREG  
Just say it. The first step is  
admitting you have a problem.

Simon pauses and takes a long sip of his beer.

SIMON  
Shit.

END EPISODE 2.