

Exclusion Suite
"Episode 3: Risk"
by
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INT. JOHN JAY DINING HALL - DAY

1

BROOKE is walking, frozen yogurt in hand, to the table
NATALIE is sitting at, picking at her omelette. Brooke gets
to the table, sits down, and begins to play with her froyo.

BROOKE

(indicating the food)

Do we really have to eat here? We
do have a kitchen.

NATALIE

C'mon, it's not that bad. AND it's
not real money.

BROOKE

Meals work at Hewitt too.

NATALIE

True, but Hewitt's worse for
checking out guys.

BROOKE

Boys are supposed to be checking ME
out.

Natalie raises an eyebrow.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

And not while I'm eating. Gross.

NATALIE

(after a pregnant pause)

Did you make out with Simon or
what?

BROOKE

Well... He IS cute. And he plays
guitar.

(beat)

But there's that whole girlfriend
thing.

NATALIE

So no?

BROOKE

No.

NATALIE

No you didn't make out with him or
No you didn't not make out with
him?

BROOKE

No. I did not make out with him.

NATALIE

But you want to?

Beat.

BROOKE

Yeah, kind of.

Natalie takes a bite and, while she chews, ponders what
Brooke has said.

NATALIE

You could probably pull that.

BROOKE

Simon? The same Simon who's always
on the phone with his girlfriend?

NATALIE

Have you seen the way he looks at
you?

BROOKE

Well, yeah.

NATALIE

I dunno. I think you just gotta
nudge him in the right direction.

BROOKE

You wanna get out of here?

NATALIE

Sure.

The two stand up and carry their trays to the conveyor belt.

BROOKE

Since when are you so in favor of
hooking up with suitemates?

NATALIE

It's not ALWAYS bad.

(beat)

And besides, I think you two would
actually be good together.

They head toward the exit and out to...

2 EXT. COLLEGE WALK - CONTINUOUS

2

Outside, the girls head toward East Campus.

BROOKE
So what should I do?

NATALIE
You just need to show him that
you're interested. Maybe try a
more active approach to picking up
guys.

BROOKE
Like, ask him to go to a movie or
something?

NATALIE
Sure, whatever. It doesn't need to
be big, just... hey, look who it
is!

SIMON is walking down the steps toward the subway to pick up
his girlfriend (though the girls don't know this). Simon
sees them, waves, and then walks over to them.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
(elbowing Brooke)
Remember... ACTIVE.

SIMON
(arriving)
Coming back from John Jay?

NATALIE
Yep.

SIMON
Y'know, we do have a kitchen.

BROOKE
That's what I said!

NATALIE
Leave me alone! I like John Jay!

BROOKE
And where are you headed?

SIMON
The subway.

BROOKE
Going downtown?

SIMON
Nah, I'm, uh, I'm meeting Julia.

BROOKE
Julia?

SIMON
My, um, girlfriend.

Awkward pause.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Hey, what are you two up to tonight?

BROOKE
Nothing.

SIMON
You don't mind if we throw a party in the suite, do you?

BROOKE
No, it's cool.

SIMON
Oh great. Yeah, Julia doesn't have an ID so I figured we'd do something at our place. Anyway, I'll see you two later.

He starts to walk away, then turns back.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Oh... and wear red.

Brooke and Natalie watch him depart. Brooke turns to Natalie.

BROOKE
I don't think a little nudge is gonna cut it.

ROLL OPENING CREDITS.

3 INT. THE SUITE - COMMON ROOM - DAY

3

ROB, standing in the middle of the room holding his cell phone. He opens it up and then quickly closes it.

He paces for a moment, then opens the phone, goes through his phonebook, finds Miles... and closes the phone again. He places it on the coffee table and slumps down in a chair. He stares at the phone then turns to GREG, who is standing nearby, amused.

ROB
I can't do it, Greg.

GREG
Are you serious? Call the man already!

ROB
What if he's not interested?

GREG
He gave you his number.

ROB
But what if he's not interested ANYMORE?
(beat)
Gah!

Rob puts his head in his hands. Greg eyes the phone on the table.

GREG
Well, if you're not gonna call him then I will.

Greg lunges for the phone just as his words sink in. Rob tries to block him and they struggle for a moment, but when the dust settles (so to speak), Greg's holding the phone.

ROB
You're an asshole.

GREG
You're forcing my hand, Rob. If you'd just call him...

Rob grabs for the phone, Greg dodges. He begins looking through the contacts list.

ROB
Okay! I'll call him. Just give me the phone.

Greg assesses Rob and decides he's serious.

GREG
Alright.

He hands him the phone just as it starts ringing. He pulls the phone back and looks at the caller ID.

GREG (CONT'D)

Well, well. Seems you've lucked out.

Greg tosses the phone to Rob and Rob picks it up.

ROB

Hello?

Rob tries to compose himself while he listens to Miles.

ROB (CONT'D)

(doing his best to play it cool)

Oh hey Miles. How's it going?

(Rob listens to Miles)

Yeah, a drink sounds awesome... except I'm actually throwing a party at my suite tonight.. You should come. I promise it's not all math geeks.

(miles)

Yeah, ten thirty sounds about right.

(miles)

I'll see you then.

Rob closes his phone, looks at it for a moment and then chuckles.

ROB (CONT'D)

Huh.

4 EXT. BROADWAY AND 116TH - DAY

4

Julia is coming out of the subway. Simon sees her and waves, much as he did to Brooke a few moments ago.

SIMON

You made it.

They embrace and kiss. Simon takes Julia's bag.

SIMON (CONT'D)

How was the trip?

JULIA

Oh my god! You will not believe what happened on the subway. I accidentally took the express train-

SIMON

Jules... I specifically told you not to take the express train.

JULIA

I know but I didn't realize cause it was running on the local track until 96th street. So I ended up on the wrong side of Harlem and had to take the subway all the way back. Only when I got back the one train wasn't stopping at Columbia going uptown so I had to take it downtown from like 137th.

SIMON

Well, I'm glad you made it.

JULIA

So what's on the agenda?

SIMON

I was thinking we would grab some lunch, hang out for a bit, then hit up some bars tonight after dinner?

JULIA

Simon! You know I don't have a fake ID.

SIMON

Oh yeah. I guess it's a good thing I planned a big party in my suite then.

JULIA

Is that why you told me to bring red clothes?

SIMON

We wouldn't want you to be incorrectly attired for the Communist party.

JULIA

You're ridiculous. In a good way.

They kiss again.

SIMON

So where do you get want to get lunch?

5 EXT. COLUMBIA - DAY 5

A time lapse of day turning into night? Or something.

6 INT. THE SUITE - COMMON ROOM - NIGHT 6

The Communist party is raging: people are all dressed in red, Rob has a Soviet general's hat, and the gang has stuck a Soviet flag to the wall. The room is packed, among the partygoers are the SUITEMATES, MILES, and JULIA. People are wearing mostly red, besides Greg, who is wearing sports shorts and a wife-beater, an American flag draped around his shoulders.

Natalie and Brooke are standing in the corner, drinking from red solo cups and people watching.

BROOKE

Wow, I don't know anybody at this party.

NATALIE

Me neither.

BROOKE

We need to stop hanging out with the boys all the time.

MEREDITH enters through the front door.

NATALIE

There's also Meredith.

BROOKE

True.

(beat)

Let's rush ADP.

NATALIE

Okay.

INT. THE SUITE - COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Elsewhere, Greg is leaning up against a wall, He takes a sip of his beer then, seeing Meredith enter the kitchen, follows her.

7 INT. THE SUITE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 7

GREG

Howdy.

MEREDITH

Nice flag.

GREG

Well, someone's gotta keep the world safe for democracy.

MEREDITH

You're a true American hero.

GREG

You're awfully cold tonight.

MEREDITH

That's mostly because I don't really like you.

GREG

Sounds like someone's still bitter.

MEREDITH

Your game's getting old, Greg.

GREG

(sincerely, or at least
not sarcastically)

Well, you've clearly figured me out.

MEREDITH

It's not like it's hard.

That hits Greg a bit more than either one expects and for a beat the two stand silently.

Natalie enters, oblivious, and heads to the fridge. She's wearing a mostly red outfit, with a prominent red scarf.

NATALIE

Hey guys.

THEN she notices the awkward silence.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Oh. Sorry, I'll leave you two alone.

MEREDITH

I think I'm actually going to go rejoin the party.

Meredith leaves the kitchen. Natalie gets her beer, closes the fridge and notices Greg, still silent.

NATALIE
 (hesitant)
 You okay?

GREG
 Why wouldn't I be?

NATALIE
 Do you want to talk about it?

GREG
 No.

8 INT. THE SUITE - COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

8

The party is still going. Simon is sitting on the couch between Brooke and Julia. Awkward.

BROOKE
 So Julia... you're here for the weekend?

JULIA
 Actually just tonight. I have a family thing tomorrow.

BROOKE
 Bummer.

JULIA
 But in two weeks, Simon's finally coming to visit me.
 (to Simon)
 Right?

SIMON
 That's right.
 (to Brooke)
 You guys will have to survive a weekend without me.

BROOKE
 How WILL we manage?

JULIA
 Oh Simon, guess what? I forgot to tell you. There's a really cool new exhibit opening at the Museum of Science.

BROOKE
 You two are too cool for words.

That stings a bit, at least for Simon.

SIMON
I'll be right back.

Simon stands up and heads to the bathroom, leaving the girls alone.

JULIA
So, um, Simon tells me you're an amazing singer.

BROOKE
I'm alright.

JULIA
I can't sing at all. It's bad news when I get drunk and Kelly Clarkson comes on.

BROOKE
(after a pause)
I really only sang because Simon made me.

JULIA
For a long time, I didn't even know he played guitar. He was super shy in high school.

BROOKE
Simon? Shy?

JULIA
Yeah, he was scared to talk to me. You know he had a crush on me for years and never did anything about it.

Brooke laughs.

BROOKE
Oh man, this is great. He never told me any of this.

JULIA
I know! He tries to play it all cool and everything, but he's secretly a huge dork. That's why I love him.

Oof. Not so funny for Brooke anymore.

9

INT. THE SUITE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

9

Simon finishes washing his hands and unlocks the door. As he starts to open the door, he sees Natalie coming down the stairs, a conspiratorial look on her face. She looks back upstairs without seeing Simon.

NATALIE

Don't make me change my mind!

She reaches her hand up the stairs and a male hand grasps it. The man takes a few steps downstairs and...

It's Greg.

GREG

Where are you taking me?

Natalie pulls him to her and, standing on her toes, kisses him.

Simon is stunned.

Natalie drags Greg into her room and shuts the door. A moment later she reappears, opening the door slightly and tying her red scarf on the door handle. With a slam, she closes the door again.

Simon continues to be stunned.

10

INT. THE SUITE - COMMON ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

10

Simon, still a little shaken, returns to the couch where Brooke and Julia are talking animatedly.

SIMON

Move over?

The two girls scoot over to make room for Simon next to Julia, who is now in the middle.

JULIA

How was the bathroom?

SIMON

Um, normal?

JULIA

What's wrong?

SIMON

Nothing.

JULIA
Simon.

SIMON
I'm fine.

JULIA
Okay.

Julia leans over and gives Simon a hug followed by a kiss on the cheek. Then he turns and they kiss on the lips. Brooke looks on; this is the first time she's seen them kiss.

BROOKE
(standing up)
Hey, I should probably get to bed.
I've, uh, got an early discussion
section tomorrow.

SIMON
The always fabulous Brooke is
leaving a party early? Hold on,
let me get my camera phone.

BROOKE
Hah. Leave me alone, I'm allowed
to be tired.

SIMON
Alright, fine.

Brooke attempts to look nonchalant as she walks off but doesn't entirely succeed. Simon looks after her, vaguely aware of why she's upset.

JULIA
(calling after her)
Nice meeting you!

11 INT. THE SUITE - DOWNSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

11

Brooke gets to her door and notices the scarf. She tries the handle anyway, but it's locked.

BROOKE
Ugh. Great.

She turns around and leans against the door, sliding down until she's sitting, her back still against the door. From inside come noises that imply sex.

Brooke turns her head, grossed out, then turns back and puts her head in her hands.

Rob and Miles stomp down the stairs, drunk and laughing.

ROB

I can't believe you haven't seen
Pelican Eats Bird... it might be
the best youtube video ever.

They notice Brooke.

ROB (CONT'D)

You don't look like you're having
very much fun.

BROOKE

Sexile! Woo!

ROB

It could be worse. I had to deal
with full weekends of sexile last
year.

The last thing Brooke wants to hear is another mention of
Simon and Julia, but she does her best to hide it.

BROOKE

At least you had advance notice.
And at least it wasn't someone
random. I don't even want to know
who's in there with her.

A beat.

ROB

Alright, get up.

He pulls Brooke up from her seated position.

ROB (CONT'D)

Come on. You're sleeping in my
room tonight.

BROOKE

Is this one of those things where
you just pretend to be gay to get
girls into your bed?

ROB

Sneaky, right?

(beat)

You can have the bed. I'll take
the floor.

Brooke looks at Miles and realizes that she'd be cock-
blocking bigtime if she were to take him up on his offer.

BROOKE
It's okay. I'll just take the
couch or something.

ROB
You sure?

BROOKE
I'll be fine.

Rob glances at the closed door, Miles, and then back to
Brooke.

ROB
Suit yourself.

MILES
Good luck.

Rob leads Miles to his room, they enter and close the door
behind them.

12 INT. THE SUITE - ROB'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

12

Miles pauses a moment and then decides to sit down on the
bed. Rob goes over to his computer and pulls up Youtube.

MILES
The poor girl. First she has to
put up with all that girlfriend
nonsense and then she gets sexiled.

ROB
(still at the computer)
Girlfriend nonsense?

MILES
I mean with your suitemate. Simon.
She's WAY into him.

Rob turns around, forgetting Youtube.

ROB
Wait, what?

MILES
You didn't notice?

Rob, seeing an opportunity, crosses the room to the bed and
sits down next to Miles.

ROB
(coyly)
I wasn't really watching them.

MILES
That was almost convincing, but
I'll take it.

The two kiss.

INT. THE SUITE - DOWNSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Brooke sits down on the stairs, unsure of where to go. She hears someone coming down the stairs and, looking up, is surprised to see Simon.

SIMON
Trouble sleeping?

BROOKE
Aren't you supposed to be locked in
your bedroom with your girlfriend
for the 48 hours or something?

SIMON
What?

BROOKE
Nevermind.

SIMON
I just wanted to see if you were
alright.

BROOKE
I'm not.

Simon sits down next to Brooke.

SIMON
What's the matter...
(indicating the door)
besides that?

Brooke says nothing and keeps her head turned away from Simon. Simon puts his arm around her and she hugs him.

They finish the embrace and pull away, looking each other in the eyes. And they both know what's coming next, though Simon isn't sure if he wants it to happen.

Brooke leans in and kisses Simon. He kisses her back.

Then Simon remembers that his girlfriend is upstairs waiting for him and pulls away.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Brooke. This is wrong.

And it's not clear who he's trying to convince. He stands up and a beat passes.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have-

(beat)

I need to go.

He leaves Brooke there, sitting in front of the door, and starts up the stairs. She watches after him, hoping he'll look back, but he deliberately doesn't.

END EPISODE 3.