

Excerpt from Perception

By

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NOT FOR DUPLICATION

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ACT 2Scene 1: Relationships

Lights up on six chairs that three sets of couples will inhabit. The couples should move chairs in-between sections to signify their status in their relationship. This means the chairs should not be in a row. Gay: Cameron and Grant / Lesbian: Nikki and Shelby / Straight: Ben and Carly

MOMENTS: RELATIONSHIPS: MCKENNA

We wanted to take a look at relationships and the dynamic that happens between two people during their four year high school experience. It's such a major part of our day to day lives. We talked with people and asked them to tell us their experiences, their ups and downs, and the major issues that they have as they weave in and out of each other's lives. Enter average three couples, three average relationships, and three different perceptions on High School Relationships; which are anything but average.

(Phase 1: Cat and mouse)

MCKENNA:

So tell me about the day you met

CARLY:

Well it's not really a day it was more of a process; we had a mutual friend and every week we would all go to this thing and hang out and talk and whatever...and it was fun. So one day we got to talking about the stupidest of things and I don't even remember what it was but I could tell you that it didn't have the slightest significance at all, but it was something we had in common and we just sat there talking and that's how it began.

SHELBY:

Okay this is a good story; so I'm at first Friday which is a monthly ritual for me and I love the arts scene. And I don't know if you've ever been to first Friday but one of the greatest things about it is the people you meet. So there I am walking around and I hear this really good beat and I got really excited because I really love to dance, anyways; I end up in this bohemian, indie, hippie-esque drum circle which would seem a little weird if I wasn't at first Friday.

NIKKI:

She always messes this part up so let me tell it cue mood lighting: So there she was silhouetted by the streetlight, her hair glistening in the mo-

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SHELBY:

So basically I was looking hot and we met

CAMERON:

How did we meet? We had class together; Math class to be specific and we added up pretty nicely. But it took a little while because I wasn't sure and

GRANT:

I don't like to advertise the fact that I'm gay; it's not that I'm not okay with me it's just that you have to be careful and you have to know who to trust.

CAMERON:

I knew he was a little apprehensive and it was going to take some trust so one day after class I invited him to come to GSA and that's that

MCKENNA:

Phase 2: Facebook official

Okay Ready: 3,2,1

SHELBY:

Relationship Request: Confirm or Ignore

GRANT:

Relationship request: confirm that you are in a relationship with_____: Ignore

CAMERON:

I sent him a relationship request; he sends me a text message.

GRANT:

I wanted to explain that I wasn't comfortable with having everyone know; but how do you say that in a text message so I said hey can you call me and we sorted everything out.

CAMERON:

I got the text and I'm not gonna lie, my stomach dropped but I talked to him and I wasn't completely okay with it but I told him I understood and it was fine...for now

BEN:

I sent her a relationship request and waited

CARLY:

I'm not one of those people who checks Facebook everyday

BEN:

So I posted on her wall

CARLY:

I think I waited three days before I remembered to check it again

BEN:

So after three days I text her "I thought we were in a relationship" and I added one of those smiley face things so she wouldn't think I was mad at her

CARLY:

I was confused at first and then I got it and thought it was cute; so I hit confirm

MCKENNA:

Phase 2: Good Times and Bad Times

CAMERON:

Everything was great when we were alone and by alone I mean anywhere where we wouldn't run into someone that knew him; which was basically my house or clear across town. And that was fine for a while but then it was like I was dating two different people or rather I was dating one and didn't even know the other.

GRANT:

It must have been hard for him looking back on it; but I thought I made it pretty clear at the beginning that I wanted to keep our relationship private and he knew that.

CAMERON:

And I let it go on like that for a long time pretending like I didn't care. Actually, there was even a period of time where I tried to just pretend that we were good friends when we were at school and I would try to talk to him or sit with him at lunch and things were just awkward. And then there was that one day.

GRANT:

I was getting frustrated with him with myself with everything. I hated the fact that I had to hide everything but what could I do; I wasn't ready and relationships are about sacrifice right? I was risking so much by being in a relationship with him so he needed to give a little.

CAMERON:

It basically came down to this: I was having a really bad day, just lots of things going on at home and I just needed to talk to him for a minute or two, just to get some things off my shoulders, to get some perspective. And I tried to wait for a time when I could catch him alone but his friends were always there and by the time that finally happened I was a wreck because I had been carrying it around with me all day. And looking back on it I don't know why I was

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CAMERON: (cont'd)

crying I guess its because I had so much going on top of the pressures of our relationship and I hit a breaking point.

GRANT:

He comes up to me and I see that he'd been crying and I didn't know what to do; that's the worst for me I can't handle it when people cry around me I just feel helpless. And he says I really need to talk to you and I say okay and then one of my buddies yelled across campus and came running up to us, we had practice and I had to go so I said I'll see you later and I sent him a text like five minutes later that said I'm sorry we'll get together later tonight and I put a smiley face on the end of that because a smiley face makes everything better.

CAMERON:

I stood there for a long time because I knew at that moment I had to make a decision and at that moment I knew that something had to give because I couldn't continue to do this. And I got that text he sent me; just because you add a smiley face on a text doesn't mean everything's better: It just means I realize that I'm being a big...whatever

SHELBY:

Relationships in high school are funny. One of my favorite things is when you go on Facebook and the status says "I'm in a relationship and it's complicated. I mean really all relationships are complicated because you're dealing with emotions and when emotions are involved; it's never easy.

NIKKI:

I'm not going to say our relationship was perfect or some sort of fairy tale romance; one: because that's just ridiculous and two: the rough patches are fun in their own sort of way; I mean at the time they suck but it's all part of it. I see so many people around here who get wrapped up in each other so quickly that they lose themselves in the mix of things and we didn't want to do that.

SHELBY:

Not only themselves but their friends as well; it happens all the time that girls just dump their friends when they get a guy. There should be some balance in relationship; why does it have to be an all or nothing situation? You ditch your friends, even your best friends and then you break up with the guy and look what happens; you're left with no one it's sad really.

CARLY:

People always ask why and how but I guess it was hard to see what was happening at the time and when you get lost in this thing that we call love you are blinded to things for so long.

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BEN:

I've always been protective, I guess that's the word for it

CARLY:

It was small things at first, asking who I was texting, what I was doing, who I was with and at the beginning I thought he was just being considerate; you know trying to take an active part in my life. And then things just got worse

BEN:

She doesn't need to anyone but me; it's about us; it's about being together.

CARLY:

I wasn't allowed to do things without him, hang out with friends or just go anywhere that wasn't my house. And I remember that at first I started to argue with him and he would get so mad. It would come out of nowhere.

BEN:

I get a little angry sometimes. I admit that but doesn't everyone.

CARLY:

So after a while I just stopped arguing because it was easier that way and so I stopped hanging out with my friends and things became a routine: when we would be together I would hand over my cell phone because he didn't want me texting anyone and he would go through my text messages to see who I had been talking to. He would watch my Facebook page to see who was posting and would even sometimes tell me what to post. But things were good you know, he took care of me and told me he loved me and that he was just trying to do what was best for me. My friends were trying to tell me that the relationship was bad, that it wasn't a good situation for me to be in; but there was a part of me that just thought they were jealous.

MCKENNA:

Phase 3: The make or break: So what happened after that

CAMERON:

We came to the point where I just couldn't do it anymore and basically it came down to the fact that I was done with the hiding. I was more than comfortable with whom I was and I needed to be with someone that was like that as well.

GRANT:

I tried to explain to him that it was just for high school and that afterwards we could do whatever, be whatever, but as long as we were here things had to stay as they were. And he said no...he said he was done.

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CAMERON:

It was a good experience really; looking back on it. It was hard and emotional and all of that but it really was a wake-up call in a lot of ways. We talk a lot about how far we have come as a society as a culture and it made me realize that we have in so many ways but realistically we have a long way to go in making our schools, our country, our society a place where everyone can be comfortable.

GRANT:

That was probably one of the most emotional experiences that I have ever gone through personally and when we first talked about it I think there was a large part of me that was in denial over the whole situation. I couldn't see things from his perspective and I didn't realize how much it was hurting him. And then I came to understand how much I needed to grow up and how much I wasn't ready for what I had gotten myself into.

CAMERON:

Everything was awkward at first right after we had broken up and he completely shut down. So I gave him time and after some time we got together and we became good friends.

GRANT:

But the best thing about all of it was that after a while we became friends again and he has helped me through so much since then. And it's a learning experience, just like anything else; one that I'm grateful for.

CARLY:

It came to the point where I had enough and I got out of it...quickly...but later he said that he was sorry

BEN:

I told her I was sorry and

CARLY:

And so I took him back even though my friends told me that I was stupid; that I shouldn't listen to him; that people don't change that easy and things are...

BEN:

Great

CARLY:

In fact I'm seeing him later today

NIKKI:

We're still together

(CONTINUED)

Surprisingly

SHELBY:

Funny

NIKKI:

I thought so

SHELBY:

NIKKI:

Things are going to change obviously; we both are going to go away for college and who knows what will happen then.

SHELBY:

People get so obsessed over these relationships in high school. They're important; don't get me wrong but we change so much over the course of our four years here and who I am one minute may not be the same person the next minute.

NIKKI:

By all means, date people, meet people, have fun; enjoy your high school years.

SHELBY:

And if we're meant to be together; we'll meet up somewhere down the line and if not?

NIKKI:

You mean if I find someone better?

SHELBY:

Well that too

NIKKI:

If not? Then it wasn't meant to be. It doesn't mean that it wasn't significant or it wasn't important.

SHELBY:

It just means that you learned what you needed to from that person and you move on.

NIKKI:

And maybe we'll stay friends

SHELBY:

If you're lucky