

9.

*Shelby and Raelynn  
a few days later  
the same classroom, after school  
long silence*

SHELBY

we don't have to make it a thing

*Raelynn stares at Shelby*

SHELBY

I just mean that we can make it so we both like  
come up with different stuff  
and put it together  
and don't even have to talk to each other much

RAELYNN

he always knows when people do that  
that's not the point of collaboration

*Shelby sighs*

SHELBY

he had to have done this on purpose, right?

RAELYNN

I don't think he knows

SHELBY

I think all the teachers know more than we think they do  
especially him  
he's very  
he knows stuff

RAELYNN

I mean  
we literally watched him draw the names  
you sound a little crazy

SHELBY

cool  
thanks

*beat*

*Raelynn unfolds a piece of paper and reads from it*

RAELYNN

“choose any two characters from *The Crucible* who never have a scene alone together and imagine what this scene might be. what would they say? what do they need from each other? create a performance no longer than 5 minutes long, based on this scene and incorporating at least two outside sources. your scene should –”

*(she stops reading from the paper)*

blah blah blah blah

basically just “make it good”

SHELBY

*(Tim Gunn)*

“make it work”

*Raelynn stares*

Tim Gunn

come on

I’m trying

RAELYNN

okay so do we have any ideas

SHELBY

I’m thinking

*beat*

RAELYNN

I guess maybe we should start by reading the play

SHELBY

I already did

RAELYNN

*(sure you did)*

right

okay

SHELBY

why would you just assume I haven’t read the play?

RAELYNN  
well I know you

SHELBY  
I guess you don't  
I literally did research on the play  
I read a book  
I make a lot of fucking effort  
like  
all the time  
and you still just act like I'm the same Shelby who copied your homework in sixth grade  
and I know I fucked up with you  
I know that  
but that doesn't mean I always fuck up  
and just because I like  
let you see things about me that other people don't see  
doesn't mean that you get to use those things against me  
I

*Raelynn covers her face with her hands*  
*beat*

SHELBY  
hey  
no no no no don't cry

*Raelynn shakes her head*  
*we hear some whimpery cry sounds*

SHELBY  
heyyy  
I'm sorry  
I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry

*beat*  
*Raelynn keeps her face covered*

I really want to hug you  
and I feel like maybe it's not a good idea  
but I really want to

*beat*

Rae?

*Shelby gingerly puts a hand on Raelynn's shoulder  
Raelynn lets her  
Shelby starts crying a little  
she makes a tiny sound and Raelynn jerks her hands away from her face*

RAELYNN  
why are you crying??

SHELBY  
because!!

RAELYNN  
you just yelled at *me*!!

SHELBY  
there's just a lot, okay!!  
there's just a lot

*they look at each other for a moment, tearful*

SHELBY  
hey  
so  
I really want / to say

RAELYNN  
let's just  
do you have any ideas?

*beat*

SHELBY  
I mean...  
I feel like we both know we're gonna do a dance

*Raelynn laughs automatically, against her will*

RAELYNN  
I mean yeah obviously

*Shelby is very pleased that she finally got a laugh*

SHELBY

we've been waiting our whole lives for an assignment with "interpretive" in the title  
for this very reason  
we're very gifted very beautiful interpretive dancers

*Shelby does a little bit of a cheesy interpretive dance*  
*Raelynn hesitates, then riffs on Shelby with her own version*  
*they laugh*  
*they love each other so much*  
*beat*

RAELYNN

now what?

13.

*English class  
they're reading aloud from The Crucible*

MASON

*(as John Proctor, stiffly but trying)*

"Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang! How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave me my name!"

*applause*

MR. SMITH

well read, Mason, well read

I just

that's my favorite part of the play  
such an incredible monologue

*Shelby raises her hand*

MR. SMITH

Shelby!

yeah!

start us off

SHELBY

I don't get it.

all you have is your name?

what is THAT?

BETH

I think it means that like

Proctor is / saying that he –

SHELBY

no no yeah I mean I get it

*(sparknotes voice)* "this allows him to die, honorably, with his goodness intact"

it says that on sparknotes

but I still feel like

what GOODNESS?

MR. SMITH

okay well we should talk about your use of Sparknotes and how that does not foster a meaningful relationship with the text

SHELBY

I also read the play

I did!

I just thought I was missing something

so I looked at sparknotes

as like a supplemental material

anyway

I totally get what the monologue is doing from like

a literary standpoint I guess

but your name is literally just a word that someone else gave to you

you can change it

you can give it to someone else –

I mean

you gave yours to your wife

and that's another shitty thing!

MR. SMITH

language...

NELL

but right?

women's names are all tied up in their relationship to a man

we were just talking about this in feminism club

MASON

yeah it's like

women have "miss" and "ms" and "mrs"

and all men have is "mister"

BETH

it's all about possession

MASON

it's kind of fucked up

MR. SMITH

Mason!

language!

NELL

but that's really good, Mason

SHELBY

okay but wait wait wait  
I have a point, I swear  
it's a good one  
I make really good points  
I'm really smart  
I know a lot of you don't think I am, but I am  
you've told me I am, Mr. Smith  
remember?  
I do  
I remember it very clearly  
I remember exactly where we were

MR. SMITH

yes, Shelby  
I think you're very smart  
I think all of you are smart  
and my goal as an educator  
is to get you to apply that intelligence / into –

SHELBY

I mean  
that's not really how you phrased it to me  
but okay  
so anyway  
it's like  
your name was made up  
your ancestors were like  
“ooh there are a bunch of blacksmiths in our family, better call ourselves Smith”  
right?  
like that's what names *are*  
they're fiction  
but my body is a fact  
I live inside of it

MR. SMITH

we're going to have to wrap up this point pretty soon, Miss Holcomb  
if you could please bring it back to the text?

SHELBY

Abigail was a human being  
she like  
she existed  
that's a fact



but John Proctor is just obsessed with this made-up thing

BETH

yeah but  
his name stood for a lot more  
it's like  
his reputation  
his honor

BETH  
~~A STUDENT (or IVY)~~

yeah like  
Abigail's been trying the whole play to like  
ruin him or something  
she's obsessed with it

NELL

nope  
yeah he made choices

SHELBY

exactly!  
yes!  
but he's just pretending like  
I dunno like  
his fiction is more important than her fact?  
I mean  
that *sucks*  
like  
John Proctor is clearly the villain  
right?

MR. SMITH

John Proctor is one of the great heroes of the American / Theatre

SHELBY

yeahhhhh no  
I don't think he is  
I think he sucks

*reactions*

MR. SMITH

okay well I think we all have a lot to mull over / and we

SHELBY

last thing last point I swear  
say you run into someone who might not recognize you right away  
and they're like  
"Mr. Smith? Carter Smith? is that you?"  
you could easily be like  
"oh no, sorry you must be thinking of someone else, that's not my name"  
but if I run into someone and they're like  
"are you living inside of a body or are you a ghost?"  
I mean I am pretty clearly inside of a body

MR. SMITH

Shelby, let's / just

SHELBY

a name doesn't mean anything if it doesn't have a body to be attached to  
your name doesn't have a memory, Carter  
but my body remembers being touched by you  
and I know your body remembers mine  
my body knows what a piece of shit you are

*confused reactions and murmurs from the class*

MR. SMITH

all right, Shelby  
that's enough  
I'm gonna have to ask you to leave now

SHELBY

wow  
yeah  
it's funny you're asking me to leave  
when six months ago  
you were asking me to come

*total chaos reactions  
the students who can actually function through their shock grab their phones*