

EXCUSES

By Emmalisa Horlacher

CAST

TROY: The type of guy everyone likes. Kind, easily distracted, firm in justice

JO: The type of guy nobody likes

SARAH: Cute

JANE: Dead-pan, doesn't mess around but still has a heart. Barely.

Ensemble: PERSON 1, PERSON 2, GIRL 1, GIRL 2, EXTRA 1, EXTRA 2

INT. A PLACE FOR FRIEND PARTY

TROY is sitting in the room, waiting for his guests to arrive. In walks PERSON 1, 2, and SARAH. TROY easily interacts with his guests and is very personable.

TROY

Everyone! Welcome, thanks for coming!
Hey, how's chemistry?

PERSON 1

Kicking my butt.

TROY

Yikes, if you need any help let me know. I TA-ed for that class last semester.

PERSON 1

Thanks Troy.

Everyone is in but Troy looks out in the hall like he's looking for someone.

TROY

Hey, did you guys see Jo on the way over? Did you invite him like I asked? I really want him to be here but I didn't get the chance to invite him in person and I don't know if he got my message.

Everyone looks at each other anxiously.

SARAH

Um... no. We didn't see him.

TROY

oh, okay, that's alright. Thanks for coming. I love how you did your hair Sarah!

GIRL 1, 2 and JANE come in.

TROY

Hello you fabulous ladies! What's the word?

GIRL 1

JC recently started dating a guy and he's super cute too!

TROY

Oh, I want to hear all about it! But did any of you see Jo on your way here? I was really hoping he would come.

Same awkward atmosphere.

GIRL 2

Well, uh...

JANE

Yah, I saw him but I told him I didn't want him to come.

TROY

What?!? Why?

JANE

He's not a great guy and I don't like him.

TROY

You don't really mean that do you?

GIRL 2

Yah, no, she's just kidding.

GIRL 1

Totally kidding. She would never say that! Right Jane???

Troy looks utterly heartbroken.

JANE

*(Sighs. She cares too much about
Troy to hurt his feelings.)*

I guess not.

TROY

So you didn't see him?

GIRL 2

Um... no...

TROY

Okay

Next group comes in.

TROY

Guys! Great you could make it. You were with Jo weren't you? You all have Math together right, and it just got out? Did you invite him to come? Did he get my message?

EXTRA 1

(Quick to answer)

He couldn't come.

TROY

Really? Did he say why?

EXTRA 2

Nope, he just can't make it.

TROY

Okay, well, I got to go grab the snacks then we can start.

Troy leaves. There's a second or so of awkward silence.

GIRL 1

(Squirming)

Ok, I have to admit it. I feel bad, but I lied to Troy. I really just don't like that guy Jo.

GIRL 2

Yah, we totally saw Jo but we told him that he shouldn't come because Tanner had been exposed to COVID.

JANE

I told him that I didn't want him to be here.

EXTRA 1

Well we said that the DJ was going to be my younger brother who only listens to kidsbop.

EXTRA 2

And that Troy was only going to serve vegan food, and you know how Jo claims to be allergic to the stuff.

SARAH

Oh, he was pretty persistent with us. We ended up telling him that we were going to the funeral of Troy's boss, and that since he was a huge fan of Weeknd at Bernies, the funeral was going to be a re-enactment of the movie.

PERSON 1

I was playing the dead boss.

JANE

We are all terrible liars.

Troy comes back with grocery bags full. Then Jo bursts through the doors.

TROY

Jo! You made it!

JO

Of course my man! Even though Tanner was exposed to COVID, even though you're only going to listen to kidsbop and eat vegan food, and you know about my allergies to vegan food. Even though it will be the funeral of your boss who requested that you put on a reenactment of Weekend at Bernie's and he's (*points at PERSON 1*) playing the dead boss. Even though all of that! I had to be here!!! That's how much your friendship means to me!

TROY

...What? Jo, none of that is true. I

made sure to get the extra non-vegan Oreos just so that you could eat them. Who told you that stuff?

JO

They did. (*points at everyone*)

Everyone ducks their heads ashamed.

TROY

You all lied to me? And what's worse you lied to Jo! You know what, I don't want to be around friends who could lie to my face. Anyone who lied, please leave.

Everyone shuffles out the door. Jo is the last one but even he exits towards the door.

TROY

Wait Jo. Where are you going?

JO

Yah, well, this is kind of awkward but I lied too. You see, when I said I came here for you, yah well, that was a lie. You see, I heard that Sarah was going to be here and I kind of have a thing for her. So I kind of only came because I knew she'd be here... so sorry.

Jo leaves. Troy is left alone.

End.