

Silent No More

written by

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INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Students rush to their next class. RACHEL, a 16-year-old high school student with brown hair, is carrying a stack of textbooks. She winces as she rubs her temple, and tries to avoid bumping into people passing by.

Suddenly, a group of students led by LIZ, blocks Rachel's path.

LIZ
Hey, watch where you're going,
nerd!

Liz shoves Rachel, causing her to stumble and drop her textbooks. The other girls giggle.

RACHEL
Sorry, I didn't mean to...

LIZ
(mockingly)
What? Can't even hold a book,
loser.

Liz picks up one of Rachel's textbooks and tosses it down the hallway.

RACHEL
Stop! Please! I need those books
for my class.

LIZ
Oh, you need these books?

Liz picks up another one and tosses again. The girls push Rachel.

RACHEL
(shaky)
Please leave me alone.

Rachel's eyes fill with tears as she tries to gather her textbooks on the floor.

LIZ
Oh, the little nerd is going to
cry?

Rachel's shoulders slump in defeat. The laughter and mockery fades into the background.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel sits across from her parents. MR. and MRS. FOSTER are typing busily on their laptops and papers are scattered across the coffee table. Rachel looks at them and takes a deep breath.

RACHEL

Mom, Dad, I need to talk to you.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster glance up quickly, and look back to their screens.

MR.FOSTER

Can it wait? We're really swamped right now.

RACHEL

It's important! I can't do this anymore, I need to transfer schools.

MR. FOSTER

Transfer schools? Why?

Mr. Foster doesn't look up at all, he just stares at the screen.

RACHEL

Because I'm getting bullied. I can't take it anymore!

MRS. FOSTER

Bullied? Oh, it's just kids being kids. Joking, right?

MR.FOSTER

Transferring schools is a big decision, and...

Mrs. Foster sighs and exchanges a tired look with Mr. Foster. Rachel presses her mouth and looks at her parents.

RACHEL

No! You don't understand! It's more than jokes. They have been tormenting me every day.

MRS. FOSTER

Rachel, we don't have time for this right now.

RACHEL
I've tried to fight back, nothing
changes!

Mr. Foster slam his hand on the desk.

MR. FOSTER
NO! Now go back to your room!

Rachel reaches for the scissors on the desk and aims at her
neck. Tears swirl in her eyes.

RACHEL
If you won't let me transfer, then
let me die.

Mrs. Foster and Mr. Foster's eyes widen in shock. Rachel's
face turns red as she looks at them. Her hand is shaking
uncontrollably. Mrs. Foster claps a hand over her mouth and
stands up quickly.

MRS. FOSTER
What are you doing?

Mr. Foster's breath comes in ragged gasps, his eyes widen
with fear.

MR. FOSTER
(voice trembling with
anger)
Put down the scissors! I said put
them down!

RACHEL
You don't understand! Let me
transfer schools!

MRS. FOSTER
(shaky)
I'm begging you, put down the
scissors!
(beat)
Please put them down!

RACHEL
Let me transfer schools!

Rachel cries and gasps for air. Mr. Foster clenches his jaw.
Beads of sweat appear on his forehead. Mrs. Foster breathes
rapidly. She puts a hand on her forehead and closes her eyes.

MR.FOSTER
Okay... Now put the scissors down!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The classroom is buzzing with the chatter of STUDENTS as Rachel enters, followed by the teacher ALICE, a mid-age woman.

ALICE
Alright, everyone. Today we have a new student. Please introduce yourself.

Rachel takes a deep breath.

RACHEL
Uh, hi everyone. My name is Rachel.

Some students turn to look at Rachel, but they quickly return to their conversations.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Uh, I'm really happy to be here.

The students keeps chatting and laughing. Rachel stands there with a smile frozen on her face. Some students look at Rachel, expressionless. Rachel looks around and quickly walks to the empty seat in the back.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

The cafeteria is packed with students lining up for lunch. Students reconnect with their friends after the morning class.

A girl, FIONA, is focused on grabbing lunch and holding a plate in her hands. Rachel reaches for a sandwich just as Fiona's hand snags the same one. Rachel looks up at Fiona. Their eyes meet in surprise.

RACHEL
(embarrassed)
Oh, sorry.

FIONA
(laughing)
No worries. Looks we have the same taste in sandwiches.

They both release the sandwich.

FIONA (CONT'D)
I'll grab another one.

Rachel hesitates, then nods.

RACHEL
Thanks. I'm Rachel. Nice to meet you.

FIONA
I'm Fiona! Are you new here?

RACHEL
Yeah, I just transferred. It's my first day.

Fiona smiles at Rachel. Rachel puts some food on her plate.

FIONA
Well, welcome. If you need any help, feel free to ask. I'd be happy to show you around.

RACHEL
Thanks, Fiona. That would be great.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Do you want to sit together for lunch?

Fiona nods. They exchange warm smiles and walk together towards an empty table and sit down together.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The bell rings, Rachel walks out of the classroom holding a water bottle. She notices Fiona as she's filling the bottle at the fountain.

RACHEL
Hey, Fi...

Suddenly, she sees a group of girls push Fiona, and Fiona stumbles. Rachel stands there, her hand extended tentatively. Rachel sees Fiona being dragged into the bathroom.

FIONA
(crying out)
Ow! Let me go!

The nearby students are staying far away from them. Rachel is frozen. Her eyes are filled with fear. She puts her hand on the wall to hold her from falling on to the ground.

STEPHANIE, the tallest girl in the group, holds the door open and turns her head to check her surroundings. She spots Rachel and looks her up and down.

Rachel takes a step back. Stephanie looks at her and sneers. Rachel quickly turns around and runs away. Stephanie watches her leave before entering the bathroom. The door slams.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The walls are adorned with posters of cheerleaders frozen in midair jumps. In the corner, a collection of pom-poms sit on the shelf, their vibrant red colors catching the light.

On Rachel's desk, amidst textbooks and assignments, lies an open notebook. Its pages are filled with sketches of Rachel in a cheerleading uniform and mimicking routines. Rachel sits at her desk. Her gaze drifts to the corner of the room where pom-poms sit on the shelf.

She stands up and slowly walks towards the shelf. She grabs the pom-poms and twirls them in the air. She dances around the room, doing the same actions as the cheerleaders on the posters.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Rachel walks down the crowded hallway, clenching her notebook close to her chest. Suddenly, a group of girls step into her path. Their eyes narrow as they smile maliciously.

STEPHANIE

Look who's here?

Rachels looks down at the floor.

RACHEL

I'm sorry, I don't know you.

STEPHANIE

Hahaha, I know you. You're Fiona's friend, aren't you?

Stephanie roughly pushes Rachel on her shoulder. Rachel loses her footing and stumbles back. Her notebook tumbles to the floor.

Stephanie reaches out and grabs the notebook, flipping through the pages with a sneer.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
(laughs)
"Future Cheer Captain"... You've
got to be kidding me.

Stephanie looks at the notebook and forms an incredulous smile. The other girls gather around and laugh. Rachel fights back tears, her hands trembling.

RACHEL
(whispering)
Give it back.

STEPHANIE
Rachel, have you looked in the
mirror lately? Cheerleading
requires grace, beauty and a figure
to match.

Rachel's face turns red and sheds tears.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Face it, you'll never be a
cheerleader. You're just a joke.

The girls laugh and nudge each other's arms. Stephanie tosses the notebook to the ground and leaves. Rachel stands frozen in place.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Fiona rushes down the hallway to class. Spotting Rachel at her locker, Fiona quickens her pace and beams as she approaches Rachel.

FIONA
Rachel...

Rachel turns her head and looks at Fiona.

RACHEL
Fiona, we need to talk.

FIONA

What's wrong? You look upset.

Fiona's brow furrows, but she nods, gesturing for Rachel to continue. Rachel takes a deep breath.

RACHEL

Fiona, I'm so sorry. I should've stood up for you when they were bullying you.

Rachel's gaze drops to the floor.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

But, but I froze and I was so scared. So I ran away...

Fiona looks at Rachel for a while and gives her a shallow smile.

FIONA

Rachel, It's okay. I understand.

Rachel shakes her head, she looks up.

RACHEL

No, it's not okay. I've been bullied too, I know what it feels like. I tried to run away, but...

Fiona's eyes widen in surprise.

FIONA

Is that the reason you transferred schools?

RACHEL

Yes, and so far it's not a success.

Rachel looks down. Fiona furrows her eyebrows.

FIONA

Is Stephanie also giving you trouble?

Rachel nods.

RACHEL

It's time to fight back. No more running.

FIONA

I don't think that's a good idea.

Rachel smiles at Fiona with tears in her eyes. Fiona is silent for awhile.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Uh...

(beat)

Maybe we can try it together...

Rachel nods, they set off down the hallway.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Rachel and Fiona sit across from the principal, MR. ANDREW. He bows his head and writes something on a piece of paper.

MR. ANDREW

I understand your guys' concerns. Bullying is taken very seriously at our school. However, in order for us to take action, we need evidence.

RACHEL

But, Mr. Andrew, isn't our word enough?

FIONA

It's not like we're making this up.

Mr. Andrew sighs, running a hand through his hair.

MR. ANDREW

Stephanie is a model student with no record of misconduct. Without evidence, we can't do anything.

Rachel clenches her fists and hits the chair arm. She silently exchanges a glance with Fiona.

FIONA

Thank you for listening at least, Mr. Andrew.

Fiona lets out a deep sigh. They stand up and slowly walk out of the office.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Stephanie sees Rachel and Fiona coming out of the principal's office. LUCY, a girl in the Stephanie's small group, walks towards Stephanie.

LUCY

They told the principal they were being bullied. I overheard when I was talking to the secretary.

STEPHANIE

(smirking)

Hmph! They think that will work?

(beat)

It looks like I need to show them who's boss.

Stephanie crosses her arms as she walks towards the classroom. CHRISTINE, a girl in the small group, stands beside Lucy and put her hand on Lucy's shoulder.

CHRISTINE

(whispering)

Look at her, she sure thinks she's above everyone else.

LUCY

(laughing)

Totally. I'm so sick of pretending.

Christine rolls her eyes, and sighs.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Let's go see what she does to them.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Rachel and Fiona sit side by side in the classroom waiting for the teacher to arrive. Suddenly, the door swings open with a bang, and Stephanie barges in. The other students in the classroom turn around to watch Stephanie walking toward Rachel and Fiona.

STEPHANIE

Little tattletales.

Rachel's jaw clenches, she exchanges a glance with Fiona.

RACHEL
(steadily)
What do you want, Stephanie?

Stephanie ignores Rachel's question and sits on the desk facing towards them. She looks between Rachel and Fiona.

STEPHANIE
You two really thought you could
ruin my reputation and get away
with it?

Rachel looks straight ahead and presses her mouth together.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
(mocking)
You're making a big mistake,
cheerleader. Do you really think
your legs will look good in a mini?

Students laugh as they look at Rachel up and down. Rachel grits her teeth.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
This is your warning, fat-so!

Stephanie turns towards Fiona and forms a hostile smile.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
It's unlucky that you have such a
bad partner. Don't bother trying,
you guys will never succeed.

Stephanie stands up and exits the classroom. Rachel breathes heavily, Fiona's face turns pale as she slumps in her seats.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL GYM HALLWAY - DAY

Rachel walks past the gym, she looks at cheerleaders practicing their routines inside through the big window. She smiles when she sees the cheerleader successfully complete a tuck.

STEPHANIE (V.O.)
Oh, fatty thinks she can be a
cheerleader!

The smile on Rachel's face slowly disappears. She stands with her head down.

STEPHANIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Maybe you can be the mascot
instead. I mean, who's going to
lift you up?

With a heavy sigh, Rachel turns away from the gym. Just as she's about to walk away, a STUDENT passes by and hands her a flyer with a headline reads: CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS!

STUDENT
Hey, are you thinking about joining
the cheerleading squad?

RACHEL
(forcing a smile)
Uh, I don't know. I mean, I've
thought about it...

STUDENT
Well, this is a great chance! There
are tryouts next week. You should
go for it!

Rachel reaches out and gently touches the poster, tracing the outlines of the cheerleaders with her fingertips.

RACHEL
Uh, maybe I will.

As the student walks away, Rachel catches a glimpse of her reflection in the window. She looks down at her legs. She takes a deep breath and tucks the flyer into her bag and leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE OF FIONA BEING BULLIED

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Stephanie pushes Fiona aggressively and the other girls corner her against the wall.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Stephanie trips Fiona. Fiona stumbles and food fall on to the ground.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Fiona stands in front of her desk, she finds up 'loser' paints on her desk.

END MONTAGE

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Rachel stands alone in front of the locker. Her eyes stare straight ahead, as if in a daze.

Fiona walks towards her locker and opens it. Her eyes fill with tears and her shoulders slump with sadness. Rachel turns her head.

RACHEL
(concerned)
Fiona, are you okay?

Fiona forces a weak smile, but her eyes are red.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Is that because of Stephanie?

FIONA
(sighs)
It's all your fault, Rachel! Maybe
we're in the wrong after all.

Rachel looks at Fiona and frowns. She shakes her head.

RACHEL
We can't let Stephine win, Fiona.
We have to stand up for ourselves.

FIONA
We're losing! She won't stop.

Tears shed from Fiona's eyes. Rachel reaches out to hold Fiona's hand.

RACHEL
We'll face it together, Fiona. I
won't let these things happen
again.

Fiona shakes her head, she avoids eye contact with Rachel.

FIONA
I'm done. I'll ride this out until
graduation.

RACHEL

But...

Fiona pulls her hand away and turns to leave. Rachel watches her go.

She stares at the cheerleading poster in her locker and lowers her head in silence.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

There are only a few students in the hallway as Rachel cautiously approaches her locker. She glances around. Some students are chatting with each other, some are taking out books from their locker. No one is looking at her.

Rachel opens her locker and carefully nestles a MINI CAMERA on top of her textbooks. She adjusts its angle, ensuring it can capture the outside hallway. She clicks the record button on her phone and the camera starts flashing a faint red light. It peers through the cracks of the locker.

RACHEL

(whispering)

Hope this works.

She sighs and closes the locker carefully.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Stephanie leans on the locker, crossing her arms over her chest. Other girls stand separate along the hallway. They look at Rachel as she walks past them.

Rachel holds her books in front of her chest tightly, she looks down and walks slowly towards her locker. Suddenly, Stephanie walks towards her and kicks on the locker. The loud sound scares Rachel, her jumps slightly.

STEPHANIE

Look who's here.

Rachel does not look up, she tries to walk away from Stephanie. Stephanie steps into her path, blocking her way.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Where do you think you're going,
cheerleader?

Rachel keeps stepping back until her back is against the locker. Stephanie's hand lashes out, knocking the books from Rachel's arms. The books scatter across the floor, the tryouts poster flutters to the ground. The other girls look at her with wry smile.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
(sarcastically)
Oops.

Stephanie picks up the poster on the ground and looks at Rachel with a smirk.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Cheerleading tryouts? Haha,
seriously? I mean, come on, Rachel.
You really think you can?

Rachel's cheeks flush, she takes a deep breath.

RACHEL
I know I can.

The other girls burst into laughter. Rachel sneaks a peek at her locker.

STEPHANIE
Sure you do, sweetheart. Maybe in
another lifetime.

The bell rings and students flood the halls as they go to their lockers.

Stephanie gives a sneer and leaves. Other girls glance at her as they pass by. Rachel quickly picks up the books off the floor and leaves the hallway.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The classroom is filled with students. A teacher is giving a lecture. Rachel's one hand props up her head, with a pen in another hand drawing lines on the paper. She stares outside the window.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is quiet and empty. Rachel scans her surroundings, walking directly towards her locker.

Reaching her locker, Rachel takes a deep breath and quickly spins the lock. We hear the click as the lock opens. Rachel reaches in and retrieves the mini camera. She looks at the camera and taps on her phone, The camera stops flashing red light. Rachel nods and she tucks the camera into her backpack and zips up the bag.

Just as Rachel is about to close her locker, the sound of approaching footsteps catches her attention. Rachel freezes.

A GROUP OF STUDENTS passes by, they are chatting loudly and no one looks towards Rachel. Rachel lets out a deep breath, she closes her locker. She slings her backpack over her shoulder and blends into the flow of students, leaving the hallway.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rachel sits on her bed, her hands trembling as she carefully connects the mini camera to her laptop. She takes a deep breath and clicks on the files.

The footage appears on her screen. She scrolls the timeline.

STEPHANIE (ON SCREEN)

Where do you think you're going,
cheerleader?

STEPHANIE (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

Cheerleading tryouts? Haha,
seriously? I mean, come on,
Rachel...

She stares at the screen for a long time. Her eyes well up and she uses her hands to cover her face. She takes out her phone and types something. The message says:

"Hey Fiona, I got the evidence. Maybe you want to take a look?".

As Rachel sends the message, her attention is interrupted by unexpected footage.

CHRISTINE (ON SCREEN)

Did you see Stephanie talking to
Rachel this morning? She used to be
such a mess in junior high. Always
wearing her large green sweat suit?
Ugh, don't even get me started.

Rachel looks up and frowns. She leans towards the laptop.

LUCY (ON SCREEN)
(smirking)
Oh I remember in dance class, every
time she would jump, the floor
shook hahah....

MICHELLE (ON SCREEN)
Yeah, and remember when she had
that huge pimple on her nose? They
used to call her what?... uhh.

MICHELLE & LUCY & CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
(together)
Pizza!

The two laugh.

LUCY (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)
And now look at her. Model student?
Walking around like she owns the
place, acting all high and mighty.

MICHELLE (ON SCREEN)
This is so ironic. She must be
enjoying the fake feeling.

Rachel's eyes narrow as she listens to their mocking
laughter.

RACHEL
Unbelievable.

She sits silent for a moment before shutting the laptop and
putting it aside. She lies on the bed, staring straight at
the ceiling.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Rachel sits on the swing, her dress sways gently as the wind
blows. Her backpack is on the ground. She looks at her hands,
and fidgets with a USB driver in her hand.

Fiona spots Rachel and walks towards her. She sits on the
swing beside Rachel.

FIONA
Hey, Rachel.

Rachel looks up and greets Fiona with a smile.

FIONA (CONT'D)
Is that it?

Rachel takes a deep breath and hands the USB drive to Fiona.

RACHEL
This is it.

Fiona gazes at Rachel, her eyes widen as she takes the USB drive. Fiona takes out her laptop and inserts the USB drive. She clicks on the footage.

FIONA
(excitedly)
We should hand this to princip-

RACHEL
Wait...keep watching...

Rachel and Fiona watch Christine, Lucy and Michelle talks behind Stephanie.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND -DAY

Fiona covers her mouth. Rachel nods, she looks down at her feet.

FIONA
That's... unexpected.

RACHEL
I...I want to show Stephanie.

FIONA
What?! Are you crazy?
(beat)
...Rachel, I don't understand. It could makes things worse. She might not react the way you hope!

RACHEL
I just think she deserves to know.

FIONA
I know, Rachel. But it's high risk, isn't it?

Fiona looks at the time on her watch and shakes her head. The bell rings.

FIONA (CONT'D)
I gotta go! I just don't think it's
a good idea.

Fiona stands up and leaves. Rachel sits alone on the swing,
slowly swaying back and forth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL OFFICE - DAY

The principal, Mr. Andrew, sits behind his desk. There is a
large pile of paperwork on his desk. He looks up as Rachel
enters.

MR. ANDREW
Rachel, what brings you here?

Rachel takes a seat in front of Mr. Andrew. Her hands clutch
a USB drive tightly.

RACHEL
I got the evidence of bullying at
this school.

Mr. Andrew nods. Rachel takes a deep breath.

Rachel places the USB Drive on the desk on front of the
principal. She looks at the principal firmly.

MR. ANDREW
Hmm. I'll review the footage right
away. We will take actions as soon
as we confirm the bully.

Mr. Andrew takes the USB drive and inserts it into his
computer. He copies the footage and hands back the USB drive.

RACHEL
Thank you, Mr. Andrew.

Rachel grins as she leaves the principal's office.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Rachel sits in her seat, clutching her phone tightly in her
hand. She begins typing out a message on her phone. After a
moment of hesitation, she hits send. We do not see the text.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Stephanie walks down the hallway. Her phone buzzes with an incoming message. She sees a text from Rachel.

The text reads:

"Stephanie, it's Rachel. It's important. Meet me at the courtyard?"

Stephine frowns, she pockets her phone.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Rachel sits on the bench, continuously tapping her leg. Stephanie spots Rachel. She rolls her eyes and walks towards her.

STEPHANIE

What?

Rachel looks at Stephine and fidgets nervously.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Are you messing with me? I think you know the consequences.

Rachel takes a deep breath.

RACHEL

It's hard to start... I wanted to let you know that I understand what it feels like to be talked behind your back.

STEPHANIE

What do you mean?

Rachel pulls out the USB and holds it up to Stephanie.

RACHEL

You will find out what I mean, if you want to.

Rachel quickly slips the USB drive into Stephanie's hand and runs away. Stephanie stares hesitantly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Students sits in the classroom and chat with each other. Rachel sits in her seat. Stephanie walks in the classroom with her head down followed by the teacher.

ALICE

Attention students. Recently, we found signs of some violent behavior from our students. The school wants to remind you that all students are to treat others with respect and kindness. Such actions will not be tolerated in our school community.

Some students begin whispering with each other.

STUDENT1

Who? I never noticed that!

STUDNET2

Humm. I heard that Stephine was caught bullying other students.

(beat)

She has been doing this for a long time.

STUDENT1

Who reported that?

STUDENTS3

She brought it upon herself.

Fiona turns back and looks at Rachel. Rachel shoulders drop as she lets out a deep breath. She leans back in the chair.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Stephanie stands by her locker, her stuff packed neatly into boxes beside her. There is no expression on her face. She closes the locker.

Stephanie sees Rachel coming down the hallway. She starts walking towards Rachel. Rachel turns her head to avoid eye contact as she walks past.

STEPHANIE

Rachel, wait.

Rachel keeps walking without looking at her.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Rachel, please. I have something to
say.

Rachel pauses before turning around. She rolls her eyes and
looks at Stephine.

RACHEL
What do you want?

Stephanie takes a deep breath. Her hands are trembling.

STEPHANIE
I... I wanted to say I'm sorry...
For everything.

Stephanie tilts her head down.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
The way I treated you and
everyone... I regret it more than
anything...I'm sorry.

Racheal does not reply. She looks into Stephanie's eyes.
Stephanie's eyes turn red, tears welling up in her eyes.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Even though I changed my appearance
and tried to fit in with the
popular crowd, I... I still felt
empty.

Stephanie takes a deep breath, and starts crying.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
I know that I seem popular, but I
knew all the friends around me were
fake. I hate myself for turning
into the same person as my
bullies....
(beat)
I...I...

Stephanie sobs. Rachel takes out a tissue from her pocket and
hands it to Stephanie.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Thank... you...

Stephanie wipes her tears and blows her nose. Rachel steps
forward, and puts her hand on Stephanie's shoulder.

RACHEL
Stephanie, I accept your apology.

Stephanie nods, tears streaming down her cheeks as she looks into Rachel's eyes. Rachel smiles at her.

STEPHANIE

Thank you... Rachel.

Stephanie gathers her belongings and walks away. Suddenly, she stops and turns around.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

And... Good luck on your Tryouts.

RACHEL

Thanks. Good luck at your next school.

Rachel watches Stephanie go.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Rachel stands outside the gym entrance. The sounds of cheers and music can hear from inside. She looks at the cheerleaders doing routines and a smile flashes on her face. Rachel swallows hard and she adjusts the straps of her backpack nervously.

Fiona slowly stands by Rachel's side, her hand gently resting on Rachel's shoulder. Rachel looks at her. Fiona smiles, give her a determined nod. Rachel let out a deep breath, she smiles and nods back.

Rachel pushes open the door and steps inside the gym.

FADE OUT.