

REST

Written by

Isabella Mohini

isabellamohini@gmail.com
(920) 784-8475

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

MAYA (17) walks down the sidewalk with her mother VIVIAN (50s). In one hand is a duffle bag, and in the other she carries a black CELLO CASE.

They approach a SCHOOL BUS. Other kids with bags and instruments load their things under the bus.

MAYA
Will you put this under for me?

VIVIAN
Of course.

Maya hands her the duffle bag.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
Do you want me to save a spot for you?

MAYA
No that's okay, I'm gonna find Ellie.

VIVIAN
I could use a buddy.

MAYA
Can't you just sit with the other chaperones?

Annoyed, Maya walks away from Vivian. She goes towards a trailer hooked up to a car, parked just in front of the bus.

TRAILER

Inside are double basses, cellos, drums, and other large instruments.

She secures her cello with the others, then walks toward the bus.

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

Maya walks onto the bus. She walks down the aisle and scans the seats until she sees her friend ELLIE (17). She leans against the window and reads a book.

Maya goes to sit, but Ellie's bag is in the way.

MAYA

Hey! I've been looking for you. Can I sit.

Ellie barely makes eye contact.

ELLIE

Oh, I actually-- I'm really behind on my summer reading for AP Lit, so... I need to focus.

MAYA

Oh.. okay, yeah, that's cool. I'll find somewhere else. I need to look over the music anyway.

Maya keeps going down the aisle and finds a different seat.

She opens up a folder from her backpack. It's full of sheet music.

She puts in her earbuds and starts her music. She listens to the score and makes notes in the music.

INT. DORM COMMON ROOM - DAY

Maya brings her duffel bag into the dorm building. MARGIE (50s), one of the chaperones, distributes room keys to the kids.

Maya's next in line.

MARGIE

Oh, hi dear!

MAYA

Hi Margie, how are you?

MARGIE

Oh I'm fantastic. I sat by your mother on the way down, she's very excited about the solo this year.

Margie looks down a list of names.

MAYA

Oh, well, it's not necessarily mine, we still have seating auditions--

MARGIE

Oh please, I know you'll get it.

Margie hands her a key. Maya takes it and turns down the hall.

MAYA
Thanks, Margie, I'll see you later.

MARGIE
Bye, dear!

INT. DORM - CONTINUOUS

Maya unlocks her room. ALICE (18), the pianist, is sitting on the top bunk.

Alice looks up from painting her nails. Each of them is a different color.

ALICE
Hey, Maya.

Maya is surprised that it's not Ellie:

MAYA
Oh hey, Alice... I thought--

ALICE
Do you care that I grabbed the top bunk? I always hit my head when I'm on the bottom.

MAYA
Yeah, that's fine... Did Ellie switch rooms with you?

Alice shrugs.

ALICE
No clue, haven't seen her. Are you guys fighting or something?

MAYA
... I didn't think so.

Alice shows off her nails.

ALICE
I can do yours if you want.

MAYA
Yeah, maybe.

Maya puts her bag on the bottom bunk and begins to unpack.

INT. DORM COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The conductor MR. FROST sits in an armchair in the common room. His glasses are perched on his nose as he scrolls on his phone.

Maya approaches him with her sheet music in hand.

MAYA
Hi Mr. Frost--

MR. FROST
Hi, Maya, how has your summer been?

MAYA
Oh, it's, alright-- it's been good--

MR. FROST
Glad to hear it.

MAYA
I actually wanted to ask if you
would quickly look over these--

She opens her sheet music and points to the bowings she wrote in.

MAYA (CONT'D)
The bowings weren't written in and
some of them weren't obvious, so, I
wanted to check with you before I
pass them out...

He looks them over.

MR. FROST
These seem good to me.

Then he looks up at her.

MR. FROST (CONT'D)
Don't spend too much time on this,
you're here to relax.

MAYA
Well, my mom would say the opposite
so, I never know what to do.

Mr. Frost laughs at that, thinking it was a joke.

MR. FROST
Take it easy, alright?

MAYA
Yeah, I'll try.

MR. FROST
Will I see you tonight for seating
auditions?

MAYA
Absolutely.

MR. FROST
Okay, I'll see you then.

Maya closes her folder and walks out of the common room.

INT. REHEARSAL BUILDING - NIGHT

Maya waits in the hallway with the other cellists. DEENA (16)
stands next to her.

They can hear a cello playing from the rehearsal room. After
a minute, it stops. Light chatter is heard.

SAM (16) walks out of the room. Maya goes in.

INT. REHEARSAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maya walks in with her cello.

MS. HERON
Hi Maya, how are you doing?

She sits down and puts her music on her stand. Her bow is
slippery from the sweat on her hands.

MAYA
I'm doing good, thanks.

MS. HERON
You were principal chair last year,
right?

Maya nods.

MR. FROST
Yep, and she's been doing a great
job.

MS. HERON
Fantastic. Whenever you're ready.

She begins to play her passage. It sounds absolutely beautiful... until she gets to a difficult phrase and completely fucks it up.

Maya can't believe that happened. She takes a deep breath. Complete poker face.

She goes back a few measures and plays it again. She gets through the phrase, with a few sour notes, but manages to finish it well.

She remembers to breathe again, sits back slightly, and smiles, trying to pretend nothing happened.

MR. FROST

Thank you, Maya, we'll let you know tomorrow.

MAYA

Thank you.

Maya shakily gathers her things. She awkwardly runs into the chair as she leaves and it scrapes against the ground.

EXT. ROAD - MORNING

Maya walks the tree-lined path to the dining hall. She gets to the top of a soft hill and sees Ellie walking with another girl, ANNA (17). Maya speeds up towards them.

MAYA

Hey, Ellie!

They both stop and turn around. Ellie's annoyed.

MAYA (CONT'D)

I've barely seen you, what's going on?

ELLIE

Nothing, I'm just with Anna--

MAYA

Did you switch rooms on purpose?

Ellie hesitates.

ANNA

I asked if she would room with me. Sorry.

ELLIE

It's not a big deal, you don't have to freak out--

MAYA

I'm not freaking out, I just want to know why you're not my roommate and why you didn't bother to tell me. It made me feel like shit.

Ellie sighs.

ELLIE

Maya, all you ever talk about during the retreat is *practice* and *sectionals* and *college auditions*... I just wanted to have fun this year and not be stressed out all the time.

Maya's upset to hear this.

MAYA

I can be fun, Ellie.

Ellie doesn't know how to respond. She turns and keeps walking.

ANNA

... Sorry.

Anna follows Ellie down the hill.

INT. DINING HALL - MORNING

Maya sits across from Vivian, who rambles about college auditions.

VIVIAN

And I know you don't want to go out for the more prestigious ones, but I think you should go for it, you're certainly talented enough for it-- and I don't want you to worry about all the fees, your dad and I think it's worth the money to audition--

Maya tunes her out. She looks at the opposite end of the room where Ellie sits with Anna and her other friends.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

-- so I looked back at your list and saw how many holes were in there, so I think we should look at Eastman, Oberlin, and Curtis-- oh, well... now that I think about it, we may not have time for so many-- so we'll have to be a little more selective, I guess-- but your dad really likes Eastman, so lets keep that one at the top--

Maya pushes her food back and forth on the plate.

INT. REHEARSAL BUILDING - DAY

The kids get ready for rehearsal and leave their things in the hall. Maya kneels down. She unbuckles her case and opens it up.

Mr. Frost walks out into the hallway with a piece of paper.

MR. FROST

Hey guys, this is the updated list from seating auditions last night. Make sure you're heading to the right chairs today.

Mr. Frost tapes the list to the door and goes back into the room.

Nobody rushes to look at the list. Maya finishes getting ready.

She goes up to the door with her things.

Deena and Sam are already at the door.

SAM

Hey, nice job.

DEENA

Thanks! I'm a little shocked.

They go inside.

Maya approaches behind them as the door swings closed. She looks closely at the tiny font on the list.

Sam is 3rd chair. Maya is 2nd. Deena is 1st.

Maya bites her lip. She goes inside.

EXT. LAKE - EVENING

Maya swims in the lake. The water comes up to her shoulders. Behind her, other kids swim and shout and splash around.

Alice swims up next to her. Maya sees her. Alice smiles.

ALICE
Buddy system.

Maya laughs.

ALICE (CONT'D)
You look sad.

MAYA
Wow, good thing I'm easy to read.

ALICE
I'm just very intuitive.

MAYA
Of course you are.

ALICE
Did auditions get you down?

MAYA
No, I'm fine.

ALICE
This is why I stuck with piano.

MAYA
What?

ALICE
Because there's no piano section.
It's just me. I'm the star of the
show.

Maya laughs.

MAYA
Do you think me mom will let me
switch to piano?

ALICE
Doubtful.

Maya laughs. She loves the honesty.

INT. DORM - NIGHT

Alice paints Maya's nails. They sit on the floor and listen to music. Their hair is still wet from the lake.

Alice bumps her hand and the brush smears on Maya's finger.

MAYA

Oh my god--

ALICE

I didn't say I was good at this--

MAYA

Oh no, it's beautiful, *fantastic* work, truly amazing. I mean, you're practically a nail painting prodigy.

Alice laughs at her and fixes the paint.

Then. A knock at the door.

VIVIAN (O.S.)

Maya? Can I talk to you? Now?

MAYA

Shit--

She gets up and opens the door. She can see it all over Vivian's face. She knows.

INT. DORM HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Maya shuts the door behind her.

VIVIAN

I've just been with Deena's mother all day and she would not stop talking about Deena getting principal chair.

MAYA

Mom, I'm sorry--

VIVIAN

I had to listen to her go on and on about how *Deena's* gonna get the solo this season.

(MORE)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

And at first I corrected her, 'oh, no Maya will have the solo since she's first chair' and then imagine my embarrassment when she tells me that Deena got promoted.

MAYA

Mom, please, It's not my fault she's better than me.

VIVIAN

Better than you? She wasn't better than you last year--

MAYA

So maybe she improved.

VIVIAN

Then you're supposed to be *better*. You never know, it could have helped your chances getting into a conservatory.

MAYA

And what if I don't care about going to conservatory or music school or any of it?

Maya's shaking, terrified those words came out of her mouth.

VIVIAN

What?

Vivian's in shock.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

After all these extra lessons and rehearsals, and competitions? This is what we've been working towards for months, and I would have been okay with it if you *truly* didn't want to look at conservatories, but now you don't want to study music entirely? I thought you wanted it so badly.

MAYA

You wanted me to go to conservatory. You were obsessed with it. You never leave me alone about it

VIVIAN

Are you saying you never liked it
at all? I thought you loved it--

Maya snaps at her.

MAYA

I wanted to love it. You wouldn't
let me.

Vivian looks at her like she doesn't know her.

Maya holds back tears. She quickly goes down the hall towards
the door, and walks outside.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Maya sits on a bench outside near the dorm. She's engulfed in
yellow from the glowing streetlight above her.

She wipes the tears off her eyes.

Alice shuffles down the road. She sits down next to Maya.

ALICE

Sorry. I heard everything through
the door. That sucked.

MAYA

Yeah. Sucked.

ALICE

At least you don't have to practice
anymore.

MAYA

Good point.

Alice smiles at her.

ALICE

And... you forgot this.

Alice pulls a pink bottle of nail polish out of her pocket.
May laughs.

MAYA

That's right. The last nail.

Maya holds out her hand. Alice paints her bare pinky nail.

MAYA (CONT'D)

It looks perfect.

ALICE
I know, I'm always perfect.

Alice blows on the polish to dry it.

MAYA
Do you think I'm fun?

Alice screws the brush back on the bottle.

ALICE
Everyone's fun.

INT. SECTIONAL REHEARSAL ROOM - DAY

The cellists sit in a semi circle. Ms. Heron teaches their sectional rehearsal.

They play a few bars that lead into the cello solo. Deena plays it. Maya watches, contently.

EXT. LAKESHORE - EVENING

Maya and Alice get out of the water. They towel off and gather their things.

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

They follow other kids from the lake back to the dorm.

INT. DORM - EVENING

Maya and Alice walk back into their dorm.

ALICE
I call dibs on shower-- I think I
got lake-itch.

Alice goes into the bathroom and immediately turns on the water.

Maya's gaze is caught on her dresser. Her clothes have been freshly washed, folded, and neatly stacked together.

MAYA
Hey Alice-- did you fold my
clothes?

ALICE (O.S.)
No? Why would I fold *any* clothes?

Maya drops her stuff by her bed and leaves the room.

INT. DORM COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maya walks into the common room. A few kids hang around and chat. Some play games in the corner. Maya finds Vivian sitting on the couch, reading a book.

Maya sits down next to her. Vivian looks up from her book.

MAYA

Did you wash my clothes?

VIVIAN

Mhmm.

MAYA

You didn't have to do that.

VIVIAN

They were covered in lake dirt.

MAYA

Stop being so stubborn.

VIVIAN

Sorry.

She shuts her book.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Maya, I really thought you were happy. I didn't realize what I was doing to you. I'm sorry.

MAYA

Part of it still makes me happy. But I don't want it to become something I hate.

VIVIAN

Okay... I understand... Does that mean I have to cancel the Eastman and Oberlin tours I scheduled.

Maya scoffs.

MAYA

You already made them?

VIVIAN

Sorry, I got too excited.

MAYA
Yes, you have to cancel them.

VIVIAN
Okay. Consider them canceled.

MAYA
You can drag me on any other
college tour you like.

VIVIAN
No, no, no, you choose them all
yourself. I'll come along for the
ride.

MAYA
Really?

VIVIAN
Yeah, of course. We'll have fun.

Maya smiles and nods.

MONTAGE

-- Kids pack up in the hallway after rehearsal and leave the building.

-- Maya and Alice and the rest of the ensemble go for their last swim in the lake.

-- Kids walk back from the lake in their swimsuits and towels.

-- The kids load up their bags and instruments onto the bus.

-- Maya is the last person on the bus. The doors close. The bus drives away.

FADE TO BLACK.