

TONE DEAF

Written by

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Draft

1

EXT. OUTSIDE JESSICA'S HOUSE. NOON. DAY 1.

1

Toni(Black, geeky/wears glasses, tomboy with feminine flair, 17yr) is hiding behind a hedge/bush. She pokes her head through while spitting out a leaf from the hedge. Her clothes camouflage with the green of it. She whispers to the camera. (Uses SSE sign language where ever possible)

TONI

I hit her with a pebble on the forehead. I can explain!

To the camera.

TONI CONT'D

Cue Flashback!

REWIND SEQUENCE

<2 MINITUES AGO> appears on screen.

2

EXT. JESSICA'S HOUSE/WINDOW. NOON. DAY 1. [FLASHBACK]

2

Mission impossible intro. Toni runs across a tennis disrupting a game of tennis. She spots a bmx-bike leaning against the tennis court fence near the gate. Toni steals the bike and rides away. We hear Toni's V/O as she narrates the action on screen, with playful cartoon music/sound effects in the background.

TONI CONT'D V/O

So! I came to her house today because I really, really, really need to talk to her! Like really!

Toni rolls, shuffles on the ground, then hides behind a tree.

TONI CONT'D V/O (CONT'D)

After rolling and shuffling on the ground as you can see, I finally spotted her!

Toni pulls out her binoculars to spy on Jessica (White, 16, slim, 'pretty', feminine). Through the binoculars's point of view, Toni zooms in and focuses, we see Jessica doing the robot dance.

TONI CONT'D V/O (CONT'D)

And there she was...Jessica Phillips! Officially the love of my life. Hashtag Drooling. (SWOON) She's such a mood.

(MORE)

TONI CONT'D V/O (CONT'D)
So, I grabbed some pebbles from my
backpack and...

Toni pulls out some pebbles and attempts to get Jessica's
attention by throwing them at her window. On the third throw,
Jessica opens her window and the pebble hits her on the
forehead.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. JESSICA'S HOUSE/WINDOW. NOON. DAY 1. [FLASHBACK] 3

We see the pebble hitting Jessica.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. JESSICA'S HOUSE/WINDOW. NOON. DAY 1. [FLASHBACK] 4

TONI CONT'D V/O
Oops! Abort mission! Abort mission.

We see Toni running off to the bush.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. OUTSIDE JESSICA'S HOUSE. NOON. DAY 1. 5

Back to the present moment. We rejoin Toni in the bush/hedge.
She talks to camera.

TONI CONT'
End Flashback and now we are here.
Oh, one sec.

Rolls her eyes to the camera.

TONI CONT'D
My dad. He is so cringe. He knows
i'm here. Weird I know. But I love
him, he just wants me to be happy.

Toni pulls out her phone and texts her dad. The conversation
appears on screen.

TONI CONT'D (TEXT) (CONT'D)
<DAD, MISSION FAILED!>

Her father texts back.

DAD
<THUMBS DOWN IMOJI) WANNA CHAT>

TONI CONT'D
<DAD, NOT NOW!>

Then a thought dawns on her. Away from the camera she panics.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
(Panics) Ohmygod, ohmygod!

To the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
What if i've killed her!

Away from the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
I'm a murderer!(Hyperventilates).

To the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
I'm going to be a prison wife.

Away from the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
(Slaps face) Come on Toni focus!
(CALM EXCHALE).

To the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
Soooo asking her to the end of year
prom. Only obstacle standing
between me and victory IS my arch-
nemesis, RAZ MC-neh,neh,neh!

RAZ (Asian, slim, can both be masculine/feminine presenting, 16yr) appears in a thought bubble on the left hand side of her head modelling his gelled hair and denim jacket. Toni looks over at him, then back to the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
School bad boy, aka all the girls
love him, all the boys want to be
him, sooo uses too much hair gel.
Blergh!

She looks back over at RAZ and then flicks the bubble away.
To the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 Word in the streets is, RAZ wants
 to ask Jess to prom. Puhlease! Not
 on my watch! Victory will be ...

Bird poops on her head interrupting her day dream. To the camera.

TONI CONT'
 Really? (unimpressed)

Rolls eyes and shoves camera out of her face. On second thoughts, she pulls the camera back and says.

TONI CONT'D
 Bird poop. I'm sure that's good
 luck.

Happy habit.

6 INT. SCHOOL. HALLWAY/LOCKERS. DAY 2.

6

Toni is walking down the corridor on her phone. She catches the scent of Jessica's perfume, and suddenly looks up from her phone. She addresses the camera.

TONI CONT'D
 She's near isn't she? I can smell
 her glorious scent! (INHALES
 DEEPLY)

On cue, she spots Jessica walking to her own locker. Toni immediately stops.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 Oh, crap!

Toni hides immediately using the hallway wall as a shield. Stalking out of sight, she notices the massive bump on Jessica's forehead. The camera zooms in. An animation of an arrow or finger pointing at the bump with the word 'Oops' appear next to Jessica's forehead. Toni addresses the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 O.M.G What the? The pebble! At
 least she's alive! (SHRUGS.) Awwww,
 her lump compliments her nose. So
 hot. (Swoon) She's such a
 mood...Sigh!

A text from her dad gets her attention.

DAD
<FLOWERS, WOMEN LOVE FLOWERS>

Toni looks straight into the camera. Lightbulb pops over her head. Ding sound.

TONI CONT'D
(Gasp) That's it! Are you thinking
what i'm thinking?

Camera moves side to side for no. Toni rolls her eyes.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
(Tuts) Just come with me!

7 EXT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR. SAME DAY. AFTERNOON. DAY 2.

7

Action movie intro. Toni dressed in all black, sneaks around the school stairway, dropping and shuffling in the school corridor, sneaking around the classrooms to see if they are empty. Toni attempts to break into Jessica's locker. She pulls out her break in tool-kit, i.e. (screw-driver, allen key). Eventually she manages to break in and pulls out a bouquet of flowers from her back-pack and attempts stuffs them in, but this is Toni, it goes wrong before it goes right. She stalks out of sight and waits to see Jessica open her locker. Jessica removes the flowers from her locker and immediately sneezes so loud it creates a mini earthquake felt by Toni. Toni to the camera.

Toni turns to the camera.

TONI CONT'D
Uh oh!

She slowly sinks down with dread disappearing from the camera's view.

8 INT. SCHOOL. CLASSROOM. SAME DAY. AN HOUR LATER. DAY 2.

8

Toni is at her desk doodling love hearts and kisses around Jessica's name in her notebook. She whispers to the camera.

TONI CONT'D
She sits next to me in class. Just
Look at her...

Jessica turns, not only does she have a bump on her forehead, she has streaming red eyes.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 (Shocked) WHOA! (PENNY DROPS) She
 really is allergic! Oops! (CRINGE)
 At least she's alive...(SHRUGS)

The school bell rings startling Toni causing her to drop the notebook. Jessica sees the doodles. Toni, panics, tries to pick the book up, but Jessica beats her to it. When Toni looks up at Jessica, a halo surrounds Jessica as she hands Toni her notebook back. Toni glimpses a rainbow bracelet around Jessica's wrist before snatching her book back.

TONI CONTD
 Thanks! Ok bye!

Toni scurries away.

9

INT. SCHOOL LOCKERS. SAME DAY. DAY 2.

9

Toni is by her locker about to open it.

TONI CONT'D
 Like that wasn't awkward at all!

Fake cries as she covers her face in shame and dramatically slides down the length of the locker. Then addresses the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 (Heavy sigh)

To the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 This whole wooing thing is harder
 than I thought.

She texts her dad.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 <DAD, YOU'RE BAD AT. THE FLOWERS
 WRE A COMPLETE FAIL>

Dad texts back.

DAD
 <NEVER GIVE UP!>

Toni smiles and puts her phone away.

TONI CONT'D
(HEAVY SIGH)

Addresses the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
Dad's right I need to- Wait!

10 INT. SCHOOL. CLASSROOM. EARLIER THAT DAY. DAY 2. [FLASHBACK]

We see a close-up slow-motion flashback shot in which Toni remembers glimpsing the rainbow bracelet.

END OF FLASHBACK

TONI CONT'D
The rainbow bracelet, picking up my book.

Speaks straight to the camera.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
That's a sign, she totally wants me!

Squeals with delight! Jessica's heading Toni's way.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
Oh! In coming! Act normal, act normal.

Toni's version of acting normal is to quickly stand up, slam her back against the locker and try to blend in. She addresses the camera.

TONI CONT'D
(Shrugs) Hashtag invisible?

Jessica walks past with a puzzled look. Toni waves awkwardly.

TONI CONT'D
Just kill me, ugh.

An excitable squeal captures her attention. She's just put on a shirt RAZ's just given her. It reads, 'Sing b*tch'. They seem very flirty with each other. Toni is more than gutted.

11 EXT. HALLWAY WALL. LATER THAT DAY. DAY 2.

11

Toni is sat sniffing/silently crying. Addresses the camera.

TONI CONT'D
 What's the point. She's obvs going
 with RAZ THE HAIR GEL ABUSER.

Camera- gestures side to side for No.

TONI CONT'D (CONT'D)
 (SAD) Why would she pick me anyway?
 A loser.

Text from dad comes in.

DAD
 <HOW ABOUT NOW? READY TO ASK HER
 OUT?>

She texts back.

TONI
 <GO AWAY DAD! THIS WHOLE THING IS
 RIDIC. PEOPLE LIKE ME NEVER GET THE
 GIRL. IT SUCKS. LEAVE ME ALONE>

Toni's dad sends a text with a picture of himself and Toni's
 mum plus smiley face.

DAD
 <I NEVER GAVE UP ON MUM.>

Dad sends picture of himself and Toni's mum. Toni smiles
 while she looks at her dad's responds and then turns to the
 camera and gives a cheeky (light bulb moment) smile.

12 EXT. OUTSIDE JESSICA'S HOUSE. SAME DAY.EVENING. DAY 2. 12

We see Toni dressed as a love heart under Jessica's window.
 She pulls out a megaphone and starts singing.

TONI
 Jessica, oh Jessica. You smell like
 bonbons and ham. I know you like
 music, I saw you at choir practice
 so Jessica, i'm singing this song
 for yooooooooooooou!

Jessica's window opens... she pops her head out.

TONI (CONT'D)
 (Nervous) Prom? You and me obvs?

RAZ suddenly pops his head out of Jessica's window too. Toni
 stops in mid song dropping her megaphone.

TONI CONT'D

Never mind.

As she walks away deflated, she hears Jessica's door open. Jessica comes out with RAZ. Toni is confused. Jessica pulls a sign from behind her back which reads, YES!

Toni to the camera.

TONI

(Unsure) Really? Did that just happen?

The camera moves up and down for yes. Toni turns and looks towards Jessica and Raz, Jessica is smiling and signing 'YES'. RAZ, wearing heels pulls out rainbow cheer pompoms, and celebrates. Jessica gestures for Toni to join them. Toni looks at the camera and does her happy habit. She runs over to them. Jessica blows her a kiss. Toni blushes. As they go into the house. The camera follows, Toni abruptly stops the camera.

TONI CONT'D

Sorry, this where your journey ends friend. Hashtag winning. (winks)

Shuts the door.

CUT TO BLAC