The School Play

by andlat

Now that he's grounded, Derek has nothing better to do than accompany his sister to her rehearsal. Not that he really has a choice, but maybe he can be of use to the cast...

The Costume Box
2024

Chapter 1

The School Play

"This is so dumb!"

"You think I'm thrilled? When mom said you were grounded, I didn't realize that meant I'd be stuck with you all day!" Derk sighed all the same, sinking into the seat of his sister's car. "All you gotta do is sit in the auditorium and watch my play rehearsal. You can even nap if you want. It's only three hours."

"I'll be bored! Bored out of my mind!" He knew not to let Theresa hear him swear if he did not want to get into even more trouble with their parents, but it was hard not to let a word or two slip out.

"Well, you shouldn't've gotten your phone taken away." She smirked as she pulled into the parking lot of the high school. "You can always watch the play." Derek knew better than to tell her it was bad enough he was going to have to attend the play on opening night, so he did not want to have to watch a rehearsal. "God, it's windy!" Theresa exclaimed, her car door nearly closing as soon as she opened it. Derek simply grunted, dragging his feet as he followed her across the windy parking lot and into the auditorium.

"Resa! Thank god you're here!" One of Theresa's friends ran up to her. "Mrs. Randolph's freaking out."

"Why?"

"Cissie's out sick." Mary said, not even looking at the sullen

Derek. "She's only in the one scene, but Mrs. Randolph insists the whole show is thrown off. I told her we could maybe have one of the crew members do it, but she's freaking inconsolable. Brad's been trying to calm her down, but she's been pacing up and down the stage. Can you try talking to her?"

"I actually might have an idea. Go tell Mrs. Randolph I've got a plan."

"Drama in the school play" Derek muttered, rolling his eyes and smoothing out his shaggy hair from the wind that still howled outside.

"Glad you think so, Derek, cuz I want you to fill the missing part."

"What? Why?"

"You're here anyway. It's like fate or something."

"I don't know-"

"The lines? That's fine. The role is silent. You basically just stand in the background. Even you couldn't screw that up."

"But"

"Do it and I'll tell mom to lighten up and unground you sooner."

"Like mom'll listen."

"She might. Aren't you grounded for like a month? I'd do anything to get a shorter sentence if it was me." Theresa

laughed. "I'd even do a song and dance in my underwear if it meant getting ungrounded."

"You're so weird!"

"Do we have a deal, Derek?" He sighed and rolled his eyes.

"So I just gotta stand in the background?"

"Yeah, it'll help with the blocking. Mrs. Randolph's a little crazy, so missing even one background character makes her feel like the balance is all off."

"Ugh... fine." Theresa grinned.

"Perfect. Come on, let's get you into Cissie's costume."

"Costume?" Derek's voice cracked from panic as Theresa took his wrist and pulled him toward the backstage doors.

"You're gonna love it." Theresa said. "It's a lot like the things I made you wear when we were kids." Derek's stomach twisted. He had a bad feeling about this.

Derek should have pulled away from Theresa right then and there and just run for it. He would have taken being grounded for six months, maybe even a year, over the costume she found for him.