

CUT SHORT

Written by

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EXT. ROAD - DAY

LUKE, 18, drives his Burgundy Kia Optima recklessly on a hilly two-lane country road. He plays loud music on the radio.

He passes 4 cars on a hill. He doesn't see the car in the lane. He swerves to miss the car.

FLASH TO WHITE

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A group of girls sit at a table with a couple of boys. HALEY, 14, introduces Lexie to the group.

HALEY

Hey ya'll this is Lexie. She is new to school. She moved here from Nashville.

LEXIE, 14, with blonde hair and blue eyes that sparkle like the ocean, shyly waves her hand and smiles.

LUKE, 14, walks to the table and with a cocky smile, he gives his friends at the table side handshakes. He sees Lexie and sits next to her. He just stares at her.

LUKE

Your eyes! They are so beautiful.

Lexie looks awkwardly at the girls and then to Luke.

LEXIE

Thanks?

Luke extends out his hand.

LUKE

Hey, I'm Luke.

Lexie extends her hand to meet his.

LEXIE

Hey, I'm Lexie.

Luke holds on to her hand and continues to look into her eyes.

LUKE

Lexie, It's nice to meet you. I don't remember seeing you before.

She tries to pull her hand away from Luke's. She looks at the girls questioningly and then back at him with a peculiar face.

LEXIE

I just moved here from Nashville.

Finally, Luke releases her hand. She turns to talk with the girls. Luke, being persistent, still talks to her.

LUKE

Nashville... Cool... How do you like Florida?

Lexie is annoyed with Luke.

LEXIE

It's fine.

LUKE

You don't talk much, do you?

Lexie looks smugly at Luke.

LEXIE

Not to flirts like you.

LUKE

Oh, that's wrong.

LEXIE

No, just who I am. I don't need a boy to like me.

Luke Laughs. He refuses to take her seriously.

LUKE

Okay. Challenge accepted.

LEXIE

Yeah, I guess we will see about that.

The bell rings for class Lexie walks with Haley to her next class. Luke runs next to the girls.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

LUKE

Just to let you know I don't give up easily.

Haley laughs at Luke.

HALEY

Seriously Luke, just stop. She's not like the many other girls you date. She actually respects herself.

Luke shoots Haley a stern look.

LUKE

Oh come on Haley, just because I wouldn't date you...

Lexie interrupts.

LEXIE

Both of you stop! Luke, let me be clear, I don't date flirts.

Luke walks backwards away from Lexie and yells to her with a smile as he points to her.

LUKE

Hey Lexie, You'll like me. Just wait and see.

Lexie rolls her eyes and waves him off as she and Haley walks to their class.

HALEY

Don't worry about him. He thinks everyone should like him, especially girls.

LEXIE

Oh trust me, I am not worried about him. What is his deal?

HALEY

I don't know. He has been party a boy since I met him in the 6th grade. He is some kind of martial arts champion. He has a twin brother Caleb, that he is really protective of. Other than that I don't know much about him.

LEXIE

I can't afford to have distractions in my life, especially people who party. I have plenty of that with my sperm donor father.

HALEY

Just ignore him and hopefully he will leave you alone. Why can't you afford distractions?

LEXIE

I have goals in my life. I want to dance and help people with dance. To do that I need really good grades. Plus, I dance 6 hours a day.

HALEY

I have never met someone who is so determined at such a young age.

LEXIE

I have a fantastic mom who has helped me through a lot. She has helped me find a purpose in life, so I don't go down that party road.

HALEY

I'd love to meet her. Okay, gotta go to class. Do you know where you are going?

LEXIE

Yeah, thanks. Later.

HALEY

Later!

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

Lexie walks into her English class. She sits in the front row and is getting things out of her backpack when Luke walks in.

LUKE

I think it is fate, that we have the same class.

Lexie slowly raises her head to see Luke sitting next to her. In her hand are two black cases.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What's this?

Lexie tries to hide the boxes away in her backpack, but Luke takes them from her hand.

LEXIE

Please hand those back to me.

Luke gives her a sheepish grin.

LUKE
Well, you can be nice.

As he hands her back the boxes.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Seriously, what's in those?

With a shy embarrassed look.

LEXIE
Hearing aides.

Luke is shocked.

LUKE
I'm sorry, I had no idea.

LEXIE
No one does and I'd like to keep it
that way, please.

Luke nods his head.

LUKE
Sure.

Lexie smiles with relief.

LUKE (CONT'D)
See, I told you we could be
friends.

Lexie rolls her eyes at Luke.

LEXIE
Yeah, don't push it. I've known
guys like you. They always end up
hurting you.

LUKE
Guy's like me?

LEXIE
Yeah, the one's who think they are
God's gift to the world. Who only
think of themselves. They only do
something when it benefits them.

The bell rings for class to start before Luke can respond to Lexie.

MR. RICHERT

All right class, settle down. I am Mr. Richert. When I call role, let me know if you have a nickname you prefer.

He reaches for his planner.

MR. RICHERT (CONT'D)

Alexia Adams.

LEXIE

Here and it's Lexie, please.

Luke taps her arm and mouths Alexia. Lexie rolls her eyes at him.

MR. RICHERT

Mr. Brecanati, it's a new school year. Do you think you can stay out of trouble?

Luke turns to face Mr. Richert.

LUKE

Now, Mr. Richert, what fun would that be?

The class erupts in laughter.

MR. RICHERT

Settle down, settle down. Mr. Brecanati, cockiness will not win you any points in here.

Luke leans back in his chair and just looks at Mr. Richert smugly.

The bell rings for the end of school.

Lexie gathers her things and quickly leaves the room.

Luke talks with his friends and notices Lexie leaves the room.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

LUKE

Lexie!

Lexie stops and turns.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I just want you to know, I don't think I am God's gift to the world.

LEXIE

You really are... What did Mr. Richert say... cocky.

LUKE

Yeah, well Mr. Richert and I go way back.

LEXIE

Luke, I have enough people in my life who cause trouble. I don't need anyone else.

Lexie quickly turns and walks away. Luke walks back to his friends.