

The Life Of An Arts Student

Episode 1, Pilot

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Episode 1

FADE IN:

1 INT. IAN'S ROOM. NIGHT.

We see Ian at a desk in his room. He opens up a new journal that says "High School" on the cover. He starts writing. We never see his face. Only a shot of him from the back and his pencil moving as he writes.

IAN (V.O.)

Hello. My name is Ian. I'm an arts student. At least I'm going to be. I have to figure out this whole "High School" thing first. I know what you're thinking. We live in a generation of hipsters and musicians where it's cool to celebrate art. Well, not in my school. Not really in my town. In fact, my two best friends Mindy and Ryan and I call each other the "losers". May as well, since that's what ninety percent of the school calls us. We'll just beat them to the punch- right? Anyway, I don't know who I'm talking to- I guess anyone who will listen to my story. Writing has always been therapeutic for me, in a way. Well, here it goes.

CUT TO:

2 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. DAY.

MINDY and IAN are talking at their lockers. Mindy is a pretty Caucasian girl with bright red hair and glasses. Ian is a Caucasian, dark haired boy. Both teenagers. They both hold books and have backpacks.

MINDY

You're telling me Patti LuPone won a Tony for Evita and not Les Misérables!?

Exasperated at repeating himself since he knows this knowledge.

(CONTINUED)

IAN

YES! She won a Tony for both Evita and Gypsy, but wasn't nominated for Les Misérables! She never performed Les Misérables on Broadway! Only in London!

MINDY

Okay, okay. Settle down. Anyway, are you happy with how your schedule turned out?

IAN

Well, I'm glad we have American History together, but I wish we had more classes with each other.

MINDY

We always have band and lunch. Plus next semester we'll have a brand new schedule!

Excited because it's new to her.

MINDY

That's the best thing about high school! If you don't like your schedule- BAM! You get a new one!

IAN

True.

MINDY

I can't believe that we are already freshman! It seems like yesterday we were starting sixth grade and abruptly ran into one another at our lockers and bonded over the Wicked and Spongebob stickers on our binders.

IAN

Yeah, back to the bottom of the totem pole. Down to the bottom rung of the ladder and-

MINDY

Ian, don't be so negative.

IAN

I'm not trying to be negative, it's just...(beat) I'm expecting what reality is and what's coming for

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAN (cont'd)

us. Who's coming for us. We were the most unpopular kids in middle school and our town's so small that everyone from middle school just carried over to this high school. Kinda like fish. You just swim with the pack until one day a shark comes along and...

MINDY

Jezz Mr. Doom and Gloom! Look up! Being popular isn't everything. And fish swim in a school not a pack.

IAN

See! School! Even more proof I'm right!(changing thought) Of course being popular isn't everything. It's just...

Just then, Ian and Mindy's friend RYAN comes walking up to them from behind Ian. RYAN is an African American teenager. He also holds books and has a backpack.

RYAN

Guys! Finally! What's up?! It's been too long!

Ryan and Ian do a unique high five that only they understand.

RYAN

Miss Mindy, you look as fabulous without your braces as you did with them- well- not really. Much more fabulous without!

MINDY

(sarcastic tone)

Gee- You really know how to make a girl feel special. Thanks so much, missed you too!

RYAN

And Ian. Did summer break take a toll on you? You lost all your baby fat.

Ian is uncomfortable at that thought because he's lost the weight from stress of his father leaving, which Ryan doesn't know yet since he was gone the whole summer.

(CONTINUED)

IAN

Just got taller. It's all an illusion. How was upstate? Did you enjoy your cousin's farm?

RYAN

Um, let me think? Still thinking... That's a NO! I can't believe my parents made me go all the way upstate cause they thought I would be (he uses air quotes) "bored" for the summer. So they send me to my cousin's family FARM! Not New York City, not Los Angeles, heck not even, Detroit! They sent me to some town called Snellville on a farm. It even sounds boring! Oh! (Getting more excited at this point) With no phone or internet service I might mention! The whole town was a dead zone and I had to go to the local public library to check my email. Which didn't even have a copy of the first Iron Man movie. I mean, what library doesn't have a copy of the first Iron Man movie? Come on! That's why it took me so long to get back to you guys. Sorry! I seriously felt like I was Amish. (Beat. Thinking.) Wait, my cousin did show me how to make butter naturally! (Having a realization) Guys, I think I was Amish for the summer! Not that it matters now. I'm back in the real world. How was you guy's summer?

IAN

Just spent all of it locked in my room dreading the first day of high school that's all.

Ian shuts his locker.

RYAN

Why? High School will be AWESOME! Enjoy it man! We've finally made it. We never thought we'd make it this far.

IAN

I'm joking... Kind of. It was really relaxing when Lily wasn't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAN (cont'd)
 annoying the heck out of me! God
 bless the little munchkin. Luckily
 she was in a dance camp for half
 the summer. You know her and dance.
 She's actually pretty good! I had a
 lot of time (beat) to myself. To
 draw, write and you know- do me.

Changing thought and looking at his schedule

IAN
 Well, I'm glad you and Min can be
 so optimistic about this new High
 School thing. I'm just happy they
 let me take a few extra electives
 early. My saving grace will be Art
 101 this semester and band class.

RYAN
 I have Art 101 too! I'm hoping that
 I can draw stick figures and get a
 C. It's an easy elective.

IAN AND MINDY
 (together)
 Hey!

MINDY
 ART is NOT easy! It takes a keen
 eye and talent!

IAN
 What the ginger said!

Mindy gives Ian an angry look.

RYAN
 I just want to get my electives out
 of the way as fast as I can. I'm no
 artist like you, (to Ian) Mr.
 Picasa.

MINDY
 Picasa? You mean Picasso? Pablo
 Picasso? The painter?

RYAN
 Yeah, that dude.

IAN
 (annoyed at his last
 statement)
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAN (cont'd)
What period do you have it?

Ian and Ryan exchange schedules and see it's at the same time.

IAN
5th! Great! I'll have you in my art class, Mindy in band and American History. I'm safe. Somewhat.

MINDY
Ian, don't be afraid to talk to new people. Not that you will, but an eagle can't fly if it doesn't spread its wings, and you have the talent-

The bell rings loud.

RYAN
Crap, well, off to my first class.

Looks at his schedule

RYAN
Advanced Calculus.

IAN
You have my sincerest apologies. Good thing you're a math wiz. Me on the other hand- I don't math. I'm dreading Math 101. Anything past adding one plus one and subtracting two minus two and I'm finished!

Mindy's eyes widen in fear.

MINDY
Here, here!

RYAN
Well, you guys know you always have me if you need help. I'm off "losers".

Ryan and Ian do the unique handshake again and Ryan runs off to class.

MINDY
Well, see you at lunch, then band. Bye "loser".

Mindy winks at him and starts to walk away.

(CONTINUED)

IAN
Yeah, see ya "loser".

Ian thinks for a second.

IAN
Mindy!

Mindy turns around abruptly.

IAN
Thanks.

Mindy smiles and so does Ian.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

3 INT. IAN'S HOUSE. KITCHEN & LIVING ROOM. DAY.

We see SUSAN- Ian's Mom. A middle aged Caucasian women. She's dressed down. She's putting away dishes and wiping everything down. She's a little fast paced- cleaning everything. Nervous.

Ian and LILY, Ian's sister- a cute middle school aged Caucasian girl with brown hair are seated at the kitchen table. Ian is doing homework and Lily's reading a book.

SUSAN
Ian, do you think you'll have your homework done before Diana gets here?

LILY
I already have my homework done Mom and my bag is packed for tomorrow.

SUSAN
Of course it is baby.

Susan comes over and gives Lily a kiss on the top of her head. Ian glowers at her. Susan returns to cleaning and has her back turned, Ian makes a face and sticks his tongue out at Lily which she retaliates.

SUSAN
You guys-

As she says "you guys" Susan turns back around facing the kids and Ian and Lily-still making faces at each other snap back to being normal.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

this is going to be such a change for us- a change for the better! You know once- In college Diana took a group of us to Burning Man and then right after that we went bungee jumping in the Grand Canyon! Oh, what exciting times. Your Mom was FEARLESS back then, but Diana has always been the most exciting one. The one to put everything together. The one to plan it all and always have her bags packed, ready to go. You need a friend like that in your life and she was mine. We were always the closest in our group. One by one all of us fell out of contact with one another. We graduated, got jobs, got married, had families, but not me and Diana. We've always stayed in contact no matter what. Through thick and thin nothing could tear us apart. We've only grown closer with time. Even when we weren't together. She's my-

IAN AND LILY

(together)

Soul Sister.

SUSAN

Ah yes, I'm sorry guys, I'm rambling. I know you've heard it before. I'm just thrilled Diana is going to be LIVING with us now and helping to take care of you guys. I mean, I've managed since your father-

She pauses mid sentence. She lingers on that a little and the mood changes. She quickly changes the subject as not to upset the kids.

SUSAN

Anyway, I've managed, but it hasn't been easy, and I knew Diana would be there for me- I didn't even have to ask her. She offered. She's the most incredible woman I know.

The camera lingers on Ian a bit in a close up. His mood changes. His face shows a sting of guilt about his father. Suddenly, we hear a loud "musical" knock at the door.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN
(excitedly)
I'd know that knock anywhere.

She runs and quickly opens the front door.

SUSAN
D! AHHH!

DIANA enters. She's a beautiful middle-aged African American woman. She's dressed in a blue blazer with a long silk scarf. Her hair is natural and she has a small hat on. She holds a ton of luggage and a water bottle.

DIANA
AHHHH! Girl! It's been too long!
It's been too long!

SUSAN
Oh, honey!

They squeal and embrace each other.

DIANA
Girl, you never change!

SUSAN
Girl, you do. For the better. Your skin looks incredible- glowing! And you must have lost at least ten pounds! What are you eating?

DIANA
Well, like always, no meat. You know I'm a vegan, but I've added more fruit and vegetables to my diet. Organic of course. Drinking only water now, instead of all the sugar and toxin filled stuff they sell.

SUSAN
I should try that. It's all pancakes and burgers here. I'll blame the kids for that! (laughs)
Now that you're here (she pauses in excitement) and LIVING with us, maybe you can get us on a health kick.

DIANA
What a beautiful place you have here baby. Looks better than last time. Did you redecorate?

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

Changed a couple things here and there, the curtains, the couch. A lot's changed around here. (Beat because they both know what she's talking about) It's kind of a wreck now, It's been hard since- you know.

DIANA

(somber)

I can imagine.

Awkward pause.

SUSAN

Anyway, why don't you come and sit down. Want anything to drink?

DIANA

No, I'm okay. Just point me toward the couch! It's funny... driving for so long you finally stand up and all you wanna do-

She drops her bags and plops down on the couch and says the next line once she's down

DIANA

is sit on back down.

SUSAN

I can't thank you enough for offering to do this. I'm ecstatic!

DIANA

Oh girl! Stop! Thank you for letting me into your beautiful home with my babies. Where are my God kids?

Ian comes out from the kitchen.

IAN

We wanted to give you girls some AHHH (he mimics them and waves his hands up) time.

Diana throws her hands up.

DIANA

Now if I couldn't guess who this strapping young man is. My God how

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIANA (cont'd)
 you have grown up before my eyes!
 How are you baby?

IAN
 Granted Aunt D, last time you were
 here I was in fourth grade and
 (beat. thinking) were you base
 jumping in Brazil or swimming with
 hammerhead sharks in the Bahamas?

DIANA
 After Brazil, before the Bahamas.
 (to Susan) That reminds me, I have
 these amazing pictures from my
 latest trip to Egypt to show you.
 National Geographic ate them up. I
 took them on the back of this camel
 I rode to the Pyramid of Giza. It
 was an incredible trip. (Back to
 Ian) The last time I saw you, you
 probably came up to right here.

She places her hand on the arm of the chair.

SUSAN
 We have so much to catch up on.
 We'll have the time now though.

DIANA
 And this sweet thing!

Referring to Lily who's still standing in the kitchen
 doorway.

DIANA
 Miss Lily what a beautiful young
 lady you are turning into.

LILY
 Thank you Aunt Diana.

She curtsies.

DIANA
 Sweetie, call me Aunt D- Nothing
 formal for this lady here. I ain't
 no (a low, serious voice.) Aunt
 Diana.

LILY
 Sorry Aunt D. So you and Mom have
 known each other since you were
 kids?

DIANA

Oh, yeah!

SUSAN

We met in school at about your age
sweetie, and we were the BEST of
friends from the start!

They get closer and embrace.

DIANA AND SUSAN

(together)

Soul Sisters!

DIANA

That's right honey.

IAN

So you guys also went to the same
college and were roommates?

SUSAN

Yup! We got into the same college-
UConn!

DIANA AND SUSAN

(together, enthusiastically)
GOOOO Huskies!

They raise a fist in the air

IAN AND LILY

(together and less than
enthusiastic)

GOOO!

They raise a fist in the air as well, very half-heartedly

SUSAN

But we weren't roommates at first.
We ended up hating our assigned
roommates, so the next semester we
rented a house together off campus.

DIANA

We sure did! Remember?!

SUSAN

My old roommate- The girl with the
ears!

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

The girl with the ears all right!

They both go into a fit of hysterical laughter.

DIANA AND SUSAN

(together)

The good old days.

DIANA

No cell phones, no computers, no technology at your fingertips. Just music festivals and love in the air.

SUSAN

Man, how times have changed, but they still have music festivals- That reminds me. One's coming up in the city! It has that band we saw in 87'- Black Jack. (she says this as if he was the hottest guy she'd ever seen) The lead singer who wore those tight leather pants. Not that he'd be wearing them now! He might even come on stage with a cane!
(laughs)

Lily is clearly shocked at hearing this information about her Mother.

LILY

(almost scolding her like she's the Mother being responsible)

MOM!

SUSAN

Ah, but those things always cost an arm and a leg to go to. Even more now than when we went. Not that we ever paid. We always snuck in.
(laughs)

DIANA

Do you think he'd remember us?
Remembered we flashed him our...

SUSAN

(stopping her)

(CONTINUED)

DIANA!

Susan uses her face to motion toward Ian and Lily who are both disgusted and intrigued by this new information they never knew about their Mother.

DIANA

(quickly, recovering)

Our arms. Flashed him our arms,
When I got this tattoo. (Laughs)
He'll definitely remember my
tattoo.

Diana shakes her head a few times to Susan like she recovered real well. Ian's eyes widen and he shakes his head like he's shaking this information off.

IAN

Mom, is it okay if I go over to
Mindy's house for a bit? I have a
paper I need her help on.

SUSAN

Sure sweetie. Just be back by
eight.

IAN

Great. It was so awesome to see you
again Aunt D. Would you like me to
take your bags up to your room
before I go?

DIANA

Oh, that's okay baby. I'm home now.
I know where everything is already.

IAN

Thanks for coming here to stay with
us Aunt D.

DIANA

No "thank's" needed baby. I would
do anything for my best friend and
her family.

She puts her hand on Susan's knee and they smile at each other. Ian and Diana embrace and Ian leaves closing the front door. Diana returns talking to Susan.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

4 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. DAY.

Ian is at his locker. RACHEL, a beautiful brown haired Caucasian girl walks by Ian and Ian's eyes widen in fear as she passes. She looks like she could have been plucked out of a Victoria Secrets catalog. She looks upset. She stops at her locker and unlocks it. She throws her books in the locker. Ian slowly walks pass her locker and tries to start a conversation- going back and forth and then ultimately decides against it and walks away. He goes back to his locker and Mindy is standing at her locker.

IAN

So, it's only the first Friday of the first week of school and I have six pages of math problems due, three essays to write, and one group project I have to start. Is this what life is about?

MINDY

No. Well, kind of... if you make it that way. I mean, college is only more stressful on the homework and a job is stressful too, but it pays off in the end. It always does.

IAN

Very true, good point, Min. You're always looking on the bright side. The glass half full. Thanks for always helping me see that. And being my shrink.

MINDY

Maybe I should start to charge?
That will be fifty bucks please.

She puts her hand out and Ian playfully slaps it away. They laugh. Just then Ryan frantically runs up to them. He's out of breath.

RYAN

Guys, did you hear?!

IAN

What?

RYAN

You didn't?!

(CONTINUED)

IAN AND MINDY
(together)

NO! WHAT?!

RYAN
Rachel and Jake- the sophomore!
They broke up!

IAN
(clearly shocked and enticed
by this information)
What?!

MINDY
(quickly)
So?

RYAN
They've been dating since middle
school and apparently they "grew
apart" cause Rachel left him flat.
For no reason at all! At the
beginning of the school year too.
Ouch, that has to hurt.

IAN
This is quite possibly the greatest
news I've ever heard.

RYAN
So, Ian, my man, you can finally
ask her out!

Mindy rolls her eyes.

IAN
No- I can't!

RYAN
WHY?!

IAN
One, she's totally out of my
league, two, even if she did say
yes it would be a total rebound
date just to piss Jake off and
three- I might throw up.

MINDY
(clearly over the
conversation)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MINDY (cont'd)

Well, that settles that. I'm off to class you guys. Getting a head start. Bye "losers".

Mindy takes off down the hall. Ryan gives Ian a look like "I think she was upset".

IAN

Listen, Ryan I appreciate you telling me this and all, but it's not like I have a chance.

He starts to walk down the hall backwards

IAN

It just wouldn't happen. The whole I'm a nerd and she's the hot model type and-

As he turns around Ian bumps into Rachel. They stumble and books and papers go flying.

IAN

Whoa, sorry about that I-

Ian sees it's Rachel. His eyes widen. He's a deer in the headlights. He starts frantically picking up the books and papers on the ground.

IAN

(as it's one sentence, without taking a breath)

Oh My God! I'm so sorry I didn't see you there and I was talking to my friends and was walking backwards, which was pretty stupid to do in a hallway with other people and then I was distracted cause of (stops)- let me help you

He hands her her books and papers

IAN

I'm so sorry again, I didn't mean to crash into you and-

RACHEL

(she cuts him off)

It's okay, really I'm fine. I wasn't paying attention either. I was a little distracted.

(CONTINUED)

IAN

I bet. (realizing he said something stupid, recovering) Cause this is such a busy hallway and all. I mean couldn't they have widened the width of this place? (laughing nervously) Who designed this place? M. C. Escher? (laughing nervously again)

Rachel stares at him looking confused.

IAN

(trailing off)

Relativity... You know the painter with the crazy stairs and stuff... Ummmmmm...

RACHEL

(she giggles, clearly amused by how bad this is going.)

Yeah, it is kind of tiny in here.

The bell rings.

RACHEL

Well, we should get to class, hopefully we didn't suffer any brain damage.

She laughs a girlish laugh, different from the first laugh

IAN

Yeah, we can only hope!
(nervous laugh)

Rachel leaves down the hallway, walking like a runway model.
Ryan walks up behind Ian.

RYAN

(he rolls his eyes)
Smooth.

IAN

Shut up. Like you would have been any better if you bumped into that senior cheerleader, Stacey.

RYAN

Right, only thing is- I wouldn't have been walking BACKWARDS!

(CONTINUED)

IAN
Yeah, (rubbing his head) I should
stop doing that.

FADE IN:

5 INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA. THE SAME SCHOOL DAY.

Ian is alone in the lunch line. He checks out with the lunch lady and right when he turns around JAKE, a Caucasian, towering, muscular jock and two friends walk up to him.

JAKE
Let's see- what does this faggot
have on the menu today? Hot Dog.
Hmmm... maybe practicing to suck on
something else.

Jake and his friends all laugh in unison as if he'd said the funniest thing in the world.

IAN
One, you're highly offensive in
using that homophobic slur, not
that you would understand because
you're pretty much highly offensive
in everything you say. Two, maybe
Rachel wouldn't have broken up with
you this week if you weren't such a
massive bully and complete idiot
(beat) and offensive. And three,
you walk like a gorilla. Are you
overcompensating for something
small down there? (he looks down)

JAKE
You piece of shit- I'm going to
knock (Jake grabs Ian by the shirt)
your freakin'-

Just then, a teacher, MR. SIMPSON, with his lunch, walks up to them.

MR. SIMPSON
Boys- Is there a problem here?

JAKE
No Mr. Simpson.

Jake lets go of Ian.

(CONTINUED)

IAN

(very sarcastically)

Oh, no Mr. Simpson, I was just educating Mr. Latsky here on the proper etiquette in the lunch room and how not to chew with your mouth open.

MR. SIMPSON

(completely oblivious and obviously doesn't care)

Okay boys, play nice. I don't need to deal with this stuff on the first week of school. Or ever.

Jake and Ian put on fake innocent smiles and shake their heads "yes" as Mr. Simpson walks away.

JAKE

(in a low tone)

You got off easy this time freshman, but I'm going to make your High School years Hell on Earth. So, watch your back.

Jake takes a pile of ketchup off Ian's plate and wipes it on both sides of his face. He then slings it on his pants near his crotch.

JAKE

Look- got your period. Guess you're a woman now. Welcome to High School shit head.

He takes a napkin off of Ian's plate, wipes his hands off and throws it back on Ian's plate. His two friends laugh and they walk away. Ian, with one hand, wipes his face off and suddenly, the bell rings. He sighs because he didn't have any time to eat his lunch.

IAN

(to himself)

Well, guess I'm going to be eating in the bathroom from now on.

Ian walks out of frame.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

6 INT. IAN'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

Susan is in nurse scrubs. She's getting ready to leave for the late shift which she's finally been able to take since Diana is here.

SUSAN

Okay guys, I'm heading to the hospital. Since I'm working the late shift now, I'll be back in the early morning so, I expect you (pointing to Lily) to be in bed asleep and you (pointing to Ian) to at least have your homework done. No sketching or writing till it's finished.

IAN

Okay Mom. I'll make sure everything is done and (in a baby voice) Little Lil' Lil' will be tucked in bed by seven PM.

He goes to squeeze Lily's cheeks

LILY

Shut up Ian!

She slaps his hand away

SUSAN

Hey! No fighting. Ian, I'm counting on you. Be careful guys. Diana is here if you need her, but she just got here so don't bother her too much, okay? (looking at her watch) Okay, gotta run. Love you and love you. Bye guys!

Susan leaves and shuts the door, we hear a car start and drive away.

IAN

Okay, rule one-

LILY

(she cuts him off before he can say anything else)
You are NOT the boss of me! I'm going to do what little homework I have left. I suggest you at least attempt yours!

Lily storms off going upstairs.

(CONTINUED)

IAN
Fine... What-ever

Lily and Diana pass each other on the stairs.

DIANA
Hey sweetie.

LILY
Hey Aunt D.

Lily goes upstairs.

DIANA
That girl is a firecracker! Smart
as a whip too.

Diana sits on the couch next to Ian.

IAN
(sarcastic)
Yeah, she's a real sparkler!

DIANA
Honey, what happened to your pants?

Ian looks down and he realizes remnants of the ketchup are still on his pants.

IAN
(tired at this point, he
sighs)
Nothing, just got into a fight with
some jerk jock at school.

DIANA
Ich! Jocks- never my type. Did you
get a few good licks in?

She air punches

IAN
It wasn't physical. A teacher
stopped it before it got that far,
but he did say "I'm going to make
your High School years Hell on
Earth," so I might want to start
taking kick boxing or karate, or
that Tae Kwon Do stuff. And soon.

DIANA
Well, you don't start anything, but
you don't walk away either. Your
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIANA (cont'd)
 mom or a teacher might tell you
 different, but you kick his ass
 when the time comes and you don't
 back down. Even if you lose and you
 can't win- you tell him to bring
 his lunch cause it's going to be a
 while.

Diana sits thinking for a while. She looks like she's
 holding something back. Finally she let's it out.

DIANA
 Okay baby, it's story time. I don't
 think I've ever told you this, but
 I had a similar problem in school
 as well.

IAN
 You did?! You?! You're the coolest
 person I know Aunt D!

DIANA
 Well, thank you for the compliment,
 but grade school and high school
 wasn't all apple pie and vanilla
 ice cream for me.

CUT TO:

7 INT. SCHOOL GYM. DAY.

We then go to a flash back in black and white. A YOUNG DIANA
 with curly hair up in a bun stands in a circle with a bunch
 of other girls. It's gym class. They are all dressed in
 t-shirts, shorts and gym shoes. We see Diana looking at the
 ground, embarrassed and apprehensive. A FEMALE GYM TEACHER
 stands in the middle of them.

FEMALE GYM TEACHER
 Okay, girls. Here is how we dress
 for gym.

She points to STEPHANIE. A popular, pretty Caucasian girl
 with brown hair

FEMALE GYM TEACHER
 And this isn't.

She walks over and stands in front of Young Diana

(CONTINUED)

FEMALE GYM TEACHER

Diana, how many times are you going to wear those ratty old shoes?

The camera pans down to Young Diana's feet and we see old, ratty gym sneakers

FEMALE GYM TEACHER

You're not going to be able to run in them and I'm not going to be responsible for you falling on your butt! Get some more appropriate gym shoes or don't come to class!

Young Diana just looks down, ashamed. The kids around her snicker.

FADE OUT:

CUT TO:

8 INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA. THE SAME SCHOOL DAY.

We then cut to lunch. Young Diana is dressed in her school clothes now. Stephanie and a few girls from the gym class walk up to her in the line.

STEPHANIE

So, did your hair dresser give you a bad perm or something? Why is your hair like that?! Aren't you embarrassed to come to school with messy hair and terrible gym shoes? Are you homeless?

YOUNG DIANA

(looking down)

No.

STEPHANIE

Well, if I were you, I would be embarrassed!

Stephanie and her friends walk away, laughing. Young Diana just stands there for a while thinking. She grabs her tray. Angry, she stomps over to a table where no one is sitting and throws her tray down. We hear Ian and Diana talk, but don't see them.

IAN (V.O.)

Oh my God! Aunt D, that's awful! That sounds exactly like what happened with me and Jake!

(CONTINUED)

DIANA (V.O.)

Yes baby, there are and always will be mean people in the world. I didn't have a friend in school.

She pauses a long pause. All this takes place while Young Diana is picking at her food and about to cry.

DIANA (V.O.)

But, there was one person... (she trails off)

YOUNG SUSAN, a Caucasian girl with light brown hair walks up to Young Diana's table.

YOUNG SUSAN

(cheery)

Hi! Can I sit here?

YOUNG DIANA

(taken aback)

Uhhh- sure! But why would you want to sit with me?

YOUNG SUSAN

Why not? And don't listen to the coach OR those other girls. I like your sneakers and I LOVE your hair. I wish mine could do that. Mine's as straight as a board. (she lifts up some of her hair.) So boring! I can't do anything with it.

YOUNG DIANA

(her mood improves and she actually sounds happy)

Thanks! What's your name?

YOUNG SUSAN

Susan. You know we've been in the same class together all year?

YOUNG DIANA

We have? Sorry. I try not to pay attention to the people around here. They're all so mean.

YOUNG SUSAN

That Stephanie sure is! She thinks she's better than everyone because her parents are rich and she can afford the best stuff, but I'd much rather be your friend. Someone who is real.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG DIANA
Really? We're friends?

YOUNG SUSAN
You bet!

Both girls smile.

FADE OUT:

CUT TO:

9 INT. IAN'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

It cuts back to the present. Ian and Diana are sitting on the couch. Ian sits there stunned.

DIANA
Your mother was the only one-
(becoming emotional) the only one
who would take a chance on being my
friend. The only one who had enough
guts to befriend an outsider.

Ian is clearly captivated and speechless since he didn't know this story.

IAN
Wow!

DIANA
I wasn't always your fearless,
travel the world, peaches and
cream, copacetic Aunt D. Your
mother made me the woman I am
today. (switching thought) Speaking
of your mother, you going to tell
her about what happened today?

IAN
(beat)
No. She has so much going on with
her nursing job, taking care of us
and... the whole Dad thing. I just
don't want to add another problem
to her plate. It's just a stupid
bully at school. Not a big deal. If
you could handle it, then I can
handle it.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Honey, if you EVER need me, this is why I'm here. Why I came to live with you guys. I'm here for advice-anything. Anything you need. (beat, change of thought) And you give me the address of where this jerk lives and I'll kick his ass for you! Or at the very least T.P. his house in the middle of the night!

IAN

(laughing)

It's okay, It's just... (getting emotional and teary eyed) been hard. You know, since Dad left.

DIANA

I know baby, I know...

She embraces him, a long pause, still in the embrace.

DIANA

You know your Dad was a jock in school? I tried to warn your Mom.

They both burst out laughing.

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

10 INT. IAN'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Ian is at his desk writing in his journal. The camera shot is the same way as it was in the intro. We only see his back and him writing.

IAN (V.O)

Although I'm dreading running into Jake again, and even more- Rachel, I have a really good feeling about my High School years. I'm so happy I have my two best friends to help pull me up when I'm down and I'm so excited Aunt D is here! She always knows how to make me feel better and I can't believe that is how she met Mom! Maybe they weren't kidding saying High School will be the best years of your life. Maybe not the best, but certainly the most

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAN (V.O) (cont'd)
interesting. We'll see. Signed, An
Arts Student