

# AUDITION

4.20 | TEARS, SMILES, AND OTHER FACE ACTIVITIES

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# AUDITION

## 4.20 | TEARS, SMILES, AND OTHER FACE ACTIVITIES

### MAIN CAST

ALEX BERRETA .....	JOSH HUTCHERSON
ALISHA HALL .....	ALYSON STONER
DAVID SULLIVAN .....	ANSEL ELGORT
ROSE BRAUN .....	BRIDGIT MENGLER
MICHAEL BERRETA .....	PATRICK DEMPSEY
PAULA SMITH .....	AMY ADAMS

### GUEST CAST

MIA EDWARDS .....	GAGE GOLIGHTLY
ROBBIE MEYERS .....	JOE JONAS

FADE IN:

**INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

ALEX sluggishly lays on the couch, his feet propped up on the coffee table. ALISHA sits beside him, just as lethargic.

ALEX  
Life sucks.

ALISHA  
You're telling me.

ALEX  
(leaning up)  
Why? What happened to you?

ALISHA  
I waited too long. You?

ALEX  
Not being good enough.

ALISHA  
Huh.

ALEX  
Yeah.

SILENCE, until --

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Jesus Christ, who did we piss of  
before we came to LA?

ALISHA  
Well, you told Diane Happer that  
you didn't want to date her.

ALEX  
So you think Diane Happer,  
President of the Multilingual  
Society, cursed us? Why would she  
curse you?

ALISHA  
I wouldn't let her copy off of my  
midterm.

ALEX  
That settles it then. Diane Happer  
has cursed us.

Alisha chuckles, and so does Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)

No, but honestly... Have you not noticed it?

(beat)

As soon as we get here, we meet Angela and Jordan. They make us miserable until Jordan gets arrested. We get a role on a movie! Yay! But then there's a shooting.

ALISHA

I cheat on David. David breaks up with me.

ALEX

I wasn't going to mention that, but yeah I guess.

(beat)

And now... whatever this is we're both feeling. What did we do?

ALISHA

We chose to come to the sleaziest city in the country.

ALEX

And for what? So we could be miserable?

ALISHA

No...

Alisha finally looks at Alex. They LOCK eyes.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

So we could be actors. So we could make our dreams come true. So we could do what we've always wanted to do. Together.

Alex nods in agreement.

ALEX

I know what we need.

ALISHA

What's that?

ALEX

A musical number. We need to get up and dance and sing about our problems.

Alex rises, grabs Alisha's hands, and brings her to the center of the room. DIPS her.

ALISHA  
Um... Are we in Glee?

ALEX  
(smiling)  
Just kidding.

Hr brings her back up.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Sorry, just always wanted to do that.  
(beat)  
Anyway, we need a best friend night. No one else. Just you and me.

Alisha smiles once more.

ALISHA  
I'd like that.

They continue to look at one another, hopeful.

**INT. NED'S BAR - DAY**

ROSE opens the door, entering into the bar, where the mid-afternoon crowd lingers.

She looks around until she spots ROBBIE, sitting up on one of the stools. She goes to him, takes a seat.

ROSE  
Hey.

ROBBIE  
(smiling)  
Hey. Glad you could make it.

ROSE  
What's this about? You sounded kind of weird over the phone.

ROBBIE  
Yeah, there's... Look, I'm trying something out.

ROSE  
(confused)  
What are you --

OWNER  
There you are!

The bar OWNER walks out, stands before Rose and Robbie.

ROSE  
What's... going on?

ROBBIE  
Here.

Robbie picks up a small bag on the bar in front of him, hands it to the owner.

OWNER  
Thank you, thank you. You guys can start tonight for all I care.

The owner turns and goes.

ROSE  
(even more confused)  
Care to tell me what's going on?

ROBBIE  
I... I got our gig back, Rose.

ROSE  
Huh?

ROBBIE  
I fixed what I screwed up.

Rose begins to put the pieces together.

ROSE  
Robbie, did -- did you just give him all of your tips to get this back?

ROBBIE  
Not all of the tips. Just some. Well, most.

ROSE  
Oh my God, Robbie, I... Why did you do that?

ROBBIE  
Because I know how much this means to us. How much we need it.

ROSE  
(somewhat guilty)  
But you're money...

ROBBIE  
I can get money back. But if we  
lose this, I don't know if we can  
get that goal back.

A small, sincere, and flattered smile encompasses Rose's face.

ROSE  
You're the best singing partner on  
this Earth, Robbie.

ROBBIE  
Tell me something I don't know.

They hug. A friendly EMBRACE that soon detaches.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)  
Come on. We've got a set to work  
on. I'll call Flynn.

**INT. EDWARD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

MIA sits on her couch, her bandages and bruises still visible. She watches the TV with a headline - "ARE DRUGS INVOLVED IN MIA EDWARD'S RECENT CAR ACCIDENT?"

She rolls her eyes as a KNOCK comes to her door. She turns the TV off, gets up, and answers it.

DAVID stands there, holding an old COMIC BOOK in his hands.

DAVID  
Hey.

MIA  
(long pause)  
Hey.

DAVID  
How are you doing?

MIA  
Better. Doesn't hurt as bad when I  
reposition for Netflix.

David chuckles, but soon stops.

DAVID  
Can I... come in?

MIA  
(quick)  
Yes.

David makes his way inside, and Mia closes the door. They both sit on the couch.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Is there a reason why you --

DAVID  
I just... I needed to talk to you.  
We didn't leave on awesome terms.

MIA  
No, we didn't.

DAVID  
I'm not... Okay, I'm sorry about  
what happened to you, Mia. I'm  
sorry you were in an accident. But  
I'm not sorry for talking to  
Alisha.

Mia quickly grows defensive in her body language.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I know I'm not with her anymore. I  
know it looked bad. But nothing  
happened. It was a conversation,  
and that was that.

MIA  
You can't blame me for jumping to  
conclusions after what it looked  
like.

DAVID  
I know I can't. But you can't blame  
me either, Mia.  
(beat; sincere)  
Look, I know you've been hurt. I  
know you've been hurt time and time  
again, and that sucks. I know it  
does. But I'm not going to hurt  
you, Mia. I promise you I won't.

Mia drops her walls, opens her eyes.



DAVID (CONT'D)

I don't know if what we have is going to lead to something. Okay, I don't. But I really, really wanna try, and I'm gonna need you to trust me.

Dropping her gaze, Mia quickly looks back up. Places her hand on top of David's.

MIA

David, you're... you're one of the best thing that have ever happened to me. You make me feel... stuff. Stuff that doesn't suck.

(beat)

I'm so, so sorry for how easily I misread things.

DAVID

You never have to apologize for having feelings.

Mia cracks a smile.

MIA

I wanna try, too. I wanna try and see where this goes.

(beat)

And I'm gonna do better. I promise. I'm... I'm gonna let these fronts down. I'm done with the hurt and the pain and all of that.

As David smiles, she looks down. Sees the comic book.

MIA (CONT'D)

What's that for?

DAVID

(realizing)

Oh!

He brings it up, shows it to her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

This is one of the first comic books I ever read. It helped get me into the whole thing.

He hands it to Mia. She inspects it.

MIA

Teen Titans #48.

DAVID

Not the best issue, but I want you  
to have it.

Mia erupts in a smile, grabs David's cheeks, and brings him in for a KISS. David leans in, indulges every second. Their lips move together as they each run their fingers through the other's hair.

Slowly, they detach.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Much better than the first one.

Mia laughs, brings him in for another KISS.

**INT. SMITH APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

MICHAEL types away on his LAPTOP as he leans back on the couch. PAULA walks in, holding a bowl of popcorn, and sits down beside him.

PAULA

(noticing)

Michael! Put that away!

MICHAEL

(not looking up)

But I've got to find another job,  
Paula. Like, pronto.

PAULA

And you can't take a two hour break  
to watch this movie with me?

MICHAEL

(finally looking up)

What's it about?

PAULA

I don't know. Aliens, pirates,  
whatever.

Michael goes back to typing.

PAULA (CONT'D)

You know, soon you're gonna get  
carpal tunnel, and I'm gonna laugh  
at you.

(beat; realizing)

Okay, maybe not laugh, but like...  
have a parade of "I told you so's"  
or something.

Yawning, Michael barely focuses.

MICHAEL  
That's nice, Paula.

Paula looks him up and down, then --

PAULA  
I went and saw Jace.

Michael quickly SNAPS his head up, fully attentive.

MICHAEL  
*What?*

PAULA  
A couple of weeks ago, right before  
Judy left, she took me to go and  
see Jace.

MICHAEL  
Paula, are -- are you crazy?!

PAULA  
What? No! Why does that make me  
crazy?

Michael struggles for words.

MICHAEL  
Be -- because... because of stuff!

PAULA  
Because I wanted to put my past  
behind me by confronting my  
homicidal ex-boyfriend in jail and  
totally slaying his existence  
before strutting out of there in a  
fashion that Queen Bey would be  
proud of?

MICHAEL  
Well... Well, when you put it that  
way... No. I take it back.  
(beat)  
But why didn't you tell me?

PAULA  
I don't know. I... You had enough  
problems on your plate with the  
whole writing thing. I didn't want  
to make you have another one.

Michael looks sad, puts his laptop down.

MICHAEL

Paula, you are *never* a problem for me. If I have to, I will literally stop what I'm doing and come and help you if you need it.

Paula smiles.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Because we're besties for life, right?

PAULA

Aw, Michael! You're so right!

She quickly flails her arms up and wraps them around Michael, bringing him in for an EMBRACE. It goes on for several beats, before Paula leans out and stares at him. Maybe for just a moment too long before --

MICHAEL

So, let's watch this movie, shall we?

PAULA

(flustered)

Yeah! Yeah, yeah. Movie time!

She hits a button on the remote, grabs the popcorn, and sinks down into the couch.

**INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Alex and Alisha sit on the coffee table, side-by-side. MUSIC softly plays in the background.

ALISHA

So, what is on the agenda for this best friends' night?

ALEX

Honestly, I have no idea. Does my dad have any booze?

ALISHA

That sounds like a smart option.

Alex hops up, runs into the kitchen, and soon comes back with a BOTTLE OF WINE and two wine GLASSES.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

That'll do.

He hands Alisha a glass, then opens the bottle and pours her a drink. Pours himself one after.

ALEX

To Alex and Alisha, the soon to be hottest duo in Hollywood.

They clink their glasses and take a sip.

ALISHA

And to not being sad anymore.

Alex smiles.

ALEX

So, do you wanna talk about your problems? After all, this is a best friend's night.

ALISHA

(exhaling)

I don't know. Talking might make me sadder. Maybe another time.

(beat)

You?

ALEX

Ditto.

They lean on one another, taking another sip of wine. Long pauses of nothing but silence.

ALISHA

I'm sorry, Alex.

ALEX

(confused)

For what?

ALISHA

For leaving. For going back to Georgia.

ALEX

Alisha, that was so long --

ALISHA

I know, but... but I never told you I was sorry. And I am.

ALEX

No apologies necessary.

Alisha leans back up, looks Alex in the eyes.

ALISHA  
Promise me something?

ALEX  
Anything.

ALISHA  
Promise me that... that we're  
always gonna have each other. That  
we'll never leave. Again, in my  
case.

ALEX  
I promise, Alisha.

ALISHA  
I do, too.

Smiling, she leans back onto his shoulder. Takes another sip  
of wine.

ALISHA (CONT'D)  
Hey, Alex.

ALEX  
Yeah?

ALEX (CONT'D)  
I'm proud of you. You know that,  
right?

ALEX (CONT'D)  
I'm proud of you too, Alisha.

ALISHA  
I'm not just saying that either.  
I'm extremely proud of you.

ALEX  
As am I of you, Alisha.

Alisha chuckles. Alex soon rises, sets his glass down.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Get up.

Also setting her glass down, Alisha obeys. Looks at Alex with  
a confused expression.

ALISHA  
What are we doing?

Alex holds his hands out, and Alisha looks at it before  
slowly grabbing them.

ALEX  
Let's dance.

ALISHA  
Huh?

ALEX  
That dip early was my lowkey  
confession that I've always wanted  
to break into sudden dance.

ALISHA  
(joking)  
I knew it.

ALEX  
But no, just... Just dance with me.  
Forget about everything else.

Alisha sends him a small smile before closing in. Their  
bodies now within inches of one another.

The music in the background RISES in volume as Alex leads  
their slow, soft motions. They simply rock back and forth.

Resting her head on his chest, Alisha exhales.

ALISHA  
I'm so thankful for you, Alex.

Alex places his head on top of hers as they continue to sway  
side to side.

ALEX  
And I'm so thankful for you,  
Alisha.

**CUE MUSIC:** I Walk the Line (Instrumental) - Halsey

They continue to dance as...

**INT. NED'S BAR - NIGHT**

Rose stands on stage, directly behind the microphone. Robbie  
is beside her, playing the PIANO.

ROSE  
(singing)  
*"I keep a close watch on this heart  
of mine."  
(pause)  
"I keep my eyes wide open all the  
time."*

(MORE)

ROSE (CONT'D)

(pause)

*"I keep the ends out for the tie  
that binds."*

(pause)

*"Because you're mine, I walk the  
line..."*

Rose looks to Robbie, a smile on her face.

**INT. EDWARD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

The singing and playing continues through VO as David and Mia sit on her couch and flip through Teen Titans #48.

Mia looks up at David, happy. Content. David looks back at her, reciprocating those same looks.

They lean in and their lips connect. This one's slower than the last. They indulge, taking every second in.

**INT. SMITH APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Paula erupts in laughter at the movie on screen, looks to Michael to see that he's ASLEEP.

She smiles, pats him on the leg. He slowly wakes, but he's still not all the way there. Paula stands up, pulling Michael with her, and wraps his arm around her shoulder. Leads him down the hallway.

**INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Alex and Alisha continue to have their dance. They're in the moment, together. Just like they'll always be.

And we PUSH IN on Alisha, a tear streaming down her face...

PUSH IN on Alex, as one falls down his cheek as well.

**INT. NED'S BAR - NIGHT**

Rose, her eyes closed, sways to the music. Robbie concentrates on the piano, but moves with the music.

ROSE

(singing)

*"Because you're mine, I walk the  
line..."*

(beat)

(MORE)



ROSE (CONT'D)  
*"Because you're mine, I walk the  
 line..."*

Robbie plays his final few notes as the crowd CLAPS for them. The duo look to one another, smiling at the accomplishment they just made.

**INT. SMITH APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Paula continues to lead Michael until they reach the bed, where he quickly PLOPS down.

MICHAEL  
 (muffled)  
 Thank you, Paula.

PAULA  
 (smiling)  
 You're welcome, bestie. Sleep tight.

MICHAEL  
 You too...

SNORING is quickly heard as Paula turns to go. But as she goes to look back --

Michael stands directly in front of her.

PAULA  
 Um... Michael?

He puts his index finger against her lips.

MICHAEL  
 No words.

PAULA  
 Huh?

Paula blinks, and --

Michael's in nothing but dress pants and suspenders, his upper body revealed.

PAULA (CONT'D)  
 What *is* going on...

He grabs the side of her face.

MICHAEL  
 No talking. Just lips.

Michael pulls Paula in, and they both close their eyes, ready for what's coming, but --

Paula SNAPS out of her trance, attempts to recollect herself. A DAYDREAM. She turns back around to see Michael sound asleep on the bed.

PAULA

Ooooooh boy.

She wipes the sweat from her brow as we --

**BLACKOUT.**

END OF SEQUENCE