

FIRST CONTACT

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CHARACTERS

JIMMY- 13, M, The nerdiest nerd that ever nerded.

DANNY- 13, F, The second nerdiest nerd that ever nerded.

TIME AND PLACE

Clearing in the woods. This is their normal "Search Spot."

Late 90's early 00's.

NOTE ON DIALOGUE:

The characters talk fast and think mid-sentence.
Everything should overlap unless otherwise specified.
There are more throw away lines than dramatic pauses.

"Beat" should be treated as a line of silence owned by a character.

"--" indicates an interruption.

"..." indicates a trailing off.

JIMMY looks into a telescope. Around him are star charts and alien books. An "I want to believe" sticker is on his telescope. His bike is nearby, dropped to the ground.

Jimmy pulls out a walkie-talkie.

Hey. Are you coming? Over.	JIMMY	
Yeah. I'm on my way. Over.	DANNY (OVER WALKIE)	
How far are you? Over.	JIMMY	
Not far. Over.	DANNY (OVER WALKIE)	
How far is not far? Over.	JIMMY	
Really? Over.	DANNY (OVER WALKIE)	
Rough guess? Over.	JIMMY	
A lot faster if you stop radioing me.	DANNY (OVER WALKIE)	
	Beat.	
You didn't say--	JIMMY	DANNY (OVER WALKIE)
	Over.	
	Jimmy paces for a moment, rehearsing something in his head.	
	DANNY enters on her bike. She throws it down next to Jimmy's.	
Heyo!	DANNY	
Oh, hi.	JIMMY	
Hi.	DANNY	
Hi.	JIMMY	
You said that.	DANNY	
What?	JIMMY	

Hi. You already said--

Oh. Yeah. Well... Hi.

Dork. Sorry I'm late. My mom and dad were fighting. You start without me?

She pulls out a well-worn notebook.

Oh, yeah.

Rude.

I just have to be back home by--

I'm kidding. You're jumpy--

What?

Jumpy. You're jumpy tonight.

Oh, Yeah. I, guess. Yeah.

You find any aliens yet?

Nope.

What have you covered?

Sector 64 and 65.

Got it. 64 and 65, nothing.

Well, no.
It's not nothing.
Not really. There are thousands of stars
and other... so to say nothing is really not
accurate.

I know that.
I was just...
Fine.

Sectors 64 and 65, no aliens.

JIMMY
And we don't really know if--

DANNY
No "totally obvious" aliens.

JIMMY
I was just... words mean things.
If we use them in the improper way they
lose their meaning.

DANNY
No, totally, that's totally... worth pointing
out. Thank you, Jimmy.

Beat. Jimmy looks into the telescope.

JIMMY
I was doing that thing where I over-explain things in a jerky way--

DANNY
Yep.

A light flashes across the stage.

DANNY
Look over there, there's a shooting star.

JIMMY
That's not...

DANNY
What is it?

JIMMY
I don't know.

Jimmy swings his telescope to look.

DANNY
There's another one.

JIMMY
It's a shooting star.

DANNY
Told ya.

Danny records the sighting. Jimmy watches her for a while.

Danny pulls out her walkie.

DANNY
(into walkie)
Hey Jimmy. Why are you staring at me? Over.

JIMMY
I'm not staring--

DANNY
(into walkie)
You're staring at me and you're super
sweaty and it's kinda creepy.

JIMMY
It's hot I'm...

JIMMY
I'm not creepy! I was just looking over at the notes.

DANNY
(into walkie)
I know when you're lying. Over.

JIMMY
No you don't.

DANNY
(into walkie)
Uhuh.
Over.

JIMMY
Nuhuh.

DANNY
(into walkie)
Even the aliens secretly watching us know you're lying--

JIMMY
No, it's nothing. I'm not--

DANNY
(into walkie)
Seriously dude. What is up? Over.

Beat. Jimmy picks up his walkie.

JIMMY
(into walkie)
I'm... I heard a rumor. Over.

DANNY
(into walkie)
About what?

JIMMY
(into walkie)
About you. Over.

DANNY
(into walkie)
Okay. What are people saying about me? They saying I'm a nerd? That I'm not cool?
Was it the hunting for aliens or was it--

JIMMY
(into walkie)
It was about you and Derek. They said--

Danny puts the walkie down.

DANNY
Wait, what? What did uh... What did they say about us?

DANNY
Did they say anything about--

JIMMY
It's not, they uhm, they said you made out with him.

DANNY
Oh. Okay.

Beat.

JIMMY
And that you gave him a hand job.

DANNY
God frickin' dammit. Frickin'....
Frickin'. Fuck! That... shit burger.
That fucking shit burger.
Why would you do that, why would--

JIMMY
And I told them I didn't believe it for a second, I told them that you would never do that--

JIMMY
I told them he was lying. That you would never--

DANNY
Why? Why would you say that?

JIMMY
What?

DANNY
Why would you say I would never give Derek a hand job?

JIMMY
Why would I... Cause you wouldn't... Cause it's a rumor... right?

Beat.

DANNY
Uhm. Yeah, I guess. I guess, yeah. Thanks for... straightening that out.

JIMMY
Of course... Cause like Derek right? Like that would be... I mean he's... totally gross.

DANNY
I wouldn't say gross.

JIMMY
No, he is totally--

DANNY
He's really not that--

JIMMY
He's a gross jerk.

DANNY
You'd like him. If you--

JIMMY
No I wouldn't. We have nothing in common.

DANNY
I think you might. I think you might... get along.

A long beat.

DANNY
Cause. If... Hypothetically, if I like, had--

JIMMY
We should... get back to the... sky. Sector 66 is...

DANNY
We already did Sector 66.

JIMMY
Okay, Sector 67 then.

DANNY
Okay. Right.

(Beat.)
This is why I didn't want you to know.

JIMMY
About the rumor?

DANNY
Yeah. The rumor.

JIMMY
Why would... like, there's nothing... nothing like, nothing for me to be... you know, like
and even if it was. There isn't any reason... you know, why, why, why would--
(he fake laughs.)

Why, would I... care? What would I... you know?

DANNY
I guess you don't have a reason to.

JIMMY
Right. So. So. Right. Right. Cool. Cool cool. Yeah.

Jimmy goes back to the telescope.

JIMMY
Sector 6... uhm sector 67... is clear.

DANNY
67. Nothing. Or, no obvious... yeah.

(Beat.)
I just want to say. If I heard that you had made out with someone.
Even if it was someone who, like, I didn't like--

Who would I make out with? JIMMY

Alice. DANNY

Alice would never make out with me. JIMMY

If she did. DANNY

She wouldn't. JIMMY

If she-- DANNY

But-- JIMMY

IF SHE DID. DANNY

I would be happy for you. I would congratulate you. As your friend, I would--

JIMMY DANNY

But she just wouldn't make out with me, so I'm not sure what you're -- Jimmy, you're missing the--

JIMMY

Plus, like Alice, is, you can't compare Alice and Derek. Derek is a total jerk, nobody wants to make out with Derek.

DANNY

According to you.

JIMMY

According to... logic.

DANNY

Well... I like Derek. I don't think he's a jerk.

JIMMY

You don't like Derek.

DANNY

Yes I do.

Beat.

JIMMY

You don't spend any time with him. If you liked him, you'd, you'd spend time with him.

DANNY

I guess I don't, or didn't, but like, I like him now. Like I like like him. Or at least I did before he told everyone.

JIMMY

That's... that doesn't, people should like... people should like like who they like. Like they should like like people they spend time with and have fun with and they should make out and... you know with those people. Because that... those people make sense you know? Like I wouldn't make out with Alice because I don't like her. I don't spend time with her. She wouldn't make sense for me to--

DANNY

You would totally make out with Alice.

JIMMY

No I wouldn't and--

DANNY

Yes you would.

JIMMY

That's not the point.

DANNY

You're saying if Alice Thomson came up to you and said "Jimmy let me make out with you. Pull out your donger and I'll--"

JIMMY

Alice Thomson would never say donger.
And even if--

DANNY

You would say no?
I'm sure she would if--

JIMMY

Fine. I would. I would make out with Alice and... yes. If she asked. I guess. I mean... yeah. Yeah, I would. Okay?

Beat.

DANNY

Well I made out with Derek.

Beat.

JIMMY

Why didn't you tell me?

DANNY

I didn't want to hurt you.

JIMMY

Why would that hurt me?

DANNY

I didn't want to ruin our friendship.

JIMMY

Why would that hurt me? Why would that ruin--

DANNY

I didn't want you to... you know... be upset.

JIMMY

Why would I be upset?

DANNY

You are. You are upset. I told you and you're upset.

Beat.

JIMMY

I'm not.

DANNY

Jimmy--

JIMMY

I'm not like upset about you, like you can... like why would I, why would I be upset about that? You know? I'm just confused. I'm confused because Derek doesn't make sense, you know? With you. He's just weird with you. You and him don't make sense. He does sports and... it's not like he's popular it's... It's just weird. You two don't fit. You should... be with someone who makes sense.

DANNY

Like you?

JIMMY

I, uh... no not necessarily. But that would make sense. Right? Like...

Beat. Jimmy returns to his telescope.

JIMMY

Sector 68 has a lot of... there's a meteor shower or something.

DANNY

Jimmy...

JIMMY

Or... or it's just search lights from the video store. Shoot. I... uh. I got excited there... for a moment.

Beat.

DANNY

You know what else doesn't make sense? Coming out at night looking for aliens.

JIMMY

Yeah, no one has ever told me that before. What are you my parents?

DANNY

You look up every night and you see nothing, but you still come out here. You don't get mad at the sky 'cause it's... it's not showing you what you want, but... you... like it disappoints you, but you come out here anyway. Cause, like, I mean finding an alien would be great, but... like coming out here and watching the sky... That's pretty cool too. The sky, as is, is pretty great.

Beat.

JIMMY

You come out here too.

DANNY

I don't really care about the sky or the aliens. I come to spend time with my best friend.

Beat.

Why not me?

JIMMY

Did you want it to be--

DANNY

I don't... yeah? Yeah. Or... I just figured... like it would... happen that way. You know?

JIMMY

Well... It didn't... It didn't happen like that I guess. And, I mean, Derek has a brand new Huffy, not some generic Target brand bike, so that's pretty sweet.

DANNY

I can get a--

JIMMY

I'm Kidding. I'm Kidding.
I don't know why I... why it's, it's just... that's the way it happened, and I would say I'm sorry, but... I'm not. 'Cause, like I made out with a boy and it was really nice and--

DANNY

I'm happy for you. I am. Congrats.

JIMMY

Thank you.

DANNY

Beat.

Okay. Well... what do we do now?

JIMMY

Beat. Danny crosses to the telescope. She looks through the lens.

I don't want to jinx it, but sector 69 looks full of aliens. Also... 69 so... Nice!

DANNY

She holds her hand up for a high five. Jimmy stands there for a moment, before laughing and high-fiving her back. They return to their alien-hunting positions.

Derek is a jerk though.

JIMMY

So are you. That's why you'll get along.

DANNY

69 is clear.

JIMMY

69. No obvious aliens.

DANNY

FADE TO BLACK.