

**FIRST CONTACT**

By: Liam Fitzgerald

## 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."

Modern Day

## 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.

JIMMY

Hey. Are you still coming? Over.

DANNY (OVER WALKIE)

Of course. I'm on my way. Over.

JIMMY

How far are you? Over.

DANNY (OVER WALKIE)

Not far. Over.

JIMMY

How far is not far? Over.

DANNY (OVER WALKIE)

Really? Over.

JIMMY

Just a rough guess? Over.

DANNY (OVER WALKIE)

I'm biking. Over.

JIMMY

Well, can you --

DANNY (OVER WALKIE)

I could bike a lot faster if you stopped radioing me.

JIMMY

You didn't wait for me--

DANNY (OVER WALKIE)

Over.

Beat. Jimmy paces for a moment, rehearsing something in his head. He returns to his telescope.

Danny enters on her bike. She throws it down next to Jimmy's.

DANNY

Heyo!

JIMMY

Oh, hi.

DANNY

Hi?

JIMMY

Hi.

DANNY

You said that.

JIMMY

What?

DANNY

Hi, you already--

JIMMY  
Oh. Yeah. Well... Hi.

DANNY  
Dork.

JIMMY  
I was just worried that you had--

DANNY  
Sorry I'm late. My mom and dad were fighting real bad, so I had to sneak out.

She pulls out a well-worn notebook.

DANNY  
You start without me?

JIMMY  
Oh, yeah.

DANNY  
Rude.

JIMMY  
I'm sorry, I just have to be back in--

DANNY  
Kidding. Oh! You're jumpy--

JIMMY  
What?

DANNY  
Jumpy tonight.

JIMMY  
Oh, Yeah.

DANNY  
...Yeah.

JIMMY  
Do I say that a lot?

DANNY  
Noooo. Not at all. You find any aliens yet?

JIMMY  
Nope.

DANNY  
What have you covered?

JIMMY  
Sector 64 and 65.

DANNY  
Got it. 64, nothing. 65, nothing.

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

DANNY  
64 and 65, no aliens.

JIMMY  
And we don't really know if--

DANNY  
...What?  
I know that.  
I was just-- fine.

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--

DANNY

Mansplaining. Yes.

JIMMY

Mansplaining?

DANNY

That's what my mom calls it.

JIMMY

Yeah, I...guess... Is that a man thing?

DANNY

Oh yeah.

JIMMY

Does that mean it's good or bad?

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.

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

No, I'm not.

DANNY

(into walkie)

The aliens secretly watching wanna know why you're being super creepy.

JIMMY

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

DANNY

(into walkie)

Over.

DANNY

(into walkie)

I can tell when you're lying. Over.

JIMMY

No you can't.

DANNY

(into walkie)

Uhuh.

Over.

JIMMY

Nuhuh.

DANNY

(into walkie)

You're being weird and you're super sweaty.

JIMMY

I'm not, nothing--

DANNY

(into walkie)

Seriously dude. What's 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.

DANNY

(into walkie)

They saying I'm a nerd? That I'm not cool? Did the aliens rat me out?

JIMMY

(into walkie)

It was about you and Derek. They said--

Danny puts the walkie down.

DANNY

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

DANNY

Did they say anything about--

JIMMY

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

DANNY

Okay. That's cool.

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, why? Why would you say that?

JIMMY

What?

DANNY

Why would you say that 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. Yeah that's... that's a rumor.

JIMMY

Right.

DANNY

Thanks for... straightening that out. With them. That's, thanks.

JIMMY

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

DANNY

Well... I wouldn't say gross. Derek's not gross.

JIMMY

No, he totally--

DANNY

No, he's really not that--

JIMMY

He's a gross jerk.

DANNY

You'd like him. If you--

JIMMY

No. We have nothing in common. You know. Derek and I have nothing in common.

DANNY

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

A long beat.

DANNY

Hypothetically. If I like, had made out with--

JIMMY

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

DANNY

We already did Sector 66--

JIMMY

Okay, 67 then.

DANNY

Right.

(Beat.)

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

JIMMY

About the rumor.

DANNY

Yeah, about 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... it's clear.

DANNY

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

(Beat.)

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

JIMMY

Like who?

DANNY

I don't know.

JIMMY

Who would you--

DANNY

Alice.

JIMMY

Alice would never make out with me.

DANNY

If she did.

JIMMY

She wouldn't.

DANNY

If she did. I would be happy for you. I would congratulate you. I'd be happy for you.  
As your friend, I--

JIMMY

But she just wouldn't so there's no real  
point in any of this.

DANNY

Jimmy.

JIMMY

Plus, like Alice, is, you can't compare Alice and Derek. Derek is a total jerk, you  
shouldn't make out with guys like Derek. He's a jerk.

DANNY

According to you.

JIMMY

According to logic.

DANNY

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

Why?

DANNY

I don't know, maybe he was showing off.

JIMMY

No, why do you like... Why do you like like him.

DANNY

I don't know. He's nice. He's funny. He's handsome.

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?

DANNY

Are you saying you--

JIMMY

No. Like... no. I'm just saying that... Like I wouldn't make out with Alice because I don't like her. I don't spend all my time with her. She wouldn't make sense for me.

DANNY

You would totally make out with Alice.

JIMMY

No I wouldn't.

DANNY

You're saying if Alice Thomson came up to you and said "Jimmy let me make out with you and pull on your donger--"

JIMMY

Alice Thomson would never say donger.  
And...

DANNY

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

JIMMY

Fine. I would... I would make out with Alice. If she asked. I guess. I mean... yeah.

Beat.

DANNY

Well I made out with Derek.

Beat.

JIMMY

You lied.

DANNY

Yeah.

JIMMY

We said we would never--

DANNY

I know. 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 know if you would... you know, be upset.

JIMMY

Why would I be upset?

DANNY

You are. You're, like, I told you and you are now 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, you should like, but do whatever you want, you know. I'm not... It's just Derek doesn't make sense, you know? He's just weird with you. You and him don't make sense. He does sports and... he's like... it's like he's not popular, but... He just doesn't make sense. You don't like him. I mean, you, if you like like him, like, that's weird because you don't like him. You don't spend all your time with him. You should like like people you like and spend time with.

DANNY

Like you?

JIMMY

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

Beat. Jimmy returns to his telescope.

JIMMY

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

Oh 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. And you don't get mad at the sky 'cause it... 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 the sky's pretty cool too. The sky is... pretty cool as is...

Beat.

JIMMY

You come out here too.

DANNY

Yeah. But I don't really care about the sky or the aliens. I just wanna hang out with my best friend.

Beat.

JIMMY

But like... the sky is... great, but if I knew aliens existed and they just... like I just didn't... spot them that... like they showed up for someone else or something--

DANNY

That would suck. But... there'd still be some aliens. And that would be cool.

JIMMY

Right. Right. Yeah... Yeah.

I'm confused. Are we still talking about aliens?

DANNY

We were never really--

JIMMY

Right. Right.

Beat.

JIMMY

Why not me?

DANNY

Did you want to--

JIMMY

I... I don't... yeah. Yeah. A bit. I guess. Or I just figured... like it would... happen.

DANNY

Well... It just 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.

JIMMY

I can get a--

DANNY

Kidding. 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 dude and it was really nice and--

JIMMY

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

DANNY

Thanks.

Beat.

JIMMY

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

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

DANNY

I don't want to jinx it, but sector 69 looks full of aliens. Also... 69 so...  
(into walkie)

Nice!

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.

JIMMY

Derek is a jerk though.

DANNY

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

JIMMY

69 is clear.

DANNY

69. No obvious aliens.

FADE TO BLACK.