

An Artist's Tale
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Revisions by
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<http://home.metahelion.com/tale/>

EXT. PANAMA BAY

LISA, LAUREN, SAM, and REBEKAH are walking toward the door of the town cafe.

LISA
So, Wormy, your turn. Who's the last guy you liked?

LAUREN
It was just this guy...

REBEKAH
What, you don't like him anymore?

LAUREN
Well... I don't know.

SAM
Come on, Wormy! Tell us! What happened?

LAUREN
It's nothing, really. There was just this... voice...

LISA
A voice. You fell in love with a voice.

LAUREN
Hey, I wasn't the only one. There was fierce competition, man!

SAM
Was there really?

LAUREN
Yeah, with show-offs and sword fights and... It was pretty dramatic.

REBEKAH
Well? Come on, tell us the story! Start from the beginning.

LAUREN
Okay... Like I said, there was this voice...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK

LISA, LAUREN, SAM, and REBEKAH are standing together in the middle of a park.

LISA

I think this is a good place. Nice and open.

SAM

Yeah, room to practice our arts. So, what do you guys want to do?

LAUREN

I'm thinking of writing poetry...

LISA

That's cool. I think I'll practice my parts for the upcoming plays.

REBEKAH

And I'll sing!

The other three groan.

SAM

(grimacing)

Well, to each her own, I suppose...

They all start spreading out to individual spots.

GUY (O.S.)

Hey, ladies!

The four girls stop, look at each other, then huddle together.

LISA

Did you hear that?

LAUREN

Who was it?

REBEKAH

Do we know him?

SAM

(squinting in a general
O.S. direction)

Is he cute?

They all pause and look at SAM, who shrugs.

LISA
Well, ladies, I think there's only
one way to solve this.

REBEKAH
Oh yeah? How's that?

LISA
A little... competition. Say,
Shakespeare and poetry, perhaps?

SAM
Sounds good to me.

The others nod.

LISA
Then let the arts begin!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK

LISA is poised professionally, as if center stage. The others
are arranged a bit behind her, as if watching from the wings.

LISA
First, let us begin with a bit of
poetry.

SAM clears her throat, then takes LISA's previous spot center
stage. Clearing her throat, she begins.

SAM
My life sucks

My heart is broken
You broke it to pieces
And now I think I will cry
I will never get over you
Why, oh why?
And now I'm going to cry.
Goodbye.

LISA
(slowly, pausing after
each line)
No one.

No one.

No one.

Understands.

REBEKAH
(almost drunk)
Chocolate is yummy,

Soda is riper,

Give me either,

And I'll be super hyper!

LAUREN

I.

I am.

I am the.

I am the best.

I am the.

I am.

I.

LISA
And now... for some Shakespeare!

She prepares herself, then looks up.

LISA (CONT'D)
(melodramatic)
To be or not to be, --that is the
question:--

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them?

SAM
(overly enunciating iambic
pentameter)
But soft! What light through yonder
window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!
 Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
 Who is already sick and pale with grief,
 That thou her maid art far more fair than she.

REBEKAH

(too cheerfully)

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,

Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
 To the last syllable of recorded time;
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
 The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
 Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
 And then is heard no more: it is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
 Signifying nothing.

(beat)

Oh, wait. Was this supposed to be a tragedy? Um... can I start over? No, I got the wrong script; I...

WORMY

(quick and terrible
 acting)

(as Romeo)

Thou desperate pilot, now at once
 run on

The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!

Here's to my love!

She mimics drinking something quickly.

WORMY (CONT'D)

--O true apothecary!

Thy drugs are quick.--Thus with a kiss I die.

(as Juliet)

Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:--

O churl! drink all, and left no friendly drop

To help me after?

Yea, noise?--Then I'll be brief.--O happy dagger!

This is thy sheath;

She mimics stabbing herself.

WORMY (CONT'D)

there rest, and let me die.

(as Montague)

O thou untaught! what manners is in
this,

To press before thy father to a grave?

(as Prince)

For never was a story of more woe

Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

She bows dramatically, waving to audience members who clearly
are not there.

WORMY (CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you.

LISA

And now we shall announce the
winner --

REBEKAH runs up in front of LISA.

REBEKAH

Wait!! Give me one more chance,
please?

The others look at each other, then nod hesitantly.

REBEKAH (CONT'D)

(singing)

WE'RE SOARIN', FLYIN',

THERE'S NOT A STAR IN HEAVEN

THAT WE CAN'T REACH

IF WE'RE TRYING

SO WE'RE BREAKING FREE--

The other three wrestle her off the stage. LISA returns, holding a piece of paper.

LISA

And the winner is...

She looks at the paper, then turns it around, while the others lean in to see.

LISA, LAUREN, AND SAM

(pointing at REBEKAH,
still looking at the
paper)

Her?!

REBEKAH

Me? Me!

REBEKAH begins jumping up and down, while the others walk off, dejected. LAUREN glares at REBEKAH, then stalks off, only to return with a lightsaber.

LAUREN

Oh yeah? I'd like to see you win
after this!

LAUREN slashes with the lightsaber, killing REBEKAH, who falls to the ground. The others back away slowly.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

(facing a general off-
stage direction and
professing her love)

Now you're mine! All mine!
Mwahahahahaha!!!

GUY (O.S.)

Um... Actually, that's great and
all, and I'm sure you're really
talented, but, uh, I pretty much
hate the arts.

LAUREN falls to her knees, crushed.

LAUREN

Noooooooooooooooooo!!!!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PANAMA BAY

LISA, LAUREN, SAM, and REBEKAH are all sitting at a table, drinking coffee. LISA, SAM, and REBEKAH are leaning in toward LAUREN as she finishes her story.

LAUREN

So now you know... the rest of the story.

LISA, SAM, and REBEKAH all look at each other.

LISA

Wow. So I guess that means the moral of the story is -

REBEKAH

(interrupting)

Don't kill your friends over boys because boys are stupid!

SAM does a *face/palm*.

LISA

Well... I was going to go for something more like, "Stay true to your friends, because they'll be there for you when love betrays you..." but I suppose that works too...

SAM

(raising coffee)
To friends!

LISA, LAUREN, REBEKAH

(raising coffee)
To friends!

They all clink their cups together, drink, then slam their cups down (like Pirates).

CREDITS