

MIXED FEELINGS

Written by

Sydney Parkhurst

Sydney.Parkhurst@spartans.ut.edu
(401) 743-8655

1

INT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - SKY'S DORM - DAY

1

SKY, a 19 year old biracial girl who could pass as white, stands in front of her mirror, perplexed with the state of her frizzy, untamed hair.

Grunting, she grabs a brush and tries to brush down her hair and put it up into a bun.

Visibly unsatisfied with the bun, she sighs and grabs her backpack. Before heading out the door, she goes over to her whiteboard calendar and makes a big circle on the words, "BSU sign up day!".

Title Card: Mixed Feelings

2

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - CAMPUS - DAY

2

Sky walks with her two friends: KAITLYN, 19, a confident preppy girl with long blonde hair and blue eyes, takes long strides, wearing a revealing tank top with low waisted shorts and white Air Force One's. OLIVIA, 19, a less confident girl with long straight brown hair and a permanent dazed look on her face, walks alongside Kaitlyn.

OLIVIA

So... what club are you guys most excited to sign up for?

KAITLYN

Oh definitely the yoga club. Thats if I have time between school and my sorority.

OLIVIA

Wait your rushing? Thats so exciting!

KAITLYN

I know. My sister was in one at this school so I basically have a legacy to uphold.

OLIVIA

What about you Sky?

SKY

Um... I'm not too sure yet. I got a few flyers yesterday but none of them really seemed that interesting.

OLIVIA

Oh well, I'm sure you'll find something. Maybe a sorority!

SKY

I don't know...

3

INT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - CLASSROOM - DAY

3

The three girls walk into the classroom. They are the first ones there. They all sit next to each other, Olivia and Kaitlyn chatting about sorority life.

Sky reaches into her backpack and pulls out her notebook. AISHA, 20, a tall girl who walks with a bit of a hunch, self conscious of her height, walks into the classroom next. She sits down next to Sky.

AISHA

Thank god, another black girl...
Usually I'm the only one.

Sky and her friends look over at her. Sky realizes Aisha is talking to her.

SKY

Oh um... I'm not-

Kaitlyn and Olivia share an apprehensive look.

AISHA

We should totally get lunch together sometime! I swear theres like no diversity on this campus.

Aisha pulls out her phone, unaware of the attention from Kaitlyn and Olivia.

AISHA (CONT'D)

What's your number?

Kaitlyn and Olivia look at Aisha and start giggling and whispering to each other.

Sky looks back at her friends and then over to Aisha who now notices Kaitlyn and Olivia.

Sky opens her mouth to say something.

AISHA (CONT'D)

You know what... Nevermind.

Aisha turns to face the front and doesn't look back at the girls.

4 INT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - SKY'S DORM - DAY 4

Sky sits at her desk in her room doing homework.

Next to her computer is a family photo of Sky and her parents who are both white and look nothing like her.

Sky's phone lights up. It's her MOM calling her.

MOM

Hi honey. How is your day going so far?

SKY

Alright...

MOM

Sign up day is today right?

Sky looks over at the BSU flyer hanging on her whiteboard.

SKY

Uh yeah, I'm excited. Apparently the Black Student Union has new members make shirts when you sign up!

MOM

Oh wow that is exciting! I'm sure it'll be a lot of fun. Let me know how it goes!

Sky smiles and hangs up. She grabs the flyer off of her whiteboard and reads it excitedly.

5 EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - CAMPUS - DAY 5

Sky walks through campus toward a table with a sign that reads: BSU SIGN UP HERE.

The table has two BSU members behind it. TRENT, 20, biracial with a calm yet excitable demeanor, and a female whose face isn't visible yet.

Scattered in the grass behind the table are members of the BSU creating t-shirts.

As Sky gets closer, she realizes the female behind the table is the girl from class, Aisha.

She stops mid-step and turns around but Trent has already seen her.

TRENT

Hey! Are you here for some t-shirt making?

Sky squeezes her eyes shut before taking a deep breath and turning back around, facing the table.

Aisha raises an eyebrow, realizing who it is and clears her throat. She stands up tall but avoids eye contact with Sky.

SKY

Um yeah.

TRENT

Awesome! We're so glad you're here. Whats your name?

SKY

I'm Sky.

TRENT

That's such a pretty name. Fits you well... Alright um.. Let me just get you checked in here.

Trent writes her name down on his sign up sheet and then grabs a shirt from behind the table.

TRENT (CONT'D)

So as you can see, we're making t-shirts for our first meeting. We're pairing new members with upperclassmen so they can tell you a little bit about the club and answer any questions you may have.

Trent takes a quick look around, scanning for an open upperclassmen. He then focuses back on Sky.

TRENT (CONT'D)

What's your major?

SKY

English.

TRENT

Oh no way thats perfect! Aisha's an English major too! You two can pair up!

Aisha purses her lips and nods, taking the t-shirt aggressively from Trent.

TRENT (CONT'D)
Alright you two have fun!

6

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - GRASS - DAY

6

Sky follows Aisha to the grass behind the table. Aisha picks a spot and sits down.

Sky hesitates before sitting down next to her.

SKY
Look Aisha... I um... I had no idea...

AISHA
It's fine.

Aisha doesn't make eye contact with Sky and starts creating the shirt.

Sky watches for a second before grabbing a marker and helping.

The two sit in silence.

SKY
No... It's not fine. I'm sorry, I just didn't know what to say...

Aisha scoffs and shakes her head.

AISHA
Look, I get it. You're embarrassed. You'd rather hang out with your popular white friends than me.

SKY
No. That's not it at all. I just.. Well... I guess I was embarrassed. But not because of you.

AISHA
(Scoffs)
Wow thanks.

SKY
You just caught me off guard... I didn't know that I was half black until I was a senior in high school.

Aisha stops coloring and finally looks up to make eye contact.

AISHA

Girl what?

SKY

I was adopted when I was a month old. My adoptive parents didn't receive any racial information from my birth mom so I grew up in a white family in a very white community.

AISHA

And so you just assumed you were white?

SKY

I always knew that I probably wasn't, but I just wanted to fit in with everyone around me. I hated my hair... I cut it, straightened it, relaxed it-

AISHA

(Laughs)

Girl we've all been there. Got to love those chemicals burning through your scalp.

SKY

Wait... you've relaxed your hair before?

AISHA

Of course!

One of the girls, MAIA, who was sitting near them leans over.

MAIA

Wait, are you guys talking about relaxers?

AISHA

Yes! Don't you love that burning sensation?

MAIA

Oh my god it's literally the worst! Wait you did it to your hair?

SKY

Yeah.

MAIA

We all make mistakes. But honey natural hair is the new beautiful. You should let yours down once and a while.

SKY

Oh absolutely not. It looks like a birds nest.

AISHA

You just need some product in it! Seriously, embrace it!

MAIA

I may have overheard you guys talking earlier... If you hadn't noticed, but I love hair and seriously, if you need any help doing it, we're here for you girl.

AISHA

She's right. That's what the BSU is for.

SKY

Thank you guys... Really.

AISHA

And um... I'm sorry I misjudged you before. It was wrong of me to just assume like that.

Maia is on her phone scrolling through pictures of curly hair. She leans over and shows Aisha and Sky a picture of curly hair.

MAIA

I could totally do that with your hair!

AISHA

Yes! I love that!

SKY

Wait... You could do that to my hair?

MAIA

Yes of course! Come on. We're totally doing it before the BSU meeting tonight.

Sky smiles and continues talking to her new friends.

7

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - CAMPUS - DAY

7

Sky sits with Kaitlyn and Olivia at a picnic table. Sky sits on her phone, texting.

KAITLYN

So how was everyones day?

OLIVIA

Not great. We already have a test next week in my chemistry class.

KAITLYN

Well... I know something that'll cheer you up! Guess what?

Sky is on her phone. She has it open to a groupchat with Aisha and Maia.

OLIVIA

What?

KAITLYN

One of the frat guys invited us a party tonight! We're going!

OLIVIA

Are you serious? Thats so exciting. Oh my god wait. What am I going to wear?

KAITLYN

Sky? Sky! Did you hear anything I just said?

SKY

Uh yeah. Sorry.

Sky puts her phone in her pocket and looks at them.

SKY (CONT'D)

Theres a party tonight?

KAITLYN

Yes and we're going. So put on your sexiest dress and straighten your hair because we're about to get some hot guys tonight.

8

INT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - SKY'S DORM - NIGHT

8

Sky sits at her desk putting makeup on. On her bed sits a red cocktail dress and on her vanity, a hair straightener.

She finishes her makeup and looks at the straightener and then in the mirror.

She reaches for the straightener when her phone lights up with a text from Aisha: "Meet us in 5. And with your hair down! We're going to make you fall in love with your curls!"

Sky smiles at the text and then looks back in the mirror.

She then gets another text from Kaitlyn: "Sky where the hell are you? We're downstairs hurry up!"

Sky takes a deep breath and reaches up to her hair. Her fingers grab the elastic and she pulls.

CUT TO:

9

INT. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA - DORM LOBBY - NIGHT

9

The elevator doors open. Sky walks out of the elevator. Instead of wearing the cocktail dress, she is in jeans and her BSU t-shirt.

Instead of her hair being straightened, it is out of a ponytail and curly.

Kaitlyn and Olivia look at her, shocked.

KAITLYN

Uh what the hell happened to your hair?

OLIVIA

And what are you wearing?

Sky smiles at them.

SKY

You guys have fun at the party okay? I have a Black Student Union meeting to go to.

Sky walks past them and out the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

