

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET- DAY

The 3 figures get closer to Claire. Demitri, now the farthest ahead and coming up a couple yards behind Claire, calls out to her.

DEMITRI:

Yo! What up?

Claire squints, trying to see if she recognizes the boy. Her eyes widen a bit and we realize she does recognize him, vaguely.

Demitri comes to a skidding halt, the front end of his board meeting his hand as his toe flips up the back end of it.

DEMITRI:

Do I know you? You look so familiar.
We have a class together right?

CLAIRE:

Yeah, English. Ms. Marcy. I'm Claire.

DEMITRI:

Riiight. Yeah I know you, you write
for the paper too.

CLAIRE:

Yep.

DEMITRI:

Cool. Yeah, I'm Demitri. The two
behind me are Romeo and Delilah.

Just as Demitri finishes, Romeo and Delilah appear at his
side. Delilah smirks.

DELILAH:

Sorry am I interrupting? Dem what did
I tell you about talking to strangers.

Delilah mock scolds Demitri, pointing her finger and shaking
her head.

Claire is standing still and quiet now, looking at Delilah
with a half-amused smile.

DELILAH:

Hey, I'm Del.

She immediately points her conversation back at Demitri and
Romeo

DELILAH:

Come on you guys I gotta finish this
reel by the end of the month. And
what's up with you Romeo it's like you
became mute the second we pulled up
here. 5 minutes ago you couldn't keep
your mouth shut, you were talking me
off even-

Romeo cuts her off then.

ROMEO:

Aw shut up Del.

DEMITRI:
Yeah give him a break, DE-LI-LAH MA-
RIE.

Delilah shoots him a look, it's half-serious, half-playful.

DELILAH:
Demitri, you call me that again I'll
smack you on the side of the head like
I'm sure your mama did when you
misbehaved.

DEMITRI:
I never misbehaved.

ROMEO (SNORTS):
Yeah right.

Claire watches the conversation play out before her, she tugs the strap of her backpack awkwardly, unsure what to do next. She rakes a hand through her hair, and gives the three others a quick, forced and toothless smile.

CLAIRE:
Well, nice to meet you guys but-

DEMITRI:
Hold on, you're leaving already? We
all just met.

CLAIRE:
I mean, I gotta get to school.

She gestures down the road, awkwardly, pointing her thumbs behind her.

CLAIRE (CONT):
I'm already running late, I-

ROMEO:
You should hang with us.

CLAIRE:
Oh, I don't know I-

DEMITRI:
Y'know I like that idea Romeo. Del
whatta you think?

Delilah crosses her arms, unwelcoming. She looks between Demitri and Romeo, rolls her eyes and sighs.

DELILAH:
Yeah, you can come.

Claire instinctively smiles, but it fades quickly. She hesitates. She looks down at Elliott's skateboard. There is a buzz from her back pocket, her pager. A message: MARIA--
WHERE R U?

CLAIRE:
I really shouldn't, I-

DEMITRI:
Come on! Just for a little while, if
you decide you hate us you can ditch.

She looks back down at her pager. She winces.

CLAIRE:
Yeah, okay. I'll come, thanks.

She smiles again, shyly. She looks around at the three of them and catches Romeo's eye, they subtly smile at each other and Romeo looks away quickly, hiding his flushed face.

DEMITRI:
Yeahhhhh! Alright Claire. Welcome.

He goes over to Claire and shakes her shoulder, which makes her chuckle.