

(A split stage. On one side, LEXI plays video games with MARK and CODY while JAMES watches. On the other, LEE sits with ASHE, a laptop between them.)

Mark

I swear to Christ, Cody, steal the tank from me one more time and this game won't be the only place where I own your ass.

Cody

It's not my fault you're so slow, dude, the tank's in the same place every time.

Mark

Yeah, and you spawn closer to it every time. Let me have the tank once.

Cody

I don't believe in giving you something you haven't earned, Mark.

Lexi

Will you two shut up? I can't concentrate.

Lee

So wait, why are most of the options crossed out in red?

Ashe

Well, you can't select those now. You're too depressed.

Lee

But I haven't even done anything yet.

Ashe

Right. You start the game this way.

Lee

But all of the options I can click on will make me more depressed.

Ashe

Yeah, maybe.

Lee

Why would they let me see the good things if I can't actually do them?

Ashe(waves her arms)

Because that's what depression is like.

Lee

Huh.

(LEXI puts down her controller and raises her hands in triumph)

Lexi

Boo-yah, bitches!

Mark

This is just embarrassing at this point.

Cody

Maybe for you. I've accepted that she's going to kick our asses most of the time.

Lexi

Just don't suck so much, guys, that's all.

Mark

James, you wanna try?

James

Nah. I don't like Halo.

Cody

Why'd you even come over? You knew that's what we were doing today.

James

Because you guys like Halo.

Cody

Well, do you wanna play something else?

James

Honestly, it's fine.

Lexi

Okay! Stopping the argument. You pick a game, Mark.

Mark

Okay, lemme see what you guys have.

(LEXI starts playing with her phone)

Lee

So you're pretty into self-care, huh? I see a yoga mat over in the corner.

Ashe

I guess. I like to stay active. Meds are GREAT, don't get me wrong, exercise helps though. Meditating is wonderful, just having a second where all you need to do is breathe is...

What, uh, what do you do? Self-care-wise?

Lee

Uh, hate to say it, but not much.

Ashe

But you're so, y'know...

Lee

I'm dealing with a lot, yeah. Honestly it's fine, I'm used to it.

Ashe

Everyone needs to blow off steam.

Lee (raises eyebrows)

Oh I've got my ways of doing that, don't you worry.

Ashe

You're terrible. That's so gross.

Lee

Ah, you love it.

Lexi

I have got to clean up my Facebook profile. Time to de-friend some fools.

Mark

Yeah, delete the lot of 'em. Start fresh.

Lexi

Social media has totally fucked up the world. I used to go weeks without hearing dumb opinions and now I get them with my breakfast.

Cody

You could NOT go on Facebook while you eat breakfast.

Lexi

Logic. You have that going for you, at least.

Cody

Hey, she called me logical!

Mark
Yeah! Maybe you could "logic" a girl into going out with you!

(LEXI starts typing a status.)

Watcha doing?

Lexi
Shit-stirring.

Mark
Nice.

Hey, let's play Brawl!

Lexi
Really?

Mark
Brawl is fun! And I'm good at it.

Lexi
Okay, you'll have to plug in the Wii, I don't use it much.

(LEXI hits send)

To all these girls on my feed whining about how catcalling is soooo offensive...uh, speak for yourself!

Lee
My turn to show you something.

Ashe
But you haven't even finished one play-through.

Lee
I got the gist. Can I log into my iTunes?

Ashe
You actually paid for media?

Lee
It is IMPOSSIBLE to find anywhere "Living Single" is streaming and I don't wanna put bugs in the computer you use for work.

Ashe
I've actually never heard of that show.

Lee

Oh you're about to get real familiar.

(ASHE starts playing with her phone)

Oh, by the way..

(LEE pulls a bag out of her pocket)

I brought you a present.

Ashe

What's...oh! I, uh, don't smoke. But thank you.

Lee

Of course you don't. No worries. Do you mind if I do?

Ashe

Yeah, go for it.

(LEE examines ASHE)

Lee

You know, you're allowed to say no.

Ashe

Honestly it's no big deal.

Lee

I can feel your back getting straighter from my side of the couch. I'm being serious, it's totally fine if you don't want me smoking in your apartment.

Ashe

Okay.

Lee

Say the words.

Ashe

Lee, I'd rather you not smoke in my apartment please.

Lee

Okay. I won't.

(LEE puts the bag away)

Was that hard?

Ashe

A little.

(ASHE scrolls through her phone again. She sees LEXI's status and makes a quizzical face)

Lee

Okay, I'll just show you my favorite episode.

Ashe

Sure, put on whatever you want.

(ASHE types out a reply:)

I kinda feel like they are?

Lexi

Who's your main, Mark?

Mark

The only correct way to play Brawl is to play with Fox on Final Destination, no items.

Lexi

I didn't ask you that, I asked who your main was.

Mark

...Captain Falcon.

Cody

Seriously? Do you put him in the pink suit too?

Mark

Hey, Captain Falcon rocks.

(LEXI feels her phone buzz and sees ASHE's reply)

Cody

He has one good move and he lets you know exactly when he's about to use it!

Mark

Falcon Punch is not his only good move.

(LEXI types out a reply)

I feel like when you say stuff like "all women hate being catcalled" that's the definition of speaking for other people, and not a judgment call you can make.

Mark

Who do you play as, smartass?

Cody

Donkey Kong.

(ASHE gets the reply. The laugh track on the episode they're watching sounds. LEE laughs along. ASHE types out another reply instead)

It's not exactly a controversial opinion that catcalling is gross, sexist behavior and makes women feel threatened when they're doing something as simple as walking down the street.

Lee

Okay I'm used to you not finding ME interesting, but Queen Latifah is not someone you just ignore.

Ashe

Sorry, sorry, I'll pay attention.

Mark

Donkey Kong. Slow, heavy, dumb, sounds like you.

Cody

First of all, rude. Second, the Kong is as OP as you can get without being completely broken. His up-B move? The propeller thing? It's a recovery move AND an offensive move.

(LEXI shifts positions while she types out another reply)

It's an uncontroversial, unquestioned opinion, yeah. Ever notice that's it's always pretty girls using that complaint to get people to pay attention to them? Total power move. It's the one thing they can say to make people feel sorry for them.

Lee

Who are you arguing with?

Ashe

Nobody, it's...it's an old friend of mine, she's famously stubborn. I'm about to shut her down though.

Lee

Okay, well hurry up.

(ASHE types out a lengthy reply)

So are women not supposed to share information about the kind of behavior that bothers them because it makes them seem stuck up and self-important? This is a common experience that women go through and attempting to distance yourself makes it seem like you're arguing in bad faith. And by the way, the majority of the time I've been catcalled, I've been wearing sweatpants and an old t-shirt. It's not about complimenting a person, it's about showing dominance and letting women know...

Lexi

Oh my God this is like two paragraphs long.

Mark

Lex?

Lexi

It's my friend, she is being RELENTLESS.

Cody

The one you wanted to block?

Lexi

No, I normally like this one, she's just being a bitch right now.

Mark

Do you, like, need backup?

Lexi

What? No, this is a dumb argument. Should be over after this.

(LEXI types out a reply)

Would you have been having this argument with me this time last year?

(ASHE gets the reply and her face pales. She gets off the couch and dials LEXI's number. LEXI answers.)

Lexi

Hey Ashe.

Ashe

What are you doing?

Lexi

Playing video games, what're you doing?

Ashe

No! No. What. Are. You doing? First you go off on some insane rant about catcalling..

Lexi

I wasn't the one ranting, if you didn't respond it would have just been a one-off status..

(JAMES pulls out his phone and scrolls through something on the screen)

Ashe

And THEN you, what, throw my transition in my face? Like it's ammunition in your weird little crusade?

Lexi

Whaaaaat are you talking about?

Ashe

You can't throw around shit about my life, my PERSONAL life, like it's some bit of data you can use to prove your point!

Lexi

Ashe, that's honestly not what I was trying to do at all. I'm sorry you took it that way, I was honestly just asking a question.

Ashe

I want you to take it down.

(JAMES types something into his phone)

Lexi

If I delete the post it'll look like you won the argument.

Ashe

Take down the whole thing, then. Just...please, even if you don't get it, I don't want you to say stuff like that online.

Lexi

All right! All right, I'll take it down. Geez, I forgot how sensitive you are.

Ashe

Thank you.

Lexi

Aaaaand deleting.

(LEXI deletes the thread. Before the thread disappears we

see a new comment that was posted by JAMES:

You're really committed to the White Knight bit, huh? Pretty pathetic. Betas never prosper, you know. And neither do traps.)

Cool. We good?

Ashe

Absolutely.

Lexi

Hey, I'm coming in town for my birthday in a couple weeks. Chat then?

Ashe

Yeah! Yeah, totally. I miss you.

Lexi

I miss you too!

Ashe

I'll bring bacon.

Lexi

I'll bring eggs!

(They laugh. Their respective friends stare at them.)

Ashe

Okay bye, love you.

Lexi

Love you too.

(They both hang up. They turn back to their friends and notice the staring.)

Ashe and Lexi

What?

Lee

What the hell was that?

Mark

That is the girliest thing I've ever seen you do.

Lexi

Oh fuck off.

Ashe

What was what?

Lee

You just went through FIVE different gears. I don't think I've seen a person do that before.

Cody

So Lex does have female friends. Interesting.

Lexi

Yup. Just the one. Ashe.

Cody

And you haven't introduced us why?

Ashe

Oh, yeah...Lexi uh, brings out that side of me I guess.

Lee

What was the post you wanted her to take down?

Ashe

Oh, she deleted it. Don't worry about it.

Lexi

Well, one, she lives in LA, two, she's not your type.

Cody

EVERY girl is my type.

Lexi

Eyeeeeeah, I don't know.

Lee

What did she say?

Ashe

It was dumb. I was probably overreacting.

(LEE examines ASHE)

I've known Lexi since we were six. You ever have a friend like that? It's a little hard to stay mad at them.

(JAMES picks up a controller)

Mark

Hey, James is in!

James

I like Brawl.

Mark

Who's your main?

James

Jigglypuff.

Cody

Oh, you're one of THOSE assholes.

Lee

Look, I'm not going to tell you how to run your life, but I'm a little older than you and I've seen shit. Certain people? Certain people don't deserve to have the kind of hold on you that this girl seems to. And if she did something to freak you out that much, I'd take a hard think about why you forgave her so easily.

Ashe

It's not like that, it was just a knee-jerk thing. Here, let's keep watching.

(They do. Neither of them is enjoying themselves as much.

On LEXI's side of the stage, Ryan comes home)

Ryan

Oh. Hey, guys.

Mark

Hey Ryan.

Ryan

Wow, you hooked up the Wii? What's the occasion, child's birthday party?

Cody

We're playing Brawl. Wanna replace the loser?

Ryan

Uh...yeah, sure. Let me just, uh, go change out of my work duds.

(He leaves the room)

Mark

Lex, what about you? Who's your main?

Lexi

Oh. Bowser.

I like to wreck shit.