

ACCIDENTAL MESSAGE

Written by

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INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY - PRESENT

The FEMALE STUDENTS and PARENTS lounge around a decorated classroom. They talk, laugh, and eat from one of the desks.

KEITH FOREMAN, 16, baby-blue collar shirt, sits in a chair near his desk. He texts on his phone.

KEITH (O.S.)  
Hey, can we talk?

His phone has a blue, cartoon dolphin sticker on the back.

Keith types up the words as he continues to speak.

KEITH (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
There's something I-- actually, you  
need to know.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY - FLASHBACK

GARY STONES, 16, white-collar shirt with a blue scarf, walks backward as he talks to Keith. They enter the school fair.

KEITH (O.S.)  
You and I have been friends for a  
long time. So I hope this doesn't  
change anything between us.

Other STUDENTS and GUESTS of all ages enter.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Keith puts sea creature-themed stickers on the doors and walls, then on Gary's face.

KEITH (O.S.)  
I'm not sure if I have the right  
words to say this, but I'm--

Gary points at a food truck from the window. He waves at Keith, then exits.

Keith smiles, waves goodbye, then frowns.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY - PRESENT

Keith looks at his phone and reads his email. The text reads: "I'm gay." He fixates on Gary's email address.

He pulls the phone to his chest as he takes a deep breath.

KEITH

An idiot.

He almost drops his phone as a group of MALE STUDENTS walks near him. He catches it, then looks at the group.

They sit down at a desk, then continue to talk to each other.

Keith tucks away, then looks at his phone again. His eyes widen when a notification on the lower corner reads: "SENT."

KEITH (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no--

Keith looks at the group behind them.

They stare at him.

Keith smiles awkwardly, stands up, then exits.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Keith enters, then puts both of his hands onto the side of his head as he starts to pace around.

KEITH

Crap! This wasn't supposed to happen.

A few students walk by, whisper to each other, then exits.

Keith mumbles to himself.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Okay, think. How can I fix this?

Keith walks towards the window. He looks at the food truck in the courtyard, then he spots Gary in line.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

Gary's phone rumbles. He takes out his phone, then sees an email notification.

He hovers his finger to his touch screen until a call from Keith comes in. He answers.

GARY

Hello?

KEITH (O.S.)

Gary! Hey, so funny question.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - DAY

Keith pushes through the CROWD OF STUDENTS and GUESTS as he talks to Gary from his phone.

KEITH  
Say, I dunno, you accidentally sent  
an email that can destroy your  
whole life in seconds--

Keith almost loses balance until he starts to run. He tries to go through the crowd, but a few students look at him.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
Not that it happened, but what  
would you do?

GARY (O.S.)  
Uh, depends. What's the email  
about?

He stops in the middle of the hall. He sees two paths: one with a bigger crowd and another with the exit. He looks back and forth at his options.

GARY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
You still there?

KEITH  
Uh, yes. Sorry.

Keith runs towards the exit. He opens the doors.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Keith walks down the stairs as he passes by a few GIRLS on the staircase. He speaks with a soft voice.

KEITH  
Excuse me. Sorry.

He moves carefully to not step on the their food.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
Context isn't all that important.

Once he reaches the bottom of the staircase, he exits.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - OUTDOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Keith rushes out of the door, then hides behind a tree to catch his breath. He peeks out and sees a bunch of students standing in line for the bathroom.

KEITH

Anyway, what would you do?

Some students sat on the grass or hang around the school's iron fence.

GARY (O.S.)

I'm not really sure why you're  
calling me if you can meet me in  
the courtyard.

Keith looks at the empty staircase, then runs towards it.

EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL - OUTDOOR HALLWAY - UPSTAIRS - DAY

Keith runs upstairs. He looks below him and spots Gary. He sees Gary in front of the line of the food truck.

GARY

Oh, hold up. Gotta pay for my food.  
Come by so we can chat.

Keith stops.

KEITH

Wait, no--

GARY (O.S.)

Later!

Gary hangs up. Keith sighs, puts his phone in his pocket, then rushes down the stairs. He jumps on the ledge of the stairs and slides down.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

Gary pays the MAN in the food truck, then walks away with his hotdog. He pulls out his phone, turns it on, then fixates at the email icon.

Keith lands on his feet, then spots Gary on his phone. He sweats, then runs towards his friend.

Gary unlocks his phone, then types up the password until...

KEITH  
Hey, can I borrow this? Thanks.

Keith takes Gary's phone from his hand, then runs.

GARY  
Hey! Give me back my phone!

Gary runs after Keith.

Guests and Students emerge in.

Keith bumps into a few students as he tries to unlock Gary's phone. He tries to guess the password, but fails.

KEITH  
Can you tell me your password?

GARY  
Give me back my phone.

KEITH  
Not unless you tell me.

Gary gets stuck within the crowd. He slows down to pass through them, then he sees Keith exit through the stairs.

GARY  
This isn't funny, man.

Gary runs after him.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - OUTDOOR HALLWAYS - DAY

Keith attempts to crack open Gary's phone, but continues to fail. Gary's phone goes on lockdown.

KEITH  
Damn it.

Keith stops, then stares at the GROUP OF STUDENTS as they enter. He turns around to exit, but stops when he sees Gary on the other side.

GARY  
Keith, give me back my phone.

Keith dodges Gary and tries to run off.

Gary tugs Keith's arm, then pulls him in.

GARY (CONT'D)  
Come on, I'm being serious.

Gary tries to reach for his phone.

Keith pulls away.

KEITH

Give me your password and I'll give  
it back.

GARY

Why do you need it?

The group of students watches Keith and Gary fight to  
retrieve the phone.

KEITH

Give me your password.

GARY

Not until you explain to me what's  
going on.

Keith and Gary tug back and forth for the phone as they move  
towards the edge of the iron bars.

The phone slips through their fingers, then falls to the  
solid ground. Its screen cracks.

Keith glances at Gary, who has a visible expression of anger.

KEITH

Gary I--

Keith tries to put his hand on Gary's shoulder.

Gary pushes it away, then exits.

GARY

Not now, man.

The group of students whispers to one another, then exits.

Keith pulls out his phone, unlocks it, then opens up his sent  
email. He reads the email.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

Most of the guests exit from the courtyard. Some students say  
their farewells before they exit.

Gary walks up to pick up his phone. He sees the cracks on the  
screen. He tries to turn it on, but it doesn't.

Keith enters.

KEITH

Hey.

Gary ignores him.

KEITH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for breaking your phone.  
I was--

Gary bats an eye at him. His stare cuts Keith off. He shakes his head, then walks away.

Keith takes a deep breath, then looks down.

KEITH (CONT'D)

I was afraid that you might find  
out.

Gary stops.

KEITH (CONT'D)

I sent you something that I was  
going to say to you, but I freaked  
out and--

Keith starches his head, then paces around.

KEITH (CONT'D)

I tried to delete it from your  
phone.

Keith lifts his head a bit, then puts his left hand on his right arm.

KEITH (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to make things worse.

Keith walks closer to Gary.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Truth is I-- well, I'm--

Keith's eyes wander off. He breathes in, then looks at Gary.

KEITH (CONT'D)

I'm gay. I was afraid to tell you  
because I didn't want to make  
things awkward.

(beat)

Seems that I already hit the  
ballpark on that one.

Gary turns to face Keith. He crosses his arms.



GARY  
Yeah, you sure did. Honestly, I'm  
not too surprised.

KEITH  
What do you mean?

GARY  
Dude, I knew you were gay since  
middle school. I was waiting for  
the day till you fest up.

Keith covers his face with his collar shirt and arms.

KEITH  
Was it obvious?

GARY  
Yeah, you're not good at hiding  
secrets, but it's okay.

Gary moves towards Keith. He wraps his right arm around  
Keith's shoulders.

Keith uncovers his face.

GARY (CONT'D)  
What and who you like-- doesn't  
concern me. It would never change  
the fact that I'm your friend.

Gary pulls out his phone.

GARY (CONT'D)  
Although, the phone might.

They laugh.

KEITH  
I can buy you a new one.

GARY  
Deal.

Keith hugs Gary as he tears up. Gary returns the hug. He pats  
Keith in the back.

**END**