



RUNAWAY

CHAPTER-13

BY IZUMISAN





A woman with blonde hair, wearing a green jacket and black shorts, standing on the paved path.

A man with brown hair, wearing a green shirt and black pants, standing on the paved path.

A long table with various items including water bottles, cans, and food, set up against the building.

A woman with black hair, wearing a purple top and black skirt, standing near the table.

A group of people dancing on a blue mat in the center of the courtyard.

A man with black hair, wearing a plaid shirt and black pants, walking on the paved path.

A woman with red hair, wearing a red jumpsuit, standing on the grass.

A man with blue hair, wearing a blue jumpsuit, standing on the grass.

HA! NO WAY! I JUST SAW HER REJECTING THREE GUYS IN A ROW. SHE SEEMS HARD TO IMPRESS. MORE LIKE HE'S NEXT IN LINE FOR REJECTION.

YOU'RE ON! I BET HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.

DO YOU THINK HE HAS A CHANCE WITH HER?

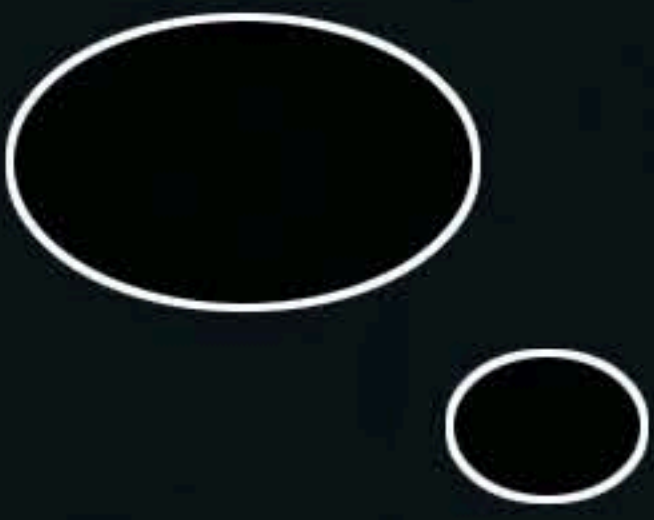
COME ON! HE'S GOT MOVES. YOU WANNA BET? I'M PUTTING MY MONEY ON HIM!



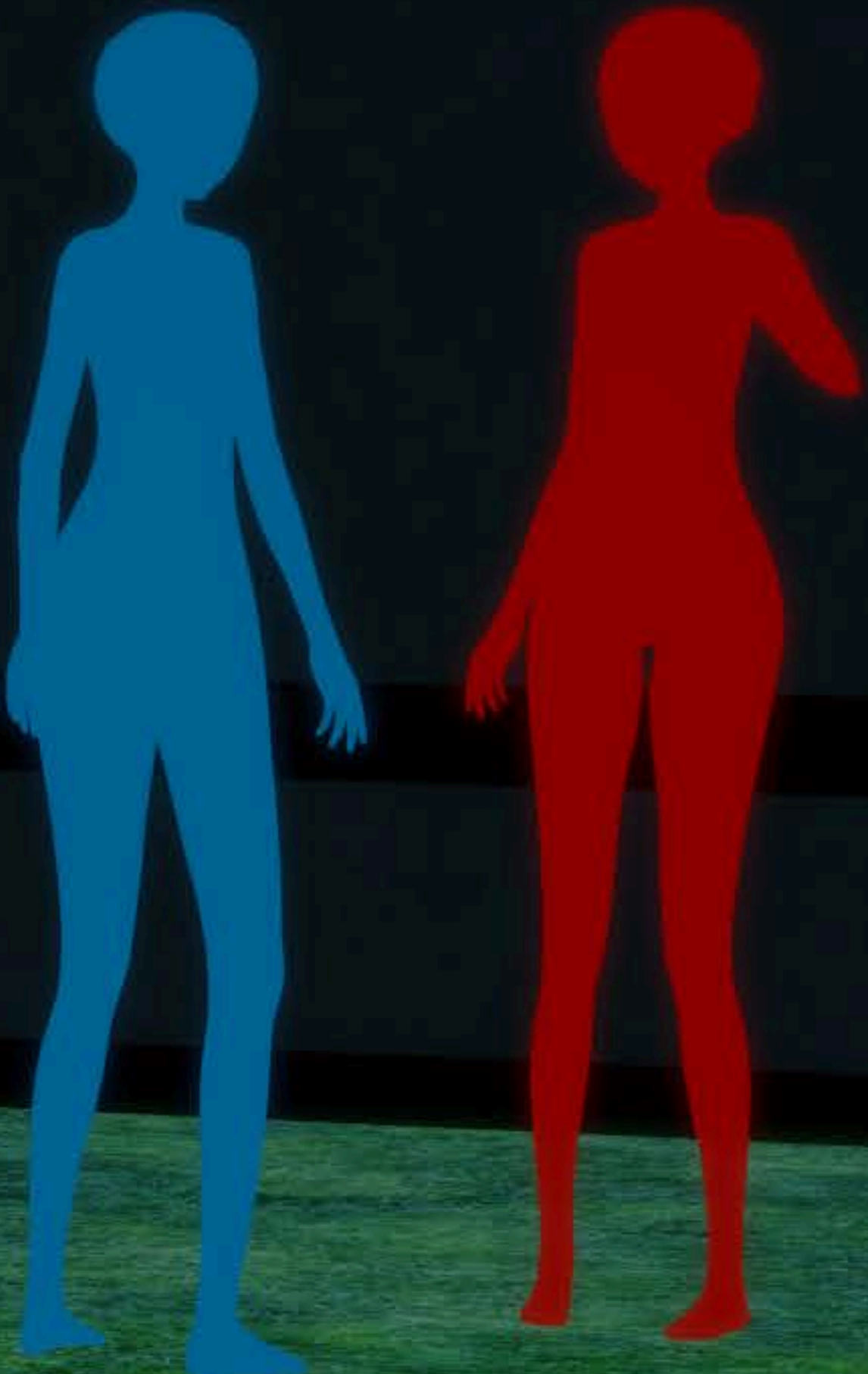


SLURP!

I'VE ALREADY WASTED TOO MUCH TIME.
I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET INSIDE THE
HOUSE AND FIND THAT FILE ASAP!




HEY! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN
SCHOOL. DO YOU GO TO THE SAME
SCHOOL AS US?





OH, YOU MUST BE FROM THE JUNIOR CLASSES. I HEARD SOME NEW STUDENTS JOINED RECENTLY, IF I'M NOT WRONG.

UGH, HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE.



SORRY, BUT MY PARENTS ONLY ALLOWED ME TO ORGANIZE THIS PARTY ON THE CONDITION THAT NO ALCOHOL WOULD BE SERVED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PLENTY OF SOFT DRINKS YOU CAN TRY.

YEAH, WE ONLY INVITED A FEW STUDENTS WE KNOW. AND ALICE TOLD ME THAT YOU AND MIA KNOW EACH OTHER. SINCE SHE'S OUR CLASSMATE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO INVITE YOU TOO. BUT, UMM, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU TWO TALKING. UMM, AREN'T YOU TWO FRIENDS?

REALLY, NOT EVEN A BEER?

UHH, ALRIGHT... ANYWAY, THANKS FOR INVITING ME. I HEARD YOU ONLY INVITED A LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENTS.

HMM, YOU COULD SAY WE'RE FRIENDS, BUT...

... SHE'S BUSY RIGHT NOW.
LOOKS LIKE THOSE GUYS ARE
REALLY GIVING HER A HARD TIME.





THEN I MADE UP THIS RIDICULOUS LIST OF 'CHALLENGES,' LIKE BALANCING A SPOON ON HIS NOSE WHILE RECITING THE SCHOOL'S ANTHEM BACKWARDS. HE TOOK IT ALL SERIOUSLY AND TRIED TO DO IT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. IT WAS SO HILARIOUS.

YEAH, IF YOU WERE THERE AT THAT TIME, YOU'D HAVE BEEN LAUGHING NON-STOP. ANYWAY, I'VE NOTICED YOU'VE BEEN STANDING HERE ALONE. MY FRIENDS AND I ARE ABOUT TO PLAY SOME CARD GAMES. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

OH MY GOSH, THAT'S SO FUNNY!

OH, IT'S ALRIGHT... WE'RE JUST OVER THERE, AND IF YOUR FRIENDS WANT TO JOIN, THEY'RE TOTALLY WELCOME TOO.

OH, THANKS, BUT MY FRIENDS ASKED ME TO WAIT HERE. YOU SEE THEM ON THE DANCE FLOOR?

UH, SORRY, WE CAN'T. WE'VE GOT OTHER PLANS. BUT IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU! SEE YOU AROUND.

HUH, WHAT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE...

WHAT A CLOWN... HE THOUGHT HE COULD IMPRESS A GIRL BY MAKING A FUN STORY OUT OF BULLYING A STUDENT.

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○

PHEW!





AM I REALLY BECOMING MORE LIKE A GIRL DAY BY DAY?

WELL, THE GOOD THING IS THAT NOW I CAN EASILY HANDLE THESE TYPES OF GUYS.

UGH, NO, THIS IS ALL JUST PART OF THE ACT.

HEY MIA!

OH HEY, JACK!

WAIT, IS THAT TESSA?
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

WINK

WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE
LOOKS SO DOWN ALL OF A SUDDEN.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?





HUH, YEAH, EVERYTHING'S FINE.

HAHA, DON'T WORRY!
I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN!

HMM, THAT'S GOOD THEN.
HOPE YOU'RE HAVING A GREAT TIME HERE.
OTHERWISE, CLARA'S GOING TO RAIN
DOWN ON ME WITH HER SCOLDING!



LOOK AT THEM, IT SEEMS LIKE
THEY'RE GOING TO BREAK THE
DANCE FLOOR TODAY!

THEN WHAT ARE WE DOING
HERE? LET'S GO JOIN THEM!

HAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVEN'T
SEEN THEM STEP OFF THE DANCE
FLOOR SINCE I ARRIVED.

YEAH, LET'S GO. OR ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO JUST STAND AROUND DRINKING JUICE THE WHOLE PARTY? COME, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

HMM, I'VE GOT A FEELING SOMETHING'S OFF. COME ON, TELL ME--ARE YOU HAVING A HEADACHE OR SOMETHING? JUST LET ME KNOW AND I'LL GRAB SOME MEDICINE FROM BETTY'S ROOM FOR YOU.

HUH, JOIN THEM? YOU... YOU MEAN DANCE?

LMM, YOU GO AHEAD. I... I'M NOT FEELING LIKE DANCING.

NO, YOU'RE WORRYING FOR NOTHING. IT'S NOTHING LIKE...



WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY STOP TALKING?
ARE YOU SURE EVERYTHING'S FINE?

WAIT, WHAT AM I DOING?
THIS IS PERFECT CHANCE. I NEED TO COME UP WITH
SOMETHING SO I CAN GET INSIDE THE HOUSE.



UM, ACTUALLY, YOU ARE RIGHT...
I DO HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM...

WELL, YOU KNOW...
IT'S... KIND OF A MONTHLY THING.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S ALRIGHT, YOU CAN TELL ME.

A MONTHLY THING? I'M NOT
QUITE SURE WHAT YOU MEAN.

YOU KNOW, IT'S... SOMETHING THAT... INVOLVES CRAMPS... AND HAPPENS EVERY MONTH FOR GIRLS. IT'S, UM, RELATED TO THAT TIME OF THE MONTH....

HUH?



WHAT A DUMBASS!

OH, I GET IT NOW. I'M SORRY,
I DIDN'T GET IT EARLIER. THAT MUST BE TOUGH.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING
SOONER. I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO BAD.



OH, UM, THERE'S A BATHROOM IN THE BACKYARD IF YOU NEED IT. JUST FOLLOW THE PATH AROUND THE SIDE.

OH, SURE! NO PROBLEM. JUST FOLLOW ME, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE IT IS.

THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING. YOU KNOW IT'S JUST A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE... AND I REALLY NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM RIGHT NOW.

ACTUALLY, THE BATHROOM IN THE BACKYARD IS FULL OF OTHER STUDENTS. I CHECKED SEVERAL TIMES AND IT'S STILL OCCUPIED. UM, I HATE TO ASK, BUT... COULD I MAYBE USE THE BATHROOM INSIDE YOUR HOUSE? IT'S KIND OF URGENT.



OH, NO, THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT YOUR TIME HERE. I CAN FIND IT MYSELF. YOU SHOULD STAY AND ENJOY THE PARTY.

FEW MINUTES LATER...



FINALLY, I'M INSIDE THE HOUSE,
BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M DOING IS EVEN
RIGHT OR WRONG. IF ANYONE FINDS OUT I'M
HERE TO STEAL A FILE, I'M IN TROUBLE.

NO, NO, WHY WOULD ANYONE SUSPECT
A SCHOOLGIRL? AND CLARA SAID THIS FILE IS REALLY
IMPORTANT TO HER. SHE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR US,
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HELP HER WITH THIS.



AH, HERE ARE THE STAIRS.



CLARA SAID THAT AFTER GOING UP
THE STAIRS, I JUST NEED TO TURN LEFT, AND
JACK'S UNCLE'S OFFICE WILL BE RIGHT THERE.

HMM, HOW DOES SHE KNOW
EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE?

A character with long black hair, wearing a white visor with a blue bow, a blue long-sleeved shirt, a grey pleated skirt, black knee-high socks with white stripes, and white shoes with blue bows, is walking up a staircase. The staircase has a red and black patterned carpet. The hallway is blue with several framed pictures on the wall and a blue door. A large rug with a geometric pattern is on the floor.

SHE MENTIONED THAT SHE AND BETTY USED TO BE VERY GOOD FRIENDS. HMM, SHE MIGHT HAVE VISITED HERE MANY TIMES BEFORE.

HERE I'M! NOW I JUST
NEED TO FIND THAT FILE.



HUH! THERE ARE FILES PILED UP EVERYWHERE! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND THAT ONE FILE IN ALL THIS MESS?






AH~ ALRIGHT, I'M ALREADY HERE NOW.
LET'S JUST START SEARCHING FROM ONE CORNER.





THUD!

THUD!



UGH, I'VE SEARCHED HALF
THE ROOM AND STILL HAVEN'T FOUND
THAT FILE.

LOOKS UP

AND STILL THERE'S A WHOLE MASSIVE
RACK OF FILES LEFT TO GO THROUGH.
THIS IS SO OVERWHELMING!

WAIT, THAT'S THE ONLY FILE WITH A RED COVER IN THIS ENTIRE ROOM. I SHOULD GO CLOSER AND TAKE A PROPER LOOK AT IT.





I CAN SEE THE COMPANY LOGO AND YEAR ON THAT FILE, JUST AS CLARA MENTIONED. THIS MUST BE THE FILE I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!

YES, I FINALLY FOUND IT! BUT IT'S ON THE TOP RACK. I NEED TO FIND A CHAIR OR SOMETHING TO GET TO IT.

MEANWHILE DOWNSTAIRS...

WELL, AT LEAST THAT BITCH KEEPS JACK FROM MAKING A MESS INSIDE THE HOUSE. OTHERWISE, CLEANING UP AFTER THE PARTY WOULD BE A TOTAL NIGHTMARE.

UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE BETTY MADE ME WORK OVERTIME JUST BECAUSE OF THIS KIDS' PARTY TODAY.



HUH, WHAT'S THAT SOUND COMING FROM UPSTAIRS? I SAW JACK OUTSIDE FROM THE WINDOW JUST A MINUTE AGO, THEN WHO COULD BE UP THERE?





FLUCK, I FORGOT TO PUT MY PHONE ON SILENT.

EMMA

Remind Me

Message

Decline

HANG UP

WHY IS SHE CALLING ME AT THIS HOUR?

UH, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW. LET'S JUST PUT THE PHONE ON SILENT.

I NEED TO QUICKLY GRAB THAT FILE AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE COMES UP.



LIGHTS ON

LIGHTS ON

SHIT!

WHO ARE YOU, AND
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?

TO BE CONTINUED...

