

MISS PERFECT

Scene
Only
E/F/K
Koon

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3 *TERI:* Pretty, energetic, seems to have a lot going for her.
4 *JAN:* Teri's best friend. Not as excitable as Teri, more stable in her
5 outlook.
6 *SETTING:* Scene takes place in JAN's house. The girls are
7 studying, talking, just being friends.
8
9 *JAN:* I don't know how you do it.
10 *TERI:* Do what?
11 *JAN:* Balance it all. Cheerleading, grades, boys, everything.
12 What did you get on that test in trig yesterday?
13 *TERI:* An A.
14 *JAN:* Of course.
15 *TERI:* Why, what did you get?
16 *JAN:* A C minus. And I was happy to see it. I hate trig. It is so
17 stupid. Why do we have to take it?
18 *TERI:* So we can get into a good college.
19 *JAN:* Why do I bother? I am going to end up at the JC. Me
20 and the rest of the morons.
21 *TERI:* Now, stop it.
22 *JAN:* I'm serious. I will end up in that intellectual vacuum,
23 majoring in something really special, like say, typing. My
24 life is hell. All because of *trig!*
25 *TERI:* Jan, all you have to do is apply yourself.
26 *JAN:* I do apply myself, "Mom." And thanks for the lecture.
27 *TERI:* I'm not lecturing you.
28 *JAN:* Geez, that's what it's beginning to sound like. If I want
29 this, I'll go home.
30 *TERI:* You are home.
31 *JAN:* See what I mean? This stupid trig and all this other
32 stuff has got me so messed up, I don't even know where
33 I am.
34 *TERI:* Let's not get carried away, OK? Sit back down and I
35 will help you, all right?

1 JAN: It's a lost cause. I'm a lost cause. Math is a lost cause.
 2 TERI: So, you're just going to give up.
 3 JAN: Only for a moment. Just long enough to eat something
 4 very, very rich and very, very nasty. Something
 5 completely off any diet ever conceived. *(She crosses to the*
 6 *fridge.) Let's see what we have here. (She begins to pull food*
 7 *out.) How about this cake, and some milk . . . oooohh, look,*
 8 *here's some cookie dough Mom made last night. (She pulls*
 9 *out a few other things and spreads them on the table.) Help*
 10 *yourself.*
 11 TERI: Do you have any apples?
 12 JAN: I offer you the food of the gods, chocolate chip cookie
 13 dough made fresh last night, and you want an apple?
 14 TERI: Some of us care about how we look, Jan.
 15 JAN: I care, Teri. Just not right now. And what are you
 16 worried about? You are as thin as a rail.
 17 TERI: That's because I watch what I eat, I exercise, and I am
 18 careful about my body.
 19 JAN: Like I care, right? *(She takes a spoonful of cookie dough.)*
 20 *It's good stuff, Teri.*
 21 TERI: Well, maybe a bite.
 22 JAN: That's what I like to see.
 23 TERI: *(TERI proceeds to eat throughout the rest of the scene unless*
 24 *otherwise noted.) This is good, isn't it?*
 25 JAN: I told you.
 26 TERI: Well, as long as I'm careful. I wouldn't want to end up
 27 looking like Marlene.
 28 JAN: That cow? Never, not you.
 29 TERI: Well, you can't be too careful, you know.
 30 JAN: You need to loosen up, Teri, you know that? You are
 31 wound tighter than a watch spring.
 32 TERI: What?
 33 JAN: You are so intense. You do everything at school, you
 34 are your mommy and daddy's perfect little girl with your
 35 stupid 4.0, David worships the ground you float over, and

1 to add insult to injury, you're a cheerleader. If I weren't
 2 your best friend, I think I would hate your guts.
 3 TERI: Gee, thanks.
 4 JAN: I'm serious. How do you do it all?
 5 TERI: I just do it, I guess. It's no big deal. *(She starts in on the*
 6 *cake, perhaps putting it in a bowl and pouring the milk over it.)*
 7 JAN: *(Watching this)* Well, at least you have disgusting eating
 8 habits. What the hell are you doing?
 9 TERI: Eating cake and milk.
 10 JAN: You ate almost all of that cookie dough, and now you're
 11 going to start in on cake? I thought I ate a lot.
 12 TERI: I guess I'm just hungry. I haven't eaten all day.
 13 JAN: Yes, you did. You had three hot dogs and finished
 14 David's hamburger at lunch.
 15 TERI: Oh, yeah. I forgot.
 16 JAN: I swear, you eat a lot. Where do you put it all?
 17 TERI: *(Her mouth full)* Hmmm?
 18 JAN: You are so skinny. I wish I could eat like you and not
 19 gain weight. I just look at Haagen-Dazs and I gain five
 20 pounds.
 21 TERI: I'm just lucky, I guess.
 22 JAN: I guess. *(She starts to put the cake away.)*
 23 TERI: Hey, there's not that much there. I'll finish it up, OK?
 24 JAN: Fine. *(She watches her plow away the food for a moment.)* I
 25 really don't get it.
 26 TERI: Stop watching me. It makes me nervous.
 27 JAN: Sorry. *(She clears the cookie dough bowl away.)* You want
 28 anything else?
 29 TERI: What have you got?
 30 JAN: Teri, I was kidding.
 31 TERI: Oh.
 32 JAN: Do you want anything?
 33 TERI: No. Really. I'm fine.
 34 JAN: OK. You gonna help me with this stupid trig now?
 35 TERI: Sure. Sit down.

1 JAN: OK. Let's get started.
 2 TERI: Oh. *(They get papers and book ready.)* Wait a minute. I
 3 need to use the bathroom.
 4 JAN: Everyone would be shocked to know what Miss Perfect
 5 does, huh?
 6 TERI: Does what?
 7 JAN: Tinkles.
 8 TERI: Oh, stop it. I'll be back in a minute.
 9 JAN: Sure. I'll just clean up your cake soup. *(TERI exits and*
 10 *JAN puts the bowl in the sink.)* This is really disgusting,
 11 Teri. *(She sits back down, picks up the book and tries to go over*
 12 *the math work.)* OK, if I take this and add that, then it is . . .
 13 *(She figures for a minute, and then checks her answer with*
 14 *TERI's work.)* Still wrong! Argh!
 15 TERI: What now?
 16 JAN: I hate math!
 17 TERI: Let's see if I can help you. OK. *(She looks over JAN's*
 18 *work.)* Well, dummy, here's your problem. *(As she picks up*
 19 *the pencil, she drops it. She is a little shaky.)* Ooops.
 20 JAN: Teri, are you all right? *(She looks closely at her.)* Teri, you
 21 look sick.
 22 TERI: I'm fine. Honest. Just a little shaky.
 23 JAN: You know, you've been shaky a lot lately.
 24 TERI: Have I?
 25 JAN: Yeah, now that I think about it. You also have these
 26 circles under your eyes.
 27 TERI: I've just been tired lately, because of all the stuff I'm
 28 doing.
 29 JAN: Are you sure?
 30 TERI: Jan, I'm fine. Don't worry about it.
 31 JAN: But I do worry. What's going on with you?
 32 TERI: Nothing. Let's just get to work, OK?
 33 JAN: No, it's not OK. I want to know what's going on.
 34 TERI: If you must know, I was sick just now. Sometimes, it
 35 makes me a little weak.

1 JAN: What do you mean sometimes? What do you mean sick?
 2 TERI: Sick, you know, sick. Praying to the porcelain god,
 3 worshipping Ralph, all the metaphors.
 4 JAN: Why? Do you have the flu or something?
 5 TERI: Jan, I am going to let you in on a little secret. You want
 6 to know how I can eat anything and not gain weight? I'll
 7 tell you. I just throw up what I eat.
 8 JAN: What?
 9 TERI: It's no big deal. I don't do it all the time. Just when I
 10 eat too much, like just now. That way, I don't deny myself,
 11 I eat what I want, and I don't gain weight.
 12 JAN: Teri, that's called bulimia.
 13 TERI: Only if you do it all the time. I don't.
 14 JAN: That's twice today, isn't it?
 15 TERI: What do you mean?
 16 JAN: After you ate everybody's food at lunch, you left for a
 17 while. When you came back, you were shaky then, too.
 18 TERI: Today was a lot. I eat when I'm nervous. And lately I
 19 have a ton of stuff to be nervous about.
 20 JAN: Teri, you shouldn't do that.
 21 TERI: And you say I'm tense. Lighten up. I'm fine.
 22 JAN: You do this all the time, don't you?
 23 TERI: No, not all the time. Just enough to make sure I don't
 24 gain weight.
 25 JAN: This is unbelievable.
 26 TERI: What? That perfect Teri isn't so perfect? That Little
 27 Miss Wonderful has to work a little harder than everyone
 28 else to stay thin?
 29 JAN: No, that you think it matters so much that you'd risk
 30 your health to do it.
 31 TERI: So, call the care unit.
 32 JAN: You need help with this problem.
 33 TERI: There is no problem. I know what I'm doing. I can
 34 stop anytime I want.
 35 JAN: Then stop now.

1 TERI: I said when I want, not when you want me to.
 2 JAN: This is sick. This is wrong. You could cause a lot of
 3 problems for yourself.
 4 TERI: Dammit, Jan, who made you God? I handle my life my
 5 way. Who's the one with the grades, the boyfriend, the
 6 size four clothes, the adoring parents, the head
 7 cheerleader? Who? Not you, that's for damn sure.
 8 JAN: Who's the one throwing up every day?
 9 TERI: If I want to stay like this, I have to. I have to be in
 10 control of this.
 11 JAN: You're not in control. You're out of control.
 12 TERI: You don't know what you're talking about. I have a
 13 handle on everything. I'm perfect, just like everyone
 14 expects me to be. I can't let anyone down.
 15 JAN: What about you?
 16 TERI: I take care of me. I do everything everyone expects
 17 of me. I make sure that no one is disappointed. Looking
 18 good is the one thing I do for me.
 19 JAN: At the risk of your health?
 20 TERI: Back off, Jan.
 21 JAN: No, I will not. This is so wrong, so bad. I can't believe
 22 you are being so stupid. No one would love you less if
 23 you weren't skinny.
 24 TERI: *(Over JAN's speaking)* Shut up, shut up, shut up, just
 25 shut up. You don't understand.
 26 JAN: Help me to.
 27 TERI: Everyone expects me to be this, I don't know, this
 28 little model of perfection. You know, my dad still stops
 29 everything, wherever we are and sings "There She Is,
 30 Miss America" whenever I walk into a room. Even at the
 31 store. And David, he walks me around at school like I'm
 32 his personal arm decoration. One more thing... have you
 33 ever seen a fat cheerleader?
 34 JAN: Teri, you're exaggerating...
 35 TERI: *(Beginning to get angry again)* No, Jan, I'm not.

1 JAN: You've got to get some help.
 2 TERI: *(Getting angrier)* Just leave me alone about it, OK?
 3 JAN: No, I can't. I think you need to tell your parents what is
 4 going on.
 5 TERI: *(Starting to flip out, the rest of the dialog is very quick until*
 6 *the last line.)* No! Just leave me alone, dammit, leave me
 7 alone. I shouldn't have told you, and I am not telling my
 8 parents anything.
 9 JAN: Teri, you have to.
 10 TERI: Absolutely not. This is the one thing in my life I have
 11 total control over. Just leave me alone about it.
 12 JAN: But Teri, you're going to end up dead if you keep this up.
 13 TERI: I'd rather be dead than fat. *(She glares at JAN, and then*
 14 *exits.)*
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