

**SO CLOSE, YET: AN AUDIO PLAY**

By

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## CHARACTERS

SKYLAR A 16 year old female, wants to attend LGBTQ+ sex education taught at her school, but can't bring the permission slip to her parents as they are very religious.

JOEY A 19 year old female, recently started college, Skylar's cousin who is trying to help her figure out what to do.

## TIME

October, 2019

Play begins with the ring of a bell.

Ambient chatter can be heard.

JOEY

And then Aunt Mary nearly had a cow when Emily picked it up and ate it right off the floor!

They laugh.

JOEY (CONT)

Anyways, how's the wonderful world of college applications?

SKYLAR

Oh did I tell you that I'm applying to MSU? They have an amazing education program.

JOEY

You better come here! I miss seeing you every weekend.

SKYLAR

I planned on going out of state, cause you know how my mom is, but maybe I'd make an exception for my favorite cousin.

JOEY

Aww, I'm flattered.

DISTANT BARISTA

Pink drink for Joey!

JOEY

Ope, I'll be right back

JOEY can be heard pushing their chair back and going to get their drink. The chair is pushed in again as JOEY returns.

JOEY

Well... MSU is a big party school, are you sure you can handle it up here?

SKYLAR

For your information, I snuck 2 sips of wine last year at the Christmas service so I'm kind of a bad girl now.

JOEY

Ah, living up to the "daughter of a preacher" reputation I see. Well I have a fake ID so take that goody goody!

SKYLAR

Yeah right.

JOEY

No seriously, take a look.

SKYLAR

Wow this looks great... except 27 is an interesting choice for someone who doesn't look a day over 12.

JOEY

Can it Skyler.

SKYLAR

Do people actually buy into this?

JOEY

Totally, I can get into pretty much any bar cause my friends know a lot of the bouncers around here.

SKYLAR

Ah so you and your 27-year-old pals are out drinking beer every night and meeting handsome soccer dads

JOEY

No, not beer, anything but beer, I'm convinced people only pretend to like beer. But I have met a few older boys on my excursions, and maybe I've had a few hook ups.

SKYLAR

How many is a few hookups?

JOEY

None of your beeswax Skylar. I'm just messing around.

SKYLAR

I mean you do you girl, rock on. I just want to make sure you're being safe.

JOEY

Yeah yeah I know Mom. I know I was sheltered two months ago, but I'm figuring it out. Don't worry about me. I've got a good group of pals here to show me ropes, and trusty Google's got my back. I mean all I learned about sex in high school was not to have it.

SKYLAR

Public school isn't as bad, I mean I know how straight sex works. And how to put a condom on a banana, and that I'm supposed to take birth control, but how does that help me. I will literally never get pregnant. They don't even mention gay sex, and if someone asks a question about it they are not allowed to answer.

JOEY

See that's so messed up. My first time was such a hot mess. I knew nothing. I didn't even know how a condom worked but some BuzzFeed article covered that one. Just Catholic school girl problems.

SKYLAR

Are you sure your being safe? I mean you're experimenting and figuring things out which is great, but you know people put fake news on the internet. I just don't want you to take bad advice and wind up pregnant

JOEY

I'm fine Skylar, I'm always safe, I swear.

SKYLAR

I'm just looking out for you. At least my school talked about contraceptives and STDs.

JOEY

Well, one point for public education then. I'll be ok, Sky, I promise

SKYLAR

Ok, ok, I trust you.

DISTANT BARISTA

Pumpkin cream cold brew!

SKYLAR

One sec!

Again, the chair can be heard being  
Pushed out, and then pulled back in  
When SKYLAR returns.

SKYLAR

At least you have a group of friends that know what they're doing. I'm the only person in my friend group that's gay.

JOEY

That stinks.

SKYLAR

I mean, my school has a Prism Club that teaches a gay sex ed course. But -

JOEY

I'm sorry... prison club?

SKYLAR

No Prism Club. It's like a LGBTQIA+ and allies club. You know like a prism, where they shine a light at one side but it comes out the other side as a rainbow. I feel like they should

have just called it the gay straight alliance like they do at every other school, but whatever they were trying to be artsy.

JOEY

That's pretty cool.

SKYLAR

Another point for public school I guess. Anyway, they teach a sex ed course, but you need a parent's signature. And my parents think I'm going to a bible study club every Wednesday so...

JOEY

Wow, and the Oscar for best liar goes to Joey Cline

SKYLAR

Thank you, thank you. I just don't know what to do at this point. Like I want to go, but I can't come out to them, not now at least.

JOEY

Come on, they've been getting better right?

SKYLAR

No, not really. They'd probably kick me out.

JOEY

Your dad wouldn't let that happen. Yeah he's a pastor, but he's way more chill than your mom.

SKYLAR

He may be a little more accepting, but my mom would never allow that. Do you remember my friend Todd?

JOEY

Oh, the brunette kid who we went trick or treating with that one year the dog chased you down the Andersons' driveway?

SKYLAR

Yep. He came out as gay last year, and my mom told me he wasn't allowed to come over anymore. Even when we were working on a school project together, she locked the door before we got home and literally forced us to work on it outside. When it started raining we had to ride the bus to his house to finish it cause she still wouldn't let us in.

JOEY

Damn.

SKYLAR

Life would be so much easier if we were sisters. Your parents are so cool

JOEY

But I still think-

SKYLAR

My mom won't even speak to her own brother because he brought his boyfriend to Christmas dinner four years ago.

JOEY

Sorry, I wasn't meaning to dismiss anything you were saying.

SKYLAR

Oh my gosh Joey, you're fine! She doesn't show that side of herself outside the house. She always plays the lovey dovey mom role at family holidays. You're really ok.

JOEY

I'm sure it must be hard.

SKYLAR

I mean I've always had to hide that part of myself, it's fine I guess. I just hope one day I will be able to tell her.

JOEY

Well, when the day comes I will be right by your side through every step.

SKYLAR

Thank you, I really appreciate that.

JOEY

Of course, anything for you (Playfully)

SKYLAR

I-Wait... anything?

JOEY

But of course.

SKYLAR

Could you do me a favor?

JOEY

Yeah, sure, what's up?

Some ruffling can be heard, then a zipper. The sound of paper sliding on the table are heard.

SKYLAR

So this is the permission slip for my Prism Club's sex ed course...

JOEY

Wait a minute Skylar.

SKYLAR

Can you forge my mom's signature?

JOEY

That's crazy, Sky, why can't you just do it.

SKYLAR

My school never taught cursive, I can barely sign my own name. Please, I have a picture of my mom's signature if you want to look at it!

JOEY

Skylar, I... you're putting me a hard position here. Like... Like, you know I support you and I want to help you. But if your mom finds out we're both screwed.

SKYLAR

No! I could tell her I forged it. Please Joey, I really need you!

JOEY

This is a bit crazy for me

SKYLAR

You have a fake I.D. and you're hooking up with randos. What's so crazy about this? You needed a better Sex Ed, help me get one.

JOEY

Look... Skylar... I love you but this is an issue between you and your mom and it's not fair of you to drag me into it... I don't want to get you in trouble Sky. What if I sign this and the school sends some kind of confirmation email to your parents about you being in the group.

SKYLAR

That wouldn't happen!

JOEY

Skylar, I -

SKYLAR

Joey, please...

JOEY

Look... I don't want the rest of this weekend to be awkward...

SKYLAR

Then don't make it awkward

JOEY

Sky

SKYLAR

What do you suggest I do then?

JOEY

Google it.

Ambient noises begin to die out.

Sound ends.

End of play.