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PRESENTS

MISBEHAVIOUR

by

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MISBEHAVIOUR

FADE IN

EXT. CONNECTICUT COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

A plain gray sedan races down a two-lane country road that cuts through gently rolling fields, lush forest and passed an occasional dairy farm. New greenery is beginning to fill out the trees, while tulips and daffodils dot the front lawns of large, well-kept farmhouses.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY, PROF. CARLING'S OFFICE - DAY

In a dimly-lit office, its dark stained wood floor scuffed and marked by decades of foot traffic, we see the proof of a long and successful teaching career. The walls are covered with degrees, awards and photos of PROFESSOR JAMES CARLING with his students. Happy times with the winning field hockey team. Fun moments in costume with the drama students. Lecturing a class. Addressing the graduating class. The bookshelves droop with textbooks and a huge assortment of souvenirs, gifts, knick-knacks and bric-a-brac.

EXT. CONNECTICUT COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

The gray sedan turns into a driveway and through the elegant gates of a vast estate, passing a sign that reads, "Enfield Academy. Since 1925."

EXT. ENFIELD ACADEMY GROUNDS - DAY

The gray sedan passes groomed soccer fields. A few students linger in the warm springtime sun. Some hurriedly pack cars with suitcases and backpacks.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY, PROF. CARLING'S OFFICE - DAY

Professor Carling's walnut desk, lit by the light from a computer monitor, is a mess of stacked papers, open books, some of which have spilled onto the floor.

EXT. ENFIELD ACADEMY GROUNDS - DAY

(CONTINUED)

The sedan pulls up directly in front of a castle-like school, where several police vehicles and forensics vans are already parked. TWO MEN in suits emerge from the sedan. They take a moment to admire the graceful beauty of their surroundings before walking towards the school.

INT. PROF. CARLING'S OFFICE - DAY

Continuing the exploration of Professor Carling's office reveals a desk lamp lying broken amidst its bulb's glass shards on the floor next to an overturned high-back leather chair, and more books, papers and broken knick-knacks strewn messily about the floor.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY LOBBY - DAY

Inside the school, some of the windows are covered in brightly painted paper Easter eggs and bunnies. The men are met by a grim-faced and upset ELIZABETH CHANG, headmistress, an elegantly dressed and severe-looking oriental woman in her mid forties, and NATHALIE LACHANCE, an attractive blonde in her early thirties. The two men show their badges. Chang wordlessly points down the corridor and the four move off.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY, HALLWAY - DAY

The detectives, headmistress and security guard are passed by groups of laughing schoolgirls in their early to late teens, carrying back packs or suitcases, happy to be leaving for their Easter vacation. They smile at Nathalie, nod respectfully to Miss Chang, give curious looks to the detectives. Their happiness is not reflected in the faces of the adults.

INT. PROF. CARLING'S OFFICE - DAY

Behind professor Carling's desk, just passed the overturned leather chair, a large pool of dark liquid lies undisturbed and glass smooth. Suddenly a drop of fluid falls from above, splashing into the puddle and rippling the surface. The office door on the opposite side of the room opens and the wash of light from the hallway makes a beeline for the puddle-blood. Slowly looking up, we first see a bloodied and handcuffed bare foot. Looking further up reveals every startling detail of a naked man crucified to a bondage-like rack against the bookshelf, his arms and legs spread like a large human X, his body covered in blood.

(CONTINUED)

SUPER: MONDAY, 4 DAYS EARLIER

INT. JAMES CARLING'S CLASSROOM - DAY

A handsome teacher enters a classroom full of teenage girls, all properly outfitted in typical private school uniforms: white blouses, plaid kilt-like skirts, knee socks. The classroom is a myriad of ethnicities from all-American to Eastern European to Asian. The only fashion trends that set the girls apart from each other are their choices in hair and makeup styles, ranging from unkempt to plain Jane, and from conservative chic to walk on the wild side.

The teacher is biology professor JAMES CARLING, a handsome man in his early forties, and while he looks serious in a private school sort of way, he is relaxed and smiling. He's used to the commotion that probably greets the start of every class. The room is abuzz with chatter, and the girls show no sign of quieting down even after he enters. Carling looks around the room and fixes his gaze on DIANE MORRISON, a pretty blonde lost in conversation.

CARLING

Well, Miss Morrison, you obviously have something to say... perhaps you can tell us what you know about Konrad Lorenz's theories. (to the classroom) Ladies?

Carling's tactic has worked. The chatter quickly subsides as students sit up and face forward. DIANE stands, somewhat sheepishly, trying to suppress a silly smirk. All eyes are on her.

DIANE

Yes... Konrad Lorenz... um... an interesting man... an animal lover... as a boy he collected fish, monkeys, insects and geese... He initially wanted to become a paleontologist but his father wanted him to become a doctor. There was no talk about what his mother wanted, maybe a nice strudel.

CARLING

Miss Morrison?

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

Sorry. So, Lorenz wanted animals, his father wanted a doctor. The question is, why? Was he sick?

CARLING

That's funny.

A few giggles punctuate the tension. Seated to Diane's right is STEPHANIE STEIN, a strikingly pretty brunette whose sparkling eyes dart back and forth between Carling and Diane who continues to speak to the class with growing confidence and authority.

DIANE

Thank you. I'm here all week... don't forget to tip your waitress.

CARLING

But we're far more interested in your thoughts on Professor Lorenz's theory on aggression.

DIANE

I'm sorry. Well, in his famous work titled "On Aggression," Lorenz argued that aggressive tendencies were inherent or natural in animals, and that included humans. But he said that while it was instinctual in animals, humans should be able to control their natural aggression. Lorenz believed that the animal's aggressive behavior was motivated by survival.

While some of the girls roll their eyes or feign boredom, Stephanie is supremely impressed with Diane's dissertation. Carling is clearly pleased with Diane's knowledge.

CARLING

And what do you think, Miss Morrison? Don't humans get aggressive to survive? Think of yourself out there in the everyday world. Ever use aggression to get ahead?

DIANE

(CONTINUED)

As a woman I don't have to get aggressive. I have other ways.

The girls giggle knowingly. Stephanie watches Carling, who moves around to stand in front of his desk. A girl in the front row stares at his crotch.

CARLING
I'm not sure what you mean. "Other" ways?

DIANE
Female ways. We use sex to get what we want.

Even the girls who looked bored before are interested now.

CARLING
Okay... but isn't sex aggressive?

DIANE
If you do it right...

The girls laugh loudly. Carling can't help but smile.

DIANE (cont'd)
I don't think sex is an act of aggression. It's an act of love. They couldn't be more opposite.

CARLING
Some will tell you that sex is all about male domination... defeating other males to eventually overcome and subdue the female...

More giggles ripple throughout the classroom. The girl staring at Carling's crotch appears lost in his words and voice, unconsciously placing her pen in her mouth and toying with it.

DIANE
(smiling) Mr. Carling, it sounds like you've been hanging out at Marty's...

A big laugh from her audience, including Carling.

CARLING

(CONTINUED)

In the "other" animal world, males are not only forced to fight other males for females, they also have to assume a dominant position over the female to initiate sex... often mounting the female from behind and holding her down.

This is a little too much for the girl with the pen, who starts to choke a little. Carling hands her his glass of water as he continues to speak.

CARLING (cont'd)

So, while I'll agree with you that human females do indeed use sex to get what they want, it's not necessarily an act of love. It could be aggression.

DIANE

But Lorenz says that what makes us different from animals is that aggressive behavior in humans can be modified or channeled.

CARLING

Perhaps he's talking about your feminine charms, Miss Morrison.

DIANE

You mean instead of beating a man to death, I'm going to fuck him to death?

A collective gasp followed by stunned silence. Carling walks to the blackboard behind his desk and begins writing the next week's assignment.

CARLING

And on that note, ladies, let's not forget that your upcoming long weekend is not all chocolate bunnies and painted eggs. Your mid-term results were not much to write home about. You've still got a lot of work to do. Open your books to chapter 18 and let's go back over won't you obviously don't know about animal husbandry.

(CONTINUED)

The rustling of books and papers is mixed with a few groans of anticipated boredom.

INT. NANETTE STEIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Across town, in the private office of psychologist NANETTE STEIN, Stephanie's mother is on the phone. The conversation is not going well as the tension in Nanette's voice and her stiff-back body language convey.

NANETTE

Arthur, I worked for 2 years on that book because you convinced me that my ideas needed to be heard... (beat) Well, of course I know times have changed, I know my business. But right now my business is hurting. Sales of my first book have dried up completely.

Nanette's secretary enters and mouths "they're ready."
Nanette nods and mouths that she'll be right there.

NANETTE (cont'd)

Look Arthur, I have to go. I am not just going to drop this. We'll talk about this later.

INT. NANETTE STEIN'S OFFICE, RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Nanette is visibly angry as she leaves her office with a notepad in her hands.

NANETTE

(to her secretary) Are they all here?

SECRETARY

Except Mr. Allen. I noticed Mr. Marshall seems particularly distant today.

NANETTE

Yeah, well they're all in their own sick little worlds, the poor bastards. Sometimes I wonder if they aren't better off. Maybe it's the rest of us that are sick and they're the normal ones.

(CONTINUED)

SECRETARY

(to herself) God, I hope not.

As Nanette opens to the door to enter the group therapy room, she turns back to her secretary with one last instruction.

NANETTE

Call Nathalie Lachance at the school
and tell I am going to be late for our
meeting tonight. I want to have dinner
at home for a change.

EXT. ENFIELD ACADEMY - DAY

A large, black BMW enters the elegant gates and drive past students going about an assortment of school activities. Some play soccer, some are jogging, while others sit on the grass soaking in the spring sunshine. The car approaches the castle-like building and pulls into a visitor parking spot. JOHN AND MARIA GORDON, a middle-age couple, emerge and look around, admiring the lush grounds and magnificent building.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY, OFFICE OF THE HEADMISTRESS - DAY

ELIZABETH CHANG, a severe looking Asian woman elegantly dressed in a black suit accented with an expensive and colorful scarf, is giving two students a stern lecture. Although Miss Chang speaks gently, she is very serious in her admonitions, and the two girls, JOANNE and PATRICIA are very frightened.

ELIZABETH CHANG

If someone had told me, I never would
have believed them. But, unfortunately
for you, I have seen it with my own
eyes. And even then, I can't believe
it.

She points a remote control at a television and starts a video of the two girls smoking a joint in the washroom.

ELIZABETH CHANG (cont'd)

You come from two of the finest
families in the country. Your mothers
were students at Enfield Academy.

(CONTINUED)

She watches the video in silence. The two girls are mortified, stealing glances at each other.

ELIZABETH CHANG (cont'd)

When you registered at Enfield, you signed a solemn promise to obey the rules of this school. I can suspend you and send you home right now.

JOANNE AND PATRICIA

(together) No!

PATRICIA

Please, Miss Chang. We are so sorry.

JOANNE

We will never do it again. Please don't tell our parents.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY LOBBY, SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

JOHN AND MARIA GORDON enter the building and go to the counter in the office of security guard BERNIE MORGATE, a paunchy man in his late fifties, who welcomes them.

BERNIE MORGATE

Good morning.

JOHN GORDON

We have an appointment to see Miss Chang. We're the Gordons.

Bernie checks the appointment sheet on the counter and confirms the Gordon's appointment.

BERNIE MORGATE

I'll take you up to Miss Chang's office right away.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY HALLWAY - DAY

On the way, the small talk is about the beautiful spring weather and the elegant school building. Several students rush towards the front doors, laughing and pushing each other.

MARIA GORDON

The students sure seem to be enjoying this wonderful spring weather.

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE MORGATE

Yeah, well after the winter we had,
they're a little like caged animals.
Spring fever is everywhere.

JOHN GORDON

I'm very impressed with this building.
How old is it?

BERNIE MORGATE

Well, this place has been a girls'
private school since 1925. But before
that it was the family home of a former
Union army general. A gift from
President Ulysses S. Grant himself.
I've even heard rumors that the old
general

JOHN GORDON

It's like a fortress. Looks like you've
got cameras just about everywhere.

BERNIE MORGATE

Well, when you're responsible for a few
hundred young girls, you can't take any
chances. Don't get the wrong
impression, though, my staff and I are
very respectful of the girls' privacy.

MARIA GORDON

Well, I should hope so.

BERNIE MORGATE

We just want to make sure that everyone
is safe and sound 24/7, you know?

As the trio makes its way through the halls of the school,
the Gordons peek into classrooms and admire the building's
architecture. Looking into one of the rooms, Mr. Gordon
lingers a little longer. His wife notices he has lagged
behind and calls him

MARIA GORDON

John?... Something wrong?

JOHN GORDON

(distracted) What? (beat) Oh no, no,
no... I was just having one of those

(CONTINUED)

déjà vu things... Like I've been here before.

BERNIE MORGATE

(laughing) Maybe you're related to the general.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY, OFFICE OF THE HEADMISTRESS - DAY

The Gordons and Bernie Morgate enter the reception area just as Elizabeth Chang exits her office with Joanne and Patricia, both of them crying as they walk out. The Gordons are concerned as they watch the two girls leave.

ELIZABETH CHANG

Proper behavior is so important for our school and the girls' futures. (beat)
Good morning, I'm Elizabeth Chang, you must be the Gordons.

Miss Chang and the Gordons shake hands.

ELIZABETH CHANG (cont'd)

Shall we start with a tour?

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY, CARLING'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Professor Carling stands in front of a blackboard now full of scribbled notes, diagrams and mathematical formulas as he finishes his lecture.

CARLING

That's why there are now so few whooping cranes in the world. We need to think about whether it's just nature's design.

Placing his chalk in on the blackboard shelf and picking up the eraser.

CARLING (cont'd)

Chapters 19 through 29 this week, ladies. See you on Thursday.

The girls noisily pack up their books and leave the classroom, chatting excitedly. Several girls corner Carling to pepper him with questions about upcoming papers.

INT. ENFIELD ACADEMY HALLWAY - DAY

(CONTINUED)

Stephanie and Diane, books in their arms, leave the classroom together.

STEPHANIE

I can't believe you said that to him.

DIANE

Why? It's just sex. Perfectly natural.

STEPHANIE

It's perfectly natural to "mmm" a man to death? I can't believe you said that. Especially to professor Carling.

DIANE

Steph, relax. He's cool with stuff like that. Unlike you.

STEPHANIE

What does that mean?

DIANE

It means you need to calm down. We're adults here. It's a biology class. And we talk about biological things. Like death and sex.

STEPHANIE

I know. But not like that. Not with professor Carling. He's so intelligent, so classy, so...

DIANE

(interrupting her) So hot...

STEPHANIE

That's not what I mean.

DIANE

No, but it's what you think. Right?

STEPHANIE

I respect him. I like being in his class, I like listening to his ideas, I like talking to him...

DIANE

And you'd like to fuck him to death.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHANIE

(laughing) You're such a bitch. Forget it.

The two girls stop in front of a bulletin board outside the doors to the school's theatre. The bulletin board is festooned with personal notes, official notices, and a poster about auditions for the upcoming student production of Les Miserables.

DIANE

(pointing to the poster) Hey, you should try out for that. You're miserable,

STEPHANIE

That's funny. I'm supposed to be working on the costumes. (beat) What are you doing tonight?

DIANE

I am staying in to study.

STEPHANIE

Bull. You're going into town for half-price beers at Marty's. Except for you, they're free 'cos all those guys from Waltham High will be there.

DIANE

When did I get a reputation for being a slut for beers?

STEPHANIE

Well, you talk like one. Anyway, I want to go, too.

DIANE

What!? Stephanie Stein wants to hit the guys up for a couple of beers at Marty's?

Diane looks behind and all around Stephanie as if she's lost something.

DIANE (cont'd)

(CONTINUED)

Alright, what have you done with her?
Where's the real Stephanie? Steph! Come
on out!

STEPHANIE

Cut it out. I just want to go and let
loose a little. I'm old enough to have
a few beers with my best friend, and I
just want to get out and live...

DIANE

That's great! We'll do that. But not
tonight, I have to study.

STEPHANIE

I won't embarrass you, I promise.

DIANE

Steph, trust me, I am not going out for
some kind of orgy with my boyfriends. I
have to study. If my grades slip even a
little, Chang will cancel my
scholarship faster than you can say
"free beer." I'm not sure if you've
noticed, but I'm not exactly miss
popularity around here. I don't know
who hates me more, the students or the
staff. My mother can't afford to send
me here. I get to come here because I
get good grades, and I get good grades
because I study, which is what I'll be
doing tonight.

STEPHANIE

Yeah, well you don't study all that
much and you still get the best grades.
How about you study for a couple of
hours and then I'll come and pick you
up...

DIANE

Steph! No. N-O. Maybe on Thursday night
we can...

The girls are interrupted by Elizabeth Chang with the
Gordons who have just exited the school's theatre. Chang's
face turns slightly grim when she sees Stephanie and Diane.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH CHANG

Miss Stein? Perhaps you could do something for me. Would you escort the Gordons to the gymnasium? You can give them a student's view of our school while I have a word with Miss Morrison.

Diane is relieved to be saved from her conversation with Stephanie, but not pleased that Chang needs "a word" with her.

ELIZABETH CHANG (cont'd)

(to the Gordons) This is Stephanie Stein, a senior here at Enfield.

Maria Gordon shakes Stephanie's hand, but John Gordon is momentarily mesmerized by Diane.

ELIZABETH CHANG (cont'd)

She will show you the gym and I will catch up with you there.

MARIA GORDON

John!? This is Stephanie...

JOHN GORDON

(coming out of it) Oh! Yeah... nice to meet you.

The Gordons and Stephanie leave Elizabeth Chang and Diane alone in the hallway.

ELIZABETH CHANG

Diane, I need to speak to you about Miss Stein.

DIANE

(surprised) Oh?

ELIZABETH CHANG

Stephanie comes from a very good family and I'm concerned about your friendship.

DIANE

I don't understand. Have I done something wrong, Miss Chang?

ELIZABETH CHANG

(CONTINUED)

I hope not. That's my chief worry, Miss Morrison, that you will do something to influence Miss Stein.

DIANE

Influence her? Like how?

ELIZABETH CHANG

Oh come on Miss Morrison, I think you know what I am talking about. You and her are from different sides of the tracks, aren't you?

DIANE

If you mean her family has money and mine has none, yes. But is that a problem?

ELIZABETH CHANG

Alright, I'll be blunt. Stephanie's mother has asked me to, um... discourage your friendship.

DIANE

(surprised) What? (beat) Why?

ELIZABETH CHANG

Well, she's feels your influence is becoming too much. Stephanie is a rather naive young woman who is easily distracted and you are far more worldly than her. Dr. Stein wants to..

DIANE

(angry, cutting her off) ... keep her naive, sheltered, clueless, a virgin in every way possible...

ELIZABETH CHANG

Look, I would hate to have to review your scholarship status. You are achieving so much here at Enfield Academy, and without having to work all that hard. I just think it would be less complicated for you and for me if you put more emphasis on your studies. There's no telling how far a girl like

(CONTINUED)

you could go. You understand, don't
you?

DIANE

Oh yeah. Stay away from the good kids
to prevent infections.

ELIZABETH CHANG

I think you're smarter than that, Miss
Morrison. At least I hope you are...

(CONTINUED)