

Final Draft 8 Demo

THE LITTLE THINGS

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Writer #61

Final Draft 8 Demo

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INT. COMPUTER DISPLAY--NIGHT

Facebook. The social media that took over the internet. And in the world of Junior High, one of the not so fine marks of popularity. Montage: Facebook posts. GINA's homepage:

GINA (POSTS)

LOL, did you SEE what Susan was wearing today? She is a TOTAL PIG. I swear that I saw her going into the Salvation Army last week to buy those ugly shoes!

STEPHANIE (RESPONDS)

I know! Totally!! She's not even last season. She's like ten seasons ago LOL!

VICTORIA

That wasn't even popular in 1996! She is so totally lame!

TRACY

LMAO!

STEPHANIE's homepage:

STEPHANIE (POSTS)

Eww, Susan totally just tried to friend me. As if!

VICTORIA (RESPONDS)

Gross! Why would she even THINK that was okay?!?!

STEPHANIE

We had to pair up in bio. What a joke. Like I'd want to be convicted of being one her 12 lame friends.

GINA

And did you see? 6 of them are totally her family! And I bet even THEY didn't want to be associated with her!

TRACY

Sooo sad!!!

Susan's homepage: we see pictures of an awkward looking 13-year-old. We get the sense of nothing here but shyness and being out of place. She's trying hard to fit in and failing miserably. Pictures of her at the beach. Pictures of her at a carnival. Pictures of her with her arm around a wax portrait of Captain Jack Sparrow. In all of them there is a conspicuous lack of friends. She is a loner and she knows it.

We also have the occasional post: "Such a nice day at the beach!" "Johnny Depp is so gorgeous!" "I wonder how I did on the pop quiz in math today?" There are no comments. Not even a hint of companionship.

Susan's most recent post pops up: "I totally tripped and fell in front of my entire biology class! I'm such a klutz!" This last post ignites a firestorm. Her number of friends shoots up from 12 to 25. A brief sign of life. Victoria likes the post--which is really nothing more than misdirected cruelty. Gina likes it. 14 other people like it.

VICTORIA (RESPONDS)

What a total SPAZ! You should have just broken your neck and ended your whole sad experience.

12 people like Victoria's response.

STEPHANIE

I know! Totally!! Do us all a favor and just go away. And I totally saw you staring at Jared during lunch. As if!!!

In quick succession:

JARED

Eww. No way!

FRANK

She's totally got the hots for you dude lol

VICTORIA

She's sooo in love with you!

MARY

Oh my gosh, how unbelievably lame!

GINA

I would so totally kill myself if I were her!!!

We move in on that last post from Gina. It is a real dagger, and it simply glares at us for a moment. The image blinks and disappears. This is bullying in the 21st century: you never even have to look them in the eye.

INT. TRACY'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM--NIGHT

The normal American family. Seated around the table are Tracy (a reluctantly precocious 13; presently occupied with her cell phone), DAVID (Tracy's father, a confident 44), and AMY (Tracy's mother, 39, who is aggressive yet calm).

AMY

Put the phone away Tracy.

TRACY

In a minute mom.

AMY

You have exactly thirty-seconds to comply before I confiscate it.

TRACY

Such a downer...

We hear the chime of an incoming text message.

TRACY (CONT'D)
 (to herself)
 LMAO Victoria!

AMY
 Watch your language please.

TRACY
 What language?

AMY
 Your LMAO-ing.

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TRACY
 Oh my gosh mom! I'm not saying
 anything *bad*.

AMY
 Replacing a vulgarity with an
 acronym doesn't rid you of the
 intent.

TRACY
 You are so old-fashioned!

AMY
 I can't even count how many times
 you use it on Facebook.

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TRACY
 Mom! Total invasion of privacy!
 When I agreed to let you friend me,
 it wasn't so you could spy on me!

AMY
 You agreed to let me friend you
 because it was the only terms on
 which I'd let you have an account.

TRACY
 So embarrassing.

AMY
 And while we're at it, I want you
 to stop making fun of that poor
 girl.

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TRACY
 Who? Susan?

AMY
 Yes.

TRACY
 But mom, she's so weird.
 (beat)
 And I'm not making fun of her!

AMY
 No. You just LMAO it when everyone
 else does.

TRACY
 (appealing to David)
 Dad, she's a total Nazi!

DAVID
 (with mock seriousness)
 No more leemahoing.
 (as in: the pronunciation
 of LMAO)
 From now on, we will only LOL in
 this household.

TRACY
 (with a trace of
 affection)
 Oh my gosh, you're such a nerd.

AMY
 David...

DAVID
 But seriously, stop giving that
 girl a hard time. Nothing good ever
 comes out of teasing. And your
 thirty seconds are up. Hand the
 phone over.

Tracy reluctantly surrenders the phone.

INT. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY--DAY

Tracy is at her locker with Victoria.

TRACY
 My mom totally yelled at me about
 Susan. Can you believe it?

VICTORIA
 Why?

TRACY
 I don't know. Because she's in love
 with her.

VICTORIA
 Your family is so going to adopt
 her! You two are totally going to
 become BFF's!

TRACY
 Eww, stop it!

Gina and Stephanie approach.

GINA
 Oh...My...Gosh. You're not going
 to believe it!

TRACY
 What?

GINA

Susan! She totally tried to off herself. What a spaz!

For Gina, Stephanie, and Victoria, this is horribly exciting gossip. For Tracy it is a dose of reality. This has just stopped being funny.

VICTORIA

Get out!

(laughs)

Oh my gosh, could you overreact just a little?

GINA

I know! Right!? Jared is cute, but swallowing a bunch of pills because he doesn't like you? As if!

TRACY

(to Gina)

You told her to do it.

GINA

What?

TRACY

You said you'd kill yourself if you were her.

This produces that distinct mixture of discomfort and arrogance that can only exist at 13. Discomfort because they know they are responsible; arrogance in that they'd rather not be, so they decide not to care. Victoria turns to Susan.

VICTORIA

(dripping with attitude)

It's not your mom who's in love with Susan. It's so you!

GINA

(to Tracy)

Please, I can't help it if that little girl can't take a joke.

STEPHANIE

Hmph!

The three girls walk away, leaving Tracy alone.

INT. TRACY'S HOUSE, ENTRYWAY--DAY

Tracy enters. She seems quite humble; not over her guilt yet. Amy stands ready for confrontation. She has clearly heard about the incident. She grasps a printout.

TRACY

Mom.

(beat)

What are you doing home?

AMY

I left work early. You want to guess why?

Tracy has a pretty good idea, but she isn't going to confess.

AMY (CONT'D)

Your principle called. Said that poor girl tried to commit suicide.

Tracy still has nothing to say.

AMY (CONT'D)

He also said that some of the girls were harassing her.

(pause)

Well?

TRACY

Mom...

Tracy is at a loss. She knows how serious this is.

AMY

Do you know what this is?

Amy holds the printout like it's a smoking gun.

AMY (CONT'D)

They sent me a copy of what your friend Victoria started on her Facebook page. And Gina telling her to kill herself!

TRACY

But I didn't have anything to do with that!

AMY

Oh you didn't write it. But you were a part of *it*. You were leading the chorus that was laughing at this girl. You emboldened your friends to do what they did.

Tracy is beginning to feel despondent. A door opens in the background. David enters. Tracy loses it and breaks into tears. She may be 13, but she is not totally over being daddy's little girl. She clutches at him.

TRACY

Daddy!

David and Amy trade a look. This is one of those important parenting moments, and they both know it. Amy gives father and daughter a moment, then hands the evidence over. David scans the printout, and gives Tracy a look: *Well, what do you have to say for yourself?*

TRACY (CONT'D)
 (in-between hysterics)
 I...didn't...do it...they...did it.

DAVID
 We're not talking about them. We're talking about you.

TRACY
 (regaining control)
 What could I do? How was I supposed to stop them?

DAVID
 They'd been teasing her for a while, right?

TRACY
 Yeah.

DAVID
 And you just laughed along with it, correct?

TRACY
 Well...yeah.

DAVID
 Why?

TRACY
 I don't know.

DAVID
 Well I do. You didn't want these...*friends*...to think that you were lame. So instead of refusing to have a part in it--or better yet, telling them to knock it off--you just went along with them. Better some outcast takes the heap of it, than you risk losing your social status.

TRACY
 I'm so sorry! But there's nothing I can do about it now!

DAVID
 Oh, there you are wrong. As soon as that girl returns to school, you are going to be nice to her. You are going to be her friend.

TRACY
 But dad!

DAVID
 No buts. Non negotiable.

TRACY

I didn't even do anything! You're being so unfair!

Tracy runs off. We hear her bedroom door slam shut.

AMY

I swear, sometimes I think there's no getting through to her.

DAVID

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She's thirteen. Good advice ticks them off on principle.

David looks at the printout, and then crumples it up.

INT. JUNIOR HIGH CAFETERIA--DAY

A girl sits alone at a table. Kids whisper as they go by. Nudge each other. Some even giggle. Susan is back in school.

Tracy exits the food line carrying a loaded tray. She spots Stephanie, Victoria, and Gina at a table with several other girls. They collaborate in hushed tones, looking over at Susan. Gina does a pantomime of a hangman, her tongue out and eyes rolled into the back of her head. The girls laugh.

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Tracy looks at Susan. No one has ever looked so alone in a room filled with so many people. Tracy looks back and meets eyes with Victoria. Victoria shakes her head. Tracy ignores her and makes her way towards Susan.

TRACY

Is anyone sitting here?

SUSAN

(unsure)
Um, no.

Tracy sits. She notices that Susan has not eaten much of her food.

TRACY

This food can be so gross.

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Susan giggles just a little bit. A sign of life.

SUSAN

Yeah.

Susan has just stopped being the loneliest kid in the room.

INT. COMPUTER DISPLAY--NIGHT

Facebook. Susan's homepage. The nasty group attack is still there. We see the mouse-pointer move up and delete the whole ugly string. Then up pops: "Susan is now friends with Tracy."

We see the picture of Susan with Jack Sparrow again.

TRACY (COMMENTS)

I just saw the one where he was that funny vampire. lol!

SUSAN (RESPONDS)

I know. He's such a good actor!

Another picture: this one with Susan and Tracy at a amusement park. Caption underneath: "So much fun!"

And then another one: the duo has become a troupe. Susan and Tracy are with two other girls at a dance. Caption: "Who needs a date? Haha!" A moment passes, then in staccato:

MIKE

I volunteer!

JAKE

Looks like fun!

STEVE

How is it possible none of you had a date?

TRACY

We had each other!

Now we're onto Gina's homepage. There is a picture of her, Stephanie, and Victoria at the dance. Gina is conspicuously wearing a tiara.

GINA (POSTS)

Tracy has gone sooo far downhill!
Did you see her at the dance? With Susan??? Lame!!

TRACY (RESPONDS)

I didn't realize that they were going to elect a Queen for the dance. I was so happy for you when I saw your crown!

2 people like the comment. Then 4. Then 15. Miscellaneous responses pour in: "Oh my gosh, so funny!" "I was thinking the exact same thing!" "The prettiest Queen who ever had to buy her own crown...".

VICTORIA (RESPONDS)

You are all such LOSERS! SO LAME!

On Victoria's homepage, her friends list begins to plummet: 252 friends; now 230; now 205; finally 167.

Tracy's homepage:

TRACY (POSTS)

Accepted to UCLA! So happy!!

SUSAN (RESPONDS)

I'm so excited for you! Going to miss you SO much! You saved my life!

TRACY

I'm going to miss you too! We'll def still hang out though! I love u!

SUSAN
Love you too!

FADE TO BLACK:

SUPERIMPOSE: 10 YEARS LATER

INT. TRACY'S APARTMENT--DAY

We meet TRACY at 28. She is an image of grace. An A-plus life in an otherwise average apartment. There is a knock.

Tracy opens the door to 28 year-old VICTORIA. She does not look destitute by any means; she does, however, look like someone who has lived life just a little too fast.

VICTORIA
Tracy?

TRACY
Victoria?

VICTORIA
Hi! Yes! It's been so long.

A bit of hesitation from Tracy. It's been a long time, and they did not end it as friends.

TRACY
Wow. This is totally unexpected.

VICTORIA
I know! Sorry.

Slightly awkward pause.

TRACY
Would you like to come in?

Victoria steps through the door.

VICTORIA
I stopped by because I'm on the 10 year reunion committee. I thought I'd drop your invitation off in person.

TRACY
Oh, well thank you.

Victoria looks around. She looks at Tracy.

VICTORIA
Wow. You really look good.

TRACY
Thanks. So what have you been up to?

VICTORIA

Oh, not much. I've been painting nails at the salon. Thinking about trying to go back and finish my degree.

Tracy's hesitation towards Victoria begins to dissolve.

TRACY

Have you kept up with anyone from school?

VICTORIA

Yeah, you know.

(a little embarrassed)

Gina and Stephanie. Us three amigos.

TRACY

How are they doing?

VICTORIA

OK. Well, Gina--did you know that she got pregnant after graduation?

TRACY

No.

VICTORIA

Her and Tommy. But he didn't hang around. Then she wound up with a guy who worked at the quick lube. Had a couple kids with him. He's in jail now for forging prescriptions at the pharmacy. So she had to move back in with her mom.

TRACY

That's horrible.

VICTORIA

Yeah. But Stephanie is doing good. She married a doctor.

TRACY

Well that's nice.

VICTORIA

Yeah. I think he's cheating on her.

TRACY

What makes you say that?

VICTORIA

Well, because Stephanie's pretty sure that he is. But he's totally loaded, so she doesn't really care.

TRACY

Hmm.

VICTORIA

(hesitating)

I also wanted to say...that whole thing with Susan...I know that I was mean to both of you at the time. I just wanted to let you know how much I admired you for how you handled yourself. You really stood up and did the right thing.

TRACY

(dismissive)

It was nothing. I got a best friend out of it.

VICTORIA

I wish I had been a little more mature then. I might have wound up with a better category of friends myself.

(pause)

Anyhow, I better be going.

The two move towards the door.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

You're not going to be free Sunday by chance?

TRACY

No, actually. I have a thing at my church.

(beat)

Would you be interested in going?

VICTORIA

Who me? No, no. I'm not really the church going type.

TRACY

You should give it a try. You might be surprised.

Victoria ponders.

INT. COMPUTER DISPLAY--NIGHT

Victoria's homepage: a picture is posted of her and Tracy at a church picnic; comment: "Old friends together again." The thumbs up logo appears, followed by: "Tracy likes this." A moment later: "Susan likes this."

CUT TO BLACK

THE END

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