

Course Correction

By Brent Holland

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DEDICATION

I apologize in advance to my son, Rhett, for any jokes or insults I will hurl at him if he ever uses a time machine to visit me and my friends back in the early 1990s.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Taylor is the new girl in school but seems to be carrying a lot of secrets. Her friendship with Sean, a bright senior, is sparked over a mutual love of science and time travel theories. As she becomes a part of his friend group, it becomes clear that she may be new to more than just the school, but this timeline as well.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 4 w, 1 flexible)

SEAN: (M) A high school senior, intelligent and with a bright future.

TAYLOR: (F) A high school-aged student. New to the area.

MOM: (F) Sean's mother. Easygoing and kind.

JOSH: (M) Sean's best friend and partner in crime.

MARK: (M) Another friend of Sean's. High energy.

KAI: (M/F) Another member of Sean's friend group.

BELLA: (F) Another member of Sean's friend group.

HANNAH: (F) Sean's girlfriend. Not a very pleasant person.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The LIGHTS rise to show a typical high school at lunch. SEAN, KAI, BELLA and HANNAH are sitting at a table, MARK walks up, lunch in hand.)

MARK: Are we doing Beach Bowl tonight?

SEAN: At seven. Bring enough for three games.

MARK: Three games?! We can't do three games!

BELLA: You're bowling tonight? I want in!

HANNAH: No, you don't.

BELLA: Why not?

KAI: You totally want in! Seven o'clock.

HANNAH: *(To BELLA.)* Do you like Peppermint Patties?

KAI: What?

HANNAH: Peppermint Patties.

BELLA: The candy? Those chocolate-covered mint things?
They're alright.

(JOSH has entered with TAYLOR. He overheard the last bit.)

JOSH: That's right! We're doing Peppermint Patty bowling tonight!

HANNAH: *(To KAI.)* How much do you like throwing up?

KAI: What?

SEAN: Quit bashing the greatest game ever invented! *(To KAI.)* Ok... so each person playing has to bring ten of the small, fun-sized Peppermint Patties for each game we plan to play.

MARK: Sean wants to do three games tonight.

JOSH: Three games? No way. We'll all die.

KAI: How do you play?

JOSH: Well, if there are five people playing, you all bowl a frame. The lowest score eats everyone else's patty for that round.

MARK: I lost three frames in a row last time. There were six of us! I had to eat 18... and it's not like I didn't lose other frames.

SEAN: You need to get better!

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MARK: I'm better than you! I just think it's the pressure. After I puked, it was all over.

(TAYLOR starts laughing.)

SEAN: Who's your friend?

JOSH: Sorry! This is Taylor. She's new. I met her this morning on the way up.

SEAN: I'm Sean. Where are you from?

TAYLOR: Charlotte. My dad got a new job, and I was told that I was going to have to finish my senior year here.

SEAN: Bummer.

TAYLOR: Tell me about it. Are you guys going Peppermint Patty bowling tonight?

JOSH: Seven o'clock. At Beach Bowl.

TAYLOR: I've always wanted to try that.

JOSH: Try Peppermint Patty bowling?

TAYLOR: Yeah.

SEAN: Weird. I thought that idea was original to us.

JOSH: People in Charlotte do Peppermint Patty bowling?

TAYLOR: *(Backtracking.)* Well, not that exactly.... But something similar. It does sound like fun though.

HANNAH: It sucks. Unless you like vomiting. Then it's a blast. Sean's not allowed to kiss me on nights he's been bowling.

SEAN: It's not that bad! Plus, if you're going to puke, puke something fresh and minty! There are worse things to hit the reverse button on.

MARK: True that.

SEAN: You want to go?

TAYLOR: It sounds like fun.

SEAN: My kind of girl!

HANNAH: Excuse me?

SEAN: A girl not afraid to throw her guts up in public is always a winner.

HANNAH: *(To TAYLOR.)* I'm Hannah. Sean's my boyfriend.

JOSH: Why don't you just pee on him? That way everyone knows!

HANNAH: Thanks, Josh. I'll consider it.

SEAN: Do you know where Beach Bowl is?

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TAYLOR: No. But I'm sure I can find it. You guys really don't mind me coming along?

JOSH: The more the merrier!

SEAN: *(To BELLA.)* How about you?

BELLA: I'll go, but I suck at bowling, so I'm just going to watch. I don't want to eat 200 Peppermint Patties.

HANNAH: I'm out.

JOSH: But if you're not there, who's going to pee on Sean?

(MARK raises his hand, then KAI does too.)

SEAN: Great! Something to look forward to!

(BLACKOUT)

Scene 2

(LIGHTS up. It's later that night. JOSH, SEAN, and TAYLOR are outside of the bowling alley. Taylor has been throwing up.)

JOSH: That was pretty epic.

TAYLOR: *(Having just thrown up.)* It didn't feel epic.

JOSH: Think you got it all out?

TAYLOR: *(Weakly.)* I think so.

SEAN: Welcome to the club. Every single one of us has been there, done that.

JOSH: You almost made it all the way until the end!

(TAYLOR gives a thumbs up. SFX: Sean's phone rings.)

JOSH: *(Cont'd.)* I bet I know who that is!

SEAN: Yeah, yeah. *(HE picks up the phone and walks off. The conversation isn't going well.)*

TAYLOR: Is that his girlfriend?

JOSH: Of course it is. The one and only!

TAYLOR: You don't like her?

JOSH: I'd lie and tell you she's fine, but she's not. She sucks.

End of Freeview

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