

# The Cheater

*By Brent Holland*

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*The Cheater*

- 2 -

## **DEDICATION**

*To the actual, real life, and totally awesome Sierra. You're the best. Really.*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

When high school student Garrett pays his best friend to see if his girlfriend will cheat on him, they all become entangled in a web of lies and deception, and a series of changing allegiances. Sierra, Hope, Garrett, and Nick have been friends for years, but will any of their relationships survive? Most importantly, who will end up with the Chipotle gift card?

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2 m, 2 w)*

**SIERRA:** (F) Garrett's girlfriend. Intelligent and cunning.

**GARRETT:** (M) Jealous and conniving boyfriend of Sierra.

**NICK:** (M) The king of bad judgment. The former boyfriend of Hope.

**HOPE:** (F) Nick's former girlfriend. Very charismatic, with a good sense of humor.

All four characters are high school students.

### **SETTING**

All of the locations are within the walls of a high school.

**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on GARRETT. HE is waiting at school for SIERRA to arrive.)*

**SIERRA:** *(Enters. Walking up to GARRETT to kiss him.)* Good morning, babe!

**GARRETT:** *(Stopping her.)* We need to talk.

**SIERRA:** *(Surprised.)* We do?

**GARRETT:** *(Suspiciously.)* So, how did studying go last night?

**SIERRA:** *(Wary.)* Well... Yeah, it went well.

**GARRETT:** I bet you're really ready for that pre-calculus test.

**SIERRA:** I am...

**GARRETT:** I mean, after studying with your best friend for three hours, unable to text me at all and being completely off the grid, you'll probably get like a hundred and ten on that test, right?

**SIERRA:** I hope so.

*(Awkward beat.)*

**SIERRA:** *(Cont'd.)* Is everything alright?

**GARRETT:** Is it?

**SIERRA:** I thought it was.

**GARRETT:** Thought?

**SIERRA:** Yeah, I thought it was. Is it?

**GARRETT:** I don't know. Is it?

**SIERRA:** This is stupid. What's wrong with you? I texted you as soon as I was done studying.

**GARRETT:** Yeah, as soon as you were done *(Makes finger quotes.)* "studying."

**SIERRA:** What does that mean?

**GARRETT:** What does what mean?

**SIERRA:** The finger quotes. *(She makes them.)*

**GARRETT:** Oh, that was nothing.

**SIERRA:** Okay, then. You're acting weird, so I'm going to class. *(Starts to leave.)*

**GARRETT:** So where did you two end up studying last night?

*The Cheater*

- 5 -

**SIERRA:** I told you that, we were at the library.

**GARRETT:** Which library? The one downtown?

**SIERRA:** That's the only library.

**GARRETT:** It's weird that I didn't see you there.

**SIERRA:** Why were you at the library?

*(A beat passes.)*

**SIERRA:** *(Cont'd.)* Were you checking on me?

**GARRETT:** Do I need to check on you?

**SIERRA:** *(Getting angry.)* You were! You don't trust me!

**GARRETT:** Well, you definitely weren't at the library last night.

**SIERRA:** You must have missed me.

**GARRETT:** I stayed for an hour, and you weren't there. I even took a video. *(HE pulls out his phone. SFX: Garrett's voice from the phone.)* Here I am at the library... I wonder where my girlfriend is? She's not in any of the study rooms... how peculiar.

**SIERRA:** That's a garbage move, Garrett.

**GARRETT:** As garbage as lying to your boyfriend?

**SIERRA:** I didn't lie!

**GARRETT:** Then where were you?

*(A beat.)*

**SIERRA:** I wasn't at the library. I was at Jenna's house.

**GARRETT:** *(Exploding.)* Don't lie to me!

**SIERRA:** I'm not lying! Ask her!

**GARRETT:** *(Smugly.)* I don't have to.

**SIERRA:** What are you talking about?

**GARRETT:** I know exactly where you were.

**SIERRA:** Then you know I was at Jenna's.

**GARRETT:** Oh, were you now?

**SIERRA:** That's it, I'm really going to class. *(Starts to leave.)*

**GARRETT:** Could it be, that you were at the beach?

**SIERRA:** *(Stopping.)* Who told you that?

**GARRETT:** I have sources.

**SIERRA:** This is creepy. You're acting like a stalker.

*The Cheater*

- 6 -

**GARRETT:** (*Casually.*) Oh... not stalking. I just don't like being lied to.

**SIERRA:** I haven't lied to you.

**GARRETT:** But you were at the beach.

**SIERRA:** And what was I doing at the beach?

**GARRETT:** You know exactly what you were doing at the beach.

**SIERRA:** And that's... what?

**GARRETT:** You were with Nick.

(*A beat.*)

**SIERRA:** (*Seriously.*) How do you know?

**GARRETT:** You don't deserve to know that.

**SIERRA:** You've been spying on me, and I don't deserve to know?

**GARRETT:** You're a cheater and you don't deserve to know anything!

**SIERRA:** Are you going to tell me exactly HOW you know I was at the beach with Nick? We were alone, there was absolutely no one there.

**GARRETT:** (*With superiority.*) I have my ways.

**SIERRA:** Could your ways, be... Nick Matthews?

**GARRETT:** (*Not expecting this.*) What?

**SIERRA:** (*On the attack.*) I mean, there were only two of us there, so could it be that Nick told you?

**GARRETT:** Why would he do that?

**SIERRA:** Oh, I don't know... just a thought.

**GARRETT:** Well, that's a horrible thought. From a horrible person! I don't have time for this, I'm going to class. (*Starts to leave.*)

**SIERRA:** You know what else is a horrible thought?

**GARRETT:** (*Stopping.*) What?

**SIERRA:** Imagine how horrible it would be if a guy gave his best friend money to try to see if his girlfriend would cheat on him.

**GARRETT:** (*Uh-oh.*) That's crazy, no one would ever do that.

**SIERRA:** (*With intention.*) Really now?

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