

From Breaking News by Don Zolidis

A student-run news show digs for dirt on the student body president.

ALYSSA, 17, the host of the show.

CADE, 17, her co-host. A little in love with Alyssa.

AUDIENCE MEMEBR, can be anyone. (This role may be cut for a duo scene.)

(A STUDIO AUDIENCE sits in front of CADE and ALYSSA, another reporter. The audience is a decidedly anti-Christy bunch. Some have signs reading “Down with Christy” and “I do not like Christy” and “Christy is the Devil”)

CADE

What we have for you tonight is so explosive, so potentially damaging for President Christy, that we are on pins and needles here. We have, for the first time, an actual copy of Christy’s report card from the fall of sophomore year. Incredible.

(The STUDIO AUDIENCE cheers. They are so excited they can barely contain themselves.)

ALYSSA

Stunning really. Absolutely stunning.

CADE

As you no doubt recall, in the campaign Christy promised to release her report cards, as every presidential candidate has done before her. Every one. That includes the guy who wore the chicken suit every day. We saw his grades. We saw his attendance records. We saw the comments teachers made about him. With Christy: no report cards.

ALYSSA

Zero.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

That’s right!

CADE

Absolutely none. And now –

(CADE brandishes the report card)

This arrived in my mailbox this morning. You can tell from the paper, from the embossed seal, this is the legitimate article. We have had it examined by experts, we have had it verified – this is authentic, this is real, this is her actual report card. You’re probably interested in what it says.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

YES!

ALYSSA

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Let's take a few more minutes to talk about context.
(The AUDIENCE groans.)

CADE

I am going to get to this explosive report card very soon and you will all see it. You will be amazed.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

YES!

ALYSSA

But first, let's talk about random stuff for a while.
(The AUDIENCE groans louder.)

CADE

Alyssa, if this report card were truly damaging for the Christy administration, what would it say?

ALYSSA

If I had to speculate –

CADE

Speculate away.

ALYSSA

A really awful report card would prove that she had been cheating on her classes and skipping school to murder bunnies.
(The AUDIENCE is confused.)

CADE

Would that actually be stated on a report card?

ALYSSA

Not normally, no. But let's imagine a report card so damaging, so terrible, that it lists "Christy leaves class to murder bunnies" on it. If those words are on this report card, she is done as President.

CADE

Also, cheating.

ALYSSA

Yes, let's say a teacher writes, "I had to give Christy a C because the mafia was threatening to kill me." If that's in the teacher comments, that would be catastrophic for Christy.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Woo! YES!

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ALYSSA

Just to be clear, that's not actually on there.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Then why are we - ?

CADE

Let's imagine a whole bunch of other things that could be bad for Christy

ALYSSA

Oh sure. There could be anything on there, if I use my imagination. Let's say the report card says "Christy is actually twenty-nine years old." That would be bad. "Or... Christy pays for her term papers from a Chinese website." Or "Christy is dumb."

CADE

Would it say "Christy is dumb"?

ALYSSA

If I'm using my imagination it could really say anything. "Christy's dog hates her." "Christy is a weasel in human shape." "Christy is a walking pile of garbage animated by a mad scientist's experiment." I could imagine seeing all those things on this report card because I have a vivid imagination.

CADE

And we will find out what it actually says right now!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

WOOOOO!

CADE

After these commercials.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

ARRRGHGHGH!

ALYSSA

We don't have commercials. This is public-access.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

WOOOO!

CADE

Oh. Maybe let's spend some more time tweeting about this then.
(The AUDIENCE GROANS.)

ALYSSA

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Okay.

(They both tweet)

CADE

All right! The time is now! We have the report card! What is on it? It says –

ALYSSA

Before we get to that,

(AUDIENCE groans loudly)

I want to take a moment here to give the history of the grading system. Because we cannot understand Christy's report card without a full understanding of how and why our system of grades came about.

(An AUDIENCE MEMBER charges the stage.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER

STOP IT! STOP IT! IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING, SAY IT! YOU ARE KILLING US!

CADE

Okay, all right. All right.

(she looks at the report card)

But we need to understand –

AUDIENCE MEMBER

I WILL EAT YOUR CHILDREN!

ALYSSA

We don't have children. Sadly.

CADE

Okay. Here we go. World Geography: B. Minus.

(The audience is dismayed.)

BUT there is a teacher comment! "Conscientious."

(no reaction)

Alyssa can you speculate on why she would be given "conscientious"?

ALYSSA

Well... the word conscientious comes from a Latin root –

AUDIENCE MEMBER

ARRRGHGHG! Is there anything at all?!

CADE

She had a 2.75 GPA and –

(The audience throws down their signs and leaves.)

There could be more report cards! This is just one! Just because this one is okay doesn't mean that –

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(The AUDIENCE is gone.)

All right. Well... perhaps that was not the bombshell we were looking for. But we have another hour of analysis by Alyssa coming right up so stay glued to your seats!

To read the rest of this play, please visit www.playscripts.com