

TEAM STACKED

By

Zachary Just

OPEN

FADE IN: ZACH'S ROOM (DAY)

ZACH [19, handsome, but a little roughly groomed] is sitting at his desk talking out loud to himself, seemingly deep in thought. He appears anxious and stressed. He fidgets in his chair and lets out a deep breath.

ZACH struggles to find words. He bites his pencil, taps his feet, and stares off while continuing to fidget as a result of being deep in thought. He puts his head in his hands and thinks hard. An inner monologue begins.

ZACH  
(mocking himself)  
Alright. Alright. Just have to  
start typing...Umm... let's try...

Cut to ZACH's computer screen. On the screen is a forum and ZACH is creating a new post. He starts to type.

ZACH  
Looking to start a video game team,  
yo.  
(erasing)  
I'm apparently also looking to  
start a gang. Looking for a  
talented group of special  
individuals to form a strong bond  
that...  
(erasing)  
Nope, nope. This isn't some weird  
group dating site. And technically  
I could start a gang with that line  
too. OK...err...Looking to start a  
competitive video game team,  
exclamation mark.  
(sarcastically)  
Because exclamation marks make  
everything exciting. Although maybe  
that explains my preference of  
Sports Illustrated for Kids over  
regular Sports Illustrated.  
Anyway...!

ZACH quickly retypes "Looking to start a Competitive Video Game Team!" The camera cuts back to ZACH showing that he is still stressed and anxious. He is continuing to struggle with his post.

OK, OK, keep going. You're doing  
well!

(CONTINUED)

(sarcastically)  
Exclamation mark!

ZACH continues to type.

Hello, my name is Zach and I am  
looking to form a competitive team.  
Let me first take the time to thank  
you for reading this post.

The camera cuts to THOMAS [early 20s, gray polo shirt, confident demeanor] at his desk. Thomas is reading the post that ZACH is writing. ZACH continues writing, but now his talking is a voiceover on TOM's scene.

I want to create a team that plays  
together and competes. I want to  
create a team that beats people. I  
want to create a team that's just  
good. So in order to create a good  
team, I'm going to need good  
players.

Cut to NICK [mid 20s, worn clothing, sloppy] in a decently sized apartment. NICK attempts to walk to his desk, but his cats get in his way causing him to trip and fall. He gets up, yells at his cats, and makes his way over to his computer. ZACH's voiceover continues.

But I also want a very welcoming  
team. Not everyone has to  
compete. I want it to be a very  
friendly and open environment where  
everyone can be accepted. I want  
people to enjoy being a part of  
this team.

NICK smiles, but a cat jumps up and blocks the screen to his dismay. Cut to RICHARD [17, scrawny, unintentionally sloppy] in his room reading the post to himself while the voiceover continues.

I want this team to grow together,  
to become better together. I want  
people to grow individually. I  
want people to have a purpose in  
this team, to feel like they  
belong.

Cut to KELSEY [early 20s, cheap chic, tired looking, but attractive] in a lower end apartment.

Finally, I know that gaming can be  
an outlet for people. While I  
always want to win, I realize that  
winning is not the most important  
thing, having fun is. Games are  
meant to be fun, they are meant to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZACH (cont'd)  
be an escape for people. But if  
we're up to the challenge, we can  
become a great team and deal with  
anything that comes our way.

The camera switches back to ZACH as he finishes typing.  
If you're interested please send me  
a message. I would love to hear  
back from you. Thank you for your  
time.

(no longer typing)  
And....posted!

ZACH pauses for a moment and reflects. He reaches for and  
opens a can of a very flamboyant and fruity drink. He takes  
a sip.

Alright....alright.

ACT I

FADE IN: ZACH'S ROOM

ZACH enters a room with his friend TYLER. The room has a  
couple of chairs and ZACH's computer in the corner. His  
friend, TYLER [18, workout clothes, awkward looking] sits on  
on a chair.

TYLER  
So what time did you want to hoop  
today?

ZACH  
Oh...umm..Tyler...actually today  
isn't good for me.

TYLER  
Why not? You said on Tuesday we'd  
hoop today!

ZACH  
Yeah sorry man, something kind of  
came up.

TYLER  
What? Oh man, don't tell me you  
have to go back to the doctor for  
that rash again...

(CONTINUED)

ZACH

What? No! How do you even know about that?

TYLER

Your mom told my mom. No wait, your dad told my dad.

ZACH

Why is that a topic of conversation!?

TYLER

So if it isn't that rash, what is it?

ZACH

Alright, so I kind of have a meeting today for a team I'm starting...

TYLER

A team? Like what? A running team?

ZACH

No, umm...well...a video game team.

TYLER

What?

ZACH

Yeah, and we're meeting for the first time today, and I'm trying to make sure everything is organized and good to go.

TYLER

Who do you know around here that plays games?

ZACH

No one, which is why we're meeting over Skype, because I don't know these people.

TYLER

Dude, that's creepy! You don't know these people!? What if they murder you?

ZACH

How are they going to murder me through the internet?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

They find out where you live, they come over, and they murder you. Or they hire someone to murder you. Are you noticing a pattern of murder here?

ZACH

Listen, nothing bad is going to happen to me.

TYLER

Why can't you just go play basketball with me? With people that you have actually seen in real life?

ZACH

OK, do you remember when we got invited to join that basketball team a few years back? We knew no one on that team going into it. So let me ask this in a way you'll understand, are the chances higher to be murdered by someone you don't know in person, or by someone you don't know on the internet?

TYLER is in complete silence.

Right, anyway, so right now I'm stalking this insanely good player, trying to get him to join.

TYLER

Stalking...?

ZACH

I really need him to join. Or her. I don't want to be sexist. Especially after I was forced to talk to my counselor after I refused to read one of those feminist books Ruxton assigned....But if he/she doesn't join then I have nothing. Although if he/she...Screw it, I'm being sexist and those books sucked. But if he does join then I have him, but no one else, so I really still have nothing, besides him, but he's really good, but one could argue that one person doesn't make up a team, the whole no "I" in team thing...

(CONTINUED)

TYLER  
Sounds like it's going well.

ZACH  
Hey, better than your love life!

TYLER  
At least I've gotten women!

ZACH  
Tyler, your definitions of women,  
men, and animals are seemingly  
blurring together.

TYLER  
Hey! I think that..

ZACH cuts off TYLER.

ZACH  
Ah ba ba ba! Hold on! It looks  
like I got emails from my recruits.  
That felt weird to say.

TYLER nudges ZACH to the side.

TYLER  
Let me see!

ZACH  
(sarcastically)  
Oh go right ahead!

ZACH nudges TYLER back.  
Alright then, looks like we're on  
for later today! Time to turn on  
the charm.

TYLER  
So what's next?

ZACH  
The charm, Tyler, The charm. I  
already said this.

TYLER  
Show me this charm.

ZACH  
Ew, but OK. So how did the  
basketball floor get wet?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER  
I don't know.

ZACH  
The players dribbled all over it!

TYLER  
That was terrible.

ZACH  
Bad joke telling can be charming.

TYLER  
And charming people should be reserved for people in person!

ZACH  
Says the guy with multiple dating site accounts.

TYLER  
Hey you signed me up for those!

ZACH  
And you have yet to thank me.

TYLER  
Why would I thank you?! Although the weird group dating one is intriguing.

ZACH  
Well it looks like I have a few hours to go play basketball, so...LETS DO THIS!

ZACH rushes out the room. TYLER, in a shock, stumbles out the room after him. ZACH waits for TYLER and they walk together. ZACH slaps TYLER on the butt as they walk away.

ACT II

FADE IN: ZACH'S ROOM, LATE AFTERNOON

ZACH fumbles with his microphone and continuously checks the time.

ZACH  
Testing. One, two, three. Testing.  
Besting. Festing. Westing. Nesting.  
Mesting? No. Molesting. What the  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZACH (cont'd)  
hell is wrong with me?! My  
self-awareness is really no help at  
all. Although that right there was  
pretty self-aware, but still not  
helpful. Okay, what time is  
it? Alright, they should be  
getting online any time now.

A loud notification sound occurs.

Oh someone's on! I am so good.

ZACH sees a message from NICK and calls him on Skype. NICK  
answers the call, but both sit in awkward silence waiting  
for the other to say something.

Ah, sorry about that, my mic wasn't  
working. Hey man!

NICK  
Hey there!

ZACH  
So welcome I guess, and you're  
Nick?

NICK  
Does a one legged duck swim in  
circles?

ZACH  
(laughing uncomfortably)  
I really do not know.

NICK  
But yeah, my name is Nick. It's  
nice to meet you...?

ZACH  
Zach, I'm Zach.

NICK  
Oh yeah! The post! Duh!

ZACH  
Yep.

The two enter another awkward silence.

NICK  
Boy, this weather is just damn hot.

ZACH

Oh, I live in Wisconsin, so you know, polar bears running rampant, frozen wasteland.

NICK

Ah Wisconsin. Beer, cheese, and hot pretzels made out of those things.

ZACH pauses to try to figure out NICK's comment.

ZACH

I think you meant the people that live here.

NICK

Oh, and milk, right? But isn't California the dairy capital now?

ZACH

I really hope so. But where do you live?

NICK

(spelling out Mississippi incorrectly)  
Well I used to live in Mississippi, but now I'm in Georgia.

ZACH

I think you had a few too many s's in there.

NICK

Well that's how people in Mississippi say it!

ZACH

(laughing)  
Ah, the South, the land of illiteracy.

Another awkward silence occurs after NICK fails to see that ZACH was joking and is slightly offended.

NICK

So who else is coming?

ZACH

The others should be...hopefully...coming soon.

(CONTINUED)

ZACH looks up at the ceiling and pleads for someone else to come. Another awkward silence occurs. ZACH glances between his screen and his ceiling, silently begging for relief for the awkward situation. The begging turns more intense as more time passes. Finally, the silence is broken by a loud notification.

Hey! Someone else is on!

RICHARD enters the conversation.

RICHARD

Hello?

ZACH

Hey man! Welcome!

RICHARD and NICK start talking at the same time. They first greet each other at the same time, then apologize at the same time, and then talk again at the same time.

Alright then!

NICK

Sorry about that, that was my fault.

ZACH

So Richard is it?

RICHARD

Yeah, Richard Thaddeus Brooks.

ZACH

Well thanks for the middle name, wait, that's actually a really cool middle name.

NICK

Yeah, I like it too.

ZACH

That's like the name of a professor, or Shakespearean actor, or an owner of a Greek frozen yogurt shop, and I'm pretty sure half of all Greek gods are named Thaddeus...

RICHARD

Wait, are Greek frozen yogurt shops a thing? Is Greek frozen yogurt even a thing?

ZACH quickly types on his computer to do some research.

ZACH

Umm...damn, Ben and Jerry's is all over that. That could have been a huge business opportunity! Although... I don't think they put the fruit on the bottom like regular Greek yogurt...so if we have a frozen Greek yogurt with fruit on the bottom...

RICHARD

But if it's frozen, how will people get the fruit off of the bottom?

ZACH

Anyway...

NICK

Yeah my middle is Alexander.

Silence.

But I'm thinking about getting it changed.

ZACH

Umm..so what's up, Richard?

RICHARD

Alright so I was just playing, and there's this guy in the game, this "try to be tough guy", guy. And he's just complaining that no one on his team is helping him. And I feel, even though I'm a little new, that I'm doing pretty good. So I try to listen to him. But another guy tells us to do just do the exact opposite of what the tough guy, guy does. So I'm a little torn. So he goes right, we go left. He backs up, we charge in. He hates Matt Damon, we pretend to actually like Matt Damon, you get the picture. But sometimes I would back him up, because..well I don't know. I was going back and forth. So he catches on to what we're doing, but it takes him forever, and gets even angrier, but it's a very subtle anger, hard to explain. But yeah, then the guy, not the tough guy, guy, but the guy who told us to the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD (cont'd)  
opposite, guy, he just keeps asking  
him if he's mad for some  
reason. So funny. But yeah, he  
just ended up leaving.

NICK  
Wait, which he is he?

RICHARD  
Oh, I think both of them actually  
left.

ZACH  
Alright, well let me check if  
anyone else is ready. I should have  
three more guys, two of them are  
messaging me right now, although  
one is being weird.

NICK  
Welcome to the internet.

RICHARD  
Huh?

ZACH  
Well he...he kind of tried to back  
out, coming up with a bunch of  
excuses, and now he says he doesn't  
have a microphone. I kind of  
discovered him the other day and  
I've been really trying to get him  
to join because he's insanely good,  
one could argue I've been stalking  
him, but long story short I finally  
convinced him to join, so...let's  
see how this goes.

ZACH brings DOM into the conversation.  
Alright guys...this is...well it  
says your name is "Mindfield." But  
I'm assuming that isn't your real  
name.

DOM types to ZACH saying to call him "Mindfield" resulting  
in a loud notification sound that everyone hears.  
Alright then, Mindfield it is.

RICHARD  
Hey, welcome man! I'm Richard.

NICK

Yeah! Welcome! I'm Nick, it's nice to meet you. I heard you're really good.

DOM types to ZACH again, resulting in another notification sound that breaks the silence.

ZACH

Umm, he says thanks and that it's nice to meet you guys too.

NICK

There's actually a group chat feature on this thing that you can use.

DOM types to ZACH again, resulting in another notification sound.

ZACH

Err, he says he's good for now. But thanks anyway.

An awkward silence occurs.

RICHARD

Did you guys see that new movie with...

The notification sound of DOM messaging ZACH interrupts RICHARD.

ZACH

Yeah, Mindfield, more people are coming. I should have two more guys.

Awkward silence.

But let me check.

NICK

So, Mindfield, how are you?

ZACH

No, just hold on. We'll do this whole game of telephone after I get this guy in here.

NICK

Alexander Clam bell!

(CONTINUED)

ZACH

Umm..what?

NICK

What? No Spongebob fans?

TOM enters the conversation.

It was from the movie! I mean, it's my younger brother's favorite. But it's pretty funny, I mean, well it's kind of funny in parts but sometimes the movie just..

RICHARD

Man, that movie was so good! I'm not really into cartoons, but that movie was absolutely great. The way that they captured the spirit of adventure and childhood...

NICK

Do you remember that part though? The diver was making the clam into a diorama..

TOM

Am I interrupting something?

ZACH

Oh everyone, this is Tom! Welcome!

RICHARD

Hey man.

NICK

Hey man, we were just talking about Spongebob the movie, have you seen it?

RICHARD

You should.

TOM

No.

NICK

Oh, well it's ok, give it a watch if you have time or something.

ZACH

Well the guy that first said hey, that's Richard. And Spongebob's number one fan over there is Nick.

TOM

And who's the guy not talking?

ZACH

That's....Mindfield...which we're just assuming is a result of his celebrity parents. And any second now he should...

DOM messages ZACH, resulting in a notification sound.  
Yep. He says hey.

TOM

Interesting.

ZACH

Um, so what's up?

TOM

Well I just got done playing in a terrible game. I'm on the most incompetent team ever. No one on my team is helping whatsoever. Then there's this moron that tells everyone to do the exact opposite of me. I go to the right, they all go to the left. I tell them to back up, but then they all charge in. So I mean, I realize they're doing this the entire time, but they think I'm getting angry because I'm not saying anything. So because I stop telling them what to do I'm apparently angry, makes perfect sense. And they just keep asking if I'm mad. You think!? Of course I'm mad! These losers couldn't win a game if their sorry basement riddled lives depended on it. And then there's this guy who actually listens to me for a bit, then he joins the other morons, but then he starts listening to me again, that actually annoyed me the most.

RICHARD, NICK, and ZACH all stare at their screens in silence realizing that TOM was the person that played with RICHARD earlier. ZACH silently pleads to himself for no one to mention anything. RICHARD and NICK stare uncomfortably. ZACH receives a loud notification from DOM that everyone hears.

Hello?

(CONTINUED)

ZACH

Um, yeah, sorry about that. I think my connection crapped out. Oh, and Mindfield says he hates that too.

TOM

Seriously. People on the internet.

RICHARD laughs nervously.

RICHARD

I know, right?! People on the internet, I tell ya...

TOM

Ok then...should we start this up? I don't have a lot of time here.

ZACH

Well I still have one more guy coming, but maybe we can get started, um...how about we get to know each other some more, you know, promote team chemistry and such.

NICK

Yeah! Maybe we should do some team building exercises!

TOM

Ugh.

RICHARD

Oh that's a good idea, my teacher had us do some fun stuff on the first day of class to help us get to know one another better.

TOM

Oh? Where do you go to school?

RICHARD

Emergy High School.

TOM

Oh. I meant college, nevermind.

RICHARD

Oh.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Hey I went to college! Proud Yellow Jacket!

TOM

What was your major?

NICK

Engineering! Yours?

TOM

I'm actually a senior, but I thinking law school.

RICHARD

Oh great, more lawyers! Am I right?

TOM

You aren't.

ZACH

Anyway, Richard...about those exercises...

RICHARD

Oh yeah, so you gather around and ask a person if they want to reveal something about themselves, if they do then you ask them a personal question, and if they don't, then they have to do a challenge of your choice.

ZACH

Umm..truth or dare?

RICHARD

No no, that's different.

TOM

Richard, tell me something. What exactly are the differences between your game and truth or dare?

RICHARD

Err...this one takes place in an educational environment?

NICK

What were the dares?

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

Well, mostly just having people  
lick stuff around the classroom.

TOM

Take away the classroom setting and  
you literally have every game of  
truth or dare.

ZACH

Well we could still try it...

TOM

I am not playing truth or dare.

NICK

What does Mindfield think?

ZACH receives a message from DOM.

TOM

Once again, I am not playing this.

ZACH

Well Mindfield doesn't really want  
to play either.

ZACH receives a notification.

Alright! The final guy is here! So  
let's put this teenage girl slumber  
party on hold.

ZACH brings the final person into the conversation. KELSEY  
enters.

Hey, what's up man?

KELSEY

Umm..man?

The group sits in stunned silence for a bit. Finally, the  
sound of a message from DOM breaks the silence.

ZACH

Yes Mindfield, that is not a man,  
thank you.

ACT III

ZACH

Sorry about that, I don't know what  
I was thinking, I wrongly assumed  
that..

(CONTINUED)

KELSEY interrupts ZACH and runs into her kitchen. She starts shifting through various items and starts doing various tasks. She appears to be looking for a lost item, but cannot find it through all the mess. The rest of the group waits.

NICK

Do you think she hates us already?

TOM

Not us, just Zach. Good job.

ZACH

I'm sure she doesn't hate me, it was a common mistake.

KELSEY

Alright, I'm back. Anyway, yeah it's fine, I get that all the time on the internet. Everytime I use my mic I'm either creepily hit on to the point of sexual harassment or accused of a being a teenage boy who hasn't hit puberty yet. It's a fine line.

RICHARD laughs awkwardly.

Yeah, I've heard plenty of that.

TOM

So what's your name?

KELSEY

Oh yeah! I'm Kelsey.

TOM

Well I'm Tom. The sexist is Zach.

ZACH

Thanks.

TOM

The giggler is Richard, and then there's...

NICK starts laughing.

Yeah that's Richard.

RICHARD

That wasn't me!

ZACH

I think that was Nick.

NICK

Sorry, the word giggler gets me every time.

ZACH

How often do you hear the word giggler?

TOM

Well then, that's Nick. And there's Mindfield, who I just don't even know.

KELSEY

Oh, well nice to meet you guys, I...

KELSEY is interrupted by a phone call. She takes the call.  
Oh I'm sorry, I'm working on it, I should have it all by Monday, I picked up a couple of extra shifts so...ok yeah I'm sorry again. It's around here someplace...I can't find it right now...but I'm sure it's here...ok yeah, I'll have it, sorry...Bye.

KELSEY hangs up.

RICHARD

Everything ok?

TOM

Richard! Come on!

RICHARD

What?! I was concerned!

NICK

Yeah, come on Richard.

KELSEY

(laughing)

Well thank you, but it's no problem. New York living and such.

RICHARD

Oh, I've never been there.

(CONTINUED)

KELSEY

I actually moved here a couple of years ago from the Illinois suburbs, a surprsingly rough area.

ZACH

Well it can't be worse than living in the South!

No one laughs, but RICHARD.

KELSEY

So what are you guys doing?

TOM

I am not playing truth or dare!

KELSEY

Umm..what?

ZACH

Yeah Tom! Maybe Kelsey wants to play truth or dare!

KELSEY

Umm..

TOM

Like I said, Zach is the sexist.

ZACH

No that isn't what I meant! I mean, traditionally girls..

KELSEY interrupts and is silently laughing.

KELSEY

Women.

ZACH

Sorry! Women, teenage women, umm, are the ones who usually play truth or dare.

NICK

Hey! I went to an all boys school!

TOM

You see! Now you're being sexist the other way!

ZACH becomes frustrated and begins to yell.

ZACH

OK! OK! Enough of this! You guys  
want to play, well let's play then!  
I'll find us a game!

The group becomes excited and starts to talk among  
themselves.

ACT IV

Everyone is sitting silently in disbelief. KELSEY is  
doodling on a piece of paper.

ZACH

Well, that didn't go too well.

TOM

That was a complete disaster.

ZACH

Well I wouldn't say that...

TOM

Complete and utter disaster.

RICHARD

Sorry about that guys, I played  
really bad.

KELSEY

I didn't do so hot either.

NICK

That wasn't a lot of fun.

ZACH

Well I mean, it was only our first  
time playing together so...

TOM

I don't see it getting better.

NICK

I mean, I don't know, I think Zach  
is right, we need more time playing  
with each other.

TOM

We were terrible! There was no  
chemistry whatsoever! We were all  
yelling at each other. And Nick,  
come on man, what was up with you?

(CONTINUED)

NICK

What?! I told you! I pressed the button and nothing happened!

TOM

Well that's weird, because that button seems to be working now!

KELSEY

And why were you laughing so much?

NICK

My cats were tickling me! It happens!

RICHARD

Yeah, come on Nick, at least admit you messed up.

ZACH

Ok well maybe let's all just realize that it's a team game...

NICK

I don't know why I'm the one being blamed here! Maybe we don't have this whole team chemistry thing because Richard and Tom are the opposite of the plot of You've Got Mail.

TOM

What in the hell are you talking about?

RICHARD

You're forcing that reference.

ZACH

Nick, no, please!

NICK

You know those supposed incompetent players that did the opposite of what you wanted? Remember? Well one of those players was Richard! And before you joined us he was bragging about how mad you were getting.

TOM

Are you kidding me Richard?! Was it so hard to just not be an ass and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOM (cont'd)  
just try to win the game? I mean,  
that had to be the worst group of  
people I have ever played with! And  
that's excluding the fact that you  
guys actually like Matt Damon!  
Don't even get me started on that!

RICHARD  
Hey! I went to your side a lot!  
They just made some strong  
arguments against you.

TOM  
You were the one that kept  
switching sides?! Have some  
loyalty!

RICHARD  
What do you want from me?!

ZACH tries to defuse the situation through humor, he laughs  
at his own joke, but it creates a short period of silence.

ZACH  
I could use some money.

TOM  
Zach, shut up. And Richard, we lost  
because of you guys!

RICHARD  
Oh no, you lost in a video game,  
way to break stereotypes there.

KELSEY  
Ok this is getting a little muchy  
for me.

ZACH  
No Kelsey, please wait. They're  
just play fighting.

TOM  
So what? I'm a dog? Is that right?

ZACH  
Well no, but you are another  
historical thing from Germany!

TOM  
What?

(CONTINUED)

ZACH

I was talking about German  
Shepherds, and then Hitler!

TOM

You realize that there are multiple  
dog breeds?

ZACH

Well sorry if none are as good as  
German Shepherds!

RICHARD

I do love German Shepherds!

TOM

Labs are so much better, but that  
isn't the point!

RICHARD

Well yeah..Labs are pretty good...

KELSEY

Alright. So...

NICK

Yeah, don't leave Kelsey, you  
haven't blamed me yet.

RICHARD

Oh come on Nick, give it a rest.

KELSEY

Well maybe if you could actually  
admit you sucked.

TOM

Thank you.

KELSEY

Yeah, I'm talking about everyone.

RICHARD

I did admit!

NICK

Oh shut up Richard.

TOM

Well that's one thing we can agree  
on.

A voice is heard in the background from DOM's microphone.

(CONTINUED)

BACKGROUND VOICE

Dom, are you ok? I heard yelling.

ZACH

Wait, who is Dom? Is that Mindfield?! Are you kidding me?! So you've had a mic this entire time and you just decided not to use it?!

DOM sends ZACH another message, resulting in a notification sound.

No! NO NO NO. We're not doing this. You are going to put your mouth on that microphone.

RICHARD

Ew.

ZACH

Shut up Richard.

NICK

What if he's deaf?

ZACH

He's not deaf, he responded to us earlier!

KELSEY

Ok so what if he's...uhh...what's the word...

TOM

You mean..?

KELSEY

No, don't tell me! I know this, umm...why am I blanking?! It's so obvi!

TOM

You have to be kidding me!

KELSEY

Mute! That's it, mute!

ZACH rubs his face in exhaustion.

ZACH

Oh man, alright well if you're mute then I'm really really sorry and who can I make the check out to?

(CONTINUED)

DOM  
Hello there.

ZACH  
You're killing me man! I stuck my neck out for you! And you do this!? I thought you were mute!

DOM  
Well not sure you stuck your neck out for me, you kind of just followed me around the internet until I gave in.

ZACH  
Yeah, I stuck my self-respect neck out for you!

RICHARD  
Hey Dom, nice to meet you..again.

TOM shakes his head in frustration.

ZACH  
Yeah well, I guess it is nice to finally meet you. And I figure that if Dom actually used his mic then we would've had better teamwork...which would've led to a better result..and we wouldn't we be in this situation.

TOM  
Zach, give it up, this isn't working.

KELSEY  
Yeah, this seems pretty dysfunctional to me. I really don't need this right now.

ZACH  
Can you guys just hear me out for a second?

TOM  
I really need to get going.

NICK  
Go ahead Zach.

ZACH

Alright, so listen, all good teams face diversity, right? We're taking a bunch of random people, throwing them together, and just expecting to be good right away?! It's going to take time, it's going to take a lot of effort, but if we just stick together then we can become a great team. This is the blueprint that all good teams follow, whether intentional or not. So, please, I know this can work. I know it can.

TOM

Eh, I'm just not feeling it.

DOM

I'll see you guys around maybe. You can all add me on friends if you want.

KELSEY

Sorry it just didn't work out. This didn't really seem anything like the post you made.

NICK

Dom, did you get my friend request? Can everyone add me too in case they ever want to play anything?

RICHARD

Alright well...

ZACH

No just wait, please just wait. Ok think of it like this. Fighting is a good thing! Now hear me out. Just think about it. People in love fight all the time, not that we're in love, not sure why I said that, but you get the point. Fighting is something that happens normally in a close knit group! It means that you like one another. I'm sure everyone here has fought with their friends, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't hang out! And like I said earlier, all good teams have those fights on the field or in the locker room. And

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZACH (cont'd)

fighting is a way to build character! You learn more about people through fighting! And...if you aren't the fighting type, it's pretty damn entertaining watching people fight! So you see, this can work!

The group sits in silence for a moment.  
Alright well, I tried. I did have fun playing with everyone. I guess I'll see you guys later.

NICK

Make sure to accept my friend request.

TOM

Well that was uhh....really kind of pathetic.

KELSEY

Oh come on! That isn't nice.

RICHARD

Well he did have some good points.

TOM

Yeah he had good points, surprisingly, but man, that was just rough.

DOM

Poor sap.

NICK

I feel kind of bad.

KELSEY

Yeah, me too.

RICHARD

So what now?

TOM

Alright, I feel a little bad. Maybe we can give this another try. Can someone message him and get him back in here?

(CONTINUED)

NICK  
I'm on it!

ZACH  
Oh. Hey there.

RICHARD AND KELSEY  
Hey!

TOM  
Ugh, you never even left.

ZACH  
And luckily for you I didn't!

TOM  
And why is this? No wait, I don't  
want to know.

ZACH  
Because you like me.

TOM  
No.

NICK  
I like you!

ZACH  
Just admit Tommy Boy, you like me.

TOM  
Don't call me that.

KELSEY  
So what's going on?

RICHARD  
I don't know.

TOM  
I do not like Zach, I am just  
barely tolerating him right now and  
any sympathy I had for you is  
quickly going away.

RICHARD  
Said every woman he's...

ZACH interrupts RICHARD.

ZACH

Ok I get the point!

NICK

Well I'm glad he's back!

RICHARD

So...still...what now? We're all giving this another go, right?

NICK

Yes!

TOM

Fine.

DOM

Yeah, why the hell not?

KELSEY

Alright, but that whole spiel won't work again.

ZACH

Alright, well I say we call it a day actually, my friend Tyler is coming to pick me up, but how about we do one team building exercise before I go.

The group collectively groans.

Oh relax, this one might actually be fun, do we all have webcams?

Everyone in the group confirms they do, except DOM.

Well how about on the count of three we all turn them on and see what we all look like!

TOM

Not creepy at all.

ZACH

Oh come on, I promise I'm attractive.

TOM

Ugh.

RICHARD

I'm in!

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Yeah me too!

KELSEY

Alright, but just know that I'm in between places at the moment.

Everyone, but DOM, turns on their webcams.

ZACH

You see? This isn't terribly awkward!

TOM

You're uglier than I thought, Zach.

KELSEY

I don't think he's that bad!

ZACH gives a confused look.

NICK

What about me?

RICHARD

Hey Mindfield...err..I mean Dom, sorry. Wait, which do you prefer?

DOM

Dom, is fine, I guess.

RICHARD

Well are you going to turn on your webcam?

DOM

I'm good for now.

NICK

Oh, did you guys want to see my cats?

TOM

Is that supposed to promote team chemistry?

NICK picks up his cats and puts them on his lap.

NICK

This one is Lea, and this other one is Handsome.

The cats start rubbing on NICK, which causes him to start laughing hysterically. The group looks on with discomfort. NICK then accidentally spills his drink all over himself.

God dang it guys! I told you not to jump on me!

ZACH

Alright, maybe this is a good place to stop.

TYLER walks in.

TYLER

Hey man, your mom let me in...

ZACH

Alright well this is a good place to stop.

TYLER

What's going on?

ZACH

Oh guys, this is my friend, Tyler.

TYLER and everyone else exchange hellos, TYLER waves, but into the screen and not the camera, which ZACH corrects. TYLER then whispers to ZACH.

TYLER

This is weird.

ZACH

They can hear you.

TYLER

Wait, is that a girl?

ZACH

That is a woman, Tyler. A woman. So who wants the last word?

NICK

I'll take it!

ZACH

Tom, how about you?

TOM

Shut up.