

WHAT'S WRONG, LILY MACK?

written by

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INT. AUDITION ROOM - DAY (RECORDING)

CHLOE KIANI (12), stands motionless in front of an unseen camera. No smile. No expression. A child-sized mannequin.

She twists the hem of her shirt, waiting.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Action.

And in an instant--

YOUNG CHLOE

(bright and cheerful)

Hi! My name is Chloe Kiani, I'm twelve years old, I'm with Starlink Talent, and I'm auditioning for the role of Lily in *What's Up, Lily Mack?*

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Your height?

YOUNG CHLOE

(unsure)

Umm...

DANA (O.S.)

(Persian accent)

Five-foot-one.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

What'd she say?

ASSISTANT (O.S.)

Five-foot-one.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Perfect.

(sarcastic)

Mom knows best.

Chloe forces a smile, glancing off-camera.

DANA (O.S.)

(Farsi)

On the camera.

Chloe adjusts immediately.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Right profile, please.

Chloe turns, but her posture is slightly off. Dana clears her throat. Chloe stiffens instantly.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And your left.

Chloe pivots left.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Great. Ready to get started?

Chloe hesitates, eyeing her unseen mother for permission.

DANA (O.S.)
She's ready.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Good. Let's see it.

Chloe shuts her eyes. Breathes in.

STAGE MANAGER (PRE-LAP)
In five...four...three...two...

Her eyes snap open--

TITLE SEQUENCE - WHAT'S UP, LILY MACK?

A bright, upbeat pop-rock song kicks off a colorful montage, introducing the world of *What's Up, Lily Mack?*.

- CHLOE (18) races down a school hallway on roller skates, swerving around teachers with a bubbling science project.

WHAT'S UP, LILY MACK?

- Chloe "bakes" a cake, but...**KA-BOOM!** Flour explosion!

STARRING CHLOE KIANI AS LILY MACK

- Chloe and "best friend," BELLA (18), team up in dodgeball. They high-five and break into an over-the-top victory dance.

BELLA NAVARRO AS MAYA

- Chloe and her "friend," ETHAN (18), sit side by side, faces smeared as they furiously compete in a pie-eating contest.

ETHAN SHAY AS LEO

- Daydreaming, Chloe flies around her school like Supergirl, striking an heroic pose for her classmates.

- Back in the real world, a disapproving teacher taps on Chloe's desk, jolting her awake.

CREATED BY BRAD MOZIER

- LILY (a cartoon only Chloe can see) pops onto Chloe's shoulder, whispering something goofy. Chloe smirks, winking at the camera.

END TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA (LILY MACK)

Chloe, Bella, and Ethan walk together, zig-zagging through the bustling hallways of hell...high school.

Bella is busy on her phone while Chloe balances cups of Jell-O like a circus act, walking on tiptoes for dramatic effect.

CHLOE

And for my next trick, I will defy gravity with a single stack of mediocre, ultra-processed gelatin!

Cue the sitcom laughter! *Ha ha ha ha!*

CHLOE (V.O.)

I hate this episode.

FREEZE FRAME

TANYA (V.O.)

Wha-how?! You look so pretty here! Even more than Bella.

CHLOE (V.O.)

More than Bella? You sound like my manager.

The show resumes. *Ha ha ha...*

ETHAN

Gravity-defying? Lily, please. I've seen you trip over air.

CHLOE

What are you talking about? I never--

A CUTE BOY passes.

CUTE BOY
Hey, Lily.

TANYA (V.O.)
He's hot.

CHLOE (V.O.)
He's gay.

TANYA (V.O.)
Typical.

Chloe's face flushes as cartoon Lily pops on her shoulder, dramatically fanning her with a tiny fan.

LILY
Stay calm, Lily! Stay calm! Stay--!

BOOM! Right on cue, Chloe trips, sending her Jell-O flying as she crashes to the ground. Oof. Pure social humiliation.

The laugh track howls. Cruel. Endless. *HA HA HA HA HA HA!*

BELLA
(deadpan; to Ethan)
Did you hear something?

Ethan points to the ground. Chloe, sprawled on the floor, is covered in Jell-O.

Lily reappears, this time wearing a referee's uniform. She blows a whistle and holds up a "**1/10**" scorecard.

LILY
(alarm blaring)
Abort mission! This is not a drill!
Full-blown social meltdown!

*Ha ha ha ha...*the laughs never stop, do they? Chloe clutches her ears. No use. The sound warps, the cafeteria blurring around her, the set itself is collapsing. *Ha ha ha...*

BLACK.

TANYA (V.O.)
Hey, I was watching that!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chloe hurls the remote across the room. **THWACK!**

CHLOE

Come on.

And like the good little hanger-on she is, TANYA (18) trails after Chloe out to...

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...a seemingly endless corridor, walled with the newest, garish artwork. From below, music and laughter.

A PARTY in full swing. Chloe and Tanya charge across...

INT. MASTER STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

...to the stair hall, running down the twisting marble.

CHLOE

Whose party is this?

TANYA

Some exec from William Morris.

CHLOE

Figures. Compensating for lack of talent.

TANYA

I think my mom dated him back in the nineties.

CHLOE

That tracks.

They spill out...

INT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS

...into a bustling sea of stars and star-chasers. Actors, musicians, models -- the haves and the have-even-mores.

It's packed. Drinking, smoking, dancing. Chloe and Tanya push through.

CHLOE

I hate these things.

TANYA

Then why come?

CHLOE

It was either this or AA and at least here they serve drinks.

TANYA

Good point.

Chloe doesn't break stride, cutting through the party, brushing past a pair of influencers posing for TikTok Live.

INFLUENCER #1

(starstruck)

Oh my god...

INFLUENCER #2

Oh my god!

The two influencers glom onto Chloe, phones out, recording.

INFLUENCER #1

Look, everyone!

INFLUENCER #2

It's Lily Mack!

INFLUENCER #1

Say "hi," Lily!

Chloe waves, putting on her patented fake smile.

CHLOE

(cheerful)

Hi, everyone!

INFLUENCER #2

Hey, do you remember that episode where you had your first kiss with Leo under the bleachers?

CHLOE

Of course. Who doesn't?

TANYA

Oh, I love that episode!

INFLUENCER #1

Ethan Shay is like so hot, right? Don't you agree, Lily?

INFLUENCER #2

What was it like to kiss him?

INFLUENCER #1

Was he your *real* first kiss?

INFLUENCER #2
Are you jealous he's dating Bella?

CHLOE
Um...

TANYA
I'm Tanya by the way! You can
follow me at--!

One influencer shoves Tanya aside.

INFLUENCER #1
Hey, is Bella here?

CHLOE
She's, uh...

Chloe points vaguely at some random spot.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Somewhere over there.

INFLUENCER #2
(excited)
Really?

CHLOE
Oh, yeah. You can't miss her.

INFLUENCER #1
OMG, let's go!

Bored with Chloe, the influencers shove past, scurrying off.
Chloe rolls her eyes and pushes forward, slipping out to...

EXT. BACKYARD, MANSION - CONTINUOUS

The pool glimmers under string lights, people floating, half-dressed, fully-drunk.

Off to the side, a circle of Hollywood-types crowd a table, lines of coke waiting like party favors. Chloe slips into an empty chair.

We **SPIN** around. One guest takes a hit. Then another.

COKE-FUELED DIRECTOR
(rapid, manic)
No, no, no, listen! *Listen!*

He leans forward, eyes wild.

COKE-FUELED DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Forrest Gump isn't some sweet bedtime story we tell our kids when they find out Santa's not real. It's insidious. It's propaganda. A goddamn victory lap for conservative Boomer America.

EXECUTIVE

(sarcastic)

Are you high?

COKE-FUELED DIRECTOR

Rehab for a generation that torched draft cards, dropped acid and then crawled back into the mainstream waving the Stars and Stripes and a fistful of Apple stock like John Wayne charging in to rape and pillage the frontier all over again.

He leans back, catching his breath.

COKE-FUELED DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

I mean, whatever happened to Bogdanovich? De Palma? Altman? *That's* the America I want.

EXECUTIVE

They lost the studios a lot of money.

The director slams his fist on the table.

COKE-FUELED DIRECTOR

Fuck the studios and fuck *Forrest Gump*!

We spin back to Chloe.

CHLOE

(unassuming)

Can I just have some of coke?

They all stare at her.

COKE-FUELED DIRECTOR

Uh...yeah. Sure.

Chloe takes a hit. She pushes back her chair and slips out.

The laughter around her feels warped, like she's back in sitcom-land. *Ha ha ha...*she runs. She jumps. **SPLASH!**

BLACK.

Cartoon Lily pops into frame.

LILY
Chloe?

Silence. Lily frowns, arms crossed.

LILY (CONT'D)
Told you the coke was a bad idea.
Should've stuck to orange soda like
from the show.
(beat)
Hey, are you listening?

She paces, thinking.

LILY (CONT'D)
What do I have to do to wake you
up, huh?

Then, lightbulb moment. As in, an actual lightbulb pops above her head.

LILY (CONT'D)
(eureka)
Ah ha!

Like a magician, Lily pulls an oversized alarm clock from her pocket.

LILY (CONT'D)
This might get a little loud, but
hey, desperate times, right?

She cranks it up. *Tick...tick...tick...*

INT. CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY

Chloe's eyes snap open, her phone *buzzing*.