Coffee Shop Talks

A 10-Minute Play

By Mattie Crane

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*Coffee Talk Shops*

CAST

Haley…………………...18 years old. Senior in high school. The epitome of a good student.

Sophie………………...18 years old. Senior in high school. Suffering from senioritis. Hates school with a passion.

TIME AND SETTING

Mid-January 2019. A local coffee shop. Snow flurries fall from the sky outside of the coffee shop window. The air inside the shop is filled with the aroma of fresh coffee and baked pastries.

*Lights up. A small and quaint coffee shop. Two friends HALEY (18), and SOPHIE (18) sit at a small table drinking their beverages out of oversized coffee mugs. They are catching up after a long couple of weeks of school.*

HALEY

Oh my god these mugs are huge! I can barely hold it!

SOPHIE

I know right? I love them though, they’re like the coffee mugs from *Friends*.

HALEY

Huh?

SOPHIE

You know, *Friends*? The TV show?

HALEY

Never heard of it.

SOPHIE

Are you serious?! How have you never heard of *Friends*! It’s only the best tv show ever made!

HALEY

I don’t know. I don’t watch a lot of television these days.

SOPHIE

What teenager doesn’t watch tv?

HALEY

I watch tv just not all the time like you do! I have more important things to do!

SOPHIE

What’s that supposed to mean?

HALEY

I’m just saying that it doesn’t seem like you are taking things seriously. You don’t show up to class half of the time and I don’t think you’ve turned in an assignment in weeks! You just stay home and do nothing!

SOPHIE

Well, I’m sorry I’m not perfect like you are!

HALEY

That’s not what I’m saying. I just wish you took things more seriously. We graduate in six months Soph! You can’t slack off now!

SOPHIE

I’m not slacking off, I’m just a little behind on some things.

*HALEY scoffs*.

HALEY

Behind is an understatement.

SOPHIE

Hey what’s with all the judgment? I thought you’d be a little bit more considerate than that.

HALEY

I’m not trying to judge you I’m just worried.

SOPHIE

About what?

HALEY

About you! About your future! I just don’t want you to fall so far behind that you can’t catch up.

SOPHIE

I don’t know why you’re so worried, I still have until June.

HALEY

I’ve seen this happen with you before though. Last year you nearly got expelled for how much class you missed! I just want to help you.

SOPHIE

Look, I understand that you’re worried, but you don’t need to be. I’m fine, okay? I’ve just been lacking motivation lately.

HALEY

Are you sure that’s it?

SOPHIE

Haley what are you-----

HALEY

Are you depressed?

*Silence. SOPHIE sits there stunned.*

SOPHIE

What?

HALEY

I asked if you were depressed. Because if you are, you need to know what you are feeling is totally valid.

SOPHIE

Oh, what are you my therapist now Haley? Jesus Christ, I’m not some stranger you can take one glance at and diagnose, okay? I’m your friend not some mentally ill loser.

HALEY

Would you stop putting words in my mouth? You know that’s not what I think of you.

*SOPHIE scoffs and rolls her eyes.*

SOPHIE

Yeah right.

HALEY

Would you stop being so negative I am trying to help you!!

SOPHIE

Well, it sure as hell doesn’t feel like that! It feels like you are cornering me! Is this why you invited me to get coffee? So, you could bombard me with questions and make me feel like a piece of shit for not having my life together like you?

HALEY

You think I have my life together?

SOPHIE

Yes, I do! You always have! Ever since we were kids you’ve done everything right! You always get the best grades, play numerous varsity sports. You never get in trouble and your attendance record is the best of the goddamn school!

HALEY

Sophie…...

SOPHIE

Do you wanna know what my mom said to me the other day? When she came into my room and saw me lying in bed instead of doing homework? She said, “Why can’t you be more like Haley?” That’s all anyone has ever said to me. Haley this and Haley that. Do you know how exhausting that is?

HALEY

No, I don’t.

*SOPHIE’S eyes glisten with unshed tears.*

SOPHIE

I don’t want to be behind in school Hales. I just feel so stuck. I hate all my classes and my teachers don’t give a shit about me. No matter the subject it just doesn’t click in my head. None of it makes sense. It’s just so pointless.

HALEY

It’s not pointless Soph.

SOPHIE

Isn’t it? C’mon when you really think about it it’s so pointless. I mean half of the stuff we are taught we will never use outside of school. Like why do I have to take pre-calculus when I know I’m not going to study math, or anything related to it in the future? So here I am stuck having to take these stupid classes that are way to hard for me to understand anything. So, I get shitty grades. And my parents can’t afford a tutor unlike all the other snotty rich kids in our grade.

HALEY

Why did you never tell me you were struggling? I would love to help you with school stuff.

SOPHIE

I know you would I just…. was embarrassed.

HALEY

Embarrassed? Sophie I am your best friend, I have been for years now. You shouldn’t be embarrassed around me.

SOPHIE

I know. Ugh. I’m not good at this. Talking about my feelings.

HALEY

I know. You’re doing great. I really appreciate you opening up. Just take a deep breath.

SOPHIE

Okay.

*SOPHIE takes a deep breath. In and out.*

SOPHIE (Cont.)

I feel embarrassed…. because you’re so smart and good at everything. You excel at every subject and teachers adore you. I mean what was the last time you got anything less than a B in class?

HALEY

Uhhh well….

SOPHIE

Don’t answer that, it will only make me feel shittier.