

"The Mercy List" excerpt: "The Crush Begins"

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www.HappyFrogFilms.com www.TheMercyList.com

(Set up: Lydia has just started working in the pharmacy with Tanner, and is starting to get used to him. When her snotty friend Rochelle comes by to chat it's the first time that Lydia starts to side more with Tanner. Instead of secretly making fun of him, she finds him truly interesting. The crush begins.)

**INT. BEST VAL-U DRUG -- NIGHT**

**PHARMACY** -- It's not so busy tonight. Tanner sits on a stool at his station filling out paperwork. Lydia is pinning her hair up, experimenting with new looks.

Rochelle comes up to the counter munching on an apple.

ROCHELLE

Hey Lyd. I got a message on my cell from Keith Wilkins. Please tell me you didn't give him my number, or I will go to housewares, get some rat poison and kill myself.

Tanner can't help but interject.

TANNER

Actually you probably wouldn't die if you ingested rat poison. They always add an emetic to it.

ROCHELLE

A what?

TANNER

An emetic.

Blank looks.

TANNER (CONT'D)

An emetic...in case you swallow poison or something. An emetic causes you to vomit on purpose.

Rochelle wrinkles up her nose in disgust.

ROCHELLE

Gross. Why would they make something that causes you to vomit on purpose?

LYDIA

(a bit snide)

He just said, in case you swallow  
poison.

TANNER

You'd be better off in automotive.  
Eight ounces or so of antifreeze'll  
kill ya. Ethylene glycol.

Rochelle gawks.

TANNER (CONT'D)

Or buy a pack of cigarettes. Those  
can kill you.

ROCHELLE

Okay Mr. Surgeon General. Smoking  
is bad for you. Duh!

TANNER

No, I mean they can kill you within  
hours. Just three or four's enough.

Rochelle turns away from him, but Lydia's intrigued.

LYDIA

How would smoking four cigarettes  
kill you?

TANNER

No, not smoking. Ingesting them.  
Nicotine is a insecticide. It's  
poisonous to humans too. You could  
take several cigarettes, put 'em in a  
glass of water for say an hour, filter  
it, drink the water, and be dead in a  
few hours. It'd taste horrendous though.

Rochelle doesn't even attempt to hide her disdain.

ROCHELLE

Okay, thanks for that. I'll take it  
into consideration.

TANNER

I'm just saying. Toxins are all  
around us. There's cyanide in that  
apple you're eating.

Rochelle looks at her apple.

TANNER (CONT'D)

In the seeds. Minute traces, but  
still. Cherry pits, peach pits.

ROCHELLE  
Okaaaay. Well then. I'll be going  
home now.

Rochelle wanders off.

TANNER  
(loudly, but to himself)  
And that's why they think I'm weird.

Lydia can only laugh.

LYDIA  
She can be a real bitch.

TANNER  
I thought you guys were friends.

LYDIA  
Oh, we are! Best friends!