

Star

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Aubrey, a lonely high school loser now entering college at Michigan State University, decides to take a risk in her hall meeting and gains popularity by using her fist as a puppet to speak. She gets everything she wanted in high school, but as her hand puppet takes over her life she begins to lose control.

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EXT. GRADUATION DAY - SUBURBAN HIGH SCHOOL LAWN

A graduating class of 500 high school students sit in foldable chairs on a lawn.

We see AUBREY; 18, she does not stand out in a crowd, she sits, picking at the skin surrounding her nail, in her chair between two girls who don't know who she is.

PRINCIPAL

Aubrey Donovan! Who will be attending University of Michigan!

Aubrey doesn't move.

GIRL WITH BLONDE HAIR

Who the fuck is that?

Aubrey stands up. She walks down the aisle towards the stage. You can hear other students mumbling, not paying attention to Aubrey. On the stage the principal hands Aubrey her diploma.

PRINCIPAL

Congratulations, Aubrey!

AUBREY

I'm actually going to Michigan State University, not University of Michigan...

PRINCIPAL

(Quietly, to Aubrey)

Oh, my apologizes.

(To crowd)

My mistake everyone, Aubrey will be attending the equally as prestigious Michigan State University not University of Michigan.

The audience groans.

Aubrey moves her tassel from one side of her cap to the other; there is scattered applause. Aubrey's parents, MARNIE and JEFF, they are your average suburban couple, well-groomed and plain, stand up cheering and screaming for Aubrey.

EXT. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY - THAT FALL

It is about three months later. Aubrey is in the car with her parents Marnie and Jeff, they drive through the picturesque

campus of Michigan State University. Through the window Aubrey watches other freshmen moving in. Marnie is meticulously tracing a campus map.

MARNIE

Here! Turn here!

JEFF

Turning!

MARNIE

Oh this is so exciting! There's your dorm, Aubrey! It's beautiful, don't you think?

The dorm is made of brown brick, very bland, like any college dorm.

AUBREY

It looks okay.

JEFF

Alright, ladies, let's get movin'. We don't have all day!

Aubrey, Jeff, and Marnie get out of the car and start unloading things.

Aubrey notices another student, BEN. He is tall and lanky, not a jock, but handsome. He carries boxes out of his car and onto the pavement.

Aubrey stops and stares at him. He doesn't see her.

JEFF

Come on, sweetie- we've got to unload the car.

Aubrey, embarrassed goes back to unloading boxes. She drops a box and it pops open revealing an old teddy bear. She scrambles to get it out of sight; but Ben has already seen. Aubrey grabs the box and scurries into the dorm.

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Aubrey unpacks her belongings into her new dorm room with her parents. She is completely moved in.

Marnie holds up a PAGE CUT OUT OF A MAGAZINE, the room is an exact replica of the paper.

MARNIE

Jeff, move the lamp just a little to the left please.

JEFF

Here?

MARNIE

Now a little to the right.

JEFF

Here?

MARNIE

Perfect! I just think it's great that you don't have a roommate. You've got this place all to yourself!

AUBREY

I guess.

MARNIE

Honey, if you're worried about making friends you should write on the white board on the door! Say something like, 'stop by, I'm very friendly'.

AUBREY

I don't think I'm gonna do that.

MARNIE

Well, you'll figure it out. I'm sure that plenty of the other kids don't have roommates either. You all could start a club or something! Get coffee at a set time every week-

A knock at the door interrupts Marnie.

MARNIE

Come in!

Aubrey shoots her mom a look.

MARNIE

Sorry, sweetie.

Aubrey's RA, JESSICA, enters. She is dressed from head to toe in the school's colors and smiles so that all her teeth are showing. Aubrey looks uncomfortable and again begins picking at the skin surrounding her nail.

JESSICA

Hello, there, Donovan family!

JEFF

(Oddly enthusiastic)

Hello!

JESSICA

How are we all settling in?

MARNIE

Well, Aubrey here is just about completely unpacked so I'd say we're doing great!

JESSICA

Wonderful, there's going to be a hall meeting tomorrow night at 8pm in the common room but until then you'll be busy with all the stuff your freshman mentors have planned for you, I got a sneak peek at the program and it looks like a blast! When I was--

AUBREY

Are all the activities mandatory?

JESSICA

Well I guess not, you're paying to be here so we can't really force you to do anything. I would really suggest going to them though cause otherwise you're gonna miss out on a great opportunity to make some new friends!

Aubrey is silent, she continues to pick at her skin.

MARNIE

She's just kidding! Of course she will attend all the events the school offers. Right, Aubrey?

Aubrey does not respond.

JESSICA

Okay, well, I'm glad you're settling in! My room is just down the hall if you need anything. See you at the meeting tomorrow!

Jessica leaves the room. Aubrey, Marnie, and Jeff sit in

silence for a moment.

AUBREY

I think I'm all good.

MARNIE

Oh okay, we should go?

AUBREY

Yeah, I'm ready I think.

JEFF

You sure you don't want us to take you  
out to dinner or something before we  
go?

AUBREY

No, I'm okay I'll just eat in the  
dining hall.

Marnie is tearing up.

MARNIE

Okay, well, we love you and if you  
need anything you know we're just an  
hour away!

JEFF

Yup, if you ever want us to come pick  
you up and bring you home we're happy  
to do it.

MARNIE

If you want us to come and visit for  
parents weekend just let us know.

AUBREY

I will.

Aubrey hugs Marnie who is now full-fledged crying. Jeff also  
seems to be tearing up a bit but he holds it back. Aubrey  
walks them to the door.

AUBREY

I love you guys.

MARNIE

We love you too.

JEFF

So much, honey.

MARNIE

Call us whenever you'd like.

JEFF

Day or night.

AUBREY

I will, bye.

Aubrey watches as Marnie and Jeff head down the hallway and out of the dorm.

She sits on her bed and looks down at her hands; they are bleeding from where she had been compulsively picking at them.

She grabs the orientation schedule, looks at it and then begins to cry.

INT. RESIDENTIAL HALL COMMON ROOM - 8PM NEXT DAY

Aubrey sits in her common room with about 40 other students and her RA Jessica. Everyone looks awkward and nervous but Aubrey stands out with how uncomfortable she looks.

JESSICA

Well, I think everyone is here now. Okay, let's get started! First off, welcome to Michigan U! I'm super excited to get to know you all over this next year.

The door opens and Ben walks in. He looks like he has been running to make it on time. His presence somehow makes Aubrey even more nervous.

JESSICA (CONTINUED) Please, sit down. Why don't we jump right in. Let's go around the room and everyone say your name, where you're from and a special skill you have. I'll start, I'm Jessica, I'm from Maine and my special skill is I can touch my nose with my tongue.

Aubrey is watching Ben.

Jessica touches her nose with her tongue, some of the students are impressed.

JESSICA

Okay, next!

Next is KATIE, she is clearly very self-confident.

KATIE

Hi Everyone! I'm super excited to be here! Um, I'm from just outside Fort Wayne and my special skill is I can do a headstand!

Katie demonstrates her headstand, Aubrey notices Ben roll his eyes.

JESSICA

Very cool! Okay, next?

Next is KYLE, he's the kind of guy who was a loser in high school and is trying his hardest not to be a loser in college too.

KYLE

Uh, hey, I'm Kyle I'm from Florida and I can put my whole fist in my mouth.

Kyle begins to demonstrate but is STRUGGLING.

JESSICA

Uh, that's okay, Kyle, we believe you. Let's just move on.

Next is Aubrey. She is almost visibly shaking.

AUBREY

Okay, uh, I'm Aubrey. I'm from Ann Arbor, and, uh, I don't really have a special skill.

JESSICA

Come on, Aubrey, you've got to have something!

AUBREY

No, I really don't.

JESSICA

We can't move on until you at least say something.

AUBREY

Fine, okay. When I was little I was



apparently really good at making fist puppet shows.

Some of the students look confused.

JESSICA

That's interesting. Why don't you show us?

AUBREY

Oh no, I don't think anyone wants to see that.

JESSICA

Come on, you guys want to see, right?

There are a few scattered nods.

AUBREY

Oh, okay, well.

(Talking as her fist puppet and imitating Kyle.)

Hey everybody, I'm Kyle, uh, I can fit a whole fist in my mouth.

Aubrey uses the fist puppet to swallow up her other fist. Everyone in the room is silent for a moment, until Ben starts laughing and then everyone else does too. Kyle looks a little embarrassed but laughs it off. Aubrey lights up.

JESSICA

Wonderful! Who's next?

INT. OUTSIDE THE COMMON ROOM

The meeting has ended and Aubrey is heading back to her room until she hears-

KYLE

Hey, puppet girl!

Aubrey doesn't turn around. The expression on her face is painful.

AUBREY

Yeah?

KYLE

Some of us are going to a concert in town if you're interested?

AUBREY

Oh, um...

KYLE

Just thought you were kinda funny and seemed chill.

Aubrey notices Ben coming out of the common room, talking to some other guy. He walks over to Kyle and her.

BEN

Hey, Kyle, you ready?

KYLE

Yeah, just asking puppet master here if she wants to join.

BEN

Oh yeah, that was hilarious. You should totally come.

AUBREY

Um, yeah okay, sure I'll come!

KYLE

Awesome.

AUBREY

I just need to grab some stuff from my room.

BEN

Yeah, go ahead, we'll just wait for you here.

AUBREY

Okay, I'll be right back!

Aubrey walks away from them and down the hallway; she makes a turn and is out of their sight.

She begins to sprint, up the stairs and down the hall to her room. She swings open the door and jumps about, celebrating to herself silently.

Bringing herself back to reality, she takes what she needs and looks in the mirror.

AUBREY

(Using her fist puppet to talk)  
You've got this.

She gives herself a thumbs up and then flies out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE A MUSIC VENUE, TOWN

Aubrey stands outside the music venue. Ben comes out the door.

BEN

Hey, we've been looking for you.

AUBREY

Oh, sorry I couldn't find you guys in there so I just came out here.

BEN

Oh, okay. Did you like the show?

AUBREY

Yeah, it was good...it was actually the first concert I've ever been to.

BEN

What?! That's insane.

AUBREY

Yeah, my parents are really protective.

BEN

Woah, I didn't think anyone's parents were actually like that.

AUBREY

Yeah...well mine are.

BEN

Damn. Well, Kyle heard about a comedy club that's having an open mic night down the street. You down?

AUBREY

Oh, yeah, sure.

BEN

You wait here. I'll go get Kyle.

Ben heads inside and Aubrey smiles to herself. She notices a man smoking and goes up to him.

AUBREY

Hi.

MAN WITH CIGARETTE

Hello.

AUBREY

Can I have a cigarette? I'll give you  
two dollars.

MAN WITH CIGARETTE

You can just have one, girly.

AUBREY

Oh, thank you.

Aubrey begins to walk away.

MAN WITH CIGARETTE

You need a light?

AUBREY

Oh right, yes please.

The man lights Aubrey's cigarette.

AUBREY

Thank you very much.

Aubrey inhales the cigarette and begins coughing violently.  
Ben and Kyle come out of the venue.

Aubrey places the cigarette so it seems like her hand puppet  
is smoking it.

AUBREY

(As her hand puppet)

Hey, anybody want a drag?

KYLE

Oh my god, Aubrey, that looks so  
weird.

Aubrey moves her hand so it looks like the hand puppet is  
actually smoking the cigarette.

BEN

You're really funny.

Aubrey smiles and her face gets red.

AUBREY

(As hand puppet)

Well come on, are we going to see some

comedy or what?

INT. COMEDY CLUB

Aubrey, Ben, and Kyle sit in a dimly lit and densely populated comedy club.

KYLE

You think my fake ID will work in here?

BEN

Yeah probably, that guy over there has a beer and he looks like he's about 16.

KYLE

I'll be right back.

BEN

(To Aubrey)

You should get up there.

AUBREY

What?! No way.

BEN

Yes way, you can do your puppet thing. People will love it.

AUBREY

Oh no, I don't do well with performing. In my freshman year of high school I threw up on stage during a chorus recital.

BEN

Come on, you're in college now, take a risk!

AUBREY

No, no I really couldn't.

Kyle comes back carrying THREE DRINKS.

KYLE

Okay, three rum and cokes.

BEN

Fuck yeah, thanks K.

AUBREY

Oh, wow, thank you Kyle.

KYLE

Of course, let's get plastered.

MONTAGE:

Aubrey, Ben, and Kyle get more rounds of drinks.

Laughing, dancing, and partying.

Ben flirting with Aubrey.

END MONTAGE

INT. COMEDY CLUB

Ben stumbles over to the table Kyle and Aubrey are sitting at.

BEN

(To Aubrey)

I signed you up.

AUBREY

What?

BEN

You're on deck.

AUBREY

Wait. I have to go up there?

BEN

You're gonna be great.

Aubrey is silent. She stares into space.

KYLE

Aubrey...hello?

BEN

Hey, Aubrey!

Kyle snaps his fingers in front of her face and she comes back to earth.

BEN

Don't freak out, you're gonna be great. Remember the guy who went up

there and just did puns? That was terrible! You're gonna be a thousand times better than him.

AUBREY  
I'm gonna do it.

KYLE  
You are?

AUBREY  
I've got to try new things.

BEN  
Yes!

AUBREY  
Also, I'm really drunk so I have a feeling this is gonna be good.

BEN  
Yeah, definitely.

There is applause from the audience.

M.C.  
Okay, next up we've got Aubrey, give it up for Aubrey!

BEN  
You've got this.

Aubrey gets up and makes her way to the stage. Much like the sequence where she walked up to get her diploma, except this time everyone is looking at her and everyone is clapping.

She gets up to the stage and the lights are blinding. She makes her hand into a fist puppet and says-

AUBREY  
(As fist puppet)  
Hey everybody...my name's Star.

INT. AUBREY'S ROOM

Ben and Aubrey enter Aubrey's room.

BEN  
That was insane! You killed it!

AUBREY

It was really fun, everybody calling  
my name and stuff.

BEN

I think you could really do something  
with this.

AUBREY

What do you mean?

BEN

I don't know, maybe you should start  
doing stand up.

AUBREY

I'd do that again.

BEN

I'm really glad you came tonight. It  
was awesome.

AUBREY

Thanks, I'm really glad I came too.

An awkward moment passes.

BEN

Your room is really big.

AUBREY

Oh yeah, it's nice, my roommate never  
came so I've got this whole room to  
myself.

BEN

Lucky you, my roommate clips his  
toenails in the middle of the night.

AUBREY

Really???

BEN

Yeah, he woke me up the other night  
when a nail flew and hit me on the  
head.

Aubrey laughs.

BEN

You've got a good laugh.



Aubrey looks embarrassed.

AUBREY

Thanks.

Ben kisses Aubrey. She looks shocked but then gets into it.

AUBREY

Wait...

BEN

Yeah what's up?

AUBREY

...kiss Star.

BEN

What?

AUBREY

Kiss Star.

BEN

Your hand?

AUBREY

Yeah.

The two stare at each other for a moment before Ben slowly goes in and grabs Aubrey's hand and starts making out with it.

Aubrey smirks, she looks pleased.

INT. AUBREY'S DORM - THE NEXT MORNING

Aubrey wakes up and sees Ben next to her in bed, she is shocked but pleased. She looks at the clock.

AUBREY

Fuck!

Ben wakes up.

BEN

What? What's happening?

AUBREY

My first class starts in fifteen minutes.

Ben rolls over, getting comfortable again.

BEN  
That's plenty of time.

AUBREY  
Are you kidding? It's all the way on  
the other side of campus. If I drove  
it would take fifteen minutes.

BEN  
You want me to take you on my bike?

AUBREY  
What?

BEN  
Yeah, I've got my bike downstairs. You  
can ride on the handlebars.

AUBREY  
Fine, fine, come on let's go I can't  
be late.

Ben throws on his clothes and the two rush out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE AUBREY'S DORM

Ben unlocks his bike.

BEN  
Hop on!

AUBREY  
Oh god.

Aubrey gets onto Ben's handlebars. Shots of them riding  
through campus. They arrive. Aubrey dismounts the bike.

AUBREY  
Thanks, that was fun.

Ben pulls her in and holds her around the waist.

BEN  
*Last night* was fun.

AUBREY  
That too. I've got to go though.

BEN

Alright, I'll see you later.

Aubrey watches Ben ride away.

INT. KYLE'S ROOM - 8PM

Aubrey, Ben, and Kyle sit in Kyle's room. It's messy.

BEN

I'm bored.

KYLE

It's Friday there's definitely something going on.

Kyle texts vigorously.

KYLE (CONTINUED)

I'm trying to find a party now.

AUBREY

I wanna smoke weed.

BEN

We can smoke.

AUBREY

I've never done it before.

KYLE

What? That's crazy.

AUBREY

Like I said, I was very sheltered.

BEN

Okay well, let's get high. Kyle, do you have any?

KYLE

I've got some.

Kyle opens his desk drawer to reveal a baggy with about a half ounce of weed.

BEN

Okay, yeah, I'd say you have 'some'.

Kyle smirks and begins rolling a joint.

EXT. WOODS SURROUNDING CAMPUS

Aubrey, Ben, and Kyle walk through the dark woods.

KYLE  
This should be good.

AUBREY  
Shouldn't we go further?

BEN  
Don't worry, this is definitely far  
enough.

Kyle takes out the joint and begins to light it. He takes a  
hit and then passes it to Aubrey.

KYLE  
Inhale it nice and slowly.

Aubrey takes a huge hit.

KYLE  
Okay, wow, now let it out.

Aubrey exhales. And begins coughing.

KYLE  
Shhhhh.

AUBREY  
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

They pass the joint around a few times.

AUBREY (CONTINUED)  
Give it to Star.

KYLE  
What?

AUBREY  
Come on.

Ben takes the joint and puts it into Aubrey's puppet's mouth.

AUBREY  
(As Star)  
Damn, that's good.

The boys laugh.

KYLE

Oh my god. Let's get out of here.

AUBREY

We should go to a party.

KYLE

Yeah, I bet if we just go to frat row we'll be able to find something.

AUBREY

(As Star)

Let's party bitches!

BEN

Alright, let's party.

EXT. FRAT ROW - LATER THAT NIGHT

Aubrey, Ben, and Kyle stroll down frat row trying to find a party to crash.

AUBREY

Last one is Kappa Delta Fi.

KYLE

I can't believe we've been turned away from six frat parties.

BEN

Maybe we should just give up.

AUBREY

No! This is the last one on the block.

BEN

Fine.

The three head towards the porch of the Kappa Delta Fi house. A big dude, known as BIG MIKE gets up from his foldable chair and stands in front of the door.

KYLE

Uh-oh.

BIG MIKE

She can come in, you guys can't.

BEN

How come?

BIG MIKE

We don't need any more guys.

AUBREY

Well I'm not gonna come in without them.

BIG MIKE

Well then, I guess you're not coming in.

The three look disappointed and walk off the porch, defeated.

KYLE

What're we gonna do now?

AUBREY

I've got an idea. There's gotta be a back door. I'll distract that guy and you two sprint to the back and then I'll let you in.

BEN

You think that'll work?

AUBREY

If it doesn't it'll be a funny story to tell.

KYLE

Alright, I'm in.

Kyle and Ben crouch down by the bushes. Aubrey goes up to Big Mike. We can't hear what they're saying but Aubrey is clearly talking as Star and Big Mike is doubling over with laughter.

BEN

Now!

Ben and Kyle sprint to the back of the house, there's a bunch of people there so they just blend in.

Big Mike lets Aubrey into the house.

INT. KAPPA DELTA FI HOUSE

Aubrey walks through hordes of people and finally sees Ben and Kyle in the back.

KYLE

We made it!

The three exclaim and do a group hug.

BEN

Okay, now let's get drunk!

MONTAGE

Aubrey, Ben, and Kyle chug beer.

Kyle does a keg stand.

Ben and Kyle win beer pong.

Aubrey entertains some frat bros with Star.

Shots of everyone drinking.

Aubrey making new friends using Star.

END MONTAGE

INT. KAPPA DELTA FI HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Aubrey wakes up on a couch in the frat house, Ben is next to her and Kyle is lying on the floor next to them.

Aubrey tries to get up but winces in pain and lays back down.

KYLE

What the fuck happened last night?

AUBREY

I'm not sure.

BEN

We blacked out.

AUBREY

Jesus, my head hurts so badly.

A frat bro comes stomping down the stairs, his name is JOEY, he is big and still drunk.

JOEY

My dudes!

BEN

Uh, hey.

JOEY

Last night was rad!

(To Aubrey)  
You're hilarious, come party with  
Kappa Delta Fi anytime.

AUBREY  
Oh, yeah, I totally will!

JOEY  
Stay cool my dudes!

Joey stumbles out the door of the house.

KYLE  
Wow, okay, Aubrey got us in with an  
upperclassmen bro, we'll never have to  
sneak into another party.

AUBREY  
I think I should take Star to the next  
level.

BEN  
What level is that?

AUBREY  
I think I'm gonna draw on a face.

KYLE  
Oh yeah, you should.

BEN  
Look, there's a pen.

Ben gets up off the couch and grabs a dirty pen off the  
floor. He hands it to Aubrey and she begins drawing. She  
shows the boys her final product.

KYLE  
That looks dope.

BEN  
Very nice, I like the mole, gives her  
character.

AUBREY  
(As Star)  
Alright, boys, now we're talkin'.