

Excerpt of Scene Analysis for “Album”

Scene Selection: Act I, Scene 3, pg. 23-28

Page 23-24

Characters in scene: Trish

Beat

Start: TRISH: *Okay! Okay!*

End: TRISH: Can't you give me any peace?

Character: Trish

Literal: Trish is trying to find privacy in her home and expressing her frustration with her parents not allowing this.

Analysis:

1. Action: To deter an enemy from entering my space.
As if: AshLee has been in the dorm room all day, and I want her to leave so I can have some time to myself.
Tools: intimidate, threaten
Cap: Trish's parents leave the house (physical) or stop yelling at her (verbal).
2. Action: To get an authority figure to respect me.
As if: Dr. Perilloux appears to have little faith in my academic work, and I want her to see me as a good student.
Tools: assert, prove, impress,
Cap: Trish's parents bow their heads to her or “You're right.”
3. Action: To get a loved one to understand me.
As if: Evan doesn't understand why I express affection the way I do, and I want him to understand better.
Tools: inform, highlight, guilt
Cap: Trish's parents tell her a story that indicates they relate to her or “I recognize what you want.”

Externals:

Bodily Adjustments – heavy-footed, like an angry child; quick, sharp movement

Ornaments – Casual, comfortable summer clothing; shoes off

Physical States – tense, irritated, hostile, closed-off

Page 24-27

Characters in scene: Trish

Beat

Start: TRISH: Peggy!

End: PEGGY: No, it happened to Shelley Fabares.

Character: Trish

Literal: Trish is asking Peggy questions to learn about her past experiences.

Analysis:

1. Action: To convince an estranged friend to share a personal story.
As if: I know something bad happened to Kaylee, and I want to help her by finding out what happened.
Tools: guilt, beg, plead, bully, hint, nag
Cap: Peggy motions for Trish to sit down or begins telling her a story.
2. Action: To convince a peer to teach me something new.
As if: I'm struggling with a college-level math class, and I'm hoping that Jake will tutor me.
Tools: plead, inform, suggest, flatter
Cap: Peggy tells Trish a fact she didn't know or asks if she wants to know something.
3. Action: To convince a close friend to share my excitement about a topic.
As if: I'm working with a partner on a psychology project, and I want them to go with my topic idea.
Tools: excite, inspire, direct, appeal, negotiate, attack, bribe
Cap: Peggy smiles while talking about her sexual encounter or tells Trish that her encounter was fun.

Externals:

Bodily Adjustments – physicality of an excited puppy or a creeping snake; always leaning in to hear more and trying to heighten the energy of the situation

Ornaments – Casual, comfortable summer clothing; shoes off

Physical States – alert, excited, curious, invested, interested, attracted

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Characters in scene: Trish, Peggy

Beat

Start: TRISH: Hello?

End: TRISH: Bye.

Character: Trish

Literal: Trish is talking to Barb and trying to reassure her.

Analysis:

1. Action: To comfort a friend.
As if: Caitlin is panicking about an assignment deadline and I want her to calm down.
Tools: reassure, calm, address, distract, educate
Cap: Barb takes a deep breath or says "I'm okay."
2. Action: To get important information from a peer.
As if: I don't understand the rules of a sport and I want Ryan to explain them to me while he's watching a big game.
Tools: flatter, plead, alarm
Cap: Barb tells Trish what happened to her or what she needs.
3. Action: To get a close friend to recognize me as loyal.
As if: I lied to Georgiana in the past and I want her to believe she can trust me again.
Tools: emphasize, downplay, distract, correct, please, perform, plead
Cap: Barb says "I trust you." or thanks Trish for her help.

Externals:

Bodily Adjustments – Soft, comforting stance, like a mother; curves and inward-directed shapes; slow, gentle movements; cradling held objects/people
Ornaments – Casual, comfortable summer clothing; shoes off
Physical States – concerned, unsure, insistent

Page 27-28

Characters in scene: Trish, Peggy

Beat

Start: TRISH: She started doin' it with the guy...

End: TRISH: Maybe it's better with pictures.

Character: Trish

Literal: Trish is telling Peggy that they need to go help Barb.

Analysis:

1. Action: To inform a listener on a recent event.
As if: Natalee hasn't been watching the news and I want to tell her about what the reporter said yesterday.
Tools: influence, deny, confirm, caution, explain
Cap: Peggy nods in understanding or says "Oh!"
2. Action: To get a co-worker to help me solve a problem.
As if: I don't know how to solve a problem backstage and I'm asking Mary Ruth to help me out.
Tools: emphasize, exaggerate, inform, flatter
Cap: Peggy physically leads the way or says "I know what to do."

3. Action: To gain sympathy from a friend.
As if: I need an extension from Dr. Neighbors because I had a family emergency last week.
Tools: exaggerate, suggest, relate, guilt, entrust
Cap: Peggy gives Trish a hug or says "I'm sorry."

Externals:

Bodily Adjustments – A feeling of being lost; wandering; movements have little certainty to them, as if just learning to use a limb for the first time
Ornaments – Casual, comfortable summer clothing; shoes off
Physical States – disappointed, tired, lethargic, begrudging