

The Girls

written by

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An adaptation of the novel *The Girls* by Emma Cline

INT./EXT. CONVENIENCE MARKET - EVENING

(1/6) This scene is significant because it is the first time that Suzanne and Evie actually interact. Suzanne is a part of a cult that had a reputation around the town as dirty hippies, and she and Evie develop a very toxic, codependent relationship over the course of the summer.

Evie peruses the aisles of the convenience mart. The bell at the entrance of the market jingles and Evie shifts her eyes up from the cheap nail polish. SUZANNE (19) enters the market and the MARKET OWNER (mid 40s) waves his hand at her.

MARKET OWNER

(scowling)

I told you, I won't let any of you in here. Not anymore. Get on.

Suzanne holds up her hands.

SUZANNE

(smiling lazily)

Hey, I'm just trying to buy some toilet paper.

MARKET OWNER

(getting angry)

You stole from me, you and your friends. Not wearing shoes, running around with your filthy feet. Trying to confuse me.

Suzanne looks calm, and Evie watches them closely.

SUZANNE

(amused)

I don't think that's true. Maybe it was someone else.

The market owner looks annoyed.

MARKET OWNER

Nice try; I remember you. That little trick isn't gonna work again.

Suzanne's eyes hardened, but she continues to smile.

SUZANNE

Fine. Whatever.

Suzanne's eyes slowly travel around the market and land on Evie for a brief moment.

MARKET OWNER

Get on outside. Go.

Suzanne looks back at the market owner as she heads towards the door, sticking her tongue out at him before she walks out.

Evie pauses before quickly putting down the nail polish in her hand and following Suzanne outside.

EVIE

Hey!

Suzanne does not hear Evie, and crosses the street.

EVIE (CONT'D)

(louder)

Hey!

Suzanne looks over her shoulder at Evie and stops, letting Evie catch up.

EVIE (CONT'D)

(flushed, panting
slightly)

What a jerk.

Suzanne glares in the direction of the store.

SUZANNE

Fat jackass. I can't even buy
toilet paper.

EVIE

Yeah...

Suzanne finally turned her attention to Evie and studies her for a moment.

EVIE (CONT'D)

(nervous excitement)

I can lift it for you. Easy. I
steal stuff from there all the
time.

Suzanne raises her eyebrows in mild surprise.

SUZANNE

You sure?

Evie shrugs as if its no big deal; she has never shoplifted before.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE MART - CONTINUOUS

The market owner looks up at Evie

MARKET OWNER
(agitated)
Back again?

Evie takes her time going up and down the aisles again, waiting for the market owner to stop watching her. He does not. Finally, Evie grabs the toilet paper and brings it to the register.

MARKET OWNER (CONT'D)
(agitated still)
A nice girl like you... going and hanging out with girl's like that. So filthy, that group. Always stealin' my crap.

Evie quickly glances out the window in the side of the small shop. Suzanne is looking at something across the street, waiting, and Evie quickly turns back to the market owner, paying. The owner watches her for a moment.

MARKET OWNER (CONT'D)
You're just a kid; why don't you go on home?

EVIE
(scowling)
I don't need a bag.

Evie stuffs the toilet paper into her purse and exits the store, meeting Suzanne across the street once more.

SUZANNE
(brightly)
You got it?

Evie pulls out the toilet paper and hands it to Suzanne.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
Ha- serves him right, that asshole. Was it easy?

EVIE
(proud)
Pretty easy. He was so out of it anyways.

Suzanne is studying Evie.

SUZANNE
I'm Suzanne, by the way.

EVIE
Evie.

Evie sticks her hand out to shake Suzanne's. Suzanne laughs and Evie flushes. There is a moment of silence.

EVIE (CONT'D)
I think I saw you in the park the other day.

Suzanne's expression is blank.

EVIE (CONT'D)
You were with some girls? And a black schoolbus came?

SUZANNE
(lighting up)
Oh yeah! That idiot was real mad.

Suzanne 'relaxes into the memory'

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
I have to keep the other girls in line, you know? Otherwise they'd just fall all over themselves. Get us caught.

Evie is clearly intrigued by Suzanne, and Suzanne clearly enjoys being the source of intrigue.

EVIE
I remember your hair.

SUZANNE
(pleased)
I never cut it; I haven't in years.

Suzanne hugs the toilet paper to her chest.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
Do you want me to pay you back for this?

Suzanne has no purse with her.

EVIE
Nah, it's not like it cost me anyways.

Evie tries to think of something else to say, but Suzanne beats her to it.

SUZANNE
You live around here?

EVIE
Pretty close; with my mom.

SUZANNE
What street?

EVIE
Morning Star Lane.

SUZANNE
(mild surprise)
Fancy; expensive.

It seems important to Suzanne that Evie lives there, but Evie can't figure out why.

EVIE
What about you?

SUZANNE
(dismissive)
Oh, you know. We move around a lot.
But a lot of people means a lot of
asses to wipe.

Suzanne cracks a smile.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
We're a little low on money, but
that's gonna change pretty soon.

Evie is lost in her own thoughts, mesmerized by Suzanne.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
You're being quiet.

EVIE
(embarrassed)
Sorry.

SUZANNE
It's cool. People are they way they
are; I could tell when I met you.
You're thoughtful; on your own
trip, all caught up in your own
mind.

Evie is flattered by the attention and blushes slightly.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Well, that's me over there.

Suzanne nods towards a Rolls Royce, and Evie looks to Suzanne in confusion.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

We're borrowing it.

Suzanne gives Evie a smirk.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

I'll see you around, Evie.

Suzanne makes her way to the Rolls Royce and climbs into the passenger seat before the car drives off.

EXT. THE MAIN HOUSE - EVENING

(2/6) This scene is significant because this is the first time that Evie meets Russell, the leader of the cult. Since meeting in the convenience mart, Suzanne ran into Evie once again (earlier in the same day that this scene takes place) and offers for her to come to the cult's farmhouse, or what they call the main house, for a solstice party. Suzanne gets her dressed up and they've smoked weed with some other people in the cult at this point.

The solstice party has begun. There are about forty people there, all dressed like Suzanne and the other girls. Light came from an old kerosene lamp and a huge bonfire that emerged from an old burning car. Little kids were running around and most of the adults were either drunk or high. People started to turn their attention to RUSSELL (mid to late 30s) as he approached the gathering. 'the group surged and twitched like a Greek chorus'. Suzanne pinches Evie and nods in his direction with a slight giggle. Russell looks younger from a distance, but his age is more clear when he approaches the girls, tucking a lock of Suzanne's hair behind her ear before turning his attention towards Evie with a smile.

RUSSELL

('Like he was waiting for me. Like I was late.')

You're here.

SUZANNE

Russell, this is Evie. Evie, this- is Russell.

RUSSELL

Eve. Like the first woman.

EVIE
(slightly nervous)
It's Evelyn, really.

RUSSELL
Names are important, aren't they?

Russell gave her a small smile.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
And I don't see any snake in you.

Evie smiles and blushes. Russell puts his hand on her back and slides between the girls.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
So, what do you think of our
solstice celebration, Evie?

Evie looks around, her vision altered by the drugs. She looks at Suzanne. Suzanne is giving all of her attention to Russell, even though he isn't paying attention to her. Her hand is playing with her hair, uneasy.

EVIE
I really like it here.

Evie continues to watch the people and observe her surroundings, the drugs still distorting sight and sound until she looked back at Russell, seeing and hearing him clearly. He gently tilts her chin upwards.

RUSSELL
You're an actress. I can see it.

Evie soaks up the attention.

EVIE
I'm not, actually; but my
grandmother was.

RUSSELL
Right on.

EVIE
Her name was Harriet Winthrop.

RUSSELL
(lighting up, more
attentive)
I picked up on that; you look just
like her.

Russell loops an arm around Suzanne's waist and pulls her around to join the conversation. Evie looks to her, but Suzanne doesn't pay attention to Evie.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
And you'll be in charge of our
Evie, won't you?

The two looked at each other in silence, communicating with their eyes. Russell finds Evie's hand and gives it a squeeze.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
Later, Evie.

Russell leads Suzanne a few steps away and whispers in her ear before he tucks hair behind her ear again and walks off. Suzanne turns back to Evie and returns to her warm disposition.

SUZANNE
Russell says you can stick around,
if you want.

Evie looks up at Suzanne in awe and smiles, nodding. Suzanne smiles back at her and takes her hand, leading her back to the party.

INT. JEAN'S HOUSE - DAY

(3/6) This scene is significant because it is an example of how spending time with Suzanne and the cult has affected Evie internally and externally. This is one of the few times that Evie has interacted with her mother over the course of the summer, due to spending a majority of her time at the main house.

Evie is perusing the fridge, a look of disdain on her face. The front door opens and the sound of high heels on wood floor can be heard.

EVIE
(under her breath)
Crap...

Evie tries to slink out of the kitchen, but accidentally knocks something off of the kitchen counter.

JEAN
Evie, is that you? Wait up a
minute.

Jean enters the kitchen and puts her purse on the counter. Evie squeezes her eyes shut before blinking a few times in an attempt to alleviate the red in her eyes. She turns around to face her mother and slowly approaches Jean. Jean reaches out and touches Evie's arm, rubbing it gently.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Look at you; you're getting so tan.

There's an awkward silence between the two of them. Jean fetches a bottle of wine and a wine glass. Evie glances at Jean's purse when Jean isn't looking at her. Jean sighed and began to pour wine into her glass.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Listen, Evie; Sal saw you out on the road towards the fields this morning. By yourself.

Evie's keeps her expression as blank as possible.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Sal said there's some strange people that live out there. Apparently there's some sort of mystic or something, but he sounds-

Jean cuts herself off and makes a noise of uncertainty. Evie rolls her eyes slightly.

EVIE

(impassive)

I've never met him.

Evie watches her mother for a reaction.

JEAN

I just wanted to warn you, that's all.

(pause)

So you know that he's out there. I expect you and Connie to take care of each other, you understand?

Evie nods once to her mother and Jean sighs in relief, relaxing as if the conversation never happened.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Well, there's rice and miso in the fridge, baby.

Jean gives her daughter a peck on the cheek before taking her wine and leaving the room.

INT. GUY'S TRUCK - EVENING

(4/6) Over the course of the summer, Russell had been trying to work with a famous musician he knew named Mitch in order to make money and become rich, and this was something that the whole cult was working to make happen. After Mitch finally rejects Russell outright, the whole cult is in a negative frenzy. After the whole cult is put into a tailspin, Suzanne and a few other girls (along with one of the few guys in the cult) are sent to pay Mitch a visit. Evie begs to come along, although she has no idea what is happening.

Guy is at the wheel, Helen and Donna next to him in the front. Suzanne and Evie are sitting in the back. Helen is babbling on to Donna about something, but no one is listening.

SUZANNE

Hey, can you open the window?

HELEN

(in her 'baby voice')
I'm cold.

SUZANNE

(kicking the back of Helen's seat)
Come on, I'm fucking melting.

Helen gives in and rolls down the window with a small pout. Evie looks over at Suzanne, a momentary wave of relief washing over her. Suzanne's hand is on the seat between the two girls, and Evie reaches out to gently ease her hand into Suzanne's. The touch breaks Suzanne out of a haze.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(snapping)
What?

Evie pulls her hand away, looking like a kicked puppy. Suzanne's expression is stony and blank.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Stop the car.

Guy continues to drive, and Suzanne sits up to look at him in the rear view mirror.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(more forcefully)
I said stop the car.

Guy glances over his shoulder at her and quickly pulls onto the shoulder of the road.

EVIE

What-

SUZANNE

Get out.

EVIE

Oh come on, Suzanne-

Suzanne was already out of the car, waiting for Evie to get out of the backseat.

EVIE (CONT'D)

(whining softly)

But there's nothing here.

Evie craned her head to look out and around the highway, and then to the others in the car. Guy fidgeted with the rear view mirror, Donna kept her head down, and Helen stared at the both of them. Helen opened her mouth to say something, but Donna shushed her.

EVIE (CONT'D)

(softly)

Suzanne- please.

Suzanne still didn't say a word. Evie, defeated, slowly slid out of the car. Without hesitation, Suzanne ducked back into the car, and seconds later, it has left Evie in the dust.

EXT. GAS STATION

(5/6) This scene is significant because it is her final return home, and she finds some comfort in her stepmom.

Evie is sitting on the curb when an expensive white car pulls up. Standing up, Evie dusts herself off before climbing into the car. TAMMY (late 20s) looks over at Evie and gives her a small smile.

TAMMY

('kind, yet mystified')

Thank god you're okay; your dad's been worried sick.

Evie doesn't respond, and Tammy pulls back onto the highway.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

Don't worry. He didn't tell your mom; I told him you'd show up and then she would've been worried about nothing.

Tammy nods towards her handbag.

TAMMY (CONT'D)
Pass that to me, will ya?

Evie handed Tammy the purse and Tammy pulled out a gold cigarette holder, a neatly rolled joint inside.

TAMMY (CONT'D)
Glove compartment.

Evie leans forward and finds a lighter, a small, but genuine smile curving the corner of her lip.

TAMMY (CONT'D)
(chuckling softly)
Don't tell your dad- he might ground me, too.

INT. EVIE'S FATHER'S APARTMENT - MORNING
(6/6) This scene happens the morning after her stepmom picked her up from the gas station. This scene is significant because it reveals what happened the night before and will leave a stain on Evie's life forever.

Evie was alone in her father's apartment, turning on the TV. She went to the kitchen and scoured for something to eat before returning to the living area, surprised to see Mitch's house on the screen.

REPORTER
(fades out)
The search is still on for the assailants that broke into Mitch Lewis's home last night and killed four people living on the property at the time. Mitch Lewis was out of town at the time of the assault that resulted in the death...

Evie, in shock, sinks down onto the couch, absorbing the news.