

Made of Clay

By River

Who: Characters around 13 or up (8th grade or high school)

Mr. K - Teacher/Film Club Administrator - the teacher wants to find out who the filmmaker is, strict but at times funny, man, 46 yo, white, cares for the students he likes, after school film teacher, teaches history during the school day

Glenn - 14 yo yt guy, freshman - The Filmmaker (protagonist) - just insecure, fascinated with filmmaking, because they don't have to interact with that many other people and your only limit is your imagination. Escaping from home and want to leave the town. Parents are at home but don't know much about their kiddo because they are busy working.

Isla - Hispanic 15 yo girl - Member 1 - they don't acknowledge the secret filmmaker, middle of the road (not good, not bad), wanna be famous

Mira - Indian 16 yo girl - Member 2 - they don't acknowledge the secret filmmaker, middle of the road (not good, not bad), joined because member 1 joined - Mira

What: Film class for school, films are being left for the project and no one knows who's making them, and these films are REALLY awesome. Everyone want sot know who it is, but they don't try that hard to figure it out. They set up a hidden camera AT MOST. Embarrassed and go missing when it is discovered that they are the filmmaker.

Where: High School,

When: Present day, early spring, midwest, small town

Why: Embracing who are you and not hiding your talents.

Scene 1

High school hallway. The only set piece is a bulletin board on casters. It is CS with the words "Jump into Action! - Spring Sign-Ups This Week." running from SL to SR there are various club sign up sheets and little pictures denoting each club. We see Mr. K stapling the sign up sheet to the bulletin board with a camera and a clapboard on either side - light purple paper on the back, blue text and blue, white, purple camera/clapboard. School bell rings. Isla and Mira enter SL and walk across the stage. Mr. K exits SL. The girls notice the new sign up sheet.

Isla:

We should sign up.
(pulls a pen out of her backpack)

Mira:

I don't really like Mr. K.

Isla:

C'mon, we haven't done this before. Also, this is our chance to become FAMOUS! It's FILM club!

Mira:

(rolls her eyes annoyed)
fine

(Isla hands Mira the pen and she signs the sheet)

Not sure how cool this is gonna be, we're the only ones on the sheet.

Isla:

He literally just put it up. We saw him.

Mira:

(rolls her eyes annoyed)
Ok, fine.

Mira and Isla walk off SR. Glenn enters SL and walks across the stage. He stops to take in the whole bulletin board. Reading all the other sign up sheets for spring semester and deciding against them, a headshake, eye roll, scoff, UNTIL he sees the Film Club sign up sheet. He pauses and considers it. Glenn takes a pen out of his backpack and reaches up to sign up, pauses and then eventually commits. He takes a deep breath and walks off SR.

Scene 2

Lights fade for the scene change. Isla, Mira and Glenn enter with their desk chairs and backpacks. They place them facing US at an angle, 2 chairs SR and 1 SL. Mr. K enters with a computer on a cart and rolls it DSC then crosses USC and turns the bulletin board on its casters to reveal a white board. All 3 students take a seat with Mira and Isla sitting together SR and Glenn sitting alone SL. Mr. K is standing at the board. Isla and Mira are whispering and giggling loudly, as if they are making fun of the film club.

Mr. K:

If you wanted to be here, you wouldn't be talking.

Isla and Mira freeze.

Isla:

Sorry. *(with a laugh, like she didn't mean it, Mira looks at her hands)*

Mr. K:

Now, we're ready to start. Let's begin with introductions: name, pronouns, and why you're here. We're gonna start over here. *(gesturing to Isla.)*

Isla:

Isla, she/her, and I like the movies.

Mira:

Mira, she/her, and I'm here because of Isla.

Mr. K:

Glad to hear you're so excited to be here. And last but not least *(gesturing to Glenn)*

Glenn:

(fidgeting with hands and clothes like a sweatshirt string)

Uh, hi, I'm uh Glenn.

Mr. K:

I missed that.

Glenn:

Glenn

Mr. K:

And your pronouns...

Glenn:

He, him

Mr. K:

...and why you're here...

Glenn:

(still really nervous)

I don't know why I signed up. *(pause)* The paper caught my eye, I guess.

(pause)

Isla:

(laughing)

What are you, MUTE?

(Mira laughs at Isla's comment)

Mr.K:

Be quiet, or you'll be kicked out.

Isla:

Sorry, sir! *(salutes him)*

Mr. K:

That's it, you two can go home.

Mira:

No way, we're not going home! We wanna learn about film.

Mr. K:

We'll see about that. Here is your first lesson.

He turns on the smart board and the lights dim. He plays Le Fee aux Chou - the first narrative movie made in 1896. As it ends Mr. K speaks with the lights still down.

Mr. K:

That was the first narrative film ever made, it told a story with no words and it was one minute long. Each of you bring a one minute long film, that tells a story with no words, to next week's meeting. Not to be done with a partner. I want to see your creativity.

Mira:

But, I was here because of Isla. Can't we just do a group project?

Mr. K:

This is a one person assignment. If you don't do it by yourself, you don't come back.

Mira:

This is BS!

Isla:

Mira, be quiet. This is our only chance.

Mr. K:

Your only chance for what?

Isla:

Getting famous, duh.

Mr. K:

(eye roll)

Get out, go home, start your assignments.

Isla and Mira grab their back packs and exit SR. Glenn hangs back as Mr. K packs up the computer.

Glenn:

I have some questions about the assignment.

Mr K:

I thought it was pretty clear. What don't you understand?

Glenn:

I mean, I've never, I mean, what cameras do we use? Do you pass them out?

Mr. K:

Don't you have a phone to use?

Glenn:

Yeah, sure but I watched some videos and all the filmmakers had different equipment.

Mr. K:

We can get into cameras and lenses and all that later this spring, but for now, let's just start simple.

Glenn:

Yeah, ok, thank you...

Glenn continues standing there.

Mr K:

Aren't you gonna go?

Glenn:

Is there a recommended run time?

Mr. K:

It sounds like you know more about film than you let on. I'd say keep it under 5 minutes. Less is always better to start.

Glenn starts to walk away awkwardly and slowly.

Mr. K:

Is that all?

Glenn:

Um, yeah, thank you.

Glenn scurries off SL. Lights go down, Mr. K exits. There is a projection of the 3 students creating their films separately. The white board split into thirds. Isla is doing a GRWM video and Mira is filming herself cleaning her fish's tank and Glenn is setting up different shots of outside his window, mostly sunsets and sunrises. The projection ends, the lights come up. The 3 students enter in different clothes and find their seats at their desks. Isla and Mira showing each other their phones and Glenn is looking at a camcorder and he has a lot of small equipment with him in his backpack and strewn about his desk.

Mira:

What's all that stuff with you?

Glenn:

Just film stuff.

Isla:

I've never met someone so eager.

Mira:

Eager? Or did you mean desperate?

Glenn:

I saw your instagram post, if anyone's desperate it's you.

Mr. K enters SL.

Mira:

What, are you stalking me?

Mr. K:

I don't see a good reason why anyone would want to stalk you. Who wants to present first?

Everyone looks at their hands and stare at each other and Mr. K.

Mr. K:

If you don't put yourself out there, you'll never be famous enough for anyone to care about you.

Isla:

OK, fine, you didn't need to be so harsh.

Mr K:

Everyone drop your files into the club folder.

They all pull out their phones and upload their videos.

Mr K:

OK, Isla, here we go. Everyone be quiet, we will take questions at the end.

The lights dim and Isla's video of her showing off her outfits for the week plays on the white board. It ends and the lights come up.

Mr K:

Any questions?

Mira:

Where did you get that dress you wore on Tuesday?

Isla:

Forever 21

Mira:

Ugh, I wish there was one closer to my house.

Isla:

For real, I had to go out of state for this.

Mr K:

OK, OK, I meant do we have questions about the video.

Mira:

These are my questions!

Glenn:

How'd you do that transition from Thursday to Friday? I never saw anything like that before.

Mr K:

Good catch, Glenn!

Isla:

Oh, I don't know I was just messing around with everything and it looked cool.

Mr K:

Next time we have to work on an actual story, but your editing was really good. Next up?????

Mira:

Let's get it over with.

Lights down and Mira's film plays. The video shows her fish with fin rot all over him and she talks the entire time. "Recently he's been really sick and I don't know why. He isn't getting better even after I cleaned out the tank." The film follows her taking him out, cleaning the tank and then putting him back in. "It's a pain to clean out the tank, but I will do it as many times as I need to, so he will get better. Isn't that right, Twinkletons?!" video ends with him swimming around and her feeding him at double speed. Lights come up.

Isla:

Mira, is your fish dead?

Mira:

I mean, you saw him swimming around. I know he doesn't look that good, but he's clearly alive.

Mr. K chuckles.

Mr. K:

Did you buy him like that?

Mira:

You guys kidding me? He's fine and I'm making sure he gets better. Didn't you just watch the video?

Mr K:

Alright, any other questions?

Everyone is just staring at Mira.

Mr K:

I'll take that as a no. OK, on to Glenn.

Lights fade and Glenn's video plays. Montage of time lapse sunrise slows down to pull in on the bird feeder outside his window to show a day in the life of the birds with quick cuts to the 3 birds who visit that feeder - 2 sparrows and 1 bluejay - the sparrows are friendly and then the bluejay dive bombs the feeder and sends them scattering - after the bluejay leaves the sparrows return and then fly off to their nest. And then returns to a time lapse of the sunset. Lights come back up.

Isla:

Why'd they look so weird?

Glenn sinks in his chair.

Mr. K:

Besides the look of the birds does anyone have constructive criticism?

Mira:

Film something more interesting next time - I nearly fell asleep.

Glenn:

The only reason your fish is interesting is because he's so sick.

Mira:

He's fine!

Mr. K:

We're passed the fish now - anything else for Glenn?

He nods at Glenn approvingly.

Mr. K:

(continues)

Is there anything that someone's not sharing?

They all just sit there awkwardly.

Isla:

What do you mean? We all did the assignment - you just showed them to everyone.

Mr. K:

Looks like we have a mystery director.

He holds up a jump drive.

Mr. K:

(continues)

We're presenting it either way - would anyone like to take credit for it?

They all just sit there awkwardly.

Mr. K:

Ok, we're watching it now.

Lights fade. This is a black and white claymation movie with no dialogue only sad classical music underneath (ES_The Faintest Touch - Howard Harper-Barnes), following a teenager based on Glenn's life - scenes trying to make friends at school, eating alone at lunch, head bowed walking home and classmates surrounding them like the teenager is invisible, they get home and the house is dark and empty - the parents are not home and they eat dinner silently alone at the table - fade to black. Lights come up. Isla fakes snoring.

Mira:

What was that? It was horrible.

Mr. K:

C'mon you guys didn't like it all?

Glenn:

(Quietly)

I- I liked it.

Mr. K:

I did too - sad to see the girls didn't.

Isla:

No one's actually like that!

Mr. K:

Sure they are - maybe you just don't notice them.

Glenn:

(Quietly mumbling)

Maybe they don't want to be noticed.

Mr. K:

What'd you say Glenn?

Glenn:

(Deep breath, stuttering)

Mu- Maybe they du- don't want to be noticed.

Isla:

Why do you like it so much? Did you make it?

Glenn:

Noooooo, I just really liked the feel of it.

Mr. K:

OK, that's enough for today.

Mira:

Finally.

Isla and Mira pack up their bags, while Glenn starts putting all his video equipment away, the girls leave SR. Glenn and Mr. K are still in the room.

Mr. K:

Why didn't you want anyone to know you made that?

Glenn:

I don't know what you're talking about.

Mr. K:

That's how I felt at first...but eventually you have to take credit for your work, even if it's scary. There will always be an Isla or a Mira in the crowd but there will always be another Mr. K and a Glenn too. You have potential - claymation isn't easy.

Glenn:

(head down, mumble)

Thanks.

Mr. K:

I'm serious, you should be proud.

Glenn:

(groans)

Thanks.

Mr. K:

You don't have to tell them, but I hope there's another chance to see your work - not just a time lapse of your window.

Glenn:

(bashful smile)

Thanks, Mr. K. See you next week - guess that means I need to get to work on my next assignment.

Mr. K:

Indeed you do!

Lights out.