

MIMETIC DESIRE

by

Mikki Gillette

mikkigillette@gmail.com
(503) 317-6932
mikkigillette.com

CHARACTERS

MIA – 21, a trans woman; angsty, and a little insecure, she's romantic and direct

CORIN – 21, a cis woman; self-assured, but guarded, she's a hedonist with a control streak

ALEC – 22, a trans man; suave and witty, his arrogance hides a gnawing self-doubt

DANNY, 21, a trans man; even tempered and content, his romantic assumptions often prove incorrect

MANDY – 21, a trans woman; an unaware pessimist, her expectations lead continuously to disappointment

SAM – 21, AFAB nonbinary; uninterested in being serious, they enjoy gossip, joking and friendship

LANDON – 21, AMAB nonbinary; an extraverted misanthrope, they delight in passive aggressive trolling

SETTING

A university in a U.S. city and the neighborhood that surrounds it.

TIME

Present day, over the course of several months.

PUNCTUATION NOTES

A stroke (/) marks the point of interruption in overlapping dialogue.

A dash (-) marks the halting of a thought.

Scene 1

Danny and Maddy's apartment. At a party, DANNY, 19, a trans man, stands with MIA, 19, a trans woman. A little ways from them, out of earshot, stand ALEC, 21, a trans man, and MADDY, 19, a trans woman, talking and laughing.

DANNY

(laughing)

Do you notice how Alec has been hitting on Maddy ever since he arrived?

MIA

(observing, upset)

Oh, you're right . . . are you going to say something?

DANNY

(scoffs)

No, I just think it's funny. He does that whenever he sees her.

We can't hear what Alec says, but he points at Danny and he and Maddy laugh.

MIA

It's your and Maddy's anniversary, though. That's why you're throwing this / party

DANNY

(incredulous)

Maddy does not like Alec. I mean, she thinks he's clever, or whatever, but he's not / "stealing"

MIA

If I was dating Maddy and they just pointed and laughed at me, I'd lose my shit.

DANNY

(droll)

Lucky you're not dating Maddy while Alec is hitting on her then. You're still free for filming tomorrow, right?

MIA

(slightly unenthused)

Yeah, I am.

DANNY

Is something wrong?

MIA

No. It's just, we watch these great films and read great novels, and then we make Batman spoofs in our apartment garage, you know?

DANNY

(surprised)

Oh, okay. We can try something different next time, if you want. Is there a story you're interested in?

MIA

Something, like, serious, but not just serious. Like funny things happen, or get said, but it wouldn't be a comedy. And no stupid crime plots, or fight scenes, unless, I don't know, the fight is really integral to / whatever is

DANNY

Jesus Christ. You know what a story is, right? If you're expecting you and Alec to stand on campus and improvise a Russian novel, I don't think that's / going to

MIA

(annoyed)

I didn't say I had a story.

SAM, 20, an AFAB non-binary person, and CORIN, 20, a cis woman enter and approach Danny and Mia.

DANNY

Hi Sam, how are you?

(to Corin)

I'm Danny. I don't think we've / met

SAM

(to Corin, ironic)

This is Danny, the one who's getting cucked by Alec over there, and / this is

DANNY

(rolls eyes)

Haha.

CORIN
(ignoring Sam)

Hi, I'm Corin.

DANNY

Hi.

MIA

I'm Mia.

CORIN

Sam said you two write for the campus paper.

MIA
(nods)

For the arts section.

SAM

Corin's going to be a lawyer, so she likes to drink with me as much as possible before her life becomes unbearably boring.

CORIN
(curt, to Sam)

I've asked you more than once not to share details about me, haven't I?

SAM

Oops.

(to the others)

Forget what I just said about her being a boring lawyer . . . the drinking part's probably worth remembering, though.

CORIN
(embarrassed)

It's not a big deal, really. I'm just kind of private.

SAM

No, it's fine – I shouldn't have said it. Here, I'll tell you embarrassing things about Mia and Danny to even things out: Well, you already know Maddy's cheating on Danny / with his

DANNY
(sighs)

That is not true.

SAM

Mia got mad and threw all of Alec's stuff out a window once / when she was

CORIN

Sam, you're embarrassing everyone.

SAM

I know, but how can I not, when you all act so embarrassingly.

CORIN

(rolls eyes, to Mia)

Do you want to come with me to get a drink?

MIA

Oh, sure.

Corin and Mia cross away from, and out of earshot of, the two toward a counter with bottles and glasses.

MIA

How did you meet Sam?

CORIN

In a poli sci class.

MIA

Cool, are you studying that, because you're becoming a lawyer?

Corin pauses, not answering, and pours herself a drink.

CORIN

Do you want one, too?

Mia appears confused by her non-answer, but ignores it.

MIA

Um, sure.

Corin pours Mia a drink and hands it to her, then points to Alec.

CORIN

So you threw his stuff out a window?

MIA

(sighs)

I mean, it was the culmination of a larger disagreement, but . . . yeah.

CORIN

(shy, flirty)

And what did he do . . . after you / threw it

MIA

(surprised, anxious)

Oh, he . . . kind of seemed shocked. Um, he asked how I could do that, and / ran downstairs

CORIN

How did you know him?

MIA

He wrote all these critical comments whenever I posted my articles online, then the paper invited him to write rebuttals, so we met there, and / started hanging

CORIN

You didn't hate him after that?

MIA

Um, no. Should I have? I mean, / he wasn't

CORIN

It's up to you, I guess. Do you want another drink?

Corin pours herself another drink.

MIA

(stares at her full drink)

No, I'm, um - anyway, we became roommates. That's / when it

CORIN

(laughs, amused)

You threw all your roommate's things out of your and his window?

MIA
Um, yeah. He did things before that happened,
that precipitated / it, but

Corin takes Mia's hand.

CORIN
I like that story.

MIA
(surprised, happy)
Oh, thanks.

CORIN
(mock formal)
You're welcome.
(forward)
I think you're cute.

The two kiss. Corin breaks off quickly.

CORIN
(self conscious)
Is there, like, a room we could go to that's private?

MIA
Sure, we could go to Danny and Maddy's room.

Mia leads Corin toward the hallway door and they exit. Focus shifts to Maddy and Alec.

ALEC
(staring at the hallway)
Who was that Mia went to your room with?

MADDY
(slightly annoyed)
What makes you curious about her?

ALEC
(surprised)
Huh? . . . Mia's my roommate. Also, I know
everyone at this party except / her, so

MADDY
(accusatory)
A minute ago you told me I "was the only person

at the party," as far as you were concerned. I can see how much / that meant

ALEC

(charming, self-assured)

Look at Danny – standing there obliviously. Do you think he even cares that you're here? I'm the one who understands / you, not

MADDY

(rolls eyes)

So many pretty words you have. They must be cheap if you never run out of them.

Maddy walks to the drink counter to refill her glass, and Alec follows her. Focus shifts to Sam and Danny.

SAM

I guess Corin made a new friend.

DANNY

They went to my room pretty quickly didn't they?

SAM

Alcohol poisoning really lowers one's inhibitions.

DANNY

(slightly concerned)

Is Mia Corin's type?

SAM

For the next hour, I'm guessing.

DANNY

(worried)

Mia's kind of sensitive.

SAM

(ironic)

Maybe Corin can help her toughen up.

Maddy and Alec approach and join Sam and Danny.

SAM

(to Maddy, faux concerned)

It's not what it looks like. Danny and I were

just talking.

MADDY

What?

(to Danny)

What are they talking / about

DANNY

(annoyed)

Sam. Can you please not / cause

ALEC

(to Maddy, nonplussed)

I think Sam was implying that we were doing more than talking. Which is really kind of juvenile, isn't it, Sam?

SAM

Oh, is it more mature to not comment on adultery? I haven't taken my psych pre-req yet.

DANNY

(changing the subject)

Anyway -

(to Maddy)

Are you enjoying your party, babe?

ALEC

(under his breath, scoffing)

"Babe."

DANNY

(confused)

Huh?

ALEC

Nothing . . . it's just that when trans guys go out of their way to say traditionally gendered things, like "babe," it always seems so desperate. Like when trans women call each other "girl" and "lady" ad nauseam.

(quickly, insincere)

I mean, no offense.

DANNY

(hiding annoyance)

Don't worry about it.

MADDY

Alec, you're being a jerk.

(to Danny)

I like it when you call me "babe."

She kisses Danny's cheek.

ALEC

(to self)

"A jerk"?

(to Maddy)

Well, are you enjoying the party?

MADDY

(annoyed)

What are you / talking

ALEC

Because if memory serves, a minute and a half ago, you were remarking about how it was another evening where Danny invited all his friends over and talked to them, while he ignored you.

DANNY

(to Maddy, surprised)

Did you tell Alec that?

ALEC

You mean, did Maddy, once again, accurately describe exactly what's / happening

MADDY

Alec, could you please stop?

DANNY

(to Maddy)

Are you upset about the party?

MADDY

(slightly annoyed)

It is the kind of evening I've told you I don't like, isn't it?

DANNY

Really? When?

Maddy and Alec share a look.

MADDY

(to Danny, resentful)

Never mind.

DANNY

Um, okay.

LANDON, 19, enters and crosses toward the others.

LANDON

Hi everyone. Are we all enjoying Danny and Maddy's anniversary party? Oh Sam, I'm surprised to see you here.

(to Danny)

Did you invite every trans student to your event, whether you liked them or not?

SAM

Oh look everyone, it's Landon. An online comments section in sentient form.

DANNY

You guys, it's Maddy's and my party, so can you / not attack

LANDON

I know. Alec, what did you get the couple? I'm aware of how much you care about both of them.

ALEC

(suavely)

I'm afraid all I brought was my sparkling wit –

(to Maddy)

Which someone has been monopolizing all evening.

LANDON

What a thoughtful gift.

(to Danny, faux private)

I think he likes her.