


LaToya and Marcus Script

LaToya and Marcus have been dating for about six months. They met in April. They were both in eighth grade. Throughout the summer, the two teens were inseparable. They went swimming and walking in the park. They went to the mall and to the movies. When they were apart, they called, texted, and sent IMs to each other. Both LaToya and Marcus agreed that it was the best summer they had ever had.

Now, it's the fall and they're beginning high school. LaToya is going to be a freshman cheerleader. Marcus is very proud of her because their high school cheerleading squad wins national awards every year. It's an honor to be on the squad. *go team* 

LaToya has been working very hard all week. After school she has cheerleading practice for two hours. But today is Friday and the coach let them go early. She ran home and called Marcus to ask him to come over. She was eager to see him, as she hadn't spent much time with him this week. Marcus was happy she had gotten off early as well and went to LaToya's house right away.

Marcus (M) LaToya (L)



M: *(Knocks on the door)* *knock knock!!!*

L: *(Answers the door and sees Marcus)* Oh, I'm so glad to see you. I have so much to tell you. *(They walk into the house together and sit down.)*

M: I'm glad to see you too. I don't like school as much as the summer. You're too busy.

L: Oh, I know I'm busy. I have almost no time. I do miss you, but I love cheerleading. Marcus, it's so much fun. I'm learning so many new moves. I can't wait until the first football game when you can come and watch me. You're going to be so proud.

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M: I'm already proud of you.

L: But just wait until you see me. I'm paired up with Darnelle. He's so strong. I'm learning to balance in his hands. I feel so tall up there.

M: Darnelle?

L: Yeah, the freshman squad has three male cheerleaders this year. The squad can do a lot more stunts with them. They're so much stronger than the girls and can lift us up and stuff.

M: Well, I'm pretty strong; maybe I should join the cheerleading squad.



L: *(Laughs)* Oh Marcus, you have to be a lot more than strong to be a cheerleader. Darnelle has been a gymnast since he was five years old. He won a national award last year. That's why it amazes me that he thinks I'm such a good cheerleader. He's the one who's amazing.

M: *(Raising his voice)* Darnelle, Darnelle, Darnelle! I've heard that name enough already. Can't you talk about anything else? Or do you have a crush on him? Is that it? Would you rather be with Darnelle than me now?

L: *(Wants to yell back at him, but instead takes a deep breath and pauses a minute. She looks carefully at Marcus.)* Marcus, why are you so angry?



M: *(Shouting)* Why am I angry? *(Gets up from his chair)* Why am I angry? You're unbelievable. You're letting some other guy hold you, put his hand on you, and you ask me why I'm angry!

L: *(Takes another deep breath and is careful not to raise her voice)* Marcus, I feel mad when you say that because it sounds like you don't trust me. But I do want to understand what exactly is upsetting you. Being a cheerleader is important to me and you've always supported me. Can you tell me why you are so angry?

LaToya and Marcus continued

M: Because all you have done since I walked in the door is talk about Darnelle. What about me? I'm your boyfriend.

L: Yes, you're my boyfriend. What do you mean by the question "What about me?" Do you feel like I don't pay enough attention to you?

no,
yes,
uh...

M: Well, no. I mean yes. Well, I don't know. I never felt like that during the summer, but since school has started you've been doing so many other things. I wonder if you're still interested in me.

L: I love you. I'm not interested in dating Darnelle or anyone else. We just enjoy each other's company at cheerleading practice. I know that I've been involved in a lot of activities, but they're all important to me.

M: I know. But I need to feel like you're there when I need you.

L: It sounds like we both want to be together. I'm glad. I want you to feel that I'm your girlfriend and I'm here for you. But I don't want to stop cheerleading. What can we do?



M: Are you always going to get out early on Fridays?

L: No, but I can see you in the evenings on Fridays and over the weekend.

M: Yeah, maybe during the week we could talk on the phone, text, and IM more often.

L: Definitely. You know my family insists that I have dinner with them, but maybe you could come over after dinner sometimes—or even have dinner with us.

M: Look, LaToya, I'm sorry I got so upset. I didn't mean to insult you. I trust you and I know we can make enough time to see each other.

