

PEER PRESSURE

Translated from Dutch (Sociale Drug)

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Don't do drugs, kids.

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1 INT. GENDER NEUTRAL PUBLIC BATHROOM - NIGHT

In a soiled looking public bathroom of a technoclub DEALER (23) is waiting. XENA (21) enters the bathroom. Xena has gothic/alt clothing style wearing a Black Flag shirt and thick eyeliner. Dealer wears dark colors, a golden necklace, a body warmer underneath a mesh shirt and cargo pants. He also has a fanny pack wrapped around his waist. Dealer is uninterestedly tapping his phone.

DEALER

Hey, I'm glad you were able to come so last-minute. My first failed to show up, he was sick or something. Love, tonight's task is simple. I'll be on the floor, you'll take care of everything here.

XENA

..Yeah, should be fine.

DEALER

All the shit you need is in there already.

Xena starts walking, Dealer aggressively, without touching her, stops her.

DEALER (CONT'D)

Did I tell you to go yet? How would you wanna get in without this key? Huh?

Dealer rummages in his pocket.

DEALER (CONT'D)

There you go.

Dealer hands Xena the key. Xena waits for, perhaps, more instructions, but Dealer gets a phonecall and picks up.

DEALER (CONT'D)

Ah, hey, yeah, man. Mark told me..

Dealer pats Xena on her back and leaves the toilet while on the phone.

DEALER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...that shit wasn't tested, yeah? Yeah. That's what he told me. I'll be on the floor all night, can you bring me it? Sick...

Xena opens the stall. The entire stall is converted, to a point where it can't be reconstructed to what it used to was, with medicine safes, pill cutters, needle containers, etc. Xena picks up a fanny pack and fills it with the drugs.
Title: **PEER PRESSURE.**

2 INT. GENDER NEUTRAL PUBLIC BATHROOM - NIGHT

The club has been open for a while. ALICE (22) and AMID (20) are in the middle of a conversation and walk directly to the piss stalls. Amid stands on the most right side, and while there's still space in between, Alice decides to stand right next to him, shoulder-to-shoulder.

ALICE

Fuck dude. This floor is all sticky. Can you feel that?
R.I.P. my new shoes bro.

Alice tries to find eye contact with Amid.

ALICE (CONT'D)

The guy that's now DJing is really bad, eh?

Amid looks annoyed, he tries his best to pee, but is unable to do so. He closes his fly and turns around, looking towards a wall.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I'm so excited for tomorrow. I mean, it's so scary,
but--

Amid walks towards the sink.

AMID

Don't you know how it works? Fucking dumbass. First you start peeing right next to me and then you even start talking to me? It's stressing me hella out.

Xena exits the stall with a sign that says "PERSONNEL ONLY". Amid sees her, Xena sees him, she's surprised. Xena is wearing her fanny pack, and Amid is staring at it, like he's seen a ghost.

XENA

Hi...?

Amid and Alice are also surprised, but due to other reasons. Alice feels busted for not inviting Xena. Alice is still peeing with his eyes kept shut.

AMID

(sarcastically)

Oh... Hey. Having fun tonight?

XENA

Ah, yeah, you know. Working.

Amid disapproves of this and clearly states this by making a sound of the like. Alice is done peeing, closes his fly and greets Xena.

ALICE

Hey Xeen... Yo...

XENA (CONT'D)

Hey... Uh... And what are you guys up to?

Amid waits for Alice to say it, but when he realizes Alice won't, because of his guilt, Amid just says it.

AMID

(cough) This guy right here. He got a promotion.

Xena seems visibly sad and disappointed for the fact that she wasn't invited.

XENA

Oh... Cool. Nice. Congrats, man.

ALICE

Thanks, thanks.

Xena, Alice and Amid are stood there, Xena and Alice waiting for there to be a conversation held and Amid looking for the right time to leave Xena and take Alice with him.

XENA

Anyways... uh... yeah... I'll be down here for a hot minute. If you guys care to celebrate, maybe with a bottle of champagne...

Alice is on the verge of holding a speech.

XENA (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Nevermind. No, wait... Wait. Shit. I take it back, please, forgive me. Spare us, Alice. I beg of you.

Xena and Amid playback the words Alice says.

ALICE

Michael Jordan once said: *I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.* So, no, so long as I can help it, drugs and booze stay as far away from me as possible.

XENA

I sometimes even dream about that, you know?

Alice, Amid and Xena laugh together. The feeling of the friendship that the three of them used to have is crawling its way back. Amid scares himself and suddenly stops himself from laughing. CLIENT enters the bathroom, Xena sees them, but chooses to ignore them.

XENA

But for real, one glass never hurt anyone. I'll be down here on my own. Let's try and have fun.

AMID

Ey, come on, Alice... We're going.

ALICE

Sounds good. We'll see you later, Xeen.

XENA

Mhm. By the way would you guys... want to... maybe next week--

Alice and Amid leave the toilet with a rush.

XENA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Oh, right, see you.

Xena swaps a color-coded card for a color-coded bag.

3 INT. GENDER NEUTRAL PUBLIC BATHROOM - NIGHT

Xena is redoing her eyeliner looking into a small mirror. Dealer enters the toilet and calls for her

DEALER

Yo... come here. Listen...

Dealer hands Xena a bag with a black monster figure with a red pill in it.

XENA

I already said that I didn't want to--

DEALER

If you want to check whether it's nice or not, we're buying, yeah? Keep a close eye on the guy you're giving it to, you're going to send me a little report afterwards.

XENA

Keep a close eye? How... how do you expect me to do that? I'm trapped down here with the other sh--

Dealer once again pats Xena dominantly on her shoulder and walks out of the bathroom while speaking.

DEALER

Good luck, bro. You better get the job done. Would be fucked if you weren't able to get rid of your debt, no?

Xena sighs. CLIENT #2 walks towards Xena.

CLIENT #2

Am I supposed to swap it with you?

XENA

Yess... Hand it to me.

Client #2 hands Xena a color-coded card and Xena swaps it with a color-coded bag. She shakes with the testerdrug.

XENA

I also have this one... it's a tester.

CLIENT #2

No, thanks, I'm good.

4 INT. GENDER NEUTRAL PUBLIC BATHROOM - NIGHT

Alice and Amid enter the bathroom, Alice holds a plastic cup with beer. Xena is sitting on the toilet, bored. Amid wait impatiently waiting for him and Alice to go back again.

ALICE

It's not champagne, but we still got you this!

XENA

Aah, thank you! You're the best! You didn't get a quick sip, did you?

ALICE

No... Of course I didn't.

XENA

Ach, come on. One sip. I know you want it.

ALICE

Xeen, I'm good. *Really.*

Xena takes a sip. Xena seems to be wanting to ask something of them, but isn't yet able to word it. It takes some time.

XENA

Hey... guys. You know I wouldn't usually ask you guys this, right? You know that, of course, but...--

AMID

Alice, let's go, I know where this is going.

XENA

It's more like, I'm still working, I would've taken it myself if I could, I promise. I would've.

AMID

Sucks for you.

Alice is actually thinking about it, to throw all of his progress away, but Amid pulls him away and back into his senses.

XENA (CONT'D)

What if we split it in three? Hmm? What do you think?

ALICE

Sorry, Xeen. I really can't, meeting her parents tomorrow...

Alice realizes he shouldn't have said that. Xena feels a mild wave of jealousy.

XENA

Her? Who's "her"? Did you... meet someone...?

ALICE

Shit, yeah... Shouldn't have--

AMID

Alice...

Amid pulls Alice along, out of the bathroom. Xena takes a big sip of her beer and shouts at them.

XENA

You guys are such good friends.

Amid stands there, in disbelief, while Alice opens the door.

AMID

Ha. Alice, I'll see you with the others, okay?

Alice nods and leaves, Amid walks back towards Xena.

AMID (CONT'D)

What the *fuck* is your problem? He got addicted, thanks to you, and now that he's clean, you start pulling this shit? And we're supposed to be the bad friends here? You are so *pathetic*.

XENA

I just wanted to... bond. I thought... well... since we barely spend any time together anymo--

AMID

You thought it would be a good idea to bring back your old friends into your life by forcing this shit onto them? I specifically picked this day, because you would be off-work, but nah bro, you keep on coming back like a fucking cockroach.

XENA

Fuck you, man. All I'm doing is trying to get my life back together after everything got--

AMID

Here comes the whole TED Talk about how the system fucked up your life, huh? You know, Xena...? You're not different. Everyone's having a hard time, but would I do this? Or Alice? No.

XENA

Oh, shut up. You have no idea what you're talking about. You're so fucking oblivious--

AMID

At least I'm not selfish, unlike you.

Amid storms out of the bathroom. Xena gets two more words out.

XENA

Fuck you!

Xena chugs the beer. CLIENT #3 goes to Xena and trades the card for the bag.

XENA (CONT'D)

(desperately)

Do you want this? It's free. Please, do you want it?

Client #3 declines. Xena gets pissed off for not getting rid of the tester.

XENA

No, of course you don't. Why would you? No one wants the fucking--

5 INT. GENDER NEUTRAL PUBLIC BATHROOM - NIGHT

Alice is puking in a stall, with Xena sitting behind him.

XENA

Uhh... I... might have something to help with the nausea, if you want.

ALICE

No, I'm good. Just water is fine.

XENA

Are you sure? I swear, it's good stuff, I promise--

ALICE

I just want water, Xena. Please.

XENA

But I take it myself as well, it truly works--

Alice has his phone laying on the floor next to him, it vibrates. Xena picks it up.

ALICE

No. Just give me water... I just need the taste gone--

Xena views Alice's phonescreen. "**<3**" says "*excited for tomorrow* (:". She once again gets hit with a now bigger wave of jealousy. She fills the cup of beer with water at the sink. In the background there are two clubgoers who indicate that the club is almost closing and Xena needs to hurry up.

CLUBGOER #1 (O.S.)

We really need to hurry up, dude. Get a quick pee in and we might be able to be there for the last set.

CLUBGOER #2 (O.S.)

Did you find out which train we need to get?

CLUBGOER #1 (O.S.)

We'll check afterwards, now go, go, go.

Xena, because of a mix of jealousy, time and peer pressure, adds the powdery substance that's the tester to the water she filled for Alice. She goes back to Alice and checks on him, for what could be, the very last time.

XENA

Are you okay?

Xena, still in doubt, isn't sure if she should do it, but before she could decide, Alice sits and grabs the cup from her hands. He drinks it in one go.

ALICE

I'm okay, thanks. I appreciate you helping me.

Alice smiles, Xena smiles awkwardly back at him.

XENA

Isn't that what friends are for?

Xena now realizes what she's done, there was this small speck of hope for the friendship to be restored and now she's gone and ruined it before it even came to that point.

Xena and Alice are sitting on the stairs, having a fun conversation about their past.

XENA

That time when I fell into the mud? Hahaha. Yeah. My opinion, still, is that it was your fault.

ALICE

My fault? Hahaha. How... How did I do that?

XENA

You scared the living shit out of me from behind.

ALICE

Pfft. Then you shouldn't have fired the paintball right at my ass.

XENA

(laughing)

Okay... Might've been my fault. Partly I guess. Little bit.

Beat. They look into their eyes and think of the time they've spent together, and Xena's guilt grows.

ALICE (CONT'D)

This is nice.

XENA

I know, right? I missed this so much.

ALICE

Mhm. I like this, it feels good.

XENA

Nice...

Beat. They look away from each other. Both looking at the same wall. Thinking of all kinds of things, thoughts ricocheting through their heads, Alice about the memories, Xena about what she's done, what the consequences could be and how bad she would feel if something were to go wrong.

ALICE

Any plans this weekend?

XENA

Work, again. How about you?

Between them, a person walks through and splits them up, symbolizing the space between them.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

Alice ignores the question, he wouldn't want to answer it. He's trying to find something different to answer with, to make something up, but thinking has a negative effect on his mind.

XENA

Alice. Are you...? Are you okay?

ALICE

Yeah, I'm fine... Whatever.

XENA

Tell me. What do you feel like? Go in detail.

ALICE

I don't know. Everything feels so... weird.

XENA

Yeah, but it feels good, right, is it good, or not? Isn't it good? What do you feel?

ALICE

It's all so busy... This feels just like... Xena, did you... I told you I didn't want it...

XENA

Yeah, but...

ALICE

You aren't listening. I didn't want it. I trusted you...

Alice slowly and consistently knocks out. Xena is stressing, trying to hold him and catch him, so that he won't hit the wall.

XENA (CONT'D)

Hey, hey... Alice. Come on, wake up, dude. Alice. Come on.

Xena calmly puts him to the wall, she checks his vitals. He is alive.

XENA (CONT'D)

Alice! Wake up, hey. This isn't funny. Hey. Alice. Hey.

Xena gives up. She stands and sits immediately after.

XENA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Fucking FUCK. This wasn't...

Xena takes a deep breath.

XENA (CONT'D)

(sighing)

Okay. You know what? Fuck him. Fuck him, man. For real.

She gets her phone from the bag. She calls Dealer. Dialogue continues in next scene. Fade to black.

XENA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What the fuck did you give me? Are you fucking stupid?
This shit is unsellable...

FADE FROM BLACK:

7 INT. OFFICE SPACE - EVENING

At first it's unclear who drives the cleaning cart, but slowly you can tell it's Xena, in casual clothes, unrecognizable as the woman we've seen before; she seems to have gotten on the straight path with a job. She's cleaning.

XENA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What is wrong? Someone's out here. Where are you? I need you.

Beat.

XENA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Why? Then what am I supposed to do? Call emergency services?

Beat.

XENA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Do you really think I care about you? It's my friend.

Beat.

XENA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then... I quit. There you have it. Now that's over with.

She changes a garbage bag. Underneath the garbage bag, at the bottom of the trashcan, there's a card from the drugs business. She picks up the card and closes her eyes.

Black screen. Titles.

THE END