

VOICE MESSAGE

BILLY

Yooooooo. Uh, what's up, babe? I guess you're still at the mall.

*(Beat)*

Practice got out early, though, so I dunno maybe you could bounce early and come pick me up? We can do that thing again.

*(Tries to be suave)*

You know.

*(Very much a boy again)*

K, call me back.

VOICE MESSAGE

BILLY

Jennnnnnnnnn. It's been twenty minutes. I'm so hungry. Pick up your phooooooooone.

*(Sighs, then pissy)*

Guess I'll call my Dad. Byeeee.

VOICE MESSAGE

BILLY

*(unusually meek)*

Jen, I'm still here. I just...really don't wanna see my Dad today. Can you please come get me?

VOICE MESSAGE

BILLY

Hey babe. So my mom was asking me what I was gonna wear for Homecoming. Do you know if there's like a color, or something? I feel like I've seen that. What am I supposed to--oh, shit. You're going to Homecoming with me, right?

Was I...you didn't want one of those big, corny promposal things, did you? So stupid.

Aight, bye.

VOICE MEMO

BILLY

Hey, so...I was thinking about that whole fight we had, with the like promposal thing? And you said it might be  
(MORE)

BILLY (cont'd)

nice to find a romantic voice memo on your phone, or whatever.

So, yeah. Umm. You're like...smokin' hot, you know? And, like, you're super nice and shit. Like it's cool how you always help Lindsey with the chem homework.  
*(Fast because he's nervous)*  
 Meet me in the boys' bathroom by the library before third period, we can make out.  
*(Really quiet, embarrassed)*  
 Love you.

VOICE MEMO

BILLY

Oh, yeah, I almost forgot. Did you know there's a old song about you? I mean, not about you but they say Jennifer a lot. I heard it on the radio when I went to get my dad from the bar on Saturday. It's like...

BILLY **SINGS** THE OPENING RIFF FROM "JENNIFER" BY STYX

You should check it out.

VOICE MEMO

BILLY

Hey, so...this is some shit, huh? Where the fuck even are we?

Not to be all like I told you so or anything. But I did tell you T-mobile was garbage. This whole phone works except for the parts we need.

Anyway can you believe that dude's name is actually Yellow Ween?

HE EXHALES. KILLING TIME.

Man, my bookmarks don't even load. What's the point of saving bookmarks then? How am I supposed to take a shit if I can't do a BuzzFeed quiz? Fucking bullshit.

Oh, dang, I guess I should save the battery, huh?

VOICE MEMO

JEN

*(genuinely scared)*

Hey. I dunno what I wanna say, or to who. But my phone's gonna die soon, and I don't wanna...

*(trails off)*

If anyone finds this, our names are Jen Andrews, Billy Williams, and Nelson Contee. We're from Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. I don't know where we are right now, but we're still alive when I'm making this. Duh. Um...

*(at a loss)*

Okay.

VOICE MEMO

BILLY

Damn, you really did get this shit to charge, with like...your mind. That's wild. You're so smart. I guess I haven't done one of these since...yeah, since we got here. Makes sense. Anyway I've been thinking about that song again. I think it's by Styx?

HE **SINGS** THE STYX SONG AGAIN.

Then he takes a beat.

I don't even know why I picked this up, not like I had anything good to say.

VOICE MEMO

No, I do have something to say. I don't know what you saw when you were out. Seems like you didn't wanna tell me.

*(beat)*

I saw my Dad. And like...I always knew he was a piece of shit, and I didn't wanna be like him. But...I still was. And I don't know, I guess I didn't realize. That sounds so stupid. Like, it's obvious, you know? Course your parents rub off on you, I just didn't wanna see it. Anyway, I guess there's this big battle or whatever coming up. In case anything happens, I just...

*(one more beat)*

...You really deserve a good boyfriend. I know I need to be better, I just don't know how yet. I know I've gotta feel feelings. And I know I've gotta listen better when you feel yours. I know I've kinda sucked. I'm really gonna try though. Don't hate me yet, okay? I'm gonna try. I love you.

VOICE MEMO

BILLY

Yeah, wassup wassup.

Um...I don't know why it's so hard for me to say nice things to you in person. I really don't. I think them all the time. But then I go to say them, and it's like...

BILLY MAKES A **FART NOISE** WITH HIS MOUTH.

You're just...the best. You're so smart, and you're such a good person, and you're so beautiful. And our shithole little town never deserved you.

*(a joke)*

I always knew you were gonna get out. Maybe not like this, though.

*(Then serious)*

I always used to like, dick around and mess with you when you were trying to study, and I always said I was joking around. But I think I was scared that you were gonna get out and I wasn't. That's so fucked up. I promise I'll never do that again. I'll go wherever you go. You know, if you let me. Football's...whatever. I can join some Dad league if I really wanna play.

I guess I should probably nut up and--suck it up and say sorry in person, huh? Yeah. Kay.

VOICE MEMO

BILLY

Hey. It sounded like you wanted to tell me something last night, and then you didn't. I just wanted you to know...you can tell me anything. I'm not gonna be mad, I promise. If somebody...did anything to you, no questions asked. Just tell me who I gotta punch, okay?

I love you. I gotta go blow up this horse race now, I'll talk to you later.

VOICE MEMO

JEN

Hey. I guess, I don't know how to do this in person either. Just, listen to it away from me, okay? I can't watch you while I'm telling you.

*(Big breath)*

Here it goes. You remember Mr. McCreary? He coached cheerleading in junior high.

JEN TAKES ONE MORE BIG BREATH, AND ON THAT WE...

FADE OUT.

...BUT THEN WE FADE BACK IN:

VOICE MEMO

BILLY

*(panicking)*

Yo! Jen! I remembered how that song went. Don't.  
Listen. To that song. The words are super fucked up.  
It's a bad song and no one should listen to it.

*(really earnest)*

And thanks for telling me what you told me. I know it  
was hard. I love you.

END OF MINISODE.