

Dialogue Sample from

THE SECRET LIFE OF GIRLS

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(Nervous about losing the most popular girl STEPHANIE as a best friend, KAYLA tries to explain why she stayed late at ABBY's sleepover without including STEPHANIE.)

KAYLA

(Desperately)

Look, Stephanie, I didn't want to stay at Abby's after the sleep-over. Our mothers did it. My mother had to pick up my aunt at the airport and she called Abby's mother and told her she'd better pick me up early from the party but Abby's mother said no problem, I should stay.

(Tearfully)

It wasn't my idea. I had nothing to do with it. Believe me, I didn't want to stay.

STEPHANIE

Oh.

KAYLA

I thought you and I were friends ... best friends.

STEPHANIE

Well ...

(Suddenly bestowing a smile on her)

we are.

KAYLA

Not ... Rebecca?

STEPHANIE

Rebecca? Me? Best friends with Rebecca?

KAYLA

You've been hanging out with her so much that I thought --

STEPHANIE

Rebecca totally begged me to go to the mall after the game. Like every Saturday. Jeez! She is such a pathetic suck-up. And you cannot trust her.

KAYLA

She was bragging about how you bought shirts alike.

STEPHANIE

No, I bought this shirt and then she had to have it. In my size. Believe me, I'll never wear it again.

KAYLA

It's really cute though.

STEPHANIE

I totally hate it. Wait 'til you see Rebecca in it. She looks like a sausage.

(THEY snicker together.)

STEPHANIE (Continued)

Hey, listen Kayla ... how about you call your mom and see if you can come over and study after practice?

KAYLA

Oh ...okay, great! Practice? Jeez, come on! We're late! You gotta change.

(THEY gather their things.)

KAYLA (Continued)

Hey, Steph, Brad? Did you really dump him?

STEPHANIE

Ugh, I'm so over him.

(Making a joke)

Rebecca can have him.

(THEY laugh together.)

STEPHANIE (Continued)

No, wait! Let's fix Abby up with Brad. That would be perfect.

KAYLA

Are you really going with William Stratten?

STEPHANIE

Jealous? He's so sexy. And mature. I'm so sick of the losers in our grade.

KAYLA

He has his own car, right?

STEPHANIE

Duh.

KAYLA

Your mother'll let you car date?

STEPHANIE

Does my mother have to know?

KAYLA

(Excited)

Steph! Oh, God!

(Whistle blows.)

KAYLA (Continued)

Hurry! Coach is gonna yell at us!

STEPHANIE

Who cares?

(KAYLA and STEPHANIE, laughing together, exit. Lights rise on COACH who blows whistle and addresses audience as if volleyball team.)

COACH

Okay, girls, listen up. This is really a huge game for us. Our first game, yes, we won but was it luck or do you have what it takes to be champions again? Great game point serve last week, Abby. Remember, Stephanie's your captain. Listen to her. Anna Marie, get the lead out. You've all got to move out there. Okay, let's go out and destroy those Panthers! Go, Fireballs!!!

(Lights down on COACH. E-mail appears on screen.)

From: STEPH<star743@hotmail.com>

To: KAYLA<kaylag@aol.com>

SUTTON<secretagent21@aol.com>

ABBY<chocalot05@aol.com>

Subject: LETSPARTY

*Sleep over my house sat - kayla abby sutton only. keep it a secret
- Steph*

(Lights rise as STEPHANIE, KAYLA, ABBY and SUTTON enter after the game, tired but elated from their win. THEY have water bottles and small towels. KAYLA is carrying her team bag. E-mail remains on screen.)

SUTTON

That was so totally easy. We completely slaughtered them!

ABBY

I can't believe - twenty-one to three!

KAYLA

Weren't the Panthers tough last year?

(During following action, KAYLA digs in her bag, finds her cell phone and checks for calls.)

SUTTON

Yeah, last year they nearly beat us. God, what a bunch of losers.

STEPHANIE

Yeah, well, if Anna Marie doesn't get out of her little dream world we may be losers, too.

KAYLA

Yeah, what's her problem?

ABBY

Really.

(ANNA MARIE and REBECCA enter. THEY have changed clothes and REBECCA is proudly wearing the new, matching shirt which is way too tight.)

SUTTON

Sssh!

(Trying to act natural)

Great game, huh?

(STEPHANIE and KAYLA try to stifle their snickers at REBECCA in tight shirt.)

REBECCA

Totally. Did you see them? The Panthers were like crying.

(ANNA MARIE sits by herself, mopping her face with her towel. Not seen by REBECCA, STEPHANIE indicates KAYLA should take a picture of REBECCA with her cell phone.)

SUTTON

Yeah, well, we'd be crying too if we lost twenty-one to three. Pathetic.

STEPHANIE

(Smiling at ABBY)

I think we have a better team than last year.

(ABBY reacts happily.)

STEPHANIE (Continued)

(Staring at ANNA MARIE)

But some people need to step up their game.

REBECCA

I know I didn't play my best, Steph. I get nervous.

STEPHANIE

(Annoyed)

Jeez, I wasn't talking about you, Rebecca. You played fine.

REBECCA

Oh, okay.

KAYLA

Hey, Rebecca, you look so cute in that shirt. Let me get a picture.

REBECCA

Oh, okay, thanks!

(KAYLA takes a picture as REBECCA poses.)

REBECCA (Continued)

Say, what's everybody doing tonight?

(E-mail changes on screen as REBECCA looks from GIRL to GIRL for a reaction.)

From: STEPH<star743@hotmail.com>

*To: KAYLA<kaylag@aol.com>
SUTTON<secretagent21@aol.com>
ABBY<chocalot05@aol.com>*

Subject: R!!!

*guys, 7 my house all nighter my cousin renting Hostel and
Saw II. just us 4!
- Steph.*

REBECCA (Continued)

Anybody wanna do something? I could see if I could have everybody over.

(As REBECCA leans over to pick up her stuff, STEPHANIE grabs cell phone from KAYLA, sneaks a picture of REBECCA's behind and quickly stuffs cell phone back in KAYLA's bag. In the pause that follows, ANNA MARIE exits. GIRLS avoid looking at REBECCA.)

ABBY

I'd like to ... but, uh, I can't. We're having company.

(STEPHANIE's cell phone rings and SHE digs for it in her bag.)

SUTTON

Me, too. Yeah, we are, too. Family dinner.

STEPHANIE

Shit, it's my mom.

KAYLA

Jeez, I think I'm supposed to babysit.

STEPHANIE

Oh, yeah. Listen, I can't tonight.

SUTTON

Me, either.

STEPHANIE

Look, I gotta get this.

(Crossing away SHE answers phone, annoyed.)
What, mom?

KAYLA

See ya, Becca. Hey, really cute shirt.

SUTTON

Yeah.

(SUTTON and KAYLA exit, giggling.)

ABBY

(To REBECCA)

Okay, well, good game. See you Monday, Rebecca.

(ABBY exits. During STEPHANIE's following phone call, REBECCA crosses away, looks at her shirt and pulls it down, trying to cover her exposed midriff. SHE sits and wraps her arms around herself as if SHE has a stomach ache and, staring out, slowly rocks back and forth.)

STEPHANIE

(Apart, on cell phone)

Jeez, mom, dad wanted me to spend Christmas break with him! Why do you always do this? Can't you just lay off him?! You know I wanted to be with dad. Just stop it, mom! I gotta go!

(STEPHANIE hangs up.)

Shit!

(SHE frantically pushes buttons on cell phone. Lights fade on STEPHANIE and REBECCA. TEXT MESSAGE appears on screen.)

TEXT MESSAGE

Hey luv u dad. c u wed I hope

- Steph

(Screen goes blank.)