

STOOPING SURPRISE

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INT. APARTMENT, DAY

A group of friends are having a small party.

QUINN

Thanks for inviting us, Peyton!

JULIA

Yeah, I had no clue what stooping was until you showed us.

PEYTON

For sure! It's crazy what kind of stuff people just leave on their doorsteps.

KAT

It's the best kind of thrifting. One man's trash is another man's treasure!

People laugh.

PEYTON

Okay, everyone. As you know, the theme of this party is stooping surprises. So let's see all the treasures you all found! I found this mirror.

QUINN

(reaching inside bag)
I found this mug.

Everyone oohs and ahs.

JULIA

I found this record. Super vintage!

People are excited.

KAT

Mine is kinda big. Let me grab it.

Kat leaves for a second and returns with AGNES, a giant ventriloquist dummy (played by a real person). Her hand is on Agnes to pretend like she's controlling her.

Everyone is disturbed. Agnes makes creepy eye contact. When Agnes speaks, Kat doesn't even try to mouth the words.

AGNES

I've got a rash. Who wants to scratch it?

PEYTON
What is that?

KAT
(unfazed)
Not a what, a who! This is Agnes.
She's a ventriloquist dummy.

AGNES
I've memorize each of your social
security numbers. 1,2, 3 -

JULIA
I don't think you get what stooping
is.

KAT
Sure I do! Someone left her at the
gate of this graveyard.

PEYTON
You're not even a ventriloquist.

KAT
That's the best part, sometimes
it's like I'm doing ventriloquism
and I swear I'm not even trying.

AGNES
(holding a bracelet)
Look what I found!

PEYTON
That's my bracelet! I haven't taken
it off since we got here.

JULIA
This is too weird.

AGNES
Two people in this room are having
an affair.

QUINN
No we're not!

JULIA
Absolutely not.

PEYTON
Kat, you can't go around spreading
rumors.

KAT
I promise it's like I didn't even
know what Agnes was going to say.

JULIA
Can we just forget this?

PEYTON
No! Lies like that can really hurt
someone and -

QUINN
It's not a rumor! I'm done
pretending.

Everyone gasps except Agnes who cackles/laughs because her
suspicions were correct.

PEYTON
What are you talking about?

QUINN
We can stop pretending. Julia and I
have been having an affair.

KAT
What about your girlfriend
Elizabeth?

AGNES
Yeah, what about Elizabeth?

QUINN
Elizabeth and I have been unhappy
for months. Then I called Julia and-

JULIA
We didn't plan for this to happen.

AGNES
I never planned to pay my physical
therapist with pepperoni pizzas,
but here I am.
(looks at Kat)
Oh, sweetie, do you mind?

Agnes separates from Kat's hand. Everyone is terrified.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Oh calm down. What's the matter?
Got a stick up your butt? HA!

Agnes sits between Julia and Quinn like a therapist.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Anyways, now that this is all out
in the open...Julia, how does this
make you feel?

JULIA
Um...I feel scared and...

AGNES
This is a safe space.

JULIA
I feel relieved. I love you.

QUINN
I love you more.

AGNES
I love you most.

PEYTON
You could have told me! We're best friends.

AGNES
And how did that make you feel?

PEYTON
Sad.

KAT
Maybe Quinn and Julia were scared to tell us.

QUINN
Don't worry, you'll be the first person I tell the next time I have an affair.

AGNES
Awe, that's...nice?

PEYTON
I hate to say it, but, I'm happy you stooped Agnes.

AGNES
And I'm happy I stooped this.
(reaches for...)
It's a box of all your baby teeth!

Agnes shakes the box.

THE END.