

Our Kind of Normal

By Emily Campbell

Cast:

Ashley: 18 year old girl, older sister to Annie.

Maddie: 17 years old. Ashley's friend.

Aaron: 17 years old. Maddie's boyfriend.

Blake: 17 years old. Friends with Ashley.

Annie: 12 years old. Ashley's little sister.

Cop: Middle aged.

Lights come up on Maddie vaping and listening to music.

Ashley enters.

Ashley: There you are.

Maddie nods and hands the vape to Ashley and she takes a hit.

Ashley: Heads up, Aaron's coming.

Maddie: *(Hides the vape)* He did last night too.

Ashley: Hoe.

Maddie: You know it.

Aaron enters and slings an arm around Maddie.

Aaron: Hey baby.

Maddie: Hey.

They kiss forgetting about Ashley.

Ashley: I'm here too guys.

Aaron: Hey *(Back to Maddie)* Why do you smell like cotton candy?

Maddie: Do I?

Ashley: It's my perfume.

Aaron: Weird but ok.

Maddie: *(To Aaron)* is anyone home?

Aaron: Nope not until 9.

Maddie: Let's go to your house and finish from last night.

Ashley: See ya.

Maddie: Ash wait. Can I stay with you again?

Ashley: Yeah- actually not tonight, sorry. *(Exits)*

Aaron: You got kicked out again?

Maddie: Yeah...

Aaron: You should have told me sooner and you could've-

Maddie: Your parents would never let me stay the night.

Aaron: I know... but you still could've told me.

Maddie: I know.

Aaron: *(Sighs)* I love you baby.

Maddie: I love you too. Let's go now.

Aaron: Ok.

They exit.

Lights out.

Lights up on Ashley and Blake At a table on their phones.

Ashley: Annie's coming back home. Can Maddie stay with you tonight?

Blake: She got kicked out again?

Ashley: Yup. You know how her family is.

Blake: No shit she's my cousin of course I do.

Ashley: Can she?

Blake: Yeah.

Ashley: Good.

Blake: Why can't her mans let her crash at his place though?

Ashley: His parents don't trust her.

Blake: Why?

Ashley: Why do you think?

Blake: *(Sarcastically)* Oh 'cause she's from the rez.

Ashley: Yeah actually and his mom says she's a "bad influence."

Blake: Seriously?

Ashley: I know it's bull shit.

Blake: Does Aaron still want her to stop vaping?

Ashley: Yeah but she doesn't listen.

Blake: As long as she's not into hard-core shit I'm fine with it.

Ashley: Same. *(Pause)* You're not doing that stuff right?

No answer.

Ashley: Right?!

Blake: I don't do it but I might be slinging it.

Ashley: I thought you said you only deal weed!

Blake: Chill.

Ashley: Don't tell me to chill bro.

Blake: I only started to deal meth 'cause I need the money. And you know that!

Ashley: Just don't do it ok?

Blake: Ok, ok I won't.

Ashley: You better not.

There's loud knocking on the door

Maddie: Blake open the damn door!

Blake: Coming, chill!

Maddie: *(Walking on)* don't ever tell a girl to chill. Why was the door locked anyway?

Ashley: It wasn't locked when I got here.

Maddie: Oh did I interrupt something?

Blake: Shut up

Maddie: I'll leave you guys alone then.

Ashley: Sit your ass down Maddie. Did you find a place to crash yet?

Maddie: No, Blake?

Blake: (*Playfully*) yeah I guess you can sleep on my couch.

Maddie: Thanks man.

Blake: Yeah, yeah.

Ashley: Sorry you couldn't stay with me tonight.

Maddie: It's ok. Is your sister coming back home today?

Ashley: Yeah she has school tomorrow. So do you two.

Blake: Do you guys want slushies? We can go to the gas bar.

Ashley: Do you have money?

Blake: Of course I do. If I didn't I wouldn't ask. (*Shows off the money*)

Ashley rolls her eyes.

Maddie: Ok let's go.

They exit.

Lights out.

Lights up on Ashley, Maddie, and Blake walking on with slushies.

Maddie: What do ya'll wanna do now?

Ashley: Doesn't matter to me. Blake?

Maddie: You wanna do Blake?

Ashley: No just shut up!

Blake: Come on Ash I know you wanna do me.

Ashley: Maybe I do.

Maddie: Ok seriously what do you guys want to do now?

Blake: Just walk around? I don't know.

Maddie: I'm down.

Ashley: Sure.

Blake: Aight.

Ashley's phone dings.

Ashley: *(Checking her phone)* Oh I gotta dip guys.

Maddie: Ok see you tomorrow.

Blake: See ya.

Ashley: Bye: Love you!

Maddie: Love you too!

Blake: Love you Ashley.

Ashley exits flustered.

Blake: Let's just go back to my place.

Maddie: ok.

Lights out.

Lights up on Ashley and her sister entering.

Annie: Why can't we just live with grandma?

Ashley: It's complicated ok? Did you eat?

Annie: Yeah they fed me. Did you eat?

Ashley: Yup don't worry.

Annie: Liar.

Ashley: I'm not lying.

Annie: *(Pulling a container out of her bag)* here, they packed some soup for you.

Ashley: Thanks Annie. Sometimes I wonder who the older one is.

Annie: Me too.

Ashley: Now go to bed kid, it's almost 9.

Annie: I'm not a kid you're a kid! I'm almost 13.

Ashley: Well I'm 18 and you have school in the morning.

Annie: Do you work tomorrow?

Ashley: Yeah so you can visit somebody after school.

Annie: Ok. *(Hugs Ashley)* I miss mom.

Ashley: I know, I do too. Now go to bed and I'll go to bed too.

Annie gives her a look and hands her the container.

Ashley: I'll eat then go to bed.

Annie: *(Exiting)* Good night.

Ashley: Night.

Ashley sits at a table and starts to eat the soup. But starts to cry instead.

Lights out.

Lights up on Blake walking on and talking to somebody off stage. While putting money in hid pocket.

Blake: Thanks man but don't tell anybody else.

Maddie enters.

Maddie: Don't tell anybody what?

Blake: *(Sarcastically)* I'm an FBI agent.

Maddie: Seriously, at school?

Aaron enters.

Blake: Yeah the grade eights are great customers. You'd be surprised at how much money they have.

Aaron: You sell to thirteen year olds?

Maddie: That's how he gets the money he needs babe.

Blake: Yeah I know it's not good, but it's the easiest way to get cash for food and other crap I need. I just sell weed none of the harder stuff to the kids.

Aaron: Why don't you just get a job that doesn't involve drugs?

Blake: It's not that easy around here.

Aaron: Right.

Blake: *(Annoyed)* I'm gonna go get something to eat.

Maddie: See ya later.

Aaron: *(To Maddie)* Did you find a place to stay last night?

Maddie: Yeah Blake let me crash on his couch.

Aaron: That's good. I'm glad you didn't have to sleep outside.

Maddie: You're not mad?

Aaron: Should I be?

Maddie: No.

Aaron: I'm not like your ex ok baby? I love and care for you and I won't get mad or jealous when you're with Blake. I know you guys are close friends and cousins.

Maddie: I love you too. Let's go get lunch.

They exit.

Lights out.

Lights up on Ashley and Blake talking.

Blake: Another double shift?

Ashley: Yeah the other gas jockey didn't show.

Blake: Want me to pick up Annie?

Ashley: Yes please and stay at my house until I get home in the morning.

Blake: Alright. I'll just let Maddie know I won't be back 'til tomorrow.

Ashley: Thanks bro, I owe you.

Blake: Bro?

Ashley: Yeah.

Blake: I thought we were more than that, Ashley.

Ashley: Shut up.

Blake: *(Laughing)* Oh come on can't you take a joke?

Ashley: *(Also laughs)* Whatever, I gotta get back to work.

Blake: Ok see ya.

Ashley: Bye.

Ashley sighs and exits.

Aaron and Maddie enter.

Aaron: This is Blake's house?

Maddie: Yup.

Aaron: Does he live alone?

Maddie: No he stays with his dad but he's never home.

Aaron: Because of work?

Maddie: No, he drinks a lot.

Aaron: Oh... where's Blake?

Maddie: Watching Annie. *(Suggestively)* I'll be alone for the night.

Aaron: *(Knowingly)* Oh

Lights out.

Lights up on Annie sitting at the table eating cereal.

Ashley: *(Walking on tiredly)* Morning.

Annie: Morning.

Ashley exits and screams off stage.

Ashley and Blake enter.

Blake: *(To Ashley)* why'd you scream?

Ashley: Because I didn't know you were passed out on my couch.

Blake: She told me to sleep on the couch. What was I supposed to do, sleep on the floor?

Ashley: Yeah.

Annie: You guys are idiots.

Ashley: Why?

Annie: You both obviously love each other.

Silence. Ashley exits.

Blake: I'm gonna go. *(Exits)*

Annie laughs and Lights fade.

Dim lights up on Maddie and Blake smoking a joint.

Blake: Are you sure you wanna do this?

Maddie: Yeah it's just weed.

Blake: Ok *(Passes her the joint)*

Maddie: *(Coughing)* Wow.

Blake: Ha weak.

Maddie: Shut the fuck up that was my first hit ever.

Blake: I can't believe after seventeen years of living here in this shit this is the first time you're smoking weed.

Maddie: Better late than never I guess.

They continue taking turns taking hits.

Blake: Bro, if I crash a car on purpose is it still an accident?

Maddie: What the fuck?

Blake: If you cut your leg off where would you feel the pain?

Maddie: In your leg.

Blake: But your leg would be chopped off.

Maddie: *(Mind blown)* Bro!

Maddie: This shit is way better than vape bro.

Blake: I know.

Aaron enters.

Aaron: Maddie?

Maddie: Babe, hi.

Blake: I'm just gonna go.... Yeah. *(Exits)*

Aaron: Why are you smoking?

Maddie: It's just weed! I promise this is a one-time thing.

Aaron: Shit Maddie, first vaping and now you're smoking pot?

Maddie: I know. But come on everybody on this rez smokes weed.

Aaron: Well it's not good and I don't want anything to happen to you ok baby? I love you.

Maddie: I love you.

Maddie goes in for a kiss but Aaron stops her.

Aaron: I'm gonna go home. See you...

Maddie: See you...

Lights fade out.

Lights up on Ashley saying bye to Annie.

Blake enters.

Blake: You need to help me.

Ashley: What happened?

Blake: Somebody snitched to the cops about me dealing at the school.

Ashley: Blake, you have to be more careful!

Blake: I know, I'm sorry.

Ashley: Is this the first time you were caught?

Blake: *(Silent for a moment)* No.

Ashley: You're lucky you're still a minor. They can't put you in jail.

Blake: I know, but the parents of the kids that bought off me are pissed.

Ashley: What are you gonna do?

Blake: Nothing.

Ashley: I guess there's nothing you can do.

Blake: I'll just go in and let the cops question me. It's not like they can do anything else.

Ashley: But you can get suspended or something.

Blake: So?

Ashley: *(Sighs)* Just promise that you'll stop selling weed at school. Blake, Annie's gonna be at that school next year.

Blake: Alright.

Ashley: Promise me.

Blake: Ok fine, I promise. I'm gonna go.

Blake goes to exit but turns around and hugs Ashley.

Blake: *(Sadly)* I'm sorry...

Ashley: For what?

Blake: Love you. *(Exits)*

Ashley: Blake!

A knock is heard and Ashley opens the door. A cop enters.

Cop: Hello there, I'm officer Jones. Do you know a Blake Wilson?

Ashley: Yeah, I know him, why?

Cop: He is being charged for attacking his class mate on school grounds. I've been told to notify his family.

Ashley: But I'm not his family.

Cop: Are you not Ashley Brown?

Ashley: Yeah that's me.

Cop: Blake has you down as his family on his information from school.

Ashley: Oh.

Cop: How old are you Ashley?

Ashley: I'm eighteen.

Cop: Does Blake live with you?

Ashley: No he lives with his dad. Well he kinda lives on his own, his dad's never there.

Cop: Ok I'm sorry I bothered you but can you tell Blake to call me? *(Gives Ashley a card)*

Ashley: Ok. *(Starts texting)*

Lights out.

Lights up on Ashley sweeping the kitchen.

Maddie enters.

Maddie: Hey *(Hugs Ashley)* If Aaron shows up I'm not here.

Ashley: Did he hurt you? If he did I'll beat the shit outta him.

Maddie: No he didn't hurt me. But he caught me smoking.

Ashley: Vape?

Maddie: Weed, I think he's mad at me and I don't want to see him.

Ashley: Ok, Annie isn't home so you can hide in her room.

Maddie: Thanks... Are you ok?

Ashley: Yeah I'm fine, just tired.

Maddie: Ok...*(She exits)*

Ashley sighs and sits at the table. There's a knock on the door.

Ashley: Come in!

Aaron enters looking worried.

Aaron: Is she here?

Ashley: Who?

Aaron: Maddie. Is she here?

Ashley: No.

Aaron: I'm not mad at her. I want to say sorry that's all.

Ashley: Smoking helps her stay calm.

Aaron: What do you mean?

Ashley: Sit.

Aaron: Why?

Ashley: I'm gonna tell you about Maddie.

Aaron: Ok (*Sits down*)

Ashley: Her parents are ass holes. She gets kicked out every fucking week and they bring her back in once the child tax shit runs out. Maddie doesn't have a home ok? She jumps from couch to couch and she has anxiety from her abusive ex and smoking calms her nerves.

Aaron: But there's better ways.

Ashley: She doesn't know better.

Aaron: What?

Ashley: If you were like her what would you do?

Aaron: I don't know.

Ashley: Exactly. She doesn't know what to do so she just does what she sees other people around here do.

Aaron: Oh...

Ashley: Yeah this rez is full of pot-heads, crack-heads, fucking alcoholics.

Aaron: But that's not normal.

Ashley: It is here.

Aaron: What about you and Blake?

Ashley: What about us?

Aaron: How do you guys live.

Ashley: We don't.

Aaron: Huh?

Ashley: We survive. Me and Blake well... we were forced to grow up too fast you know?

Aaron: I don't.

Ashley: *(Sighs)* Who do you live with?

Aaron: My mom and dad.

Ashley: Do you have to work 24/7 or sell drugs to buy food and shit?

Aaron: Well no...

Ashley: We do.

Aaron: What happened to your parents?

Ashley: My dad left after Annie was born and my mom died last year. So now I have to be Annie's mom and dad.

Aaron: Oh. I'm sorry, how old are you?

Ashley: 18.

Aaron: Wow....

Ashley: You're not in the shiny city, you live on the rez now.

Aaron: I know but I'm not used to it.

Ashley: well you better get used to it soon. It's not your normal but it's our kind of normal.

Silence.

Ashley: I have to go pick up Annie. Maddie's in the room. Last door to the left. *(She exits crying)*

Aaron goes to see Maddie but decides not to and leaves.

Lights out.

Lights up on Blake running and bumping into Aaron.

Blake: What, are you after me too?

Aaron: Whoa, man what do you mean?

Blake: Haven't you heard?

Aaron: What do you mean?

Blake: Some kid snitched on me and now the parents are after me.

Aaron: Wait, seriously?

Blake: Yeah, now I've gotta split, man.

Aaron: Let me help.

Blake: There's nothing you could do.

Aaron: How about we just talk to the parents?

Blake: Really?

Aaron: What?

Blake: That's not gonna work here.

Aaron: You never know.

Blake: You don't know shit, man.

Aaron: Look, I know I'm new here but I still want to help.

Blake: Why do you want to help me so much, don't you hate me?

Aaron: Hate you? No.

Blake: Well it seems like it.

Aaron: Yeah, I was upset to see you and Maddie smoking pot but I think you're a good person.

Blake: Well you should be more worried about Maddie, not me.

Aaron: Right...

Blake: Where is she?

Aaron: At Ashley's house.

Maddie runs on distressed.

Maddie: Guys, we have to go now, Ashley just called and said that Annie's missing.

Blake: What?! What do you mean?

Maddie: The teacher told her that Annie was gone from school all afternoon. Ashley already looked at all the usual places.

Blake: Let's go look again, maybe she missed something. *(Exits)*

Aaron: Maddie. I'm sorry I got mad at you.

Maddie: I'm sorry too. I don't wanna smoke but I'm just kinda messed up I guess.

Aaron: Not to me. I think you're pretty awesome.

Maddie smiles and hits him.

Aaron: And tough.

Blake: *(From off stage)* Guys let's go!

Lights out.

Lights up on Annie sitting on a ledge.

Ashley: *(From off stage)* Annie? Annie! *(Enters shocked)* What are you doing?

Annie: I'm sorry.

Ashley: For what?

Annie: For being a burden and worrying you all the time. You shouldn't have to be taking care of me.

Ashley: What do you mean? I love taking care of you. Annie come away from there.

Annie: I see how you cry all the time and you never get to do anything for yourself.

Ashley: Annie I promise it's not your fault, just please get down.

Maddie, Blake, and Aaron run on.

Aaron: Holy shit.

Maddie: Annie!

Blake: *(To Ashley)* what's she doing?

Ashley: She thinks that she's a burden to me and it's her fault everything's so fucked up.

Blake: look, I gotta go out there.

Ashley: Be careful.

Maddie and Aaron go to Ashley and hold her hands to support her.

Blake: Annie I'm coming out there. *(He carefully maneuvers his way to Annie)* Hey.

Annie: Hey.

Blake: What's going on?

Annie: I'm sorry.

Blake: You don't have anything to be sorry about. This is a crazy world we live in.

Annie: Yeah it is.

Blake: And sometimes we do pretty crazy things.

She doesn't respond.

Blake: Even with all the crazy things we do there's still people that care for us and who really love us. Like you have Ashley, Maddie, and me. We all love you Annie.

Annie: *(Silent for a moment)* I love you guys too.

Blake: We would be heartbroken if anything happened to you. Sometimes when we hurt, everybody hurts and talking about it can really help. Sometimes it's better to talk then to keep it bottled up or do something that hurts you or somebody else.

Annie: That's what everyone does here. They run away, keep things bottled up, hurt themselves, hurt others, do drugs, sell drugs.

Blake: *(Thinks for a moment)* I know, you're right. Like I said this is a crazy world. But we can always learn from our mistakes and become a better person and help others become better too. Look Annie, let's get down from here and you can help us become better people. We'll help each other.

Ashley: Annie please come down and we can talk things out.

Annie: *(To Ashley)* Promise you won't keep things bottled up.

Ashley: I promise. I love you.

Annie: *(To Blake)* ok.

Blake helps Annie carefully get back to the others. Aaron goes to grab Annie's hand and helps her down.

Ashley and Maddie immediately hug Annie.

Ashley: Oh my god Annie, I'm so glad you're safe.

Annie: I'm hungry, can we go eat and get slushies.

Maddie: That sounds like a great idea.

Blake: There's the Annie I know and love. Always hungry.

Aaron: Wow this has been quite the week.

Maddie: Yeah that's just our kind of normal.

Annie: Ashley? I love you too.

Ashley goes in for a hug and everybody else joins in.

Lights dim.

BLACKOUT

END

