

SWEETER THAN SUGAR

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. CHLOE'S HOUSE

1

We open to an overhead of an invitation that reads "Chloe's Birthday Party: Celebrate Chloe with Your Best Costume" A girl dressed in a satin dress, a hot pink "PROM QUEEN" sash, and a tiara stares with her head down at the invitation. This is ELLIE.

Ellie is pale and has dark brown hair. She stands on the welcome mat, trembling with excitement and can hardly hide her enthusiasm.

Ellie knocks on the door, but there is no response. She waits a moment, then leans in to knock again. This time the door flings open and Ellie leans forward as she hears the excitement of the party inside. A girl in a pirate costume stands in the doorway. This is PIRATE GIRL. With a valley-girl dialect, she does not seem to recognize ELLIE.

PIRATE GIRL

Hello?

ELLIE

Hi, I'm here for the party. Here, I have an invitation.

Ellie pushes the invitation into Pirate Girl's hand who is still confused. Pirate Girl peers at the invitation and scans Ellie up and down.

PIRATE GIRL

What are you even supposed to be?

ELLIE

I'm Carrie.

PIRATE GIRL

Then where's the blood?

ELLIE

Well I didn't really have any, so I guess I'm Carrie pre-blood.

PIRATE GIRL

Oh.

The girls stare at each other.

ELLIE

So can I come in?

PIRATE GIRL

I guess...

Pirate Girl hands the invitation back to Ellie and, still apprehensive, allows her to enter.

2 INT. KITCHEN

2

Ellie enters the fabulously pink party with girls dressed head-to-toe in costumes. Ellie's plain stain dress stands out among the intricate details of the party and the other costumes.

As Pirate Girl leads the way, Ellie eargly smiles at the other party-goers who laugh, snicker, and whisper at her.

PARTY-GOER 1

Who is that?

PARTY-GOER 2

She actually showed up!

PARTY-GOER 3

What is she supposed to be?

As she walks further into the kitchen, the music becomes more quiet while the whispering crescendos. She walks further through the kitchen to the dining room.

3 CONT. INT DINING ROOM

3

The Dining room is filled with pink balloons, streamers, decorations and desserts across the table with a pile of presents sitting in the corner.

Ellie walks further to one girl who does not recognize her right away. This is CHLOE and this is her birthday party. Chloe is dressed as the Queen of Hearts and commands the same amount of power as her muse.

Her blonde hair is complimented by her elaborate costume embellished with playing cards, gloves, and shiny red heels. Chloe is the Queen-Bee and everyone follows her as such. Her snarky and disingenuous attitude is vibrant in her piercing eyes.

CHLOE

Hi, welcome to my party!

ELLIE

Oh, thank you for inviting me!

CHLOE

You can just put your present with
the rest.

Chloe gestures to the mountain of presents in the corner.
Ellie is concerned.

ELLIE

I didn't bring a present.

Everyone in the room stops talking and Chloe's eyes widen
with a sinister smile.

CHLOE

No problem! I know on the
invitation it says not to, but hey
not all of us can understand the
obvious.

Ellie stands shamefully looking down at her feet. A girl in a
flamingo costume walks in from the kitchen. This is GRACE.
Her pink costume is complete with a feather boa and a beak.
Grace is a common friend between Ellie and Chloe.

Grace wraps her arm around Ellie.

GRACE

Ellie, Happy birthday! I didn't see
you come in. Here, let's go get
some food in the kitchen.

CHLOE

Oh, Grace. Don't you mean 'Happy
Birthday" to me.

GRACE

Of course Chloe, but it's Ellie's
birthday too.

Grace smirks at Chloe and drags Ellie out of the dining room.

4 CONT. INT. KITCHEN

4

Grace lets go of Ellie and turns to talk.

GRACE

Wow, that was a nightmare. What are
you doing here?

ELLIE

What do you mean? I was invited.

Ellie hands her invitation to Grace.

GRACE

Hmm. How are you friends with
Chloe?

ELLIE

Oh, I'm not. That's why I was so
nervous coming here, especially
because it's my birthday too.

GRACE

Well, maybe it's best to be
cautious. Chloe is super obsessed
with her birthday. Wait, what's
your costume?

ELLIE

I'm Carrie.

GRACE

But where's the blood?

CHLOE (O.S.)

Hello, everyone.

The girls swing their heads to the entrance of the dining
room.

Welcome to my birthday party!

She pauses like she is waiting for something. Chloe is
obviously annoyed.

CHLOE

You can clap now.

The party-goers clap relentlessly to make up for their
transgressions. Chloe's smile returns.

CHLOE

Good! Okay, the first game we are
going to play is to hit the piñata.

Chloe gestures to her guests to follow her into a different
room.

5 INT. LIVING ROOM

5

Chloe stands next to a donut piñata with a bat in her hand.

CHLOE

Okay, the object of the game is to
break the piñata to get all of the
candy.

Chloe turns to Ellie with a cheeky smile.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Ellie. Since it's OUR birthday, why don't you go first?

The crowd pushes Ellie forward. Chloe offers her the blindfold and the bat and Ellie accepts these like a knight going into battle. Her fear is transformed into courage, she puts the blind fold on, and takes the bat.

Begin Montage: Party games

- Chloe presents another party game

CHLOE

Charades: Ellie, you go first.

- Chloe presents another game

CHLOE

We are gonna play Telephone!

- In a close-up, we see Ellie in her blindfold attempting to hit the piñata. In an extreme close up, we see she keeps bumping into furniture around the room
- Ellie picks a charade card out of a bowl. It says "Playing a Cowbell"
- Grace starts the chain by whispering to the person next to her
- After Ellie swings the bat, there is a crack sound and candy falls on top of her. The guests cheer as Ellie smiles widely
- Ellie acts out her playing a cowbell in the weirdest way. She jumps, gets down to the floor, dances in the air, etc.
- The telephone game continues and girls laugh after hearing the phrase. The chain reaches Chloe as she sits next to Ellie who is the last person. Chloe does a double-take and laughs before whispering in her ear.

ELLIE

Ellie, have the best birthday!

- everyone laughs and Ellie has the biggest grin, feeling finally comfortable.
- The timer goes off and Ellie sits up

ELLIE

So, do you know what I was?

- all the girls just start laughing at her and Ellie joins in. She smiles feeling accepted by this group.

6 INT. KITCHEN**6**

Ellie laughs with two girls who are dressed as Marie Antoinette and a cheetah, but they walk off. Grace marches up to Ellie and grabs her arm.

GRACE
Ellie, are you okay?

ELLIE
Haha, what do you mean?

GRACE
I mean you are kind of the center of the show right now.

ELLIE
(Enthusiastic)
Oh, I guess!

GRACE
That's not always A good thing.

ELLIE
Grace, are you jealous?

GRACE
What?!

ELLIE
I mean, I'm becoming friends with everyone and you seem mad.

GRACE
You have no idea what's going on.

PIRATE GIRL (O.S.)
Time to sing "Happy Birthday"!

The girls look at each other for a moment before Ellie smirks and walks off.

7 INT. DINING ROOM**7**

It is time to blow out the candles, so everyone gathers by the table. Pirate Girl enters the room holding a lavishly decorated cake with candles on top and places it in front of Chloe.

ELLIE
Happy Birthday Chloe!

Chloe smiles at Ellie.

PIRATE GIRL

Ellie, you should blow out the candles too!

ELLIE

Oh, no. It's okay it's Chloe's party.

CHLOE

No, please come! We can do it together!

The crowd joins in pushing Ellie closer to Chloe. Ellie does not put up much of a fight as she walks closer to a grinning Chloe. The crowd begins to sing Happy birthday.

CHLOE

(whispering)

Now close your eyes and make a wish.

Ellie closes her eyes and smiles. Before she can make a wish a cake is smashed in her face. Everyone erupts in laughter. Ellie wipes the frosting and cake away from her eyes and turns around the room as girls point, laugh, and make fun of her.

ELLIE

(to Chloe)

Why did you do this?

Everyone laughs.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Is this why you invited me?

CHLOE

(devilishly)

We needed some entertainment.

Ellie storms out of the room tearing up. The house and guests are distorted as Ellie is dizzy in her escape, bumping into the walls. She recollects the night and continuous to push past other party-goers

Flashback:

- Ellie swings the bat and keeps bumping into things. The party-goers are pushing chairs in her way
- Ellie acts out charades and embarrasses herself. Girls whisper mean things behind her back. They laugh at her not with her.

- In the Telephone game, we hear the actual phrase,
"Ellie, leave no one wants you here" being passed down.

End Flashback.

8 CONT INT. DOOR

8

Ellie stands by the door and the dizzy spell ceases with tears dripping down her frosting stained cheek. She reaches for the door handle, yet does not open it. She hears the laughing and singing from the other room and she closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

9 INT. DINING ROOM

9

Chloe's eyes are closed as she makes her wish on the candles upon a cake. She opens her eyes with a grand smile and everyone celebrates. Ellie walks into the room with a purpose.

ELLIE

Thanks for the invite Chloe.

In her stride, Ellie grabs a fist full of cake and rubs it all over Chloe's costume and face. Everyone in the room gasps then holds their breath.

CHLOE

(Screaming)

AAAGGHHHH! MY COSTUME! What have you done?!

ELLIE

Just returning the favor.

CHLOE

No one wants you here. Don't you get that? You have ruined everything and now this party is sour.

Chloe takes a nearby knife and stabs the cake in front of her. A red jam explodes onto both the girls while Chloe looks deranged. Ellie stares in disbelief of her costume and wipes some of the jam off of her lips.

ELLIE

Now I really am Carrie.

Chloe violently takes cupcakes from the table and hucks it at Ellie, who dodges it. It hits Grace who then reaches for another dessert. The entire room erupts in a frenzy and desserts fly all around the room.

PIRATE GIRL
(Whisper)
Food fight.

One after another, pies are soaring through the air before landing in another party-goer's face. The room is trashed as the presents are smothered in sugar, flour, and frosting. The entire spread of desserts is compromised with girls using platters as AMO.

Girls shriek as their costumes are ruined and cake stains their hair. One after another girls take desserts and fling it at the walls and each other in complete chaos. Ellie stands in the center of the room staring off.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. CHLOE'S HOUSE

10

Ellie sits on the steps off the doorstep with her costume, hair, and face smothered in frosting. The door opens as Grace exits the house of horror and sits down next to Ellie.

GRACE
So are you happy you were invited?

ELLIE
(sarcastically)
Oh yeah. Best birthday by a mile.

Grace and Ellie sit there silent until the door opens up and Pirate Girl, covered in cake, frantically runs out. They both laugh at her.

ELLIE
(disappointed)
Well, at least I know what they really think of me. Now I never have to try to make them like ever again.

Grace looks at Ellie for a moment and reaches her arm out. She pulls a candle out of Ellie's frosting covered hair.

GRACE
Well, it's still your birthday.
Make a wish.

Grace pulls out a lighter and lights the candle. Ellie focuses on the candles little burning flame, looks up for a moment, then blows out the candle.

FADE TO BLACK.