

LOWER YOUR VOICE

by

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INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

JAMES sits on a workout bench. PELLA walks up to him.

PELLA
What's up?

JAMES
Yo.

PELLA
Almost done?

JAMES
Nah, halfway. How's it going?

PELLA
I wanted to see you.

JAMES
I know. You told me. What's up?

PELLA
What's up with you and all these
shots you've been taking?

JAMES
Shh. Pella, please. Not here.

PELLA
There's a point of going too far,
James.

JAMES
How?

PELLA
There's a point of being too
committed. It can back fire on
you.

JAMES
No, it can't. Hard work is hard
work. What the hell are you
talking about?

PELLA
I've seen those videos, where
these enormously huge guys
eventually tear their arms open
because the muscles burst through
the skin. And it many other
cases, death.

JAMES

Just because I'm working out hard
doesn't mean---

PELLA

Jimmy, you started out going to
the gym twice a week, then
everyday and now twice a day. I
mean, where are we now?

JAMES

You don't have to be here.

PELLA

It's the only time I get to see
you actually. It's gross.

JAMES

Why is it gross? Don't you want
me to look and feel good?

PELLA

Yes, I do but you upset me when
you told me you started taking
shots.

JAMES

Shhh! Lower your voice.

PELLA

Don't you think EVERYBODY should
know.

JAMES

Stop it I said. It's nobody's
business. I shouldn't have said
anything to you.

PELLA

Yeah, well, you did.

JAMES

I'm only taking shots for three
months, jut to pump up and then
I'll maintain it on my own with my
work out routine.

PELLA

It ruins your heart. Does damage
to your liver.

JAMES

I just want to get stronger.
Besides, three months is nothing.
It won't do shit.

PELLA

I've already noticed your mood swings.

JAMES

Did you come here to piss me off? Seriously, I can't concentrate if you're going to keep talking shit.

PELLA

Whatever. Have a heart attack then, see if I care.

Pella walks off.

JAMES

Pella. Pella!

She turns.

Look, I don't want you to bitch at me. I agree with you, okay? But just trust me with this. I'm not stupid and I'm not going to have a heart attack anytime soon. Okay? Let me get to where I'm going and I promise you I'll quit taking the stuff.

PELLA

No more injections...when?

JAMES

Well, it's three months, so, April.

PELLA

April, when?

JAMES

Jesus! April freaking tenth, okay?! But I have to check the calendar to be sure.

PELLA

Fine. April tenth.

JAMES

Whatever. Will you let me work out now? Talk about something else.

PELLA

Nah, I'm good. I just came to see you for a quick minute. I'm meeting Rosalie in twenty.

JAMES
You still hang out with that girl?

PELLA
Yeah, so?

JAMES
Come on. She almost got you
locked up that time.

PELLA
We worked it out. It's all good.
We squashed it.

JAMES
Yeah but I don't trust her.

PELLA
She's cool. I know to keep my
distance.

JAMES
Yeah, well, if I have to hear your
advice, then take mine also. She's
not a good friend and sooner or
later she will screw you over
again and it will be worse.

PELLA
Yeah. I'm not disagreeing with
you. I just keep her around
because, I don't know, we have a
long history together and it's
only chilling out for small
things. We're gonna hit up the
mall but that's about it.

JAMES
You sure?

PELLA
Yep.

JAMES
Okay. Have fun with your best
friend.

PELLA
Stop it asshole, she's not my best
friend.

JAMES
Whatever.

PELLA
What are you doing tomorrow night?

JAMES
After the gym, nada.

PELLA
You want to meet me and the crew
by the fountain?

JAMES
Yeah.

PELLA
See you then. Peace.

JAMES
Later.