

INT. CAFE - DAY

River (32, stocky, laidback surfer vibes) and Lex (29, tall, professionally anxious) sit at a booth in a far off corner. Lex taps the rim of his coffee cup numerous times.

RIVER

I know this set-up isn't your kinda thing, Lex. But I really do appreciate you being open to meeting new people.

LEX

Oh, I'm always open to meeting new people. I met *you* didn't I?

RIVER

<Chuckles> Only you can make hostility this cute. Why are you so *against* this?

Lex is bouncing his leg so hard it starts shaking the table.

LEX

I'm not against it? I'm so for this- I've never been so *for* something in my entire life.

RIVER

God. You're *nervous*. Is this you nervous?

<DING!> The bell on the cafe door chimes and Lex startles. Random posh looking patrons walk in.

LEX

This is me *open*.

River opens his mouth, frozen.

LEX (CONT'D)

<CLEARS THROAT> Me open to new-y'know. Open to meeting new people. Ugh, just stop with the poking.

Lex motions his hands over his body.

LEX (CONT'D)

If I wanted my whole deal talked about then I could've just called my boss. Where's this "new friend" of yours anyway?

The cafe door <DINGS!> again as three more customers walk in. River shrugs.

RIVER
They're late. It's fine. You that bored with just me already?

LEX
I am going to judge you so hard if this new "perfect match friend" is actually just one of your sloppy leftovers.

RIVER
<LAUGHS> What makes you think you're not one of my leftovers?

Lex angles his body, ready to stand up from the booth. His lip twitches.

LEX
I can leave.

River grabs his wrist and squeezes.

RIVER
Hey, no. Don't be like that. Come on.

River tugs and Lex sits fully back into the booth.

RIVER (CONT'D)
This is what I do, Lex. I put all the people who make the cut into one convenient basket. I'm too broke to have seperate friend circles.

LEX
So I made the cut, huh?

River is rubbing Lex's wrist now, disarming him.

RIVER
Valiantly so. Passed all the exclusive friend criteria.

Lex smiles.

LEX
Well being punctual obviously isn't on that list- you clearly don't give a shit about that.