

The Changeling
(Not that one. No, not the other one either)

By Abby Burgess

Characters

Margot, 20's. Apprehensive. Cool Band Tee.

Lexie, 20's. Self-assured. Ugly Purse.

Zoe, 20's. Naive. Purple Lipstick.

Veronica. Cool Band Tee, Ugly Purse & Purple Lipstick

*(At rise. A cute, trendy brunch spot. Four women sit at a table. Each has their own style. **Veronica** tells an elaborate story)*

VERONICA

*(Over the top)...*And then I told him, "At least buy me dinner first."

*(All of the women laugh. A bit obnoxiously. Except for **Margot**, who seems concerned)*

(Standing) I have to pee. If the waiter comes by, tell him to put it all on one. We're good to split right? *(She exits)*

(Beat)

MARGOT

Hey guys, is it just me or does something about Veronica seem different?

ZOE

No.

LEXIE

She did get highlights.

ZOE

You're right she did get highlights.

MARGOT

No, it's not highlights.

LEXIE

Margot, I'm pretty sure she got highlights.

MARGOT

No, I-I mean does something seem off to you guys?

ZOE

What do you mean?

MARGOT

Like that story she just told about her date, that was like the same exact thing that happened to me last week?

ZOE

I guess they were kind of similar.

MARGOT

Similar? It was exactly the same, even the restaurant we ate at.

(They look at her)

Ok what about her bag?

LEXIE

What about it?

MARGOT

Lexie, it's exactly the same as your purse. *(Pause)* You got that when your grandma passed. It's like an antique, and now you're telling me that she has the exact same one?

LEXIE

(Looking at her purse) I guess they do look pretty similar.

MARGOT

Or like when she said she thought purple lipstick looked trashy but then Zoe, you started wearing it and she went out and bought the same one the next day.

ZOE

OhMyGod do you guys think it looks trashy?

LEXIE

No!

MARGOT

No, that's not what I'm saying.

LEXIE

What are you saying?

MARGOT

I think, I think Veronica isn't who we think she is.

ZOE

Do you think she's a Scorpio? She says she's a Pisces but I definitely get Scorpio vibes you know?

LEXIE

Well when's her birthday?

ZOE

I don't know.

LEXIE

Me neither.

MARGOT

(Serious) This is exactly what I mean! Don't you think that's kind of odd? I mean do we really know anything about her? But she knows so much about us? *(Pause)* Doesn't it ever feel like she, I don't know like she's trying to... be us?

(A tense beat. Finally:)

LEXIE

(Unfazed) Every woman wants to be another woman. Even if they never admit it.

(Pause)

No one's ever one hundred percent happy with themselves. It's totally normal to want to be like someone else.

MARGOT

Well that's a shitty way to look at it.

ZOE

(A little spaced out) I always wanted to look like Roger Rabbit.

MARGOT

(Concerned) Don't you mean Jessica Rabbit?

ZOE

(Still in her own world) No.

LEXIE

(To Margot) You're saying that you've never looked at someone else and thought, "Wow I wish I had her hair, her legs, her clothes, her whatever?" Or said that you like something when you don't like it, cause you think it'll make people *like* you?

MARGOT

I mean, sure. But being someone else wouldn't fix that. You'd just find something else you don't like and fixate on that.

But again that's not what I'm getting at.

LEXIE

Then what *are* you getting at?

MARGOT

I mean she wants to literally *be us*.

(Beat)

(Serious) You guys I really think Veronica is... a Changeling.

ZOE

"Changeling" like that sad Angelina Jolie movie?

LEXIE

Or "Changeling" like the one with that sad, old guy?

MARGOT

No! Like a literal Changeling! Like a creature that assimilates itself, becomes you and takes over your life.

LEXIE

Margot, don't be ridiculous.

MARGOT

I'm being serious! It makes sense doesn't it? The stories, the bag, the makeup, it all makes sense.

LEXIE

Things like that aren't real. They're just hoodo, little fairy tales. Veronica is our friend. She's been our friend for, I don't know at least five years now.

ZOE

I thought it was three?

LEXIE

Well you'd know, you introduced us to her.

ZOE

No I didn't.

LEXIE

What are you talking about?

ZOE

I didn't.

LEXIE

Of course you did.