Cherry Pie
By Mariah Hoskins

Characters

Mina	Eldest sister. 25. Outspoken, smart, not a swell dresser
Biana	Younger sister. 22. Beautiful & playful. New to company
Cam	Co-worker of Mina and Biana. 22. Has a crush on Biana.
Patrick /“Trick”	A lead member of the company with Mina. 26. Sarcastic. Always.
Lex	Co-worker. Known playboy. 25. Interested in Biana.
Jane	Friend to Mina. Co-worker. 24.
Guy #1	Coworker
Guy #2	Coworker

Setting

At a Slutwalk in a major city and inside the office of a tech company that is one of the sponsors of the walk.

Time

One day in 2016, the day of a co-worker's impromptu wedding.

SCENE 1

Outside of the office. On the streets outside, the community is in the middle of their annual SLUTwalk, of which MINA and JANE are participating.

MINA and JANE

Raise your voice, get on your feet! Fight for ourselves, fight for our streets! You've got anger, soul and more. Take it to the street. Let it roar!

The two walk over to the side of the street in front of their office building. Panting a bit, they continue.

JANE

How long was that one?

MINA

A mile, maybe a little over.

JANE

(Shocked)

That's all? There's no way. That had to be at least 3.

MINA

(Laughing)

Maybe you should try walking to more places than to the break room fridge, to Lex's desk, and back to your little cube of life. *(Pulling on her sleeve)* You also may want to leave that fuzzy, 90s coat at home. We live in fucking Texas, Jane!

Jane pushes her in a friendly way, and they both laugh. They sit down

JANE

Well how else am I supposed to show off this sparkly bikini top? They go together. *(Serious)* The must /go together.

MINA

(Hands up, smiling)

/Alright, alright, your style not mine.

JANE

Well clearly. You're wearing the same Reeboks, joggers and tennis I saw you in a two nights ago.

MINA

A washer, my friend. Have you heard of it?

JANE

Oh yes! *(Dancing a little)* But that "Et tu, Brute?" t-shirt is not going to take you far in the "mac game." Take something out of Biana's closet for pete's sake.

PATRICK, also attending the walk, comes up to join the ladies. LEX and two other guys are not too far behind.

Would you look who it is? Mr. Bossman. Come here to find a lucky lady? A date for later?

PATRICK

Of course there are likely to be some like-minded individuals abound today. Honestly though, I thought that since this is a celebration, there would be food around here somewhere. I skipped out on breakfast and left my lunch at home.

JANE

Yikes. You came late. There's only crumbs for now until the food food gets here for the reception.

PATRICK

(Looking to MINA)

"Et tu, Brute? Let me guess. *(Looking up to ponder jokingly)* Fan of…..Chaucer?

MINA

(Not looking away from her book)

Shakespeare. Shakespeare you doof. Maybe he could teach you a thing or two about taming your uncultured soul.

PATRICK

Ooooo! That's a step up from being a devilish swine like last week.

MINA

Sure, a step up.

PATRICK

You going to Sammy's thing here later? It might be good for the rest of us for you to blow off some steam.

MINA

You and Jane and my sister three. But no. As soon at 5:30 hits, I'm taking my bag, my sister, and we're getting out of here.

PATRICK

That's probably for the best. You don't seem like the fun type. You know? The type of person who attends gatherings solely for pleasure.

MINA

I know how to have fun, but not tonight. Not in a SLUTwalk themed wedding reception in our breakroom. I like these events, but even I can't stay past work longer than I need to. Can you? We both usually stay here longer than everyone else.

PATRICK

Which is why you need a drink...or two...or probably six to loosen you up.

JANE

Wine. Just load her up with wine. *(MINA glares back at her. LEX and the two guys walk up)*

LEX

At least consider it, Mina. Your one chance at an actual social life has arrived.

MINA

(Irritated)

Did anyone ask you? Do you just pop up when you know you're not needed?

PATRICK

Just think about it.

The boys walk to the side, still huddled together on stage, and the girls continue talking.

MINA

(refocused)

The "mac game"? Anyways, dad tore into us both last night when he came over for dinner. *(Pauses)* Well, me. He made a big deal about me making sure I'm keeping her out of harm's way. "She's your only sister, Mina. She/

JANE

(Joining with MINA)

/Needs you to show her the ins and outs of the city. Keep her safe, Mina." Daddy needs a new mantra.

MINA

(Rolls her eyes)

And *(looking over to the boys)* I don't blame him for being a little concerned. But ahhh, she's 24. She has to grow up and take care of herself. I'm out here, and now she has some freedom, but I can't keep coming to her rescue.

JANE

(Bows her head)

The great. The fearless. Mina. Saving us all from...wait, what are you saving us all from again?

MINA

Yourselves. *(Looks down at her watch)* Shit. So much so that I'm forgetting about myself. I gotta get going into work. C'yah *(She walks through the door)*.

JANE

Are you even going to change clothes? I know you sweat through the back of that shirt, Mina. I know you did!

MINA enters the office. We turn back to the boys who are still huddle to the side.

GUY 1

Cherry pie. Man, it's all I got. I'm low on cash, but I guarantee it's the best. Fresh from my mom's bakery.

GUY 2

We're offering pastries now? *(Pushes GUY 1 out of the way)* I've got movie tickets to the next Bay flick and a *(disappointedly)* coupon for froyo.

LEX

Guys! I'm the one initiated this plan, so I will make the biggest offer. *(Pulls money out of his pocket and holds it triumphantly)* $150 guaranteed. It's you're gonna keep Mina busy for us, it has to be worth it.

PATRICK

$150 now? I really want to go buy a sandw-

LEX

After the deed is done.

PATRICK

Oh. *(LEX shows him the money)*

GUY 2

Good looking out from Sammy, huh? A slutwalk themed party. Do you know how many booty shorts and crop tops there'll be tonight? *(GUY 1 and 2 high five, but LEX and PATRICK ignore them)*

LEX

Remember, I'm leaving for a bit when work ends. *(To GUY 1 and GUY 2)* Sorry boys, but I intend for a bouquet of flowers to be the icing on the cake tonight. *(To PATRICK)* Get the ball rolling before I get back. Biana better be there and Mina occupied.

Everyone enters. MINA goes over to her work station to find BIANA standing at her desk in her SLUTwalk gear, same as all the other women there. CAM is in the background, working at his desk, looking up at BIANA in admiration. The two sisters are bickering, and it seems to be escalating. In walks LEX. He walks over to the two sisters, putting his arm around Biana. CAM's visual expression now changes as he looks up to see LEX interacting with them.

LEX

/Ladies! I hope I'm not at the root of this. Whenever I hear Mina's voice raise, I have to image I'm at the center of whatever is going on.

MINA

(Rolling her eyes)

Some people think too much of themselves. And then there's you.

LEX

And then there's me! Of course I think so...let's say "adoringly" of myself. *(Looking to BIANA)* I just stopped by to say hi to our newest addition.

BIANA

(Tired)

Hey Lex. How are you today?

LEX

Great! Thank you for asking. You see, I-

MINA

Not important. Not even a little. Don't care. Shouldn't you be back at work?

LEX

I'm on my way, but I had good news to share. Samantha got married, right? And the reception's tonight, yeah? The good news is that I am free to offer my services to escort a lovely lady to the event.

MINA

Not needed. Move along.

LEX

Sorry sweet Mina, but the offer wasn't for you.

BIANA

Oh me? No, I don't think I'm going to be making it out tonight.

MINA

Nope. Never. Get back to work Lex.

LEX

(He starts to walk away)

Whatever Mina. *(In a lighter tone)* If you change your mind Biana, you know where I'll be. (*He leaves.)*

BIANA

(Not so under her breathe)

...And I know where to not find you too.

MINA

You need to be getting back to your work too, don't you?

BIANA rolls her eyes and goes to sit down with her friend CAM.

CAM

(Nervously)

Crying at all this paperwork we have for today?

BIANA

(Shaking head)

No, laughing at all this wedding stuff for today. You guys are in a tizzy for dates, huh? I've been asked three times already today.

CAM

Three? Three guys today?

BIANA

Crazy, right? There's a reason I don't talk to too many people. I don't have the time to get involved with anyone. *(Pause)* I had to go hang up balloons and streamers. Who has a wedding reception in the place where they work?

CAM

A priest might. She says it's where they fell in love.

BIANA

Don't people ever get tired of this place? *(Laughs, then keys in on CAM and says loudly enough that people look around)* Wait. Are you going with anyone?

CAM

(Chokes on his water)

Ahhhh, no one, at the moment, no no one. Just me. Did you want to go?

BIANA

No, probably not. I'm not really a "dater", per se. I'd rather go alone, but weddings are couply things, aren't they.

CAM

Oh, you're not going to go?

BIANA

(sarcastically)

I don't know anyone well enough unless you here offering haha. I probably know you the best out of everyone here besides my sister.

CAM is speechless. His mouth hangs out a little as he tries to form words, but nothing comes out.

Wait, was that your plan? To ask me to the reception?

CAM

I-I-I mean, I considered it, but I...

BIANA

(Takes a moment, thinking to herself)

Hmmm. Cam? What are your thoughts on challenges?

CAM

Challenges? Can be good, I guess. What did you have in mind?

BIANA

Hmmm. Have you heard of Slaughterhouse Five?

CAM

Of course, who hasn't?

BIANA

(Smiling)

That's my sister's favorite book. Can't tear her away from it. And right now, she's taking precious time away from Vonnegut's words to give you the stink eye.

CAM

Oh…*(looking over to MINA)* Oh shit!... *(GUY 1 and 2 enter and start to approach BIANA, but upon catching MINA's glare, they abort).*

Soft music begins to play to signify the start of the reception. LEX gleefully exits. Everyone gets up and mingles except for MINA (at the front of the stage) who is packing up her stuff to leave. Behind her, GUY 1 and 2 start to approach BIANA. PATRICK makes his way to MINA.

PATRICK

You're really trying to ditch? It looks like everyone decided to stick around.

MINA

I told you I was out by the end of the day. Have you seen Biana? I'm about ready. *(She starts to turn around, but PATRICK steps in the way so she can't see.)*

PATRICK

Whoa there. Why don't you help me with something before you go? *(Pulls some paperwork out of his bag)*. You're the only one I trust with these types of errors.

MINA

You couldn't have given this to me earlier? *(Sighs)* Alright. Give em here.

They get to work. The focus shifts to the back with BIANA and the guys who crowd her. GUY 1 takes her arm and pulls her out to dance, leading her across the floor. Her body is limp as if she's uncomfortable. His dancing is choppy.

BIANA

You're...quite the dancer.

GUY 1

Thanks! I'm not trained or anything, but I do have some skills to share.

BIANA

Oh...great. *(They continue to dance, GUY 1 enthusiastically, and the focus returns to MINA and PATRICK)*

MINA

Are we done here?

PATRICK

No, I've got a couple more things here.

MINA

Well, it's not like we won't be back up here on Monday. We'll finish it then.

PATRICK

We're done? Good! Time for a drink. To the makeshift bar over there?

MINA

I'm out. Let me go find that sister of mine. *(She again starts to walk away, but PATRICK twirls her so she faces the bar and not her sister.)*

PATRICK

Oh I get it. You're a wine drink right? That's what Jane said? You can't *handle* the tough stuff I bet.

MINA

(Releases herself from his grasp)

Oh hoho! You're not gonna get me with that. Reverse psychology, much?

PATRICK

Okay, you got me. Foiled my plans! Now let's get one drink and I promise I will round up Biana myself. *(His phone rings)* Go ahead, I'll meet you over there. *(She walks over and he answers the phone. It's LEX on the other line).* Hello?....uh huh, yeah….we're good...you're what?....stuck?...where?....well what did you expect at 5:30 on a workday? *(In the back we see GUY 2 edge GUY 1 out of the way and grab BIANA's hand to take her to the bar. Seeing this,*

PATRICK panics.) Hey! I've got to go or this whole thing's going to blow. *(He rushes back to MINA. The focus shifts back to BIANA.)*

GUY 2

So what are we having? Jager or more jager?

BIANA

How about none. I don't really drink.

GUY 2

It's a party, Biana! Here, I'll get one started for you.

BIANA

(Annoyed)

No. I'm gonna grab a coke instead. *(She grabs a coke and walks back to CAM, GUY 1 joining her along the way. The guys cluster around her when she sits next to CAM. Focus back to MINA.)*

PATRICK

(Holding a shot glass)

What's this, number four?

MINA

Shut up. *(Takes a breathe)* Ok go! *(They take the shot)*

PATRICK

Goddamn! That bite! *(They laugh, MINA louder than PATRICK until she finally spots BIANA and the guys around her)*

MINA

What the hell are *they* doing next to Biana? She looks upset. *(She starts to walk over, but PATRICK stops her)*

PATRICK

Let Biana handle it. It already looks like she's got it covered.

MINA

I'm not going to watch those prunes go at my sister. I-

PATRICK

Give her the chance. *(They watch. Focus shifts)*

CAM

Guys, she's not interested in you.

GUY 1 and GUY 2

And why would that be?

CAM

Because *(he steps forward)* I'm her boyfriend. (*The guys laugh*)

BIANA

(Puts her hand on his shoulder)

You're a good friend Cam. I appreciate what you're doing, but I don't need your help like this. I've got it. *(She turns back to the guys)* Listen up dudes, I appreciate your attempts to woo me, dance me and drink me into dehydration, but let me be clear. I am not interested in either of you. Plain and simple.

GUY 2

But Biana, maybe you just don't know who-

BIANA

No. No no. I know what I want, and it's no one. Respect me for th-.

GUY 2

Oh come on! With the way you dress, you had to have known you were going to get someone coming at you wi-

BIANA

(Puts up her pointer finger)

I am not going to repeat myself. Go.

The two guys, upset, walk off the stage. We hear one of the guys say a derogatory term aimed at BIANA, so she takes something off her desk and throws it at them. A loud "Ouch!" is heard. MINA and PATRICK meet them.

MINA

Biana! Are you okay?

BIANA

Yeah? What's wrong?

MINA

The guys. I just saw them-

BIANA

Oh that? That was nothing. So, I'm going to get out of here. Cam and I are gonna grab with a couple people down the way. I'll be home later.

MINA

But Biana, I'm your ride home. I-

BIANA

Mina. I got it. Go have fun or do whatever it is you do. *(They hug, but BIANA sniffs her)* Jager? *(BIANA smiles, goes to grab CAM, and they head off)*

PATRICK

Looks like your little cream puff is all grown up.
MINA puts her hands on her hips, takes a couple moments, and then laughs.
What?

MINA

I know what you were doing back there.

PATRICK

Doing what?

MINA

I know the boys paid you. To keep me busy so they could see if they stood a chance with her. Which *(she chuckles)* they still didn't.

PATRICK

How'd you know? I know you keep a close watch on your sister, but us too?

MINA

Lex is too proud and too loud for secrets. I'd be surprised if anyone in the office didn't know.

PATRICK

(Smiles)

What a sneaky bitch. Why even play along then?

MINA

I wanted to be proven wrong. I wanted to see if Biana could actually handle herself around the buffoons at this office. And I guess I was. She took care of it. I also wanted to see if you were worth what those guys paid you.

PATRICK

I'm sorry for my part. To be honest with you, after the walk, I was tired and I was desperate, and I was hungry. I just wanted some pie. *(They laugh)*

MINA

You know what? *(She looks out to the right)* 39th and Carter. There's a diner that stays open until 3. Maybe you and I can get some more pie and some real food in your system.

PATRICK

(Stands up and extends an arm to MINA)

Well, say no more, let's go. M'lady? *(They walk off stage. Off in the distance)* You're paying, right?

LEX enters from the other side of the stage after everyone has left, carrying a bouquet of flowers. He goes to open the door, but finds that it is locked.

LEX

Are you kidding? *(Louder)* Are you kidding? That's $150 I wasted! *(End of play)*