

1st Scene

"Shawn/ Stacy"
*Also use for BJ, Jake, Jonah, Kyle, Max, Honda, Housy Contestant

As Alec watches, his eyes meet Xavier's. Xavier gives him a little nod.

ALEC

Mark him down on the list as a "maybe."

The assistant glances at the clipboard again.

ASSISTANT

Hmm...already accepted at Yale. Think we can compete?

ALEC

(smiles)

I'm sure he'll change his mind about that after he cashes his first million-dollar paycheck.

The assistant marks down the name.

ASSISTANT

Okay, so it's him and the guy from Boston. Jonah St. Clair. How many are we looking for?

ALEC

One more. I want at least three people to choose from.

Meanwhile, a young man makes his way through the crowd. SHAWN, 20. Dressed in a ragged T-shirt, jeans, and a beat-up old leather jacket, looking decidedly out of place. Electric guitar slung over his back.

With him is his girlfriend STACY, a lovely young woman in her early 20s. Eyes full of enthusiasm.

"The Darkness"

Start

SHAWN

(over the crowd)

Let me just say, one more time: I don't know what the hell we're doing here!

STACY

Will you relax?

SHAWN

(motions around)

Come on, Stacy, look around. I do not belong here.

STACY

You want your big break, right?

SHAWN
Sure. But not like this.

STACY
What's wrong with this?

Shawn stops, turns to face Stacy.

SHAWN
Stacy, how long have we been going out?

STACY
Um...a month.

SHAWN
Okay, but still. You know what my kind of music is. And this isn't it.

STACY
Well then, we can always go home and wallow in self-pity.

SHAWN
Promises, promises.

He starts to walk again. Stacy holds him back.

STACY
Look at me.

Shawn rolls his eyes, looking embarrassed.

SHAWN
C'mon...

STACY
Seriously, look at me. Eye contact.

Shawn reluctantly looks Stacy in the eyes.

SHAWN
What?

STACY
Obviously, this isn't your scene. I know that. But this is a great opportunity. You stick with Mystify a few years, get your face and voice out there, and then you'll be able to do whatever you want. Just give it time.

"The Darkness"

SHAWN

Come on, you think I'll have any credibility left after that? Sharing the stage with those...

He motions to the stage, where the band's song has reached its sappy crescendo.

SHAWN (cont'd)

(searching for the word)

Dorks.

STACY

Right. Shawn, do you know what Donnie Wahlberg did after he left the New Kids?

SHAWN

(playing along)

What?

STACY

He punched out Mel Gibson and shot Bruce Willis. Not very dorky, eh?

SHAWN

Those were movies, Stacy. That was different.

STACY

Not really. It's all about changing your image.

SHAWN

I'd rather build my image at the clubs. Besides, I almost guarantee I won't pass this audition.

STACY

So what do you have to lose by trying, then?

SHAWN

My dignity? Self-respect?

END

A COORDINATOR walks over to them, checks his clipboard. Glances at Shawn.

COORDINATOR

Dijon Walker?

Shawn, startled, turns to face the coordinator.

"The Darkness"