

The Deep Chill
by Sabina Piersol

SYLVIE (Megan), a college senior
INGRID (Laura), a college freshman

Sylvie is giving Ingrid, a friend of friends, a ride to a New Year's Eve party in Tahoe during a snowstorm. They've never met before.

INGRID

Thanks SO much for for the ride! *(starts applying makeup)*

SYLVIE

No problem -- here, let me get the heat on. I got us some gummy worms and popcorn and stuff in case we hit traffic.

INGRID

How long til we get there do you think?

SYLVIE

My phone says it's snowing on the pass, so, a few hours? *(long, awkward pause as Ingrid silently puts on makeup while scratchy radio station plays; Sylvie turns it off)* So you met Becca and the rest of the crew at Davis? You just started?

INGRID

Yeah. *(more awkward silence/lipstick application)* I just got this eyeshadow -- isn't it cute?

SYLVIE

It's great. So, I'm at Wesleyan, writing my senior thesis on the economics of --

INGRID

(interrupting) Oh yeah, I've heard of that. All girls, right? I cannot IMAGINE going to college without guys.

SYLVIE

No, that's the other 'W' school. *(beat)* Anyway, I went to high school with Becca everyone else...

INGRID

High school seems like FOREVER ago.

SYLVIE

Yeah, it wasn't for you. *(beat)* Anyway, I can't wait to chill with everyone this weekend. I just haven't had any time to --

INGRID

Did you say 'chill'? I mean, isn't this a pretty big New Year's party? Nate said they got TWO kegs. Plus jello shots.

SYLVIE

(trying not to sound perturbed) He did? You know 'Nate'? He didn't go by that in high school...

INGRID

Yeah, I do. *(taking gummy worm packet)* Can I open these? I feel like worms are SO much better than bears -- there's just, like, more of it. *(eating one)*

SYLVIE

True. *(beat)* So it's funny, I knew that you knew Becca, but Nate's never mentioned you before.

INGRID

Yeah, he's never mentioned you either.

SYLVIE

I don't know why he would...talk to you *(beat)* about me. How did you two meet?

INGRID

He's my freshman Comp T.A.

SYLVIE

Oh.

INGRID

Does your car have bluetooth? It's kinda quiet in here.

SYLVIE

Um, no. I had no idea he was T.A.-ing --

INGRID

Or one of those tape adaptor thingys that plugs into the --

SYLVIE

Yeah, I know what they're for. Mine's broken. I think there's a Mamas & Papas tape in the glove compartment though --

INGRID

(rummaging in glove compartment) Ooh, and really old weed chocolate!
(starts eating chocolate and puts tape in and hits play)

SYLVIE

(as "California Dreamin'" plays) Help yourself.

INGRID

I brought some treats too! (shaking a pill bottle in Sylvie's face)
Want some? Three of these babies are my sweet spot.

SYLVIE

(looking at bottle & laughing it off) Adderall? No thanks.

INGRID

(popping pills) I am my best self on this stuff. (beat) So, what do
you want to talk about? Ever been in love?

SYLVIE

Um, wow. I don't really know you, so...

INGRID

Exactly. You can tell me everything.

SYLVIE

Why don't you tell me everything.

INGRID

Okay, so I'm SOOOOO in love with Nate, even though he gave me a B- on
my first paper -- asshole. He would look at me in class, all shy but
paying attention, you know? Out from under those curls -- ooh. Then
I saw him at a party after midterms and he -- well, and then we --

SYLVIE

And he kissed you? How was it? I mean, not to be weird.

INGRID

It was so nice. We did more than kiss though. I thought it would
hurt, but -- (with dreamy wistfulness) it kinda felt like fireworks
were shooting out my fingertips and --

SYLVIE

(cutting her off) Yeah, I totally get it.

INGRID

I was gonna wait, but it just kinda happened, you know?

SYLVIE

So Nathan was your first?

INGRID

Yeah. Well, Nate. He doesn't feel like a Nathan to me.

SYLVIE

And now you think you're in love with him. How long have you even known him, like five minutes?

INGRID

Awesome, my mom just got here.

SYLVIE

Sorry, I -- I can't see out this fucking windshield. And we are *crawling* right now.

INGRID

It's not the windshield's fault. (*pause*) Look, I know you're dying to share your infinite wisdom of someone who's a whole four years older than me or whatever, so go ahead. How am I *supposed* to feel?

SYLVIE

(*after a pause*) Everyone feels it differently I guess. Maybe it's kind of like this. (*gesturing vaguely to the outside*)

INGRID

Like what? (*beat*) Like sitting in a freezing ass car on the highway with someone you don't know, not sure if you're gonna make it to where you're going?

SYLVIE

Maybe being in love is like when a snowstorm hits you so quick you're blinded at first. And then once it dies down, you have to decide if you're in for the winter, all cozy and warm, or if you're gonna have to dig yourself out.

INGRID

(*hopeful*) That isn't what it's about at all. So far it feels like...taking a lot of molly without getting the sads two days later. I mean, as long as you have more molly. (*laughs; beat*) Hey, since we're basically not moving, can you pull over? I have to pee.

SYLVIE

Here? I don't know if that's safe.

INGRID

Safety's not really a thing for me right now. (*bundling up; cheerfully*) When I get back, get ready to tell me who you like, 'cause I know there's someone. And I hope he's at the party, 'cause once I do your makeup you're gonna look bangin'. Some lipstick for sure. And blush. You look a little pale. (*getting out of car*)

SYLVIE

(*aside to Ingrid as she exits*) Yeah, he's at the party. (*Sylvie finally drops, is upset/frustrated/deflated. Leaves Nate a voicemail while we watch Ingrid squatting/peeing*)

Hey Nathan, how's it going? My fingers are too numb to text, so I'm leaving you a voicemail, isn't that so retro? (*nervous laugh*) So hey, I wanted to ask you something. You're T.A.-ing a Comp Class? What the hell is up with that? I mean, it makes NO sense because you can't really write, and plus, why would you keep something like that from me? I mean, since we're, like, best friends. Also, since when do you go by 'Nate'? Are you some kind of...teen idol now? (*beat*) You're probably already in the hot tub or whatever, but did you SERIOUSLY have Becca call me to drive a 'friend of yours' to Tahoe who you also happened to devirginize? I just had to hear about fireworks. And she's eating weed and pills in my car. (*sigh*) Especially when you KNOW -- or, maybe you don't, but I'm telling you now -- that I, like, totally fucking love you? (*beat*) I mean, you know, as a friend or whatever, but did you really think I'd -- (*SOUND CUE: vm cuts her off; realizes what she's just done*) Oh. Oh no.

INGRID

(*getting back into car, notices Sylvie is a mess but doesn't pry*) So much better. I think my pee actually froze on my boots. Hey, I don't mind driving if this is stressing you out, but come here a sec -- lemme just do this. I have a red that'll look really pretty with your hair. I always wanted dark hair. (*starts putting lipstick on her*) You know, I think he might like me back. (*beat*) Does your guy know you like him? I hope he knows how cool you are, and that he's as sweet as Nate. If not, fuck him, right?

SYLVIE Right. Maybe one day.