

“Web of Lies!”



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Guide, Scene 2

What a tragic ending to a life. How do people end up like this? What is it that causes people to be apathetic about life and making good choices? Who's to blame for AJ's fate? The Bible says in Psalms 36:1-4 (NLT) that "Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts. They have no fear of God at all. In their blind conceit, they cannot see how wicked they really are. Everything they say is crooked and deceitful. They refuse to act wisely or do good. They lie awake at night, hatching sinful plots. Their actions are never good. They make no attempt to turn from evil..."

Why was AJ executed? What crime did he commit? Well let's go back in time and see what brought all of this to pass. One of the victims in our story is Erica. Erica is a cute kid with a great personality. She is insecure however. Not really sure why. She has a nice family and a lot of friends who care for her. Let's go and visit with her at a weekend slumber party where she's invited some of her friends over. Pillows, pajamas, pizza and Pepsi. Sounds like my kind of evening. Let's look in before the pillow fight begins.

Scene Two “Girls Night”

(Group enters the room while a room full of teenage girls is engaged in a variety of “girly” activities. They are all spending the night at Erica’s house, and are watching American Idol (or some reality TV show). At the same time, they are painting each others toe-nails, taking funny pictures of each other (Erica, Jess, and Ashley are sitting next to each other on the couch with one holding the camera and they are make “kissy-faces). The scene looks very innocent and “normal.” Trish is at one side making popcorn in the microwave.

Ashley: Shh,I think the show about to start again.

Jess: I just think Simon is so mean. How that one guy got as far as he did is a mystery to me, but Simon could have been a little nicer when he killed that guy’s life’s dream.

Erica: Simon tells it like it is. Paula makes me ill – she sugar-coats everything. She just needs to lay it on the line – tell these losers that they shouldn’t even try!

Ashley: *(to Erica)* – you are so mean! That performer probably worked really hard to get that far. If he made it that far, he must be pretty good. That just wasn’t a good song for him.

Erica rolls eyes and makes a barfing signal with her finger toward her mouth.

Jess: Hey, Trish – is the popcorn almost ready?

Trish: Yeah – just pouring on the cheese sauce and it’ll be right out.

Bill: *(wearing mom’s frilly robe, bunny slippers and a shower-cap, walks into the room)* Hey, can I get my toe nails painted, too?

Erica: *(Standing up and going over to push and hit dad)* Dad – get out of here.

Bill turns to leave; laughs.

Knock on door. Bill gets it and invites Kevin in.

Kevin: *(looking at Bill in amusement, comments to Bill):* Nice Outfit. *(comment to girls)* Hey, Ashley, you forgot your face! *(Kevin is carrying a makeup bag and he gives it to Ashley).*

All Girls: (Turning and reacting to Kevin, commenting to each other) “He’s hot,” and “He’s a babe.”

Ashley (*breaking the trance*): Kevin, you are such a dork. I thought you were at some Christian concert tonight?

Kevin: Yeah, a bunch of us are going over to get some pizza at The Pizza Shack after– so I was out anyway.

Ashley: Well, you can go now.

Kevin blushes and leaves.

Jess: Why didn't you tell us you had such a hot brother?

Ashley: Guys, give it a rest. Is the show back on yet?

Erica: Hey, we can go online and vote for who gets eliminated. I can show you some other stuff that we may not want (*making air parenthesis*) “the ‘rents” to see, if you know what I mean. (*Erica plops down on the floor, takes out her laptop and begins to surf the web while the dialog continues*).

Ashley: (*standing up from the couch and approaching Erica*) Erica, I don't think that's such a good idea. My parents are really weird about me going on “certain” sites – you know, like Myspace or Facebook. They don't even like me to IM people.

Jess: (*also standing up and walking toward Erica*) Oh, my parents are weird about that, too.

Trish: (*Sassily, playfully with the bowl of popcorn comes over and plops down beside Erica*) What'cha chicks doin'?

Erica: Check out my Myspace pictures. I have, like, 361 friends. I've posted new videos on there, too.

Ashley: Erica, I can't believe you posted that picture of yourself. Don't you go to a Christian School? If anyone from church saw that, they'd be like, so shocked! Seriously, Erica, what if Pastor Steve saw it?!

Erica: So, nobody takes this seriously – it's just for fun.

Jess: How did you get so many friends?

Erica: (*whimsically*) Oh, I don't know, a friend introduces another friend, and pretty soon, you don't even know who you're talking to.

Jess: Do you ever meet anyone interesting – like, you know, INTERESTING?

Erica: Yeah – I met this guy a little while ago who is totally hot! He invited me to be a friend, and he also sent me some really hot pix. Wanna see 'em?

Ashley: Erica, this is really making me uncomfortable. You can do whatever you want in your own house, I don't want to be any part of it.

All girls give Ashley a hard time and call her names.

Erica: Here's the latest email he sent me. His name is Reynaldo, and he says he's a High School exchange student from Brazil come to America on a scholarship to play soccer. Oh, he attached a picture (*all girls gasp and make loud, admiring comments on the hunkiness of Reynaldo*). See what I mean, girls – is he hot or what?

Trish: How do you know he's even telling the truth? He could totally be making it up!

Erica: Oh, no – he's for real. In fact, we're supposed to chat later tonight.

Susan: Girls, what are you doing? What happened to American Idol?

Erica quickly closes the lid of the laptop.

Erica: Relax, mom – we're just taking a break.

Susan: Okay, I heard all this screaming and wanted to make sure everything was okay.

All: Yeah – we're having a blast.

Susan leaves, shaking her head with a worried look. Ashley and Jess return to the couch to watch TV. Erica and Trish remain on the floor in front of the laptop.

Erica: Trish, let's go back into my bedroom and you can be there when I chat with Reynaldo. Then you'll see that he's for real.

Trish: Okay, but be careful!

Guide leads group out.