Invocation

_Holy Spirit, it’s difficult to see you in those that hurt us. Help us to see the Imago Dei in everyone. Teach us to pour out the love you’ve so freely given to us. Help our hearts be open and humble enough to hear your whispers of correction so we may better reflect the love of Jesus, in whose precious name we pray. Amen._

Background

Hannah narrates in the beginning of this episode. She begins by talking about the Butterfly Effect. She tells the viewers that it is believed the tiniest flap of a butterfly’s wings can create a hurricane on the other side of the world. She foreshadows that the Butterfly Effect begins in this episode.

Episode Three starts with Jessica worriedly searching for Justin. She stops by his apartment and is greeted by his mother and her boyfriend, they both look rough and appear to have recently been intoxicated. The boyfriend threatens that if Justin doesn’t come home soon, he’ll be kicked out permanently. He tells Jessica to pass that on if she finds him. She soon discovers he’s crashing at Bryce’s house, avoiding home because of his mom’s boyfriend. It is also discovered that there are concerns by many that Justin has been abused throughout his life by the men his mother brings home.

In a flashback, Clay awkwardly asks Hannah to join him after work to look at the moon during a lunar event. There are sparks of a budding romance. You expect them to kiss, but it never happens. So much is left unsaid in that scene, and everything changes the next morning.

A certain list has been passed around school, rating the girls with the best body parts. Alex, who has been dating Jessica, but recently broke up with her because she wouldn’t have sex with him, adds Hannah to the list to make Jessica jealous. Instead, it turns Jessica against Hannah because she assumes Alex is cheating on her with Hannah. During their confrontation, Jessica calls Hannah a slut. This creates a rumor narrative that Hannah has a “great ass” and is a slutty girl. This is perpetuated each time the list is forwarded on to someone new, changing the way people see and treat Hannah.

The following day, Hannah runs into Bryce at the Pharmacy while buying candy. Bryce buys her the candy and grabs her bottom on the way out, leading to a confrontation in which Bryce sexually intimidates Hannah. Bryce leaves and Hannah bursts into tears.

Flashing forward to the current time, Olivia, Hannah’s mother, is trying to make sense of her daughter’s death and goes to the school seeking information about Hannah’s day-to-day life.

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Written by: Melissa Rau and Chris Schaffner
For more information, contact us at cschaffner@fringeconversations.com
Due to the lawsuit, the school principal cannot talk about Hannah, and Olivia leaves completely distraught. She ends up crying in a school bathroom and notices mean-spirited graffiti written on the stall walls. She takes pictures of it and begins to wonder what kind of culture exists at the school her daughter went to.

**What Did You Notice?**
- What jumped out at you in this episode?
- What did you connect with during the episode?
- What were your initial thoughts/feelings about this episode?

**Did You Catch It?**
- The thoughtlessness of Troy talking to Alex about a particular song being suicidal
- The non-verbals as people were reading “the list” for the first time
- Everyone seemed to know about how awful Justin’s home life was like

**Talking Points**
- What do you think of the concept of the Butterfly Effect? Can you share an example of how you’ve experienced it in your own life?
- Hannah wasn’t given the chance to be the third wheel. Have you ever felt like a “third-wheel”? How did it make you feel?
- How do you think Hannah felt after discovering Jessica and Alex were together?
- What do you imagine Justin was thinking about while looking at family pictures in Bryce’s house?
- Hannah felt like everyone was staring at her butt. Can you remember a time when you felt like the whole world was staring at you (for any reason)? What were some thoughts running through your head?
- How did the list change the way people looked at and treated Hannah?
- What about the other girls on that list?
- Have you ever wanted to be someone other than who you are? What led you to that point? How did you work through that?
- What was wrong with Clay’s remarks to Hannah that, “At least you made the list”?
- What role does peer pressure play in teenagers engaging in unsafe, dangerous, or illegal behaviors?
- Besides peer pressure, what other factors may have led Clay to be willing to drink?
- Why do you think Hannah went through all the trouble to make the tapes?
- What do you think Hannah hopes will happen as a result of others listening to them?

**Quotable Quotes**
Discuss the following. What things are important about these statements?
- Olivia to Principal Bowan: “You can’t imagine the first thing about my life now!”
- Principal Bowen to Mr. Porter: “All the time and resources we’re dedicating to her now. If we’d known she needed help before…”

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Jeff to Clay: “She’s such a pretty girl, I don’t know why she dresses that way. But hey, at least she’s unique.”

Hannah to Clay: “I just wish there was a button you could push to fast forward through the shitty parts and go right to the good parts.”

Hannah on tape: “When you put my name on that list, you put a target on my...Well, it wasn’t just my ass. You made it open season on Hannah Baker.”

Invitation/Response/Orthopraxy (Living in the tension of what we know and what we do)

- Can you share an example of a time when you said something without thinking first, only to realize later that you hurt someone? How did you respond?
- Have you ever asked if someone was okay, and they said they were fine, but you didn’t believe them? Why or why didn’t you push a little more?
- How do we challenge the continued objectification of women and men? What are toxic behaviors that need to be addressed in your school/community/place of worship that contribute to the objectification of others?
- What is the process of reconciliation after someone is hurt? Is there a way to move towards healing? Can this be done without condoning or further allowing the hurtful behaviors?
- How might we move towards nurturing empathy, or the ability to put ourselves in someone else’s shoes?
- How do we create more vulnerable spaces to talk about hard things, like the topics explored in this series?

Biblical Intersections

Read the following Bible passages. Put into your own words what they might mean for us today. Discuss.

- Genesis 1:27
- Colossians 3:9-10
- Galatians 3:28
- Mark 12:31

The More You Know (Education/Resources)

- Sexual Aggression in Adolescents
- Sex Before Kissing
- Rape Culture

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Extra Reflection If Time Allows
Explore the concept of sexual objectification and toxic gender roles.

Benediction
Heavenly Father, grant us the courage to confess our jealousy and envy. Grant us the courage to boldly let go of the need to be considered special at the expense of others. Help us remember that we are called to the ministry of reconciliation. Guide us in our daily lives, especially when we are angry or resentful, or when we want revenge. Help be peacemakers in our lives and the lives of others. In Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.