

NOT A GOOD FIT

FADE IN:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

In the sweltering heat of an endless summer's day, a group of high school girls stand nervously waiting to learn about their fate on the soccer team.

COACH, a middle-aged high school soccer coach, hellbent on destroying as many students lives as possible because she believes it will "humble them."

COACH

In a moment, I am going to come around with letters for each of you. These letters contain details about your future with this team. If you do not make it, that is because we did not find you to be a good fit. If you did, congratulations and I look forward to working with you this year.

COACH hands out the letters one by one to each student.

HANNAH, a young eager freshman, who just recently turned 14, stands unable to stop shaking thinking about how her life will change in a matter of seconds.

She raises her hand slowly, to retrieve the letter from the Coach, as she tries to stop nerves from getting the best of her. We see tears start to form in her eyes, as she reads the contents of the letter.

JENNY AND SARAH, friends of Hannah who are also trying out for the team, are jumping up and down hugging one another after reading their letters.

JENNY

Sarah! I cannot believe we both made the team! I am so proud of us and know that this is going to be the best year of our lives.

I was so nervous, but wow I am so glad I tried out.

SARAH

I really did not think I would make it and I have been so stressed out all week. Not to sound selfish, but I am so proud of myself. I never thought I would make it. Hey Hannah, what does your letter say?

HANNAH is trying as hard as she can to not let her friends see her tears because she does not want anyone to know how upset she is.

HANNAH

Oh, I haven't read it yet. I am just waiting to get home and look it over with my parents. I will let you guys know when I figure it out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HANNAH'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY (1 MONTH LATER)

MOM AND DAD, Hannah's parents who are trying to console her after this devastating news continues to consume her.

MOM

Hannah I am sorry that this happened to you, but now that you don't have soccer, what are you going to do with your time?

DAD

You need to find things that you are passionate about. College is around the corner and all you do is sit at home and mope about not being on the team.

HANNAH is trying to fight back tears, as this loss, which seems insurmountable, continues to weigh on her.

HANNAH

I am so sick of you trying to control my life, I am trying to process what happened and I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE! Soccer was all I had and now there is nothing. I am not good at anything else, so I might as well give up trying.

MOM

We understand that you are upset, and you have every right to be, but you need to start moving forward. We are here to support you and will help you in any way we can.

DAD

We love you very much and we hate to see you so upset all the time. What would be most helpful for you to move forward?

HANNAH is struggling to keep down her tears as all she can think about is failing to make the soccer team and she does not know how she will ever move forward. She lost a lot of friends to the soccer team and she feels really alone.

HANNAH

I just want to do something that will make me feel better, but I really don't know how. Soccer has been a huge part of my life and what feels like my identity too. I feel like I not only let myself down, but I also let you both down too. I don't know how to move forward when I cannot get over what happened.

MOM

We love you and want you to know that we are still so proud of you, regardless of what happens. We just want to help you find something you are passionate about, so you will begin to feel better. This activity doesn't have to even be sports related, we just want you to be able to apply all the wonderful qualities you have to something you are willing to put effort into.

DAD

I agree with your Mom and want you to know that we are only putting this pressure on you because we love you and want the best for you.

HANNAH's tears are slowly subsiding, as she tries to calm herself down and truly think about what she wants to do. It is difficult because at 14, who really knows what they want to do with their life?

HANNAH

The only thing that I have done lately that has really made me excited and enthusiastic is when I get to help out in a classroom at Hebrew school.

DAD

That sounds like something that would be worth pursuing. Do you know of any ways that you can get more involved in this area?

MOM

Hannah, how about applying to work at Extended Day (an elementary after-school program)? It could be really good experience and help you decide if working with children is something that you want to pursue.

HANNAH

I hated going there as a kid because of the teachers who worked there. I really don't want to apply, I think I'd be miserable.

MOM

You can't just write it off without trying. We support your decision, but we think that you should give it a shot.

HANNAH

Fine, I will think about it. I am not making any promises. It might not be a good fit.

Artist's Statement

I chose to capture this moment because it was a salient experience for me in high school. I had been playing soccer for what felt like my whole life and the moment I got cut from the team, it felt like I lost a part of my identity. I tried to capture how I felt when I received the news and how it felt, even months later. This was the moment in my life that I felt like I had to change the direction of my life and figure out what I wanted to do. As a teenager, I felt like my life was over and that I would never recover. Many people say that you can always get past those difficult times in your life because they helped you learn and grow, but that felt like bullshit to me. It was difficult at the time to be struggling with my identity and also have pressure from my parents about finding something I was passionate about. These frequent conversations left me angry because I felt like I was being attacked.

Now, I am grateful for that experience and those many difficult discussions because it led me in a direction that I am proud of and it was an important life experience. While it seemed like the end of the world then, it was one of my biggest learning experiences. The lessons that I was forced to learn were how to overcome rejection and also how to find something I am passionate about. While they are difficult to learn, they led me to learn more about myself in the process. Of course, I still get hurt by rejection and get anxious when unexpected things happen. This experience in high school really paved the way for me into finding more about myself. It also pushed me to try new things and sports. It took many years, but I finally started a new sport when I came to Clark that has helped me stay motivated and work the hardest, I ever have. While at the time, getting cut from the soccer team seemed like the end of the world, it was probably

one of the best things that could have happened to me. It forced me to go out of my comfort zone and in return, become a stronger, more dedicated person.