



Mackenzie

Mackenzie, or “Kenz”, is the titular character in the story. She’s a first year university student living with her roommate, Gwynn. She’s not *actually* a crocodile, but rather a person who’s spent most of her life being left out of groups and isolated from her peers and not knowing why, and it’s made her see herself as sort of inhuman. By choosing to not make Mackenzie look like a human, it makes it possible for anybody of any physical category to imagine themselves in her shoes and relate to her more. I chose to make her look like a crocodile because it’s an animal that most people want nothing to do with, which reflects her poor self image and how the general public treats her. She dresses cute and feminine, hoping it’ll make people like her more, but it’s not working in her favour. Her character is meant to represent the painful isolation of the neurodivergent female experience, knowing that there’s something wrong with you and everybody but you knows it.

Gwynn

Gwynn is Mackenzie’s “roommate from Hell”. She constantly disrespects Mackenzie and her boundaries while simultaneously acting like they’re best friends, sort of treating her more like a pet than a roommate. She’s the neurotypical girl that everybody loves for some reason, and Mackenzie, the only person who seems to be disrespected by Gwynn, can’t figure out why people like her so much.

Leah

Leah is the only other neurodivergent person at Gwynn’s party, and like Mackenzie, she isn’t actually a rat for the same reasons. She doesn’t like the party scene, but tags along with her friends anyway. She’s much more comfortable with her identity than Mackenzie and understands that she’s always

going to have trouble fitting in, so she doesn't really try anymore, and embraces herself. But her insecurities can't magically go away, and she has her good and bad days like everybody else.

The Story

My goal is to create a story that will relate to people facing the same isolation as Mackenzie and make someone feel a little less alone in their experience. While the story is very heavily influenced by the neurodivergent experience, I recognize that many neurotypical people can relate to Mackenzie, and they shouldn't be left out of the narrative.

Beginning

The story will begin with Mackenzie asleep on her couch with an open laptop and some notes, showing she fell asleep while studying. She starts off being upset at Gwynn off the bat for unexpectedly throwing a party at their place while she was asleep. This creates:

1. The setting (Gwynn & Mackenzie's house)
2. The relationship between the two (roommates)
3. Their background (students)
4. Their individual social statuses

Middle

Mackenzie gets increasingly annoyed with Gwynn and the partygoers as the story progresses. She keeps getting disrespected in her own home and the lack of consideration from everyone involved has become the straw that broke the crocodile's back. She lashes out at the crowd and has to hide herself from further humiliation.

End

Leah calms her down and they find out that they have some things in common. Mackenzie's feelings are finally validated by someone else, and it's nice to know that she isn't going crazy trying to understand the actions of the people around her. Thanks to Leah, Mackenzie can build up the courage to leave the party with her.

Script

(M: Mackenzie)

(G: Gwynn)

(L: Leah)

(R(1(2(3)))): Unnamed background character(s))

Page 1

1. *(Open the scene with Mackenzie ugly-sleeping on the couch in her own house. Objects surrounding her include a laptop, a notebook, and stationary. Dream clouds surround her from above.)*
2. *(Move to a close shot of her face. The dream clouds get smaller and slowly get replaced by illegible chatter while she continues to snore.)*

3. *(Zoom out again to a full-body shot of Mackenzie falling off of the couch, hitting her head and snapping awake while yelling, "Ow!" The illegible chatter bubbles disappear and get replaced by a crowd of people hanging around near Mackenzie, staring at her.)*
4. *(Mackenzie looks around in surprise, half-awake, trying to figure out what is going on around her.)*
M: "What the...?!"
M: "What's going on?!"
(The people in the background go back to ignoring Mackenzie.)

Page 2

1. *(Now standing, Mackenzie clasps her hands together, looking nervous.)*
M: "Strangers??"
M: "Booze??"
M: "Oh, God, is this-"
2. *(On the right in the distance, Gwynn, surrounded by people, cheerily waves at Mackenzie and calls for her from across the room.)*
G: "HEY KENZ!"
M: "Oh. Fuck. No."
3. *(Change to Gwynn's perspective, looking across the room at Mackenzie, who yells at her furiously.)*
M: "GWYNN!"
G: "Sooooooooorryyyy!"
G: "I didn't want to wake you!"
(Gwynn stills speaks cheerily, not registering that Mackenzie is really mad at her.)
4. *(Mackenzie, now closer to Gwynn and looking at her with an embarrassed expression.)*
M: "Why would you have a party here?!"
(Gwynn waves to someone off screen.)
G: "Heeeey, Sammy!"
5. M: "And why wouldn't you tell me??"
(Gwynn interrupts her, looking in a different direction.)
G: "Heyyy, can we save this for later?"

Page 3

1. *(Gwynn starts walking away, waving and talking at someone off screen.)*
G: "Nice chat!"
G: "Go have a beer or something!"
M: "But- Ugh, Gwynn!!"
2. *(Mackenzie looks longingly into the distance. A random man near her looks at her funny.)*
R1: "You need to like, chill the fuck out, lady"

3. *(Mackenzie goes back to having a sour look on her face, but she accepts the beer.)*
4. *(Mackenzie looks at the beer.)*
5. *(She sighs, closes her eyes, and takes a swig.)*
6. *(She looks up again, zoomed out, surrounded by the partygoers.)*
M: "Ok. Get it together."

Page 4

1. *(She tries to say something in a group of a few random boys.)*
R2: "...And then we swerved into a tree! His car was, like, wrecked!"
(Some boys laugh.)
M: "Ha ha, I almost did that once, too..."
2. *(A boy turns to her, confused.)*
R2: "Yo, who the fuck is this chick?"
(The boys laugh again.)
3. *(Mackenzie turns to him, shocked and fuming, eyes so wide they're almost popping out of her head.)*
4. M: "I LIVE HERE!"
M: "THIS IS MY HOUSE, YOU INCONSIDERATE SACKS OF SHIT!"
5. *(Mackenzie storms off of the screen, leaving the partygoers silent.)*
M: "UUUUUUUUGH!"
6. *(She goes into the bathroom and sobs very loudly, makeup running down her face as she cries.)*

Page 5

1. *(Leah watches her awkwardly from the other side of the bathroom.)*
L: "Uhhh hey?"
M: "OH MY GOSH I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WAS IN HERE!"
M: "I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!"
2. L: "It's alright, I was just washing my face off."
3. L: "Also, there's someone passed out in the bathtub."
M: "Oh, haha..."
L: "Not your party, huh?"
M: "No... My stupid roommate does this all the time. She never thinks about how I feel."

L: "Yikes, sorry... I only came 'cause my friend dragged me here."

M: "I hate parties."

4. L: "Me too. I feel like such a weirdo here.."

M: "Me too!"

5. L: "Hey, you wanna get out of here?"

M: "What, like, together?"

L: "Yeah!"

M: "And do what?"

Page 6

1. L: "Whatever we want!"

(Mackenzie wipes off her face and smiles.)

M: "...Yeah, sure."

2. L: "I'm Leah, by the way."

M: "Mackenzie. Thanks for cheering me up."

(Mackenzie stands shyly.)

3. L: "You ready to go, Mackenzie?"

(Leah sticks out her hand for Mackenzie to take.)

M: "Yeah."

4. *(Mackenzie takes Leah's hand and they walk out of the bathroom together.)*

(The end!!)