

## excerpt from *Good Enough* by Kitt Lavoie

*Michael leaves. Jessica lays there for a moment, then sits up. She leans over the bed and retrieves her book bag. She takes out a book, sits up, and begins to read. After a moment, there is a light knock on the door.*

**Jessica** Hello?

*The door slowly opens. ELIZABETH, 17, leans her head in.*

**Elizabeth** Sorry.

**Jessica** Don't be sorry. Come on in.

*Elizabeth enters the room.*

**Elizabeth** Sorry. I just need... I forgot something.

*Elizabeth goes to the far side of the bed. She picks up a stuffed sheep from the floor.*

**Elizabeth** Sorry. He helps me sleep better.

**Jessica** No problem.

*Elizabeth heads for the door. Jessica returns to her book. Elizabeth stops at the door and turns around.*

**Elizabeth** What are you reading?

**Jessica** *The Bacchae.*

**Elizabeth** What's it about?

**Jessica** It's for a class.

**Elizabeth** Is it good?

**Jessica** Pretty good.

**Elizabeth** What class?

**Jessica** Sex, Religion, and Prehistory.

*A beat.*



**Elizabeth** Oh.

*Elizabeth stands awkwardly in the doorway for a moment. She turns to go.*

**Jessica** You don't have to leave.

**Elizabeth** It's okay. You're reading.

**Jessica** I'm just killing time. It's earlier than I'm used to.

**Elizabeth** Okay.

*Elizabeth shuts the door. She sits on the edge of the bed.*

**Jessica** Thanks for the room. I didn't mean to displace you.

**Elizabeth** It's okay. I don't mind. I get the pullout downstairs.

**Jessica** Well, that's good.

**Elizabeth** It's one of the advantages. Mom always puts me in with the little cousins, but since I'm the oldest, I usually get the best seat or whatever.

**Jessica** That's something. My mom used to do the same thing. Drove me crazy.

**Elizabeth** I know.

**Jessica** But you'll be headed out of here soon. Do you know where you're going yet?

**Elizabeth** Either Regent or Emmanuel.

**Jessica** Oh right.

**Elizabeth** You know them?

**Jessica** I think.

**Elizabeth** They're in Georgia and Virginia.

**Jessica** That's a good distance. Not too close, not too far.

**Elizabeth** They're Christian schools.

**Jessica** Oh.

*A beat.*

**Jessica** I like your family.

**Elizabeth** Thanks.

*A beat.*

**Elizabeth** Were your parents mad you went to a Christian school?

**Jessica** St. Joe's isn't really a Christian school. It's "in the Jesuit tradition," but isn't really religious anymore.

**Elizabeth** Still, my parents wouldn't like me going to a Jewish school, I don't think.

**Jessica** I have a feeling you're right. And it's too bad.

**Elizabeth** Why would that be too bad? I don't want to be with people who don't believe like I do.

**Jessica** It's too bad because there are other things out there. Things you should expose yourself to.

**Elizabeth** I don't want to "expose myself." That's where temptation comes from.

**Jessica** It's also where you learn things. About yourself. And the world. And how else will you overcome temptation if you don't face it?

**Elizabeth** I don't want to overcome temptation. I want to avoid it.

**Jessica** There are things out there you have no idea about. And believe me, if you did, you would know that God didn't make them for you to avoid.

**Elizabeth** Don't talk to me about God.

**Jessica** How else will you learn—?

**Elizabeth** Not from you. I hear he doesn't go to church anymore. Michael. Except Sunday mornings. Mom said.

**Jessica** He goes. Not a lot of people we know go more than once a week.

**Elizabeth** That's why I want to go to a Christian school. It's easier to pull someone off a chair than to pull them on to one. That's what my Dad says.

**Jessica** What does that mean?

**Elizabeth** If you're on a chair, it's easier for someone to knock you off than for you to pull them up onto it. That's why you should stay with your own kind—

**Jessica** “With your own kind.” Wow.

**Elizabeth** With people who believe like you do. Because they won't knock you off.

*A beat.*

**Jessica** It may be getting a little late.

**Elizabeth** Do you make him go to your church?

**Jessica** No.

**Elizabeth** That's not what I heard.

**Jessica** We went to my cousin's Bat Mitzvah.

**Elizabeth** Did he wear one of those hats?

**Jessica** To be respectful.

**Elizabeth** I saw you in church tonight. Just standing there during the benediction. I didn't think that was very respectful.

*A beat.*

**Jessica** I'm not going anywhere, Elizabeth. And I want you to like me. So maybe we should call it a night, yes?

**Elizabeth** It's not that I don't like you...

**Jessica** It's okay. I understand.

**Elizabeth** I don't want to go to bed yet. Susan and Lauren are still up. They'll want to sleep with me in the big bed. Is your book good?

**Jessica** Yeah.

*A beat.*

**Elizabeth** You can call me Liz.

**Jessica** Okay. Liz. This is better, yeah? (*re: the trophies*) You play soccer?



**Elizabeth** Varsity.

**Jessica** I used to play, too. What position?

**Elizabeth** Left wing.

**Jessica** I was defense.

**Elizabeth** Neat.

*A beat.*

**Jessica** You going to play in college?

**Elizabeth** I don't think so. Probably not.

**Jessica** Yeah, I didn't either.

**Elizabeth** Were you good?

**Jessica** Pretty. I hear you are, too.

**Elizabeth** From who?

**Jessica** From Michael. He's very proud of you. You're lucky. My brother Jason is fourteen years older than me. We could never really be friends like you and Michael are.

*A beat.*

**Jessica** Can I ask you something?

**Elizabeth** (*nervously*) ...Yeah.

**Jessica** Your mom. What does she think of me?

**Elizabeth** What do you mean?

**Jessica** I mean, I don't want to put you in a bad position. I don't think Tom would tell me if she did. But, like, has she said anything?

*A beat.*

**Elizabeth** I don't think you should marry Michael.



**Jessica** That's not what I asked.

**Elizabeth** Or, I don't think he should marry you. She cried. My mom. When he told her. She thought he was going to marry Bethany. His girlfriend from high school. She's from our church, and Michael said he loved her. He can say he loves you, but he said he loved her, too. And when he was home a few weeks ago, Mom had Bethany over to dinner. Did he tell you that?

**Jessica** No.

**Elizabeth** She stayed to watch TV after. Mom says that is a better match.

**Jessica** Well, he's twenty years old. He can make his own decisions.

**Elizabeth** He *can't* make his own decisions. "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Second Corinthians.

**Jessica** Whatever Jesus said, it's up to Michael to decide what Michael wants.

**Elizabeth** Paul said it. And there are more important things than what Michael wants.

**Jessica** Like what?

**Elizabeth** What He wants. I know you don't believe in that. But it's true.

**Jessica** True for you.

**Elizabeth** True enough.

*A beat.*

**Jessica** This is really going to be a problem?

**Elizabeth** Big. Yes.

**Jessica** You know her. What can I do?

**Elizabeth** Like I said. Go.

**Jessica** Short of that.

**Elizabeth** Nothing.

**Jessica** Well, then...