

Sarah Shade – Mock Hearing Notes

Note: Sarah Shade is an entirely fictitious character created for training purposes only.

Discussions about Sexual Boundaries

- Tessa often told you that she did not want to have sex before marriage. You would spend hours talking about what constituted “sex” for purposes of this rule. At the beginning of Tessa’s relationship with Michael, Tessa believed anything more than kissing was inappropriate, but Tessa kept “moving the goalposts,” both in terms of what was permissible and when.
- Tessa told you that Michael was trying to push her into more and more sexual activity. According to what Tessa told you, she often gave in and then felt guilty about it. It became a cyclical argument between the two of them about what their boundaries were.
- It is your understanding, based on what Tessa told you, that she actually broke up with Michael because he came into her room without knocking one night and that was the last boundary that she could handle being pushed at that particular moment. They stayed broken up for several days, and Tessa was a mess until they got back together.

Pizza with Tessa

- You and Tessa drank wine and ate pizza. You are pretty sure the pizza got there around 6:00 p.m.
- You are positive that Tessa did not drink beer the night you had the pizza. You recall that Tessa had those beers the week before when you ordered pizza. It was unseasonably warm and the two of you had been on the balcony outside your living room. Tessa had lined the bottles up on the balcony wall and had accidentally knocked them off, causing them to fall and break in the parking area behind your apartment building. You both had to go downstairs and clean it up before your neighbor got home because it was in their parking spot.
- You believe Tessa had a single glass of wine, which you poured almost to the top. However, it was a small wine glass, not a big one.

Party #1

- On the way to Joe’s party, Tessa talked about how much she wanted to try a trick shot on Joe’s pool table. It was getting annoying, so you figured that you would film Tessa doing it right when you got there so that you could get it over with. However, you needed more alcohol to get through that, so you took Tessa right to the kitchen and found Joe pouring shots of Fireball Whiskey. You each took one.
- Tessa bombed the trick shot during the recording, then kept practicing it over and over without getting it, so no one else could actually play pool. Finally, she gave up and you both headed to go out back where people were dancing. You did not have a second shot that night and neither did Tessa, because when you

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walked back through the kitchen, Joe had already passed them out to the people out back.

- You can't remember whether Michael was there during the trick shot fiasco, but "he's not really all that memorable anyway."
- You went outside to dance, and after a while, Tessa told you that Angela was ready to meet you at Caleb's house. You went to get your shawl and clutch from the kitchen and saw Michael, so you told him you were both leaving.
- One the way, Tessa was "giggly and hyper," which you took as a sign that she was "buzzed." She was also "louder than usual." You were not worried about Tessa's intoxication on the way to Caleb's house.

Party #2

- You went to Caleb's house and he had punch at the gate. You grabbed a solo cup and Tessa grabbed a solo cup.
- You both went to the back patio and began to dance. There were maybe 15 other people on the dance floor. Angela came shortly after you arrived. The three of you danced in a circle. Angela seemed to know everyone from home, but no one paid any attention to you and Tessa.
- When Michael arrived, he talked to Tessa briefly but you couldn't hear what they were saying. Then he disappeared and came back with two cups of punch, one for Tessa and one for himself. Tessa then suggested that you all go down to the back of the yard where Caleb was building a campfire. You and Angela grabbed wooden benches from beside a picnic table and dragged them across the line to the fire pit.
- You and Tessa were flirting with Caleb, who is gay and is definitely not into you. Caleb pretended to sit on your laps and you each kissed his cheek. You think Angela took a picture. When Caleb got back up, the bench rocked and nearly threw Tessa off the bench.
- Tessa was "very giggly" and "talking very fast" at that point. You realized that Tessa was probably drunk, and you were happy for her, because she never does anything fun when she is around Michael.
- Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" came on, and Tessa dragged you and Angela back onto the dance floor by your elbows. You danced with her for a few songs. Then suddenly, during "Party in the USA," Tessa took a step back, slipped, and fell. You saw her hit the back of her head on the patio floor, and her ankle was pretty twisted.
- Angela helped Tessa over to the back steps under the patio light. You went to get Michael and Caleb. Michael wouldn't be useful, but Caleb is a volunteer firefighter and knows first aid and some basic paramedic skills.
- Caleb looked at her ankle and said it might be sprained. Michael went home to get the car and we took Tessa to the front porch to wait. Caleb brought an ice

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pack, and Angela went to find Tylenol but couldn't so she brought back a shot of tequila to help with the pain.

- You thought that Tessa's eyes looked glassy and she seemed confused because she was asking you what happened. You told her that she fell on a loose stone. You then told Caleb that you thought Tessa had hit her head, Caleb did some sort of test with a flashlight and said that Tessa didn't appear to have a concussion, but that he wouldn't be surprised if she were a little confused. He checked Tessa's head and found a knot on the back, so he gave her a second ice pack. Tessa put her leg on your lap while she waited for Michael.
- It took forever for Michael to get there. When he came, you and the others walked Tessa down to the car and put her in the front seat.
- You went to the backyard to look for Tessa's jacket, because you noticed that it wasn't with her. You found it behind one of the benches. You talked for a few minutes with Angela. The party was starting to break up, and Caleb began fiddling with the patio stone to see if he could do anything to firm it up. You helped Caleb pull the punch and some of the stereo equipment back into the house, and then you left with Angela.
- Angela walked you most of the way home until you got to her residence hall. You walked the last block yourself.
- When you got home, you saw that Tessa's door was shut, and you could hear the TV on, so you texted her just to let her know you were home and ask how she was. It took a while before she responded, but you were already asleep and didn't get it until the next morning.

The Next Day

- You woke up early to be the cantor at the early service. When you got back home, Michael was leaving the apartment. He said that Tessa was upstairs and was still in bed. He was going back home to change to go to church.
- You stopped in to see Tessa. She was in a black nightgown and she was sitting on the edge of her bed. Her ankle was black and blue. She wasn't doing anything so it made you worried. You asked her what was wrong, but she said "Nothing," so you didn't pry.
- You didn't know that she and Michael had sex until a few days later when Sarah told you that she broke up with him. Sarah didn't give you any details.

Instructions for playing Sarah

- Tessa can be a real drag as a roommate. The whole "no sex" thing made you roll your eyes. But she is in some of your classes and is a good study buddy, and you feel like you need to help her learn to loosen up.
- You really don't like Michael. For as much as Tessa can be a drag, Michael is even worse. He is infinitely boring. You think if Tessa was dating someone else,

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she would be more adventurous – drink more, go out more. But she’s such a homebody and you think they are too co-dependent on each other.

- You don’t believe that Tessa was incapacitated, either by the alcohol or the injury. She seemed quite coherent as you were helping her to the car, and she was irritated that Michael hadn’t pulled closer to the curb.
- Don’t be afraid to share your real opinions on Tessa and Michael. You can be as snarky as you feel like being.
- You are much more worldly and experienced. If someone asks you a question and you don’t know the answer, respond with whatever you think Sarah might say.
- If anyone asks you about seeing any additional alcohol than what is mentioned here, even if they point to it in the report, just say that the investigator must have misunderstood you and that you didn’t say that.

Don’t Reveal This Unless Directly Questioned On It (use your judgment):

- When you got to the second party, before you handed Tessa her cup of punch, you topped it off with extra vodka—probably two or three shots’ worth. You feel guilty about it because you feel like it contributed to her fall.