

Mr. Smith Side 2

16.

*a few days later
lunchtime*

START → MR. SMITH
thanks for coming in early

BETH
of course

beat

MR. SMITH
I know those lunchtime minutes are precious

BETH
no no this is
I'm
of course

beat

MR. SMITH
how have you been?

BETH
...I've been okay
it's been
I've been okay

beat

it's kind of surreal
to see you back
it feels like it's been forever

MR. SMITH
I know
I can't believe it
I mean I'm
Miss Gallagher's gonna be sitting in on classes for the rest of the year

BETH
she was actually
it was great to have her
she had some good stuff to say

Mr. Smith Side 2

MR. SMITH
that's awesome

BETH
I mean obviously we missed you a ton

MR. SMITH
well thanks
that's sweet of you

beat

BETH
I haven't really heard much news about the details of

MR. SMITH
you know
without saying too much
there just wasn't a lot of proof
and the school board called into question the
character
of uh

beat

BETH
that's great

beat

MR. SMITH
gosh Beth
I'm just
I've been totally sick over this

beat

I need to know
I
no
I'm sorry
that's inappropriate

BETH
what?

Mr. Smith Side 2

MR. SMITH
I wanted to know if
if you believed me
but that's
I can't ask you that

BETH
oh

beat

MR. SMITH
I just don't know what I'm going to do
you know?
I don't see a way out of this

BETH
I think
maybe
it'll blow over

MR. SMITH
I don't want you to feel like I'm putting you in a bad position

BETH
no
I don't feel that way

MR. SMITH
it's just that
you're one of the only friends I've got left
I hope it's okay that I think of you as a friend
we've always had this
special thing
you and me
haven't we?
I mean
that's probably the last thing I should say now
but honestly you're more mature than most people my age
you're an old soul, like me
...
I really miss our talks

BETH
I do too

Mr. Smith Side 2

beat

MR. SMITH
my wife doesn't believe me
she says she does
but

BETH
I'm
sure she'll come around
you two have such a special –
I'm so sorry

MR. SMITH
it really felt like
for a while
that my life was over
...
I thought
"this is it. I'm just going to kill myself. they'd all be better off without / me"

BETH
no no no no don't say that please don't say that
...
I wouldn't be better off

beat
Mr. Smith smiles at her

MR. SMITH
it feels really good to be back
to see you
END what have you been reading lately?