**Analysis**

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| **Summary of events** | **Important quotes** | **Analysis notes** |
| Title and opening credits. Establishing shot of city pans around to street.  Midshot of convertible with four girls looking happy and dancing to music. Music changes from “One Week” to “Bad Reputation” as camera pans across to older “uncool” car with Kat sitting by herself in it, looking scornfully at girls.  Cut to long shot of kids playing roller hockey. Camera tracks up to high angle shot of school buildings. | Lyrics: “I don’t give a damn about my reputation.” | Animated, brightly coloured, handwritten-style font of credits appeals to target audience (teenagers), helps set atmosphere for film – light-hearted.  Kat’s character quickly established as anti-social loner through music, props, costume, contrast, close up on facial expressions. |
| ECU on sign, “Ms Perky, Guidance Counsellor”. Close up on Cameron’s face. Cut to close up of computer screen; Ms Perky is writing a “romance”.  Ms Perky is disparaging about the students and dismissive of Cameron.  Patrick enters as Cameron is leaving. He is in trouble for playing a practical joke on the lunch lady. Ms Perky is equally indifferent and dismissive of him. | Computer screen: “As his hand slid up her creamy white thighs...”  Ms. Perky: “Nine schools in ten years… my my, army brat?”  Ms. Perky: Same little a\*\*wipe s\*\*\* for brains everywhere!”  Cameron: “Excuse me… did you just say… am I in the right office?”  Ms Perky: “Very clever kangaroo boy… next time keep it in your pouch.” | Ms Perky’s reactions show how out-of-touch and indifferent the adults in the film are. When the teenagers have problems, they must find their own solutions.  Cameron is presented as a nice, polite boy, shocked by the language Ms Perky uses. He is also shy and unsure of himself, shown by the way he leaves sentences unfinished. Physically he is small and well groomed.  Patrick is presented as a confident, cocky “bad boy”. He banters with Ms Perky and gets into trouble for his attitude. Physically he is tall and muscular, which makes him more intimidating. |
| Cameron meets Michael, who shows him around the school and explains the different cliques.  Cameron sees Bianca for the first time and is attracted to her. In Bianca’s conversation with Chastity, she is shown as popular but shallow. | Michael: “These are your future MBAs. They’re all Ivy League accepted… yesterday I was their god!... Bogey Lowenstein started a rumour that I buy my Izods at an outlet mall.”  Cameron: “I burn, I pine, I perish!”  Bianca: “I like my Sketchers, but I love my Prada backpack.” | Michael’s introductions show how sharply defined groups can be in a school, and how important it is to belong somewhere. It also demonstrates how cruel and thoughtless people can be – the “cool” kids who say “bite me!” in response to a simple greeting, and the group that kicked Michael out based on a rumour. |
| An English classroom. Kat speaks disparagingly of Hemmingway. Joey mocks her. Patrick comes in briefly. | Patrick: “What’d I miss?”  Kat: “The oppressive patriarchal values that dictate our education.” | Character development: Patrick is shown as a bad-boy for skipping class, and Kat is shown as clever yet rebellious. |
| Kat visits the guidance counsellor’s office. | Kat: “I still maintain that he kicked himself in the balls.”  Ms Perky: “People perceive you as somewhat-”  Kat: “Tempestuous?”  Ms Perky: “Heinous bitch is the term used most often.” | Character development: Kat has a violent streak. She is strong-willed. |
| Joey is in the courtyard and sees Bianca. His friend bets him that he can’t get her to sleep with him. Joey accepts the challenge.  Cameron sees Joey looking and Bianca and asks Michael about him, then they talk about Bianca.  Joey gives Bianca and Chastity a ride home. | Joey: “No-one’s out of reach for me.”  Friend: “Do you want to put money on that?”  Joey: “Money I’ve got. This I’m going to do for fun.”  Cameron: “Who’s that guy?”  Michael: Joey Donner. He’s a jerk-off, and a model.” | Character development: Joey is presented as rich, cruel, and arrogant in the way he talks about Bianca.  Michael refers to Bianca as vapid, conceited, and a snotty little princess. Cameron refers to her as “totally pure.” |
| Zoom in on Stratford house; cut to living room. Mr Stratford reinforces “no dating” rule, but changes it to Bianca can date when Kat does. | Mr Stratford: “Old rule out, new rule – Bianca can date, when Kat does.”  Bianca: “But she’s a mutant! What if she never dates?”  Sisters: “You suck!” | Establishes conflict that drives the action in the film. |
| Bianca and Cameron meet for their first French lesson. Cameron invites her out, and learns about the dating rule. He agrees to find someone to go out with Kat. | Bianca: “Can we make this quick? Roxanne and Andrew are having an incredibly horrendous public break-up on the quad.”  Bianca: “You’re asking me out? That’s so cute! What’s your name again?” | Character development: Bianca is reinforced as shallow and self-obsessed in the way she keeps getting Cameron’s name wrong, referring to him as “Calvin” or “Curtis”. |
| Cameron and Michael try to find someone to go out with Kat, but no-one will. | Boy: “Maybe, if we were the last two people alive, and there were no sheep.” |  |
| A science classroom. Cameron and Michael discuss their failure, and consider asking Patrick to date Kat.  They approach him in a tech class, and he drills through Cameron’s book; they come up with plan B, get Joey to pay Patrick to go out with Kat. | Michael: “He’s a criminal. I heard he lit a state trooper on fire. He just did a year in San Quentin… He sold his own liver on the black market for a new set of speakers.”  Joey: “I heard he ate a live duck once.”  Michael: “Everything but the beak and feet.” | Character development: Patrick shown as dangerous through dialogue and props – stabs the frog they’re dissecting, plays with the Bunsen flame, lights a cigarette.  Joey shown as immature and a bully; draws a penis on Michael’s face. |
| Joey approaches Patrick on the field and offers to pay him to go out with Kat. Patrick agrees.  Patrick asks Kat out and she turns him down. |  | Patrick is smoking and wearing black to reinforce his bad boy image. |
| Kat and Bianca have a heart-to-heart in the bathroom. Bianca tries to make Kat take some care in her appearance. Kat is angry that Bianca is wearing their mother’s pearls. | Kat: “I don’t care what people think… You don’t always have to be who they want you to be, you know.”  Bianca: “I happen to like being adored, thank you.” |  |
| Kat is out shopping. Patrick comes over to say hello; Kat is unfriendly. Joey shuts her in, and she reverses into his convertible. This leads to an argument with her father. | Kat: “I want you to stop trying to control my life just because you can’t control yours!” |  |
| Joey and Patrick talk in the hallway; Patrick puts his price up.  Cameron and Michael approach Patrick in his tech class and offer to help him with Kat. | Patrick: “I’m only in it for the money.” |  |
| Michael alters Bogey’s party invitations so instead of “future MBAs only” they read “free beer” and hands them out at school.  Joey asks Bianca if she’ll be at the party. |  |  |
| Cameron asks Bianca for help finding out about what Kat likes. They go into her bedroom to look for clues. | Cameron: “Can I see your room?”  Bianca: “No! A girl’s room is very personal.” |  |
| Cameron and Michael meet Patrick at a bar to give him information about Kat. | Cameron: “Is this what a bar looks like?”  Michael: “Don’t touch anything! You might get hepatitis.”  Patrick: “I can’t be seen at Club Skunk.” | Props, setting, dialogue show Cameron as innocent and naïve and Patrick as macho. He is drinking at the bar. |
| Patrick goes to Club Skunk. He pretends he’s not interested in Kat, and drops the names of her favourite bands. She almost agrees to go out with him. | Patrick: “Is that a yes?”  Kat: “No.”  Patrick: “Is that a no?”  Kat: “No!” | Patrick begins to seem honestly interested in Kat; he watches her dancing and calls her sexy. Kat seems to soften a little; she doesn’t flatly turn him down. |
| Mr Stratford catches Bianca and Chastity trying to sneak out to the party. They beg Kat to go and she agrees.  Mr Stratford makes Bianca wear ‘the belly’.  Patrick arrives to pick Kat up. | Chastity: “Mr Stratford it’s just a party!”  Mr Stratford: “And Hell is just a sauna.”  Bianca: “Come on Kat, please do this for me?”  Mr Stratford: “No drinking, no drugs, no kissing, no tattoos, no piercings, no ritual animal slaughters of any kind…” |  |
| Bogey Lowenstein’s party is gatecrashed by a crowd of teenagers with kegs of beer.  Kat tells Joey to stay away from Bianca and he refuses. Bianca won’t listen to Kat either. She is upset, and gets drunk.  Cameron realises Bianca was never interested in him and is disillusioned.  Bianca, however, realises how self-obsessed Joey is and regrets hanging out with him.  Kat hits her head while dancing on the table and Patrick looks after her.  Patrick gives Cameron a pep talk about Bianca.  Bianca turns down Joey’s invitation to go on to another party; Chastity accepts, leaving her stranded. She begs a ride home with Cameron.  Patrick drops Kat off at home. She tries to kiss him but he avoids her.  Cameron drops Bianca off. | Bogey: “Now remember guys, don’t touch anything… That must be Nigel with the brie.”  Joey: “Oh! Fight!”  Joey: “We all know I look amazing.”  Joey: “I get to do some acting… you see what I did there?”  Lyrics: “… I’m wasting time with you, you’ll never be mine.”  Patrick: “Joey is not half the man you are… don’t let anyone ever make you feel like you don’t deserve what you want.”  Kat: “The only thing people know about me is that I’m scary.”  Patrick: “What’s up with your dad?”  Kat: “He just wants to be somebody that I’m not… Bianca.”  Cameron: “Have you always been this selfish?”  Bianca: “Yes.”  Cameron: “Just because you’re beautiful that doesn’t mean that you can treat people like they don’t matter.” | Setting, soft lighting, classical music, costume, props (cigars, vases, floral print furniture) reinforce Bogey’s party as being upper class, fashionable, expensive.  Contrast is shown with dim/smoky lighting, loud pop music, background chatter, casual clothes.  Slow zoom on Cameron’s face to show how upset he is at Bianca’s betrayal.  The close ups of Kat and Patrick when they are on the swings show how much he cares about her when he thinks she might have concussion. |
| In English class on Monday after the party. They are given a homework task – to re-write one of Shakespeare’s sonnets. | Kat: “Do you want this in iambic pentameter?” |  |
| Cameron and Bianca smile at each other in the hallway.  Michael quotes Shakespeare to Mandella to get her onside, then enlists her help to get Patrick back together with Kat. | Lyrics: “I can’t get enough of you baby.” |  |
| On the school field, Cameron is talking to Patrick. Michael comes over to share what he’s learned and give some advice. | Michael: “Hates him with the fire of a thousand suns. That’s a direct quote.” |  |
| Kat and Mandella talk about the prom. | Kat: “We’re making a statement.”  Mandella: “Oh goody, something new and different for us.” |  |
| Joey talks with Bianca about the prom. She uses Kat not having a date as an excuse not to go with him.  Joey pays Patrick to take Kat to the prom; he doesn’t want to accept it, but Joey ups his price to $300. |  |  |
| Patrick watches Kat playing a guitar in the music shop, then speaks to her in the bookshop. She is angry with him. | Lyics: “I’m not the sort of person who falls quickly in and out of love… How could I break such a heart…”  Patrick: “You’re not as mean as you think you are, you know that?”  Kat: “You’re not as badass as you think you are.” | Dialogue in the conversation with Joey and sad music while Patrick watches Kat show how deeply he cares about her – it’s not just about the money any more. Composition – Kat playing on the guitar, Patrick standing behind her watching her. |
| Cameron and Michael give Patrick advice on how to get Kat back. He bribes the marching band, then steals the microphone from the office to broadcast his song to Kat all over the school. Eventually he is caught by security. | Michael: “Sweet love, renew thy force!”  Patrick: “Hey! Don’t say stuff like that to me, people can hear you.”  Patrick (singing): “You’re just too good to be true, can’t take my eyes off of you… I love you baby… trust in me…” |  |
| Cut to detention room. Patrick is doing detention; Kat distracts the teacher so he can escape out the window. |  |  |
| Kat and Patrick share an idyllic afternoon together, boating on the lake and playing paintball.  When they arrive home at Kat’s place, they have a heart-to-heart. She becomes angry when he tries to pressure her into going to the prom with him. | Kat: “I don’t like to do what people expect. Why should I live up to other peoples’ expectations instead of my own?”  Lyrics: “I'm surprised that you've never been told before that you're lovely, and you're perfect, and that somebody wants you.”  Kat: “You’re amazingly self-assured, has anyone ever told you that?”  Patrick: “I tell myself that every day.” | Lyrics reinforce message that a good and romantic relationship is built on caring for the other person and making them feel valued, not on sex. |
| Cameron and Bianca are at a French lesson. She is impatient because he hasn’t asked her out yet. | Bianca (in French): “When are you going to ask me out?” |  |
| Mandella finds a medieval dress in her locker with an invitation to the prom from “William S” |  |  |
| Bianca asks her father if she can go to the prom. He says no, because Kat doesn’t have a date. | Mr Stratford: “Kissing isn’t what keeps me up to my elbows in placenta all day long!” |  |
| Kat comes into Bianca’s room and they have a heart-to-heart. Kat reveals she had sex with Joey, and doesn’t want Bianca to make the same mistakes she did. Bianca is angry that Kat is trying to control her life. | Kat: “Everyone was doing it, so I did it. After that I told him I didn’t want to do it any more because I wasn’t ready, and he got pissed and he dumped me. After that I swore I would never do anything just because everyone else was doing it.”  Bianca: “I’m not stupid enough to repeat your mistakes.”  Kat: “I guess I thought I was protecting you.”  Bianca: “By not letting me experience anything for myself?”  Lyrics: “What else can I do? I said I’m sorry…” | Bianca is made to seem young and vulnerable, so we can sympathise with Kat trying to protect her. She hugs a large teddy bear; later we see her from a high angle shot sitting in a swing wearing a white dress with shoes and socks. |
| Kat quickly goes out the door in a prom dress. Mr Stratford sees Bianca in a prom dress; Cameron comes to the door to pick her up. Her dad reluctantly allows her to go. | Cameron: “Wow… I, um…”  Mr Stratford: “I know every cop in town, bucko!” |  |
| The night of the prom. High angle shot of the crowds and the band. Patrick and Kat enter; they have made up.  Meanwhile, Joey goes to Bianca’s house to find she has already left with Cameron.  Michael, dressed as Shakespeare, gets together with Mandella at the prom.  Patrick has arranged to have Kat’s favourite band play.  Joey has invited Chastity to the prom; she tells Bianca Joey was only interested in her to fulfil a bet.  Joey interrupts the happy couples to take out his anger on Patrick. Joey punches Cameron, and is punched by Bianca. Kat leaves. | Lyrics: “You say your love is bona fide, but that don’t coincide with the things that you do…”  Joey: “I didn’t pay you to take out Kat so that some little punk could snake me with Bianca.”  Joey: “I’m shooting a nose spray ad tomorrow!”  Bianca: “That’s for making my date bleed! That’s for my sister! And that’s for me!”  Patrick: “I didn’t care about the money, okay? I cared about you!”  Lyrics: “You will fly, you will crawl, God knows even angels fall... it’s no fairy tale, take it from me…” |  |
| Bianca and Cameron go sailing together. Bianca tries unsuccessfully to cheer Kat up.  Mr Stratford reveals that he is allowing Kat to go to University where she wants. | Kat: “Bianca beat the hell out of some guy… what’s the matter, upset that I rubbed off on her?”  Mr Stratford: “No, impressed.”  Mr Stratford: “Fathers don’t like to admit it when daughters are capable of running their own lives.” |  |
| In the English classroom. Kat reads her poem, then runs out of class.  She finds a gift in her car from Patrick – the guitar that she wanted. They make up. | Patrick: “Some a\*\*hole paid me to take out this really great girl… but I screwed up, I fell for her.” | Kat is no longer the anti-social rebel – she wears her hair nicely braided, and has a skirt and blouse on. |
| The camera zooms out, and the final credits roll with a pan of a band playing on the roof of the school in the background. |  |  |