

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A chain restaurant, similar to one of those that offer endless breadsticks, soup, and salad. Though we all know nobody gives a flip for endless salad.

A group of college friends (WALLY, KAREN, JOE, STEVEN, JANE, and LINA) sit in a booth, all in some variation of "text neck" position. Their faces are illuminated by the light emanating from their phablets (phone tablet for the uninitiated). Their thumbs scroll, pausing once in a while to act on a Facebook friend's post. We hear their thoughts.

WALLY

Wow, Jeff got a study abroad fellowship? He's my close bud, and I know how hard he works, so I'm going to "love" this. It's not "girly." In this case.

WALLY holds the "LIKE" BUTTON and shifts to the <3 emoji, then lets go to cement the reaction. More thoughts.

JOE

Whoa, go Jeff! I'll "heart" this since Wally just did, too.

KAREN

Ohmygosh, I just knew Jeff would get this fellowship. So not surprised. I thought I was going to, too, but no jealousy. None. Mm-mm.

However, KAREN scrolls past JEFF's fellowship post without even tapping the "like" button.

The chipper WAITER materializes at their booth. They all look up.

WAITER

(out loud)

Can I get you guys started with some drinks?

They're all going to a pre-game after this, so the answer comes naturally.

ALL FRIENDS

Water's fine.

(CONTINUED)

WAITER

Okay then!

The WAITER walks off, slightly dejected knowing that the bill won't be inflated with alcohol sale mark-up.

The friends turn their attention back to their phones. We are back in their heads. Their thoughts.

JANE

Oh wow, so many likes for my new profile pic! Well, I guess you can't just say "likes" anymore with the new buttons. Let's see...

JANE opens up the detail that shows the emoji breakdown of her friends' many reactions. She notices something.

JANE

What the heck, my boyfriend only "liked" my picture? Not even "love" or "wow"? Unacceptable.

JANE makes some kind of frustrated movement. The others look up.

STEVEN

(out loud)

Everything good over there?

JANE

Just got the shivers for a sec.

STEVEN

Okay...

The WAITER sets down their six waters then walks away.

LINA and STEVEN both succumb to the lure of their phones as well. (They had resisted and actually chatted until now.) Their thoughts.

LINA

Hmm, I agree with his opinion, and the issue also makes me mad. But I don't know if I should react "angry" or just "like" this.

LINA hovers then decides to react with an "angry."

LINA

Wait, that's a really mean-looking face.

LINA changes her reaction to just a "like." STEVEN happens across the same friend's rant that LINA "liked."

STEVEN

Damn, did he type that all on his phone? With his thumbs? Respect, bro, respect.

STEVEN easily picks the "wow" emoji and moves on. Something stops his scrolling in its thumb-tracks. It's a photo post of a girl with her arms hooked around a strapping fellow. Judging by the caption "A night with bae <3" and their body language, they're dating. (Or really, really, really close friends, with him possibly being friend-zoned soon.)

STEVEN

Oh-kay, that was quick. Real quick.

Ah, it all makes sense now.

STEVEN

I could just move on, like she already clearly has.

He scrolls past, but then scrolls back up to the post.

STEVEN

LOL, nah.

He hovers over the "like" button, then shifts to debate between the "heart" and the "haha" face. He selects the latter.

STEVEN

Just to eff with your head.

JANE sighs, probably unsatisfied with her boyfriend's defense of why he didn't hit the "heart" button, like he should've, of course.

The WAITER sets down a BASKET of breadsticks. The college students heads all pop up, and they descend on the basket.

WALLY

We should do this more often.

LINA

Yeah, we haven't caught up in forever. Let's do this on the regular from now on?

Everyone nods while holding a precious BREADSTICK in one hand, PHONE in the other.