

## Synopsis of *Mean Girls*

Cady and her parents have moved to a Chicago suburb from Kenya, Africa but Cady soon realizes that her high school classmates do not readily accept others who differ from them. Janis and Damian decide to help her as she tries to find her social group; the clique of high school social royalty dubbed "the Plastics" in particular. The trio consists of Regina George, the "Queen Bee"; Gretchen Wieners, Regina's nervous, eager-to-please second-in-command; and Karen Smith, the stereotypical dumb blonde. Regina and her fellow Plastics decide that the new girl will eat lunch with them for the rest of the week.

Later, Cady meets the dreamy Aaron Samuels (Regina's ex-boyfriend) and immediately falls for him. Kevin, head of the Mathletes, is impressed with Cady's performance in class and asks her to join them, but Gretchen warns Cady that joining the Mathletes is social suicide and Regina puts down Kevin to make him leave. The Plastics and Cady retire to Regina's house, where they show Cady their old Burn Book, where they put photos of their classmates and write mean comments about them. When they come across Janis' photo in the book, Gretchen explains that she and Regina used to be best friends. Regina claims Janis freaked out when she was unable to invite her to her thirteenth birthday party and ended up in art therapy. Later, Gretchen confides in Cady that, because of the state of her friendship with Regina, she has lost all confidence in herself.

The next day, Cady believes that if she acts stupid, Aaron will help her with her work, and therefore talk to her more. After using this tactic, Aaron invites Cady to his Halloween party. At the party, Gretchen tells Regina about Cady's crush on Aaron to get her approval. Spitefully, Regina decides to flirt with and manipulate Aaron until he agrees to get back together with her. Cady sees Aaron kissing Regina and is devastated. Furious, Cady shows up at Damian's house and tells him and Janis what happened. The three friends decide to work together to get revenge on Regina including making gain weight, breaking one of the Plastics' arbitrary clothing rules, etc. Cady eventually stands up to Regina, banning her from sitting at their table. Everyone is relieved to be freed from Regina's rule.

Following the winter break, Cady has undergone a complete makeover befitting of her new "Queen Bee" status leading Karen and Gretchen though Damian and Janis disapprove of this. Gretchen and Karen convince Cady to lie to her parents and throw a "small" party while they are gone for the weekend. Gretchen starts to notice similarities between her friendship with Regina and Cady.

Following Gretchen and Karen's advice, Cady throws a party to get Aaron to come over. However, she becomes intoxicated and crazier. When Aaron shows up, they sneak off to her bedroom, where Cady tells him the "funny" story about how she pretended that she was dumb to make him like her. Aaron becomes upset and says he liked the smart and kind Cady, not her new Plastic self. He leaves, but she chases after him and runs into Janis and Damian outside, who have come to confront her after the art show. They tell Cady that she betrayed their trust, lied to them, and has gone full Plastic. Cady accuses Janis of being in love with her, just as Regina did years ago. Janis and Damian are disgusted by Cady's behavior.

When Regina discovers that she was not invited to Cady's party, she decides to get revenge by releasing the Burn Book after adding "Regina is a Fugly Cow" to it to take the blame off of herself. She throws copies of the Burn Book pages all over the school, revealing the insults about everyone they know, except Karen, Gretchen, and Cady. Everyone starts to fight, Janis tries to empower the girls to stand up for themselves, Regina storms out in anger and disbelief, and Cady tries to apologize, but the former Plastic gets distracted and hit by a passing school bus.

The accident prompts Cady to reevaluate herself and realize what a monster she has become. Cady takes full blame for the Burn Book, despite not having written the entire thing herself. She is suspended for three weeks and banned from the Spring Fling. When she returns to school, she is offered a way to save her grade: joining the Mathletes at the state championships. The team wins, and Cady feels redeemed. She then sneaks into the Spring Fling where she runs into Regina, and they have a heart-to-heart before making up. Cady is elected Spring Fling Queen, but after noticing how fragile and cheap the plastic crown is, she breaks it into several pieces and gives them to each girl in attendance - telling them they are all "real, and rare." She apologizes to Janis and Damian, and they move forward as friends once more. Cady, Damian, Janis, Gretchen, Karen, Aaron, and Regina join together, finally accepting each other.