LIBRETTO VOCAL BOOK



Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown Book by Dan Elish and Robert Horn



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MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

Music Theatre International 421 West 54th Street New York NY 10019 (212) 541-4684 www.MTIShows.com

CHARACTERS

EVAN

BRETT

EDDIE

PATRICE

MALCOLM

KENDRA	
ARCHIE	
LUCY	
CASSIE	
CHARLOTTE	
MOLLY	
RICHIE	
SIMON	
RABBIS	.
KIDS	

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#1 - Thirteen

Drums. EVAN GOLDMAN, a twelve-and-a-half-year-old Jewish boy from New York City, enters and addresses the audience.

EVAN

PICTURE ME:

JUST ANOTHER COOL KID IN N.Y.C.,

NEAR THE PARK AND THE MET.

LIFE IS SWEET:

YANKEES IN THE BRONX, PRETZELS ON THE STREET =

JUST HOW GOOD CAN IT GET?

WHO'D HAVE GUESSED

DAD WOULD MEET A STEWARDESS?

MOM'S DEPRESSED,

AND HER LAWYERS ARE MEAN.

NOW I'M STRESSED -

LIFE IS A DISASTER

AND I'M CRACKING FROM THE STRAIN.

GOING TOTALLY INSANE,

AND I'M JUST ABOUT TO TURN,

JUST ABOUT TO TURN,

JUST ABOUT TO TURN...

Enter a group of New York City TEENAGERS, all romping through the city on a summer afternoon.

EVAN and KIDS

THIRTEEN!

EVAN

EVERYTHING SWITCHES...

KIDS

THIRTEEN!

EVAN

KIDS

EVERYTHING TURNS AROUND.

END UP IN STITCHES,

HIDE AWAY UNDERGROUND.

CAN I GET THROUGH IT?

LIFE HAS CHANGED OVERNIGHT!

HOW DO I DO IT?!

THIRTEEN!

NOTHING IS GOING RIGHT!

EVAN and KIDS

THE BEST AND THE WORST
AND THE MOST AND THE LEAST
AND THE CRAZY AND THE SCARY
AND I'M STANDING ON THE EDGE!

EVAN steps forward to talk to the audience.

EVAN

My name is Evan Goldman. I live at 224 West 92nd Street, in the heart of Manhattan, and my life just went to hell. You wanna talk about turning 13? It's a nightmare. First of all, my parents are splitting up. Second of all...

HE points to a pimple on his chin.

...can you see this? What is THIS? What did I do to deserve that? I've got one good thing happening this whole year: My Bar Mitzvah. The best party on the Upper West Side. The Jewish Super Bowl. I don't care how much my parents hate each other. They'd better pull it together and make sure everything about this party is absolutely, positively, for once, please God, perfect!

TWELVE YEARS OLD EVERYTHING THAT USED TO BE GOOD AS GOLD
STARTS TO CRUMBLE AND CRACK.

EVAN & TWO BOYS (SIMON, RICHIE ACTORS)

PRESSURE MOUNTS:

ONCE IT WAS A JOKE, NOW IT REALLY COUNTS AND THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.

ADD TWO GIRLS (CASSIE, CHARLOTTE ACTORS)

LIFE GOES WRONG.

ONE BOY (RICHIE ACTOR)

SUDDENLY THEY'RE YELLING 'CAUSE YOUR HAIR'S TOO LONG

ONE GIRL (CASSIE ACTOR)

OR YOUR ROOM ISN'T CLEAN.

ALL FIVE

ROLL ALONG:

EVAN

EVERY CONVERSATION IS ANOTHER LOST CAUSE OR A LIST OF MY FLAWS

(EVAN)

AND I'M JUST ABOUT TO TURN,

MORE KIDS

(RICHIE, CHARLOTTE, SIMON, KENDRA, CASSIE ACTORS)

JUST ABOUT TO TURN,

ADD MORE KIDS (MALCOLM, ARCHIE, MOLLY ACTORS)

GOD, I'M GONNA TURN

ALL

THIRTEEN!

BOY (RICHIE ACTOR)

I WANT A DIRT BIKE!

KIDS

THIRTEEN!

GIRL (LUCY ACTOR)

I WANT TO KILL MY MA.

KIDS

THIRTEEN!

BOY (EDDIE ACTOR)

I WANT A MUSTACHE!

KIDS

THIRTEEN!

GIRL (CASSIE ACTOR)

I WANT A WONDERBRA!

KIDS

SIMON, EDDIE, LUCY, CASSIE, RICHIE, PATRICE, MOLLY ACTORS

THIRTEEN!

WHEN DO I GET IT?

THIRTEEN!

ALL OF THE GROWN-UP STUFF?

THIRTEEN!

HOW WILL I MAKE IT?

THIRTEEN!

WHEN AM I OLD ENOUGH?

ALL

WHY IS THE WORLD FEELING SUDDENLY STRANGER?

WHY ARE MY FRIENDS ACTING TOTALLY WEIRD?

WHY DO I FEEL LIKE MY LIFE IS IN DANGER?

WHY DO I FEEL LIKE MY BRAIN DISAPPEARED?

GIRL (MOLLY ACTOR)

HOW WILL I GET THROUGH A YEAR OF SPANISH?

BOY (SIMON ACTOR)

HOW CAN I NOT LOOK DUMB IN TRACK?

BOY (BRETT ACTOR)

HOW CAN I GAIN TWENTY POUNDS BY FRIDAY?

BOY (MALCOLM ACTOR)

HOW CAN I MAKE MY VOICE NOT CRACK?

ALL

I WANNA FLY, WANNA RUN, WANNA DRIVE,

KENDRA, SIMON, RICHIE, CHARLOTTE ACTORS WANNA GET RICH,

BRETT, LUCY, MALCOLM, MOLLY ACTORS WANNA GET DRUNK,

CASSIE, EVAN, PATRICE, EDDIE, ARCHIE ACTORS
WANNA GET OUT!

KENDRA, SIMON, RICHIE, CHARLOTTE ACTORS
WANNA GET MY BRACES OFF,

BRETT, LUCY, MALCOLM, MOLLY ACTORS WANNA GET MY NOSE PIERCED,

CASSIE, EVAN, PATRICE, EDDIE, ARCHIE ACTORS
WANNA GROW MY HAIR LONG,

ALL

BUT ALL I KEEP HEARING IS:

"NO, YOU'RE NOT READY!"

"NO, IT'S NOT TIME YET!"

"NO, IT'S NOT RIGHT NOW!"

"WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE OLDER!"

"NO, YOU'RE NOT READY!"

"NO, IT'S NOT TIME YET!"

"NO, IT'S NOT RIGHT NOW!"

"WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE OLDER!"

(ALL)

"NO, YOU'RE NOT READY!"

"NO, IT'S NOT TIME YET!"

"NO, IT'S NOT RIGHT NOW!"

"WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE OLDER!"

THREE KIDS (EVAN, BRETT, MOLLY ACTORS)

"HOMEWORK!"

THREE OTHER KIDS (EDDIE, PATRICE, CHARLOTTE ACTORS)
"LAUNDRY!"

THREE MORE KIDS (KENDRA, MALCOLM, KENDRA ACTORS)
"DISHES!"

THREE OTHER KIDS (LUCY, SIMON, RICHIE, ACTORS)
"COURSES!"

ALL

"JUST SETTLE DOWN AND HOLD YOUR HORSES!"

Guitar solo and dance. The KIDS' energy fills the stage. As they finish, A RABBI, fully decked out in furry hat and peyes, crosses the stage and recites EVAN's haftorah as he goes. Everyone watches with a kind of awe.

RABBI

KOH-AMAR HA'EL ADOSHEM BORE HASHAMAYIM VENOTEYHEM ROKA HA'ARETS...

#1a - Becoming A Man

EVAN

I'M BECOMING A MAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT "A MAN" REALLY MEANS.
THE RULEBOOK GROWS,
BUT NO ONE KNOWS
WHAT ALL THE RULES ALLOW.

I'M BECOMING A MAN.

NO ONE TELLS ALL US SCARED IN-BETWEENS
JUST HOW WE SHOULD

BE STRONG, BE GOOD,

WITH SO MUCH PRESSURE NOW!

(EVAN)

ONE DAY IT GETS BETTER ONE DAY IT MAKES SENSE.
ONE DAY I'LL STOP TALKING IN THE FRIGGIN' FUTURE TENSE.
ONE DAY IN OCTOBER,
IT'LL ALL BE GREAT!
AND I CAN'T WAIT!
I CAN'T WAIT!

#1b - Thirteen - Coda

GIRL (KENDRA ACTOR)

(to EVAN)

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

ANOTHER GIRL (LUCY ACTOR)

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

The KIDS begin overlapping.

TWO BOYS (SIMON, RICHIE ACTORS)

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

TWO KIDS (EDDIE, CHARLOTTE ACTORS)

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

THREE KIDS (ARCHIE, MOLLY, MALCOLM ACTORS)

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

THREE KIDS (BRETT, KENDRA, LUCY ACTORS)

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY! PARTY!

THREE KIDS (RICHIE, CASSIE, PATRICE ACTORS)

...PARTY! I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

THREE KIDS (EDDIE, MOLLY, MALCOLM ACTORS)

I CAN'T WAIT, YOUR PARTY!

A drum solo. The KIDS turn to the audience.

ALL THE KIDS

I CAN'T WAIT! I CAN'T WAIT!

CAN'T WAIT,

CAN'T WAIT.

CAN'T WAIT, CAN'T WAIT, CAN'T WAIT, CAN'T WAIT FOR

ONE GROUP

EVAN, BRETT, KENDRA, LUCY, EDDIE, PATRICE ACTORS

THIRTEEN!

SOMETHING IS COMIN'!

THIRTEEN!

SOMETHING IS GOIN' UP!

THIRTEEN!

SOMETHING IS HUMMIN'!

THIRTEEN!

SOMEBODY'S GROWIN' UP!

ALL

THIRTEEN!

CASSIE ACTOR does a scat solo.

THIRTEEN!

EDDIE ACTOR responds with a scat solo.

THIRTEEN

MALCOLM ACTOR does a scat solo.

THIRTEEN!

CHARLOTTE ACTOR does a scat solo.

THE BEST AND THE WORST
AND THE MOST AND THE LEAST
AND THE CRAZY AND THE SCARY
AND WE'RE JUST ABOUT TO TURN
THIRTEEN!

BIG FINISH. All KIDS are around EVAN. EVAN's phone rings. HE answers it.

EVAN

Hey mom, what's up? What?

The kids listen intently.

(EVAN)

You never said anything about moving! Where? INDIANA? Nooooo!

#1c-Indiana Transition

As though a tornado were ripping through the theater, the entire set suddenly rips apart, and all the TEENAGERS disappear. When the chaos subsides, EVAN is alone on a windy plain with farmhouses in the distance; he has landed in the open, Indiana bleakness. He stands there in shock, takes a beat, turns to the audience, and says:

Appleton, Indiana. No, seriously. My parents split up, my life falls apart, and now I'm in a town where UFO's go to refuel!

PATRICE, a somewhat eccentric and bookish girl, enters and joins EVAN.

PATRICE

I can't believe someone finally moved in next door. I thought that house was haunted.

EVAN

Mom said she had to get as far away from New York as possible.

PATRICE

Wow. Sounds like the divorce got ugly.

EVAN

Ugly? My dad totally ruined our lives, and my mom's a mess. She went around the apartment cutting his head out of all the photos.

PATRICE

No!

EVAN

With her teeth!

PATRICE

No!

EVAN

She tells me we're leaving New York, but then she says, "It's your decision," which we all know is Jewish for "You're coming with me!" So she drags me away from my home and all my friends and now I have to have my Bar Mitzvah in Appleton, Indiana!

PATRICE

If it's so awful, just don't have it.

Yeah, right. Try telling that to my Mom. For Jews, your Bar Mitzvah is the one day everything in your life is supposed to be happy and perfect.

PATRICE

See, Catholics don't have that day. It would go against everything we believe in.

EVAN

Besides, how hot your party is totally sets up how popular you'll be. So I need this one to be the best! The <u>best</u> DJ in the <u>best</u> ballroom at the <u>best</u> hotel...

PATRICE

...which is The Best Western.

#2 - The Lamest Place In The World

EVAN

Come on, Patrice. There's got to be someplace in this town.

PATRICE

Sorry, but your choices are like my life here: limited.

EVAN

Limited to what?

PATRICE

Well, um, okay.

SHE sings:

DOWN THE ROAD, THERE'S A DAIRY QUEEN.

UP THE BLOCK, THERE'S A WALMART.

THERE'S A PLACE YOU CAN ACCESSORIZE YOUR PETS.

A SCHOOL, A TREE, A COUPLE OF CHURCHES,

AND NO MATTER HOW HARD ANYBODY SEARCHES,

THAT'S ABOUT AS THRILLING AS THIS DUMB-ASS VILLAGE GETS.

IT'S THE LAMEST PLACE IN THE WORLD,
BUT IT JUST GOT A LITTLE BIT BETTER,
SO DON'T DISAPPEAR.
IT'S THE LAMEST PLACE IN THE WORLD,
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE
IT'S NOT AS LAME AS IT WAS BEFORE
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE.

Patrice, that can't be everything. There's gotta be more to do around here.

PATRICE

The inbreeding takes up a lot of our time.

EVAN

And when that's done ...?

PATRICE

FORTY MILES TO THE NEAREST RIVER,
SIXTY MILES TO THE AIRPORT,
WHEN WE PLAN OUR ESCAPE, THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO BE.
IT'S A SHAME, IT'S A SHAM, IT'S A TERRIBLE PITY
YOU GOT DRAGGED AWAY FROM NEW YORK CITY,
IT'S MAJOR SUCK FOR YOU, BUT IT'S AMAZING LUCK FOR ME!

IT'S THE LAMEST PLACE IN THE WORLD,
BUT IT JUST GOT A LITTLE BIT BETTER,
I'M HAPPY TO SAY:
IT'S THE LAMEST PLACE IN THE WORLD -

AND YOU'RE COMPLETELY EXOTIC,
INTELLECTUAL, NEUROTIC,
YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE A SHOT EXCEPT YOU FOUND THE PERFECT GUIDE!

AND THOUGH I DON'T REALLY KNOW YOU,
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SHOW YOU
EVERY FAKE AND FREAK, EVERY FOOL AND CLOWN,
SINCE THE CHIPPEWA SETTLED THIS STUPID TOWN,
LET 'EM LAUGH! THEY WON'T KEEP ME DOWN
WITH YOU BY MY SIDE!

IT JUST GOT A LITTLE BIT BETTER!

AMAZING BUT TRUE!

YES, THE LAMEST PLACE IN THE WORLD

HAS LOTS OF FLAWS

BUT MAYBE IT'LL BE FINE BECAUSE

IT BROUGHT ME TO YOU!

Wow, Patrice...

PATRICE

Come on. I'll show you the hillside where everyone waits for the Resurrection.

PATRICE smiles and walks off, EVAN turns to us. The scene transitions to a park near the school.

EVAN

Maybe it'll all work out. Patrice is nice, my mom's awake and weaning herself off the meds, and I'll be totally set up here, if I can just get all the coolest kids to come to my party...

Enter BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE in the midst of a conversation. BRETT is the prototypical junior high school football star, cool, handsome, and not quite as smart as a postage stamp. EDDIE and MALCOLM are his goons, two wannabes who flank him constantly.

BRETT

Okay, guys, listen up.

EVAN

...Like Brett Sampson! Look at him! He's the star quarterback, the class president, he's got a pool in his backyard... If he comes to my Bar Mitzvah, everyone comes.

BRETT

Kendra is going to be here any minute. We have to get this right. What have you got for me?

EDDIE

Check it out, yo, we on it. 1, 2, 3, here we go...

Music starts, classic bedroom-style soul. MALCOLM and EDDIE sing to an imaginary Kendra.

#3 - Hey Kendra

MALCOLM and EDDIE

HEY KENDRA...

BRETT

(spoken, to an imaginary Kendra)

Hey, Kendra.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

I BEEN THINKIN'...

BRETT

I've been thinking.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

I GOTTA, GOTTA, GOTTA GET WIT'CHOO.

BRETT

So true.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

I WANNA GET ALL UP IN YO' BIDNESS, GIRL.

BRETT

...bidness...

MALCOLM and EDDIE

AND MAKE YOU FEEL REAL FINE.

BRETT

Real fine, not fake fine.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

HEY KENDRA!

BRETT

Hey Kendra.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

COME CLOSER.

BRETT

Much closer.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

I GOT MYSELF A BRAND NEW ROCKING HORSE...

BRETT

...rocking horse.

(to EDDIE and MALCOLM)

Wait. What?

MALCOLM and EDDIE

WHY DON'T YOU CLIMB UP HERE, MAMA?

EDDIE

(spanking himself as HE sings)

AND ROCK IT, ROCK IT ALL NIGHT LONG!

BRETT

Okay, stop! Rocking horse? Yeah, not gonna work.

EDDIE

Yeah, so gonna work. It's double edge...

MALCOLM and EDDIE

...smoooooooth.

BRETT

Guys, Kendra's a "good girl." I do that, I'll never get the tongue!

MALCOLM and EDDIE

(with wonderment)

The tongue!

EDDIE

Where are you gonna do it, Brett?

MALCOLM

(elbowing EDDIE)

You said "Do it." Heh heh.

BRETT

You two didn't set something up? I'm very disappointed, Eddie. Malcolm.

(THEY hang their heads in shame.)

There's gotta be a place that sets the mood right! Come on, guys...

EVAN

(To audience)

It's becoming clear I can do something better than Brett.

BRETT

Think!!!

EVAN

(To audience)

Exactly!

(To Brett)

Hey. Brett. How about taking her to a scary movie? She'll get terrified, inch her way closer, open her mouth to scream, and your tongue will just get sucked in with the jet stream!

BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE all turn to look at Evan.

BRETT

Whoa!

MALCOLM and EDDIE

Whoa!

BRETT

A scary movie! Who is this guy?

EVAN

I'm Evan Goldman. From New York.

BRETT

New York? Whoa!

MALCOLM and EDDIE

Whoa!

BRETT

I'm gonna call you... Brain!

MALCOLM and EDDIE

Brain!

EVAN

(trying it on)

Brain.

EDDIE

(seeing LUCY and KENDRA approaching)

Incoming! Kendra, three o'clock...

BRETT

(cueing EDDIE to begin the song)

Eddie.

EDDIE

1, 2, 3, get shizzy...

The music starts as KENDRA enters. SHE's not only the prettiest and most popular girl in school, she's also the most oblivious.

BRETT

Hey Kendra.

LUCY, her best friend, comes running in and steps in front of KENDRA. Lucy, as a rule, is not to be trusted.

(BRETT)

(deflated)

Oh, hi Lucy.

LUCY

Lucky us, running into you when I'm looking so hot.

BRETT

(pushing past Lucy)

Kendra, you look amazing.

KENDRA

I almost didn't wear this, but then I thought,
(as if having a life changing epiphany)

No. Wear it!

BRETT

Kendra, there's something I wanna ask you...

LUCY

Oh God...

MALCOLM and EDDIE

HEY KENDRA!

BRETT

(suddenly he's Barry White)

Hey Kendra.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

BRETT

I've been thinking.

ALL THREE

I WANNA SPEND A LITTLE SPECIAL TIME WITH YOU.

KENDRA

Aw...

ALL THREE

I WANNA TAKE YOU TO A MOVIE, GIRL.

BRETT

Friday night.

MALCOLM and EDDIE

DOWN AT THE MALL.

KENDRA

It's perfect!

LUCY

(interrupting)

NO NO NO NO!

YOU CAN'T GO TO THE MOVIES ON FRIDAY NIGHT!

MALCOLM and EDDIE

NO, NO, SHE CAN'T DO IT.

LUCY

I SAID SHE CAN'T GO!

MALCOLM and EDDIE

UH-UH, NO WAY.

LUCY

'CAUSE YOU ALREADY COMMITTED TO DO THAT THING!

KENDRA

(mystified)

WHAT THING?

LUCY

THAT THING!

KENDRA

WHAT THING?

LUCY

THAT THING YOU SAID YOU WOULD DO ON FRIDAY!

KENDRA

THERE IS NO THING!

LUCY

YES, THERE IS, KENDRA!

KENDRA

I'M GOING TO THE MOVIES FRIDAY NIGHT WITH BRETT!

LUCY

NO YOU'RE NOT! DON'T CONTRADICT ME IN PUBLIC, KENDRA! WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER!

KENDRA

FINE!

An awkward pause. The GIRLS smile at the BOYS.

BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE

HEY KENDRA...

I'M BEGGING...

MALCOLM

PLEASE COME TO THE MOVIES ON FRIDAY ...

BRETT executes a fancy move on the word "Please".

KENDRA

Sure I'll come!

LUCY

(grabbing her and dragging her offstage)

We so have to talk!

LUCY and KENDRA exit.

BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE

(high five)

OO, BABY, WE SO GOOOOD.

EDDIE

YOU GONNA GET ALL UP IN HER BIDNESS, YO!

BRETT turns to EVAN.

BRETT

Nice work, Brain. I'll see you when school starts!

BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE exit, EVAN turns to us.

EVAN

(to audience)

"I'll see you when school starts!" I'm so in with Brett, which means everyone's gonna come to my party...

(PATRICE enters)

...which is going to be amazing, thanks to all your help. Let's get to school so I can pass out these invites.

PATRICE

Evan, wait. Before you pass these out... If those guys know I'm coming, there won't be a party. I've been trying to tell you for the last month, they hate me.

EVAN

Patrice, stop that. What makes you think they hate you?

PATRICE

They write "we hate you" on my locker. Look, I don't read what they read, watch what they watch, shop where they shop or think like they think and neither do you. Trust me, you should stay away from those guys.

EVAN

This town isn't about people like you and me. It's about people like them. We can't just hide away.

PATRICE

Yes, we can.

EVAN

Besides which, they're fun! Come on. I have a good feeling about our first day at... (to the audience, meaningfully)

Dan Quayle Junior High.

#3a – Invitations

Music. We are in the central hallway of Dan Quayle Junior High. the walls lined with "GO QUAILS" posters and rows of lockers. Students arrive and break into cliques. EVAN and PATRICE arrive last. BRETT sees EVAN come in.

BRETT

Hey! It's the Brain!

EVAN passes out the invitations, first to BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE, then gradually to everyone else.

EVAN

(to audience)

I'VE GOT ONE DAY IN OCTOBER
WHEN THE PIECES ALL WILL FIT.
WHEN I'M FINALLY ACCEPTED
AND MY PARTY IS A HIT.
I'VE GOT ONE DAY IN OCTOBER, AND I KNOW IT'S GONNA BE...

BRETT

(trying to decipher the invitation)

A bra what?

EDDIE

Like, okay, so, what is a Barf Matzah anyway?

LUCY

It's this weird Jewish thing where they make you talk backwards and everyone gets circumcised.

ALL (EXCEPT EVAN & PATRICE)

Oh.

EVAN

No, no, no! It's a party. With a hot DJ, and wild dancing.

The KIDS all look to BRETT.

BRETT

That might be cool.

CASSIE

Count me in.

MOLLY

I'll be there.

EVAN continues handing out invitations.

EVAN

(to audience)

I'VE GOT ONE DAY IN OCTOBER AND IT'S GOTTA BE JUST RIGHT.

He hands his last invitation to PATRICE.

LUCY

Hold on. Is the freak coming?

EVAN

Patrice?

MOLLY

Yeah. 'Cause if she comes, we're so snubbing.

CASSIE

Count me out.

Come on. What's wrong with Patrice?

BRETT

She'll be there.

LUCY

And we won't.

MALCOLM

And if they don't go, we don't go.

EDDIE

Get it?

PATRICE

I told you. Come on, Evan...

EVAN

Guys, you got it wrong...

BRETT

Make up your mind, Brain. It's either us... or her.

BRETT takes the invitation from PATRICE and gives it back to EVAN.

Up to you.

Everyone freezes. EVAN turns to us.

EVAN

I'VE GOT ONE DAY IN OCTOBER
AND IF I DON'T GET IT DOWN,
THEN IT'S ONE MORE HUGE DISASTER,
LIKE MY PARENTS, LIKE THIS TOWN.
I'VE GOT ONE DAY IN OCTOBER...
I CAN MAKE IT TO OCTOBER...
BUT IT'S REALLY GOTTA BE THE PERFECT PARTY.
THE PERFECT PARTY!

EVAN makes a decision – HE hands the invitation to PATRICE. BRETT and the others turn disgustedly to walk away, but in a panic EVAN reaches, takes back Patrice's invitation, and rips it in half.

BRETT

(to everybody)

See what I told you? He is the Brain!

There is a group cheer. PATRICE walks away, humiliated and reeling from the betrayal.

(BRETT)

(to EVAN)

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

LUCY

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

SIMON, RICHIE

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

EDDIE, CHARLOTTE

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

MOLLY, MALCOLM

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

BRETT, KENDRA, LUCY

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

SIMON, CASSIE

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME TO YOUR PARTY!

RICHIE, CHARLOTTE

PARTY!

During the preceding lines, ARCHIE has entered. His energy and look are unlike anything else on stage, and he walks on crutches as the result of muscular dystrophy.

ARCHIE

What party?

All the other KIDS ignore ARCHIE and go on about their business.

ALL KIDS

I CAN'T WAIT! I CAN'T WAIT!

CAN'T WAIT

CAN'T WAIT

CAN'T WAIT, CAN'T WAIT, CAN'T WAIT FOR

THIRTEEN!

BRETT does a crazy dance move.

THIRTEEN!

Some KIDS take it up.

THIRTEEN!

The rest of the KIDS take it up as EVAN walks among them, trying to figure out the steps.

(ALL KIDS)

THIRTEEN!

THIRTEEN!

THIRTEEN!

The KIDS all dance offstage leaving EVAN looking for PATRICE. ARCHIE tries to get his attention.

ARCHIE

Oh, hi! You're the new kid, right?

EVAN

(looking around)

Oh yeah, hi. I'm Evan.

ARCHIE

I'm Archie. I pass by your house every morning when you're waiting for the bus. See, I'm on the special needs bus. 'Cause of my crutches.

EVAN

Bummer...

ARCHIE

It's okay, at least nobody makes fun of me on the special needs bus. That'd be ironic.

EVAN

So, it's been really great meeting you, Archie...

ARCHIE

Are you looking for Patrice?

EVAN

You know Patrice?

ARCHIE

Sure, she's like my best friend. Also my only friend.

EVAN

Do you know where she is?

ARCHIE

Why? You wanna do something else to publicly humiliate her and ruin her life?

EVAN

Oh. You know about that, huh?

ARCHIE

Yeah, it's already on YouTube. But I think I can help.

EVAN

Really? That would be amazing.

ARCHIE

And then, you can do something for me? A deal, of sorts.

EVAN

(tentative)

Wait a second. What kind of a deal?

ARCHIE

A small deal. A no-big-deal deal. I need a date!

EVAN

Uh. Okay. And is there anyone specific you want a date with?

ARCHIE

Kendra.

EVAN

Kendra? Are you on crack?

ARCHIE

She wants me.

EVAN

Come on. There's no way I can get Kendra to go out with you.

ARCHIE

Fine then. I'll just sit next to her at your Bar Mitzvah, I'll rub my leg against hers, hope I feel it, and before long I'll be attending to *her* special needs.

EVAN

Okay, first of all, YUCK. And second of all, I don't remember inviting you to my Bar Mitzvah.

ARCHIE

Do I really need an invitation? You think your mother would throw Tiny Tim out on to the street? And so close to Christmas?

EVAN

Archie, I've really gotta go find Patrice.

EVAN heads off.

ARCHIE

I understand. Even though it's a sick boy's <u>dying wish</u>, I don't want you to feel any pressure...

EVAN stops cold. With enormous reluctance, he turns back to face ARCHIE.

EVAN

Dying?

ARCHIE

Oh, did that slip out?

EVAN

Really? You're dying?

ARCHIE

I have a degenerative neuromuscular disorder.

EVAN

Look, I feel terrible, really, but I can't get you a date with Kendra.

#4 - Get Me What I Need

I do one stupid thing, and suddenly I'm exiled to the loser table for the rest of my life. I'm on major probation here!

ARCHIE

There's exactly one person in this school who can help me, and that person is you!

THERE'S THE COOL KIDS –
THERE'S THE PREPS
AND THERE'S THE SKATE PUNKS
AND THE JOCKS –
AND THEN THERE'S ME.

THERE'S THE LOSERS –
THERE'S THE NERDS
AND THERE'S THE STONERS
AND THE GOTHS –
AND THEN THERE'S ME.

BUT THEN THERE'S YOU!

'CAUSE YOU'RE THE NEW KID IN THE SCHOOL,
YOU'RE NOT DEFINED BY ONE SPECIFIC BREED,

(ARCHIE)

AND SO YOU'RE FREE TO FLIT FROM GROUP TO GROUP, FROM SCENE TO SCENE,
'CAUSE YOU'RE THE CONDUIT, THE MEDIUM, THE GO-BETWEEN, WHICH MEANS YOU'RE PERFECTLY POSITIONED TO GET ME WHAT I NEED!

School Bell. BRETT runs onstage backwards, going out for a pass -

BRETT

I got it! I got it! I got it!

- the throw comes, he jumps for it and catches it, but knocks over ARCHIE in the process, and ARCHIE in turn knocks over EVAN. BRETT looks down at the two as HE runs off the stage.

BRETT

(as HE crosses, pointing to ARCHIE)

Yo Brain! That guy? Not cool.

EVAN

(yelling to BRETT)

Okay, got it, thanks!

ARCHIE

THEY DON'T LIKE ME.

EVEN BACK BEFORE THE CRUTCHES.

IT WAS CLEAR.

I DON'T FIT HERE.

SO IT'S HOPELESS,

I CAN'T WALK RIGHT UP TO KENDRA AND SAY "HEY."

SHE'D RUN AWAY.

BUT LOOK AT YOU!

YOU'RE MAKING FRIENDS AND HAVING PARTIES

AND ADAPTING WITH IMPRESSIVE SPEED!

JUST TWENTY MINUTES WHEN WE'RE SITTING

SO OUR KNEES COULD TOUCH -

YES, IT'S A TINY INCONVENIENCE BUT IT MEANS SO MUCH!

'CAUSE OUT OF ALL OF INDIANA, YOU CAN GET ME WHAT I NEED!

EVAN

It's impossible!

ARCHIE

AND WHAT I NEED IS KENDRA!

The set breaks apart gym doors open to reveal ARCHIE'S vision of KENDRA, the idealized fantasy cheerleader goddess, surrounded perhaps by a host of angels.

ARCHIE

BOYS

KENDRA! KENDRA!

BEAUTIFUL KENDRA!

KENDRA! KENDRA!

WONDERFUL KENDRA! MAKE HER APPEAR! АН АН АН

AH AH!

ARCHIE & BOYS

IF YOU WANT A GIRL, THE GIRL YOU WANT IS

ARCHIE

GIRLS

KENDRA!

KENDRA! KENDRA!

VERY HOT KENDRÁ!

BOYS

VERY HOT, VERY HOT!

GO TELL KENDRA I'M WAITING HERE!

#4a - Kendra Dream

The fantasy KENDRA disappears as the set reassembles, with ARCHIE trying to catch up to her.

ARCHIE

(calling after her)

Kendra! Kendra!

But she is gone. ARCHIE is alone onstage with EVAN.

#4b - Get Me What I Need Coda

(ARCHIE)

HERE'S THE PROBLEM: EVERY MINUTE, EVERY SECOND THAT I WAIT

(ARCHIE)

MIGHT BE TOO LATE.
SO LET'S FACE IT:
IF I EVER HAD A CHANCE, THE TIME IS NOW.
SO WHO CARES HOW?

JUST DO YOUR BEST,
AND I WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN,
AND THAT'S A PROMISE, GUARANTEED!
SO YOU CAN HELP ME OUT AND WE CAN BOTH DO VERY WELL,
OR I CAN TURN AROUND AND MAKE YOUR LIFE A LIVING HELL!
IT'S UP TO YOU, YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE, YOU'VE GOT INCENTIVE
TO SUCCEED!
YES, I KNOW IT SOUNDS INSANE.
JERRY LEWIS CAN EXPLAIN!
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, EVAN,
HELP ME, EVAN,
HELP ME, EVAN,
HELP ME, EVAN!
GET ME WHAT I

HE takes a huge breath and proceeds to hold the next word for as long as possible:

NEED!

EVAN

(desperate to shut him up)

I'll try!

ARCHIE

I knew you would.

THEY exit. The School Bell rings.

Transition to the school gymnasium. LUCYenters in her cheerleading outfit, scheming.

#5 - Opportunity

LUCY

BRETT WANTS KENDRA TO BE HIS GIRLFRIEND.
BUT BRETT IS THE BOY THAT I WANT TO BE WITH.
I ONLY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR MY BEST FRIEND...

(LUCY)

SO DO I WAIT, ACTING FAKE, 'TIL SHE MAKES A MISTAKE OR DO I TAKE THE REWARD THAT I REALLY WANT TO TAKE? IF I PRAYED TO GOD AND CRIED A LITTLE, MAYBE HE'D PROVIDE A LITTLE O-P-P, OPPORTUNITY! O-P-P, OPPORTUNITY.

The other CHEERLEADERS – MOLLY, CASSIE and CHARLOTTE – enter and sing with LUCY, perhaps acting as her minions.

CHEERLEADERS

O-P-P, OPPORTUNITY, O-P-P!

LUCY

OPPORTUNITY.

CHEERLEADERS

WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH-OH, WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH.

LUCY

GOD, WHAT A GOOD GIRL I COULD BE
IF I ONLY HAD AN ITTY-BITTY OPPORTUNITY.

KENDRA runs in and leads the CHEERLEADERS in their new routine.

CHEERLEADERS

HERE COME THE QUAYLE QUAILS BURNIN' UP THE FIELD! HO!

HERE COME THE QUAILS AND YOU'RE NEVER GONNA KNOW WHAT HIT YA!

HO!

WE GOT THE HEAT! WHAT? WE GOT THE HEAT! WHAT?

WE GOT THE HEAT AND WE'RE TURNIN' IT UP! COME ON!

HERE COME THE QUAYLE QUAILS READY TO BEGIN!
HO!
HERE COME THE QUAILS AND WE'RE BRINGIN' IT IN!
WE GOT THE O-P-P,
THE O-P-P,
THE OPPORTUNITY, OPPORTUNITY TO WIN!

THEY break formation. LUCY takes Kendra aside.

LUCY

Hey, I had an idea! Why don't you go out with that kid Daniel from church?

KENDRA

You mean, while I'm going out with Brett?

LUCY

No. I mean instead of Brett.

KENDRA

But I'm already going out with Brett.

LUCY

Okay, the thing is, I'm just worried that maybe you're not ready. Brett's the hottest boy in school. You need to work your way up to a "Brett."

KENDRA

You ARE jealous!

LUCY

I am not!

KENDRA

Lucy, you can go out with anyone you want.

LUCY

That's not the point.

KENDRA

No, really, you're not that fat!

LUCY

Look. Brett asked you to the movies for one reason only. He wants to do "The Tongue!"

KENDRA

The tongue?

LUCY

The Tongue! And trust me, you won't like it.

KENDRA

But my mother says pretending you like it prepares you for marriage.

(to the GIRLS)

Come on, let's go!

The GIRLS go back to practicing the cheer in slow-motion while we hear Lucy's thoughts.

LUCY

I CAN SEE BEING BRETT'S NEW GIRLFRIEND.

WE COULD BE KING AND QUEEN OF THIS SCHOOL.

OMG, AND YOU KNOW THAT HE WANTS ME.

BUT SINCE IT'S KENDRA HE ASKED, THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY.

UNLESS I SCHEME AND I PLOT 'TIL SHE'S OUT OF THE WAY?

IF IT DIDN'T MAKE ME HATE MYSELF,

I BET I COULD CREATE MYSELF AN

CHEERLEADERS

O-P-P!

LUCY

OPPORTUNITY.

CHEERLEADERS

O-P-P!

LUCY

OPPORTUNITY.

CHEERLEADERS

HEY-O! O-P-P, OPPORTUNITY,

O-P-P!

LUCY

OPPORTUNITY.

CHEERLEADERS

WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH-OH, WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH.

LUCY

HOW WILL HE KNOW THAT HE REALLY WANTS ME IF HE NEVER EVEN GETS A LITTLE OPPORTUNITY?

And now the cascade begins, which consists of Kendra being flipped from one girl to the next. It's complicated and elaborate and depends on split-second timing. It also depends on KENDRA being on top of the pyramid at the end.

CASSIE, CHARLOTTE & MOLLY

WHOA-OH! WHOA-OH-OH! WHOA-OH! WHOA-OH-OH! WHOA-OH! WHOA-OH-OH! Through some miracle of manipulation, LUCY has ended up atop the pyramid and KENDRA is on the ground.

LUCY

WHAT KIND OF BEST FRIEND WOULD I BE
IF I DIDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY?

Blackout.

School bell rings. PATRICE is sitting in the library writing furiously in her diary. ARCHIE enters, PATRICE sees him and immediately jumps up and starts to leave.

ARCHIE

Hey Patrice... wait.

PATRICE

I don't want to talk now, Archie.

ARCHIE

It's about Evan.

PATRICE

Especially about Evan.

ARCHIE

What he did, he really didn't mean it.

PATRICE

Yeah, ripping up my invitation in front of everyone who hates me isn't what he meant.

ARCHIE

Come on. You know you really like him.

PATRICE

And why would you think that?

ARCHIE

You said "I really like him." But maybe I read that one wrong.

PATRICE

Why are you sticking up for him?

ARCHIE

He's a nice guy. He's new. He made a mistake. And I think we're going to be friends.

PATRICE

Good luck with that.

ARCHIE

Come on. Give him another chance.

PATRICE

Another chance? No, sorry.

#6 - What It Means To Be A Friend

I've given "another chance" to every other jerk in this town. I thought there was something special about him. "Friend." Please...

(SHE sings)

A FRIEND'S NOT A CHEAP LITTLE PHONY CREEP OR A JERK TRYING TO MAKE A DEAL. A FRIEND IS A PERSON WHO, MOST OF ALL, CARES ABOUT WHAT YOU FEEL; AND NOTHING IS HARDER THAN LEARNING A FRIEND ISN'T REAL.

A FRIEND SENDS NOTES BACK AND FORTH ALL DAY
AND DOESN'T CARE THAT YOU CAN'T SPELL.
A FRIEND KNOWS YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON YOUR TEACHER,
BUT A FRIEND WOULD NEVER TELL.
A FRIEND'S OUTSIDE WAITING
THE MINUTE YOU BOTH HEAR THE BELL...

AND IF YOUR HEART IS ALWAYS BREAKING
'CAUSE THE WORLD IS JUST NOT FAIR,
WHEN YOU'RE AT YOUR WORST,
YOUR FRIEND'S THE FIRST ONE THERE,
GIVING YOU SOMETHING TO LEAN ON –
AND THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FRIEND.

ARCHIE

You've got him all wrong, Patrice. You'll see.

HE exits.

PATRICE

A FRIEND WON'T SMOKE WHEN SHE'S IN YOUR ROOM OR LAUGH AT THE POEMS YOU WRITE.

A FRIEND WON'T GO AND START KISSING YOUR BROTHER THE MINUTE THAT YOU'RE OUT OF SIGHT.

(PATRICE)

A FRIEND IS THE PERSON
YOU CALL SIXTEEN TIMES EV'RY NIGHT...

AND IF YOUR HEART IS ALWAYS BREAKING, AND YOU WANT TO RUN AND HIDE, WHEN YOUR HOPE IS GONE, YOUR FRIEND IS ON YOUR SIDE.

IF SOMEONE MOVES IN 'ROUND THE CORNER
AND YOU WANT TO SHOW HIM YOU CARE,
SO YOU GIVE HIM ALL YOUR LAST MONTH OF VACATION
AND ALL OF THE TIME YOU CAN SPARE,
AND THEN, ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES,
HE ACTS LIKE YOU'RE NOT EVEN THERE,
THEN HE DOESN'T KNOW...
HE DOESN'T KNOW!
HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE
A FRIEND.

Lights fade on PATRICE.

#7 - All Hail The Brain

School bell rings. A classroom, in the middle of a math test. KIDS enter pushing their school desks into place. BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE approach EVAN.

EDDIE

Yo, Brain.

BRETT

Brain, your idea of taking Kendra to a scary movie was great. Now, get your Mom to buy the tickets for "The Bloodmaster."

EVAŃ

"The Bloodmaster"?

BRETT

Friday night...

EVAN

Wait. You want my mom to buy tickets for everyone?

BRETT, MALCOLM, EDDIE

Yes!

EVAN

There's no way my mother's gonna buy tickets to an R-rated movie.

BRETT

I'll make this easy. You want us all to come to your little Jewish party?

EVAN

Of course.

BRETT, MALCOLM, EDDIE

Friday night. 7:30.

BRETT

Or maybe you're not as useful as I thought...

BRETT and the GOONS walk away, leaving EVAN stymied. The KIDS are all whispering, passing the gossip as they take the test.

KIDS

(whispering, contrapuntally)

BRAIN'S GONNA DO IT!

BRAIN'S GONNA DO IT!

FRIDAY NIGHT, THE BRAIN'S GONNA DO IT!

FRIDAY NIGHT, WE GO TO THE MALL

AND BRAIN'S GONNA GET US INTO THE MOVIE!

GONNA GO SEE "THE BLOODMASTER"!

FRIDAY NIGHT, "THE BLOODMASTER"!

FRIDAY NIGHT, FRIDAY NIGHT!

BRAIN'S GONNA DO IT!

BRAIN'S GONNA DO IT!

EVAN

(a sudden inspiration)

I HAVE A PLAN.

I HAVE A PLAN.

POSSIBLY, I THINK I HAVE A PLAN.

IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF WORK,

IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF LUCK.

BUT WHEN IT ALL COMES THROUGH,

THEY'LL SAY:

(EVAN)

"ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!
HE DOES WHAT NO MERE MORTAL CAN!
HE'S THE MAN!
EVAN GOLDMAN!

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!
HE DID WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD DO,
SAW US THROUGH,
SAVED THE DAY!"
AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS

WAIT 'TIL MOM GOES TO SLEEP,
THEN SNEAK THE LICENSE FROM THE WALLET IN HER PURSE,
MAKE A COLOR XEROX, LAMINATE IT,
THEN PUT THE LICENSE BACK IN THE WALLET IN HER PURSE,
THEN FIND THE DRESS SHE WORE
IN THE PICTURE ON THE LICENSE THAT I COPIED AND I LAMINATED.
WEAR THE DRESS,
GET A WIG,
SHOW THE LICENSE,
BUY THE TICKETS...
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

As EVAN says, "What could go wrong?", HE realizes just what a stupid plan this is. In despair, HE listens to the KIDS passing more gossip along.

KIDS

BRETT'S GONNA DO IT!

BRETT'S GONNA DO IT!

FRIDAY NIGHT, BRETT'S GONNA DO IT!

FRIDAY NIGHT AT "THE BLOODMASTER,"

BRETT'S GONNA DO THE TONGUE WITH KENDRA!

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIE AT THE MALL!

AND BRAIN'S GONNA GET US IN!

EVAN

(at the last second, another inspiration)

I HAVE A PLAN! A BETTER PLAN. ACTUALLY, AN ALMOST-PERFECT PLAN.

(EVAN)

IT SOUNDS ABSOLUTELY NUTS,
IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF GUTS,
BUT WHEN IT ALL COMES THROUGH,
THEY'LL SAY:

"ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

GIVE THAT BAR MITZVAH BOY A HAND!

AIN'T HE GRAND?

AIN'T HE GREAT!

AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS

GO THAT DAY TO THE MOVIE THEATER,

BREAK INTO THE PROJECTION ROOM,

STEAL THE REELS OF FILM FOR THE BLOODMASTER,

TAKE 'EM DOWN THE HALL WHERE THEY'RE SHOWING BAMBI,

SWITCH THE REELS,

LEAVE THE THEATER,

TELL THE GUYS WE'RE GONNA GO SEE BAMBI!

(again, the realization hits that this is a disastrous idea)

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

BRETT

(to EVAN, surreptitiously)

Hey, Brain, did you set up my date for Friday?

EVAN

Date?

BRETT

With Kendra!

EVAN

(Eureka!)

Date! Date!

Desks are pushed off by KIDS, ARCHIE is revealed. We are outside Evan's house. EVAN runs up to ARCHIE.

EVAN

Archie, I have major news.

ARCHIE

They're making a musical out of "Spider-Man"? [note: the authors look forward to changing this every year.]

EVAN

No. Well, yes. But no.

I HAVE A PLAN.
I HAVE A PLAN
SO YOU AND KENDRA CAN GO OUT ON FRIDAY NIGHT!

ARCHIE

Oh my God! Oh my God!

EVAN

I NEED YOUR HELP, THOUGH, SO STAY CALM. YOU NEED TO GO TALK TO MY MOM, AND IT'LL ALL COME TRUE BECAUSE...

#7a - Terminal Illness

NO ONE SAYS "NO" TO A BOY WITH A TERMINAL ILLNESS.

TAKE IT FROM ME, IT'S A SURE GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS.

LISTEN, I'M NOT MAKING FUN OF YOUR TERMINAL ILLNESS,
BUT YOU HOLD THE SECRET TO GETTING MY MOM TO SAY "YES."

SO TALK TO MY MOM, AND GET HER TO BUY
THE TICKETS WE NEED TO OBTAIN.

BRETT GETS HIS MOVIE, I GET THE CREDIT,
AND YOU GET YOUR DATE, SO WHO WOULD COMPLAIN?

EXCEPT FOR YOU, BECAUSE YOU'RE DYING, BUT
NO ONE SAYS NO TO A BOY WITH A TERMINAL ILLNESS!
WHO COULD REFUSE WHEN YOU SHUFFLE YOUR SHOES
AND SAY "PLEASE!"

USE ALL THE TRICKS THAT YOU LEARNED IN YOUR CRADLE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO LAY IT ON THICK WITH A LADLE,
'CAUSE NO ONE SAYS "NO" TO A KID WITH A FATAL DISEASE!

ARCHIE

I can do this!

EVAN

I know you can.

EVAN rings the doorbell and hides, his mother answers, and ARCHIE goes to work. While ARCHIE talks, EVAN paces nervously. Occasionally, we hear a phrase in ARCHIE'S conversation pop through.

EVAN

ARCHIE

Mrs. Goldman, I hate to bother you but I was strolling through the neighborhood.....

EVAN

ARCHIE

...which wouldn't be so bad if it weren't my birthday on Friday, but the insurance...

EVAN

ARCHIE

...I can pay you for the tickets if I don't buy my medicine next month...

EVAN

LA LA!

ARCHIE

...and you know, I've always felt a kinship with the Jewish people.

EVAN

OUT OF THE BLUE, A THOUGHT COMES TO YOU LIKE SUN COMING OUT FROM THE RAIN.

ARCHIE walks away from Evan's mother, his look giving nothing away.

AND AFTER THE STRESS, MY MOTHER SAYS...

ARCHIE

(ecstatic)

YES!

EVAN

Yes!

EVAN & ARCHIE

WE'RE ALL SET FOR FRIDAY, SO WHO COULD COMPLAIN?

ARCHIE

EXCEPT FOR YOU, BECAUSE YOU'RE JEWISH AND YOU ALWAYS COMPLAIN.

IT'S TRUE, BUT

EVAN & ARCHIE

NO ONE SAYS NO TO A BOY WITH A TERMINAL ILLNESS!
ASK FOR A DAY AT THE MALL OR A TRIP TO BELIZE!
NOTHING'S TOO HARD AND NO QUEST UNENDURABLE
LONG AS YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE COMPLETELY INCURABLE!
NO ONE SAYS NO TO A BOY
WITH A FATAL DISEASE!

BRETT enters followed by the KIDS. We are on the playground behind the school.

BRETT

(to Evan)

Well?

EVAN

It's done!

BRETT

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

KIDS

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

BRETT

I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D TAKE THE BAIT!

THIS IS GREAT!

EVAN GOLDMAN!

KIDS

EVAN GOLDMAN!

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

EVAN

I DID WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD DO!

TELL ME, WHO

COULD COMPLAIN?

BRETT

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

KIDS

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

ALL

ALL HAIL THE BRAIN!

The KIDS run off. The School disappears.

EVAN sees PATRICE walking home through the playground.

EVAN

Patrice. Wait.

PATRICE

I'm not talking to you.

EVAN

Look, we're all going to the movies Friday night. Why don't you come? You can't stay mad at me forever.

PATRICE

Just because Archie asked me to forgive you doesn't mean I will. Honestly, why would I go anywhere with you ever?

EVAN

Because I messed up big time, and I want to make it up by asking you out.

PATRICE

(Taken off guard)

Asking me out?

EVAN

Out.

PATRICE

As in - "out" out?

EVAN

That would work.

PATRICE

I'll think about it. Don't get your hopes up. I doubt it. Probably not.

SHE walks off. EVAN watches her go and then turns to the audience, slyly.

EVAN

Oh yeah, she's coming. And sure, to the inexperienced eye, it may look like I just set Brett and Archie up to be on dates with the same girl, on the same night, in the same

(EVAN)

place. But here's the thing, Archie's not really gonna do anything, right?

(A realization. Then panic.)

Oh, my God.

EVAN runs to ARCHIE'S bedroom to do damage control.

EVAN

Archie, listen, I need to talk to you about Friday night...

ARCHIE

Finally. Me on a date with Kendra. See, Evan? Miracles can happen... with just the right combination of praying and stalking.

EVAN

Yeah. It's great, isn't it? But, maybe you're not up for it?

ARCHIE

Up for it? A Ritalin and a Red Bull, and I'm up for anything!

EVAN

Okay, but this is Brett's date with Kendra, and it's important for me that it works out. So, you're just going sit next to her, right? That's all.

ARCHIE

Would I do anything to jeopardize you, after what you've done for me, Evan Goldman?

#8 - Getting Ready

EVAN

So we're good?

ARCHIE

We're so good.

EVAN

Good.

ARCHIE

Good.

EVAN

Good.

EVAN leaves. ARCHIE turns to the audience.

ARCHIE

ONLY GOT ONE SHOT –
BETTER GET IT RIGHT.
I'M GETTING READY.
GOTTA LOOK REAL HOT
WHEN IT'S FRIDAY NIGHT.
I'M GETTING READY!

I'M GETTING READY TODAY.
I'M GETTING READY TO SAY
I'M NOT THAT WEIRD GEEK YOU THINK I MUST BE.
I'M GETTING READY TO MOVE.
I'M GETTING READY TO PROVE
KENDRA JUST NEEDS A SEX GOD LIKE ME.

EVAN reappears, now in his bedroom.

EVAN

(to audience)

ON FRIDAY NIGHT, I'LL BE THE HOMETOWN HERO.

ARCHIE

GOTTA CUT MY NAILS...

HE bites his nails to get them down.

EVAN

IF THIS GOES RIGHT, THEN I'LL BE FREE AND CLEAR.

ARCHIE

GOTTA SHAVE MY BEARD...

EVAN

AND IF IT GOES AS PLANNED,

PATRICE WILL UNDERSTAND

SOME PRICES ARE WORTH PAYING WHEN YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE...

ARCHIE

I'M GETTING READY FOR HER!

I'M GETTING READY, YES, SIR!

READY FOR PASSION, DELIGHT AND ROMANCE!

ARCHIE & EVAN

I'M GETTING READY TO GO!

(ARCHIE & EVAN)

I'M GETTING READY, AND KNOWING
I MAY ONLY GET THIS ONE CHANCE...

BRETT, in the park across from the school, explains his plans to MALCOLM and EDDIE.

BRETT

THERE, IN THE DARK OF THE APPLETON CINEMA,
FREE FROM THE PUBLIC'S PRYING EYES,
THERE, WITH THE GIRL IN THE CHAIR BESIDE ME,
I CAN REVEAL MY BIG SURPRISE!
THERE, WHILE THE REST OF THE CROWD'S IMMERSED IN
ALL OF THE BLOOD VESSELS ONSCREEN BURSTIN',
KENDRA WILL GET TO BE THE FIRST IN
LINE TO REALIZE:
HERE COMES THE TONGUE!

EDDIE & MALCOLM

HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES!

BRETT

HERE COMES THE TONGUE!

EDDIE & MALCOLM

HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES!

BRETT

HERE COMES THE

BRETT, EDDIE & MALCOLM

They ride off. KENDRA and LUCY are in Kendra's bedroom.

KENDRA

Okay, just go through this with me one more time. (SHE sings)

IF HE DOES IT AND I LET HIM...

LUCY

YOU'RE A SLUT.

KENDRA

Right.

AND IF HE WANTS TO, BUT I STOP HIM...

LUCY

YOU'RE A TEASE.

KENDRA

God.

AND IF I LET HIM AND I LIKE IT...

LUCY

YOU'RE A SKANK.

KENDRA

Wow.

LUCY

BUT HE COULD ALSO GET HIS TONGUE STUCK DOWN YOUR THROAT,
OR TRY TO KISS SO HARD, HE CHIPS ONE OF YOUR TEETH,
OR THERE'S A MILLION OTHER WAYS THAT IT COULD ALL GO WRONG.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE URGE TO KISS HIM BACK IS STRONG,
YOU'VE GOT TO HOLD THAT BOY AT BAY,
STEP BACK FROM THE EDGE AND SAY:
"I'M A GOOD GIRL, I DON'T DO THAT.
I'M A NICE GIRL, PUT THAT AWAY.
I'M A GOOD GIRL, KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF."
IF YOU TELL HIM THAT, THEN YOU'LL BE OKAY.

KENDRA

I think you're overreacting, Lucy. It's just a tongue.

LUCY

WHEN YOU GOT THAT SOLO IN CHOIR, IT'S 'CAUSE I TOLD YOU WHAT TO SING.

WHEN YOU GOT THE LEAD IN THE FALL SCHOOL PLAY, IT'S 'CAUSE I COACHED YOU ALL LAST SPRING.

WHEN YOU GOT TO BE THE HEAD OF THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD, IT'S 'CAUSE I TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING.

THINK OF ALL THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE HAD YOU GOT INSTEAD BECAUSE YOU DID JUST WHAT I SAID!

(LUCY)

(threateningly)

"I'M A GOOD GIRL!"

KENDRA

(obediently)

"I'M A GOOD GIRL!"

LUCY

"I DON'T DO THAT!"

KENDRA

BUT HE'S SOOOO CUTE.

LUCY

"I'M A GOOD GIRL!"

KENDRA

LISTEN, LUCY...

LUCY

DON'T QUESTION ME!

KENDRA

BUT I COULD BE HIS GIRLFRIEND!

LUCY

YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL!

KENDRA

(with resignation)

"I'M A GOOD GIRL..."

LUCY

YOU DON'T DO THAT!

KENDRA

(simultaneously with LUCY)

"I DON'T DO THAT!"

EVAN enters, practicing his haftorah. Both bedrooms disappear, LUCY and KENDRA remain. We also see PATRICE getting ready. BRETT, MALCOLM and EDDIE reappear.

KOH-AMAR

HA'EL ADOSHEM

BORAY HASHAMAYIM

VENOTAYHEM...

I'M GETTING READY TO DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES THEM ACCEPT ME AT LAST! **KENDRA & LUCY**

I COULD BE HIS GIRLFRIEND!

LUCY

IF I COULD GET HER OUT OF THE WAY

KENDRA

BUT NOW I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

KENDRA, LUCY & PATRICE

I'VE GOT TO GET READY FOR HIM!

ARCHIE

I'M GETTING READY, IT'S TRUE!

I'M GETTING READY TO DO

SOMETHING THAT MAKES HER

ACCEPT ME AT LAST!

ARCHIE, EVAN, PATRICE, LUCY, KENDRA, MALCOLM & EDDIE

I'M GETTING READY, ALL RIGHT!
NOTHING CAN STOP ME TONIGHT!

BRETT

TONIBALBALUBALUBALUBALUBALUBALUBAL

ALL (EXCEPT ARCHIE)

I'M GETTING READY!

READY!

READY!

ARCHIE appears, dressed to the nines in some over-the-top crazy outfit.

ARCHIE

Check me out!

ALL

NOW!

The movie theater. EVAN is next to KENDRA who is next to BRETT. EDDIE and MALCOLM are behind them with LUCY. PATRICE is on the side, with an empty seat next to her. RICHIE, SIMON, CASSIE, CHARLOTTE and MOLLY fill the seats. Gross sounds are heard.

ALL

АААНННН!

EVAN

(To the audience)

Friday night. "The Bloodmaster." I did it. Everyone got in, Brett and Kendra are together, even Patrice made it.

(a beat)

And this movie ... is disgusting.

A buzzsaw. A loud crunching noise. A splat. The KIDS react. Everyone is briefly united by their mutual disgust.

PATRICE

Evan, I thought you were going to sit with me.

EVAN

I will. I'm just saving this seat for Archie, in case he shows up.

PATRICE

Oh, he's here! I saw him in the arcade. He said he's "waiting for the perfect moment."

EVAN

What?

PATRICE

What's going on?

EVAN

Uh – look, I'll be right there, okay.

PATRICE

(disappointed and suspicious)

Okay.

MALCOLM and EDDIE are sitting behind BRETT and KENDRA, with LUCY between them. EDDIE tries to make his move.

EDDIE

HEY LUCY, I'VE BEEN THINKING...

LUCY

...In your dreams, hobbit! I'm here for one reason. Tongue patrol.

The underscore for the horror movie turns into a gentle ballad. We focus now on BRETT, who is, to our surprise, sitting petrified. KIDS react to the movie.

BRETT

SOMEONE GOT HIS EYELIDS TORN OFF. AND I'M SITTING HERE, AND I SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING.

(The KIDS scream - something gross just happened on screen.)

THAT GUY GOT AN AXE IN HIS THROAT AND SHE'S SITTING THERE, AND I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M WAITING, BUT OH, ANY MINUTE, I'LL BE GETTING CLOSER. I'LL BE WHERE I WANT TO BE...

(HE goes to kiss KENDRA but is abruptly interrupted by the KIDS shrieking.)
ANY MINUTE.

KENDRA, entirely in a different world, is equally petrified.

KENDRA

SOMEONE GOT HIS FACE CHOPPED IN HALF, AND HE'S SITTING THERE, AND MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT ME.

(A yelp from the KIDS.)

MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING I SAID. OR MAYBE MY BREATH.

(Something disgusting on screen - all the kids say "Ew!")

WHY DID I EAT THOSE PORK RINDS?

'CAUSE OH, ANY MINUTE

HE COULD TURN AND KISS ME.

AND WE'LL BE WHERE WE OUGHT TO BE...

ANY MINUTE...

MALCOLM and EDDIE lean over to see how far Brett has gotten.

MALCOLM

(accidentally interrupting BRETT's attempt to kiss Kendra)
Brett.... Pssst –

EDDIE

(slapping Malcolm away)

Back off, you can't rush "the tongue."

From the movie, the sound of a flamethrower and a scream. EVERYONE winces.

BRETT

(and now again paralyzed with fear)

SHE JUST SET HIS PENIS ON FIRE.

KENDRA

THIS IS WEIRD.

BRETT

WHAT DO I DO?

KENDRA

AM I FAT?

BRETT

THIS IS SO NOT ROMANTIC.

EVAN looks back at PATRICE, then back to the screen.

PATRICE

(to herself, looking forlornly at the back of EVAN's head)

AND OH, ANY MINUTE,

HE'LL DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

DID HE JUST INVITE ME

SO HE COULD IGNORE ME?

HE WON'T EVEN KNOW I'M GONE...

BRETT rises, trying to work up the nerve. KENDRA rises as well. They are obscuring the view of the KIDS behind them, who begin throwing popcorn and yelling.

BRETT

ANY MINUTE!

KENDRA

ANY MINUTE...

BRETT

ANY MOMENT...

KENDRA

ANY MOMENT...

BRETT

IF I WANT IT...

KENDRA

IF I WANT IT...

BOTH

IF I CLOSE MY EYES!

BRETT

ANY MINUTE...

KENDRA

ANY MINUTE...

BRETT

ANY MOMENT...

KENDRA

ANY MOMENT...

BOTH

ANY TIME!

As this is all going on, ARCHIE comes clumping down the aisle, wearing his ridiculous outfit, holding a bouquet of flowers. As BRETT and KENDRA sing "Any time!," ARCHIE accidentally (or not) crushes BRETT's foot with his crutch on the way to his seat.

BRETT

Hey!

EVAN

Archie? What are you doing?

ARCHIE

(handing EVAN the flowers as HE maneuvers his way into the seat next to KENDRA) Thanks for your help, Ev, but I'll take it from here.

EVAN squeezes into the seat next to ARCHIE. PATRICE raps sharply on EVAN's shoulder.

PATRICE

Evan? What were you thinking?

EVAN

He promised he was just gonna sit next to her!

PATRICE

And you believed him?

ARCHIE

Hi, Kendra. Sorry I'm late. I was in the bathroom having a seizure.

KENDRA

What?

SHE turns her attention immediately back to the screen, waiting for BRETT to make his move.

BRETT

(finally determined)

NO MORE TIME TO SIT ON MY BUTT.
TIME TO MOVE IN.
TIME TO GET STARTED.

ARCHIE

(to himself)

This is it, Archie.

BRETT

AFTER ALL, TONIGHT IS THE TONGUE.
AND AFTER THE TONGUE,
THERE WILL BE GROPING!

ARCHIE

(preparing himself)

Okay.

BRETT & ARCHIE

AND SO, WATCH OUT, KENDRA! NOW, WATCH OUT, WOMEN! NOW! NOW! NOW!

ALL IN SLOW MOTION – ARCHIE squeezes his face, closes his eyes, and goes in to kiss KENDRA. BRETT, at the same time, turns his head, sticks out his tongue, and goes in for the kiss. EVAN sees, and as he mouths 'Noooooo!' reaches to pull KENDRA back. LUCY reaches in at the exact same time and also drags KENDRA out of the way of BRETT'S tongue. ARCHIE and BRETT'S mouths meet. RICHIE snaps a photo. FLASH. Back to real time.

BRETT

(as he realizes he just kissed Archie)

Bleagghhhhhh!!

ARCHIE

(realizing who he just kissed)

Brett?

BRETT

BLEAGGGGHHHHHH!!!!!

ARCHIE

What's that taste?

BRETT

Jesus, Crip-ton, did you just try to tongue Kendra?

ARCHIE

Uh...

(to EVAN)

What's the right answer here?

EDDIE

Yo, Brett! Did you just get snaked by the cripple?

SIMON

Nasty.

RICHIE

(waving his mobile phone)

I got it on my phone!

LUCY

Oh my God. This is fantastic.

ARCHIE

(to Brett)

You don't understand. Kendra and I are on a date.

ALL

What?

ARCHIE

Evan set it up.

ALL

What?!

AHHHH!!!

BRETT jumps up, ready to administer some beatdowns.

BRETT

Okay, you're both dead. Who dies first?

ARCHIE

(pushing EVAN forward)

Him.

KENDRA

(jumping up to prevent any carnage and hopefully get back to the Tongue part)
Brett! Stop it!

BRETT

(to EVAN)

You are goin' down! Anyone in this town so much as thinks of coming to your lame party, they're going to have to deal with me.

BRETT goes to punch EVAN, but KENDRA, hoping to just get back to normal, stops him.

Kendra! Get out of my way!

He grabs KENDRA roughly by the wrists and tries to pull her out of his way.

KENDRA

Brett, stop it, you're hurting me!

Struggling to get away, SHE kicks BRETT in the crotch. ALL the KIDS react. KENDRA is mortified.

BRETT

(in exquisite pain)

I'm ... not ... wearing ... my ...

(HE collapses to the floor)

... cup.

KENDRA

Come on, Lucy, let's get out of here!

KENDRA stomps offstage, alone.

LUCY

I'm right behind you!

(LUCY watches her go and then turns to BRETT.)

So you two aren't going out?

BRETT

No.

LUCY

So, your tongue is still available?

BRETT

(tentatively)

Yes?

LUCY

Great!

LUCY grabs BRETT, pulls him to a standing position, and kisses him, tongues blazing. An astonished silence from the KIDS. BRETT and LUCY stop kissing and stare at each other. BRETT rather liked it. LUCY is victorious, and the two of them run off to engage in further salivary pursuits.

MALCOLM and EDDIE survey the damage as the movie seats recede offstage.

MALCOLM

Not good.

EDDIE

Not good.

MALCOLM & EDDIE

Yeah. Not good.

The lobby of the movie theater. PATRICE is on her cell phone as ARCHIE waits. EVAN enters.

PATRICE

We'll be waiting right outside. Thanks, Mom.

(she hangs up her cell phone)

It's okay, Archie. My mom's picking us up.

EVAN

What a nightmare! Now they'll never be my friends.

PATRICE

Them? That's who you care about? Them?

What's your problem?

PATRICE

You invited me out, and you didn't even talk to me. I put on this stupid dress, and my mother's make-up, and you didn't even look at me.

#10 - Good Enough

EVAN

What was I supposed to do?

PATRICE

Anything but what you did! I should have known! (SHE sings)

YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE AND SAID I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU TO BE MY FRIEND.
YOU WANTED TO BE "COOL" AND I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
NO, LOOK, I GET IT - YOU'RE THE LATEST IN A TREND.

I WATCHED AS YOU DID EVERYTHING THEY ASKED YOU TO,
AND FINALLY THOSE JERKS AND I AGREE:
THEY LOOKED AT YOU AND SAID YOU WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH
AND YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

PATRICE storms off. ARCHIE stands there.

ARCHIE

Well, that could have gone better.

EVAN

This is all your fault. I told you everything not to do, and you did it!

ARCHIE

My fault? It's not like this worked out for me - THAT was my first kiss!

EVAN

Every single thing in my life is a disaster.

ARCHIE

You've been in Appleton for a month. Trust me, it'll get worse.

EVAN

No. No! I'm gonna fix this with Patrice and fix this with Brett and you're gonna help me. I just need a plan.

ARCHIE

Face it, Evan, this can't be fixed!

EVAN

If I don't do anything, I'm dead! They're gonna treat me like I've got some disease! (HE realizes what he said.)

I'm sorry, Archie. I didn't mean it like that.

ARCHIE

Right now, I think I'm doing a whole lot better than you are.

And HE exits.

EVAN

Archie, wait...! Great. There goes the last person on earth that's talking to me.

We hear chanting from offstage.

#11 - Being A Geck

RABBI

(entering in a ghostly haze)

KOH-AMAR HA'EL ADOSHEM...

EVAN

Oh, perfect!

RABBI

(chanting)

WHAT NOW, EVAN?

EVAN

I can fix this!

RABBI

(chanting)

BUT HOW, EVAN?

EVAN

I'm not gonna be an outcast! I'm gonna be friends with every single one of those guys and that's the end of the story!

RABBI

(chanting)

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO BE POPULAR?

What are you, kidding?

RABBI

(chanting)

WHAT WOULD BE SO BAD IF YOU WEREN'T POPULAR?

EVAN

Oh, Rabbi, you don't know what you're talking about.

Dimly, we can see a whole chorus of RABBIS in the mist.

RABBI

(chanting)

TELL ME HOW IT IS.

(HE gestures to the other RABBIS)

TELL US HOW IT FEELS.

EVAN

(sings)

BEING A GEEK IS THE LONELIEST THING IN THE WORLD.

I GOTTA TELL YA, RABBI,

WHEN YOU'RE A GEEK, IT'S THE LONELIEST THING IN THE WORLD.

YOU'RE ALWAYS WONDERING WHAT EVERYBODY'S LAUGHING ABOUT,

AND STARING IN AT THE WORLD LIKE YOU GOT LOCKED OUT.

NOTHING IS WORSE.

IT'S A CRIME, IT'S A CURSE,

IT'S THE LONELIEST THING IN THE WORLD.

You wouldn't understand, Rabbi.

RABBI

Oh, I know something about it. I'm a rabbi in Indiana.

EVAN

BEING A GEEK IS THE SADDEST EVENT EVER KNOWN.
I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT.
AND BEING A GEEK DOESN'T GO ONCE YOU'RE GONE
OR YOU'RE GROWN.

RABBIS

(momentarily stirring)

TELL ME ABOUT IT, BROTHER.

THE GIRLS ALL ROLL THEIR EYES AND WALK AWAY WHEN YOU GET CLOSE.
YOU'VE GOT A FATAL DISEASE NO ONE CAN DIAGNOSE.
IT'S CONTAGIOUS, IT'S VIRAL,
IT'S A DOWNWARD SPIRAL,
THE LONELIEST THING IN THE WORLD.

BUT WHEN YOU'RE COOL, WHEN YOU'RE COOL, YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT A CROWD. YOU CAN BREAK THE RULES AND YOU'RE ALLOWED. YOU CAN SWAY THE GANG IN ANY DIRECTION - YOU'VE GOT A HIGH-SPEED CONNECTION WHEN YOU'RE COOL. YOU'RE THE EPITOME OF CHARM AND GRACE.

WHEN YOU WANT TO GET TO SECOND BASE,
IF YOU'RE COOL, YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT A SHOT,
BUT OH! IF YOU'RE NOT,
IT'S A WASTE, IT'S A DRAG,
IT'S "SUCK" IN A BAG,
IT'S THE LONELIEST THING IN THE WORLD.

The RABBIS become EVAN's backup singers, boogieing along with him.

RABBIS

GEEK, GEEK, GEEK, GEEK, WHOA-OH.

EVAN

OH, YEAH.

IT'S LIKE A COLD WIND BLOWING, YEAH.

IF YOU LIKE THE WRONG MOVIES,

IF YOU LIKE THE WRONG BANDS,

IF YOU TAKE THE WRONG CLASSES,

DON'T SPEAK!

RABBIS

YOU'RE A GEEK!

EVAN

IF IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS, (EVAN)

'CAUSE YOU SPENT THE PAST WEEK LEARNING GREEK -

RABBIS

YOU'RE A GEEK!

EVAN

IF YOU'RE VERY WELL-ACQUAINTED
WITH THE LOCKER ROOM TOILET
'CAUSE YOUR HEAD'S BEEN SHOVED INSIDE IT,
JUST SQUEAK:

RABBIS

"I'M A GEEK!"

EVAN

IF YOU START TO GET EXCITED
'CAUSE YOU'RE GONNA THROW A PARTY,
BUT THE PEOPLE YOU INVITED
ALL SHRIEK -

RABBIS

GEEK!

EVAN

"YOU FREAK!"

RABBIS

GEEK!

EVAN

YOU'RE NOT UNIQUE!

RABBIS

GEEK!

EVAN

IT'S JUST THE LIFE OF THE GEEK!
BUT WHEN YOU'RE COOL
YOU CAN RALLY WHEN THE BLUES ATTACK.
EV'RY PROBLEM JUST ROLLS OFF YOUR BACK.,
YOU CAN HANDLE EV'RY SLIP AND SLIDE
WITHOUT BREAKING YOUR STRIDE!

RABBIS

WHEN YOU'RE COOL, OH, OH, WHEN YOU'RE COOL, OH, OH, WHEN YOU'RE COOL, OH, OH, WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH, WHOA-OH,

WHEN YOU'RE COOL,
YOU DON'T CARE THAT PEOPLE DISAPPEAR.
YOU DON'T CARE THAT YOUR DAD'S NOT HERE.
YOU DON'T CARE THAT YOUR LIFE'S BEEN
UPROOTED AND BENT
WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT!

RABBIS

WHEN YOU'RE COOL, OH, OH, WHEN YOU'RE COOL, OH, OH, OH...

EVAN

A GEEK'S AFRAID IT'S NEVER GONNA BE OKAY,
BUT THE COOL KID KNOWS IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAY.
IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
BEING FINE AT THIRTEEN
AND THE LONELIEST THING...
I SAID, IT'S THE LONELIEST THING...
I KNOW IT'S THE LONELIEST THING
IN THE WORLD.

The BACKUP RABBIS dance offstage, and the RABBI turns to EVAN and offers a benediction:

RABBI

KEEP TRYING, EVAN. YOU CAN DO IT, EVAN. BE A MAN, EVAN.

RABBIS

GEEK, GEEK. GEEK, GEEK. GEEK, GEEK. HMM.

EVAN turns to say something, but the RABBI is gone.

A set of lockers moves onstage, obscuring EVAN.

In a hallway between periods, MALCOLM and EDDIE have been waiting for BRETT to arrive.

#12 - Bad Bad News

EDDIE

This is bad.

MALCOLM

This is real bad.

EDDIE

This is the bad that bad thinks is bad.

BRETT enters the locker room sheepishly.

(EDDIE)

Yo, Brett!

MALCOLM

Why weren't you at practice today?

EDDIE

Coach just said "why bother practicing without Brett?", so instead we watched a movie called "God Doesn't Want You To Touch That."

BRETT

Well...

MALCOLM

I texted you this morning, but you didn't hit me back.

BRETT

Well, see...

EDDIE

What's up with you?

BRETT

Okay, the thing is...

MALCOLM & EDDIE

What?

LUCY

(from offstage)

Brett!

MALCOLM and EDDIE turn to see where the voice is coming from, then turn back, knowing all too well.

MALCOLM & EDDIE

Ohhhhh....

BRETT

Guys... I'll be right back...

MALCOLM

Brett, don't do it! Save yourself!

LUCY

BRETT!

School bell. LUCY enters, now the undisputed queen of the school. She goes right for BRETT. HE looks for an escape, but SHE engulfs him, showing off as KIDS pass by.

(LUCY)

Guess what we're going to do this weekend?

BRETT

I thought I'd just hang with my boys...

LUCY

No. Here's what we're going to do this weekend: Go to the mall, buy new shoes, get a mani-pedi...

BRETT

Yeah. I think I'll hang with my boys.

LUCY

Oh. Okay. If you'd rather be with them, I guess that means you don't want the tongue anymore.

BRETT

Who said that?

LUCY

And if you don't want the tongue, you obviously don't want what comes after the tongue.

And SHE turns and goes offstage.

BRETT

(nervously chasing after her)

No, I do! I do want what's after the tongue! WHAT'S AFTER THE TONGUE?

And HE is gone. MALCOLM and EDDIE watch them go in shock and horror

MALCOLM

Did you see that?

EDDIE

Brett's gone to the dark side.

MALCOLM

He's totally tongue-whipped.

EDDIE

We've been jock-blocked.

MALCOLM

She's a succubus. Why is she doing this to us?

EDDIE

If I live to be twenty, I'll never understand women! (HE sings)

WHAT IS A MAN
WHEN HE GIVES UP HIS SOUL
FOR A LICK
FROM A CHICK
WHO COMPLETELY TAKES CONTROL?

MALCOLM

Tell the tale.

EDDIE

HOW DOES A MAN WHO CAN SEE BEHIND HIS HEAD TURN AS BLIND AS A BAT WITH NO EYES?

MALCOLM

WHAT IS A MAN?
WHEN HE TURNS ON HIS FRIENDS?
WE'VE BEEN TOSSED
NOW WE'RE LOST,
JUST A PLATTER OF BURNT ENDS.

EDDIE

I feel you.

MALCOLM

HOW DO WE MAKE
OUR HERO WIDE AWAKE
SO THAT HE
CAN REALIZE?

MALCOLM & EDDIE

THAT GIRL IS BAD BAD NEWS! BAD NEWS! NOTHING BUT TEARS,
NOTHING BUT TROUBLE,
NOTHING BUT STRESS!
YES, SHE IS BAD BAD NEWS! BAD NEWS!

EDDIE

Bad news!

MALCOLM & EDDIE

OUR BUDDY BRETT
IS GONNA REGRET
THAT HE EVER SAID YES!
THE GIRL MAY BE HOT
BUT ALL THAT HE'S GOT
IS BAD BAD NEWS.

School bell. The lockers shift position to create a different hallway. KIDS cross between classes. LUCY and BRETT emerge.

LUCY

(enthusiastically)

So I'm all, "Mom! I've been going out with him for four days! Of COURSE we're going to get married!"

CASSIE and RICHIE pass by.

CASSIE

Hi Brett.

BRETT

(casually)

Oh, hey Cassie.

LUCY

Wait! Were you flirting with her?

BRETT

I was just saying hi.

LUCY

Oh, so you're saying she's hot?

BRETT

No! I mean, she's fine.

LUCY

Oh, so you're saying I'm fat!

BRETT

What?! I never said that!

LUCY

(close to tears)

You never say anything about how amazing I look anymore. Oh my God, you hate me!

SHE runs off.

BRETT

Oh, man, not again.

(yelling after her)

Lucy! I'm sorry! Put down the donut!

BRETT runs off after her. EDDIE, MALCOLM and SIMON emerge having heard the previous.

EDDIE

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE'S AT STAKE?

MALCOLM

MAN, HE'S FLIPPED.

SIMON

NO, HE'S WHIPPED

LIKE THE CREAM ON A CAKE.

EDDIE

WHAT CAN WE SAY?

MALCOLM

HE WON'T TALK.

SIMON

HE WON'T PLAY.

EDDIE, MALCOLM & SIMON

HOW COULD ONE TONGUE DESTROY A WHOLE TEAM?

RICHIE enters behind the other boys.

EDDIE, MALCOLM, SIMON & RICHIE

THAT GIRL IS BAD BAD NEWS! BAD NEWS!

SIMON

Very bad news.

RICHIE

SHE'S LIKE A SNAKE!

EDDIE

SHE'S LIKE A COCKROACH!

SIMON

SHE'S LIKE A COW!

(THEY look at him, confused.)

(SIMON)

An evil cow.

ALL

WOW, SHE IS BAD BAD NEWS! BAD NEWS!

MALCOLM

TRÈS BAD!

ALL

WE'VE BEEN ABANDONED, LEFT IN THE SAND AND WHO ARE WE NOW? HE FELL FOR A SLUT WITH A FABULOUS BUTT BUT SHE'S BAD BAD NEWS.

The BOYS stalk the stage trying to think of a solution. Abruptly, EDDIE stops.

EDDIE

Perhaps there's a way we can "dispose" of her.

More stalking. This time, MALCOLM stops.

MALCOLM

Maybe she can "meet with an accident"?

Now all the BOYS ponder the possibilities, colliding in the center of the stage.

SIMON

WE HAVE GOT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT SHE'S NOT WELCOME HERE, THE MOST HORRIBLE WAY WE CAN FIND.

MALCOLM

WE COULD GO TRAIN A PIT BULL TO CHEW ON HER FLESH.

EDDIE

I DON'T THINK THEY ATTACK THEIR OWN KIND.

RICHIE

WE COULD TORTURE HER MOTHER AND CHOP UP HER DOG.

SIMON

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T THINK SHE'D MIND!

EDDIE

I COULD RIP OFF HER POCKETBOOK. LOOK, IT'S A START.

MALCOLM

DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH HER HEART, IF SHE JUST HAD A HEART.

ALL

THE LONGER IT GOES, THE WORSE IT'LL GET! SO SOMEBODY'S GOTTA TELL BRETT!

RICHIE

YEAH!

ALL

THAT GIRL IS BAD, BAD NEWS! BAD NEWS!
SHE TOOK OUR PAL.
SHE TOOK OUR LEADER
AND LED HIM ASTRAY!
HEY! HEY!
SHE'S TOTALLY BAD BAD NEWS! BAD NEWS!

EDDIE

(riffing)

BAD NEWS!

MALCOLM

(attempting to out-riff EDDIE)

BAD NEWS!

ALL.

LISTEN UP, BRETT!
YOU'RE NOT RUINED YET!
WE'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY!
THROW HER UNDER THE BUS
AND COME BACK TO US!

MALCOLM

EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS EXCELLENT SHOES...

The BOYS turn and look at MALCOLM suspiciously. HE smiles sheepishly.

ALL

(ALL)

BAD NEWS!

They stalk off the stage, inconsolable. We see that EVAN and ARCHIE have heard what was just sung.

EVAN

Did you hear that? Those guys are suffering. And Brett's suffering. If I can get Brett to dump Lucy and get back together with Kendra, I'm the hero.

ARCHIE

Evan, is this wise? Let me rephrase that: Evan, this isn't wise.

EVAN

This is my chance to win them back. I have to do this!

(EVAN yells for MALCOLM and EDDIE.)

Hey! Malcolm! Eddie!

ARCHIE

No, Evan, don't!

MALCOLM and EDDIE approach. ARCHIE lets out a yelp and throws himself face first against the lockers.

EVAN

(to MALCOLM and EDDIE)

Take me to Brett!

EDDIE

Are you suicidal? After what happened at "The Bloodmaster", Brett wants to destroy you.

EVAN

Listen, I can help Brett get rid of Lucy and get Kendra back!

MALCOLM

How?

EDDIE

How?

ARCHIE

(muffled, his face buried in the locker)

Yeah, how?

EVAN

Just take me to him!

Unseen by everyone, ARCHIE takes out his phone and starts texting furiously.

EDDIE

All right, hold up.

(to MALCOLM, ignoring Evan while talking over him)

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

MALCOLM

That if you hold your breath until you almost choke, a little pee comes out?

EDDIE

No. I'm thinking: what have we got to lose?

(to EVAN)

If you're right, we get Brett back.

MALCOLM

(catching on)

Yeah. And if you're wrong, we get to beat the crap out of you!

EVAN

All right, let's do this!

(to ARCHIE)

Wish me luck!

EVAN leads the goons offstage.

PATRICE enters, having gotten ARCHIE's text.

PATRICE

Archie! I got your text. What's

(looking at her phone, and spelling)

"CQDBTIOE"?

ARCHIE

"Come quick. Danger beckons. Time is our enemy." Duh!

PATRICE

What is it, Archie?

ARCHIE

You have to help Evan. Now.

PATRICE

Why?

ARCHIE

I think Brett might kill him.

PATRICE

What do you want me to do?

ARCHIE

Go! Run! Be my legs!

PATRICE

And what are you going to be doing?

ARCHIE

Hiding, weeping, cowering, the usual.

PATRICE

Forget it. Evan's on his own.

ARCHIE

So that's it? He's gonna get slaughtered and you really don't care at all?

PATRICE

Don't care.

ARCHIE

Great.

PATRICE

Not interested.

ARCHIE

Okay.

PATRICE

You know I'm going, don't you?

ARCHIE

Yup.

PATRICE

I hate you.

ARCHIE

I know.

BRETT enters as ARCHIE and PATRICE exit. The Boys' Locker Room. HE looks around to make sure no one is looking, then he gets ön his knees and clasps his hands in prayer, a bit uncertain which is the best way to do it.

BRETT

Okay, she's gonna destroy me. But she's hot. But I hate her. But she's hot. God, can you help me?

MALCOLM

Yo Brett!

BRETT looks shocked, as if GOD's talking to him. Then he realizes with disappointment that MALCOLM and EDDIE have entered, dragging EVAN with them.

BRETT

What's he doing here?

EDDIE

Brett, the Brain has something he wants to say, and we think you really need to listen.

(BRETT looks at them with fury in his eyes and steps towards them. EDDIE turns to EVAN and says)

You're on your own, dude.

(MALCOLM and EDDIE run off.)

BRETT

You're the one who messed me up with Kendra in the first place! Why should I listen to you? In fact, why should you even live?

EVAN

Okay, but there's a way to fix everything so that everyone can be happy again. You have to dump Lucy and get Kendra back.

BRETT

(grabbing EVAN by the shirt and lifting him off the ground)

Fine. Tell me what to do. You've got ten seconds!

PATRICE enters, and stands back, watching.

EVAN

Okay, it's simple, really.

(panicking)

You just go to Kendra and you ... um.

BRETT

Five, four, two ...

EVAN

Okay, you just go to Kendra, and you ...

PATRICE

(finishing EVAN's sentence because it's clear that he can't)

...Talk to her.

BRETT drops EVAN and turns to face PATRICE. EVAN is taken aback as well, but goes with it.

EVAN

Yeah. Just go to Kendra and talk to her.

BRETT

I needed YOU to tell me that?

PATRICE

God! Boys are so stupid, no wonder you're not girls! Can't you just talk from the heart?

#13 - Tell Her

Tell her how you really feel!

BRETT

Like what?

EVAN

(a realization)

Like...

(HE sings to PATRICE)

TELL HER YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. TELL HER YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT AT NIGHT. TELL HER ALTHOUGH YOU MADE A HUGE MISTAKE,

YOU WANT TO MAKE IT RIGHT.

BRETT

Okay, but this is starting to sound a little gay.

EVAN

TELL HER YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T PERFECT.
TELL HER YOU'VE WAITED WAY TOO LONG.
TELL HER YOU'RE SORRY TELL HER YOU MEAN IT.
TELL HER YOU JUST WERE WRONG.

BRETT

(after a beat)

This is good stuff, I should write this down.

HE grabs a pen from PATRICE's hand and starts writing.

PATRICE

TELL HER SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE IGNORED YOU OR DISSED YOU IN FRONT OF ALL THE SCHOOL.
TELL HER THE MINUTE SHE GOT "OUT OF TOUCH,"
YOU FELT LIKE SUCH A FOOL.
TELL HER THAT STUDYING TOGETHER
WAS SO NICE YOU PRAYED IT WOULDN'T END.

BRETT looks up, thinks "Studying together?", then decides, Whatever, I'll go with it.

SAY YOU FORGIVE HER.
SAY YOU WERE JEALOUS.
ASK IF SHE'LL BE YOUR FRIEND.

BRETT has run out of paper and is now trying to cram the words into the tiniest possible space on the page.

EVAN & PATRICE

(oblivious to Brett)

TELL HER THAT PEOPLE GET THINGS WRONG, 'CAUSE PEOPLE ARE AFRAID THEY WON'T FIT IN YOUR WORLD OR IN YOUR LIFE.
BUT THINGS WILL WORK OUT FINE IF SHE WILL ONLY LISTEN.

PATRICE

TELL HER THAT ALL YOU EVER WANTED...

EVAN

TELL HER THAT ALL YOU EVER WANTED...

PATRICE

WAS MAYBE

EVAN & PATRICE

A SMILE OR A GLANCE.

EVAN

TELL HER YOU'RE SORRY.

PATRICE

TELL HER YOU MEAN IT.

EVAN & PATRICE

ASK FOR ANOTHER CHANCE.
TELL HER YOU JUST WANT ANOTHER CHANCE.

BRETT watches them, trying to figure out if they're finally finished.

EVAN

(to PATRICE)

I'm sorry. I mean it.

PATRICE

I still hate you.

BRETT doesn't know whether to write this down, EVAN and PATRICE are staring intently at each other. Suddenly, MOLLY comes running on followed by a group of KIDS.

MOLLY

Hey Brett! Lucy and Kendra are in the girls' bathroom clawing each other's eyes out over you! It's nasty ugly! You gotta stop them!

EVAN

This is your chance, Brett. Go make it happen.

BRETT

All right, Brain, if this works, we'll all be at your party!

#13a-Transition to Girls' Bathroom

BRETT runs out, heroically pushing past kids as he goes, through the hallway, sprinting to the girls' bathroom, which has now come onstage. KENDRA and LUCY are having a heated conversation.

KENDRA

I thought you were my friend!

LUCY

I don't need friends, I've got Brett!

KENDRA

Yeah, because you stole him!

LUCY

I won. You lost. I'm hotter.

KENDRA

Yeah, you're hotter. 'Cause you're gonna burn in hell!

KENDRA lunges at LUCY. They go at each other. BRETT runs in.

BRETT

Okay, stop!

(HE sees the tampon machine on the wall.)

Wow. You guys get a candy machine?

LUCY

Good. Brett, you're here.

KENDRA

Both of you just go away forever!

BRETT

No, Kendra. Lucy, you go away!

LUCY

What!?

BRETT

Kendra's the one I want.

KENDRA

What?

LUCY

(devastated)

What??

BRETT

It's over, Lucy! Just go!

LUCY turns, her tiny little heart broken, and walks out of the bathroom. BRETT turns to KENDRA, and suddenly, is blank. HE panics. HE freezes. Then HE remembers what Evan sang to Patrice. Perhaps HE tries to read from his totally illegible notes.

TELL ME I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

TELL ME I WISH I HAD A...

(HE can't read what he wrote here.)

I DON'T KNOW!

BUT I KNOW I LIKE YOU.

(A beat. Then, nervously:)

Did that work?

SHE turns to him.

KENDRA

Did that work?

(SHE smiles, extends her arms and runs to him.)

You bet it did!

#13b - Did That Work? You Bet It Did!

THEY embrace. The school disappears and LUCY is revealed.

SHE watches them run off together.

LUCY

(to the audience)

Oh HELL no!

She walks downstage, strikes a pose, takes out her cell phone, and begins her revenge. MOLLY enters, and answers her cell phone.

#14 - It Can't Be True

MOLLY

Oh hey, Lucy? What's up?

LUCY

Check this out. I just got the juiciest text from Charlotte, who told me the nastiest thing about Kendra.

MOLLY

Kendra? No! What?

LUCY

All right, I'll tell you. But you can't believe Charlotte, I mean we all know one thing for sure ...

(SHE sings)

EVERYTHING CHARLOTTE SAYS IS A LIE.

IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE.

EVERYTHING CHARLOTTE SAYS IS A LIE,

YOU BETTER NOT BELIEVE HER.

'CAUSE SHE SAYS SHE SAW KENDRA AND EVAN AT THE MALL,

STANDING FACE TO FACE...

LAUGHING AND TALKING AND HOLDING HANDS

AND SLURPING ALL THE WAY TO

FIRST BASE!

(LUCY)

BUT EVERYTHING CHARLOTTE SAYS IS A LIE, YOU BETTER NOT BELIEVE HER!

MOLLY

No way! Kendra and Evan?

LUCY

Yep.

MOLLY

What about Brett?

LUCY

I know, it's crazy! But really, really, really, don't say anything!

MOLLY

Of course not! I won't say a word.

THEY both hang up, and THEY both immediately dial or text other numbers. CHARLOTTE and CASSIE pick up their phones.

CHARLOTTE & CASSIE

Y'ello?

MOLLY

Cassie?

LUCY

Charlotte!

CASSIE & CHARLOTTE

Yo.

MOLLY

EVERYTHING CHARLOTTE SAYS IS A LIE.

LUCY

EVERYTHING MOLLY SAYS IS A LIE.

BOTH

IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE.

MOLLY

EVERYTHING CHARLOTTE SAYS IS A LIE...

LUCY

EVERYTHING MOLLY SAYS IS A LIE,

BOTH

YOU BETTER NOT BELIEVE HER!

MOLLY

'CAUSE I JUST HEARD THAT

BOTH

SHE SAID SHE SAW KENDRA AND EVAN

MOLLY

ON THEIR BIKES HAVING A LITTLE RACE.

LUCY

MOLLY SAW KENDRA IN THE PARK LETTING EVAN GET TO SECOND BASE!

MOLLY

BUT EVERYTHING CHARLOTTE SAYS IS A LIE!

BOTH

YOU BETTER NOT BELIEVE HER!

CASSIE, CHARLOTTE & MOLLY

HOLY MACK-A-ROLY, OH, IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

NO, YOU CAN'T REPEAT A SINGLE WORD I'M TELLING YOU!

AND OH, CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT BRETT WOULD DO

IF HE HEARD THAT KIND OF A RUMOR?

LUCY hangs up the phone as KENDRA appears. KENDRA's bedroom.

LUCY

Kendra, let's not fight. You won Brett fair and square - I was wrong, okay? And I miss my best friend.

KENDRA

Aw, Lucy, I miss you too.

LUCY & KENDRA

(embracing)

HUG!

KENDRA

You're really not mad?

LUCY

Nope! Not mad at you. Not mad at Brett. Not mad at Evan.

KENDRA

Why would you be mad at Evan?

LUCY

Well, it was Evan that convinced Brett to dump me and go back to you. You actually owe Evan a big thank-you!

KENDRA

Really? What should I do?

LUCY

Let me think.

(And then immediately)

I know! I'll arrange a get-together with you and Evan, so you can thank him!

KENDRA

Really? Is that weird?

LUCY

Tell you what: You be at the Dairy Queen at five o'clock. Leave the rest to me.

LUCY now turns and is in front of Evan's house talking to EVAN.

EVAN

... And why does Kendra want to meet me?

LUCY

She said she wanted to thank you. But, I can tell her no, I just thought since we were all friends now...

EVAN

No, no. I'll go. It's just kind of weird that you're the one asking me and not her.

LUCY

God, you don't trust anyone. That's the problem with your people. Five o'clock. The Dairy Queen.

Three tableaux: MOLLY is talking to RICHIE; CASSIE is talking to SIMON; CHARLOTTE is talking to MALCOLM and EDDIE.

MOLLY

EVERYTHING CASSIE SAYS IS A LIE...

CHARLOTTE

EVERYTHING MOLLY SAYS IS A LIE...

CASSIE

EVERYTHING CHARLOTTE SAYS IS...

ALL THREE

IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE!

MOLLY

MAKING UP STORIES, I DON'T KNOW WHY.

ALL THREE

YOU BETTER NOT BELIEVE HER!

CASSIE

SO DON'T SAY NOTHING

CHARLOTTE

BUT SHE JUST TOLD ME

MOLLY

SHE SAID SHE SAW

ALL THREE

KENDRA AND EVAN AT THE GAME, THEN THEY VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.

SIMON, MALCOLM, EDDIE & RICHIE

Yeah?

ALL THREE

THEN SHE SAW KENDRA UNDER THE BLEACHERS LETTIN' EVAN GET TO THIRD BASE!

ALL SEVEN

HOLY MACK-A-ROLY, OH, IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF TROUBLE THEY COULD GET IN TO!
AND OH, CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT BRETT WOULD DO
IF HE HEARD THAT KIND OF A RUMOR?

PATRICE and ARCHIE find themselves in the middle of the song, hearing the rumor in the lunchroom.

ARCHIE

Did you hear that?

PATRICE

Who would start a rumor about Kendra and Evan being together?

BOTH

Lucy!

PATRICE

We've got to warn him!

ARCHIE

He said he was going to the Dairy Queen.

PATRICE

Come on!

Focus shifts to the other side of the stage, where EDDIE and MALCOLM are confronting BRETT, while MOLLY, CHARLOTTE, CASSIE, SIMON and RICHIE watch.

EDDIE

EVERYTHING KENDRA SAYS IS A LIE! IT'S A LIE! IT'S A LIE!

MALCOLM

DOIN' THE TONGUE WITH SOME OTHER GUY! YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!

ALL

'CAUSE HE SAID SHE SAW SHE SAID SHE SAW SHE SAID HE SAW

KENDRA AND EVAN AT THE MALL KENDRA AND EVAN AT THE PARK KENDRA AND EVAN AT THE LAKE KENDRA AND EVAN AT THE MOVIES KENDRA AND EVAN AT THE ZOO

LUCY

(running in)

AND I JUST SAW THEM RIGHT NOW!

BRETT

Where?

LUCY

At the Dairy Queen!

BRETT

Get out of my way!

BRETT stalks off toward the Dairy Queen, LUCY at his arm, all the KIDS following with the scent of blood in their noses.

ALL KIDS

FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

KENDRA meets up with EVAN at the Dairy Queen. She is trying to remain perky, but he is uncomfortable.

KENDRA

So! Hi!

EVAN

So. Hi.

KENDRA

So! Thank you for getting Brett to come back to me!

EVAN

You're welcome.

KENDRA

Oooooookay!

EVAN

Okay.

KENDRA

(SHE tentatively goes towards him.)

Thank you hug!

EVAN

Oh, wow, hug, sure.

THEY hug, very chastely. BRETT crashes in with all the KIDS, sees EVAN and KENDRA.

BRETT

Unreal!

KENDRA

Brett!

BRETT

(pushing KENDRA aside roughly)

Step away from her, man.

KENDRA

We weren't doing anything!

BRETT steps closer and closer to EVAN with each line, until he is in his face.

EVAN

Brett, it's not what you think.

BRETT

Is that my girlfriend?

EVAN

Yes.

BRETT

Were you touching her?

EVAN

Yes.

BRETT

It's what I think.

BRETT is now directly in EVAN's face, but EVAN stands tall.

EVAN

Brett, this is crazy! Why would I try something with Kendra after I was the one who got you two back together?

BRETT

(refusing to acknowledge the question)

You're not gonna talk your way outta this, we all saw what you did. Go on back to your loser friends, they're the only ones coming to your little lame birthday party anyway.

EVAN

(a realization)

Wait. You were never gonna come, were you?

ARCHIE and PATRICE rush in and stop at the edge of the crowd.

BRETT

Duh! Like I'm gonna be stuck with that bunch of freaks.

MALCOLM

As if!

EVERYONE laughs.

EVAN

You'd be lucky to be stuck with those freaks! You don't deserve to hang out with my friends.

BRETT

The geek and the cripple? Yeah, lucky me.

Again, laughter from the CROWD.

EVAN

You're such a jerk.

EVERYONE takes a step back and lets out an 'ooh'.

BRETT

Did you just call me a jerk?

EVAN

I can't believe it took me so long to figure it out. You know what?

(Finally enraged, HE shoves BRETT on each "want".)

I don't WANT you to come to my party! I don't WANT you to be my friend! I don't WANT you to ever talk to me again!

(A pause. HE and BRETT look at each other. And then, with devastating finality:) You suck, Brett.

Such a challenge can't go unmet. BRETT punches EVAN in the face. EVAN crumples to the ground, and PATRICE runs to his side.

PATRICE

Evan!

BRETT

(gloating over EVAN)

Who sucks now?

(to KENDRA)

Have fun with your new friends, skank.

KENDRA

Brett, no!

BRETT

Come on, Lucy...

LUCY

I'm right behind you, Brett.

BRETT, EDDIE and MALCOLM head off, with most of the KIDS following.

KENDRA

(yelling to BRETT)

I didn't do anything!

LUCY

(turning around, the last person to exit)

You gotta watch out in this town. People start the nastiest rumors.

LUCY exits smugly, leaving KENDRA alone with ARCHIE, EVAN and PATRICE.

ARCHIE

Kendra...

KENDRA

What?

ARCHIE

For what it's worth, I think you can do better than Brett.

KENDRA

You're sweet, Arnie.

ARCHIE

Archie.

KENDRA

Archie. And thank you.

SHE gives HIM a kiss on the cheek. Then SHE looks at the company she's keeping. Then SHE panics and runs offstage.

Brett! No! Wait!

ARCHIE

(watching her go)

Wow. She really is a moron.

PATRICE helps EVAN to a sitting position. His nose is bleeding. HE uses his t-shirt to wipe it.

PATRICE

I know you're in intense pain right now, but somebody needed to say that to Brett a long time ago.

EVAN

Glad I could help.

(And then, just a simple word)

Ow.

A	R	\mathbf{C}	н	T	\mathbf{E}

You just totally sealed your fate here.

EVAN

I know.

PATRICE

Like forever.

EVAN

I know.

ARCHIE

Grab a crutch.

PATRICE

You're stuck with us now.

EVAN

(to PATRICE)

You told me six weeks ago what jerks these guys were, and I just didn't listen! I should have trusted you.

PATRICE

You know what? It just passed.

EVAN

What did?

PATRICE

Me hating you.

EVAN

Thanks.

ARCHIE

You okay, Ev?

EVAN

Since the day I got here, I've been driving myself and everybody else crazy so I could have ... something I didn't even want. Forget it, I'm gonna just call my Bar Mitzvah off.

PATRICE

Why?

EVAN

What's the point? It won't be what I planned. It'll just be Losers-R-Us. No offense. What's the point of that? What's the point of anything?

#15-If That's What It Is

ARCHIE

Okay....

(HE sings)

IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS,
THEN THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT TO JUST FORGET IT.
LET'S FACE IT, YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD.
AND NOW YOU'RE SCARRED
AND FREE OF ANY HOPE.
I GUESS YOU SHOULD MOPE.
FORGET WHAT YOU PLANNED.
HEY, I UNDERSTAND.

IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS,
THEN THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
THOUGH THAT'S NOT THE WAY I CHOOSE TO SEE IT.
I HAVE MY OWN VIEW THAT WORKS
WITH ALL THESE JERKS
AND UNENLIGHTENED FOOLS.
I MAKE MY OWN RULES.
I DO WHAT I CAN.
IF I HIT THE WALL,
WELL, MAYBE IT'S ALL JUST PART OF THE PLAN.
TOMORROW WILL COME,
TODAY WILL BE GONE:
AND SO I PUT ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER,
ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER
AND JUST KEEP WALKING ON.

PATRICE

IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS,

ARCHIE

IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS,

PATRICE

WHAT ALSO IS TRUE

ARCHIE

WHAT ALSO IS TRUE

BOTH

IS IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE DISASTER.

PATRICE

I REALIZE THAT NOW IT IS,
BUT HOW IT IS
ISN'T HOW IT'S GOT TO BE.
ANOTHER DAY COMES,
ANOTHER DAY GOES,
AND IF I GET TEASED OR HURT
OR LIED TO OR PUNCHED IN THE NOSE,
I SAY "I WON'T CRY,"
I CRY UNTIL DAWN,
AND THEN I PUT ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER

PATRICE & ARCHIE

ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER

PATRICE

AND JUST KEEP WALKING ON.

EVAN

I'M BECOMING A MAN.

MAYBE ALL THAT IT MEANS IS I FACE

THE WORLD FOR WHAT

IT IS AND NOT

WHAT I WISH IT WOULD BE.

I'M BECOMING A MAN.

WATCHING EVERYTHING FALL INTO PLACE,
I SWING, I MISS;
I'LL GET THROUGH THIS,
I ALMOST GUARANTEE.

ONE DAY I'LL BE THIRTY,
ONE DAY I'LL BE FINE,
ONE DAY I'LL MAKE FUN OF THIS DRAMATIC LIFE OF MINE.
ONE DAY I'LL BE OLDER
AND THEN I'LL WRITE A BOOK
ABOUT THE CHOICES THAT I MADE...

PATRICE

THE CHOICES THAT YOU MADE...

EVAN

AND THE CHANCES THAT I TOOK.

PATRICE

THE CHANCES THAT YOU...

EVAN leans in and kisses PATRICE. Just as abruptly, HE stops. Neither of them knows what they think about it. Then THEY both smile. ARCHIE watches, rolls his eyes, and sings:

ARCHIE

IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS,
THEN THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
AT LEAST UNTIL DISNEY CAN REWRITE IT.
WE PUT ON OUR SHOES AND SOCKS
AND TAKE THE KNOCKS
AND WISH THAT IT WOULD CHANGE...

PATRICE

AND MAYBE IT WILL.

EVAN

AND MAYBE IT CAN.

ARCHIE

UNTIL THEN, YOU TRUST THAT ALL THIS IS JUST "BECOMING A MAN."

PATRICE

YOU TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT...

ALL THREE

'CAUSE LOOK WHAT YOU/I GOT!

PATRICE

GO ON AND PUT ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER.

EVAN

ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER.

ARCHIE

ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER,

EVAN

ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER.

ARCHIE

THE CRIP, THE GEEK, THE JEW AND HIS MOTHER...

PATRICE

AND JUST KEEP WALKING ON.

PATRICE helps EVAN puts on his suit and kipah. SHE and ARCHIE stand to the side watching EVAN read his haftorah. We are in the temple at Evan's bar mitzvah.

#15a – Evan's Haftorah

EVAN

KOH-AMAR HA'EL ADOSHEM BORE HASHAMAYIM VENOTEYHEM ROKA HA'ARETS VETSE'ETSA'EYHA NOTEN NESHAMAH LA'AM ALEYHA VERUACH LAHOLECHIM BAH.

(to the audience)

The amazing thing was my Bar Mitzvah wasn't completely empty. Patrice and Archie were there.

(HE smiles at them)

And my Aunt Jessie and Uncle Phil came from Florida. And my Dad came, which was good. I guess. And he and Mom sat behind me on the *bimah* and at one point I even caught them holding hands. And for a minute, a couple of minutes, it felt like a family again.

PATRICE and ARCHIE watch EVAN give his speech.

#16 - A Little More Homework

IF YOU STAND HERE BEHIND ME
AND YOU CALL ME A MAN
AND YOU'RE COUNTING ON ME TO COME THROUGH,
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I'LL GIVE YOU
THE BEST THAT I CAN,
BUT WE ALL HAVE A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK TO DO.

IF YOU'RE WALKING BESIDE ME
AND YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS,
YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M DEPENDING ON YOU.
SO YOU GOTTA HANG IN THERE
'TIL THE WHOLE STORY ENDS
'CAUSE WE ALL HAVE A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK TO DO.

(EVAN)

AND I'VE BEEN LOOKING IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK FOR THE ANSWERS,
HOPING THE BELL WOULDN'T CHIME,
BUT I'M NOT READY TO PUT DOWN MY PENCIL JUST YET,
THERE ARE TOO MANY ANSWERS THAT I DIDN'T GET.
I NEED A LITTLE LESS PRESSURE,
AND A LITTLE MORE TIME.

I AM TRYING TO FOLLOW,
I AM TRYING TO LEAD,
I AM TRYING TO FIND WHAT IS TRUE,
BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA STAND WITH ME,
THEN YOU HAVE TO CONCEDE
THAT WE ALL HAVE A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK TO DO.

CHARLOTTE enters, followed by the other KIDS singly and in groups; THEY assemble into formation on the stage, both the characters they played and the real kids they are at the same time.

CHARLOTTE

(to the audience, including EVAN, PATRICE and ARCHIE)

DAY TURNS TO DAY.
YOU GET A LITTLE BIT OLDER, A LITTLE BIT TALLER,
A LITTLE BIT BETTER, A LITTLE BIT.
DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY AND THE DAYS BEFORE ALL GO TOO FAST,
YOU CAN'T HOLD ON.
SO YOU GO

CHARLOTTE, RICHIE & EVAN

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

EVAN

AND I'M A LITTLE BIT OLDER, A LITTLE BIT STRONGER, A LITTLE BIT SMARTER – A LITTLE BIT.

CHARLOTTE, RICHIE & EVAN

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

CHARLOTTE

AND THE DAYS AHEAD COMIN' ON SO QUICK, YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF THE WAY.
YOU KEEP RUNNIN'

ALL KIDS

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

AND I'M A LITTLE BIT OLDER, A LITTLE BIT FASTER,

A LITTLE BIT CLOSER, A LITTLE BIT.

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

AND THE SKY GOES BLUE AND THE SKY GOES BLACK

AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU CAN'T TURN BACK!

YOU GO DAY INTO DAY INTO DAY...

EVAN

(to the audience)

I turned thirteen, my parents split up and I went from the greatest city on earth to a place I never thought I'd call home.

ALL

DAY INTO DAY INTO DAY.

PATRICE

(to the audience)

I turned thirteen, and I kissed a boy. More than once!

KENDRA

I turned thirteen and signed a virginity pledge.

ALL

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY...

LUCY

I did not sign a virginity pledge.

BRETT

I failed math. But we won the championship!

ALL

AND I'M A LITTLE BIT BRAVER, A LITTLE BIT BROADER, A LITTLE BIT BRIGHTER, A LITTLE BIT...

ARCHIE

I turned thirteen and I had to have spinal cord surgery. God, that sucked.

ALL

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY!

EDDIE

I got busted for driving my Dad's pickup.

ALL

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY!

CHARLOTTE

I got drunk.

MOLLY

AND I'VE BEEN LOOKING IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK FOR THE ANSWERS. HOPING THE BELL WOULDN'T CHIME.

MALCOLM

My parents split up.

CASSIE

BUT I'M NOT READY TO PUT DOWN MY PENCIL JUST YET.

RICHIE

THERE ARE TOO MANY ANSWERS THAT I DIDN'T GET.

SIMON

I NEED A LITTLE LESS PRESSURE.

ALL

AND A LITTLE MORE TIME.

I AM TRYING TO FOLLOW,

I AM TRYING TO LEAD,

I AM TRYING TO LEARN WHAT IS TRUE.

I AM TRYING TO BE WHAT YOU WANT AND I NEED

AND WE ALL HAVE A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK.

WE ALL HAVE A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK.

WE ALL HAVE A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK

TO DO.

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY...

A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK TO DO.

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY...

The KIDS begin fading offstage.

(ALL)

A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK TO DO.

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

EVAN, ARCHIE & PATRICE

A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK TO DO.

OTHER KIDS

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY

EVAN

A LITTLE MORE HOMEWORK TO DO.

OTHER KIDS

DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY TURNS TO DAY ...

EVAN, alone on stage, turns to the audience.

EVAN

My name is Evan Goldman. I live at 24 Plains Drive, Appleton, Indiana. I'm thirteen years old. And I'm just getting started.

The lights fade on EVAN surrounded by a gorgeous Indiana night sky.

#16a - Bows

Music. Lights rise on all of the KIDS, who take their curtain calls and then, as themselves – not as their characters – they sing.

#17 - Encore: Brand New You

CASSIE

I SAW THE COVER AND JUDGED THE BOOK.
I TURNED AWAY WITHOUT A SECOND LOOK,
BUT NOW, NOW, NOW
I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU
I TOLD MYSELF I BETTER RUN AND HIDE.
I NEVER NOTICED WHAT WAS THERE INSIDE,
BUT NOW, NOW, NOW
I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU!
AND I CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM LOVIN'
EV'RY ITTY BITTY THING YOU DO!

ALL

HOO! I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU. HOO! I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU!

CHARLOTTE

GIRLS

I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS MEANT TO BE

I FIGURED NO ONE WOULD BE

THERE FOR ME,

BUT NOW, NOW, NOW

I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU!

I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU.

OO-HOO

ALL

NOW, NOW, NOW

YOU! YOU!

MOLLY & CHARLOTTE

I NEVER KNEW THAT YOU COULD UNDERSTAND. MOLLY, CHARLOTTE & CASSIE

BUT I LOOKED UP AND YOU

REACHED OUT YOUR HAND!

AND NOW, NOW, NOW

LSEE A BRAND NEW YOU!

NOW, NOW, NOW!

CHARLOTTE

I OPENED MY EYES

AND THERE'S A GREAT BIG WORLD AROUND!.

I OPENED MY EYES

AND JUST LOOK, JUST LOOK,

LOOK AT WHAT I FOUND!

I OPENED MY EYES!

OOH

I OPENED MY EYES!

GIRLS

NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA-NA-NA

ALL

NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA NA-NA-NA-NA-NA HEY YEAH!

CHARLOTTE & CASSIE

I OPENED MY EYES AND THERE'S A GREAT BIG WORLD AROUND! I OPENED MY EYES,

ALL

I OPENED MY EYES

OOH

I OPENED MY EYES,

CASSIE

AND JUST LOOK, JUST LOOK, LOOK AT WHAT I FOUND!

ALL

HOO!

I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU. HOO!
I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU. HOO!
I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU. HOO!
I SEE A BRAND NEW YOU!

END OF PLAY