

ANTHEM FOR A GENERATION

By Carolyn West

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CAST: LEE and GIL

SETTING: A coffee shop, just a table and two chairs.

****This selection is written as a contest piece and may easily be played by students of any age.***

AT RISE: LEE, late thirties male, and GIL, late thirties male, sit across from each other. They each have a notebook and pencil out.

LEE: If we can write something good, we have an automatic sale.

GIL: Really?

LEE: Really. Her agent said she was so happy with our last song she's definitely recording the next one we give her.

GIL: Wow.

LEE: I hope you've been working.

GIL: Oh, I have. This whole notebook is filled with lyrics. I've been on a roll.

LEE: I have too. I came up with a great baseline. It kind of goes **(Singing)** "Bum, boom-boom, bum bum. Bum, boom-boom, bum bum."

GIL: That's terrific. And it fits in really well with what I have. Listen. **(Reads from notebook)** "Oh Honey, honey, honey..."

LEE: Wait, wait. "Honey, honey, honey?" Doesn't that sound familiar to you?

GIL: How so?

LEE: **(Singing)** "Baby, baby, baby,"

GIL: Oh yeah. Easy fix. How about "Sugar, sugar, sugar"

LEE: No. Let's not repeat any terms of endearment three times. We want to go for something new. We have an opportunity here. If we can write a hit completely different from the last one, then people will know how creative and diverse we can be. Producers who need a song will come to us. We'll be so well-respected we can do anything.

GIL: Anything? I have an idea of a Broadway musical version of a Gilbert and Sullivan piece. I call it "Penzance."

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LEE: Great, but let's concentrate on the now. What else do you got?

GIL: Well, **(Reads)** "Oh something, something, something. This cannot be. You cannot, cannot, be leaving me."

LEE: No.

GIL: No?

LEE: Let's try to keep away from writing any more songs begging boyfriends or girlfriends to come back.

GIL: You sure?

LEE: She doesn't want us writing her those kinds of songs. Different, Remember? We have a wide range.

GIL: Okay. No problem. **(Crosses out words in notebook.)** I got lots of stuff. **(Turns page, scans it quickly and crosses out more words. Looks at next page.)** How about...no. **(Turns another page. Looks at LEE.)** I have a touching, sentimental piece on the miracle of fatherhood.

LEE: Think about who we're writing for.

GIL: I could easily change it to how cool it is to be an aunt.

LEE: Girls her age, what are their concerns? What are they thinking about?

GIL: They're often begging boyfriends to come back to them.

LEE: I shudder when I think of what your teenage years must have been like.

GIL: Oh, oh. I got something. **(Singing)** "Help me..."

LEE: Yeah. **(Begins to drum along.)**

GIL: "...Won't you help me? I need your help with my homework."

(LEE stops drumming.)

LEE: She's out of high school now.

GIL: She going to college?

LEE: With all the gold records she has?

GIL: I could write a piece about...about...

LEE: Something she can relate to.

GIL: Cosmetic surgery?

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