

LIES ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

By B. Dwayne Craft

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LIES ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

A One Act Comedy

By B. Dwayne Craft

SYNOPSIS: A hilarious look at the perils of beginning high school. Nick and his friends spend the last day of their senior year reminiscing about their freshman experiences. They manage to cover all of the perils of the first lunch, navigating the hallways, kooky parents and the most dangerous game of all: dating in high school. Memories are all relived in somewhat exaggerated, but always funny detail.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

*6-23 female, 5-13 male, 6-11 either, 0-4 extras;
gender flexible, doubling possible*

NICK (m)	(60 lines)
BRANDON (m)	(41 lines)
PERMANENT RECORD SON (m)	(18 lines)
GOOD GRADES DAD (m)	(9 lines)
GOOD GRIEF SON (m)	(8 lines)
LUCKY GUY (m)	(3 lines)
GARY THE CUSTODIAN (m)	(7 lines)
MAKE OUT BOY (m)	(1 line)
CASANOVA (m)	(11 lines)
REJECTING BOY (m)	(3 lines)
FRIEND ZONE BOY (m)	(2 lines)
UNREQUITED BOY (m)	(19 lines)
BAD ADVICE FRIEND (m)	(4 lines)
KATE (f)	(62 lines)
MALLORY (f)	(51 lines)
PERMANENT RECORD MOM (f)	(12 lines)
NO DRAMA MAMA (f)	(9 lines)
DRAMA DAUGHTER (f)	(10 lines)
LEAD DRAMA GIRL (f)	(2 lines)
DRAMA GIRL 2 – 9 (f)	(1 line each)
SPY GIRL (f)	(8 lines)
UNREQUITED GIRL (f)	(18 lines)
CASA-OVER-IT (f)	(9 lines)

MAKE OUT GIRL (f)	(1 line)
WEDDING GIRL (f)	(2 lines)
WEDDING GIRL'S FRIEND (f)	(1 line)
REJECTED GIRL (f).....	(4 lines)
TOO FAST, TOO SOON GIRL (f)	(8 lines)
FRIEND ZONE GIRL (f)	(2 lines)
LONELY AT LUNCH (m/f)	(1 line)
FOURTH LUNCHER 1 (m/f).....	(3 lines)
FOURTH LUNCHER 2 (m/f).....	(3 lines)
FOURTH LUNCHER 3 (m/f).....	(1 line)
FOURTH LUNCHER 4 (m/f).....	(1 line)
VOICE (OFFSTAGE) (m/f)	(2 lines)
LOST (m/f)	(2 lines)
HELPFUL (m/f).....	(5 lines)
ALSO HELPFUL (m/f)	(5 lines)
EVEN MORE HELPFUL (m/f).....	(3 lines)
TEACHER (m/f).....	(10 lines)

EXTRAS:

CURSE OF FIFTH LUNCH.....	(Non speaking)
BOSS	(Non speaking)
MINIMUM WAGE BOY	(Non Speaking)
LUNCH LADY	(Non speaking)

CAST NOTES: All vignettes characters can be played by as few as 13 actors in addition to the four leads. Character names may be changed for any of the vignette scenes (excluding lead characters) as you wish to reflect actual actors in your production. Actors who play adults in one vignette should play adults in other vignettes if possible. The characters of Nick, Kate, Brandon and Mallory can step into vignettes if desired.

CUTTING: If the play is being performed at a festival or competition, it must be entered and listed in all programs and advertising under its real title. Directors are allowed to cut or alter characters as necessary to accommodate festival or competition rules without prior permission.

DURATION: 45 minutes

SETTING

Interior classroom can be blank stage with desks with areas downstage left and downstage right for vignettes. Scene transitions can be achieved with lighting, or, if area lighting is not available, characters can enter and exit as necessary to direct focus.

COSTUMES: Modern street wear for teenagers. Adult characters wear appropriate clothing for their occupations.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This can be a very simply staged production and still be very effective. Students and directors are free to adjust the script to reflect current trends. At the time of writing Myspace was still a popular medium, but has since faded in use. Subsequent productions have added specifics to keep it current. Feel free to adjust as needed by updating references to social media, pop icons, and current trends. Additionally, vignettes are easily taken out if needed to accommodate time constraints.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

NICK – High school everyman. He is the average kid in everything but intelligence. He is actually very smart and has a plan to maximize the last moments of his high school career.

KATE – The pretty high school actress who everyone likes. She resists Nick's advances but is still friends with him.

MALLORY – Can be played in any archetypical teen girl fashion the director chooses.

BRANDON – A little bit goofy, but otherwise loveable average teen boy.

ALL OTHER CHARACTERS – Are played based on their vignette. Each one should reflect the absurdity of their particular situation.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Lies About High School has been produced twice by James Clemens High School in Madison, Alabama and five times by Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Amy Patel, Director, James Clemens High School

“It’s the perfect blend of truth and ridiculousness. Everyone laughs, whether they’re getting ready for high school, going through it, or reminiscing about it.”

Mary Davis, Director, Bob Jones High School

“What a fun show! This has become a tradition at our school and one of our best recruiting tools for drama. By far the most popular show we do each year.”

Dedicated to Carol Chandler and Mike Chappell.

Thanks for starting me on this journey!

AT RISE: *A simple classroom scene staged as completely or simply as desired. Follow spot on NICK as he speaks.*

NICK: Ok, so here I am, sitting in my last class of high school, thinking about all the things it took to get me here. All of the classes, all of the studying, the endless hours stressing about every single detail of high school life. And yet, here I am at the end of the road, after having been through so much. You would be surprised at all the things that will be going through your mind when you get to this point. For instance, I am still wondering what in the heck I am going to use the Pythagorean theorem for after I graduate. Or why I keep thinking of Newton's Third Law, you know, the one that says that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. You think of all kinds of crazy things when you're sitting here. Well, that is why I decided it was my job to make it easier on you, so that when you get to this point, you'll know why you think of these things. I hope you don't mind, but I brought along some friends and I hope maybe we could give you some insight into the whole process, the whole "High School" thing.

KATE: Just so you know, we all went through it, the transition, the change. Wow, hard to believe that was four years ago.

NICK: *(Aside.)* That's Kate. *(Sotto voce.)* She's HOT!

BRANDON: You really don't have to worry too much. It's only the potential for four years of abject misery staring you in the face, if you make the wrong choices.

KATE: It really is all about starting off right. Get the first five days right and everything will fall into place. Get the first five days wrong and it will be a swirling vortex of misery. But, we don't want you to dwell on the negatives. After all, it could end up being perfect bliss. You never know.

NICK: *(Obviously aimed at KATE.)* Trust me. They are right. High school has limitless potential to go either way. For instance, I know for a fact that it could be bliss if certain people would just give certain other people a chance.

KATE: *(Obviously aimed at NICK.)* or it can be a real pain in the butt if CERTAIN people can't take a hint

BRANDON: Really, there is a lot to look forward to.

MALLORY: High School, the big HS, life in the big house.

BRANDON: *(To MALLORY.)* A little corny don't ya think?

MALLORY: Maybe, but we are talking about The Rights of Passage into adulthood, those first steps into independence.

BRANDON: The game changes at this point, the rules change, everything changes!

KATE: Your friends change, people around you go away for a summer and come back looking and acting like complete strangers.

BRANDON: Your friends come back looking so much older, almost like they grew up overnight.

MALLORY: The way they change over the summer, the way they are different when they come back, that's what makes them interesting.

NICK: Not that girls weren't already interesting, *(aimed at Kate)* it's just that some girls get even more interesting.

KATE: And SOME boys get even more obnoxious.

MALLORY: Still, it will be a lot of firsts and a lot of new experiences...

KATE: Friends, driving, after school jobs, acne, football games, ACT scores, the Graduation Exam...

NICK: *(Obviously aimed at KATE.)* the first unsupervised, one on one date...

KATE: *(Obviously aimed at NICK, rolls her eyes.)*...the first big rejection by someone of the opposite sex.

KATE: The first responsibilities in life.

NICK: Your first work permit, your first job *(On SL a MINIMUM WAGE BOY comes out with McDonalds uniform.)*

KATE: Your first paycheck...after taxes. *(BOSS hands him his check and his smile fades as he realizes how little is left after taxes.)*

MALLORY: First time you have to worry about a prom date.

BRANDON: First kisses.

MALLORY: And, of course, all this leads to one thing after another.

NICK: *(Obviously aimed at KATE.)* It can lead to second kisses if you're lucky.

KATE: *(Obviously aimed at NICK.)* And your second rejection by a member of the opposite sex.

MALLORY: A lot of memories get made in four years, cute boys, best friends, lunch in the courtyard.

BRANDON: Football, basketball, cross country, soccer, swim team, The Fishing club.

MALLORY: (*Bewildered, looking at BRANDON.*) THE FISHING CLUB? REALLY?

BRANDON: What? It was fun.

MALLORY: Drama, Chorus, band, yearbook, so much to do.

KATE: But, and this is a really big but-

NICK: (*Checking out KATE'S posterior.*) Nah, really, it's not big at all. It's actually kinda nice and fir-

KATE: (*Giving him a "drop dead" look that stops him midsentence.*) As I was saying, BUT, you have to make it through some pretty tough challenges.

MALLORY: You have to survive the gauntlet of that first day, and this means surviving the confusion and craziness of Day One: High School. There are a lot of challenges that you will face.

BRANDON: But to really get a good start, you have to overcome the single biggest challenge to high school happiness...

ALL: Parents.

MALLORY: I remember when I was sitting where you are now. 8th grade, the last hoorah before the crucible of cruelty...

KATE: The height of humiliation...

NICK: The days of doom and despair...

MALLORY: Being an underclassman in High School.

NICK: I remember it clearly, the first day of my high school career and my parents were full of warnings and advice.

BRANDON: Unfortunately, all of it was wrong!

Scene.

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: Now son, I want you to remember to be on your best behavior.

PERMANENT RECORD SON: Yes mom.

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: I mean it. All it takes is one discipline referral, one time in the principal's office and everyone will think that you're one of those kids.

PERMANENT RECORD SON: What do you mean those kids?

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: You know, kids with things on their...
(*Ominous, possibly echoed by other actors.*) on
their...**PERMANENT RECORD.** Once you get a mark on your
PERMANENT RECORD everyone looks at you differently,
everyone (*Special emphasis.*) **KNOWS.**

PERMANENT RECORD SON: Mom, I promise, I won't cut up or
anything. I haven't ever even gotten detention. I mean, for real,
it's like you think I'm gonna rob a bank or something.

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: Nonsense, I just know that
something on your **PERMANENT RECORD** means that **THEY** will
always be watching you, waiting for you to mess up again, it
means a lifetime of being a suspect. Do you remember Darien
Harris?

PERMANENT RECORD SON: Yeah, the one who used to live
across the street?

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: Yes. Do you know why he moved?

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: Yeah, his dad's business got a
contract that paid like a bazillion dollars or something.

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: No, the truth is that Darien got in
trouble at school, apparently the trouble was bad enough that they
decided to put it in his **PERMANENT RECORD.** His parents had
to move after that.

PERMANENT RECORD SON: Mom, Darien was an Eagle Scout, he
never got in trouble.

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: I even heard that when his father's
boss found out about Darien's "trouble" he threatened to fire
Darien's dad.

PERMANENT RECORD SON: Mom, his dad owned the company.

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: Not after Darien got a mark on his
PERMANENT RECORD. Apparently, the IRS got involved and he
lost it all.

PERMANENT RECORD SON: Mom, the IRS doesn't care about
high school students.

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: That's what Darien thought. Now
look at his poor family, penniless, broke, possibly homeless. I
heard they might even be deported!

PERMANENT RECORD SON: They're from Missouri, how can they
deport them?

PERMANENT RECORD MOM: If you don't believe me, ask your father. He was there when Darien's parents heard the news. (*Calling offstage.*) STAN! STAN! Come tell your son about the neighbor's kid, he doesn't believe me!

VOICE: (*Offstage.*) "Be there in a minute, did you tell him about them being deported?"

PERMANENT RECORD SON: Ok, ok ,I believe you. I promise that I won't get in trouble at school. I gotta catch the bus. (*Exits.*)

Scene.

MALLORY: Parents have a way of exaggerating everything. And nothing gets exaggerated more than Grades. Parents think that grades only come in one flavor, A.

Scene.

GOOD GRADES DAD: Ok son, so we went over the whole "grades" thing right?

GOOD GRIEF SON: Yeah dad, I got it

GOOD GRADES DAD: You know that if you get less than an A in any class you will not be allowed to get your driver's license until you are 18?

GOOD GRIEF SON: Yeah dad, I know.

GOOD GRADES DAD: And if you get a B in more than one class, you lose all TV privileges and we sell your XBOX on EBay?

GOOD GRIEF SON: C'mon dad, some kids parents are happy with B's. Aren't you being a little too uptight about this?

GOOD GRADES DAD: Your mother and I are only strict because we want you to be successful. B students do not get into Harvard. They can't even get into [*local community college name*]. Nowadays a B is like an F was when I was in High School. If you get B's, you pretty much get to work at McDonalds for the rest of your life.

MINIMUM WAGE BOY comes out carrying fry basket and looks miserable.

Now, do you want that? Do you want to slave over the fries for 27 cents an hour for the rest of your life? Do you want to be the indentured servant of Ronald McDonald? Do you want to wake up every morning to the smell of sausage egg McMuffins, McSkillet Burritos and hash browns? Do you want to have a slave driver of a manager to drive you back to work with a whip and chain you to the shake machine while you wear dingy, grease soaked, tacky uniforms and wonder how you could have let this happen, how you could have let yourself get a B, when all your mother and I asked of you was to get an A? Well, do you?!?

GOOD GRIEF SON: No, no, I guess not.

GOOD GRADES DAD: Well then, you simply have to get A's in everything.

GOOD GRIEF SON: What happens if I get a C in something?

GOOD GRADES DAD: We have the doctor give you electroshock therapy and then ship you off to a military school.

GOOD GRIEF SON: *(Truly getting frightened.)* What if I get a D?

GOOD GRADES DAD: We sell one of your kidneys on the black market and spend the money on your sister.

GOOD GRIEF SON: What if I get...an F?

GOOD GRADES DAD: Simple, we kill you, dismember the body before burying it, move to another state and forget you ever existed. That about covers your options doesn't it. You ready for school champ? *(Exits.)*

GOOD GRIEF SON: Um, yeah, I guess so. Um, dad, you weren't serious about the kidney thing were you?

GOOD GRADES DAD: *(From offstage.)* No, *(Enters wearing McDonalds smock and hat.)* we would probably invest the money instead of spending it on your sister. See you after work son.

Scene.

NICK: Parents, they mean well, but they can be kinda clueless.

KATE: Worse than that, they get the final word on everything.

BRANDON: They tell you how to cut your hair,

MALLORY: What clothes to wear,

KATE: Who to hang out with...

NICK: *(Directed at KATE.)* Who you should date...

MALLORY: (*Rolls her eyes.*) And what classes to take...

BRANDON: Classes, the subject of classes can be a little tricky.

KATE: After all, you do want to get into a good college, but you also don't want to go crazy with homework, and projects, and papers.

NICK: Besides, who really knows what they want to be when they're 16 years old? I mean, when you were a little kid you had all those crazy ideas about what you wanted to be.

BRANDON: I wanted to be a fireman...

MALLORY: I wanted to be an astronaut...

KATE: I wanted to be a movie star...actually, I still want to be a movie star!

NICK: I bet your parents just love THAT idea?

KATE: Well, not really. It takes a little work to get parents to let you take the classes you REALLY want to take.

Scene.

DRAMA DAUGHTER: Mom, I've got my class registration card, and I've kind of decided I want to be in drama, I mean, I WAS born to act!

NO DRAMA MAMA: But honey, your father and I have already talked about this and we know what classes are best for you.

DRAMA DAUGHTER: You don't understand mom. It's in my blood. Every episode of Glee is like heaven to me! High School musical makes me melt. I simply have to be a star! I just know if I take drama I can be a star!

NO DRAMA MAMA: Drama? Drama? Drama is a useless class for show offs who can't cut it in real classes like science or math or Advanced-Placement Double Honors Mandarin Chinese Literature and Language, that's why you are going to take Honors Pre-engineering Mathematical Computation, Advanced-Placement Astrophysical Trigonometry, and Extra Double Advanced Forensic Anthropology and Human Anatomy. By December, you'll be able to calculate every way you can possibly dissect a flatworm and you'll be able to do it in two languages. Now, doesn't that sound exciting?

DRAMA DAUGHTER: Yeah, a real hysterical time, Mom. Don't you realize that all those classes have 3 or 4 hours of homework for every minute you spend in class? Couldn't you just go ahead and kill me now?

NO DRAMA MAMA: Honey, I can't kill you before you get your first Ph.D.

DRAMA DAUGHTER: Mom, you just don't understand, if I only take the classes you want I will go completely N.U.T.S. and never get to Ph.D. You know, the whole (*Channeling Jack Nicholson from "The Shining".*) "all work and no play makes Jill a VERY dull girl" thing? That's from The Shining, you know, a classic. It scared the crap out of kids in the eighties.

NO DRAMA MAMA: Don't say "crap" sweetie, it isn't scientific. Say, feces or scatological leavings, it sounds better for a future Ph.D.

DRAMA DAUGHTER: I don't want to be a Ph.D. mom. I want to be a S.T.A.R. I want to be in Drama. Besides, I have to have a Fine Arts elective to graduate. My counselor said so.

NO DRAMA MAMA: What? A Fine Arts elective, why would a quantum molecular microbiological engineer need fine arts? Besides, doesn't Advanced Placement Honors Accelerated Macroeconomic Design count as a Fine Arts elective?

DRAMA DAUGHTER: No, it doesn't.

NO DRAMA MAMA: Well, we'll just have to talk to the school board about that. I mean, really, why would they require something so useless?

DRAMA DAUGHTER: (*Selling the idea, like a really slick salesman.*) Mom, is reading useless? Is writing useless? Is the ability to get up in front of a group of people and make them hang on your every word, your every gesture, your every breath, is that useless? Let's assume that I DO go to school to be a scientist of some sort, suppose for instance I become, I don't know, a genetic engineer. Well, then I have to sell my new genetically modified creations don't I? What if I needed to sell a cross between, um, I don't know, um a chicken and an elephant?

NO DRAMA MAMA: That sounds dreadful, why would you...?

DRAMA DAUGHTER: Well, I couldn't introduce it to the world like some Igor from Frankenstein's Lab. (*Best Frankenstein voice.*) Here you go world, it's my discovery...and it's AALLLIIVVVVEEEE! It's AAALLLIIVVVVEEEE muhwahahahaa! No one listens to a scientist who can't present their ideas. Ideas like a chicken and elephant cross don't come along often.

NO DRAMA MAMA: I fail to see how an elephant and a chicken...

DRAMA DAUGHTER: No, but if I had presence and confidence, things I will learn in Drama, then I could convince people of how important my work was, how my invention, my discovery could lead to a better world, a world without hunger.

NO DRAMA MAMA: But an elephant and a chicken, how would that...

DRAMA DAUGHTER: Duh mom, how else do you get a 400 pound egg?

Scene.

NICK: See? Absolutely clueless.

BRANDON: They mean well, and they try really hard, but they're still clueless.

NICK: They almost ALWAYS find a way to make things even more complicated...

KATE: Confusing...

MALLORY: Awkward...

NICK: ...embarrassing!

MALLORY: I mean, high school can be complicated, confusing, awkward and embarrassing enough without your parents help.

NICK: And even though their advice is well intentioned, they probably can't help you much with some of the really big issues.

BRANDON: For example, the most important part of high school—

KATE: Sports?

MALLORY: Friends?

NICK: Dating?

KATE rolls her eyes.

BRANDON: No, the most important part of high school is, LUNCH! Lunch determines everything. And lunch is something even your parents can't make more devastating.

KATE: The first day is always the worst.

Acted out to either SR or SL is the action being described. Of course it is exaggerated and over the top.

MALLORY: The dreaded moment when you walk in the lunchroom doors for the first time and you take, the look

KATE: Oooh, you mean the LOOK?

BRANDON: There is very little in your life that will equal the terror of "the look". It is the single longest look in the world. It will determine whether lunch is a paradise of laughter and light, or a hell of cold loneliness, punctuated only by the occasional chicken nugget and tater tot combination.

MALLORY: That's because you are looking for a friend in a sea of unfamiliar faces. Someone to throw you a life preserver before you drown. A harbor in the storm. A lighthouse to guide you.

KATE: What she means is that you are looking for someone to sit with.

NICK: *(Obviously to Kate.)* Of course there are some people who you would die to sit next to everyday at lunch.

KATE: And there are people who you want to avoid like the plague.

BRANDON: If you fail to find the right someone to share lunch with, your year is really going to suck. You'll end up having to sit alone.

MALLORY: Which will mean everyone will assume you are a social moron.

NICK: Or worse.

Scene.

LONELY AT LUNCH: Alright, lunch; the moment of truth, I got this. I will just get my food and then look for someone to sit with. Yeah, I'll wait until I have my food before I look for someone to sit with. Play it safe until then. Just cruise into the line, get my food and then look. I mean I don't want to seem over eager. I don't want to look desperate. Not that I would ever be desperate in a situation

like this, I'm a pretty popular guy after all! So, there you go, there isn't anything to worry about. I mean, I know people. I know a lot of people. Someone I know has to have this lunch don't they? Who might have this lunch? Maybe Zach or Nick have this lunch, yeah, I'm sure one of them does. Alright, that's a relief. It's all gonna be fine, I'll just sit with my old buddies Zach and Nick. Good old Zach and Nick, I've known them since elementary school. We're like the three musketeers. Me, Zach and Nick, one for all and all for... (*Big pause.*) Oh no, what if they don't want to sit with me? Of course they will want to sit with me, why wouldn't they? They'll want to sit with me, sure they will. Well, I did borrow Nick's Xbox controller and didn't give it back all summer. What if he's mad? What if he is super mad because he couldn't play Call of Duty? He would tell me if he was mad wouldn't he? I could understand getting mad over that, but not sitting with your best friend during lunch? That would be way too much! I would be mad, but I would still sit with him. I mean, what kind of friend would abandon you on the first lunch of your entire high school career? What kind of person would do that? Nick wouldn't do that, no, he wouldn't do that to me, or would he? I did accidentally push him down on the playground in 3rd grade, he can't still be angry about that though, who remembers things like that? Besides me, who remembers things like that? Well if he's still mad about that, then he isn't much of a friend is he? That's fine! If he wants to be that way, I didn't need him anyway, some friend Nick turned out to be, holding grudges like that! Well, At least I still have my good buddy Zach to sit with. Zach was always cooler than Nick anyway. It's ok, me and Zach will hang out during lunch. It's good to have friends like Zach. He would never hold things like that against me. I know, sure, I played a little trick on him in 6th grade and all his hair fell out, but who knew that cream would do that someone? And that was just a joke. He knows that. And, sure, I tripped him during PE in seventh grade and he fell and broke both wrists, knocked out a tooth and wet his pants, but he knows accidents happen right? Real friends know that even though I kinda, sorta threw a stick for his dog, and it kinda sorta went into the road and his dog kinda, sorta ran after it and got hit by a semi-truck, and then by a tractor, and then by a steam roller,

and then by another semi, well, a real friend would know it was a coincidence. I mean...it could happen to anyone, *(Long beat.)* Ok, maybe I won't sit with Zach. I don't need to anyway. I can sit alone. I can make it without them. I can do this! Here I go, the first lunch of my high school career and I am walking into the luncharoo...*(Bell rings.)* What? It's over? I never even got anything to eat, and today was chicken nugget and tater tot day, dang!

Scene.

NICK: There are always other ways the whole Lunch Scenario could work out.

KATE: Some are good. Some are not so good.

NICK: *(To KATE.)* You could end up sitting with someone who has a giant crush on you.

KATE: Or someone who finds you thoroughly revolting.

BRANDON: Or even worse, you could end up sitting alone, every day, for the entire year, every year of high school, kind of like this one guy I heard of...

NICK: Oh no, it's bad luck to even talk about that, you know, *(Ominous and foreboding.)* The Curse of Fifth Lunch!

BRANDON: Don't listen to him! It's only a legend.

NICK: It's not a legend! I heard from my neighbor's cousin's younger sister's boyfriend that it really happened.

BRANDON: Okay, the "legend" is that a kid, through some weird circumstance, managed to get assigned a lunch period every single year where he knew absolutely no one.

NICK: It was worse than just getting assigned lunches that none of your friends had, it was that he actually got assigned lunches where everyone else hated him. Like, actively hated him. The legend is that he angered one of the "lunch ladies" and as a result was sentenced to "Fifth Lunch".

Scene.

LUNCH LADY complete with hairnet and ladle bumps into to CURSE OF FIFTH LUNCH and turns menacingly, she stares at him and he reacts in fear.

Scene.

BRANDON: Oh c'mon, there are only four lunch periods. There isn't even a bell for "fifth lunch".

NICK: That's because they don't want anyone who is sentenced to "fifth lunch" to be found. You get fifth lunch, and you simply disappear, not even your parents look for you. It's sad, real sad.

Scene.

CURSE OF FIFTH LUNCH sitting alone, slowly eating his sandwich, sound effects – a desert wind, desolate and haunting. He is awkwardly looking around him as he slowly eats. He is quietly crying.

Scene.

BRANDON: That doesn't mean that has to be a bad thing, sometimes lunch is great.

KATE: Yeah, You might just get lucky, all of your friends might, just might have the same lunch period as you.

Scene.

FOURTH LUNCHER 1: Hey Justin.

FOURTH LUNCHER 2: Hey Kendall, what lunch do you have this year?

FOURTH LUNCHER 1: 4th lunch

FOURTH LUNCHER 3&4 enter.

FOURTH LUNCHER 2: So do !! (*Noticing FOURTH LUNCHER 3&4.*)
Oh hey, which lunch do you guys have?

FOURTH LUNCHER 3: I got 4th

FOURTH LUNCHER 4: Me too!

FOURTH LUNCHER 1 & 2: So do we!

ALL: *(Parade off Celebrating and Chanting.)* Fourth Lunch! Fourth Lunch! Fourth Lunch!

Scene.

MALLORY: They might, it's not likely, but it could happen, of course, even if that does happen, it doesn't mean you won't occasionally have to re-live the horror of the first day lunch. Oh no, the administration has to keep you on your toes and pretty much guarantee *YOU* at least one lunch that is totally awful.

Scene.

Classroom, students are studying. [Prerecorded or offstage] From the loudspeaker, the PRINCIPAL interrupts. All students, except one should take each change in stride, no panic. One student, PERMANENT RECORD, is completely lost and on the verge of panic by then end of the announcement.

VOICE: (*Offstage.*) Students and faculty, because of today's pep rally, we will be following an altered schedule. We will be following lunch schedule B82. Students with names beginning with A through L who are taking English and Math this term, but who have not had Biology yet, and whose birthday is in an odd numbered month, unless that month is November or January, but who have not missed more than three days of school and whose 1st grade GPA was a B or better will go to third lunch, students whose names begin with J through P and who are in history or science, but have less than an A average and whose birthday is a prime number and who have no overdue library books, unless those books were by an author with a last name starting with a G, P, or S, and who will be 17 when they graduate will go to second lunch. Students who have less than two vowels in their last names, are left handed, have been to more than three states...not including the US territories of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, but who have not had more than three cavities or are in Band, Chorus or Drama will go to 1st lunch. All other students will go to fourth lunch. Students not in their assigned lunch will be given detention and it will be noted in their permanent record!

Scene.

KATE: Even on those tragic days though, there really isn't too much to worry about. Lunch only lasts about 25 minutes. Anyone can survive 25 minutes. Besides, there are plenty of other high school issues to worry about, plenty of other areas for disaster.

MALLORY: Some of the simplest things can get really complicated when you are in your first year of high school, It's a whole different world and you aren't used to it. Things that used to seem like no big deal in middle school get to be a real challenge, like changing classes.

KATE: It's not so much changing classes, but actually finding the classroom you're supposed to be in can get a little confusing.

MALLORY: Unfortunately, most book bags aren't GPS enabled just yet, so you'll pretty much have to assume that you will get lost at least once or twice. Try and remain calm when you do.

KATE: Someone will eventually come along and help you out.

BY B. DWAYNE CRAFT

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