

TOTALLY BOY CRAZY

by Faith Grant

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SYNOPSIS: Jessica and her best friends, Lilly and Cassidy have a secret club where they pick a boy of the month with whom to flirt. To them it's all in good fun, but their boy crazy antics eventually land Jessica in serious trouble. Ultimately, things build to a catastrophic level and she is banned from all contact with boys. Will Jessica ever find out what real love is all about? Set in suburban Sunnyvale and the coastal beach town of Half Moon Bay, *Totally Boy Crazy* is an honest, humorous look at young romance and all the complications that come along with it. Based on an Amazon top-rated novel, *Totally Boy Crazy*.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10-12 females, 8-11 males, 3-20 extras)

JESSICA THOMPSON (f)	13-17, Very pretty, slim, outgoing. Brown hair and an athletic build. (466 lines)
CASSIDY DONAHUE (f)	13-17, sporty, cute, bubbly, not terribly smart. Somewhat of a jock but still feminine. (135 lines)
LILLY GREEN (f)	13-17, tall, bookish, attractive. (162 lines)
MARIE THOMPSON (f)	32-42, Jessica's mom, strict yet caring. (128 lines)
CONNER THOMPSON (m)	9-14, Jessica's brother, precocious, bratty, energetic. (117 lines)
AIDEN GAMBELLA (m)	13-17, athletic, popular, friendly. (18 lines)
ZACK LEMMING (m)	13-17, cute, freckled, athletic. cute, spunky red-head. (14 lines)
CHAD STEVENSON (m)	13-17, tall, smart, handsome. (10 lines)

VINCE GLEETANHEIMER (m).....	13-17, bookish, shy, pale but cute. (10 lines)
JAKE BANYON (m).....	13-17, a nice guy with a bad boy persona. (3 lines)
RON NYBURN (m).....	13-17, Zack's buddy, good looking. (3 lines)
ROSA (f).....	13-17, cute. (2 lines)
MISSY (f).....	13-17, tough, a trouble maker. (11 lines)
MARGO (f).....	13-17, a follower. (4 lines)
PENNY CARDIFF (f).....	13-17, a surfer girl. (2 lines)
MR. HENRICKSON (m).....	35-55, English teacher, loud, stern. (6 lines)
MRS. HORNER (f).....	25-55, Science teacher, straightforward, serious. Wears glasses. (7 lines)
MRS. HEMSLEY (f).....	40-60, the principal, strong, direct, by the book. (6 lines)
ROYCE (m).....	13-17, handsome, blonde, tanned surfer, upbeat. (82 lines)
WES (m).....	13-17, Royce's surf buddy. (4 lines)
HANSON (m).....	13-17, Royce's surf buddy. (3 lines)
JESSIE (f).....	22-28, Cute, fit, has an (optional) Australian accent. (16 lines)
LAURIE (f).....	13-17, Royce's cousin, pretty, blonde, nice. (9 lines)
EXTRAS:	
BOY (m).....	(Non-Speaking)
GIRL (f).....	(Non-Speaking)
MRS. SPLINTER (f).....	34-44, Missy's mother, wears glasses (Non-Speaking)
ENSEMBLE (m/f).....	Optional. 13-17 years old; Students, Surfers, and Teens on beach. (Non-Speaking)

DURATION: 120 minutes.

TIME: Present day.

SETTING: Two cities on the west coast: one inland, one on the beach.

OPTIONAL CAST DOUBLING

PENNY CARDIFF can double as LAURIE

MRS. HORNER can double as JESSIE

ROYCE can double as RON NYBURN

WES can double as CHAD STEVENSON

HANSON can double as ZACK LEMMING

SET

ACT ONE

STAGE LEFT: The interior of Jessica's House (living area/kitchen and Jessica's Bedroom). The front door is upstage, near center.

STAGE RIGHT: A school location with lockers and a classroom.

ACT TWO

STAGE LEFT: The beach house interior (living area/kitchen and Jessica's Bedroom). The front door is upstage, near center. Jessica's house from Act One can simply be redressed with beach accessories.

STAGE RIGHT: The beach with sand, some knotted kelp and a lifeguard tower.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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PROPS**ACT ONE****SCENE 1:**

- ☐ Football
- ☐ Skateboard
- ☐ Gummy Bears in a bag or bowl

SCENE 2:

- ☐ Backpacks for students
- ☐ Skateboards, gloves for riders
- ☐ Helmet
- ☐ Skateboard decorated with skulls and flames

SCENE 3:

- ☐ Muffin
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Sleeping Bags (one with Hello Kitty or some other childish decoration on it.)
- ☐ Overnight bags
- ☐ Monopoly Board Game
- ☐ Swim Goggles
- ☐ Stack of Books

SCENE 4:

- ☐ Backpacks for students
- ☐ Atom model made from Styrofoam balls
- ☐ Personality test
- ☐ Blue wig
- ☐ Bag of Fritos

SCENE 5:

- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Plates of eggs
- ☐ Cell phone
- ☐ Bag of oranges

SCENE 6:

- ☐ Backpacks for students

SCENE 7:

- ☐ Two sleeping bags

SCENE 8:

- ☐ Pencil that has been chewed
- ☐ Backpacks for students

SCENE 9:

- ☐ Book
- ☐ Gift bag

SCENE 10:

- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Safety goggles
- ☐ Metal trays
- ☐ Scalpels
- ☐ Tongs
- ☐ Eyeballs (peeled grapes will work)
- ☐ Bucket
- ☒ Cell phone
- ☐ Backpacks for students

ACT TWO**SCENE 1**

- ☐ Candy dishes with shells
- ☐ Jar of seaglass
- ☐ Luggage
- ☐ Nail polish bottles
- ☐ Cosmetic bag
- ☐ Cloth covered journal
- ☐ Three beach towels (one striped)
- ☐ Beach bags
- ☐ Book
- ☐ T-shirt

SCENE 2:

- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Bag
- ☐ Piece of sea glass

SCENE 3:

- ☐ Conner's bag
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Lunch bag
- ☐ Sea glass (aqua colored)
- ☐ Bowls of cereal
- ☐ Wet suit
- ☐ Surf board
- ☐ Silky scarf
- ☐ Granola bars
- ☐ Bag

SCENE 4:

- ☐ Bag
- ☐ Beach towels

SCENE 5:

- ☐ Two cell phones
- ☐ Bowl of oatmeal
- ☐ Baseball cap
- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Wet suit
- ☐ Pen
- ☐ Bag
- ☐ Stick
- ☐ Knotted kelp

SCENE 6:

- ☐ Grocery bags
- ☐ Large jar of peanut butter
- ☐ Assorted groceries
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Marie's purse
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Nail polish
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Mirror
- ☐ Surfboards

SCENE 7:

- ☐ Grocery bags
- ☐ Balloons
- ☐ Coolers
- ☐ Beach blankets
- ☐ Old boom box
- ☐ Sea glass necklace
- ☐ Towel

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

AT START: *Jessica's Bedroom – Saturday Night. Lights up on Jessica's Bedroom. JESSICA, LILLY and CASSIDY, are in Jessica's Bedroom sprawled out in sleeping bags wearing comfy sweat clothes.*

JESSICA: Our meeting of Guys, Fries and Apple Pies will now begin.

CASSIDY: Where did we come up with that name anyway?

JESSICA: Remember, a few years ago, we were eating lunch at McDonalds ...

CASSIDY nods her head as she recalls.

LILLY: Yeah, I can still taste that apple pie. It was good.

JESSICA: Business, Ladies. The nomination for March's boy of the month is...

LILLY and CASSIDY drum the floor to create a drum roll.

JESSICA: ...Zack Lemming.

ZACK enters stage right holding a video game controller in one hand and a skateboard in the other.

ZACK: *(To the audience, nodding his head.)* 'Sup?

JESSICA: Not sure. He's got so many freckles that his face is kinda one big freckle.

LILLY: But it works for him. Makes his green eyes sparkle.

CASSIDY: He's like one gorgeous connect-the-dots picture.

LILLY: You know, he was one of the first boys in our class to get armpit hair. I overheard him talking to Ron Nyburn about it.

RON enters stage right and joins ZACK who is still staring at the audience and nodding.

RON: Hey, Zack, are you embarrassed that you have so much armpit hair?

ZACK: Nah. Are you embarrassed that you have no armpit hair?

RON: *(Waves his arms around.)* Nah. I like it better roomy.

JESSICA, LILLY, and CASSIDY laugh. ZACK and RON exit right.

JESSICA: What would you rate his body?

LILLY: I'd give him an eight, maybe an eight and a half.

CASSIDY: *(Smiling.)* I'd give him a six for that six-pack.

JESSICA: So, Zack Lemming is March's crush. All agreed?

LILLY and CASSIDY: *(Loudly.)* Aye!

JESSICA: *(Quieting the girls.)* Shhh. Keep it low. My mom's been on me about the boys lately.

CASSIDY: That's rough.

JESSICA: She says it's affecting my grades, and if I don't cut it out she's gonna ground me again.

LILLY: So harsh.

JESSICA gets up and walks around the room, imitating her teacher.

JESSICA: Yeah, like she meets with my math teacher, Mr. Freebird. He says, *(Imitating him.)* "I see Jessica looking at the male species a large amount of the time, and, therefore, her grades are deteriorating in my class."

CASSIDY: What does that mean?

LILLY: It means Jessica's boy crazy, and she's failing math.

CASSIDY: Ew! He's the teacher with the beard dandruff, right?

JESSICA: Yeah, and the spit in the corners of his mouth when he talks.

LILLY: Gross.

JESSICA sits back down and the girls huddle together and talk more quietly.

JESSICA: So, back to Zack Lemming. What do we know about him?

LILLY rises and goes to a table where snacks are laid out. She comes back with a bowl of gummy bears.

LILLY: He likes playing video games and skateboarding.

CASSIDY: And he has no dandruff—on his head or anywhere else.

LILLY: I heard he hangs out behind the school where the kids all skateboard on the weekends. (*Offering to CASSIDY and JESSICA.*) Gummy Bear?

JESSICA: Sure. (*Takes a Gummy Bear.*) Good info. I say Monday, I'll just go for it. Tell him I've seen his moves, and he looks like a Tommy Hawk prodigy.

CASSIDY: Tony Hawk. Gotta sound somewhat credible. (*Pops a Gummy Bear in her mouth.*)

JESSICA: Tony, Tommy, Shmommy, whatever. The point is I'm going to go right up to him, flip my hair and give him my best "come kiss me, baby" look. (*Acts it out.*)

LILLY: I admire your confidence, Jess. I don't know if I could ever be as bold as you.

JESSICA: Come on, you guys. You remember fifth grade when my mother called me "pleasantly plump," but I really looked like a stuffed sausage? And those braces, arg! And I was invisible to guys. INVISIBLE! (*Buries her head in her hands as she relives the memory.*)

LILLY: But you're past that. And all the guys definitely notice you now. And your teeth turned out great.

CASSIDY: Yay for orthodonture!

JESSICA: So, let's meet up at school on Monday after second period and put together a game plan.

LILLY and CASSIDY: Sounds good.

JESSICA: Zack Lemming, brace yourself. You're not gonna know what hit you!

JESSICA, LILLY, and CASSIDY high five, then start throwing gummy bears at each other as they dissolve into laughter. Lights fade.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

AT START: *School Locker Hall/Classroom – Monday Morning. Lights up. The scene begins by the lockers. STUDENTS are milling about, getting things from their lockers, conversing in groups. A BOY and GIRL make googly eyes at each other in front of JESSICA'S locker. JESSICA enters wearing a sweatshirt. She sighs and pushes the BOY and GIRL aside. They are totally oblivious and never leave their eye lock. JESSICA tries to open her locker but it is stuck.*

JESSICA: Darn locker!

CASSIDY and LILLY enter and meet up with JESSICA.

CASSIDY: Hey, Jess.

JESSICA: Hey, yourself. Ugh, I hate this locker!

CASSIDY pounds on the locker once, and JESSICA is able to open it easily.

LILLY: How did it go with Zack this morning?

JESSICA: You don't want to know.

CASSIDY: Spill it. And we want full details.

JESSICA: It started when my darn locker stuck—again, and I was late to P.E. and ended with me wanting to hide out in my stuck locker.

CASSIDY: Come on, Jess, fill in the blanks.

JESSICA: Okay. I changed in a hurry and ran out to the track where everyone was already warming up. I saw Zack across the field doing some football drills, and I just stopped and stared. He looked so good in those protective pads and those tight, white pants. *(Gets lost in the memory.)*

LILLY: And?

JESSICA: And I feel this thud on my shoulder that literally knocks me off my feet. So, Miss Kelley, my nasty P.E. coach, yells at me, "Miss Thompson, go take five laps. That will teach you to keep your eyes on your own game."

CASSIDY: Oh, no.

JESSICA: Yeah. Everyone hears her. Everyone's looking—including Zack. So, I start running my laps with all eyes still glued on me when I start feeling that something's not right. My chest hurts, and I realize, "Oh, no, I forgot to put on my... bra."

LILLY: How could you forget your bra?

JESSICA: I had a built-in bra in my tank top, so I brought a sports bra to slip on for PE. But with all the rushing...

CASSIDY: Oh, Jess.

JESSICA: Yeah. So I'm already embarrassed that Miss Kelley called me out, and then everyone has to see me bouncing all over the place.

LILLY: Did Zack notice?

JESSICA: I sure hope not.

ZACK enters right with three friends and crosses past JESSICA, CASSIDY, and LILLY.

ZACK: *(Waving.)* Hey, Jess! How's it hanging?

ZACK begins to exit left. JESSICA crumbles to the floor.

JESSICA: Oh, no! He wasn't talking about...

LILLY and CASSIDY: *(Insincere but trying to comfort JESSICA.)* No. No.

JESSICA: Nice try, girls.

LILLY: Well, hopefully I'll have better luck. We have Spanish next period, let me try to catch up with him and flirt in Espanol.

SFX: School bell rings and ALL STUDENTS exit.

JESSICA: Great! I mean, Bueno! Let me know how it goes.

JESSICA and CASSIDY exit right. LILLY hurries to ZACK who is downstage left. LILLY leans over toward ZACK. It takes her a couple of minutes to get his attention.

LILLY: Zack, Zack!

ZACK finally stops and looks over toward LILLY.

LILLY: *(Quietly, in her best Spanish.)* Mi amiga, Jessica. Tu quieres?
(Raises her eyebrows up and down.)

ZACK: Si. My pantalones en fuego. Yo quiero mas leche.

ROSA, who is standing behind ZACK, overhears their conversation.

LILLY: What the heck does that mean?

ROSA: It means, "My pants are on fire, and I want more milk."

LILLY: *(To ROSA.)* I think you're right. It's a good thing he's cute
'cause his Spanish sucks!

LILLY and ROSA laugh hard.

LILLY: Zack, in English, por favor.

ZACK: No, I think she's cool. I'm not sure where the milk came from.
Me and some of the guys are going to be skateboarding in the back
parking lot after school. If you and Jessica wanted to meet us there,
well, that would be cool. Compende?

ROSA: Understand?

LILLY: I think I got it, Rosa, thanks. *(To ZACK, with a big smile.)*
Compende. I think that could be arranged.

MRS. HEMSLEY, the principal, a distinguished looking middle-aged woman, leans into the stage from her office offstage and yells at LILLY and ZACK.

MRS. HEMSLEY: Lilly, Zack, Class is starting. Get going! Now!

LILLY: I know what that means. We are busted!

ROSA nods her head as LILLY looks down, embarrassed. SFX: School bell rings. Blackout. Lights come up on the skate area later that day. The suggestion of the skate area is on the apron of the stage or down the aisles of the theater. TEENS periodically ride from one side of the stage to the other or up and down the aisles. After a moment ZACK enters stage right with a couple of friends. He has his helmet on and his skateboard in his gloved hands. The group stands and chats. On

stage left, CASSIDY, LILLY and JESSICA are grouped together with MISSY, MARGO, and a couple other STUDENTS. JESSICA has removed her sweatshirt revealing a brightly colored top. LILLY, JESSICA, and CASSIDY catch sight of ZACK across the skate park. They huddle and discuss their plan of attack.

JESSICA: So, when he said “She’s cool,” did he mean “cool” like a guy I want to hang with or “cool” like a totally awesome girl I want to ask to homecoming?

LILLY: Ach, Jess, we’ve been over this like a thousand times. He said “cool” like he really likes you.

CASSIDY: Come on, Jess, he’s been texting you constantly. He wouldn’t do that if he wasn’t interested.

JESSICA: Yes, but I still kinda get the friend vibe from him.

LILLY: Then maybe you shoulda worn another top. That one is, like, blinding.

JESSICA adjusts her top as they cross to approach ZACK.

JESSICA: Hey, Zack.

ZACK: Hey, Jessica. Glad you guys could make it. So, do you like my form?

JESSICA playfully slaps him on the shoulder as CASSIDY grabs his skateboard from under his arm.

CASSIDY: Can I give it a try?

ZACK: Do I have a choice?

CASSIDY: Not really.

ZACK takes off his helmet and holds it out to CASSIDY.

ZACK: Well, at least take my helmet. You look like a daredevil. I don’t want you to crack your head open or anything.

CASSIDY takes ZACK’S helmet and puts it on her head. It’s big and falls into her eyes so she adjusts the strap and takes off.

ZACK: Wow. She's goofy.

JESSICA: Hey, that's not very nice.

ZACK: No, it just means she rides with her right foot forward. Look.
(*Gesturing toward CASSIDY'S feet.*)

JESSICA: Yeah, Cass is quite the jock.

ZACK: And you are quite bright. I like that top. Wouldn't lose you in a snowstorm. Not that I'd want to.

ZACK takes JESSICA'S hands and stares into her eyes. JESSICA sighs as she gets lost in the moment. JAKE BANYON enters carrying a skateboard with skulls and flames on it. LILLY sees him and grabs JESSICA'S arm breaking her from her trance.

LILLY: Jake Banyon, at two o'clock.

JESSICA: (*To ZACK.*) Excuse me for a moment. Cassidy's had a crush on Jake Banyon since he transferred here in sixth grade. I gotta let her know he's watching.

MISSY and MARGO, standing nearby LILLY, comment about JAKE.

MISSY: I heard he slapped a teacher.

MARGO: I heard he dated a teacher.

LILLY: All rumors. I think he's really a good guy who just likes everyone to think he has a dark side.

JESSICA and LILLY walk toward CASSIDY center who is so wrapped up in her skating that she's totally oblivious to everyone around her.

JESSICA: Let's make this quick. I want to get back to Zack. Things are going so good.

LILLY: I know. Did you see how he looked at you?

JESSICA: Yes! And he liked my top.

LILLY shrugs.

ZACK: (*Calling to JESSICA.*) Hey, Jessica. I need to go to my locker. Wanna come along?

JESSICA: Sure!

LILLY: I'll take care of Cassidy.

JESSICA and ZACK exit as LILLY tries to get CASSIDY'S attention.

JESSICA: Cass!

CASSIDY skates past.

LILLY: Cass!

CASSIDY hears her and looks annoyed that LILLY is interrupting her fun.

CASSIDY: What?

LILLY: *(Motioning toward JAKE.)* Jake Banyon.

CASSIDY, as she skates past again, finally catches a glimpse of JAKE, completely loses her balance and falls on her backside.

LILLY: Ouch! *(Runs over to help CASSIDY to her feet.)*

CASSIDY: I can't believe Jake saw that. I think my ego is bruised worse than my butt.

Blackout.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3

AT START: *Jessica's Kitchen/Bedroom – Evening. Lights up. MARIE and CONNER are sitting around the kitchen table.*

MARIE: Did you get your test grade back in Math?

CONNER: Mom, you're not going to like this. I got a 24.

MARIE: *(Alarmed.)* What? Conner! I thought math was your best subject.

CONNER: It is. I got 24 out of 26. That's an "A!" *(Blows on his finger tips and wipes them on his shirt.)*

MARIE: Not funny. You know most kids tell their parents they got a good grade when they actually didn't. How come you do it the other way around?

CONNER: I like to keep you on your toes.

JESSICA enters.

MARIE: Well, it's not good for my blood pressure.

CONNER: So, I was thinking, to reward me, why don't you give me a penny. Just one little penny. But, each week, you need to double it. Like next week you give me two pennies. Get it mom? Two pennies. No big deal, right?

MARIE: *(Not really paying attention to CONNER.)* Sure. *(Beat, to JESSICA.)* And how has school been going for you, Sweetie?

JESSICA: Great. Let's see, I've been embarrassed in front of like the whole school, my locker sticks, and I'm always late to class. Oh, yes, and my creepy math teacher has it out for me. Thinks I'm a loser.

MARIE: So glad I asked.

CONNER: Who's the smart kid in this family? *(Points to himself.)* Yeah, that's right.

JESSICA glares at CONNER. MARIE changes the subject.

MARIE: Anybody want dessert?

CONNER: Yes! The more useless empty fat and calories the better!

MARIE: Jessica?

JESSICA: No. Yes. No. Okay, maybe a half of a blueberry muffin.

MARIE: You sure?

JESSICA: *(After a moment of deliberation.)* Okay, make it a whole muffin. I'll eat it fast. The girls will be here any minute.

MARIE: Oh, that's right. It's sleepover night.

MARIE rises, crosses to a counter, and makes JESSICA her muffin.

CONNER: Jeez, if you changed your underwear as much as you change your mind, you wouldn't smell quite so bad. *(Giggles.)*

MARIE: Conner! Cut it out!

CONNER gets up from the table and notices a piece of paper sticking out of JESSICA'S backpack. He looks at his mother and sister to see if they notice and, when he sees that they are oblivious, he silently reads it. MARIE crosses back to the table and hands JESSICA her muffin.

MARIE: What you need to do is concentrate on your grades, not boys. You're a bright girl, Jessica. You just need to focus. You've got to get off academic probation if you don't want summer school.

CONNER starts to giggle, and JESSICA looks over at him.

JESSICA: What's up with you?

CONNER: *(Reading from the paper.)* "Jeff. Blue eyes as blue as the ocean."

JESSICA: *(Realizing what CONNER is reading, gets up.)* Give me that!

JESSICA chases CONNER around the table as he continues to read and giggle, more nervously now.

CONNER: "Aiden. Really good rock-hard abs."

CONNER giggles even louder. JESSICA reaches for the paper.

JESSICA: *(Bellowing.)* I said, "Give me that!"

CONNER continues to run around, keeping the paper from JESSICA'S grasp.

CONNER: "Chad. A total geek but still hot."

MARIE: *(Attempting to diffuse the situation.)* Hey, hey. What is that?

JESSICA: It's mine! *(To CONNER.)* Stop grinning like a troll doll, and get your groady little paws off of it!

CONNER: I found it.

JESSICA: No you didn't. It was in my backpack.

CONNER: It was sticking out.

JESSICA grabs the paper away from CONNER.

JESSICA: *(Yelling.)* You still have no right to touch my stuff!

MARIE: Let me have that paper.

MARIE takes the paper from JESSICA and looks at it.

MARIE: Jessica, what is this? We just said you were going to focus on school and not boys.

JESSICA: *(To Conner.)* See what you did, you little creep!

MARIE: Enough with the name-calling and enough with the boys. I've had enough, Jessica, enough! I really should cancel your sleepover tonight.

JESSICA: What? He takes my stuff, and I get in trouble? Please, Mom. The girls are already on their way over. That would be totally unfair.

MARIE: Life's not fair.

SFX: doorbell rings.

JESSICA: Please, I promise I'll lay off of the guy stuff. That paper was really nothing. I was just doodling.

CONNER: Next time, you might want to make your doodles in the toilet.

MARIE: Conner, I said, "enough." Okay, Jess, you can have your sleepover tonight since the girls are already here. But, I mean it about the boys, got it?

JESSICA: Yes. Thanks, Mom. *(Timidly.)* Love you. *(To CONNER.)* Hate you.

MARIE: Enough!

JESSICA runs to answer the door.

CONNER: Personally, I think you were way too easy on her.

MARIE: When I want your parenting advice, I'll ask for it.

CONNER and MARIE exit as LILLY and CASSIDY enter, holding their sleeping and overnight bags.

CASSIDY: Hey.

JESSICA: Hey, yourself. Let's go to my room where my brother can't hear us. I swear, I'll going to kill him someday.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA girls cross to JESSICA'S room.

JESSICA: Maybe tonight. In his sleep.

Once in her room, CASSIDY cranks up the music on her phone.

CASSIDY: Let's get this party started!

JESSICA grabs her phone and turns it down.

JESSICA: We need to get set up first. If my mom comes barging in, which she tends to do a lot these days, we need to pretend we're playing Monopoly, not talking about boys.

JESSICA grabs the board game and starts opening it up on the rug where the girls are sitting.

JESSICA: Now, set it up like we're in the middle of a really good game.

LILLY: Jess, you are paranoid. What's so bad about some harmless boy-talk?

JESSICA: Right before you guys got here, Conner found our list for the boy-of-the-month. He read it in front of my mom. She thinks I have serious boy issues. She'll ground me again if I don't cool it. She almost cancelled tonight.

LILLY: Wow. Your mom is harsh.

JESSICA: I know. It drives me crazy.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA set up monopoly.

CASSIDY: I want to be the shoe.

LILLY: We're not really going to play, Cass. It's all for show.

CASSIDY: Oh.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA unfurl their sleeping bags. LILLY has a Hello Kitty sleeping bag.

CASSIDY: How long have you had that sleeping bag, Lilly?

LILLY: My sleeping bag got left out in the rain, and it started to smell like old feet. I borrowed this one from my little sister, Polly.

JESSICA: But, Hello Kitty? Seriously?

LILLY: And Hello Kitty is cool. Can we start our meeting, please?

JESSICA clears her throat.

JESSICA: Time for Guys, Fries and Apple Pies. Who do you think we should nominate this month? I vote for Aiden Gambella. Rock hard abs, great hair, and not a zit on the guy.

AIDEN GAMBELLA enters on stage right in swim goggles and track pants.

AIDEN: *(To audience.)* 'Sup?

CASSIDY: How do you know that? Have you inspected his whole body?

JESSICA: *(Grinning.)* He's on the swim team. I've seen him in a Speedo.

While AIDEN flexes and poses, the girls all erupt in laughter.

LILLY: My pick is Chad Stevenson. He's tall, smart and funny.

CHAD STEVENSON enters right and stands next to AIDEN. He carries a stack of books.

CHAD: *(To audience.)* 'Sup?

JESSICA: You just like him because he's the only guy as tall as you.

LILLY: I like to see eye-to-eye with a guy. What's wrong with that?

CASSIDY: I nominate Jake Banyon. He's got that dark, moody, bad boy thing going on. Totally works for me. And those tight, tight, skinny jeans...

CASSIDY bites her lip and stares off into space. JAKE BANYON enters right and stands next to the other two boys. He slicks his hair back with his hand.

JAKE: *(To audience.)* Yeah. That's right. Just yeah.

CASSIDY: I could go for Aiden. I like swimmers—as long as they don't pee in the pool.

JESSICA: My brother once peed in the community pool. Totally embarrassing.

LILLY: I thought all kids peed in the pool.

JESSICA: Not from the diving board.

LILLY, JESSICA, and CASSIDY laugh.

LILLY: I vote for Aiden Gambella to officially be April's crush. All in favor?

JESSICA and CASSIDY: Aye.

AIDEN raises his arms in victory, then AIDEN, CHAD and JAKE exit right.

JESSICA: Let's find out his swim practice schedule and scope him out.

LILLY: I'm on him. I mean, I'm on it.

JESSICA: Perfect. We'll meet after school on Monday and put together a game plan.

CASSIDY: I've got to build an atom out of Styrofoam balls for science. You both can be "helping" me with that. *(Making air quotes with her fingers.)*

JESSICA: Sounds good. Yes! Aiden Gambella, hold onto your Speedo. The water's gonna get choppy!

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA high five. Blackout.

ACT ONE, SCENE 4

AT START: *School Locker Hall/Swimming Pool – Afternoon. Lights up. SFX: School bell rings and STUDENTS enter from both sides, going to their lockers and socializing. The BOY and GIRL stare into each other's eyes in front of JESSICA'S locker. JESSICA, CASSIDY and LILLY enter right separately and meet up by the lockers. LILLY enters eating Fritos. CASSIDY holds her atom model.*

CASSIDY: Did you see Aiden today?

LILLY: Yes! He was wearing a grey hoodie and black Levis.

JESSICA: Did he look cute, great or totally hot?

LILLY: Cute, great and totally hot. I got the scoop on him today. He has practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. He hangs out with Harry, Mike P. and Lionel from the swim team. I think we should stake him out at the pool today.

LILLY shoves some Fritos into her mouth.

JESSICA: I envy you, Lilly. You eat all that junk and you're still skinny as a rail.

LILLY: *(Shrugs.)* My dad says I have the metabolism of a hummingbird.

CASSIDY: That's adorable!

ZACK enters and approaches JESSICA.

ZACK: Hey, Jess. I was thinking maybe we could catch a movie this weekend.

JESSICA: *(Sweetly.)* I like you, Zack, but just as a friend. I hope you understand.

ZACK'S shoulders slump, and he walks off, feeling dejected.

JESSICA: I feel a little guilty, but I'm just not looking for a serious relationship with the guy. His month is over, and it's time to move on. He'll get over it.

CASSIDY and LILLY nod.

CASSIDY: Sure, he'll get over it.

AIDEN and other swim TEAMMATES enter to the apron of the stage warming up for practice. LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA cross to them.

JESSICA: *(To CASSIDY, pointing at her atom project.)* Can you go put that down somewhere? You look like a science nerd.

CASSIDY: Jeez, how do you know Aiden doesn't go for the intelligent type? *(JESSICA gives CASSIDY a look.)* Okay, okay. I'll set it on the bleachers.

CASSIDY drops her project offstage and returns.

LILLY: I found out that he has science with Miss Gordon, English with Mr. Smith and math with Mrs. Romona. Oh, yeah, and spearmint.

CASSIDY and JESSICA: What?

LILLY: Favorite gum flavor. I like to be thorough. *(Beat.)* I gave him a personality test.

CASSIDY: *(Giggling.)* A personality test?

JESSICA: What? Where did you get it?

LILLY: I made it. I told him we had a club called Guys, Fries and Apple Pies, and he was the boy-of-the-month and we wanted to know all about him *(CASSIDY and JESSICA looked shocked.)* Kidding! I told him it was for the yearbook. That we're thinking of doing student profiles, like on Facebook. But, we're just trying it out now, asking a few kids, so we can vote on it. See if it's going to fly.

JESSICA: Brilliant!

CASSIDY: *(Confused.)* You're not even in Yearbook.

LILLY: He doesn't know that. *(Winks.)*

CASSIDY finally gets it and nods. AIDEN takes off his warm-up jacket.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA stare.

JESSICA: I told you, not a zit on the guy. And the abs? Huh, huh? I'm going to walk by with a hair flip and a wave.

JESSICA saunters across the apron of the stage. As she passes AIDEN she smiles and flips her hair while waving. The flip causes her to lose her balance and she waves her arms wildly, almost falling forward into the audience (the pool.) Before she can fall, AIDEN reaches out and grabs her.

AIDEN: Are you okay, there? You almost did a header into the shallow end.

JESSICA: *(Looking mooningly into his eyes.)* Yes, thanks to you. This deck is so slippery. I could have drowned.

AIDEN returns to his TEAMMATES. LILLY and CASSIDY rush to JESSICA'S side.

LILLY: That was a close call.

CASSIDY: I can't believe you tripped. Right in front of him.

JESSICA: *(Smiling broadly.)* Neither can I ...but I'm sure glad I did.

LILLY: *(Pushing JESSICA toward AIDEN.)* Well, while the door is open, go on in!

JESSICA crosses to AIDEN.

JESSICA: I saw you doing laps. You're a great swimmer. Very fast.

AIDEN: Thanks. I've been in the water so long I think I'm sprouting gills.

JESSICA inspects AIDEN for gills.

JESSICA: No, you're fine. I'm pretty sure you're still breathing through your mouth.

JESSICA traces her finger over AIDEN'S lips. CASSIDY and LILLY look on enthralled. They sigh. AIDEN leans toward JESSICA as if he's about to kiss her, but stops. AIDEN exits down right. LILLY and CASSIDY rush to JESSICA'S side.

CASSIDY: He almost kissed you!

JESSICA: I know! I saw him coming in for a landing, but then he stopped. I think I'm going to pass out. *(Reels back.)*

CASSIDY and LILLY: Not in the pool!

AIDEN walks up to LILLY and taps her on the arm. CASSIDY and JESSICA continue to chatter as LILLY steps away from her friends as AIDEN hands her a piece of paper. LILLY excitedly turns back to JESSICA and CASSIDY waving the piece of paper at them.

LILLY: Ladies, look what I have here!

CASSIDY: Your bio midterm?

LILLY: No, the personality test. Filled out by none other than Aiden Gambella.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA huddle and look at the paper anxiously.

JESSICA: So? So? What does it say?

LILLY: His favorite fast food is burritos. His dream car is a Lamborghini. His favorite author is Isaac Asimov...

CASSIDY and JESSICA: Who?

LILLY: His celebrity crush is Katy Perry, and his favorite color is blue.

JESSICA: Wait! Can you believe it? His favorite singer is Katy Perry. I love Katy Perry!

CASSIDY: And his favorite color is blue!

CASSIDY and JESSICA: *(Yelling, jumping together.)* Like Katy Perry's hair.

LILLY: Oh, yeah, from that video.

JESSICA: I have the best idea in the whole world. I'm going to dye my hair blue.

LILLY: Seriously?

CASSIDY: Your mom would freak if you dyed your hair for a boy.

JESSICA: No, I can dye my hair with Kool-Aid. Justine Turnblatt, from my homeroom, has a younger sister who did it, and she said it washed out in like two shampoos. I can sooo easily hide it from my mom for a couple of days. It would be so worth it.

LILLY: I don't know...

JESSICA: *(Acting it out.)* I can picture Aiden's reaction when he sees me walking down the hall, flipping my long blue locks. He'd stop me and grab me, right here by the lockers. He'd kiss me slowly and tenderly, and we'd fall in love for...for...for the rest of the month.

JESSICA stares off into space, lost in the image she's created.

LILLY: She's gone.

CASSIDY: Totally gone.

Blackout. Lights up. The next day. There is now a bench down right. LILLY enters from stage right and CASSIDY, wearing a vest, from stage left. They see each other, wave and converge down center.

LILLY: Look at that vest! Rummaging through your Grandma's closet again?

CASSIDY: Hey! You know, some people appreciate my fashion risks.

LILLY: It's risky all right. I hope you have a good insurance policy.

JAKE BANYON strolls across stage. CASSIDY reacts, preening nervously and staring at him as he approaches.

CASSIDY: Hi, Jake!

JAKE: *(Casually.)* Nice vest.

JAKE exits. Excitedly, CASSIDY slaps LILLY on the arm repeatedly.

LILLY: Ow!

JESSICA, wearing a blue wig covered with a hat, enters right and inches her way to her locker around the same BOY and GIRL who are hanging on each other in a most inconvenient location. LILLY and CASSIDY see her and come rushing up to JESSICA from center.

CASSIDY: Hey, Jess, cute hat. Did it work, huh, huh, huh?

JESSICA removes her hat like she is unveiling a precious work of art. LILLY and CASSIDY stare in amazement at JESSICA'S hair.

LILLY: Talk about risks! She really did it. Wow. It's so, so...BLUE!

JESSICA: I know, right? I can't wait to show it to Aiden.

PENNY CARDIFF, a surfer girl, enters, passes by, and stops to look at JESSICA'S hair.

PENNY: Wow, dude. I want to like ride the waves of your hair.

MARGO: *(Crossing by JESSICA. In a British accent.)* Oh, my slobshangers, your hair is bluer than a bobby's bonnet.

AIDEN approaches from left.

LILLY: Here he comes! Here he comes!

JESSICA flips her hair.

AIDEN: Wow. Look at you.

JESSICA: Do you like it?

AIDEN just stares at JESSICA with his face kind of scrunched up.

AIDEN: Yeah, I mean, I guess I like it. I mean, you kinda look like a smurf.

JESSICA: *(Totally deflated.)* What? I did this for you!

AIDEN: *(Confused.)* Why would you do this for me?

JESSICA: Because your favorite color is blue... and you like Katy Perry...and... like, her hair was blue in that video—

AIDEN: *(Cuts JESSICA off.)* —Wait. How do you know all that?

LILLY: *(Tries to help.)* We talked to some of your friends.

JESSICA: *(Caught off guard, trying to cover.)* Yes! I ...I...talked to some of your friends and they...ah...ah...gave me the poop on you. Poop, poop do.

Everyone stands silent for a moment, then AIDEN laughs.

AIDEN: You make me laugh, Jessica. You're like a riddle that I can never figure out.

JESSICA: So, does that mean you like the hair?

AIDEN: Well, it's kinda growing on me... like toe fungus.

AIDEN and JESSICA stare into each other's eyes for a moment. Then AIDEN turns and starts to leave.

AIDEN: Gotta go to swim practice. See ya! *(Exits.)*

LILLY: I'm not sure he liked it. That comment about toe fungus.

CASSIDY: I know, maybe you should go wash your feet.

JESSICA: *(Mooningly.)* No, he liked it. I could tell by the way he looked into my eyes.

LILLY: That's true. I did see some sparks there. And he said you're funny. Some guys go for funny. I guess Aiden is just one of those guys.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA sigh loudly. Blackout.

ACT ONE, SCENE 5

AT START: *Jessica's House – Hall/Kitchen. Lights up. CONNER pounds on a "door" at the edge of stage left.*

JESSICA: *(Offstage.)* Who is it? Mom is that you?

CONNER: No, it's Brad Pitt. Are you going to be in the bathroom all day?

JESSICA: *(Offstage.)* If I want to be. Go use the bathroom upstairs.

CONNER: But this one has a heated toilet seat.

JESSICA: *(Offstage.)* No it doesn't!

CONNER: Fine! I'll go use the other one.

CONNER stamps in place to sound like he's walking away. JESSICA emerges with a towel wrapped around her shoulders. CONNER sees her blue hair for the first time. JESSICA screams. CONNER screams.

JESSICA: *(Furious.)* I'm going to kill you.

CONNER: No you're not. *(Laughing and pointing at JESSICA'S head.)*
'Cause mom's gonna kill you first!

JESSICA: Wait! Conner, you can't say anything to mom. It's temporary. I mean it. I'll give you ten... twenty dollars if you keep your mouth shut.

CONNER: Nope. This is worth way more than twenty dollars.

JESSICA: I'll do your chores for a week.

CONNER shakes his head "no".

JESSICA: Two weeks.

CONNER: Nah.

JESSICA: A month.

CONNER: Nope.

JESSICA: So, what do you want, you little extortionist?

CONNER: *(Thinks.)* FIFTY DOLLARS.

JESSICA: *(Quickly.)* Done!

CONNER: Not so fast. And... I want to see Cassidy's bra.

JESSICA: What? I didn't even know you liked Cassidy, you perv.

CONNER: *(Grinning and nodding.)* She's got a great rack. *(Beat.)* So, do we have a deal?

CONNER holds out his hand and JESSICA reluctantly shakes it.

JESSICA: Deal.

JESSICA exits. Lights go up on the kitchen. CONNER crossed to the breakfast table where MARIE is already putting out plates of eggs for the kids.

MARIE: Good morning, Sunshine.

CONNER: Hey, Mom. What's your favorite color?

MARIE: *(Thinks for a moment.)* Probably pink. No, maybe purple. Why?

CONNER: 'Cause mine is blue. DEFINITELY blue.

MARIE: Okay. *(Beat.)* Are you feeling sick today? You look a little flushed.

MARIE goes to CONNER and feels his forehead.

CONNER: No, I'm feeling GREAT!

CONNER digs into his eggs. JESSICA enters wearing a hat that covers her hair and joins CONNER at the breakfast table. CONNER is spewing eggs as he talks.

CONNER: Nice hat, Jessica.

JESSICA ignores CONNER and keeps her focus on the plate of eggs.

CONNER: I said, nice hat.

JESSICA shoots CONNER a threatening look.

MARIE: Why are you wearing a hat, Jess? It's going to be in the 70s today.

JESSICA: I'm having a bad hair day. Kinda greasy. Not in the mood to wash it.

MARIE: Okay, but you may get a little sweaty.

MARIE rises and exits. JESSICA leans over to CONNER as soon as MARIE is gone.

JESSICA: If you want to see Cassidy's bra, you'll keep your slimy, egg-filled mouth shut.

CONNER: If you want me to keep quiet, you'll make good on our deal.

JESSICA hands her phone to CONNER.

JESSICA: I texted Cassidy. That's her bra, you little perv.

CONNER looks at JESSICA'S phone closely.

CONNER: What? This is not a bra! This is just a picture of a bra, a sports bra. And Cassidy's not even in it!!

JESSICA: Well, that's all you're getting.

MARIE enters with a bag of oranges.

MARIE: Do either of you want some fresh orange juice? I bought this big bag of oranges. *(Holds up the bag.)* I could squeeze some.

JESSICA: Just water please.

MARIE: Conner, do you want some O.J.?

Then without warning, CONNER jumps up and pulls off JESSICA'S hat revealing her blue hair. MARIE screams and drops the bag of oranges.

CONNER: Ta da!!!

MARIE: What on Earth ...

JESSICA: You are dead, Conner, dead! *(Quickly offering an excuse. To MARIE.)* It's temporary. I did it for... a play. A play at school.

CONNER: Really? What play? Are you playing a science experiment gone wrong?

JESSICA: *(To CONNER.)* DEAD!

MARIE: Conner, go to your room.

CONNER: What? What did I do? I'm just an innocent bystander here.

JESSICA: Innocent like Charles Manson.

CONNER: Whatever. *(Exits.)*

MARIE: Do you really think I'm stupid? You obviously have been hiding that blue head of yours, wearing hats and making excuses all week. I would have heard if you were practicing for a play at school...

JESSICA: Mom...I...

MARIE: Is this for a boy? Tell me the truth, Jessica.

JESSICA: Yes, mom. I did it for Aiden! It was supposed to wash out, but it didn't. My head is raw from all the scrubbing. I think it's going to be blue forever!

MARIE: First of all, we're going to the store to buy some dark brown Clairol to cover up that mess on your head. Then I'm taking away your phone, and your computer is for schoolwork only for the rest of the month.

JESSICA: No, please, mom, I feel like I'm serving out one sentence after another.

MARIE: Really, Jessica, I don't know what else to do. *(Throws up her hands and exits.)*

JESSICA: (*Wailing.*) And all because Aiden likes Katy Perry and the color blue. And what if the Clairol doesn't work? Will I look like this forever???

Blackout.

SCENE 6

AT START: *School Locker Hall – Morning. Lights up. CASSIDY is taking a book from her locker. LILLY approaches her. Other STUDENTS mill about.*

LILLY: Hey, Cass. What's cookin'?

CASSIDY: Scrambled brain. I am sooo tired. I was up all night binge watching a new series on Netflix.

LILLY: Well, you look cute today. I like your outfit. You actually look like a ...girl.

CASSIDY: (*Perks up.*) Really? You approve of my outfit?

LILLY: Don't get used to it.

CASSIDY: (*Yells.*) Everyone! Lilly gave me a complement! On my outfit! Note the date!

LILLY: Shhh! I liked you better half asleep!

JESSICA, with normal hair, enters right, crosses to center, meeting up with LILLY and CASSIDY.

CASSIDY: Hey, you're brown again.

JESSICA: Yeah, I was busted, big time. My phone, my computer—gone.

LILLY: I know, I tried texting you all morning. How did it go down?

JESSICA: Well, my mother got a full show of my hair, thanks to my devil spawn of a brother. I tried to lie my way out of it, but my brain was on pause. Then I just blurted it all out, the truth, I mean. Kinda felt good at the moment, but the aftermath sucks.

CASSIDY: (*Tries to lighten the mood.*) Well, I like you better normal anyway. I think Aiden is already hooked and won't care either way.

LILLY: Yes, all signs point to a successful couple, you and Aiden, I mean.

CASSIDY: Speak of the devil...

CASSIDY motions down the hall as AIDEN, enters and approaches the girls. AIDEN looks JESSICA up and down.

AIDEN: Nice. The blue was definitely interesting, but I like this much better. Hey, Jess, wanna go to the Mountain View Carnival with me this weekend? You can bring your friends.

JESSICA: Sure!

AIDEN: Great. I'll text you.

JESSICA: Uh, I don't exactly have my phone...

CASSIDY: (*Blurting out.*) She dropped it in the fish tank.

LILLY: ...at the aquarium.

AIDEN: Ouch.

JESSICA: Yep. A big shark gobbled it right up.

AIDEN: (*Nodding.*) Shark bait. Nice. How about we just pick you up at seven?

JESSICA nods. AIDEN crosses and exits right.

CASSIDY: That's awesome!

LILLY: Can you imagine being at the carnival with Aiden?

CASSIDY: Yeah, sharing cotton candy, sitting on the rides together, holding his arm as you stroll about.

JESSICA: But my mom. She keeps telling me to cool it with the boys.

LILLY: So, you're a little boy crazy. So what? Who at this age isn't?

CASSIDY: I'm with Lilly on this one.

LILLY: What a shocker. Cassidy and I agree? This is too weird to be true.

JESSICA: Maybe you're right. A life without boys would be tragic.

LILLY: Of course, boys are why we're so close. It's our glue. It gives us a reason to dress cute and do our hair.

CASSIDY: In my opinion, it's just as important as school, family, everything. Agreed?

JESSICA: Agreed.

LILLY: Okay, now that that's settled, who's scoping out Aiden tomorrow?

Lights fade to black.

SCENE 7

AT START: *Jessica's Living Room – Evening. Lights up. CONNER sits on the couch playing a video game when JESSICA enters center.*

CONNER: What's that smell? Oh, Jessica's home.

JESSICA: I hope there's a power surge, and that video game shocks you into a coma.

CONNER: You might want to be nicer to me. Sam Polander's older brother saw you and Aiden Gambella at the Mountain View Carnival, walking arm in arm, sharing cotton candy, making googly eyes at each other.... He told Sam all about it. Says it's all over the school that you guys are a couple. Mom would freak if she knew.

JESSICA: *(Crossing to CONNER, alarmed, but trying to sound calm.)* Conner, you're such a good little brother. I know you wouldn't want to go spreading stupid, untrue, gossip to mom. It'd just stress her out, and for nothing. Aiden and I are just friends. Just friends. Got it? Just...friends.

SFX: doorbell rings and JESSICA crosses to answer it.

JESSICA: Just friends.

LILLY enters holding her sleeping bag.

LILLY: Hi, Jess. Is Cass here yet?

JESSICA: No, you're first.

LILLY coughs.

JESSICA: Are you sick?

LILLY: Yeah, I kinda feel like poop.

JESSICA: You sound like poop. Don't get too close.

LILLY: I won't. My mom thinks it might be bronchitis. She's taking me to the doctor tomorrow. But, I didn't want to miss tonight. Too important.

JESSICA motions over to CONNER so LILLY doesn't say anything in front of him.

JESSICA: Yeah, wouldn't want to miss a crucial game of Monopoly.

CASSIDY enters holding her sleeping bag.

JESSICA: Don't get near Lilly. She's contagious.

CONNER: (Yells.) Probability has Ebola or Rabies.

JESSICA: Let's go to my room, ladies. (Fakely sweet.) Bye, brother. Enjoy that video game you're playing. Hope you get a new high score.

Lights go up on Jessica's Bedroom as JESSICA, LILLY, and CASSIDY cross into her room. Lights go down on CONNER. LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA unfurl their sleeping bags and plop onto the floor.

CASSIDY: So, Jess, were you able to sneak out to that movie last night with Aiden?

JESSICA: Yes, I told my mother I was helping Justine's sister with her Bat Mitzvah invitations.

CASSIDY: Good one.

LILLY: So, how was it? We want to know every last detail.

JESSICA: So good. I held onto his arm from blackout to credits.

LILLY: Were his biceps hard when you squeezed them?

JESSICA: Like rocks.

CASSIDY: Did he stare into your eyes during the previews?

JESSICA: The whole time.

LILLY: Was it magical?

JESSICA: Totally. (Beat.) Too bad I have to break up with him tomorrow.

LILLY: Yeah, well, it's almost May, so April and Aiden are over.

LILLY starts coughing again. CASSIDY and JESSICA recoil.

JESSICA: Let's get to the nominations.

LILLY: My vote is still for Chad Stevenson. He's ...

LILLY breaks into another coughing fit. CHAD enters right and looks around.

CASSIDY: ...tall, handsome, yada, yada, yada.

JESSICA: I like Ron Nyburn for this month. He got a nice new hair cut, so I'm kinda noticing him in Math.

RON enters right and stands near CHAD. His hair is slicked back.

RON: Sup?

CASSIDY: I vote for Jake Banyon. He's got those bad boy...

JESSICA and LILLY: ...good looks.

JAKE enters tight and nods at the other two guys.

CHAD: (To JAKE.) You here again?

JAKE shrugs.

JESSICA: Let's go with Lilly's pick this time. It may make her feel better. And, we won't feel guilty if she develops pneumonia.

CASSIDY: Okay, since Lilly is busy coughing up a lung, let's just vote for Chad Stevenson and get this over with. His brown eyes are dreamy. All in favor?

JESSICA and LILLY: Aye.

Blackout.

SCENE 8

AT START: *School Locker Hall – Morning. CHAD is sitting on a bench reading a book. JESSICA enters, crosses toward her locker when AIDEN enters bounding toward JESSICA. They meet center.*

AIDEN: Hey, Jess. What's new in the zoo with you?

JESSICA: A couple of lions, maybe a tiger. (*Squirming a bit before getting to the point.*) So, Aiden...

AIDEN: Yeah? What's up?

JESSICA: Well, (*Hemming.*) I think things between us... are... kinda... over.

AIDEN'S face gets pasty.

AIDEN: Did I... was it something I did?

JESSICA: (*Stuttering a bit.*) No, it's not you. It's... It's me. (*More confidently.*) I think we're getting kinda, you know, serious. And I'm just not ready for that. I'm sorry.

Before AIDEN can respond, JESSICA quickly turns and crosses to her locker, leaving AIDEN staring after her looking a bit dumbfounded. He slowly turns and exits. LILLY and CASSIDY enter and meet up with JESSICA at her locker.

LILLY: How did it go with Aiden?

JESSICA: As well as can be expected. Let's focus. Chad's right over there on that bench. I'm thinking of going in.

CASSIDY: Don't come on too strong. He's more reserved than Aiden and Zack.

LILLY: Yeah, find some common ground with him. He's really smart. Try to sound like you're intelligent too. Even if you have to fake it.

JESSICA: (*Sarcastically.*) Gee, thanks.

LILLY: And he plays water polo. Keep that in mind.

JESSICA: I know. I Googled "water polo" last night. Got some good phrases to throw in. Okay, I'm going in. Wish me luck.

JESSICA walks to the bench where CHAD is sitting, reading a book.

JESSICA: Mind if I sit here? I don't want to waste a minute of the break. I need to study. Gotta keep up that GPA.

CHAD shrugs but he remains buried in a book.

JESSICA: Hey, do you have an extra pencil I could borrow?

CHAD: *(Looks bothered.)* Sure. *(Rummages around in his backpack and pulls out a gnawed on pencil.)*

JESSICA: *(Holding up the pencil.)* Nice. Thanks. I can see you are getting some good fiber in your diet. That's important. *(Beat.)* So, Chad. Do you still play water polo?

CHAD: How do you know I play water polo?

JESSICA: *(Flipping her hair.)* I know a lot of things. What position do you play?

CHAD: Goalie.

JESSICA: Really? I would have thought you'd be a sprinter. I watch water polo sometimes on the sports channel. My uncle used to play in college.

CHAD: *(Totally uninterested.)* Cool.

JESSICA: *(Licks her lips.)* So, have you heard they are forming a club team here?

CHAD: *(Sarcastically.)* No, really?

JESSICA: I understand swimming is really great aerobic exercise. And, from what I've seen, it gives you excellent muscle tone.

CHAD: *(Sighs.)* You sound like you've studied the sport extensively. But, I'm trying to read here.

JESSICA: Of course, wouldn't want to get between a guy and his literature. So, what'cha reading?

CHAD: Peter and the Starcatchers. And I'm at a really good part... so, if you don't mind.

JESSICA slinks to her locker past STUDENTS who are congregating. She meets up with LILLY and CASSIDY again, who have been watching her interactions with CHAD from a distance.

JESSICA: Augh! I totally struck out with Chad! I borrowed his disgusting, chewed-on pencil and pretended that I was all grateful that he gave it to me, and nothing, nada. That boy has zero interest.

CASSIDY: Maybe he doesn't like your giraffe neck.

LILLY: Maybe he doesn't like your freakishly large knuckles.

JESSICA: (*Insulted.*) Hey! Easy now. Maybe he just doesn't like girls.

CASSIDY and LILLY look at each other and consider this option, then shake their heads.

JESSICA: Then, maybe one of you should flirt with him. I'm done. (*Opens her locker and sniffs.*) Shoulda taken home my gym clothes to wash. Pew!

LILLY: I think Chad is just shy. He's not a super popular athlete, and he mostly keeps to himself around school. I know he plays water polo, but I think he's unsure of himself on dry land.

JESSICA: Okay, well I just humiliated myself with him right here in the hall for all to see, so you two can have a go at it for the rest of the day. But if you both strike out too, I say we just move on. (*Shuts locker with a clang.*)

LILLY: We have art together next period, so I think I can try to make a move. (*Closes locker.*)

CASSIDY: You have fun. If all else fails, I can stake him out after school. I think he rides his bike past where my mom picks me up.

JESSICA: Okay, girls. Give it your best shot. I don't know what type of girl Chad's into, but it's certainly not me!

SFX: School bell rings. Lights fade as they disperse. Lights up. Later that afternoon. LILLY, JESSICA and CASSIDY are standing at their lockers.

JESSICA: So, Lilly, any luck with Chad?

LILLY looks uncomfortable and stammers a bit.

LILLY: Um, no, um, I, uh...not really. Jessica's right. I think we should move on.

JESSICA: Precisely. Not worth our effort. We need to pick a new guy ASAP.

CASSIDY: Jake Banyon!!!

JAKE starts to enter from stage left.

LILLY and JESSICA: No!

JAKE quickly exits back left.

JESSICA: I've been thinking about this all through math. I think we should pick Vince Gleetanheimer.

VINCE enters left and stands and stares out toward the audience. He looks a bit awkward and uncomfortable.

VINCE: What's up?

LILLY and CASSIDY erupt into laughter before JESSICA can finish.

LILLY: Gleetanheimer? That last name alone makes him unnomlatable.

CASSIDY: *(Laughing.)* If you like him, go ahead and marry him. You can be Jessica Gleetanheimer.

JESSICA: Come on. He's German. And he's cute. He can't help what name was passed down to him. Really, girls, be a little mature here.

LILLY and CASSIDY laugh harder.

LILLY: *(Choking it out.)* Gleetanheimer.

CASSIDY: Stop. I'm going to pee my pants!

JESSICA: Who cares what his last name is. I think he's a cool guy.

LILLY: *(Still giggling.)* Sure, fine. Gleetanheimer it is. Let's go with it.

VINCE exits left. LILLY and JESSICA exit right. CASSIDY nods in agreement as she is still unable to pull herself together. She crosses to her classroom and sits in a desk next to other STUDENTS. CASSIDY tries to stifle her case of the giggles that won't let go. STUDENTS try to "shh" her which doesn't help. MR. HENRICKSON, a stern older man, starts his lecture.

MR. HENRICKSON: As I was talking about yesterday, "Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry, has arguably one of the most famous examples of irony... in literature, and, uh...

MR. HENRICKSON notices CASSIDY whose suppressed giggles are interrupting the class.

MR. HENRICKSON: ...Miss Donahue, would you mind coming to the front of the room and sharing with the class what you find so hilarious?

CASSIDY'S smile drops and finally her giggles are gone. She shuffles to the front of the class and stands silent with her head down.

MR. HENRICKSON: Come on, now, Cassidy, the class and I are waiting.

CASSIDY remains quiet for a minute then mumbles under her breath.

CASSIDY: *(Muffled.)* Gleetanheimer.

MR. HENRICKSON: Louder. I want the students in the back of the room to hear you.

CASSIDY squeaks out a tiny bit louder but still too quiet to be heard by anyone but herself.

CASSIDY: Gleetanheimer.

MR. HENRICKSON: *(Bellowing, clearly losing his patience.)* Louder!

CASSIDY still does not look up.

CASSIDY: *(Louder, but still mostly under her breath.)*
Glee...tan...heimer.

MR. HENRICKSON: *(Yells.)* Again, Miss Donahue, and this time as loud as you possibly can!!

CASSIDY: *(Screams.)* Gleentanheimer!!!

The words shoot out of CASSIDY'S mouth and into MR. HENRICKSON'S face. All the student burst out into laughs, chuckles and snorts as CASSIDY slinks back to her seat. Lights fade. SFX: School bell rings. Lights come up. An hour later. STUDENTS are milling in the hallway. CHAD and LILLY are talking at CHAD'S locker. As JESSICA approaches CHAD'S locker, she sees his head sticking up above the crowd. She begins to wave at him when she notices he is talking to someone and is totally absorbed in the conversation.

JESSICA: *(To herself.)* Oh, my Gosh. No wonder he wasn't interested in me. Look at him. He's talking to some girl, and not just talking to her. He's staring into her eyes like the world around them doesn't exist. He's totally crushing on her!

The other students around CHAD part. Then it hits JESSICA like a wrecking ball. The girl he's crushing on is LILLY. Stunned, JESSICA turns and crosses downstage and faces the audience.

JESSICA: *(Shocked.)* Oh, no! It's Lilly! What? Why didn't she tell me? Does Cassidy know about this too? Are the girls keeping this from me? It's okay to flirt, but no serious crushes allowed. And, if she lied, it must be serious! Should I confront her? *(Beat.)* No, no. I need to get out of here, now, before she sees me. My next move needs to be carefully planned.

JESSICA quickly crosses to exit as the lights fade.

SCENE 9

AT START: *Jessica's Living Room/Bedroom – Early Evening. Lights come up. CONNER sits on the couch absorbed in his phone. MARIE is reading a book and chuckles out loud.*

CONNER: That must be a funny book.

MARIE: It is. I keep cracking up.

CONNER: Well, while you're in a good mood it's probably time to tell you...

SFX: doorbell rings and JESSICA bounds in to answer it. LILLY is standing at the door, center, with a gift bag. JESSICA looks her up and down. LILLY feels uncomfortable.

LILLY: Hi?

JESSICA: *(Flatly.)* Hello. Come on in.

LILLY enters. MARIE puts down her book.

LILLY: Is Cass here yet?

JESSICA: No, you're first.

LILLY: Well, it's nice of you to host for her birthday.

There is an awkward silence as both girls stare at their feet. MARIE calls out.

MARIE: Hi there, Lilly.

LILLY: Hi, Miss T!

MARIE: What were you saying, Conner?

MARIE, not really paying attention to CONNER, picks back up her book and starts reading again.

CONNER: Oh, just that you now owe me two dollars and fifty-six cents.

MARIE: That's nice, dear. *(Chuckles again.)*

CONNER: It's okay. I'll just start a tab for you. *(Pulls out a piece of paper and a pen and starts to write.)*

MARIE: *(Still not paying attention.)* Sure, Conner. Whatever you say.

JESSICA: *(To LILLY.)* Tonight should be an especially interesting night.

LILLY: Why?

JESSICA: I don't know. My left foot has been itching all day. I think that means something.

CASSIDY enters. The mood immediately lightens. CONNER turns around on the couch and stares at CASSIDY.

CASSIDY: Hey there!

JESSICA: Hey yourself. Happy Birthday! Wow. Fifteen. How does it feel? *[Note: Age can be adjusted depending on actor's age.]*

CASSIDY: Pretty much like fourteen.

LILLY walks up next to CASSIDY with her wrapped present under her arm. CONNER turns and stares at CASSIDY.

LILLY: *(Giving the present to CASSIDY.)* You don't look a day over twelve.

CASSIDY: Thanks, I try to moisturize as often as possible.

JESSICA: I believe the world is divided into two groups. Those who moisturize and those who don't. *(To CONNER.)* Conner! Stop staring and go drool over someone your own age.

CASSIDY: *(To JESSICA.)* It's kinda flattering.

JESSICA: No it's not.

CONNER: I heard that. You are going to regret not being nicer to me. I'm going to be a very rich man.

MARIE puts down her book and calls over.

MARIE: Happy Birthday, Cass. Help yourself to some snacks, girls. I'll order some pizza later.

LILLY: Thanks.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA grab the snacks from the kitchen table and head to JESSICA'S bedroom.

JESSICA: We'll be in my room.

CONNER: (*Calls out.*) Come again when you can't stay so long!

Lights go down on living room. Lights up on Jessica's Bedroom. LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA plop down on the floor.

JESSICA: So, flirting with Vince Gleetanheimer last week was a total bust for me. I was just so busy with my grades and my mom and... I just had so much on my mind.

CASSIDY: Me, too. I just couldn't look at him without getting the giggles. Not very cool.

JESSICA: (*Pointedly.*) And we had to give up on Chad Stevenson since he just wasn't into any of us, right Lilly?

LILLY: (*Chomping on a cracker.*) Uh, huh.

JESSICA: I think we should play a little game.

CASSIDY: Monopoly? I want to be the shoe!

LILLY: For someone who wears Converse twenty-four, seven, you are awfully obsessed with the shoe.

JESSICA: It's not a board game. It's a good game. I saw it in a magazine.

LILLY: What magazine?

JESSICA: (*Making it up.*) Teen Dream Monthly.

CASSIDY: I've never heard of it.

JESSICA: It was in the dentist's office.

CASSIDY: I hate my dentist. His last name is Paine. Seriously. That's his name. Wouldn't you change it if you were a dentist?

JESSICA ignores CASSIDY completely.

JESSICA: This game is called "I've Got A Secret." Each player takes turns spilling her most private shocker. At the end, we vote on whose confession was the most unexpected. First, let's turn down the lights. Cass, it's your birthday, so you go first.

JESSICA gets up and dims the lights.

CASSIDY: *(Thinks.)* Okay, I have a pimple on my left butt cheek, and it itches so bad that I had to stick my pencil up my shorts during math class to scratch it.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA sit silently for a moment then dissolve into giggles.

JESSICA: My turn. One time, during PE, Shelby Stemmler told me the funniest story about her grandma's chin hair, and I started laughing so hard that I peed my pants. I ran into the bathroom and hid there until class was over and I could change. Your turn, Lilly.

LILLY stares at the ceiling, thinking.

JESSICA: *(Prompts.)* It can be anything, Lilly. It can be about... a goofy thing you did at school, or a time you fell on your face in front of a hot guy...

JESSICA stares directly into LILLY'S eyes.

JESSICA: ...or maybe about a boy you like that nobody knows you like.

LILLY: Okay, okay. I... I... my dad still kisses me good-night every night.

CASSIDY: Let's judge. I think my secret was the most shocking. That pimple really itches.

JESSICA: Yes, Cass, you win. And I come in second, and Lilly is last. That was lame, Lilly. Lame.

LILLY shrugs her shoulders.

JESSICA: Let's play another round. I'll go first. *(Beat.)* I have the most massive, gigantic, humongous crush on ...Chad Stevenson!

LILLY: *(Jumping to her feet.)* You can't!!

JESSICA: *(Knowingly.)* Why not?

LILLY: *(Stammering.)* Because... because...

CASSIDY: *(To JESSICA.)* I thought you hated him.

JESSICA: No, I secretly dig him. I just didn't want anyone to know. I realize it was wrong to keep it from my best friends. I mean, what kind of friend would do that? I mean, it's like so terrible that I hate myself for doing it. I'm just a horrible person.

LILLY: Stop! I get it!

CASSIDY: (*Totally confused.*) Get what?

JESSICA: (*To LILLY.*) Why don't you tell her?

LILLY sounds like a balloon has burst in her chest.

LILLY: I... I... I like Chad Stevenson.

CASSIDY: (*Utterly confused.*) You do??? And you knew, Jess? How? Why didn't anyone tell me?

JESSICA begins to pace like a lawyer in a courtroom.

JESSICA: I saw them with my own two eyes. I saw them in the hall looking at each other like Romeo and Juliet. It was disgusting.

CASSIDY: What? When?

LILLY: (*To JESSICA.*) Look who's talking. You can flirt with everyone, but when I actually have feelings for someone, it's a crime?

JESSICA: The crime is that you kept it to yourself. We're your best friends. We share everything. You snuck around! You're such a snake! I can't believe you would betray us like that.

LILLY: I betrayed you? You were the one who saw me in the hall and didn't have the decency to come talk to me about it. And then this stupid "I've Got A Secret" game. Come on, Jess. You're the one who's out of line!

LILLY pounds her fist into a pillow. JESSICA does not back down.

JESSICA: You broke the rules. They clearly state that you are only allowed to flirt. No serious crushes allowed.

LILLY: That's your rule, not mine. You think you are the boss of this group. It's all about what you want and your rules. It's like Cass and I don't matter. Who died and made you queen of the world?

JESSICA: (*Utterly insulted.*) Jeez! I think you are totally and completely jealous of me.

LILLY: *(Taken aback.)* How could I be jealous of you? Bad grades. Daddy issues. ...oh, and let's not forget Junior High when you were a total social reject.

That last comment clearly stings JESSICA. CASSIDY jumps up.

CASSIDY: Enough! I can't believe you guys would fight like this on my birthday, no less. And to be fair, we were all social rejects in junior high. *(Beat.)* Jessica, Lilly has a right to fall in love, you know. It's not like she did it to hurt you. And Lilly, Jessica was just insulted 'cause you always tell us everything, and this is huge. We would have supported you. We would have understood.

LILLY and JESSICA look away from each other.

CASSIDY: You guys are best friends. We are best friends. I think you should both apologize so we can put this whole thing behind us.

There is a pause as LILLY and JESSICA both continue to look away.

CASSIDY: *(Pushing.)* Come on.

Beat.

LILLY and JESSICA: I'm sorry.

CASSIDY: That's good, my two little field mice. So, things are going to change a little. Lilly has a boyfriend. That's a big deal. But, we're going to accept it and support her. Right, Jessica?

JESSICA: *(Reluctantly.)* Right.

CASSIDY: And you're going to share everything, Lilly, 'cause we'll go crazy if you don't. Right?

LILLY: *(Reluctantly.)* Right.

CASSIDY: *(Motions them in.)* Okay, now come here. Group hug. Let's hug it out. Show me some love.

LILLY and JESSICA: *(Not budging.)* Don't push it, Cassidy!

Blackout.

SCENE 10

AT START: *School Locker Hall – Morning. Lights up. JESSICA, LILLY and CASSIDY meet by the lockers. STUDENTS mill about.*

JESSICA: Now that Lilly is taken, she just needs to fact-find. All the flirting will be left up to me and Cassidy.

LILLY: I've already been digging. Vince does not play a sport like the other guys we've flirted with. Instead, he's neck-high in school activities that don't involve hurling a ball or grunting in a huddle. He's the school historian for student government. He's in the chess club, yearbook committee, and the school tutoring project.

CASSIDY: Wow. Does he have time to shower?

JESSICA: I sure hope so. Not much fun flirting with him if he has B.O. I'll see Vince in science class today. I'll report back at lunch. Got it?

CASSIDY and LILLY: Got it.

JESSICA: Okay, break.

CHAD enters, crosses to LILLY, and puts his arm around her. They stride off together. JESSICA stares off after the couple.

JESSICA: *(Whistfully.)* Things are changing. Lilly has a boyfriend, and I guess I'll just have to live with it. Growing up means growing apart sometimes. I just don't want to grow away from you guys. You're my best friends. That would be too awful to imagine.

CASSIDY: They're going to the library, Jess, not being deployed to Afghanistan.

SFX: School bell rings. The lights fade on the lockers and come up on as JESSICA crosses to the science classroom. There are other STUDENTS including VINCE in the desks. She sees VINCE across the room and waves to him. VINCE, embarrassed, looks down and turns red. MRS. HORNER stands and addresses the class.

MRS. HORNER: Today we are going to be dissecting a sheep's eye, and we are going to have to pair up for the project.

JESSICA: *(Leaps to her feet.)* I'm going to pair up with Vince Gleetanheimer!

ALL laugh.

MRS. HORNER: We won't be pairing up until after I've distributed the supplies, but if you're that enthusiastic, Jessica, you can partner with whomever you want.

JESSICA sits back down, a little embarrassed. MRS. HORNER starts around the room handing out gloves and safety goggles to the students.

MRS. HORNER: I want you to handle the scalpel with respect. No playing around with the tools. They are very sharp. Each group will have one person doing the actual dissection while the other will assist and take notes. Now you can pair up.

The STUDENTS shuffle into groups of two. JESSICA sits next to VINCE.

JESSICA: Hi, Vince, This should be fun, huh? I bet you'll rock those safety goggles.

VINCE: I'm not really keen on dissection.

JESSICA and VINCE put on their gloves and goggles.

VINCE: *(Handing JESSICA the scalpel.)* Can you do the honors? I'm not sure I'm up to the task.

JESSICA: No problem. I'm good with a knife. You should see me go after a T-bone.

VINCE starts to look nauseated. MRS. HORNER walks around the room with a bucket, plopping eyeballs on small metal trays in front of each pair of students.

MRS. HORNER: These are the eyeballs. They are a very moist. Don't touch them yet. Just observe.

VINCE'S nausea increases.

JESSICA: (To VINCE.) Wow. I thought they would be round like a gumball. But they're kinda misshapen and, oh cool, there's still some eyelashes attached.

VINCE starts to groan and clutches his stomach.

MRS. HORNER: Now pick up your scalpel and make your first incision from back to front.

JESSICA: So, Vince, do you think this is the front where it's dripping goo...

VINCE wretches.

JESSICA: ...or is this the front—where you can see the bloody veins hanging off?

VINCE moans louder. JESSICA is oblivious to his discomfort.

JESSICA: I'm going with here!

JESSICA plunges the scalpel into the sheep's eye, and a liquid squirts from the eye into VINCE'S open mouth.

VINCE: Aaaargh! My mouth! A vile, grayish liquid just shot into my mouth!!

JESSICA: (To MRS. HORNER.) Is that supposed to happen?

MRS. HORNER: Spit it out! Spit it out!

VINCE is heaving and spitting at the same time.

VINCE: I'm contaminated!!

MRS. HORNER: Jessica, take Vince to the nurse, pronto.

JESSICA takes VINCE by the arm and escorts him out of the classroom to stage right. VINCE continues to choke and wretch the whole time.

JESSICA: Isn't this romantic, Vince? Walking arm in arm.

With one last big heave, VINCE passes out cold and hits the floor.

JESSICA: Uh, I may need a little help here.

Blackout. Lights up. One week later. LILLY and CASSIDY enter.

LILLY: Did you hear? Jessica got busted again last night.

CASSIDY: No, what happened?

LILLY: Vince texted her and invited her to help him feed the homeless.

It's like some volunteer group he's involved with.

CASSIDY: So?

LILLY: Her mom saw the text.

CASSIDY: But he asked her to feed the homeless, not rob a 7-11.

JESSICA enters and joins LILLY and CASSIDY.

LILLY: So what happened? We want full details.

JESSICA: He texted me. I'd show it to you if my phone wasn't taken away. But it went something like...

VINCE: *(Offstage.)* Hey, Jessica. I'm involved in the Feed the Homeless Project, and we're hosting a lunch at the community center tomorrow at noon. I get excused from school to go, and, I'm sure if your mom wrote you a note, you could come with me and help. Interested?

LILLY: See. Vince is a humanitarian.

JESSICA: And my mom says, "absolutely not. I know you, Jess. You are interested in this Vince, not the homeless people."

CASSIDY: Jeez, give the girl a little credit.

JESSICA: Yeah, she went on and on. It was more about cutting school for a boy than about feeding the homeless.

CASSIDY: But if your mom let you go, you wouldn't be cutting.

JESSICA: Exactly what I said, *(Beat.)* and then she took my phone away. Again.

CASSIDY: You have to go. This is an amazing opportunity to spend some quality time with Vince.

LILLY: It's beyond sweet. Vince has a heart of gold.

JESSICA: I know. Since Vince passed out in my arms things kinda cooled down between us. I guess he was sorta embarrassed.

LILLY: Ya think??

JESSICA: And then, outta the blue, this invite. (*Sighs. Beat.*) But, I'd be dead. I'm going to have to make up some excuse, tell him I have cramps or something.

CASSIDY: Speak of the devil...

VINCE enters and crosses to JESSICA.

VINCE: So, Jessica. Did you get my text? You never responded.

JESSICA: Yes, I had some technical difficulties.

VINCE: So, can you go? Feed the homeless with me, I mean?

JESSICA: No, my mom... it's complicated. I wish I could. You're so sweet to ask.

CASSIDY: She has cramps.

VINCE: Well, can I at least get a picture and take it with me? It will be like you're there with me. (*Laughs.*)

JESSICA gives VINCE a hug. He pulls out his phone, leans into JESSICA and snaps a picture.

VINCE: Goodbye, Ladies. I don't want to miss the bus. (*Exits right.*)

LILLY: See, Jess, all's good.

JESSICA: You had to tell him I had cramps?

CASSIDY: Hey, it was your idea.

SFX: School bell rings and ALL STUDENTS scurry off to class as the lights fade to black. Lights come up. A few hours later. JESSICA enters and crosses in front of a group of STUDENTS up stage center. All the STUDENTS stare at her and whisper behind her back. JESSICA looks around, bewildered at what is going on. CASSIDY and LILLY enter right, see her and rush to her side.

JESSICA: What's up? Everyone is giving me the creeps. Did I sit in something at lunch? (*Tries to look at the back of her own pants.*)

CASSIDY: I don't know how to break this to you, Jess.

JESSICA: What? What???

LILLY: Oh, just tell her. She's got to know.

JESSICA: Jeez, who died?

CASSIDY: Kinda, well, your reputation.

JESSICA: I don't get it.

LILLY: It's all over Instagram. The picture Vince posted.

JESSICA: Did I close my eyes again? Jeesh, I always do that in pictures.

LILLY: No, it's—worse. It's well, it's the comments. Oh, Jess, they said terrible things, nasty things.

LILLY hands her phone to JESSICA who stares at the screen as the blood drains from her face. MISSY enters from stage right and speaks to the audience.

MISSY: Nice pic, Vince. Guess that skank Jessica has you in her sights now.

MARGO enters from stage left and speaks to the audience.

MARGO: Don't believe a word Jessica says, Vince. She's a tease and a sleaze.

ZACK enters from stage right and speaks to the audience.

ZACK: Yeah, that was me in the picture a couple of months ago. She moves through guys like crazy.

AIDEN enters from stage left and speaks to the audience.

AIDEN: LOL.

STUDENTS enter from both sides of the stage. STUDENTS shout their comments to the audience.

MISSY: She's easy.

PENNY: She's desperate.

MARGO: She'll make out with any guy that looks at her.

ALL STUDENTS laugh and yell more taunts. JESSICA gasps and clutches her stomach.

JESSICA: (To LILLY and CASSIDY.) Make out with any guy? I've barely even kissed a guy, much less made out with one. Doesn't everyone understand? This is just a game. It was all in good fun. I never meant to hurt anyone! I never thought people would be so mean!

LILLY: I know, Jess. I'm sorry.

CASSIDY: We're here for you.

JESSICA clutches her chest.

JESSICA: I can't catch my breath. I feel like I'm going to die.

LILLY: Do you want to go to the principal with this?

JESSICA: No! If those kids get in trouble 'cause of me, that'll just make things worse.

LILLY: Then, I have a plan. Cass and I will escort you to every class today and be waiting when you get out. You just walk around with us like nothing ever happened. Hold your head up high. As if it's not even a thought in your brain.

CASSIDY: That's right. Once everyone sees that this doesn't affect you, they will lose interest and move on to other things.

LILLY: It's just like when that girl said Justin Bieber was the father of her baby. No one even remembers that now. It's yesterday's news.

LILLY, CASSIDY, and JESSICA take a deep breath and hug.

JESSICA: I have to get my math book. I don't want to be late to class.

LILLY: Do you want us to wait for you?

JESSICA: No, you're right. I'll be okay.

CASSIDY: We'll meet you after your class, just as soon as it's over.

JESSICA: Thanks.

CASSIDY and LILLY exit right. The students all return to their business, milling about. JESSICA crosses to her locker and opens it when MISSY approaches her.

MISSY: Nice pic on Instagram, Sleaze.

JESSICA jumps, startled, then turns to see MISSY standing right behind her. JESSICA is thrown off-guard.

JESSICA: What did you say?

MISSY: You heard me, Tease.

JESSICA: I think you should mind your own business. *(To herself.)*
Really, Jess? That's the best you can do?

MISSY: *(Harshly.)* I think you messing with my boyfriend is my business!

MISSY'S eyes are bulging, and she looks like a bug.

JESSICA: *(Confused.)* Who's your boyfriend? I honestly don't know.

MISSY: Seth Furgeson. And you better keep your claws off of him.

JESSICA: Seth Furgeson?

MISSY: Yes.

JESSICA: Seth Furgeson?

MISSY: Yes. Seth Furgeson.

JESSICA: Seth Furgeson? I've barely ever talked to Seth Furgeson.

MISSY: Let's just keep it that way. I know how you are with the boys.

MISSY turns left to walk away. JESSICA is clearly angry.

JESSICA: *(To herself.)* Just let it go, Jess. Let it go.

MISSY looks back and sneers.

MISSY: Bye, Skank.

Then JESSICA grabs MISSY from behind and hurls her petite body into the lockers. The clang brings all the students running to watch. MISSY gets to her feet and swings at JESSICA, connecting with her stomach. JESSICA grabs MISSY'S hair and yanks. MISSY grabs JESSICA'S hair and pulls. Both the girls twirl and wriggle, holding each other captive by a fistful of hair. The onlookers' gasps turn to cheers of encouragement, some of them shouting for JESSICA and some for

MISSY. Then, suddenly MRS. HEMSLEY voice breaks through the hullabaloo, silencing everyone at once.

MRS. HEMSLEY: *(Offstage.)* Jessica! Missy! Get your butts over here! NOW!! You are both in big trouble!!

Blackout. Lights up. A little while later that day. MRS. HEMSLEY strolls in front of the classroom desks simulating a principal's office. MISSY and MRS. SPLINTER enter with JESSICA and stand somberly. Shortly after, MARIE enters right. She takes JESSICA by the arm and speaks quietly to her.

MARIE: *(Seething.)* I had to leave work. That didn't make them happy. Can't say I'm happy either.

MRS. HEMSLEY: Please sit down.

ALL sit.

MRS. HEMSLEY: You may or may not know that we have a zero-tolerance policy for fighting at this school. So, even though the consequences may seem harsh for first-time offenders, I feel I have no real choice in the matter. Both Missy and Jessica will be suspended for three days. They will be responsible for making up their missed work, and this will go on their permanent records. Do you have any questions for me?

JESSICA: *(Blurting out.)* It was all Missy's fault! She started it. She called me terrible things! She threatened me!

MRS. HEMSLEY: It doesn't matter what the circumstances were. Zero tolerance means no fighting, period, no matter what. Understand, Ms. Thompson?

MARIE: Yes, she understands.

MRS. HEMSLEY: All right. You are all excused.

MARIE grabs JESSICA'S arm and escorts her out of the classroom and down to the front of the stage. MRS. SPLINTER and MISSY exit together.

JESSICA: Mom, I... they said things on Instagram... about me, awful things. They called me easy. They said I was a skank, a sleaze. *(Beat.)* And then Missy... by the lockers, she practically assaulted me. I'm so sorry, Mom. I didn't know what came over me. She was just so... mean. No one should be that mean, right?

MARIE: This is why I've tried so hard to get your focus off of boys. Sometimes boys want to be more than just friends, and, if you flirt with them, they expect things...

JESSICA: Enough, Mom! I screwed up. I should have spent my time studying, picking my nose, and being a nun!

MARIE: *(Sighs, exasperated.)* Jessica, I feel like I've tried everything with you, and you just don't seem to understand.

JESSICA: It's okay, Mom. I get it now!

MARIE: I don't really believe that. So, I made a decision. You know Great Aunt Sandra's beach house in Half Moon Bay? I called her on my way over here and asked if we could use it for a while. As it turns out, her kids who usually stay there during the summer are going to Europe this year, so it's available in June and July. But there are some conditions. First, there will be no electronics at all. That means you won't be texting, emailing, or going on Instagram.

JESSICA: Instagram? Really? I'm never going on Instagram again.

MARIE: Good. Conner is going to a sports camp for the first week of June, so it will just be the two of us there. I think we need some quality time together. I'll still have to drive in for work, but I'm going to talk to my boss about dropping down to half days. It will be hard on us financially, but we'll manage. You'll finish out the school year at home. I'll make arrangements with Mrs. Hemsley to get your assignments.

JESSICA: *(Choking on her words.)* I remember that house in Half Moon Bay. I... I didn't like it. It smelled weird, like an old sponge. And my friends... can I at least go to the end of year activities? There's the trip to Great America and the Summer Ball...

MARIE: This is your punishment. We're not negotiating.

JESSICA: *(Starting to cry.)* So, that's it? I'm like in jail till August?

MARIE: Pretty much.

JESSICA: *(Crying.)* But Mom...

MARIE: *(Firmly.)* That's it. End of discussion!

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