

**PERUSAL SCRIPT**



Story & Script by  
**Jamie Young**  
Music & Lyrics by  
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Newport, Maine

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## **(mis)Fitting In**

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## Characters

**Students:** 3M 3F + 5 Adult characters that can be played by 1 actor.

The characters can be played by adults or age appropriate actors. An ensemble can be easily added to classroom, lunch room, and other "crowd" scenes. This is 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**Brittney Moss** -- She was christened Queen of the Cafeteria at the end of last school year by the previous royal family (who have since all graduated to the next level of schooling). She is extremely domineering, arrogant, and gloats in her drop-dead gorgeousness. Her self-worth is founded on her popularity – which she has plenty of. Under the shallow surface though, this is an insecure girl from a broken home. She “likes” Drew but would never admit it – or rather she likes that Drew is the most popular boy in school. She is clearly the antagonist of the story.

**Ben Perry** -- Ben is a normal boy thrown into an abnormal situation. This new school is weird. Everything thing he knew about fitting in and belonging doesn't seem to work here. At his last school he was the lead soprano in his school choir, but here that makes him “sissy” or “choir geek.” Shunned by the popular kids, he forms an alliance with the misfits, but he is looking for his chance to fit in with the cool kids. He is the protagonist of the story.

**Ella Swanson** -- She is a misfit. Unkempt hair, no makeup, and severely out-of-style clothes describe her appearance. She is quiet and avoids other people, preferring loneliness to the pain of humiliation – which she is the constant brunt of. She is raised by a Single Parent. Her dad was recently killed in Iraq. She is really a talented girl with an innate beauty that is hidden by hunched shoulders and a drooping head. She is terrified of water and cannot swim.

**Drew Jukes** -- Drew has returned from the summer transformed. The growth spurt has added to his well-known athleticism and strengthened his position as the most popular boy in school. He's also quietly confessing, for the first time, his attraction to girls – especially Brittney. He's not a bad kid and far from stupid (although because he's a jock he is perceived that way). He would do anything to be close to Brittney – even if it means being a bit of a jerk. Always the rationalizer though, he justifies his jerkish bullying of others as a form of “tough love” that will shake the misfits out of their swamp of shame.

**Julia Fry** -- She is so insecure with herself that the bubbly, outgoing behavior she exhibits is not only way over-the-top, but clearly fake. She is pretty though. She was a misfit until Brittney made her a project (Brittney's initiation task to get to sit at “THE TABLE” last year). She really is nothing more than a minion to Brittney's every beckon. She is willing to do anything to stay in Brittney's graces – even cause the greatest humiliation to a member of her former group of misfits – Ella.

**Tracey Winkel** -- The nerd. He is a compulsive liar. His stories usually consist of two topics: 1) his own super human abilities, and 2) tall-tales about the popular group (who he desperately wants to belong to). He loves Pokemon even though it is highly unfashionable and out-of-vogue.

### The Adult

The actor playing The Adult will play five completely different adult characters. The kids think adults are old-fashioned, boring, and out-of-touch with the way things *really* are. The popular kids believe it is uncool to take advice from adults. The different adult characters are: Single Parent (Ella's mom), Lunch Lady, Teacher, Coach, and Principal.

**Playwright Note:** Most of the characters and events in this story are based on real people and situations. All have been renamed. The real-life Ella did not survive the swimming party. It is for her, and all victims of bullies, that I wrote this musical AND rewrote her ending. May your production help kids in your town rewrite tragedies into heroic stories of healing.

**(mis)Fitting In** Book by Jamie Young. Music and Lyrics by Rick Rea. Students: 3m 3F + 1 Adult to play 5 roles + optional ensemble of students. This is an original, anti-bullying musical about a boy, Ben, who is new at school and is trying to find his place to fit in with the other kids. As he struggles to make new friends, he is faced with a difficult choice of following the crowd or being true to himself. This show is an excellent story that presents powerful messages in an amusing, creative way that will keep both kids and adults entertained until the very end. Flexible casting allows all adults to play all roles or also have the roles played by age-appropriate actors. Also, multiple adults could play the adult roles. **Order # 3151**

## Synopsis of Scene and Musical Numbers

### ACT ONE

SCENE ONE -- Classroom

**MUSICAL # 1 -- THE FIRST DAY** -- Julia, Drew, Ella, Tracey, Ben, Brittney and kids

SCENE TWO -- Cafeteria

**MUSICAL #2 -- KNOW YOUR PLACE** -- Julia, Drew, Brittney, Tracey

SCENE THREE -- The Gym

**MUSICAL #3 -- THE GAME** -- The Cast

**MUSICAL #4 -- SAY MY NAME** -- Tracey & All

**MUSICAL #5 -- THE WARM UP** -- The Cast

**MUSICAL #6 -- THE GAME** -- The Cast

SCENE FOUR -- The Classroom

SCENE FIVE -- Behind the Gym

**MUSICAL #7 -- I WOULD DO ANYTHING** -- Drew & Backup

SCENE SIX -- The Cafeteria

**MUSICAL #8 -- WHEN I AM HOME** -- Ella

SCENE SEVEN -- The Principal's Office

**MUSICAL #9 -- FRIENDS BY CHANCE** -- Ella & Ben

SCENE EIGHT -- At The Curb

**MUSICAL # 10 -- I WOULD DO ANYTHING (REPRISE)** -- Brittney

### INTERMISSION

### ACT TWO

SCENE NINE -- The Cafeteria

**MUSICAL #11 -- HEAR YE, HEAR YE!** -- The Cast

SCENE TEN -- The Classroom

**MUSICAL #12 -- THE CHANCE TO SHINE** -- Ben & Ella

SCENE ELEVEN -- The Classroom

SCENE TWELVE -- The Gym

**MUSICAL #13 -- THE GAME - REPRISE** -- Ben

SCENE THIRTEEN -- The Cafeteria

SCENE FOURTEEN -- The Classroom

**MUSICAL #13 -- THE CHANCE TO SHINE (REPRISE)** -- Ella

SCENE FIFTEEN -- Behind the Gym

**MUSICAL #14 -- FITTING IN** -- Ella's Mom

SCENE SIXTEEN -- The Lake

**MUSICAL #15 -- I WOULD DO ANYTHING (REPRISE)** -- Ella

**MUSICAL #16 -- ALIENS IN THE LAKE** -- All but Brittney

SCENE SEVENTEEN -- The Cafeteria

**MUSICAL #17 -- THE LAST DAY** -- The Cast

**MUSICAL #18 -- THE CURTAIN CALL** -- The Company

## ACT ONE

**SCENE ONE** -- *The story opens in the classroom on the first day back from summer. The clock is ticking. The students are busy finishing a placement test and anxious for the lunch bell to ring. They are restless and not enjoying the torture of being back in school and having to take a test on the first day, no less.*

### **MUSICAL # 1 -- THE FIRST DAY**

**JULIA:**

I'M STUCK ON QUESTION NUMBER THREE  
"B" MAKES NO SENSE. OR "A," OR "C"  
FOR THE LOVE,  
ALL OF THE ABOVE!  
IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  
AND I'M FEELING LIKE A FOOL.

**DREW:**

DON'T KNOW THE ANSWERS SO I GUESSED.  
I'D RATHER SLEEP THAN SIT HERE STRESSED  
AND I'M FLOORED  
'CAUSE I'M ALREADY BORED.  
IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL,  
AND I'M NAPPING IN MY DROOL.

**ALL:**

SUMMER VACATION I TRIED TO PRETEND  
YOUR THREE MONTHS OF FREEDOM NEVER WOULD END.  
I WAS ALMOST CONVINCED, SO ENDLESS YOU SEEMED.  
THEN I HEARD THE ALARM, AND YOU'RE GONE LIKE A DREAM  
AND NEXT SUMMER IS NINE MONTHS AWAY  
'CAUSE HEAVEN ENDED YESTERDAY

**TEACHER:** *(Clearing her throat and clapping her hands for order in the classroom.)* Hehummm!

**ALL:**

ON THE FIRST DAY.

**ELLA:**

EACH YEAR SEEMS WORST THAN THE YEAR LAST  
ANOTHER YEAR AS AN OUTCAST

**TRACEY:**

WHY BE BLEAK  
WHEN YOU'RE KING OF THE GEEKS!

**ELLA:**

ON THE FIRST DAY I MUST

HOPE I'M NOT LEFT IN THE DUST  
IF OTHERS SCOFF ME WITH THEIR LOOKS  
I'LL FIND MY SOLACE IN MY BOOKS

**TRACEY:**

LIFE'S NOT HARD--  
I'VE GOT POKEMON CARDS

**ELLA:**

BUT THIS FIRST DAY MIGHT END  
WITH MY MAKING A NEW FRIEND

**ELLA AND TRACEY:**

I GOTTA BE STRONG, AND I TRY NOT TO CARE  
I CAN'T SPEND MY LAST YEAR OF SCHOOL IN DESPAIR  
WHO KNOWS MAYBE THIS YEAR MY LUCK WILL REVERSE  
A CHANGE FOR THE BEST OR A TURN FOR THE WORSE.

**ELLA:**

WILL I SIT AT POPULARITY'S SHRINE

**TRACEY:**

WILL A MISFIT STATUS ALWAYS BE MINE?

**ELLA AND TRACEY:**

MY REPUTATION'S ON THE LINE  
ON THE FIRST DAY!

**BEN:**

DON'T KNOW THE COOL KIDS FROM THE LAME,  
NOT EVEN ANYBODY'S NAME,  
WHICH IS FINE,  
SINCE THEY DON'T KNOW MINE--  
'CAUSE IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL,  
SO THEY DON'T KNOW I'M NOT COOL.

I WASN'T READY FOR THIS CHANGE  
WHY DO THEIR FACES LOOK SO STRANGE  
COULD IT BE  
'CAUSE THE STRANGER IS ME!  
IT'S THE FIRST DAY AND I'VE  
GOTTA FIT IN TO SURVIVE

**ALL BUT BEN:**

MINUTES 'TILL LUNCHTIME, AND WHO WILL BE SEEN  
AT THE TABLE WITH THE CAFETERIA QUEEN  
IT USUALLY ISN'T A MYSTERY WHO  
WILL MAKE IT ON TOP, BUT THIS KID IS NEW

**MISFITS:**

WILL HE BE ANOTHER POPULAR CLONE

**POPULARS:**

IS HE LAME OR IS HE ONE OF OUR OWN?

**BEN:**

WILL I BAND WITH FRIENDS OR STAND ALONE

**ALL:**

ON THE FIRST DAY!

ON THE FIRST DAY!

ON THE FIRST

**BRITTNEY:**

JUNIOR HIGH

ONE YEAR UNTIL

**ALL:**

JUNIOR HIGH

A YEAR 'TILL WE SAY GOODBYE!

TO BEING JUST ONE YEAR SHY

OF LIVING BETWEEN

**BRITTNEY:**

BEING A KID AND BEING A TEEN

*(BRITTNEY is still in a trance of sorts realizing what is at stake)*

**ALL BUT BRITTNEY:**

SINCE KINDERGARTEN, AS EVERY YEAR PASSED,

WE DREAMED OF THIS YEAR, BEING TOP OF THE CLASS

I GOTTA MAKE SURE THAT IT'S PERFECT, THAT I'M

NOT LEFT IN THE SHADOW- THIS YEAR IS MY TIME!

THIS YEAR IS MY TIME!

THIS YEAR IS MY TIME!

**BRITTNEY:** *(Spoken powerfully to all.)*

THIS YEAR IS MY TIME!

*(The school bell rings.)*

**ALL:**

ONE LAST CHANCE FOR ME TO ASCEND

I'M STARTING NOW TO COMPREHEND

THE BEGINNING OF MY CHILDHOOD'S END

ON THE FIRST DAY!

**(BLACKOUT)**

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- misFitting In by Jamie Young and Rick Rea

**SCENE TWO** -- *The scene has transitioned to the cafeteria in the final measures of the opening number. The students find themselves in line waiting for the food to be served.*

**DREW:** I can't believe they gave us a test on the first day of school.

**JULIA:** Yeah! What do they expect? I didn't touch a book all summer.

**DREW:** What *did* you do all summer?

**JULIA:** I hung out with Brittney most of the summer. You know... shopping, checking out the mall... stuff like that. You should have seen the awesome shirt she bought me for my birthday! What about you? What did you do?

**DREW:** Oh, I just did a bunch of sports camps...basketball, football.

*(Changing the subject back to Brittney.)*

Um... did Brittney... uh, you know... have, like a boy friend this summer?

**JULIA:** *(Giggling.)* No!

*(Brittney walks in late and cuts to the front of the line.)*

**TRACEY:** Hey, no cutting.

*(Brittney glares at him for a moment, but says nothing.)*

I was here first. What, do you think you're some kind of queen or something?

**JULIA AND DREW:** *(Overhearing their conversation.)* She is!

**BRITTNEY:** Listen creep, unless you want to wear your lunch for the rest of the day, shut up and move to the back of the line.

**TRACEY:** You must not have seen the new rule the principal just posted. "Cutters will be suspended for three days."

*(Ignoring him, she begins to flirt with DREW at the back of the line. Just as LUNCH LADY opens the line to serving, TRACEY calls Brittney's cell phone. Thinking that it is the Drew calling, BRITTNEY excitedly gets distracted while she answers the phone and steps out of line. TRACEY steps triumphantly forward to receive his food.)*

**BRITTNEY:** Hello. Hello. That's weird. Hey... what. Oh, you little creep. Was that you who called? Oh, you little creep. I am going to kill you.

*(Chasing him through the cafeteria)*

That is so gross. The school nerd has my cell phone number! How did you get my number?

**TRACEY:** *(As the chase continues.)* An alien gave it to me. And they said they got it from you – when they abducted you and put an implant in your cerebral cortex.

*(By now BEN has gotten his food and is heading for THE TABLE. JULIA barely receives her food only to turn and have BRITTNEY take it. JULIA returns to the back of the line. When BRITTNEY gets to THE TABLE she is horror-struck to find the BEN sitting there. She screams and the song begins.)*

**BRITTNEY:** How dare you sit there without my permission! That table is reserved for the Queen of the Cafeteria. I have worked hard for six years to earn that title and on the first day of my reign the table is defiled.

**MUSICAL #2 -- KNOW YOUR PLACE**

**JULIA/DREW/BRITTNEY:**

EACH OF US HAVE A PLACE WHERE WE FIT IN  
AND A PLACE WHERE WE NEVER WILL  
IT DETERMINES YOUR FRIENDS, AND THE CHAIR THAT YOU SIT IN  
YOUR PLACE IS THE ROLE THAT YOU FILL  
IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY, OR MERELY SURVIVE  
IT'S A FACT WE ALL MUST FACE  
YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR PLACE.

**JULIA:**

IF YOU'RE BETTER AT SCIENCE THAN SPORTS,  
AND YOU LIKE BOOK REPORTS  
KNOW YOUR PLACE

**DREW:**

IF THE AFTER-SCHOOL CHOIR'S YOUR THING  
THEN YOU GO ON AND SING, BUT  
KNOW YOUR PLACE.

**JULIA AND DREW:**

IF YOUR PARENTS ARE RICH AND IT SHOWS  
IN YOUR CELL PHONE AND YOUR STYLISH CLOTHES

**BRITTNEY:**

OR, IF YOU'RE POOR, CAN'T AFFORD THE NAME-BRAND  
ALL YOUR CLOTHES SECOND-HAND  
YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR PLACE.

**ALL BUT BEN:**

ALL OF US HAVE A SECRET DESIRE  
TO REACH A BETTER IDEAL  
WE'RE NEVER CONTENT WITH OUR LIVES, WE WANT HIGHER  
BUT THOSE ARE WISHES, NOT REAL.  
STOP ACHING FOR SOMETHING YOU NEVER CAN HAVE,  
AND GIVE THE TRUTH AN EMBRACE  
YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR PLACE.

**TRACEY:**

TAKE ME, I'M A MISFIT BECAUSE I'M AWARE  
THAT THERE'S MORE IN THE AIR  
THAN PLANES AND BIRDS  
I'VE SEEN UFO'S WITH MY VERY OWN EYES  
I'VE SEEN ALIEN SPIES  
TRUST MY WORDS.  
IT MAKES PEOPLE CRINGE: MY ACCOUNTS OF THE FRINGE  
AND THE MYSTERIES OF SPACE.

SO I'M FRIENDLESS--BY CHOICE, 'CAUSE YOU SEE  
THEY'RE THE LAME ONES, NOT ME  
THAT'S HOW I KNOW MY PLACE.

**BRITTNEY:** Shut up, Geek.

IF YOU THINK I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE QUEEN,  
YOU'RE WRONG. THIS YEAR IS FIRST.  
I HAD TO BREAK INTO THE SCENE,  
AND FIT THEIR MOLD TO PASS THEIR SCREEN  
MAKE SURE THAT I LOOKED MOST PRISTINE  
COMPARED TO EVERY OTHER 'TWEEN  
I HAD TO LEARN THEIR WHOLE ROUTINE  
AT TIMES THE TASKS WERE DOWNRIGHT MEAN  
THE HARDEST ONE, THE MOST OBSCENE?  
THEY MADE ME LEARN BY HEART EACH WORD  
THAT RHYMES WITH QUEEN  
AS YOU'VE JUST SEEN!

**ALL POPULARS:**

EACH OF US HAS TO WORK FROM THE BOTTOM  
IF WE WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS AT THE TOP  
LOSERS ARE EVERYWHERE, EASY TO SPOT 'EM  
THOSE TWO ARE THE CREAM OF THE CROP

**DREW/JULIA:**

WANNA SIT HERE? WELL THEN GO TO THE JUDGE  
HER LAW DECIDES YOUR GRACE

**BRITTNEY:**

KID, YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CASE!

**ALL POPULARS:**

THEN I GUESS YOU'VE FOUND YOUR PLACE.

**ALL BUT BEN:**

YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR PLACE

**BRITTNEY:** And yours is with Ella and Trace.

**TRACEY:** Tracey!

**BRITTNEY:** Whatever, geek.

*(The MISFITS unsympathetically welcome TRACEY to their ranks and BRITTNEY finishes the song by taking her place at the table. ELLA and TRACEY have taken their seats at opposite sides of the back of the cafeteria. BEN looks for a place to sit but is too worried to break any other unwritten rules. After wandering a bit, he gives up and dumps his tray in the trash can and leaves. JULIA and DREW approach opposite sides of THE TABLE.)*

**JULIA:** Oh, mighty queen. May we, your humble servants, know the secret to sitting at your table?

**DREW:** Yeah, me too.

*(Brittney summons them one at a time. First, she speaks secretly to Drew.)*

**PERUSAL SCRIPT -- misFitting In** by Jamie Young and Rick Rea

**BRITTNEY:** Meet me behind the Gym after school and we'll discuss your place next to me at the table.

*(Drew celebrates finally getting Brittney's attention. Next, to Julia.)*

After school meet me behind the gym to learn what you must do to earn the right.

*(The two sit in the front of the cafeteria on opposite sides.)*

**JULIA AND DREW:**

EACH OF US HAVE A PLACE WHERE WE FIT IN  
AND A PLACE WHERE WE SOMEDAY WILL  
IT DETERMINES YOUR FRIENDS, AND THE CHAIR THAT YOU SIT IN  
YOUR PLACE IS THE ROLE THAT YOU FILL

**ADD BRITTNEY:**

IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY, OR MERELY SURVIVE  
IT'S A FACT WE ALL MUST FACE  
YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR PLACE.

**SCENE THREE --** *After not eating, BEN gets to gym class early and begins shooting baskets. He is really good. This all portrayed in a dance. After the warm-up the COACH approaches BEN.)*

**MUSICAL #3 -- THE GAME**

**COACH:** Hey kid, what's your name?

**BEN:** Ben. Ben Perry.

**COACH:** I've been watching you from my office.

**BEN:** *(Referring to playing ball alone before class.)* Oh, sorry. Is this against the rules too?

**COACH:** What? No. You're really good! You new here?

**BEN:** Yes, Coach. My dad just got stationed here at the Army base.

**COACH:** Where'd you learn to play like that?

**BEN:** I just played with my friends a lot in New Jersey – where I moved from.

**COACH:** Well, Ben... I'd have to say you're the best player in this school – even better than Drew Jukes. You gonna tryout for the basketball team? We practice after school.

**BEN:** Nah. I already told Mr. Axelson that I would sing in the after-school choir.

**COACH:** CHOIR? Kid, you're too good to be wasting your time with singing. You should tryout. Today and tomorrow. After school. Right here.

*(To the rest of the class as they show up.)*

In preparation for the big basketball tryouts, we are going to play a scrimmage game. Team captains will be Drew...

*(No one is surprised – all react)*

...and the new kid Ben, Ben Perry.

*(All whisper in shock. The Coach does a coin toss.)*

**COACH:** Ben Perry, heads or tails.

**BEN:** Tails.

*(COACH flips coin.)*

**COACH:** Heads. Drew you pick first.

**DREW:** Brittney.

**BEN:** Uh... I pick... I pick...

#### **MUSICAL #4 -- SAY MY NAME**

**TRACEY:**

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS YOUR PERFECT CHANCE,  
FOR THE PLAYER EVERYONE FIGHTS FOR;  
IT'S THE ONLY WAY IF YOU WANT TO ADVANCE,  
IF YOU WANT THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE.

GUARDING AND BLOCKING? OH I'VE GOT THE MOVES,  
JUMPING AND SWISHING, TOWERING GROOVES.  
B-BALL AND TRACEY, WE'RE ONE AND THE SAME.  
WITH ME ON YOUR TEAM YOU'LL BE WINNING THIS GAME.

**ALL:**

COME ON, COME ON, COME ON, COME ON NOW,  
YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW HOW,  
IT'S SIMPLE IF YOU WANNA—AND YOU WANNA WIN THIS GAME  
PICK ME, PICK ME, JUST SAY MY NAME

**BEN:** I pick her.

*(Pointing to Julia.)*

**TRACEY:** Julia? You pick Julia?

**BEN:** Julia.

**JULIA:** No. No way. I will not be on that geek's team.

**COACH:** That's fine. You can be on his team or get a zero for the day. Your choice.

**JULIA:** Fine! But for the record, I will be cheering for Brittney's team.

**TRACEY:**

LAST YEAR IN THE FINAL PLAYOFF MATCH,  
ONLY A FEW SECONDS LEFT ON THE CLOCK;

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN)**

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?  
WHO WILL SEE US THROUGH? THEY ARE WINNING  
TIME IS THINNING!  
BOO, HOO, HOO!

**TRACEY:**

BY TWO POINTS THE TITLE WAS THEIRS TO SNATCH,

IF MY TEAM DIDN'T TRUST THE GREATEST JOCK!

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN)**

TRACEY YOU'RE THE ONE  
WHO CAN GET IT DONE!  
YOU CAN TASK IT,  
GET A BASKET.  
RUN, RUN, RUN!

**TRACEY:**

BEGGING AND PLEADING, THEY PASSED ME THE BALL,

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN):**

PASSED! PASSED!

**TRACEY:**

SWERVING AND DODGING, I RAN PAST THEM ALL.

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN):**

PAST! PAST!

**TRACEY:**

WINNING

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN):**

AND TRACEY

**ALL (BUT BEN)**

ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

**TRACEY:**

WITH ME ON THAT TEAM WE WON THE FINAL GAME.

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN):**

OOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH! YEAH!

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN):**

WE LOVE YOU TRACEY! OH YES WE DO!  
AND WE LOVE POKEMON AND MARTIANS TOO!  
TRACEY! TRACEY! TRACEY! TRACEY!

**ALL (BUT BEN):**

COME ON, COME ON, COME ON, COME ON NOW,  
YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW HOW,  
IT'S SIMPLE, IF YOU WANNA

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN):**

--AND YOU WANNA WIN THIS GAME

**TRACEY:**

PICK ME, PICK ME, JUST SAY MY NAME!

**DREW:** I pick Ella next.

*(Everyone including the Coach, Ben and Ella slowly start surrounding Tracey, as if to gang up on him - this is his imagination.)*

**TRACEY:**

I LIE ALL DAY BUT WHO DO I FOOL?  
THE TRUTH STARES HIM THE FACE.  
I AM THE BIGGEST KLUTZ IN THE SCHOOL,  
NOT EVER PICKED IN A GROUP, FOR A GAME OR A RACE.

**ALL (BUT TRACEY & BEN):** *(These jabs are said one at a time during the sung stanza that follows)*

Weirdo.  
Klutz.  
Moron.  
Geek.  
What a girl!  
Freak!

**TRACEY:**

JEERING AND TAUNTING IS ALL THAT I GET.  
WAITING AND HURTING, I JUST WANT TO FORGET.  
LOSERS AND TRACEY, WE'RE ONE AND THE SAME.  
*(The taunting ends and EVERYONE comes back to real life.)*  
WITH ME ON HIS TEAM I MIGHT GET A NAME.  
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON, COME ON NOW,  
YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW HOW,  
IT'S SIMPLE IF YOU WANNA – AND YOU WANNA WIN THIS GAME  
PICK ME, PICK ME, JUST SAY MY...

**BEN:** I pick... is it Tracey?

**TRACEY:** *(Celebrating.)* Oh yeah! Thank you, Ben. Thanks for picking me! Let's kill em'!

**COACH:** Alright. Warm up!

**MUSICAL #5 -- THE WARM UP**

*(This warm up is portrayed in dance. Each of the students participates in various forms of calisthenics and basketball drills. The MISFITS squeeze in a moment of yoga until they are forces of the gym floor.)*

**COACH:** Let's play ball!

**MUSICAL #6 -- THE GAME**

*(This is also portrayed in dance. BEN is obviously throwing the game, trying his hardest not to be good. DREW and BRITTNEY gloat over their superiority. JULIA bemoans being placed on the team with the MISFITS. DREW and BRITTNEY severely scorn ELLA for a mistake she makes. JULIA secretly passes the ball to BRITTNEY and she makes the winning point. The number ends and the class heads for the locker rooms.)*

**PERUSAL SCRIPT -- misFitting In** by Jamie Young and Rick Rea

**COACH:** Alright, hit the showers. Game's over. Ben! Hang back a minute. I want to talk to you.

*(The rest of the class exits as they look back in curiosity.)*

Why did you do that?

**BEN:** Do what?

**COACH:** Don't play stupid with me. You know what you did. Why did you pretend to be a bad player?

**BEN:** You wouldn't understand. I guess I'm not that good after all.

*(Blackout.)*

**SCENE FOUR --** *In the Classroom the TEACHER is overseeing the class as they work hard on an assignment.*

*TRACEY is texting his classmates in a way his teacher can't see but the audience can. Everyone gets a simultaneous text message – except ELLA who doesn't have a cell phone. They all look at TRACEY at the same time.*

**TEACHER:** What's going on? Tracey, are you causing problems again? Please get back to work – all of you.

**LOUD SPEAKER:** Ms. Petersen, would you please come to the office. There is a parent here to see you.

*(To the loud speaker.)*

I'll be right down.

*(To the class.)*

**TEACHER:** OK class. I don't want any problems while I am gone. I want you finished with that assignment when I get back. Brittney, you're in charge until I get back.

*(She exits. The class waits exactly 3 seconds then explodes.)*

**ALL (except ELLA):** *(While waving their cell phones at Tracey. Randomly saying:)* How did you get my cell phone number?

What, are you crazy?

You can't text during school.

You almost got me in trouble.

**JULIA:** Seriously, how did you get my number?

**DREW:** Who cares about that? I want to know what it was about.

**BRITTNEY:** Yeah, what's the juicy secret?

**TRACEY:** What will you give me if I tell you?

**DREW:** I will give you the privilege to continue breathing. Now tell us the secret!

**TRACEY:** I know something about the new kid that is very interesting.

*(They all look at BEN.)*

**BEN:** Me. You know a secret about me?

**TRACEY:** Yep. But I am not going to tell it, until I get to sit at "the table."

**BRITTNEY:** Forget it. Drew, he obviously doesn't want to breathe anymore.

*(DREW grabs TRACEY in a head lock and gives him a nuggie.)*

**TRACEY:** Alright, alright! I'll tell you.

*(Breaking free. Dropping a bombshell.)*

**PERUSAL SCRIPT -- misFitting In** by *Jamie Young and Rick Rea*

Ben Perry is not trying out for the basketball team because he is in the after-school choir.

*(The POPULARS stand silently for a moment then start laughing and mocking BEN.)*

**BRITTNEY:** You really are a loser man. Choir is for sissies.

**JULIA:** Hey Ben, I bet you sing soprano, too.

**DREW:** After the scrimmage game today, I am glad. Who would want you on the team anyway.

**BEN:** *(To TRACEY.)* How did you know that?

**TRACEY:** You will soon learn, Ben Perry, that with my extra-terrestrial powers, no one can keep a secret from me.

**BEN:** “Extra-terrestrial power?” You mean like aliens? Are you serious?

**BRITTNEY:** You know Ben, Tracey here is in the choir too. Now you know what kind of Misfit you will be in the choir with.

**BEN:** I don’t care what you all say. It’s no secret anyway. I like singing. Not only am I in the choir, but I will be a section leader too. Who cares? What kind of stupid school is this anyway.

*(The TEACHER enters in the middle of the previous line. The others all see her coming and make it back to their seats in time. BEN is caught standing and talking.)*

**TEACHER:** *(Clearing her throat.)* Mr. Perry, is there a problem.

*(BEN shakes his head and quietly sits down.)*

Who finished their assignment?

*(No one but ELLA raises her hand.)*

Brittney, I left you in charge. What happened?

**BRITTNEY:** Ms. Peterson, I asked everyone three times to sit down and shut up...

**TEACHER:** Brittney, we don’t say shut up.

**BRITTNEY:** ... to be quiet... I asked them three times and that Ben boy just kept bugging us all.

**TEACHER:** Ben? Do you have an explanation for yourself?

*(He shrugs.)*

That is not a very good way to start your school year in this class. Are you going to be a problem all year?

**BEN:** *(Looks at BRITTNEY, then back at the TEACHER.)* No ma’am. I am sorry.

**TEACHER:** Well class, I wasn’t going to give homework today, but it looks like everyone but Ella will have to finish their assignment tonight – at home.

*(The bell rings. The CLASS begins to exit.)*

Have a good night. Oh, and Ella. Your mom was in the office. She brought you your permission slip. She said she’d be late picking you up.

**BRITTNEY:** *(As she walks by Ella she says out of the corner of her mouth)* Momma’s girl.

**ELLA:** *(Picking up her permission slip, she walks by BEN waving it proudly.)* I’m going to be in choir too.

*(Blackout.)*

SCENE FIVE -- *The scene transitions to behind the gym. DREW is waiting for his secret rendezvous with BRITTNEY.*

**MUSICAL #7 -- I WOULD DO ANYTHING**

**DREW:**

IF THIS SCHOOL WERE A CASTLE  
LIKE MOVIE *PRINCESS BRIDE*  
THEN THERE ISN'T DOUBT THAT I'D  
BE SOME KIND OF ROYALTY

WHEN I WALK DOWN THE HALL,  
PEOPLE SEE ME PASSING THROUGH  
ALL AT ONCE THEY TAKE THEIR CUE  
AND PART LIKE THE RED SEA.  
FROM THE GYM TO THE FIELD  
I'M TEAM CAPTAIN, IT'S ASSUMED,  
YOU COULD SAY THAT I'VE BEEN GROOMED  
FOR THE ROLE SINCE I WAS THREE.

IN THE LUNCHROOM I SIT WITH  
THE SIXTH GRADE ELITE  
YET I FEEL INCOMPLETE  
BECAUSE THE GIRL IN THE NEXT SEAT.

I WOULD DO ANYTHING, ANYTHING  
TO BE MORE THAN JUST A PEER  
TO SHARE MORE THAN A CLIQUE  
BUT A FRIENDSHIP MORE SINCERE

I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING, ANYTHING  
TO SEE HER GIVE A CARE  
EVERYTHING ELSE IS MEANINGLESS  
WHILE SHE IS UNAWARE  
THAT I'M THERE

**CHORUS:**

THIRD GRADE

**DREW:**

SHE PULLED OUT A BLACK SHARPIE  
ON A DESK SHE WROTE HER NAME.  
SO I LIED AND TOOK THE BLAME

AND SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE

**CHORUS:**

FOURTH GRADE

**DREW:**

GAVE HER AN INVITE  
FOR MY BIRTHDAY PARTY--SAID SHE'D GO!  
BUT SHE DIDN'T EVEN SHOW  
I WAS LEFT JUST WAITING THERE.

**CHORUS:**

FIFTH GRADE

**DREW:**

WHEN SHE HAD TO USE CRUTCHES  
'CAUSE SHE SPRAINED ANKLE HARD.  
I GOT HER FLOW'RS AND A CARD.  
FOUND 'EM LATER IN THE TRASH.

**CHORUS & DREW:**

SIXTH GRADE

**DREW:**

IS THE YEAR THAT THAT MY EYES  
WILL NO LONGER BE LEFT WET.  
MY HEART IS EVER SET  
ON THE ONE THING IN THE WORLD I CANNOT GET..  
YET!

I WILL DO ANYTHING, EVERYTHING  
TO GET MY HEART'S TRUE PRIZE  
IT'S WORTH ANY UPHILL CLIMB  
OR BITTER COMPROMISE

I'VE GIVEN EVERYTHING, FACED THE STING  
SO HOW CAN I GIVE UP NOW?  
IF I WANT TO WIN  
I MUST FIGHT FOR MY CROWN  
ALL MY CHIPS ARE IN  
NOW IT'S SWIM OR DROWN  
YOU CAN RAISE THE STAKES,  
'CAUSE I'LL DO WHAT IT TAKES!  
GIVE ME MOUNTAINS, OCEANS, CLIFFS OR LAKES!

I WILL DO ANYTHING -

‘CAUSE I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING--  
BUT BACK DOWN!

**BRITTNEY:** *(Enters and speaks “all business.”)* Thanks for coming Drew!

**DREW:** Before you say anything else, I just want to say... Uh, thanks. Thanks for finally talking with me – I mean privately... like this.

**BRITTNEY:** Privately?

**DREW:** Yeah, for a lot of years, I’ve wanted to tell you something and I finally have the chance.

**BRITTNEY:** Chance for what Drew? What are you talking about?

**DREW:** Brittney Moss, I’ve waited a long time to tell you...

*(Julia enters.)*

**JULIA:** Hi guys. Sorry I’m late. Did I miss anything?

**BRITTNEY:** Hey Julia. No, Drew was just going to tell me something he’s waited a long time to tell me.

*(They both turn to DREW with anticipation. He is frozen. After a pause.)*

Come on Drew, we don’t have all day. What was it?

**DREW:** Well, I... um. I just wanted to tell you I really like your shoes.

**BRITTNEY:** My shoes?

**DREW:** Yeah, you always wear really nice shoes. They fit you. I mean they always match and stuff. You’re a good shoe shopper-picker-outer-person.

*(BRITTNEY and JULIA stare at him, look at each other and shrug. Blowing him off.)*

**BRITTNEY:** We’re going to be late for the basketball tryouts if we don’t hurry. Let me tell you why I summoned you both here. Every year, the one who has earned the title of Queen of the Cafeteria gets to elect which faithful subjects...

**JULIA:** Subjects? You mean like math, reading, and social studies?

**BRITTNEY:** No, you dim-wit! The Queen of the Cafeteria gets to pick which *friends* she wants to have sit at the table with her.

**JULIA:** Oh. I get it. So you told us to come here so you could tell us we get to sit at the table.

**BRITTNEY:** No. Not yet! Tradition is that all royal subjects must first pass a test of loyalty. You must each do one task I ask you to do before you can earn the privilege of sitting at the royal lunch table.

**DREW:** What do we have to do?

**BRITTNEY:** The duty always includes choosing one of the biggest loners in the school and doing something to embarrass them. You get to choose which nerd to pick on and I get to decide what you have to do to them. AND if you do it, you get to sit with the Queen. Do you agree to the terms?

*(The both nod.)*

Then you must promise with the secret handshake.

*(She shows them the secret handshake and they do it.)*

Who do you pick?

**DREW:** That’s easy. I pick the new kid – Ben.

**BRITTNEY:** Very good choice. What about you Julia?

**JULIA:** I pick Ella Swanson.

**BRITTNEY:** Excellent! Now that I know who you’ve picked, I have 24 hours to decide their method of

humiliation. Tomorrow we will meet again and I will tell you what you must do to embarrass them.

**JULIA:** It won't be anything too bad, will it?

**BRITTNEY:** What, are you scared or something? Are you wimping out already?

**JULIA:** No, I was just...

**BRITTNEY:** Look. If you want to be popular like me, you've got to sit at the royal table. And to sit at the table you've got to do what I say. You've got to decide now if you want to be popular or not.

**DREW:** It's kind of mean, but...

I'VE GIVEN EVERYTHING, FACED THE STING

SO HOW CAN I GIVE UP NOW?

IF I WANT TO WIN

I (MUST FIGHT FOR MY) CROWN

ALL MY CHIPS ARE IN

NOW IT'S SWIM OR DROWN

**DREW & JULIA:**

YOU CAN RAISE THE STAKES,

'CAUSE I'LL DO WHAT IT TAKES!

GIVE ME MOUNTAINS, OCEANS, CLIFFS OR LAKES!

I WILL DO ANYTHING -

BUT BACK DOWN!

*(They exit for basketball tryouts.)*

**SCENE SIX --** *In the cafeteria the lights come up on ELLA and BEN who are sitting by themselves at different tables. TRACEY crosses with his lunch to ELLA who is sitting in his usual spot. He stands there staring at her not knowing what to do.*

**TRACEY:** You're sitting in my spot.

**ELLA:** Sorry. The new kid was sitting at my table.

**TRACEY:** You can't sit here.

*(ELLA gets up and hesitantly crosses to her usual spot and sits there, despite BEN's presence. TRACEY uses his spoon to flick peas from his lunch tray at other people in the cafeteria. He finishes his milk and shoots it like a basketball toward the trash can.)*

**TRACEY:** The final seconds of the championship and Tracey Winkel takes the shot...

*(He misses but does not go to pick it up. LUNCH LADY, who has seen everything, approaches TRACEY and the trash can and talks to him.)*

**LUNCH LADY:** *(Picking up his trash and returning it to him.)* Here, I'll get that for you. You dropped something.

**TRACEY:** Oh, thanks. Someone stole that from me.

**LUNCH LADY:** *(Bowing slightly in mock service. Said as she takes the rest of his tray and dumps it. Not cruel, just teaching a lesson.)* And please, allow me to clear the rest of your place sir.

**TRACEY:** Hey, wait... I wasn't done with that.

**LUNCH LADY:** Oh, I am sorry. I thought you were. When my kids were still at home and they started playing with their food they were definitely DONE with their lunch.

**TRACEY:** I wasn't playing with my food! I was using it for its intended purpose.

**LUNCH LADY:** And what might that be?

**TRACEY:** Food that tastes like that is intended to be a weapon of mass destruction.

**LUNCH LADY:** Oh, I see.

**TRACEY:** It is not a bad idea serving food like that here. It keeps the UFOs away. Alien repellent.

**LUNCH LADY:** Well, Peekachoo... It seems to me that your Alien repellent is being used as a weapon of mass attention.

*(He looks at her puzzled and like she is crazy.)*

If you want to get their attention just go sit by them and talk to them.

**TRACEY:** What?

**LUNCH LADY:** I saw you shoot those peas at those guys over there. What I can't understand is why you young people, who all want a friend, would choose instead to sit by yourselves. If you want a friend, go make one. Don't sit here waiting for one to be teleported next to you. Go sit by that new kid over there and get to know him.

**TRACEY:** Are you crazy? I'd rather sit by myself than get tortured.

**LUNCH LADY:** Nobody is going to torture you.

**TRACEY:** Yes, huh! Last year I tried to sit next to Drew... you know, that jock. I tried to sit next to Drew and he threw me in the girls bathroom and duct taped me to one of the toilets and closed the stall door. 10 girls used the bathroom before Jeepahnah finally found me.

**LUNCH LADY:** Jeepahnah?

**TRACEY:** My alien body guard from the planet Ziff in sector three of the Omega system.

**LUNCH LADY:** *(Knowing it is obviously a lie, but treating him like he is telling the truth.)* That must have been awful. I am so sorry that happened to you. If I promise to be your body guard this time will you go sit next to that new kid over there?

**TRACEY:** No way!

**LUNCH LADY:** There is one giant Fat Boy Ice Cream bar over in my freezer if you do.

*(Before she finishes her sentence TRACEY runs to BEN's table, slides into the bench next to him, and bumps him. After an initial scare, Ben awkwardly slides over and resumes his solitary eating. ELLA gets up again and crosses back to the table she left a few minutes earlier. TRACEY just stares at him. The lights cross fade to THE TABLE. DREW and JULIS have just gotten their lunches and end up standing next to THE TABLE with pleading eyes.)*

**BRITTNEY:** *(An official decree to DREW and JULIA.)* Yes, you are granted royal permission to feast with me. Be seated.

*(Back to normal tone – all business. Pointing to the MISFITS.)*

Besides, we've got some planning to do.

*(Sitting.)*

**JULIA:** I have been thinking of some great ways to find out what will really embarrass that Ella girl.

**BRITTNEY:** *(Pointing back to the table Ella has moved to. They all stare.)* Look at her sitting over there all

alone. What a shame!

*(ELLA notices them and wonders what they are looking at. Realizing it is her, she tries harder to look like she's reading a book.)*

Tell me your ideas to embarrass her.

*(The LIGHTS cross fade back to TRACEY and BEN. TRACEY is still staring at BEN. LUNCH LADY finally motions for him to talk to BEN. Finally TRACEY breaks this ice.)*

**TRACEY:** What kind of Alien Repellant did you eat today?

**BEN:** What?

**TRACEY:** *(Looking back at the Lunch Lady, not knowing what to say. She encourages him with a gesture.)* You like those mash potatoes?

**BEN:** They're alright.

**TRACEY:** I never buy glue when I shop for school supplies because I know I can always use the mash potatoes to cement anything together.

*(Silence.)*

The Lunch Lady told me she'd give me a Fat Boy Ice Cream bar if I came and talked to you.

*(BEN is not impressed and gets up to leave. Quickly, before Ben gets away.)*

Hey, thanks for picking me yesterday for Basketball. Sorry I made us lose.

*(BEN nods and walks away. TRACEY sits there alone, kind of proud of himself as the LUNCH LADY delivers a giant Fat Boy. The scene cuts away to ELLA sitting by herself.)*

## **MUSICAL #8 -- WHEN I AM HOME**

**ELLA:**

IS IT BECAUSE I'M OLDER  
THAT I'VE COME TO BE MORE AWARE  
OF MY CLOTHES, OF MY HAIR  
OF THE FACT THAT LIFE'S NOT FAIR?

WHY DO THEY TREAT ME COLDER,  
WHY ARE THEY ABOVE, ME BENEATH?  
THEY DON'T SEE WHAT'S UNDERNEATH  
ALL THEY SEE IS CROOKED TEETH  
HAND ME DOWNS  
FRUMPY HAIR AND  
EXTRA POUNDS

ALL CHANCES OF ACCEPTANCE SHATTER  
'CAUSE OF THINGS THAT SHOULDN'T MATTER--  
AM I THE ONLY ONE, PERHAPS I'M WRONG  
FOR THINKING THAT I SHOULD BELONG.

WHEN I'M HOME, I DON'T FEEL THAT I'M DIFFERENT  
WHEN I'M HOME, NO ONE EVER MOCKS  
WHEN I'M HOME, I NEVER HAVE TO WORRY  
IF I GOT DRESSED IN A HURRY  
AND LEFT THE HOUSE IN MISMATCHED SOCKS.

WHEN I'M HOME, THERE'S NEVER FEAR OF JUDGMENT  
WHEN I'M HOME, WHO CARE'S FOR WHAT'S IN STYLE?  
AND IF MY MOM'S AWARE  
THAT I'M ODD, SHE DOESN'T CARE  
MY MOM SEES NOTHING WRONG WITH HER ONLY CHILD

WHEN I'M HOME, MY PAINTINGS ARE ADMIRERD  
FRAMED AND HUNG, TO BE CHERISHED THROUGH THE YEARS.  
I'VE SEEN MY MOM'S EMOTION  
AS SHE'S WATCHED ME PAINT AN OCEAN  
THEN TURN SO I DON'T SEE HER DRY HER TEARS.

WHEN I'M HOME, IT'S COOL TO READ FOR PLEASURE  
AND MY MOST FANTASTIC DREAMS CAN RUN WILD  
AND IF MY MOM'S AWARE  
THAT I'M ODD, SHE DOESN'T CARE  
MY MOM SEES NOTHING WRONG WITH HER ONLY CHILD

A PARENT'S LOVE IS GUARANTEED  
YOU'RE THEIRS, THEY CAN'T REFUSE YOU  
BUT PATHETIC IS THE FEELING  
WHEN YOU'RE ONE FRIEND DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU.

WHEN I'M HOME, THERE'S ONE FRIEND I CAN COUNT ON,  
BUT HER LOVE IS NOT CHOSEN, BUT REQUIRED.  
THE ACHING TO BE WANTED  
MOST OFTEN LEAVES ME DAUNTED  
BUT STILL I HOPE ONE DAY I'LL BE DESIRED!

'TILL THE DAY THAT SOMEONE SEE'S THE REAL ME  
SOMEONE TRUE TO LEAN ON 'TILL THE END  
I'LL TAKE FOR GRANTED NEVER  
THE LOVE THAT LAST'S FOREVER  
BETWEEN A MOTHER TO CHILD--ME AND MY ONLY FRIEND.

*(Blackout.)*

SCENE SEVEN -- *During the black out after the previous scene.*

**LOUD SPEAKER:** Would Ella Swanson and Ben Perry please come to the principal's office?

*(Lights come up outside the PRINCIPAL's office.)*

**PRINCIPAL:** Hi, you two. Thanks for coming down. I'll be out in a minute. I've got to finish a call really quick.

*(Both wait in silence. Neither looking at the other.)*

**MUSICAL #9 -- FRIENDS BY CHANCE**

**ELLA:**

WHY AM I HERE?  
I AM NEVER LATE  
THIS IS LIKE SITTING IN COURT WAITING FOR MY FATE  
GUILTY OR INNOCENT?  
GUILTY WOULD NOT BE GREAT  
I AM NEVER LATE

**BEN:**

WHAT DID I DO?  
I MUST HAVE BEEN FRAMED  
I AM WAY TOO YOUNG FOR JAIL  
COPS POINTING THE BLAME  
VICTIM OR CRIMINAL?  
VICTIM WILL HAVE SHAME  
I MUST HAVE BEEN FRAMED

**ELLA:**

SITTING NEXT TO HIM

**BEN:**

WAITING NEXT TO HER

**BOTH:**

COMPLETE STRANGERS  
IN THE SAME MESS  
VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE  
FRIENDS BY CHANCE

**BEN:** What did you do to get in trouble?

**ELLA:** Nothing. I've never been in trouble before. I've never even been in the principal's office before.

*(Silence)*

What about you? What did you do?

**BEN:** I don't know. Maybe the teacher told the principal about me causing problems in the classroom yesterday.

**ELLA:** Yeah, but that wasn't even your fault. Brittney lied to get you in trouble. Why didn't you tell the teacher?

**BEN:** She wouldn't have believed me anyway.

**ELLA:** Well, if that is why you are in trouble, I'll be your witness. You didn't do anything.

*(Silence)*

**BEN:** Thanks.

WHY IS SHE NICE?

I MUST TRY TO LEARN

WHY IS SHE HELPING ME OUT

FOR NOTHING IN RETURN

TRUST HER OR BLOW HER OFF?

TRUST YOU MUST FIRST EARN

I MUST TRY TO LEARN

**ELLA:**

HE SMILED AT ME

I COULD HAVE A FRIEND

WAITING LIKE THIS IS TORTURE

HOW WILL THIS DAY END

HAPPY OR MISERABLE?

HAPPY TO PRETEND

I COULD HAVE A FRIEND

**ELLA:**

SITTING NEXT TO HIM

**BEN:**

WAITING NEXT TO HER

**BOTH**

COMPLETE STRANGERS

IN THE SAME MESS

VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE

FRIENDS BY CHANCE

*(The PRINCIPAL enters.)*

**PRINCIPAL:** Hi. Sorry for the wait. I guess you both know why you're here?

*(They shake their heads.)*

Oh. Well, at ease soldiers. It's all good. You look like you're going to jail or something. You two have been selected by the choir teacher to lead a special singing group at the regional music festival. You will represent the school in defending our seven-year championship title. Congratulations!

**BEN & ELLA:** *(Smiling at each other, then to the PRINCIPAL)* Thanks. Thank you.

**PRINCIPAL:** Now, you'll have to choose other singing group members and hold your own practices. Does this sound like a mission you will want to take on soldiers? It is a big responsibility but I know you can do it.

**ELLA:** Sure

**BEN:** Yeah, why not?

**PRINCIPAL:** Great. Good luck and on to victory.

*(PRINCIPAL exits.)*

**ELLA:**

I COULD NOT GUESS  
BAD THINGS TURN NICE  
WE FIND THINGS IN COMMON  
WE TALK AND BREAK THE ICE  
A FRIEND OR ENEMY?  
FRIEND COULD GIVE ADVICE  
BAD THINGS TURN NICE

**BEN:**

STARTED OUT ROUGH  
NOW SHE'S ON MY TEAM  
UNITED IN PURPOSE  
NOW SHE SEEMS TO BEAM  
BEFRIEND HER OR FLEE  
UNITE TO REDEEM  
NOW SHE'S ON MY TEAM

**ELLA:**

STANDING NEXT TO HIM

**BEN:**

WORKING NEXT TO HER

**BOTH**

NO MORE STRANGERS  
IN THE SAME MESS  
VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE  
FRIENDS BY CHANCE

**SCENE EIGHT** -- *After choir and basket ball practice at the school curb. ELLA and TRACEY are waiting for rides and BEN joins them. TRACEY finally breaks the ice.*

**TRACEY:** At first I thought you wanted to do choir so you had an excuse not to embarrass yourself on the Basket Ball court. But man, you're a good singer.

**BEN:** Thanks.

**TRACEY:** But when are you guys going to tell me what happened at the principal's office today? Did you get detention? Are you suspended? I bet you guys got caught sneaking extra cup cakes out of the cafeteria. Or maybe you got caught kissing under the stairs.

**ELLA:** Ooo! No, nothing like that.

*(Silence. They all wait for the real reason. Nothing is offered.)*

**TRACEY:** Ella, your mom hasn't paid her income tax in two years. The IRS has finally caught up to you and

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- misFitting In by Jamie Young and Rick Rea

they are kicking you out of school. That's it, isn't it? And Ben... they finally found out your parents are from outer space and they want to conduct studies on your brain. Right?

*(ELLA and BEN step aside for a quick private conversation.)*

**BEN:** Alright Tracey, you want to know why we had to go to the principal's office today?

**TRACEY:** Yeah! Finally!!

**BEN:** The principal asked us to start a special choir for the regional music festival.

**TRACEY:** Oh, that's all?

**BEN:** Ella and I want you to be in the group too.

**TRACEY:** What? Did you just pick me to be on your team?

**ELLA:** Yeah. We think you'd be the best one in the school help us defend the championship.

**TRACEY:** Me? You want me on your team?

*(BEN and ELLA nod.)*

Are you sure you have the right Tracey the Terrible Terrestrial Troll slayer?

**BEN:** Yep!

**TRACEY:** Wahooooooooo! Yes, yes, yes! Thank you, thank you. When do we start?

**ELLA:** We'll start tomorrow – after school.

*(The POPULARS enters.)*

**BRITTNEY:** Well, well, well. Look who's here.

**JULIA:** The social Misfits have all buddy-ed up with each other. How nice?

**DREW:** Ben, you're missin' out man. Basketball was so cool today. I can't believe you'd rather hang out in choir with low-life like that.

**BRITTNEY:** Leave him alone Drew! After watching him play ball, you know he's not good enough anyway. Let him sing with the sissies. We don't want him on the team.

**DREW:** Yeah, I guess you're right. I was just trying to rescue him from a life of shame. No sports? Come on, man? You'd rather do la-la-la music stuff? I was even going to offer you some private basketball lessons. But never mind.

**JULIA:** I think he belongs with them anyway.

*(Pointing at ELLA.)*

Look at her. I don't think she's washed her hair in a month. And those clothes! Where did you get those, a garage sale?

**ELLA'S MOM:** *(Having overheard everything.)* Hi Ella. Are you ready to go?

*(ELLA nods and walks over to her MOM. They hold hands and turn and start off.)*

**BRITTNEY:** *(Mocking)* Is that your car Ella?

**ELLA'S MOM:** *(Turning slowly.)* You know, that is not Ella's car. That is my car. Ella will probably never have a car until she's an adult. Unlike you guys, who will probably each be given a car on your 16th birthday, that old car is all we can afford. And while it does not look like much, it gets me from place to place just fine. It is all we need. I hope someday in your lifetime you understand that. In a few years when your pom-poms are gone, and your football helmet doesn't fit anymore you'll think differently.

*(ELLA pulls at her MOM's arm.)*

Yeah. Well, we're going to get in our old clunker and sputter on down the road now. You kids have a good day.

**PERUSAL SCRIPT -- misFitting In** by *Jamie Young and Rick Rea*

*(ELLA and ELLA'S MOM exit still holding hands.)*

**TRACEY:** Ha! She told you!

*(The POPULARS scare TRACEY away. He and BEN leave.)*

**BRITTNEY:** What a momma's girl! Old people are so stupid. I can't believe she would talk to me like that. I will never be spoken to like that again. We will make sure Ella is embarrassed in front of the whole school.

**JULIA & DREW:** Yeah! What a jerk! She'll pay for that.

**BRITTNEY:** What could we do that would totally make her feel like a fool?

**JULIA:** I found out she is terrified of water.

**BRITTNEY:** Perfect. We'll throw a swimming party and make sure the whole school knows she's invited.

**MUSICAL # 10 -- I WOULD DO ANYTHING (REPRISE)**

I'VE TAKEN ALL I CAN, WILL NOT STAND  
SO I'LL GET EVEN SOMEHOW  
IF I WANT TO WIN,  
I MUST FIGHT FOR MY CROWN  
ALL MY CHIPS ARE IN  
WE'LL MAKE THEM FROWN.  
YOU CAN RAISE THE STAKES  
CAUSE I'LL DO WHAT IT TAKES  
GIVE THEM TORMENT, TROUBLE, THOSE LITTLE FLAKES  
I WILL DO ANYTHING  
BUT BACK DOWN

***INTERMISSION***

*27 more pages in ACT TWO*