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# ANGST:84

Toni K. Thayer

Lakeville Heights Senior High, October 1984

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# Angst:84

by Toni K. Thayer

## **CHARACTERS:**

**5 Males, 5 Females and 4 Either**

SHANNON	<i>a junior girl, does not fit into the established cliques</i>
WINNIE	<i>a sophomore girl, newly chosen for the varsity cheerleading squad</i>
KIM	<i>a junior girl, cheerleader, Winnie's "big sister"</i>
JULIAN	<i>a senior boy, on the fringe of the jock crowd</i>
FRED	<i>a junior boy, an ambitious young republican</i>
CHRISTINE	<i>a freshman girl, thinks she's in love with Fred</i>
TRAVERSE	<i>a senior boy, exchange student from Canada, openly gay</i>
JONES	<i>a sophomore boy, a clown and a hipster, but also in marching band</i>
TIFFANY	<i>a senior girl, working class, hangs with the heads</i>
KIRBY	<i>a sophomore boy, under the tutelage of Fred</i>
3 HEADS	<i>friends of Tiffany</i>
1 PREPPY	<i>friend of Kim</i>

## **SETTING:**

*Hallway of Lakeville Heights Senior High, October 1984*

## **TIME:**

*One Monday*

## **COLORS:**

*Red and Gold*

## **PLAY DURATION:**

*90 minutes*

## NOTES FOR PRODUCTION

**STAGE:** There is a bank of full-length lockers and a counter/ledge/windowsill of some sort where people sit and hang out. As much as possible should be in the school colors of red and gold. On the walls there are various posters with inane and somewhat nonsensical mottoes, but the biggest poster is of a stern, florid, mustachioed man with a comb-over, underneath it reads “Principal Duce Can See You.”

### LOCKER ARRANGEMENT/ORDER:

Jones, Winnie, Traverse, Christine, Shannon, Julian, Tiffany

JONES’ locker is full of cassettes and has a sash with all kinds of buttons pinned to it. When he is at his locker in the morning, he finds the right button and the right tape.

WINNIE’S locker is pink and fluffy, has a mirror and a cosmetics caddy. When she is at her locker in the morning, she brushes her hair and puts on lip gloss and twist beads.

TRAVERSE’S locker has a Maple Leaf, pictures of hockey players and/or bands.

CHRISTINE’S locker has kitties and unicorns and pictures of conservative female icons like Nancy Reagan and Phyllis Schlafly.

SHANNON’S locker is gothed-out, see below.

JULIAN’S locker has sports paraphernalia and dirty sweatsocks falling out of it. But also a large volume of Shakespeare or poetry.

TIFFANY’S locker has a beaded curtain hung in it and feathered roach clips, one of which she takes out and puts in her hair, which she frequently sprays with hairspray.

**NOTE ABOUT MUSIC:** Although there are no sound notations in this script, the sound design should be an integral part of any production. Ideally, there will be music playing constantly, either in the background or from stage sources (some of which are noted in the script).

**NOTE ABOUT CLASS CHANGES:** Class changes are not scenes per se. Their designations in the script indicate the school periods that they fall between (“class change 1st-2nd” occurs between first and second periods, not between the first and second scenes).

Class changes are to be set through improvisation by the actors. They should be brief periods where people scurry across stage to class and the audience gets to catch snippets of conversation. All class changes should have music. Often a class change will be required to communicate a specific plot point, which will be noted in script.

## ANGST:84 PREMIERE

*ANGST:84* premiered at Dobama Theatre in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, October 2000, directed by Dan Kilbane. Set design by Dan Kilbane, sound design by Toni K. Thayer, Light design by David Bell, Costume design by Alison Hernan, Properties design by Sabrina Gibbar. The cast for the production was as follows:

SHANNON..... Heather N. Stout  
WINNIE..... Elena Averbach  
JONES..... J.P. Morgan  
KIM..... Caroline V. McGraw  
TIFFANY..... Sabrina Gibbar  
CHRISTINE..... Raquel Brown  
JULIAN..... Kitao Sakurai  
PREPPY..... Leah D. Krauss  
TRAVERSE..... Brian Douglas  
P.A. VOICE..... Toni K. Thayer  
FRED..... Robert P. Nix  
KIRBY ..... Elliott Klein  
HEAD 1..... Benjamin Spiro  
HEAD 2..... Jessica Hertzfeld  
HEAD 3..... Matt Ratner

**ANGST:84**  
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**SCENE 1: BEFORE SCHOOL, EARLY**

*Most students haven't arrived yet. SHANNON enters wearing a conservative, unattractive outfit, her hair tied back in a low pony tail. She walks over to her locker. Inside are pictures of Peter Murphy, Siouxsie Sioux, the Smiths, and others. She takes out a plastic bottle of vodka and takes a swig, then starts to undress ... it shouldn't get too racy but it should shock the audience a little bit. She redresses herself in ripped tights, a black skirt that she rolls at the waist to make shorter, Docs, etc. She starts to put on makeup and rats her hair.*

*WINNIE enters looking trendy/preppy. SHANNON stands right in front of her.*

SHANNON

Hi, Winnie.

*WINNIE walks past without even batting an eye. SHANNON retires to ledge, where she sits finishing her makeup while the next scene progresses.*

**SCENE 2: IMMEDIATE PRE-HOMEROOM**

*JONES enters wearing a sharkskin jacket, a skinny tie and checkerboard shoes. He is carrying a boom box. The source music from the box supersedes the background music from SHANNON's scene.*

JONES

Ladies!

*He opens his locker with a bang and a kick instead of the combination lock.*

JONES

It is such a delight to see you all this morning.

*He bows. WINNIE rolls her eyes. KIM enters dressed in a cut-up neon sweatshirt and rolled up white painter's pants.*

KIM

Oh. My. God. Winnie, you will never believe what I just heard getting off the bus!

WINNIE

Yah?

KIM

Like, this is so totally gnarly, OK?

JONES

*(Imitating her affected Val-speak)*

OK?

KIM

Gross! Buzz off, you geek. I swear, Winnie, we have to do something about your locker arrangements. So. Ryan told Blair that Eric Reditzky broke up with Karen this weekend! Can you believe that? Like, Karen is so totally on thin ice. She has been acting weird lately anyway.

WINNIE

I know. She probably won't stay squad captain much longer. She better shape up or she is gonna be erased.

KIM

Totally.

JONES

What are they going to do? Doctor the yearbook photos? ... Do you think someone is actually going to have to hold her down and rub an eraser on her body?

KIM

Gag me with a chainsaw! We are having a private conversation here, creepazoid.

JONES

'Cause I'd do that. *(Turns to SHANNON)* I would.

WINNIE

*(Too casual)*

Yeah. I knew that already.

KIM

What?!

*TIFFANY enters. She looks like a metal head -- feathered hair, tight jeans, high-heeled boots, etc. JONES goes up to her deferentially.*

JONES

Looking lovely today, Miss Tiffany.

*He tries to kiss her on the cheek. She laughs and pushes him away.*

WINNIE

*(To KIM)*

Eric Reditzky called me yesterday and asked me to Homecoming.

KIM

*(Practically shouting)*

Eric Reditzky asked you to Homecoming??!!

WINNIE

Yes.

KIM

Oh my god! Oh my god! Oh my god!

*WINNIE and KIM continue to talk (ad lib) to each other while allowing focus to shift away from them. Christine enters in a rather prim red dress.*

*JONES sniffs TIFFANY. He continues to playfully paw at her.*

JONES

You always have to most wonderful odor about you. What is that cologne?

TIFFANY

I don't wear cologne. *(Still laughing)* Stop touching me!



*He leans against the locker next to hers, which is JULIAN's.*

JONES

Seriously then. Are you open for business?

*CHRISTINE peers in their direction.*

TIFFANY

Yes, but not here. It's not safe. You have to see me on the smoking patio.

CHRISTINE

Are you talking about something illicit?

JONES

Very good! Excellent usage. That's 10 points to the red team. *(To SHANNON)* And the challenge question for 25 points, your word is ... inveigle.

*SHANNON makes a face at him.*

TIFFANY

I wonder if we can inveigle the young and innocent with our talk of illicit activities.

JONES

*(Turns, truly surprised)*

Very good, blue team! *(He claps)* and with that you come from behind and lead with 10.

*JULIAN enters and tries to say hi to WINNIE and KIM, but they ignore him. Although WINNIE watches him as he approaches his locker, which JONES is leaning against.*

JULIAN

Don't you have your own locker?

JONES

*(Not moving)*

Good morning, Julian.

JULIAN

I'll kick your ass, dude.

JONES

*(To TIFFANY)*

I guess I should be leaving.

*JONES returns to his own locker.*

*SHANNON interrupts by walking over to the boom box and pushing pause, everyone freezes.*

SHANNON

Hi. Welcome to Lakeville Heights Senior High. This place sucks. The old Red and Gold. Go-o-o-o-o Lakeville! It makes me want to puke. No, it makes me want to die.

Ha! But I couldn't even get that right. So now I'm just ... *(Mock melodramatically)*  
UNDEAD.

Sometimes it feels like living in a movie, you know what I mean? And not a very good one either. Sometimes, I can actually pretend it's Rock and Roll High School or something. But usually it's more like Footloose -- school saved by dorky gymnast from somewhere else! That would be an improvement really. I'm not one of the characters in the movie though. I'm just a ghost ... a skeleton in the closet. That's the way I prefer it, I think.

Anyway, this is the cast of my movie right here. You already met Winnie. She's a cheerleader. Just made the varsity squad this year, couldn't you just die?! With her is Kimberly Chambers, also a cheerleader. Obviously. They are outer circle, but they want so bad to be inner circle ... like, ohmigod! This is Jones. Don't be fooled by the skinny tie and the cool hair, underneath it all he's the biggest geek of them all. I swear. Traverse isn't here yet. He's an exchange student ... hey, maybe he'll be our Kevin Bacon. Actually he's kinda cool ... and weird. This is Christine. She wants to be Nancy Reagan when she grows up, just look at that dress. Her boyfriend Fred should be arriving anytime, just wait. He is a trip. Then there's Julian, total jock, but barely even outer circle. It's kinda pathetic. I wasn't even that much of a loser. And here's Tiffany, a head, metal and otherwise. Note hairspray issues. There are others of course. But that's it for this hallway. Each bank of lockers has its own little drama, like I'm so sher! Enjoy.

*SHANNON clicks the music back on and the scene continues.*

*KIM and WINNIE notice JULIAN's existence.*

KIM

Julian!

JULIAN

Yeah?

*They run over to him.*

KIM

Like, you are on the Homecoming committee, right?

JULIAN

Sure.

*TRAVERSE enters. He and JONES do some sort of elaborate fist-knocking handshake thing.*

TRAVERSE

Hey, Jones.

JONES

How's it goin, my man?

KIM

Can you tell us what the theme is going to be? Winnie has to figure out what she is going to wear.

CHRISTINE

That is confidential information that is not to be released until the pep rally on Friday.

WINNIE

What, are you like on the committee too?

CHRISTINE

Yes. I'm secretary.

KIM

Barf!

TRAVERSE

*(To JONES)*

I didn't see you at the Exotic Birds show on Sunday night.

JONES

Oh, yeah. Well, I was so gonna be there, man.

*Bell Rings. Everyone starts to peel away to go to homeroom.*

JONES *(CON'T)*

But I didn't have wheels.

TRAVERSE

Ah, you should've called me. I would have given you a lift. You missed an excellent show.

SHANNON

*(As she passes by on her way out)*

Yeah, it was totally awesome.

TRAVERSE

You were there?! I didn't see you.

SHANNON

*(Lying)*

I was up by the stage.

TRAVERSE

Oh wow.

JONES

How did you get permission to go downtown to an Exotic Birds concert?

*SHANNON shrugs and walks out. JONES and TRAVERSE start to leave.*

TIFFANY

Jones!

JONES

*(Stops, turns in sharp military form)*

At your service.

TIFFANY

I need to talk to you.

JONES

Well, I'll see you on the smoking patio before 1st period.

TIFFANY

No. I need to talk to you alone ... today. I work tonight.

JONES

OK, uh, meet me here during 5th period. You have lunch then, right?

TIFFANY

Yeah. Thanks.

Be cool.

JONES

*He tries to kiss her again, but she won't let him.*

*Everyone eventually makes their way to class.*

*Over PA system we hear:*

P.A. VOICE

Good morning, Lakeville! Today is Monday, October 22, 1984. This is the 34th day of the school year. On this date in 1948 Dick Reditzky was crowned homecoming king for the 5th consecutive year ... Lakeville football squashed the Bluffside Weasels 28-13 Friday night. Attendance at the game was 91%. Notice: If you did not attend the game, Principal Duce would like a 100-word essay about school spirit by the end of the day. Also winners this week: Lakeville Girls Volleyball, Lakeville JV Wrestlers, Lakeville Soccer, Lakeville Field Hockey, Lakeville Track, and Lakeville Swimmers. Go Lakeville! And remember, Principal Duce knows what you're up to, so be up to something good.

### SCENE 3: BETWEEN HOMEROOM AND 1<sup>st</sup> PERIOD

*SHANNON is somewhere onstage quiet and inconspicuous. CHRISTINE enters, goes to locker and removes a large paper shopping bag full of paper and stuff. She goes to an empty part of the hallway and begins to unfurl a banner proclaiming "I Dream of a World Where There Is No Such Thing as a Free Lunch." She is trying to tack it up, but having difficulty doing it by herself.*

CHRISTINE

Oh, fudge!

*She continues trying to hang banner and accidentally rips down a Principal Duce poster.*

CHRISTINE

Darn it! Oh, no, I didn't mean to do that. Oh, Oh, Oh. *(She croons as she smooths out the poster. She stops and gazes at it, asks sexily)* Can you see me Principal Duce?

P.A. VOICE

Attention all students! Fear is respect. There is a 3 demerit penalty for damaging school decorations.

CHRISTINE

Shit! (*Surprised at herself*) Oh! (*Distressed*) Ohhhhhh! Where are you, Fred?!

*FRED enters accompanied by KIRBY. Both are wearing blue blazers and power ties. They are carrying a card table and a couple folding chairs.*

FRED

I'm right here, Christine. ... What have you done?!

CHRISTINE

Where have you been? This thing is too big for me to put up by myself and now look. You have to help me get this poster back on the wall.

FRED

Christine, how could you? Do you realize what you've done?

CHRISTINE

I know, I know, it was an accident. There was just an announcement. I hope no one saw me. Do you think anyone saw me?

FRED

My father says there is no such thing as an accident.

SHANNON

*(Who has been watching the whole time)*

I saw you.

*CHRISTINE, FRED, and KIRBY all jump, startled. They turn to face SHANNON. She is a little startled herself.*

FRED

What are you doing here, freak?

SHANNON

My locker is right here, Fred. You see me everyday.

FRED

Oh, uh. You shouldn't be out in the halls right now. Do you have a hall pass?

SHANNON

Jesus Christ! The first period bell hasn't even rung yet, you moron. I was getting my history book and noticed your beard tearing down that poster.

FRED  
My what?

CHRISTINE  
I was not tearing it down. It was an accident. I was just... I love Principal Duce! I wouldn't tear it down.

*KIRBY silently starts putting the poster back up, then continues hanging the banner during the following exchange.*

SHANNON  
Well, you can tell that to school security.

*She starts to walk down the hall.*

CHRISTINE  
Fred! Stop her.

FRED  
Hey! Weirdo! Stop! Uh, we don't need to take this to school security do we? (*Looks around nervously*) I mean, there's no need for that, is there? You know Christine is a good student. You know it was an accident.

SHANNON  
Do I?

FRED  
Come on.

SHANNON  
Gee, Fred, I think I need to be convinced. What will you do to convince me?

CHRISTINE  
Oh, gosh, what do you want?

SHANNON  
I want you to serve detention for me today.

CHRISTINE AND FRED  
(*Together*)

What?!

SHANNON  
I have detention every day this week. I think I deserve an afternoon off. You just go and sign in with my name and sit there in my space.

I can't do that.

CHRISTINE

SHANNON

Sure you can. They don't care who's there, only that they fill up the place.

CHRISTINE

But, but ... I've never been to detention!

SHANNON

Three demerits equal one detention. You know that, right? So you are going to serve detention one way or another. Do you want it to be on your record or mine?

FRED

She'll do it.

CHRISTINE

Fred!

FRED

Christine, I can't afford to be dating someone who has a bad mark on their record. Something like that might come back to haunt me.

CHRISTINE

*(Defeated)*

Oh, okay. I'll do it.

SHANNON

Good. Meet me here after school and I'll tell you what you need to do.

CHRISTINE

Alright.

SHANNON

Ta, then.

*She saunters off, not carrying a history book.*

CHRISTINE

Freddie, this is terrible. *(Tries to nestle up against him)*

FRED

*(Steps back)*

I know, Poopsie, but you'll be strong, right? *(He pats her on the head.)*



*Bell Rings.*

FRED

Now let's get this stuff out, we're going to be late for class.

CHRISTINE

It's Ms. Napoleon though, she'll understand if she knows we're setting up the table.

FRED

You're right. Kirby, go tell Ms. Napoleon we'll be in as soon as we're done. (*KIRBY leaves; To CHRISTINE*) Is your hall pass still valid?

CHRISTINE

Yeah. I got an A on the civics test last week and Mr. Amin stamped my pass.

FRED

Good.

CHRISTINE

Is yours?

FRED

Absolutely.

*They begin unpacking the bag. They put a Reagan/Bush poster on the front of the table and an "End Free Lunch -- Sign the Petition" table tent on top of the table, along with various other things. They both look up when the following announcement is made.*

P.A. VOICE

Attention students! Passing notes will be punished by 1 demerit per word. Remember, Principle Duce says disruption is the first step to corruption!

CHRISTINE

*(After resuming activity)*

Fred?

FRED

What is it?

CHRISTINE

Um, now that Kirby is gone, (*Smiling*) I have something to ask you...

FRED  
Yes? *(Absently)*

CHRISTINE  
Will you kiss me? *(Approaches him and grabs his lapels)*

FRED  
Hey, hey, hey! Be careful of my jacket, Christine. I just got this.

CHRISTINE  
I'm sorry, Freddie. I was bad. *(Smooths out his lapels gently)* Now will you kiss me?  
*(Makes bashful face)*

*FRED pecks her quickly on the lips.*

CHRISTINE  
Oh, c'mon! That wasn't a real kiss.

*FRED kisses her, still closed mouth, a little longer and more tenderly. CHRISTINE tries to press against him, but he keeps moving back as she moves forward. By the end of the kiss they have moved back several steps.*

CHRISTINE  
Remember Saturday afternoon?  
*(Laughing a little)*

FRED  
Yes.  
*(Uncomfortable)*

CHRISTINE  
I thought maybe my mom was going to catch us! ... I really liked it. That was definitely the farthest we've ever gone. *(Giggles)* Weren't we bad?

FRED  
Christine, we need to finish with the table and get to class. Just because we have a hall pass, we shouldn't be loitering like truants.

CHRISTINE  
Oh, darn it, Fred! I was talking to you about something. Why won't you ever talk to me about stuff?

Because I don't like it.

FRED

You don't like it?

CHRISTINE

No, I don't. And, frankly, Christine, I'm beginning to think that you like it too much.

FRED

What? It's just ...

CHRISTINE

I thought you valued your chastity, Christine. Do you value your chastity?

FRED

Well, ... yes!

CHRISTINE

Then I think you had better start minding it a little better. You're lucky you are dating someone like me, who respects you and values your chastity for you. But even I went a little too far on Saturday and I do not want to repeat that mistake.

FRED

Fred, there is a difference. I mean, it's not like I want to go all the way. Gosh, no. Not until we're ... not until I'm married. But, some stuff is alright. We've been going steady since July. You know?

CHRISTINE

You are moving a little too fast for my taste.

FRED

I just thought... *(In a paroxysm of frustration)* Aaaaah! Fine, let's get to class then.

CHRISTINE

Good. Would you put this extra stuff in your locker?

FRED

Fine.

CHRISTINE  
*(Shrugs)*

I'll go on ahead.

FRED

Fine.

CHRISTINE

*FRED exits. CHRISTINE takes stuff to her locker. Kicks it.*

God, what is wrong with me?

CHRISTINE

*CHRISTINE exits.*

*Bell rings for class change.*

**CLASS CHANGE, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> PERIODS**

*WINNIE slips a note into JULIAN's locker.*

*SHANNON stops at her locker and gets a paperback novel (Less than Zero?), takes a swig of vodka, and settles in corner.*

*JULIAN finds note.*

*Bell rings.*

**CLASS CHANGE, 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>**

*SHANNON still in corner, reading.*

*Bell rings.*

**SCENE 4: DURING 3<sup>rd</sup> PERIOD**

*Bell rings; hall clears, WINNIE and JULIAN approach from two different sides; Stop short of one other. SHANNON remains on stage, but the other characters never notice her.*

JULIAN

Hi.

Hi. WINNIE

Uh...Is this...? JULIAN

I'm glad you came. WINNIE

Yeah, well, you asked me to, so...you put a note in my locker, right? JULIAN

Don't tell anyone. WINNIE

Um...OK. JULIAN

I just don't think it would be good if anyone knew that we were meeting like this. WINNIE

Sure. Me neither. I'd probably get my ass kicked. JULIAN

You would? WINNIE  
*(Laughs)*

Totally! You're a cheerleader, a varsity cheerleader. JULIAN

So? WINNIE

Oh! Come on. Don't act like you don't know what that means. I mean, I see you...bein' all nice with Karen, working on the pep rally committee, always busy, always perky, always cute. JULIAN

I have to do that crap. WINNIE

Really?  
JULIAN

WINNIE  
Well yeah! Duh! How else am I going to get by. You do the right things, nobody messes with you, right?

JULIAN  
Then why...this?

WINNIE  
I like you.

JULIAN  
Yeah?

WINNIE  
Yeah. I don't know, I think we have something in common.

JULIAN  
Yeah?

WINNIE  
You think it's all a bunch of BS too.

JULIAN  
How do you know?

WINNIE  
I can just tell.

JULIAN  
Is this a setup? Is this some kind of little trick you're pulling so you all can laugh at me later?

WINNIE  
No!...God! I have more to lose being here than you do.

JULIAN  
*(Considers)*  
It is BS, as long as we're gonna talk about it. I suck up to all those bastards. I pretend like this week's game is the most important thing that ever happened, like this week's enemy is the biggest enemy, you know? But I'm still third string. And then I even have to date who they tell me to date. It's bogus.

WINNIE

No one dates who they want to date.

JULIAN

Eric Reditzky does.

WINNIE

*(Embarrassed)*

Maybe.

JULIAN

Who's he taking to Homecoming?

WINNIE

You don't know?

JULIAN

Right, like he tells me anything. No, I don't know.

WINNIE

I thought you guys all talked about that kind of thing.

JULIAN

Well, yeah, but I missed the meeting last week and, uh, Sam hasn't sent me the minutes yet.

WINNIE

Ha-ha.

JULIAN

Obviously you know who Eric is going with.

WINNIE

Yeah.

JULIAN

Who?

WINNIE

Me.

JULIAN

What?! You?!

*They hear footsteps coming down the hall.*

Oh, shit!

JULIAN

Hide!

WINNIE

*They both scramble and find the most pathetic of hiding places, but JULIAN leaves his bookbag behind. KIRBY, dressed as a hall monitor – wearing some paramilitary jacket or other emblem – passes through, making an inspection, salutes the Principal Duce poster, looks right past SHANNON, notices the bag and goes toward it, opens it, looks at the contents and takes it with him. WINNIE and JULIAN burst from their hiding places. WINNIE is laughing.*

WINNIE

Oh my god! That was close. I was so sure he was going to see us.

JULIAN

See us? He took my backpack, that can't be good. What's going to happen to me?

WINNIE

He probably just took it back the hall monitors' station. I bet if you go and just make up a lie about leaving it behind when you rushed off to class, they won't mind. As long as there's nothing bad in it.

JULIAN

Nah. All the bad stuff's in my locker. *(Realizes he's said too much)*

WINNIE

Like what? What bad stuff do you have in your locker?

JULIAN

Nothing. It was just a joke. All my bad stuff's just in here *(He taps his head)*.

WINNIE

Principal Duce says that's enough. Bad thoughts make dangerous kids.

WINNIE & JULIAN

*(Together)*

Dangerous kids must be eliminated! *(They laugh.)*



JULIAN  
*(Still laughing)*

Down with bad thoughts!

WINNIE

See?

JULIAN

See what?

WINNIE

We do have something in common.

JULIAN

Then why are you going to the Homecoming dance with Eric Reditzky?

WINNIE

It's a front.

JULIAN

A front?

WINNIE

Yeah. If I'm going out with Eric Reditzky, they'll never suspect that I think they're full of shit. I'll be untouchable.

JULIAN

Right. Until Eric throws you over like he did Karen last week. What's gonna happen to her?

WINNIE

*(Coldly indifferent)*

I don't know ... But he won't throw me over, not for a long time anyway. I'll deal with that when I come to it.

JULIAN

OK.

WINNIE

In the meantime ... *(Flirtatiously)* I can get away with a lot.

JULIAN

Yeah?

WINNIE

Yeah.

*JULIAN kisses her tentatively. They pull away and look at each other. SHANNON gets up and walks out.*

JULIAN

Can I take this out? (*Indicates her ponytail*)

WINNIE

OK

*JULIAN releases her hair so it falls to her shoulders.*

JULIAN

There, you look less like a cheerleader that way.

*WINNIE laughs. They kiss again. While they are kissing, JULIAN accidentally lets her hair tie fall to the ground.*

WINNIE

So who are you taking to the homecoming dance?

JULIAN

Mindy Carter.

WINNIE

Ugh! Why?

JULIAN

'Cause her dad is friends with Coach Cromwell and Coach Cromwell wants to make him happy, so the duty fell to me.

WINNIE

How noble! (*She kisses him.*)

JULIAN

Yeah. That's me...I wish I could take you to the dance.

WINNIE

*(Angry)*

Don't even say that. That would be suicide. Nobody can know about us, understand?

JULIAN

OK. Sure. Totally.

WINNIE

If anyone suspects anything, if anyone asks me anything, I will deny everything.

JULIAN

OK

WINNIE

I'd turn you in if I had too, and I hope you would do the same to me.

JULIAN

Right...but there will be an "us"?

WINNIE

As long as we're careful not to get caught.

JULIAN

Yeah. And how possible is that?

WINNIE

You'd be surprised.

JULIAN

You sound like you've done this before.

WINNIE

I have.

JULIAN

Oh.

*She kisses him.*

WINNIE

We should get to gym before it becomes too obvious we're not there. I'll go around that way by the office, you go through the cafeteria. Don't arrive at the same time I do! I'm gonna tell Mr. Stalin I got my period and was in the bathroom, so he'll be distracted. You just get in the game as quick as you can and pretend you were there all along. OK?

JULIAN

OK.

WINNIE

But meet me here later. We need to figure out where's safe that we can go away from school.

JULIAN

When?

WINNIE

I'll let you know.

*They kiss quickly. She takes another hair tie out of her bag and pulls her hair up as she's walking away quickly. JULIAN notices her first hair tie, picks it up and starts to call to her, but stops and goes and puts it in his locker before sprinting off in the opposite direction.*

### **SCENE 5: BETWEEN 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> DURING 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Some people have lunch 4th period. WINNIE and JULIAN touch hands briefly in hallway.*

*During class change FRED has come and begun straightening up the table. As class change is coming to an end CHRISTINE enters, goes to her locker. SHANNON is on stage somewhat inconspicuous.*

CHRISTINE

Fred, I brought a sandwich for you since you're missing lunch.

FRED

Thanks, Popsie. Can you believe what people have done to this table? There is no respect.

CHRISTINE

Yeah, it's terrible.

FRED

They don't even know that there is a new dawn for America. I feel sorry for them.

CHRISTINE

Yeah. So, I'll be back to take over for 5th period. *(Starts to leave)*

FRED

Right. And, Christine?

CHRISTINE

Yeah?

FRED

I'm sorry about this morning. *(Walks over and kisses her on top of the head)* You're sweet.

CHRISTINE

Oh, Freddie! *(She hugs him. Meanwhile TRAVERSE is entering opposite side. Bell rings.)* I gotta go.

*FRED returns to the table and continues straightening it up. TRAVERSE approaches him.*

TRAVERSE

Oh, Freddie!

FRED

*(Looks up, slightly embarrassed)*

Traverse.

TRAVERSE

Whachya doin', Fred?

FRED

Would you look at this table? It is a mess. People show no respect.

TRAVERSE

Maybe they disagree with your message, eh?

FRED

If they thought about it for long enough, they would see that I am ... that we are right. That the welfare state is crippling this great nation. That personal responsibility is what makes personal liberty!

TRAVERSE

Mmm.

FRED

Besides, even if they don't agree. It is against the school rules to vandalize like this!

TRAVERSE

Maybe they just do it because they know how cute you are when you're angry.

FRED

I am not!

TRAVERSE

I think you are.

FRED

*(Ignoring him)*

Well at least we got some names on the petition.

TRAVERSE

Congratulations.

FRED

But ... is there really somebody at this school named Leon Trotsky?

TRAVERSE

Ha! Somehow I doubt it.

FRED

Or Holden Caulfield?

TRAVERSE

I'm new here. I haven't met everyone.

FRED

I can't believe this! Can you believe this?

TRAVERSE

After the Islanders lost the Stanley Cup, I can believe anything.

FRED

What's that?

TRAVERSE

Hockey.

FRED

Oh. In America, we don't play hockey.

TRAVERSE

Funny, the Islanders are from New York.

FRED

Then why do you root for them? Aren't you patriotic?

TRAVERSE

Take off, man, it's got nothing to do with patriotism. It's about who's best at the game. And the Islanders have Denis Potvin. He's the hottest guy on the ice.

FRED

But don't you have any national pride?

TRAVERSE

Come on, Fred. I'm talking about hockey! You have got to loosen up and relax a little bit. Besides, I've got national pride.

FRED

Then why did you come to America?

TRAVERSE

I didn't come to America. We're all Americans. You people think you own everything, even the name of the continent. That's why I came here, I guess, to find out why you think you own everything. Well, and 'cause my mom is upset to have a gay son and we agreed it would be better to be separated. She wanted me to go to France though, but I don't like the language. That upsets her too. I guess that's another reason.

FRED

You're gay?

TRAVERSE

Am I gay? What, are you in the Twilight Zone. I've been sitting next to you in Mrs. Horthy's psych class all semester and you don't know I'm gay?

FRED

Shhh!

TRAVERSE

What?

FRED

Be quiet, someone might hear you.

TRAVERSE

I don't care if anyone hears me, Fred.

FRED

You wouldn't want Principal Duce to find out!

TRAVERSE

Oh, right. What's he going to do? Give me detention? Oooh! Expel me? Please! I graduated from high school already in Vancouver. Besides that sounds illegal.

FRED

You wouldn't want anyone to find out! I mean what would people say?

TRAVERSE

I've never hidden it. Let them say whatever they want to.

FRED

But it's wrong! It is immoral and sinful and dirty and wrong.

TRAVERSE

Wow. I thought we were kinda friends.

FRED

Well ... I guess we kind of are. I just ... I ... I'm worried about you. I feel sorry for you. I ... do you think you'll get better?

TRAVERSE

Get better?! How can I get any better than this? (*Twirls smartly*)

FRED

Ha. Yeah. But you know what I mean. You don't have to be like that. There must be a cure.

TRAVERSE

You don't have to be a Republican, but you are one. Do you think there's a cure for that?

FRED

That's not funny. Don't insult my politics.

TRAVERSE

Why not? You insulted me.



FRED

It's different!

TRAVERSE

Why does this make you so upset?

FRED

I'm not upset.

TRAVERSE

*(Moving closer)*

I still can't believe this is news to you.

FRED

I just wish you hadn't said anything about it.

TRAVERSE

Why?

FRED

Because I would rather not know, that's why. Because now I don't think I should be friends with you ... unless you want to change ... in which case I guess I should help you ... but if you don't then I don't think this is ...

*TIFFANY enters accompanied by two fellow HEADS.*

TIFFANY

OK, so Ray sold me this stuff on Friday, but I haven't tried it yet, but Becky says it is totally awesome, so ... *(Noticing FRED)* Oh, it's the Thought Police.

FRED

Hey, you guys. Would you like to sign our petition?

HEAD 1

Petition for what?

TIFFANY

Just ignore him, he is, like, a total dick.

FRED

The Lakeville Young Republicans are trying to eliminate free lunches from the high school cafeteria. We would...

You're trying to what?

HEAD 1

FRED

Get rid of free lunches.

HEAD 1

Why?

FRED

Because they are a drain on the school system.

HEAD 2

Alright!

FRED

And they teach dependence and irresponsibility to the people who get them.

HEAD 1

Hey, I get free lunch, man! That shit's not funny.

FRED

But don't you think you'd be...

TRAVERSE

Let me ask you all something.

HEAD 2

What is it, lumberjack?

TRAVERSE

Did you all know I'm gay?

TIFFANY  
*(Starts to giggle)*

What?

TRAVERSE

Did you all know I'm gay?

*HEAD 1 and 2 turn, stunned.*

FRED

Hey, this is...

TIFFANY

*(Barely containing herself)*

Why do you ask?

TRAVERSE

Fred is surprised to find out I am gay.

*TIFFANY and friends all burst out laughing.*

HEAD 1

*(To FRED)*

Dude, you are funnier than I thought you were.

HEAD 2

Tiff, are you supplying this whole hallway? This is far out. Show us what you got in your locker.

TIFFANY

*(Still laughing)*

C'mon, guys. *(Goes to her locker and removes a lunch box – preferably with 70s era cartoon characters on it)* Let's do business on the smoking patio.

HEAD 1

Right on.

*They exit.*

TRAVERSE

See?

FRED

*(Angry)*

See what? That that group of flunkies thinks I'm funny?

TRAVERSE

*(Moving closer again)*

That maybe you're in denial about some things.

FRED

Things?

TRAVERSE

*(Reaches out to touch him)*

Yeah.

FRED

*(Starts to pull away but doesn't)*

What do you mean?

TRAVERSE

I mean, maybe my being gay isn't the only thing you've been trying not to notice.

FRED

Well...

*TRAVERSE leans in and kisses FRED slowly and gently. As they are kissing, CHRISTINE enters and halts when she sees them, horrified.*

TRAVERSE

Well?

FRED

What? Why did you—

*TRAVERSE kisses him again. CHRISTINE gives a little yelp and runs off. FRED pushes TRAVERSE away.*

FRED

Christine! *(To TRAVERSE)* Why did you do that?

TRAVERSE

I thought you would like it.

FRED

I didn't!

TRAVERSE

I thought I would like it.

FRED

You are disgusting.

TRAVERSE

I'm sorry.

FRED

You are going to pay for that!

*FRED picks up his bookbag and runs off.*

TRAVERSE

Fred! ... Damn it!

*TRAVERSE slumps down behind table with head in hands.*

*SHANNON starts to approach him, stops half way, turns and leaves.*

### **CLASS CHANGE 4TH-5TH**

*TRAVERSE is approached by someone who thinks he is working the table. He leaves it, goes to his locker then exits for class.*

P.A. VOICE

*(Everyone stops and looks up to listen)*

Attention, Lakeville! Today's nutritious and delicious lunch menu includes: In the snack bar line, cheese corn, corn dogs, and pudding pops. In the hot lunch line, fish cakes, potato rounds, ketchup and green jello. Remember Principal Duce says you are what you eat, so eat what you're told.

*WINNIE and JULIAN begin to talk briefly, he tells her he got his bag back, they make plans to meet later, but are interrupted by others and separate.*

### **SCENE 6: DURING 5TH PERIOD**

*SHANNON enters with hot lunch tray, clears a space for herself at FRED & CHRISTINE's table and sits down to eat. She knocks over the petition sign, picks up the clipboard and flips through it.*

SHANNON

I bet this little prick has never wanted for anything in his life. Didn't I tell you he was a trip? He sure does get his skivvies in a bunch. I wonder why he wants to lord it over everyone else so much, you know? I have some secret insight though ... one of the advantages to being a headcase: His father was one my doctors after I "pulled my little stunt" last year -- that's a direct quote from the man himself. Can you fathom that?

SHANNON (CONT.)

Of course that was back when my parents still let me see doctors. They've decided I just need to kneel down and let the lord carry my load. Amen. But then Fred Sr. said I was just doing it to "get attention" so no one should act like it was any big deal. In the end it's pretty much the same, I guess. That Shannon, she just wants everything her own way! The one thing they all could agree on is that I need ... (ponderously) More Discipline.

I know, it's tiresome. It's a boring story, even to me. No wonder I'm not a character in the movie. But it does make you wonder what life is like at home for our fresh-faced Reagan Youth here.

*SHANNON starts to light a cigarette.*

P.A. VOICE

Attention, Lakeville! All consumption of tobacco products must be conducted on the designated smoking patio. Smoking in other areas will be punished by loss of bathroom and water fountain privileges for three days. Remember, Principal Duce says good health begins with good order!

*SHANNON stubs out cigarette.*

SHANNON

Drat! Well, anyway, we're sort of at the halfway point. Quite a show, huh? I can't decide if it's more gripping or more pathetic than usual, Rumblefish or Revenge of the Nerds. So I'm reserving judgement for now. Where it will stop, nobody knows. (*Notices someone approaching*) Shhh.

*SHANNON slouches behind table.*

*TIFFANY enters, sits on counter, picking fingernails. JONES enters with head phones on. We hear the song he is listening to in the audience. He hefts himself up her.*

JONES

That was some party on Saturday, wasn't it?

TIFFANY

Which one?

JONES

I was only at one. How many did you go to?

TIFFANY

Oh, Lindsay and Becky and I were all over the place on Saturday. Everywhere was pretty boring if you ask me.

JONES

Whoa. You must have left Marinelli's pretty early then, because it ended up wild. The cops came. I had to flush my bag down the toilet.

TIFFANY

Bummer.

JONES

Totally.

TIFFANY

Did you get the test back from Mr. Franco today?

JONES

Nah, he said maybe tomorrow. Personally, I don't ever want to see it again.

TIFFANY

Shit! I really wanted to see it. I'm thinking about petitioning to take college math somewhere if he doesn't start tripping me up some.

JONES

What that wasn't hard enough for you?

TIFFANY

Hard? The homework was harder than that.

JONES

Boy, all that weed must really be going to your head. What in hell do you need college math for?

TIFFANY

*(Suddenly exasperated)*

Nevermind.

JONES

That's cool.

*Silence. Silence. TIFFANY starts to say something but doesn't. More silence.*

JONES

So did you ask me to come here to talk about pre-calculus?

TIFFANY

Maybe.

JONES

Yeah? Then if you're so smart, can you explain to me [some pre-calc concept]?

TIFFANY

No.

JONES

Oh, and you think you're so ready for college courses.

TIFFANY

No. No, I didn't ask you to come here to talk about math class.

JONES

Oh. Alright.

*Silence.*

JONES

So?

TIFFANY

Jones, I think I'm pregnant.

JONES

What?

TIFFANY

I think I'm pregnant.

JONES

What do you mean?

TIFFANY

I missed my period.

JONES

Huh. You don't say?



TIFFANY

It's really late. I was going to take a pregnancy test this morning. But I was too scared and kept putting it off and then my brother got up and hogged the bathroom and so I never did. But I'm pretty sure anyway. ... I'm pretty sure I'm pregnant.

JONES

That's pretty heavy, Tiffany.

*Silence.*

JONES

Like, who do you think the father is?

TIFFANY

Oh, fuck you, Peter Jones.

JONES

Man! What is that supposed to mean?

TIFFANY

Who do I think the father is? The father is you, Mr. Cool.

JONES

Me?!

TIFFANY

Yes. You.

JONES

How could it be me?

TIFFANY

Let's see almost exactly six weeks ago, you bought me a bottle of Strawberry Hill, we walked out of Janilee's party, and I had sex with you in the back of her dad's pickup truck under a moldy old blanket. Do you remember that?

JONES

Yeah, that was great! But, I mean, I had a rubber. I mean, I always carry a rubber. God, I'm not stupid.

TIFFANY

*(Angry)*

Well, Peter, it must have been in your back pocket quite awhile, because it must have had a hole in it. I hope you bought a new one to replace it with.

JONES

Well, that doesn't mean it had to be me.

TIFFANY

Who the fuck else would it be?

JONES

I don't know? Anybody.

TIFFANY

Anybody?!

JONES

Wait, that's not what I meant.

TIFFANY

Anybody?! You think that just 'cause I'm some sort of metal head or 'cause my dad is an auto mechanic that I fuck just anybody? Is that what you think?

JONES

No, Tiffany, no. That's not what I meant. But I mean couldn't it be somebody else?

TIFFANY

No. I haven't had sex with anyone else but you. Ever.

JONES

What?! I don't believe it!

TIFFANY

*(Gets up)*

You are an asshole!

*TIFFANY exits*

SHANNON

Nice one, Jones.

JONES

*(Jumps)*

Shannon?! Where did you come from?

SHANNON

You and your jezebel interrupted my lunch.

JONES

When did you get so creepy? Why do you lurk around like that all the time?

SHANNON

I'm hardly the only creepy one here. The old Strawberry Hill move, huh ... Peter?

JONES

Oh, get over it already, Shannon. It has been more than a year. It's a drink, not a symbol of our love. Anyone else would think you were stalking them.

*He storms off. She goes to locker and takes a drink.*

**CLASS CHANGE 5TH-6TH**

*FRED tries to talk to CHRISTINE. KIRBY approaches and whispers into FRED's ear.*

**SCENE 7: BETWEEN 6TH AND 7TH/DURING 7TH**

*Bell rings.*

*Various people cross in hallway. SHANNON conspicuously leaves hallway.*

*TIFFANY enters. Throws books in her own locker, takes out a lipstick and writes "Little Asshole" on JONES's locker. Grabs jacket from her locker and starts to leave, pauses, runs her finger through one of the lipstick letters, returns to her locker, gets big can of hairspray and sprays over her words. Looks slightly more satisfied.*

P.A. VOICE

Good afternoon, Lakeville. Principal Duce would like to remind you that school lockers belong to us all. If you hurt property, you hurt the school. If you hurt the school, you hurt yourself!

*TIFFANY flips her finger in the speaker's general direction. She exits.*

*Bell rings*

*WINNIE enters, stops to look at locker.  
JULIAN enters.*

JULIAN

Whoa! What do you think that's all about?

WINNIE

I don't think I want to know. But I don't think I disagree. But, then, look at that color. Nobody who is anybody would have lipstick that color.

JULIAN

Hi, Winnie!

WINNIE

*(Turn; kiss)*

Julian!

JULIAN

I missed you so much!

WINNIE

I missed you too.

JULIAN

I'm so glad you could make it.

WINNIE

Yeah. ... Do you think anyone saw you?

JULIAN

Nah. It's just Home Ec. Mrs. Stewart doesn't really care if any of the guys are there.

WINNIE

OK. That's good. I told Mr. Pot that I had to go to the bathroom, so I really don't have too long, but it's better than during class change when just anyone can see us.

JULIAN

Yeah. That's kind of scary.

WINNIE

Yeah.

JULIAN

Yeah.

Yeah. WINNIE

So? JULIAN

Kiss me. WINNIE

OK. *(They kiss again.)* JULIAN

Ha! I still can not believe this. JULIAN

Yeah? WINNIE

I mean, I always thought you were so close to the inner circle ... I sort of didn't like you. JULIAN

You didn't like me? WINNIE

Well, no. I mean, you did everything the right way. You talked to all the right people. I figured you looked down on the outer circle. I figured you only kissed guys like ... like ... JULIAN

Like Eric Reditzky? WINNIE

Well, yeah. JULIAN

Ugh! Gag me with rotten sushi! Most of those guys are so into themselves they are like kissing a Ken doll. Please! WINNIE

Really? JULIAN

WINNIE

Oh my god, yes! And all any of them ever want to talk about is sports. It is so lame.

JULIAN

Wow.

WINNIE

What?

JULIAN

I just ... well, what other things do you think people should talk about?

WINNIE

I don't know. Anything!

JULIAN

Have you ever noticed how the school only announces the winning teams? How, like, when a team loses nobody ever says anything about it?

WINNIE

What are you talking about?

JULIAN

Like two weeks ago, the football team lost and on Monday morning nobody said anything. The announcements didn't even mention a football game or how many people attended or anything.

WINNIE

Our football team has never lost.

JULIAN

What?! You were even at that game! You're at all the games. How can you say that?

WINNIE

I really don't understand what you are talking about.

JULIAN

Wow. OK. Next time it happens, I'm going to point it out to you. OK?

WINNIE

Whatever.

JULIAN

OK.

WINNIE

Kiss me again.  
*(They kiss.)*  
You're a good kisser.

JULIAN

Thanks.

WINNIE

We have to figure out someplace else we can meet each other.

JULIAN

I had an idea while I was sitting in history class.

WINNIE

Yeah?

JULIAN

Remember the playground at the elementary school?

WINNIE

Yeah.

JULIAN

Behind the merry-go-round there are some big bushes.

WINNIE

Uh-huh

JULIAN

The inside of them is hollow like a little room. You go in through the back and you are completely in private. Nobody is ever around there after 4 o'clock or so and it is dead on the weekend. We could meet there sometime.

WINNIE

At the elementary school?

JULIAN

Yeah. And it's not too far. I mean, both of us could even walk there.

WINNIE

OK. Yeah. But we can't arrive at the same time.

JULIAN

Right.

WINNIE

And if someone follows you or sees you going there, just walk past. OK?

JULIAN

Right.

WINNIE

Meet me there ... when do you get done with practice tonight?

JULIAN

7:30 probably.

WINNIE

OK, meet me there at 8. I'll show up at 8:15. We can stay for an hour before my parents will start to wonder where I am.

JULIAN

I'll be there.

WINNIE

Oh, that is perfect!

*She throws her arms around him and they twirl and laugh. FRED enters with KIRBY. KIRBY is again in a hall monitor's get up.*

FRED

Public displays of affection are a violation of Article 3, paragraph 14.2, of the student conformity code.

JULIAN

Wha?

WINNIE

Shit!

FRED

Expressions of profanity are also a punishable offense, Winnie.



Fred!  
WINNIE

FRED  
Would you like to argue about it?

WINNIE  
No, no. But you don't understand what you saw.

FRED  
Don't I? Regardless, you are in the hallway during classtime. I don't suppose you have a hall pass.

WINNIE  
Yes! I have a bathroom pass. Here. (*Digs in her pocket; hands him a crumpled paper pass*)

FRED  
(*Looks at the pass then hands it to KIRBY*)  
This pass was stamped 15 minutes ago, has it really taken you that long to do your business?

WINNIE  
But ...

JULIAN  
We were just talking about how awesome the homecoming dance is going to be.

FRED  
Really? Is that what you were talking about during 3rd period, too?

JULIAN  
What?

WINNIE  
Julian!

FRED  
Your bag was found in the hallway.

JULIAN  
Yeah, but I said when I got it back at the hall monitor's station, I said that I left it there when I rushed to get to class.

FRED

But you didn't get to class on time. You got to class 17 minutes late. Mr. Stalin noted it on his class report.

JULIAN

That's impossible. That's not true.

FRED

*(Turning to WINNIE)*

And you got to class 16 minutes late, didn't you, Winnie?

WINNIE

I got my period! I had to go to the bathroom. I told Mr. Stalin that. I did.

FRED

Fine. Will you please explain, then, how *(Puts his hand out to KIRBY, who gives him Winnie's hair tie from Scene 4)* this came to be in Julian's locker?

WINNIE

Julian?!

JULIAN

How did ... ?

FRED

Kirby found it sufficiently suspicious that your bag had been left in the hallway so he requested that school security search your locker -- for your own safety -- they found this, which I believe is exactly like the one Winnie was wearing earlier today. And they found these. *(KIRBY produces JULIAN's books.)* I don't believe these are on the senior year reading list, are they?

WINNIE

*(Desperate)*

I don't know how he got that! He must have stolen it from me. I don't...

JULIAN

Winnie!

FRED

I am sure Coach Cromwell and Ms. Peron will both be very interested to hear your stories. Winnie, please come with me to the cheerleading office. *(To JULIAN)* Kirby will take you to the locker room.

WINNIE

Oh my god!

JULIAN

I'll be strong, Winnie. Believe me.

*WINNIE and JULIAN are hauled off in opposite directions by FRED and KIRBY. Black out.*

### **CLASS CHANGE 7TH-8TH**

*JONES finds defaced locker.*

### **SCENE 8: IMMEDIATE POST-SCHOOL**

*Everyone getting ready to leave*

*Bell rings*

*KIM crosses with another preppy person, they stop in the vicinity of WINNIE's locker. At some point in the conversation, CHRISTINE and KIRBY enter and begin taking down the table. FRED is not with them.*

KIM

Ohmigod! Did you hear what happened?!

PREPPY

Hear?! I was like there, and everything. It was a like a tragedy, or something.

KIM

I never really liked her anyway.

PREPPY

Is she still at school?

KIM

She couldn't be! She totally must have gone home by now. Do you think she'll drop out?

*JONES enters and finds them blocking his locker.*

JONES

Shoo! Fluffy cheerleaders be gone!

KIM

Like, who do you think you are?

JONES

This is my locker. Can I get into my locker?

PREPPY

Is it true?

JONES

Is what true?

KIM

That you're a little asshole?

*TIFFANY enters with one of her friends  
heading toward her locker.*

TIFFANY

Oh, yeah. It's true.

KIM

*(Scowls)*

How would you know?

JONES

Tiffany.

TIFFANY

I know 'cause I wrote it.

PREPPY

Ew, bad scene.

KIM

Did you guys hear what happened?

HEAD

How could we miss it? Are they still here?

*PREPPY shrugs as TRAVERSE enters.*

KIM

Hey, foreign guy, did you hear what happened?

TRAVERSE

Oh, hello, popular girl. Hear what? My English isn't so good.

*SHANNON enters*

JONES

Tiffany? Can I talk to you?

TIFFANY

Too late, Jonesy.

KIM

*(To TRAVERSE)*

Did you hear about Winnie and ... *(JULIAN enters, stops when he sees all the people assembled)* Julian?

*JULIAN decides to ignore them and walks to his locker.*

SHANNON

What happened to Winnie?

PREPPY

She got kicked off the cheerleading squad.

JULIAN

She did?

KIM

*(Turns to him; icily)*

I'm sorry, who are you?

TRAVERSE

Kim, you know who he is.

JONES

I think he's become an untouchable.

TIFFANY

Like some other people I know.

KIM

No, he's just been plain erased. That's all.

JONES

Harsh.

*JULIAN closes his locker and starts to leave. He stops as WINNIE approaches and averts his eyes from her. WINNIE's face is streaked with mascara, whatever signs she wore of her status as cheerleader have been stripped from her. Her hair is down. She walks to her locker, but KIM and PREPPY are blocking access to it.*

*WINNIE stops, eyes on floor and waits a moment.*

WINNIE

Excuse me.

KIM

Did you hear something?

PREPPY

Maybe.

WINNIE

Kim, please.

KIM

It must be the wind.

TRAVERSE

Oh, come on, let her use her locker, eh.

JONES

So what did she do that was so wrong?

TRAVERSE

It must have been something really bad for all that. Julian, you must know what happened.

*JULIAN shakes his head without looking up.*

CHRISTINE

*(Pointedly to TRAVERSE)*

I believe the two of them were caught in an inappropriate, and probably indecent, public display of affection.

TRAVERSE

What's that supposed to mean?

CHRISTINE

I think you know what that means.

JONES

Wow. Is it cold in here or is it just me?

TIFFANY

Maybe it's your icy little asshole heart your feeling. Come on, Monica.

*TIFFANY and HEAD exit. JONES kicks his locker, it opens, he slams it shut in frustration.*

TRAVERSE

Yikes.

KIM

It's not so much the display of affection, little frosh, as the object of it. She was supposed to go to homecoming with Eric Reditzky but she's giving her little slutty self away to this third-string lamo. Totally unacceptable.

PREPPY

Totally.

WINNIE

*(Tearfully)*

Julian, I'm sorry. I'm sorry they kicked you off the team.

KIM

Don't talk to her, Julian.

WINNIE

I ... I ... I had to tell them the things you said.

JULIAN

You were ...

PREPPY

*(Warning)*

Julian!

JULIAN

*(Looks at PREPPY and KIM, turns back  
to look blankly at WINNIE)*

I can't talk to you, Winnie. Why don't you go tell Eric Reditzky all about it.

WINNIE

*(Starts to cry)*

Eric Reditzky denies he ever even thought of going to homecoming with me.

JULIAN

I guess you're just another one of us nobodies then. *(Exits)*

JONES

Who-ho-ho, I guess this is just the Waltz of the Sugarplum Nobodies around here.  
Traverse, would you like to dance?

TRAVERSE

Delighted.

*They begin to waltz ridiculously around the  
hallway.*

CHRISTINE

This is just great!

KIM

Ohmigod! What is wrong with you people?

*SHANNON approaches WINNIE and embraces  
her firmly.*

JONES

It looks like the world is going to end. We might as well have a party.

KIM

OK. Like, um, I am going to miss my bus at any moment. I'm leaving now.

PREPPY

I thought you had ...



KIM

Shhh! Just come with me.

*KIM and PREPPY exit.*

SHANNON

*(To WINNIE)*

You're going to be OK.

JONES

Shannon, you are such a romantic. How will she ever live being no better than just one of us proles?

SHANNON

*(Narrows her eyes at him)*

Be nice.

TRAVERSE

Hey! I thought we were sugarplum nobodies.

JONES

Oh. You are so right. I do apologize. *(They start to tango.)*

WINNIE

I have to go. I have to go to practice and turn in my uniform and my pompoms. I have to go.

*SHANNON releases her.*

*WINNIE exits. SHANNON slumps down to sit on floor and lights a cigarette.*

JONES

Well, I really should be off myself. Somewhere in this town there are burgers that need flipping. *(He bows to TRAVERSE, who curtsies back, then JONES bows to the rest of the hallway.)* Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

*JONES exits.*

CHRISTINE

*(Crosses to put table stuff in locker; to TRAVERSE)*

Can't you leave any of them alone?

TRAVERSE

What?

CHRISTINE

*(Slams locker)*

I saw you! *(Starts to leave)*

TRAVERSE

Oh, shit.

SHANNON

*(To CHRISTINE)*

Don't wonder too far, sweetie pie. You've got detention in 20 minutes. Remember?

CHRISTINE

Oh, shit! I mean, shoot! I mean ... errgh!

*She stomps off with KIRBY in tow.*

CHRISTINE

I'll be back.

*TRAVERSE slumps down alongside  
SHANNON and takes a hit off her cigarette.*

PA VOICE

Good afternoon, Lakeville! We have come to the conclusion of the normal school day for Monday, October 22, 1984. All students without an approved afterschool activity must be off the premises in 5 minutes. I repeat, all students without an approved after school activity must be off the premises in 5 minutes. You are going home a smarter, better, happier American. And remember, Principal Duce says Learning is Obedience! All students with detention must report to Room 22 in 7 minutes.

## **SCENE 9: CONTINUING DIRECTLY**

SHANNON

Today's episode brought to you by the letter ... cut my fucking head off.

TRAVERSE

Tell me about it. ... What just happened here, anyway?

*SHANNON lights a second cigarette.*

SHANNON

Things fall apart.

TRAVERSE

OK. ... And?

SHANNON

*(As though reciting)*

Winnie is a new cheerleader. And she was next in line to date Eric Reditzsky. Julian is basically a loser who is tolerated because he is useful. Winnie kisses Julian ... or whoever ... because it doesn't even matter that it was him really. And...

TRAVERSE

*(Breaking in wherever)*

OK, OK, OK. I don't think I really need to know.

*SHANNON shrugs.*

TRAVERSE

But why do people have to be so damned cruel?

SHANNON

I haven't figured that out yet, but I'm working on it.

TRAVERSE

Well, let me know, will you?

SHANNON

Sure.

*Pause.*

SHANNON

You haven't had the best day either. I'm sorry about what happened with Fred.

TRAVERSE

*(Stares at her)*

How do you know about that?

SHANNON

I'm a witch.

TRAVERSE

*(Snorts)*

Right.

SHANNON

I was sitting right there. I saw the whole thing.

TRAVERSE

Well, then you saw what a royal ass I made of myself.

SHANNON

That jerk isn't worth it.

TRAVERSE

Yeah, well, what jerk is? *(Gets up; puts out cigarette)* Thanks. I'll see you.

*TRAVERSE starts to leave as FRED enters.*

FRED

Oh. It's you.

TRAVERSE

Hey, Fred.

FRED

Where's Christine?

SHANNON

What, isn't her radio collar turned on?

FRED

What happened to the table?

TRAVERSE

She was already here. They put it away.

SHANNON

Don't worry. She'll be back. She has to be back.

FRED

Oh. *(Seems to want to leave)* Well. ... OK. I, um, I just ... Was Kirby with her?

TRAVERSE

Yes.

FRED

Do you think she...?

TRAVERSE

She might have. I don't know.

FRED

Because that wouldn't be... I don't think Kirby should know that...

TRAVERSE

Listen. I'm sorry, Fred. I really am. I shouldn't have done that. I was being selfish I just wanted to ki...

FRED

Shut up! Don't say that with her just sitting here like that.

*SHANNON puts headphones on. We hear the music of her headphones.*

SHANNON

*(Overly loud)*

I hear no evil.

TRAVERSE

I'm sorry.

FRED

You can't tell anyone that that happened. I don't care how weird they are. No one can know that I did that. It could ruin my future. And I've worked too hard for that to happen. In fact, I'd prefer it if you forgot that it ever happened.

TRAVERSE

No one can know that you did that? You didn't really do anything.

FRED

Well, no! Of course not. I didn't mean ... Look, will you please not tell anyone that I ... that we ... that that happened.

TRAVERSE

It'll be my own private secret.

FRED

No! Just forget about it entirely. Can you do that? OK?

*CHRISTINE and KIRBY enter. CHRISTINE screams. SHANNON takes headphones off.*

FRED

Jesus Christ, Christine!

CHRISTINE

Don't take the lord's name in vain, Fred. You should be ashamed of yourself.

FRED

You startled me.

CHRISTINE

That is still no reason to talk like that. You don't hear me going around talking like that and most decent people would agree that I might even have reason to.

FRED

Christine, I don't think you really understand what you are talking about. You think you saw something that you didn't actually see.

CHRISTINE

I saw you ... and him.

FRED

What you saw didn't actually happen.

CHRISTINE

You never kiss me like that!

*KIRBY looks alarmed.*

FRED

Shh-shh-shh! Don't say that. Don't say that word.

CHRISTINE

Fine! You never display your affection to me like that. It was... It was...

FRED

It was an accident.

CHRISTINE

I thought you said there was no such thing as an accident.

FRED

No, my father said that. I'm beginning to think he might be wrong.

CHRISTINE

So it was an accident. OK. You never make accidents like that with me, Fred. You make me feel like I must be the ugliest girl in the whole school. You make me feel like you go out with me just because you feel sorry for me or something.

TRAVERSE

You're not ugly, Christine.

CHRISTINE

Oh, how would you know?

TRAVERSE

I might be gay, but I'm not blind.

CHRISTINE

You are covered with the slime of sin and perversion.

FRED

Christine, there's no need to talk like that.

CHRISTINE

Stop telling me what to do!

FRED

Christine. Now, come on. You know that we feel sorry for people like Traverse. We should have mercy for ...

TRAVERSE

Hey now, I don't need that kind of mercy, Fred.

CHRISTINE

Mercy? Like the same kind of mercy you showed toward Winnie and Julian today?

TRAVERSE

What did you have to do with Winnie and Julian?

FRED

That's different. I was doing my job as a student deputy of school security. Kirby came to me with what he saw and it was my responsibility to pass it along to the appropriate authorities.

TRAVERSE

Wait. So you got Winnie and Julian in trouble?!

FRED

Well, no, they got themselves in trouble, really.

TRAVERSE

Oh, that is rich. Did you see that girl? Did you? She was shattered. Both of them were ... are ... shattered.

CHRISTINE

What if I passed along what I saw to the appropriate authorities?

FRED

You didn't see anything, Christine, that was worth passing along. I keep telling you that.

TRAVERSE

You keep telling yourself that, Fred. You go right on trying.

FRED

Traverse, I ... What happened with us...

*Pause.*

TRAVERSE

Go ahead, Fred. I'm listening.

FRED

What you did to me was wrong. And I'm sorry you had to see that, Christine. You're right. We should report it to the authorities. You should report it to the authorities.

TRAVERSE

Report what exactly?

FRED

What you did to me.

TRAVERSE

Oh, please. Look, I'm leaving. You two – (*Glances at KIRBY*) – You three can sort this out yourselves.

FRED

Remember what you promised.

TRAVERSE

Right. Whatever.

*TRAVERSE exits.*



CHRISTINE

So you think I should tell someone what I saw?

FRED

If you feel that's your responsibility, yes. But I beg your mercy. I'll do anything you want me to do, Christine. I really don't think it was that big a deal, do you?

CHRISTINE

Anything?

FRED

Yes.

CHRISTINE

Anything I want?

FRED

Yes, Christine.

CHRISTINE

Will you kiss me like that?

FRED

Sure. However you like.

CHRISTINE

Will you touch me more?

FRED

Yes! OK! Can we not talk about this right here, right now?

CHRISTINE

OK. OK. (*Kisses him quickly*) Oh, I love you, Freddie!

SHANNON

(*Getting up*)

I'm sorry to break this up, you pathetic wretches, but someone has detention and I feel that it is my responsibility to make sure she gets there on time.

CHRISTINE

Oh, heck! I can't believe you're making me do this. I mean, what if someone sees me in there. What would I tell everybody?

SHANNON

Get off it. Detention is in a windowless room with a locked door. Anyone who's going to see you in there is serving detention themselves.

CHRISTINE

Yeah. But. They might tell someone else that they saw me in there, and then what?

SHANNON

That is true. You know, if we didn't have you to talk about, I don't know what this school would do.

CHRISTINE

Uh!

SHANNON

Come on. I'll show you where it is. Come on.

CHRISTINE

Freddie, come with me please. Pleasey-wease?

SHANNON

He can't come with you. They're only expecting one. Female.

CHRISTINE

At least walk me there, Fred.

FRED

Come on. You'll be fine.

CHRISTINE

*(Exiting with FRED and SHANNON)*

Will you come over later?

*KIRBY waits till they are all gone and kicks lockers hard.*

KIRBY

He never even thinks about kissing me that way!

## **SCENE 10: AS BUILDING IS BEING CLEARED OUT FOR THE NIGHT**

*SHANNON enters, goes to locker and begins reverse costume change, going back to the clothes she wore at top.*

SHANNON

I think the movie's really coming along, don't you? There're so many loose ends to tie up, though. We're going to have to make a sequel. Yeah, yeah, I know, sequels suck, usually. But look at Indiana Jones. That didn't turn out so bad. Right? Well, except for that kid. I know! We'll call the next one Lakeville Horror II. Or how about Eric Reditzky Strikes Back. That's when he takes Kimberly Chambers to Homecoming. That'd be funny, except I just heard a rumor that it's really happening. ....Stranger than fiction.

I guess if today has been worth anything, it's proven that this place sucks for just about everyone in here. I don't usually see it that way. It sort of warms the cockles of my heart, really. And this is just one bank of lockers. Holy combination locks, Batman, can you imagine what is going on down by the history classrooms? Or the physics lab? The mind reels. Ugh. When I look at it that way, I begin to feel crushed by the overwhelming disgusting grossness of it all. There is just a never-ending glut of it, like one perpetual oozing pimple right smack in the middle of the psychic forehead of my life. I might pop it today, but it's just going to swell back up with another fat, shiny, white pustule tomorrow.

*She takes out her bottle of vodka and toasts the poster of Principle Duce. Winnie enters and goes to her locker.*

SHANNON

How did the amputation go?

WINNIE

What?

SHANNON

Getting the pompoms removed. How did it go?

WINNIE

It was ... It was hard. They cut up my warm-up jacket too.

SHANNON

Can they do that?

WINNIE

They can do whatever they want really.

SHANNON

I suppose so. That sucks.

WINNIE

Does it? That's the payoff.

SHANNON

The payoff?

**This is Not the End of the Play**  
**Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes**