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Angst:84
by Toni K. Thayer

CHARACTERS:
5 Males, 5 Females and 4 Either

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

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 caddie. 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 kittens 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
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, Siouxsi 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.

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.

Ladies!

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

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.

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

TRAVERESE

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!

TRAVERESE
(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.

*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 1ST 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.
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  
(Absently)

Yes?

CHRISTINE  
(Approaches him and grabs his lapels)

Will you kiss me?

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

CHRISTINE  
(Smoothes out his lapels gently)

I’m sorry, Freddie. I was bad. (Makes bashful face) Now will you kiss me?

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  
(Laughing a little)

Remember Saturday afternoon?

FRED  
(Uncomfortable)

Yes.

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

CHRISTINE

You don’t like it?

FRED

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

CHRISTINE

What? It’s just ...

FRED

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

CHRISTINE

Well, ... yes!

FRED

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.

CHRISTINE

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?

FRED

You are moving a little too fast for my taste.

CHRISTINE

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

FRED

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

CHRISTINE

(Shrugs)

Fine.
I’ll go on ahead.

Fine.

Fred

Christine

God, what is wrong with me?

Christine exits.

Bell rings for class change.

CLASS CHANGE, 1st – 2nd 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, 2nd–3rd

Shannon still in corner, reading.

Bell rings.

SCENE 4: DURING 3rd 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

(Laughs)

Winnie

You would?

Julian

Totally! You’re a cheerleader, a varsity cheerleader.

Winnie

So?

Julian

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.

Winnie

I have to do that crap.
Really?

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.*
JULIAN

Oh, shit!

WINNIE

Hide!

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?
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 3rd and 4th DURING 4th

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, Poopsie. 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!
Mmm.

TRAVERSE

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.

I am not!

TRAVERSE

I think you are.

FRED

(Ignoring him)

Well at least we got some names on the petition.

Congratulations.

FRED

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

Ha! Somehow I doubt it.

FRED

Or Holden Caulfield?

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 Duces 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...
HEAD 1

You’re trying to what?

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?

I thought you would like it.

TRAVERSE

I didn’t!

FRED

I thought I would like it.

TRAVERSE

You are disgusting.

FRED

I’m sorry.

TRAVERSE

You are going to pay for that!
FRED picks up his bookbag and runs off.

TRAVERESE

Fred! ... Damn it!

TRAVERESE slumps down behind table with head in hands.

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

CLASS CHANGE 4TH-5TH

TRAVERESE 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.

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.

So?

Jones, I think I’m pregnant.

TIFFANY
What?

JONES
I think I’m pregnant.

TIFFANY
What do you mean?

JONES
I missed my period.

TIFFANY
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.

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.

WINNIE

Yeah?

JULIAN

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

WINNIE

You didn’t like me?

JULIAN

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 ...

WINNIE

Like Eric Reditzky?

JULIAN

Well, yeah.

WINNIE

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

JULIAN

Really?
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.

OK.
Kis me again.  
(They kiss.)  
You’re a good kisser.  

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

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

Remember the playground at the elementary school?  

Yeah.  

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

Uh-huh  

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.  

At the elementary school?  

Yeah. And it’s not too far. I mean, both of us could even walk there.
OK. Yeah. But we can’t arrive at the same time.

Right.

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

Right.

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

7:30 probably.

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.

I’ll be there.

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.

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

Wha?

Shit!

Expressions of profanity are also a punishable offense, Winnie.
WINNIE
Fred!

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.
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.
Shoo! Fluffy cheerleaders be gone!

Like, who do you think you are?

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

Is it true?

Is what true?

That you’re a little asshole?

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

Oh, yeah. It’s true.

How would you know?

Tiffany.

I know ‘cause I wrote it.

Ew, bad scene.

Did you guys hear what happened?

How could we miss it? Are they still here?

PREPPY shrugs as TRAVERSE enters.
KIM
Hey, foreign guy, did you hear what happened?

TRAVERSE

SHANNON enters

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

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.

Excuse me.

Did you hear something?

Maybe.

Kim, please.

It must be the wind.

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

So what did she do that was so wrong?

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 curtseys 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.

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?

Yes.

TRAVERSE

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?

Anything?

CHRISTINE

FRED
Yes.

Anything I want?

CHRISTINE

FRED
Yes, Christine.

Will you kiss me like that?

FRED
Sure. However you like.

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_