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Product Code YA807-SP

The War of the Earth Day Club
& The Theatre Kids
by Brent Holland

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The War of the Earth Day Club and the Theatre Kids by Brent Holland

CHARACTERS
3F / 3M / 9 Any Gender

RUNNING TIME
Approximately 70 minutes

The Earth Day Club Kids:

ERICA (f) *Former vice president of the earth day club and ex-girlfriend of JAMES.*

LANEY: (m/f) *Erica's best friend and Earth Day enthusiast.*

BELLA: (f) *Another Earth Day Club member.*

TRISTAN (m) *Another Earth Day Club member.*

FINLEY: (m/f) *Another Earth Day Club member.*

RIVER: (m/f) *Another Earth Day Club member.*

MS. DAVIS: (m/f) *The teacher/advisor of the earth day club.*

The Theatre Kids:

JAMES: (m) *The President of the Drama Club and former boyfriend of Erica.*

EMILY: (f) *A drama kid with no love for the members of the Earth Day Club.*

JOEY: (m) *Stage Manager and best friend of JAMES. Easy going and likeable.*

LENNON: (m/f) *Another member of the Drama Club.*

EMERSON: (m/f) *Another member of the Drama Club.*

HAYDEN: (m/f) *Another Member of the Drama Club.*

The Other Kids:

DEVIN: (m/f) *A member of both clubs and pretty laid back.*

BRETT (m/f) *DEVIN's best friend.*

SETTING

A local High School Theater, Science Room and Hallway

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In the premiere performance, a giant flip pad representing a calendar was used to establish a sense of time. Within the script you will note dates starting with Monday, September 1. If you choose to utilize this device, I suggest using the first date as the date of your production.

The War of the Earth Day Club and the Theatre Kids

by Brent Holland

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

AT RISE: *As the lights come up, we are in an afterschool meeting of the Earth Day Club. There are quite a few students present including JAMES, JOEY, EMILY, LENNON, EMERSON, HAYDEN, ERICA, LANEY, DEVIN, BELLA, TRISTAN, FINLEY, RIVER and more if possible. Things are tense.*

ERICA

Ms. Davis! You can't let them do this!

DAVIS

I'm sorry Erica, but the by-laws, which you helped pass last year as vice-president allow for open elections of officers at the first meeting.

ERICA

But they aren't members!

JAMES

We paid our five dollars.

DAVIS

Everyone who voted today paid their yearly dues.

ERICA

Most of the people in here have no intention on being in the Earth Day Club!

EMILY

How can you know that?

ERICA

You don't care about the environment!

JAMES

Maybe we care so much that we thought new leadership of this club is the answer.

Several students agree.

JOEY

We'll still value your input, Erica.

LANEY

I agree with Erica, Ms. Davis! James and Joey and Emily and a bunch of other people here only came because they're mad about last year.

JAMES

(To JOEY and EMILY)

Last year? What's she talking about?

ERICA

You know damned well what she's talking about!

EMILY

The thing during homecoming?

ERICA

The club's council...

EMILY

Which you were President of...

ERICA

I had to make some tough decisions last year.

JOEY

By "tough" you mean, 100 percent against the Drama Club.

LENNON

Every single fundraiser we applied for was shot down.

ERICA

Coincidence.

JAMES

Well, not EVERY fundraiser.

DAVIS

Can we get back to the meeting please?

JAMES

Just every fundraiser we applied for after November 10th.

DAVIS

(Taking charge)

Have a seat and allow me to continue please. *(Kids come back under control)* As I said, James Caron will be club president this year. *(Outrage)* Quiet down please, let me tell you the other positions.

FINLEY

This isn't fair!

RIVER

This is stupid!

DAVIS

Emily Tinsley will be our vice president, Joey Mathis is treasurer, Lennon Steele will be secretary and Emerson Laraia is our master of arms.

LANE

Can we have a recount?

DAVIS

Only 23 votes were cast and the five I just called had a majority in each election.

HAYDEN

Congratulations, Mr. President.

JAMES

Thanks Hayden.

DAVIS

Congratulations to our new Earth Day Club officers. I'll need to see each of you at the beginning of next week so we can plan our meeting schedule. Unless there is something else we need to discuss...

ERICA

Can I speak with you after the meeting Mrs. Davis?

DAVIS

If you are going to contest the election today, then no. If you want to talk about anything else, then yes. The election today was fair and followed the rules you helped establish last year as an officer.

BELLA

But they're going to ruin our club!

EMILY

Sour grapes much, Bella?

BELLA

Shove it, Emily.

A voice comes over the intercom.

PA (Voice)

Mrs. Davis?

DAVIS

(Answering)

Yes?

PA (*Voice*)

You have a delivery in the office.

DAVIS

I'll be there in a minute to pick it up. (*Looking at JAMES*) Get with me about a meeting schedule next week please.

JAMES

Sounds good.

MRS. DAVIS exits.

ERICA

I'm going to make you regret this.

JAMES

Remember, remember the tenth of November...

ERICA

This is going to be even worse.

DEVIN

What happened on November 10th?

HAYDEN

Erica started her crusade against the Drama Club.

JAMES

Which happened to coincide with the day I broke up with Erica.

ERICA

Which he did by text message.

JAMES

So?

BELLA

You dumped her by text message?

FINLEY

How can you not remember that?

LENNON

Seriously! She totally freaked about it.

ERICA

I did not.

LANEY

And even if she did, it was totally understandable.

LENNON

You literally came into 3rd block wearing a blanket and crying.

ERICA

I was on my period, it had nothing to do with him.

LENNON

You totally sobbed his name when the teacher asked what was wrong. You were like *(Imitating a painful moan)* James...

ERICA

Bull crap. I said *(Doing it similarly)* Pain... *(Back to normal voice)* I was in pain.

BRETT

Well, this is interesting, but I have to work. Congratulations Mr. President, I look forward to making the Earth a cleaner place with you.

The meeting starts to break up.

EMERSON

Hail to the king!

*EMERSON and HAYDEN exit laughing.
DEVIN leaves as well.*

LANEY

(To ERICA)

Are you going to wait for Mrs. Davis?

ERICA

I'm going to catch her down by the office.

JAMES

Good luck!

ERICA

You guys come with me! We have to convince her!

RIVER

Do you think she'll listen?

ERICA

She has to.

TRISTAN

I'm good for trying, but I don't think she's going to change her mind.

BELLA, TRISTEN, FINLEY, LANEY and ERICA start to leave.

ERICA
This isn't over.

JAMES
(Dramatically)
I have only but begun to fight!

ERICA
Cute.

JAMES
I do my best, ya know?

They exit leaving JAMES, JOEY, EMILY and LENNON in the room.

LENNON
This is the first time I have ever been an officer of anything.

EMILY
Don't get used to it. You know the plan.

LENNON
I know, I'm just surprised it's worked so far.

JOEY
It's stupid to have open elections. Too easy to exploit.

JAMES
I don't think it's ever been done before.

JOEY
So, you got us all elected officers, what's the plan now?

JAMES
I'm going to see how long I can keep from having our first meeting. If I play this right, maybe the Earth Day Club won't have a meeting all year.

EMILY
And you'll go down as the worst Earth Day Club president of all time.

JAMES
And the smartest Drama Club president ever.

BLACKOUT.

LIGHTS CROSSFADE to the girls having just finished their appeal to MRS. DAVIS.

LANEY

Well, that went about as well as expected.

ERICA

I can't believe she doesn't see what the drama kids are doing.

TRISTAN

Maybe she does see but just doesn't care. Does she get paid to run the Earth Day Club?

RIVER

I have no idea.

ERICA

Why have the club at all if she doesn't care?

BELLA

What are we going to do now?

ERICA

I'm working on that. I don't know what I'm going to do about it yet, but I can tell you this: It's not over.

FINLEY

You know I'm in. I can't stand the drama kids. I never understood why you were so into James last year.

ERICA

Temporary insanity.

FINLEY

Must have been.

LANEY

We need to get our club back.

ERICA

We will. What would make them leave us alone?

RIVER

We could call a truce. We could promise not to do anything against the Drama Club this year.

ERICA

That won't work. I'm not on the club's council this year.

RIVER

Why not?

ERICA

I don't know. I wasn't invited to be on it this year.

TRISTAN

I'm on it.

ERICA

But you're not an officer.

TRISTAN

True. I don't have a lot of power.

BELLA

What does the club's council even do?

TRISTAN

We approve fundraisers, decide the float order at the homecoming parade and judge those floats. We also run the spring talent show.

BELLA

And did you really make it that hard on the Drama Club last year?

ERICA

He dumped me with a text message. What do you think?

BELLA

Gotcha.

ERICA

I'm hungry. Let's go eat and plan how we're going to destroy the Drama Club.

BLACK OUT.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

AT RISE:

The Drama Club meeting room: JAMES and EMILY are welcoming people to the first meeting.

EMILY

Hey Brett! Glad you came.

BRETT

I got Jessica to trade with me at work so I could make it. What are we doing today?

JAMES

We're going to run some theatre games and talk about our first fundraiser and audition.

When are auditions?
BRETT

First week of October.
JAMES

Still need tech help?
DEVIN

Of course we do.
EMILY

What shows are we doing?
BRETT

I think we're going to do *Crafting a Killer*.
JAMES

HAYDEN walks up.

We're doing *Crafting a Killer*?
HAYDEN

I think so. I think we'll have the people to do it.
JAMES

That's awesome.
HAYDEN

Is it any good?
DEVIN

Oh yeah.
HAYDEN

JOEY and EMERSON walk in.

(Approaching JAMES)
Ms. Davis just cornered us in the hallway.
JOEY

Why did you walk near her room?
JAMES

We didn't! We came in by the cafeteria!
EMERSON

What did she say?
JAMES

EMERSON

She told us you aren't answering your emails.

JAMES

Of course I'm not.

JOEY

She told me to have you come see her.

JAMES

Crap.

EMILY

You had to assume this was going to happen.

LENNON

I've been avoiding the whole science wing trying not to be seen by her.

EMERSON

It's only been two weeks since we were elected. I didn't think the pressure would start this soon.

EMILY

What do we do?

JAMES

Stick to the plan. Avoid her class and I'll shoot her an email tonight stalling her. I've got a plan.

ERICA walks up with LANEY.

ERICA

A plan for what?

JAMES

What? (*Surprised*) A plan? Oh, I've just been approving the plans for the bronze statue Mrs. Davis commissioned documenting my time as Earth Day Club President.

ERICA

I'd get started on that as soon as possible, since you won't be president much longer.

JAMES

We'll see.

LANEY

So, this is where the drama freaks meet?

JOEY

You must have us mistaken for the band kids.

LANEY

(Looking around)

No. I have it right.

EMERSON walks back up.

EMERSON

We need to get started. *(Seeing ERICA and LANEY)* What are you two doing here?

LANEY

Just thought we'd expand our college resume. You know, join a couple of more clubs.

ERICA

Extracurriculars are important.

BELLA, FINLEY, TRISTAN and RIVER enter.

BELLA

(Over the top)

I have come here to chew bubble gum and be dramatic, and I'm all out of bubble gum.

TRISTAN

(Obnoxiously)

Hello, drama people!

DEVIN

Déjà vu. Didn't we do this meeting a couple of weeks ago?

BRETT

What?

DEVIN

The Earth Day Club thing.

BRETT

Oh yeah, Dude.

EMILY

You know, we don't have open elections. Mr. Egan assigned the officers before last year ended.

BELLA

We know.

ERICA

We just thought it would be a good time to come hang out with all of you again.

EMILY

(To JAMES)

Mr. Egan said he would be in the media center. Should I go get him?

JAMES

Nah. I can handle this.

JOEY

Yeah. We got this.

JAMES

Ok, everyone have a seat and let's get started.

*ERICA, LANEY, BELLA, TRISTAN,
FINLEY and RIVER all sitting together
cheer. They fully plan to be disruptive.*

JAMES

Thank you for your enthusiasm.

They cheer again.

JAMES

(Waving in turn)

Most of you know that I am James, the president of the Drama Club. Joey and Emily are the vice presidents, Emerson is the treasurer and Hayden is our secretary.

TRISTAN

Why do you have two vice presidents?

JAMES

That's a good question Tristan, and one that I don't have an answer for. Mr. Egan chose the officers.

TRISTAN

So, which one becomes president if you die?

JAMES

What?

TRISTAN

If you dropped dead, who would lead the Drama Club?

JAMES

I'm not going to die.

THE EARTH DAY KIDS all giggle.

EMILY

If James dies, I become the president and my first action as president would be to ruthlessly avenge his death.

ERICA

Even if it's of natural causes?

EMILY

(Staring daggers)

Especially if it's natural causes.

DEVIN

(To BRETT)

I've been to a lot of club meetings, but that's the first time we've covered that topic.

BRETT

Succession to the throne is pretty important.

JAMES

Anyway... our first activity will be to warm up with a theatre game.

EMILY

Everyone find a partner.

Everyone pairs up: ERICA and LANEY are quick to form a pair.

JAMES

Once you have a partner, I need you to come up with a short 30 second scene to act out in front of the class.

EMERSON

What's our prompt?

EMILY

Your prompt is "The vile act of a true villain" And...go!

The kids all discuss vigorously for a few seconds with their partners.

JAMES

Is everyone ready?

The noise starts to abate.

EMILY

Ok then, can we have a volunteer to go first?

LANEY and ERICA walk forward.

ERICA
We'll go!

JAMES
(Suspicious)
Ok... what's the name of your skit?

ERICA
It's called "The Coward".

EMILY
Ok. You have thirty seconds to tell your story... starting... now!

LANEY
(Over the top)
Hello, boyfriend, how are you doing today?

ERICA
(In a deep voice)
Hello, love of my life. Your beauty takes my breath away!

LANEY
Thank you. You're so sweet, Jamie!

JAMES
And Scene!

ERICA
We haven't had our thirty seconds yet!

LANEY
(Back to the scene)
You're so sweet!

ERICA
All for you baby. *(Aside)* I only act this way to try to bend you to my evil whims! *(To LANEY)*
Have I told you in the last five minutes how much I desperately love you?

LANEY
No you haven't. But your attentiveness has started melting the ice I have around my heart...
And even though, you have a body odor issue, and don't brush your teeth as often as you
should, I think I may be falling in love with you.

ERICA
(Laughing maniacally; Aside)
My plan is working!

LANEY

And even though you seem to flirt with my little sister, who is only a freshman, and sometimes with my mom, I trust you when you say you're only kidding around.

ERICA

You are so beautiful, and I love you so much!—

JAMES

I never said that!

LANEY

And even though I was thinking about dating your best friend, uh... Joseph... when you asked me out... I'm glad you told me all of those bad things about him to convince me to date you instead.

JOEY

Wait... what??

JAMES

She's lying!

ERICA

You make me so happy. I've never been this happy in my whole life!

LANEY

Me too!

ERICA

I have to go now. I'll talk to you later tonight, my love!

ERICA walks away.

LANEY

Wait, I have a text message from my boyfriend! I wonder what it says?

JAMES

And that's WAY over thirty seconds. Everyone give these two a hand for their completely fictional story. Who wants to go next?

BRETT

Devin and I were going to go—

DEVIN

But we were going to act out Hitler invading Poland, but I think that last scene was worse. So we'll pass.

JOEY

What was that part about wanting to date Joseph?

LANEY
I guess since our scene ended, it will be a mystery.

JAMES
(Impulsively)
I want to go next.

EMILY
But we're running the game.

JAMES
Joey, you're my partner.

JOEY
Uh... Ok...

JAMES
(To EMILY)
We're ready.

JOEY
We are? What's the prompt again?

EMILY
The Vile act of a true Villain.

JAMES
Let's go.

JOEY
Who am I playing?

JAMES
You're my ex-girlfriend.

JOEY
But I'm a guy.

JAMES
Just act like a girl.

JOEY
Ok...

EMILY
And...Go!

JAMES

(Way over-acting)

I think after school today, I will go and volunteer again at the soup kitchen downtown... that is – *(Pause)* – If my girlfriend will let me.

JAMES shoots a look at LENNON, EMERSON and HAYDEN who take up the cue.

LENNON/EMERSON/HAYDEN

Boooooo!

JAMES

Because as we all know... my girlfriend is... *(Points to his friends)*

LENNON

A communist!

BRETT

Is this interactive?

JAMES

She is even worse than a communist, my friends. She's...

DEVIN

Broccoli!

JAMES shoots him a look.

DEVIN

I dunno. I was trying to come up with something that sucks.

JAMES

Sadly, she's even worse than broccoli.

BRETT

A Sith Lord?

JAMES

Yes! I should have known I was in for it when she brought that red light saber to our first date.

ERIC

If she were a Sith Lord she would be choking you out right now.

JAMES

(Looking at his phone)

It appears that I am being summoned by Darth Needious even as we speak, friends.

He walks up to JOEY and goes down to one knee. He tries to do both the Darth Vader breathing while speaking in a falsetto voice.

JOEY

Arise, boyfriend. What are your plans for after school today?

JAMES

I had planned, if it is okay with you, to go and volunteer my time at the soup kitchen, or maybe help my little brother with his math homework.

JOEY

(Continuing the breathing and falsetto)

That is... unacceptable.

JAMES

But Lord!

JOEY

I feel a great disturbance in the force... I feel that you have not liked my Instagram photo celebrating our two-month anniversary, nor have you retweeted the meme I posted when I arose this morning!

THE DRAMA KIDS Boo.

JAMES

I have been busy with...

At this, JOEY extends his hand and does a "Force Choke" on JAMES who immediately starts to gasp.

JAMES

I'm sorry... *(Slumps over, feigning unconsciousness)*

JOEY

(Parodying the original)

Apology accepted, James.

THE DRAMA KIDS cheer.

FINLEY

We're next!

EMILY

I think it would be better to move on...

No way, it's our turn now.

BELLA

But...

EMILY

It's fine...ours is a superhero scene.

FINLEY

Ok... I guess we can keep going.

EMILY

It's called "Fungus man dumps Wonder Woman over text"

BELLA

THE EARTH DAY KIDS cheer as THE LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

AT RISE: *The next day: LENNON, EMILY and EMERSON arriving at school.*

Hey Em.

LENNON

Did you study for the Calculus test?

EMILY

I was up until almost midnight.

LENNON

I totally spaced on it until this morning.

EMILY

That's not good.

LENNON

I'm so glad I took that last semester.

EMERSON

BRETT and DEVIN walk up.

Devin! Did you study for Calculus?

EMILY

No. Is there a test today?

DEVIN

Yes!

EMILY

Wait... you're in my class?

DEVIN

I sit behind you!

EMILY

Oh yeah, that's right.

DEVIN

(To DEVIN)
You have a test today?

BRETT

Apparently so. That sucks.

DEVIN

They walk off. LENNON, EMERSON and EMILY stare at him.

I wouldn't plan on cheating off of his paper.

EMERSON

You'd be surprised. He gets better grades than I get.

EMILY

BRETT and DEVIN return.

I have a question.

DEVIN

About Calculus?

EMILY

Nah. About Drama Club. Are all of the meetings going to be that long?

DEVIN

Yeah. I mean did we have to let, like 20 groups all go and basically do the same skit over and over.

BRETT

Pretty much just variations on a theme really...

DEVIN

BRETT

Well, Darth Needious was kind of cool, but even so...I was late to work because of that.

EMILY

I'm sure the next meeting won't be that long.

BRETT

Right on.

DEVIN

See you in Calculus.

They exit as MRS. DAVIS walks up.

DAVIS

Have you seen James?

EMILY

James?

DAVIS

Yes. I'm looking for him.

LENNON

I haven't seen him in like...a week.

EMERSON

I think he's sick.

DAVIS

He's been marked present at school all this week.

LENNON

Oh... THAT James!

DAVIS

Yes. The James the three of you always seem to be with.

EMILY

I haven't seen him.

LENNON

At least not yet. Not today.

DAVIS

Have you read your emails from me this week?

EMERSON

You sent us an email?

DAVIS

The one about the Earth Day Club? *(They stare blankly)* I thought not. Well, there is an Earth Day Club meeting today, right after school. If James isn't there to lead it, we will have to elect a new president.

EMILY

Understood.

DAVIS

I'll see you all after school then?

EMERSON

Yes ma'am.

DAVIS

Good. *(Exits)*

EMERSON

This isn't good.

LENNON

What are we going to do?

EMILY is calling JAMES on her cell.

EMILY

James? We have a problem. The time line has been moved way up. *(Pause)* Can you meet me in the cafeteria?

SCENE CROSSFADES to the Earth Day Club meeting after school. All of the students are present as well as MRS. DAVIS. JAMES is up front leading.

JAMES

Well, I guess we can get started now. Welcome to the first meeting of this year's Earth Day Club. On the agenda, provided by Mrs. Davis we have...

As he is saying this, hands have gone into the air. LANEY, BELLA, TRISTAN, FINLEY and RIVER all have questions. JAMES sees this.

JAMES *(Cont'd)*

Apparently we have a few, totally not conspicuous at all, questions from our members.

LANEY

When is Earth Day this year?

BELLA

(Before JAMES can speak)

Are we going to participate in the club's festival this year?

TRISTAN

When are we planting trees?

JAMES goes to speak but is cut off.

FINLEY

Are we doing any fundraisers?

RIVER

Who started Earth Day and Why is it important?

There is silence. JAMES appears at a loss.

ERICA

Are you going to answer, James?

JAMES

Well, Laney, Earth Day is always on April 22nd, which gives us plenty of time. And, yes, we are going to participate in the Club's Festival. I've asked Devin and Brett to man our table during all three lunches.

BRETT

It's going to be awesome.

JAMES

As for planting trees; Emily, Lennon, Hayden and myself all attended the evergreen symposium this past weekend and got all kinds of great ideas for how to make our campus greener and Emerson spoke this morning to our school treasurer about setting up a Taco Night at Big Doug's to help pay for the seedlings we want to buy.

There is stunned silence from THE EARTH DAY KIDS.

JAMES

And River... I thought everyone knew that Senator Gaylord Nelson created earth day in 1970. I would list the myriad of reasons as to why Earth Day is important, but I think we could all do that. *(Looking quite smug)* Any more questions?

ERICA

Why are Brett and Devin manning the table at Club Fest? That's how we recruit new members!

JAMES

They volunteered.

DEVIN

Well, technically you asked us to... (*JAMES glares at him and he pauses before continuing*)
Volunteer? (*JAMES nods*) Yeah. We totally volunteered.

BRETT

And we're going to totally show everyone how awesome and serious we are about planting trees and doing crap like that.

FINLEY

But they're idiots! No offense.

BRETT

(*Flippantly*)
None taken.

DAVIS

Be nice, Finley.

FINLEY

They were chosen because if *they're* at the table no one will join!

BRETT

(*Now offended*)
Hey!

JOEY

Brett and Devin are two of the friendliest people we know. They'll be great recruiters.

DEVIN

Dang. Thanks Joe!

JOEY

And they're exactly what we want the face of the NEW Earth Day Club to be.

ERICA

But Mrs. Davis!

DAVIS

Joey does have a point, Erica.

ERICA

But they won't take it seriously!

DEVIN

We'll take it as seriously as we take everything else.

ERICA

That's exactly my point!

DEVIN

(To BRETT)

I think she just insulted me.

BRETT

(Not paying attention)

What?

DEVIN

I think I just got insulted.

BRETT

By who?

DEVIN

The yappy one over there.

BRETT

(Points)

That one?

DEVIN

Yeah.

BRETT

Don't sweat it. She's like that with everyone.

ERICA

I am not!

TRISTAN

So exactly when are we going to be planting trees?

JAMES

Well, the ELECTED officers talked about that and we decided to have a committee work on that. Hayden will be leading that committee.

HAYDEN

To answer your question, we are tentatively thinking about planting trees sometime in the spring.

FINLEY

Sometime in the spring?!

BELLA

That's months from now! We should be planting trees now!

HAYDEN

In the winter? Ludicrous.

BELLA

It's September!

JAMES

And after that is October, and then November!

JOEY

And December follows that and who is stupid enough to try to plant trees in December?

DEVIN

That's a good point.

LANEY

What? That didn't make any sense at all!

DEVIN

I think planting trees in the spring sounds solid.

LANEY

Why can't we do both?

DEVIN

(To JAMES)

That's a good point. Why can't we do both?

HAYDEN

Because of winter! Duh.

DEVIN

(To LANEY)

Because of winter! Duh.

BELLA

Who else is on the tree planting committee?

JAMES

What?

BELLA

You said there was a tree planting committee.

JAMES

Oh that.

HAYDEN

Devin and Brett are.

BELLA

(Deadpan)
Of course they are.

BRETT

We're committee members?

DEVIN

High Five!

JAMES

(Interjecting)
Is there anything else to discuss?

ERICA

There are a TON of things left to discuss.

DAVIS

Sounds like you have a firm plan for moving forward. When will the next meeting be?

JAMES

I will get back to you with that.

DAVIS

Sounds good.

ERICA

But he said that last time!

DAVIS

Erica. I have listened to your complaints but James seems to have done his homework here.

ERICA

But Mrs. Davis!

JAMES

If there's nothing left to discuss, we'll adjourn for now. Thank you all for coming.

The meeting dissolves and MRS. DAVIS leaves. SCENE CROSSFADES to THE DRAMA KIDS reveling in their victory. BRETT and DEVIN are present as well.

EMERSON

Did you see their faces?

LENNON

When you busted out the part about the Senator who created Earth Day, I almost choked.

JAMES

Thanks. I had to look that up before the meeting.

LENNON

Was his name really Gaylord?

JAMES

Yeah. Gaylord Nelson.

DEVIN

His parents must have been on drugs.

JAMES

No doubt.

HAYDEN

And you said we went to a Tree Symposium? What in the hell is a tree symposium?

JAMES

I don't know. But, I can't believe they didn't call me out on that! I made that up on the spot.

HAYDEN

I appreciate the appointment to head of the tree planting committee. I'll do my best to serve with dignity and honor.

BRETT

And thanks for including us too. Are we actually going to be planting trees?

JOEY

Not a chance.

DEVIN

Even better. Less to worry about that way.

EMILY

How long do you think this buys us?

JAMES

I don't know. I'm hoping we can drag this out at least through fall break.

LENNON

I can't see why that would be too hard now. Mrs. Davis totally has your back now.

EMILY

At least until you start ducking her again.

JOEY

I guess that will start again tomorrow, right?

That's the plan. JAMES

Erica's going to have a stroke. JOEY

Let her. Revenge is sweet, my friends. JAMES

SCENE CROSSFADES to THE EARTH DAY KIDS. Oddly enough, DEVIN and BRETT are also in that meeting.

So, we WILL be planting trees? DEVIN

Of course we will, this is the Earth Day Club! ERICA

I guess we'll have to talk about this in our committee. BRETT

Did you two know you were even on a tree planting committee? LANEY

No. But it was a nice surprise. DEVIN

This is so stupid! LANEY

You know they're going to put off having another meeting for as long as possible. TRISTAN

We can't let that happen. FINLEY

I can't believe Mrs. Davis fell for all of his crap. ERICA

He totally played us. RIVER

He even knew who Gaylord Nelson was. TRISTAN

His parents must have been on drugs. DEVIN

What? TRISTAN

To name him Gaylord. DEVIN

Ok... TRISTAN

So what are we going to do? BELLA

About the Earth Day Club? I don't think there is much we CAN do for the moment. ERICA

We're just going to admit that we're beat? BELLA

Of course not! ERICA

Then what's the plan? FINLEY

When's the next Drama Club Meeting? ERICA

Isn't there one on Monday? BELLA

(Getting out her phone)
That's what I have written down. LANEY

Excellent. We need to make sure everyone is there for that. I have a plan. ERICA

BLACKOUT.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

AT RISE: *A Drama Club meeting; all of the kids are there, as usual.*

I guess it's about time to get started. JAMES

JOEY

Everyone sit down so we can tell you what's on the agenda today.

They all settle down.

JAMES

Ok, Thanks for coming today, first on the agenda...

ERICA

Can we start by hearing from the tree planting committee?

JAMES

Nice Try, but wrong club.

LANEY

(Looking around) I thought this was the Earth Day Club. It is, isn't it?

FINLEY

Yeah. This is definitely the Earth Day Club.

BRETT

Wait, this is an Earth Day Club Meeting?

LANEY

Sure is.

BRETT

Oh. Ok. Guess that works.

DEVIN

Has the tree planting committee met yet? Did I miss it?

HAYDEN

This is the Drama Club.

DEVIN

And the tree planting committee....

HAYDEN

Is a part of the Earth Day Club.

DEVIN

And that's not this.

JAMES

We're in the theater!

BRETT

Good point. So, what are we doing today?

ERICA
We're talking about a greener earth.

JAMES
We're playing theater games.

RIVER
So, are any of you up for planting saplings next weekend?

*Several Earth Day Clubbers and BRETT
raise their hands.*

JAMES
What do you think you're doing?

ERICA
What do you mean?

JAMES
You're not funny.

ERICA
Maybe I'm "acting" funny. Like you're acting like you care about the Earth Day Club.

JAMES
(Mocking)
How dare you insinuate I don't care about Earth Day.

ERICA
We both know what this is really about.

JAMES
It's about protecting the Drama Club from the crap you pulled last year.

ERICA
I have no idea what you're talking about.

DEVIN
Does anyone know what either of them are talking about? *(Everyone indicates that they do)* Oh.
I guess it's just me then.

JAMES
Do you think you're going to just walk in here and act like you run things?

ERICA
If I did, and you called me out for it, it would make you a bit of a hypocrite, wouldn't it?

EMILY
We won our elections fair and square. No reason to get salty about it.

ERICA

Well, until you and your friends give our club back to us, we're never going to leave you alone.

JAMES

We don't scare easily.

ERICA

We'll see about that.

LANEY

So, who wants to talk about clean water?

JAMES

(Ignoring her)

I think we'll talk about theatre instead. So, Auditions for Crafting a Killer are next Tuesday. Mr. Egan will be casting the show, but I'll be running rehearsals as his assistant director.

ERICA

Wait... you're directing a show?

JAMES

Glad you're paying attention to the right topic.

ERICA

And when are auditions for this show?

JAMES

Wait... I see what you are trying to do.

ERICA

When are auditions?

JAMES

I'm not telling you.

BELLA

He said they are next Tuesday.

JAMES

We'll change the date.

ERICA

And he said Mr. Egan is casting it?

LANEY

He sure did.

ERICA

Well, I guess we have plans for next Tuesday, gang.

I have to work.

BRETT

Not you!

ERICA

So I don't have to come?

BRETT

No!

ERICA

I've always wanted to be an actor!

FINLEY

Me too!

LANEY

If you show up, I'll just make sure Mr. Egan doesn't cast you.

JAMES

(Closing in on him)
Good luck with that.

ERICA

It won't work. There will be dozens of people auditioning.

EMILY

Then I guess we'll have to bring our A game.

ERICA

BLACKOUT.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

AT RISE: *Back in the halls; a few days later.
JAMES, LENNON and HAYDEN are
talking.*

Someone keeps taking down our audition flyers. I put more up every day this week and they keep disappearing.

LENNON

If we can catch Erica doing it, we can do something about it.

JAMES

You think it's her?

HAYDEN

JAMES

It has to be.

LENNON

Why do you think she'd do that?

JAMES

Because she's evil.

HAYDEN

I guess you'd know better than anyone. You guys were together for months.

JAMES

Don't remind me.

BRETT enters and sees HAYDEN.

BRETT

There you are!

HAYDEN

What's up Brett?

BRETT

Mrs. Davis is looking for you.

HAYDEN

Me? Why?

BRETT

You're the head of the tree planting committee.

HAYDEN

So?

BRETT

She said that Laney and Finley came to her about planting trees this weekend and when she told them to go through you, they complained and anyway... Mrs. Davis gave me this to give to you. It's a hundred dollars. She said, go and buy trees and be here on Saturday to help.

HAYDEN looks at JAMES.

JAMES

Don't look at me.

HAYDEN

I have to work on Saturday morning.

BRETT

Dude. I can't go back and tell her that.

HAYDEN

But you're on the tree planting committee! Can you cover for me?

BRETT

What do you mean?

HAYDEN

Can you go buy some trees to plant and be here Saturday morning?

BRETT

I hate to bring this up now, what with being on the committee and everything... but I don't know much about trees. What kind do they want to plant? What do I buy?

JAMES

(An idea)

Ficus trees!

HAYDEN

What?

JAMES

They would want you to get Ficus Trees.

BRETT

Where do I buy Ficus Trees?

LENNON

I'm pretty sure they sell them at Wal-Mart?

BRETT

In the lawn and garden area?

JAMES

You would probably actually find those in the office area.

BRETT

That doesn't sound right. Are you sure?

JAMES

Yeah. Ficus trees are definitely in the office area.

HAYDEN

(Trying not to laugh)

So, go to Wal-Mart and buy as many Ficus trees as you can with that money.

BRETT

And then come to plant them on Saturday?

HAYDEN

Can you do that for me?

BRETT

Sure. I gotcha covered, bro.

HAYDEN

You're the best, Brett.

BRETT exits.

LENNON

What in the hell is a Ficus Tree?

JAMES

It's a fake tree. Plastic.

LENNON

You just sent Brett to Wal-Mart to buy fake trees?

JAMES

Yeah.

LENNON

For Laney and Finley to plant.

JAMES

Correct.

LENNON

That's going to be epic.

HAYDEN

Do you think he'll do it?

JAMES

It's Brett. Of course he'll do it.

BLACK OUT.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

AT RISE: *Auditions! ALL OF THE DRAMA AND EARTH DAY KIDS are present. We are in mid argument.*

JAMES

How many of our audition flyers did you destroy?

ERICA

(Fake)

I have no clue what you are talking about.

JAMES

(Looking around)

Then where is everybody?

FINLEY

What do you mean? There are plenty of people here!

JAMES

The only people here are my friends and the stupid Earth Day Club!

ERICA

(Mockingly)

But I thought you WERE the Earth Day Club, James.

EMILY

(Pulling him aside)

I see issues here...

JAMES

What now?

EMILY

There are nine people in *Crafting a Killer*.

JAMES

I know, Em.

EMILY

And even if we cast Devin and Brett AND make Joey play a part instead of stage managing, we still only have seven.

JAMES

I could offer to play the smallest role and still direct. Maybe Mr. Egan will go for that.

EMILY

That still means that one of the Earth Day Kids will be in the show.

JAMES

How in the hell could this have happened?

ERICA and LANEY join them.

ERICA

So how does this thing work? Where's the Drama teacher?

JAMES

He'll be here in a minute. Go away.

LANEY

Rude.

JAMES

You and your friends tore down all of my flyers and now I won't have enough people to do my show because no one knows auditions are today.

LANEY

Cry me a river.

JAMES

I've been working on making this show happen for months.

LANEY

Have you ever tried to plant a plastic tree, James?

JAMES

What?

LANEY

It's a lot of fun. I love waking up at the crack of dawn on a weekend, trying to do some actual good for the environment only to find out some jackass bought plastic trees!!

JAMES

That wasn't me. I didn't do that.

LANEY

You're the president of the Earth Day Club!

JAMES

But I'm not the head of the Tree Planting Committee!

LANEY

So, it's Hayden's fault that instead of pine saplings I had three full sized plastic office ornaments?!

HAYDEN

(From across the room)

I delegated that.

LANEY

Delegated?

HAYDEN

I sent that to the subcommittee.

LANEY

Brett is your subcommittee?

BRETT

(Incognito up to now)

I'm a subcommittee?

DEVIN

I thought you had to work today.

BRETT

I traded with Paco. I didn't want to miss both of my club meetings.

LANEY

So, what you're saying is that Brett is solely responsible for the trees he delivered to us on Saturday.

BRETT

How did the planting go?

LANEY

We didn't plant them! They're not real!

BRETT

I disagree.

LANEY

What?!

BRETT

I touched them, loaded them in my truck and handed them to you. They were definitely real.

LANEY

But you can't plant plastic trees!

BRETT

I believe you.

There is a pause.

ERICA

And now we're here to act. Who's ready to be dramatic?

THE EARTH DAY KIDS cheer.

JAMES

You're trying to ruin my show!

ERICA

No we aren't!

JOEY

Egan just texted; he's stuck in traffic. He said to get everyone warmed up.

TRISTAN

What do we do to warm up?

RIVER

Do we do laps around the theater?

DEVIN

No one told me we were going to have to run. I quit.

JAMES

We don't run, that's not what warming up means.

DEVIN

Ok. Nevermind. I un-quit.

JAMES

There's no point in warming up. We're putting off auditions until next week.

EMERSON

I got off work today for this?

ERICA

We'll just come back again next week. It will give us more time to hone up our acting skills.

JOEY

Egan isn't going to go for putting off auditions.

JAMES

I'll explain it to him.

JOEY

Your funeral.

ERICA

You can't win, James. You're going to be stuck with us.

JAMES

This isn't funny, Erica.

ERICA

Neither is taking over our club, James.

JAMES

After you hamstringed us all last year? You deserve every bit of this!

ERICA

You broke up with me by text!

JAMES

And you totally freaked out at me! It justified my decision!

ERICA

Does anyone here think it's cool to dump someone over text?

Silence.

JAMES

Does anyone here think it's okay to start screaming about it in the cafeteria?

This is awkward.

ERICA

You waited until 2 AM to send that text!

JAMES

You dumped an entire bag of fertilizer in my back seat!

ERICA

Well, I guess you should have locked your doors!

JAMES

I didn't know my psycho ex-girlfriend was out for revenge!

ERICA

You've told every guy I've liked since then to run in the other direction.

JAMES

And you texted every one of my friends telling them I gave you Gonorrhea!

JOEY

Wait... that wasn't true?

JAMES

No!!

JOEY

Wow. Live and learn.

ERICA

I was all for being civil, but this year you've crossed the line. The Earth Day Club is the ONE thing I love about this school and you took that from me. (*Getting emotional, not in a comical way*) I'm sorry for what I did on the club's council last year. If I had it to do over again, I would. But it's over and now...

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