

Insult to Injury

by

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**INSULT TO INJURY: A PLAY WITH MUSIC**

...a colorful collection of Christmas, crutches and casts  
Insult to Injury is a 4 Actor Play following the journey of  
Maura, from age 5 to present day, told through her eyes with  
the help of her family, doctors, paramedics, a judge and a  
cast collection.

**Cast Breakdown:**

Maura

Woman 1: Mom, Aunt Gertie, Mrs. Cook, Prudence, Mrs. Pelz,  
Professor Hall

Woman 2: Seana, Flight Attendant, Little Girl, Christiane,  
Nelva, Nurse, Doctor 1, Good Doctor 5

Man: Dad, Doctor 2, 3, 4, 6, Judge, Captain, Priest, Brad,  
Jim, Paramedic, Doug, Police Officer

Simple Costumes & Props will help differentiate each  
character, i.e., Hats, jackets, stethoscope, glasses  
Set consists mainly of a bench to be used as a car, bed,  
chair, stretcher, witness stand...

Lights and SFX will create most of the set. Specific -red  
lighting will reflect the hospital scenes when Maura is age  
23. Pinspot/special stays on the offstage "omnipresent"  
judge, maybe upstage center.

MALE V.O. JUDGE

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing  
but the truth with an exception here and there for theatrical  
license?

Pin spot on Maura

MAURA

I do, so help me, God!

Sound of gavel hitting the judge's desk

MALE V.O. JUDGE

You may proceed.

**RANDOM AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

A LAURA INGALLS WILDER PIONEER, WAS I.  
GREEN AS THE IRISH SOD, THIS LASS, TIS' I.  
FROGGY. NERDIE. LAUGHTER. FAITH.

I BELIEVE IN GOD, MY FAMILY'S LOVE, AND MIRACLES.  
 FRO YO AND ANGELS, MY TRUE BLISS.  
 BULLIES AND COWARDS, ONE BIG MISS.  
 SING FROM MY HEART, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.

ALL

ACT FROM MY SOUL, TO FEED MY PLAY.  
 IRISH RAIL, FAIR RED HAIR  
 BLUE GREEN EYES  
 FAIR AND DIRECT, IS MY (HER) MIDDLE NAME.

JUDGE V.O.

Maura Megan, tell us exactly why you've gathered us here to  
 this court room.

MAURA

You know my name, not my story. You've heard what I've done,  
 not what I've been through. Survived. I'm NOT making ANY of  
 this up and I want to keep my guardian angel, broken wing and  
 all!

Laughter off stage

JUDGE V.O.

ORDER!

Bangs gavel

MAURA

SKIPPED STONES ON RIVER BEDS  
 MADE MY OWN MUD PIE  
 WHEN DID MY LADY BUGS LEARN HOW TO FLY?  
 BARBIES. CHOCOLATE. FRIENDS AND SHOWS.  
 I BELIEVE IN GOD, MY FAMILY'S LOVE AND MIRACLES.  
 GARDENS AND PUGS, MY TRUE BLISS  
 LAZIES AND LIARS, GIANT MISS  
 PORING THROUGH BOOKS, EXPLORING SIGHTS,

ALL

FEEL WITH MY HEART, FIGHT MY OWN FIGHTS  
 IRISH RAIL, FAIR RED HAIR, BLUE GREEN EYES.  
 FAIR AND DIRECT IS MY MIDDLE NAME

JUDGE V.O.

Get to the point, Ms. Maura. You're not my only case.

MAURA

It is my *legally lay* opinion and belief beyond a *shadow of a*  
*doubt* that once you've witnessed the crazy ass things I've  
 survived, you'll agree.

Murmurs and outbursts crescendo

JUDGE V.O.

I said ORDER and, Ms. Maura, please watch your language.

Maura nods her head in apology. Judge bangs gavel

DAD

FOUND WAYS TO SOUND HER VOICE  
SHE ALWAYS DOVE RIGHT IN  
DONT KNOW QUITE HOW SHE DOES IT, BUT SHE SURE CAN WIN  
MORSELS. TRAVEL. MAC-n-MO'S.

ALL

WE BELIEVE IN GOD. OUR FAMILIES LOVE AND MIRACLES.

MAURA

FOODIES AND HEALTH NUTS, CHOCOLATE BLISS.  
DUMMIES AND DOORKNOBS BIG FAT MISS.

DAD

FOODIES AND HEALTH NUTS, CHOCOLATE BLISS

DAD, MOM

DUMMIES AND DOORKNOBS, BIG FAT MISS

DAD, MOM, SEANA

LIVING HER LIFE, DESPITE THE STRIFE

DAD, MOM, SEANA, MAURA

FACING MY (her) FEARS, LAUGH THROUGH TEARS  
I AM STRONGER THAN YOU THINK, IT'S NOT A GAME

ALL

IRISH RAIL, FAIR RED HAIR, BLUE GREEN EYES.  
FAIR AND DIRECT IS MY (HER) MIDDLE NAME  
MY MIDDLE NAME

Lights shift

Black out (for at least 15 seconds)

MAURA

Oh, come on! What's with the black out? I don't need MORE  
drama. Can I please have some light?

AUNT GERTIE VOICE OVER

SOMETHING GOOD IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU

Lights up.

MAURA

Thank you, Aunt Gertie. She has sung that to me ever since I was little. Well, she doesn't really sing it anymore. (Maura points to a pin on her shoulder) She gave me this Guardian Angel Pin to watch over me.

JUDGE V.O.

bangs gavel

Where are you going with this, Ms. Knowles?

MAURA

If you haven't guessed, from my name and my coloring, I'm of the Irish descent and grew up on the American River in Sacramento, California, with my younger sister, Seana,

SEANA

Hey! (*over it-doesn't really want to be here*)

MAURA

in a very Irish Catholic Family. My Dad had studied to be a priest, but decided he wanted a family and used to tease me.

DAD

Oh, Sister Maura Megan, such a lovely name for a nun.

MAURA

The only nun I ever wanted to be like was Maria in The Sound of Music. I mean, she got to sing and dance through the Alps, while putting on fancy puppet shows, got into so much trouble and my God, she got to marry Christopher Plummer. And that glorious wedding. In fact, every year around Easter, my family would gather round the TV and watch it. Just before Maria & Captain Von Trapp's wedding, I would put on Mom's

MOM waves

MAURA

...wedding dress and Seana, Mom and Dad would sing,  
VOICES

HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE OUR MAURA? (to the tune of How do you solve a problem like Maria from THE SOUND OF MUSIC)

MAURA

Good times! A few years ago, I actually got to perform in the actual wedding gown Julie Andrews wore in the movie.

So cool! And after college, my friend, Andrea, and I took the Sound of Music Tour in Salzburg... Geeks, I know. And, my first voice teacher when I was 16 going on 17, was Dan Truhitte, the actor who played Rolph. So I do have a few connections to Maria. By the way, neither one of us became nuns. Anyway. Irish Catholics are Superstitious. Guilt-ridden. Passionate. Natural born story tellers. Extremely driven by our emotions. Not exactly what you'd call rational. A contradiction at times, but no one can ever deny our drive and strength to fight. And let's not forget Murphy's Law: "Anything that can go wrong, will." I have NO doubt I should have been a Murphy.

DAD

You weren't named Maura Megan for nothing.

MAURA

That's Dad's "go to" response anytime I find myself in an awkward situation. And when I say awkward, I mean, injury or accident. I'm what they call, an accident waiting to happen.

DAD

Jesus, Joseph and Mary, you're like a cat with 9 lives and you've already used up 4 of them.

MOM

..so for God's sake, SLOW DOWN!

MAURA

Apparently the saying, "luck o' the Irish," doesn't really apply to me. A friend of mine, actually my 1st lawyer said,

SEANA

I swear if you didn't have bad luck, you'd have no luck at all.

JUDGE V.O.

Your *FIRST* lawyer?

MAURA

Oh, and my sister, Seana constantly reminds me...

SEANA

It's because of your life that I'm an emotional wreck.

MAURA

By the time I turned 30, I had my last rites given to me twice, was run down by a car and practically broke every bone in my body. The phrase most commonly used by doctors when treating me is,

DOCTOR-MALE ACTOR

Now, I've read about this happening, but have never actually seen it first hand.

DAD

Maura Megan, when God made you, he broke the mold

MOM

..because he couldn't handle another one like you.

JUDGE V.O.

Proceed.

SFK gavel

Lights shift, bench rolls in.

MAURA

O.Kayyyy! I'm still waiting for "something good to happen." Does that sound bitter? It's just that, I don't know, everything has just been so friggin' hard lately. I mean, if you can call the past 25 years- lately.

Reddish Light Cue

SFX GAVEL

Maura, age 23, lays on the bench, which is now a hospital bed. We hear hospital monitoring equipment beeping.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Oh, dear God. Just a little while ago, I was arguing with my **college** professor about the pros & cons of recycling and now my blood is being recycled. Definitely a pro. God, look at them. Those green scrubs covered in blood. It looks like Christmas threw up.

JUDGE V.O.

Is this going to take very long?

Mom sits at Maura's bedside. Priest stands on other side, softly praying, makes a sign of the cross and anoints Maura with holy oil.

PRIEST

In the name of the father and of the son and of the holy spirit.

MOM

Maura, can you hear me?

Maura makes a sign of the cross

MAURA

Something went wrong, Mom.

Tell them something went wrong.

Lord have mercy. (makes another sign of the cross)

Maura dozes off, lights shift. Maura gets up from bed/bench

SFX GAVEL

MAURA (CONT'D)

The first time I was put in a cast was in the **7th grade.**

Lights shift, P.E. Gym Glass

MRS. COOK

O.K, class, I'll be back in exactly 2 minutes. No goofing around, you hear me? Maura? (A beat) So just do your warm ups and stay on the mat. MAURA!

MAURA

Ye---esss!! Gu-uy!

As soon as Mrs. Cook exits, Maura leaps to her feet commanding attention.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Hey, did anyone see The Dancing Man on the tv show, *Fridays* on Saturday Night?

BRAD

The who?



MAURA

The dancing man...Oh my God, he's hysterical!(Maura jumps and flails all over the mat) He's the dancing man!

As she takes one more leap, she trips and lands smack on her left ankle. We hear a loud snap and her face tweaks with pain. The students are stunned and not sure what just happened. Some muffle their uncontrollable laughter.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I'm ok. I'm ok. (she tries to stand up, but can't-she wails in pain, but keeps trying to stand)

Mrs. Cook enters and sees everyone huddled around Maura, still writhing in pain, on the floor.

MRS. COOK

Maura, is everything ok?

MAURA

I didn't do anything! I'm fine. I'm fine. I'm OK. (sobbing uncontrollably)...I'm OK.

MRS. COOK

Maura, what am I going to do with you?

MAURA

But, I stayed on the mat!!

As Maura is carried out on a stretcher, we hear hospital Beeps. Lights shift, Pin Spot on Seana

SEANA

May those who love us, love us.  
And for those who don't love us,  
May God turn their hearts.  
And if He cannot turn their hearts,  
May he turn their ankles,  
So we may know them by their limping.

Lights shift. SFX GAVEL! We hear the roaring engines of jet planes, hospital beeps morph into airplane-safety belt dings. Maura, **age 19**, sits on a plane in a navy blue and white sailor dress with hair in a big bow and even bigger glasses. She is mixing fruit into her yogurt cup. She is surprisingly calm.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Would you like breakfast?

MAURA

I actually brought my own.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

So, you're answer is no?

MAURA

Well, diabetes & heart disease runs in my family and I happen to have nut allergies. I get blood blisters on my tongue when I eat too many nuts. And I've recently developed a wheat intolerance. Don't ask. Therefore, I require wheat free, gluten free, sugar free, soy free (way too bloating), dairy free with the exception of yogurt, which I found in the terminal, thankfully, processed free, organic, local, and sustainable free lifestyle food in my diet. Oh, and I don't eat meat.

Well, I do eat salmon, wild, not farm raised. But, I would like my cocktail of choice: Sodium Free Seltzer with a twist of lime, please.

Flight Attendant, exasperated and ready to pull the Emergency Exit.

CAPTAIN VOICE OVER

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, and welcome to Flight 595 on our way to Sunny Los Angeles, CA

MAURA

Did he just say Los Angeles?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Uh, yeah!

Maura leaps from her seat, running towards the cockpit

MAURA  
STOP THE PLANE!! STOP THE PLANE!!

Flight Attendant leaps from her jump  
seat

FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
Miss, please calm down and take your seat.

MAURA  
No, you don't understand. I'm on the wrong plane. I'm  
supposed to be in Sacramento for work! It's extremely  
important! The Winter Coat Sale starts today!

FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
I'm sorry, miss, but once the plane has left the terminal, we  
cannot turn it around.

MAURA  
But the sale starts today!

FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
How old are you?

MAURA  
I'm a sophomore in college.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
Hmm.

MAURA  
Can't you, please, just open the doors and I'll slide down?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (ANNOYED)  
No. (before Maura can come up with something else) Nor can we  
open the doors again until we land.

MAURA  
You don't understand. You've got to turn the plane around.  
I mean, this is kind of your fault. You're the one who  
checked my ticket and led me to my seat.

## FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Listen, Missy, your little mishap is not MY FAULT!

MAURA

*To audience:*

You're probably wondering why I haven't been handcuffed, but this was PRE 9-11

JUDGE V.O.

I'm listening

The cockpit door flings open, Captain Enters

CAPTAIN

What the hell is going on out here?

MAURA

Hello sir. I mean, Captain... I'm on the wrong plane, you see, and I was actually here super early to make sure I wouldn't miss my flight and the flight attendant led me to my seat and well, I even had enough time to pick up a healthy breakfast, which quite frankly, isn't easy at an airport and now I'm going to get fired! You've got to help me! I have to get to Sacramento. It's Christmas, for God's sake!

CAPTAIN

Can't you just wait til we land in LA and then pick up a flight to Sac?

MAURA

No, I'll miss work and then get fired and I promised my boss I would take charge. I promised my Dad I wouldn't screw this up. I'm on a payment plan for my car. You see, my parents loaned me a car to have in San Francisco during the school year but the first night I had the car ...

CAPTAIN

Ok, Ok. Please, enough with the stories. Just calm down.  
*To the flight attendant*

This girl is obviously mentally distressed, so let's just turn the damned plane around and escort her off!

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

You've got to be kidding? (*under her breath*)..mentally distressed...

CAPTAIN

Work with me!

MAURA

Oh, thank you, Sir. Thank you so much, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Don't mention it.

MAURA

My boss thanks you. My parents thank you. I thank you. Oh, and for the record, I am NOT mentally deranged.

CAPTAIN

I didn't say mentally deranged. I said mentally distressed.

MAURA

Yes, but you meant deranged.

CAPTAIN

Please! Before I change my mind. Now, Go take your seat and promise me you'll double check your ticket from now on.

MAURA

Yes, Yes.. OK. OK.

CAPTAIN

Go. (Maura not moving) Now. (Maura still not moving) Sit!  
Maura turns about face and quickly takes her seat as the plane turns around. As soon as the fasten seat belt sign dings, Maura jumps up, gathers her many bags and exits the plane.  
**Applause** fills the plane as Maura exits and Maura smiles and waves, oblivious.

*TO AUDIENCE:*

What's with all these people asking my age?

I've traveled three quarters around the world and backpacked by MYSELF through Japan! Poor Kenji! For my 30th birthday, I treated myself to a scuba diving lesson in the Seychelles. I did not realize the entire lesson would be in French and NO, I don't speak French, though I had to LEARN un petit parlez vous Francais years later in Tahiti, but, that's ANOTHER play: TROUBLE IN TAHITI. And, I dove with sharks AND sting rays. That's right! And survived without a scratch!

The rest of the cast/chorus begins a choreographed montage performing these outlandish comedic adventures behind Maura.

#### MAURA

I've ridden donkeys, burros, galloped on horses, camels, elephants, motor-cycles and zip-lined through canopy rain forests and jungles WITH the noro-virus, rappelled over a 160 foot waterfall and never thought to question WHY I was the ONLY person on the tour until the force of the waterfall unleashed my shoe laces while spinning my entire body 180 degrees. It was EXHILERATING! I've para-sailed over the deep blue Pacific, wind-surfed, canoed, kayaked, rock climbed (is that even a word?) And Seana and I were the guests of honor at a Balinese Cremation Ceremony. I don't recommend it. We were also led on a private tour of a Masai Village courtesy of their Tribal Leader. And, while I'd like you to think I'm just that special, it was a consolation prize since I had passed out the day before on a group tour because the combination of the equatorial heat mixed with their diet of calf's blood and milk was just more than I could take. Aaackk..But to quote Miss Gooch in Auntie Mame, "I've lived!"

The Captain & Flight Attendant become the chorus

#### **GODDESS OF TRAVEL**

Bum buh buh dum  
 Bum buh dum dum  
 THE GODDESS OF TRAVEL  
 WILL HELP YOU UNRAVEL  
 YOUR WORRIES AND CARES  
 AS YOU TRUDGE THROUGH THE GRAVEL  
 ATTEMPTING NEW DARES  
 A TREK THROUGH THAI JUNGLES  
 AND SWIMMING WITH SHARKS  
 DON'T MENTION THE BUNGLES  
 AT TIMES, OFF THE MARKS  
**FROM LA TO NEW YORK**  
**AND NEW YORK TO LA**

A SHERPA, A TREKKER  
 A PROUD BREAST STROKER  
 A SMILE ON HER FACE  
 EXPLORING A NEW PLACE  
 EXCURSION ALUM  
 SHE NEVER LOOKS GLUM  
 HER HUMOR'S INTACT  
 COLLECTING EACH FACT  
 SOME CALL HER QUIRKY  
 EAGER AND TRUE  
 AND SHE'S SO PERKY  
 SAILED OCEANS BLUE  
 SHE GIVES IT HER ALL  
 TRAVELS BY MOONLIGHT  
 STUMBLES THEN FALL  
 WANDERLUST DELIGHT  
 SCUBA IN FRENCH  
 WHAT AN OOOH LALA STENCH  
 CONNECTING EACH FLIGHT  
 IN THE DEADEST OF NIGHT  
 NOEL COWARD ONCE ASKED, "WHY THE WRONG  
 PEOPLE TRAVEL, WHEN THE RIGHT PEOPLE  
 STAY AT HOME?" THIS GODDESS HAS BASKED  
 IN THAT SONG'S COCK AND BULL,  
 "ANYTHING'S DO-ABLE WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO  
 ROAM."  
 KISSIN' THE BLARNEY,  
 EARNED GIFT O'GAB  
 FED MONKEY'S IN BALI  
 EVER SO FAB  
 SAFARIED IN AFRICA, MET THE MASAI  
 SPELUNKED IN A BAT CAVE, ATE THE ACAI  
 LAUGHTER AND TREATS, RICHLY ABOUND  
 STORIES EXUDE WHEN SHE'S AROUND  
 A TOAST TO OUR GAL, WHO'S MADE TRIPS,  
 DIVES AND FLIGHTS, MOUNTAINS AND TRAINS  
 A GREAT TRAVEL PAL  
 LET'S RAISE UP OUR GLASS  
 OF SELTZER WITH LIME  
 IT'S CELEBRATE TIME  
 THE GODDESS OF TRAVEL  
 THE GODDESS OF TRAVEL  
 THE GODDESS OF TRAVEL  
 KICKING SOME ASS

**Applause sfx**, Suspended from airplane scene.

Lights Shift, Sfx Applause and GAVEL

JUDGE V.O.

Language, Ms. Maura

Sorry!

MAURA

Maura, **age 22**, is onstage during the curtain call for BEDROOM FARCE. As she bows, she passes out.

VOICES

Oh my God, Maura! / Maura, are you ok? / Maura!

Maura with hands and feet mangled in a flexed position, opens her eyes and begins to hyperventilate.

Sirens, lights flashing as she is rushed to Santa Rosa E.R.

PARAMEDIC

Ma'am, can you hear me?  
How old are you?

MAURA

I'm 22. Geeze.

PARAMEDIC

How much have you had to drink tonight?

MAURA

What? I don't drink! I'm a professional. I had a performance tonight.

PARAMEDIC

I'm sorry. I mean water, Soda Pop, coffee?  
I didn't mean to imply...

MAURA

That's ok. I had 6 diet cokes.

PARAMEDIC

OK..Maura, you're extremely dehydrated and we need to put you on an I.V. drip to get your fluids back. OK?

MAURA

Oh, God. Please, no. I hate needles.



## PARAMEDIC

We need you to work with us. As soon as we get your fluids back in, we can let you go home, but you have to make sure you drink plenty of water. Summers in Santa Rosa can be brutal. Can you do that for me?

## MAURA

OK. OK! Geeze, Louise!

## MAURA

I often get the feeling I'm constantly being tried. Or punished. It scares me sometimes, but I keep trudging through.

Maura - exasperated. Judge's pinspot flickers and lights shift: Maura sits next to Mom, in car

## MOM

Oh, Moo...you weren't EVEN scheduled to work the Winter Coat Sale today and YOU made the plane turn around? What are we going to do with you?

## MAURA

Gu-uy, Mom. It wasn't my fault. Dad got me so worked up about being responsible and everything and, speaking of Dad, where is he?

## MOM

Don't ask!

## MAURA

Now what?

*TO AUDIENCE*

???In her oh so familiar "-wait 'til you hear this" tone,

Lights shift

Mom & Maura stand staring at garage door-Knowles home

## MOM

Well...as I was pulling the car out of the garage, I heard this banging crumpling noise and the garage door just rolled right off the hinges and fell into this metal meshy mess.

MAURA & DAD VOICE OVER

What the hell?

MOM

Your Father's exact words!

MAURA

Well, that's just grand!

MOM

I know. I know. He is steaming mad!

MAURA

Ho Ho F'...en Ho!

MOM

Maura, it's Christmas!

MAURA

Duh, that's why I said Ho Ho..

MOM

Maura!

MAURA

OK!

MOM

Have you ever seen your father prune roses?

MAURA

Huh?

MOM

About 10 years ago, he came home from work, steaming mad at Cheryl, his boss and immediately headed for the tool shed and retrieved the chain saw.

FLASHBACK: Lights shift, Dad enters, with Chain Saw

DAD

Mare, do you still need the roses pruned?

MOM

Oh, Mac, I don't think that's really necessary.

Dad revs up the chain saw

DAD

I'll show her who's boss, Ms. Almighty know-it-all.

MOM

Within seconds, your father completely butchered my roses. And, this morning, after he saw the garage door, he asked where I hid the chain saw.

MAURA

Oh God!

MOM

For the record, my roses never grew back.

Lights shift. Reddish Light SFX GAVEL

Maura, **age 23**, in hospital bed, machines beeping. Jim stands next to her bed, looking queasy.

JIM

What the hell did they do to you? You don't look like a 23 year old ..you're so yellow.

MAURA

You don't look so great yourself. Do you want to sit?

JIM

That's ok.

MAURA

You know what I want more than anything?

JIM

What?

MAURA

Ice water.

JIM

Let me get you some.

MAURA

You can't. I'm not allowed anything by mouth. No ice, no ice chips, no food, no water. Nothing.

JIM

Nothing?

MAURA

Well, I can have a glycerin swab. It's not ice water, but helps with the dryness. God, I'm thirsty.

Maura points to the glycerin swabs on her table. Jim unwraps one and puts in her mouth.

JIM

God, Maura. I'm so sorry.

MAURA

It's been over 2 weeks since I've eaten—that's why they started feeding me through the tube in my neck. Because I've lost too much weight.

JIM

I see that.

MAURA

I can't stop thinking about what Mom and Dad would say whenever I would complain or beg for some silly thing I wanted.

MOM VOICE OVER

Well, Maura, People in hell want ice water.

MAURA

I'm living in hell now.

DAD VOICE OVER

Offer it up for the poor souls.

MAURA

Then I think of Lent and Jesus wandering through the desert for 40 days and 40 nights with no food or water. I'm only on day 17.

JIM

Yea, but you're hardly Jesus.

MAURA

Duh! I'm just saying, ...this sucks.

JIM

I wish there was something I could do.

MAURA

Every pore in my body hurts. I've never been so afraid of my own body. Nothing feels normal. Oh, I would die for some ice.

JIM

Don't say that. Careful what you wish for.

MAURA

God give me strength.

JIM

He already has.

Female Nurse enters with a needle.

Maura dozes off, Jim passes out.

Lights shift

FEMALE VOICE OVER

Code Blue, 5th Floor, West Wing, Code Blue.

Audible screams are heard off stage.

MAURA

Wakes up.

Where did Jim go?

MOM

Jim's spending the night. They had to put 15 staples in his head. The jackass couldn't handle seeing you in so much pain. I've had enough of this place!

MAURA

Is it sick that I think it's kinda funny and a little comforting that somebody else is spending the night in the hospital?

MOM

Maura, everything is sick right now. You're sick. Everyone in the hospital is sick. The hospital is sick and I'm sick of all the sickness, so I'm the WRONG person to ask if your sense of humor is sick.

MAURA

Oh, Mom, you're the best. I just love that I won't be alone tonight. I don't know what I'd do without you here, I'm so scared. I'm lonely and it's just... *(too upset to go further)*

MOM

I know, Maura. I know. Well, I really don't know. You are the only one who can fight this. But, I'm not leaving you. Let them try to stop me. Dad, Seana and I need you. Just keep fighting. I promise when you get out of here, I'll let you cry for the rest of your life, just save your strength and we'll do whatever we can to help you get through this. So help me God, I don't know where you came from, but you are a winner! Remember what Aunt Gertie said, "you'll never get over this, but you will get *through* it. God willing. We must know the difference. OK?

MAURA

OK. Thanks, Mom.

Maura dozes off, Mom exits.  
Lights Shift

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

The staples left a giant scar on Jim's head and his hair never grew back in that area.

JUDGE V.O.

Has anyone suggested creating a neon colored warning label for you?

MAURA

In a very macabre way, I always felt connected by our scars. Through the years, I have collected a few of my own scars. I have also collected various casts. When my current boyfriend, Doug, moved in with me this year.

Lights shift SFX GAVEL

Present Day- Maura's L.A. Condo

DOUG

*peering into a closet door*

Uh, Maura, what's this?

MAURA

What?

DOUG

These contraptions?

MAURA

No!! Don't touch those.

### **SKELETON IN CLOSET**

MAURA

MY SKELETON IN CLOSET  
TO MATCH EACH BROKEN BONE  
A COLORFUL COMPOSITE  
TELL E.T. TO PHONE HOME

COLLECTION OF SCARS: ACCUMULATE  
SELECTION OF CASTS: ACCENTUATE  
APPENDIX IN JARS: ACTIVATE  
ALL PART OF MY PAST: RUMINATE

**DAD**

EACH INSULT  
IT WRECKED HAVOC

MOM  
 THE RESULT  
 WAS PURE PANIC

MAURA  
 LINGERING PAIN  
 GOING INSANE

SEANA  
 LIGAMENTS TORN  
 ANKLES SPRAINED

MAURA  
 WATER ON KNEE  
 THAT DAMN SKI

SEANA  
 BRUISES WERE BONED

MAURA  
 YOU MEAN, BONES WERE BRUISED

ALL  
 A SPLISH THEN A SPLASH  
 LED TO MAJOR WHIPLASH

BROKEN TOES  
 BROKEN FINGERS  
 ALL MY WOES  
 EACH ONE LINGERS  
 ONE CONCUSSION  
 TOO MUCH FUSSIN'

MAURA  
 PANCREATITIS  
 SINUSITIS  
 POPPED OUT RIBS  
 TENDONITIS

ALL  
 WHACKED ELBOW  
 HERE WE GO  
 TO AND FRO  
 BRUISES GROW  
 YO YO YO



MAURA

THEY SLICED MY PELVIC  
HIP TO HIP  
PIERCED MY CLAVI-CAL  
CUT MY LIP

RUSTY FENCE THAT SLIT MY LEG  
I DAMN SURE COULD USE A KEG

FOR ONE WHO'S NOT SUPPOSED TO DRINK,  
I'VE BEEN ON THE BRINK,  
HIGHER THAN MOST DRUGGIES DARE  
DON'T PUT ME IN THOSE HUGGIES WEAR

DAD

PAIN KILLERS, DEVIL MAY CARE

MOM

VEIN DRILLERS, SIDE EFFECTS, RARE

MAURA

VICODIN, SEE ME GRIN

SEANA

DEMEROL, WATCH HER FALL

MAURA

CORTISONE MAKES ME GROAN

SEANA, MOM

PENICILLIN, NO TEETH FILLIN'  
MORPHINE, CODEINE  
ALBUTEROL

ALL

TYLENOL, CARNIVAL,  
DEMEROL, WATCH ME FALL  
CORTISONE MAKES ME GROAN

BURNED MY SKIN  
THAT DAMNED NAIR  
FRIED MY HAIR  
BREATHE ADVAIR  
HASSLE RASTLE  
VINDICATE FULMINATE  
EXCESS, SUCCESS

YO, YO, YO, YO

PANCREATITIS, DAD

SINUSITIS MOM

TENDONITIS, SEANA

BROKEN FINGERS MAURA

BROKEN TOES AND SEANA

ONE CONCUSSION, MAURA

MAJOR WHIPLASH, DAD

POPPED OUT RIBS, MAURA

RUSTY FENCE SEANA

THAT SLIT MY LEG MAURA

AND EACH ONE LINGERS ALL

NO MATTER WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY  
WE'VE LEARNED TO HOLD MY OWN

MAURA  
What? You've never seen a Cast Closet before?

Doug shakes his head in disbelief

DOUG

Unbelievable.

MAURA

Look, you're the only boyfriend I've ever lived with  
So we're going to have to make room for each other and that  
includes my casts.

DOUG

I've never met anyone like...my tough Irish Rail!

They kiss. Lights Shift SFX GAVEL

JUDGE

Poor guy.

MAURA

Speaking of beau's, I met my first boyfriend in high school.  
Valentine's Day, **Senior Year**, after a great swimming work  
out, I cooled down in the Jacuzzi and it was already dark so  
I looked up at the  
Sky and wished upon a star.  
"Dear God, please let me meet someone special tonight  
At the Valentine's Dance. I'm a Senior, for God's sake.  
I'd like to finally meet someone who gets me.  
Not the Jesuit Preppy guys...someone creative and funny.  
Time to find a beau for Mo. After showering and getting  
dressed for the dance: red heart boxer shorts, red  
sweatshirt, red tights and white keds, I was  
Ready to dance! Get it RED? Ready? I was on student council  
and we hired a live band for this dance,  
The Sunday Dancer's Club and they were a HIT!  
They played "I'll STOP THE WORLD AND MELT WITH YOU."  
JESSE'S GIRL, THE MARY TYLER MOORE THEME SONG

JIM

WHO CAN TURN THE WORLD ON WITH HER SMILE

MAURA

There he was, the bass player. A tall, lanky, goofy guy. Jim.  
Cool and comfortable in his skin and so fun. A kindred  
spirit. He smiled..., that was it. We "got" each other.  
We chatted a little, both of us were pretty shy. A week  
later, we met again at a party and his best friend, Brad,  
literally threw me over his shoulder and plopped me down,  
right next to Jim, who was noodling at the piano and closed  
the door and said, "God, you two, will you just break the ice-  
everybody knows you two like each other, so here's \$10 to the  
first one who makes the first kiss."

JIM

That was awkward.

MAURA

Yup. sooo, you play piano, too?

JIM

A bit. I love music. Music geek.

MAURA

Me, too. Musical Theatre Geek.

JIM

Oh no. That's the one type of music I don't like.

MAURA

What? How can you not love "THE SUN'LL COME OUT TOMORROW"

JIM

STOP! The one show I'd like to see is DREAM GIRLS

MAURA

Well, maybe we'll go sometime.

JIM

Yeah. Maybe.

MAURA

Maybe far away or maybe real near by..

JIM

Slow down, Maura!

MAURA

I just played Lily St. Regis in ANNIE.

JIM

Let's get one thing straight, NO show tunes!

MAURA

Well...if you and I are going to be friends, that could be quite a debate.

JIM

PEACHES AND CREAM

MAURA

SUNDAY DANCER'S

MAURA & JIM

IS THIS A DREAM?  
NEW ROMANCER'S

JIM

I was hoping we might be more than just friends. You're different from most girls.

MAURA

That's an interesting choice of words.

JIM

I mean it in a good way. Do you want to go to dinner with me sometime?

MAURA

What? Like a date? Oh, wow! I have to ask my parents. I've never really been on a date before and they're pretty strict, especially dad. He wanted me to be a nun.

JIM

Oh, God. What does your Dad do?

MAURA

He studied to be a priest, but now he works at Macy's.

JIM

Get out! I work at Macy's.

MAURA

No way!

MAURA

FIRST LOVE  
HIS SMILE-MY HEART WOULD FIX  
ONE KISS ALL WHILE-SPRING OF 86  
OUR SOULS BEGAN TO INTERTWINE  
WE LEARNED TO WALK ONE FINE LINE

JIM

HEARTS CONNECT, TOOK SOME TIME  
FAST FRIENDS, ALMOST PERFECT

MAURA

What do you do at Macy's?

JIM

I'm a Stock Boy.

MAURA

I knew you looked familiar. I Fragrance Model sometimes.

JIM

I knew I'd seen you. You're that annoying lady spraying people.

MAURA

That's me. And for the record, it beats dressing up as Raggedy Ann holding a Spa sale sign!

JIM

What's your Dad's name?

MAURA

Frank Knowles.

JIM

Frank Knowles? He's a Big Wig.

MAURA

I guess.

JIM

I know Frank. Well, I've met him.  
Tell him Jim, Stock Boy Wonder, wants to take his daughter  
out for dinner at Red Robin. Do you like Red Robin?

MAURA

I don't eat red meat.

JIM

Oh great.

MAURA

I'M A GREEN MACHINE  
THE QUEEN OF LEAN  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

JIM

SLOW DOWN, MO  
SLOW DOWN

MAURA

DON'T DARE SAY SLOW DOWN  
THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO  
I WANT TO EXPLORE  
THE PLACES WHO KNEW  
DON'T KNOW THE WORD "BORE!"

JIM

I WANT THAT, TOO  
THE BRIGHT GOLDEN GATE  
IS CALLING MY NAME  
NEXT TERM, SF STATE

MAURA

NO WAY...ME, TOO  
STOP THE CLOCK  
SUPERCALIFRAGILISTIC-EXPIALI-DOCIUS,  
Can you spell it?

JIM

Mary Poppins, right?

MAURA  
YES, but can you spell it!

JIM  
S-u-p-e-r-c-a-l-i-f-r-a

MAURA  
Wrong! i.t.

JIM  
What?

MAURA  
I.t. It. I asked, can you spell "it?"

Jim rolls his eyes and they laugh

BOTH

PEACHES AND CREAM  
SUNDAY DANCER'S  
IS THIS A DREAM?  
NEW ROMANCER'S

JIM

STOP THE WORLD  
MELTED SUNDAE'S  
SCOOBY DOO,  
WANNA BE NEAR YOU  
ALLERGIC TO BEES

MAURA

ALLERGIC TO MILK  
I'VE GOT KNOBBY KNEES

JIM

SLOW DOWN, MO  
SLOW DOWN  
HER SKIN'S SOFT AS SILK

MAURA

HE'S ME IN A GUY

JIM

YOU LIKE PUMPKIN PIE?



Off Maura's perplexed look

Maura & Jim

PEACHES AND CREAM  
SUNDAY DANCER'S  
IS THIS A DREAM?  
NEW ROMANCER'S

JIM

Your Dad will love me. I've got drive!

LIGHTS SHIFT SFX GAVEL

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

Ever since I can remember, my Dad always set goals for me. When I asked for something big. Like, when I was 5th grade...

JUDGE V.O.

Will you be admitting your 5th grade report card as **"EXHIBIT?"**

MAURA

No, not yet, bu listen, this is a good story.

JUDGE V.O.

Proceed.

TEN YEAR OLD MAURA

Dad, can I get a water bed?

DAD

Half listening to Maura

If you sell your 2 canopy beds, you can use that money to buy a waterbed.

MAURA

Deal!

Now, how in the world was I going to sell my twin canopy beds? I was 10 years old. Craigs List and ebay did NOT exist. Anyway, earlier that month, we had moved to a new house in a new neighborhood and I noticed that the house 2 doors down belonged to a couple with a little boy, around 3 years old.

MAURA

Mom, I want to be a babysitter.

MOM

Well, Maura, you're a little young, don't you think?

MAURA

I'm tall for my age and that makes me mature.

MOM

I don't think that qualifies..

MAURA

Besides, there's a little boy who lives 2 doors down.

MOM

O.K., Miss Smarty Pants, if you're really serious about this, why don't you go down there and introduce yourself? See what the parents have to say?

MAURA

OK.

The next morning, I put on my favorite green terry cloth shorts and matching halter top and walked down to introduce myself to my potential new employer.

SFX Door bell, woman opens door

NELVA

Hello there. May I help you?

MAURA

Hi. My name is Maura, that's Laura with an M, and we just moved into the house 2 doors down and I noticed you have a little boy and I want to be a baby sitter.

NELVA

Well. Aren't you a little go getter? How old are you?

MAURA

I'm **10 and 1/2 years old** and I have lots of experience.

NELVA

You do?

MAURA

Yes, I have a very large doll collection plus I have a little sister.

NELVA

I see. (amused) Are your parents home?

MAURA

Mom is. Dad's at work.

NELVA

Well, I'd sure like to meet them.

MAURA

OK. Oh, and would you be interested in buying 2 canopy beds?

NELVA

Pardon me?

MAURA

Later that night, when Dad came home from work...

DAD

You what?!

MAURA

I sold the canopy beds AND I got a job.

DAD

Why you little...? Unbelievable. How in God's name did you..?  
Where did you come from?

MAURA

Duh. You and Mom!  
That was the beginning of our little game.  
A few months later, I developed a twitch. (demonstrates TWITCH)

JUDGE

This is most disturbing.

*Maura choosing to IGNORE his comment.*

MAURA

A really bizarre and unattractive facial twitch. But oh my God, it felt good. Like a little facial muscle relaxer. My best friend, Christiane's mom made her promise not to tease me about my twitch.

MRS. PELZ

Maura's just stressed. She has way too many activities. 4-H, choir, ice skating, gymnastics, swim team, horse back riding camp, piano, baby sitting.

JUDGE V.O.

I see a pattern forming.

MAURA

Every time I'd say good bye to someone, I'd do it with a twitch.

Bye, Nani! (Wave, Twitch)

Bye, Stasia (Wave, Twitch)

Dad grew more and more mortified.

DAD

For God's sake, Maura, people will think you're touched!

Judge's light flickers

DAD

You've got to quit the twitch!

MAURA

Quit the twitch? But it feels so good!

DAD

I don't care what it takes. What do you want? You already have a waterbed.

MAURA

I want my ears pierced.

DAD

Not until high school and only if you make the Honor Roll!

MAURA

But EVERYONE has pierced ears! Side note: years later when I finally did get my ears pierced, they got infected with a gross green puss-but, well, that's ANOTHER story.

DAD

People in hell want ice water.

MAURA

I know! I want the Grease album.

DAD

That's a Double Album record set.

MAURA

So? Grease is THE word!

DAD

Where in God's name did you come from? Don't answer that! OK! If you quit the twitch for 3 weeks, I'll get you the Grease Album.

MAURA

It was tough and I still do it from time to time, just to remind myself of the good ole days, but I quit the twitch and that summer lovin' had me a blast.

As Maura demonstrates her twitch, she begins to smell a stench. SFX GAVEL

JUDGE V.O.

Ms. Knowles, stick to the relevant facts. Did you in fact, quit the twitch?

MAURA

As I stated your honor, I did quit the twitch, with the exception of a few twitches, caused by some stinky situations.

Lights shift

MAURA TO AUDIENCE:

Summer school- college, San Francisco. A skunk gave birth to baby skunks under our **Laverne & Shirley basement apartment**

2 cast members do the Laverne & Shirley shuffle

MAURA

and at approximately 5am every morning, they would all spray right under my bedroom and the stench was God-awful. My roommates were going to have them exterminated. I couldn't live with the guilt knowing I took part in killing baby skunks. I begged them to help me coax the mother and her babies out, while we boiled spaghetti sauce every night. Whoever said tomato sauce kills the skunk smell: W- R- O- N- G! The smell got so bad that my college professor pulled me aside after class.

PROFESSOR HALL

Maura, with all due respect, you smell. Your fellow classmates are starting to complain and some have stopped coming to class. Please, take care of the skunks.

MAURA

But, I....

PROFESSOR HALL

Just do what must be done and why don't you try soaking in a tub of tomato juice before class tomorrow.

**LIGHTS SHIFT**

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

After a couple of weeks, I finally broke down and called a professional trapper. Mr. Friendly Trapper came over and set traps under our house. Within a few days, the skunks were caged and he drove them up to the Oakland Hills to set them free. I was so relieved. My roommates and classmates were ecstatic.

SEANA

Two weeks later, there was a huge fire in the Oakland Hills killing most wild life.

MAURA

Did you hear that? I mean, COME ON!

JUDGE V.O.

Well, that stinks! Ehem..(clears his throat) Ms. Maura, do you actually believe you had something to do with the fire?

MAURA

I've learned that even with the best intentions, your honor,  
life can prove to be quite ironic.

SFX GAVEL, sirens and commotion,  
flashing lights.

VOICES OFFSTAGE

Oh, my God!/  
I don't believe this!/  
How the hell did this happen?

Paramedic enters. Maura, lying on the  
ground, as paramedic shifts her body  
onto a stretcher, tapes her head to the  
board, Seana standing next to Maura)

MAURA

What the hell is happening? Why did Jim go?!

PARAMEDIC

Ma'am, can you hear me? How old are you?

MAURA

I'm 26, what the hell?

PARAMEDIC

OK. How much have you had to drink?

MAURA

Huh? NOTHING! I don't drink!

PARAMEDIC

Ma'am, you're obviously upset and you reek of alcohol. Who  
started the fight?

MAURA

What fight?

PARAMEDIC

Ma'am, please, we need you to cooperate with us.

SEANA

You'll never believe it, but a beer bottle flew from the 3rd floor and zig zagged- bouncing off the chandelier and straight onto Maura's head.

PARAMEDIC

Excuse me?

MAURA

Get me the hell out of here. I want to go home!

SEANA

Please, don't take her to the hospital. One of her best friends, Jim, was murdered and tonight was his wake.

PARAMEDIC

Jim from The Kings of Swing?

SEANA

Yea.

PARAMEDIC (*SHAKEN*)

Oh my God. I was the one called to the scene and tried to resuscitate him. So tragic. God, another senseless gang shooting.

SEANA

No shit.

PARAMEDIC

What are the odds I'd end up here tonight? How did your sister end up like this?

SEANA

Her damned show tunes!

PARAMEDIC

Excuse me?

SEANA

Jim hated show tunes & Maura's a nerd.



Jim's Mom asked Maura to choose a song to play at Jim's funeral so Maura chose *Bring Him Home* from Les Mis.

PARAMEDIC

O.K. Um, we need to make sure Maura doesn't have a concussion so you (to Seana) can ride with us to UC Davis Hospital.

SEANA

God, no! That's where Jim died.

Paramedic & Seana exit

Lights shift:

**DRUNK TANK OF THE E.R.**

Maura is handcuffed to her bed. A board above Maura's bed reads

**Patient: Knowles,**

**Complaint: Bottle VS. Head**

The ghost of Jim enters as an angel—maybe a halo created by lights?

MAURA

*struggling to get out of her handcuffs*

Get me the hell out of this drunk tank! I am NOT drunk! Jim? Is that you?

JIM

Whispering with a devilish smile

Hey, Maura, want a beer?

Lights shift

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

I suffered a minor concussion

Judge's light flickers

...and I can honestly say, it was the most expensive wake I have ever attended. God, I miss Jim.

I still believe he's one of my guardian angels and in my own way, I think when the beer bottle knocked me out, Jim was trying to earn his angel wings at the same time getting back at me for playing a show tune at his funeral.

Lights Shift

SEANA

We should wrap you in bubble wrap, but with your luck, you'd suffocate. God, what next?

MAURA

Don't ask!

SEANA

It can't get any worse.

MAURA

The hell it can't! Stop jinxing me!

Lights shift-Knowles home 1980 SFX  
GAVEL as Seana bangs on door

SEANA

Maura! Hurry up!

Maura, **age 12**, blow drying her hair in the mirror of her bathroom. She is making glamour poses and faces in the mirror. She's very awkward.

DAD

Maura Megan! Open this door, damnit!

MAURA

Can't hear you...drying my hair!

DAD

You're 12 years old, for Christ's sake, when are you going to learn to share?! So help me God, the next time I hear screaming because you locked Seana out of the bathroom, that'll be the end of the door!

MAURA

Whatever, Dad!

You don't understand how hard it is being the oldest. I happen to require more privacy than Seana. And besides I was in here first! Let her use the back bathroom!

DAD

Maura, NO back talk! She's your sister! Learn to share!  
Maura resumes blow drying her hair,  
eventually unlocking the door for  
Seana, sticks her tongue out.

*TO AUDIENCE:*

I used to lay in bed slowly groaning awake, listening for Seana to rise from the dead. As soon as I'd hear the floor creak from Seana's room, I'd leap out of bed, into the bathroom, slamming and locking the door!

SEANA

Banging on the door

Maura, open the door! I have to go to the bathroom!

MAURA

Then use the back bathroom!

SEANA

There's no shower in that one.

MAURA

So. Use the toilet! Ha ha!

SEANA

Come on, let me in! Let me in! OK...I'm telling! 1, 2, 3...  
DAAAAAAD, Maura won't let me in the bathroom.

MAURA TO AUDIENCE:

I continued to revel in victory as I sat on my porcelain throne reading Teen Beat Magazine.

JUDGE V.O.

*Teen Beat?*

MAURA

I was in love with Scott Baio!

Judge's light flickers

MAURA

I heard a ruffle, no a thump at the door, followed by an unfamiliar sound - something turning, unscrewing? There was serious 'power drill activity' going on from other side

MAURA

What is that noise? Seana, what are you doing?!

No response. More drilling.

What are YOU DOING?

MAURA TO AUDIENCE:

The door slowly unhinged from its frame and my very red faced Dad stood in a "very pissed off handy man" pose gripping a power drill!

DAD

That's ENOUGH! NO MORE!

MAURA

Dad, get out of here, I'm on the toilet! What are you doing? MOooooooM! Dad's insane! He took OFF the bathroom door! MOooooooM!

DAD

Until you can learn to share, there'll be no door! Enough is enough!

MAURA

PERVERT, MOOOOOOM, I'm telling Gramma then I'm calling the Child Abuse Hotline! GET OUT!  
What seemed like years later, the door was finally hinged back in its place and I NEVER locked Seana out again. That is, not while Mom and Dad were home.

SFX GAVEL

JUDGE V.O.

Shall we admit the screws as "**Exhibit B?**"

FEMALE VOICE OVER

I know God won't give me more than I can handle.  
-Mother Teresa

MAURA

I just wish he didn't trust me so much.  
Lights shift

MAURA

SOMETHING WENT WRONG, MOM  
TELL THEM SOMETHING WENT WRONG  
I SAW RED ALL OVER

Lights shift, reddish light

Maura in hospital bed, **age 23**, Seana &  
Priest next to her

PRIEST

Dear, heavenly father, bless Maura Megan and welcome her into  
your holy gates. In the name of the father, the son, and the  
holy spirit. Amen.

Priest blesses Maura with holy oil,  
makes the sign of the cross & exits.

SEANA

Rubbing oil into Maura's hands,  
fighting tears.

No, Mo, that priest doesn't know what he's talking about. He  
was confused. He thought you were old..well,older than 23  
because of your hands. It's just, you need moisturizer.  
Because your hands. You know? They're always dry and  
everyone knows that and this is your lotion. So, just forget  
the priest and I'll rub it in. OK, OK. You're ok. Remember  
your Guardian Angel Pin. (Seana points to the angel pin on  
Maura's hospital gown over her right shoulder, Maura feels  
the pin, too) As long as you're wearing it, you'll be fine.  
OK. Just don't give up... (she can't continue)

MAURA

Thanks, Nerdie.

Lights shift, Maura speaks to audience:

Hand moisturizer! I knew then and there my family would do  
everything possible to keep me alive. There was no way in  
hell they would settle for anything less.

And my sister actually made me smile inside just when I was convinced my fight was hopeless. I was terrified and my stomach hurt so much-the pain was...unbearable doesn't even come close and a priest giving me my last rites..holy crap! We never questioned a priest, but my sister did her damndest to comfort me with a little humor at the same time keeping me in check with my old lady hands. My so called, "affliction," as people my entire life have inquired.

JUDGE V.O.

Afflicted hands - **EXHIBIT 'D?'**

MAURA

They are NOT an affliction!

MALE VOICE OVER

You're hands are so wrinkly.

FEMALE VOICE OVER

How come you have old lady hands?

MALE VOICE OVER

This is my friend, Maura, feel her hands. They're like E.T's. E.T. Phone Home.

FEMALE VOICE OVER

You must be an old soul. A very old soul.

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

"My hands are this way because I work with horses, OK?"  
When I was in Kindergarten, I got so sick of kids teasing me about my hands that I made up the horse story to shut them up. It didn't work.  
I had this fear that God was punishing me for not being grateful or satisfied with certain parts of my body.  
Whenever I complained to Mom or Dad about my hands, they would respond.

DAD

God forgive you.

MOM

Just be grateful, he gave you hands that work.

MAURA

One night when I was about 11, I rubbed my hands in Vaseline and slept with gloves on them.

Please God, let me wake up with softer, smoother hands just like the *Keri is so very* commercial.  
In the middle of the night, I woke up vomiting profusely.  
I'm sorry, God. Thank you for giving me hands that work.  
I'm sorry.

SEANA

It never occurred to her that she threw up because of the 12 chocolate chip peanut butter cookies she ate.

JUDGE V.O.

Adding gluttony and cookies as "**Exhibit E.**"

MAURA

By the way, I don't eat cookies anymore. I created these healthy alternatives for my dad YEARS later and I call them MORSELS. Yup. I have my own healthy baking company, but we'll get to that later. I often wonder if God is preparing me for something greater or maybe he just wants me to be the next Mother Teresa or Joan of Arc?

Years later, when I was **a senior in college**, I joined a gym and worked out late one night, doing about 150 stomach crunches.

During the middle of the night, I woke up vomiting profusely and didn't stop until the next night around 5pm when my roommate came home and rushed me to the E.R.

SFX GAVEL, Lights Shift to hospital  
Doctor enters with Mom

DOCTOR 2

Maura's appendix burst right in my hand. She came in just in the nick of time.

Mom  
*makes a sign of the cross*

Jesus, Joseph and Mary

DOCTOR 2

I saved it for her in case she wants to see it.

MOM

God, no. Get rid of it. She's had enough. Hell, We've all had enough.

Lights shift  
MAURA

Holy hell! That entire night before my appendix burst I kept apologizing to God for doing too many sit-ups, thinking that by doing them, maybe God figured I wasn't grateful with the body he gave me.

JUDGE V.O.

Ruptured appendix in jar, "**Exhibit F**" for **FREAKY!**

Seana enters

SEANA

You are such a nerd. What makes you think God would choose you to make you special?

MAURA

Um, maybe because I AM different. Doy!

SEANA

NERD!

Seana exits  
MAURA TO AUDIENCE

She's got a point, but it's true. Maybe I read too many books in Catechism and saw way too many horror films with exorcisms and stigmata's when I was younger, but never in my life, have I gotten away with ANYTHING! NEVER!

JUDGE

Proceed.

Lights shift

MOM VOICE OVER

Maura Megan, tell the truth and shame the devil.

MAURA

I didn't do anything!

MOM VOICE OVER

Maura...



MAURA

Fine! But it was an accident...

MOM

Now, go to your room and think about what you've done.

SFX GAVEL

MAURA

During a Speech & Debate Competition in High School, a Police Officer interrupted my speech.

Judge V.O.

Juvenile delinquency?

POLICE OFFICER

Excuse me. I'm looking for a (mispronounces her name) Maura Megan Knowles.

Maura

My stomach turned and my face turned bright red.  
I'm Maura.

POLICE OFFICER

Are you the owner of a Blue 68 Mustang?

MAURA

Yes.

POLICE OFFICER

We need you to step outside.

MAURA

The entire room filled with my peers and debate judges turned and watched me follow the Police Officer outside.

Murmurs & whispers from fellow  
debaters.

I walked the walk of shame. Though, I wasn't exactly sure why.

POLICE OFFICER

Maura Megan Knowles, we have witnesses willing to testify that you are guilty of a hit and run.

MAURA

No friggin way! I had offered to drive my Speech & Debate team that morning and one girl, who shall remain nameless, but her name begins with a T and ends with an R, think TRAITOR, thought it would be hysterical to hop in my car and reverse it with the door wide open as she scratched the parked car next to mine. I was found guilty and had to pay the damage. T.R. got away scott free and I spent the next year babysitting OVERTIME!

Judge

Am I correct to assume this was your FIRST offense?

MAURA

TOTALLY UNFAIR!

DAD VOICE OVER

The squeaky wheel gets the oil.

MAURA

What does that have to do with the price of eggs?

DAD VOICE OVER

Don't be a smart Alec.

MAURA

Why? You'd rather I be a dumb Alec?

To audience:

Then inevitably I'd stub my toe or hurt myself and Dad would say.

DAD VOICE OVER

See? That's the Lord!

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

As embarrassing as it is to admit, I still kind of believe Dad. To this day whenever I say something smart ass, ok, not a real word, but you get the gist, and I hurt myself, or a beer bottle knocks me out, I know it must be God reminding me to BEHAVE!

SFX GAVEL,

JUDGE V.O.

Stick to the story, Ms. Knowles

Lights shift, Mom enters, Maura **age 23**  
MAURA

Mom, it's just a simple in and out 20 minute procedure.

The doctor said they just need to do a little exploring to find out what's going on inside my stomach, nothing major. He even said I would be able to perform tomorrow night.

MOM

Maura Megan. I'm your mother. I'm not letting you go under the knife without me.

MAURA

I'm an adult now. A college graduate, I might add, who's backpacked through Europe. I'm a professional actor. I'm Glinda the Good witch, for God's sake.

MOM

You can fight me all you want. I'm going with you to the hospital. Period. End of discussion.

Lights shift

MAURA TO AUDIENCE:

Thank God, she didn't listen to me. Poor mom got the lovely job of moving into a dingy motel in the "oh what a smell of sulphur" Lettuce Capital, Salinas, CA. "Oh what a smell of sulphur," was one of my favorite lines as Glinda the Good Witch. The Wizard of Oz was the only show I wasn't able to close.

Lights shift, back in hospital room,  
reddish light

MOM

Maura, they're going to move you now to another room. We need you to hold your stomach with a pillow and try not to cry, OK?

### **SOMETHING WENT WRONG**

MAURA

SOMETHING WENT WRONG, MOM.  
TELL THEM SOMETHING WENT WRONG.  
I COULD FEEL THEM INSIDE ME.  
RED WAS ALL I COULD SEE

MOM

I KNOW, MOO. I KNOW.  
PLEASE, TRY TO HOLD ON.  
WE NEED YOU.  
WE LOVE YOU.  
OH, GOD, WHERE'VE YOU GONE?

MAURA

SOMETHING WENT WRONG, MOM  
TELL THEM SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

I SAW RED ALL OVER  
GIVE ME A 4 LEAF CLOVER

MOM

DON'T GIVE UP NOW  
FIGHT AND STAY STRONG  
WE LOVE YOU  
WE NEED YOU  
JUST KNOW THAT WE CARE

MAURA

IT HURTS AND I'M SCARED  
THERE WERE HANDS IN MY BOWELS  
ALL MY GUTS HAVE BEEN BARED  
TOO MANY SOAKED TOWELS  
WHAT I SAW, I AM SURE

MOM

I KNOW, MOO

MAURA

SO MUCH BLOOD EVERYWHERE  
WHAT I FELT, NEED A CURE

Mom

WE NEED YOU

MAURA

MY INSIDES ARE SO RARE  
I DON'T WANT TO SEE  
WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO ME

MOM

SCREAM, IF YOU MUST, MOO

MAURA

TELL THEM SOMETHING WENT WRONG, MOM  
JUST TELL THEM SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

MOM

I'LL SHARE YOUR DISGUST

MAURA

THERE WAS RED EVERYWHERE...

As Maura dozes off. Mom swabs the  
inside of Maura's mouth with a glycerin  
swab. Lights shift. SFX GAVEL  
Police Spotlight on younger Maura's  
bottom, **age 12**, sirens & flashing  
lights, night time

VOICE OVER-POLICE

Will the girl in the red bikini's please come out?  
Will the girl in the red bikini's please come out?

MAURA

Oh my God. No way!

MOM

Maura, what's going on?

MAURA

You don't want to know.

DAD

Maura Megan. What have you gotten yourself into this time?

MAURA

No, Dad. Not me. You!

POLICE VOICE OVER

Will the girl in the red bikini's please come out?

MOM

Maura? Mac? What's going on?

MAURA

So, you know how Dad lied and told the Camp site ranger that we had a port o potty?

DAD

Well, we had no where else to pitch our tent trailer. What did you want me to do?

MAURA

I would have liked you to actually OWN one, because I went outside and did what you asked, and found the biggest tree I could hide behind to go to the bathroom...

## POLICE VOICE OVER

This is the last call for the girl in the red bikini's! Come out or we will find you!

MOM

Oh, dear God!

Mom exits  
DAD

You're the girl in the red bikini's?

MAURA

Ta da! I found the biggest tree to hide behind and it turns out it was on Highway 1!

Seana enters (sing songy cadence)

SEANA

Ha -ha -ha- ha- ha! Nerd's in trouble  
The po-po's gonna get her! ha -ha- ha- ha- ha

MAURA

Shut, up, Nerd!

SEANA

No, you're the nerd!

MAURA

Dad! Tell her to shut up.

DAD

Maura. You're her older sister. Set an example!

SEANA

Yea, I'm the baby sist-"or"!

Sirens and flashing lights  
MAURA

Dad! HELP!

DAD

I'll handle this. You just get your red bikini's into the trailer.

MAURA TO AUDIENCE:

The ENTIRE campsite discovered there was no Port- o- Potty in the Knowles Tent Trailer and gawky 12 year old me, had to step outside and prove to the Police that I was not, in fact, a prostitute looking for a trick. When the police got a look at my skinny frog legs they burst into laughter and sent me and Dad back into our trailer, making me promise to be a little more discreet next time. I hated camping from that moment on, my family nicknamed me Maura Mooner.

JUDGE V.O.

Your second offense, Ms. Maura? Not looking good.

SEANA

And she's been in some kind of spotlight ever since.

Lights shift, SFX GAVEL

DOCTORS OFFICE

Doctor shines light into Maura's mouth,  
**age 21**

MAURA

Aaaaaaah

DOCTOR 2

Oh, my.

MOM

What is it?

DOCTOR 2

Maura, please keep saying ahh  
MAURA

Aaaaahhhhhh

DOCTOR 2

Wow. This is very interesting.  
MOM

What is it, Doctor?

DOCTOR 2

How old is Maura?

MOM

21.

DOCTOR

Hmmm...Well, now, I'm afraid when we intubated Maura for her appendectomy, we used a tube that was too large for her throat.

MAURA

Whaaaaaaat???

DOCTOR 2

Don't be alarmed. I've read about this happening, but I've never actually seen it first hand.

MOM

Oh, Doctor, if you only knew.

MAURA

What the hell is it?

MOM AND JUDGE V.O.

Maura! Language.

DOCTOR 2

It appears as if your uvula has become infected by the large tube we used during intubation and we're going to have to readmit you for a few days.

MAURA

No way!

MOM

Oh dear God. Here we go again.

Lights shift, E.R., SFX GAVEL  
Maura, **age 34**, writhing in pain now in  
a wheel chair

DOCTOR 3

Do you have someone to call?

MAURA

Shit. I'd better call my parents.



Judge's light flickers. Lights shift.  
Maura's L.A. Condo.  
Mom enters with coffee cup & gives to  
Maura, in bed.

MOM

OK, Moo, here's your coffee.

MAURA

But, where's the soy cream?

MOM

Maura, I can't DO everything.

MAURA

But, I never drink black coffee. I need my soy cream.

MOM

Maura, There is only so much I can handle! I am NOT your maid, cook and nurse! You are 34 years old. I never dreamed I'd still be nursing you. Mac! Help me! YOUR daughter wants SOY CREAM in her coffee. I've just about had it! Maura, your life is exhausting and I can't take much more!

MAURA

But I just want a little soy cream. (breaking down sobbing)  
Lights shift, back to E.R.

DOCTOR 3

Good. Tell me exactly what happened.

MAURA

OK, so last night I was crossing the street in Santa Monica and got run down by a friggin' brand new black VW Bug. The ambulance took me to the Emergency Room and they kept me overnight. I was sent home in this beautiful blue full length cast.

DOCTOR 3

Right. So, what happened here to your left foot?

MAURA

Yeah. I'm getting to that. So, they gave me a pair of crutches since I couldn't put any weight on my right leg and today, I was crutching to the loo.

DOCTOR 3

The loo?

MAURA

Yea. We were never allowed to say "pee."

DOCTOR 3

I see. How old are you?

MAURA

I'm 34. I think it's a Catholic thing.

DOCTOR 3

Please, go on.

MAURA

OK. So, I was crutching to the loo and that damned crutch got stuck between my 2 left baby toes and holy shit, it hurts!

DOCTOR 3

Oh my. Talk about adding insult to injury. I'm afraid, I'm going to have to re set your toes and I hate to tell you this, but it's going to really hurt.

MAURA

Shit.

DOCTOR 3

I can give you a pain killer first.

MAURA

No, I hate needles.

DOCTOR 3

Are you sure?

MAURA

Shit.

Judge's light flickers.

DOCTOR 3

You should call someone who can take care of you for awhile because I'm afraid we're going to have to put you in a wheelchair for the next 6-8 weeks.

SFX GAVEL, CACOPHONY OF  
VOICES

SEANA

It's because of your life, I'm an emotional wreck.

DAD

Not again! I'm telling you, it's the Lord!

MOM

Your life is exhausting! I can't take much more.

**CRUTCHES SUCK!**

MAURA

CRUTCHES SUCK! CRUTCHES SUCK!  
 HOLY SHIT, NOW I'M STUCK!  
 LOOK AT ME, JUST MY LUCK!  
 OH GOOD GOD, CRUTCHES SUCK!

TIT FOR A TAT, THE LIFE OF A CAT  
 TICKETY TOCK, RE-LEARN TO WALK  
 LIFE HAS BEGUN, THEY SAY I AM SLIGHT  
 KNOW THAT I'VE WON, I'M UP FOR THE FIGHT

CRUTCHES SUCK! CRUTCHES SUCK!  
 HOLY SHIT, NOW I'M STUCK!  
 LOOK AT ME, JUST MY LUCK  
 OH, GOOD GOD! CRUTCHES SUCK!

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

That night before, I was crossing the street, IN the crosswalk, I might add..

Judge's light flickers

MAURA

...on my way to meet my friend, Gerry, for dinner when all of the sudden...

Lights shift  
 Cars Crashing SFX

Maura lying in the middle of the street, Prudence runs in

PRUDENCE

Oh my God. Honey, are you OK? Can you hear me?

she throws a jacket over Maura's body, Maura lying in shock-completely silent when suddenly, car lights move towards them.

MAURA

Oh my God! Your car! YOUR CAR! STOP THE CAR!

PRUDENCE

*(jumps to her feet)* Oh my God. I'm sorry! I was so worried about you I forgot to...

Lights Shift

MAURA

HOLY HELL! I knew right then and there that God's plan was to make sure I would be killed by a car that night. My first witness to the scene and she FORGOT to put her car in PARK!

SFX GAVEL

JUDGE V.O.

Let me get this straight, you're fighting to keep your guardian angel and yet, where was he during this catastrophe?

Maura

Exactly, your honor! My angel was late to the scene, but he did step up! Better late than never, right?

JUDGE V.O.

This is bordering on ABSURD!

MAURA

You're telling me! Try living it.

Lights shift, **young Maura** kneels by canopy bed

God bless Mommy and Daddy and Porky and fine, even Seana, and please God, don't pick me to be one of your chosen ones. I just want to be normal, OK? Please!

Lights shift

I know. Weird, I know. But I still have this sick feeling of guilt that whenever I get hurt or sick, I'm being punished. I've had to relearn to walk twice in my adult life.

The first time was after my botched up surgery and I remember the feeling of my flappy bones and how fiercely my toes gripped the floor.

SFX GAVEL, Lights shift: Hospital,  
Maura, 23, Nurse enters

NURSE

OK, Maura, we're going to get you up today and try to get you on your feet. OK?

MAURA

Oh God, I don't think I can.

NURSE

Well, we're going to do our best to try. OK?

MAURA

OK.

MOM

We're right here, Maura. Just do your best.

MAURA

OK.

NURSE

*Trying to lift Maura out of bed.*

OK, Maura, just try to let me help you get you up.

MAURA

It hurts too much. Oh my God. Please can we just do it tomorrow?

NURSE

Doctor's orders. We have to try today. If we wait too long, you'll lose your muscle memory and it will take that much longer to walk again.

MAURA

I can't. I'm in pain.

NURSE

I know. I'm sorry, but we have to try.

MAURA

But, it hurts!

MOM

My God, don't you hear her? She's 23 and she's moving like she's 80. Her stomach's been sliced from top to bottom. She's in pain, for God's sake. PLEASE!

NURSE

Mrs. Knowles, I understand your concern. Trust me.

MOM

No, you can't possibly. Some jack-ass Doctor didn't slice up your daughter and then leave her here without pain medication. You can not begin to understand.

NURSE

You're right. I'll get the Doctor.  
Nurse exits. Doctor enters.

DOCTOR 4

What seems to be the problem, now, Mrs. Knowles?  
MOM

The problem is that my daughter is in pain and you've ordered the nurse to get her up to try to walk today. That's the first problem.

DOCTOR 4

It's unfortunate what's happened to your daughter, but well, these things happen.

Lights shift: pin spot on Mom

MOM

"Unfortunate? These things happen?" You've got to be kidding me. How dare you! Unfortunate is a sliced finger. No! You sliced my daughter's stomach wide open and rearranged her insides, while she woke up on the operating table and then a few days later, after you stapled her up you had to cut her open again without pain medication because of her extremely low blood pressure.

And you told her to hold on to her bed rails to alleviate the pain! What kind of a monster are you? All this because one of your inept hospital workers moved a new patient just out of surgery into Maura's clearly marked quarantined room, giving Maura a staph infection.

And how much blood did she lose before you even noticed she was flat-lining? 70%, Doctor! There wasn't even time for me to give her my blood. My God, she has been through hell.

Lights shift, back to reality

MOM

Please do not insult me by saying "these things happen." Because in reality, these things should NOT happen. Look at her. She's in pain. Excruciating pain. How dare you belittle her by calling it unfortunate...(trails off in tears, exiting)

MAURA

Mom...

Doctor silent, jots down a few notes on Maura's chart and exits.

MOM

I'm sorry, Maura. I'm so sorry. I just don't know who or what to yell at anymore. I'm just it's so...

Lights shift-same room with a new Dr.

DOCTOR 5

This makes no sense. She's too young and too thin to have developed pancreatitis. This condition is typically found in an older male, or an obese person who has abused alcohol or drugs. Maura clearly isn't any of the above.

MOM

Nothing has made sense from the moment she entered this hospital.

DOCTOR 5

This truly doesn't follow any medical explanation.

MOM

Then how do you explain what is happening to our daughter?

DOCTOR 5

Medically speaking, I can't.

Anything that can happen has happened to Maura. It just doesn't make sense. I mean, the odds of what has happened to her are one in a million.

MOM

One in a million risk sounds so low, but it's 100% when it's happening to you. Please, just help us get her out of here.

DOCTOR 5

We will do our best. The good news is Maura is a fighter.  
DAD VOICE OVER

That's right. She's Irish. She wasn't named Maura Megan for nothing.

DOCTOR 5

If anyone can pull through this, it's your daughter.

MOM

You've got that right. She's our one in a million.

Judge

That's an *interesting* perspective and the court will take this into consideration.

Lights shift

**A SIMPLE ROUTINE**

MAURA

A SIMPLE ROUTINE THAT  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN QUICK  
LEFT ME TOO LEAN  
MY MAIN ARTERY KNICK'D

ALL

Ooo's

MAURA

A SLIP THEN A SLICE  
HAS ALTERED MY LIFE  
THIS SCAR, NOT SO NICE  
HERE'S TO MY NEW LIFE



ONE SLIP OF THE KNIFE  
 CAUSED SO MUCH STRIFE  
 SOMETHING IS NEW  
 MY SOUL'S BEEN BARED  
 MY VEINS ARE BLUE  
 AND GOD I'M SCARED

A SIMPLE ROUTINE THAT  
 SHOULD HAVE BEEN QUICK

GOOD DOCTOR 5

The scar on your stomach represents your new life line. It proves you survived. Remember that without that scar, you wouldn't...

Maura nods, speechless  
 Lights shift, reddish tone, Maura age  
 23, same bad hospital

SEANA

Swabbing the inside of Maura's mouth  
 with a glycerin swab.

Come on, Mo, you've got to pull through. Don't give up now.  
 MAURA

I'm trying. I really am. But I'm in so much pain.  
 I don't recognize my own body. Look at me. I'm 23 and I feel  
 like an 80 year old sliced up juicy carcass. Why can't you  
 look at me?

SEANA

Cause this is not you. I know you're inside somewhere. I know  
 it. You're deep inside there fighting, but this...this isn't  
 you.

MAURA

Am I so gross that you can't look at me?  
 SEANA

It's just... I know you're somewhere under all those tubes.  
 MAURA

I'm so scared.

SEANA

Me, too. You know, it's Thanksgiving tomorrow.  
 MAURA

Not here. Not for me. I don't want to celebrate any holiday  
 til I'm out of here. OK?

SEANA

OK.

MAURA

Thanks, Nerd.

SEANA

Remember your Turkey Day song?

MAURA

Wanna sing it?

SEANA

Only if you join me.

MAURA

Not today.

SEANA

O.K.

TURKEY DAY IS HERE  
 THE POTATOES ARE WAITIN'  
 CRANBERRY SAUCE IS SHAKIN'  
 TO BE TAKEN  
 MAMA'S IN THE KITCHEN WAITIN'  
 FOR HER DISH  
 WHICH IS PUMPKIN PIE  
 AND THE TURKEY ALL FIXED

GOBBLE GOBBLE TURKEY  
 DON'T YOU CRY  
 EVERYONE LOVES YOU AND THE PUMPKIN PIE  
 NEXT YEAR DON'T GO RUN AND HIDE  
 CAUSE THEY'LL LOVE YOU MORE THAN THE  
 PUMPKIN PIE

Maura smiles & dozes off  
 Lights shift

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

I wrote that song in the **3rd grade**, after a disastrous

Thanksgiving Skit I performed during my stint as a Brownie.  
 I wanted to redeem myself by performing at a family  
 Thanksgiving Dinner after embarrassing myself and humoring an  
 entire audience:

JUDGE V.O.

The suspense is riveting. Does this pertain to your guardian  
 angel?

MAURA

Your honor, with all due respect, everything I'm sharing today has to do with my guardian angel.

JUDGE V.O.

As you wish.

Lights shift, SFX GAVEL Maura **age 7**  
MAURA

Mom, guess what? I was cast as a Pumpkin Pie in our 12 Days of Thanksgiving skit for our **Brownies Troop!**

MOM

Good for you, Maura. What do you have to do?

MAURA

Christiane and I get to feed each other pumpkin pie on the 2nd day of the Thanksgiving song, so that means I get to be on stage 11 times.

MOM

That's great, Maura. Now, you're sure you like pumpkin pie?

MAURA

It's pie, Mom. Gu-uy!

MOM

OK.

Lights shift SFX Gavel  
Maura and Christiane on stage in pig tails. Christiane feeds Maura her first taste of pumpkin pie and Maura hates it. She stores it in her right cheek. Singing to the tune of 12 Days of Christmas.

MAURA & CHRISTIANE

On the 2nd day of Thanksgiving, my pilgrim gave to me 2 pumpkin pies and a ...

Maura stores each bite of pie in her cheeks, eventually streaming tears down her overstuffed cheeks. Offstage laughter, Maura humiliated and miserable.

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

Little did I know how much I would hate the taste of pumpkin pie. And to think this was my stage debut.

11 times we sang that section of the song. On the 2nd day of Thanksgiving my pilgrim gave to me...

JUDGE V.O.

Pumpkin pie "**Exhibit G.**"

MAURA

It never once occurred to me that I could spit it out. Christiane continued to pry my lips open and fed me the pie until I could no longer fit another morsel into my mouth. And I'm NOT talking Mac-n-Mo's morsels. Pumpkin pie filling oozed from my lips. The harder the audience laughed, the more I cried. Not my idea of stealing the show. Immediately after the curtain call, I stormed off stage.

I later quit the Brownies Troop and joined the food group at our local 4-H chapter, where I learned to bake pies and treats I actually liked and won blue ribbons, I might add. Not only did I become a professional actor/singer years later, I also became a professional baker/Morselist and created my own healthy baking company. I showed them, yessiree!

JUDGE V.O.

My blood pressure is starting to boil, Ms. Maura.

MAURA

Here, your honor, have a morsel. (Maura hands him a bag o' morsels) Sodium free and only 1 g of sugar.

Judge light flickers

MAURA

So, I'm kind of a control freak. Oh, be quiet! A real Type A and I'm not talking blood type.

JUDGE'S PINSPOT FLICKERS AND LIGHTS  
SHIFT

**LETTING GO**

MAURA

LIFE HAS TAKEN ITS TURNS  
I'VE TRIED TO PLAY THE GAME  
FOUGHT THROUGH LOSS AND PAIN

SEEN SO MANY THINGS  
MANY WRONG  
UNFAIR, UNJUST AND REALLY  
WHO CARES? WELL, I DO!

I CARE SO MUCH AND IT SCARES ME  
HOW MUCH I'VE SEEN, HOW  
DEEPLY I FEEL

PAIN I'VE ENDURED AND SHED  
KNOWING IT CAN GET WORSE  
SOMEONE WILL ALWAYS SUFFER  
DON'T I DESERVE FAIR? JUST? GOOD?

SOMETIMES I FEAR (NOT), BUT I KEEP  
MOVING FORWARD, TRYING TO VEER  
IN THE DIRECTION  
**STAY IN MOTION, DON'T GET STUCK**

I DREAM OF MUCH MORE  
A LIFE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES  
PLENTY OF RISKS  
LOVE WITHOUT LOSS

LIFE WITHOUT PAIN  
BUT I AM GOING INSANE  
TRYING TO MAINTAIN  
STAY AFLOAT, STAY AHEAD  
DON'T WANT TO BE PLAIN  
OR GOD FORBID, TAME

I DREAM OF A LIFE,  
MY LIFE WILL HAVE MEANING  
THAT MUCH IS CLEAR  
OF TEARS AND FEARS

I WANT TO BE IN CONTROL  
NO! LOSE CONTROL,  
LOSE FEAR OF LOSING CONTROL  
THAT'S WHAT IT'S REALLY ALL ABOUT  
HOW DO I LET MYSELF GO  
WITH THE FLOW  
CONQUER THESE  
I WILL BE FREE  
A FEARLESS ME'S  
WHO I'M DESTINED TO BE

BUT WHAT IF NO ONE'S THERE?  
OR NO ONE CARES?  
OH GOD, ENOUGH!!

I GUESS WHAT I FEAR THE MOST  
IS TO BE ORDINARY-NORMAL  
ONE OF MILLIONS  
TIME TO STIFLE THAT FEAR  
JUMP THE HURDLE  
SHIFT THAT GEAR  
MAKE THEM ALL PROUD

AS I SHOUT OUT LOUD  
WANT TO BE FREE,  
GET READY FOR ME

LEARN TO LET GO  
LET GO  
LETTING GO

Lights shift: Knowles Home  
MAURA TO AUDIENCE

I wish upon stars  
Take risks from the heart  
Raised a few bars  
Many a false start

MOM

Needs coffee in the morning  
Chocolate in the evening  
and fro yo in the afternoon  
SEANA

She tends to her garden  
And talks to her plants  
Yup, she talks to her plants

JUDGE V.O.

Talking plants- Exhibit "H"

MAURA

They're NOT talking plants, your honor. I TALK to my plants.  
Big difference.

JUDGE V.O.

This court doesn't really understand how one is saner than  
the other, but for time management's sake, please keep it  
moving.

MAURA

SOMETHING WENT WRONG

AUNT GERTIE

SOMETHING GOOD IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU

DAD

SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

SEANA

IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING

MAURA

Not ready to go

This much I know  
 Because I'm wound tight  
 Doesn't mean I can't fight  
 Much more to live

SEANA

Need wings to fly

DAD

Hell to give

MOM

Not time for good bye

MAURA

Wanna know me  
 Got songs to sing  
 Places to see  
 May find me a king  
 Just because I am slight  
 Doesn't mean I lack might  
 My gift was heaven sent  
 And God knows, I love gifts!

Lights shift, SFX GAVEL, Home, Maura  
 age 25, Seana enters with gift bag

SEANA

Mo, I got you a special gift in New Orleans for good luck.

MAURA

What is it?

SEANA

It's a voodoo doll for Doctor "*these things happen.*"

MAURA

What the hell? I can't take this. That's bad luck.

SEANA

You've got to be kidding. This is bad luck? Uh news flash?!  
 What do you call the past few years? You really think things  
 can get much worse?

Judge's light flickers

MAURA

Do not jinx me. That's black magic crap. Bad Mojo.

SEANA

All you have to do is stick these pins into the areas you wish evil upon that asshole.

MAURA

May you be in heaven, half an hour before the devil knows you're dead!

SEANA

OK, Mom. (*sarcastic*)

MAURA

OK, Pot calling kettle! I can't afford more bad luck.

SEANA

Come on!

MAURA

Hey, be my guest, if you want to be the pin sticker.

SEANA

You are truly the most superstitious person I know.

MAURA

Walk a mile in my shoes, honey.

SEANA

Because of your life, I'm an emotional wreck.

MY SISTOR!

SHE TALKS TO HER PLANTS  
HER TRUNK IS HER FRIEND  
SHE TAUGHT ME TO COOK  
OUR LAUGHS NEVER END.  
MY SISTOR!

SHE SEWED HER DOLLS CLOTHES  
HER HANDS LIKE E.T.



WE FOUGHT  
HAD OUR LOATHS  
LONG SKI'S ARE HER FEET

IT AMAZES ME HOW SHE COULD MAKE LEMONADE  
AFTER LIFE THREW HER ONE GIANT BAND AID.  
MY SISTOR!

THERE IS NO ONE WHO IS MORE FUN  
TO GET LOST WITH-EXPLORE!  
WHEREVER SHE GOES  
ADVENTURE ABOUNDS  
TRAVELING WITH HER IS CRAZY  
ANNOYING AND SCARY  
BUT ALWAYS FUN!

SHE'S LIKE A SPONGE  
QUENCH HER THIRST

I LIKE TO ASSESS BEFORE JUMPING IN.  
SHE DIVES WITHOUT THOUGHT  
TAKING THE PLUNGE!

SHE LOVED BARBIES, BOOKS AND BOWS  
I LOVED BIKES, BOYS AND BALLS.  
SHE FED RABBITS  
I FED DOGS  
WE HAD BAD HABITS  
PIGGED OUT LIKE HOGS

WE'VE FOUGHT, SHED SOME TEARS  
RESISTING OUR FEARS  
OUR BATTLES-OUR OWN  
THE STRENGTH OF A STONE

SHRINKY DINKS  
ROLLER RINKS  
BARBIE STINKS  
YUP, SHE'S JINXED!

EASY BAKE  
CHOCOLATE CAKE  
NOT A FAKE  
FOR GOD'S SAKE

RUFFLED WRINKS  
WORK OUT KINKS  
TIDDLY WINKS  
YUP, SHE'S JINXED!

SFX gavel

JUDGE

Sustained.

Lights shift

MAURA

I can feel luck all over  
Just give me a four leaf clover  
Angel of God

MOM

Bright little flower  
Poor little bod  
Give her more power

MAURA TO AUDIENCE:

Nothing surprises me and yet, everything surprises me.

FEMALE VOICE OVER

If you didn't have bad luck, you wouldn't have any luck at all.

JUDGE V.O.

I'll undeniably take that into consideration.

MAURA

After a slue of having practically everything I owned stolen, including but NOT limited to my purse, my car, my identity by a toe sucking -psycho stalking-sociopathic freak, my friend, Stacey gave me The WORST CASE SCENARIO HANDBOOK. I've practically memorized it. If you ever want to know how to survive an earthquake or a shark attack, call me. Speaking of Worse Case Scenarios...if you can think it, I've lived it. After having my car stolen, I decided it would be cheaper and more practical to get a motorcycle.

MOM

Glory be to God, we'll be sending search parties out for you, somewhere near where God lost his shoes.

MAURA

Come on, Mom. And, by the way, where exactly did God lose his shoes?

DAD

Maura!

MAURA

You don't understand. I'm already working 2 jobs and this is the best option.

DAD

I knew we should have sent you to a convent.

MAURA

Gimme a break!

DAD

Careful what you wish for!

MAURA

The motorcycle option didn't pan out and my new used car was crumpled in an accident the day after I got it. Needless to say, I had to get a third job.

**JUDGE V.O.**

Truth really is stranger than fiction. The court nor I, personally, have never heard anything quite like this.

MAURA

That appears to be my speciality.

FEMALE DOCTOR V.O.

I've read about this happening, but have never actually seen it first hand.

MALE DOCTOR V.O.

You've sure get some strange stuff, Maura.

Lights shift

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

Since I grew up with a dairy allergy, my afternoon snacks in kindergarten consisted of graham crackers and grape juice, while all the other kids got chocolate chip cookies and milk. Mom appeased me by letting me believe that when I got to heaven I could eat whatever I wanted and as much as I wanted. That idea got me pretty far in my fantasy quotient. When I was in the 4th grade, my Grandpa died and I was fascinated with where he went. Heaven, of course. Mom and Dad told me to look up into the sky and the brightest star would be his. I envisioned the brightest stars to be the newest angels windows. Everyone would get their own room in heaven and the newest arrival would have the cleanest and brightest window and they'd never have to clean them. They would be able to look down and see all of us here on earth, watching us.

Of course, that created a whole world of problems in my head as I got older, especially when I started dating in college—the idea of grandma and grandpa watching me from heaven. UGH.

Lights shift, SFX GAVEL Maura age 27

MAURA

Oh my God. It's gone. No. No!

SEANA

Mo, are you alright?

MAURA

No, it's gone. My angel wing is gone.

SEANA

What do you mean?

MAURA

Look. The wing must have broken off. Now what am I gonna do? My guardian angel Aunt Gertie gave me to help watch over me and get me through all this. Shit.

Judge's light flickers

SEANA

It's ok, nerd. You'll be fine.

MAURA

You don't understand what this means.

SEANA

Yes, I do.

MAURA

Shit.

SEANA

Mo, you're gonna be fine. I promise you. You are stronger than anyone I know. Maybe the wing fell off because you don't need it anymore. Maybe YOU ARE THE WING. (bell tone?)

Judge's light flickers

MAURA

You think?

SEANA

I know.

MAURA

I hope so. Thanks, nerd. What would I do without you?

SEANA

God knows.

They laugh

JUDGE V.O.

Even your Guardian Angel is accident prone? This is not looking good, Ms. Maura.

MAURA

But, that's not a reason to take him away from me. Just because someone is broken or injured, you don't throw them out or give up on them. It just shows how perfect we are for each other. Kindred spirits-survivors!

JUDGE V.O.

I don't know how the court, in good faith, can grant you of all people, an accident prone Guardian Angel, but I'm willing to hear the rest of your story.

MAURA

Thank you, your honor. You won't be sorry. You may be exhausted, but you won't be sorry.

SEANA (CONT'D)

May your days be filled with sunshine  
Like the sun that lights the sky  
And may you always have the courage to spread  
Your wings and fly.

MAURA TO AUDIENCE

A year later, during my malpractice trial against that voodoo Dr. "these things happen," there was ONE tapestry hanging in the court room. And as I sat there alone before the trial began, I prayed for justice noticing an embroidered angel in the lower right corner with ONE wing. There was my sign that everything was going to be just fine and you have to agree, your honor, why I've earned and NEED to keep my particular guardian angel.

Judge V.O.  
Jury's still out. I'm intrigued. Proceed.

Lights shift to reddish tone, SFX GAVEL  
at hospital, Maura, age 23, Dad enters

DAD

Happy New Year's Eve, Maura Megan.

MAURA

Please Dad, no holiday celebrations in here.

DAD

But, I thought we could give you a little champagne through  
your i.v.

MAURA

Very funny, Dad.

DAD

It's festive.

MAURA

With my luck, the bubbles would cause my i.v. to infiltrate  
my veins and then God knows what would happen.

DAD

Oh, shit. You're probably right. How about a noise maker?  
Remember when you and Seana begged us to stay awake until  
midnight to bang pots and pans on New Year's?

MAURA

Yeah. Weird. We actually thought that was fun. How come none  
of our neighbors called the cops for disturbing the peace?

DAD

Hell, it was good for them. A little banging on pots and  
pans never hurt anyone, of course, until you whacked your  
forehead with the fry pan.

MAURA

That really hurt.

DAD

Who knew that would be the least of your injuries. Oh, Maura, I'm so sorry this is happening to you. I feel so helpless. If I could trade places with you, I would. You know, I got mad at God today.

MAURA

What do you mean you got mad at God?

DAD

I don't understand why you're not getting any better. I went to church and asked him why you're still in here. Why isn't he watching over you? Helping you get better? This isn't coming to you! I feel so helpless. I'm your Papa. I'm supposed to protect you. Why can't it be me instead of you in that bed?

MAURA

Wow. I never thought I'd hear that from you.

DAD

I just wish I could help you.

MAURA

Dad, if you really want to help me, you can help me escape. Please, don't let me die here. I just want to go home.

DAD

Maura.

MAURA

I'm serious, Dad. I've been thinking, if we took the bed sheets and made a rope, you could open the window and lower me down to the sidewalk and...

DAD

Oh, Maura, you know I would do anything to get you out of here, but I am not going to be part of another potential accident. You're my fighter and if anyone can pull through this, you will. We will NOT give up on you.

MAURA

I know. I know. I'm just so sick of fighting.

Dad swabs Maura's cheek with a glycerin swab.

**NEVER LOSE SIGHT**

DAD

YOU MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT WITH A BIG WAR TO FIGHT  
DON'T YOU DARE GIVE IT UP AND NEVER GIVE IN

YOU'VE STILL TOO MUCH LIFE  
PLEASE PROMISE YOU'LL WIN

MOM & SEANA

YOU'LL WIN

MAURA

THE ANGELS WERE CALLED, THEY OFTEN REPLIED  
THOUGH AT TIMES I DID WONDER, WAS I BEING TRIED?

DAD

WHO CAN EXPLAIN

SHE'S DEFIED ALL THE ODDS?

MOM & SEANA

THE ODDS

MAURA

SO MUCH TO DO, SIGHTS TO SEE  
THINGS I SHOULD FEEL, TASTE EV'RY MEAL  
I'LL NEVER GET OVER IT,  
BUT TRY TO GET THROUGH IT  
THROUGH LOSS I DID GAIN  
LIKE FLOWERS FROM RAIN  
THE DEPTH OF MY PAIN

DAD

THROUGH LOSS WE DID GAIN  
LIKE FLOWERS FROM RAIN  
THE DEPTH OF HER PAIN

MAURA

DARE I SAY I'M SCARED?  
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE IN  
THEY NEED ME TO WIN

MOM & SEANA

TO WIN

DAD



DEAR GOD, PLEASE NOT NOW  
SHE'S SO FULL OF LIFE  
WE NEED MUCH LESS STRIFE  
SHE'S OUR HERO, OUR ROCK

PLEASE GIVE HER THE STRENGTH  
AND TURN BACK THE CLOCK

MOM & SEANA

THE CLOCK

MAURA

SO MUCH TO DO, SIGHTS TO SEE  
THINGS I SHOULD FEEL, TASTE EVERY MEAL  
I'LL NEVER GET OVER IT

MOM & SEANA

BUT TRY TO GET THROUGH IT

MAURA

I'LL TRY TO GET THROUGH IT  
THROUGH LOSS I DID GAIN  
LIKE FLOWERS FROM RAIN  
THE DEPTH OF MY PAIN  
NO MORE TIME TO REFRAIN

DAD

PLEASE GIVE HER MORE TIME

MOM

NEED MORE TIME

ALL

PLEASE MORE TIME

DAD

Happy NOT-New Year, Maura Megan.

MAURA

Happy NOT-New Year, Dad.

Judge light flickers very brightly,  
muffled sniffles

MAURA

Your honor? Are you OK?

JUDGE VO

Ehem, pardon me, that was very touching. Please, proceed.

Lights shift, SFX GAVEL

## MAURA TO AUDIENCE:

Funny how life works out. Years later, dad suffered 2 massive heart attacks and underwent quadruple by-pass surgery and when he was discharged from the hospital, tables turned and this time, I helped take care of him. Like me, he was also put on a restricted diet and craved baked treats. Dad's also a diabetic. My challenge was set and Mac-n-Mo's was created. Not only did I create MORSELICIOUS TREATS for him, I also went back to school to study nutrition and became a certified health coach. Ah, the circle of life.

Judge's light flickers

## MAURA

And, just so you don't think I FORGOT to come back to TROUBLE IN TAHITI, the 5 of us, Mom, Dad, Seana, Doug and I took a Christmas vacation in Tahiti and dad suffered another cardiac arrest and since Seana & Doug HAD to get back to their jobs, mom and I were stuck in a dumpy motel for an extra 2 and a half weeks with dad in I.C.U. on life support, while no one at the hospital spoke English, only French or Tahitian. I knew I should have paid better attention during my scuba diving lesson in the Seychelles. Now, I know what you're thinking...how terrible can being stuck in Tahiti be? Let me just say that "Bali Hai, it was not, once dad got sick." And paradise turned to peril and I was exhausted and frustrated at our situation, as well as dad's lack of following his prescribed diet.

## MAURA

Mom, I'm done! The Morselist is throwing in her towel! I can't do this anymore. Carving this MORSELICIOUS path is just too hard. MY own father can't even follow my advice. Let people eat their cookies, cake and crap.

## MOM

Moo, cookies crumble. Morsels do not!

## MAURA TO AUDIENCE

That was it. There she was. Mom, my family pushing me to keep trailblazing my own path, not following someone else's while supporting me 100%. Thankfully, dad recovered enough to a point where we were finally able to fly back to the States and I was able to tease him about putting champagne in his i.v. for New Year's. Sick, I know. TROUBLE IN TAHITI. TROUBLE IN RIVER CITY. Capital T, ends with P and stands for POO! And you can submit that as "**Exhibit I**" for ICK, your honor!

JUDGE V.O.

Ms. Maura, you're treading on thin waters.

MAURA

With all due respect, your honor, I believe the saying is thin ice.

Judge's light flickers

MAURA

I'm just saying...I'm still trying to figure out the meaning of all my "life experiences." I'm convinced I'm an old soul, hell more like ancient. I don't know what God or life has in store for me, but I don't dare ask, "what next?," anymore. I'm not certain of my purpose here on earth, but I do know I must be a tremendous comic relief to someone up there. I keep thinking of the first Broadway play Dad took me to see in high school, BILOXI BLUES. The character Epstein said something that stuck with me. "Never be ordinary." For the record, my botched up surgery-hospital ordeal actually made it into medical journals, not my name, but all the events that took place following my initial *routine surgery*. Oh and when they finally released me from the hospital, the Good Doctor gave Mom my discharge orders.

Lights shift to reddish tone

GOOD DOCTOR 5

Mrs. Knowles, because Maura has lost so much weight during her stay here, she has to gain 20 pounds.

MOM

Yes, of course.

GOOD DOCTOR 5

However, because she developed pancreatitis during her stay here, she needs to be on a Fat Free Diet and she can not process alcohol.

MOM

What?

DAD

NO BOOZE?!

MOM

What the hell?!

DAD

She's Irish!

MOM

Can anything be simple?

GOOD DOCTOR 5

Regarding Maura, I'm afraid not.

Lights shift

Maura to audience

Dr. "*these things happen*" continued practicing against my fight to have license revoked. But justice finally prevailed and he lost his license 18 years later.

JUDGE

Justice DOES exist!

MAURA

Whenever people would ask me how I got through some of my "ordeals," I'd respond "it's not what happens to you in life that matters, what truly matters is how you deal with it."

SEANA

Really, Nerd? I mean, come on! "It's not what happens to you in life that matters, "...my ass.

Lights shift, SFX GAVEL Knowles Home

CHRISTMAS MORNING, PRESENT DAY

MOM

Maura Megan, where is that damned voodoo doll? There's been enough bad luck-crap-shit-whatever the hell you want to call it. I want that doll out of this house, FOREVER!

MAURA

Mom, it's Christmas, for God's sake. Can we please finish our coffee before you start?

MOM

No. No more coffee until you bring me the doll.

DAD

Maura, listen to your Mother and get her the damned doll.

MAURA

Oh my God.

MOM

Maura, it's Christmas, do not use the Lord's name in vain.

MAURA

Aaaaaaaaah. What do you plan on doing with the doll?

MOM

Never you mind. Just bring me the doll.

MAURA

*Bring me the doll.* (muttering under her breath)

MOM

Maura!

MAURA

Nerd! Will you get Mom that damned voodoo doll?

SEANA

Why?

MAURA

Please, just get it. I'll be your favorite sistOR!

SEANA

OK..fine!

Seana enters with doll and leg cast

Oh my God. Look what else I found. Nerd's stinky cast from high school.

MOM

Glory be to God! Maura, my knees are sore from storming the heavens in prayer. Today we are going to burn the voodoo doll and that smelly cast.

DAD

On Christmas Day?! That's blasphemous!

MOM

Mac, today is an official burning day for the county of Sacramento. I'm done. Done with all the crap and all of Maura's bad luck.

DAD

And you want to burn that damned doll on our Lord's birthday?

MOM

I read on the internet, that burning rituals can clear evil energy, thanks to my new Christmas Lap Top. Thanks, honey.

DAD

Oh, great. I can't wait to hear what else you've learned.  
(*sarcastic*)

MAURA

Wait, Mom. I should be the one doing this.

MOM

You're absolutely right. Alleluia!

MAURA

OK, everyone, gather round the fireplace.

MAURA

Dear God of Voodoo or whoever's in charge of these rituals.

DAD

This is blasphemous!

SEANA

She's only trying to stop the doo doo.

Maura & Seana crack up, laughing

DAD

Oh for Christ's sake, just burn the damned things!

Maura throws both into fireplace.

**YOU ARE THE WING**

MOM, DAD & SEANA

THAT WHICH DOES NOT KILL YOU  
MAKES YOU STRONGER

MAURA

I'VE SAID MY PRAYERS, DONE GOOD DEEDS

SEANA

THIS TIME SHE SWEARS, NO MORE HEART BLEEDS

MAURA

I'VE LIVED THROUGH PAIN  
ENDURED SOME LOSS  
TIME TO REGAIN  
AND BE THE BOSS

MOM, DAD, SEANA

YOU'RE ANGELS SING YOUR FAV'RITE SONG,  
GRANT HER HEALTH AND LOVE, LIFE LONG

MAURA

LAUGHING TEARS, OR FLYING BEERS  
I WEAR THE HATS AND SEE MY LIFE

MOM, DAD, SEANA

THROUGH ALL THOSE MIRRORS

MAURA

WHERE'S MY PING TO HELP MY PONG?  
THE "SOMETHING GOOD" AUNT GERTIE PROMISED

MOM & DAD

WE'LL HELP YOU THROUGH  
WHAT LIES AHEAD

SEANA

START A NEW, YOU BIG FAT HEAD

MAURA

NO TIME TO FEAR, THIS TOO SHALL PASS  
FOR IF IT WON'T,

ALL

JUST KICK SOME ASS

SEANA

YOU ARE THE WING THAT MADE YOU STRONG

MOM & DAD

YOUR ANGELS SING, NOTHING'S WRONG

SEANA

COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT KING KONG

MOM & DAD

THIS LUCK CAN'T LAST TOO MUCH LONGER

MAURA

I KNOW NOW LIFE IS ONE BIG CURVE  
GOD GAVE US EACH

ALL

A HELL OF NERVE

SEANA

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D BE SET FREE  
THAT'S WHO YOU ARE, SO MUCH TO SEE

MOM & DAD

WE'RE ALWAYS HERE, NO MATTER WHAT  
OUR FEARLESS FOUR AND ONE SMALL MUTT

MAURA

EVEN THROUGH THESE GIANT BUMPS,  
HERE I AM AND HERE TO STAY  
I MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT  
TIME TO SHED ON ME NEW LIGHT  
COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT KING KONG  
THIS LUCK CAN'T LAST TOO MUCH LONGER  
I AM THE WING THAT MAKES ME STRONG  
MY ANGELS SING,

ALL

NOTHING'S WRONG

An ember from the fireplace catches the  
Christmas Tree and lights up in flames.  
Chaos ensues. Screams. SFX GAVEL and  
Sirens.

JUDGE

I've reached a verdict. You may keep your guardian angel. God  
knows you need one, hell, you need an army.  
Off the record, I agree with your mom. Your life is  
EXHAUSTING! The court grants you permission to continue your  
journey and whatever you do, for God's sake, WEAR A HELMET  
and get one for your angel, too!

**SKELETON REPRISE**

MOM, DAD & SEANA

OUR SKELETONS IN CLOSET  
MIGHT FIT EACH INJURED BONE  
A GIANT LUMP DEPOSIT  
IT'S TIME FOR US TO CHANGE THE TONE



MAURA

DON'T LET THOSE CRUTCHES GET YOU DOWN  
OR LET YOUR SMILES BECOME A FROWN  
REMEMBER CHILDHOOD'S FUNNY CLOWN  
THIS STORY HAS EARNED EACH ONE A CROWN

ALL

PANCREATITIS, SINUSITUS, POPPIN RIBS  
TENDONITIS, WHACKED ELBOW, BRUISES GROW  
TO AND FRO

MAURA

YO YO

DAD

YO YO

MOM

YO

SEANA

YO YO

DAD

YO YO

ALL

YO

JUDGE

Case dismissed!

Sfx gavel

MAURA

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE

Seana drags Maura offstage

SEANA

NO!

Black out

AUNT GERTIE VOICE OVER

SOMETHING GOOD IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU...

END OF PLAY



