

# *BRACE YOURSELF: A MUSICAL APOCALYPSE*

*Content Warnings: Guns, Knives, and discussed/implied parent death*

*Brace Yourself Character Descriptions*

**HOLLY:** A single swedish fish in a candy bag full of sour patch kids. She radiates best friend, Patty Simox, Janine Teauges, starter friend energy and believes any situation can be solved with a good attitude. She even refuses to swear because she thinks that's a way she can directly make the world a better place. This fourteen-year-old assumes that all of her insecurities and awkwardness will disappear when she gets her braces off, and truly thinks they're holding her back from being the confident and pretty girl she has always wanted to be. She never fully processed her parents' deaths and prefers to get through troubling moments by pretending everything is still okay. She/Her. Age: a young 14. Gender not flexible. Race is flexible but ideally this actor looks related to Amber's actor (not a requirement). (soprano)

**PAUL:** Paul is a forever Game Master who wants to be a hero. At fourteen, he builds worlds and characters on the daily to try and make his idealized world where everyone is noble, and fighting for good. As a young trans boy, Paul is trying to grapple with how the people around him treat him, especially his mom, Evelyn, who has become more overprotective since he came out, and his best friend Holly who never considers the nuances of his gender expression. Paul's super objective is to get his best friend Holly to like (as in like-like) him and to be someone else's hero. Ideally that someone else would be Holly. He/Him. Age: young 14. Trans boy who is out to the world, but has not started testosterone yet. Gender presentation in the show is not flexible, but the actor's chosen gender outside of the role is flexible, preferably a nonbinary or transmasculine actor. Race **flexible**. (alto/tenor)

**AMBER:** A nervous jellybean whose mind is always shaking. A twenty-eight-year-old who puts everyone's needs before her own to an unhealthy degree. Amber is currently dating twenty-eight-year-old Nell and is currently raising her fourteen-year-old sister Holly. Amber loves Nell but is questioning whether or not they should stay together because of their differing communication and parenting styles. Amber is terrified of change or relying on others, and is a master at avoiding confrontation. She/Her. Mid to late 20s. Gender not flexible. Race is flexible but ideally this actor looks related to Holly's actor (not a requirement). (alto)

**NELL:** At twenty-eight, Nell is a butch lesbian studying art therapy at the local community college, which is where she met, and started dating, Amber. After three years together, Nell wants to take things to the next level and propose to Amber, which also means she wouldn't have to raise Holly alone. She/Her. Mid to late 20s. Gender not flexible. Race flexible. (alto)

**EVELYN:** Evelyn is the forty-five-year old version of Tracy Flick. Steadfast, Put-together, and capable. She is a supermom. A power mom. A tiger mom. She is president of the PTA and uses her power to make the future bright for her baby boy. Her whole identity is being a mom and fighting for whatever Paul wants and needs. However, now that Paul is getting older, Evelyn is

starting to doubt her place in the world. Who is she if she isn't Paul's Mom? She/Her. Mid to late 40s. Race flexible. (mezzo-soprano)

MAX: mid twenties, A biker just trying to survive in the apocalypse. Max believes in survival of the fittest and that people should only help themselves. She only respects people that are stronger than her. She is mad, very mad. She/Her. Mid to late 30s. Race Flexible. Gender Presentation not Flexible. (alto)

SCRAPPER: A scrap metal collector who has been preparing for the apocalypse for years. Think a Harold Hill type of sly con man. Any or no gender. Older person but no assigned age. Gender Flexible. Race Flexible. (tenor)

**Ensemble Roles (can be played by 2 ensemble members, or combined with Scrapper, Max, and Evelyn)**

NEWSCASTERS/HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL: (NEWSCASTERS) Ageless, A man of news and paper. Gender Flexible. Race Flexible, one person playing multiple newscasters. (Hottest Boy) Sixteen. This character is Holly's specific perception of what the hottest boy in school would be like and not society's perception. Gender Not Flexible. Race Flexible. (He/Him) (tenor)

THE ORTHODONTIST: The great and certified, a voice in the sky that haunts Holly during her nightmare sequence. Gender Flexible. Race Flexible. (Whole cast speaking at once).

PTA MEMBER 1: Parent first, person second. Gender Flexible. Race Flexible. Age Flexible. (alto)

PTA MEMBER 2: Their kids have grown up but they are still an active PTA member (alto/tenor)

LEAD SCIENTIST: The "face scientist" that gives all of the interviews about the laser, more suave than competent. Gender Flexible. Race Flexible.

SARAH (SCIENTIST 2): The actual person building the laser. Beaker from The Muppets fragile type. She/Her. Gender Flexible. Race Flexible.

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## SCENE 1

## #01 TODAY'S THE DAY

*HOLLY's alarm goes off. HOLLY, already fully dressed, and slams off her alarm clock. HOLLY is dressed in overalls that give less Donna in "Mamma Mia 2" and more preschooler.*

HOLLY

GOOD MORNING, SALUTATIONS,  
HELLO MY LOVELY TEETH.  
TODAY'S THE DAY WE'VE BEEN DREAMING OF,  
WHEN WE REVEAL WHAT'S UNDERNEATH..

*HOLLY starts getting ready for the day. and throws open her curtain shining light into the room. Sounds of light, birds, Holly is having a total princess moment as she dances.*

I'VE BEEN BRUSHING,  
I'VE BEEN FLOSSING,  
I'VE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING.  
BUT EVERYTHING CHANGES TODAY  
I'M GETTING MY BRACES OFF RIGHT AT 2:15.

HOLLY

HELLO WORLD, I'm getting my braces off today!!!

*HOLLY crosses the stage and opens AMBER and NELL's door without knocking. The two of them are actively having sex.*

HOLLY

WAKE UP!!!!

NELL

HOLLY! HOLY SHIT!

HOLLY

NO SWEARING!!!!

AMBER

Holly? Holly It's six in the morning. Why are you awake?

HOLLY

Today's the day, Amber! Of course I'm awake.

NELL

Look, can we PLEASE start locking the door? Holly walked in on us three fucking times ...

HOLLY

NO SWEARING! See you upstairs!

*HOLLY slams the door and runs back to her room. Maybe she is putting on different scarves and hats and dramatically looking at herself in her mirror.*

*HOLLY skips again, shrugs and tosses her phone aside and starts to dance again.*

HOLLY

I'M GONNA EAT A BUNCH OF CARAMEL,  
AND FIND A BOY TO KISS,

*PAUL knocks on HOLLY's window.*

PAUL

Holly, Holly, it's me, open your window!!

*HOLLY lets PAUL in and then continues dancing.*

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I CAN FINALLY DO,  
AND THERE'S NOTHING I'M GONNA TO MISS.  
I'VE BEEN HOPING,  
I'VE BEEN PRAYING,  
I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF THIS DAY.  
AND NOTHING EVER EVER WILL GET IN THIS APPOINTMENT'S WAY!  
I'M GETTING MY BRACES OFF RIGHT AT 2:15!

*HOLLY jumps off of something (her bed?) and strikes a pose.*

HOLLY

Good morning Paul! Isn't this the most beautiful morning that has ever existed in the history of time?

PAUL

Yeah, it's crazy but the air reminds me of September 26th, 2018—//

HOLLY & PAUL

The day Dropout debuted Brennan Lee Mulligan as the first game master of dimension 20.

HOLLY

Yes Paul! It's just like that, but today we are the ones that are going to change the world!

PAUL

Yeah. Yeah it really is. Hey Holly, I want to tell you that I—

*HOLLY'S door opens, AMBER and NELL enter.*

NELL

(To Amber)

Holly is fourteen, You need to treat her like an adult if you want her to act like one.

AMBER

(Mouths To Nell)

Holly's my sister. Not yours.

HOLLY

(Out the window)

I'm getting my braces off today!!!

AMBER

Holly Hollandaise, why are your screaming out of your window?

HOLLY

Because! Today's the day!!

NELL

Holly, we have neighbors.

HOLLY

Yeah. But, Paul is our closest neighbor and he isn't like a neighbor! He's just Paul!... WAIT! Amber!

AMBER AMBER!

HOLLY AMBER! AMBER! AMBER! AMBER!	AMBER (Tired mom that works two jobs energy) Holly! Holly what?
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HOLLY

Amber, how long until we leave for the orthodontist?

AMBER

Well we have the event until 12. So we should leave around.....

HOLLY

Nooo. Can't we go earlier? The world has to see my delicious new teeth.

NELL

That's disgusting.

HOLLY

Please please please Amber!

AMBER

It'll happen Holly!!! But I have to go— uhhh— do something, like right now.

*AMBER kisses HOLLY on the head.*

*AMBER starts walking away and then goes back and tackle-hugs HOLLY.*

*AMBER kisses HOLLY on the head multiple times.*

HOLLY

Bye Amber! You're the best big sister slash legal guardian ever!!

NELL

See you, babe!

*AMBER flinches at that and AMBER and EVELYN exits.*

*NELL pulls out an engagement ring from her pocket, and shows it to HOLLY and PAUL. HOLLY squeals NELL holds a finger to her lips. And the two fist bump.*



NELL

Our little secret!

HOLLY

I can't believe you're going to propose.

NELL

She's not going to know what hit her.

NELL

AMBER I'M SO IN LOVE WITH YOU  
WILL YOU PLEASE BE MY WIFE?

AMBER

NELL, WITH HOLLY'S FUTURE AT PLAY,  
CAN I KEEP YOU IN MY LIFE?

PAUL

HOLLY, IF I BECOME YOUR HERO,  
WILL MY FEARS ALL GO AWAY?

PAUL, AMBER, & NELL

I KNOW WHAT I'M FEELING,  
THOUGH THE TRUTH WILL SEND HER REELING,  
SOON I'LL BE REVEALING WHAT I HAVE TO SAY,  
AND NOW EVERYTHING CHANGES TODAY.

*AMBER & NELL, fully exit now. HOLLY spins around again! (Princess turn).*

HOLLY

EVERYTHING I DO IS FOR MY SMILE  
TO HAVE A GRIN THAT'S ALWAYS IN STYLE  
SINCE THE SIXTH GRADE, I FOLLOWED EVERY RULE.  
BUT MAYBE THIS TIME I'LL FINALLY BE COOL.  
NOW WATCH ME TRANSFORM INTO THE GIRL I SEE INSIDE, THE  
CONFIDENT,  
THE PRETTY ONE,  
WITH NOTHING BAD TO HIDE.

SO HOLD THE PHONE,  
JUST YOU WAIT,  
AND WATCH ME RUB MY TONGUE ON THESE SOON TO BE FRESHLY FREE,  
SHINY, BEAUTIFUL  
NON YELLOWEY TEETH.

*SCENE 2*

*PAUL approaches HOLLY with the intent of saying he has a crush on her.*

PAUL

Hey Holly, I want to tell you that I—

HOLLY

AHHH!!! Today's the day!!!!

*HOLLY squeezes PAUL a little tighter.*

PAUL

I know and—

HOLLY

Isn't that exciting??

*PAUL freaks out in an OH MY GOD THERE IS A GIRL TOUCHING ME HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HANDLE THIS WAY!*

PAUL

Holly, HOLLY. you're squeezing me too tight.

HOLLY

Oh, sorry—It's just I'm so excited. After today I am going to be a totally different person.

PAUL

(Chickening out)

Hey! Are you...(chickens out) still down for our session tomorrow?

HOLLY

Oh My God! ALWAYS! My monk is gonna kick that barbarian's butt.

PAUL

HEY! Don't talk about the Big Bad like that.

HOLLY

Sorry. Thank you, Game Master, for your insanely well thought out table top role playing game.

PAUL

You joke, but my job is hard.

HOLLY

Sure thing, Buttface.

PAUL

Call me a butt face one more time and I will strike you with the anger of every game master that has come before me!

HOLLY

BRING IT ON BUTTFACE!

*HOLLY and PAUL giggle.*

PAUL

Hey, Holly?

HOLLY

Yeah?

PAUL

Um, there's actually something I've been meaning to talk to you about—//

*Door slams offstage.*

EVELYN

(From offstage)

PAUL!

*Enter EVELYN, the epitome of a PTA mom, carrying PAUL's lunch and a huge purse.*

EVELYN

Pudding pop, you forgot your special lunch.

PAUL

Mom!

EVELYN

Don't Mom me. You're the one that forgot.

HOLLY

Hi Ms Evelyn.

EVELYN

Oh my! Look at you two! So big! I can't believe you two are about to be big scary high schoolers! High school! My baby is in high school!

PAUL

Mom...

HOLLY

Isn't it exciting Ms. Evelyn?! Without my braces I am going to be the most popular high schooler of all time!

EVELYN

I wish you could both stay this way forever! My whittle baby!

PAUL

Mom! I'm not a Baby. I'm a grown (clears throat and tries to talk deeper) grown man.

*EVELYN hands PAUL his lunch. PAUL drops it. Higher pitched voice is back*

PAUL

Shit!

*HOLLY and EVELYN gasp and point at PAUL.*

HOLLY

PAUL! What have I told you about swearing?

HOLLY & PAUL

It makes the world uglier.

EVELYN

Wow. Holly. Always looking out for my little boy for me even though I am right here. What a delight it's been having you and Paul around more. By the way Paul... Are you two? Has that—

*PAUL does the zip-it beheading motion.*

PAUL

Mom!!!

HOLLY

Ms. Evelyn?

EVELYN

Paul isn't Holly's smile glowing today?

PAUL

MOM! You can't tell my friends that they have glowing smiles.

EVELYN

(To PAUL)

*Well, someone has to.*

HOLLY

Oh my gosh, Thank you, Ms. Evelyn! I flossed for an extra hour this morning. I'm glad *someone* noticed.

PAUL

I noticed! I just! I... Uh, I just don't want to reward over-flossing.

*Awkward.*

EVELYN

*So.* Holly, you must be so excited to see the asteroid today!

HOLLY

I guess.

EVELYN

You guess? It's hurtling right towards Earth! The view, the explosion, the light show... It is supposed to be an amazing life changing sight that makes you proud to be a member of the human race as we push aside our differences and rally around each other to save the world from absolute and total destruction.

HOLLY

Well, I'm getting my braces off at 2:15, so I'm more excited for that!

EVELYN

Oh, what a shame, you kids just don't appreciate history.

PAUL

Bye Mom!!

*PAUL and HOLLY start to walk in place, giving the impression that they are moving through the world, but EVELYN follows.*

EVELYN

Paul! PAUL! Have you thought about joining TKO? That Trans Kids in Ohio support group I was telling you about?

PAUL

Mom! Can you not right now?

EVELYN

I need to know if you want me to drive you to their meetings!

PAUL

Mom, I can take care of myself.

*PAUL and HOLLY run in place, giving the impression that they are moving through the world while EVELYN walks off stage.*

HOLLY

That was harsh.

PAUL

She needs to give me my space. Like I'm fourteen, I don't want to go to a support group my MOM told me about! It's like! I need to learn how to take care of myself. You know? I've been out for a year and she's still treating me like I'm her delicate little girl. When I'm not anymore. I hate it.

HOLLY

I don't know about that, I think she's just treating you like her little baby. Have you seen your face?

PAUL

What about my face?

HOLLY

It's a baby face.

PAUL

(Hurt)

Shut up. I have a man's face—

HOLLY

A man's baby face.

*HOLLY laughs at herself. PAUL is hurt.*

PAUL

Ha. Ha. Yeah. So. Um. Did I show you my new metal dice? They are the same ones Brennan Lee Mulligan used when he was playing Evan Kelmp on Dimension 20!

HOLLY

Woahhh! Where did you get these?

PAUL

I bought them! I mowed every lawn I could find for two WHOLE months, but I did it!

*PAUL hands HOLLY the dice.*

HOLLY

Wow, they are heavy!

PAUL

Right? Satisfying!

*HOLLY hands PAUL the dice back. PAUL kisses the dice in his hands before putting them back in his pocket.*

HOLLY

Hey, Paul, do you think I'll lose my lisp when I get my braces off?

PAUL

That's—that's not how braces work. You had your lisp before you got them on.

HOLLY

Oh. Well, I think it's going to go away.

PAUL

Why do you ask?



HOLLY

Because as soon as I get my braces off, I'm going to kiss the very first boy I see!

PAUL

WHAT?

HOLLY

(With full seriousness).

Don't judge me, but secretly, Paul, I'm a promiscuous young woman.

## #02 LIKE YOU

HOLLY

WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY FIRST KISS  
I THINK THE GUY WILL BE NOTORIOUS  
A PERFECT SPECIMEN, NOT SOMEONE HILARIOUSLY USELESS.  
LIKE YOU.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY FIRST KISS,  
I THINK IT WILL BE WITH SOMEONE GLORIOUS.  
A PERFECT TEN, NOT SOMEONE WHO PLAYS CHESS,  
LIKE YOU.

PAUL

Actually, I play checkers.

HOLLY

Ew, that's even worse.

HOLLY

HE WILL BE STRONG AND BRAVE AND A TRUE LEADER  
AND HE WILL MAKE ME FEEL SAFE AND BE A HUGE READER.  
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY HE WILL AGREE, THAT THE VERSION OF ME  
WITH MY BRACES OFF IS THE MOST PERFECT BEAUTIFUL HOLLY THAT  
COULD EVER BE!

HOLLY

WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY FIRST KISS,  
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WHEN I'M VICTORIOUS.  
I HOPE THAT AFTER THEN, THE BOY AND I WILL KISS AGAIN AND AGAIN  
AND AGAIN AND AGAIN.  
AND THAT HE'LL BE MY BEST FRIEND,

LIKE YOU.

HOLLY

So I just want a guy that's smart and brave and— (fade out)

*HOLLY'S voice gets softer and softer. Lights change during this moment as everything focuses on PAUL's internal monologue.*

PAUL	HOLLY
Come one you weenie... TELL HER! Tell her you like her. Maybe she'll go for it! You don't know!!! It's easy, just say—	and truly spectacular and amazing and great and really smart and loves puppies and goes to school in canada...

PAUL

HEY HOLLY, YOU DON'T KNOW THIS BUT I LIKE YOUR BRACES A LOT.  
THEY FRAME YOUR FACE, AND IN THIS CASE YOUR BEAUTY FILLS MY  
THOUGHTS.

AND WHILE THIS IS ONLY IN MY HEAD.  
MAYBE ONE DAY I'LL SAY THIS OUTLOUD INSTEAD.  
IT'S NOT A LIE, IT'S MY BATTLE CRY,  
THERE'S NO STOPPING WHAT'S AHEAD.

HEY HOLLY I SEE YOU  
AND I THINK YOU SEE ME TOO  
I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS TRUE

HOLLY

HE WILL BE NICE TO MY SISTER.

AND BE REALLY GOOD AT TWISTER

AND BE A REAL MISTER MISTER  
THE PERFECT BOY WILL LOOK AT ME  
AND BE LIKE  
I'M SO GLAD THAT I KISSED HER.

PAUL

HEY HOLLY I LIKE YOU.

HEY HOLLY I LIKE YOU.

HEY HOLLY I LIKE YOU.

YOU SEE ME TOO.

I'M SO GLAD THAT I KISSED HER.

HEY HOLLY I LIKE—

PAUL

Did you say something?

HOLLY

Well, It's uh. Nothing important. Let's go.

PAUL

## SCENE 3

*Setting up picnics onstage, the ensemble, led by AMBER, get ready to see the asteroid, A newsman sets up a broadcast in the corner. AMBER bumps into EVELYN.*

AMBER

Evelyn!

*AMBER hugs EVELYN.*

EVELYN

At least someone's glad to see me. I'm on my way to THE PTA bakesale for the town Emergency Funds! We're using the asteroid as a chance to advertise. You know about the asteroid/// Right?

AMBER

I know about the asteroid! Nell planned this whole picnic for it.

EVELYN

How romantic/

AMBER

Not romantic! Terrifying! I've been avoiding Nell all morning. We're moving too fast. She basically lives with us and she keeps trying to get me to go to therapy. Like, Nell thinks my relationship with Holly is "unhealthy" and "codependent" and she thinks I should treat Holly more like an adult and let her face the world. But the world is terrifying and I am not letting Holly see it until she is absolutely ready. I never got that, so I am damn well making sure she gets it. Like when our parents died— God I'm getting side tracked. Nell wants me to change and evolve, but I don't want to do that. I like how I am. And I don't want to change. Like, she takes care of me, but we just think about things totally differently... She's all tough love and I'm not. I ran out of the house this morning like I had a plan but all I have is this bag of string cheese from the supermarket that I thought she would like! What should I do Evelyn?

EVELYN

Oh so can I finally talk?

AMBER

You could always talk. Now I know you don't know a lot about life outside of//

EVELYN

Outside of what?

AMBER

You know, like life outside of being a single PTA Mom.

EVELYN

I am the president of the PTA.

AMBER

Yeah but does that like that doesn't give you any real power.

EVELYN

Real power? As PTA president I am able to care for and protect my community. If that isn't real power then what is?

AMBER

I get that, but the PTA can't like change the world.

EVELYN

Changing one community is changing the world. Now I can't stay here, I have a bakesale to run.

AMBER

Oh my god, Evelyn, I'm so sorry didn't mean to insult you I was just trying to be practical//

*NELL walks on as AMBER is talking, carrying picnic supplies.*

EVELYN

NELL!! NELL OVER HERE! Hi Nell! I'm so glad we found you. I was just leaving.

AMBER

Evelyn, I didn't mean!///

NELL

Bye Evelyn!

AMBER

It.

NELL

Oh my god, Babe is that string cheese from the supermarket? YES!

*AMBER spazzes out.*

NELL

Oh my god! Sorry, babe, I didn't mean to scare you. I just love that cheese. I love that cheese almost as much as I love you.

AMBER

Maybe we should be in a throuple, with the cheese. Wouldn't that be Funny? HA HA HA HA. Just you, me, and the cheese.

NELL

Amber, are you okay! (teasing) You seem nervous.

AMBER

I'M NOT NERVOUS, YOU'RE NERVOUS!

NELL

I'm not nervous, I'm Nell.

*AMBER rolls her eyes, NELL playfully jabs/teases.*

NELL CONT.

Are you ready?

AMBER

As I'll ever be.

*Beat. NELL and AMBER start setting up their picnic. Throughout this a Cleveland newscaster is interviewing different people.*

NELL

So—I brought your favorite.

AMBER

Frozen Waffles, Tuna fish, chicken parm—Jesus you really got all of my favorites.

NELL

Only the best for you babe.

AMBER

Those things don't really make a meal.

NELL

Oh. I guess not—but they’re yummy.

AMBER

I guess—Nell—we need to seriously talk about our future.

NELL

Yes! Yes! Tell me babe, we are one mind!

AMBER

Nell, we have opposing views on almost everything.

NELL

Yeah! Isn’t it great, there’s always something for us to talk about.

AMBER

Yeah, but, you know. We have to be on the same page for, like, really important things. I just think that there are some important steps that I– that we need to take.

NELL

Babe. I’m so glad you said something. Because I was thinking the exact same thing.

AMBER

Really?

NELL

Yeah— We can’t go on like this, we’re not kids anymore. It’s time we be realistic.

AMBER

Oh, thank god. I completely agree.

NELL

Amber. Will you marry me?

AMBER

What?!

NELL

Look. It's hard for me to be emotional like this, but you're so kind, you do so much for the people you love and I just want to help you do that. You always support everyone else, so you deserve someone who just supports you. So, what do you say? Will you marry me?

AMBER

I uhh—I guess?

NELL

You guess?

AMBER

I mean yes!! I said yes!!

NELL

Oh my god yes! She said yes! Mr. Newsman she said yes!

*CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER enters.*

CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

Did you hear that folks? The asteroid is bringing everyone together. Now what are your names?

NELL

Nell and amber!

CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

Well, Nell and Amber. Did you know that today is a day full of love for our planet, our fellow man, and science?

NELL

Amber, you have made me the happiest person in the world. I love you.

AMBER

I love you too.

CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

Humanity has conquered nature.



### #03 HISTORY IS HAPPENING

#### ENSEMBLE

HISTORY IS HAPPENING,  
 JUST TAKE A LOOK AROUND.  
 HISTORY IS HAPPENING,  
 OH THE SIGHT MAKES MY HEART POUND  
 HISTORY IS HAPPENING  
 THE WORLD IS SAFE AND SOUND.  
 HISTORY IS HAPPENING  
 AND WE CAN SEE IT FROM THE GROUND.

#### CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

Today's the day folks, the moment that will make history. A normally apocalyptic asteroid is going to hurdle towards Earth, but with our laser technology we are going to blast it out of the sky and make it a light show for all to see. Everyone in Garfield Heights, including our young lovers, are gathered at the local high school to see this sight. We now go live to DC, where Bob Coleman is with one of the very scientists who designed the laser. Bob?

*CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER turns around and becomes DC NEWSCASTER.*

#### DC NEWSCASTER

Thank you, Terrence. Well, I'm here in DC with just two of the amazing scientists across the world working on the lasers. Now can you tell the world what is going on?

#### LEAD SCIENTIST

Well. Across the world, Scientists have equipped all 440 nuclear plants with lasers! We are going to use these lasers to blow up that nasty asteroid in the sky and together we will save all of planet Earth.

#### SCIENTIST 2

That's absolutely right. My colleague, the lead scientist ON THIS PROJECT, is a great man who absolutely has the time to conduct this interview, instead of making sure the laser is ready to go.

#### LEAD SCIENTIST

Right! Because we have had funding for this project months in advance! This will certainly not be the first time we'll be testing it out! We didn't lie at the government's insistence to prevent worldwide panic! This thing is perfectly safe! Perfectly SAFE!

#### DC NEWSCASTER

Well, that certainly puts me at ease! We can't wait to see this laser destroy the asteroid, and with absolutely no hiccups along the way whatsoever! Back to you Cleveland!

CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

What great news, Bob!

NELL

This is the greatest day ever! Don't you think?

AMBER

Yeahhh. The greatest day ever.

CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

Now! This will be a close call for Earth, so don't be frightened if things get a little bit weird.

*Focus shifts from DC back to Cleveland. HOLLY sees AMBER and tackle hugs her.*

HOLLY

Hello, my lovely sister! What's going on here?

AMBER

We're just—just having a picnic.

HOLLY

A romantic picnic?

NELL

She said yes!

HOLLY

She said yes??

AMBER

Wait, you knew about this?

HOLLY

Holy shrimp! Does that mean you two are getting married?

AMBER

Nell, you told Holly about this?

NELL

Well I had to get her blessing.

AMBER

But you talked to her before talking to me?

NELL

Was that wrong?

HOLLY

(In her own world)

Today is truly the perfect day!

ENSEMBLE

HISTORY IS HAPPENING,  
JUST TAKE A LOOK AROUND.  
HISTORY IS HAPPENING,  
OH THE SIGHT MAKES MY HEART POUND  
HISTORY IS HAPPENING  
THE WORLD IS SAFE AND SOUND.  
HISTORY IS HAPPENING  
AND WE CAN SEE IT FROM THE GROUND.

LEAD SCIENTIST

How's it going, Sarah?

SCIENTIST 2

I think I've almost got it!

NELL

LIFE IS JUST BEGINNING.

AMBER

WHAT IF THIS IS THE END?

HOLLY

THIS DAY IS SO ROMANTIC.

PAUL

WHY DOES THIS FEEL LIKE PRETEND?

ENSEMBLE

LOOK! LOOK!

IT'S A BIRD

IT'S A PLANE

PAUL IT'S A- ASTEROID	ENSEMBLE IT'S A—COMET!
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PAUL

Guys! It's an asteroid not a comet!

ENSEMBLE

YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE SKY

YOU CAN SEE IT FLY

PAUL ASTEROID	ENSEMBLE COMET!
------------------	--------------------

PAUL

Guys it's not a comet!

ENSEMBLE

IT'S GROWING VERY FAST

IT'S GROWING VERY FAST

VERY FAST

VERY FAST

VERY FAST

VERY FAST

COMET!

PAUL

It's not a—

ENSEMBLE

COMET!

PAUL

It's an asteroid. They are Very DIFFERENT—

... COMET!	ENSEMBLE COMET! COMET!
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*The lasers aim at the asteroid and the asteroid blows up in the sky. It is a brilliant light show and everyone starts clapping, some people even stand up, the same people who stand up on airplanes. Over the radio the CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER starts speaking again.*

CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

As you can see folks, this endeavor was a major success. We humans have conquered the earth, proving once and for all our superiority over mother nature's forces. Now Bob, can you tell us how things are going back in DC?

*CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER turns around and becomes DC NEWSCASTER.*

DC NEWSCASTER

It's all bright smiles and rapturous cheers over here in DC, where we're celebrating our victory over the asteroid with champagne, and we recommend that all of humanity does the same. Now everyone raise a glass to—

SCIENTIST 2

HEY!!! Watch where you're going, you almost spilled champagne right over the laser mainframe.

DC NEWSCASTER

Boy folks, that was a close call—

*DC NEWSCASTER actually spills Champagne is spilled on the mainframe. The laser fizzles and powers down. Everyone gasps.*

LEAD SCIENTIST

Well, good thing we won't be needing that thing again anytime soon! The next Potentially Hazardous Object isn't coming for # decades!

*Everyone laughs a fancy laugh, cheers, and drink again, an alarm goes off*

SCIENTIST 2

Sir something is happening with the laser!

ENSEMBLE

LOOK! LOOK!

LEAD SCIENTIST

What's going on?

SCIENTIST 2

It's warming up again sir! Sir, it's activated all 440 lasers worldwide around the world.

LEAD SCIENTIST

We have to stop them! If they gather that much energy all 440 nuclear powered lasers are going to—

*Explosion. HOLLY hits her head and the stage goes dark, a flash of voices and lights as HOLLY lays in the middle of this tornado of information and chaos.*

ENSEMBLE

HISTORY IS HAPPENING...

*HOLLY is on the floor unconscious, and the rest of the cast performs interpretive physical interpretation of the apocalypse.*

*THE NEWSCASTER keeps changing hats/voices.*

NEWS VOICE 1

BREAKING NEWS! PLANET SAVING LASERS BUILD UP TOO MUCH ENERGY  
AFTER ALCOHOL WAS SPILLED ON THE MAINFRAME  
TRIGGERING A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS ACROSS THE WORLD...

NEWS VOICE 2

BREAKING NEWS! CHAOS HAS ERUPTED ON THE WORLD STAGE

AND GOVERNMENTS EVERYWHERE ARE LEFT COMPLETELY VULNERABLE  
SOME REPORTS SAY THAT MISSILES HAVE BEEN FIRED...

NEWS VOICE 3

BREAKING NEWS! WE HAVE OFFICIALLY LOST CONTACT WITH DC  
I REPEAT, WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH DC  
THE PRESIDENT IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...

NEWS VOICE 4

BREAKING NEWS! THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS GONE DARK.  
IF ANYONE OUT THERE CAN HEAR US, GODSPEED.

## SCENE 4

*The world is now in rubble, which is symbolized by the destroyed remains of multiple picnics. Debris is everywhere. NELL and AMBER enter, disheveled but alive. AMBER starts desperately looking through the rubble with her bare hands.*

NELL

Amber, we've been looking for a while.

AMBER

I'm not stopping until I find Holly.

NELL

But we're the only people—we're the only people who didn't get buried by rock. She might be gone already.

AMBER

No! NO! Holly is not gone, she is just missing, and **we** are not stopping until we find her.

NELL

But we have to look out for ourselves too. She might already be—.

AMBER

I am not losing anybody else.

*AMBER continues digging through the rubble. NELL takes a deep breath and then digs with her.*

*Desperate, AMBER stands up and starts shouting.*

AMBER

(interrupting)

Hello?? Hello, is anyone there??

*AMBER walks backwards and steps on an arm. She cringes and refuses to look down.*

AMBER

What did I just step on??

NELL

Uhh, don't look down.



Uh, why?

AMBER

There's an arm on the ground—

NELL

There's a what??!!

AMBER

A spare arm.

NELL

There's no such thing as a spare arm.

AMBER

*The arm starts moving and PAUL emerges from the rubble.*

Gwah! (Cue heavy breathing)

PAUL

Paul? Oh my god, Paul.

AMBER

*NELL and AMBER get PAUL out of the trapped conditions.*

I can't breathe. Oh my god. Did I almost die??? Oh my god.

PAUL

Paul. Where's Holly?

AMBER

What?

PAUL  
(dazed)

Have you seen Holly?

AMBER

Paul—?

NELL

PAUL

Where's my mom— she was with you guys, right?

*Beat. AMBER and NELL look at each other.*

NELL

Paul I hate to say this but—

AMBER

We hate to say it, but I'm pretty sure she already left. Yeah, she probably already left and is out there looking for you.

NELL

(Aside to AMBER)

We don't know that.

AMBER

(Aside to NELL)

He doesn't need the truth right now.

PAUL

She's looking for me?

*NELL looks between PAUL's big puppy dog eyes and AMBER's insistent face.*

NELL

Uh. Yeah.

*Across the stage, HOLLY wakes up and rubs her head. HOLLY sits up.*

HOLLY

Owww.

*AMBER, NELL, and PAUL see and run over to HOLLY.*

AMBER

Holly! HOLLY!

HOLLY

Shut up, I'm awake.

NELL

Oh, thank god!

*HOLLY looks around. AMBER gives HOLLY a huge hug.*

AMBER

C'mon. Let's get out of here.

HOLLY

But, where is everyone else?

AMBER

I don't know.

HOLLY

What does that mean?

NELL

Everyone's gone. There was an explosion and everyone kinda... left.

*The gang helps HOLLY up. HOLLY holds her head. Ouchie.*

AMBER

But, don't worry! Everything is going to be fine, I've got this under control. I promise, everything is going to go back to normal. In fact, everything is already back to normal now. Yeah! The bad things happened, and now we are moving on.

HOLLY

The bad thing is over?

AMBER

Of course it is! Right, Nell?

NELL

Yeah... right... everything is good now! But let's get somewhere safe.

*HOLLY springs into action.*

HOLLY

Like the orthodontist!

AMBER  
What?

NELL  
What?

PAUL  
What?

HOLLY  
Yeah! Let's wait for things to calm down at the orthodontist. It'll be safe, It'll be clean, AND they might take my braces off early. It's—what time is it?

PAUL  
Give me a second. I learned this in the boy scouts!

*PAUL uses boy scout tricks to track where the sun is in the sky.*

PAUL  
It's like 10:30, I think.

HOLLY  
Then, let's get going! Time is of the essence. Right?

PAUL  
I will get you to the orthodontist if it is the last thing I do.

NELL  
But guys, everything is on fire. The orthodontist won't be there—

AMBER  
HOLLY! That's a great idea. We'll wait out all of this chaos at the orthodontist, because the orthodontist will definitely be there!

PAUL  
Oh! Oh! I have an idea! I have supplies at home. Let's go to my house.

HOLLY  
You mean your adventuring gear? Oh my god, that's perfect!

*HOLLY and PAUL run ahead.*

AMBER  
(To Holly and PAUL)  
Be careful!!

*NELL steps in front of AMBER.*

NELL

The orthodontist will definitely be there?

AMBER

I won't be the one that breaks them.

*AMBER marches past NELL.*

## SCENE 5

*Welcome to PAUL's basement! As HOLLY, AMBER, and NELL enter through one door (baffled by their surroundings), PAUL enters through the opposite door in a full knight's costume cosplay. Carrying a mountain of costumes and props in his arms, PAUL, with wizard-like motion, drops the pile in the middle of the room. PAUL stands proudly with his homemade wizard's staff.*

PAUL

Huzzah!

HOLLY

Wow!!

*HOLLY walks up to admire PAUL's costume.*

HOLLY CONT.

WOAAAH!! Cool staff!!

PAUL

Thanks!

HOLLY

This is awesome—Did you make this yourself?

PAUL

(Faux cool guy)

It's no biggie. Just something I slapped together to look fierce.

HOLLY

Well—If we're going on an adventure, then I need to look fierce too!

PAUL

That's the spirit. And hey, I got a special bag for my new dice! You know, in case of a TTRPG emergency.

HOLLY

Cool!!!

NELL

Paul?

PAUL

Give me a second, I've got to get Holly in her gear.

NELL

Yo!

PAUL

Give us a minute!

NELL

Paul! PAUL! Paul? What is this? You said that you had survival supplies. This—This can't be everything!

AMBER

I'm sure it's not—(everything).

PAUL

This is everything!

NELL

This is it? These stupid Halloween costumes are all you've got? We need structure, we need a plan!

PAUL

I have a plan—get Holly to the orthodontist! Dead or alive!

HOLLY

What? I don't want to be dead!

PAUL

You won't actually be dead. No one is going to die, it's just a saying.

NELL

Guys, we can't just **say** we're going to do something. We need to think it through first—we need a plan. A real plan! Or at least a map of Ohio—!

PAUL

Well, then you're in luck.

*PAUL pulls a rolled up map out of his backpack.*

HOLLY

WOAH!!

PAUL

I knew my love of cartography would come in handy someday. Now! From Garfield Heights it's about 8 miles to Cleveland, so if we walk fast, we can get there in three hours.

HOLLY

Oh my god! That works!! That actually works! We can make it in time!

AMBER

See? See!!! I told you everything would be okay.

HOLLY

I'm so happy! This is awesome!

*NELL pulls AMBER away as HOLLY and PAUL gawk and whisper over the map. AMBER and NELL have an aside conversation.*

NELL

Amber— I don't think I can do this.

AMBER

Nell—

NELL

Did you see her face? We can't just keep pretending like everything is okay! This isn't fair to them.

AMBER

Life isn't fair. What just happened isn't fair!

NELL

But this feels cruel!

AMBER

Cruel? We're shielding them.

NELL

Are we?



AMBER

Look—the kids are hanging on by a thread. They need this— Trust me. We'll tell them the truth as soon as we get to Cleveland! I'll have a plan by then—a real one.

NELL

Are you sure?

AMBER

When am I ever wrong?

*AMBER walks over to PAUL and HOLLY. AMBER joins in on PAUL and HOLLY's conversation.*

AMBER

That's a great idea Paul, Let's do that! Yeah. —Right, Nell?

*AMBER mouths "PLEASE" to NELL.*

NELL

(Full of doubt)

Yeah—right—.

PAUL

Now, we're running low on time, but this is the moment I've been training for. It'll be just like my game.

NELL

Your game— Ohio is going to be like your little dice game?

PAUL

It's more than a little game, it's life, it's strategy, it's everything—

#### #04 A TASTE

PAUL

I HAVE TRAINED FOR THIS MOMENT,  
WITH EVERY GAME I'VE PLAYED.  
SO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER,  
AND TREAT THIS LIKE A RAID.

WE HAVE A QUEST TO GO ON.  
WE HAVE A GOAL IN SIGHT  
I KNOW HOW TO DO THIS

CAUSE I HAVE A SOURCE TO CITE

I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE PLAYING GAMES  
MOM ALWAYS TOLD ME IT WAS A WASTE  
BUT TTRPGS WILL BE OUR SAVING GRACE  
SO LISTEN TO ME, LET ME GIVE YOU A TASTE

NELL

What are TTRPGs?

HOLLY

Tabletop roleplaying games, they are imagination games that use dice to elicit outcomes.

NELL

What??— regardless of the ttrp—whatevers. This isn't fun and games, this shit is serious—

PAUL

This IS SERIOUS. Now we have to pick our roles. HOLLY is obviously our paladin.

HOLLY

I will abide by my sacred code to the bitter end.

PAUL

Amber will be our Warlock.

AMBER

Like a wizard?

PAUL

No. A warlock. Wizards are very different.

NELL

Just let her be a wizard.

PAUL

Fine. In that case, Nell is clearly the sarcastic Rogue that no one gets along with.

NELL

Hey!

PAUL

And me— I think I know who I'll be.

PAUL

THE PARTY IS FULLY BALANCED,  
AND I WILL BE OUR BARD.  
WE'LL JOURNEY THROUGH OHIO,  
QUESTING ISN'T VERY HARD.

AMBER

IGNORE THE DEATH AND CHAOS,  
IT'S... JUST A PART OF THE PLOT.

PAUL

OUR STORY IS JUST BEGINNING  
SO SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT!

*Beat.*

NELL

What?

PAUL

Come on, show me what you got!

*Music swells again. Beat.*

AMBER

Yeah, I don't know what you mean.

HOLLY

Yeah, you're not being very clear.

NELL

This is stupid.

PAUL

Guys. Come on, show me your game faces. Like YAAAH!

*Beat.*

PAUL  
GWAH!

*Beat.*

PAUL  
GW—

NELL  
//Paul! Stop it.

PAUL  
You're no fun.

NELL  
I'm no fun? —Do you want to say that (again)?

AMBER  
Literal child you are talking to a literal child right now.

HOLLY  
I don't get what the big deal is. Paul just wants us to put on our game faces.

AMBER  
Yeah. We need to be team players—(Mouths please).

NELL  
But—(how is this going to help us)

PAUL  
Guys. Look, we're a party, and if we're going to survive, then we have to band together and prove that we will not be stepped on— We are adventurers. So, put on your game faces and show me those battle cries!!

*The gang gives battle cries, NELL gives a skeptical one.*

PAUL  
That's it!

PAUL

WE'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE,  
BUT WE HAVE A GOAL TO PURSUE.  
THIS IS JUST OUR FIRST ARC,  
AND WE'RE MAKING OUR DEBUT.  
THE JOURNEY WON'T BE EASY,  
WE MAY FACE FOES OLD AND NEW.  
WE JUST NEED TO WORK TOGETHER  
SO WE CAN MAKE IT THROUGH.

PAUL

I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE PLAYING GAMES  
MOM ALWAYS TOLD ME IT WAS A WASTE  
BUT TTRPGS WILL BE OUR SAVING GRACE  
SO LISTEN TO ME, LET ME GIVE YOU A TASTE.  
LET ME GIVE YOU A TASTE  
LISTEN TO ME  
AND LET ME GIVE YOU A TASTE

## SCENE 6

*Darkness onstage as the gang leave to go on their adventure. The stage is covered in rubble. There is silence for a moment and then a hand reaches out of the chaos and begins to claw its way to freedom. It's EVELYN, she has risen.*

*EVELYN's head pokes out of the rubble. Voices from offstage. PTA MEMBERS 1 and 2 enter.*

PTA MEMBER 1

Oh my god! Is that Evelyn?

PTA MEMBER 2

She's alive?

PTA MEMBER 1

Evelyn! Evelyn. Are you okay?

*EVELYN breaks away from the PTA members.*

EVELYN

Where is my son?

PTA MEMBER 1

What?

*EVELYN holds PTA MEMBER 1 up by their suspenders. She does this with one hand. EVELYN is fuming, enraged, empowered by the strength of every mother that has ever come before her.*

EVELYN

Where is Paul? HAVE YOU SEEN PAUL?

PTA MEMBER 1

No ma'am!

EVELYN

WHAT??

PTA MEMBER 1

I'm choking, can't breathe, help!

*EVELYN drops PTA MEMBER 1 and digs through her comically oversized purse.*

PTA MEMBER 2

Evelyn, we need to get to safety! Someone is bound to come for us.

EVELYN

No one is coming for us.

*EVELYN pulls out a comically large tracking device from her purse.*

EVELYN

I found it! Thank god.

PTA MEMBER 2

Evelyn what is that?

EVELYN

It's a tracking device.

PTA MEMBER 2

How is that still working?

EVELYN

It's battery powered. Oh Paul. Paul, where are you!

PTA MEMBER 1

You know you really shouldn't track your kid.

EVELYN

I'm not tracking my kid, I'm tracking his backpack. There's a difference.

*Beat.*

EVELYN

What's he doing all the way out there? Paul can't be out there on his own, someone might hurt him! I have to be his protector. I have to go get him!

PTA MEMBER 1

No! We can't go anywhere until the government gets here. We need to wait for someone to save us.

EVELYN

We don't need anyone to save us! We are the Garfield Heights PTA and we can save ourselves!

PTA MEMBER 2

How?

EVELYN

We'll use the PTA emergency plans!

PTA MEMBER 1

But we're not qualified..///

EVELYN

We are the most qualified! We are going to put Garfield Heights together brick by brick for our children! For our children's children!

PTA MEMBER 2

But we can't do all of that!

EVELYN

I am PTA president! And I say what the PTA can and can't do! So if I say you are going to rebuild society, then you are going to rebuild society.

## #05 THE POWER OF EVELYN

EVEYLN

PACK YOUR LUNCHES AND GET IN GEAR.  
THE TIME FOR EVEYLN IS HERE.  
THE CITY'S BURIED IN DUST AND ASH.  
NOW'S THE TIME TO DO SOMETHING RASH.

PTA MEMBER 1

I didn't sign up for "saving the world" when I joined the PTA.

PTA MEMBER 2

Evelyn, we want to make the world better for our kids, not rebuild society.

EVEYLN

MOMMY ALWAYS HAD A DREAM  
TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCENE  
THE PTA WAS FINE, BUT NOW IT SEEMS  
THAT THERE'S A NEW ROLE FOR THIS STAY AT HOME QUEEN.



EVEYLN

THE WORLD HAS ENDED,  
BUT THAT'S FINE.  
WE CAN MOVE ON TOGETHER,  
JUST STAND IN LINE.  
I KNOW YOU MIGHT BE PRAYING FOR SOME KIND OF SIGN,  
BUT I'M HERE TO BE YOUR FRIEND.  
THAT'S THE POWER OF EVELYN.

EVELYN

But don't you see we can force the world to be better for our kids. It's all right here in my PTA emergency binders.

EVEYLN

I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SAVE US ALL.  
IT INVOLVES A SEXY LITTLE THING CALLED PROTOCOL.  
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON,  
BUT I KNOW THAT TOGETHER WE'RE CAPABLE AND STRONG.

EVEYLN

THE PTA HAS BEEN PREPPING FOR OVER 30 YEARS.  
SO WIPE AWAY THOSE WORRIED TEARS.  
DISASTER HAS HIT BUT THIS NOT THE END.  
JUST LISTEN TO ME OLD FRIEND.

EVELYN

LET'S MAKE LIFE BETTER ON A LARGER SCALE.

PTA MEMBER 1

TOGETHER WE CAN PREVAIL.

PTA MEMBER 2

OUR KIDS DESERVE A SAFER PLACE.

EVELYN

I'LL MAKE THAT THE CASE.  
OUR BOARD WAS ELECTED,  
I WAS SELECTED,  
TO SERVE ALL OF YOU.  
JUST LET ME TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.

## EVELYN

TIME IS TICKING AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS BAILED.  
IT'S TIME FOR US TO RISE UP WHERE EVERYONE ELSE HAS FAILED.  
LET'S BUILD A NEW SOCIETY FOR US TO ENJOY,  
ONE WHERE MAMA BEARS ALWAYS PROTECT THEIR BABY BOYS.

## PTA &amp; EVELYN

THE WORLD HAS ENDED,  
BUT THAT'S FINE.  
WE CAN MOVE ON TOGETHER  
JUST STAND IN LINE .  
I KNOW YOU MIGHT BE PRAYING FOR SOME KIND OF SIGN.  
BUT SHE'S HERE TO BE YOUR FRIEND  
THAT'S THE POWER OF EVELYN.

## SCENE 7

*HOLLY, PAUL, AMBER, and NELL are traveling down the highway. They are walking in a group, but NELL is moving forward with caution. There's a rumbling of a motorcycle in the distance.*

HOLLY

Hurry up, we can't be late!

NELL

I'm just trying to make sure we stay out of that biker's eyeline, *(Nell grabs hold of Amber's hand)* we don't want trouble.

*Lightbulb moment, HOLLY has an idea!*

HOLLY

Wait—maybe he can give us a ride!

NELL

What// oh no no no.

HOLLY

//Oh Mr.Biker, please, sir!! Over here!!!

*The biker pulls up and HOLLY steps forward out of NELL's grasp. MAX takes off her biker helmet.*

HOLLY

OH. Excuse me, Ms. Biker we need your help, you see we're trying to get to my orthodontist appointment.

MAX

You're what?

*MAX takes a step forward, confused but amused. HOLLY steps forward.*

HOLLY

I *(suddenly unsure)* need help getting to my appointment. Could you give us a ride on your bike?

*NELL reaches for HOLLY.*

NELL

Holly!!

AMBER

Yeah maybe come back over here—.

MAX

Are you, is she shitting me, are you shitting me right now?

*HOLLY cringes at the swear.*

HOLLY

I'm not—I'm not pooping you right now.

MAX

You're — you're not what? What the fuck did you just say? You're not pooping me? What the fuck does that mean?

*HOLLY looks around herself.*

HOLLY

I'm—Well, I don't swear.

MAX

You don't swear?

HOLLY

Yeah, I don't swear, it makes the world uglier.

MAX

What's your name, kid?

HOLLY

Holly.

*MAX reaches into their bag and takes out a knife.*

MAX

And what do you have in that backpack, Holly?

*PAUL steps forward boldly and screams.*

PAUL

Stay back, bandit!

*PAUL screams and charges MAX. MAX holds out her hand and holds PAUL by the top of his head as PAUL tries to rush MAX. MAX shoves PAUL to the ground, and PAUL looks up in shock.*

MAX

You wasted my time.

HOLLY

We asked for your help—you could have just left after saying no.

MAX

Have you seen the world little girl? If there's an opportunity in front of me then I'm going to take it. Now hand over your backpack.

*PAUL drops his backpack and starts taking things out of it.*

PAUL

Okay, okay—we'll comply. But we really don't mean any harm. Maybe there's another way we can solve this—

*PAUL takes out a ukulele and starts playing it.*

AMBER

Uhhh.

NELL

Paul— PAUL Paul stop it—

*PAUL starts playing the ukulele and walks towards MAX. PAUL turns his back to MAX at some point to address HOLLY and the gang. MAX grabs PAUL's ukulele and throws it on the ground. MAX takes PAUL hostage.*

MAX

Shut up! Shut the fuck up! You really don't swear, little girl? Not even when your life, your friend's life, is in jeopardy? Not even when there's no point?

HOLLY

There's always a point.

MAX

Come on— swear.

HOLLY

No.

MAX

You don't understand do you? I'm telling you to fucking swear.

HOLLY

But I can't.

NELL

Holly!

HOLLY

Swearing is a bad habit.

MAX

You don't understand what's happening here—do you?

HOLLY

Look, you don't have to do this. Let- let, Paul go!! I'm sorry. He's sorry. But you don't have to do this. Just walk away. We're sorry. We—we didn't mean to make you mad!

MAX

OH—OH—mad—that's what you're going with—you think I'm mad at you, huh?

#07 *MAX IS MAD*

MAX

(while holding a knife to PAUL's stomach)

AM I A FUCKING JOKE?

IS THIS ALL JUST A GAME TO YOU?

THIS WORLD IS DOG EAT DOG, LIFE AND DEATH,

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

AM I A FUCKING JOKE?

DOES THIS KNIFE MAKE YOU LAUGH?

WILL YOU FIND IT OH SO FUNNY,

WHEN I STEAL YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS AND CUT THEM RIGHT IN  
HALF.

I HAVE ALL OF THE POWER HERE,  
SO LET ME MAKE THIS FUCKING CLEAR.  
THERE'S NO HOPE WITHOUT MY SAY.  
FUCK! YOU MADE ME MAD TODAY.

MAX

I'll let the boy go if you just fucking swear.

AMBER

Holly, it's okay, you won't get in trouble just swear.

HOLLY

No! I make the world better by not swearing, I have that power. I can't give that up.

MAX

Is that how we're going to play it?—fine then! Let's fucking go.

MAX

LET'S EMPTY OUT YOUR BAGS  
AND CHECK ALL OF YOUR POCKETS.  
or— DO YOU WANT ME TO KILL YOUR FRIEND?  
YOU CAN CHOOSE WHAT'S ON THE DOCKET.

JUST EMPTY OUT YOUR BAGS  
AND TELL ME THAT I'M RIGHT.  
IF YOU LIVE IN YOUR DELUSIONS  
THEN THERE IS NO WAY YOU WILL MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT.

I HAVE ALL OF THE POWER HERE,  
SO LET ME MAKE THIS FUCKING CLEAR.  
THERE'S NO HOPE WITHOUT MY SAY.  
FUCK! YOU MADE ME MAD TODAY.

MAX

But I'll stop all of this if you just fucking swear.

AMBER

Holly, just swear!

HOLLY

No! Max, I know you're better than this. No one is truly selfish. No one is truly evil. Hurt people hurt people. So I know that actually you are just hurt and need help too! The world is full of so many good things, like pies, like dreams, like passion, like hope, like me, or like you, we have the power to make it better. We have the power to make things better. So you don't have to do this, Max. Who hurt you? We can make the world a fair place.

*HOLLY extends her hand out to MAX. MAX drops PAUL and raises their hand as well. MAX shakily takes it--and then forces HOLLY into a chokehold. and puts her knife to HOLLY's throat. PAUL is free. HOLLY is not.*

AMBER

HOLLY!!

MAX

WOULD YOU SAY LIFE IS FAIR,  
AS I HOLD MY KNIFE TO YOUR NECK?  
YOU DID EVERYTHING RIGHT BUT I DON'T CARE.  
I USED TO BE THE SAME AS YOU,  
BUT THE WORLD TAUGHT ME A THING OR TWO.  
HAVE YOU LEARNED THIS LESSON NOW?

MAX

Now, am I going to hurt you or are you going to swear? It's your choice.

HOLLY

I-I-. JESUS H. CHRIST!

*Beat.*

HOLLY

That's a swear right?

MAX

Pathetic.

*Out of nowhere. AMBER tackles MAX. MAX lets go of HOLLY. AMBER and MAX fight, and AMBER knocks MAX to the ground.*



MAX

Now see, little girl? She gets what I mean. You have to take what you want. No one is going to give it to you.

*MAX stabs AMBER's leg. AMBER falls. The gang freaks out. MAX stands over AMBER and rips PAUL'S backpack away from AMBER.*

MAX

No one can stop me from doing whatever it is I want.

*MAX steps away and the rest of the group flock towards AMBER. MAX straddles her bike.*

MAX

I HAVE ALL OF THE POWER HERE,  
SO LET ME MAKE THIS FUCKING CLEAR.  
THERE IS NO HOPE WITHOUT MY SAY.

MAX

Now get the fuck out of my way.

*MAX rides away with PAUL's backpack.*

## SCENE 8

*AMBER lies on the floor, clutching her leg. NELL runs to AMBER's side.*

AMBER

Owww.

NELL

Amber–Amber–!!! Okay um, we can—we can figure this out.

PAUL

Step aside. I–I could perform a medicine check.

HOLLY

Do you have anything? Max took your backpack.

PAUL

Right. Uh. I think I still have—

*PAUL searches through his pockets and finds a spare bandaid.*

PAUL CONT.

I have a bandaid.

*NELL glares daggers into PAUL.*

## #09 BANDAIDS

PAUL

(shaky)

What now?

NELL

BANDAIDS ARE STUPID  
BANDAIDS ARE USELESS  
SO LET'S RIP OFF THIS BANDAID!  
TELL THEM THE TRUTH, AMBER.

AMBER

I- maybe, we can make it to the orthodontist tomorrow?

NELL

Amber! I'm not gonna be responsible for you, or Holly, or Paul fucking dying!

AMBER

Nell! Don't swear in front of Holly!

NELL

Oh, that's what you're worried about now. Listen up, you two.

THERE'S NO MORE CLEVELAND.

THERE'S NO ADVENTURE.

AND THERE'S NO MORE QUEST FOR HOLLY!

PLAYTIME IS OVER.

WE'RE TOTALLY FUCKED.

AMBER

Nell, you're being too harsh-

NELL

YOUR TEACHERS ARE DEAD.

YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALSO DEAD.

EVERYONE THAT YOU LOVE IS DEAD.

THE WHOLE WORLD IS DEAD.

AND WE'RE TOTALLY FUCKED.

NELL

We could have just stayed put, but now Amber is seriously hurt because she got stabbed in the leg protecting you.

AMBER

Well, at least I had the balls to do it.

AMBER

I GOT STABBED TO SAVE MY SISTER.

I DO EVERYTHING FOR HER.

ALL YOU'VE DONE SINCE THE START IS WHINE AND MOAN.

WOULD YOU RATHER HOLLY BE HURT, OR WORSE?

IS THAT WHAT YOU'D PREFER?

NELL

MAYBE THEN YOU'D MAKE SOME FUCKING CHOICES OF YOUR OWN!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.  
YOU DID IT ALL FOR HOLLY.  
YOU DO EVERYTHING FOR HOLLY!  
FACE THE TRUTH.  
YOU ALL NEED TO GROW UP.

PAUL  
NELL, I KNOW IT'S STRESSFUL NOW, BUT THINGS'LL BE OKAY.  
LIKE MY MOM ALWAYS SAYS—

NELL  
YOUR MOM IS DEAD.  
SHE'S SIX FEET UNDERGROUND.  
ROTTING AWAY AND DECOMPOSING.  
YOUR STUPID GAMES  
CAN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S GONE.

NELL  
It's just the four of us, and outside of that we are completely alone. She's dead Paul, everyone we can't see is dead.

PAUL  
That- that's not true!

NELL  
Are you sure?

HOLLY  
Paul, Nell's just kidding, that's silly, no one is going to die—

NELL  
We DON'T KNOW THAT! You didn't know your parents were going to die, and look what happened

AMBER  
Why would you say that??

NELL  
Holly needs to know the truth, you are all delusional!

HOLLY

SHUT UP! Shut the FFFF—

AMBER

Holly?

HOLLY

(Hyperventilating and laughing)

You know what? I'm going to prove you wrong. No one is dying. No one is dead. Everyone is fine. I'm going to make it. Paul and I are going to make it!

PAUL

Me?

*HOLLY grabs PAUL's arm and they run away.*

AMBER

(Panicked)

No no no no! Let me go!! Holly!! Holly, come back!! You can't go, you can't go. You can't go. Nell, please, you have to stop them.

NELL

No. Look. I'm not leaving you defenseless.

AMBER

BUT—

NELL

You are my first priority.

AMBER

But—

NELL

You are my first priority. You're the love of my life//

AMBER

Nell I don't know if I want to marry you.

## SCENE 9

*PAUL and HOLLY run on stage.. PAUL is out of breath.*

PAUL

Holly! Slow down!

HOLLY

I can't! Not until we prove Nell wrong.

PAUL

I don't think I can run for that long. Can we take a break?

HOLLY

Fine. We need to figure out which way we're going. What does the map say?

PAUL

I don't know. I don't have it. Max took my backpack! Remember?

HOLLY

Why was the map in your backpack?

PAUL

I wasn't going to carry it! I needed my hands for my staff.

HOLLY

So the map is gone? If the map is gone then where are we supposed to go?

*SCRAPPER appears around a corner on the highway.*

SCRAPPER

Doomsday supplies! Get your doomsday supplies here!

*PAUL pulls out his wooden staff.*

PAUL

Stay back, stranger!

SCRAPPER

Woah there young one, I'm not here to hurt yah—I'm just hawking supplies.

HOLLY

Supplies?

PAUL

So you are a merchant?

SCRAPPER

In a way. This “doomsday crap” is the greatest economic opportunity I’ve ever had. I’m just trying to make the most of it. Say is there anything y’all need? I have food, medicine, maps–

HOLLY

MAPS!

PAUL

Holly, let me take care of this.

HOLLY

Paul, I know what I’m doing. Don’t you trust me?

*PAUL takes a step back and lets HOLLY approach SCRAPPER.*

HOLLY CONT.

Do you have any maps of Ohio?

SCRAPPER

Well you’re in luck, young lady, because I have one right here.

HOLLY

That’s amazing–Paul we can use it to find the orthodontist! And then we can go home and find your mom!

*HOLLY reaches for it. SCRAPPER holds it out of HOLLY’s reach.*

SCRAPPER

Not so fast. What will you trade me for it?

HOLLY

Trade for it? I thought you said that you were giving out supplies?

SCRAPPER

I am, just not for free. If you can help me. Then I can help you.

PAUL

We don't have anything to give, fair merchant.

*SCRAPPER looks HOLLY and PAUL up and down.*

SCRAPPER

The little girl has something.

HOLLY

What—.

SCRAPPER

I could trade you this map for the metal off your teeth?

HOLLY

My—my braces? You want my braces?

SCRAPPER

It may not seem like it, but everyone is going to be clamoring for metal after a while. Whoever holds all of the metal is king, and I want to be king. So—

PAUL

You can't have them.

SCRAPPER

That's not up to you young man, they are on the lady's teeth.

HOLLY

But, I'm going to the orthodontist to take them off. Can we take the map now and then give you my braces once they're off? That's a fair trade.

SCRAPPER

I can't guarantee that we will find each other again. Besides, why waste all of that time going to the orthodontist when I can just take your braces off right now!

HOLLY

You do have a point—



PAUL

HOLLY!

HOLLY

I mean, if whoever this is can take my braces off then, shouldn't we do it? Prove to Amber and Nell that we can take care of ourselves.

PAUL

That doesn't make any sense.

HOLLY

Do you have any qualifications?

PAUL

HOLLY!

SCRAPPER

Look, It's really up to you. I'm not going to pressure you, but that's the deal I'm offering.

HOLLY

How do we know we can trust you?

SCRAPPER

Oh you can't trust anyone.

PAUL

What!

SCRAPPER

I'm just being honest, you can't trust anyone, but in this case I care more about getting that metal off your teeth than I do about cheating you.

## #10 TRUST

SCRAPPER

FOLKS WOULD RATHER THROW FOOD AWAY THAN GIVE IT OUT TO  
SOMEONE IN NEED.

PEOPLE BUY THINGS FOR THEMSELVES INSTEAD OF GIVING TO CHARITIES.  
AND IF NO ONE'S GETTING PAID OR HAS ANYTHING THEY CAN GAIN.

YOU CAN'T BE HELPED AND YOU'LL BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD DARK  
STORMING— Precipitation.

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT I'D SAY YOU'RE A BRAVE AND SMART YOUNG LADY,  
SO WHY NOT PUT THOSE TRAITS TO USE? WHY NOT GO DO SOMETHING  
ZANY?

IF YOU DO IT ALL ON YOUR OWN AND TAKE THE METAL OFF YOUR TEETH  
YOU CAN BE FREE OF THE PAIN YOU'VE BEEN HIDING –Under There!

FROM THE REPUBLICANS TO THE LIBERALS,  
FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS TO THE CRIMINALS,  
YOU BETTER KEEP YOUR VOICES HUSHED,  
BECAUSE THERE'S NO ONE YOU CAN—

PAUL

But do you know how to take braces off?

SCRAPPER

To prepare for the end of the world, I tried to teach myself a bit of everything so that I can survive every situation. I watched every youtube video on extracting dead teeth. This is probably very similar.

HOLLY

I don't know—

SCRAPPER

Who else are you going to trust? What else do you have left to give?

SCRAPPER

YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYONE. ANYONE, NOT ANYONE.

NOT DOGS.

NOT CATS.

NOT SCHOOL.

NOT CONTRACTS.

NO!

SCRAPPER

Look, why are you hoping some “orthodontist” is going to help you? Money doesn't matter anymore, why are they going to help you with no incentive? I have incentive to help and not screw you over, and I'm right here! When are you going to get this opportunity again?

PAUL

Holly, this guy is crazy.

HOLLY

Maybe he has a point, Paul?

PAUL

WHAT?!

HOLLY

I mean. If we get my braces off now, then we can go back to Amber and Nell and show them how capable we are! Then we can use the extra time to find your mom!! Don't you want that?

HOLLY

IF I WANNA BE BETTER.  
IF I WANNA BE ME.  
IF I WANNA SHOW WHO I AM  
IT'S ON ME TO MAKE THEM SEE.  
I'LL TAKE MY FATE INTO MY OWN HANDS.

SCRAPPER

TURN YOUR WISHES INTO PLANS.  
HERE'S THE PLIERS.

HOLLY

I'LL CUT THE WIRES.  
I'LL DO WHATEVER THE SITUATION REQUIRES.  
TAKE MY FATE INTO MY OWN HANDS.

HOLLY & SCRAPPER

AND TAKE MY FATE INTO MY OWN HANDS.  
YOU BETTER KEEP YOUR VOICES HUSHED,  
BECAUSE THERE'S NO ONE YOU CAN—

PAUL

Stop!!!!!! No no no! No! Holly, you can't do this.

HOLLY

But we need that map! Trust me, I got this.

PAUL

But you can't hurt yourself like this. Look—Mr. Scrapper man. Will these dice do?

HOLLY

Oh, Paul.

*PAUL hands SCRAPPER the metal dice.*

SCRAPPER

Ooo! Yeah, these will do.

*SCRAPPER hands PAUL the map and the two shake hands.*

SCRAPPER

Pleasure doing business with you.

*SCRAPPER leaves. HOLLY looks at PAUL in shock.*

HOLLY

Paul, Are you okay?

PAUL

I mean, yes —I mean, yeah. Yeah. They're just dice. Giving them away was a smart move.

*Beat.*

PAUL CONT.

Look, hey, I still trust your opinion and like everything, but maybe we should take the map and go back for Amber and Nell?? —not that I'm saying you're wrong or stupid or anything—but Amber was really hurt—.

HOLLY

Paul, we can't go back. Not until we prove that we can do this by ourselves.

PAUL

Holly, I just want to go home.

HOLLY

I can't go home yet.

*Beat.*

PAUL

Can we at least make camp for tonight? It's getting dark.

HOLLY

But—

*HOLLY looks at a broken PAUL she doesn't know what to do.*

HOLLY

Uh—Sure. If we have to, I guess we can leave in the morning.

*PAUL puts their staff down and sits down. HOLLY does the same. They look at each other and then look away, twiddling their thumbs. PAUL stands up in a panic.*

PAUL

UHHHHH, I need to pee!

HOLLY

What? Now?

PAUL

Yeah—

HOLLY

Eww.

PAUL

I mean, uhhhh, I'm going to explode, this is a code yellow.

HOLLY

Go! Go to the bushes over there, or something. I'm going to be—over there.

*HOLLY leaves the stage. PAUL walks to the other side of the stage. PAUL looks around himself and gets on his knees. PAUL looks up at the sky.*

PAUL

Look. Uh. I don't usually pray so I don't know if I'm doing this right but I need help—So, Brennan Lee Mulligan. You are my idol. And if you're still out there, my favorite Gamemaster and role player of all time, then I know that you will hear my prayer.

## #11 PAUL'S PRAYER

PAUL'S PRAYER

I WAS THE LEAD OF THIS CAMPAIGN  
BUT NOW I'M GROWING INSANE  
I WANTED TO BE HER BARD  
WHO KNEW THAT IT WOULD BE SO HARD?  
I HAVE THE HIGHEST AC  
BUT BRENNAN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME.

I THOUGHT TODAY MY LIFE WOULD START  
I THOUGHT THAT I COULD WIN HER HEART

BUT I'M NOT AN INTREPID HERO.  
I HAVE FAILED TO SAVE THE DAY.  
I HAVE WASTED ALL MY SPELL SLOTS.  
I HAVE LED MY FRIENDS ASTRAY.  
I GOT LOST IN THE ADVENTURE, THERE IS NO BIG BAD TO SLAY.  
HOLLY IF WE DO THIS,  
WILL EVERYONE BE OKAY?  
WILL SHE SEE EVER THINGS MY WAY?  
I'M A BARD... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

BRENNAN IS IT TOO LATE TO MULTICLASS?  
BECAUSE I'M FEELING LIKE A TOTAL ASS  
BRENNAN, I FEEL LIKE I'M A BAD FRIEND  
WHERE IS OUR PATH GOING TO END?  
BRENNAN, I'M NOT DOING ANY OF THIS HERO STUFF RIGHT  
I MEAN, HOW CAN I BE A HERO IF I SCREAM FOR MY MOM AT NIGHT!

OH BRENNAN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?  
BRENNAN WHAT WOULD YOU DO?  
OH BRENNAN I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

I AM NOT AN INTREPID HERO.

I HAVE FAILED TO SAVE THE DAY  
I HAVE WASTED ALL MY SPELL SLOTS  
I HAVE LED MY FRIENDS ASTRAY.  
I GOT LOST IN THE ADVENTURE, THERE IS NO BIG BAD TO SLAY.  
BUT HOLLY WE HAVE TO TURN BACK  
AND MAKES SURE EVERYONE'S OKAY.  
IF I SAY IT TO HER STRONGLY, WILL SHE SEE THINGS MY WAY?  
I'M A BARD WITH SOMETHING TO SAY,  
I'M A BARD WITH SOMETHING TO SAY,  
I'M A BARD WITH SOMETHING—- TO SAY

*PAUL gets up and walks back towards HOLLY. HOLLY looks over at PAUL and then lies on the floor to sleep for the night, HOLLY uses her arms as a pillow. PAUL does the same.*

## SCENE 10

*HOLLY begins tossing and turning. Dreamlike music and lights fill the stage.*

## #12 NIGHTMARE

*HOLLY and PAUL get up and start running in a void. We are now in HOLLY's dream.*

PAUL

Keep running, we're so close.

HOLLY

I know. I can taste it. It's delicious.

PAUL

Holly, without your braces you are going to be the most beautifulest person in the world. You got this! You have to keep going.

HOLLY

You're right Paul! I can do it!

*HOLLY runs ahead of PAUL and they reach an orthodontist chair, showered in golden light.*

HOLLY

It's. It's so beautiful.

PAUL

Good luck.

*PAUL disappears into the darkness. HOLLY sits in the chair. A voice emerges from the sky.*

ORTHODONTIST

I am The Orthodontist, the great and certified. Now, open your mouth!

HOLLY

Where's—where's Doctor Garfunkel?

ORTHODONTIST

You missed your appointment with Doctor Garfunkel yesterday. I am filling in. Now OPEN YOUR MOUTH!



HOLLY

Oh, uhhhh—Okay—.

*HOLLY opens her mouth.*

ORTHODONTIST

No! NO! NO! This is horrifying! This is disgusting!!!

HOLLY

What—what’s disgusting??

ORTHODONTIST

Well—it’s clear that you broke the rules!

HOLLY

What—What are you talking about? I’ve done everything! Everything!

ORTHODONTIST

What about that day you chewed ice?

HOLLY

I would never— (never ever do that).

ORTHODONTIST

Don’t lie to me! This summer, on the 29th of July, your teeth grazed ice as you were drinking lemonade. Do you deny it?

HOLLY

But—But— it just accidentally went up my straw. I spit it out as soon as I realized. Amber told me you would never know.

ORTHODONTIST

Never know? I can see it as clear as day. Your teeth tell the whole story. You’re a liar! A heretic! A freak! I will never take your braces off!

HOLLY

BUT!

ORTHODONTIST

Never!

CLEVELAND NEWSCASTER

Breaking news! Holly leaves the orthodontist  
with her braces still intact, turns out she was too  
much of a freak to get them off.

ALL

FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
SHE'S A—

*Lightning crashes. HOLLY is trapped in the chair. PAUL stands over her.*

PAUL

OH HEY! ME AND THE HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL  
ARE SEEING A MOVIE TONIGHT  
YOU SHOULD COME TOO  
IT'LL BE SICK!

HOLLY

WAIT, YOU KNOW THE HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL?!

PAUL

TURNS OUT, LIKE ME, HE LOVES TO READ,  
AND HE RUNS HIS OWN TTRPG CAMPAIGN  
HE ISN'T A TOTAL TOOL  
SO NOW WE'RE BEST FRIENDS  
AND I'M TOTALLY COOL!

*HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL walks up to PAUL they stand over HOLLY.*

HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL

Hey guys, I brought some popcorn, caramel, and ice cubes for us to chew on.

HOLLY

Ice? No! No! I can't eat any of that! I still have my braces on!

HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL

You still have braces? Damn, I really wanted to kiss someone during the movie, but I guess it won't be you.

PAUL

What about me?

HOLLY

PAUL!

PAUL

What Holly? Can't disappoint such kissable lips.

*PAUL sweeps HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL off of his feet and the two have a passionate kiss. HOLLY is horrified.*

HOLLY

Paul had his first kiss before me?

*HOLLY sees AMBER and NELL walking and talking over a piece of paper.*

ALL

FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
SHE'S A—

HOLLY

Nell! Amber! I need your help.

NELL

HA! I'LL SAY!  
IT'S YOUR TWENTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY  
AND WE ARE STILL PAYING  
YOUR ORTHODONTIST BILLS.

HOLLY

WAIT, IT'S BEEN ELEVEN YEARS  
AND I STILL HAVE MY BRACES ON?

NELL

WE'RE KICKING YOU OUT  
BECAUSE LOOKING AT YOUR MOUTH.  
GIVES ME CHILLS.  
BUT AMBER WANTS TO— AND HONESTLY THIS TAKES THE CAKE.

AMBER  
 EVERYONE HAS ALWAYS HATED YOU, HOLLY!  
 WE'RE GONNA BURN YOU AT THE STAKE!

HOLLY  
 WHAT??!?

*All of the characters that have previously been in the show, HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL, SCRAPPER, MAX, EVELYN, PAUL, AMBER, and NELL appear around HOLLY and begin chanting and getting ready to set her on fire.*

HOLLY  
 Oh no no no no no no no!

AMBER  
 HOLLY IS A MENACE.  
 SHE IS A TERRIBLE LITTLE SISTER  
 AND I AM SO HAPPY THAT I NO LONGER HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HER,  
 I HAVE RESENTED HER FOR YEARS.

EVELYN  
 HOLLY ALWAYS HAD POTENTIAL, BUT NEVER QUITE REACHED IT.  
 HOW SAD.

PAUL  
 HOLLY WAS HOLDING ME BACK AND NOW I'M DATING  
 THE HOTTEST BOY IN SCHOOL.

SCRAPPER  
 I'm just here to fit in.

*MAX takes out a lighter.*

MAX  
 I told you that it's a dog eat dog world.

*MAX turns to AMBER.*

MAX CONT.  
 Will you do the honors?

ALL  
 FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
 FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
 FREAK FREAK, SHE'S A FREAK FREAK  
 SHE'S A—

AMBER  
 I always hated you, Holly. I wish you had died instead of Mom and Dad.

*AMBER takes the lighter and sets the wood under HOLLY, who is now tied up at the stake, on fire. HOLLY starts desperately to try and blow out the fire like she is cooling off soup.*

*All at once, HOLLY wakes up from her nightmare. She looks down at a sleeping PAUL beside her.*

HOLLY  
 Sorry, Paul. I'll be back, I promise!

*HOLLY grabs the map and runs away. There's a crack of a twig and PAUL wakes up in shock.*

PAUL  
 Holly! Holly!

*PAUL runs offstage in the opposite direction.*

PAUL  
 Holly!!!

## SCENE 11

*MAX walks on with swagger and takes out PAUL's backpack.*

MAX

Why does this kid only like the worst snacks? Like black licorice? Pathetic.

*Heels clack on in the distance. MAX looks up. THE POWER OF EVELYN riff is whistled over the wind like a spaghetti western. MAX looks around and sees nothing and goes back to looting. Another POWER OF EVELYN whistle as EVELYN floats in. EVELYN is decked out in excessive apocalypse attire with multiple swords and two katanas strapped to her back.*

EVELYN

Hey.

*MAX turns around.*

EVELYN

You have something that doesn't belong to you.

*MAX walks to EVELYN with swagger.*

MAX

Do I?

*EVELYN stares daggers into MAX. EVELYN starts walking to the side and MAX does the same until they are doing the stand off circle type of walk.*

EVELYN

You have my son's backpack but not my son.

MAX

I can't believe the kid called his Mommy on me.

EVELYN

The kid didn't do anything. I've been tracking his bag for miles. Where is he?

MAX

How do you know that we aren't together? Stranger things have happened.

EVELYN

I have been watching you for thirty minutes. Paul isn't here.

MAX

Impressive. I usually know when people are sneaking up on me. It was stupid to come alone. Where's your back up?

EVELYN

I have a whole army of PTA parents rebuilding Garfield Heights. If I don't come back they'll come for you. Now where is my son?

MAX

Poor little mommy dearest, well I could tell you—

*MAX takes out her knife and points it at EVELYN.*

MAX CONT.

Or you could leave here alive. Give me your purse. Otherwise you will never find him.

*EVELYN reaches into her purse and pulls out one of those cute pink little hand guns.*

EVELYN

Where is my son?

MAX

You're not going to hurt me lady//

*EVELYN points her gun in the air. Each exclamation mark punctuates each shot.*

EVELYN

Where! Is! My SON?

*MAX ducks.*

MAX

OH SHIT!

EVELYN

Good. Are we done with this now?

*EVELYN puts the gun away.*

EVELYN

Take me to my son, and no one gets hurt.

*MAX points and EVELYN and MAX run in that direction.*



## SCENE 12

*On the open road, NELL is carrying AMBER on her back. They are struggling forward.*

NELL

I knew you said I guess.

AMBER

That's not important right now!

NELL

I can't believe you tried to gaslight me.

AMBER

I don't want to talk about this right now!

NELL

Right, I'm just your little workhorse, you don't actually care if I'm upset.

AMBER

We'll talk about this after we save the kids!

(Beat)

AMBER

God. Nell, Can you go any faster?

NELL

That's it!

*NELL forces AMBER off of her back.*

AMBER

What are you doing?

NELL

We aren't going anywhere until we work this out.

AMBER

Who put you in charge?

NELL

You got stabbed!

AMBER

I was doing what was best for Holly! My job is to protect her.

NELL

No. Our job is to prepare her. God—You know what it's like to go into the world unprepared.

AMBER

I know! But Holly is not losing her childhood like I did.

NELL

She needed to know the truth!

NELL

Look, you don't understand where I am  
coming from—

AMBER

Look, you don't understand where I am  
coming from—

EVELYN

PAUL!!!!!!!!!!

*EVELYN runs onto the stage.*

EVELYN

Paul! Paul!

*EVELYN looks around onstage.*

NELL

Wait, What are you wearing?? I mean, damn, I mean, wait, Evelyn, you're alive?

EVELYN

Where is Paul?? He was supposed to be here! PAUL?

AMBER

Wait Evelyn how did you find— Paul's tracking device!

NELL

Paul has a tracking device, where?

AMBER

In his backpack, but wait Max took—

EVELYN

So Paul isn't here?

NELL

He and Holly ran off.

EVELYN

You let them run away?

NELL

Amber got stabbed. How... how did you find us?

*MAX enters from the same direction as EVELYN enters, she is equally decked out in apocalypse gear.*

AMBER

NELL

You!

You!

*MAX holds up her hands.*

MAX

Hi, again.

*AMBER and NELL square up.*

MAX Cont.

Look. I don't mean any harm. See?

*MAX takes out her knife and kicks it over to AMBER and NELL. AMBER and NELL don't lower their guard.*

MAX CONT.

Shit— Evelyn I told you that it was a bad idea for me to fucking come with you.

EVELYN

You're the one who wanted to make things up to me by helping me find Paul. Besides, you're—

EVELYN  
 Redeeming yourself.

MAX  
 Redeeming myself.

EVELYN  
 But you said Paul was with them!

MAX  
 He was!

*AMBER picks up MAX's knife and hobbles to a standing position.*

EVELYN  
 (To NELL)  
 Then where is he?

NELL  
 I don't know—

AMBER  
 SHUT UP!

*AMBER points the knife at MAX.*

AMBER  
 You're not going to stab anyone else, you crazy bitch.

NELL  
 Amber! You shouldn't be standing.

AMBER  
 I'm not fucking going down again. That psycho took the kids hostage!

EVELYN  
 Yes, and—

*EVELYN starts prompting MAX.*

EVELYN  
 She won't do it again.

MAX  
 I won't do it again.

AMBER

I don't care! Tell me why I shouldn't kill you right now.

NELL

Amber, you don't want to kill anybody—

AMBER

(To NELL)

Maybe I do! You were the one who was saying Holly should be more like me, that Holly should be tougher, well this is what being jaded looks like.

AMBER

(To MAX)

Let's fucking go!

*EVELYN shoots her gun up in the air. AMBER cringes as the adrenaline rushes out of her body, she falls but is still holding the knife.*

EVELYN

Amber, stop this!

*EVELYN puts her gun back in her purse.*

AMBER

Fuck you!

EVELYN

Excuse me?

AMBER

What's the fucking point to any of this? It's my fault, it's my fault my parents died, and it's my fault that Holly and Paul are probably dead.

NELL

Amber, you can't really believe that what happened to your parents was your fault.

AMBER

But I was the one driving the car.

NELL

It was an accident!

AMBER

I thought I could protect Holly from everything, but now she's out there all alone. And somehow Evelyn is better at this end of the world stuff than I am. Christ what's the point in trying if everyone is just going to die anyways!

*AMBER curls into herself.*

NELL CONT.

Amber, you can't give up.

AMBER

I gave up on the world when my parents died. This apocalypse nonsense is just a bonus.

*NELL starts singing without music.*

### #13 FROZEN WAFFLES

NELL

FROZEN WAFFLES AT THE BREAK OF DAY.

AMBER

What are you doing?

NELL

I'm singing about life's weird good things to cheer you up. Evelyn—Max—?

EVELYN

WHEN THE OTHER MOMS AT THE BAKE SALE  
AGREE TO TRY THINGS YOUR WAY.

*NELL and EVELYN look at MAX expectantly.*

MAX

Uhh. I mean, uh. THAT FEELING WHEN YOU FINALLY COME OUT AS GAY.

EVELYN, NELL, MAX

(In improvised bad harmony out of tune)

So the world is!!!

NELL

Okay! Guys this singing thing isn't working. Amber, there's still time to change things! Life is hard, but like you don't cut off your boob when you get punched in the titty? Right?

AMBER

That doesn't make any sense.

NELL

Look! Holly and Paul might be dead but we don't know that yet! As long as there's a chance that things can get better, then we have to keep fighting! You taught me that!

AMBER

(To NELL)

Maybe neither of us are exactly right. Maybe Holly needs to be protected and challenged. Maybe she needs both of us.

NELL

And sometimes she just needs you.

AMBER

Hey. If we can find a priest or a rabbi or whatever, would you still want to marry me?

NELL

(Sarcastic)

I guess.

*AMBER is faux upset, the two hug, AMBER and NELL kiss.*

EVELYN

MAX!

*MAX grunts and picks up AMBER bridal style.*

EVELYN CONT.

Now let's go save our kids!!!

## SCENE 13

*HOLLY runs on stage. She is running as fast as humanly possible and climbing over rubble and trash.*

## #14 TODAY'S THE DAY REPRIS

HOLLY

GOOD MORNING, SALUTATIONS  
TODAY'S ANOTHER DAY!  
AND TODAY, I FEEL IT IN MY BONES.  
THAT MY BRACES ARE GOING AWAY!

I AM CLIMBING,  
I AM JUMPING,  
I AM FLYING TOWARDS THE SUN  
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T SLOW DOWN,  
I HAVE TO RUN!  
I HAVE TO RUN!  
I HAVE TO RUN!  
I HAVE TO RUN!

THERE'S NO NEED TO FROWN,  
BECAUSE IT'S FINALLY MY TIME.  
WATCH ME BECOME A LEADING LADY,  
INSTEAD OF ALWAYS BEING THE QUIRKY BEST FRIEND.  
I'M WISHING AND I'M YEARNING FOR A BOY TO CHOOSE ME FIRST  
MY HEART WILL EXPLODE, I FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA BURST!  
I'M GONNA BURST!  
I'M GONNA BURST!

I'M NOT GONNA BE THE GIRL WHO GETS STRAIGHT CS,  
OR THE GIRL WHO HATES HERSELF,  
OR THE GIRL WHO'S NEVER BEEN ON A DATE,  
OR THE GIRL WHO'S ONLY KNOWN FOR HER DEAD PARENTS,  
OR THE GIRL WHO'S HAUNTED BY HER PAST

I'LL BE POPULAR!  
I'LL BE SECURE!  
I'LL BE AS SMART AS NELL!  
I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP PAUL FIND HIS MOM!  
I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE MY SISTER!  
TO SAVE THE WORLD!



*HOLLY reaches the orthodontist's office. As HOLLY was running the set of the orthodontist office was wheeled in. The office is a Hawaii themed orthodontist office with luau, beach, aloha vibes of someone who is grossly stereotyping "hawaiian" culture.*

HOLLY

EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY!

OKAY! OKAY! OKAY!

I CAN FINALLY BE OKAY!

NELL AND PAUL AND AMBER WILL BE OKAY!

I JUST WANNA BE O-

*PAUL turns around in a swivel chair. HOLLY shrieks.*

## SCENE 14

HOLLY

How did you get here so fast?

PAUL

I'm a boy scout so I used the sun and— You know what? That's not what's important right now! Fuck you!

HOLLY

PAUL!

PAUL

No! Fuck you! FUCK YOU, and fuck the orthodontist. I don't care about your feelings anymore.

HOLLY

But Paul, you see, you don't understand, I had this dream and you wouldn't imagine how scary it was—

PAUL

SHUT UP! I don't fucking care! YOU! LEFT! ME! I would have never left you behind. You're a bad friend.

HOLLY

I'm not a bad friend, I'm not a bad friend. Like, was I a bad friend to you when you transitioned? I was SO supportive.

PAUL

We had one ONE conversation and then everything turned back to the Holly show. Sure I “came out to you,” but you never checked in with me. You don't know how I feel about my gender, about being a boy,

HOLLY

I thought that's what you wanted.

PAUL

But you didn't ask me! You assumed that's what I wanted. But you never asked me, that's the problem!

HOLLY

Look, Paul, this is all very important, but I can't talk about this right now. I need to find Dr. Garfunkel.

PAUL

You and those fucking braces, Dr. Garfunkle is dead Holly!!!! He's been dead the whole time, so you are never getting your fucking braces off so please just SHUT UP.

*HOLLY finally sees the dead feet of The Orthodontist.*

HOLLY

Oh.

*HOLLY kicks The Orthodontist's legs.*

HOLLY

Dr. Garfunkel?

*Nothing happens.*

HOLLY

Oh.

*HOLLY and PAUL look at each other.*

HOLLY

He's not waking up.

PAUL

Maybe he needs CPR!

HOLLY

I think it's too late for that.

*HOLLY puts her hand up to stop PAUL's thought.*

*Beat.*

#15 IT'S NOT MY DAY

HOLLY

THERE IS NO MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN,  
THERE IS NO OTHER ROAD TO TAKE  
I'M SAD BUT I AM CERTAIN

THAT WE'RE LOSING FOR GOD'S SAKE.

YOU SAY WE'LL FIND ANOTHER SIGN  
BUT I'M OUT OF LUCK  
THE END IS HERE  
AND THE WORLD DOESN'T GIVE A FUCK.

I'M A RELIC OF THE PAST,  
A DREAM THAT DIDN'T LAST,  
A GIRL WITH METAL TEETH,  
WITH NOTHING UNDERNEATH.

I'M LOST AND I'M SCARED,  
AND NOTHING'S OKAY.  
THE WORLD IS AGAINST ME,  
IT'S NOT MY DAY.  
IT'S NOT MY DAY.  
IT'S NOT MY DAY.

I'M LOST AND I'M SCARED  
AND NOTHING'S OKAY  
THE WORLD IS AGAINST ME  
IT'S NOT MY DAY.

HOLLY

Fuck. Fuck. Shit balls. Bally ball balls. Fucking fucking shit balls. I hate you! I hate you god! I hate you universe! I hate you doctor garfunkel!

*HOLLY starts breaking and kicking pieces of debris around.*

PAUL

Holly! Holly stop throwing//

HOLLY

Shut up Paul!

PAUL

Holly! Don't! Can I..?

HOLLY

FUCCCCCKK.

PAUL

Okay okay... I'll be here. (beat) Since when do you swear?

HOLLY

Since now.

PAUL

What?

HOLLY

It doesn't matter.

PAUL

What? But why?

HOLLY

Because It doesn't matter. None of this matters. The world is over. I get that now. I'm done pretending that everything is going to be okay.

PAUL

Yeah... but I'm still here, we're still here, there's still hope.

HOLLY

Is there? Cause I just see disaster. I thought—I thought if the orthodontist was still here then maybe there was a chance we could all go back to normal and life could be good again, better even, but that's impossible.

PAUL

What do you mean?

HOLLY

Life isn't the same anymore. We can't just go back to the way things were, even if the world does go back to normal it won't be the same, we'll have to have lived through this, and we'll be different, we'll never be what we could have been.

*Beat.*

PAUL

But we're still—

HOLLY

We're what? We're still what? Alive? Do I have to be grateful for that every goddamn minute? Can I not grieve because that means I'm not appreciating being alive? Can't two things be true? I'm just dirty and gross and ugly and I'm going to be that way forever because I'm never getting my braces off so things are never going to get better.

PAUL

That's not true.

HOLLY

Well assuming that there are any left, what boy would want to kiss me?

*Beat.*

PAUL  
(blurts out)

I would.

HOLLY

What???

PAUL

Sorry, sorry! It's just— I'm saying that I would kiss you, You know if you weren't you—I mean if we weren't friends!!!

HOLLY

I can't kiss you... You're PAUL! Hollys don't kiss Pauls.

PAUL

Yeah, That would be weird.

HOLLY

Yeah.

*Beat.*

PAUL

Hey Holly?

HOLLY

Yeah?

PAUL

I think your teeth are perfect just the way they are. And I think you're perfect too. I think any boy who can see that would want to kiss you.

HOLLY

Paul?

PAUL

Yeah?

HOLLY

What if you're the only boy that thinks that?

PAUL

There will be other boys.

HOLLY

But none like you.

# #16 HEY HOLLY/LIKE YOU Reprise

HOLLY

WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT MY FIRST KISS.

PAUL

YOU THOUGHT THE GUY WOULD BE NOTORIOUS

HOLLY

BUT IT'S PERFECT, BECAUSE I AM A MESS.  
LIKE YOU.

*HOLLY and PAUL kiss. It's the lightest of pecks.*

HOLLY

Huh.

PAUL

What?

HOLLY

That was kind of nice actually.

PAUL

Holly, I'm sorry that I told you about doctor Garfinkle like that... I shouldn't have gotten... I was mad but I shouldn't have said it that way.

HOLLY

If I were mad at you and I found Brennan lee mulligan dead in a corner I would hvae done the same thing.

PAUL

Take that back!

*Crashing sounds from outside the orthodontists office. HOLLY and PAUL pull apart embarrassed.*

EVELYN (Offstage)

PAUL? PAUL?

*EVELYN enters still in apocalypse gear.*

EVELYN

Pudding pop!!

PAUL

Mom?—Mom!!

*PAUL rush hugs EVELYN.*

EVELYN

How is my baby cakes coca-moe?

PAUL

Oh my god. Mom, I'm so happy to see you! I thought you were dead and I was just scared, so scared and alone, and there was this scary biker that I couldn't fight off, and everyone thinks TTRPGS are stupid—

EVELYN

Oh, pudding pop.

PAUL

And I just want to go home. Mom, can we go home?



EVELYN

Of course we can go home.

HOLLY

Ms. Evelyn? Have you seen my sister? Is she okay?

EVELYN

Oh, my dear. She's on her way right now. She and Nell are just taking the stairs a little slow, but she'll be here any second.

*EVELYN returns to hugging PAUL, now even tighter than before.*

EVELYN

Thank you for keeping my baby safe, Holly.

HOLLY

Actually, Paul was the one protecting me. I wouldn't have made it here without him.

PAUL

Don't listen to her Mom! You were right! I do need you! I need you! I never want to do anything crazy without you again. You were right the whole time, you were always right and I'm always stupid, so stupid. I'm so sorry, Mom I'm so sorry!! I'm not a good son, I'm dumb, and stupid, and I can't do anything right.

EVELYN

Excuse me??

*PAUL hugs tighter. But EVELYN breaks it up.*

EVELYN

Did you just call yourself a bad son? Don't tell me that I heard you call yourself a bad son. I won't stand for it.

PAUL

But Mom, I was a bad son. I was acting so stupid. So fucking—

EVELYN

PAUL YOU ARE NOT STUPID!

*BEAT.*

EVELYN CONT.

You, my son, are doing your best. And oh Paul, you are so grown up. I've been holding onto you because I was scared that the world would hurt you, but I never. I never in a million years didn't think you were capable of facing it. But Paul, I realize now that You don't need me. You never needed me. You are a strong capable young man. And while i'll always have your back, you don't need me to survive. You don't need me anymore, I love you, Paul. And I am so proud of the man you've become.

PAUL

I love you too, mom.

*PAUL and EVELYN hug again. MAX enters.*

MAX

Oh great! You found them!

*PAUL pushes EVELYN behind him and raises his staff.*

PAUL

Stay away from my mom, you villian.

*PAUL screams and charges. But EVELYN stops him.*

EVELYN

Paul, it's okay! Max listens to me now.

PAUL

What??

EVELYN

Sometimes all a person needs is some conflict resolution and well—

*EVELYN pulls out her gun from her purse.*

EVELYN

A little persuasion.

HOLLY

Wow.

PAUL

Is that a gun?!

*PAUL reaches forward to touch it.*

EVELYN

PAUL! You are not touching this gun until you have read every article on gun safety that exists.

*EVELYN puts the gun back in her purse.*

EVELYN

I'm raising my son to be a smart young man. If you are carrying any kind of weapon, you are going to carry it responsibly after you are twenty-one.

*EVELYN hugs PAUL again.*

EVELYN

Oh, Paul! You are so grown up.

PAUL

Mom! You're squeezing me too tight!

MAX

You know, It's just a good thing that you already had that tracking device in Paul's backpack. Otherwise, you may have never found each other again.

PAUL

What tracking device?

*EVELYN looks up, she has been caught red-handed, guilty.*

EVELYN

Pudding pop—

PAUL

MOM! What did we just talk about?

EVELYN

But that was before!

HOLLY

EXCUSE ME! Uh. Ms. Evelyn?

EVELYN

Holly, why are you crying?

HOLLY

I just I—I don't think I'm cut out for being a person. I'm not complete. I don't have Amber. I don't have my Mom— I thought that if I got my braces off that everything would be perfect. So, what happens now? Will I ever be the “cool confident” girl that I want to be?

EVELYN

That's up to you, you have everything it takes already inside you. It's up to you to let it out.

*HOLLY runs up and hugs EVELYN.*

EVELYN CONT.

Now I'm the one being hugged too tight!!! Well, I need to find out how my PTA is doing rebuilding society—let's go home.

*AMBER and NELL enter, they are also decked out in apocalypse gear. AMBER is on crutches.*

NELL

Are you fucking kidding me? We just walked up all of those fucking stairs.

*HOLLY runs up and hugs AMBER and NELL.*

HOLLY

I'm so happy that you're okay. I love you! I love you so much! I'm so sorry.

AMBER

I love you, too.

HOLLY

Amber. I wish I knew Mom and Dad.

AMBER

I wish you did too, Holly. But they would be so proud of the person you've grown up to be.

HOLLY

Can we go home now?

NELL

Yes please!

*EVELYN claps.*

EVELYN

Alright everyone, let's get these kids in gear.

*AMBER, NELL, EVELYN, and MAX start taking excessive padding and shields off of their bodies and layering it on HOLLY and PAUL.*

EVELYN

In this new world order, we have to strike first and ask questions second.

*EVELYN takes out her gun. Everyone else squares up.*

EVELYN

Everyone ready?

AMBER

I guess?

EVELYN

Then, let's go home.

*The gang starts leaving the office. Soon only HOLLY is left. PAUL sticks his head in.*

PAUL

Holly? Are you coming?

*HOLLY looks back at PAUL.*

HOLLY

Yeah.

*HOLLY walks up to PAUL and kisses his cheek. PAUL blushes. PAUL and HOLLY leave.*

***BLACKOUT.***