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Playscripts, Inc.
325 W. 38th Street, Suite 305
New York, NY 10018

Phone/fax: 1-866-NEW-PLAY (639-7529)
Email: info@playscripts.com
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Cast of Characters

SARAH, a book worm. Shy and easily frightened.

JULIA, smart and level-headed. Calm and collected.

KATY, a strong leader. Sometimes pushy and vindictive.

LYDIA BETH, the head cheerleader and Mac's girlfriend.
Ambitious to a fault.

MAC, on the surface, a big dumb football player, but smarter
than people give him credit for.

BUDDY, Mac's best friend. Loyal and clever.

DUNCAN, the captain of the football team. Charming and
smart. A natural leader.

ROSS, Duncan's friend.

NATALIE, Buddy's girlfriend and Lydia Beth's sidekick.

PORTER, everyone's favorite party animal.

MALCOLM, football player.

SERGEANT, football player.

Acknowledgements

Weird Sisters was given a staged reading by the DFW Playwrights' Alliance at the Dallas HUB Theatre in Dallas, Texas on August 30, 2005. The reading was directed by the author. The cast in order of appearance was:

SARAH Jenny Ledel
JULIA Jessica Cortez
KATY Rachel Bernstein
LYDIA Sarah Hornbach
MAC Vikas Adam
DUNCAN Derek Downer
ROSS Matthew McNeill
BUDDY Greg Flores
PORTER Randall Minick
MALCOLM Matthew McNeill
SEARGENT Randall Minick
NARRATOR Kimberly Westlund

Weird Sisters was first presented by Yavneh Academy of Dallas on March 23-26, 2006. The production was directed by Isabella Russell-Ides. The cast in order of appearance was:

KATY Shayna Weinberg-Gordon
SARAH Gabbi Lewin
JULIA Liora Cohen
LYDIA BETH Dylah Werbner
NATALIE Grace Rosenthal
MAC David Fine
DUNCAN Edward Cohen
ROSS Charlie Saginaw
BUDDY Sean Erikson
PORTER Nate Goldman
MALCOLM Erik Fathy
SEARGENT Ari Steinbaum

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WEIRD SISTERS

by James Venhaus

ACT I

Scene 1

(As the curtain rises, the stage is dark. Low rumbling thunder builds to a loud thunder clap and a flash of lightning. For a brief second, we see three female figures gathered around a large round object.)

SARAH. Double double, toil and *(The lights go out.)*

JULIA. What the...

(The lights come back on. We see the three female figures for another brief second. They look stunned. Another loud thunder clap and lightning flash. The lights go out again.)

KATY. Hang on, I've got a lighter in here somewhere.

(The dim flame of a cigarette lighter flickers on, revealing three female faces and a large thick book.)

SARAH. Do you think we should...

(The lights come back on.)

SARAH. That was creepy. OK. Double double, toil and *(The lights go out again.)* crap!

(The lights come up to reveal three high school girls, SARAH, JULIA and KATY sitting at a table in the library studying from a large edition of THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.)

KATY. What is going on with the lights?

JULIA. It always does that when it rains.

KATY. This school is such a dump.

SARAH. Anyway, where were we?

JULIA. Line 10.

SARAH. Right. OK. Here we go. “Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble. Fillet of a fenny snake, In the cauldron boil and bake; Eye of newt and toe of frog” ...

KATY. Sarah, do we have to read this out loud?

SARAH. It helps me remember it.

KATY. You don’t need to remember it, you just need to pass the test. Let’s just get the Cliff Notes.

JULIA. Don’t mention the “C” word in front of Sarah. She’ll have a fit.

KATY. Over Cliff Notes? Why?

SARAH. I don’t believe in them.

KATY. You don’t believe in them? What, like you don’t think they exist?

SARAH. You know what I mean. Would you please get off my back?

KATY. OK. Jeez, what’s your problem?

SARAH. I’m sorry. It’s just that there is no way I’m going to pass this test.

JULIA. Don’t be ridiculous. You always get an “A.”

SARAH. Not this time. He never went over half the stuff on the review sheet. What does he think we are, magicians?

(Another loud thunder clap is heard.)

JULIA. Wow. It’s really coming down out there.

SARAH. I’ve got this test to study for, and then three chapters to read for Biology, and then...

KATY. Chill out, Sarah. Relax. You’ll do fine.

SARAH. Easy for you to say. You never study for anything.

KATY. And I do just fine. You’re twice as smart as I am. You don’t need to work this hard.

SARAH. Have you met my parents?

JULIA. She's right. Her mom is a freak about grades.

KATY. We need to get out of here and have a little fun. I'm in the mood to do something crazy.

(Another loud thunder clap is heard.)

JULIA. I'm not going anywhere in this weather. I think I'll just head home.

SARAH. I'm staying. I've got a lot more to do here. So, when do you want to get together again?

KATY. Come on, guys. Let's go down the football game and see who is there.

JULIA. Listen, I'd rather stay here and study than go to that stupid football game. Especially if it keeps raining like this.

SARAH. Sounds good to me. I'm not really in the mood to deal with all of those football groupies. I don't know how they do it, but they can make me feel bad just because I'm not one of them.

JULIA. I know what you mean. They have this way of looking at you like you're not even there. Like you're not a real person.

KATY. And that Lydia Beth girl. She's the worst. She's such a tool. Do you know what she did to me the other day?

JULIA. What?

KATY. I'm walking down the hall, minding my own business, and there she is sitting on a bench with her little minion, what's-her-name? You know the one that always follows her around?

JULIA. Natalie.

KATY. Right, she's just sitting there with Natalie and she's got this huge bag of candy in her lap. I mean enormous. She had a ton. And she was just chowing them down, one after the other. Munch, munch, munch. It looked like she had plenty to share, so I said, "can I have one?" and she says, "back off, witch!" and she gets up and walks off.

JULIA. Jeez, that really pisses me off. Why is it that if you are a strong willed, assertive woman, everyone calls you a “witch”?

SARAH. Yeah, but assertive men are called “strong leaders” or “tough guys.”

JULIA. Like her boyfriend. What’s his name?

KATY. Mac.

JULIA. Right. Just because he can throw the football, he thinks he’s the king of the school. Whatever. Plus, I know his friend Buddy does all of his homework for him.

SARAH. I hate that. Some of us actually have to work to get good grades. I always wondered why he was on the honor roll. I’ve never heard him speak a complete sentence in class.

KATY. Yeah, and nobody does anything about it. You know? Everybody knows they’re liars, and cheaters, but nobody does anything. I wish I could find a way to, I don’t know, do *something* to them. Make them pay.

(Another loud thunder clap is heard.)

SARAH. Meow! Pull in the claws Katy.

KATY. Whatever. Like you wouldn’t like to get back at them, too.

JULIA. Wait. I’ve got an idea. What if nobody had to do anything to them? What if they did it to themselves?

SARAH. What do you mean?

JULIA. Like in Macbeth. Three people he has never met before, women with beards for heaven’s sake, tell Macbeth he’s going to be king, and he starts lopping the heads off of anyone who stands in his way. No magic spell, no coercion. They just say the word “king” and he goes off the deep end. I’ll bet you anything that with a little push, Lydia and Mac would do the same thing. Totally self-destruct.

KATY. I think you’re onto something. These guys are so stupid, that I bet we could get them to do something totally outrageous.

SARAH. Like what?

KATY. Well, let's test your theory about Macbeth. Mac is clearly the best player on the team, but he's not the starter, and he's not the captain, because he's not a senior. The guy who is the captain, Duncan, is hurt, and won't even play tonight. What do you think would happen if we started a rumor that the coach said that if Duncan's injury was more serious, then Mac would be the starter next week?

SARAH. Wow. If he heard that, he'd probably go break Duncan's leg or something.

KATY. Well girls, there's only one way to find out. Let's go spread a little rumor. If we leave now, we can be at the game by half-time.

SARAH. Wait. You're not serious, are you?

KATY. Sure I am.

JULIA. Give me one good reason why we shouldn't.

SARAH. It's wrong.

KATY. And it's not wrong to cheat? To lie? To be mean to people?

SARAH. It's not the same.

KATY. Oh please. You can't tell me you don't want them to suffer.

SARAH. Well, I don't know about suffer.

JULIA. You're not mad?

SARAH. Yes, I'm mad, but—

KATY. Don't you want to get back at them?

SARAH. Yes. I guess.

KATY. Then what's the problem?

SARAH. It's just that, I can't do something mean to someone just because they...

JULIA. Look. We wouldn't even be doing anything to them. We spread a little rumor, and see what happens. They could blow us off completely. That would mean that they were a little bit nicer than we gave them credit for. Or, they run with this, and they get what they deserve.

SARAH. Yeah. I guess.

JULIA. Look Sarah. You don't have to do this if you don't want to. Katy and I can do it. No big deal. Don't feel pressured or anything.

SARAH. No, no. I want to. I really do. It's just, that I'm not really good at this kind of thing.

KATY. Don't worry. I am.

JULIA. God you are evil.

KATY. I know. Let's head down to the game and have some fun.

(Another loud thunder clap is heard. All three exit while laughing.)

Scene 2

(The high school boy's locker room. The captain of the football team, DUNCAN, is sitting on a bench with his leg in a cast. The football team including PORTER, MALCOLM, ROSS, and SERGEANT enters, whooping and hollering. High-fives, butt-slapping and general pandemonium ensues. After a moment, MALCOLM breaks from the groups and sees DUNCAN.)

MALCOLM. Hold Up. Hold up. Guys. Guys. Hey!

(Having trouble getting everyone's attention, MALCOLM whistles loudly. Everyone stops cheering except PORTER. Everyone stares at PORTER and slowly he realizes he is the only one cheering.)

MALCOLM. Look who's here.

(The team shouts greeting to DUNCAN.)

ROSS. Hey man, where you been?

DUNCAN. They finished re-doing my cast an hour ago, but they wouldn't release me from the hospital until they could find the doctor to sign some stupid form.

MALCOLM. Didn't they know you had a game?

ROSS. Man, it wasn't the same without you.

MALCOLM. Yeah! We told Coach not to start without you, but he said since you weren't playing anyway, we had to start the game or forfeit.

ROSS. Jerk.

DUNCAN. Thanks, anyway. So how did it go?

MALCOLM. How did it go? How did it go?

PORTER. (*Seriously asking:*) Yeah guys, how *did* it go?

MALCOLM. We won forty-five to nothin'. We killed 'em.

DUNCAN. All right!! (*They exchange high-fives.*) Whoa. What's wrong with that guy?

(*DUNCAN points to SERGEANT who is sitting on a bench nursing a cut on his head.*)

MALCOLM. That's Bob Sergeant. He's the new offensive lineman. Hey Dude. C'mere.

SERGEANT. 'sup.

DUNCAN. You sure got banged up. It must have been a real battle out there.

SERGEANT. Sure was.

DUNCAN. That's a nasty cut. Somebody get him some alcohol.

PORTER. I've got some in my locker. Whoo-hoo. Party time.

DUNCAN. No Porter, rubbing alcohol. From the trainer's room.

ROSS. I'm on it. (*He exits.*)

SERGEANT. I've never seen anything like it.

DUNCAN. What?

SERGEANT. Man, I didn't think he could do it.

DUNCAN. Who?

SERGEANT. Mac. After tonight we should start calling him "Big Mac."

MALCOLM. A name he earned today that's for sure.

SERGEANT. Anyway, Mac fakes like he's going to hand the ball off to Ross, and then he busts through the line, headed right for the end zone. The only guy standing between Mac and the goal line was that jerk Donald. Mac is heading right for him when suddenly he's swarmed by a bunch of defenders. Mac just knocked them off, one by one, and never even slowed down. Then he faced Donald, faked like he was going to go around him, but instead ran right over him and knocked his helmet off. It was wicked. Mac takes the guys helmet and holds it up over his head. The crowd went nuts.

MALCOLM. It was the play of the century. I've never seen anything like it.

DUNCAN. Where is Mac?

ROSS. *(Entering.)* I think he and Buddy went to meet their girlfriends. I saw them under the bleachers right after the game.

DUNCAN. Go find them. Let Mac know that in half an hour, I'll be presenting him with the game ball.

ROSS. You got it.

Scene 3

(SARAH, JULIA and KATY have been waiting outside the boy's locker room with their ear to the door.)

SARAH. Oh crud. Here they come, here they come.

(They scurry from the door and place themselves in the shadows in a tight circle. MAC and LYDIA BETH enter arm in arm followed by BUDDY and NATALIE who are holding hands. The boys are still in their football uniforms, and the girls are in their cheerleader uniforms.)

LYDIA BETH. You were amazing out there.

MAC. Thanks. You too. I mean, the cheering and stuff.

LYDIA BETH. Thanks. We worked really hard on that new cheer. Did you see it?

MAC. *(Lying:)* Um, sure. Sure. It was great.

NATALIE. I couldn't believe when you ran over that guy. That was so cool.

BUDDY. Yeah, I've never seen you that fired up.

LYDIA BETH. I know. I was thinking, "That's my boyfriend, out there. That's my Mac." I was so proud.

MAC. Thanks.

(LYDIA BETH and MAC kiss. NATALIE and BUDDY look uncomfortable.)

NATALIE. Lydia Beth, we need to go, my dad will freak if I'm not home soon.

LYDIA BETH. OK. Call me.

MAC. OK.

LYDIA BETH. *(Not moving:)* Bye.

MAC. *(Not moving:)* Bye.

(NATLIE grabs LYDIA BETH and they exit. SARAH, KATY and JULIA reemerge and cross past MAC and BUDDY.)

JULIA. Hey Mac.

KATY. Hey Buddy.

(MAC and BUDDY grunt a barely audible greeting to them as they walk past. SARAH, KATY and JULIA pretend to be having a private conversation, but speak loud enough for MAC and BUDDY to hear.)

JULIA. Anyway, you wanna know what I heard? I heard that Mac is getting the game ball tonight.

SARAH. No way.

JULIA. Oh yeah. And I heard that the coach really wants Mac to be the starter, and the team captain, but he can't because Duncan will be able to play next week.

KATY. Well, I heard that Lydia Beth's pregnant, and Mac's not the father and...

MAC. Hold on. What did you just say?

KATY. Oh, well, it's just a rumor, but I heard that Lydia Beth...

MAC. No, no, no. Before that.

KATY. Well, promise you won't tell anybody, and it's just a rumor, but, you're about to get the game ball handed to you, and the coach really would rather have you as the starter and the captain.

MAC. How do you know all that stuff?

SARAH. You know, girl talk.

JULIA. Yeah, it's a witch thing. You wouldn't understand.

KATY. Gotta go. *(They exit.)*

MAC. Wait. Stay, tell me more.

BUDDY. Where did they go?

MAC. Who cares? Do you think what they said was true? About me being the starter and the captain?

BUDDY. Nah, I think it's bull—

(He is interrupted by ROSS who enters.)

ROSS. Dude. There you are. I've been looking all over for you. Duncan's heard about what you did on the field tonight, and he wants to give you the game ball. Hurry up, he wants to start in a few minutes.

BUDDY. Game ball? Way to go man.

MAC. Game ball. Starter, and captain? Do you think that they...

BUDDY. What? Can predict the future? No way! They're just a bunch of weirdos. Come on.

Scene 4

(SARAH, JULIA, and KATY and standing in a school hallway. SARAH is frantically scribbling on a sheet of paper as LYDIA BETH approaches.)

KATY. Hurry up. Here she comes.

SARAH. I'm almost finished.

JULIA. Hurry.

KATY. Shh.

(LYDIA BETH and NATALIE enter in mid-conversation.)

NATALIE. Anyway, thanks for talking to me.

LYDIA BETH. Hey, what are friends for?

NATALIE. It really means a lot to me.

LYDIA BETH. Aww, that is so sweet.

NATALIE. Well, I better get to class.

LYDIA BETH. Hey, do you think you could drop this book off at the library for me?

NATALIE. Um, well, that's not on my way to class. I'll be late.

LYDIA BETH. Yeah but, I've already got like a ton of tardies in Mr. Scripps' class. One more, and I'll have to go to the office, and then I might not be able to cheer at the game...

NATALIE. Well, I can't afford to be late either, I still have to...

LYDIA BETH. Hey, what are friends for, right? Thanks. You're a doll. Bye.

NATALIE. Bye.

(NATALIE takes the book and exits. LYDIA BETH crosses in front of SARAH, JULIA, and KATY.)

SARAH. Wow. Look at this note I found. It says, "To: Lydia Beth. From: Big Mac". Who is Lydia Beth? Is she the new girl?

JULIA. No, I think she's that foreign exchange student from Sweden.

LYDIA BETH. Excuse me, but I couldn't help overhearing ...

SARAH / JULIA / KATY. Yes?

LYDIA BETH. I believe you have something that belongs to me.

JULIA. Oh, are you Big Mac?

LYDIA BETH. No, you freaks. You know who I am. Everyone knows who I am. Now give me the note.

KATY. What note?

LYDIA BETH. Look, I can have you destroyed. If you don't give it to me now, you will never be invited to any social function at this school ever again.

SARAH. And that would be different, how?

LYDIA BETH. Just give it.

(She snatches the note from their hands. The SISTERS slowly retreat to hide as LYDIA BETH begins to read the note.)

LYDIA BETH. *(Skimming the note:)* ...touchdown... helmet... Duncan... gameball... rumor... Coach said... starter... captain. CAPTAIN. *(Clutching the note to her chest.)* Oh, Mac. Captain. I always knew it would happen. I'm dating the captain of the football team. Now we ARE the perfect couple. Wait. *(She read the note again.)* Technically, Duncan is still the captain. *(Long pause.)* Unless...

JULIA. Wow, that didn't take long.

SARAH / KATY. Shh!

LYDIA BETH. Unless his injury was permanent. No, that won't work. I'm afraid you don't have the guts to do it. Oh, Mac, why do you have to be such a wimp? You could be so great if you just had a little bit more ambition. You don't seem to have a problem being assertive on the field, but out of uniform...ugh! Sometimes I wish I were a guy. It would be so much easier to make this happen. Well, I've got what every guy wants, which is the next best thing. I'll bet I can get you to do what needs to be done. Maybe you just need a lit-

tle help. If I just poured a few ideas into that empty head of yours, everything that is holding you back will just fade away.

(LYDIA BETH exits. SARAH, JULIA, and KATY emerge from hiding.)

SARAH. OK. That was creepy.

JULIA. Did you hear her?

KATY. Yeah, she took the bait. Just like you said. That is really wild.

SARAH. I told you they were rotten.

JULIA. It makes you think about what else you could make them do.

SARAH. I don't want to find out.

KATY. Yeah, that was almost too easy. Let's get out of here.

(They exit. MAC enters and then LYDIA BETH enters and finds him.)

LYDIA BETH. There you are. My Mac. Big Mac. Mr. Football Hero. Mr. Game Ball. Mr. Team Captain! I'm so proud of you.

MAC. Captain? Wow. Word sure travels fast.

LYDIA BETH. I knew you could do it.

MAC. Hold on. I'm not the captain, yet. Coach just said he wishes I could be the captain, but I can't because...

LYDIA BETH. Because of Duncan. So?

MAC. So! So, I can't be captain. It's Duncan's...

LYDIA BETH. Listen to you. What is the matter with you? Where is your self-esteem? You know what you have to do.

MAC. What are you talking about?

LYDIA BETH. Look. It's not that hard. If Duncan can't play next week, then you will be the starter, and then they'll have to make you captain.

MAC. Yeah, but he probably will play next week.

LYDIA BETH. Not if we help him.

MAC. Help him?

LYDIA BETH. Don't you think it would be helpful if he could stay injured for another week or two?

MAC. Are you crazy? I can't hurt Duncan.

LYDIA BETH. Oh, you don't have to hurt him. Just get him into a little bit of trouble, that's all.

MAC. I can't believe you are suggesting that I...

LYDIA BETH. Look, you said it yourself. The last few weeks of the season are when the college scouts come. With our record heading into the playoffs, there will be tons of scouts. Tons of opportunities for you to show your stuff, like you did last week. When those scouts see you, you'll have it made. Scholarship, money, everything. You're good enough to play at a big school, and you're good enough to play for the pros.

MAC. I know.

LYDIA BETH. But no one will ever see that if you are on the bench.

MAC. I know, it's so frustrating to just sit there every week.

LYDIA BETH. No one is going to offer Duncan a scholarship anyway. Nobody is going to take a chance on a guy who has been injured. So, really, what harm can it do?

MAC. He's my friend. I just can't do anything that would...

LYDIA BETH. *(Suddenly becoming angry:)* Oh. You are so lame. Give me your phone.

MAC. But, I...

LYDIA BETH. Give me your phone.

(MAC gives her his cell phone. She dials.)

LYDIA BETH. Hey Dunc, it's Lydia Beth... I know I just heard. Game ball. How cool is that? You are such a sweetie... Anyway, I

was wondering what you were doing on Thursday? Cuz, my parents are out of town, and Mac and I are going to throw a monster party at my place. And it just won't be a party without you, so... Great. We'll see you there.

(LYDIA BETH hangs up.)

MAC. What do you expect me to do, Lydia Beth? I can't hurt Duncan, he's my friend.

LYDIA BETH. Oh stop whining. I told you that we don't have to hurt him. You just have to give him a little push. Come on, I'll explain on the way. We have to go get ready for the party.

Scene 5

(The living room of LYDIA BETH's house, night. There are sounds of a party coming from off-stage. Music, talking, giggling, etc. PORTER is passed out on the living room sofa.)

(Sound: knocking.)

PORTER. What was that? Oh. *(Falling back asleep:)* Come in. The door is zzzzzz...

(Sound: knocking.)

PORTER. Knock, knock, knock! Who keeps knocking? I said come in! I bet it's one of those smart kids who always busts the curve on the exam. Well, come in you big geek. I've got your exam right here! *(He sinks back into the couch.)*

(Sound: knocking.)

PORTER. Knock, Knock. Who's there? Snooty. Snooty who? Snooty girl in Geometry who won't give me the time of day. Even after I let you borrow my book and you never gave it back. You snooty little... *(He sinks back into the couch.)*

(Sound: knocking.)

PORTER. Come in Snooty-Who. I don't want your new five-hundred dollar designer purse to melt in the rain. It's raining? Really?

I've got to go roll up the windows on my moose. *(He sinks back into the couch.)*

(Sound: knocking.)

PORTER. Knock, knock, knock. There's never any piece and quiet around here.

(Sound: knocking.)

PORTER. All right, all right. I'm coming.

(PORTER opens the door for DUNCAN and ROSS.)

DUNCAN. Hey, Porter. What's up?

PORTER. Oh it's you. I thought you were Snooty-Who.

DUNCAN. Snooty who?

PORTER. Exactly.

ROSS. What took you so long to answer the door?

PORTER. Sorry. I was just trying to catch a few "z's." We've been partying since, like, two o'clock this afternoon. And partying makes you want to do three things.

DUNCAN. What are those?

PORTER. Party, party and Par-tay! Whoo-hoo!

ROSS. Are there any good looking girls here?

PORTER. Oh man. Let me tell you. There are some fine looking ladies here. All of them. The cheerleaders, the volleyball team, even those three weird chicks who always hang out at the library are here.

ROSS. Cool.

PORTER. Listen, let me give you some advice. Once you have partied as hard as I have, girls become a bit of a problem.

DUNCAN. Why is that?

PORTER. Just when you feel like getting your groove on, all you want to do is sleep. You want to run, but all you can do is walk.

You want to jump, but your feet don't leave the floor. You want to stand tall, but you are as limp as a piece of spaghetti. So, take my advice, whatever you do, never, ever, ever *(He falls asleep)*
ZZZZZZZZZZ.

(LYDIA BETH enters.)

LYDIA BETH. Duncan, Ross, I'm so glad you could come. What's up?

PORTER. *(Startled:)* I'm up. I'm up. *(Falling back asleep:)* Give me five more minutes Mom.

LYDIA BETH. Oh, shut up, you stupid jerk.

PORTER. *(Weeping:)* You sound just like Snooty-who.

LYDIA BETH. Snooty what?

PORTER. Her, too.

LYDIA BETH. Come on. Let's go down to the basement. That's where the real party is happening.

(MAC enters.)

MAC. Hey man. What's up?

DUNCAN. Hey.

ROSS. 'sup.

LYDIA BETH. Ross, would you be a sweetie and take Duncan downstairs and show him where the cooler is. I need to talk to Mac for a minute.

(ROSS and DUNCAN exit. PORTER is sound asleep on the couch.)

LYDIA BETH. So, have you got the stuff?

MAC. Yeah, I've got it but I wish...

LYDIA BETH. But nothing. This is our only chance. Don't wimp out on me now.

MAC. I'm not wimping out. I just wish this were already over with.

LYDIA BETH. What is wrong with you?

MAC. He trusts me. Not only as his teammate but as a friend. And he is such a nice guy. He doesn't deserve this.

LYDIA BETH. When you are going to stop thinking about what he deserves and start thinking about what you deserve?

MAC. He just honored me with the game ball, and now to go and do this would be...

LYDIA BETH. You need to stop and think about your priorities. Do you want to get ahead in this world? What about getting a football scholarship? Do you think for one second that if you were the captain, that there wouldn't be a dozen guys trying to knock you down? It's a dog-eat-dog world, and you need to get with it, or you will get eaten alive.

MAC. It's not that simple.

LYDIA BETH. Yes it is! I'm beginning to wonder where your loyalty really is. To him or to me?

MAC. What if we fail?

LYDIA BETH. We won't fail. You won't fail. I believe in you. And, it's time that you start believing in yourself. Look at me.

(LYDIA BETH gives him a kiss and hands him two small items.)

LYDIA BETH. You can do this. I know you can. Now go. Make sure he drinks this and then when he's passed out, put this in his pocket. I'll do the rest. Go.

(LYDIA BETH exits. A small dim beam of light shines through the window, catching MAC's eye.)

MAC. What is that? What is that light? *(The light stops.)* It's gone. It was nothing. It's all in my head. I'm losing it. Totally losing it. Maybe the weight of this whole thing is making me see things. Or maybe it's a sign. A sign I shouldn't be doing this. *(The light reappears.)* There it is again. I can't tell where it's coming from. *(The light goes out again.)* Oh man, this is really freaking me out. *(He takes a deep breath.)* All right, I've got to get moving. Nothing is going to happen as long as I just stand here.

(A clock strikes twelve.)

MAC. That's it. If I don't go now, I'll never do it.

(MAC exits, and SARAH, JULIA and KATY appear from the shadows. Perhaps one of them was behind the couch, another under a table, another behind a curtain.)

SARAH. Ask not for whom the bell tolls Duncan. It tolls for thee.

KATY. What is wrong with you?

SARAH. What?

KATY. The flashlight? Are you trying to get caught?

SARAH. No, I just wanted to stop him without him knowing...

JULIA. Listen. Both of you. We have to do something.

KATY. No we don't.

JULIA. Are you kidding? Someone's going to get hurt.

KATY. That's on him. Not on us. I want to see what happens.

JULIA. I don't. This has gone on far enough. You've proven your point.

KATY. Have I?

JULIA. Yes. You put the notion in their heads, and now they've run with it. You got what you wanted. Now we need to make it stop.

SARAH. I'm not sure we can. They've latched onto this idea pretty hard. Even if we stop this from happening tonight, what's to say they won't cook up some other scheme tomorrow?

JULIA. We should actually do something. Distracting Mac with a flashlight won't stop him. You have to actually do something. Duncan is in the next room, and they are going to do something to him.

KATY. This was your idea! Besides, why do you care what happens to some stupid football player?

JULIA. Because we made it happen. Without us, none of this would be...

(Flashing red and blue lights appear through the window.)

KATY. Oh crap. The cops are here.

JULIA. Let's get out of here.

SARAH. If my parents find out I was here, I'm dead.

JULIA. Run!

Scene 6

(A crowded hallway at school. There are several clusters of students huddled together and speaking in hushed tones. SERGEANT and ROSS talk while MALCOLM and BUDDY speak on the opposite side of the stage. JULIA and KATY slip in and out of the groups almost without being noticed.)

SERGEANT. Did you hear what happened at Lydia Beth's party?

ROSS. Who hasn't? Man, I can't believe Duncan got arrested.

JULIA. Well, I heard that the drugs they found on him were planted.

ROSS. That makes sense. Duncan is not the kind of guy who does drugs. There's no way it was him.

SERGEANT. Then who? Who would do this?

JULIA. You know what else I heard...

(Their conversation continues silently as we hear MALCOLM and BUDDY.)

MALCOLM. Now that Duncan's been expelled, Coach made Mac the captain.

SERGEANT. What? We don't get a vote? That's lame.

MALCOLM. I heard that he already moved his stuff into Duncan's locker.

BUDDY. No way.

MALCOLM. Man, that's cold.

BUDDY. I still can't believe Duncan was on drugs. That can't be right.

MALCOLM. But the police found him passed out at the party.

BUDDY. Yeah, even Porter managed to get out before the cops came in. Duncan must have really been wasted.

KATY. I heard Mac gave him something to make him pass out, and then planted the drugs.

BUDDY. No way. You're making that up.

(ROSS and SERGEANT join the conversation.)

KATY. Well, that's what I heard.

BUDDY. I still don't believe it.

ROSS. No, no it's true. I heard the same thing.

MALCOLM. But why? Why would Mac do that?

(BUDDY notices JULIA and KATY as they exit.)

BUDDY. I think I know why.

ROSS. Well, it doesn't matter. We have to do something.

BUDDY. Like what?

ROSS. Tell somebody.

MALCOLM. Right. Like that will do any good. We need to take matters into our own hands. This isn't right.

BUDDY. I'll catch up with you. I have to do something first.

(ROSS, MALCOLM and SERGEANT exit. BUDDY starts to exit in the direction of JULIA and KATY but is stopped by NATALIE.)

NATALIE. Buddy!

BUDDY. Hey Natalie.

NATALIE. You're in a hurry.

BUDDY. Yeah, I gotta meet someone.

NATALIE. Who?

BUDDY. Oh, it's nothing. Just a team thing.

NATALIE. *(A little hurt:)* Oh. Listen, do you want to come over to my house later? We could watch some movies or something.

BUDDY. That sounds good. But, I have to study. I still haven't finished the reading for English.

NATALIE. Maybe we can study together? I've finished, but it wouldn't hurt for me to go over it again.

BUDDY. No, that's OK. I wouldn't want to hold you back. Anyway, I gotta go.

NATALIE. OK.

BUDDY. Bye.

Scene 7

(A hallway at school. BUDDY is waiting for JULIA as she comes out of class. She walks quickly by him.)

BUDDY. Hey. You. You with the green skirt. Wait up.

JULIA. It's Julia.

BUDDY. Julia. OK. I'm sorry. Do you have a sec?

JULIA. I sit behind you in History. I've known you since the sixth grade.

BUDDY. Look, I'm sorry. I just forgot for a minute.

JULIA. No you didn't. You've never known my name. Never.

BUDDY. All right. All right. I don't know your name. Sue me.

JULIA. Goodbye Buddy.

BUDDY. Oh no you don't. I've got some questions for you.

JULIA. Copy your homework from someone else.

BUDDY. It's about Mac.

JULIA. *(Nervous:)* Oh. I don't know him.

BUDDY. Yeah, but you and your weird little friends sure hang around him a lot more than you used to.

JULIA. Really, I hadn't noticed.

BUDDY. I want to ask you about the night of the big game.

JULIA. What about it?

BUDDY. You said you heard that Coach wanted to make Mac captain.

JULIA. Did I?

BUDDY. Yes. You did. Where did you hear that?

JULIA. I don't know.

BUDDY. That's right. Because you made it up.

JULIA. No, no. That's not true. It was a rumor. Like we said. Look, I have to go.

BUDDY. Not yet. I'm not through with you. *(He grabs her arm.)*

JULIA. Let go. You're hurting me. *(She breaks free and exits.)*

BUDDY. *(Calling after her:)* I'll find out what you're up to. Don't think I won't find out.

(MAC enters.)

MAC. Buddy, what are you yelling about?

BUDDY. Nothing. Don't worry about it. I'll figure it out. But, you. You must be walking on air. Captain of the team. Starting in the big game. College scouts calling. Hot girlfriend.

MAC. Yeah, well. It's OK I guess.

BUDDY. OK? What's wrong with you?

MAC. Nothing. I just don't feel well.

BUDDY. I'm sorry. Look, I know you got a lot on your mind but I wanted to ask you something.

MAC. What?

BUDDY. About that night. You know when we talked to those weird girls. Don't you wonder how...

MAC. I don't think about it much.

BUDDY. Neither do I. I just thought that it was sure a big coincidence that Duncan was...

MAC. Was what? You got something to say me?

BUDDY. No. No. It's just, I thought it was funny that...

MAC. Well I don't think it's funny. This whole thing isn't funny anymore.

BUDDY. OK. Jeez. Calm down Mac.

MAC. I'm sorry. Look, I'm sorry I got all up in your face. It's just been so...I don't know. Weird. I didn't mean to bite your head off. Listen, I gotta go. I have to meet Lydia Beth. Oh, hey. I almost forgot. Have you got that cheat sheet yet?

BUDDY. No, I'm going to make it tonight.

MAC. Good. I haven't had time to study one bit with all the stuff that's been going on.

BUDDY. But look, this has to be the last one. I can't do these anymore for you.

MAC. What? Why?

BUDDY. I had to blow off Natalie so I could do your homework for you. Again. And its not just homework anymore. Now I'm helping you cheat on tests. I don't like it.

MAC. You never had a problem with it before.

BUDDY. Well, I do now, OK.

MAC. You think you are so much smarter than me, don't you? You and your rich family. You are set for life. And so are your kids, and your kids' kids. You have no idea what its like for me. Football is all I got. It's my only chance. But I can't play without the grades. After all I've done for you... Forget it. Just forget it. It doesn't matter anymore. Look, I'll see you around.

(MAC exits.)

Scene 8

(KATY waits impatiently by her locker. SARAH enters with a large book.)

KATY. Did you get it?

SARAH. Yeah. I got the Riverside version. It's got better annotation than the Penguin or that stupid Signet version Mr. Matthews likes so much.

KATY. Whatever. Just show me.

SARAH. Look. Look right here. This is what I'm talking about. All we did was basically in Act One, Scene Three. But, everything else happened without us doing a thing.

KATY. But that was the point, wasn't it? If we set it in motion, Mac and Lydia would do the rest.

SARAH. Yeah, but the rest they did by the book. Exactly like the play. Look at the first scene in Act Two. We shine a flashlight in Mac's eye and he thinks he sees something. And it freaks him out. Just like the dagger speech. Look, "Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee. I have thee not, and yet I see thee still." And then later he says, "Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses." He thought he was seeing things.

KATY. So?

SARAH. And look at Act Two, Scene Three. The guy in this scene sounds just like Porter did at the party. The King is named Duncan, our football captain is named Duncan. This is really freaking me out.

KATY. Calm down. There are a dozen guys at this school named Duncan. It's all one big coincidence.

SARAH. No. No it's not. We are in *Macbeth*. *Macbeth* is happening to us.

KATY. Don't be stupid.

SARAH. I'm scared. It's like some freaky prophecy or something. We've messed with witchcraft and now this play is happening to us.

KATY. Can you hear yourself? You sound like a raving lunatic. Let me see the book. There is an easy way to figure this out. If this play were happening to us, what would happen next?

SARAH. I'm not sure. Some of the things that have happened to us have happened out of order. But, Macbeth and Banquo should be asking us how we know what we know.

(JULIA enters.)

JULIA. Guys. We're in trouble. Mac's friend Buddy just stopped me in the hall. He's on to us.

KATY. What are you talking about?

JULIA. He thinks we made up the rumor about the coach.

SARAH. Oh no. That's it. That's just like in this scene where...

KATY. Stop it. There is nothing to worry about. We didn't do anything but spread a rumor.

SARAH. But we knew what would happen if we did.

KATY. Yeah, but they still did it. People have free will.

SARAH. No they don't. Not in a tragedy. It's all predestined. That's what tragedies are all about. It happened in Aristotle's plays, in Chaucer's work, even in Racine's "Phaedra."

KATY. You read way too much.

SARAH. This whole thing is a classic Greek tragedy. It's our destiny. Our fate. We were cast in these roles a long time ago. It's inevitable.

JULIA. What is she talking about?

KATY. She's crazy. Don't listen to her.

SARAH. What do we do? Buddy'll tell someone and then...

KATY. And then what? What is he going to do?

(SARAH begins to whimper, on the edge of tears.)

KATY. Don't flake out on me. I'll take care of Buddy.

JULIA. What do you mean?

KATY. Don't worry. I'll take care of it.

JULIA. I don't think I want to do this anymore.

KATY. Yes you do. You don't want to quit now. We're just starting to have a little fun.

JULIA. Fun? Are you crazy? Duncan's life is already ruined. Someone could get seriously hurt. I think we should quit now before we get ourselves in any more trouble.

SARAH. We may not have a choice. This thing has a life of its own. It's like a runaway train. We can't stop it.

JULIA. That's ridiculous.

KATY. She's right. This is all in your head.

SARAH. No it's not. It's happening. The whole play is happening.

JULIA. Let's say, for the sake of argument, that you're right. Nothing happens to the witches anyway, right. Take a look at the book. What happens to us?

SARAH. *(Flipping through the book:)* Well, after the first half, we don't do much until we show Macbeth the apparitions. Then we tell him to beware of Macduff. Then we're not in Act Five at all.

JULIA. See, we have nothing to worry about. Tell me this, according to your theory, where are we in the play right now?

SARAH. There should be a scene where Hecate comes in and chews us out for not letting her in on the fun.

JULIA. We don't have any other friends, so that won't happen.

SARAH. Yeah, plus most productions cut that scene anyway. If I'm reading the script correctly, what would happen now, in most productions, is that there would be an intermission right about now.

End of Act I

ACT II

Scene 1

(A crowded high school hallway in between classes. SARAH is racing from person to person with a large clipboard in her hand.)

SARAH. Excuse me, I'm taking a survey for the school newspaper. Can you tell me your name?

ROSS. It's Ross.

SARAH. Ross. OK. *(Finds his name on the list:)* Here you are. Now, let's see. First question. What color are your eyes?

ROSS. Brown.

SARAH. Brown. OK. Hair color?

ROSS. Brown.

SARAH. Brown again. Got it. OK, next question. Did your mother give birth to you the normal way, or did she have a C-section?

ROSS. What? Buzz off. That's none of your business. What kind of survey is this?

SARAH. It's for a psychological profile. We're testing the theory that people born the normal way tend to be better looking than people born from a C-section. And since you are so handsome, I just wanted to confirm that...

ROSS. *(Suddenly warming up:)* Oh, I was born the normal way. Thanks for noticing.

SARAH. No problem. Let's see. "Of woman born" —six. "Untimely ripped" —zero.

ROSS. What?

SARAH. Never mind. Thanks again. See ya.

(SARAH approaches SERGEANT.)

SARAH. Excuse me. Can I ask you a question? I'm taking a survey for the school newspaper.

SERGEANT. Take a hike, weirdo. *(He exits.)*

SARAH. (*Calling after him:*) I just want to ask about your mother. Dang it.

JULIA. What are you doing?

SARAH. I can't find Macduff.

JULIA. What?

SARAH. Macduff. In Act Five, Macduff comes back to kill Macbeth. If we want to put a stop to this before someone gets hurt, we have to find Macduff. See, in the play, the witches tell Macbeth that "none of woman born shall harm thee." So he gets all cocky thinking no one can kill him.

JULIA. I know, I know. Then right before Macduff lops off Macbeth's head he tells him that he was...

SARAH. "from his mother's womb untimely ripped." You know, a C-section. I'm surveying the all the boys to see if any of them were born that way.

JULIA. You have gone off the deep end, you know that.

SARAH. No I haven't. We have to stop this.

JULIA. I agree. But it's not the boys we should be worried about. It's Buddy. I think he's going to...

(KATY enters.)

KATY. Well, you don't have to worry about Buddy anymore. I took care of him.

SARAH. Oh my goodness. What did you do?

KATY. Don't have a heart attack. I just got rid of him, that's all.

JULIA. What are you talking about?

KATY. I called and left a message on his parents' answering machine. I pretended that I thought it was his cell phone, and I left a very personal message for him. His parents went ballistic.

SARAH. What did you say?

KATY. I said I was pregnant and having his baby. I cried my eyes out and said that he had to marry me or I'd kill myself.

JULIA. You didn't.

KATY. I did. His parents called me back within seconds. They are sending him away to a private school. We won't see him again.

SARAH. You are insane. How could you do such a despicable thing?

KATY. You're welcome.

SARAH. I think I'm going to be sick. *(She exits.)*

KATY. What's her problem?

JULIA. She hasn't been sleeping well. She's taking this whole thing a little hard.

KATY. Wimp.

JULIA. What is with you? First Duncan and now Buddy. Where will it stop?

KATY. Look this was your idea. You wanted to get back at them as much as I did.

JULIA. Yeah, but not like this. This is too much.

KATY. They had it coming and you know it.

JULIA. I never signed up for this.

KATY. Yes you did, and you can't back out now.

JULIA. Yes I can. I'm going to find Sarah. She needs our help.

(JULIA exits leaving KATY alone on stage. Blackout.)

Scene 2

(A hallway inside the school. LYDIA BETH is waiting for MAC to come out of class. MAC enters.)

LYDIA BETH. Hey gorgeous. How are you?

MAC. Fine.

LYDIA BETH. You don't seem fine. You should be happy.

MAC. I'm not.

LYDIA BETH. You don't still feel guilty about, you know.

MAC. Yes, I do.

LYDIA BETH. Come on now. What's done is done. Look, nobody got hurt.

MAC. Oh really? Duncan might as well be dead. But you know what? I bet he sleeps at night. He's off the team, suspended from school, spent the night in jail, but I bet he sleeps at night. I don't. Do you?

LYDIA BETH. I do.

MAC. How can you? It makes me sick.

LYDIA BETH. I do because I did what needed to be done. And if you were a man you would have done this and not looked back.

MAC. If I were a man, I would have stood up to you and said "no."

LYDIA BETH. (*Changing her tactic:*) Come here you. Listen to me. You are a sexy, ruggedly good looking, strong and powerful man. You have a plan, a goal. To be the best you can be. To get what you want. There is nothing wrong with getting what you want.

MAC. The ends do not justify the means.

LYDIA BETH. Do you want to go to the community college, or junior college, or do you want to get a scholarship and have your choice of any college in the country?

MAC. What's wrong with community college?

LYDIA BETH. What's wrong with it? I thought you had higher standards than that. How can we stay together if you are here and I'm...

MAC. This isn't about football, or college, or even me. This is about you and your status.

LYDIA BETH. No.

MAC. This is about your parents, and money and your image.

LYDIA BETH. Don't be ridiculous.

MAC. You don't want this for me. You want it for you.

LYDIA BETH. I want it for us. So that we can stay together.

MAC. You're right about one thing. I haven't been a man. And it takes a man to stand up to you. It's over.

LYDIA BETH. What?

MAC. I don't think we should see each other anymore.

LYDIA BETH. You are not breaking up with me.

MAC. I'll come by your locker after school and get my stuff.

LYDIA BETH. You can not do this. I won't let you. You are not allowed to break up with me. I already bought the prom dress! *(She starts to cry.)* I love you.

MAC. That won't work either. Please. I have to go.

LYDIA BETH. You will regret this. I will not let this happen. You are a dead man. Do you hear me? DEAD!

(Blackout.)

Scene 3

(ROSS and NATALIE are talking in a quiet school hallway. NATALIE is in a panic.)

NATALIE. I don't get it. What could he possibly have done that would make him fly off like that? He didn't even say goodbye.

ROSS. Look, have some patience. It will all work out.

NATALIE. Patience? Buddy wasn't very patient. He just took-off. This is insane. Coward.

ROSS. You don't know that. Maybe he wasn't scared. Maybe he was just using his head.

NATALIE. Using his head? To leave me? And his friends? For what?

(ROSS looks away, trying not to reveal too much.)

NATALIE. Do you know? You know don't you. Don't you. Tell me. Tell me what's going on.

ROSS. Don't freak out on me. Buddy is a nice guy. He is smart, and he knows the best way to handle the situation.

NATALIE. What situation?

ROSS. Alright, you didn't hear this from me, but Buddy got some girl pregnant.

NATALIE. What?

ROSS. Look, I'm just the messenger.

NATALIE. Buddy did not get anyone pregnant.

ROSS. That's not what his parents think. They put him in a private school. He's living with his aunt and uncle.

NATALIE. I don't believe this.

ROSS. Buddy knows how to handle himself.

NATALIE. Do you believe it?

ROSS. What? That Buddy got someone pregnant? I don't know.

NATALIE. You don't know? He and I have been dating for months. If he was going to get anyone pregnant, it would be me.

(ROSS looks taken aback.)

NATALIE. But it wouldn't be me, because he and I haven't...you know.

ROSS. Well, maybe that's why he went off to someone else and...

NATALIE. Don't you dare finish that sentence, or I promise you, I will beat you senseless. How stupid do you have to be to just believe some idiotic rumor even when you know me, and you know Buddy, and you know he wouldn't do something like that?

ROSS. It doesn't matter what I think. It matters that his parents believed it. It matters that he's gone.

(This thought hits NATALIE hard, she turns away almost in tears.)

ROSS. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. Man, this is messed up. All these rumors. You don't know who to trust. Sometimes I feel like a traitor if I question anybody about anything. But, I can't believe half the stuff I'm hearing. Everybody is just so afraid.

NATALIE. He's got a lot of explaining to do. And I want to hear it from him.

ROSS. I know. Listen, the guys and I have been talking. He needs to come back. Just so people can see him, and know that he is OK. He could get in a lot of trouble if he came back on campus, but if he came during lunch, it's always so crazy, no one would notice. Look for him in the cafeteria tomorrow. He'll be looking for you.

NATALIE. Thank you, Ross. Thank you. *(She gives him a big hug.)*

ROSS. Try not to be too hard on him, OK.

NATALIE. We'll see.

(Blackout.)

Scene 4

(The school cafeteria. JULIA is sitting at a cafeteria table. KATY enters with her lunch tray.)

JULIA. Hey Katy. Over here.

KATY. There you are.

JULIA. Thanks for coming. Listen, I want to talk to you before Sarah gets here.

KATY. I thought you weren't talking to me.

JULIA. I'm not. And, I wouldn't, but, like I said on the phone, we need to help Sarah.

KATY. Fine. Whatever. Where is she?

JULIA. She'll be here in a sec. I just saw her in the lunch line. Let's save this seat for her. Listen, before she gets here, I need to ask you...

KATY. I know, I know. I have to be nice.

JULIA. It's not about being nice. She's really upset. She's not sleeping, she keeps babbling on about the play. She won't let that copy of *Macbeth* out of her sight. And get this, when she is able to sleep her mother told me that she's sleepwalking.

KATY. Sleepwalking?

JULIA. Yeah, and she's talking in her sleep.

KATY. Talking? About what? Do you think that she said anything about...

JULIA. No, I don't think so. She just mumbles. But still, I'm worried about her. She's never been like this before. You've got to help me out.

(Unseen by JULIA and KATY, BUDDY comes in and looks for a place to sit. The only empty seat is next to KATY, so he sits with his back to the girls as he talks to guys at the next table. SARAH enters with her lunch tray and her copy of MACBETH.)

JULIA. There she is. Sarah. Over here.

SARAH. Hey, Julia. Oh. Katy. I didn't know you would be here.

KATY. Hi, Sarah. It's good to see you. How are you?

SARAH. Fine I guess. Well, sort of.

JULIA. Sit down. Let's talk.

SARAH. There's no place for me to sit.

JULIA. Sure there is, we saved a seat for you.

(Without looking, KATY points over her shoulder to the seat now occupied by BUDDY.)

SARAH. What are you talking about? Every seat is taken.

(BUDDY gets up. And walks to another table turning briefly so that SARAH sees his face. SARAH screams and drops her tray.)

SARAH. Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!

KATY / JULIA. What is it? What's wrong?

SARAH. There. He was there. I saw him. I thought you got rid of him, but he was right there.

JULIA. Who? Who was there? What are you talking about?

SARAH. Banquo. I mean, Buddy. Buddy's ghost. No, I mean Buddy's Banquo.

KATY. What?

SARAH. He was right there. Buddy!

KATY. Shut up, Sarah.

JULIA. Sarah, don't be silly. The chair is empty. Sit down.

SARAH. I saw him. I saw him. It used to be that when someone was gone, they were gone. Now they're back. He's back. We stabbed him in the back. But he's back.

KATY. Sarah, people are starting to stare.

JULIA. (*Addressing the crowd:*) Nothing to worry about. She has this strange thing about chairs. She's been that way since she was a little kid. No problem.

(SARAH picks up her book and her tray.)

SARAH. Ugh. What a mess. There is food everywhere.

JULIA. Don't worry about it. That's what the janitors are for. Come over and sit down. It's OK.

SARAH. (*Sits.*) I think I'm going crazy.

JULIA. You're not crazy. You just need to get some sleep.

SARAH. I can't. Every time I fall asleep I have this dream. It's always the same thing, every night. I dream that all the people we hurt come back and confront us and that (*She pauses*) that very bad things happen to us. Then, I can't get back to sleep again.

KATY. Maybe you need to take something to help you sleep.

SARAH. Like what?

KATY. I've got some pills that will help you.

SARAH. That is not a good idea. *(She notices some sauce on her sleeve.)* Oh great. I've got tomato sauce all over my sleeve. That will never come out. *(She starts rubbing it with a napkin.)* My mother will kill me.

KATY. You can buy another one.

SARAH. No this is hers. She doesn't know I borrowed it. Come on. Dang, it's going to leave a big spot. Come out you damned spot. Out. Out. *(Suddenly realizing what she has said, she clasps her hands over her mouth.)*

JULIA. What? What is it?

(With a hand still over her mouth, SARAH jumps up from her chair and points at the book.)

JULIA. What? What? The book?

(SARAH points at herself, then at the book.)

KATY. What's the matter with you?

JULIA. Something in the book. What? I don't understand.

(SARAH points at her sleeve, then at her mouth, then at the book.)

KATY. Calm down. What are you getting at?

JULIA. Oh. OK. I get it. "Out, out, damned spot."

(SARAH frantically nods her head yes, pointing at JULIA.)

JULIA. Calm down. It's OK. You've been reading that play over and over again for weeks. It's a coincidence.

SARAH. No. No it isn't. This play is still happening to us.

KATY. That's crazy.

SARAH. No it's not. I thought I had it figured out. I thought if I knew the play, then I could predict what would happen next. But,

it's tricky. It's smarter than that. It keeps changing. I'm not a witch. I'm Lady Macbeth. I wanted revenge on those people, and now I'm going crazy. Even the words are the same.

JULIA. Those lines are stuck in your head. You planted that suggestion in your own brain.

SARAH. I've got to go. The woods. I still haven't found Macduff. And the woods. The woods will be coming. Birnam Wood will be approaching. I have to figure it out. Or we're all going to die. *(She exits.)*

KATY. Man, she has really lost it.

JULIA. This is our fault.

KATY. Did you hear her? I feel horrible. I never meant for things to go this far.

JULIA. We have to do something.

KATY. Like what?

JULIA. I think I know. Look. Keep your cell phone on and wait for me to call. I have an idea.

(They exit. Blackout.)

Scene 5

(Inside DUNCAN's house. DUNCAN is sitting on the sofa watching TV. MAC enter.)

MAC. Dunc, we need to talk.

DUNCAN. It won't do any good.

MAC. Well, I have some things that I need to get off my chest. About the party.

DUNCAN. What about it?

MAC. Well, I know the drugs were planted on you.

DUNCAN. Really, Sherlock, how did you figure that out? I've only been telling everyone that for weeks. No one believes me.

MAC. Maybe they will believe me.

DUNCAN. Why?

MAC. Because I did it.

DUNCAN. What! What are you talking about?

MAC. I heard a rumor that the coach would make me captain if you were out of commission, so I...

DUNCAN. WHAT! It was you! Are you kidding me? I could kill you.

MAC. I never meant for it to get this far. It went way farther than I thought...

DUNCAN. What did you think would happen?

MAC. I don't know, a week's suspension, or something. I thought it would blow over. We just got caught up in the idea that's all.

DUNCAN. We?

MAC. Me and Lydia Beth.

DUNCAN. She was in on it too?

MAC. Yeah, but...

DUNCAN. *(Slowly putting it all together:)* Wait a minute. Wait just a minute. It was her party. You guys set me up.

MAC. I know it sounds bad.

DUNCAN. Bad? My life is now totally screwed. No college on the planet is going to take a serious look at me with a drug arrest on my record.

MAC. I know, I know. But, I can fix it.

DUNCAN. You're damn right you will. You're going to tell everyone exactly what happened.

MAC. I will. I promise. I'll be off the team, probably expelled from school. They might even arrest me for making a false statement to the police. But, I know I have to do it. I can't go on knowing what I did. I can't live with myself if I don't fix this.

DUNCAN. Don't expect me to feel sorry for you.

MAC. I don't.

DUNCAN. You did all this just so you could be captain?

MAC. Yeah, it sounds stupid.

DUNCAN. It is. What in the hell were you thinking?

MAC. I wasn't. Listen man, thanks for letting me say all this. I'm trying to set things straight. I'm doing my own homework now. I broke up with Lydia Beth. I'm trying to get my life back. I don't expect you to understand...

DUNCAN. You're right. I don't. Look, don't get the wrong idea. I am not cool with this and we are not friends. You go and fix this, and then we don't talk. Got it?

MAC. Got it. I guess I should go.

DUNCAN. I think that's a good idea.

(MAC exits, and DUNCAN grabs the remote, and throws himself back on the couch. Blackout.)

Scene 6

(A school hallway in-between classes. JULIA is following LYDIA BETH on one side of the stage and KATY is catching up to MAC on the other side. Their conversations happen simultaneously and sometimes overlap.)

JULIA. Excuse me. Lydia Beth.
Hey, Lydia Beth! Can I talk to you?

KATY. Mac. Wait up.

MAC. Who said that?

KATY. Me. It's me. Katy.

MAC / LYDIA BETH. *(Together:)* What do you want?

JULIA. Listen. I heard about you and Mac. I'm sorry.

LYDIA BETH. Do I know you?

JULIA. Oh come on Lydia Beth. Drop it. Listen, I'm here to straighten a few things out.

JULIA / KATY. *(Together:)* I've got this friend...

KATY. She and I we need to make things right with you.

MAC / LYDIA BETH. *(Together:)* What are you talking about?

JULIA. The note, the rumors, all of it.

JULIA / KATY. *(Together:)* That was me.

MAC / LYDIA BETH. *(Together:)* You?

JULIA. Well, me and my friends. We did it to see... Well, we didn't have any right.

LYDIA BETH. You sure didn't. You didn't have anything better to do than to mess with our lives?

JULIA. That's basically what happened. Yeah. Listen I know your mad.

LYDIA BETH. Whatever. It doesn't matter anymore.

JULIA. I'm sorry. Look, I hate to ask this, but, I need your help. I have this friend.

JULIA / KATY *(Together:)* She's not doing well.

KATY. And we need your help.

MAC. Why would I want to help you after what you did?

KATY. Because we need to straighten this thing out. It's gotten out of control.

MAC. You're a little late don't you think.

KATY. I know. But, I need to do this. I need to fix this.

MAC. I think I know how you feel.

JULIA / KATY. *(Together:)* Will you think about it? Please?

(KATY and JULIA exit to opposite sides of the stage leaving MAC and LYDIA BETH alone onstage. They turn to leave and notice each other. Uncomfortable.)

MAC. Hey.

LYDIA BETH. Hey.

MAC. It's good to see you. I was worried when you weren't at school the other day.

LYDIA BETH. *(Sarcastic:)* Sure you were. Worried sick I bet.

MAC. I was. I mean, I am. It's not like you to...

LYDIA BETH. You want to know something? Your timing stinks. Why couldn't you have picked a different time to do this?

MAC. Would that have helped?

LYDIA BETH. Yes! *(Pause.)* No. *(Pause.)* I don't know. I just seem so...lost. I have nothing to look forward to. I don't want to do anything, or go anywhere. I don't have any goals. I don't know where my life is headed. Without you and what we wanted, each day seems so worthless. Yesterday was a nothing, today was a nothing. And tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow. Each day just seems to creep along to the next. It's like time has slowed down and I feel like it will be this way forever.

MAC. You're just a little depressed. It's a natural reaction when two people...

LYDIA BETH. Look. You broke up with me. That's pathetic enough. I don't need the guy who dumped me to also be the guy who makes me feel better.

MAC. I'm sorry. I'm just trying to help.

LYDIA BETH. I know. I can't handle what happened. What we did. What I did. But we can't be friends. We can't be anything. I just need some time, and some space. I hope you understand.

MAC. It's OK. I've been hearing that a lot lately.

LYDIA BETH. Maybe with time...

MAC. Maybe.

Scene 7

(ROSS, SERGEANT, and PORTER are gathered together in a school hallway.)

ROSS. You talked to Duncan today?

SERGEANT. Yeah, can you believe that crap?

PORTER. Mac says he's sorry.

ROSS. Sorry don't cut it.

SERGEANT. Yeah, I got a few things to say to that guy.

(MALCOLM enters reading a copy of the Cliff Notes for MACBETH.)

MALCOLM. Holy crap. *(He flips a page.)* Holy crap. *(He quickly skims another page.)* HOLY CRAP!

ROSS. Malcolm. What are you doing?

MALCOLM. Listen guys, have you read that play for English class, *Macbeth*?

ROSS. *(They all laugh.)* What? You mean the whole thing?

PORTER. I have.

SERGEANT. No you haven't.

PORTER. Sure I did. It's about this dude named Nick who comes back after World War I and starts hanging out with this guy named Jay and this chick named Daisy. It's a cool book that explores the themes of class, wealth, and social standing.

SERGEANT. Geez, Porter. You're such a moron. That's not *Macbeth*.

ROSS. Yeah, that's *Tale of Two Cities*. (All of the boys agree.)

PORTER. Whatever, they'll all be on the test.

MALCOLM. I haven't read it either, but I got the Cliff Notes, and I started reading them. You wouldn't believe this stuff. It's totally bizarre. Like a freakin' horror movie.

PORTER. Cool.

MALCOLM. Yeah, but the weird part is I think somebody is using this play to mess with us.

ROSS. What? Who would do that?

MALCOLM. Someone who has read the play, and not just the Cliff Notes. Do you remember those weird chicks who are always hanging out together?

PORTER. Yeah, they were at Lydia Beth's party that night. Hot. All three of them. HOT. HOT. HOT. Weird. But Hot.

MALCOLM. Do you know where we can find them?

ROSS. The library sounds like a good place to start.

SERGEANT. Let's go.

(All begin to exit one direction except PORTER, who starts walking the opposite way.)

PORTER. To the cafeteria!

(BUDDY and ROSS grab PORTER, and drag him off stage. Black-out.)

Scene 8

(BUDDY is hiding behind some lockers in a school hallway. He comes out when NATALIE enters.)

NATALIE. Buddy!

BUDDY. Natalie. Thank God I found you. Are you OK?

NATALIE. I don't know yet. You tell me.

BUDDY. Natalie, come on. It's just a rumor. It's not true.

NATALIE. Then, why did you leave?

BUDDY. Things got really crazy. My parents were freaking out. I was a mess. First Duncan, and then that phone call from that girl. To be honest, I wasn't sure what crazy thing would happen next. All I knew is that if I left and laid low for a while, things would calm down and I could come back.

NATALIE. *(She throws her arms around him.)* I missed you.

BUDDY. I missed you too.

NATALIE. Do you know who started the rumor? Who would do something like that?

BUDDY. Actually, I just talked to Mac about this. Do you know those three weird girls who always hang out at the library?

NATALIE. Sorta.

BUDDY. Mac thinks we should go talk to them.

NATALIE. You trust Mac?

BUDDY. I don't know. We'll see.

(They exit. Blackout.)

Scene 9

(JULIA is waiting outside the school nervously looking at her watch.)

JULIA. There you are.

KATY. I did it. I talked to Mac.

JULIA. Do you think he will...

KATY. I don't know. We'll see. I told him to be here. What about Lydia Beth?

JULIA. She blew me off at first, but after I called her she seemed to warm up to the idea.

KATY. "Warm" and "Lydia Beth" are not two words I would use in the same sentence.

JULIA. They should be here by now.

KATY. Don't freak out yet. It's still early. Did you talk to Sarah?

JULIA. Yeah. She sounded really weird. I hope she's OK. This had better work. I don't know what else to do.

KATY. We'll think of something.

JULIA. Do you think I should call her?

KATY. Let's wait a few more minutes.

(MALCOLM, ROSS and SERGEANT enter.)

SERGEANT. There they are.

ROSS. We need to talk to you.

JULIA. Uh Oh.

KATY. This is not good.

MALCOLM. There's Mac.

(MAC enters with BUDDY and NATALIE.)

MAC. Julia. I decided to help you out. I think we could all use some *(He sees the group of boys)* Oh. Hey, guys.

ROSS. Hey Mac. We need to talk to you.

SERGEANT. Yeah, man, you've got some explaining to do.

NATALIE. *(To KATY and JULIA:)* Did you tell Buddy's parents that he got you pregnant?

KATY. Hang on. We can explain.

(LYDIA BETH enters with DUNCAN who walks on crutches.)

LYDIA BETH. Hey, there you are. Let's get this over with. Where is your friend? *(She sees MAC:)* Oh. What are you doing here?

MAC. Trying to fix things. We need to take responsibility for what we did.

ROSS. We? She was in on it, too?

NATALIE. In on what? Did you do this?

LYDIA BETH. I don't know what you're talking about.

NATALIE. Did you tell Buddy's parents that he got you pregnant?

LYDIA BETH. No. I wouldn't go near Buddy.

NATALIE. What is that supposed to mean?

LYDIA BETH. Oh, calm down. I had nothing to do with that.

KATY. That was me.

NATALIE. You? What is your problem? *(She rushes toward KATY.)*

KATY. Hey, step back.

MALCOLM. Mac, you've got a lot of nerve to show your face after what you've done.

MAC. I know. I'm sorry.

SERGEANT. Come here and let me show you what sorry is.

(NATALIE and KATY begin to struggle while SERGEANT and MAC start shoving each other. The others intervene trying to help or stop the fight. Pandemonium ensues.)

JULIA. No wait. Guys. Stop. STOP!

SARAH. *(Off:)* EVERYBODY STOP.

(Everyone freezes.)

ROSS. Who said that?

KATY. Look! *(She points up.)*

(SARAH is on top of the school standing on the edge of the roof. JULIA screams.)

JULIA. Sarah! What are you doing? Come down.

SARAH. No. This is the only way.

JULIA. No its not. Come down we need to talk.

KATY. I'm going up there. *(She exits.)*

SARAH. Don't come near me.

KATY. Sarah, you don't have to do this.

SARAH. Yes I do. It's the way the play ends. The play is waiting for me. It's the only way I can make it all end. We need an ending.

JULIA. That's not true. Listen to me. You are not in a play. The play is not happening to us.

SARAH. Yes it is. There are too many parallels.

KATY. They are all in your head.

SARAH. No. No. You're wrong. You just can't see them. It's pre-destined. It was meant to be.

JULIA. There is no such thing as pre-destiny. People have free will. You have free will. You can choose.

SARAH. You don't know what you're talking about. Look around you. Look at what happened to all of those people.

JULIA. They are OK. Listen to me. Everyone is OK. Look Sarah. Look. Mac is here. With Buddy. They are OK.

BUDDY. Sort of.

KATY. Shut up.

JULIA. Everybody is happy.

NATALIE. No we're not.

KATY. Shut up.

SARAH. She's right. Nobody is happy. *MACBETH DOES NOT HAVE A HAPPY ENDING!*

JULIA. Yes it does. I mean, it doesn't but we can. We can have a happy ending. It's up to you. Look Sarah. Look down here. Look at everyone. Lydia Beth is here with Duncan. See. And Mac, he's OK too. He and Buddy are here. Everyone is OK. See. There is nothing to worry about.

SARAH. Duncan? Are you OK? Oh, my gosh, I'm so sorry. What have I done.

JULIA. Sarah, calm down. It's OK. Come down.

DUNCAN. Sarah. This is Duncan. I'm OK. Please come down.

BUDDY. Me too, Sarah. Please. Everything is OK. Nobody is mad. Just come down. We can talk about it.

MALCOLM. Come down. We can talk. Please, just come down.

(Everyone begins to talk at once, urging SARAH to come down.)

SARAH. But if I come down...

MAC. If you come down, then the play will be over. You can break the pattern. You can end this without anyone getting hurt.

SARAH. *(Calming down:)* But people did get hurt.

MAC. Yes they did. But, it's not your fault. Not entirely. But mistakes can be corrected. Let me show you. Let's talk about it.

SARAH. *(She starts to come down:)* Do you promise?

MAC. I promise. It will be OK. I'll show you. You can start over. We all can.

PORTER. *(Enters:)* Hey guys. What's going on.

DUNCAN. One of those weird girls is up on the roof.

THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!

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