

# **THE PROM**

**SCREENPLAY BY  
BOB MARTIN & CHAD BEGUELIN**

**BASED ON THE BROADWAY MUSICAL BY CHAD BEGUELIN, BOB MARTIN AND MATTHEW SKLAR**

BLACKNESS. THE OVERTURE BEGINS. SUDDENLY --

EXT. BROADWAY -- BALMY SPRING NIGHT

We TILT down from a blazing MARQUEE that reads "ELEANOR! The ELEANOR ROOSEVELT MUSICAL!" to a purple carpet. A peppy REPORTER with a microphone holds court with actors dressed in gowns and tuxedos.

FRANK DILELLA

It's Frank DiLella with NY1's  
On Stage and we're here for the  
opening night of "Eleanor! -- The  
Eleanor Roosevelt Musical,"  
starring the incomparable Dee Dee  
Allen.

DEE DEE ALLEN turns from another interview. She is glamorous and a true legend who gave EVERYTHING she has to The Great White Way.

FRANK DILELLA (CONT'D)

Dee Dee, you're a Broadway star.

DEE DEE

Yes, I am.

FRANK DILELLA

You have your choice of roles, what  
drew you to Eleanor?

DEE DEE

Eleanor Roosevelt was a powerful,  
brave, charismatic woman that no  
one had ever heard of. Her story  
needs to be told. People need to  
know it's possible to change the  
world, whether you are a homely  
middle-aged first lady, or a  
Broadway star.

Dee Dee nods, moves down the line for more press. BARRY GLICKMAN enters the line talking to another hack.

RED CARPET REPORTER

And here's Barry Glickman! You were  
brilliant as FDR.

BARRY

I know. The moment I first stepped  
into FDR's shoes, and by shoes I  
mean wheelchair, I had an epiphany.

(MORE)

BARRY (CONT'D)  
I realized there is no difference  
between the President of the United  
States and a celebrity. We both  
have power. The power to change the  
world.

DEE DEE  
(to another reporter)  
It's a weighty responsibility.

BARRY  
*Let's talk process.*

Barry begins to sing and dance down the red carpet, singing  
into microphones, mugging for photos, sure of a Tony.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
*"WHEN I'M IN CHARACTER I GO INSANE,  
I STAGGER, I STAMMER, I SOB, I MAKE  
THE AUDIENCES FEEL MY PAIN AND IF  
THEY DON'T LEAVE DEPRESSED, THEN  
I'VE NOT DONE MY JOB..."*

He passes Dee Dee, singing now to a reporter

DEE DEE  
*"EACH TIME I FIND A ROLE LIKE  
ELEANOR, THE ARTIST INSIDE OF ME  
THRIVES! I PUT ON THAT WIG AND  
THOSE PROSTHETIC TEETH, AND KNOW  
I'M CHANGING LIVES!"*

INT. BROADWAY THEATRE -- NIGHT

A rapt CROWD watches as Dee Dee (in Eleanor teeth and outfit)  
overacts her heart out.

DEE DEE  
*"BY THE TIME I GET TUBERCULOSIS, IN  
ACT TWO..."*

She coughs. Barry wheels by full of exuberance.

BARRY  
*"EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAD  
INSIDE..."*

DEE DEE & BARRY  
*"WILL SHOUT 'BRAVO!' ON CUE!"*

AUDIENCE  
(leaping to their feet)  
*"Bravo!"*

INT. BROADWAY GREEN ROOM -- NIGHT

Dee Dee has changed post show into a glittering jumpsuit and looks amazing. Well wishers abound. Barry enters as PRESS AGENT SHELDON stands on a chair.

SHELDON  
(reading phone)  
The first review is in. The New  
Jersey Star Ledger.

There's a pause while everyone reads their phones.

DEE DEE  
Don't tell me! Unless it's a rave.  
Or if it's mixed-positive.

BARRY  
It says we're a hit!

EXT. BROADWAY -- NIGHT

Dee Dee and Barry dance cross the street to Sardi's as others follow. The music vamps as they enter and --

INT. SARDI'S -- NIGHT

Barry turns to the adoring crowd, standing on a table.

BARRY  
*"WE'RE A HIT, AND I THINK WE  
DESERVE IT..."*

DEE DEE  
(also on a table)  
*"THAT'S FOR SURE..."*

BARRY  
*"ALSO IT MEANS THAT THIS TOUR DE  
FORCE, WILL NOT BE FORCED TO TOUR."*

Dee Dee turns to the "ELEANOR!" marquee blinking across the street and perfectly framed through the second floor window.

DEE DEE  
(raising a glass)  
To Eleanor! May she run for  
eternity!

ALL  
*To Eleanor!*

DANCING WAITERS apparently plucked from a revival of "Hello, Dolly!" appear, lifting and moving Dee Dee and Barry.

ALL (CONT'D)  
"CHEERS TO A SHOW THAT'S SO  
INSPIRING, IT'S ALMOST TOO MUCH TO  
SIT THROUGH, AND IF WE RUN THAT  
MIGHT MEAN ONE MORE THING..."

BARRY  
"THAT IN TEN YEARS OR SO, WE'LL DO  
ELEANOR TWO!"

DEE DEE  
"I CAN PREDICT WHAT THE REVIEWS  
WILL SAY, BEFORE THE NEXT NOTICE  
ARRIVES, IT'S GROUNDBREAKING..."

ALL  
"EARTH-SHAKING..."

BARRY  
"LIFE-AFFIRMING..."

ALL  
"BREATH TAKING..."

DEE DEE & BARRY  
"GUT-WRENCHING..."

ALL  
"HEART-ACHING..."

DEE DEE & BARRY  
"IN TWO WORDS IT'S..."

ALL  
"HIST'RY MAKING!"

DEE DEE & BARRY  
"THAT'S WHY EVERY ACTOR STRIVES...  
FOR ADULATION, AND COMPENSATION,  
THAT COMES FROM NIGHTLY CHANGING  
LIVES!"

BARRY  
*It's just what we do!*

The opening number ENDS. Phones begin dingding. People start  
staring at their phones.

SHELDON  
The rest of the reviews are coming  
in. The Post, Associated Press, The  
New York Times.

BARRY  
The New York Times!

The whole room reads in silence.

SHELDON  
Wow.

Party goers drift away, still reading the devastating review.

DEE DEE  
What's happening?

SHELDON  
Wow. This is not the review you  
want when you've got shitty advance  
sales. This is going to close us.

DEE DEE  
Close us? We just opened!

BARRY  
What didn't they like? Was it the  
hip hop?

SHELDON  
Yes, but not only that.

BARRY  
Sheldon, for God's sake, just read  
it.

SHELDON  
Okay. Just the highlights: "Barry  
Glickman's FDR might just be the  
most insultingly misguided,  
offensive, and laughable  
performance that this reviewer has  
ever had the squirming misfortune  
to endure."

DEE DEE  
That's not so bad.

BARRY  
Do her! Do her!

SHELDON  
"Watching Dee Dee Allen's Eleanor  
Roosevelt croaking out a heavy-  
handed message of activism is like  
paying an aging drag queen to shove  
a syrup-soaked American flag down  
my throat."

DEE DEE  
That is not criticism; it's a  
personal attack!

SHELDON  
"If you are considering buying a  
ticket to this show, do yourself a  
favor; buy a few feet of good heavy  
rope instead and then go hang  
yourself."

BARRY  
Jesus. Was the show really that  
bad?

SHELDON  
It's not the show. It's you two.  
You're not likable.

BARRY & DEE DEE  
What?

SHELDON  
We've been over this a million  
times: nobody likes a narcissist.  
Leave it to me. I'll go try to  
change the narrative, once again.

BARRY  
So talking about yourself non-stop  
suddenly makes you a narcissist? I  
hate this world.

Sheldon exits.

DEE DEE  
This is terrible. It hurts. It  
hurts my heart. Wait, where did  
everybody go?

A waiter, TRENT OLIVER approaches Dee Dee.

TRENT  
My condolences, Dee Dee. Remember;  
you have friends.

DEE DEE  
Thank you. Who are you?

TRENT  
A friend. Trent Oliver. We did five  
shows together.

Dee Dee looks to Barry for help.

BARRY

Trent. Went to Juilliard? Won't shut up about it?

DEE DEE

Oh Trent! Why are you dressed like a waiter?

TRENT

I'm between gigs. I feel adrift, as I did in the days before Juilliard. You see, my passions are fueled by the power of Lady Theatre and how she can, with her gentle touch, sculpt the human soul. But at Juilliard --

BARRY

Mother of God.

TRENT

-- they taught me an actor is still an actor even when fishing an earring out of a chocolate fountain. If I might soliloquize for a moment...

BARRY

I'm aging. He's aging me.

TRENT

If you prick me, do I not bleed? If you do not pay me, do I not still act? Still, I've played Hamlet! And yet I am known only as "that guy" on the beloved 90s sitcom "Talk to the Hand."

INT. TITLE SEQUENCE -- TALK TO THE HAND -- DAY

Trent turns to us, smiles and looks into camera as a title announces "And Trent Oliver as Uncle Mark." He then gives the "talk to the hand" gesture and laughs uproariously. It's awful.

INT. SARDI'S -- NIGHT

TRENT

I question the very meaning of my existence. Is a life on the stage really any life at all?

ANGIE, a LEGGY CHORINE approaches with drinks.



ANGIE

Hey guys.

Dee Dee and Barry welcome the interruption.

DEE DEE & BARRY

Angie!

ANGIE

Sorry your show closed on opening night. Again.

DEE DEE

Thanks.

ANGIE

Welcome to the world of the unemployed.

BARRY

I thought you were in "Chicago."

ANGIE

I just quit. Twenty years in the chorus and they still wouldn't let me play Roxie Hart. You know who they have playing the role these days?

BARRY

Who?

ANGIE

Tina Louise. You know, Ginger from "Gilligan's Island"?

BARRY

My God. Is she still alive?

ANGIE

Not really, no.

EXT. EDGEWATER, INDIANA -- HIGH SCHOOL -- NIGHT

Parents and others enter for a PTA gathering.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYMNASIUM -- NIGHT

MRS. GREENE bangs the gavel announcing the start of the vote.

MRS. GREENE

Let's just get to it. All in favor?

Everyone raises their hands.

MRS. GREENE (CONT'D)  
All against?

Not a single hand.

MRS. GREENE (CONT'D)  
The motion is passed.

She hits the gavel again, she likes the gavel.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

STEADICAM: Mrs. Greene is followed by a couple of reporters as she walks to her car.

MRS. GREENE  
Look, the PTA has an accepted set of rules concerning the prom: young ladies must wear non-revealing dresses, young men must wear suits or tuxes, and if a student chooses to bring a date, that person must be of the opposite sex.

INDIANA REPORTER  
Can't you just ban this student?

MRS. GREENE  
We have been advised that there may be some legal repercussions if we prevented this girl from attending. So although it breaks my heart, we have no choice: there won't be a prom this year. Thank you.

RACK FOCUS. The girl causing all this controversy -- sweet kind EMMA -- watches leaning against a wall. MR. HAWKINS the sympathetic principal looks on. We CUT BACK TO:

INT. SARDI'S -- NIGHT (LATER)

The foursome have closed the place down. Several martini glasses are in front of Dee Dee and Barry; Angie has downed at least twenty glasses of rose. They ruminate.

DEE DEE  
We're wasting our lives.

ANGIE  
It's true. Oh, well. At least we're all in the same boat.

TRENT

"Misery acquaints a man with  
strange bedfellows."

(a beat)

It's from "The Tempest."

BARRY

Okay. One: shut up. Two: No! I  
refuse to give up. We're still  
celebrities. We have power.

TRENT

But The Times has castrated you as  
it were.

ANGIE

He wrote you off as "aging  
narcissists."

BARRY

Well, we have to show the world  
that we're not that.

DEE DEE

What, aging?

BARRY

No, narcissists! People who are in  
love with themselves.

DEE DEE

I still don't understand what's  
wrong with that.

BARRY

Wait a minute. I know how we can  
still love ourselves, but appear to  
be decent human beings. We'll  
become celebrity activists!

ANGIE

Brilliant!

TRENT

That avoids The Times completely!

BARRY

All we need is a cause.

DEE DEE

A cause celebre!

BARRY

Exactly. Everybody think of some causes.

TRENT

Um...poverty?

BARRY

Too big.

ANGIE

World hunger?

BARRY

Again. That's a major thing. I'm talking about something we can handle. What's the biggest problem in America right now? Go.

ANGIE

Well, I think it's the electoral college. It needs to be abolished.

DEE DEE

As an exercise, just assume we don't know what it is and explain it to us.

ANGIE

Well, the electoral college was created to allow the smaller states to have power in a Federalist government. If the amount of electoral college votes a state's received was --

BARRY

Oh my God. So bored!

DEE DEE

This is hard.

TRENT

Let's think of something less daunting.

DEE DEE

Yes. A little injustice that we can drive to.

ANGIE

(taking out her phone)  
Let me see what's trending.  
(flipping through twitter)  
(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Trump. Trump. Trump. Kanye. Kanye.  
Trump. Hey. What about this girl?

BARRY

What girl?

ANGLE, DOWN ON PHONE: A new story about Emma.

ANGIE

It's all over Twitter. She lives in  
a small town called Edgewater,  
Indiana. She's a lesbian and she  
wanted to take her girlfriend to  
the high school prom and the PTA  
went apeshit.

BARRY

They cancelled Prom? How could they  
do that?

ON THE PHONE: Mr. Hawkins stands with Emma and addresses the  
press corp. It's LIVE on Twitter. WE INTERCUT:

HAWKINS

The first thing I'm going to do is  
contact the Indiana State's  
Attorney. This isn't about school  
rules; this is a civil rights case.

EMMA

What? Seriously?

HAWKINS

I'm betting pressure from the  
State's Attorney will stop these  
bigots cold. It better, because  
I'll tell you this much: if word  
gets out, people are gonna get mad.

BARRY

This pisses me off!

HAWKINS

Next thing you know, some modern  
day Eleanor Roosevelt is going to  
march down here and all hell is  
going to break loose.

Dee Dee's ears suddenly go back with urgency.

DEE DEE

We have got to go down there and  
raise holy hell!

BARRY

We are going to be the biggest  
thing to happen in Indiana since...  
whatever's happened in Indiana!

TRENT

So this is it? This is our cause?

BARRY

Yes! It checks all the boxes, and  
as a bonus it's gay, which is  
something I can relate to! Are you  
all with me?

TRENT, ANGIE & DEE DEE

Yes!

DEE DEE

We'll have a rally. We'll carry  
picket signs!

ANGIE

And make T-shirts!

BARRY

I'll get Sheldon to tag along. He  
can find us a venue.

ANGIE

Wow. Can we really do this?

BARRY

You bet your sweet MILF ass we can.  
(then)

*"WE'RE GONNA PROVE THAT IN THIS DAY  
AND AGE, BEING GAY ISN'T A CRIME,  
THIS IS OUR MOMENT TO CHANGE THE  
WORLD, ONE LESBIAN..."*

TRENT

*"LESBIAN..."*

DEE DEE

*"LESBIAN..."*

ANGIE

*"LESBIAN..."*

ALL

*"AT A TIME!"*

BARRY

*"WE'RE GONNA HELP THAT LITTLE  
LESBIAN, WHETHER SHE LIKES IT OR  
NOT, WHEN YOU'RE A LEGENDARY  
THESPIAN..."*

DEE DEE

*"FIRST YOU HELP THE DISTRESSED..."*

TRENT

*"THEN YOU HELP THE DISTRAUGHT..."*

BARRY

*"WE'RE GOING DOWN TO WHERE THE  
NECKS ARE RED, AND LACK OF  
DENTISTRY THRIVES, WHY SING AND  
DANCE WHEN YOU CAN TAKE A  
STANCE..."*

BARRY, DEE DEE, TRENT

*"AND KNOW YOU'RE TRULY CHANGING  
LIVES..."*

DEE DEE

Oh! We'll need an anthem.

ANGIE

Like "We Are The World."

BARRY

Yeah. But about being an angry  
lesbian.

TRENT

Stephen Sondheim will write  
something for us. He's a huge fan  
of my Sweeney Todd. Leave it to me.

ANGIE

Wait! How will we get there?

TRENT

I just booked a non-equity tour of  
"Godspell" that goes through  
Indiana. You can join us on the  
bus.

BARRY

You see? It's all coming together!

EXT. BROADWAY -- NIGHT

The foursome link arms and march down the wet, blazing  
avenue.

ALL

"WE'RE GONNA MARCH UNTIL THAT TOWN  
LOOKS LIKE, THE END OF ACT ONE OF  
"LES MIZ," YOU DON'T GOTTA HAVE A  
PHD IN PSYCH, TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE  
KOWTOW TO US FOLKS IN THE BIZ..."

BARRY

"WE'RE GONNA TEACH THEM TO BE MORE  
P.C. THE MINUTE OUR GROUP  
ARRIVES..."

ALL (EXCEPT BARRY)

"THAT'S RIGHT..."

BARRY

"THOSE FIST PUMPING..."

DEE DEE

"BIBLE THUMPING..."

TRENT

"SPAM EATING..."

ANGIE

"COUSIN HUMPING..."

BARRY

"COW TIPPING..."

DEE DEE

"SHOULDER SLUMPING..."

TRENT

"TEA BAGGING..."

ANGIE

"JESUS JUMPING..."

ALL

"LOSERS AND THEIR INBRED WIVES,  
THEY'LL LEARN COMPASSION..."

DEE DEE

"AND BETTER FASHION..."

ALL

"ONCE WE AT LAST START CHANGING  
LIVES!"

BARRY

Now let's go help that dyke!



INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- DAY

A bell rings. The students of James Madison High pour into the halls on the way to their lockers and to their next class. Emma emerges from the crowd. STUDENTS purposely bump into her as they pass her. Emma makes it to her locker. She opens it. A pink teddy bear swings out of it. "LEZBO" is written inside.

EMMA

Nice.

(to the students)

This would be a death threat, I guess. Way to take the high road, guys.

Two girls, KAYLEE and SHELBY, walk up behind her. ALYSSA, an intelligent looking girl, lingers behind them.

KAYLEE

Do you like the bear?

EMMA

Yeah. You know, I'm pretty sure this breaks a few laws. Violating my privacy, threatening my life...

KAYLEE

It's our way of saying "thank you, Emma."

SHELBY

Thank you so much for cancelling Prom.

EMMA

I didn't cancel Prom, your parents did!

ALYSSA

Come on, guys. Lay off her.

KAYLEE

Oh, are you on her side?

ALYSSA

No. I'm just not in third grade. Let's go.

SHELBY

Unlike your social life, this is not over.

They go. Alyssa gives Emma an apologetic look as she goes. As Emma walks and sings --

EMMA

*"NOTE TO SELF, DON'T BE GAY IN INDIANA, BIG HEADS-UP, THAT'S A REALLY STUPID PLAN. THERE ARE PLACES WHERE IT'S IN TO BE OUT, MAYBE SAN FRANCISCO OR THEREABOUT, BUT IN INDIANA WITHOUT A DOUBT, IF YOU'RE NOT STRAIGHT THEN GUESS WHAT'S BOUND TO HIT THE FAN?"*

INT. HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR POOL -- DAY

Emma dives with FOUR OTHER GIRLS. We follow her UNDERWATER. As she surfaces and gasps for oxygen --

EMMA

*"JUST BREATHE, EMMA, NOT EVERYONE IS THAT REPRESSED, JUST BREATHE, EMMA, IT WOULDN'T BE HIGH SCHOOL WITHOUT A TEST, JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND COUNT TO TEN, GO TO YOUR HAPPY PLACE AND THEN TRY NOT TO COMBUST, JUST BREATHE..."*

NICK & KEVIN in Speedos accost her as she exits the pool, shivering and wrapping a towel around herself.

NICK

Hey, Emma, who is this girl you were going to bring to Prom anyway? I didn't know we had more than one lesbo in town.

EMMA

You don't know her. She's new here.

KEVIN

Like an exchange student?

EMMA

Maybe.

NICK

Well, then, why don't you, like, exchange her for a guy?

KEVIN

Dude. Nice!

Nick and Kevin exit. She pulls off her swim cap, furious.

EMMA

*"NOTE TO SELF, PEOPLE SUCK IN INDIANA, LEAVE TODAY, PRAY THE GREYHOUND ISN'T FULL."*

INT. GYM -- DAY

Emma navigates a game of dodgeball. MEAN GIRLS abound including Shelby and Kaylee. SLOW MOTION of their MEAN TWISTED faces as they aim at Emma.

EMMA

*"WHO KNEW ASKING OUT A GIRL TO THE PROM, WOULD GO OVER JUST LIKE AN ATOM BOMB, AND MAKE THINGS MUCH WORSE WITH YOUR DAD AND MOM, AND WHO'D HAVE EVER THOUGHT THAT COULD BE POSSIBLE? JUST BREATHE, EMMA, PICTURE A BEACH WITH GOLDEN SAND, JUST BREATHE, EMMA, PICTURE A XANAX IN YOUR HAND..."*

Emma grabs a ball, done with the bullying, and THROWS IT right at Shelby's face. Off Shelby's surprise --

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

Emma heads for another class.

EMMA

*"TRY JOURNALING OR START A BLOG, JUST END THIS INNER MONOLOGUE, SEETHE IF YOU MUST, BUT JUST BREATHE..."*

Emma heads into class. Hawkins appears, interrupting her.

HAWKINS

Okay. I just got off the phone with the State's Attorney. Like I suspected, she thinks this is a civil rights issue. This is a big deal, Emma.

EMMA

So what are you saying: I'm a gay, white Rosa Parks?

HAWKINS

No. I am absolutely not saying that. I'm just saying that I'm excited to be involved with something like this. And I'm really glad you're not on Meth.

EMMA

What?

HAWKINS

I got a friend who's a principal in Chattanooga, all he deals with is Meth. Meth all day long.

EMMA

Well, I'm not on Meth. Not yet.  
We'll see how the PTA meeting goes.

HAWKINS

It's not going to be fun. We'll get through it. Take a sec. Relax. Come in when you're ready.

Hawkins exits.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Emma enters a classroom, where the kids are being unruly. She sits and looks out the window wistfully.

EMMA

*"JUST BREATHE, EMMA, REMEMBER THAT  
THING CALLED OXYGEN, JUST BREATHE,  
EMMA, LOOK AT THE CRAZY STATE  
YOU'RE IN...JUST SMILE AND NOD,  
ALTHOUGH THEY'RE JERKS, SAY NAMASTE  
AND PRAY IT WORKS, AND LIKE WE'VE  
DISCUSSED, JUST BREATHE."*

INT. BUS -- DAY

A rented bus makes its way to Indiana. It's a loud, unpleasant ride. Trent sits with a bag in his lap, looking green. The Godspell kids are busy making picket signs. They sing while they work; an awkwardly harmonized version of Day By Day. Barry sits with Angie, who is struggling to make a phone call, and Dee Dee who is shifting uncomfortably in her seat. Barry is trying to block out the music.

BARRY

Okay enough! Stop singing!  
I'm sorry, but you're making me  
hate god! And those signs are  
pathetic. We're not teamsters,  
we're the gay cavalry! Put some  
glitter on them, for Christ's sake!

Angie, who has finished her phone call, turns to Barry.

ANGIE  
You're scaring them.

BARRY  
Well they're scaring me.

ANGIE  
(to the kids)  
Just sing something else. Less  
gratingly. Thanks.

Barry slumps back into his seat. The Godspell kids rehearse the harmonies in Save the People, more softly this time.

ANGIE (CONT'D)  
The hotel is booked. Breakfast  
isn't included, but there's  
something called a "Waffle Shed"  
across the street.

BARRY  
Sounds delicious.

Dee Dee pulls out a mink blanket, snuggles into it. She gives him a look. He notices.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
I don't like school buses. Bad  
associations.

DEE DEE  
Cheer up. We are doing something  
great here. We are being great  
people. This is all great.  
This is going to get me my third  
Tony Award...  
(off his raised eyebrow)  
You know how the Tonys work: it's  
all politics. They don't vote for  
you, they vote for your *brand*. My  
brand is tarnished, as you know --

BARRY  
Because of the infamous tirade at  
the Longacre Theater.

DEE DEE  
When a cell phone goes off in the  
middle of a performance I can't be  
held responsible --

BARRY  
It was *your* cell phone.

DEE DEE

I didn't know it at the time!  
Anyway, all the good will we will  
get from this thing will wash me  
clean. I'll win no matter what my  
next project is.

BARRY

You're just greedy. I would be  
happy with one Tony. I thought I  
had a shot with FDR. I need  
something to go right for once. The  
show is dead, my love life's  
deader...

DEE DEE

What happened to Andre?

BARRY

Andy. Much like the show he's  
performing in, his heart is Frozen.  
I caught him making out with the  
guy who sells t-shirts in the St.  
James lobby. The goddamn t-shirt  
guy!

DEE DEE

That's disgusting.

BARRY

I know!

DEE DEE

I mean Trent. He's puking again.  
Sorry, you were saying?

BARRY

I need a win. I'm so sick of all of  
the rejection. I'm no Dee Dee  
Allen. They don't write Tony worthy  
roles for chubby, short guys. You  
know how not fun it is to be  
surrounded by chorus boys with 0  
percent body fat and abs that could  
grate cheese? They eat what they  
want, screw like rabbits. I hate  
them.

DEE DEE

A lot of bile.

BARRY

Well, I'm angry at life.

DEE DEE

No, Trent again. He's retching...  
Sorry, go on.

BARRY

I went into this business because I loved it, yes, but also to prove to everyone who doubted me -- my teachers, the kids on the school bus, my horrible parents -- that I could do something important.

DEE DEE

That's exactly what we're doing: something important.

BARRY

Yes. I just hope we don't screw it up.

Dee Dee considers this. They both sigh. The Godspell kids dive into Day By Day with gusto as Barry dies a little.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

We are in a raucous PTA meeting.

MRS. GREENE

You're telling us that the State's Attorney is forcing us to hold a prom?

HAWKINS

The State's Attorney wants us to hold an inclusive prom, yes, because that's what they feel best reflects America's values.

MRS. GREENE

This is not America. This is Indiana.

HAWKINS

Just to be clear, this is America.

PARENT #1

My son will not be forced to go to a homosexual prom.

HAWKINS

Again, it's not a homosexual prom; it's an inclusive prom and you don't have to attend if you don't want to.

(MORE)

HAWKINS (CONT'D)

Look I'm sorry you're upset, but the organization of the prom is within the purview of the Student Council. Let's hear what they have to say. Alyssa?

ALYSSA

Well, we want Prom to go on, obviously. It's supposed to be a celebration, for all students --

MRS. GREENE

This is not a student matter. This is about government tearing our community apart. This is big government taking away our freedom of choice.

HAWKINS

Okay. This is not about government intervention. Emma? What is this about?

EMMA

I just want to go to Prom like any other kid.

HAWKINS

But you can't. And that's why the courts are involved. Now I know the unfamiliar can be frightening, but the fact is a young girl at this school -- an honor student -- stood up and asked us all to take a closer look at our beliefs. So, let's do that. Ask yourself exactly what is it that you find so frightening about homosexuals?

At that very moment, the doors to the gym burst open and Barry, Trent, Angie & Sheldon and the Godspell Group rush in, picket signs in hand.

BARRY

Hold it! Hold it! Hold it! What you are doing is wrong!

Everyone is shocked.

MRS. GREENE

Excuse me...who are you?



BARRY

(to Mrs. Greene)

Seriously? I'm Broadway's Barry  
Glickman! Where's the lesbian kid?

(Emma raises her hand)

Hi, I'm Barry. What's your name?

EMMA

Emma.

Barry hugs her.

BARRY

Emma! Don't you worry, Emma. You're  
not alone! I'm as gay as a bucket  
of wigs --

(the crowd gasps)

A bucket of them! And I have come  
all the way from New York City to  
save you! Tomorrow we're going to  
have a rally! There's going to be  
banners! Choreography --

HAWKINS

Excuse me --

BARRY

Shame! Shame on you!

(pointing to the parents)

Shame!

BARRY, ANGIE & TRENT

Shame! Shame! Shame! Etc.

MRS. GREENE

What is going on? Who are you  
people?

TRENT

We're liberals from Broadway.

ANGIE

And we've come to pry open your  
tiny little minds! You see, the  
five of us...

(notices Dee Dee is  
missing)

Wait, where the hell is Dee Dee?

Dee Dee makes a dramatic entrance and strides across the  
stage, stopping at the podium.

HAWKINS  
(recognizing Dee Dee)  
Oh my God! You're Dee Dee Allen.

DEE DEE  
You bet your ass I am.

HAWKINS  
What...What are you doing here?

DEE DEE  
I am changing the world.  
(shooing him away)  
Excuse me.  
(then)  
*"I WANT TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF  
WHATEVER THIS TOWN'S CALLED,  
I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE  
AND FRANKLY I'M APPALLED..."*

*"I READ THREE-QUARTERS OF A NEWS  
STORY, AND KNEW I HAD TO COME,  
UNLESS I'M DOING "THE MIRACLE  
WORKER," I WON'T PLAY BLIND, DEAF  
AND DUMB!"*

*"LISTEN YOU BIGOTED MONSTERS, JUST  
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? YOUR  
PREJUDICE AND YOUR OPPRESSION  
WON'T GET PAST THIS BROADWAY STAR.  
STEALING THE RIGHTS OF A GIRL  
WHO IS AN L.G.B.Q. TEEN, I'VE BEEN  
FAR TOO ANGRY TO GOOGLE WHAT THOSE  
LETTERS MEAN. BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT  
ME, IT'S ABOUT POOR..."*

BARRY, TRENT, SHELDON & ANGIE  
*"Emma..."*

DEE DEE  
*"FOR CAN'T YOU SEE, THE RAW DEAL  
SHE'S BEEN DEALT? SO HEAR MY PLEA,  
OR HERE'S YOUR NEXT DILEMMA, HOW DO  
YOU SILENCE A WOMAN WHO'S KNOWN FOR  
HER BELT?"*

BARRY  
Sing it, Eleanor!

DEE DEE  
*"HER BELT! BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT  
ME..."*

MRS. GREENE

Get them out of here! Now!

DEE DEE

"GO ON AND THREATEN TO RIOT, IT  
WON'T FAZE ME IN THE LEAST, I  
UNDERSTAND FURIOUS TOWNFOLK, I DID  
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. I'M NO  
STRANGER TO SLANDER SO, MY DEAR,  
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, THE POST ONCE  
SAID I WAS TOO OLD TO PLAY EVA  
PERON, EVA PERON! BUT IT'S NOT  
ABOUT ME, IT'S EMMA'S STORY, DAMN  
IT! EQUALITY SHOULD BE THIS  
COUNTRY'S NORM TO A PICTURE TAKER.  
NO PHOTOGRAPHY UNLESS YOU INSTAGRAM  
IT, USE HASHTAG DEE DEE TAKES LOCAL  
YOKELS BY STORM, BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT  
ME. I DIDN'T COME HERE TO MAKE A  
SCENE, BUT I KNOW HOW EMMA'S HEART  
ACHES, AND THIS IS HOW ACTORS  
INTERVENE, THROUGH FIERY SONGS AND  
DANCE BREAKS!"

Dee Dee does a fiery dance break. Barry and Angie join her.  
Trent plays the cowbell. The crowd watches in horror.

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

"BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT ME, ALTHOUGH  
I'M RICH AND FAMOUS. PUBLICITY IS  
NOT MY FINAL GOAL..."

STUDENTS & PARENTS

"CALL SECURITY!"

DEE DEE

"YOU NEEDN'T BE SOME BACKWOODS  
IGNORAMUS, JOIN ME AND WE'LL START  
FIGHTING. COULD I GET SOFTER  
LIGHTING? WAIT, THIS..."

(thanking the lighting  
person)

Thanks!

(Back to singing.)

"IS NOT..."

BARRY, ANGIE, SHELDON & TRENT

"NOT, NOT, NOT..."

DEE DEE

"ABOUT ME..."

BARRY, ANGIE, SHELDON & TRENT

"THIS IS NOT ABOUT..."

ENSEMBLE

*"WHAT IS HAPPENING?"*

BARRY, ANGIE, SHELDON & TRENT

*"THIS IS NOT ABOUT..."*

ENSEMBLE

*"WHAT IS HAPPENING?"*

BARRY, ANGIE & TRENT

*"THIS IS NOT ABOUT..."*

DEE DEE

*"IT'S ALL ABOUT EMMA AND NOT ABOUT ME!"*

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

The gym empties out. Mrs. Greene exits yelling at Hawkins.

MRS. GREENE

Who was responsible for that? Was it you?

HAWKINS

Me? No! I have no idea what just happened in there.

MRS. GREENE

Strangers burst in hurling insults at the parents, and you do nothing? What kind of a school are you running here, Mr. Hawkins?

Mrs. Greene leaves. Dee Dee emerges.

HAWKINS

Excuse me. Miss Allen, may I speak to you for a moment? I'm Tom. Tom Hawkins. I'm the principal. I just...uh, what are you doing here?

DEE DEE

We have come to show this community that gay people and gay-positive icons like myself are made of the same flesh and blood as they are. We're not monsters.

BARRY

(emerging, to a parent)  
And I'll tell you something else. I'm half Jewish too! The Poppas! The Poppas!

The parent runs off with Barry following.

HAWKINS

Well...this is not the way to do it. I almost had those parents convinced to reinstate Prom and you disrupted everything.

DEE DEE

Well, that's exactly what we came here to do.

Dee Dee starts to leave.

HAWKINS

I'm a fan.

DEE DEE

What? You're a fan?

HAWKINS

Yes. I am.

DEE DEE

What kind of fan? A big fan, or a small fan, or a scary, stabby fan...?

HAWKINS

You could say I'm a big fan, yes.

DEE DEE

Really? That's surprising. You're not my usual demographic.

HAWKINS

You mean black?

DEE DEE

No. Straight. You are straight, right?

HAWKINS

I am. Straight people like Broadway too.

DEE DEE

You know I've heard that, but I always thought it was a fairytale. So to speak.

HAWKINS

Well, it's true. I've been a fan since I saw you in the show for which you won your first Tony.

DEE DEE

You saw "Swallow The Moon"?

HAWKINS

Sure. That song you sing at the top of the second act: "The Lady's Improving"? Chills.

DEE DEE

That song made me a star.

HAWKINS

And it made me a fan.

Trent and Sheldon reappear.

TRENT

Dee Dee, we must make haste.

SHELDON

Some of the larger inbreds are trying to tip over the bus.

Trent and Sheldon leave. Dee Dee starts to follow but --

HAWKINS

Miss Allen. This is a delicate situation. I'm asking you and your friends to back off for a few days.

DEE DEE

Back off? Backing off is exactly what we're not going to do. I see what's happening here. You're trying to disarm me with flattery. Well it won't work, Tom. Flattery only makes me stronger. It fuels my ego.

Dee Dee exits as Emma enters, followed by Angie who is frantically taking pictures with her phone.

EMMA

Stop taking my picture!

ANGIE

We need a poster for the rally.

Angie takes the photo. Leaves.

EMMA

Who are these people?

HAWKINS

Actors. Famous Broadway actors.  
They've come to help you.

EMMA

Well, they're not helping me! This  
is a nightmare!

HAWKINS

Oh, it's not a nightmare. You can  
wake up from a nightmare. I've got  
to go deal with the riot in the  
parking lot.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- BLEACHERS -- NIGHT

Alyssa runs up to Emma, here for a forbidden clandestine  
meeting.

ALYSSA

Oh my God.

EMMA

I know.

ALYSSA

It's like everybody's gone insane.  
I'm freaking out.

EMMA

Don't freak out. We have a plan,  
remember? We get dressed up, go to  
Prom and be together, in public.  
Not hide anymore.

ALYSSA

I don't know. My mother's going  
ballistic. I've gotta go. I told  
her I was just coming back for my  
books.

EMMA

This is not my fault, you know  
that, right?

(then)

*"I DON'T WANT TO START A RIOT, I  
DON'T WANT TO BLAZE A TRAIL, I  
DON'T WANT TO BE A SYMBOL, OR  
CAUTIONARY TALE..."*

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

*I DON'T WANT TO BE A SCAPEGOAT, FOR  
PEOPLE TO OPPOSE, WHAT I WANT IS  
SIMPLE, AS FAR AS WANTING GOES. I  
JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU, LET THE  
WHOLE WORLD MELT AWAY, AND DANCE  
WITH YOU, WHO CARES WHAT OTHER  
PEOPLE SAY, AND WHEN WE'RE THROUGH,  
NO ONE CAN CONVINCE US WE WERE  
WRONG, ALL IT TAKES IS YOU AND ME,  
AND A SONG..."*

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- FOOTBALL FIELD -- NIGHT

The big STADIUM LIGHTS THUMP ON, revealing the girls walking together down the center line as football players play around them. It's magical and fantastical.

ALYSSA

*"I DON'T NEED A BIG PRODUCTION,  
STREAMERS HANGING IN THE AIR, I  
DON'T NEED TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH  
CONFETTI IN MY HAIR, I DON'T NEED A  
ROOM OF PEOPLE THAT I DON'T REALLY  
KNOW..."*

EMMA

*"I JUST WANT TO HOLD YOU..."*

EMMA & ALYSSA

*"AND NEVER LET YOU GO..."*

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

EMMA & ALYSSA

*"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU, LET  
THE WHOLE WORLD MELT AWAY, AND  
DANCE WITH YOU, WHO CARES WHAT  
OTHER PEOPLE SAY, AND WHEN WE'RE  
THROUGH..."*

EMMA

*"NO ONE CAN CONVINCE US WE WERE  
WRONG..."*

EMMA & ALYSSA

*"ALL IT TAKES IS YOU AND ME  
AND A SONG..."*

Mrs. Greene appears.

MRS. GREENE

Alyssa. What are you doing?



ALYSSA

Nothing.

MRS. GREENE

Get in the car. Now!

Alyssa runs off. Mrs. Greene stares at Emma for a moment, then follows Alyssa off. Emma is alone. She sings to herself.

EMMA

*"TWO PEOPLE SWAYING SLOWLY, NOTHING  
MORE AND NOTHING LESS, WHY ANYBODY  
FEARS THAT, IS ANYBODY'S GUESS..."*

*"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU, LET  
THE WHOLE WORLD MELT AWAY, AND  
DANCE WITH YOU, WHO CARES WHAT  
OTHER PEOPLE SAY, AND WHEN WE'RE  
THROUGH, NO ONE CAN CONVINCE US WE  
WERE WRONG, ALL IT TAKES IS YOU AND  
ME AND A SONG!"*

EXT. MOTEL -- NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

The Godspell bus pulls in.

INT. MOTEL LOBBY -- NIGHT

The lobby of an unpretentious town motel. A CLERK stands behind the counter. The doors burst in and the Broadway contingent arrives: Dee Dee and Angie first.

DEE DEE

Oh my God. This is worse than the bus.

ANGIE

Well, at least it's quieter. If I had to sit through "Day by Day" one more time, I would have killed them all one by one.

(to the clerk)

4 rooms under Dickinson. I called yesterday.

DEE DEE

4 rooms of varying sizes to reflect the hierarchy of the company, correct? Where's my suite?

CLERK

We don't have a suite...

She reaches into her bag, pulls out a Tony award, and smacks it on the counter.

DEE DEE

Do you have a suite now?

CLERK

Uh...no we don't have any suites.  
All the rooms are the same.

DEE DEE

Surely you know who I am. At the  
very least I want a room close to  
the spa.

CLERK

Uh...

Dee Dee reaches into her bag and slams another Tony award onto the counter.

CLERK (CONT'D)

There is no spa. We have a foosball  
table. I could put you near that...

Barry enters.

BARRY

Angie, have you seen these rooms?  
We're all going to be murdered and  
stuffed, you know that right?

ANGIE

Orbitz gave this place three stars.

She takes a small bottle of liquor from her bag, drinks it.

BARRY

Do you have any cabins?

CLERK

Uh, we don't have any cabins...

Barry reaches in his bag and pulls out an award and slaps it on the counter.

BARRY

How about now?

DEE DEE

What is that?

BARRY

Drama Desk. You know what it is!

TRENT

I vomited in the bus again.  
(approaching the counter)  
May I speak with the hotel doctor?

BARRY

Hotel doctor? Trent, if there's a doctor here he's in the basement sewing the guests together into a giant human centipede.

CLERK

(to Trent)  
Oh my God! It's you! I can't believe it's really you!

BARRY

Wait, you know him, but you don't know us?!

TRENT

I suppose my artistry speaks for itself.

CLERK

You're that guy from "Talk to the Hand"! That's on every night at 9 after "Two of a Kind"!

TRENT

I'd like my room now, please.

The clerk hands him his key.

BARRY

Okay. Let's get started! Let's change some minds! Sheldon's working on the venue.

(to Trent)

What about the song? It's not too Sondheim-y, is it?

TRENT

About that. Apparently I was misled by my representation. Mr. Sondheim is *not* a huge fan of my Sweeney Todd. Quite the opposite actually. The man has a lot of anger in him. Very clever anger.

DEE DEE

Jesus, Trent. You screwed us! We can't have a rally without an anthem!

TRENT

Don't worry. I wrote something myself. It's quite rousing and is in a very humane key.

(Trent hands out sheet music to everyone)

The Godspell cast will back us up. They have their own costumes.

They all take a moment to read the music in silence. Then --

ANGIE

Oh my God.

BARRY

This is awful.

DEE DEE

You rhymed "bigotry" with "big of me."

TRENT

Pretty great, huh? Take that Lin-Manuel Miranda.

BARRY

We can't do this! They'll throw beer cans at our heads!

TRENT

No, trust me. All we need is a simple message that tugs at the heartstrings and a little pageantry. We have everything we need right here.

ANGIE

Except a venue.

Sheldon enters.

SHELDON

Oh ye of little faith! I got one! I had to get down on my knees a few times, but it was worth it. Good sound system. Good sight lines and a crowd of 2500 guaranteed!

DEE DEE

That's amazing!

TRENT

What is it? One of those beautiful antebellum opera houses?

SHELDON

No, it's an arena! You're the  
halftime show at something called  
"a monster truck rally."

As the lights go down we hear the roar of monster trucks.

INT. MONSTER TRUCK RALLY -- DAY

Halftime at the packed monster truck rally. A massive stadium crowd eats jerky and clutch huge cups of soda. STAGE HANDS put finishing touches on a makeshift, very cheap looking stage plopped in the middle of the arena.

MONSTER TRUCK ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen! Truckosaurus,  
the car-eating robot dinosaur, will  
not be your halftime entertainment  
today. Instead we have some guests  
who have come from New York to sing  
us a song about intolerance.

Trent walks to the center of the stage. The music begins over his intro.

TRENT

Hello, I'm Trent Oliver; actor. And  
Juilliard graduate.

MAN (OFFSTAGE)

Hey! It's that guy from "Talk to  
the Hand!"

The crowd roars.

TRENT

You know, "Talk to the Hand" is  
just a small part of my resume. In  
the early aughts, I had an arc on  
"Grey's Anatomy" in which I played  
Dr. Julio Rodriguez, a handsome  
Hispanic heart surgeon, whose  
growing cocaine addiction threatens  
both his personal and professional  
life. When preparing for the role,  
I realized something about people.  
I realized that even though we are  
all different on the outside,  
inside we are all the same. And it  
occurred to me that if we could  
just accept our collective  
sameness, the world would be a much  
nicer place. That's why I wrote  
this song.

A giant poster of Emma is revealed. It is the photo that Angie took after the PTA meeting. It is not flattering.

TRENT (CONT'D)

This is for you, Emma. "FLOWERS  
ACCEPT THE RAIN AND GROW MORE  
BEAUTIFUL, BABIES ACCEPT THEIR  
MOTHER'S BREAST SO THEY CAN GROW  
STRONG, I ACCEPT THAT I WAS BORN A  
HANDSOME MAN, SO JOIN WITH ME AND  
SING THIS ACCEPTANCE SONG..."

The Godspell cast ENTERS, backing Trent up.

ALL

"LET US ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER..."

TRENT

"I KNOW IT'S TRULY HARD..."

ALL

"WE'RE SISTER AND BROTHER..."

TRENT

"HERE'S WHAT I LEARNED AT  
JUILLIARD: BIGOTRY'S NOT BIG OF ME,  
AND IT'S NOT BIG OF YOU..."

ALL

"LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER, TO MAKE  
RAINBOW DREAMS COME TRUE..."

TRENT

Ladies and Gentlemen, two time Tony  
Award Winner, Mrs. Dee Dee Allen.

Dee Dee enters.

DEE DEE

"ACORNS ACCEPT THE SUN AND TURN TO  
MIGHTY OAKS, SPERM WHALES ACCEPT  
FRESH SEA AIR THROUGH THEIR  
BLOWHOLE THINGS..."

TRENT

"BLOWHOLE, BUMBLEBEES ACCEPT  
THEY'LL DIE WITHIN A YEAR..."

TRENT & DEE DEE

"AND STILL THEY FLAP THEIR SOON-TO-  
BE-DEAD WINGS..."

ALL

"LET US ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER..."

TRENT

*"FORGET YOUR POLITICS..."*

ALL

*"WE'RE SISTER AND BROTHER..."*

TRENT

*"SO LET'S NOT BE TOTAL DICKS...  
BIGOTRY'S NOT BIG OF ME AND IT'S  
NOT BIG OF YOU..."*

ALL

*"OOH LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO  
MAKE RAINBOW DREAMS COME TRUE...!"*

TRENT

Ladies and gentlemen, the non-equity cast of Godspell and one time Drama Desk winner, Barry Glickman.

Dance break.

BARRY

*"ACCEPT ME! ACCEPT ME! ACCEPT ME!  
ACCEPT ME! ACCEPT ME! ACCEPT ME!  
ACCEPT ME! ACCEPT ME! ACCEPT ME!"*

ALL

*"LET US ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER, JOIN  
OUR FIGHT TODAY, WE'RE SISTER AND  
BROTHER..."*

TRENT

*"MAKE PEOPLE HEAR US WHEN WE SAY:"*

They sign the following few verses in silence.

TRENT (CONT'D)

*"LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER..."*

ALL

*"LET'S MAKE A RAINBOW..."*

TRENT

*"AND MAKE RAINBOW DREAMS COME  
TRUE..."*

GODSPELL CAST

*"ACCEPTANCE, ACCEPTANCE,  
ACCEPTANCE, ACCEPTANCE..."*

Angie appears, dressed as a Goddess of Love. TWO GODSPELL KIDS pull rainbow banners out of her costume.

ALL  
*"LET'S MAKE RAINBOW DREAMS COME  
TRUE. Acceptance!"*

The song ends. In a moment of great theatricality, HUGE MONSTER TRUCKS race towards twin ramps and then FLY OVER THE HEADS of our performers. Big finish! Crickets from the crowd.

TRENT  
So are you with us people?!

We hear the stunned audience start to boo them. A few beer bottles and other debris gets tossed onto the stage. They are shocked and try to duck and quickly retreat.

INT. MOTEL LOBBY -- CONVERSATION PIT AREA -- DAY (LATER)

The Broadway contingent sits, drowning their sorrow in junk food from the help-yourself-bar.

DEE DEE  
Trent, I want to rip your face off!

TRENT  
I'm sorry --

BARRY  
You made me fail and I am so sick  
of failing!

SHELDON  
There's no spinning this. It was a  
complete disaster.

ANGIE  
Now I know what the original cast  
of "Carrie" felt like.

DEE DEE  
No. No you don't.

BARRY  
What do we do now?

DEE DEE  
We leave. We kill Trent and then  
leave.

BARRY  
But what about the girl?

Hawkins appears with Emma in tow.



HAWKINS

Hi. Emma and I wanted to be the ones to tell you...thanks to pressure from the State's Attorney's office, Prom is back on.

BARRY

We did it!

They all scream with delight.

TRENT

We were the vessel of change because we acted selflessly.

DEE DEE

See? We're not narcissists!

HAWKINS

To be clear, it wasn't because of you...

EMMA

Maybe it was. I mean, everyone started freaking out when you got here. That lawyer might have had the legal power, but you really scared people.

TRENT, ANGIE, SHELDON, BARRY & DEE DEE

Awww.

ANGIE

Don't sell yourself short kid. You're the one who scared people.

HAWKINS

Well, the important thing is, it's a victory. Now you get to go to Prom just like anybody else!

EMMA

Oh my God, it's like four days away.

BARRY

What are you going to wear?

EMMA

Well, I thought I'd wear a vintage tux and some high tops. Does it matter?

BARRY

Does it...

(can't get the word out)

Mmmm-mmm

(recovers)

Look, sweetheart, you don't know me  
and I don't know you. But I'm  
begging here; let me dress you for  
Prom. Come on. We're going to Saks.

HAWKINS

Um, there is no Saks here.

EMMA

We have a Kmart...

BARRY

A Kkkkk-kkkk

(recovers)

Fine. We'll check out the Tammy  
Wynette collection at Kmart, and  
when that doesn't work, well, I  
have a few party dresses in my  
closet, you know, for emergencies.  
I'll have them Fedexed. We'll have  
a little fashion show.

EMMA

Okay. Can we do it tomorrow? I have  
to go and find out if I still have  
a date. We can meet at my place.

DEE DEE

Won't your parents have a problem  
with a middle-aged man hanging out  
in your bedroom and dressing you?

HAWKINS

Emma doesn't live with her parents  
anymore.

EMMA

We don't really speak.

BARRY

My God. We are the same person. I  
haven't spoken to my mother in  
years.

EMMA

I live with my grandmother now.  
She's cool. She likes "the gays."

BARRY

Good. And I like "the olds." Can you do me a favor and point me in the direction of the Kmart?

EMMA

I'll give you a ride.

BARRY

In your pickup truck?

EMMA

Are you saying because I'm a lesbian I drive a pickup?

BARRY

Well, do you?

EMMA

Shut up.

They leave.

SHELDON

Anybody hungry?

ANGIE

I could drink.

SHELDON

What's around here?

TRENT

Well, I saw a Big Boy out by the highway.

SHELDON

This town has a gay bar?

They exit. Dee Dee and Hawkins are left alone.

HAWKINS

So nice to see Emma smile. She's had a rough time of it.

DEE DEE

I gathered that.

HAWKINS

Even before this whole Prom controversy. When she came out, her parents were...well, they threw her out of the house.

DEE DEE

Really?

HAWKINS

She was 16. It was pretty ugly.  
Anyway, thank you for helping her.  
Or trying to.

Hawkins starts to leave.

DEE DEE

Tell me Tom; is there a restaurant  
in this town with plates and  
cutlery?

HAWKINS

Oh. Well, um...there's an Applebees  
at the mall. Would you like to go?

DEE DEE

Yes. Take me now to this apples and  
bees place.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HALLWAY -- DAY

There is some sort of commotion going on. Alyssa notices and  
stops a student.

ALYSSA

What's going on?

FEMALE STUDENT

Nick's got a promposal all planned  
out for Kaylee. She's gonna freak  
out!

The crowd parts to reveal Nick with a bouquet of red roses.  
Two other MALE STUDENTS back him up. Everyone films it with  
their phones. Someone pulls Kaylee forward as everybody  
cheers. Emma wanders in and watches from across the room.

NICK

*"SINCE J.V. FOOTBALL, I'VE BEEN  
ADORED, BIG MAN ON CAMPUS  
BUT OH, SO BORED..."  
"MY LIFE WAS PERFECT BUT SO  
ROUTINE, I PRAYED FOR SOMEONE TO  
INTERVENE, AND THEN..."*

NICK & ENSEMBLE

*"YOU HAPPENED..."*

NICK  
"AND TURNED MY LIFE AROUND  
ENTIRELY..."

NICK & ENSEMBLE  
"OH, BABY YOU HAPPENED..."

NICK  
"AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO ME  
SO GO TO PROM WITH ME, KAYLEE!"

KAYLEE  
You're such an idiot! Yes!

Everyone cheers. Kevin sees Shelby.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- DAY

Kevin puts on a sombrero. Two backup singers slip in behind him with maracas in hand.

KEVIN  
"THERE'S NOT ONE SUBJECT THAT I  
COULD PASS, BEFORE YOU WALKED INTO  
MY SPANISH CLASS. WAS MY HEART  
POUNDING? I WON'T SAY NO, 'CAUSE  
LIFE WITHOUT YOU WAS "NO BUENO,"  
AND THEN..."

KEVIN & ENSEMBLE  
"YOU HAPPENED..."

KEVIN  
"AND TURNED MY LIFE AROUND  
ENTIRELY..."

KEVIN & ENSEMBLE  
"OH, BABY YOU HAPPENED..."

KEVIN  
"AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO ME,  
SO GO TO PROM WITH ME, SHELBY!"

SHELBY  
Sí! Sí! Señor!

REVEAL Emma and Alyssa up in the stands, watching.

ALYSSA  
You did it! You actually did it! We  
have a prom because of you! It's  
like a love bomb went off. I've  
seen like six promposals today.

EMMA

People are going to see us dancing together! And kissing! It's going to be impossible not to kiss you.

ALYSSA

Oh my God. And what's my mother going to do? She'll be in public, so she can't freak out.

EMMA

It doesn't matter what she does. This is about us. This is about us finally being us.

(then)

*"AND NO MORE HIDING HOW WE FEEL ANYMORE..."*

ALYSSA

*"I WON'T HIDE IF YOU'RE BY MY SIDE..."*

EMMA

*"NOW THAT THE PROM IS BACK ON TRACK AND ONCE WE WALK INTO THAT GYM HAND IN HAND..."*

EMMA & ALYSSA

*"IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THERE'S NO GOING BACK!"*

ALYSSA

*"AND THAT'S A PROMISE!"*

INT. STUDY HALL -- DAY (LATER)

Students have their heads down, studying. TIGHT on Alyssa's notebook where she's clandestinely writing AG LOVES EN. Alyssa looks up to see Emma across the room, smiling at her. This is how they have to navigate the school -- in private stolen moments.

ALYSSA

*BEFORE I MET YOU, I WAS A MESS, NOT HONEST WITH MYSELF, I CONFESS..."*

EMMA

*"I WAS SO LONELY, A TOTAL WRECK JUST SAD AND HOPELESS? CHECK, DOUBLE-CHECK..."*

The students don't notice their singing, they keep their heads down. Alyssa scribbles a note, takes off a ring, puts the ring in the folded paper and heads toward Emma.

EMMA & ALYSSA  
"AND THEN YOU HAPPENED AND TURNED  
MY LIFE AROUND ENTIRELY, OH,  
BABY..."

EMMA & ALYSSA (CONT'D)  
YOU HAPPENED AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED  
TO ME..."

EMMA, ALYSSA & ENSEMBLE  
"SOMETHING SO TRUE HAPPENED AND  
SOON IT'S TIME TO SHARE IT PUBLICLY  
AND ALL 'CAUSE YOU HAPPENED..."

Alyssa slyly drops off the note. Emma enters it, reads it --  
"Will you go to prom with me? Put on the ring if it's a YES."

ALYSSA  
"AND SAID YOU'D GO TO PROM WITH --"

EMMA  
"SAID YOU'D GO TO PROM WITH --"

EMMA & ALYSSA  
"SAID YOU'D GO TO PROM WITH ME..."

Emma puts on the ring, Alyssa grins.

ENSEMBLE  
"YOU HAPPENED! YOU HAPPENED! YOU  
HAPPENED! LOOK WHAT. HAPPENED TO  
ME..."

The bell rings. Emma and Alyssa exchange sweet looks as they go. Their PINKIES barely touch. But Kaylee and Shelby clock this.

SHELBY  
What the hell was that?

INT. APPLEBEES -- NIGHT

Dee Dee and Hawkins are in a booth.

HAWKINS  
I save up all my money and I go to  
New York every summer. I see as  
many Broadway shows as I can. When  
I run out of money, I second act  
'em.

(MORE)

HAWKINS (CONT'D)

My point is I've seen you many,  
many times. I missed your Eleanor.

DEE DEE

"You didn't miss a thing."

HAWKINS

Are you choking?

DEE DEE

No. I was doing Eleanor. That was  
the voice I used...

HAWKINS

Oh. It's uncanny.

Mrs. Greene crosses with a FRIEND.

MRS. GREENE

Mr. Hawkins?

HAWKINS

Mrs. Greene.

MRS. GREENE

Ms. Glickman.

DEE DEE

Allen. Dee Dee Allen. Do you not  
have the internet in Indiana? Just  
type in Dee Dee. I'm the second one  
that comes up after Dee Dee Myers,  
whoever that is.

HAWKINS

She was Clinton's press secretary.

DEE DEE

Whatever. There's no excuse for  
ignorance is my point.

MRS. GREENE

You and your friends know nothing  
about us, about our town, about our  
people. And yet, you feel justified  
in telling us what to do.

HAWKINS

Miss Allen is a Tony Award winning  
Broadway star --

MRS. GREENE

Well, I suggest she stick to  
acting.

(MORE)



MRS. GREENE (CONT'D)

Clearly she is a much more  
compelling personality when someone  
tells her where to stand and what  
to say.

Mrs. Greene and her friend leave.

HAWKINS

I'm sorry about that. You have to  
understand this town's been through  
a lot. We had an auto parts factory  
that closed down because of  
outsourcing. A lot of families  
left.

DEE DEE

We didn't mean to make things  
worse.

HAWKINS

And I appreciate that. It's just  
people are angry and scared and  
powerless. When that happens, you  
look for a scapegoat. Not that I'm  
making excuses for her...

DEE DEE

Let's drop it. You know, I've never  
said this before to someone, but:  
tell me about you.

HAWKINS

About me? Huh. I don't know. I'm  
just a small town principal. It can  
be frustrating but at least I have  
a job.

(shyly)

Single.

DEE DEE

Sorry?

HAWKINS

I'm single. Just putting that out  
there.

DEE DEE

Really? I'm surprised.

HAWKINS

I'm surprised you're surprised.  
There are two things in life I'm  
passionate about -- Broadway  
Musicals and Secondary School  
Administration. I typed that into a  
dating website once and a little  
message popped up that said "You  
will have zero matches ever."

DEE DEE

But you're smart, you're good-  
looking...

HAWKINS

...and if I liked NASCAR and beer  
I'd fit right in.

(then)

I grew up 20 miles from here. This  
is my home. But as long as I can  
remember, I've felt like an alien.  
I look at people like you, and I  
think how lucky you are to be  
surrounded by your people...

DEE DEE

Well, I wasn't *born* on Broadway.  
I'm from Zelienople, PA. I grew up  
*dirt* poor. You know my prom story?  
I sold my aquarium to buy my dress,  
THAT'S my prom story. This  
glittering, magical icon who  
everyone loves and everyone thinks  
they know? I INVENTED that. Deep  
down, I'm a small town kid, just  
like you. And I'm *also* single.  
Well, *divorced*...

HAWKINS

I think I read about that. Eddie  
Sharpe. The talk show host?

DEE DEE

It lasted 15 heart-pulverizing  
years. He's a parasite. He's got a  
hit TV show and he's still bleeding  
me dry. I hate his money-sucking  
guts.

HAWKINS

Well, you gave it a good shot.  
That's commendable. For me,  
relationships have a 6-month  
expiration date.

DEE DEE

It wasn't really 15 years. I mean, I wasn't... ..present for more than three. I was touring. Doing concerts. He wanted kids at one point. A girl makes choices, you know? He's still a loser, don't get me wrong. But there's two sides to every story.

HAWKINS

I imagine it's not easy. Being Dee Dee Allen. Being a Broadway star.

DEE DEE

It is a lot of work. And the truth is Broadway is changing. And I'm getting older. Not old, just older. Sometimes I think I should just quit.

HAWKINS

No. Please. You can't do that!

DEE DEE

Why?

HAWKINS

I need you to keep doing what you do.

(then)

*"MY DAYS HAVE LITTLE GLAMOUR,  
WRITING MEMOS, MAKING CALLS AND  
WINCING AT THE GRAMMAR WRITTEN ON  
THE BATHROOM WALLS, IT'S ALL SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES AND BUDGET SIZE AND WADING  
THROUGH RED TAPE, THAT'S WHY I LOVE  
THE THEATRE, IT'S HOW I ESCAPE..."*

DEE DEE

So theatre's a distraction...is that what you're saying?

HAWKINS

No, a distraction is momentary. An escape helps you heal.

EXT. BROADWAY -- NIGHT (1998)

A very sweet Hawkins makes his way down Broadway, marveling at the glamour, the excitement. He enters a theatre, a marquee reveals he is seeing "Swallow the Moon."

MR. HAWKINS  
*"WE LOOK TO YOU, TO TAKE US AWAY  
FROM THE SOUL-CRUSHING JOBS AND  
EMASCULATING PAY..."*

INT. BROADWAY THEATRE -- NIGHT (1998)

Hawkins makes his way down the aisle to his seat.

MR. HAWKINS  
*"WHEN OUR LIVES COME UP SHORT AND  
OUR HOPES ARE SAD AND FEW YOU WHISK  
US OFF TO SOMEPLACE STRANGE AND  
NEW..."*

He takes his seat, excited.

MR. HAWKINS (CONT'D (CONT'D)  
*"WE LOOK TO YOU, IN GOOD TIMES AND  
BAD, THE WORLDS YOU CREATE, MAKE  
THE REAL ONE SEEM LESS SAD..."*

The curtain RISES, revealing Dee Dee in place, she gets a huge ovation. Mr. Hawkins' eyes glisten with emotion.

MR. HAWKINS (CONT'D)  
*"THE CURTAIN GOES UP AND EVERY NOW  
AND THEN, IT FEELS AS IF WE'RE  
COMING HOME AGAIN, YES, COMING HOME  
AGAIN..."*

INT. APPLEBEE'S -- NIGHT

He continues singing to Dee Dee.

MR. HAWKINS  
*"WE NEED A PLACE TO RUN TO WHEN  
EVERYTHING GOES WRONG, WHERE THE  
ANSWER TO EACH PROBLEM IS TO BURST  
INTO A SONG. AND STANDARD RULES OF  
LOGIC JUST SIMPLY DON'T APPLY, WHEN  
PEOPLE DANCE IN UNISON AND NO ONE  
WONDERS WHY..."*

DEE DEE  
You make it sound so beautiful.

HAWKINS  
*"WE LOOK TO YOU, AS STRANGE AS IT  
SEEMS, WHEN REALITY GOES  
TO SCARY, NEW EXTREMES..."*

INT. BROADWAY THEATRE -- NIGHT (1998)

The performance ends and Dee Dee gets a standing ovation. Hawkins is the first up, and he is cheering the loudest. It's incredibly sweet. The rest of the CAST joins her for curtain call as she receives a bouquet of flowers, Hawkins looks around the theatre, very emotional.

MR. HAWKINS

*"SO DON'T EVER GIVE UP AND THIS I  
GUARANTEE, NEXT TIME YOU THINK NO  
ONE CARES, YOU CAN LOOK TO ME..."*

INT. APPLEBEE'S -- NIGHT

DEE DEE

Thank you. That means a lot.

HAWKINS

No, thank you.

INT. GRANDMA BEA'S HOUSE -- DAY

It's a typical midwestern house. Barry is looking at family pictures. He finds one of Emma and her Grandmother, BEA -- clearly taken at the photo department of a chain store. He is looking at it when Bea enters with a tray of lemonade.

BARRY

Nice picture.

BEA

It's terrible. Look at the  
backdrop. Clouds? Are we flying?

BARRY

It's sweet.

BEA

Well, you know, she needed proof  
that she was still part of a  
family, and nothing says family  
like a Sears family portrait.

She hands him a lemonade. He drinks it.

BARRY

Is there booze in this?

BEA

There sure is.

BARRY

When you said lemonade --

BEA

It's Indiana lemonade.

BARRY

Okay. I love you. You're the cool grandmother I never had. Mine was all about sour candies and shame.

BEA

I'm not cool. I just have zero tolerance for bullshit, which I happen to think is a Republican value. At least it used to be.

BARRY

You're a Republican?

BEA

You can still like pot and hate big government.

BARRY

You are a crazy, beautiful person. Okay -- let me ask you something. What happened with Emma and her parents? How did she end up living with you?

Bea takes a deep breath.

BEA

Ah, my daughter was such a good kid. Straight A's. 4 H club. Played the guitar. She was a lot like Emma, actually, when she was young. Then she went to Kelley and got her MBA and met Alan. He was her TA. They got married and had Emma. Then they started playing golf all the time.

BARRY

I don't get golf.

BEA

And when Emma came out, they couldn't handle it. "What can't you handle?" I said. "Reality?" I raised my daughter to be strong. I thought she was. Anyway, Alan got a job offer in Baltimore and they asked me to take Emma.

BARRY

I'm sorry.

BEA

You're not a mother, so you can't know what it was like for me to see my daughter give up her child. They offered me \$200 a month for expenses.

Barry can see the toll the ordeal has taken on Bea. He gives her a long hug. He sits back down, raises his glass.

BARRY

To bad parents and their broken progeny.

BEA

Emma's doing fine. She's a strong kid.

BARRY

I'm not talking about her.

Barry takes a swig, quietly emotional.

BEA

Oh no. You got kicked out too?

BARRY

Well...I left before they could do that.

Grandma lifts her glass to him and they both take a swig of lemonade. Barry notices a photo of Bea as a young woman.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Is that...were you at Woodstock?

BEA

No. Altamont. Yep, Barry...life has been a barrel of laughs.

Emma comes down with a sad dress. They both turn to look.

EMMA

So the only nice dress I have is this.

BARRY

Wow, so you could wear that to your prom or it might also work if you were a flight attendant for Kosovo Airlines.

BEA

It's official. I like him.

BARRY

Listen, I don't really know you and you don't really know me, but please, let me dress you for the prom.

BEA

He's Grandma Bea approved.

EMMA

I don't know...this is all so crazy. What did you wear to your prom?

BARRY

Well. I was going to wear a silver tux...

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM PAST -- NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The YOUNG BARRY dresses in front of the mirror in his childhood bedroom. He looks vulnerable.

BARRY (V.O.)

...with matching turquoise cummerbund and tie, and those contacts that change your eye color to aqua blue...

INT. GRANDMA BEA'S HOUSE -- DAY

We are back in the present.

BARRY

...but I never... I didn't, uh...

(he becomes emotional)

This isn't about me, this is about you and I promise: you are going to have the night of your life. What's your date wearing?

EMMA

I don't know. I've never been to her house. Her mother doesn't know about us.

BARRY

How long have you been together?

EMMA

A year and a half.



BARRY

Oh, honey.

EMMA

But she's coming out tonight big time. That's the plan. Oh, I'm really scared.

BARRY

Look. I never went to my prom because like your mystery girlfriend, I didn't have your courage.

EXT. GYM PAST -- NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A young Barry stands outside of the gym, resplendent in his silver tux. Music blasts from within. He sees happy hetero couples running in arm and arm. One particularly handsome boy strides by with his posse. Barry watches him walk into the gym. The sense is that he is Barry's crush, and that he has no idea. Barry turns and walks away.

INT. GRANDMA BEA'S HOUSE -- DAY

We are back in the present.

BARRY

The point is, you are brave. You made all this happen. When you walk into that gym tonight, you know what people are going to see? The bravest person on the planet.

EMMA

I don't know. This is hard. Does every girl go through this?

BARRY

Of course!

BEGIN MONTAGE. As Barry describes the exciting action, we see the various teen girls of Edgewater Indiana dressing for the Prom.

EXT. INDIANA -- DAY

A FLY OVER of the midwestern houses and cul de sacs of Edgewater. The comfortable houses all look the same.

BARRY (V.O.)

All across town, girls are spraying on their tans and whitening their teeth ...

INT. HOUSE -- DAY

GIRL #1 uses an ultraviolet teeth whitener.

INT. HOUSE 2 -- DAY

GIRL #2 glues too many crystals around her eyes.

INT. HOUSE 3 -- DAY

GIRL #3 struggles to pull a dress onto GIRL #4.

BARRY (V.O.)

They're trying to look their best  
for the prom, but they're wasting  
their time. They might as well be  
wearing a garbage bag with the word  
"whore" spray-painted on it, you  
know why?

INT. BEA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Emma and Bea look to Barry, waiting for the answer.

BARRY

Because they're whores. Kidding.  
It's because they don't have the  
glow you have right now.

EMMA

I trust you completely; and that's  
kind of scary too.

BARRY

Can we mall it?

EMMA

Is that okay?

BEA

I think you should mall the hell  
out of it!

INT. EDGEWATER MALL -- DAY

Barry and Emma enter the mall and stride through it.

BARRY

*"I CAN TELL YOU'RE FEELING WARY,  
BUT YOU CAN COUNT ON UNCLE BARRY,  
HE TURN THIS BUTCHIE DUCK INTO A  
SWAN.."*

(MORE)

BARRY (CONT'D)  
OUR WHOLE LOOK COULD USE A SHAKE-  
UP, YOU CAN BORROW ALL MY MAKE-UP  
AND THE PAIR OF SPANX I CURRENTLY  
HAVE ON..."

EMMA  
I think I'll pass.

INT. EDGEWATER MALL -- FOREVER 21 -- DAY

Barry is flipping through the dresses on a rack, taking the odd one out and frowning, taking another out and tossing it.

BARRY  
"TREAT THE WHOLE WORLD LIKE YOUR  
RUNWAY, MAKE IT FIERCE, BUT IN A  
FUN WAY, TRY TO FLIP YOUR HAIR LIKE  
CHER AND DRAG QUEENS DO..."

INT. EDGEWATER MALL -- LAZURAS MAKE UP COUNTER -- DAY

Barry is smearing various lipstick shades on Emma's lips.

BARRY  
"AND I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, DEAR,  
BUT YOU COULD USE SOME ATTITUDE  
DEAR...LET'S SHOW THE SCHOOL  
TONIGHT BELONGS TO YOU..."

INT. EDGEWATER MALL -- DSW -- DAY

Barry is jamming various shoes on Emma's feet.

BARRY  
"ONE THING'S UNIVERSAL,  
LIFE'S NO DRESS REHEARSAL,  
SO WHY NOT MAKE SOME WAVES BEFORE,  
IT'S THROUGH?"

He extracts a red pump with a 4 inch heel. She grimaces.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
"GO BIG, OR YOU'VE BLOWN IT  
IT'S TIME THAT YOU OWN IT  
LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TONIGHT  
BELONGS TO YOU..."

INT. EDGEWATER MALL -- FOOD COURTYARD -- DAY

Barry and Emma refuel.

BARRY  
Now, no matter what we choose,  
you've got to remember to sell it.

EMMA  
How do I do that?

BARRY  
Allow Ms. Glickman to demonstrate.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
*"YOU MIGHT FIND THIS DISCONCERTING,  
BUT OL' BARRY'S DONE SOME FLIRTING,  
TRY TO BAT YOUR EYES AND SMIZE EACH  
TIME YOU GRIN..."*

Barry flirts with a passing FOOD WORKER. The worker,  
distracted, walks into a trash can and spills a tray.

EMMA  
*"I CAN GUESS YOUR WHOLE AGENDA..."*

BARRY  
*"YOU BE ELPHIE; I'M GALINDA!"*

BARRY & EMMA  
*"IT'S MAKEOVER TIME SO WHY NOT JUST  
GIVE IN?"*

INT. EDGEWATER MALL -- DAY

Barry and Emma stride through the mall in the opposite  
direction, now burdened with a dozen bags.

BARRY & EMMA  
*"ONE THING'S UNIVERSAL, LIFE'S NO  
DRESS REHEARSAL, SO WHY NOT MAKE  
SOME WAVES, BEFORE IT'S THROUGH. GO  
BIG, OR YOU'VE BLOWN IT..."*

EMMA  
*"IT'S TIME THAT I OWN IT..."*

BARRY & EMMA  
*"LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TONIGHT  
BELONGS TO YOU..."*

BARRY  
What?

EMMA  
*"BELONGS TO ME!"*

Barry and Emma burst out of the mall.

INT. KAYLEE'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Kaylee and Shelby get ready for Prom, zipping each other up, posing in the full length mirror.

KAYLEE  
Oh God. I can't believe this is finally happening.

SHELBY  
She almost ruined it for all of us.

KAYLEE  
Well, what goes around comes around. You look hot!

SHELBY  
You look so hot!

KAYLEE & SHELBY  
*"WELL, I HATE TO SOUND CONCEITED  
BUT THE BOYS GET OVERHEATED, WHEN I  
STRIKE A POSE OR TWO LIKE THIS!"*

They strike a few poses.

KAYLEE  
*"AND YOU HAVE TO HAND IT TO ME  
I MEAN, EVEN I WOULD DO ME..."*

KAYLEE & SHELBY  
*"LET'S SHOW THE WORLD TONIGHT  
BELONGS TO US..."*

EXT. VARIOUS SUBURBAN HOUSES-- DAY

The teen girls of Edgewater emerge from their houses and walk to the waiting limos. The boys, dressed in variations of the classic tuxedo, open the car doors for them.

KAYLEE & SHELBY / FEMALE STUDENTS  
*"ONE THING'S UNIVERSAL, LIFE'S NO  
DRESS REHEARSAL, EXCUSE ME WHILE I  
STATE THE OBVIOUS, GO BIG OR YOU'VE  
BLOWN IT, IT'S TIME THAT WE OWN IT  
AND MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TONIGHT,  
BELONGS TO US..."*

INT. ALYSSA'S HOUSE -- BEDROOM -- DAY

Alyssa is smoothing her dress and fiddling with her hair. She looks at herself in the mirror. She looks beautiful, but she has a look of worry on her face (reminiscent of the young Barry in his flashback). MRS. GREENE enters.

MRS. GREENE

Oh, you look so beautiful. You should always wear your hair that way.

ALYSSA

Mom. I want you to know what's going to happen tonight.

MRS. GREENE

Can we not spoil this? Please? I have worked very hard on this night, and I have a right to enjoy it too. Now, you're going to have a wonderful prom like a normal girl. I've made sure of that.

ALYSSA

What does that mean?

MRS. GREENE

*"I DON'T LIKE WHEN STRANGERS GET IN MY WAY, OR ANYONE WHO MESSES WITH THE P.T.A., WELL MAYBE THAT'S JUST ME, BUT TRUST ME. FIXING LITTLE PROBLEMS IS WHAT I DO, NOW EVERYONE IS HAPPY, I PROMISE YOU, AND I WOULD NEVER MISS A NIGHT LIKE THIS ALYSSA, YOU'RE MY SUPERSTAR, NOW GET YOUR ASS IN THE CAR..."*

INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

Lights come up on the prom in full swing.

STUDENTS

*"TONIGHT BELONGS TO US, TONIGHT BELONGS TO US, OO OO OO, TONIGHT BELONGS TO US, OO OO OO, ONE THING'S UNIVERSAL, LIFE'S NO DRESS REHEARSAL, EXCUSE ME WHILE I STATE THE OBVIOUS. GO BIG OR YOU'VE BLOWN IT, IT'S TIME THAT WE OWN IT, AND MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TONIGHT BELONGS TO, MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TONIGHT BELONGS TO US!"*

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

Trent, Dee Dee, Angie and Sheldon wait outside the gym. Emma arrives with Barry. Emma is beautifully and expertly put together by Barry. She looks great, but not entirely comfortable with the look.

DEE DEE  
You look beautiful!

EMMA  
You're sure it's not too girly?

ANGIE  
Just the right amount of girly.

DEE DEE  
(to BARRY)  
Well played.

BARRY  
Where's your date?

EMMA  
We're meeting in the gym. She's  
still a little shy about all this.

BARRY  
Okay. This is where we leave you.  
Our work is done.  
(Hugs her.)  
Go! Have the time of your life!

EMMA  
Can you walk me in? I'm a little  
nervous.

BARRY  
Sure. Hold on tight.

Barry takes her arm and they enter the gym.

TRENT  
We did good you guys!

ANGIE  
Who wants a drink?

SHELDON  
I'm buying.

Angie, Trent and Sheldon trot off in search of booze. Dee Dee hesitates. She looks around the parking lot. Something doesn't seem right.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

Emma enters with Barry. There are only a few, pathetic decorations hanging limply from the walls. Hawkins stands in the middle of the empty gym talking into his phone. He is clearly distressed. Emma and Barry look around, dumbfounded.

EMMA

What's going on?

Hawkins puts his hand over the mouthpiece of his phone.

HAWKINS

I'm just piecing this together...  
give me a second.

Hawkins continues with his call.

EMMA

Where is everybody?

BARRY

What's going on here?

Dee Dee, Angie, Sheldon & Trent enter.

DEE DEE

Something's wrong. The parking lot  
is completely empty.

SHELDON

My God. What's the theme of this  
prom: "Death Row"?

EMMA

Mr. Hawkins, where are all the  
kids? I don't understand.

INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

We see MRS. GREENE & ALYSSA arriving at another, well-decorated prom.

ALYSSA

I don't understand. Why aren't we  
at the gym?

MRS. GREENE

At the last minute there was a  
problem and we had to change  
venues.

ALYSSA

Mom. What is going on? Tell me the  
truth.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

HAWKINS hangs up and turns to address them.



HAWKINS

The courts told the PTA they had to hold an inclusive prom --

INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

MRS. GREENE

Don't worry. Everything's fine. We did what we were required to do.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

HAWKINS

There was some resistance, so the parents met without my knowledge and organized two proms.

INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

MRS. GREENE

We gave her a prom.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

HAWKINS

One for all the kids at the Elks lodge in town.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM/INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

We see a split screen of Alyssa and Emma realizing what has happened.

ALYSSA & EMMA

Oh my God!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

HAWKINS

And this one...just for you.

Emma is in shock.

INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

MRS. GREENE

Now go have fun. I'll be here to make sure everything is perfect.

ALYSSA

Wait!

MRS. GREENE walks away.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

EMMA

Wait. No. I got texts from kids at school. Everybody said it was here.

HAWKINS

They were lying to you. That was part of the plan.

ANGIE

Oh my God.

INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

Alyssa confronts Kaylee and Shelby.

ALYSSA

You lied to me!

KAYLEE

Yeah, who's the liar?

SHELBY

We know about you and Emma. Believe me, we're doing you a favor.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

Emma begins to feel the full weight of the betrayal.

HAWKINS

Emma. I'm so sorry.

TRENT

They met in secret? The whole town kept this from her?

ANGIE

That is so cruel.

BARRY

I think I'm going to cry.

DEE DEE

Oh my God. This is a disaster.

SHELDON

This is a PR problem --

DEE DEE

No, Sheldon. We *had* a PR problem. This is a full blown scandal. This is the end of my career.

HAWKINS

Wait. Is that why you came here?  
For publicity?

DEE DEE

Don't start with me, Tom. You do  
not know how the world works.

HAWKINS

Yes. I do. Unfortunately.

EMMA

(numb, slowly)

*"ONE THING'S UNIVERSAL, LIFE'S NO  
DRESS REHEARSAL, WHEN PEOPLE FIND A  
SCAPEGOAT TO CONDEMN... WE WENT BIG  
AND YET WE'VE BLOWN IT, WELL I  
GUESS I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT, ALL  
ALONG TONIGHT BELONGED TO THEM..."*

Emma's phone rings. Emma answers.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Alyssa?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM/INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

We see a split screen of Alyssa and Emma on the phone.

ALYSSA

I swear, I had no idea.

EMMA

How could you not know? You were on  
the prom committee.

ALYSSA

It was Kaylee and Shelby. They  
figured out we were together and  
they made sure I didn't find out.  
They didn't want me to tell you.

EMMA

I don't believe you.

ALYSSA

Do you think I would do something  
like this to you?

EMMA

Then come meet me.

ALYSSA

I can't.  
(crying.)  
My mom is here.

EMMA

Well, leave her. Then tell her  
you're gay! Tell her we're in love!  
That was the plan, right?

ALYSSA

I can't. It's bad enough that  
Kaylee and Shelby know. I'm sorry.

EMMA

You're sorry. Great. That fixes  
everything. Have fun at the normal  
person's prom!

She hangs up.

ALYSSA

Emma? Emma?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- NIGHT

BARRY

This is what we're going to do.  
We're getting in the car and we're  
going to that other prom. They  
can't stop us from --

EMMA

No! Enough! This is already the  
worst night of my life! Just stop  
helping me!

She runs out.

ANGIE

I'll talk to her.

Angie runs after Emma. Hawkins, Dee Dee, Trent, Sheldon &  
Barry stand alone in the gym.

INT. ELK'S LODGE -- NIGHT

The kids at the real prom dance with intensity.

STUDENTS

*"LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TONIGHT  
BELONGS TO, MAKE IT CLEAR THAT  
TONIGHT BELONGS, MAKE IT CLEAR THAT  
TONIGHT BELONGS TO US...!"*

SMASH TO BLACK.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- STEPS -- DAY

Mrs. Greene is making a statement to the press on behalf of the PTA. She is more rattled than we have seen her. She is surrounded by a HUGE AMOUNT of reporters, it's a national news story now.

MRS. GREENE

I've been asked to read a statement.

(reading)

What happened here was not the result of some elaborate plan to humiliate this girl, as has been reported in the press. The James Madison High School parent-teachers association felt Emma would not be safe if we allowed her to attend Prom with the other students because the uncomfortable truth is there are people in our community who are offended by her life choices. We felt this arrangement, while not ideal, was the only course of action available to us. Thank you.

Mrs. Greene attempts to leave but is stopped by questions.

INDIANA REPORTER #2

Mrs. Greene! Are you homophobic?

INDIANA REPORTER #3

How does excluding a student protect her?

MRS. GREENE

Look. This is uncomfortable for me...to be in front of a camera like this, to read terrible things about my town in the paper. I'm just a mother, not any kind of a spokesperson, and I love all the students of James Madison High as much as my own daughter.

(MORE)

MRS. GREENE (CONT'D)

The truth is we are in this situation because a group of people, privileged people from New York, who know nothing about us, came down here just to get publicity. They are the villains. You should be writing about them, not us.

INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Angie and Emma are watching Mrs. Greene on Emma's laptop. Emma looking particularly depressed. Angie snaps the laptop shut.

EMMA

I cannot wrap my head around all this. It's a nightmare. Oh God.

ANGIE

I want to be the cockeyed optimist here because I played Nelly Forbush in South Pacific once, but...I agree with you. This is horrible.

EMMA

Thanks for hanging out with me these past couple of days. You've been a good friend.

ANGIE

(eyes welling)  
I have?

EMMA

You have. You seem surprised.

ANGIE

It's just...when you're a struggling performer you spend so much time worrying about yourself. Staying in the game, controlling your day drinking.  
(a beat, emotional)  
You've made me care about something more than myself. Thanks, kid.

Emma smiles, but seems so low.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Ok, look at me. And listen -- you'll get through this, I know it.

EMMA

How do you know?

ANGIE

You're like me. You may not know it, but you're resilient. I knew it the first time I saw you, I thought "that girl has guts."

PUSH IN on Emma, at rock bottom.

EMMA

I thought when my parents gave me away and stopped loving me that it would never feel any worse, you know? And then I broke up with my girlfriend, and that felt worse.

She starts to cry. Angie dries her tears.

ANGIE

(feeling for her)

Oh honey.

EMMA

And now this. There's so much hate out there in the world, and I can feel it. It hurts so much. I've never felt so alone in my life.

ANGIE

You're not alone, honey. You've got me. We are ride or die. And you have friends.

EMMA

Oh yeah? Where are they?

EXT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The bus pulls up. Barry, Dee Dee, Trent and Sheldon exit, march up the lawn.

INT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Grandma Bea opens the door.

DEE DEE

How is she?

BEA

Holding tight. C'mon in.

INT. BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Barry pops in, followed by Trent, Dee Dee and Sheldon.

BARRY

Emma? Can we come in? We brought  
Haagen-Dazs.

TRENT

It's fancy ice cream.

EMMA

I know what Haagen-Dazs is.  
Hand it over.

BARRY

How are you? Are you okay?

EMMA

Oh, I'm just awesome. The whole  
world is talking about me. They're  
making it sound like I'm  
responsible for this. No one is  
talking about the hate. There's  
just so much hate.

(holding up the ice cream)  
I'm going to need more of this.

BARRY

Listen, I know you said you don't  
want us to help anymore but we  
can't let them get away with this.  
We have to fight back. That PTA  
woman, who does she think she is?

TRENT

She's a monster, that's for sure.

BARRY

Sheldon, what can we do about her?

SHELDON

I don't know. She's spun this whole  
thing to make herself look like the  
victim. She's good. If she didn't  
shop at The Dress Barn, she could  
work in PR.

DEE DEE

I know that everyone is angry, but  
we have to face the fact that we've  
made matters worse. I think the  
best thing we can do is disinfect  
our things and go home.



BARRY

No! We are not leaving.

DEE DEE

We are always not leaving! Please let me leave this horrible place!

BARRY

No. We are staying and we're going to turn this thing around. We are going to take back the press.

TRENT

How?

BARRY

Emma, you gotta step up and be the face of this story. You've gotta go on TV and show the world who the real victim is.

ANGIE

And that's going to get her a Prom?

BARRY

This is not about a Prom anymore. This is about right and wrong. We need a national audience. Prime time. How about Jimmy Fallon?

SHELDON

Look. I can't just pull Jimmy Fallon out of my ass. He books months in advance. You want a big audience fast, we gotta use our ace in the hole.

(to Dee Dee)

One phone call to Eddie Sharpe is all it will take.

DEE DEE

No. I am not calling that bastard.

BARRY

Just ask him for a favor.

DEE DEE

No! If I ask him for a favor he will want something in return and what he will want is the Hamptons house. He's been trying to get it for years. You know how many Broadway cruises I had to book to pay for that house? No way.

(MORE)

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

I would rather suck my own eyes  
with a Dust Buster than call that  
leech.

BARRY

Fine. Sheldon, get that girl on TV.  
I don't care if it's a cutaway on  
Family Guy, just get it done. Work  
your magic.

Sheldon exits.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Okay. Great.

EMMA

No! Not great. Not great. I'm sorry  
but there is no way I am getting in  
front of a camera and telling my  
story to millions of people. I  
cannot do that. Just go! Just get  
on your bus and go home. We lost,  
okay? Deal with it.

They all file towards the door. To Barry --

TRENT

You know, there might be another  
way to rid this community and by  
extension this nation of the cancer  
of intolerance.

BARRY

Why are you here? I thought you had  
a tour.

TRENT

Oh. Indianapolis was cancelled. As  
was Kansas City, Little Rock,  
Orlando and the naval base at  
Guantanamo Bay. What I'm thinking I  
might do is this: venture forth and  
seek out the young people. And when  
I find them, I will simply talk  
with them. Converse. Rap, in the  
non-musical sense. Communication  
may lead to understanding and  
understanding to, dare I say it,  
love. Anon.

Trent leaves.

BARRY

Honey, I know this is hard, but if you do nothing, they win.

ANGIE

Don't worry. She's just got stage fright. I'll talk to the kid.

The others leave. Angie and Emma are alone.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Jeez Louis, you've almost eaten that whole pint!

(a beat)

Let's go get some more. Two spoons this time.

INT. EMMA'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Angie waits, Emma enters with more ice cream and two spoons. They begin to eat.

EMMA

Before you give me a lecture or kick me to death with those crazy antelope legs of yours or whatever you're going to do, I know I should do something; I just can't.

ANGIE

Look, kid. Not everybody gets a chance to step out of the chorus. You got to do it for all us people who used to be called "gypsies."

EMMA

I'm too scared.

ANGIE

Let me tell you a story. It's 1975. The original company of "Chicago" is in previews and the worst flu in history hits the cast. They're down to the third cover for the role of Roxie Hart. And she's scared, just like you. So Fosse, who's a real ball-buster, is putting her through her paces. But she's petrified, and even worse, performing the routines like a robot. And the Foss says to her, "Hey, kid! Snap out of it! You're freaking out!"

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

You got the steps, you got the notes, but where's the zazz, baby?!" And though she'd never heard that word before she immediately knew what it meant. And that girl went out there and crushed that performance so hard the whole audience was standing on their feet screaming bloody murder.

EMMA

And that girl was you?

ANGIE

How fucking old do you think I am? This was in 1975. The point is every Fosse girl knows that story. It's all about finding your own inner strength...

(then)

*"WHEN A CHALLENGE LIES AHEAD AND YOU ARE FILLED WITH DREAD AND WORRY, GIVE IT SOME ZAZZ!"*

Angie begins to dance around the living room, pushing back chairs and table. The track lighting dims, and the space suddenly seems very theatrical.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

*"IF YOUR COURAGE DISAPPEARS, WHAT'LL GET YOUR FEARS TO SCURRY? GIVE IT SOME ZAZZ! ZAZZ IS STYLE PLUS CONFIDENCE, IT MAY SEEM CORNY OR KITSCH, BUT WHEN SCARED OR ON THE FENCE, YOU'LL FIND THAT ZAZZ WILL SOON MAKE FEAR BECOME YOUR BITCH. AND IF FOLKS SAY YOU CAN'T WIN, WHAT'LL STOP THEM IN A HURRY? GIVE IT SOME ZAZZ! THERE'S NO CONTEST FOR A GIRL WHO HAS SOME RAZZMATAZZ. SO CALL THEIR BLUFF, AND STRUT YOUR STUFF, LIKE NO CHICK IN THIS HICK TOWN HAS, INSTEAD OF GIVING UP, GIVE IT SOME ZAZZ!"*

EMMA

I just don't think I can do it. The thought of getting up in front of all of those people. Look at my hands. They're shaking.

ANGIE

If your hands are shaking...

(sung)

"JUST TURN 'EM INTO JAZZ HANDS!"

(spoken)

Now doesn't that feel better?

EMMA

No.

ANGIE

Try this.

She moves Emma's hands into a Fosse position.

EMMA

What are you doing?

ANGIE

It'll give you some confidence.

Hand here.

(pushes Emma's pelvis  
forward)

And try this. Now move.

EMMA

This is awkward.

ANGIE

You don't understand the concept of

zazz. The zazz is not the moves.

The zazz comes from within. Do the

moves and give 'em some zazz.

EMMA

I don't know...

ANGIE

Now, close your eyes. Think of Mrs.  
Greene.

Emma snaps into a Fosse pose.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Think about that fake prom.

Emma snaps into another Fosse pose.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

And think about finally doing  
something about it.

Emma snaps into another Fosse pose.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

I'm seeing it! I'm seeing your zazz! Now follow me.

(then)

*"DO LIKE THE BRAVE AND BOSSY DO,  
AND IF THEY TEAR YOU APART, ASK  
WHAT WOULD BOB FOSSE DO? HE'D MAKE  
THE PEOPLE HAVE A STEP BALL CHANGE  
OF HEART..."*

ANGIE & EMMA

Ball change!

ANGIE & EMMA (CONT'D)

*"AND IF FOLKS SAY YOU CAN'T WIN,  
WHAT'LL STOP THEM IN A HURRY?"*

EMMA

*"GIVE IT SOME ZAZZ..."*

ANGIE & EMMA

*"THERE'S NO CONTEST FOR A GIRL WHO  
HAS SOME RAZZMATAZZ..."*

ANGIE

*"SO CALL THEIR BLUFF, BAM!"*

EMMA

*"AND STRUT MY STUFF, BAM!"*

ANGIE & EMMA

*"LIKE NO CHICK IN THIS HICK TOWN  
HAS, INSTEAD OF GIVING UP GIVE IT  
SOME ZAZZ!"*

They fall back into the couch laughing, the lights slowly reappear to normal.

ANGIE

Now that you found your zazz, it's time to show it to the world. You think you know how?

EMMA

(confidently)

Yeah.

INT. DEE DEE'S HOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Barry and Dee Dee are both prone on Dee Dee's bed, their faces covered in a light green facial product watching "My Best Friend's Wedding" on the motel TV. Barry is restless.

BARRY

We shouldn't be doing this.

DEE DEE

It's Romcom Friday. Romcom Friday  
is sacred.

BARRY

(getting up)

Dee Dee! We should be helping Emma.  
We've got to get her on TV.

DEE DEE

Sheldon is on it. Hey!

(stopping him)

You have to take care of yourself  
before you take care of other  
people. It's like when you're on a  
plane.

BARRY

What?

DEE DEE

If the mask thing drops, you're  
supposed to put it on yourself  
first, then your child. It's the  
law. Now, give in to romcom Friday.  
Heal yourself first. Let the mask  
work its magic. It's Korean. They  
have wonderful skin for a reason.

Barry gives in reluctantly. He grabs a bag of Cheetos from  
the bedside table.

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

You have to applaud Julia for  
playing such a misguided character.  
She's kind of the villain and I'm  
with her every step of the way.

There is a beat. PUSH IN on Dee Dee. Then --

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

Eddie took me to see this movie. It  
was our first date.

BARRY

It was?

DEE DEE

Yes, and afterwards, he took me to  
dinner.

(beat)

(MORE)

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

Well I took him -- he was just starting out as a comedian then -- he had no money -- this is way before his show... 15 years, he never had any money. I picked up the check. I paid.

BARRY

Bad move.

DEE DEE

Tell me about it. I'm still paying.

They watch some more. Barry considers her.

BARRY

Can I make an observation?

DEE DEE

Is it a pleasant observation, or an irritating one?

BARRY

You're not over him.

DEE DEE

Him? No no *PLEASE* TRUST me, I am, no, I am way over him. I'm just -- mad at myself, mostly -- because I was so STUPID, such a putz.

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

Stupid, I bought it, so long, believed him, every time he said, "it's nothing" "it's over" "she's meaningless..." Ten years, "I broke it off, she knows, it's over, I promise." 6, what 7? Maybe 8 times? Every time, I believed him. ME! So stupid. Yeah, I got out, and he took half my money... And now here we are, singing to trucks, and he's got his big tv show, and I still owe him half my unemployment check...

INT. DEE DEE'S NYC BEDROOM -- NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The lights are dimmed. Dee Dee sits in bed, watching Eddie Sharpe's talk show premiere. NOTE: we stay on Dee Dee's face, never showing Eddie on the screen...



EDDIE SHARPE'S VOICE  
Guys, guys...what's today's words  
of wisdom?

BRO STUDIO AUDIENCE  
Never sign a prenup!

Off her sadness --

INT. DEE DEE'S HOTEL ROOM -- RESUME

A moment. Dee Dee stews, definitely NOT over this.

DEE DEE  
But you know the worst thing he  
did? The worst thing? He made me  
never want to trust anybody again.  
He took my little delicate  
blueberry heart and just, squashed  
it... And I will never NEVER let  
that happen again...I don't think I  
even could... Even if I wanted to,  
and I do want to, be loved by  
somebody, held -- NOPE. THAT's not  
gonna happen. Ever again. Ever.

They turn back to the TV, now thoroughly bummed. Barry  
searches frantically for the remote. He snaps off the TV.  
Barry grabs a Kleenex. Begins to remove Dee Dee's mask. They  
sit across from each other. Tender.

BARRY  
Let me tell you something sister.  
Rom Com Friday is not helping us.  
We irradiate our faces and cry  
while Julia Roberts pretends to  
fall in love with people, instead  
of actually falling in love with  
people ourselves. It's pathetic.

DEE DEE  
It's fun.

BARRY  
It's getting less and less fun for  
me, and you, and Julia. You gotta  
get out there.

DEE DEE  
Get out there?

BARRY  
YES! You're not getting any  
younger, sweetheart.

DEE DEE  
HOW DARE YOU, and LOOK WHO'S  
TALKING, and EXACTLY!!! Nobody  
wants me anymore. Nobody even wants  
the idea of me anymore.

BARRY  
This is what you're going to do.  
You're going to put on your face,  
and something heartstopping -- the  
yellow cape, cute boots -- and  
march yourself right down to the  
principal's office, you bad, bad  
girl.

DEE DEE  
Tom?? He's just a fan. Friend.

BARRY  
He likes you.

DEE DEE  
As a friend. Fan. And not even so  
much that anymore...

BARRY  
Please. Let's cut the bullshit. I'd  
kill to have a guy look at me the  
way he looks at you.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
I've been a curiosity, an  
experiment, a way into the club.  
I've never been the object of that  
wide-eyed, slobbering small town  
principal gaze. I've never  
experienced it.

DEE DEE  
Stop it. It's like you're poking my  
heart with your finger.

BARRY  
Your delicate still-beating  
blueberry heart.

DEE DEE  
You really think...he likes me?

BARRY

Yes. Do it for me. If I'm going to love vicariously through someone, I want it to be you, not Julia Roberts.

DEE DEE

Barry Glickman...you're a great scene partner. And an even better friend.

She goes, then stops herself, turning, with a twinkle.

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

But you *know*...

BARRY

Oh, I *knew* this was going to somehow get turned on me...

DEE DEE

...I think it's time somebody poked that little gay heart of *yours*.

BARRY

(fast)

Please no. Okay fine. Do I only go for tens when I know I'm a six?  
YES. Am I in a perpetual state of eating my feelings? YES but that also means I don't struggle with wrinkles...

DEE DEE

Your parents. Aren't you from Ohio?

BARRY

So?

DEE DEE

And we're in Indiana. Ohio and Indiana, they're close, right?

(off his look)

Oh, don't *judge*. I know where New York and California are. In between is where the planes fly over and presumably drop their waste.

BARRY

I know where you're driving this conversation so before we arrive I'm going to open the car door and roll out onto the highway.

DEE DEE

You have two living parents who you're never going to be closer to than you are right now. You should call them.

BARRY

No. They threw me away.

DEE DEE

*DID* they, though?

BARRY

YES! I told them I was gay and they told *ME* they'd take me to therapy to change myself completely. That's not love. That's not how you're supposed to be a parent.

DEE DEE

Come on. It was a different time! They didn't know any better! There was no Ellen! There was no Will and Grace! There was no...me!

BARRY

There was *Frasier*! That's the gayest show ever! That *brother*? I'm surprised America's televisions weren't bursting into flames!

DEE DEE

(quickly)

You inherently feel unlovable and unworthy of love because you haven't dealt with your painful unresolved adolescent issues, and until you do there you shall remain, there I said it, sue me.

BARRY

(dark)

Well look at you, so wise and knowledgeable. Ladies and Gentlemen, get this woman a Gay Pride Parade Grand Marshal sash, stat!

DEE DEE

First of all, Madonna and I shared that honor I'm proud to say in 1993, and we continue to correspond.

(MORE)

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

Secondly, I'm being real here --  
let your parents see who you are  
before it's too late. If you don't,  
you'll regret it.

BARRY

*I'm not the one who should have  
regrets. I was the kid. I was the  
scared little sixteen year-old who  
needed something from them and they  
couldn't give it to me.*

He becomes emotional and cries. She holds him. A moment.

DEE DEE

You know where everybody goes  
wrong? We think as children that  
our parents are supposed to teach  
us. But really, we're put on this  
earth to teach *them*. You should  
call your mom and dad. Love them  
enough -- forgive them enough -- to  
give them the opportunity to  
change.

PULL OUT on the two friends. Off Barry, shaken --

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HAWKINS' OFFICE -- DAY

Hawkins is working at his desk.

HAWKINS

(on phone)

There was a dare between a couple  
of boys on the wrestling team. Yes,  
and that's why I need to know if  
it's okay that they ate it. Well,  
they each had a bite. Yeah, a big  
bite. Thanks. I appreciate it. Bye.

Dee Dee knocks and enters, she looks spectacular.

DEE DEE

Am I interrupting something?

HAWKINS

I'm just doing some research.  
Trying to find out if urinal cakes  
are poisonous. There was an  
incident. How can I help you?

DEE DEE

Well, I've been wandering around  
town all day;

(MORE)

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

I've seen "the sight." The bottom line is I thought you might want to take me out to dinner and worship me again.

HAWKINS

No thanks.

DEE DEE

Sorry?

HAWKINS

No. I would not like to do that. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got work to do.

DEE DEE

What is going on here? All week you've been wining and dining me at Applebees and now I can't tear you away from the urinal cakes. Why is everybody so mad at me?

HAWKINS

Well, speaking for myself, it's because you're an opportunist. You came down here for publicity. You used us. You only care about yourself. You're a terrible person.

DEE DEE

How dare you! No one speaks to me like that! If we were in New York, I would snap my fingers and Dominic from props would come and beat the shit out of you!

HAWKINS

You know, meeting you in person has been colossally disappointing. You said by helping this one girl you might make the world a better place and I believed you, because I *wanted* to believe you. I wanted you to be Delores.

DEE DEE

Who the hell is Delores?

HAWKINS

From Swallow the Moon! She was joyful.

INT. BROADWAY THEATRE -- NIGHT (1998)

Hawkins stares up at the stage, love struck, as Dee Dee acts her heart out in "Swallow the Moon." We PUSH IN ON his face.

HAWKINS (V.O.)

She was full of courage and hope!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HAWKINS' OFFICE -- RESUME SCENE

DEE DEE

She was fictional!

HAWKINS

But you made her real! When you sang "The Lady's Improving" to Troy Gibson, you were admitting that you weren't perfect, but you knew that you could be a better you. And that's why he didn't fire you from the circus act. Such humility and dignity. That's who I thought you were!

DEE DEE

Well. I'm not Delores. I'm just a really, really, really good actress.

HAWKINS

Yeah. You are.

DEE DEE

And you are just some hick town high school teacher who can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality.

HAWKINS

Are we done?

DEE DEE

Oh yes. We're done.

Hawkins goes back to work. Dee Dee turns and exits. There is a pause and then Dee Dee reappears.

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

*"THE LADY'S IMPROVING, SO DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, YOU ASK IS SHE PERFECT? MY ANSWER IS NOPE..."*

HAWKINS

I know what you're doing.

DEE DEE

*"HER RANGE NEEDS EXPANDING, HER  
EDGES NEED SANDING, BUT SHE CAN  
BECOME A SURE BET, SO I'M BEGGING  
YOU SIR, DON'T GIVE UP ON HER  
YET..."*

HAWKINS

You're trying to appeal to the fan  
in me. Well, it won't work. I'm not  
a fan anymore.

INT. BROADWAY THEATRE -- NIGHT (1998)

Hawkins watches with a huge enchanted grin on his face as Dee  
Dee does "The Lady's Improving" onstage with six MALE  
DANCERS, also in tuxedos.

DEE DEE

*"THE LADY'S IMPROVING, SO MUCH THAT  
SHE GLOATS, I KNOW YOU'VE GOT  
STANDARDS FEEL FREE TO GIVE NOTES!"*

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HAWKINS' OFFICE -- RESUME SCENE

Dee Dee continues her Broadway choreography, it segues  
perfectly as she twirls into him.

DEE DEE

*"THERE ISN'T AN ISSUE, AND THAT'S  
WHY I WISH YOU COULD SEE THERE'S NO  
REASON TO FRET, SO I'M BEGGING YOU  
SIR, DON'T GIVE UP ON HER YET..."*

HAWKINS

Seriously, Dee Dee, this is  
unsettling. It's like a fantasy I  
don't want to have.

DEE DEE

*"EVERYBODY THINKS THAT I'VE GOT  
SOME KINKS THAT I'LL NEVER WORK  
OUT, EVEN YOU'RE INCLINED TO THINK  
I'M UNREFINED..."*

INT. BROADWAY THEATRE -- NIGHT (1998)

DEE DEE

*"BUT I PROMISE WITH SOME TIME, THAT  
MY APTITUDE WILL CLIMB, AND YOU'LL  
LEAVE YOUR DOUBTS AND DISBELIEFS  
BEHIND..."*



INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HAWKINS' OFFICE -- RESUME SCENE

DEE DEE

*"THE LADY'S IMPROVING, REMOVING ALL  
DOUBT, SHE HAS HIDDEN CHARMS THAT  
ARE SURE TO COME OUT, YOU'RE BOUND  
TO DISCOVER THIS BOOKS NOT HER  
COVER, SO DON'T MAKE A MOVE YOU'LL  
REGRET..."*

INT. BROADWAY THEATRE -- NIGHT (1998)

DEE DEE

*"SO I'M BEGGING YOU SIR, NO  
RENEGING ON HER..."*

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HAWKINS' OFFICE -- RESUME SCENE

DEE DEE

*"DON'T GIVE UP ON HER YET!"*

End of song. A beat. Silence, then --

HAWKINS

Okay. I admit. That got to me.

DEE DEE

You see? I'm not a lost cause. That was an entirely selfless act. Most people would pay premium prices for that and you just got it pro bono.

HAWKINS

Okay. Not charging someone for an apology is not a selfless act.

DEE DEE

Well, what the fuck?!

HAWKINS

If you want people to like you instead of hate you, you have to be good. A good person. You have to put other people's interests before your own.

DEE DEE

You don't understand. I am a celebrity! It's all about me and it has been for years! That's the whole point of celebrity. I need to be de-programmed.

(MORE)

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

I have to *unlearn* things like  
shoving and taking, and *learn*  
things like smiling and tipping.  
And I need help to do that. I need  
a teacher. Please?

HAWKINS

Let's go somewhere and talk about  
how to be good human beings.

DEE DEE

Apples and bees?

Off his smile --

INT. EDGEWATER MALL -- DAY

A group of students, including Shelby and Kaylee, are hanging  
out and about in the FOOD COURT.

KAYLEE

I saw it on CNN. They said,  
"Edgewater Indiana overflows with  
bigotry." They talked about us like  
we're monsters.

SHELBY

I saw a Fox News van drive down my  
street yesterday.

KAYLEE

At least they're on our side.

Trent approaches them.

KEVIN

Look! It's that guy from "Talk to  
the Hand."

NICK

What are you doing here?

TRENT

Just out for a walk. Enjoying the  
sweet and fetid scent of Americana.  
I'm from a small town myself, you  
know.

NICK

We're not interested.

The kids start to leave. He follows them, down an ESCALATOR  
to a fountain sitting area below.

TRENT

Look, there's an ideological divide between us, and I think if we got to know each other, we might be able to bridge it. I'll begin. I'm an actor. My instrument was forged in the fiery furnace that is Juilliard. I'm sure your drama teacher has told you of that institution?

SECOND STUDENT

We don't have a drama program.

TRENT

Ah. That explains your general lack of empathy. What about you?

KAYLEE

Me?

TRENT

Who are you?

KAYLEE

Kaylee.

TRENT

No, that's your name. Who are you? Let's say I am to play Kaylee in "The Story of Kaylee." Help me prepare.

KAYLEE

Uh... I'm a girl. A teenager. I'm a cheerleader.

TRENT

And why do you hate homosexuals?

KAYLEE

Hey! I'm a good person! Right, Shelby?

SHELBY

We all are.

FIRST STUDENT

We go to church.

FIFTH STUDENT

We're Christians.

TRENT

Ah! Okay. Now we're getting somewhere. This is something I know about. Christians follow the teachings of Christ, correct?

ALL

Yeah...

TRENT

I've played Jesus Christ on three separate occasions. I've been crucified three times; twelve if you include the reviews. I got to know J.C. very well. I don't believe he hated anyone, let alone gays.

SECOND STUDENT

But the Bible says homosexuality is wrong. And we follow the Bible.

TRENT

Okay. Well, I'm pretty sure there are rules in the Bible that you guys are breaking every day.

KAYLEE

Well, that's different.

TRENT

Is it? You can't cherry-pick the Bible, choosing which parts you want to believe.

KAYLEE

We don't do that.

TRENT

You don't? What's this?

(then)

*"KAYLEE HAS A SMALL TATTOO, THAT TATTOO WOULD BE TABOO, KAYLEE GUESS WHAT WAITS FOR YOU, AN ETERNITY IN THE FIERY PITS OF HELL!"*

KAYLEE

Hey!

TRENT

*"SHELBY YOU SEEM SWEET TO ME, BUT IF IT HAS COME TO BE, YOU'VE LOST YOUR VIRGINITY, WE'LL BE STONING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS WELL..."*

SHELBY

What?

TRENT

*"OR WE COULD USE SOME COMMON SENSE  
INSTEAD, WHEN YOU'RE LOST IT ALWAYS  
HELPS RECALLING, THOSE IMMORTAL  
WORDS THAT JESUS SAID, THERE'S ONE  
RULE THAT TRUMPS THEM ALL. LOVE THY  
NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE  
THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS THEM ALL. LOVE  
THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR,  
LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS THEM  
ALL..."*

SHELBY

You know, you make a lot of sense.

KAYLEE

What are you talking about?

SHELBY

You don't feel even slightly bad  
for Emma? You guys used to hang  
out.

KAYLEE

That was before she turned gay.

SHELBY

Well, maybe she was always gay.

TRENT

Exactly. Because that's how God  
made her, Shelby!

KIDS

(ad libs)

Oh, that's crap. Come on.

The cast of Godspell exits the convenience store with some  
beers.

GODSPELL CAST MEMBER

Hey Trent. What's going on?

TRENT

It's the guys from Godspell!  
They'll back me up.

SECOND GODSPELL CAST MEMBER

(to Trent)

What kind of white nonsense are you  
starting now?

NICK

He's trying to confuse us! My step-dad always says...

TRENT

Step-dad? You mean your parents are divorced?

NICK

Yeah, so?

TRENT

Oh, divorce is a big no-no...

*"NOT TO OVERSIMPLIFY, BUT THE SCRIPTURE DOES IMPLY, THAT YOUR MOM WILL HAVE TO DIE, HOW'S TOMORROW IF SHE'S NOT GOT ANY PLANS? THERE'S NO WAY TO SEPARATE, WHICH RULES YOU CAN VIOLATE, LET'S HOPE YOU DON'T MASTURBATE, 'CAUSE THE SCRIPTURE SAYS WE'LL HAVE TO CUT OFF YOUR HANDS..."*

*"OR WE COULD USE SOME COMMON SENSE INSTEAD, WHEN YOU'RE LOST IT ALWAYS HELPS RECALLING, THOSE IMMORTAL WORDS THAT JESUS SAID..."*

TRENT & GODSPELL CAST

*"THERE'S ONE RULE THAT TRUMPS THEM ALL...LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS THEM ALL. LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS THEM ALL..."*

SHELBY

*"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR..."*

SIXTH STUDENT

*"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS THEM ALL..."*

More cheers.

SECOND STUDENT

*"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR..."*

TRENT

*"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR..."*

KAYLEE

*"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR..."*

ALL

"TRUMPS THEM ALL!"

TRENT & ENSEMBLE

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY  
NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS  
THEM ALL..."

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY  
NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR..."

TRENT

"TRUMPS THEM ALL..."

TRENT (CONT'D)

"TIME TO MAKE SOME BETTER CHOICES,  
DROP THE HATE AND LIFT YOUR  
VOICES..."

ENSEMBLE

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR IS THE ONE THAT  
TRUMPS THEM ALL, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR,  
LOVE THY NEIGHBOR..."

TRENT

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, JESUS TAKE THE  
WHEEL AND STEER IT, IF YOU FEEL THE  
HOLY SPIRIT, COME ON, KIDS AND LET  
ME HEAR IT..."

ENSEMBLE

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY  
NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS  
THEM ALL..."

TRENT

"ALL!"

ALL

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY  
NEIGHBOR, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR TRUMPS  
THEM ALL!"

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- OUTSIDE CAFETERIA -- DAY

Alyssa waits nervously for Emma after school. Emma appears.

ALYSSA

Hi. Thanks for meeting me. I was  
afraid that you wouldn't --

EMMA

What do you want?

ALYSSA

Wow. Okay. I guess I want to say  
I'm sorry for what happened.

EMMA

Were you in on it?

ALYSSA

I didn't even know about it until I  
got there!

EMMA

Nobody told you? What about your  
BFF's Shelby and Kaylee? They  
didn't mention anything about the  
big plan?

ALYSSA

They are not my friends!

EMMA

Okay, so your mother then? She was  
behind the whole thing.

ALYSSA

Emma. You know me.

EMMA

Do I? What is this? What are we?

ALYSSA

You know what we are.

EMMA

No I don't. Maybe I'm some kind of  
an experiment? Or you're just  
trying to piss off your mother?

ALYSSA

Stop. Stop it.

EMMA

Do you know what it was like  
standing there in that stupid dress  
alone in the gym? Knowing that  
people got together and planned the  
best way to hurt me? To humiliate  
me? The only way it could have been  
worse is if a bucket of pig's blood  
fell on my head.

ALYSSA

It must have been awful.



EMMA

It was. But the worst part -- the worst part was that you didn't come. Even though you knew what happened, you didn't come and you know, hold my hand. Or take me out of there.

ALYSSA

I couldn't.

EMMA

Why?

ALYSSA

You know what my mother's like. She's a complete and total control freak.

(then)

*"THE HAIR HAS TO BE PERFECT, THE  
"A'S" HAVE TO BE STRAIGHT...."*

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- CLASSROOM -- DAY

Alyssa paces, making a presentation on global warming with a PowerPoint presentation, as her mother beams in the audience.

ALYSSA

*"YOU HAVE TO JOIN THE DEBATE CLUB,  
ON THAT THERE'S NO DEBATE...YOU'LL  
HAVE BIBLE CAMP EACH SUMMER, TO  
KEEP YOU PURE AND CLEAN, ENDLESS  
RULES APPLY, WHEN YOU'RE ALYSSA  
GREENE..."*

EXT. HORSE RIDING RING -- DAY

Alyssa jumps over obstacles on her white stallion.

ALYSSA

*"TROPHIES HAVE TO BE FIRST PLACE,  
RIBBONS HAVE TO BE BLUE...THERE'S  
ALWAYS SOME COMPETITION, OR HOOPS  
FOR JUMPING THROUGH..."*

Her mother watches, wistful.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- FOOTBALL FIELD -- NIGHT

Alyssa is crowned homecoming queen as everyone watches three convertibles drive different homecoming kings and queens around the field.

ALYSSA  
"YOUR MOM'S MADE SACRIFICES, SO WIN  
HOMECOMING QUEEN, CAUSE IT'S DO OR  
DIE, WHEN YOU'RE ALYSSA GREENE..."

INT. PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

ALYSSA  
"AND YOU WISH THERE WAS A WORLD  
WHERE YOU WERE SIMPLY FREE TO LIVE,  
AND WHEN PEOPLE CRITICIZED YOU  
YOU HAD NO MORE SHITS TO GIVE. AND  
IN THIS OTHER LIFETIME, WHEN YOU  
TELL YOURSELF "BE BRAVE," YOU WON'T  
CAVE, THAT'S THE ONE THING I TRULY  
CRAVE..."

INT. ALYSSA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Alyssa weighs herself as her mother writes down the lb loss.

ALYSSA  
"BUT YOUR FEELINGS HAVE TO BE  
PHONY, YOUR WEIGHT HAS TO BE  
TRACKED..."

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- FOOTBALL FIELD -- DAY

Alyssa beams, the perfect cheerleader, in formation while  
football players practice on the field.

ALYSSA  
"IF YOU DON'T LIKE SHAKING POM-  
POMS, YOU'D BETTER LEARN TO ACT.  
JUST HAVE EVERYTHING PERFECTED  
BY THE TIME YOU REACH EIGHTEEN,  
DON'T ASK HOW OR WHY, WHEN YOU'RE  
ALYSSA GREENE..."

EXT. PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

ALYSSA  
"IMPROVE ALL OF YOUR STRONG POINTS  
AND HIDE THINGS THAT YOU LACK,  
CAUSE MOM'S CONVINCED IF YOU'RE  
PERFECT, YOUR FATHER MIGHT COME  
BACK. YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF, YOU'RE  
NOT WHAT SHE WANTS, YOU'RE SOMEONE  
IN BETWEEN...YOUR WHOLE LIFE'S A  
LIE, WHEN YOU'RE ALYSSA GREENE..."

EMMA  
I'm going to go public and tell my  
story. Will you do it with me?

ALYSSA  
I want to, but...

EMMA  
Yeah, wanting to is not enough. I believe that you have feelings for me, but I can't do this anymore. It hurts too much.

ALYSSA  
Is this... are you breaking up with me?

EMMA  
I guess I am, yeah. Bye.

Emma leaves.

ALYSSA  
*"YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF, YOU'RE NOT  
WHAT SHE WANTS, YOU'RE SOMEONE IN  
BETWEEN..."*

FADE OUT:

INT. MOTEL LOBBY AREA -- DAY

Sheldon is on a phone call. Barry and Angie wait eagerly.

SHELDON  
I get it, Frank. I understand.  
Thanks for trying.  
(hangs up)  
That's it. I got nothing.

BARRY  
Nothing?

SHELDON  
Look, everybody's booked. Give me a month or two and maybe I could get her to sit down with Judy Woodruff.

BARRY  
Judy Woodruff? She's on PBS. Nobody watches PBS. You might as well have her sit down with a rock in a box.

ANGIE  
So we're sunk?

BARRY  
Yep. We blew it again.

Hawkins and Dee Dee enter.

HAWKINS  
Hi everyone.

DEE DEE  
It's okay. Tom knows what we're up to.

HAWKINS  
I'm on board, as long as Emma is comfortable with it.

SHELDON  
Well, she's outta luck. I tried, believe me. I kissed so much ass, I can't feel my face! But I got zip. I'm sorry.

Hawkins clears his throat and looks at Dee Dee.

HAWKINS  
It's not over yet. Dee Dee?

DEE DEE  
I have arranged a TV appearance for her.

BARRY  
What?

DEE DEE  
On Eddie Sharpe. She's booked for tomorrow at 8. It'll be a live feed from the local news station.

BARRY  
Not the house in the Hamptons?

DEE DEE  
Yes.

INT. DEE DEE'S HOTEL ROOM -- FLASHBACK -- NIGHT

Dee Dee paces, looks at her cell phone, paces. She lands. Picks up the phone. Dials. A beat. She's very nervous, then --

DEE DEE  
Eddie? Hi. It's...Dee Dee.  
(a beat)  
Yes, that Dee Dee.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

Yes, your horrible ex wife who has hated you with the energy of a thousand burning suns for over a decade and has made numerous threats against your life.

INT. MOTEL LOBBY AREA -- RESUME

DEE DEE

What I did was I put her interests ahead of mine, and I expect nothing in return. I have no agenda other than easing someone else's burden.

ANGIE

That was incredibly generous of you.

BARRY

Sheldon? What kind of an audience are we talking about?

SHELDON

Eddie Sharpe? On a weekday? Maybe 16 million.

BARRY

Dee Dee! You've saved the day!

DEE DEE

I know. I love giving back, it's my new thing.

Emma enters.

EMMA

Hey.

BARRY

Emma! Wait til you hear the news. Dee Dee got you on Eddie Sharpe. Tomorrow at 8. That's an audience of 16 million!

EMMA

Wow. That's amazing. Thank you.

DEE DEE

I'm glad I could help. Everything I do from now on comes from a place of love.

EMMA

I'm going to take a stand and I want to thank you all, because without your love and support I never would have found the courage. But... um... the reason I came was to tell you that I'm going to do it my way. I'm not going on TV.

There is a pause while everyone processes this.

DEE DEE

You owe me a fucking house!

Dee Dee lunges at Emma, screaming. Hawkins, Sheldon and Angie leap to restrain Dee Dee. Barry shields Emma.

HAWKINS & BARRY & SHELDON

(ad libs)

Whoa! Whoa! Take it easy!

SHELDON

Get her outta here!

Hawkins, Sheldon and Angie wrestle Dee Dee out the door as Barry quickly walks away with Emma towards the cafe. WE TRAVEL with THEM, still seeing Dee Dee kicking in the background.

BARRY

She's a very passionate woman.

EMMA

Yeah. TV's just not my thing. I have a plan, and it's a good plan. I just need time to work on it a bit.

INT. MOTEL CAFE -- CONTINUOUS

As they sit --

EMMA

Don't worry. I'm not giving up.  
(beat)  
I'm sorry.

BARRY

Hey, honey, we screwed things up every step of the way. If you have a plan, I have faith. You're smarter than all of us put together.

(MORE)

BARRY (CONT'D)

I just wish there was a Prom  
waiting for you at the end of all  
this.

EMMA

I've been giving this a lot of  
thought. I still believe everybody  
has good in them, it's just with  
some people you have to scrape away  
the crap to see it. So. This is  
what's going to happen: I'm going  
to do my thing, and in the end,  
there will be a kick ass Prom in  
Edgewater Indiana for everybody,  
regardless of who they happen to  
love. I know it.

BARRY

That would be wonderful.

EMMA

And when that happens I want you to  
be my date.

BARRY

What? What about --

EMMA

We broke up. Just say yes. There's  
no one in the world I'd rather go  
with.

BARRY

Don't make me cry. I look so  
fat...when I cry.

(they hug, then --)

Yes. I'll go with you. Can I wear  
my silver tux? The one I never  
wore? I still have it. Of course it  
needs major renovations. But I  
could have it FedExed.

EMMA

Well, you better because we are  
goin' to Prom!

She exits.

BARRY

I can't believe it.

He starts to move through the lobby, alone, stunned.

BARRY (CONT'D)

*"I'M ODDLY EXCITED, PERHAPS THAT'S BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULDN'T MATTER, IT SOMEHOW DOES...IT'S STRANGE BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M IN A TIME MACHINE, 'CAUSE GUESS WHAT IT'S LIKE I'M SUDDENLY SEVENTEEN, SO BOOK A WHITE LIMO, UNCORK THE DOM, AFTER TWENTY-NINE YEARS I'M FINALLY GOING TO PROM..."*

EXT. LIMO -- NIGHT

Barry's head pops out of the moon roof. He's in his silver tux.

BARRY

*"I ONCE THOUGHT A NIGHT LIKE THIS WASN'T IN THE CARDS, NOW I'VE GOT A DATE, A TUX AND THE WHOLE NINE YARDS, A RATIONAL PERSON WOULD JUST STAY CALM, SINCE WHEN AM I RATIONAL? BARRY IS GOING TO PROM THE PROM!"*

INT. GRANDMA BEA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Barry approaches his YOUNGER SELF. It's very moving.

BARRY

*"I WISH I COULD TELL THAT SAD KID I WAS, TO STOP CRYING INTO HIS CHEETOS, THEY SAY, 'IT GETS BETTER!' GUESS WHAT? IT DOES! WHO CARES IF YOU'RE A BIG OLD GIRL, JUST GO TO THAT GYM AND TWIRL!"*

They TWIRL and we MATCH CUT TO:

INT. PROM -- NIGHT

Barry and his YOUNGER SELF cut a rug through the crowd that once shunned him.

BARRY

*"BARRY'S GOING TO THE...TO THE FRIGGIN' PROM! IN SHOWBIZ I NEVER FELT SUCH A THRILL DIVINE, MY DATE IS A HIGH SCHOOL LESBIAN, STILL IT'S FINE. AND THOUGH IT'S BEEN YEARS, I MIGHT CALL MY MOM, AND TELL HER THAT THOUGH IT'S OVERDUE, ALL OF MY WAITING'S OVER, TOO..."*



He pulls out his cell phone, calls up MOM.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
"AND IF YOU'RE NOT HAPPY, I'M OVER  
YOU, 'CAUSE BARRY, YES BARRY, LOOK  
AT ME MOM, BARRY'S GOING TO PROM!"

SMASH TO:

INT. BARRY'S MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Barry plops into frame, phone in his hand, about to dial Mom.  
But he still can't. Off his pain, we SLOW PAN OUT.

INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Emma sits on her bed. She has her laptop propped in front of  
her and she is holding a guitar. She clears her throat and  
presses a key on her laptop.

EMMA  
Hello Interweb. Okay. Well. My name  
is Emma Nolan; I'm a 17-year-old  
girl and I'm a lesbian. Maybe you  
heard about the fake prom in  
Indiana? Well, that was me. It was  
truly awful in every way. I was  
feeling sorry for myself, but then  
after talking with some friends I  
decided to take all that awfulness  
and maybe make something good out  
of it. So I wrote this song for all  
the people out there, who just love  
someone in a way that the rest of  
the world can't understand. I'm  
sure we've all got stories to tell.  
Here's mine.

Emma sings, accompanying herself on guitar.

EMMA (CONT'D)  
"SOME HEARTS CAN CONFORM, FITTING  
THE NORM, FLAUNTING THEIR LOVE FOR  
ALL TO SEE...I TRIED TO CHANGE  
THINKING HOW EASY LIFE COULD BE..."

"I JUST KEPT ON FAILING, I GUESS  
THAT WAS A SIGN, THAT THERE WASN'T  
MUCH HOPE, FOR THIS UNRULY HEART OF  
MINE..."

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

"THEN YOU CAME ALONG, AND RIGHT OR  
WRONG, FEELINGS BEGAN TO OVERFLOW,  
WE HAD TO HIDE, THINKING THAT NO  
ONE ELSE COULD KNOW..."

"AND NOT HAVING YOU NEAR ME WAS  
WHERE I DREW THE LINE, SO I HAD TO  
CONCEAL THIS POOR UNRULY HEART OF  
MINE..."

"AND THOUGH I DON'T KNOW HOW OR  
WHEN, BUT SOMEHOW I LEARNED TO SEE,  
NO MATTER WHAT THE WORLD MIGHT SAY,  
THIS HEART IS THE BEST PART OF ME..  
SO FEAR'S ALL IN THE PAST, FADING  
SO FAST, I WON'T STAY HIDDEN  
ANYMORE, I'M WHO I AM AND I THINK  
THAT'S WORTH FIGHTING FOR..."

"AND NOBODY OUT THERE EVER GETS TO  
DEFINE, THE LIFE I'M MEANT TO LEAD  
WITH THIS UNRULY HEART OF MINE."

Other VIDEO TESTIMONIALS begin to come up on other STUDENTS  
who are clearly connecting with Emma's story.

FIRST STUDENT

Hi Emma. Loved your video. Where do  
I start?

SECOND STUDENT

I think my parents always knew.

THIRD STUDENT

Nothing made sense until him.

FOURTH STUDENT

She's the best thing in my life.

FIFTH STUDENT

The only good thing.

SIXTH STUDENT

But we're always hiding.

FIRST STUDENT

You're not the only one.

(then)

"AND THOUGH I DON'T KNOW HOW OR  
WHEN..."

SECOND STUDENT

"BUT SOMEHOW I LEARNED TO SEE..."

THIRD STUDENT & FIFTH STUDENT  
*"NO MATTER WHAT THE WORLD MIGHT  
SAY..."*

ALL  
*"THIS HEART IS THE BEST PART OF  
ME..."*

ALL (CONT'D)  
*"SO FEAR'S ALL IN THE PAST, FADING  
SO FAST, I WON'T STAY HIDDEN  
ANYMORE, I'M WHO I AM, AND I THINK  
THAT'S WORTH FIGHTING FOR..."*  
*"AND NOBODY OUT THERE, EVER GETS TO  
DEFINE, THE LIFE I'M MEANT TO LEAD  
WITH THIS UNRULY HEART OF MINE,  
MINE!"*

EMMA  
*"AND NOBODY OUT THERE, EVER GETS TO  
DEFINE, THE LIFE I'M MEANT TO LEAD  
WITH THIS UNRULY HEART OF MINE."*

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- HAWKINS' OFFICE -- NIGHT

Hawkins is showing Barry, Dee Dee, Angie and Trent the video on his laptop.

BARRY  
This video is killing me. This is worse than the one about the guy being reunited with the lion he raised from a cub. It's too much! This is all too much!

HAWKINS  
Yep. I wanted to make sure you'd seen it. I've never been more proud.

TRENT  
How many people have seen that video?

HAWKINS  
6,548,208. It goes up every time I look.

DEE DEE  
How are the town folk reacting?

HAWKINS

Well, she got through to them. You can feel the tide turning. Especially with the kids.

BARRY

Great. So, when's the Prom?

HAWKINS

There's no money left.

DEE DEE

What do you mean?

HAWKINS

We already paid for a Prom, remember? This is a town in crisis, you must have noticed that. Still, a miracle might happen. It's early.

BARRY

Okay people. This is it. It's Mickey and Judy time. This is where we roll up our sleeves and build this girl a Prom with our bare hands. I don't care if we decorate that gym with our own blood and hair -- Emma is getting the prom she deserves!

DEE DEE

Wait. What are we talking about here? How much does a Prom cost?

HAWKINS

Well, it won't be a school sanctioned event, so we'll have to pay a rental fee for the gym. Let's see: say 400 kids -- food, a DJ, lighting...I'd say about \$30,000.

BARRY

(handing Hawkins his credit card)

Here. You can charge up to 10,000. That's my limit. It's a long story, but I had to declare bankruptcy after my self-produced "Notes on a Scandal."

HAWKINS

10 thousand. You really want to do that?

BARRY

Listen, we failed at the abstract singing and speechifying. This is concrete. This is buying. This is the American way.

ANGIE

(handing Hawkins her card)  
What the hell. I think I got about 2 left on my card.

TRENT

(handing Hawkins his card)  
Try a thousand.

BARRY

What are we looking at now?

HAWKINS

Um... Well I can add 500. That's about half.

Barry looks at Dee Dee.

DEE DEE

What?

BARRY

Come on. I know you have an American Express Black card. There's no limit on that baby.

DEE DEE

No. No please. I've already lost a 2.3 million dollar house!

BARRY

So this is nothing! Come on, Eleanor!

DEE DEE

(hands Hawkins her card)  
Oh why does being good cost so much money?

HAWKINS

Well done, Dee Dee. Okay. We're fully financed!

Everyone cheers, Dee Dee weakly.

BARRY

Let's give this girl a prom!

Barry goes. Dee Dee stops him, leading him into the hallway.

DEE DEE

Barry. Wait. I need to talk to you about something. It's pressing.

BARRY

What?

DEE DEE

Look, I did a lot of thinking. That thing you and I talked about --

BARRY

How 'Starlight Express' is an overlooked gem and deserves a major revival like, *NOW???*

DEE DEE

I mean how if you don't deal with your past, you're not going to be able to move on in love or in *life*--

BARRY

Is that all in 'Starlight Express'?

DEE DEE

(blurting it out)  
I called your mother.

BARRY

(flabbergasted)  
What? How?

DEE DEE

I found her number on your phone.

BARRY

But. How did you know my password?

DEE DEE

I guessed. 9-4-81. Beyonce's birthday. Got it on the first try.

BARRY

Dee Dee -- *why would you call her?*

DEE DEE

Because I knew you couldn't do it on your own.

BARRY

(a beat, then)  
Well -- what did she say?

DEE DEE  
I should let her tell you that.

She turns, revealing VERA, Midwestern and soft and sweet.

VERA  
Hi, Barry.

Overwhelmed, Barry retreats, hardening.

BARRY  
No. This is not fair. You don't get  
to *do* this. You don't get to just  
*show* up out of nowhere--

VERA  
I came all this way, Barry. It took  
me half an hour on the Interstate  
to get here all the way from Ohio --

BARRY  
Well, you can turn around and go  
back.

VERA  
(gently)  
You called *me*. Didn't you. That was  
you who called and hung up, wasn't  
it?

(then, emotional)  
I handled this all wrong, honey,  
and I'm so sorry. Your father and  
I, when you told us -- I can't even  
remember what we said -- but  
whatever it was, clearly it was  
wrong because it drove you away.

BARRY  
You told me I needed to see a  
*therapist*. Which I *DO* -- but not  
about *THAT*. Do you have any idea  
how much that hurt? And how *insane*  
it sounds now?

VERA  
(fighting emotion)  
Yes! Now it does! But back then --  
and I know it wasn't even that long  
ago -- when you told us what you  
were, *WHO* you were, your father and  
I -- we were scared! We hardly knew  
what *GAY* meant! All we knew was how  
hard your life was going to be!

(MORE)

VERA (CONT'D)

And we wanted you to have *children* -  
- which you can *do* now, and it's  
*wonderful!* But back then, we both  
thought that we'd failed you  
somehow, like maybe it was *our*  
fault. For YEARS, I have asked  
myself the haunting question  
"should I have taken Barry to see  
Barbra Streisand in *The Prince of*  
*Tides*"?

Barry resists, not letting his guard down.

BARRY

So *NOW* it's okay. Now that gay is  
'*normal*' to you, it's okay. What *I*  
needed from you was to be my mother  
who *didn't* know it was okay yet and  
who *loved me anyway!* You think you  
were scared? How do you think *I*  
felt???

VERA

I know! I *know* that I failed you,  
Barry! That will be on my heart til  
the day I die. All I can say now is  
that I was wrong and I'm sorry and  
every one of my prayers is asking  
God for you to forgive me...

BARRY

What about Dad? Why didn't he come?

VERA

(pained)

He's not -- he's just not there  
yet, I'm sorry to say. But I know  
in my heart that with some  
forgiveness from you -- someday  
very soon...he will be.

Barry bursts into tears. She does too as he falls into her  
arms.

VERA (CONT'D)

Barry, I'm so sorry. I missed you  
so much -- please forgive me...

BARRY

I missed you, too, Mom. I forgive  
you...

They look at one another, raw, wounded, but now whole.



VERA

I hear you're putting on a Prom. I wonder if you might need a chaperone sort of person...to guard the punch bowl and smile a whole lot?

BARRY

Yeah, I'd like that...

He takes her by the arm and leads her away.

INT. MRS. GREENE AND ALYSSA'S HOME -- DAY

Alyssa watches Emma's video on her phone.

MRS. GREENE

Aren't you tired of watching that?

ALYSSA

8 million people have seen it. 8 million people.

MRS. GREENE

Well, she got the attention she wanted, didn't she? I just don't understand it.

ALYSSA

What?

MRS. GREENE

This need to share everything about yourself with strangers.

ALYSSA

I think it's brave. You know, the kids are saying that there will be another prom. Somebody's offered to pay for it.

MRS. GREENE

Who?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- INTERCUT

We see Emma, Barry, Dee Dee, Vera, Trent, Sheldon and Angie gathering in the empty gym, decoration underway. INTERCUT:

EMMA

(excitedly)

This is so generous of you guys.

BARRY

Well, after you broke the Interweb  
we had to do something.

INT. MRS. GREENE AND ALYSSA'S HOME -- INTERCUT

ALYSSA

Can we talk?

MRS. GREENE

I have a lot on my plate today,  
honey. I'm supposed to show a house  
at 3, but I may have to cancel if  
this rumor is true.

ALYSSA

Things are getting really crazy.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- INTERCUT

EMMA

It was crazy! The number kept going  
up. And then the Indiana Star  
called, then the Washington Post.  
And now they want me to go on TV,  
which I absolutely do not want to  
do. But they said it's PBS, which  
is like smart TV. Do you know Judy  
Woodruff?

ALL

(ad-libs)

Oh yeah. She's huge.

INT. MRS. GREENE AND ALYSSA'S HOME -- INTERCUT

ALYSSA

Mom. We need to talk about what's  
really going on here. We can't keep  
avoiding this. I love you, and the  
stupid thing is, I think you know  
what I'm going to say --

MRS. GREENE

Stop it! I'm sorry. I'm sorry, but  
this is not who you really are.  
Whatever you're feeling right now  
is because of those people. They're  
putting these ideas in your head  
and they're turning me into someone  
I don't want to be. I'm sick of all  
this. Come. We're going to end this  
now.

ALYSSA

No. I'm not going with you. I don't want to be any part of your shit anymore!

Alyssa storms off. Mrs. Greene exits.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- RESUME

Hawkins enters the gym.

EMMA

Oh my God. Can I just say you guys are the best middle-aged people I have ever met?

BARRY

Hold up for a minute. We need to talk. I think it's important that you know exactly why we came down here.

EMMA

It wasn't for the Hoosier pie?

BARRY

That's delicious, but that's not what I'm talking about. Listen. We got blasted in the Times. They said we were narcissists. In a big, bold font. And it hurt, I guess because they were right.

EMMA

Aren't all actors narcissists?

DEE DEE

Yes, but we were *really* good at it. Anyway, we decided to look for a cause to take on, you know, to give us credibility. Maybe get us a little good press.

TRENT

We thought about building houses with Habitat for Humanity...

BARRY

...but we don't actually know how to build anything.

ANGIE

Then I found you on Twitter. It was just dumb luck.

BARRY

So maybe we're not the best middle-aged people out there, is what I'm saying.

EMMA

Well, sorry to tell you this but you're going to build something. You're going to build a prom. Hundreds of kids like me are coming. I think you got your credibility.

Barry and Emma hug. At that moment --

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Greene bursts in, followed by some PARENTS and STUDENTS.

MRS. GREENE

Stop this. Who gave you people permission to be here?

HAWKINS

I did.

MRS. GREENE

You don't have that right.

HAWKINS

I do, actually. This is a community space --

MRS. GREENE

You should have consulted the PTA.

HAWKINS

This is not a school event. I'm not obliged to get the PTA's approval.

BARRY

Listen to me, this Prom is happening and there's not a damn thing you can do about it.

Mrs. Greene ignores Barry and goes after Hawkins.

MRS. GREENE

I'm going to make this as clear as I possibly can. Your beliefs are not our beliefs. I am proud of who we are and if I have to sue you all to stop this defamation I will. We do not want this.

TRENT

We?

MRS. GREENE

This community.

TRENT

The young people, your children,  
they are part of your community,  
correct? Perhaps we should ask them  
what they want.

All turn to face the crowd of students. Shelby steps forward.  
She approaches Emma.

SHELBY

Emma, I was a jerk. I'm sorry. You  
deserve to go to Prom just like any  
other kid.

Shelby hugs Emma.

EMMA

What? I thought you hated me. I  
thought you all hated me.

TRENT

Oh, they hated you all right. They  
hated you with a burning passion  
stoked by centuries of intolerance  
and a lack of a drama program.

Kaylee joins Shelby.

KAYLEE

That guy from "Talk to the Hand"  
really opened our eyes. I'm sorry  
too, Emma.

(to Trent)

You explain things really well. You  
should be, like, a teacher.

SHELBY

Oh! You should be our drama  
teacher!

STUDENTS

(ad libs)

Yeah! Definitely!

The Students all gather around Trent.

TRENT

Really? Fair warning: I do tend to pontificate...

KAYLEE

We could listen to you talk all day!

TRENT

Then yes!

(as they cheer --)

Well, it looks like you don't represent the beliefs of everyone in our community.

MRS. GREENE

(to the other parents)

This is exactly what I warned you about.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL -- GYM -- CONTINUOUS

Alyssa appears at the door.

MRS. GREENE

No. Children are impressionable. If we expose them to inappropriate behavior they'll... they'll...

ALYSSA

Mom.

MRS. GREENE

Alyssa.

ALYSSA

You have to stop talking for a minute and listen, okay? People don't turn gay. They are who they are.

MRS. GREENE

You don't know what you're saying.

ALYSSA

I do. I know how you were raised, but the world's a different place now. It's not great, but it's better because of people who had the courage to be themselves. People like her.

(pointing to Emma)

I don't want to hurt you. I don't want to hurt anyone.

(MORE)

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

I just want to be me. So here goes...

(To Emma)

I love you, Emma Nolan.

EMMA

Holy shit.

The Students react.

TRENT

Class, class. Settle down, class.

MRS. GREENE

Alyssa. You're confused. You're young and you don't know --

BARRY

(to Mrs. Greene)

If you don't let her be who she is, you're going to lose her. You're going to lose your daughter.

VERA

(with emotion)

He's right. Trust me. I know what I'm talking about.

Mrs. Greene turns.

MRS. GREENE

I just don't want you to have a hard life.

ALYSSA

It's already hard.

Mrs. Greene pauses.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Mom?

MRS. GREENE

(to Alyssa)

We'll talk tonight, okay?

ALYSSA

Okay.

Mrs. Greene exits. PUSH IN on Barry, moved. A beat, he follows her out. Dee Dee tries to rally the troops.

DEE DEE

Okay everybody...let's make this  
place pretty. We've got a prom to  
put on.

As everyone busies themselves and Emma and Alyssa hug through  
tears at her huge coming out moment, we DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

Barry comforts Mrs. Greene, sings to her. Dee Dee comes up at  
the end and encourages Mrs. Greene to support her daughter.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM -- NIGHT

The big finish. It's really happening.

We find a REAR VIEW OF Emma and Alyssa, holding hands,  
walking through PASTEL COLORED ROOMS of LIGHT. Pink, then  
baby blue, yellow...it's the most romantic thing ever.

As music swells they move together through a RAINBOW COLORED  
TUBE OF LIGHT. It's stirring, moving.

Finally, they come out of the light to reveal they are in the  
INCLUSIVE PROM. They look up and around. It's a marvel.

ALYSSA

I'm so proud of you. Look what you  
did.

EMMA

I can't believe it.

Holding hands they drift through the elaborate space. But  
there are no people yet.

ALYSSA

I think we're early.

EMMA

Yeah, looks that way. Wanna hit up  
the punch bowl or --

ALYSSA

No.

(beat)

There's only one thing I want to  
do.

The music begins. The LIGHTS DIM and a SPOTLIGHT finds Alyssa  
and Emma in the middle of the gym.



ALYSSA (CONT'D)

"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU, LET  
THE WHOLE WORLD MELT AWAY AND DANCE  
WITH YOU..."

EMMA & ALYSSA

"WHO CARES WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY?  
AND WHEN WERE THROUGH, NO ONE CAN  
CONVINCE US WE WERE WRONG, ALL IT  
TAKES IS YOU AND ME..."

EMMA

"AND A SONG..."

ALYSSA

"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU..."

EMMA

"LET THE WHOLE WORLD MET AWAY AND  
DANCE..."

ALYSSA

"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU..."

They take a beat, there is a rustle of activity.

EMMA

I think our first prom goers have  
arrived.

ANGLE: Dee Dee, Barry, Trent, Angie and Hawkins arrive in  
their prom best. They are dazzling. They look around, amazed  
at their creation.

DEE DEE

Oh my god, this is so beautiful.  
(to the girls)  
And look at you!

BARRY

(eyes welling)  
You're the most beautiful.

Everyone is in a wave of emotion, they all start to hug and  
cry until Emma pulls away with a smile.

EMMA

Okay guys, let's get it together.

ANGIE

Emma's right, pull it together,  
guys. Kids from across the entire  
state are coming.

EMMA

So let's do this right!

(then)

*"ONE THING YOU'VE TAUGHT ME, IS HOW MUCH PEOPLE ENJOY A SHOW, AND SO YOU'VE GOT ME DEBATING HOW THIS WHOLE NIGHT SHOULD GO...KIDS WILL BE WATCHING, TO SEE WHO EVERY GUEST IS AND SO MY ONLY REQUEST IS..."*

*"BUILD A PROM FOR EVERYONE, SHOW THEM ALL IT CAN BE DONE, IF MUSIC BLARES, AND NO ONE CARES, WHO YOUR UNRULY HEART LOVES..."*

We pan across our Broadway gang and Hawkins, all so emotional at what they've pulled off and the friendships they've created. Angie's phone goes off, she walks away to take the call.

EMMA & ALYSSA

*"BUILD IT NOW, MAKE PEOPLE SEE, HOW THE WORLD COULD ONE DAY BE, IT MIGHT COME TRUE IF WE TAKE A CHANCE, BUT TILL THAT DAY COMES, I SAY CUE THE DRUMS, IT'S TIME TO DANCE..."*

CAMERA WHIPS to find LGBTQ kids starting to file in, along with Shelby and Kaylee and Sheldon and everyone else. And Barry's Mom, all dressed up. Dee Dee grins, then turns to Hawkins --

DEE DEE

(to Hawkins)

*"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU..."*

Barry races up and embraces his mother.

BARRY

*"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU..."*

Angie comes back and joins the group.

ANGIE

Oh my God.

BARRY

What? What is it?

ANGIE

I just got the call. Tina Louise has shingles! The producers want me to go on as Roxie Hart!

EMMA

What did you tell them?

ANGIE

I said, "I have a Prom to go to!"

BARRY

Atta girl.

ANGIE

I was kidding. I'm taking the red-eye tomorrow. Let's get this party started!

TRENT

*"AND NOW WE'RE DRESSED UP..."*

BARRY

*"I AM A VISION IN SILVER BLUE..."*

EMMA

*"IT'S TIME WE 'FESSED UP, THIS YEAR  
OUR PROM QUEEN WILL BE YOU..."*

BARRY

*"MAYBE I'LL WEAR A TIARA, WHEN IT'S  
"GO" TIME..."*

BARRY, DEE DEE, TRENT, ANGIE & HAWKINS

*"GET READY FOLKS, 'CAUSE IT'S  
SHOWTIME.. "BUILD A PROM FOR  
EVERYONE, SHOW THEM ALL IT CAN BE  
DONE, IF MUSIC BLARES, AND NO ONE  
CARES, WHO YOUR UNRULY HEART LOVES.  
BUILD IT NOW, MAKE PEOPLE SEE, HOW  
THE WORLD COULD ONE DAY BE. IT  
MIGHT COME TRUE IF WE TAKE A CHANCE  
BUT TILL THAT DAY COMES, IT'S TIME  
TO DANCE."*

Angie, Trent and Sheldon leave. Suddenly, we see Mrs. Greene enter. She's all dressed up and sparkly and beautiful. She's nervous, she's really made an effort.

Dee Dee gets Alyssa's attention, Alyssa turns and sees her mother. Alyssa is overwhelmed, slowly moves to her mom.

ALYSSA

Is this a dream? Why are you here?

MRS. GREENE

There's a lot to talk about. But  
I'm here because there's one thing  
that matters to me more than  
anything.

(beat, emotional)

You. You're my daughter, and I've  
loved you from the moment you were  
born. And that will never change.  
Ever.

They hug and everyone cheers. As Alyssa leads Mrs. Greene  
over to talk to Emma, Hawkins spies a little CORSAGE station  
now manned by Barry's mom.

HAWKINS

What would you prefer? Gardenias or  
orchids?

DEE DEE

For what?

HAWKINS

Your corsage?

DEE DEE

Oh. Gardenias. Thank you.

Hawkins starts to leave, then turns and gives Dee Dee a  
romantic kiss. He exits. Dee Dee is completely smitten.

DEE DEE (CONT'D)

Don't let me destroy him.

BARRY

I'll do my best.

DEE DEE

So, is this what not failing feels  
like?

BARRY

I think so, yeah. Pretty good, huh?

DEE DEE

Yeah.

Find Emma and Alyssa watching everything.

EMMA & ALYSSA

"THIS IS MORE THAN I DARED WISH  
FOR, IT'S EPIC AND WHAT'S MORE,  
TONIGHT THERE'S ROOM FOR ANYONE, SO  
EVERYONE ON THE FLOOR! GET ON THE  
FLOOR!"

Dance break.

ALL

"IT'S TIME TO BUILD A PROM FOR  
EVERYONE, SHOW THEM ALL IT CAN BE  
DONE, IF MUSIC BLARES, AND NO ONE  
CARES, WHO YOUR UNRULY HEART  
LOVES..."

"BUILD IT NOW, MAKE PEOPLE SEE  
HOW THE WORLD COULD ONE DAY BE, IT  
MIGHT COME TRUE IF WE TAKE A  
CHANCE, BUT TILL THAT DAY COMES, I  
SAY CUE THE DRUMS, AND TAKE TO THE  
FLOOR, THAT'S WHAT THE FLOOR'S FOR,  
SO TURN UP THE BASS... UNTIL THE  
WHOLE PLACE, GIVES INTO THE BEAT  
AND HAS TO REPEAT IT'S TIME TO  
DANCE..."

EMMA & ALYSSA

"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU..."

ALL (EXCEPT EMMA & ALYSSA)

"IT'S TIME TO DANCE..."

EMMA & ALYSSA

"I JUST WANNA DANCE WITH YOU..."

ALL

"IT'S TIME TO DANCE, DANCE! IT'S  
TIME TO DANCE!"

Emma and Alyssa kiss. Everyone applauds for them as we --

**END FILM**