

And Scene!

By Brent Holland

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DEDICATION

To Steve Wood: The "other" drama teacher at Laney High School. I appreciate your support as well as your tolerance for the continual abuse I heap on you. Now go get yourself a nice cup of shut up.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Remy's scene partner refuses to perform and Remy's grade is on the line. Her backup plan is to have her sister do a scene with her but when her sister runs late the night of the performance, Remy is forced to improvise. She is able convince one of her friends in the audience to get on stage and act with her. The scene work goes sideways as several additional members of the audience end up on stage... all in the name of trying to get Remy a good grade! About 25-30 minutes.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 m, 3 w, 1 flexible)

REMY: (F) A high school actress who has to do a performance for a grade. Plays Jordan.

SEAN: (M) A friend of Remy's. He helps because he has a crush on Hannah. Plays Taylor.

HANNAH: (F) Remy's sister. Her original stand-in... until she runs late. Play's Jordan's mom.

SARAH: (F) A friend of Remy's. Austin's girlfriend. Plays Jean.

AUSTIN: (M) Dating Sarah, comes in late to the performance.

JENN: (Flexible) The class stage manager. Plays priest.

SETTING

On the stage of a high school theatre.

PROPS

scripts, coffee, cell phone, prop laser gun, headset, more realistic looking handgun, two fake knives

COSTUMES

Actors are dressed as normal high school teens, except for Jenn, who should be in all black.

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(AT RISE: REMY walks out on stage.)

REMY: Okay, so both of my scene partners totally bailed tonight. They would rather get zeroes on this project than get up here and perform it in front of you. Well, most of you know I play lacrosse and I can't afford to fail this class, so I convinced Mr. Holland *(Or the name of the actual teacher or director.)* to allow me to perform a scene with my sister, just so I can get a grade. We just got this scene today and have run through it like three times, so if it's not good, I'm sorry. *(Looking out in the audience.)* Okay, come on up here, Hannah. *(There is no movement as Remy peers into the audience.)* You out there, Hannah? *(No answer. Remy walks off the stage and into the audience.)* Really? She's not here? *(Looking up to where the director would be, or the light booth.)* Hey Holland, she's not here, *(Looking into the audience.)* But Sarah is. Can I just use her?

SARAH: *(From the audience.)* Use me for what?

REMY: You're going to do the scene with me.

SARAH: No, I'm not.

REMY: *(Pleading.)* Come on, Sarah... I've got to do this! I don't want to get kicked off the lacrosse team.

SARAH: I'm sure Mr. Holland will understand.

REMY: *(Under her breath.)* Have you ever met that guy?

SARAH: I'm not doing it.

REMY: Why?

SARAH: I don't want to look stupid. *(Pointing across the audience.)* Sean's sitting over there. Ask him to do it.

SEAN: *(Also in the audience. Hearing this.)* I don't want to do it either.

REMY: *(Back to Sarah.)* But the scene is for two girls.

SARAH: Pick a different scene.

REMY: *(Dismissively.)* Thanks a lot, Sarah. *(Moving to Sean.)* Hey, Sean!

SEAN: I don't want to get on stage.

REMY: It won't be that bad... like five minutes.

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SEAN: I've never done this before.

REMY: *(Runs over to him.)* It's easy! Trust me. *(A beat.)*
Please? Please, please, please, please?

SEAN: Can't someone from your class do it?

REMY: Mr. Holland says they need to focus on their own grade. Plus no one volunteered to do it. Please help me, Sean, please?

SEAN: Remy...

REMY: If you do it, I will totally talk you up big time to Hannah.
(To the audience.) Sean's been crushing on Hannah all year.

SEAN: *(Abashed.)* Why did you tell them that?

REMY: *(Thinking.)* I don't know. I just thought, since they're the audience, they should know. Right?

SEAN: They're not my audience!

REMY: They are now, I think.

SEAN: I don't want to do this!

REMY: Hannah already kind of likes you. I can totally make this happen. *(To the audience.)* You guys want to see Sean and me do a scene, right? *(Audience concurs.)* None of you want to see me get kicked off the lacrosse team, do you? *(Audience once again agrees, even if Remy has to convince them a little.)* Come on, we'll pick a short scene and be done.

(SHE grabs SEAN and walks him to the stage.)

SEAN: This better be worth it.

REMY: It'll totally be worth it. *(Handing him a script.)* Pick one of the two-person scenes. It's a whole book of plays, but a few of the scenes only have two people in them.

SEAN: *(Flipping through the book.)* Which one's the shortest?

REMY: *(Looking at the table of contents.)* It says, "Love Child," on page 11 is only six pages long.

SEAN: Is that the shortest?

REMY: *(Checking.)* Seems so.

SEAN: "Love Child." Is this about hippies?

REMY: No clue. I haven't read it. Do you want to be Jordan or Taylor?

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SEAN: I'll be Taylor.

REMY: Okay. It says you're standing on stage when the scene begins. Hey, Doug! Can't we get a blackout please?

(After a moment, the LIGHTS go out.)

SEAN: *(From the darkness.)* Is this really necessary?

REMY: Shush. We're about to start.

SEAN: I can't see my script.

REMY: ACTION!

(The LIGHTS return. From this point on, most of the time the actors will have scripts on stage to show they are doing a scene.)

REMY: *(Cont'd. Seriously over-acting.)* I came as fast as I could! I'm sorry that I couldn't break away any sooner!

SEAN: *(Deadpan.)* I've been waiting an hour.

REMY: *(Very big.)* Jean's been really suspicious recently... it's not as easy to get out of the house as it used to be.

SEAN: All I've been getting recently is excuses. I've been missing you horribly, and it's like you don't want to see me at all. Tell me you love me! *(Breaking character.)* I think I might be playing the girl. Should we switch?

REMY: It says I just left Jean, and that's a guy's name, right?

SEAN: They're spelling it J-E-A-N, which I think makes it a woman.

REMY: Just go with it. But, how about putting a little bit into it? You're giving me nothing to work with here, Sean.

SEAN: Sorry.

REMY: Can we run it back from the beginning?

SEAN: Why?

REMY: I need to do well on this, Sean. *(To the booth.)* Doug, hit the lights, we're running it back!

(LIGHTS go out.)

SEAN: This is stupid.

REMY: Give me something to work with, Sean!

End of Freeview

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