The Catch

By
John W. Rutherford

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Dedication

This play is dedicated to my Advanced Theatre Class (Fall '03) at Groves High School and the Heartland Theatre Company's Young Playwrights Outreach Program facilitated by Jan Radcliff.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Katie Grove has been recruited from a public school to the exclusive private Coolidge Academy because of her incredible talent as an ace softball pitcher. In a short time, she finds herself involved with Brett Kettering, the most popular guy on campus and the twin brother of Jo Kettering, the captain of the girls' softball team. But not everyone is happy to have Katie onboard, especially Melanie, a prima donna pitcher who has no intentions of allowing Katie to replace her. Katie soon discovers the Academy's athletics program is a front for an illegal gambling ring, headed by Brett and his two bumbling friends, Kyle and Jerome. Their plan to have Katie throw the State championship game becomes increasingly difficult as they must overcome Katie's integrity, Jo's conniving ideas, and Coach O'Reilly's last-minute coaching strategies. Katie must work through a series of issues that will challenge her ideas about love, sportsmanship, and integrity.

The Lockers, who come to life when the real students have left the halls, add their own personal insight, especially about the student assigned to each of them. Several unseen characters including a sports announcer, the principal, and school secretary, add plenty of humor with their public address announcements.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Premiere performance: April 2008 at Groves High School in Beverly Hills, Michigan.

Selected for Heartland Theatre Company's Summer Playscape Theatre Festival 2004, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(8 m, 10 w, extras)

STUDENTS

BRETT KETTERING: Senior. Twin brother of Jo. Most popular guy in school.

JO KETTERING: Senior. Twin sister of Brett. Captain of the girls' softball team.

KATIE GROVE: Senior. Transfer student on scholarship. Ace pitcher for the softball team.

KYLE RICE: Senior. Best friend of Brett. Kind of the goofy sidekick, in love with Melanie.

MELANIE ATHENS: Senior. Prima donna pitcher. Has a major thing for Brett.

JEROME ROEPER: Sophomore. Computer genius. Newest member of Brett's gang.

AMY BERKLEY: Senior. Tries incredibly hard to ingratiate herself to everyone.

JESSIE LATHRUP: Senior. Plays first base on the team. One of the more neutral characters.

KRISTEN DAY: Junior. A member of the softball team. An airhead with a lot of air.

LOCKERS

JO'S LOCKER: Has been around the longest, feminist, tries to remain detached.

BRETT'S LOCKER: Very proud of being a locker for a Kettering.

KYLE'S LOCKER: Kind of a seventies surfer dude.

MEL'S LOCKER: Has some of the same traits as her owner.

JEROME'S LOCKER: The rookie, a replacement locker added to the older models.

KATIE'S LOCKER: Hasn't had a student in five years, not happy to back in use.

BETTING LOCKER: A very shadowy character, used as a drop point for the bets.

JESSIE'S LOCKER: Very quiet, worships Jo's Locker and is a major follower.

ADULTS

COACH O'REILLY: Near retirement age, won a string of championships years earlier.

SLICK VIC: *(Voice only.)* The voice of the Crusader Sports teams, a real character with a lot of personality.

HOWARD DAVIS: *(Voice only.)* Vice Principal, inept with technology and has difficulty with the PA system.

MR. BERKLEY: *(Voice only.)* Owner of Berkley Telecom, father of Amy.

MISS COLLINS: *(Voice only.)* Building secretary, attempts to keep Mr. Davis on the right track.

ADDITIONAL STUDENTS

Primarily non-speaking roles will also serve as stage crew.

Additional softball team members (3 – 4)
Students in statistics class (3)
Students at the Kettering party (2)

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: Hallway of Coolidge Academy, morning.
Scene 2: Coach O'Reilly's Office
Scene 3: Hallway
Scene 4: Statistics Class- 5th Hour
Scene 5: Hallway
Scene 6: Kettering House, that evening.

ACT II

Scene 1: Hallway of Coolidge Academy, weeks later.
Scene 2: Statistics Class
Scene 3: Hallway
Scene 4: Kettering House
Scene 5: Hallway
Scene 6: Softball Field
Scene 7: Hallway
Scene 8: Statistics Class

ACT I

(BEFORE RISE: The PA system crackles and then we hear the voice of SLICK VIC. As the announcement continues, the house lights fade to black and stage lights come up to reveal the SILHOUETTES OF STUDENTS passing in front of lockers – slowly thinning until it looks like there are a handful of students still standing in various poses next to the lockers listening.)

SLICK VIC: *(PA V.O.)* Gooooooood morning students of Coolidge Academy, this is Slick Vic Hentigan, the voice of all your Coolidge Crusader sports teams. Don't be fooled, though, you aren't sitting at a thrilling football game or watching an exciting tennis match. I'm here this morning to remind all of the girls softball players that the starting roster will be posted outside the gym right after 7th hour with the first team practice immediately following. So, get on over there to check it out - and then practice, practice, practice, all you Lady Crusaders. Let's see if we can't return Coolidge Academy to its former glory and go all the way to State this year. Hoot hoot hoot… goooooo… Coolidge. And here with the rest of your morning announcements is your Vice Principal, Mr. Howard Davis.

Scene 1: Hallway of Coolidge Academy

(LIGHTS up full on the SILHOUETTES OF STUDENTS.)

JO'S LOCKER: How is that self-important idiot still the voice of Coolidge athletics? He's abysmally ignorant when it comes to sports and tries to make up for it by being loud and obnoxious.

BRETT'S LOCKER: You don't know what you're talking about, Jo!

JO'S LOCKER: Don't call me that, number 366! I don't call you Brett, do I?

KYLE'S LOCKER: Peace out, dudette. I personally think Slick Vic rocks.

BRETT'S LOCKER: Yeah! I think he's great for the fans, great for the game, great for the school.

MEL'S LOCKER: Me too!

JEROME'S LOCKER: Me three! Actually me three-seventy-four. Ha ha.

JO'S LOCKER: You're only saying that because none of you were around when Ralph Waldo Wendell was the voice of the Crusaders. His commentary was sheer poetry – you could visualize each play and practically feel the breeze as it swept over the open-air field.
KYLE'S LOCKER: Man, you are so old-school.
BRETT'S LOCKER: Yeah. That field is history.
MEL'S LOCKER: The new Kettering Sports Complex sounds like it's totally cooler.
JEROME'S LOCKER: I've heard the scoreboards are computerized and everything is state-of-the art.
BRETT'S LOCKER: That's right - because we Ketterings always go first class.
JO'S LOCKER: How many times do I have to tell you, Locker 366…
KYLE'S LOCKER: Would you flip that broken forty-five of yours?
JEROME'S LOCKER: Wha'd he say?
BRETT'S LOCKER: Change the subject, rookie.
JEROME'S LOCKER: Uh, OK. Anybody know the scoop on today's roster posting?
MELANIE'S LOCKER: Well, Melanie is planning to be the starting pitcher again – of course.
JO'S LOCKER: Oh, I wouldn't be so sure of that.
MELANIE'S LOCKER: Just because Jo happens to be the captain of the softball team doesn't mean <u>you</u> have to act so smug. You aren't Jo, remember? You're only Jo's locker.
BRETT'S LOCKER: Students in the hallway, lockers!
JO'S LOCKER: Everybody shut it!

(The SILHOUETTES OF STUDENTS on stage run into their lockers and close the doors behind them. Then REAL STUDENTS begin walking by throughout the following section. BRETT walks towards Jo's locker nodding, smiling, giving high-fives to various people along the way. AMY is standing next to JO.)

BRETT: Hey! Amy, you look great. New haircut?
AMY: No, actually, I just washed it.
BRETT: Well, it certainly looks very … clean.
AMY: You are so sweet! Isn't he sweet, Jo? You must have the sweetest brother in the whole entire world.
JO: Yeah, he really is one-of-a-kind, isn't he? Even if he is my twin.
AMY: You are so funny! You're both so funny and nice and --

End of Freeview

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