

Hex Marks the Spot

By
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DEDICATION

To fellow playwrights

Michal Jacot and Pat Cook...

Friends, mentors, heroes and inspirations.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Jean Emery is a normal high school girl whose world gets turned upside-down when she receives a surprising letter in the mail from her eccentric aunt. The letter claims that Jean has magical powers and the ability to grant wishes. Jean dismisses it as a joke, but unfortunately, her rival gets possession of the letter and plans to use it to blackmail her. Neither one believes for a moment that the crazy story in the letter could possibly be true -- or what kind of disasters could happen if everybody were to suddenly get exactly what they wished for!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 4 w, 5 flexible, plus 1 extra optional female)

JEAN: Our 16-year-old heroine with a dry sense of humor.

TOM: Jean's handsome young crush.

HEATHER: *(Flexible)* Smart and overly ambitious. [HEATH if male.]

AMBER: Perky, popular cheerleader.

RICH: A boy with an unsightly mole.

STEPHANIE: A girl with limited funds.

KARMA: *(Flexible)* Suffers from extreme parental dorkiness. [KARMA for either gender.]

DEXTER: *(Flexible)* Geeky, nasally super-hero fan. [LEXI if female.]

MIKE: Bully and sports car fanatic.

LIZ: *(Flexible)* Homely, straight-A student. [NED if male.]

ZACK: *(Flexible)* Rock star wannabe. [COURTNEY if female.]

KARMA'S DAD: The ultimate un-cool father.

KARMA'S MOM: The ultimate un-cool mother.

AUNT BERNICE: *(Optional)* Jean's well-meaning but trouble-making aunt.

NOTE: *Five characters are gender flexible, as indicated next to their names. If the genders are changed, slight alterations may be needed in dialog. If desired, any female actress in the show (except for Jean or Heather) could double as Aunt Bernice.*

TIME AND PLACE

A normal American high school over the course of a very abnormal day. The setting, a high school hallway, can be as minimal or as lavish as you want. The hallway keeps going in both directions offstage.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Jean's introduction.

Scene 2: School hallway, a year earlier.

Scene 3: School hallway, an hour later.

Scene 4: School hallway, 10 minutes later.

Scene 5: School hallway, an hour later.

Scene 6: School hallway, the next morning /Jean's wrap-up.

PROPS

Scene 1

A folded letter (*For JEAN*)

Optional: A second letter (*For AUNT BERNICE*)

Scene 2

Textbooks (*For various students*)

Textbooks, a folder and a notebook (*For JEAN*)

The same letter (*For JEAN*)

Textbooks (*For HEATHER*)

Scene 3

A textbook (*For RICH*)

A large purse or bag (*For HEATHER*)

A plain white rag or washcloth (*For HEATHER*)

Rope (*For HEATHER*)

Scene 4

A chair (*For JEAN*)

Rope binding (*For JEAN, but she can free herself at will.*)

Cash (*For KARMA, ZACK, DEXTER, LIZ and MIKE*)

A purse with a pen and checkbook (*For STEPHANIE*)

Scene 5

A cell phone (*For MIKE*)

A compact or mirror (*For HEATHER*)

A red wagon (*For KARMA*)

A large rock with a big star painted on the front

Numerous metal objects affixed to LIZ's clothing

A wristwatch (*For RICH*)

A metal fork (*For AMBER*)

Some ready-to-eat waffles (*For AMBER and KARMA'S MOM*)

A suitcase (*For KARMA'S DAD*)

Optional: A loose steering wheel (*For MIKE*)

A chainsaw and axe (*For AMBER*)

Scene 6

An arm cast or sling (*For DEXTER*)

A skateboard (*For MIKE*)

Jean's notebook (*For TOM*)

Scene 1

(AT RISE: JEAN stands alone on stage, possibly in a spotlight, and addresses the audience.)

JEAN: *(To the audience.)* Just last year I was a normal girl, worried about normal stuff...like grades and clothes and my cell phone bill. But then I got THIS. *(Holds up a letter.)* My name's Jean, by the way. Jean Emery. There's another girl in my class named Jean Armstrong, so to avoid confusion, they've always called her Jean A., and I'm Jean E. Yes, like "genie." Wasn't until I got this letter about a year ago that I realized how ironic that was. It came from my Aunt Bernice in Arizona. Check this out.

(JEAN clears her throat and reads the letter aloud. Every once in a while she will look up and make comments to the audience. OPTIONAL: If desired, you can have another actress actually play AUNT BERNICE and stand off to the side reading the letter and JEAN would throw in the little interjections. They would both have identical copies of the letter in their hands.)

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: "Dear Jean...I can't believe my little Pumpkin Pie is turning 16 already. It seems like just yesterday that you were running naked through —"

JEAN: Okay, I think we can just skip over that. Yadda yadda yadda...okay, here we go.

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: "As the eldest daughter, it falls to me to tell you about a family secret that has been handed down through generations. On their 16th birthdays, the daughters in our clan..."

JEAN: We're a clan now?

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: "...Are granted an unusual gift. You may find this hard to believe, but your great-great-great-great-great-grandmother was a witch..."

JEAN: No big shock there; a lot of women in my family still are.

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: "...And she fell in love with an actual genie."

JEAN: At this point, I'm thinking Aunt Bernice is a few outfits short of a full wardrobe, if you get my meaning. But it gets better.

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: "Because of their combined magical abilities, their offspring possess latent supernatural talents that manifest themselves on their 16th birthday. Put simply, we are given the power to grant wishes."

JEAN: I swear I'm not making this up.

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: "Anyone who makes physical contact with us while reciting the Incantation of Wishes will be granted their heart's desire. The incantation goes like this: 'Ancient powers, gather near; grant the wish I hold most dear.'"

JEAN: Oh, good, it rhymes. Now my aunt is psychotic AND a Dr. Seuss wannabe. Let's see, what else...skip, skip, skip...okay, get this.

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: "There are a few rules, of course. Each person can be granted one and only one wish. Some wishes come true instantly, and others take a while to kick in, sometimes up to an hour. Don't ask me why; my best guess is that the more complicated wishes take more time for the magic mojo to do its thing."

JEAN: And I'm related to this! It's like somebody dumped crazy sauce in the gene pool! Then it gets ominous.

JEAN or AUNT BERNICE: (*Spooky voice.*) "However, be warned. The gift is a trickster in disguise. There is an ancient Chinese curse that says: 'May you get what you wish for.' Dark and mischievous forces are at work here, with power enough to destroy or corrupt the weak-minded. Therefore, try to avoid using the power of the wish, or you'll regret it. (*Beat. Upbeat voice.*) Anyway, happy birthday! Enclosed is a gift card for Old Navy so you can pick out some clothes you like. Try not to get anything too revealing or your father will kill me. Love, Aunt Bernice."

End of Freeview

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