

IF YOU SEE AMANDA

by Mickey Wright

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DEDICATION

*To all the Amandas
I have known ... wherever you are.*

STORY OF THE PLAY

They say Amanda's back. They say she's crazier than ever. And they say Debbie's her next victim. Caught in a whirlwind of gossip, Debbie is swept away from her friend Amanda and from her boyfriend Nathan. Valley High School panics and Amanda blows her top. Rumor has it she may blow up the whole school if Debbie doesn't take a stand. An entangling tale of gossip and truth, prejudice and compassion.

"A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to the soul." Proverbs 18:7

"Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down." Proverbs 26:20

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

This play was first produced by Cornerstone Christian School Drama Department on May 10, 1991. Cast included Susan Hunter, Alissa McLaughlin, Andrea Fowler, Christie Hemphill, Ryan Liljegren, Matt Hanger, Christina Ercek, Dawn St. Pierre, Tara Bartolone, Heather Martell, Pat McGauly, and Adam Sawyer. Technical crew included Mickey Wright, Sam Bass, David Nose, J.R. Marshall, Jason Ransbottom, and Tim Brenner.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 m, 7 w, optional extras)

DEBBIE: Pleasant, friendly. Sensitive to what is right, but also to what her friends say and think.

RAINA: Talks faster than the speed of sound; knows what's going around about everybody and keeps it going around.

AMANDA: Spirited nonconformist.

MARTHA: Cocky, fashionably dressed, sarcastic.

SEAN: Insensitive tough guy.

NATHAN: Compassionate, sensitive. Debbie's boyfriend.

KIM: Ms. Fashion.

CINDY: Martha's friend. Follows her everywhere.

SHERYL: Another friend.

DEREK: Martha's cool boyfriend.

TONY: Excitable, naive freshman.

DAVY: Sean's sidekick.

MR. HATCHMAN: A large man in plaid; teacher.

STUDENTS: May be extras or played by cast.

NOTE: *All characters except Mr. Hatchman are high school age.*

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: High school hallway, first day of school

Scene 2: High school hallway, later that day

Scene 3: High school library, next day

Scene 4: High school hallway, about a week later

Scene 5: School and hospital, the next day

PROPERTY LIST

SCENE 1

TONY: jam box
CAST: books, bags
DEBBIE: registration card, gift-wrapped sunglasses
KIM: earrings
CINDY: new blouse
NATHAN: video cassettes
AMANDA: chocolate syrup bottle, Oscar the Grouch doll,
book bag, skates

SCENE 2

DEREK: paper wad or ball and hoop
SEAN: tire iron
MARTHA: In locker—notebook with skull sketch, shoe and
books with syrup, shredded blouse.
DEBBIE: In locker—syrup bottle, clothes, books, machete.
AMANDA: Oscar doll, paper boat with flag, skates

SCENE 3

HATCHMAN: books
NATHAN: skates
AMANDA: Oscar doll, skates
SET: On shelves and table—books

SCENE 4

NATHAN: note folded like a boat

SCENE 5

DEBBIE: In locker—Amanda's skates with note attached,
Oscar doll, paper boats, syrup bottles, hair ribbons, book
bag.
MARTHA: In locker—clothing, book bag, jackets, cosmetic
case, books, notebooks, etc.
HATCHMAN: Kim's notebook and earrings, tape and
barricade for locker, bullhorn

SOUND EFFECTS

Debbie's voice-over
School bell
School hallway noise (*optional*)
School bell
Hospital intercom
Siren

A copy of the opening children's song "Oh Be Careful" can be obtained at your local Christian bookstore or substituted/deleted.

For the bell and hallway noise in the original production, we hid a microphone and recorder in the school hallway and turned it on just before the bell rang to dismiss classes. It turned out great and was a publicity boost to the play. Use a megaphone to record the hospital intercom or use the intercom system in your building. Sirens (and sometimes school bells and hospital intercoms) are found on standard sound effects CDs.

SCENE 1

(SETTING: Valley High School hallway. Lockers. An arrow shaped sign reads, "REGISTRATION." AT RISE: First day of school. MUSIC fades in softly. CHILDREN singing "Oh, Be Careful.")

All: *(Sing.)*

OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS WHAT YOU HEAR.
OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS WHAT YOU HEAR.
FOR THE FATHER UP ABOVE IS LOOKING DOWN IN LOVE.
SO, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS WHAT YOU HEAR.
OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE WHAT YOU SAY.
OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE WHAT YOU SAY.
FOR THE FATHER UP ABOVE IS LOOKING DOWN IN LOVE.
SO, BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE WHAT YOU SAY.

DEBBIE'S VOICE: *(Overlaps last verse of song.)* I had a friend. She wasn't your basic friend. She was ... I don't know—extremely weird, and yet extremely delightful. She had a special kind of innocence. Childish words. Weird habits. She wasn't like anybody else—not even close. It's hard to describe her, because ... well, I'm not sure what was true and what was ... talk. I'm not even sure why she wanted to be my friend. But she was probably the best friend I ever had. I remember my junior year—the first day of school

(School BELL rings. STUDENTS pass through, stopping at lockers. New clothes. New folders, bags and lunch pails. TONY carries a jam box on his shoulder. A teacher, MR. HATCHMAN, stops him, takes the jam box and gives him a load of books. DEBBIE and RAINA search for their new lockers, guided by their registration cards.)

DEBBIE: That is so rude!

RAINA: *(Rapidly.)* I know, but it's true. Martha, Cindy, and Sheryl—they were all there together. You know that little booth in the corner where they always sit. Like Siamese triplets. I swear, you never see them apart.

End of Freeview

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