I Want to Give You My Heart, and Eat Your Brains

By Brent Holland

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DEDICATION

Wes Knape taught me to love theatre and then convinced me to take the best job in the world when he retired.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Ethan is a typical high school junior, well ... typical with the exception of the fact that an attack three years ago left him as one of the undead. Previously discriminated against, zombies (such an ugly word) have been now given the chance to attend public school, with Ethan being chosen as the first openly undead student in his state to do so. As he chronicles his journey on YouTube, Ethan learns the ins and outs of fitting in when you're obviously different. This humorous story has an inclusive theme and tackles the difficulty of not feeling normal in very challenging time of your life. The show runs about 35-40 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 m, 6 w, 3 flexible, and extras.)

ETHAN: A friendly, but self-conscious teenaged zombie who has been chosen to pilot a program to allow the unliving to attend school. He is very likeable.

ETHAN'S MOM: Ethan's mother. She is nurturing and supportive and very much not undead. She is protective of her son.

BEN: Ethan's best friend for many years. Non-judgmental and extremely outgoing.

MRS. ADKINS: A typical quick-witted high school English teacher.

MADISON: An 11th grade girl, not particularly nice.

LAUREN: An 11th grade girl, interested in Ben, but prejudiced against zombies.

COURTNEY: A typical 11th grader, also not particularly nice.

MEGAN: Attractive, quick-witted a little standoffish.

STUDENTS 1 - 3: Typical high school students.

SETTING

There are three locations in which action takes place, but they can for the most part be very representational. All scenes take place in Ethan's bedroom, Mrs. Adkins' classroom, and the outside lunch area.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: ETHAN is in the middle of making a YouTube video in his bedroom for his personal page. Ethan is undead… a zombie… but not in the stereotypical way. While his makeup should have his eyes a little dark, he mostly looks normal… too normal, in fact, because he is very self-conscious about being a zombie.)

ETHAN: *(To the camera…which is centered out in the audience.)* OK, gang, tomorrow's the day! *(Excited, but definitely acting for the camera.)* It's all been leading up to *(Looking at his watch.)* what will happen ten hours from now! As you all know by now… and if you haven't you can get caught up by checking out the link below, and while you're at it how about smashing that like button and subscribing… *(Refocusing.)* Sorry… I'm excited. Anyways… as you all know, yours truly was chosen from hundreds of candidates to be the first openly undead student to attend high school in the state. Ever since the Supreme Court ruled on Richards v. California, which of course states that the school system cannot ask, or test if a student is actually alive, this day was destined to come. Wow… so many emotions here. If my heart were still beating, I know it would be going crazy right now, but trust me that this is real and reminds me so much that while I may be dead out here *(Gestures to his body.)* I'm sure not dead in here… *(Pointing inwardly to himself.)* where it counts. *(Transition.)* Do you think they'll like me? I've already been on the phone with three of the others starting school with me tomorrow across the country. I know they have to feel like I do! Well, guys and ghouls, I better get some down time before the alarm clock goes off. Thanks again for all of your support! I just hit my 400th subscriber, so I am super stoked that so many of you are taking this journey with me. I'll give you guys an update as soon as I get home tomorrow from *(Stretching it out to add emphasis.)* PUBLIC SCHOOL!

(Quick BLACKOUT then LIGHTS back up.)

ETHAN: Don't forget to hit the like button. Do it… or *(Impersonating a stereotypical zombie.)* I'll eat your brains!!!

(BLACKOUT.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: The next morning. ETHAN'S MOM enters his room.)

MOM: *(Poking her head in.)* Rise and shine…

(SHE goes to his bed to wake him, but ETHAN comes in from behind her.)

ETHAN: I'm awake! *(He is totally dressed and ready to go.)*
MOM: Wow… and ready too. How come you were never this excited when I was homeschooling you?
ETHAN: Because that was boring. No offense. And this… this is my first day back since I was bitten! I never thought I'd be excited about just going to school.
MOM: *(Reserved.)* I know, darling, and I know you're excited, but I'm still a little worried. Are you sure you don't want to let the kids in the other states see how it goes today and maybe you start your first day tomorrow?
ETHAN: No way! I can't let the living kids think I'm a coward. *(Confidentially joking.)* Afterall … I hear the living kids can smell fear.
MOM: It's not funny. Kids are mean, and while I know that generally people are accepting that there are zombies in our world … *(ETHAN makes a face.)* I know you don't like that word, but you know you're going to hear it a lot today.
ETHAN: Yeah, I know. I went to public school until 8th grade, Mom … it's only been three years … kids haven't changed that much.

MOM: But the world has, and from what I've been seeing on TV, a lot of parents aren't too happy that their children will be going to school with unliving students. They believe what they saw back when the outbreak wasn't controlled.
ETHAN: Those people were savages … you know it's not like that today.
MOM: It's not like that here … but I know in other countries it's still that bad. People are scared, they're scared that their kids …
ETHAN: Will end up like me?
MOM: *(Seeing HE is hurt.)* You know I love you and accept you exactly how you are. I have never given up on you and know you're going to have a wonderful future ...
ETHAN: And that future starts today. *(Excited again.)* IN PUBLIC SCHOOL!
MOM: *(Laughs.)* What do you want for breakfast?
ETHAN: *(Deadpan.)* Brains.
MOM: Fresh out of brains. And don't make that joke at school, they won't think it's funny. You probably need a B12 bar, and probably iron too. You're looking pale.
ETHAN: *(Self-deprecating.)* I'm dead. Dead people look pale.
MOM: Well, my dead kid is going to look as healthy as possible. Chocolate or banana-berry?
ETHAN: We out of strawberry?
MOM: Yes, we are. I'm going to the grocery store today.

(SFX: The doorbell rings.)

MOM: That must be Ben.
ETHAN: Can you let him in, I want to brush my teeth one more time.
MOM: Your breath smells fine.
ETHAN: Mom … the inside of my mouth has been dead for three years; I have to stay on top of this.
MOM: *(As she exits.)* Whatever …
ETHAN: And get me a chocolate B12 bar please!

End of Freeview

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