

DAY ONE

book and lyrics by Jonathan Dorf  
music by James Balmer and Mary Nelson

## List of Characters

### The Principals (in order of appearance)

JAKE, senior class president and all-around guy, Helen's former or possibly present boyfriend (tenor)

STANLEY, Jake's best friend and a wannabe Brando in *Streetcar Named Desire* (baritone)

SKEETER, a first year (aka freshman) student who expects—and often gets—the worst from his new school (changing voice/high tenor/boy alto)

STELLA, a senior newly transferred into the school (soprano)

BLAISE, a girl who hides a sharp mind under a tough as nails exterior (alto)

ERIKA, the junior class overachiever—president, newspaper editor, yearbook editor—and ready to be a senior (soprano)

THYME, Mother Time in the guise of a high school student (alto)

HELEN, a senior rumored to have blown up the chemistry lab, rumored to be a witch, and Jake's ex or current girlfriend—nobody is quite sure which (soprano)

### The Ensemble

*Day One* uses an ensemble of anywhere from a suggested minimum of eight to an almost unlimited number of students. Among the roles they cover: Stanley's Mother, Skeeter's Mother, Stella's Mother, various first year students, a Reporter, a Camera Person, a Make-Up Artist, a Bully, a Teacher, a DJ and a Swedish Exchange Student. Most important, however, are the Wannabes, a group of underclass girls who figure prominently in many scenes and songs (“A Good Boy is Hard to Find, and a Good Man is Downright Impossible,” for example, is completely their musical number). The Wannabe solos can either be sung as solos or sung by groups of Wannabes, depending on the needs of the production.

### Notes on the Set

The show makes use of a variety of settings: the homes of the various principals, various school hallways, the cafeteria, classrooms, etc. To maintain the flow, blackouts should be used as infrequently as possible, and sets/settings are meant to be suggested rather than fully realized. Elizabethan staging (making use of stage areas) is encouraged.

## LIST OF SONGS

### Act I

"Day One"	The Cast
"A Hole in the Wall"	Jake, Stanley, Wannabes
"This Place This Time"	Stanley, Stella, Jake
"Mohammed Ali"	Skeeter
"The Solution is Clear"	Erika, Skeeter, Wannabes
"The Solution is Clear" (reprise)	Erika, Skeeter, Blaise
"Fifteen Minutes"	Thyme, Ensemble
"Melt Into Me"	Helen
"A Good Boy is Hard to Find, and a Good Man is Downright Impossible"	Wannabes
"Out Past Infinity"	Blaise
"Don't Let it Splatter"	Helen, Jake, Stanley, Stella, Skeeter

### Act II

"Locker Room Blues/Year-Long Limbo"	Skeeter, The Cast
"New School Order"	Erika, Wannabes
"Lost Sheep"	Helen, Jake, Stanley, Stella
"I Hate Stanley"	Stella
"Sand"	Thyme, Jake
"Come on, Jake"	Wannabes
"Sturdy and Strong"	Blaise, Jake
"I Hate Stanley" (reprise)	Helen, Wannabes
"In a Heartbeat"	Stanley, Stella, Helen
"The Dance/Finale"	The Cast

**ACT I**

(An ALARM CLOCK RINGS. Then another. Then a symphony of ALARM CLOCKS. Lights up on JAKE, a senior and a good-hearted member of the popular crowd, sleeping in a bed center stage. He jumps out of bed wearing whatever he sleeps in.)

**JAKE**

THIS IS THE DAY . . .  
THIS IS THE DAY I'VE WAITED FOR  
AND NOW I'M STANDING BY THE DOOR  
A LOCKER AT THE TOP  
A PARKING SPACE IN

(Lights up on STANLEY, another senior, wearing a wife-beater and clutching a parking permit. Jake continues to get ready.)

**STANLEY**

STOP—  
AM I ALMOST DONE?  
SENIOR LOT ONE-FIFTY ONE

(Stanley throws a Hawaiian shirt over his wife-beater. As the scene continues, new characters bring new lights, but the characters already on stage continue to go about the business of getting ready for school.)

**JAKE**

PAID MY DUES

**STANLEY**

PLAYED THEIR GAME

**JAKE and STANLEY**

DID THE DANCE FOR ELEVEN YEARS  
AT THE END OF THE DAY  
THEY'LL KNOW I WAS HERE

(STANLEY'S MOTHER, played by a member of the ensemble, enters.)

**STANLEY'S MOTHER**

Stanley!

**STANLEY**

I'm up!

**JAKE**

DON'T WANT TO MISS MY CHANCE

**STANLEY**

I'M READY TO MAKE THIS MY DAY ONE

(Lights up on SKEETER, freshman, looking every bit like a freshman that doesn't want to go to school. Enter SKEETER'S MOTHER.)

**SKEETER'S MOTHER**

Matthew, are you awake?

**SKEETER**

No.

**SKEETER'S MOTHER**

If you're sleeping, how come you're talking?

**SKEETER**

I'm not home.

**SKEETER'S MOTHER**

Oh.

(beat)

Well, get ready for school anyway.

(Skeeter's Mother exits. STELLA, elsewhere on stage, tries to get her make-up right. As she sings, lights up on various ensemble characters, some SENIORS and others WANNABE SENIORS, also getting ready for school.)

**STELLA**

IN THIS NEW SCHOOL I'M ALL ALONE  
MY SENIOR YEAR SO FAR FROM HOME  
MOM AND DAD DIDN'T ASK WHAT I THOUGHT  
ONE HOUSE SOLD ANOTHER BOUGHT

(Enter STELLA'S MOTHER.)

**STELLA'S MOTHER**

STELLA DEAR PLEASE DO YOUR BEST

**STELLA**

BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I'LL PASS THAT TEST

**STELLA'S MOTHER**

STELLA!

**STELLA**

I GUESS IT'S UP TO CHANCE  
GOTTA START SOMEWHERE ON DAY ONE

**JAKE, STELLA, STANLEY, SKEETER**

ONE DAY TO LAUGH OR TO CRY

**JAKE, STELLA, STANLEY**

THE LAST YEAR OF SENIOR HIGH

**SKEETER, WANNABES**

THE FIRST DAY OF SENIOR HIGH

**JAKE, STANLEY, STELLA**

ONE DAY HELLO OR GOODBYE  
START OF THE TIME OF OUR LIVES

(Lights up on BLAISE, a senior, dressed in a combination of black and denim that makes her look like the kind of person you leave alone.)

**BLAISE**

LET IT PASS ON BY  
MY CLASS MAKES ME WANT TO THROW UP  
HEY, CAN YOU SPELL INSTITUTION?  
WISH I COULD LEAVE THESE ROSE-COLORED WALLS  
AND START LIVIN'

(Enter BLAISE'S MOTHER, played by a member of the ensemble.)

**BLAISE'S MOTHER**

Blaise, could you wear something with color in it this year?

(Lights up on ERIKA, a junior dressed like a future business leader of America.)

**ERIKA**

THE SENIOR GAVEL'S CLOSE AT HAND  
IN ONE MORE YEAR I'LL TAKE COMMAND  
A YEARBOOK WRITTEN ALL ABOUT ME  
PRESIDENT IS MY DESTINY  
'TIL THEN I'LL WAIT MY TURN  
'CAUSE THE END'S IN THE AIR  
AND I KNOW I'LL BE THERE, BUT

**ERIKA and WANNABE CHORUS**

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE CHANCE  
SOMEBODY GIVE ME MY DAY ONE

**ALL**

ONE DAY TO LAUGH OR TO CRY

**SENIORS**

THE LAST YEAR OF  
SENIOR HIGH

**SKEETER, FROSH**

THE FIRST DAY OF  
SENIOR HIGH

**OTHER WANNABES**

THE NEXT YEAR OF  
SENIOR HIGH

**ALL**

ONE DAY HELLO OR GOODBYE

**SENIORS EXCEPT FOR BLAISE**

START OF THE TIME OF OUR  
LIVES

**BLAISE, ERIKA, SKEETER,  
WANNABES**

LET US GET ON WITH OUR LIVES

(Students hang a banner that says, "Welcome Back,  
Students!" Stanley throws off his Hawaiian shirt.)

**VARIOUS**

DID THE READING  
GOT MY SCHEDULE  
AND A PENCIL

**UNDERCLASSMEN**

HEAR THE BUS COME

**SENIORS**

START THE ENGINE

**VARIOUS**

DID THE READING  
GOT MY SCHEDULE  
AND A PENCIL

**UNDERCLASSMEN**

HEAR THE BUS COME

**SENIORS**

START THE ENGINE

**ALL**

COME INSIDE!

(The stage becomes the school lobby. Skeeter finds himself standing near Jake and Stanley as all of the students from the opening number mill around before school. Jake holds a gavel.)

**STANLEY**

Nice gavel, Jake.

**JAKE**

Some girl says to me "can I look at it"—I think she's a junior—and I'm like "sure"—

**STANLEY**

Senior gavel—'course she wants to look at it.

**JAKE**

Then she tries to "accidentally" stuff it in her purse.

**STANLEY**

You still got it.

**JAKE**

'Course I've still got it.

(The lights flicker.)

**JAKE**

(to Stanley)

You hungry?

**STANLEY**

I'm always hungry.

**JAKE**

I want all the freshmen to line up.



(The FRESHMEN—three speak but any number could be used to fill out the line—jump into a militarily precise line. Skeeter joins reluctantly, perhaps herded into place by another Freshman.)

**SKEETER**

(to one of the freshmen)

Do we have to get them food?

**FIRST FRESHMAN**

We *are* the food.

(The other freshmen pull out knives, forks and napkins.)

**SECOND FRESHMAN**

It's an honor.

(Jake and Stanley look the freshmen over.)

**THIRD FRESHMAN**

Where's your utensils? How are they supposed to eat you without silverware?

**SECOND FRESHMAN**

Don't you want to get picked?

**STANLEY**

What do you think?

**JAKE**

(points at Skeeter)

I kinda' like the little guy.

**STANLEY**

Dude, you'll be hungry in an hour.

**JAKE**

Yeah, but he's bite-size.

(squeezes Skeeter's cheeks)

And tender. Bet we can cut him with a fork.

(Skeeter struggles to get away, but Jake and Stanley hold him firmly.)

**FIRST FRESHMAN**

You are so lucky.

**SKEETER**

Help! Help!

**STANLEY**

The screamers are always tender.

(The lights flicker. All go back to milling about, and the silverware disappears—it's as if the previous scene never happened, which it didn't. But Skeeter still finds himself next to Jake and Stanley. Beat. Skeeter runs and hides elsewhere on stage.)

Did you know that kid?

**JAKE**

Never seen him before.

**STANLEY**

He totally ran away. It's great being a senior.

(beat)

Isn't that great?

**JAKE**

Very great.

**STANLEY**

You're not acting like it's great.

**JAKE**

It's great. It's just—

**STANLEY**

Man, this is gonna' be the most amazing year. In the parking lot, there were three freshmen waiting to shine my shoes. I tell them I'm wearing sneakers. You can't shine sneakers. They ask if they can *buy* me shoes.

**JAKE**

Stanley, do you really think Helen moved to Haiti and joined a voodoo cult?

**STANLEY**

I heard it was Trinidad.

**JAKE**

Trinidad?

**STANLEY**

Yeah—those islands down by...I'm kidding.

(beat)

You broke up with her. Why do you miss her so much?

**JAKE**

I don't know. We were always the Three Musketeers.

**STANLEY**

Stanley, Stella and Blanche. Except it was two guys and a girl.

**JAKE**

And nobody was named Stella or Blanche.

(beat)

That's it.

**STANLEY**

What?

**JAKE**

We're the "in crowd"—right?

**STANLEY**

In as it gets.

**JAKE**

We're not a crowd. Three's a crowd. Oh—one more thing—we didn't exactly break up.

HALF A YEAR AGO IN A CLASSROOM NOT SO FAR FROM HERE

STOOD A GIRL, THE CENTER OF MY WORLD

AND THEN SHE SLIPPED AND BLEW A HOLE IN THE WALL

THROUGH THE WALL, SHE SAW IT FALL

HELEN DISAPPEARED FROM SCHOOL AFTER THAT DAY

HELEN BECAME A NUN—I REALLY LIKE THAT ONE

BUT THE STORY I LIKE BEST IS THE ONE

WHERE SHE BECAME AN ISLAND QUEEN

NOBODY KNOWS IF SHE TOOK UP

SANTÉRIA OR WAS IT VOODOO?

ALL THAT I KNOW IS WE NEED SOMEBODY

IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST ME AND YOU

(Stanley pulls out a "Help Wanted" sign. The Wannabes gather around to see what's going on.)

**WANNABE GIRLS**

I KNOW THAT WE'LL BE A PERFECT FIT  
I CAN BE YOUR NUMBER THREE  
HERE'S MY PHOTO, MY RESUME  
CALL ME, PLEASE CALL ME

**FIRST WANNABE**

I'LL DO YOUR HOMEWORK EVEN YOUR CHEMISTRY  
BLOW UP A WALL IF YOU'D LIKE THINGS HOW THEY USED TO BE  
WASH YOUR CAR WALK YOUR DOG DO YOU OWN A DOG  
TELL THEM ALL THAT YOU'RE WITH ME

**SECOND WANNABE**

(to the First Wannabe)

HEY YOU, COME HERE, LOOK ME IN THE EYE  
DON'T CRY AND WHINE AND BEG TO GET YOUR WAY  
(to Jake and Stanley)

YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO'S TOUGH TO KEEP THE DOGS AT BAY

**THIRD WANNABE**

YOU WANT HER PICTURE IN YOUR LOCKER?

**FIRST WANNABE**

YOU WANT HER RIDING IN YOUR CAR?

**ALL WANNABES**

I'M A TROPHY YOU CAN OWN

**JAKE and STANLEY**

LEAVE US ALONE

**STANLEY**

(to all, perhaps including Jake)

LEAVE ME ALONE!

**JAKE**

(to Stanley)

ME TOO?

**STANLEY**

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO  
HOW FAR CAN I GO WITHOUT A STELLA  
WITHOUT A STAR WITHOUT A SUN  
THE BEST YEAR OF MY LIFE  
AND IT WON'T BE ANY FUN

(The Wannabes, rejected, give Stanley room. Jake hangs near him, but cautiously, as Stanley drops to his knees.)

**STANLEY**

Stella!

(pause)

Stella!

**JAKE**

What are you doing?

**STANLEY**

Making a stand.

**JAKE**

You're on your knees.

**STANLEY**

I'm not moving 'til I find her.

**JAKE**

Who?

(Stella, in the crowd, moves closer.)

**STANLEY**

Stella!

(Three ASPIRING COOL GIRLS watch Stanley.)

**FIRST ASPIRING GIRL**

He's so brave.

**SECOND ASPIRING GIRL**

Macho.

**THIRD ASPIRING GIRL**

It's the undershirt.

**FIRST ASPIRING GIRL**

It's magnetic.

Like what you see? Hit the back button and follow the instructions to order a perusal copy of the full script!