

THE LOCKER NEXT 2 MINE

A one-act dramedy by
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TV REPORTER, Cyndi Jackson, an adult, could also be male.
BRADY, former high school TV news reporter and a junior.
ALISA, same age, new student.
HEADLINE, a sophomore boy who speaks in news headlines.
BUY BOY (aka Tanner), the school's resident wheeler-dealer.
LUNA, female, not a real-time character and revealed in the end to be Beth.
MARNE, female, high school senior and leader of the M squad.
MIRANDA, female, and perhaps the most cutthroat member of the M squad.
MELISSA, female, third member of the M squad.
DALTON, male, varsity lacrosse player.
CHUCK, male, barely a JV lacrosse player.
QE, female, Beth's younger sister.
SABRINA, female, friend of Jeremy.
HABIT, female, friend of Jeremy.
LEGOLAS, male whose real name is Aloysius, friend of Jeremy.
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, either gender.
MARIO, male.
WENDY, aspiring actress.
PAM, female.
GIGGLING GIRL
ROXANNA, female, student council president.
FIRST NEEDY STUDENT, either gender.
SECOND NEEDY STUDENT, either gender.
THIRD NEEDY STUDENT, either gender.
FOURTH NEEDY STUDENT, either gender.
SECRETARY
DR. COPPERFIELD, male but could be female.
HYACINTH KROY, female, student TV reporter.
CHORUS OF STUDENTS, could be a separate group of students or double cast with students in featured roles.
CHORUS OF MASKED TEACHERS, can be played by students.

To keep cast size down, many roles may be doubled.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The original full-length version of *The Locker Next 2 Mine* was commissioned by Wantagh High School Theatre Department (Wantagh, NY) in the sincere hope that no school will ever again have a Pluto problem.

SCENE 1

A dark stage. Out of the darkness comes a CHORUS OF STUDENTS, with no one voice speaking two lines in a row.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

We miss you, Beth.
We'll never forget you.

TV REPORTER

The scene is grim on this poorly lit back road-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

We love you, Beth.

TEEN REPORTER

Beth Turner, lacrosse co-captain-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

We dedicate this season-
This year-

TV REPORTER

Police tape and flowers and teddy bears mark the spot-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

This forever...

TV REPORTER

The irony of the car-

TEEN REPORTER

I don't think I can do this.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

You'll always be-
Always-

TV REPORTER

Coming to a stop a mere 1000 feet from a field-

TEEN REPORTER

I report on dances and mystery meat-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

First in our hearts.

TV REPORTER

-that was home to some of her greatest triumphs.

TEEN REPORTER

Somebody else has to do this.

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CHORUS OF STUDENTS
(Becoming softer:)

Always...
Always...
Always...

The lights slowly come up on a school hallway. ALISA, high school junior, tries to open a locker. It's not easy, because she is squeezed on one side by a sprawling shrine of teddy bears, flowers, sports trophies and other hardware in front of the locker directly next to hers. Beat. HEADLINE, male and a year younger, observes her struggles, gradually moving closer.

HEADLINE
New Student Battles the Washington High Shrine!

ALISA
(Losing hold of her books:)
What?

HEADLINE
Shrine Wins! Shrine Wins!

ALISA
Who are you?

Enter BUY BOY, Alisa's age, and the guy you go to when you need to buy or sell pretty much anything.

HEADLINE
(Helping pick up Alisa's books:)
Knight in Shining Armor Saves the Day!

BUY BOY
(Competing with Headline for Alisa's books:)
I got it.

HEADLINE
Superhero Rescues Fair Maiden in School Hallway!

ALISA
(To Headline:)
Can you stop that?

BUY BOY
 (Making a move toward
 Headline:)
 Headline, stop being a freak.

Headline retreats.

HEADLINE
 Hero Vows to Return!

Headline exits.

ALISA
 What's wrong with him?

BUY BOY
 Last year, he just started talking like that.
 (Holds out his hand:)
 Tanner. But you can call me Buy Boy.

ALISA
 Why?

BUY BOY
 You want to buy, I'm sellin'.

ALISA
 Buy what?

BUY BOY
 Anything.

ALISA
 Can you help me with-

A BELL RINGS. The hallway floods with STUDENTS, sweeping Buy Boy away. Beat. Lights dim on the pack of students in the hallway, and up on LUNA. She is alone and in her own light, but she should be lit in such a way that her face is somewhat hidden. It's an out of time moment.

LUNA
 Pluto was discovered in 1930. It became the ninth planet, and the farthest from the sun. What a lot of people don't know - no, what pretty much everybody doesn't know, is that its orbit crosses Neptune's, the eighth planet, but the two planets never come close to each other.

(Beat.)

So Pluto's always been this lonely little planet, and it's cold. Like negative 230 degrees Celsius cold.

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LUNA (CONT'D)

People couldn't live there.

(Beat.)

I'm sure you don't spend a lot of time thinking about Pluto. Why would you? Pluto doesn't get you an A in English or pay your car insurance or keep your mom from aiming a half full coffee mug at your dad's head on the last night you pretended you had a functional family.

(Beat.)

But then it happened. Pluto got demoted. In 2006. One day it's a planet, the next day it's not. They come up with this new category: a dwarf planet. Sure, Pluto, you're separate but equal. Right. And finally people take notice. Harvard students stage a sit-in at University Hall, in Berkeley they burn a revised map of the solar system and protestors take to the streets of Manhattan.

(Beat.)

Outside of a few astronomers, nobody cared, and after a few weeks, people stopped talking about it. Nobody ever stands up for the Plutos of the universe. Not in my universe.

(Beat.)

Our school has a Pluto problem.

Luna disappears into a crowd of students as the stage transitions into the cafeteria. WENDY, the class drama geek in a non-geeky way, slips in just ahead of MARNE [pronounced Mar-nee], MELISSA and MIRANDA, a trio of popular girls who know just how popular they are. They wear black T-shirts emblazoned with "Beth Turner - Always in Our Hearts" and Beth's picture on the front. Marne carries a bag of T-shirts. They accost students heading into the cafeteria, passing out flyers.

WENDY

Get your Shake on this Saturday and Sunday! That's right - fall hard for the Bard as girls play boys and boys play girls in our revolutionary new version of *Richard II*.

MARNE

Friday night vigil.

(Shoving a flyer into a
STUDENT'S hand:)

Be there. There's gonna be food trucks.

Miranda shoves a flyer into the hands of DALTON, wearing a lacrosse jersey over his otherwise preppy attire.

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CHUCK, not nearly cool enough to be friends with preppy lacrosse jersey-wearing DALTON, looks like he wants to worship the ground Marne walks on.

CHUCK

Hey, Marne.

MELISSA

One-year anniversary. Better be there.

MIRANDA

(Pushing a flyer at Dalton:)

You *will* be there.

DALTON

You know I never miss.

MELISSA

Except for last month.

MIRANDA

Show love, Dalton.

DALTON

Can I show *you* love?

MIRANDA

(Nuzzling up to him to tease:)

I would love you more *stylin'* the new all-black.

CHUCK, not nearly cool enough to be Dalton's friend, makes the mistake of chiming in:

CHUCK

All-black would mean black letters too.

MARNE

How many T-shirts you own, Chuck?

CHUCK

I think I got one last year.

MELISSA

I don't.

MARNE

When I *think* about it, don't remember seeing you at a vigil.

CHUCK

I've been.

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DALTON
How much for the all-black?

MARNE
Fifteen.

Dalton forks over the cash. They hand him a T-shirt. As they do, lights up on QE (pronounced Q.E.), Beth's younger sister, standing across the cafeteria.

MARNE (CONT'D)
(To Chuck:)
Beth is dead.

CHUCK
I know.

Dalton takes his jersey off and puts the shirt on.

MARNE
And if you cared about her-

MIRANDA
You'd be puttin' on that all-black.

MARNE
Sacrifice a freakin' latte.

CHUCK
What about those buttons? I have enough for a button.

MIRANDA
You look hot, Dalton.

MARNE
(To Chuck:)
Go tell QE you hate her sister.

CHUCK
But I don't-

MELISSA
Or we will.

CHUCK
I get paid next Friday.

MIRANDA
The vigil's *this* Friday.

MARNE

Everyone, can I have your attention?

The cafeteria starts to go quiet.

MIRANDA

QE, you'll want to hear this.

CHUCK

OK!

MELISSA

Nah - it's all good, QE. We love you, girl.

Marne gestures for people to go
back to what they were doing.
The noise level returns.

MARNE

(To Chuck:)

Let me see that AJ.

CHUCK

You said 15.

MARNE

AJ.

CHUCK

But that's all I got for the week.

Beat. Chuck digs for money and
pays Marne. Miranda or Melissa
gives Chuck a T-shirt, or rather
tosses it at him. The lights
shift to focus on QE.

QE

I'm used to those looks. Those poor QE looks. Those "insert
name here" Beth's sister looks. I run from memorial to
dedication to fundraiser. It's like all Beth, all the time.
Nobody even knows me. Well, everybody knows me. I'm Beth's
sister.

(Beat.)

After they had Beth - Elizabeth - they had *Queen* Elizabeth.
Seriously? But nobody says a thing anymore. It took my
sister dying to make my lifetime humiliation of a name cool.
And how am I supposed to change it now? How am I supposed to
change any of this?

QE melts into the crowds of the
cafeteria. Alisa looks for a
table. Headline comes up to her.

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HEADLINE

Beautiful Princess Sits with Charming, Handsome Prince.

He pulls out a chair for her, offering the seat, brushing off the table at the last minute when he realizes it's dirty. Buy Boy intercepts Alisa.

BUY BOY

You don't want to sit there.

ALISA

And you know this because...?

Alisa turns away from both of them. Lights up on the outcast table: SABRINA, perhaps a goth; LEGOLAS, whose real name is Aloysius, and HABIT, short for nothing and often quiet. In between them sits a burger with ketchup and relish, alone on a plate. They each raise a glass.

SABRINA

To Jeremy.

Habit tips her glass in the direction of the burger.

LEGOLAS

To J-Bird.

SABRINA

He hated that name.

LEGOLAS

He what?

SABRINA

He did.

LEGOLAS

He never said anything.

SABRINA

Right. Not like he spent days on end saying, "Oh my God, will Legolas stop calling me J-Bird?"

LEGOLAS

(Beat.)

He didn't say that, did he?

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SABRINA

He said, "I'm only killing myself because I can't kill Legolas."

LEGOLAS

That's not funny.

SABRINA

Chill out.

LEGOLAS

Sorry. Memorial Cheeseburger Wednesday always messes with my head.

SABRINA

(Beat.)

You get your paper done?

LEGOLAS

Almost. Worked on it all last night.

SABRINA

Isn't it due tomorrow?

LEGOLAS

One more all-nighter should do it.

(Beat.)

Why didn't you say something? I would have stopped. I would have stopped in a second.

SABRINA

(Mostly to herself:)

Why didn't I say a lot of things?

Habit steps out of real time.

HABIT

Dalton beats the crap out of his liver every Friday and Saturday night. The M Squad likes shopping, gossip and gambling in that order. Every study hall, Marne's got one tab open to some fashion page and the other to sneak-a-peek poker. Tanner's always makin' a deal and scratchin' out an extra buck, and his mom and dad have his and hers Porsches. He just can't help it. It's a habit.

(Beat.)

You notice habits are mostly bad? Like silence. That's mine. And it's mostly bad.

Habit steps back into the scene just as Marne's posse approaches her table. Does Marne look reluctant?

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MIRANDA
Listen up, freakazoids.

MARNE
Leave it.

MELISSA
Why?

MIRANDA
The three little freaklets need to get with the program.

MARNE
Let's just go. I want a latte.

MELISSA
You hate lattes.

MARNE
Whatever. A cappuccino.

Beat. Melissa and Miranda
exchange a look. They move on.

LEGOLAS
You ever wonder about the cheeseburger?

SABRINA
I wonder if it's dog.

LEGOLAS
If we eat the cheeseburger, is that like at communion when
they eat the body of Christ?

SABRINA
This is *all* so messed up.

LEGOLAS
Just like every single day.

They do not eat the burger, as
the lights dim on them and up on
Alisa, trying to find a seat at
last. She finds an open seat by
Brady, the Teen Reporter from the
first scene.

ALISA
Is anyone sitting here?

He shakes his head. She sits.

ALISA (CONT'D)
Hi. I'm Alisa.

Brady.

BRADY

Pause.

ALISA
I brought my lunch. Didn't know if the food was good or...
(Beat.)
Seems like everybody at this school...either you can't shut
up or you hardly talk at all.

BRADY
(Looking up from his lunch:)
How are you? How's your day?

ALISA
Do you really want to know?

BRADY
I asked.

ALISA
Mid-year transfers suck but other than this crazy shrine next
to my locker that I'm going to trip over really, really soon
and the two guys hitting on me in front of it, in the caff
and everywhere else, I'm great.

BRADY
Don't worry. I won't hit on you.

ALISA
Gay, or just not your type?

BRADY
Lost my confidence.
(Beat as he stands:)
Bell's about to ring.

The BELL RINGS and he exits.
Alisa finds herself thrown into a
three-ring circus. When the dust
clears, she's trying to get at
her locker. She measures her
path, but doesn't quite have the
coordination for success. Beat.
She gives the closest parts of
the shrine a nudge, trying to buy
herself some breathing room.
Enter Marne, Miranda and Melissa.
Alisa stops her efforts, but too
late.

MARNE

(Indicating the shrine:)

Pretty rock star, isn't it.

ALISA

Yeah.

MIRANDA

So what are you doing?

ALISA

What do you mean?

MELISSA

Do you know what this is?

MARNE

You should figure out what's what before you start messing with things.

ALISA

I'm not trying to mess with things. If they moved it six inches-

MARNE

Maybe it's you that needs to move.

They exit, leaving Alisa shaken.

SCENE 2

A classroom. A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER passes back aptitude tests. Half of them are already in students' hands. Dalton leans over to Chuck.

DALTON

Sub. We should blow this off.

Chuck holds up his hand, as in "talk to the hand."

DALTON (CONT'D)

You're not seriously still mad about the shirt.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Aloysius-

LEGOLAS

(Cutting her off, but not before a snicker escapes from the peanut gallery:)

Legolas.

Across the room, MARIO, sitting near PAM and WENDY, holds up his results in disbelief.

MARIO

A non-union plumber?!

PAM

Veterinarian.

MARIO

Why am I not good enough to be in the union?

WENDY

You're gonna make way more money than Mario.

MARIO

Shut up.

PAM

But I'm allergic to cats. And dogs.

ALISA

Those tests mean nothing.

BRADY

Tell that to my parents. You're lucky you didn't take it.

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ALISA
So far, the only good thing about being new.

BRADY
Ouch.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
(Pronounced rhine-er)
Jeremy Reiner?

The class goes silent. Pause.

MARIO
(Uncomfortably:)
Oh man...

CHUCK
How's he still on the list?

DALTON
You talking to me now?

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
Is Jeremy absent?

BRADY
(Beat.)
He's not in this class.

There's a long and awkward
silence. A barely stifled GIGGLE
comes from somewhere in the back.

SABRINA
Not cool.

GIGGLING GIRL
Sorry...I'm not like laughing at him.

SABRINA
Then why are you laughing?

GIGGLING GIRL
'Cause it's super freaky.

CHUCK
Your laugh is super freaky.

DALTON
I know, right?

SABRINA
It's not funny.

CHUCK

I'm still pissed at you.

BRADY

Shut up! All of you - just - shut - up!

He storms out. Silence. Legolas steps out of the scene, and draws the light. During Legolas' monologue, Alisa exits.

LEGOLAS

Six years ago, my uncle moved to a different apartment in his building. And so they start sending his disability checks to the new address, which is what you expect, right? And then suddenly two months ago they start going to his old address. Lucky it's in the same building, but what's up with that?

(Beat.)

People think I'm weird. I'm OK with that. But I'm not crazy. And I say that the check suddenly going to my uncle's old address, or Jeremy's aptitude test coming back, that's not an accident.

(Beat.)

I just hope - I hope it makes things better.

The lights dim on the classroom, where all freeze. The lights come up on a hallway, where Brady sits on the ground by a locker in the hall. Enter Alisa.

ALISA

I'm "in the bathroom."

Alisa sits next to him.

BRADY

I barely know you.

ALISA

What - you wanna blow your stranger danger whistle?

BRADY

I just shouldn't dump all this stuff on you.

ALISA

What if I dump first?

BRADY

And then me?

ALISA
 A dump for a dump. If you want.
 (Beat.)
 I told you I have this shrine by my locker.

BRADY
 Beth. It's a shrine to Beth.

ALISA
 I try to move it one tiny bit, and like they can smell that something moved, these three-

BRADY
 The M Squad.

ALISA
 The what?

BRADY
 They're like the goddesses of popularity.

ALISA
 Great. First day and I'm screwed.

BRADY
 Buy a T-shirt.
 (Beat.)
 You buy a shirt, it's like sacrificing a goat.

ALISA
 Brady, you're so weird.

BRADY
 Fifteen dollars is cheap not to be the goat.

ALISA
 (Beat.)
 Your turn to dump now?

BRADY
 You're not done yet.

ALISA
 I'm sacrificing a goat.

BRADY
 (Beat.)
 You said if I wanted.

He gets up.

BRADY (CONT'D)
 I don't.

He walks away, leaving her there
as the lights dim.

SCENE 3

ROXANNA, student council
president, confronts Marne.

ROXANNA
You can't coerce people.

MARNE
How's the luau coming?

ROXANNA
Did you hear me?

MARNE
You get those tiki torches you wanted so bad?

The lights shift as Marne steps
out of this conversation.
Roxanna stays frozen in place.
Enter a quartet of NEEDY
STUDENTS, who accost Marne in
turn.

FIRST STUDENT
Hey Marne. Car wash came up a little short.

SECOND STUDENT
Two hundred if we want the good swing set.

FIRST STUDENT
Safer swing set.

THIRD STUDENT
Marne, is there any way to get another three Bens?

FOURTH STUDENT
I know I said 250 was gonna be enough-

THIRD STUDENT
Or else they're gonna have to share books.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS
Marne, could you-?
Marne, can you-
Marne?
Marne!

MARNE
(Walking away from them:)
Put Beth's name somewhere big.

Marne steps back into the
conversation with Roxanna.

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ROXANNA

I'm just saying don't make it so obvious.

MARNE

Newsflash: without me and Beth, your student council budget is the size of a chicken nugget. Nobody's buying playground equipment for South Elementary or fixing the trophy case in the middle school, and they sure as hell aren't buying any tiki torches.

ROXANNA

You know how much we appreciate-

MARNE

No. If I ever hear another word, you're cut off. We'll set up a freakin' scholarship fund for orphans in Africa, and I know nobody wants that.

Marne stalks off, leaving Roxanna standing there wondering what hit her.

SCENE 4

Alisa is in the office, which might be indicated by a counter and a few chairs for those who wait. A SECRETARY wearing a mask, as do all of the adults in the play, busies herself doing who knows what. Buy Boy perches by her desk, and Headline works as a student assistant.

HEADLINE

Beautiful Girl Waits in the Office.

BUY BOY

Come on. You gotta have a little something something for my friend Alisa.

HEADLINE

Beautiful Girl Fights Hopeless Fight.

ALISA

(To Headline:)

Stop talking like that.

Enter DR. COPPERFIELD, masked.

DR. COPPERFIELD

Tanner, you're at the top of my list. My office - last period.

BUY BOY

Come on, Dr. C, don't do me like that.

ALISA

Dr. Copperfield.

Dr. Copperfield walks out of the office. Alisa follows him, and Headline follows her.

HEADLINE

Fearless Reporter Apologizes.

He continues to walk with her.

ALISA

I don't know what your malfunction is, but could you please just leave me alone?

(Catching up to Dr. Copperfield:)

Dr. Copperfield.

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Headline does not follow them.

DR. COPPERFIELD

I have a meeting, but I would be happy to make an appointment to-

ALISA

The shrine.

DR. COPPERFIELD

I'm going to walk faster now.

ALISA

How am I supposed to get to my books?

DR. COPPERFIELD

I'm almost at my meeting.

ALISA

Maybe I don't understand everything here, and not to sound like I don't care, but I'm pretty sure it's a fire hazard and it's not fair to give me a locker that I can't use or to switch me and make somebody else suffer instead, and this can't be the only student at Washington that's ever died.

DR. COPPERFIELD

(Beat.)

We don't talk about that.

ALISA

Where are their shrines?

DR. COPPERFIELD

I'm at my meeting.

ALISA

But-

DR. COPPERFIELD

Your time is up.

He exits to some unseen room, as the lights dim on Alisa. Elsewhere, Headline stands alone.

HEADLINE

(Hitting himself in the head as the lights dim:)

Freak. Freak. Freak. Freak.

Blackout.

SCENE 5

HYACINTH KROY, high school TV news reporter and heir to Brady's spot, is live on camera with QE. This could be live or a projection.

HYACINTH

This is Hyacinth Kroy with your Washington Warrior News. I know I don't need to tell you what Friday is, and I know that the entire Washington community will be there to show that Beth is still alive in our hearts.

(Beat.)

QE, thank you for talking with us.

QE

Anything for Beth.

HYACINTH

Can you believe it's been a year? How is life different for you now?

QE

Well, things are a little better, I guess.

HYACINTH

What's it going to be like looking out into that sea of all black tomorrow night?

QE

I guess it'll be pretty amazing.

HYACINTH

(Waving an all-black shirt:)

I've got mine right here.

(Beat.)

I know your sister would be really proud of you.

QE

I show up.

HYACINTH

That's something.

The lights brighten around the stage to reveal other students.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

Is this on?

I own all the shirts they ever put out.

It's for a good cause.

I knew Beth since elementary. Least I can do is go.

What if it was me, right?

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PAM

I think you show up not for the person - I mean, Beth's dead, right? You show up for QE and Mr. and Mrs. Turner and everybody else.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

I made varsity this year. Beth would have been captain. I didn't know Beth, but I'm in trig with QE. Hate that class.
Anybody know if there's an after party?
Dude, you are so inappropriate.

End of scene.

SCENE 6

A school conference room. Marne, Melissa and Miranda count money. A few all-blacks are scattered about the room.

MARNE

It's official. The all-blacks are our biggest seller.

MELISSA

We should go to dinner and celebrate.

MARNE

It's not about us.

MELISSA

Doesn't mean we can't celebrate. And not some ick fast food place.

MIRANDA

Before we get all hallelujah, I got three no's.

MARNE

Who?

MIRANDA

You know who.

MELISSA

You've cut them plenty of slack.

MARNE

They deserve some slack.

MIRANDA

People could say you give them too much.

(Beat.)

If they don't buy, how long before it's 20 people, or 100, or until Beth is just a plaque on the wall that nobody sees in a hallway that nobody walks through?

(To Marne:)

And til you're just another ex-lacrosse player who used to matter...

MARNE

Don't forget why we do this.

MIRANDA

Why do we do this? Melissa, do you know?

MELISSA

I didn't even know her that well.

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MIRANDA

Did you, Marne? You tore your whatever before the season even started. You didn't even play a game-

MARNE

Do you know how much I've done-

MIRANDA

I do. But people could start to forget that.

(Beat.)

I just don't get why you suddenly turn all soft for these three losers.

Long pause.

MARNE

Because we weren't the only ones who lost something.

MIRANDA

But who's got something to lose now?

(Beat.)

If you don't step up, somebody will. Just sayin'.

Long pause.

MARNE

I'm not there when it happens, and I don't know anything about it.

The lights dim on them and come up on Luna.

LUNA

So when a planet gets demoted, what about its moons? One second, they're all planetary and sexy, and the next they're little chunks of rock orbiting some slightly bigger chunk of rock.

(Beat.)

It's like this woman in my neighborhood whose dad was a big general in communist Romania. One day she's growing up on easy street with the nicest toys and the best schools and dance lessons and caviar...and then he writes this novel that makes fun of the government and boom, hello prison for daddy and goodbye everything for the family. Not a good day to be a moon, the day that planet fell out of orbit.

(Beat.)

But after it happened, they didn't burst into flames or fall apart into nothing. They kept right on going, as if everything was exactly the same. As if Pluto was every bit what it once was. As if he was right there at the table, eating a cheeseburger hold the cheese every Wednesday.

LUNA (CONT'D)

And sometimes that's harder than hell, because all around you, you get the sense that everyone else wishes you'd just disintegrate, because it would be easier to forget what happened here. But sooner or later everybody's gonna have to face it. We're going to have to answer for our crimes against Pluto.

SCENE 7

Miranda and Chuck, the latter up against the wall, in some high school nook.

CHUCK

I bought the all-black like you wanted. I don't have any more-

MIRANDA

You like Marne, don't you?

CHUCK

Uh...no. Not, uh...like. You mean like like or-

MIRANDA

Don't lie.

Beat. Chuck nods.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Chuckie. Chuckie Chuck Chuck. Chuckety Chuckety. I like that. You seem really nervous. Do I make you nervous?

CHUCK

If I'm about to get totally pwned, can we just get it over with?

MIRANDA

It must suck to hang out with a hottie like Dalton. Watch all the girls checking him out and know that they're not looking at you at all.

CHUCK

I gotta go.

MIRANDA

No you don't.

CHUCK

But I-

MIRANDA

Marne needs your help.

CHUCK

(Beat.)

She said that?

MIRANDA

She has this problem. And I'm sure if somebody solved it...

She runs a finger up his chest.

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MIRANDA (CONT'D)
Imagine Marne doing that.

CHUCK
Oh God.

MIRANDA
Just solve this problem...for Marne. I'm sure she'd be...
(Blowing in his ear or
something similarly
seductive:)
grateful.

Lights dim on them.

SCENE 8

Alisa carries an all-black.
Brady emerges. He's been
watching.

BRADY

You did the right thing.

ALISA

Are you spying on me?

(Beat.)

We agreed: I dump, you dump. But then you left me-

BRADY

You don't know what happened.

ALISA

(Walking away:)

Beth died. I get it.

BRADY

No. Jeremy died.

ALISA

Who's-

(Beat.)

The name in math class.

BRADY

He died two weeks before Beth. Not even two weeks. A week and a half. They say he hung himself in his garage, but I don't know if that's how he did it, because nobody ever talks about it.

Want to read the rest? Follow the instructions on
the play's page to order a perusal copy!