

THE LOVE NOTE Jr.

A MUSICAL PACKED WITH LOVE!

Script, Music, & Lyrics by Gail Phaneuf

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A MUSICAL PACKED WITH LOVE!

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SYNOPSIS: *The Love Note Jr.* is the tale of Jessie's arrival at a new and outlandish school where there is a colorful and zany cast of characters. The ruthless bullies rule the cafeteria, the unique bookworms stick together behind their books, and the watchful Lunch Lady wields a mean soup ladle. Meanwhile there is a cute boy named Peter who looks Jessie's way during math class. Jessie sits alone in her new school cafeteria, but gains some comfort from the tiny pink *love note* that her mother packs into her lunch bag. As soon as the head bully Brittany steals her love note and bites into her tasty sandwich, Jessie knows she is in trouble. In the musical *The Love Note*, Jessie and her lively friend, Airy, invent a spicy strategy to overcome the lunchroom bullies who pilfer her lunch and laugh at her precious love note. Bolstered by her ever-growing hunger, and cheeky advice from Airy, Jessie decides to take "HOT LUNCH" preparation into her own hands.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(8 female, 3 male, 5 either, 8+ ensemble; gender flexible)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| JESSIE (f)..... | Mezzo (Gb2-E4); The new girl at school. <i>(122 lines)</i> |
| BRITTANY (f)..... | Mezzo (G2-D4); The head Mean Girl. <i>(72 lines)</i> |
| AIRY (f/m)..... | Tenor/Mezzo (F2-C4); Jessie's <i>best</i> friend – dynamic and fun. <i>(63 lines)</i> |
| NATTY (f)..... | Alto (A2-A3); Brittany's friend. Aspires to be Brittany. <i>(35 lines)</i> |
| PATTY (f)..... | Mezzo (G2-D4); Brittany's friend. Aspires to be Brittany. <i>(29 lines)</i> |
| KATTY (f)..... | Soprano (G2-D4); Brittany's friend. Aspires to be Brittany. <i>(25 lines)</i> |
| PETER (m)..... | Tenor (A1-Gb3); Middle school heartthrob. <i>(9 lines)</i> |
| ADAM (m)..... | Baritone (A1-G3); Head bully boy who likes Brittany. <i>(16 lines)</i> |

- BOOKWORM #1 (f/m) Band geek. (*4 lines*)
 BOOKWORM #2 (f/m) Science nerd. (*7 lines*)
 BOOKWORM #3 (f) Math wiz. (*18 lines*)
 BOOKWORM #4 (f/m) A foreign exchange student. (*5 lines*)
 BOOKWORM #5 (f/m) Hippie. (*4 lines*)
 BOOKWORM #6 (m)..... Super hero (complete with cape!). (*4 lines*)
 BOOKWORM #7 (f) Princess. (*6 lines*)
 LUNCH LADY (f)..... Mezzo (Gb2-B2); She works in the school
 lunch room – hair net. The only *adult* in the
 show. (*6 lines*)

ENSEMBLE:

- BULLY BOYS (m)..... Boys who appear in the opening, the
 lunchroom and detention scenes.
 BULLY GIRLS (f)..... Girls who appear in the opening, the
 lunchroom, detention and the Girl Talk
 scenes.

CASTING NOTE: The characters (except for the Lunch Lady) are all between 10 and 12 years old. Ensemble numbers can vary. Consists of actors who can sing and dance in the five ensemble numbers. (WALK DON'T RUN, FOOD FIGHT, DETENTION, WE ARE CHEFS, and THE LOVE NOTE FINALE.)

DURATION: 60 minutes

TIME: present

SETTING: Middle school.

PRODUCTION NOTES

SET: The main action takes place in the school lunchroom and in JESSIE's kitchen at home. There is one classroom scene and one scene that takes place in the girl's bathroom.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- SCENE 1: On the way to school
SCENE 2: The classroom/ and Lunchroom
SCENE 3: Jessie's kitchen
SCENE 4: The Lunchroom
SCENE 5: Detention hall
SCENE 6: Jessie's kitchen
SCENE 7: The Girl's bathroom
SCENE 8: The Lunchroom
SCENE 9: Jessie's kitchen
SCENE 10: The Lunchroom

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- SONG #1: **THE LOVE NOTE OPENING**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #1A: **VERY IMAGINARY**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #2: **WALK DON'T RUN**
ENSEMBLE
- SONG #3: **THE LOVE NOTE**
JESSIE
- SONG #4: **MY NAME IS BRITTANY**
BRITTANY, NATTY, PATTY, and KATTY
- SONG #4A: **SCHOOL BELL**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #4B: **INTO JESSIE'S KITCHEN**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #5: **VERY IMAGINARY**
JESSIE, AIRY
- SONG #5A: **INTO THE LUNCHROOM**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #6: **BOOKWORMS**
BOOKWORMS

- SONG #7:** **FOOD FIGHT**
ADAM, BULLY BOYS, BULLY GIRLS, BOOKWORMS
- SONG #7A:** **BRITTANY'S VAMP**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #7B:** **WALK DON'T RUN – REPRISE**
JESSIE
- SONG #8:** **INTO DETENTION HALL**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #8A:** **BRITTANY'S VAMP AGAIN!**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #9:** **DE-TEN-TION!**
ENSEMBLE
- SONG #9A:** **AFTER DE-TEN-TION!**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #10:** **JESSIE**
PETER, JESSIE
- SONG #10A:** **THE KING!**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #11:** **WE ARE CHEFS**
JESSIE, AIRY
- SONG 11A:** **AFTER CHEF**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #11B:** **BRITTANY'S VAMP AGAIN!**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #12:** **GIRL TALK**
BRITTANY, PATTY, KATTY, NATTY
- SONG #12A:** **AFTER GIRL TALK**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #13:** **BRITTANY'S VAMP!**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #14:** **INTO JESSIE'S KITCHEN AGAIN!**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #15:** **WE ARE CHEFS – REPRISE**
JESSIE, AIRY

- SONG #15A: **INTO SCHOOL LUNCHROOM**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #15B: **BRITTANY'S VAMP AAAAGAIN**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #16: **JESSIE – REPRISE**
PETER, JESSIE
- SONG #17: **DISTORTED BRITTANY'S VAMP**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #18: **THE LOVE NOTE – REPRISE**
ENSEMBLE
- SONG #19: **BOWS**
INSTRUMENTAL
- SONG #20: **EXIT MUSIC**
INSTRUMENTAL

DO NOT COPY

SCENE 1**SONG #1: THE LOVE NOTE OPENING***INSTRUMENTAL**[SOUND CUE 1]*

AT RISE: Kids arrive at school, talking, running and walking and entering the building. They enter and take their seats in groups (i.e. Bookworms, Bully Boys, Bully girls). JESSIE and AIRY come bounding into the audience playing tag and laughing – JESSIE is wearing worn out boots. Then suddenly, JESSIE looks up and sees her new school.

SONG #1A: VERY IMAGINARY*INSTRUMENTAL**[Continuation of Sound Cue 1]*

JESSIE is nervously looks at the school with a spritely AIRY by her side.

JESSIE: I don't see why I have to do this.

AIRY: So... they can get to know you!

JESSIE: Or so they can make fun of me if I mess up and forget what to say – or if my leg shakes like crazy.

AIRY: It won't. Just do it like we practiced and they'll love you. Do you have your speech – and the picture?

JESSIE: Yeah, in my bag.

AIRY stops JESSIE and faces her.

AIRY: Do you want me to come with you?

JESSIE: You know you can't.

AIRY: Ok. Do it like we practiced. What's the worst thing that can happen?

JESSIE: They'll hate me.

JESSIE walks past AIRY and then quickly checks her book bag again for her speech. AIRY starts to fade back.

AIRY: No one could hate you Jessie – *(Calling to JESSIE.)* you're my best friend.

AIRY disappears from the scene with a tinkle sound [Included in Sound Cue 2; Included in score as "chime".] as JESSIE continues to talk.

JESSIE: *That doesn't really help me AIRY. I mean -*

JESSIE stops and turns and looks for AIRY, then back at the school.

JESSIE: *(Deflated.)* I have to go alone...

SCENE 2

SONG #2: WALK DON'T RUN

ENSEMBLE

[Continuation of Sound Cue 1]

JESSIE takes her place in front of the class for her oral presentation. She is shy and unsure of herself. The other kids fidget and roll their eyes and moan.

JESSIE: —so, um, before we moved here – before my grandfather died, he taught me, uh – how to milk a cow! *(Awkward pause.)*

Kids sing forcefully, almost aggressively.

ALL: *(Except JESSIE)*

WE'VE BEEN SITTING TRYING HARD NOT TO BE BAD!

Ticking continues.

JESSIE: At first I was afraid... she towered over me. (*Pause – more nervous.*) But my grandfather told me that she was very gentle. Her name was Bessy! And, um, she used to nudge me with her big nose when she wanted an apple— (*Singing cuts her off.*)

ALL: (*Except JESSIE.*)

STOMACHS CRYING OUT FOR BREAKFAST
THAT WE SHOULD HAVE HAD!

JESSIE: (*Stammering a bit.*) I liked to bring her an apple – she, um, always knew when I had one – in my coat pocket— (*Singing cuts her off.*)

ALL: (*Except JESSIE.*)

SO WE DOODLE ON OUR DESKS TO PASS THE TIME AWAY...

JESSIE: I have a picture if anyone wants to see it (*Holds up small picture.*) —um, it's um... it's kind of... small.

ALL:

BUT WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE...

JESSIE: Thank you.

*JESSIE runs quickly off. We see the kids staring intently at the clock.
BELL RINGS AND THE KIDS JUMP UP.*

ALL:

WALK DON'T RUN WHEN YOU HEAR THE BELL RING.
WALK DON'T RUN WITH OUR STOMACHS GROWLING!
DON'T PUSH AND SHOVE OTHERS INTO THE WALLS!
WALK DON'T RUN IN THE HALLS!

OH GEEZ!

CAN WE HAVE SOME TACOS PLEASE?
OR EVEN MAC AND CHEESE?
YOU CAN HOLD THE ICKY VEGETABLES!

OH HEY!

DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S PIZZA DAY?
TWO BIG SLICES ON MY TRAY!
THEY DON'T COME WITH ICKY VEGETABLES!

WALK DON'T RUN WHEN YOU'RE FINDING A SEAT!
 WALK DON'T RUN TO GET SOME-THING TO EAT.
 SHOW RESPECT AND NO CUTZIES IN LINE!
 CAN'T YOU ALL READ THE SIGNS?

OH WOW!
 I CAN SMELL THE BURGERS NOW!
 JUST BRING ON ALL THE CHOW!
 BUT PLEASE HOLD THE ICKY VEGETABLES!

HOORAY!

ADAM:

SHE-GAVE ME EXTRA FRIES TODAY!

NATTY:

WAIT! ARE THOSE GREEN BEANS ON MY TRAY? (*Scream.*)

ALL:

I DON'T WANT THE ICKY VEGETABLES!

Dance section – BULLY BOYS and BULLY GIRLS with trays dance and there is some pushing and rough play. The BULLY BOYS and BOOKWORMS drum with their utensils the LUNCH LADY joins into the dance with her soup ladle as she tries to orchestrate and organize them to no avail the kids make fun of her and sing.

ALL:

WALK DON'T RUN WHAT'S YOUR HURRY THEY SAY?
 WALK DON'T RUN BUT WE'RE WASTING AWAY!
 WALK DON'T RUN MY FRIEND'S SAVING MY SEAT!
 CAN'T YOU PLEASE LET US EAT?!

By the end of the number, the kids are all seated in the school lunchroom with their lunches – except JESSIE. The LUNCH LADY moves from her counter, where she has been doling out lunches. She looks around and shakes her head and exits. The boys are rough-housing at their table. There is a table of BOOKWORMS off to one side at their table. KATTY exits to look for Brittany. NATTY and PATTY stand on the stairs and look around to see who is at lunch. They point and laugh at the BOOKWORMS.

NATTY: (*Calling out.*) Hey geeks! What's for lunch?

PATTY: (*Laughing and sarcastic.*) Natty – what do Bookworms eat?

NATTY: Hmmmm... I don't know Patty – *brainfood?*

NATTY and PATTY laugh to each other and walk to the other side of the cafeteria.

BOOKWORM #3: (*Mocking PATTY.*) What do bookworms eat? Ha!
Ha!

BOOKWORM #1: Bullies should have to eat dirt!

BOOKWORM #2: That's too good for them.

BOOKWORM #3: There's Jessica.

JESSIE enters tentatively with her lunch bag – looking around for where to sit. Some of the bully boys taunt her silently from behind and laugh and run away.

BOOKWORM #2: Where did she say she's from?

BOOKWORM #4: (*Taking out lunch.*) A farm in Vermont.

BOOKWORM #5: That must be cool living on a farm.

BOOKWORM #2: Except for the chickens – yuck!

BOOKWORM #3: I would *love* to ride a horse.

BOOKWORM #7: She said she milked a *huge* cow named Bessy!

BOOKWORM #6: (*Taking out sandwich.*) I wonder if she knows how to make cheese? My mom gets this super extra sharp cheese from Vermont.

BOOKWORM #3: Mine too! My father likes the extra-extra sharp—it's disgusting. (*Inspects her sandwich.*) It makes me pucker.

PETER enters the lunch room and joins his friends.

BOOKWORM #7: (*Chiding.*) Well pucker up because – there's Peter.

BOOKWORM #3: (*Embarrassed.*) Stop it!

BOOKWORM #5: You were only staring at him all through math!
Maybe he'll ask you to the Halloween dance!

BOOKWORM #3: Right! I'm so sure he'll run right over and ask ME.

BOOKWORMS laugh a little and then retreat into their books when NATTY and PATTY walk up to JESSIE.

NATTY: (To JESSIE.) Hi Jessica, have you seen Brittany?

JESSIE: Who?

NATTY: *Brittany* – You don't know who Brittany is?

JESSIE: No – I mean... I'm new.

PATTY: (To JESSIE.) Yeah – we know. Mooooo....

ADAM: Mooooooooo!

NATTY and PATTY exit giggling. ADAM and BULLY BOYS echo MOOOOO. JESSIE looks around for where to sit. She looks over at the BOOKWORMS, but does not approach. She buys some chocolate milk from the LUNCH LADY. She sits at a school lunch table all by herself. She seems content, but a bit lonely as she begins to take things out of her lunch bag.

SONG #3: THE LOVE NOTE

JESSIE

[SOUND CUE 2]

As she sings, JESSIE finds a pink Love Note that has been tucked inside her lunch – it falls to the floor. Lit in a special light – JESSIE sings. The rest of the cast is in a freeze staring at her.

JESSIE:

A WRINKLED BROWN BAG
MY NAME ON THE SIDE
BUT IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH
TO CRAWL IN AND HIDE AWAY.

A SANDWICH ON WHITE,
IT'S PB AND J.

SOME BARBEQUE CHIPS,
I LIKE THEM THAT WAY!

AN APPLE AND CAKE
BUT WAIT SOMETHING MORE.

A TINY PINK PAPER THAT FALLS TO THE TO THE FLOOR.

DEAR JESSIE IT'S MOM, HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY.

DEAR JESSIE MAKE FRIENDS AND TAKE TIME TO PLAY.

DEAR JESSIE ENJOY THE BARBEQUE CHIPS.

I BOUGHT THEM FOR YOU 'CAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU LIKE THEM THAT WAY!

IT'S PACKED WITH LOVE THAT FILLS THE EMPTY CHAIRS
AND MELTS AWAY THE AWKWARD STARES.
THEY THINK I'M WEIRD
BUT I'M JUST NEW IN TOWN.
IT'S PACKED WITH LOVE THAT TURNS ME TEN FEET TALL.
NOW, I'M THE ENVY OF YOU ALL.
SO I'LL TOWER ABOVE
WITH MY LUNCH FULL OF LOVE
AND MY WRINKLED BROWN BAG
WITH MY NAME ON THE SIDE.
AND MY TINY PINK PAPER.
NOW I DON'T HAVE TO HIDE AWAY.

Dialogue is underscored – unfreeze. NATTY and PATTY enter and approach JESSIE. BOOKWORMS watch.

NATTY: Hey Jessica! You used to live on a farm... with pigs?

JESSIE nods yes.

PATTY: And you *really* know how to milk a cow?

JESSIE: Yes.

NATTY: (*Pointing to JESSIE'S choc. milk carton.*) So you could squeeze the milk out yourself? (*NATTY imitates milking a cow.*)

JESSIE: Well, not chocolate.

PATTY: Then I guess you won't be needing this anymore?

PATTY grabs JESSIE'S chocolate milk.

NATTY: Yeah – you can do it all by yourself. (*Makes a “mooring” sound – then to BOOKWORMS.*) What are you Bookworms staring at?! C'mon PATTY.

PATTY: Mooooooooo.

BOOKWORMS immediately hide behind their books. NATTY and PATTY leave laughing. The ensemble freezes.

JESSIE:

IT'S PACKED WITH LOVE THAT FILLS THE EMPTY CHAIRS
 AND MELTS AWAY THE AWKWARD STARES.
 THEY THINK I'M WEIRD
 BUT I'M JUST NEW IN TOWN.
 IT'S PACKED WITH LOVE THAT TURNS ME TEN FEET TALL.
 NOW, I'M THE ENVY OF YOU ALL.
 SO I'LL TOWER ABOVE
 WITH MY LUNCH FULL OF LOVE
 AND MY WRINKLED BROWN BAG
 WITH MY NAME ON THE SIDE.
 AND MY TINY PINK PAPER.
 NOW I DON'T HAVE TO HIDE AWAY!

JESSIE holds her love note triumphantly. Students unfreeze. PETER steals another of the boy's hats and runs toward the door. PETER trips and falls on the floor in front of JESSIE and looks up at her and holds her gaze for a second. PETER smiles and then runs out with the other boys in pursuit. The BOOKWORMS see this.

BOOKWORM #1: Did you see Peter look at Jessie?

BOOKWORM #3: He did NOT!

BOOKWORM #2: Yes he did – maybe he likes her.

BOOKWORM #4: (*Insistent.*) No – he likes Brittany!

BOOKWORM #7: How do you know?

BOOKWORM #5: I heard Natty, Patty and Katty talking about him in English class.

BOOKWORM #6: How could he like *her*?

BOOKWORM #3: Who knows? He must have rocks in his head.

BOOKWORM #7: (*Chiding.*) You just want him to like you! Don't you? C'mon – you do – don't you?

BOOKWORM #3: No I don't – stop it! He likes Brittany!

BOOKWORM #4: (*Insistent.*) He likes Brittany!

BOOKWORM #3: I don't care – he can ask her to the stupid dance.

SONG #4: MY NAME IS BRITTANY

BRITTANY, NATTY, PATTY, KATTY

[SOUND CUE 3]

BOOKWORM #2: Here she comes – be *quiet*!!!!

BRITTANY enters with NATTY, KATTY and PATTY. BRITTANY flashes a mean look at the BOOKWORMS and they retreat into their books immediately.

BRITTANY:

I LOVE IT WHEN I WALK INTO THE ROOM.
THE LOSER KIDS FALL SILENT AND PRESUME
THAT I MIGHT LOOK THEIR WAY.
GOSH!
THEN THEY'LL HAVE TO PAY!
AND SUDDENLY THEIR FACES FILL WITH DOOM!

MY NAME IS BRITTANY!
I'M SURE IT'S PLAIN TO SEE,
WITH SUCH FINESSE, OH YES!
YOU GUESSED I RUN THIS SCHOOL!

MY NAME IS BRITTANY
SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF ME?
IF NOT BY NOW THEN YOU'RE A COWARD OR A FOOL.

OR PERHAPS
YOU'RE FROM OUT OF TOWN IN THAT CASE
LET ME SHOW YOU 'ROUND THE NEW PLACE.
WE COULD BE GREAT FRIENDS
JUST WAIT AND SEE!

MY NAME IS

BRITTANY, NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

BRITTANY!

BRITTANY:

IT'S CLEAR THEY WORSHIP ME!

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

OOOH!

BRITTANY:

THEY DUPLICATE AND EMULATE MY HAIR AND SHOES!

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

IT'S TRUE WE DO!

BRITTANY:

MY NAME IS BRITTANY
DESIGNER EVERYTHING!

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

OOOH!

BRITTANY:

IN GUCCI, RALPH LAUREN AND DIESEL
I CAN'T LOSE!

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

SHE CAN'T LOSE!

BRITTANY:

I WILL TAKE
FASHION TO IT'S HEIGHT
SO IF YOU'RE LUCKY I JUST MIGHT AGREE
TO TAKE YOU ON A NEEDED SHOPPING SPREE!

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY: (*Screaming with glee.*)

A SHOPPING SPREE!

BRITTANY goes over to one of the BOOKWORMS and holds out her hand. The BOOKWORM fearfully hands her a dollar.

BRITTANY:

SO STICK WITH

BRITTANY, NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

BRITTANY!

BRITTANY:

AND LEARN TO WORSHIP ME!
THAT IS THE RULE THAT ALL MY SERVANTS MUST OBEY!

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

WE MUST OBEY!

BRITTANY:

THREE CHEERS FOR BRITTANY!
MY POPULARITY
RUBS OFF—

BRITTANY, NATTY, PATTY and KATTY:

—IT'S TRUE!

IF YOU DO EVERYTHING I SAY!

BRITTANY: Hey Jessica... what 'cha reading?

JESSIE looking up sheepishly.

JESSIE: Nothing.

BRITTANY stands over JESSIE and tries to read her note.

BRITTANY: By the way, *awesome* ORAL report today! (*Smirk.*)

NATTY, PATTY, and KATTY: (*In unison.*) Awesomel

BRITTANY: So – 'cmon what 'cha reading there?

JESSIE: It's nothing.

BRITTANY: Now *that* looks like a great lunch... Too bad you don't have anyone to share it with! —who makes your lunch?

BRITTANY grabs the note out of JESSIE's hand.

JESSIE: Hey – c'mon – please give it back!

BRITTANY: (*Reading the note out loud – overly sweet.*) “Honey – I hope you have a wonderful day today. I packed your lunch with lots of love. Remember to Smile. You are wonderful! Love, MOM XOX”

NATTY, PATTY, and KATTY: (*Fake.*) Awe...

BRITTANY: Well... isn't that the sweetest thing?! Too bad she can't pack your lunch with some friends. Does your mother know you don't have any friends?

JESSIE: No. Please... (*Inaudible.*) go away.

BRITTANY: Hey – wait a minute. (*Sweetly.*) I came over here to make you an offer that you can't refuse. I'm offering to be your friend... as long as you trade lunch with me every day. I'll introduce you to lots of popular kids and I'll make them *like* you and include you in everything. All you have to do is trade your lunch with mine and it will be all set.

NATTY: All set!

JESSIE: My... mother... wouldn't like me to give my lunch away.

BRITTANY: Would she prefer that you sit alone and have no friends?

JESSIE: I don't tell her that.

BRITTANY: Well – I'm sure she'll be happy to know that you are fitting in at your new school – won't she? So... what's your answer? *(Pause.)* C'mon – I don't have all day to wait.

JESSIE: I don't know. Why do you want to be my friend?

BRITTANY: Because... I feel bad for you sitting here alone. Now that you're away from the farm – you need to branch out... and be more social.

NATTY, KATTY and PATTY: *(In unison.)* Yeah – be more social!

BRITTANY: I have a boyfriend and *tons* of other friends. Right girls?

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY: *(In unison.)* That's right!

BRITTANY: You do want to meet some *boys* don't you?

JESSIE: Um...

BRITTANY: Did you have dances on the farm?

NATTY: Ho-downs?

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY dance and sing a hokey ho-down until BRITTANY hushes them. The boys snort and make farm animal sounds.

JESSIE: No – not on the—farm...

BRITTANY: —Well, we have dances here... You're just a paper bag away from a whole new social life!

JESSIE: Well... I... guess... I could... um...

BRITTANY: *(Quickly.)* So it's settled then.

BRITTANY grabs JESSIE's sandwich and takes a huge bite.

BRITTANY: YUM! Tell your mom it's delicious.

BRITTANY flings her greasy brown bag in front of JESSIE, and begins to leave with JESSIE's lunch. NATTY, PATTY and KATTY follow her. BRITTANY crumples up the love note and tosses it to the floor. JESSIE does not notice the note.

JESSIE: Hey – wait – I thought we were going to be friends? Where are you going? Wait...

BRITTANY: (*Calling behind her as she exits.*) We are, we just can't sit together at lunch today. I have an urgent...meeting. See you tomorrow. (*At BOOKWORMS.*) Hisssssssss!

BRITTANY hisses at the BOOKWORMS on her way out. BOOKWORMS duck.

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY: (*In unison.*) Yeah, see ya tomorrow! (*At BOOKWORMS.*) Hisssssssss!

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY exit and hiss at the BOOKWORMS too. LUNCH LADY enters with her mop. JESSIE opens the brown bag and dumps out a badly bruised banana.

JESSIE: YUCK.

SONG #4A: SCHOOL BELL

INSTRUMENTAL

[SOUND CUE 4]

All students begin to exit as a version of WALK DON'T RUN plays. JESSIE walks to the trash and throws the brown bag away, then exits. LUNCH LADY watches her and begins to wipe the tables and pick up trash. ADAM teases then scares a BOOKWORMS. All remaining students run offstage.

LUNCH LADY: (*To us.*) Aren't they just the cutest things? Some are nine going on ten and some are ten going on forty-five. It can get a little dicey – but I try to stay out of it. They don't even notice me – all wrapped up in their complicated lives. (*Finds the love note on the floor.*) What's this? Dear Jessie – hmmm – A note from her mom – “I packed your lunch with lots of love” – that's sweet. I'll keep this for her. She's the new kid – cute kid. Brittany will give her a run for her money. Someday someone is gonna put that kid in her place. If I was her mother – she'd never see the light of day. She'd be grounded 24/7. She had the nerve to tell

me I had the fashion sense of a toad. You heard me – a toad!
Can you believe it? (*Sarcasm.*) Nice kid.

SONG #4B: INTO JESSIE'S KITCHEN

INSTRUMENTAL

[SOUND CUE 5]

SCENE 3

AT START: *JESSIE'S kitchen at home. She is making a snack and begins talking to herself.*

JESSIE: I'm so stupid. I can't believe that I traded my lunch with BRITTANY. Now I'll never get away from her. She's going to take my lunch every day. Stupid, stupid, stupid!

[SOUND CUE 6] AIRY'S tinkle. At the signature tinkling of bells, AIRY comes out of a cabinet with a snack.

AIRY: Hey—what's stupid?

JESSIE: I'm stupid!

AIRY: No you're not. How was your presentation today!? Were you *extra-super-amazing*??!

JESSIE: They just stared at me – like I was a freak. It was embarrassing. And now everyone thinks it's sooooo funny that I milked a cow. I'll never hear the end of it. I'm so stupid.

AIRY: No you aren't!

JESSIE: Yes I am. I wish you could come to school with me AIRY.

AIRY: I wish I could too – we'd have a ball!

JESSIE: Yeah... they wouldn't understand... I mean if they can't see you...

SONG #5: VERY IMAGINARY

JESSIE, AIRY

[SOUND CUE 7]

AIRY: But *you* can see me. C'mon - I'd be as quiet as a mouse – we could—

JESSIE: —You're never quiet!

AIRY: (*Quickly.*) Am too!

JESSIE: Are not!

AIRY: Am too!

JESSIE: Are not!

AIRY: Am too!

JESSIE: Are not!

AIRY: (*Sulking a bit.*) OK – I guess you're right. You don't need me. You have to make new friends at school... I understand.

JESSIE: (*Cheering up.*) Please – don't feel bad Airy. You're totally awesome!

JESSIE and AIRY begin to sing and dance.

JESSIE:

YOU'RE VERY
IMAGINARY
AND EVERYTHING A BEST FRIEND 'OUGHT TO BE!
IT'S VERY
EXTRAORDINARY
THAT YOU EXIST TO KEEP ME

JESSIE and AIRY:

COMPANY!

IF YOU MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR IMAGINATION!
YOU WON'T BE LONELY AFTER SCHOOL IT'S TRUE!
TOGETHER WE'LL CREATE A NEW SENSATION!
WHO CARES IF NO ONE KNOWS
WHO THE HECK WE'RE TALKING TO!

JESSIE:

YOU'RE VERY

JESSIE and AIRY:

IMAGINARY

JESSIE:

AND EVERYTHING A BEST FRIEND 'OUGHTA BE!

JESSIE and AIRY:

WE'RE MERRY
AND EXTRAORDINARY
AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
COMPANY!

IF YOU MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR IMAGINATION,
AND SUDDENLY YOU'RE FACED WITH MOVING DAY!
DON'T LET YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH TREPIDATION
TOGETHER IT'S ADVENTURE ALL THE WAY!

JESSIE:

FOR SOME IT'S SOME IT'S SCARY
NOT LIGHT AND AIRY
TO HAVE A FRIEND
NO ONE BELIEVES IS TRUE.

JESSIE and AIRY:

BUT WE BRUSH OUR FEARS AWAY
AND HEAD OUTSIDE TO PLAY.
WHO CARES IF NO ONE KNOWS
WHO THE HECK WE'RE TALKING TO!

DANCE SECTION.**JESSIE and AIRY:**

WE'RE MERRY
AND EXTRAORDINARY
AND EVERYTHING A BEST FRIEND OUGHTA BE!

JESSIE:

SHE'S AIRY!

AIRY:

SHE'S MERRY!

JESSIE and AIRY:

WE'RE VERY
EXTRAORDINARY!
AND WE KEEP EACH OTHER
COMPANY!

AIRY: OK – I might be a *little* distracting. Kids *would* wonder who the heck you're talking to.

JESSIE: (*Taking out chips.*) That would be better than sitting alone with all the kids staring at me. I hate this school – I miss my old one. I miss my friends.

AIRY: (*Throwing chips at JESSIE.*) HEY! What am I – chopped liver??

JESSIE: No. (*JESSIE is eating a huge snack*)

AIRY: Wow! You're really hungry Jessie! (*Pause.*) Why do you hate school? Is it hard?

JESSIE: The classes are really easy – reading... and math and stuff. But the other kids are... jerks. They don't like me.

AIRY: I can't believe that! You're great! We have such a blast. Maybe you're just being shy with them. Don't you think they'd like to hang out with you?

JESSIE: I don't have any friends now – except you... and my mom. And I'm not really sure if you count.

AIRY: (*Throws chips at JESSIE.*) What? – *I count!* C'mon-

JESSIE: OK, OK! I don't even know how to talk to them. They get all gross about boys and stuff – they wear makeup and way too much hair spray. It's weird. I wish we never moved here.

AIRY: Wow. (*Pause – then a BIG idea.*) Maybe you should stop going?! I guess you'd get in trouble for that huh? Remember when we used to hide at the bus stop and sneak up to the field to play with the horses? That was the BEST!

JESSIE: Until my mom found out! Well – there are no horses around *here* – that's for sure.

AIRY: But there are – trees – let's climb one! We could run away and... build a *tree-fort!* Yes!

JESSIE: No... I have to go to school. And now I have to trade lunches with Brittany! She's not going to be my friend. I'm going to starve to death – her lunch was totally gross.

AIRY: Did she say she wants to be your friend?

JESSIE: She said she would be if I trade my lunch with her every day. She said she'd introduce me to the popular kids – and make them like me.

AIRY: So – that sounds GOOD. Wow – she can make them like you?? It's just a stupid lunch anyway.

JESSIE: Yeah – but my mom makes me a great lunch and she always puts a note in it for me. It used to be the best part of my day at school.

AIRY: Oh.

JESSIE: Mom would hate it if I gave my lunch away. And my note.

AIRY: You don't have to tell her. Maybe tomorrow Brittany will bring a whole bunch of new friends over to the lunch table and they'll sit and laugh with you and you'll forget all about eating lunch because you'll be so happy!

JESSIE: I hope so... OK – Let's go outside.

AIRY and JESSIE: *(They high-5 each other.)* YES!

SONG #5A: INTO THE LUNCHROOM

INSTRUMENTAL

[SOUND CUE 8]

SCENE 4

AT START: *Lunchroom. The BOOKWORMS are seated at their usual table. Some BULLY BOYS run by their seats and scare them. The BULLY BOYS exit laughing. The BOOKWORMS sing.*

SONG #6: BOOKWORMS

BOOKWORMS

[SOUND CUE 9]

BOOKWORMS:

WE MUST HIDE OURSELVES BEHIND OUR BOOKS
AND GIVE THE BULLIES DIRTY LOOKS
BUT HOPE AND PRAY THAT THEY DON'T TURN TO SEE.
IF WE BAND TOGETHER AS A BUNCH,
THEY'LL LEAVE US BE TO EAT OUR LUNCH.
AT LEAST THAT IS OUR JOINT PHILOSOPHY!

THEY CALL US BOOKWORMS!
BUT TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
WE'RE HIDING MORE THAN JUST OUR NOSES IN A BOOK!
THEY CALL US BOOKWORMS!
THEY CALL US BRAINIACS.
THEY DUMP OUR BOOKS AND LAUGH AT US BEHIND OUR BACKS.

THE BULLIES SNORT AND SNEER AND THINK THEY ARE SO TOUGH.
 ONE DAY WE WILL STAND UP AND SAY THAT'S IT
 WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

THEY HOLLER BOOKWORMS!

BOOKWORM #2:

THEY CALL US SCIENCE GEEKS.

BOOKWORMS:

THE NAMES THEY SHOUT SHOW INSECURE AND JEALOUS STREAKS.

THEY CALL US BOOKWORMS!

THEY CALL US SUPER NERDS.

THEY HIT BELOW THE BELT WITH ALL THEIR NASTY WORDS!

DANCE SECTION – TAP DANCE

THEY SAY WE'RE DIFFERENT AND CALL US LAME.
 'CAUSE WE DON'T TRY TO DRESS AND THINK AND ACT THE SAME.
 THEY SAY THAT DIFFERENT IS SUCH A CRYING SHAME.
 BUT THEY'RE JUST MAD THAT WE WON'T PLAY THEIR STUPID GAME.
 THEY JUST SHOUT BOOKWORMS!

BOOKWORM #7:

THEY CALL US LOSER DORKS.

BOOKWORMS:

WE'D LOVE TO STUFF THEIR FOUL MOUTHS WITH GIANT CORKS!

AND THEN US BOOKWORMS

WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY.

THE BULLIES WILL BE SCARED AND TRY TO RUN AWAY

AND THEN WE'LL HUFF AND PUFF AND BLOW THEM ON THEIR BUMS!

THEY'LL WISH THEY NEVER CALLED US—

BRITTANY: (*Off stage. Spoken over the Music.*) Come on girls.

BOOKWORM #5:

SHHHHHH!

OH NO

QUICK!

BOOKWORMS:

—HERE SHE COMES...

At the sound of BRITTANY'S signature vamp music, BOOKWORMS retreat immediately into their books and BRITTANY enters. [Included in Sound Cue 9; Included in Song #6 Score.]. We see the boys rush into the lunchroom and pile into the line for hot lunch. PETER is on the steps below BRITTANY. ADAM sees BRITTANY and goes to talk to her.

ADAM: Hey Brit – what's up?

BRITTANY: Nothing Adam. I was talking to Peter.

PETER looks up confused.

ADAM: *(Steaming.)* Oh – yeah... hey...

PETER: Hey.

ADAM: So Brit – are you planning to go to the Halloween dance—

BRITTANY: Adam – I told you I am talking to Peter!

ADAM: OK – OK! I'll... see ya later Brit.

BRITTANY: If you're lucky.

ADAM: If I'm *lucky*?

ADAM storms off to the hot lunch line looking upset and jealous. He grabs a tray from LUNCH LADY and gets some food, and then looks back at PETER.

BRITTANY: C'mon Peter – I have something I need to ask you.

PETER: Well... ok...

The boys react saying ooooooh to ADAM. BRITTANY and PETER leave the lunchroom together. BRITTANY makes NATTY, PATTY and KATTY stay in the lunchroom. ADAM breaks out of the lunch line and sings – the other boys and girls join in.

SONG #7: FOOD FIGHT

ADAM, BULLY BOYS, BULLY GIRLS, BOOKWORMS
[SOUND CUE 10]

ADAM:

I FEEL A FOOD FIGHT COMIN'.
SO YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR BACK!
I FEEL A FOOD FIGHT COMIN'.
WE'RE GONNA LAUNCH A SNEAK ATTACK.

WE'RE LOADIN' UP ON PASTA SHELLS WITH CHEESE

BULLY BOYS and BULLY GIRLS

MORE CHEESE, MORE CHEESE, MORE PLEASE!

ADAM:

STRING BEAN MISSILES AND SOME SQUISHY PEAS

BULLY BOYS and BULLY GIRLS

MORE PEAS, MORE PEAS, MORE PLEASE!

ADAM:

SO YOU'D BETTER DODGE OR YOU'LL BE HIT WITH THESE.
'CAUSE THIS FOOD FIGHT'S GONNA BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES!

I FEEL A FOOD FIGHT COMIN'.
SO YOU'D BETTER DUCK AND RUN!

BULLY BOYS and BULLY GIRLS:

JUST RUN

ADAM:

I FEEL A FOOD FIGHT COMIN'.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME GREASY FUN!

OUR PARENTS TOLD US NOT TO PLAY WITH FOOD.

BULLY BOYS AND BULLY GIRLS:

DON'T PLAY, DON'T PLAY, NO WAY!

ADAM:

IT'S MESSY AND EMBARRASSING AND HELL IT'S DOWN-RIGHT RUDE!
BUT THEY NEVER SAID WE SHOULDN'T WAGE A WAR

BULLY BOYS AND BULLY GIRLS:

HUH!

ADAM:

AND I ASK YOU WHAT'S THIS VEGGIE MEDLEY FOR?!

ADAM, BULLY BOYS, and BULLY GIRLS:

IT'S FOR THE FOOD FIGHT COMIN'.
 WE'RE LININ' UP AND TAKIN' AIM.
 AND SO IF YOU'RE NOT RUNNIN'.
 YOU ONLY HAVE YOURSELF TO BLAME.

ADAM:

OUR PARENTS TOLD US NOT TO WASTE A MEAL.

BULLY BOYS and BULLY GIRLS:

DON'T WASTE, DON'T WASTE, NO WAY!

ADAM:

'CAUSE HOW WOULD ALL THE STARVING CHILDREN FEEL.

BULLY BOYS and BULLY GIRLS:

THEY FEEL, THEY FEEL, THEY FEEL.

ADAM:

DON'T LET THEM SEE THE STUFF YOU NEVER ATE.
 A FOOD FIGHT'S THE BEST WAY TO CLEAN YOUR PLATE!

BULLY BOYS, BULLY GIRLS and ADAM:

FOOD FIGHT, FOOD FIGHT, FOOD FIGHT, FOOD FIGHT.
 FOOD FIGHT, FOOD FIGHT, FOOD FIGHT, FOOD FIGHT.

BOOKWORMS:

I SMELL A FOOD FIGHT COMIN'.
 LOOK THEY HAVE PASTA SHELLS AND CHEESE!

BULLY BOYS, BULLY GIRLS and ADAM:

MORE CHEESE!

BOOKWORMS:

THERE IS A FOOD FIGHT COMIN'.
 LOOK THEY HAVE PLATES OF SQUISHY PEAS!

The bullies scare the bookworms and they scatter.

ADAM: (SPOKEN – he sees that PETER has entered.) There he is boys! (He yells.) FOOD FIGHT!

There is chaos and noise and trays – just before some food is thrown – PETER turns with his lunch tray and ADAM pushes the tray of food into PETER'S shirt. LUNCH LADY sees what's happening and she blows a loud whistle. BULLY BOYS and BULLY GIRLS scatter.

LUNCH LADY: You know the drill! (*Blows whistle again.*)
DETENTION! And bus your own trays! (*Watches them exit, then to us.*) That should cool their heels a bit!

LUNCH LADY points to the boys and girls one by one and they leave with some protest, then with heads hung.

LUNCH LADY: If they think I'm cleaning up after a food fight – they have another thing coming.

JESSIE enters the lunchroom looking for where to sit. She goes to buy milk from LUNCH LADY.

SONG #7A: BRITTANY'S VAMP

INSTRUMENTAL

[SOUND CUE 11]

BRITTANY enters quickly, to her vamp music, with NATTY, PATTY and KATTY and approaches JESSIE. BRITTANY is dangling her greasy paper lunch bag. JESSIE is holding onto her lunch tightly, not wanting to give it up.

BRITTANY: Hello Jessica.

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY: (*Calling.*) Hello Jessica!

BRITTANY: A deal is a deal. Let's trade.

JESSIE: I saved you a seat.

BRITTANY: Oh – I can't today... We all have to go to *detention* hall for lunch – bummer.

NATTY: Thanks to Patty!

PATTY: You mean KATTY!

KATTY: It was NATTY! 'Cmon!

BRITTANY: (*Approaching.*) We'll definitely see you tomorrow and introduce you to LOTS of kids. By the way, I think Peter likes you. I'm going to find out for sure. Are you interested?

BOOKWORM #3: (*From her seat – under her breath.*) She's a liar.

BOOKWORM #1: Shhhhh!

JESSIE: I'm not...sure.

BRITTANY: Well, you should get sure –

NATTY: Get sure!

BRITTANY: —he's a total catch.

PATTY: Total catch!

BRITTANY: He's cool—

KATTY: Very cool!

BRITTANY: —and he always goes to the dances. I'll introduce you.

JESSIE: Well... but I'm not sure—

BRITTANY takes JESSIE'S lunch from her and opens the bag. She takes out the sandwich and the note. She takes a bite of the sandwich and then proceeds to open the note.

BRITTANY: YUM! “Honey, here's a special treat for you – your favorite. I hope you have fun at school today. I love you very much. See you soon. Love, MOM xox”. Boy is she mushy. My mother would never write a sappy note like that.

JESSIE: Why not?

BRITTANY: My mom is too busy to make me lunch and write notes – she WORKS!

JESSIE: So does mine – a lot.

BRITTANY: My mom has to travel for her job.

JESSIE: Where?

BRITTANY: California. She's a studio executive. She didn't want us to have to move – yet. Not until I graduate.

NATTY: Not until she graduates.

JESSIE: Wow – don't you miss her?

BRITTANY: (*Very uncomfortable and upset – but covering.*) I'm going to be an actress – so it's a good thing.

JESSIE: I'd miss my mom if she was away that much.

BRITTANY: Well – that's because she makes a mean sandwich!
Later.

NATTY: Yeah – later!

BRITTANY exits with NATTY – they hiss at BOOKWORMS.

JESSIE: *(Calling after her.)* How many seats should I save for lunch tomorrow??...

PATTY: *(Posing.)* Hey Jessie – what do you think of my new Converse? *[Insert popular shoe brand.]*

JESSIE: Your what?

KATTY: Her Converse! Oh MY God – *(To PATTY.)* she doesn't know what Converse are!

JESSIE: Yes I do.

PATTY: But I guess they don't wear them out in the barnyards – right?

JESSIE: *(Jovial.)* Well – it would be pretty silly to wear – those on a farm – yeah!

KATTY: Guess that means we won't be milking any cows soon.

PATTY: What a shame! Where do you shop Jessie?

JESSIE: Um – my mom and I shop – sometimes at... the... mall.

KATTY: She means what stores?

JESSIE: Um – I... – oh yeah – Target!

PATTY: You mean "Targe"?

JESSIE: Yeah – that's right!

KATTY: *(Smarmy.)* That's so nice for you!

PATTY: So nice.

KATTY: We have to go – they'll kill us if we're late! Later! C'mon Patty.

JESSIE: Um – bye... *(Dumps the limp sandwich and bruised banana into the trash.)* YUCK!

SONG #7B: WALK DON'T RUN – REPRISE

JESSIE

[SOUND CUE 12]

SFX: Bell Ring. (Included in Sound Cue 12)

JESSIE:

WALK DON'T RUN THROUGH THE REST OF THE DAY.

WALK DON'T RUN, BUT I'M WASTING AWAY.

WALK DON'T RUN, NO USE SAVING A SEAT,

WISH I HAD MY LUNCH TO EAT. (*Exits.*)

LUNCH LADY enters with a push broom and begins to clean up. She picks up JESSIE'S pink note, reads it and puts it in her pocket.

LUNCH LADY: (*To us.*) You know how you sometimes want to reach into a movie and shake the main character and say – LEAVE TOWN now or DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR!? That's how I feel watching them. I want to do something to help – but these kids – they're smarter than I was as a kid... BRITTANY was probably given a band of First Amendment lawyers on retainer for her last birthday. They sure don't want the advice of some strange old broad. Like I said – I try to stay out of it and just clean up the mess. Thank God I won't ever be ten again. No matter how much time goes by – we don't evolve. (*Exits.*)

SONG #8: INTO DETENTION HALL

INSTRUMENTAL

[SOUND CUE 13]

SCENE 5**SONG #8A: BRITTANY'S VAMP AGAIN!**

INSTRUMENTAL

[SOUND CUE 14]

AT START: *Detention hall. BRITTANY and GIRLS enter on Brittany's Vamp music. BRITTANY, NATTY, PATTY and KATTY are sitting together. There are a few boys throwing balls of paper at the girls and hitting them. ADAM is trying to get BRITTANY'S attention. Everyone is very raucous and hyper. One boy hits BRITTANY in the hair with a ball of paper. PETER is also in detention. BRITTANY is flirting with PETER with her eyes as she get s hit by a paper.*

BRITTANY: Hey, hey – watch the hair!

BOYS crack up and start ad-libbing to GIRLS.

NATTY, PATTY and KATTY: (*In unison.*) Yeah – watch the hair!

ADAM: Hey Peter – sorry about your shirt! Ha ha!

BRITTANY: Leave him alone ADAM!

ADAM: (*Mocking.*) Leave him alone Adam... (*To PETER.*) you gonna let a girl defend you?

PETER: No!

BRITTANY: You'd better watch out Adam – one more detention for you and you are banned from the dance! A rule is a rule!

NATTY, PATTY, and KATTY: A rule is a rule!

ADAM: So what – it's just a stupid dance.

BRITTANY, NATTY, PATTY and KATTY gasp in horror at his comment.

SONG #9: DE-TEN-TION!

ENSEMBLE

[SOUND CUE 15]

VOICE: (*Included in Sound Cue 15. Over intercom.*) Attention – you will remain quiet and orderly for the entire period. This will give you time to reflect on your behavior and hopefully make better choices next time. Please take out your homework. There is no talking allowed.

ALL:

DETENTION.

IT'S SUCH A BARBARIC INVENTION.

OH AND WE REALLY NEED TO MENTION

THAT THE LOT OF US WERE FRAMED!

WE WERE FRAMED!

PETER:

HE HIT ME!
BEFORE I HIT HIM BACK
HE BIT ME!
A VICIOUS MEAN ATTACK
SO YOU SEE.
I AM THE GUILTLESS ONE THEY BLAMED!

ALL:

I/HE WAS BLAMED/FRAMED!
OH WHY?
CAN THEY NOT SEE OUR INNOCENCE?

BRITTANY:

I'LL CALL MY LAWYER FOR DEFENSE
AND THEY WILL PARDON MY OFFENSE
BECAUSE I'M INNOCENT.

ALL:

OH HOW?
HOW WHEN THEY HAVE NO EVIDENCE?
CAN THEY STILL KEEP US IN SUSPENSE?
OH CAN THEY REALLY BE THAT DENSE?
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO WARRANT.

DETENTION!
OH WELL AT LEAST IT'S NOT SUSPENSION
BUT IT'S UNETHICAL RETENTION.
BECAUSE THE LOT OF US WERE FRAMED,
WE WERE FRAMED!

PATTY:

IT'S PERPLEXING
I WAS JUST INNOCENTLY TEXTING!
ABOUT A CUTE BOY WHO WAS FLEXING
AND THE TEACHER REALLY FREAKED!
SHE JUST FREAKED!

ALL scream.

ALL:

OH WHY? WILL THEY NOT TAKE US AT OUR WORD?
THIS PUNISHMENT IS SO ABSURD
FOR SOMETHING THAT NEVER OCCURRED
BECAUSE WE'RE INNOCENT.

OH HOW?
 HOW CAN THEY GO TO SLEEP AT NIGHT?
 KNOWING OUR SENTENCE ISN'T RIGHT?
 THEY KEEP US LOCKED IN HERE DESPITE
 THE LACK OF EVIDENCE TO WARRANT...

Hip Hop dance break. A BOOKWORM does a crazy dance and everyone pauses to stare!

BULLY BOY:

ONE SPITBALL
 THAT SPLATTERED ONTO MISTER SAINT PAUL.
 THAT WAS MY SILLY LITTLE DOWNFALL
 BUT YOU SEE CLEARLY I WAS FRAMED!

ALL:

I/HE WAS FRAMED!

NATTY:

SHE CALLS ME CHATTY!
 SHE LIKES TO CALL ME CHATTY NATTY!
 THIS TIME THE NOISE WAS REALLY PATTY!

PATTY:

HEY!

NATTY:

BUT I'M THE ONE SHE BLAMED!

ALL:

I/SHE WAS BLAMED!

ALL:

OH WHEN?
 WHEN WILL THEY LET US OUT OF HERE?
 FEELS LIKE WE'VE BEEN IN HERE A YEAR!
 TELL US THE TIME IS DRAWING NEAR
 WE HOPE IT'S TIME TO END.

Bell rings. [Included in Sound Cue 15]

DETENTION!

SONG #9A: AFTER DE-TEN-TION!*INSTRUMENTAL**[SOUND CUE 16]***SCENE 6**

AT START: *Jessie's Kitchen. JESSIE voraciously eating chips. [SOUND CUE 17] AIRY'S tinkle. AIRY appears in the kitchen. AIRY is looking at JESSIE through the paper towel tube.*

AIRY: Looks like you're super hungry again. Does that mean you didn't eat your lunch?

JESSIE: I can't eat Brittany's sandwich. It's yucky and the bread's all mushy – and I think she makes it herself. My stomach growls all day.

AIRY: Did you make any new friends today? Was it fun?!

AIRY tosses JESSIE an apple.

JESSIE: No. I sat alone again. Brittany said she had to go to detention hall, but I'm not sure she was telling the truth.

AIRY: Wow. She's not keeping her end of that promise.

JESSIE: She said she'd bring lots of kids to sit with me tomorrow. She said some boy likes me. He's in my math class.

AIRY: Really?! Is that good? Is he cute?

JESSIE: I don't know. I guess he's cute – he ran by me at lunch and smiled. I don't know. His name is Peter.

SONG #10: JESSIE*PETER, JESSIE**[SOUND CUE 18]*

AIRY: What's he like? Is he nice?

JESSIE: I don't know...

PETER appears as in a dream that JESSIE is seeing.

PETER: *(Sings.)*

JESSIE
 I WAS KIND OF SORT OF THINKIN'
 THAT YOU MAYBE SORT OF WANT TO
 I MEAN I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
 BUT JESSIE,
 IF YOU SORT OF KIND OF WANT TO
 I COULD MAYBE SORT OF ASK YOU.
 OH GOD I DON'T REALLY KNOW YOU BUT I WANT TO
 SORT OF SEE IF YOU WERE THINKIN'
 THAT YOU MAYBE KIND OF WANT ME...
 TO WELL I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

IT'S TRUE WE'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN INTRODUCED,
 BUT I SAW YOU CATCH MY EYE ACROSS THE FLOOR.
 FOR THAT INSTANT IT WAS KIND OF LIKE I KNEW YOU
 AND I THINK I SORT OF WANT TO KNOW YOU MORE AND MORE

I'M HOPIN'
 THAT YOU MAYBE KIND OF WANT TO
 'CAUSE I'M WISHIN' I COULD ASK YOU
 BUT I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
 JESSIE,
 IF I WALK RIGHT UP AND ASK YOU
 WHEN I WALK RIGHT UP AND ASK YOU
 IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR LUNCH WITH ME.

AIRY: So you think he's nice?

JESSIE: He seems kind of shy.

AIRY: You should talk to him Jessie!

JESSIE: I know...

JESSIE and PETER:

IT'S TRUE WE'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN INTRODUCED,
 BUT I SAW YOU CATCH MY EYE ACROSS THE FLOOR.
 FOR THAT INSTANT IT WAS KIND OF LIKE I KNEW YOU
 AND I THINK I SORT OF WANT TO KNOW YOU MORE AND MORE

I'M HOPIN'

PETER:

THAT YOU MAYBE KIND OF WANT TO
 'CAUSE I'M WISHIN' I COULD ASK YOU

JESSIE:

ASK ME PETER

PETER:

BUT I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO

PETER and JESSIE:

SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

PETER:

JESSIE

IF I WALK RIGHT UP AND ASK YOU

JESSIE:

ASK ME PETER

PETER:

WHEN I WALK RIGHT UP AND ASK YOU

PETER and JESSIE:

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR LUNCH
WITH ME.

AIRY: *(Covering up jealousy.)* Wow – so... he seems *really* great.

JESSIE: Yeah – BUT - he's also *really* friends with Brittany.

AIRY: That's cool – so she'll introduce you guys.

JESSIE: That's what I'm afraid of. What the heck would I say to him? He probably thinks I'm that strange farm girl who milked a cow. I could just die.

JESSIE sits and continues to eat more.

AIRY: You're just hungry... and grumpy. What should we do today??

JESSIE: *(Thinking up a game.)* Hmmmm – I am still really hungry. So... let's be... CHEFS!

AIRY: *(Jubilant.)* OK! *(Pause – confused.)* How do we do that?

JESSIE: I'll... get out lots of ingredients, and we can make some different... amazing dishes...

AIRY: *(Confused.)* For the KING!!!!

JESSIE: *(Indulging AIRY.)* YES -the King! HA HA!

SONG #10A: THE KING!*INSTRUMENTAL**[SOUND CUE 19]*

JESSIE is creating the scene with her imagination. PETER, as the King, appears in crown and robe.

JESSIE: And... the “King” has... he has ordered us to make a delicious and special lunch for him.

JESSIE opens the fridge and begins taking ingredients out. AIRY begins to open things and smell them. JESSIE takes out peanut butter and jelly.

AIRY: *(Panicked.)* Oh man! What should we make?!!!

JESSIE: The “KING” is extremely picky. We need to make him something that he will never forget! Something *GOURMET!* Or, he will have us *banished FOREVER!*

AIRY: *(Overwhelmed.)* Banished?! *(Screams and runs around.)* Oh my gosh – but I don’t know how to cook!

JESSIE: *(Overlapping.)* We must find a recipe book! My mother has one around here...

JESSIE finds an apron and throws it to AIRY. AIRY puts it on as JESSIE puts hers on – they get out a large recipe book.

SONG #11: WE ARE CHEFS*JESSIE, AIRY**[SOUND CUE 20]*

AIRY: *(Elated.)* This is great! We are CHEFS!

JESSIE and AIRY sing – PETER conducts and they are eventually joined by an ensemble of clown “Chefs”.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

THE LOVE NOTE JR.

By Gail Phaneuf

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