

LISTENING PARTY

4 ACTOR SCENE FOR FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

RUNTIME: 4:30

from

SERVICE PROJECT The Musical

written by

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THEME

TEAMWORK and SERVING OTHERS

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." Hebrews 10:24-25

SYNOPSIS

For her Service Project assignment, quiet, thoughtful Rachel is teamed up with Queen Bee Peyton, her Sidekick Macy, and Harley - who defies all stereotypes. How will Macy handle their differing perspectives on what the project should be? Will she compromise her good judgement to keep from rocking the boat?

CAST

PEYTON(F) Popular, superficial, accustomed to being followed.

MACY(F) Careful to stay in Peyton's friend group, but more thoughtful and mature.

RACHEL(F) Mature, wise, unassuming, not accepted in Peyton's crowd.

HARLEY(M/F) Unconventional, starts assignments at last minute and still makes an A. Deeply engaged in hobby (comic books, classic novels, etc.)

RACHEL, MACY, PEYTON, and HARLEY enter the school library. They put down backpacks, etc. and take seats at a table.

Throughout the scene, RACHEL is deeply engaged, listening and pondering. HARLEY remains totally unengaged in the conversation. Only when speaking does HARLEY "comes to life" momentarily, then promptly resumes "chill" position.

HARLEY

(slow and relaxed)

Do we have to do this now?

MACY

(urgent)

Yes! This is the last day to turn it in. How much longer do you think we can wait?

HARLEY

Uhhh...til the last **minute** of the last day?

PAYTON

Harley, Ms. Merrick said we gotta have our service project outline on this form by **5th** period.

HARLEY

And it's only **4th** period. What's the rush?

MACY

The rush is, we all get an "F" if we show up empty-handed.

PEYTON

And an "F" means I won't be allowed to buy **any** new clothes.

Beat.

For a week!

HARLEY

OK, you guys go ahead. I'll listen. But don't tell anyone that I started an assignment this early. I don't wanna set a precedent I have no intention of maintaining.

HARLEY pulls out bag of chips, gets out comic book, props feet, leans back and starts munching.

PEYTON

Look, genius, do you think I'd be sitting here in the library with you guys if we didn't have to do this **now**? Well Macy, yes. But you two? I mean, no offense but, has anyone ever seen us hang out together?

MACY

Peyton! What she means is...let's get started. I just picked up the last project option in Ms. Merrick's room. All the other ones were taken.

MACY opens envelope with their assigned service project location.

MACY (CONT'D)

(reading)

"The Springfield nursing home on Elm Street."

Fill in your local location.

PEYTON

UGGGGGhhh!!! Are you kidding!! I was hoping we'd get homeless children, or something **fun** like that. But the **nursing home!**

HARLEY

(engages for this nanosecond)

It was only envelope left.

PEYTON

OK if we've got no choice, then let's get started. Now remember, there are no stupid ideas, only stupid people. No wait...well, something like that.

MACY

What she means is...let's brainstorm.

PEYTON

(Chairperson like)

Yes, go ahead everyone. Ideas?

Beat while Rachel ponders, then inhales to speak.

RACHEL

Maybe we could-

PEYTON

(interrupting)

Nothing? OK, well I have an idea for a fundraiser. Something that will make it bearable. Ready?

Let's put on a fashion show!!!

Group does a stunned takes to each other.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

My mom directed one - I mean, it was back in the Stone Age, but it was a big success! Well? Whaddya think?

No response.

MACY

Uhh...I guess that **could** work, especially since your Mom has already directed one.

PEYTON

...the most successful one ever!

HARLEY

(sarcastically)

Right, the most successful one ever.

PEYTON

Perfect! Then it's settled.

Beat as RACHEL ponders, hesitates, inhales to speak.

RACHEL

Uh, maybe we could–

PEYTON

(oblivious, interrupting)

Discuss the details? Great idea! First, for the models. Well, **me**, of course. And I wouldn't do it without Macy as my back up girl, you know, holding the accessories, purses, scarves. Well, whaddaya think? Mace? You're in, right?

MACY

Uh...I **guess** it could work.

PEYTON

Perfect! Glad we–

RACHEL ponders, hesitates, again inhales to speak.

RACHEL

Maybe before we decide, we could think about–

PEYTON

The lighting? Right. My Mother went with lollipop lime, pink and blue gels, and the blacklight strobe! Nobody has any health problems, right?

MACY inhales, convicted that this is a bad idea, but reluctant to cross Peyton.

MACY

(hesitantly)

I don't know Peyton. Can we borrow everything from your mom?

PEYTON

We'll have to look in an old warehouse or something. Rachel, you could do that, right? I mean, after all, **I'm** doing all the planning here.

Now for the stage. How ab—

HARLEY slams hand/book down. This a turning point.

HARLEY

(confident authority, not anger)

STOP!

All freeze, looking at HARLEY, stunned.

HARLEY

(to Peyton)

You, quiet!

(to Rachel)

You, talk.

RACHEL

Uhh...well, OK then.

HARLEY

And speak up! Clearly you have something to share.

RACHEL

Actually, I do have an idea. Thank you, Harley.

I was thinking how we might start by asking the residents of the nursing home what **they** might like and appreciate.

PEYTON

And how are we gonna do that? Take a surv-

HARLEY

(warning Peyton)

Let her speak!

PEYTON

OK, OK.

MACY

So what's your idea, Rachel?

RACHEL

Just **listen** to them? Listen to them like my Nana listened to me my whole life.

PEYTON

(sarcastically)

A listening party? Sounds exciting.

RACHEL

No party. Just listen. It might be exciting for **them**.

PEYTON

(lightbulb)

Wait. A silent disco?

MACY

Peyton, let's listen.

RACHEL

Here's what we did with my Nana: We asked her questions about her life and recorded her answers on our phone.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

So, I was thinking maybe we could just listen...to anyone who wants to share. We could record a few voice memos, and send it to whoever they want.

PEYTON

(begrudgingly)

Well...I guess there's another idea on the table. So now we need a tie breaker on the vote. Because it'll be

you and *(pointing to Rachel)*

that one... *(pointing to Harley)*

(buddying up to Macy, confident of her vote)
...against Macy and me.

MACY'S ASIDE: All freeze except MACY. She crosses downstage and closes her eyes for a moment to look up/pray for strength. This is a turning point.

MACY

(whispers to herself)

Macy, it's up to you.

All break freeze as PEYTON claps her hands, calling for vote.

PEYTON

OK, time for the vote. Hands up for the fashion show.

PEYTON's hand shoots up.

MACY, starts to raise her hand, hesitates, closes eyes, slowly lowers hand.

PEYTON looks at Macy, stunned.

PEYTON (CONT'D)*(surprised, annoyed, sarcastic)*

All in favor of the "listening party?"

Without looking up, HARLEY's hand shoots up.

RACHEL'S hand goes up.

MACY slowly raises hand.

PEYTON (CONT'D)*(defeated)*

OK, listening it is.

RACHEL

Thank you Peyton. And Harley. And Macy.

PEYTON

I know when I'm outvoted. And my ideas usually rule, so my thinking must be flawed on this.

HARLEY*(affirming Peyton)*

Brilliant deduction.

PEYTON

I know! How about a make-up party!?! It's mostly women there, right?

ALL

Peyton!!!