SCENE 15: SCHOOL HALLWAY

ALYSSA waits nervously for EMMA in the hallway. EMMA appears.

ALYSSA
Hi. Thanks for meeting me. I was afraid that you wouldn't -

What do you want?

EMMA

ALYSSA
Wow. Okay. I guess I want to say I'm sorry for what happened.

You guess?

EMMA

I mean, I'm sorry.

ALYSSA
Were you in on it?

Oh my God. How could you even think that? I didn't even know about it until I got there.

EMMA
Nobody told you? What about your BFF's?

What?

EMMA

ALYSSA
Shelby and Kaylee? They didn't mention anything about the big plan?

They are not my friends!

EMMA
Okay, so your mother then? She was behind the whole thing.

ALYSSA
Emma. You know me.

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EMMA
I don't know. Do I? What is this? What are we?

ALYSSA
You know what we are.

EMMA
No I don't. Maybe I'm some kind of an experiment? Or you're just trying to piss off your mother?

ALYSSA
Stop. Stop it.

EMMA
Do you know what it was like standing there in that stupid dress alone in the gym? Knowing that people got together and planned the best way to hurt me? To humiliate me? The only way it could have been worse is if a bucket of pig's blood fell on my head.

ALYSSA
It must have been awful.

EMMA
It was. But the worst part - the worst part was that you didn't come. Even though you knew what happened, you didn't come and you know, hold my hand. Or take me out of there.

ALYSSA
I couldn't.

EMMA
You should have.

ALYSSA
I should have, but I couldn't.

EMMA
Why?

ALYSSA
You know what my mother's like. She's a complete and total control freak. 😞

#16 ALYSSA GREENE

97
This is a PR problem -

**SHELDON**

**DEE DEE**

No, Sheldon. We had a PR problem. This a full-blown scandal. This is the end of my career.

**HAWKINS**

Wait. Is that why you came here? For publicity?

**DEE DEE**

Don't start with me, Tom. You do not know how the world works.

**HAWKINS**

Yes. I do. Unfortunately.

**EMMA**

*(numb, slowly)*

ONE THING'S UNIVERSAL
LIFE'S NO DRESS REHEARSAL
WHEN PEOPLE FIND A SCAPEGOAT TO CONDEMN

WE WENT BIG AND YET WE'VE BLOWN IT
WELL I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT
ALL ALONG TONIGHT BELONGED TO THEM

**EMMA's phone rings. Lights back up on the real prom. ALYSSA is on her phone.**

**EMMA**

Start * Alyssa?

**ALYSSA**

I swear, I had no idea.

**EMMA**

How could you not know? You were on the prom committee.

**ALYSSA**

It was Kaylee and Shelby. They figured out we were together and they made sure I didn't find out. They didn't want me to tell you.

**EMMA**

I don't believe you.
Alyssa

Do you think I would do something like this to you?

Emma

Then come meet me.

Alyssa

I can't.

Emma

You can't or won't.

Alyssa

(Crying.)

My mom is here.

Emma

Well, leave her.

Alyssa

She's watching me every second.

Emma

Then tell her you're gay! Tell her we're in love! That was the plan, right?

Alyssa

I can't. It's bad enough that Kaylee and Shelby know.

Emma

Bad enough?

Alyssa

I mean it's not like I thought it would be. I'm sorry.

Emma

You're sorry. Great. That fixes everything. Have fun at the normal person's prom!

She hangs up.

SCENE 13: PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

HAWKINS is working at his desk.

HAWKINS

(On phone.)
There was a dare between a couple of boys on the wrestling team. Yes, and that's why I need to know if it's okay that they ate it. Well, they each had a bite. Yeah, a big bite. Thanks. I appreciate it. Bye.

DEE DEE knocks and enters.

DEE DEE

Hi.

HAWKINS

Hi.

DEE DEE

May I come in?

HAWKINS

Sure.

DEE DEE

Am I interrupting something?

HAWKINS

I'm just doing some research. Trying to find out if urinal cakes are poisonous. There was an incident. How can I help you?

DEE DEE

Barry's on some impossible quest that's trapped us all here, and I have nothing to do. I've been wandering around town all day; I've seen "the sight". The bottom line is I thought you might want to take me out to dinner and worship me again.

No thanks.

HAWKINS

Sorry?

DEE DEE
HAWKINS

No. I would not like to do that. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got work to do.

DEE DEE

What is going on here? All week you've been wining and dining me at Applebees and now I can't tear you away from the urinal cakes. Why is everybody so mad at me?

He turns to her.

HAWKINS

Well, speaking for myself, it's because you're an opportunist.

DEE DEE

What?

HAWKINS

You came down here for publicity. You used us. You only care about yourself. You're a terrible person. A harridan.

DEE DEE

(Furious.)

A Harridan?!

(Confused.)

What is that? Is that bad?

HAWKINS

It is bad. Could you not figure that out from the context?

DEE DEE

How dare you! No one speaks to me like that! If we were in New York, I would snap my fingers and Dominic from props would come and beat the shit out of you!

HAWKINS

You know, meeting you in person has been colossally disappointing.

DEE DEE

That's your problem, not mine!

HAWKINS

You're right. It is my problem. You said by helping this one girl you might make the world a better place and I
HAWKINS (CONT’D)
believed you, because I wanted to believe you. I wanted you
to be Delores.

DEE DEE
Who the hell is Delores?

HAWKINS
From Swallow the Moon! Delores. She was joyful. She was
full of courage and hope!

DEE DEE
She was fictional!

HAWKINS
But you made her real! You brought her to life! When you
sang "The Lady's Improving" to Troy Gibson, you were
admitting that you weren't perfect, but you knew that you
could be a better you. And that's why he didn't fire you
from the circus act. Such humility and dignity. That's who
I thought you were!

DEE DEE
Well. I'm not Delores. I'm just a really, really, really
good actress.

HAWKINS
Yeah. You are.

DEE DEE
And you are just some hick town high school teacher who
can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality.

HAWKINS
Are we done?

DEE DEE
Oh yes. We're done.  

HAWKINS goes back to work. DEE DEE
turns and exits.

There is a pause and then DEE DEE
reappears.

#14 THE LADY’S IMPROVING

85
SCENE 6: CONCERT (RALLY) FOR EMMA

Half time at the monster truck rally.

#8 THE ACCEPTANCE SONG

MONSTER TRUCK ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen! Truckosaurus, the car-eating robot
dinosaur, will not be your half time entertainment today,
instead we have some guests who have come from New York to
sing us a song about intolerance.

TRENT walks to the center of the stage.
The music begins over his intro.

TRENT

*Hello, I'm Trent Oliver; actor. And Juilliard graduate.

A MAN in the crowd yells out.

MAN (OFFSTAGE)
Hey! It's that guy from Talk to the Hand!

The crowd roars.

TRENT

You know, "Talk to the Hand" is just a small part of my
resume. In the early aughts, I had a three episode arc on
"Grey's Anatomy" in which I played Dr. Julio Rodriguez, a
handsome Hispanic heart surgeon, whose growing cocaine
addiction threatens both his personal and professional
life. When preparing for the role, I realized something
about people. I realized that even though we are all
different on the outside, different skin color, different
heights, different nose shapes, on the inside we are all
the same. We all have lungs, we all have intestines, we all
have...

(With a thick accent, touching his
chest.)

Corazones.

(Back to his regular voice.)
And it occurred to me that if we could accept our
collective sameness, the world would be a much nicer place.
And that's why I wrote this song

Trent end
SCENE 5: MOTEL

The lobby of an unpretentious, unattractive, unadorned small-town motel. There is a check-in counter, a continental breakfast bar, and a sitting area. A clerk stands behind the counter. He's having another in an unending series of quiet moments. Suddenly the doors burst in and the Broadway contingent arrives: DEE DEE and ANGIE first.

DEE DEE

(Taking in the ambiance)
Oh my God. This is worse than the bus.

ANGIE walks up to the counter.

ANGIE

Well, at least it's quieter. If I had to sit through "Day by Day" one more time, I would have killed them all one by one.

(To the clerk.)
4 rooms under Dickinson. I called yesterday.

DEE DEE approaches the counter.

DEE DEE

4 rooms of varying sizes to reflect the hierarchy of the company members, correct?

CLERK

What? Um...

DEE DEE

Where's my suite?

CLERK

*We don't have a suite...

She reaches into her bag, pulls out a Tony award, and smacks it on the counter.

DEE DEE

Do you have a suite now?

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CLERK
Uh... no we don't have any suites. All the rooms are the same.

DEE DEE
Surely you know who I am! At the very least I want a room close to the spa.

CLERK
Uh...

DEE DEE reaches into her bag and slams another Tony award onto the counter.

CLERK
There is no spa. We have a foosball table. I could put you near that...

BARRY enters.

BARRY
Angie, have you seen these rooms? We're all going to be murdered and stuffed, you know that, right?

ANGIE
Orbitz gave this place three stars.

She takes a small bottle of liquor from her bag and drinks it.

BARRY
(To the clerk.)
Do you have any cabins?

CLERK
Uh, we don't have any cabins...

BARRY reaches in his bag and pulls out an award and slaps it on the counter.

BARRY
How about now?

DEE DEE
What is that?
BARRY
Drama Desk. You know what it is!

TRENT enters, looking green.

TRENT
I vomited in the bus again.
(He approaches the counter.)
May I speak with the hotel doctor?

BARRY
Hotel doctor? Trent, if there's a doctor here he's in the basement sewing the guests together into a giant bug.

CLERK
(To TRENT.)
Oh my God! It's you! I can't believe it's really you!

BARRY
Wait, you know him, but you don't know us?!

TRENT
I suppose my artistry speaks for itself.

CLERK
You're that guy from "Talk to the Hand"! That's on every night at 9 after "Two of a Kind"!

TRENT
I'd like my room now, please.

    The clerk hands him his key.

BARRY
Okay. Let's get started! Let's change some minds! Sheldon's working on the venue.
(To TRENT.)
What about the song?

    They all look at him.

TRENT
About that. Apparently I was misled by my representation. Andrew Lloyd Webber is not a huge fan of my Phantom. Quite the opposite actually. The man has a lot of anger in him. Lots of soaring, majestic anger.
At the side of the stage, we see EMMA, an anxious young high school student.

#3B WHAT GIRL?

ANGIE
It's all over Twitter. She lives in a small town called Edgewater, Indiana. She's a lesbian and she wanted to take her girlfriend to the high school prom and the PTA went apeshit.

MRS. GREENE, the head of the PTA, addresses a group of reporters.

MRS. GREENE
Look, the PTA has an accepted set of rules concerning Prom: young ladies must wear non-revealing dresses, young men must wear suits or tuxes, and if a student chooses to bring a date, that person must be of the opposite sex.

REPORTER
Can't you just ban this student?

MRS. GREENE
We have been advised that there may be some legal repercussions if we prevented this girl from attending. So although it breaks my heart, we have no choice: there won't be a prom this year. Thank you.

MRS. GREENE exits and the reporters follow her.

BARRY
They cancelled Prom? How could they do that?

MR. HAWKINS, the school's principal, approaches EMMA.

EMMA
How could they do that?

TRENT
It's hard to believe this kind of thing still happens.

HAWKINS
It's amazing this kind of thing still happens.
BARRY

It's just what we do!

End of song. They congratulate one
another. Phones begin dinging. People
start staring at their phones.

SHELDON

(Reading his phone.)

The rest of the reviews are coming in. The Post, Associated
Press, the New York Times.

BARRY

The New York Times!

The whole room reads in silence.

SHELDON

Wow.

Party goers drift away, still reading
the devastating review on their phones.

DEE DEE

What's happening?

SHELDON

Wow. This is not the review you want when you've got shitty
advance sales. This is going to close us.

DEE DEE

What do you mean close us? We just opened?

SHELDON

Nobody's going to buy a ticket to this show after they read
this.

BARRY

What didn't they like? Was it the hip hop?

SHELDON

Yes, but not only that.

BARRY

Sheldon, for God's sake, just read it.
SHELDON  
(Reading part of the review.)  
Okay. Just the highlights: "Barry Glickman's FDR might just  
be the most insultingly misguided, offensive, and laughable  
performance that this reviewer has ever had the squirming  
misfortune to endure."

DEE DEE  
(Holding it together.)  
That's not so bad.

BARRY  
Do her! Do her!

SHELDON  
"Watching Dee Dee Allen's Eleanor Roosevelt croaking out a  
heavy-handed message of activism is like paying an aging  
drag queen to shove a syrup-soaked American flag down my  
throat."

DEE DEE  
(Struggling to remain strong.)  
That is not criticism; it's a personal attack!

SHELDON  
"If you are considering buying a ticket to this show, do  
yourself a favor; buy a few feet of good heavy rope instead  
and then go hang yourself."

BARRY  
(To SHELDON.)  
Jesus. Was the show really that bad?

SHELDON  
It's not the show. It's you two. You're not likable.

BARRY & DEE DEE  
What?

SHELDON  
We've been over this a million times: nobody likes a  
narcissist. Leave it to me. I'll go try to change the  
narrative, once again. *She's on.*

BARRY  
So talking about yourself non-stop suddenly makes you a  
narcissist? I hate this world.