

NERVOUS: The Musical 7.7.22 draft

written by

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BECKY (F) Responsible, thoughtful, leadership qualities.

JAMEY (GNS) Mature, loyal, keeps Pinky in line.

PINKY (F) Fun loving, spirited, keeps it light, stays on the  
surface.

INTERVIEWER (GNS) Serious, adult-ish, businesslike. Non-Singing.

Address  
Phone  
E-mail

**TRACK CUE# SUPER BRIEF OVERTURE**

**SCENE 1 - BECKY, JAMEY AND PINKY IN SCHOOL HALLWAY OR CLASSROOM BETWEEN CLASSES.**

*Becky scrolling phone.*

PINKY

(to Becky)

Hey! You're scrolling more than me today. Expecting to hear from Zach Efron?/keep relevant

BECKY

I keep hoping I'll hear from **America's Next Top Superstar Student**. I applied to be on their show and if I get it, it means an all expense paid trip to Los Angeles next summer.

PINKY

Los Angeles! Wow! Maybe you will hear from Zach Ephron.

JAMEY

Hope you get it, Becky!

BECKY

Me too, cause if I don't, I have to watch my little brothers all summer.

ALL

UGGGHHH!

JAMEY

I remember you applied before. Didn't you make it through 3 rounds last year?

BECKY

Yeah, I did, actually.

PINKY

Ohh! So exciting!

BECKY

Don't get too excited. I got this far last year, and the year before. Then everything fell apart like it always does - on the terrifying **Interview** portion.

*PINKY does drama sound.*

*Becky sees screen notification, stops scrolling.*

Here it is! Here it is!

(reading)  
 Official Notification from **America's Next Top Superstar Student.**

PINKY  
 Open it!! I'll help you fix your face if you cry.

*BECKY reads phone. Looks up with joy!*

BECKY  
 I'm going on to round 3!

*ALL scream/dance/gesture celebration. PINKY does latest iconic/comic move such as in olden days disco, robot, moonwalk, sprinkler.*

*BECKY looks worried.*  
 That means I'll have to pass the **interview.**

*ALL do dreaded, fearful reaction.*

**TRACK CUE # WHEN I GET NERVOUS Part 1**

*BECKY does big inhale on intro.*

BECKY (CONT'D)  
 (reading)  
 I'M IN THE THIRD ROUND, IT'S DOWN TO THE FINAL TWO.  
 AND ALL I HAVE DO IS PASS THE INTERVIEW.  
 I'M THE WORST! I GET SO NERVOUS I WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH.  
 WITHOUT THAT AWFUL/FEEBLE THING I DO.  
 WHEN I AM IN AN INTERVIEW.

JAMEY AND PINKY  
 What? What do you do?

BECKY  
 I CAN TELL YOU CAUSE YOU'RE BOTH SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.  
 IF I SAY IT HERE, MAYBE HERE'S WHERE IT ENDS.  
 IT STARTS OUT ALRIGHT, THEN THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED.  
 SOMETIMES I..

PINKY  
 -laugh at their joke that you don't understand!

JAMEY  
 Pinky!

BECKY  
 What!?! What are you talking about?

PINKY

You know how people just laugh when they aren't really sure what's funny..

*JAMEY clears throat to cut PINKY off.*

BECKY

I don't do that, do I?

*JAMEY gives PINKY obvious "behave" look.*

PINKY

Uhh...no...I guess not.

BECKY

OK good.

**TRACK CUE # WHEN I GET NERVOUS Part 2**

I'LL TRY AGAIN, CAUSE I NEED YOU TO PRAY  
THAT I DON'T DO THIS THING ON THAT INTERVIEW DAY.  
IT FEELS SO SCARY AND OUT OF CONTROL.  
SOMETIMES I...

PINKY

...run the other way when you're embarrassed to see somebody you know!?!

BECKY

No! I don't do that! Do I do that?

*PINKY looks to JAMEY who's shaking head "No."*

PINKY

No! Actually I've **never** seen you do that. Or anyone! No one has **ever** done that. **Ever**.

BECKY

OK, thank you. May I please finish?

*PINKY holds out her ears.*

PINKY

All ears. Put your troubles on PINKY.

**TRACK CUE # WHEN I GET NERVOUS Part 3**

PLEASE HOLD YOUR GUESS AND JUST LISTEN THIS TIME.  
IN STRESSED CONVERSATION THINGS RARELY GO FINE.  
WHEN I GET NERVOUS, MY THINKING'S NOT CLEAR.  
SOMETIMES I -

PINKY (CONT'D)

- start twirling you hair? Biting your nails? Digging at the wax in your ear-

JAMEY

Would you stop it!!!!

PINKY

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I just know the answer so bad!

JAMEY

Well you don't know this one 'cause you keep interrupting.

PINKY

That's it! You interrupt them!

*JAMEY puts hand over PINKY's mouth.*

JAMEY

No, that's YOU! ease tell us, Becky. We're **both** listening.

TRACK CUE # TO BE ADDED - ACCELERATING/RISING RHYTHM

BECKY

(super fast, accelerating  
pace)

Thank you, Jamey. OK, when I get nervous in a conversation, I always talk too much! It's like I can't stop talking. I give WAY too much information! Like I talk about how before I was born, how my grandparents worked in a chicken factory and how their parents before that - my GREAT grandparents - ran a rodeo and...well it wasn't really a rodeo, more like a circus-

JAMEY AND PINKY

STOP!!!!!! OVERSHARE! TMI!

PINKY (CONT'D)

I thought everybody did that.

JAMEY

("of course")

That tracks.

BECKY

No, some people clam up and don't know what to say. But me...I tell my whole life's story.

I don't think I can put myself through an interview again. I'm not gonna do it. It's so nerve wracking and embarrassing.

PINKY

Wait! Did I just hear you say you're not gonna do it? As in as in "Give up?" as in "I quit," as in "Let it Go?"

*PINKY becomes ELSA singing "Let the storm rage on..."*

*JAMEY puts hand over PINKY's mouth mid-phrase.*

JAMEY

Becky, you're not gonna walk away from this are you?

BECKY

Yes, I'm gonna walk away because I don't want to walk out crying again.

PINKY

But you can't.

BECKY

Look, you're not the ones sitting in the hot seat, face on fire, with a Big Wig staring at you. Not to mention letting everybody down.

JAMEY

You won't let us down no matter what happens in the interview. You will let us down if you don't go in and try.

BECKY

What? Why are you guiltting me!?! You been talking to my Mother?

JAMEY

(confessional)

Look, I know how easy it is to not try things that take courage. I'm an expert at it. I find all kinds of reasons not to try things when I'm scared.

*Beat.*

But you're strong.

BECKY

Wow, Jamey. I never knew you felt that way. But you have to understand...I **am** like you. I'm scared too. I don't do hard things because I **am** strong. I do hard things because they make me stronger.

PINKY

(melodramatic)

That was deep.

*Beat for Becky to ponder.*

BECKY

OK! I'll do it...for you. And for my own good. But will you guys help me practice?

PINKY

Will we help you practice!?! Of course! I took public speaking!?!?

Didn't you get a D?

**TRACK CUE # WHEN I GET NERVOUS BOOK END CHORUS**

JAMEY AND PINKY (CONT'D)

SHE'S IN THE THIRD ROUND, SHE'S DOWN TO THE FINAL TWO.  
AND ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS PASS THE INTERVIEW.  
WE ARE HERE TO CALM YOUR FEAR  
AND HELP YOU MAKE IT THROUGH.  
AND BE THE SHINING STAR THAT'S YOU.  
WHEN YOU ARE IN THAT INTERVIEW.

*On button, PINKY sits across desk as INTERVIEWER,  
BECKY sits as INTERVIEWEE.*

**SCENE 2 - INTERVIEW PRACTICE**

PINKY

(adult voice)

Ok, Ms. Richards...If it was your last day on earth, would you choose Coke, Pepsi, or a venti cappuccino with vanilla cold foam, and a shot of hazelnut? I'm obsessed with those things!

JAMEY

PINKY!!! They're not gonna ask anything like that!

PINKY

OK, OK lemme try again. You're on a plane that's about to crash over the Atlantic. There's only one oxygen mask between you and the elderly lady beside you. Do you:

A) Put the mask on her?

B) Put the mask on yourself? After all you have your whole life ahead of you. Or,

C) Put the mask on her and post a picture to Instagram, to make sure everybody remembers you're a good person?

JAMEY

Move, I'll handle this.

*JAMEY replaces PINKY in Interviewer's seat.*

(to BECKY)

Ms. Richards, can you tell us your full name?

**ACCELERATED RHYTHM ~ RISING NOTES?**

TRACK CUE # TO BE ADDED - ACCELERATING/RISING RHYTHM

BECKY

Rebecca Annette Richards...Well, it was gonna be Rebecca Nicole Richards, but my Dad thought, "Yikes, that makes her initials RNR - the same as my old Uncle Reno - Renaldo Newton Richards. What a scumbag! That loser ran off with my grandmother's life savings, and his dry cleaner's cousin's neice. Then there was that mysterious jewel heist the night he said he was home baking cookies...

JAMEY

STOP!!!! Focus, focus. Let's try again.

Ms. Richards, how long has your family lived in ? **Fill in your local town?**

TRACK CUE # TO BE ADDED - ACCELERATING/RISING RHYTHM

BECKY

Let me think...we moved here when I was in Preschool...not my first year of preschool, actually my second...not that I flunked preschool...that would be tough to do...I've never flunked anything...well there was that unfortunate incident with the play dough and the EZ Bake Oven...

JAMEY AND PINKY

STOP!!!!

JAMEY (CONT'D)

Less is more, less is more. Repeat after me: I'll just say what I mean.

BECKY

I'll just say what I mean.

JAMEY

And I'll mean what I say.

BECKY

And I'll mean what I say.



JAMEY

Let's start there.

**TRACK CUE # SAY WHAT I MEAN**

**BECKY**

I HAVE TO SAY WHAT I MEAN, MEAN WHAT I SAY.  
DON'T LET MY NERVES HIJACK MY TONGUE ON INTERVIEW DAY.  
TMI, NOT OK. GOTTA PRACTICE AND PRAY  
THAT MY **MOUTH** DOESN'T GALLOP AWAY ON INTERVIEW DAY.

**VERSE 1 -**

I HOPE YOU KEEP IT FOCUSED. I HOPE YOU KEEP CONTROL.  
I HOPE YOU WON'T GO CHASING DOWN A RANDOM RABBIT HOLE.  
IF YA **WANNA** SAY IT SIMPLY, THEN **FORREST GUMP'S** YOUR MAN.  
"LIFE IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES." Y'ALL UNDERSTAND?

**CHORUS, ADD BACK UP**

**VERSE 2**

TRY NOT TO RUN YOUR YAPPER IN CIRCLES ROUND AND  
ROUND.  
THEY SAY IT'S TRUE THAT SOMETIMES FEWER WORDS CAN BE  
PROFOUND.  
BRANDO MADE IT CLEARER THAN IT'S EVER BEEN BEFORE.  
"MAKE HIM AN OFFER HE CAN'T REFUSE." NEED I SAY MORE?

**VERSE 3**

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT SO BORING THEY'RE FALLING OFF THEIR  
CHAIR.  
I HOPE YOU CAN RESIST THE URGE TO BLAB INTO THE AIR.  
THE LUNAR MISSION ASTRONAUTS PICKED UP THE RADIO,  
"HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM." THAT'S ALL YA NEED TO KNOW.

**CHORUS - SUPER CAMPY DANCING ON TOP OF DESKS, ECT.**

**VERSE 4**

JUST PONDER EVERY QUESTION AND ANSWER AS YOU OUGHT.  
AND DON'T GO ON A TANGENT WITH A CRAZY RANDOM THOUGHT.  
FEWER WORDS WILL SERVE YOU, IT'S THE LESSON FOR THE DAY.

**TAG (TRADE OFF)**

WHEN MY MOUTH STARTS TO ROAM, "ET PHONE HOME."  
IT'S EASY TO SEE. "YOU TALKING TO ME?"  
YOU KNOW THAT IT'S TRUE. "THE FORCE BE WITH YOU."  
WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE, "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME."

ALL

"I'LL BE BACK!"  
WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY?

I'LL SAY WHAT I MEAN.

**SCENE 3 THE INTERVIEW**

*PINKY positions to "spy" by peeking/putting her ear through an opening or around a flat or partition to observe the interview. The INTERVIEWER's back is to PINKY so they are unaware PINKY is watching. PINKY is facing BECKY.*

*PINKY could be on JAMEY'S back, or shoulders, or standing on the only chair/furniture, etc.*

*PINKY give JAMEY blow by blow commentary in gestures and stage whispers.*

*JAMEY paces until PINKY shushes JAMEY and gives "It's starting!" signal.*

INTERVIEWER

WELCOME! AND CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING IT ALL THE WAY TO ROUND 3 FOR THIS YEAR'S **America's Next Top Superstar Student - So You Think You Can Study.**

OK, first question: Please tell us your full name.

*JAMEY and PINKY do a cross finger, "You got this!" gesture.*

*PINKY returns to listen.*

BECKY

Rebecca Annette Richards.

*PINKY and JAMEY do a "stop there" gesture.*

INTERVIEWER

Thank you. And how long have you lived here in the \_\_\_\_\_ area?

*JAMEY and PINKY make nervous eye contact and praying hands.*

BECKY

My father's job brought us here when I was in Preschool.

*JAMEY and PINKY do a nervous hold to be sure that's all. Then brow wipe of relief when Interview resumes.*

INTERVIEWER

Thank you. And actually, this is our only question for today...

PINKY

(stage whisper)

It's gonna be about the coffee. I bet it's about the cof..You shoulda let me prep her for the coffee ques-

*JAMEY give "cut it" gesture.*

INTERVIEWER

If we asked your friends and family to write down 5 words that describe you, what would you like those 5 words to be?

**TRACK CUE # DRUM ROLL TREMOLO**

*JAMEY AND PINKY take comic praying position, hoping BECKY can hold it at 5. They react on each word with countdown gestures.*

BECKY

Let me think...five words...let's see...Loving

INTERVIEWER

Loving.

BECKY

Grateful.

INTERVIEWER

Grateful.

BECKY

Respectful.

INTERVIEWER

Respectful.

BECKY

Encouraging.

INTERVIEWER

Encouraging. Great. And one more word.

*PINKY and JAMEY gesture "only one."*

BECKY

Courageous.

*JAMEY and PINKY do a nervous hold, moment of tension to be sure BECKY stays silent. Then a big "Yes, Success" gesture. Then...*

TRACK CUE # TO BE ADDED - MAYBE "TA DA" INTO  
ACCELERATING/RISING RHYTHM

*Throughout following speech, JAMEY and PINKY increasingly panic, doing "Oh no" takes. They scramble with "Cut," "Enough," gestures.*

...well, I wish I was more courageous is what I should say...but I've always been intimidated by people who seem powerful. It all started when I was in Second Grade. Mrs. Cutright called on me and I knew the answer was North Dakota, but I got so nervous I said New Dakota and everyone laughed at me and after that I was scared...

*Finally, in desperation, PINKY makes a racket that interrupts the interview. Maybe she falls off chair, sneezes, drops her shoe, etc.*

*INTERVIEWER is distracted.*

INTERVIEWER

Oh...I'm sorry Ms. Richards. I hear some commotion in the hall. I think we best conclude it there. Your interview is complete.

*PINKY and JAMEY scramble to hide/exit while INTERVIEWER scans, sees nothing, shrugs, exits.*

**SCENE #4 WRAP UP**

*JAMEY and PINKY are congratulating BECKY as all reenter after the scramble.*

JAMEY

I know that wasn't easy, Becky. I'm so proud of you for making yourself go through with it, really. Makes me want to face some fears.

BECKY

Thanks, Jamey. I don't know if I'll get it, but I'm glad I went through with it.

PINKY

You slayed it Becky! You were smooth as silk. Good thing we helped you practice, huh? You weren't scared at all!

BECKY

Right. I wasn't scared.

*Beat.*

I was petrified. But every time I go through with something that scares me, it makes my faith stronger, and brings me closer to the Lord.

**TRACK CUE #7 LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS**

I think the scary times - and the hard times - are the times I've felt the Lord's presence the most.

**VERSE ONE**

IF YOU THINK I WASN'T SCARED,  
I NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR:  
I'VE LOST MY PHONE, I'VE LOST MY VOICE,  
BUT I'VE NEVER LOST MY FEAR.  
SAFE INSIDE MY COMFORT ZONE,  
I'D RATHER FADE AWAY,  
AND EVERYTHING INSIDE ME WANTS TO SAY,

**CHORUS**

HEY THAT'S OK, LORD, CALL ME A BORE.  
I'LL STAY, LORD, HERE ON THE SHORE.  
AND PRAY LORD, THAT WASN'T YOUR HEART.  
TELLING ME TO  
STAND UP, FEET TO THE FLOOR.  
WITH COURAGE, WALK THROUGH THE DOOR.  
WHERE I'M/YOU'RE LESS, I'LL/YOU'LL MAKE ME MORE.  
CAUSE YOU ARE WITH ME/CAUSE I AM WITH YOU.  
YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE TO HELP ME DO HARD THINGS,  
AND LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS!

**VERSE TWO**

WHEN I FACE A CHALLENGE,  
FEELING SCARED AND SO ALONE.  
I THINK OF THOSE WHO'VE GONE BEFORE,  
AND THE COURAGE THAT THEY'VE SHOWN.  
WHAT IF ALL THE HEROES  
GAVE IT UP AND BACKED AWAY?  
WHAT IF ALL THE HEROES CHOSE TO SAY

**CHORUS**

**BRIDGE**

DANIEL MUST HAVE FEARED THE DEN,  
BUT GOD SHOWED UP WHEN HE STEPPED IN.  
IF PETER HADN'T LEFT THE BOAT,  
HE'D NEVER KNOW HIS FEET WOULD FLOAT.  
WOULD PHAROAH SET THE PEOPLE FREE  
IF MOSES STUCK WITH,

No, not me, Lord. Pleeeaseee. Don't make me. No!  
Don't make me

**CHORUS (WHINING, AS MOSES)**

TELLING ME TO...

**TAG**

LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS, WHEN YOU DO HARD THINGS  
 LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS, WHEN YOU DO HARD THINGS  
 LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS, WHEN YOU DO HARD THINGS  
 LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS, WHEN YOU DO HARD THINGS

*PINKY takes off with this cadence, singing, clapping, with increasing abandon.*

*BECKY, JAMEY and track fade out as PINKY carries on, oblivious.*

BECKY (CONT'D)

Oh, I forgot to mention...on the form, it said they need to interview two character witnesses who know me well. I put you two. They'll be calling tomorrow to schedule it.

*PINKY freezes dead in her tracks.*

PINKY

Huh?

*BECKY and JAMEY sing song tag to PINKY?*

**TRACK CUE # LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS PART 2 WRAP UP**

BECKY AND JAMEY

(to PINKY)

HE'S ALWAYS THERE TO HELP US DO HARD THINGS,  
 AND LOOK AT WHAT IT BRINGS!