

WILL WE HELP YOU PRACTICE?

3 ACTOR SCENE FOR FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

RUNTIME: 4:30

from
NERVOUS The Musical

THEME
FACING FEARS
"Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13

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SYNOPSIS

Becky has progressed to Round 3 of "America's Next Top Superstar Student." YES! Wait - NO! Round 3 requires a mandatory interview. Becky explains to her close friends why this is something she absolutely cannot do. Do Jamey and Pinky give her a pass?

CAST

BECKY(F) Responsible, thoughtful, leadership qualities.

JAMEY(M/F) Mature, loyal, keeps Pinky in line.

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

Becky, Jamey and Pinky in school hallway before or between classes.

BECKY

No way am I going through with that interview.

PINKY

Why not?! You're a finalist!

JAMEY

Becky, you **have** to do the interview if you have any chance of winning.

BECKY

I don't care. I don't want it that bad. No interviews.

PINKY

Why not?

JAMEY

What are you afraid of?

BECKY

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

STOP!!!! OVERSHARE! TMI!

PINKY

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, "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 as she wails on the word, "...on."

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.

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...I never knew you felt that way. But you have to understand...I **am just like you**. I'm scared too! I don't do hard things because I'm strong. But I've learned that...

Searches for the words.

...when I feel like God wants me to do something that scares me, He always helps me and...makes 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!?!?

JAMEY

Didn't you get a D?

PINKY

Only because the teacher was jealous of my advanced skills.

PINKY assumes INTERVIEWER authority, speaks in adult voice to BECKY.

Next! Take a seat please.

They sit facing each other in mock interview.

Ok, Ms. Richards...First question: 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 left between you and an 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?

BECKY

Rebecca Annette Richards.

Beat.

Well, it was gonna be Rebecca Nicole Richards, but my Dad thought, "Yikes, that makes her initials R.N.R. - 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 niece. Then there was that mysterious jewel heist the night he said he was home baking cookies-

JAMEY

(interrupting)

STOP!!!!

Focus, focus. Let's try again.

Ms. Richards, how long has your family lived in Atlanta?

Fill in your area name.

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.

PINKY

And I'll mean what I say.

JAMEY

(to Pinky)

This is not about you.