

BACKSTAB: THE MUSICAL

written by

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FAITH BASED STUDENT MUSICALS

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ASHLEY(F) Loves the Lord, well liked, wants to do what's right, struggles with confrontation. Strong actor~singer.

DUSTY(F) Best friend to Ashley, outspoken, strong personality, bold, colorful, struggles with anger. Strong actor~singer.

MIA(F) Popular, likes attention, not the best influence, freely whispers about others. Strong singer.

ENSEMBLE (F/M) Students at the same school, under Mia's influence.
Actor~Singers.

TRACK CUE #1 OVERTURE into SO FUN!

SCENE ONE: SCHOOL HALLWAY BEFORE MORNING BELL

Midway through overture, MIA and ENSEMBLE trickle in for school. Students migrate toward MIA, the clear ring leader. They form a huddle, greet, whisper, and giggle.

MIA

Wait until you hear the deets on Ashley. Yesterday, at lunch...you'll never guess what she did...

VERSE 1 - MIA SOLO

WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT I HEARD HER SAY,
WALKING TOWARD OUR TABLE WITH HER TRAY.
I SAID, "HERE SHE COMES, SHUSH IT UP, OK?"
THEN SHE SAID,

One measure silence while all huddle for secret.

One measure all laugh.

One measure intro cue.

CHORUS - ENSEMBLE

SO FUN, SO FUN!
CATCHING UP ON EVERYONE.
TALKING IS OUR FAVORITE THING TO DO.
SO FAR, THIS YEAR
EVERY MORNING WE MEET HERE
TO GET THE SCOOP WITH ALL THE DEETS FROM YOU.
AND EVERYTHING WE TALK ABOUT IS TRUE.

VERSE 2 - MIA SOLO

WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT SHE DID OUTSIDE.
JILL AND I - WE LAUGHED UNTIL WE CRIED.
THEN WE STOOD AND WATCHED WHILE SHE TRIED AND TRIED
TO TALK TO...

One measure silence while all huddle for secret.

One measure all laugh.

One measure intro cue.

CHORUS - ENSEMBLE

SO FUN, SO FUN!
CATCHING UP ON EVERYONE.
TALKING IS OUR FAVORITE THING TO DO.
SO FAR, THIS YEAR
EVERY MORNING WE MEET HERE
TO GET THE SCOOP WITH ALL THE DEETS FROM YOU.

AND EVERYTHING WE TALK ABOUT IS TRUE.

CHORUS - ENSEMBLE

SO FUN, SO FUN!
CATCHING UP ON EVERYONE.
TALKING IS OUR FAVORITE THING TO DO.
SO FAR, THIS YEAR
EVERY MORNING WE MEET HERE
TO GET THE SCOOP WITH ALL THE DEETS FROM YOU.
AND EVERYTHING WE TALK ABOUT -
WE KNOW IT'S TRUE WITHOUT A DOUBT -
THAT EVERYTHING WE TALK ABOUT IS TRUE.

Ashley enters, unseen by ALL.

TRACK CUE #2 SO FUN REPRISE

MIA

AND WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT SHE SAID IN CLA...ASHLEY -

Caught, MIA quickly shifts gears.

Ensemble freezes.

ASHLEY

Hey...

MIA

Hey! Hey girl, how ya doin' ?

ASHLEY

What's... going on?

Ensemble awkwardly trickles off, sheepishly.

MIA

Nothing! Nothing's going on. Just catching up. What's going on with you?

ASHLEY

(knowingly)

Nothing...right.

Awkward pause.

MIA

Well, guess I better get to class.

MIA bolts off as DUSTY enters. She punches ASHLEY'S arm as a greeting.

DUSTY

Whaddup? What was that about?

Ashley stands stunned and sad.

Hello! Hey, I said, "What's up?"

ASHLEY

Mia. She's talking about me behind my back.

DUSTY

(aggressive)

Where is she? Lemme at her!

ASHLEY

Whoa! Chill, Dusty. It's OK.

DUSTY

NOT OK! You forgot NOT. It's NOT OK that she backstabs you like that. Or anybody. Ever since you beat her for class representative, she's been so mean to you. It makes me so mad! Still acts like your friend to your face, but behind your back...

DUSTY makes knife grinding gesture/sound.

We gotta put a stop to it.

ASHLEY

How!?

DUSTY

You say, "Back off sister, or God's gonna strike you with a plague!"

ASHLEY

Dusty! I can't say that!

DUSTY

Too aggressive?

ASHLEY

Yeah, maybe a little.

DUSTY

Well, "Vengeance is MINE..."

ASHLEY

Uh, "...saith the LORD."

DUSTY

Ok, OK, vengeance belongs to the Lord...and best friends.

ASHLEY

I don't think the Lord wants us to take revenge.

Maybe I've done something to hurt her and don't realize it. Maybe I should just talk to her.

DUSTY

Are you clueless? She's just building herself up by putting you down. You gotta talk tough with her.

ASHLEY

I'm not sure "tough" is my vibe.

DUSTY

It will be when I get through with you.

ASHLEY

It will?

DUSTY

(mocking)

Not, "It will?"

(confident)

"It will."

DUSTY

So you tell her you've got ME on your team...and beware the wrath of Dusty McDuff.

ASHLEY

Who?

DUSTY

It sounds so much better than Dusty Smith.

TRACK CUE #3 DOSE OF DUSTY

OK, OK here's what you say...

*DUSTY delivers with ultra melodrama, becoming the characters, pretending to be God's voice, etc.***VERSE 1**

MOSES WENT TO PHAROAH, IT'S A STORY WE ALL KNOW.
 GOD SENT PLAGUES WHEN HE REFUSED TO, "LET MY PEOPLE GO!"
 SO NOW, "FIRST YOUR WATER TURNS TO BLOOD,
 THEN FROGS, THEN HAIL, THEN FLIES.
 I'LL WAVE MY HAND ACROSS THE LAND,
 AND EVERY FIRSTBORN DIES."

CHORUS

SO NOW'S THE TIME TO CHOOSE YOUR PATH,

MY WORDS ARE TRUE AND TRUSTY.
 YOU'D RATHER HAVE GOD'S HOLY WRATH
 THAN A LITTLE BITTY DOSE OF DUSTY.

VERSE 2

SOMEWHERE IN THE BIBLE THERE'S A STORY OF A GUY -
 BROUGHT AN OFFERING TO THE LORD, BUT TOLD A LITTLE LIE.
 HE SAID, "I AM GIVING ALL I HAVE, I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE."
 NO SOONER SAID, GOD STRUCK HIM DEAD.
 HIS WIFE? THE SAME FOR HER.

CHORUS 2

SO NOW'S THE TIME TO CHOOSE YOUR PATH
 MY WORDS ARE TRUE AND TRUSTY.
 YOU'D RATHER HAVE GOD'S HOLY WRATH
 THAN A LITTLE BITTY DOSE OF DUSTY.

BRIDGE

YA BREAK GOD'S RULE? THAT'S A DEADLY FAULT.
 HE TURNED SOME LADY TO A PILLAR OF SALT.

She strikes statue pose.

SULFUR AND FIRE ON GOMORRAH AND SODOM.
 PLUS A WHOLE BIG PART ABOUT THE ARMOR OF GOD.

Um...lemme think, theres' the Sword of the Spirit, a Helmet of Truth, a
 lightsaber of Darkness...

ASHLEY

Hold it. A light saber of darkness?

DUSTY

Ok, I might have made that one up.

ASHLEY

You have a disturbing knowledge about **revenge** in the Bible.

DUSTY

Are you kidding...those were my memory verses... in Kindergarten.

VERSE 3

JUDAS LED THE SOLDIERS WHERE HIS

KISS BETRAYED THE LORD.
PETER SLICED A SOLDIER'S EAR OFF -
WHACKED IT WITH HIS SWORD.

ASHLEY

BUT THEN JESUS SAID, "NO SWORD, MY FRIEND,
MY TIME IS ALMOST HERE."
AND AS THEY DRAGGED THE LORD AWAY,
HE HEALED THAT SOLDIER'S EAR.

Underscore for dialogue/turnaround.

DUSTY

Wait, What!?!

ASHLEY

Jesus pressed his hand against the Soldier's head and healed his ear.

DUSTY

Are you sure?

ASHLEY

Positive. Jesus showed when He was angry, but He **never** took
revenge. He **always** showed love to everyone, even when they did
wrong.

Even His enemies.

DUSTY

(dumbfounded)

Whoa! RADICAL.

ASHLEY

So, thanks for having my back Dusty, but, I really need to handle this
myself.

DUSTY

Aw, man! You're no fun.

ASHLEY

I think it's best if I start by speaking to her privately.

DUSTY

So I can't even be around to enjoy it? Lemme guess...that's how Christians are supposed to do it?

ASHLEY

I think so, but that's how I would want it - if someone has a problem with me. I want them to talk to me, not everybody else.

DUSTY

So what are you gonna say?

ASHLEY

I don't know yet. I'm trying to think how it would sound...with my heart... and just a little bit of your muscle...

DUSTY

Oooh. I can think of some colorful language!

ASHLEY

Colorful language! That's it.

TRACK CUE #4 BLACK AND BLUE

DUSTY

From you? Woo! This I gotta hear.

ASHLEY

VERSE 1

I'M IN AWE OF A RAINBOW – ITS COLORFUL ARRAY.
I CELEBRATE THE GOLDEN SUN THAT RISES EVERY DAY.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE SNOWFALL
IN ITS SILVERY DIAMOND GRAY.
BUT YOU'RE PLAYIN' WITH SOME CRAYONS

THAT YA GOT TO PUT AWAY.

CHORUS

YOU HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.
 YOU HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.
 YOU KNOW YOU USE ME AND YOU BRUISE ME
 WHEN YOU DO ME LIKE YOU DO.
 YOU HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.

VERSE 2

I APPRECIATE PURPLE. I PICKED IT FOR MY PHONE.
 I LOVE A LEMON YELLOW WHEN IT'S TWO SCOOPS ON A CONE.

DUSTY

I TOLERATE THE WAY YOU BLEACHED
 YOUR HAIR THAT GREENISH TONE.

Ashley gives disapproving grin

ASHLEY AND DUSTY (CONT'D)

BUT YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH SOME FINGER PAINT
 YOU GOT TO LEAVE ALONE.

CHORUS

YA HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.
 YA HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.
 YA KNOW I'M SEEING RED CAUSE WHAT YOU SAID -
 IT CUTS ME THRU AND THROUGH.
 YA HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.

CHORUS

YA HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.
 YA HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BLACK AND BLUE.

TAG

YOU KNOW YOU USE ME AND YOU BRUISE ME
 WHEN YOU DO ME LIKE YOU DO.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

(with abandon)

YA HURT MY FEELINGS TILL THEY'RE BBBBLACK
 BBBBLACK, BBBBLACK, AND BLUE.

DUSTY

Yeah, yeah, yeah! That is what I'm talkin' about! You go girl!

ASHLEY

Whooh! What just happened?

DUSTY

You just got a little dose of Dusty to spice up your sweet self!

(eager, back to aggressive self)

So, when are you gonna confront her?

(remembering)

Privately.

(backpedaling)

In love, of course.

ASHLEY

Lemme think...I won't see her again today. But I always see her first thing in the morning - before first period.

DUSTY

OK, I'll be waiting for you right here tomorrow to see how it went. Hey, hey, do I need to plug you in to keep you charged up?

ASHLEY

No, I got this.

DUSTY

You go get em, tiger!

Track cue #5 CROSSOVER INTO SCENE 2

ENSEMBLE crosses to indicate next day. Big calendar could be fun.

SCENE 2: NEXT MORNING IN SCHOOL HALLWAY BEFORE MORNING BELL

Dusty leans, disheveled and yawning, waiting impatiently a few seconds for Ashley.

Ashley enters.

DUSTY

Finally! I've been standing here waiting for you to hear how it went with Mia. I purposely came to school - like ten minutes early!

By the way, did you know there's a whole underbelly of activity that goes on here in the morning before school starts? I'm talking PRE-SCHOOL? Wait...not preschool...

ASHLEY

What do you mean?

DUSTY

Apparently, there's tutoring in Ms. Maymon's room starting at 7:00am - for brainiacs who like to go to school BEFORE school.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

AND, did you know Mrs. Meyer has free donuts in her room before class?

Beat.

And then, I'm standing here, minding my own business, and a bunch of kids start running for the door. I thought the building was on fire!

Until I hear the calming voice of Ms. Murphy over the loud speaker with a morning prayer. I thought, "Yeah, we better be praying - cause the building's on FIRE!!!"

ASHLEY

Yeah, we pray **every** morning.

And the people running were the **track team**.

And Ms. Meyer keeps donuts because she's **diabetic**.

DUSTY

Oops.

Beat.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Anyway, where have you been!?! How did it go?

ASHLEY

Chill! Chill! I'll tell you.

TRACK CUE #6 CONFRONTATION 1

I SAID,
SO MIA, CAN YOU SEE THAT I AM STANDING RIGHT HERE,
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME AND I CAN HEAR IT SO CLEAR.
I THINK THAT YOU'LL AGREE
IT'S GETTING WORSE NOW THIS YEAR.
I GOTTA HELP YOU SEE -

DUSTY

(in rhythm)

...something about a spear?

Rhythm out.

ASHLEY

What?! No! No more revenge talk!

DUSTY

OK, OK! I got it. So what'd you say? UHH! She makes me wanna scream!

ASHLEY

(sheepish)

That's...when I woke up.

DUSTY

What! So you're telling me this was all your **dream?** Ahh man! You weenie.

ASHLEY

No! It was good practice!

DUSTY

Whew! OK Good! So you're not done. Go on.

TRACK CUE #7 CONFRONTATION 2**ASHLEY****VERSE 2**

I SAID,
I KNOW YOU LIKE TO MAKE A SPLASH WHEREVER YOU GO.
BUT WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TRASH IT REALLY BRINGS ME SO LOW.
AND GOSSIP'S LIKE A RASH, IT SPREADS LIKE FIRE YOU KNOW.

DUSTY

(with aggression)

YOU'RE FADIN LIKE A FLASH

(backpedaling)

and that's as far as I'll g..

Ashley shoots ENOUGH look.

Rhythm out.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Sorry. Working on it. OK What did you say?

ASHLEY

That's all the stuff I thought of...after she walked away.

DUSTY

WHAT! What is wrong with you? So you were right there in front of her, and you wimped out? Do I have to watch you every minute!?

ASHLEY

I'm gonna do it, I just got nervous for a minute, that's all.

Dusty, it's easy to get angry, that comes naturally to everybody.

But it takes a lot of courage to actually confront someone, in love.

DUSTY
(revelation)

Whoa. Radical.

Ok, lemme think. Gimme a sec. This is all new for me ya know.

Ok, how about something like...

As DUSTY launches next attempt, MIA enters, unseen by either DUSTY or ASHLEY.

MIA stops, listens with shock and anger.

-

TRACK CUE #8 CONFRONTATION 3

DUSTY
MIA NOW WE'RE SICK AND TIRED OF ALL YOUR CRUELTY.
HOW CAN EVERY MINION ALL AROUND THIS SCHOOL BE
LISTENING TO YOU.

ASHLEY
Ok...better...but "**minion?**" Take it down a notch.

DUSTY
Uhh...how about...
MIA, ALL YOUR POWER HERE IS REALLY STINKING.
EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS YOU SHOULD DO SOME THINKING.
Better?

ASHLEY
Ummm...right direction...but "**stinking**" not necessary. Keep it kind.

DUSTY
MIA, TAKE A LOOK AROUND, OUR HEARTS ARE BEATING.
GOSSIP, WELL WE'VE FOUND IT CAN BE SO DEFEATING.

ASHLEY

Yeah, that's good. Keep going!

DUSTY

SOMEDAY IT COULD BE THAT THEY ALL TALK ABOUT YOU.
THAT WOULD HELP YOU SEE IT FROM A NEW POINT OF VIEW.

So think about that as you go.

MIA

I'll let you know.

ASHLEY and DUSTY do a wide eyed, stunned take to audience, then each other as in, "What just happened?"

DUSTY

(pleased, to Ashley)

Job done. That was fun!

MIA starts to exit, embarrassed.

ASHLEY stops MIA.

ASHLEY

Mia, wait! Please stop.

MIA stops but does not turn to face ASHLEY.

I'm sorry. I'm sorry you overheard that. It wasn't ready for your ears.
Dusty was helping me figure out how to talk to you.

MIA

Right.

ASHLEY

No really. And I'm sorry we were talking **about** you. What I really want to do is talk **with** you, if you'll listen...

MIA

(wanting Dusty to exit)

You mean **privately**, right?**ASHLEY**

Oh, yes! Definitely. Privately.

Dusty, do you mind?

*DUSTY does a "rats" take to audience, then exits.**ASHLEY invites MIA downstage for intimate conversation*

I've really been thinking about how to talk to you...because you're my friend, and...maybe I've done something to hurt you or make you mad? Maybe there's something you want to tell me?

It's just...when you talk about me behind my back, it really hurts me. And if someone I know felt this way about me, I would want to know, so...I'm asking you to please stop.

I know I can't control what you do. I can only control how I respond.

TRACK CUE #9 THAT'S HOW HE LOVES ME

So...let me say it like this...

VERSE 1 - ASHLEY

MAYBE YOU DON'T THINK OF ME AS A FRIEND.
THAT MAKES ME SAD BUT IT ISN'T THE
END OF THE WORLD.
IT'S JUST PART OF THE GAME.

CAN'T MAKE YOU LIKE ME AND TREAT ME JUST RIGHT.
NOT GONNA WHINE AND IT'S POINTLESS TO PUT UP A FIGHT.
I'M NOT LOOKING TO BLAME.

PRECHORUS

BUT OH, THE ACHING IN MY SOUL.
WISH I COULD MAKE THIS HURTING GO AWAY.
BUT OH, JUST ONE THING I CONTROL
IS HOW I CHOOSE TO TREAT YOU EVERY DAY.

CHORUS

AND SO I CHOOSE TO LOVE YOU,
CAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE LORD WOULD DO-
LOVE WITHOUT LOVE IN RETURN.
LOVE CAUSE HE ASKED ME TO,

NOT CAUSE I'M LOVED BY YOU.
MAYBE BY NOW I WOULD LEARN,
THOUGH IT'S HARD TO SEE,
THAT'S HOW HE LOVES ME,
THAT'S HOW HE LOVES ME.

DUSTY listens, eases back onstage. Then ENSEMBLE trickle in from various entrances, all listening to see what's going on.

VERSE 2

IT FEELS IMPOSSIBLE, NOT WHAT I'D CHOOSE.
EVERYTHING IN ME SAYS
NOT FIGHTING BACK MEANS I LOSE,
BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY.

PRECHORUS - ENSEMBLE/PARTS/ASHLEY SOLOS
BUT OH, THE ACHING IN MY SOUL.
WISH I COULD MAKE THIS HURTING GO AWAY.
BUT OH, JUST ONE THING I CONTROL
IS HOW I CHOOSE TO TREAT YOU EVERY DAY.

CHORUS - ENSEMBLE/PARTS
AND SO I CHOOSE TO LOVE YOU,
CAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE LORD WOULD DO-
LOVE WITHOUT LOVE IN RETURN.
LOVE CAUSE HE ASKED ME TO,
NOT CAUSE I'M LOVED BY YOU.
MAYBE BY NOW I WOULD LEARN

I CHOOSE TO LOVE YOU,
CAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE LORD WOULD DO-
LOVE WITHOUT LOVE IN RETURN.
LOVE CAUSE HE ASKED ME TO,
NOT CAUSE I'M LOVED BY YOU.
MAYBE BY NOW I WOULD LEARN,

TAG - ASHLEY
THOUGH IT'S HARD TO SEE,
THAT'S HOW HE LOVES ME,
THAT'S HOW HE LOVES ME.

MIA

Wow. I'm...I'm...sorry.

ASHLEY

I'm sorry, too.

MIA hesitates, hugs ASHLEY.

DUSTY
(quickly)
OK, see ya later.

ASHLEY
Uhh, Dusty, maybe you wanna say something...

DUSTY
(under breath)
Sorry.

ASHLEY
What was that?

DUSTY
I said sorry, OK?

MIA reaches to hug DUSTY.

DUSTY reacts comically, awkwardly. Eventually fist bumps.

MIA exits.

Beat.

ASHLEY
(to DUSTY)
You're a good friend. Thank you.

DUSTY
Any time.

ASHLEY
Ya know, I think the next part of the verse says we should actually **PRAY** for our enemies, and those who mistreat us.

DUSTY

Can we let that be the next play? Isn't this enough kindness for one day?

ASHLEY

Good point.

TRACK CUE #10 BOWS

Cast and Audience may sing ballad.

END

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