



VENGEANCE IS MINE

an extended scene from

BACKSTAB

written by

Marlene Dickinson

Faith Based Student Musicals

© 2023 *It is illegal and unethical to steal, share, or add to this work.*

THEME & SOURCE

Speaking the Truth in Love
"Do not repay anyone evil for evil."
Romans 12:17

SYNOPSIS

Ashley thinks Mia is her friend...until she overhears Mia talking about her. Ashley is naturally hurt, but her best friend Dusty is furious – and hilarious. How will Ashley keep Dusty's anger under control, manage her own hurt feelings, and confront Mia – in love?

CAST

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

DUSTY (F) Best friend to Ashley. Outspoken, strong personality, bold, colorful, struggles with anger.

ASHLEY stands in school hallway staring off, stunned and sad.

DUSTY enters.

DUSTY

Whaddup? What was that about?

No response.

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

ASHLEY

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

DUSTY

(aggressive)

Again!?! 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?

Yeah, maybe a little. **ASHLEY**

Well, "Vengeance is **mine..**" **DUSTY**

Uh, "...saith the **Lord.**" **ASHLEY**

OK, OK, vengeance belongs to the Lord...and best friends. **DUSTY**

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

Are you kidding!?! The Bible is full of revenge. **DUSTY**

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

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

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

It will be when I get through with you. **DUSTY**

It will? **ASHLEY**

Not, "It will?" **DUSTY**
(*mocking*)

"It will." So you tell her you've got **me** on your team...and beware the wrath of Dusty McDuff. **DUSTY**
(*confident*)

ASHLEY

Who?

DUSTY

It sounds so much better than Dusty Smith. Look, all I know is, the Bible says God does bad things to people when they make Him mad.

ASHLEY

Like what?

DUSTY

He sent plagues when Pharaoh didn't release Moses and the Hebrews. You know,

(singing)

PHARAOH, PHARAOH, OH, OH LET MY PEOPLE GO! **HUH!**

Frogs...hail...flies! He turned the water turned to blood. And once, He struck a guy dead for lying in the temple. Oh yeah, one time He turned a lady into a pillar of salt!

DUSTY does comical freeze.

ASHLEY

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

DUSTY

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

ASHLEY

I'm not sure Jesus-

DUSTY

Oh yeah! And isn't there also a bunch of stuff about weapons? The Sword of the Spirit...the Helmet of Truth....the Lightsaber of Darkness...

ASHLEY

Hold it. A Lightsaber of darkness?

DUSTY

Ok, I might have made that one up. But when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus in the garden, didn't one of the disciples whack somebody's ear off?

ASHLEY

Yeah, but...I'm pretty sure Jesus healed him.

DUSTY

Wait, what?

ASHLEY

Didn't Jesus press his hand against the Soldier's head and heal his ear?

DUSTY

Are you sure?

ASHLEY

Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

Beat

Now that I think about it, I know Jesus showed when He was angry, but I don't think he ever 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 talking to Mia 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 isn't that how you'd want it? If someone has a problem with you, don't you want them to talk to you?

DUSTY

(comical aggression)

Who has a problem with me?

ASHLEY

Nobody. That was hypothetical.

DUSTY

I don't know your medical terms. 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! How about black and blue? You are a bruised woman.

DUSTY stands behind ASHLEY, hands on her shoulders, helping her confront imaginary MIA, who is straight downstage.

Say it with me: I am a bruised woman!

ASHLEY

(awkwardly)

I am a bruised woman!

DUSTY

You hurt my feelings till I'm black and blue.

ASHLEY

You hurt my feelings till- Dusty, that sounds so dumb.

DUSTY

Yeah, it does. But I like your sass.

ASHLEY

Yeah, where'd that come from?

DUSTY

You just got a little dose of Dusty to spice up your sweet self!
(eager, back to her aggressive self)

So, when are you gonna confront her?
(remembering)

Privately.

(backpedaling)

In love, of course.

ASHLEY

Lemme think...I see her early almost every morning before first period.

DUSTY

OK, OK, you got this.

As they exit.

Remember, "I am a bruised woman. I am a bruised woman."

ASHLEY

Dusty, I got this.

DUSTY

If it doesn't go well, call me and I'll beat her—Oops, never mind.

© 2023 Faith Based Student Musicals

For Perusal Only