

COMPARING CHRISTMAS

A one act musical
about
Comparison and the Body of Christ

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SYNOPSIS

What happens when highly competitive cousins, Greta and Ruth, face-off at the annual Long Family Cousin's Christmas Tournament and Sleepover? In their quest for victory and recognition, how do these arch-rivals work through their personal insecurities to find the greater good?

THEME

"Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27

RUNTIME

Approximately 45 minutes depending on Variation choices.

CAST

GRANDKID ENSEMBLE (M/F) - any number of students. Unlimited opportunities for vocal, dance, tumbling, comedy, athletic and other features. There are also a number of lines marked GRANDKID LINE #1, etc. for Director to assign.

GRETA (F) - highly competitive, over-achieving oldest cousin at the Long Family Cousin's Christmas Tournament and Sleepover. Threatened by her cousin, Ruth. Strong actor~singer.

RUTH (F) - next oldest cousin at the Sleepover. Accustomed to dominating. Must prevail. Tries to topple her cousin, Greta. Strong actor~singer.

GRANDMA (F) - loving, festive, hip, wants Grandkids to love and honor each other and the Lord. Strong actor~singer.

GRAYSON (F/M) - Greta's younger sibling. Engaging, charming, disarming, underdog, truth-teller. Strong actor~singer.

RIDLEY (M/F) Ruth's younger sibling. Speaks and acts like an attorney in the making. Intelligent, formal, comedic. Strong character actor~optional song/rap.

SPIKE (M/F) - Strong leader, most respected cousin. Cool, laid back, EmCee type, "Let's get this party started." Supporting Actor. Non-singing.

SKATEBOARD GRANDKIDS 1 and 2 - minor dialogue feature.

PAINTER GRANDKIDS 1, 2, and 3 - minor dialogue feature.

CHEERLEADER GRANDKIDS 1, 2, and 3 - minor dialogue feature.

LAND OF ER FEATURED SOLO (F) - Sings Bridge.

JUDGES - 2 or more acting features. No lines, non-singing.

SET

There are no set changes. The main, permanent set, occupying most of the stage, is Grandma and Grandpa's Family Room. Furniture can be moved around by Grandkids. Leave space far downstage (DS) for dialogue and vocal features.

There are 2 alternative locations for which you will need to reserve small areas - one DSR and the other DSL. The first alternative location will be just outside Grandma's front door. The second will be in the basement of the home. You might separate these from the Family Room with a flat or rolling partition.

Grandma and Grandpa's bedroom (where Grandpa is sleeping the entire play, is established offstage.

STAGING AND MOVEMENT VIDEO CONTAINS IDEAS FOR THE FOLLOWING PIECES:

Christmas Cheer Parts 1 and 4
Land of Er
Tournament 1-3
All Variations
You Cheated
Do Your Job
Scary Chords

SCENE ~ SONG BREAKDOWN

1 OVERTURE

SCENE 1 - OUTSIDE GRANDMA'S FRONT DOOR

2 BETTER THAN HER Part 1 (Greta)

SCENE 2 - GRANDMA'S FAMILY ROOM

3 SFX - Doorbell

- # 4 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 1 (Grandkids) **SEE VIDEO**
- # 5 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 2 (Grandma)
- # 6 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 3 (Grandma)
- # 7 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 4 (Grandkids and Grandma) **SEE VIDEO**

SCENE 3 - OUTSIDE GRANDMA'S FRONT DOOR

- # 8 SFX - Single Scary Chords
- # 9 BETTER THAN HER Part 2 (Ruth)

SCENE 4 - GRANDMA'S FAMILY ROOM

- # 10 SFX - Doorbell
- # 11 LAND OF ER (Ridley, Featured Soloist, and Grandkids) **SEE VIDEO**

SCENE 5 - GRANDMA'S FAMILY ROOM

- #12 TOURNAMENT Part 1 (Grandkids)
- #13 TOURNAMENT Part 2 (Grandkids)
- #14 TOURNAMENT Part 3 (Grandkids)
- #15 TOURNAMENT VARIATIONS (Grandkids with Features) **SEE VIDEO**
- #16 SFX - Scary Chords 2x and Snore **SEE VIDEO**
- #17 BETTER THAN HER Part 3 (Greta and Ruth)
- #18 YOU CHEATED (Ruth, Greta and Grandkids) **SEE VIDEO**

SCENE 6 - GRANDMA'S BASEMENT

- #19 DOING MY Part 1 (Grayson)
- #20 MORE THAN WE CAN SEE (Greta and Ruth)
- #21 DOING MY Part 2 (Grayson and Grandma)

SCENE 7 GRANDMA'S FAMILY ROOM

- #22 DO YOUR JOB (Grandkids with Features)
- #23 BOWS

TRACK CUES

- # 1 OVERTURE
- # 2 BETTER THAN HER Part 1
- # 3 SFX - Doorbell
- # 4 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 1
- # 5 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 2
- # 6 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 3
- # 7 CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 4
- # 8 SFX - Scary Chords
- # 9 BETTER THAN HER Part 2
- # 10 SFX - doorbell
- # 11 LAND OF ER
- # 12 TOURNAMENT Part 1
- # 13 TOURNAMENT Part 2
- # 14 TOURNAMENT Part 3
- # 15 TOURNAMENT VARIATIONS
- # 16 SFX - Scary Chords and Snore
- # 17 BETTER THAN HER Part 3
- # 18 YOU CHEATED
- # 19 DOING MY PART 1
- # 20 MORE THAN WE CAN SEE
- # 21 DOING MY PART 2

#22 DO YOUR JOB
#23 BOWS

For Perusal Only

TRACK CUE #1 - OVERTURE

SCENE ONE - 7:00PM ON DECEMBER 25 OF THE CURRENT YEAR

On Overture drum cadence (:57) GRANDMA enters and sits facing DS at her family room table, USC. She's reading a book with a title such as, "A Survivor's Guide to Grandparenting," "Grandparenting for Dummies," or "When Grandma Needs Guts."

Periodically, GRANDMA discreetly pops a bite of snack in her mouth from her pocket. Throughout the show, this is a running bit for her; whenever she has a private moment, she sneaks a bite.

Immediately upon Overture conclusion, SPIKE enters carrying the red and green bandanas and singing a cappella.

SPIKE

(singing, a cappella)

THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.

OK Grandma, got the bandanas.

SPIKE puts bandanas on the table and separates into red and green.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

When's everybody supposed to get here? We're ready to start the Tournament.

GRANDMA

(without looking up from book)

Soon enough, I bet.

GRANDMA and SPIKE freeze as GRETA and GRAYSON enter and stop DS, outside Grandma's front door.

GRETA

Now remember what Mom said: Just stick with me and do what I say.

GRAYSON

Finally, my first year to stay up all night at Grandma and Grandpa's Cousin's Christmas Sleepover!

GRETA

Tournament and Sleepover. And who cares about the sleepover?

GRAYSON

I do. You would too if your all your childhood sleepovers passed you by because of a peanut allergy. The sleepover is fun part.

GRETA

Winning the games is the fun part.

GRAYSON

Yeah, when you and Ruth lead the teams. I love Ruth.

GRETA

What did you just say?

GRAYSON

Yeah?

(backpedaling)

GRETA

After that

GRAYSON

I love?

(worried, hesitant)

GRETA

Yes? You love **who**?

GRAYSON

Uhhh...I said...I love **you**!

GRETA

I'll let it go this time. But for this Tournament, you must be 1000% loyal to **me**. Got it?

GRAYSON

OK, got it.

GRETA

And here's why: You know that in this family everybody is **obsessed** with being **better** than everybody else.

GRAYSON

I know **you're** obsessed.

GRETA

...and every year **Ruth** is determined to beat me, because she **always** tries to **out-do** me at **everything**. Like she has since the day she was born.

GRAYSON

You're also **paranoid**.

GRETA

(unfazed)

I mean, naturally, I tend to dominate, that's understandable. Since I **am** the **oldest** cousin.

GRAYSON

I thought you and Ruth were the same age?

GRETA

Excuse me? Have you forgotten? **I'm 2 weeks older!** Two weeks and 3 days to be exact.

Beat.

GRETA (CONT'D)

Plus all the hours and minutes.

GRETA rambles with increasing tempo, trying GRAYSON's patience.

See **I** was born at 4:15am on a Wednesday - actually, it would have been **4:13** if it wasn't for the Doctor running out of the delivery room on a Code Blue, whatever that is. If he hadn't delayed my arrival, I would be **much** older - and Ruth wasn't born until 7:19**pm** - and since **pm** means night time, that actually means -

GRAYSON

(over it, interrupting)

-OK, I believe you.

GRETA

And everybody knows the oldest cousin should be better at doing stuff.

(thoughtfully)

At least...that's the way it's **supposed** to be. I mean...it's **expected**.

(vulnerable)

And if this is the **last** year that Grandma and Grandpa are gonna host the Cousin's Christmas Tournament and sleepover, then this is my last year to defend my position.

GRAYSON

What!?! This is the **last** year for the sleepover?!? My first year is the last year!?!

GRETA

That's what I hear...Grandma and Grandpa are thinking about moving into an "Over 55 Active Community." And I hear these can be pretty exotic places. Waterfall pools, rock concerts, college classes, international excursions...plus Bingo.

So, remember, the main point of the sleepover is the **Tournament**, and the main point of the **Tournament** is to be sure I defend my position.

GRAYSON

Your position as what?

GRETA

My position as 2 weeks older and 2 weeks **better!!!**

TRACK CUE #2 - BETTER THAN HER Part 1**VERSE INTRO**

FIRST BORN GRANDCHILD IN THE FAMILY.
ALL ATTENTION POINTING STRAIGHT AT ME.
AUNTS AND UNCLES EASILY AGREE
THAT MY PLACE WAS SECURE,
I WAS CERTAIN AND SURE,
TILL ALONG CAME BABY HER.

VERSE

LISTEN, SISTER, I SPEAK THE TRUTH:
SINCE THAT DAY I'M COMPARED TO RUTH.
WHO'LL BE FIRST TO ESCAPE THE CRIB?
WHO'LL BE FIRST TO UNTIE THE BIB?
WHO'LL BE FIRST WITH HER ABC'S?
WHO'LL BE FIRST TO SAY, "PRETTY PLEASE?"
GUM IN YOUR HAIR, SNEEZE DURING PRAYER,
PLAY IN THE SNOW TILL YOU FREEZE.

PRECHORUS

YOU CAN PICK YOUR FRIENDSHIPS
BUT YOUR FAMILY'S PICKED FOR YOU.
YOU'RE STUCK WITH THEM ALL,
BY BLOOD OR BY LAW,
THERES NOTHING THAT YOU CAN DO.

CHORUS

SO BE SURE THAT YOU'RE SURE
OF WHAT HAS TO OCCUR
CAUSE I KNOW THAT YOUR BRAIN IS A BLUR:
I DON'T HAVE TO BE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE,
AS LONG AS I'M BETTER,
BETTER THAN HER.

SCENE TWO - GRANDMA'S FAMILY ROOM

TRACK CUE #3 - SFX DOORBELL

GRANDMA pops a bite of snack from her pocket and opens the "door."

Greetings, ad libs, and hugs as GRETA and GRAYSON enter GRANDMA's house.

GRAYSON

Hi Grandma! How come my first Cousin's Christmas Sleepover has to be the last one?

GRETA

(correcting)

TOURNAMENT and Sleepover!

GRANDMA

Honey, Grandpa and I have managed to keep up this tradition for 13 years. As fun as it is, this kind of thing is not allowed at the new place we're looking to live.

(aside)

At least I hope not.

GRAYSON

And when will all the other cousins hurry up and get here? I can't wait any longer!

GRANDMA

Don't you worry. I predict this peace and quiet will come to an end any moment. In fact, right... about...

TRACK CUE #4 - CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 1 (Grandkids)

SEE VIDEO.

The following dialogue is over the song intro.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Now!

GRAYSON

Wow! You really do have eyes in the back of your head.

GRANDMA

Been trying to tell ya.

Discretely, GRANDMA reaches in her pocket for a bite of snack, pops it in her mouth, clears palate.

The madness begins!

GRANDMA opens "door" and greets GRANDKIDS who begin entering on intro with backpacks, props, etc. Entrances may continue throughout song. The more GRANDKIDS, the funnier.

GRANDKIDS

HEY SLAP ME ON SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER.
THIS PARTY IS MY VERY FAVORITE NIGHT OF THE YEAR.
THANKSGIVING'S WHEN I PACK MY GEAR.
THINKING, WOW! IT'S ALMOST HERE

HEY SLAP ME ON SOME CHRISTMAS FUN.
TONIGHT WILL PROVE OUR FAMILY GROOVE IS A-NUMBER 1.
BIG CELEBRATION'S JUST BEGUN!
SO SLAP ME ON SOME CHRISTMAS FUN.

Underscore continues as SPIKE and SKATEBOARDER GRANDKID 1 approach GRANDMA, DS.

SPIKE

Yo, Grandma, can we start the games now? Got my skateboard waxed and ready to go.

SKATEBOARD GRANDKID 1

Yeah? Well good luck pal. I've been practicing my newest trick: balancing a stack of dishes on my head while I ride. Grandma, hand me some of your china cups.

GRANDMA does a terrified take DS.

SKATEBOARD GRANDKID 1

What? I'll give em back.

SKATEBOARDER GRANDKID 2 approaches wearing hat with a tube attached to belt with whipped cream can in tool belt.

SKATEBOARD GRANDKID 2

I'm afraid you're both defeated. Allow me to demonstrate my newest invention: The Portable Whipped Cream Machine. Squirts right in my mouth while I ride. Top that!

On whipped cream SFX, SKATEBOARD GRANDKID 2 puts tube in mouth and skates US.

TRACK CUE #5 - CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 2 (Grandma)

GRANDMA

(speak~sing freely, straight DS)

WHY DO WE DO IT?
AND WHEN CAN WE STOP?
WE'RE GETTIN' TOO OLD.
WHEN IT'S OVER WE DROP.
WHAT WAS I THINKING?
OUT OF MY HEAD.
TIME'S GOING SLOW, HOURS TO GO
TILL I CAN COLLAPSE ON THE FLOOR.

Under cue continues as PAINTER GRANDKIDS 1-3 approach GRANDMA DS.

PAINTER GRANDKID 1

Grandma, I plan to win the painting contest this year! Got everything I need right here.

Holds up paint set from backpack.

PAINTER GRANDKID 2

Sorry, don't think so. My mural got picked for the county art fair this year.

Holds high a quart of paint and art brushes.

PAINTER GRANDKID 3

Think again, minions.

PAINTER GRANDKID 3 holds high a gallon of paint and roller as she walks away. She trips, spilling paint.

TRACK CUE #6 - CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 3 (Grandma)

After SFX, over intro, PAINTER GRANDKID 3 says, "Oops."

Grandma's does DS take.

GRANDMA

(speak~sing freely, straight DS)

A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT,
HOW IS THIS FUN?
OSCAR AND I
SHOULD TAKE COVER AND RUN.
WE'VE HOSTED FOR AGES,
CAN DO IT NO MORE.
THIS IS THE LAST TILL AFTER I'VE PASSED
IT'S GOTTA BE LESS OF A CHORE.

She pops a snack.

Underscore continues as CHEERLEADER GRANDKIDS 1-3 approach GRANDMA, DS.

CHEERLEADER GRANDKID 1

Grandma, I made the cheer team this year! I gotta show you my running back handspring. Your hallway will be perfect.

Notices imaginary "chandelier" over audience's head.

Well, you may want to take down the chandelier.

CHEERLEADER GRANDKID 2

I made cheerleader too. But I'm the flyer. I do a twisting back handspring dismount off the pyramid.

Notices imaginary "loft" over audience's head.

It will be best to show you from the loft.

CHEERLEADER GRANDKID 3 with darker, more serious vibe holds high in one hand a baton with black charred ends, and a lighter torch in the other.

CHEERLEADER GRANDKID 3

Hey Grams, check this out.

I took up fire baton.

Where can I demonstrate?

TRACK CUE #7 - CHRISTMAS CHEER Part 4 (Grandkids and Grandma)

On fire SFX, GRANDMA does comic take, DS, imagining her home on fire, then pops handful of snack.

GRANDMA

(speak~sing freely, straight DS)

THE MOTHERS ADORE IT,
THE DADS LOVE IT MORE.
THEY OFFER US CASH
TO HOST THREE OR FOUR.
THEY DROP OFF THE KIDS.
THEY'RE OUT ON THE TOWN.
CAN'T MAKE IT NEXT YEAR. TOO BAD WE'RE NOT HERE.
SORRY - CAN'T BE AROUND.

GRANDKID

HEY SLAP ME ON SOME
CHRISTMAS CHEER.
THIS PARTY IS MY VERY
FAVORITE NIGHT OF THE YEAR.
THANKSGIVING'S WHEN I
PACK MY GEAR. THINKING,
"WOW, IT'S ALMOST HERE."

HEY SLAP ME ON SOME
CHRISTMAS FUN.
TONIGHT WILL PROVE OUR FAMILY
GROOVE IS A-NUMBER 1.
BIG CELEBRATION'S JUST BEGUN.
SO SLAP ME ON SOME
CHRISTMAS

SLAP ME ON SOME CHRISTMAS
FUN!

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

WHY DO WE DO IT?
WHEN CAN WE STOP?
WE'RE GETTIN TOO OLD.
WHEN IT'S OVER WE DROP.
WHAT WAS I THINKING?
OUT OF MY HEAD.
TIME'S GOING SLOW,
HOURS TO GO
TILL I CAN COLLAPSE ON THE
BED!

THE MOTHERS ADORE IT.
THE DADS LOVE IT MORE.
THEY OFFER US CASH
TO HOST THREE OR FOUR.
THEY DROP OFF THE KIDS.
THEY'RE OUT ON THE TOWN.
(sarcastically)
I'M REALLY GONNA MISS THIS.

SPIKE

Yo Grammeo! Can we FINALLY start the games now?

GRANDMA

Finally? You mean already? Can we at least say, "Hello" first?

SPIKE

(to all GRANDKIDS, with friendly sarcasm)

Everybody say, "Hello" so we can get on with it.

GRANDKIDS

(obligatory, sing-song unison)

Hello.

SPIKE

OK, **now** can we start?

GRANDMA

Cool your jets Spike, one of our Captains isn't even here yet.

"SPIKE is looking "out the window" as RUTH and RIDLEY enter outside Grandma's door."

SPIKE

Uhh, you sure about that Grandma?

-

TRACK CUE #8 SFX - SCARY CHORDS

In a single beat, all GRANDKIDS shift focus toward RUTH and RIDLEY and freeze.

SCENE 3 - OUTSIDE GRANDMA'S FRONT DOOR**RIDLEY**

I certainly look forward to seeing the extended family again this year.

RUTH

Do **not** let me catch you fraternizing with the enemy.

RIDLEY

Objection! The enemy? To whom do you refer?

RUTH

Duh, Doogie Lawyer. You've been watching too much NCIS. I'm talking about **Greta! Queen of the Cousins!** Just because she's the oldest, she thinks she has to outdo me at everything.

RIDLEY

May I submit that there is a certain prestige - a decorum, a gravitas you might say - that comes with being the oldest?

RUTH

By 2 weeks? We're practically twins.

RIDLEY

I believe the evidence will show it's 2 weeks and **3 days**. A material difference. And shall I include the hours and minutes?

RUTH

Not if you wanna go home in one piece!

RIDLEY

Objection: Excited utterance!

RUTH

And no buddy-buddy with **Grayson** either. I heard she's coming this year
(sarcastically)
 Finally got a hold of that peanut allergy.

RIDLEY

Ahh, little Grayson. What a shame to expose her before the age of majority.

RUTH

Expose her to what!?!?

RIDLEY

The culture of comparison in this family. How I hate to see juvenile minds corrupted by the influence of the criminal element.

RUTH

Gimme a break, Matlock.

RIDLEY

I am merely expressing-

RUTH

(overlapping, interrupting)
 -You're always "expressing." Maybe it's time for you to rest your case and listen to this witness testimony.

TRACK #9 BETTER THAN HER PART 2 (Ruth)**RUTH (CONT'D)****VERSE**

LISTEN BROTHER TO WHAT I MEAN:
 ALL MY LIFE GRETA'S BEEN THE QUEEN.
 BARELY BEAT ME TO PLANET EARTH.
 BARELY BEAT ME TO MY OWN BIRTH.
 SHE'S THE BOSS OF THE COUSIN CLUB.

TWO WEEKS OLDER AND THAT'S THE RUB.
FIRST TO STAND UP, DRINK FROM A CUP.
FIRST FOR A BATH IN THE TUB.

PRECHORUS

YOU CAN PICK YOUR FRIENDSHIPS
BUT YOUR FAMILY'S PICKED FOR YOU.
YOU'RE STUCK WITH THEM ALL, BY BLOOD OR BY LAW,
THERE'S NOTHING THAT YOU CAN DO.

CHORUS

SO BE SURE THAT YOU'RE SURE
OF WHAT HAS TO OCCUR
CAUSE I KNOW THAT
YOUR BRAIN IS A BLUR.
I DON'T HAVE TO BE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE,
AS LONG AS I'M BETTER,
BETTER THAN HER.

TRACK CUE #10 SFX - Doorbell

Greta answers door.

RUTH and RIDLEY join cousins in Family Room.

SCENE 4 - GRANDMA'S FAMILY ROOM

Hello, **Ruth.**

GRETA

Hello, **Greta.**

RUTH

Behind GRETA and RUTH'S back, RIDLEY and GRAYSON sneak a big, friendly gesture to one another, indicating they have a secret friendship.

SPIKE

So, fancy Granny, how 'bout we start the Tournament **now?**

RIDLEY*(pacing, lawyer like)*

Grandma, if I may submit...is another competitive tournament really the method you desire for your offspring to interact?

GRANDMA

Well Perry Mason, glad you could join us on your break from Yale School of Law.

(aside, with a wink)

Some of you got that.

RIDLEY

Ah, glad you noticed my Law and Order binge is paying off. If I may proceed?

(to cousins)

You all appear to be so obsessed with comparing yourselves. Bett-**ER**, fast-**ER**, first-**ER**, last-**ER**? Why must we all be something-**ER**?

RUTH

It's how you know where you stand...Dumb and Dumb**ER**. Win-**NER**, los-**ER**, amat-**EUR**, begin**NER**...that's what life's about.

RIDLEY

Objection! I believe my case will prove beyond a reasonable doubt that constant comparison can be deeply detrimental to the average adolescent. In fact, to all human beings. How about we drop the comparison this year and just play for fun?

GRANDKIDS*(turning heads in unison)*

Ad lib's such as, "Huh?" "What?" "Are you kidding?"

RIDLEY bangs a gavel he has whipped out of his back pocket.

RIDLEY

Order in the court!!!! If I may proceed with my opening argument.

RIDLEY cues Sound Booth.

Music, please!

TRACK CUE #11 - LAND OF ER (Ridley and Grandkids)**SEE VIDEO.**

He takes professional, lawyerly position to present his case.

RIDLEY (CONT'D)**VERSE 1**

CHRISTMAS IN THE LAND OF ER.
WHERE YOU STAND YOU'RE NOT QUITE SURE,
UNTIL YOU WIN, THEN YOU BEGIN
TO SEE THAT WINNING IS YOUR ONLY TICKET IN!

VERSE 2

CHRISTMAS IN THE LAND OF ER.
YOUR LIFE HERE IS A TOTAL BLUR.
MUST BE AWARE HOW YOU COMPARE.
OUTSIDE OF THAT DOES ANYBODY REALLY CARE.

GRANDKID VOCAL FEATURE**BRIDGE**

EXCUSE ME RIDLEY, I NEED TO WARM UP HERE.
I PLAN TO WIN THE CHRISTMAS CAROL
SING-OFF THIS YEAR.
IT'S JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE ALL THE WAY-

RIDLEY

THIS EVIDENCE IS PROVING WHAT I SAY!

RAP

PEOPLE OF THE JURY, EVERYBODY STAND.
YOU'RE HEREBY SWORN BY THE LAW OF THIS LAND.
TO HEAR THE TRUTH, NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH
HANDS DOWN, GO HAVE A SEAT IN THAT BOOTH.

YA GOT GOOD, BETTER, BEST, EACH DAY'S A TEST.
FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND ALL THE REST.

BUT WHERE YOU STAND CAN YOU EVER BE SURE
WHEN YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE IN THE LAND OF ER?

Grandkids and/or Audience might join on the, "Er's."

YA GOT FANCI-ER, PANTSI-ER,
HER NAME WOULD BE A LITTLE BIT NANCI-ER.

ICI-ER, SPICI-ER,
JOKER OUGHTA BE A LITTLE NICEI-ER.

PATHETIC-ER, ATHLETIC-ER,
YOU MIGHT CALL THIS COSMETIC-ER.

FROWNI-ER, CLOWNI-ER,
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A LAWYER BREAK IT DOWNI-ER?

Get down!

*4 counts of 8 dance break to feature Ridley or any
Grandkids(s.)*

1 count of 8 to recover (slow drum beat)

NOW HERE I REST MY CASEI-ER.
SORRY 'BOUT GETTING IN YOUR FACEI-ER.
MAY THE RECORD SHOW EACH WORD IS TRUE.
YOU AIN'T NEVER SEEN A LAWYER DO IT LIKE I DO.

1 count of 8 turnaround

VERSE 3

CHRISTMAS IN THE LAND OF ER,
WHERE YOU STAND YOU'RE NOT QUITE SURE.
CAUSE IF YOU'RE ME, IT'S PLAIN TO SEE
(to Grayson)
YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER THOUGH YOU'RE IN THIS FAMILY.

RIDLEY bangs gavel at applause break.

SCENE 5 - THE TOURNAMENT

SPIKE approaches RIDLEY sympathetically.

SPIKE

Compelling argument, Ridley my man.

(unfazed, to GRANDMA)

So, my Grams, what are we waiting for?

blows whistle.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

(announcer voice)

Ladies and Gentleman of the Jury...Let the Games Begin!

TRACK CUE #12 - TOURNAMENT PART 1 (Grandkids)

SEE VIDEO.

GRETA crosses USL, RUTH crosses USR as they ad lib, "Red Team, over here!" "Green Team, let's go, let's go, let's go!" etc.

Loud, boisterous, ballgame-style ad lib cheers from all as GRANDKIDS divide into Red Team, USR and Green Team, USL.

SPIKE grabs pre-sorted red and green bandanas from table and hands red to RUTH and green to GRETA.

RUTH and GRETA pass out bandanas to their teams.

GRANDKIDS cross to places for song.

IF EXTRA TIME IN TRACK INTRO: RIDLEY sneaks over to Green Team to whisper to GRAYSON. RUTH grabs RIDLEY, comically and drags back.

GRANDKIDS

THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.
AND NOTHING SAYS, "CHRISTMAS LOVE"
LIKE KICKIN' IT AND TAKING NAMES.
SO TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE LORD
WE COMPARE AND TRACK HOW EVERYBODY SCORED.
THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.

THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.
AND NOTHING SAYS, "CHRISTMAS LOVE"
LIKE KICKIN' IT AND TAKING NAMES.
SO TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE LORD
WE COMPARE AND TRACK HOW EVERYBODY SCORED.
THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.

SPIKE puts arm around GRANDMA, walks her DS.

SPIKE

So Grammy-O, what do we have to do this year to win your Annual Cousins Christmas Sleepover Honorable Mention Award?

GRANDMA

Well you remember last year we gave the Speedy Clean Up Award?

GRANDKID LINE #1

Yeah, I almost won!

GRANDKID LINE #2

Right. Until we caught you shoving Cheese Puffs under the white couch cushions.

SPIKE

So what's it gonna be this year, my Grams?

GRANDMA

(announcing full volume to all GRANDKIDS)

Well kids, you know Grandpa and I are getting older and we really need our sleep more than we used to-

SPIKE

I got a really bad feeling about this.

GRANDMA

It's OK. Grandpa and I made a deal. I will be covering the first shift from arrival until midnight, while Grandpa sleeps. And Grandpa has kindly agreed to cover the second shift: Midnight to 6:00am-

SPIKE

OK, no crisis.

GRANDMA

-IF we do not wake him up during the first shift. So this year's theme is...

(drops her voice)

Silent Night.

TRACK CUE #13 TOURNAMENT Part 2 (Grandkids)

All GRANDKIDS do a take on track SFX.

GRANDMA pops secret bite and puts up a "shhh" finger to her mouth as she exits to close GRANDPA's door.

GRANDKIDS

(staccato stage whisper)

THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL
TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.
AND NOTHING SAYS "CHRISTMAS LOVE"
(now full volume)
LIKE KICKIN IT AND TAKING NAMES.

SPIKE

Quiet!!

GRANDKIDS

(back to quiet)

SO TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE LORD
WE COMPARE AND TRACK HOW EVERYBODY SCORED.
THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.

GRANDMA returns, holding up GRANDMA'S hearing aids.

GRANDKID LINE #3

Grandma, what are those?

GRANDMA

(silly)

These old things? Just Grandpa's hearing aids.

GRANKIDS

Ooh Grandma!

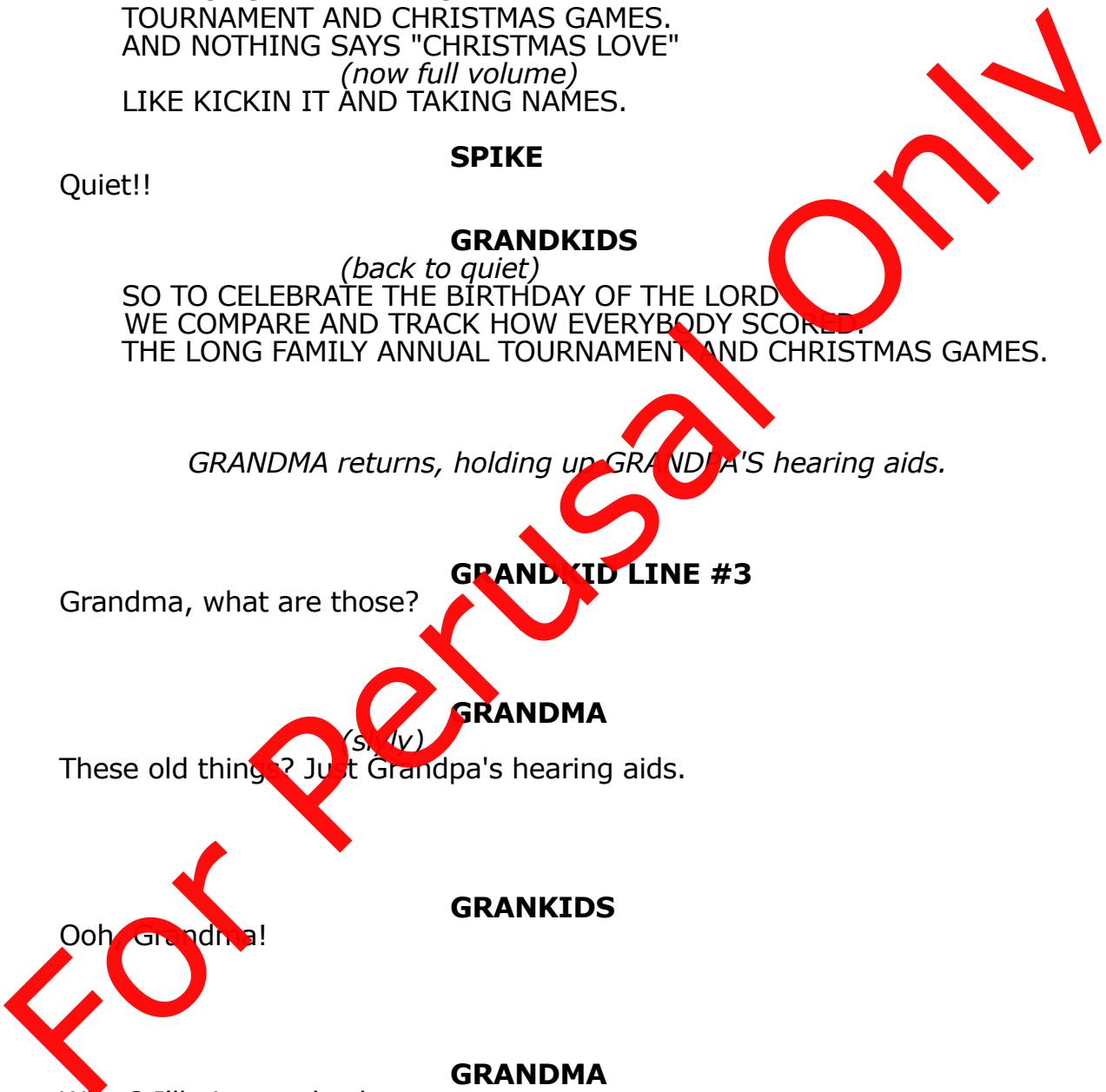
GRANDMA

What? I'll give em back.

GRANDKID LINE #4

Did you hear that, we got Grandpa's hearing aids!

Full cast ad lib cheer.



TRACK CUE #14 TOURNAMENT Part 3 (Grandkids)*(full volume)*

SO TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE LORD,
WE COMPARE AND TRACK HOW EVERYBODY SCORED.
THE LONG FAMILY ANNUAL TOURNAMENT AND CHRISTMAS GAMES.

On applause peak, SPIKE crosses to judges table, directly UC, stands on a chair with megaphone and whistle to host Tournament.

On applause peak, JUDGES leave pyramid to grab props and costume add-ons.

All other GRANDKIDS hold final pyramid pose and wait to fall out until SPIKE specifically calls out "places" below.

SPIKE blows loud, long whistle to signify start of Tournament.

All SPIKE Tournament announcements should be through megaphone.

SPIKE

Judges, take your places!

JUDGES with suit coats, glasses, clip boards, etc. meet DC and shake hands, then cross DC to sit on upstage side of Grandma's table.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Teams, take your places!

Red and Green Team ad lib cheer as they cross UR and UL respectively.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Grandma, take your place.

GRANDMA goes to audience and asks to sit next to someone.

SPIKE blows whistle.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Here begins Round One!

Greta and Ruth each quickly select a player(s) and send them Center to compete.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

On your mark...

SPIKE directs GRANDKIDS.

ALL GRANDKIDS

Get set,

Go!

TRACK CUE #15 TOURNAMENT VARIATIONS (Grandkid Features)**SEE VIDEO.**

The Variations are designed to give opportunity for all GRANDKIDS to be featured. Features include lip-syn, pantomime sketches, dance, tumbling, jump rope, audience participation, etc.

Directors may use any or all 12 Variations.

RUTH and GRETA send out their selected "Play(s)" for each Tournament Round.

Grandma is free to cheer, ad lib, and encourage audience response.

Between each Round, on applause peak, SPIKE blows whistle and calls out the next round, as in the following example.

SPIKE

*Blows whistle.
Round 2 take your places.*

*Blows whistle.
Round 3 take your places*

...and so on.

After your chosen Variations have concluded, SPIKE and JUDGES briefly turn their backs to audience as they study the clipboard and privately confer.

SPIKE then sets up the final round with the following dialogue.

SPIKE

Ladies and Gentlemen, what do you know? For the first time in the Long Family Tournament history, there appears to be a tie between Red Team and Green Team.

To break the tie and determine the grand champion of this year's Cousin's Christmas Tournament...we now introduce our 13th [fill in your number] and final round.

SPIKE blows whistle.

A few GRANDKIDS roll on or carry out small table with Chess Board set up.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Team Captains, take your places!

On your mark!

TRACK CUE #16 SFX - SCARY CHORDS AND SNORE

SEE VIDEO.

GRETA takes her place DC as scary chords #1 plays.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Get set!

RUTH take her place DC as scary chords #2 plays.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

And...g-

SPIKE'S "go" is interrupted by GRANDPA'S Snore SFX.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

It's Grandpa! Hit the deck!

All immediately drop to the floor and freeze.

GRANDMA mumbles under breath as she exits to check on GRANDPA.

GRANDMA

Let's see if I can remember where I stashed that old bottle of Xanax.

She pops a bite of snack.

TRACK CUE #17 BETTER THAN HER Part 3 (Greta and Ruth)

Over song intro, GRETA and RUTH get up from floor to continue rivalry.

GRETA

WHO WAS SECOND GRADE SPELLING CHAMP?

RUTH

WON THE RELAY AT SUMMER CAMP?

GRETA

RODE A BIKE WITHOUT TRAINING WHEELS?

RUTH

RODE A BIKE IN MY MOTHER'S HEELS.

GRETA

WHO WAS FIRST TO READ WAR AND PEACE?

RUTH

WHO WAS FIRST TO READ PERICLES?

GRETA

GONE WITH THE WIND?

RUTH

SORRY MY FRIEND, READ IT IN JAPANESE!

PRECHORUS - DUET

YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FRIENDSHIPS
BUT YOUR FAMILY'S PICKED FOR YOU.
YOU'RE STUCK WITH THEM ALL, BY BLOOD OR BY LAW,
THERE'S NOTHING THAT YOU CAN DO.

CHORUS - DUET

SO BE SURE THAT YOU'RE SURE
OF WHAT HAS TO OCCUR
BECAUSE I KNOW THAT
YOUR BRAIN IS A BLUR.
I DON'T HAVE TO BE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE,
AS LONG AS I'M BETTER,
BETTER THAN HER!

On applause peak, SPIKE blows whistle.

TRACK CUE #18 - YOU CHEATED (Ruth, Greta, and Grandkids)**SEE VIDEO.**

8 measures for both Teams gather into C around the table from their respective sides.

They close in on the table as they circle around it so we cannot see the game.

On music cue, GRANDKIDS drop down as GRETA and RUTH stand.

GRETA

Hey you cheated!

RUTH

Did not! You cheated.

GRETA

I did not.

8 measures as accusation is echoed back and forth. GRANDKIDS join in to build to a frenzied blow up.

GRETA (CONT'D)

YOU CHEATED, YOU CHEATED,
YOU CAN'T STAND TO BE DEFEATED.
YOU CHEATED JUST TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK GOOD.

RUTH

YOU KNOW I COULDN'T DO THAT.
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO THAT.

GRETA

YOU SHOULDN'T BUT I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WOULD.

GRANDKIDS

YOU CHEATED, YOU CHEATED,
YOU CAN'T STAND TO BE DEFEATED.
YOU CHEATED JUST TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK GOOD.

YOU KNOW I COULDN'T DO THAT.
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
YOU SHOULDN'T BUT I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WOULD.

ROUNDS

YOU CHEATED, YOU CHEATED,
 YOU CAN'T STAND TO BE DEFEATED.
 YOU CHEATED JUST TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK GOOD.

YOU KNOW I COULDN'T DO THAT.
 YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
 YOU SHOULDN'T BUT I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WOULD.

ROUNDS CONTINUE**ADD COUNTERPOINT**

YOU CHEAT, YOU CHEAT,
 YOU CANNOT STAND DEFEAT.
 CHEATED! YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK
 GOOD. SO GOOD.

GRANDMA reenters, is appalled, grabs SPIKE'S whistle while still around his neck, almost pulling him off his perch.

GRANDMA blows the whistle long and hard.

Music dissolves awkwardly upon GRANDMA'S whistle.

GRANDMA

(voice raised, takes charge)

I just got your Grandpa knocked out. Now it's time for all of you. You're all gettin' a chill pill. So sit down, all of ya!

GRANDKIDS sit with embarrassed silence, showing their natural respect for GRANDMA.

GRETA and RUTH look at each other with fury. Begin to sit.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Not you Greta. And not you, Ruth. You two come here.

They look at GRANDMA and each other, then cross reluctantly to GRANDMA.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Down in the basement, behind the staircase, under a stack of boxes covered with ancient quilts is an old Honeywell large room HEPA Air Purifier.

GRETA and RUTH do a take to each other, then back to GRANDMA.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Your mission is to find, clean, and set up that rattly old sucker in the bedroom next to Grandpa's head. And blast it on high. We could use a little white noise in there.

GRETA and RUTH do an, "Are you kidding?" take and exit.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

The rest of you stay down! We're gonna switch gears here.

SCENE 6 - GRANDMA AND GRANDPA'S BASEMENT

The "basement" should be established far DR or DL, opposite the area "outside GRANDMA's front door."

Boxes, quilts, and storage stuff should be in 2 or 3 high stacks. This will work best on casters for quick scene change.

GRETA and RUTH, not speaking, are alone together working through a stack of cartons full of storage stuff.

RUTH

(sarcastically)

Of course it's under 17 boxes of memorabilia from the 1930's.

Awkwardness as they work through boxes in silence for a few moments.

After we've felt this tension, comes a box too heavy for GRETA to lift alone.

RUTH notices, takes a beat, finally helps lift. They move the box together, still in silence.

Moving the box reveals a few loose pictures, now on top of the storage stack.

GRETA grabs the pictures to move them. One loose picture falls.

RUTH picks up picture and looks. She chuckles to herself.

GRETA takes a beat to decide how to respond. Finally...

GRETA

(dryly)

What's so funny?

RUTH hands GRETA the picture.

GRETA studies it.

RUTH

Is that Grandpa in his uniform?

GRETA

(without eye contact, looking at picture only)

I would say yes.

RUTH

World War I?

GRETA

World War I? That would make them like... over a hundred years old. Kinda harsh, don't you think?

RUTH

Kidding, of course. OK, World War II?

GRETA

Keep going.

RUTH

Iraq War? Parking Lot Wars? Star Wars?...no that's not right.

GRETA

Try Vietnam. Grandpa fought in Vietnam.

RUTH

Oh...right.

RUTH now studies another picture. This one is funnier.

Oh wow! Is this Grandma and Grandpa? In hippie costumes?

GRETA

Lemme see.

Ruth hands it off.

They study the picture together.

Those aren't costumes. That's how they dressed.

RUTH

What!?! No way!

RUTH steps closer as they marvel over the picture together.

GRETA

Looks like Grandma's wearing a Mumu.

RUTH

And Grandpa's hair is longer than hers!

GRETA

Looks like they're at a concert or something. What's that say?

They hold the picture close and squint to read, now closer together than ever.

RUTH

Something...stock...livestock? Goodstock?

GRETA

Whatever.

RUTH

Probably their idea of a "wild concert" in the olden days.

RUTH picks up the next picture.

Oh wow! Is this our Moms? It looks like a dance recital.

GRETA

Their hair...it's like a foot high. Looks like cotton candy.

RUTH

Why are the fingers cut out of their gloves?

GRETA picks up next thing on stack - a program.

GRETA

(reading)

Simmonds Dance Studio RECITAL 1987. **Beat It: The Music of Michael Jackson.**

RUTH

We could do this all night. Wanna come back when everyone's asleep?

Beat.

GRETA

(noncommittal)

Yeah...maybe.

Relieving the tension, she quickly puts the rest of the loose pictures in the carton and tries to pick up the next box.

Ruth sees her struggle, decides to help lift.

Even together, it feels heavy.

RUTH

It's too heavy. We're gonna have to take some stuff out.

GRETA

What's in it?

RUTH

Let's snoop.

While they open the box, GRAYSON sneaks in, unseen by RUTH or GRETA. She remains hidden, listening.

GRETA

Trophies and medals and ribbons.

Beat.

RUTH

Your Mom's, no doubt.

GRETA

How do you know they're not **your** Mom's? Or Aunt Gina's or Uncle Jerry's?

They do a knowing take at mention of Uncle Jerry, no over-achiever.

GRETA (CONT'D)

OK, probably not Uncle Jerry's. But how do you know they're **my** Mom's?

RUTH

Oh, c'mon, Greta, you know it was **your** Mom who won all the awards in this family.

GRETA

What are you talking about?

RUTH

(escalating undercurrent)

My Mom says she didn't stand a chance at being noticed if **your** Mom showed up. Honor roll, basketball, talent show, boyfriends...you name it. My Mom said that's why she went into ROTC...to get away from **your** Mom.

GRETA

Are you sure? I've never heard that.

RUTH

Oh I'm sure. Don't forget we lived here with Grandma and Grandpa when our dad first left. Grandma and Grandpa practically raised us until Mom could get her life together. I've heard **lots** of stories.

Ridley was little, but I was old enough to remember.

Why do you think I participate in like 17 sports and activities? Because my Mom wants me to... "excel." That's code for: do better than other people.

GRETA

Well you're good at a lot of stuff. So I hope you're not complaining.

RUTH

Not complaining. I just feel like...if I don't do better than other people, I'll disappoint my Mom. It's a lot of pressure.

You're good at a lot of stuff too.

GRETA

I'm **supposed** to be good at a lot of stuff. I'm the oldest. But I'm not as good as everyone expects me to be.

RUTH

(frustrated)

What do you mean? You win practically everything.

GRETA

I did until you came along.

RUTH

(sarcastic)

Two weeks later?

They make eye contact, both realize how ridiculous this is.

GRETA

Ah, my two weeks of glory.

RUTH

I wish I didn't compare myself all the time. I wish it wasn't so important to me.

It feels like being better at stuff is sort of becoming...what I'm known for. And if I'm not always better, then no one knows who I am.

GRETA

Really? Well I feel like I'm not allowed to fail. Other people can try things and it might not go so well and that's OK for **them**. But I can't afford to be average. Everyone **expects me** to be better.

GRAYSON pops out from her hiding place.

GRAYSON

What about me?

RUTH AND GRETA do a stunned take that Grayson has been listening.

GRETA

Grayson, what are you doing here?

GRAYSON

I like to be with the big kids.

GRETA

Yeah, well you're a **little** kid. So get lost.

RUTH

Greta, wait.

(to GRAYSON)

What did you mean, "What about me?" "What about you, **what?**"

GRAYSON

Being "better" at something. I'm not "better" at anything. Nobody notices me.

GRETA

I notice you're not upstairs where you're supposed to be.

RUTH

Greta, c'mon.

(bending down to GRAYSON's level for sincere eye contact)

You're important, Grayson. We notice you.

GRAYSON

But I'm not that great at anything. I never win. I'm always just **on** the team, maybe helping a little, like passing the ball for someone **else** to score. I'm never one of the **important** ones. Just one person on a great big team.

TRACK CUE #19 - DOING MY PART Part 1 (Grayson)**VERSE 1**

I'M NEVER AS GOOD AS, NEVER AS FAST.
WHENEVER I'M RACING, THE OTHERS ZOOM PAST.
I NEVER GET TROPHIES IN MUSIC OR ART.
I'M ONLY ONE PERSON, ONE PERSON DOING MY PART.

VERSE 2

I SOMETIMES FEEL SILLY, I SOMETIMES FEEL SLOW.
I SOMETIMES GO ON IT ALL THE "I KNOWS" I DON'T KNOW.
I KNOW HOW IT ENDS BEFORE WE EVEN START.
I'M ONLY ONE PERSON, ONE PERSON DOING MY PART.

Beat for this revelation to hit RUTH and GRETA.

They make knowing eye contact with each other as underscore continues.

RUTH

Grayson, you **are** important. And you just taught me something important.

GRAYSON

Like what?

GRETA

You're supposed to be upstairs, that's what!

RUTH*(to GRETA)*

Greta, c'mon.

(to GRAYSON)

You have a lot of special gifts. You're kind, and you always encourage other people, and you don't have to be the center of attention. Everybody likes you.

I wish I could say that.

GRETA*(breaking it up)*

OK, enough Kumbaya. Go upstairs, Grayson.

GRAYSON*(relenting)*

Ooo - kay.

*GRAYSON exits the basement.***GRETA***(yelling after her)*

And stop trying to hang around us.

RUTH*(pondering Grayson's words)*

Greta, c'mon. Maybe Grayson has a point. Just to be happy to be on the team. Wow! I never thought how that might feel...to think about the team, not just myself.

GRETA

From the mouths of babes.

RUTH

Do you think there's something more?

GRETA

More than what?

RUTH

More than us struggling our whole lives to be good, better, best?

GRETA

Yes, I think there's something - or Someone - bigger than us. There has to be.

RUTH

I hope so. I hate to think everything depends on me outdoing people the rest of my life.

TRACK CUE #20 - MORE THAN WE CAN SEE (Greta and Ruth)

VERSE 1 - RUTH

IT SEEMS LIKE THE COMPETING AND COMPARING'S NEVER DONE.
I NEVER GET SO MUCH THAT I DON'T WANT ANOTHER ONE.
WHENEVER I AM WINNING, THEN I WANNA UP THE SCORE.
WHEN I GET AFFIRMATION, STILL I WANT A LITTLE MORE.

BUT WHEN THE THRILL IS FADED THERE'S AN EMPTINESS INSIDE.
IT'S NOT ENOUGH, I'M NOT ENOUGH.
SUCCESS AND VICTORY LIED.
AM I ONLY WORTH AS MUCH AS WHAT THE WORLD CAN SEE?
AM I ONLY WORTH AS MUCH AS OTHERS THINK OF ME?

CHORUS - RUTH

FEELING LIKE A SPECK IN A LOST, LONELY PLANET.
FEELING LIKE A DROP IN AN INFINITE SEA.
THINKING IF I MAKE MYSELF MORE,
I'LL FEEL BETTER FOR SURE
BUT I'M STILL THE SAME OLD ME.

CHORUS CONTINUED - GRETA

BUT MAYBE YOU'RE A SPARK IN THE HEARTBEAT OF HEAVEN.
A FINELY CRAFTED GEM IN A SACRED MACHINE.
AN INVALUABLE ROLE, YOU'RE A PART OF A WHOLE.
MAYBE PART OF SOMETHING MORE,
MORE THAN WE CAN SEE.

VERSE 2 - GRETA

I UNDERSTAND THE LONELINESS, THE FEELING'S NEVER FAR.
 BUT MAYBE SOMEONE GREATER TELLS US WHO WE REALLY ARE.
 WHEN I SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE, THEN I UNDERSTAND MY PART.
 I KEEP THIS VISION IN MY HEART EVERY TIME I'M

CHORUS - GRETA (ADD RUTH ON HARMONY)
 FEELING LIKE A SPECK IN A LOST, LONELY PLANET.
 FEELING LIKE A DROP IN AN INFINITE SEA.
 THINKING IF I MAKE MYSELF MORE,
 I'LL FEEL BETTER FOR SURE
 BUT I'M STILL THE SAME OLD ME.

BUT MAYBE I'M A SPARK IN THE HEARTBEAT OF HEAVEN?
 A FINELY CRAFTED GEM IN A SACRED MACHINE?
 AN INVALUABLE ROLE, I'M A PART OF A WHOLE
 MAYBE PART OF SOMETHING MORE,
 MORE THAN WE CAN SEE.

BRIDGE - GRETA
 GOD GAVE US SPECIAL GIFTS AND CALLED US EACH HIS OWN.

BRIDGE CONTINUED - BOTH
 TOGETHER WE ARE MORE THAN WE CAN BE ALONE.

CHORUS - RUTH
 {WHEN I'M} FEELING LIKE A SPECK IN A LOST, LONELY
 PLANET.
 FEELING LIKE A DROP IN AN INFINITE SEA.
 THINKING IF I MAKE MYSELF MORE,
 I'LL FEEL BETTER FOR SURE
 BUT I'M STILL THE SAME OLD ME.

CHORUS CONTINUED - BOTH
 BUT MAYBE I'M A SPARK IN THE HEARTBEAT OF HEAVEN?
 A FINELY CRAFTED GEM IN A SACRED MACHINE?
 AN INVALUABLE ROLE, I'M A PART OF A WHOLE.
 MAYBE PART OF SOMETHING MORE,
 MORE THAN WE CAN SEE.

Girls hug.

GRANDMA "peeks in" on RUTH and GRETA in "basement," sees she's interrupting, retreats.

RUTH sees her.

RUTH

It's OK, Grandma. You can come in.

GRANDMA

What? Did you find an old bottle of "Let's All Get Along?"

GRETA

No but we did find some very interesting stuff.

RUTH

Or you could say incriminating...maybe good for blackmailing you

GRANDMA

Try me. I hate to tell you how little I care what people think about me. It's one of the hidden pleasures of aging. That, and elastic waistbands.

RUTH

Greta and I were just talking about how I-

GRETA

(correcting)

how **we** always compare ourselves

GRANDMA

(sarcastic)

What!?! You two. I can't imagine?

RUTH

And it turns out Grayson gave us some things to think about.

GRANDMA

Grayson? Like what?

RUTH

Like maybe we should be less worried about making ourselves so important.

GRETA

Maybe we could think more about the team.

GRAYSON sneaks back to outside of basement, unseen.

RUTH

Grandma, what was that saying you had when I was little? Something about everybody doing their part?

GRANDMA

Many parts, one Body?

RUTH

Yeah! That's it!

GRANDMA

True confession: I didn't write that. Pretty sure it's in the Bible.

RUTH

Oh yeah! I remember that song you taught me when I was little. About the hands and the eyes.

GRANDMA

Do Your Job?

RUTH

Yeah! How did it go?

Grandma hums a little.

Ruth joins in as she recalls.

Do you still know the words?

GRANDMA

(lightbulb/idea)

That's a **great** idea!

RUTH

What's a great idea?

GRANDMA

For you two. To teach it to the cousins.

RUTH AND GRETA

(overlapping)

Wait! What?
Who said anything about the cousins...
I don't even know that song...

GRANDMA moving them along to exit.

GRANDMA

You'll find everything you need in a blue folder up in my bedside drawer.
Right after you guys get that humidifier up and running.

Ruth and Greta go a take to each other.

GRETA

Did we just get devotion duty?

RUTH

You gotta watch Grandma...she's tricky like that.

*GRETA and RUTH wrestle the humidifier/carton into their arms
to carry together.*

GRANDMA

(knows Grayson is listening)

Grayson? Aren't you supposed to be with the cousins?

GRAYSON

How'd you know I was here?

GRAYSON hugs GRANDMA.

GRANDMA

Remember? Eyes in the back of my head?
So...what was it you said to Ruth and Greta, oh wise one.

TRACK CUE #21 - DOING MY PART Part 2 (Grayson and Grandma)**GRAYSON**

Nothing. I just said...

VERSE 1

I'M NEVER AS GOOD AS, NEVER AS FAST
WHENEVER I'M RACING, THE OTHERS ZOOM PAST.
I NEVER GET TROPHIES IN MUSIC OR ART.
I'M ONLY ONE PERSON, ONE PERSON DOING MY PART.

GRANDMA**VERSE 2**

IT'S NATURAL TO WANT TO BE FIRST, TO BE BEST.
TO WANT TO STAND OUT WHEN WE'RE PUT TO THE TEST.
GOD GAVE US GIFTS, HE KNEW FROM THE START
WE'RE BEST WHEN WE SERVE HIM
WITH EACH PERSON DOING THEIR PART.

BRIDGE

THERE'S A HOLE IN OUR HEARTS LIKE A BOTTOMLESS CUP.
AND IT SEEMS LIKE OUR VICTORIES WILL FILL IT RIGHT UP.
WE'RE LIKE PUPPY DOGS CHASING OUR TAILS ROUND AND ROUND.
CAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BE FILLED, TO BE FOUND.

VERSE 3

WHEN YOU DON'T COME IN FIRST AND YOU DON'T WIN A PRIZE,
TRY TO SEE WHAT GOD SEES WHEN YOU LOOK THROUGH HIS
EYES.

GRAYSON

I HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE, SO WITH ALL OF MY HEART
I'LL BE THAT ONE PERSON, ONE PERSON DOING MY PART.

SCENE 7 - GRANDMA AND GRANDPA'S FAMILY ROOM

GRANDMA and GRAYSON reenter family room where GRANDKIDS are playing quiet games.

RUTH AND GRETA enter, tools in hand.

GRANDMA

How'd it go? That old sucker rumbling in Grandpa's ear?

RUTH

Sorry Grandma, we couldn't get the humidifier going, but we're kinda ready with the song.

GRANDMA

OK, we'll be ready for that in a few minutes. First pass around this basket of stocking stuffers. Everybody please take one.

GRANDMA hands them a basket full of small gifts wrapped in newspaper or burlap.

As GRANDMA speaks, RUTH and GRETA pass the basket around so each GRANDKID takes a gift.

GRANDMA

Now you know Grandpa and I cannot afford to buy you all presents every year.

(Aside)

If we could, would we be hosting this backbreaking event?

(to GRANDKIDS)

Now just hold on. Don't open until everybody has one.

When each GRANDKID is holding a gift, she continues.

OK, let's start here.

First kid opens their gift. It's baking soda. They react confused, disappointed, but thank GRANDMA.

Next kid opens an empty measuring cup.

Next, a stick of butter.

Continue as chocolate chip cookie ingredients are opened.

SPIKE

(after a few ingredients are opened)

OK Graham Cracker. We get it. These are for cookies?

GRANDMA

Right. Anyone want a bite of baking soda?

GRANDKIDS ad lib "No." Disgusting.

OK, then let's bake the cookies without the baking soda?

GRANDKID LINE #5

I think you have to have soda.

GRANDMA

OK so the soda has a **job** to do in those cookies, right? OK, then who wants a spoonful of raw egg?

GRANDKID LINE #6

Disgusting!

GRANDMA

Then let's just skip the egg, OK?

GRANDKID LINE #7

I don't think you can skip the egg.

SPIKE

OK G-money, we see where you're going here.

RIDLEY

Yes! You may rest your case.

GRANDMA

OK, ladies, **now** we're ready for the song.

(aside to girls)

See what I did there? It's all about the set up.

RUTH and GRETA stand to present, using Bible for cues.

RUTH

Now you are the Body of Christ.

GRETA

And each of you are a part of that Body.

RUTH

The Body is made up of many parts.

GRETA

Making her foot "talk."

The foot cannot say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the Body."

TRACK CUE #72 - DO YOUR JOB (Full Ensemble with Features)

SEE VIDEO.

RUTH

And the eye cannot say to the hand,

GRETA holds up her hand and talks to it.

SEE VIDEO.

GRETA

"I don't need you."

GRETA makes her hand "cry." Or makes a fist as if she's gonna punch, "Hey!"

RUTH stands directly in front of the GRETA to appear as one body. GRETA provides the hands from behind.

VERSE 1 - RUTH

NOW THE EYE SAID TO THE HAND,

"NEXT TO US, YOU'RE REALLY BLAND!
YOU'RE A BORE AND WE NEED YOU ANYMORE."

GRETA pokes head from behind RUTH.

VERSE 1 CONTINUED - GRETA
THEN THE HAND FELT SAD INSIDE,
BUT THE OTHER PARTS ALL CRIED,

VERSE 1 CONTINUED - DUET
"DON'T QUIT NOW! WE DROPPED OUR SANDWICH ON THE FLOOR!"

**CHORUS - RUTH AND GRETA, GRADUALLY ADDING
GRANDKIDS**
DO YOUR JOB, YA LAZY BUM,
OR YOU'LL MAKE US ALL LOOK DUMB,
AND TOGETHER WE BECOME WHAT WE SHOULD BE.
AND COMPARING HAS NO PLACE, WE'RE A BODY, NOT A RACE!
DO YOUR JOB AND YOU'LL GET BETTER, YOU WILL SEE.
AND THE WHOLE THING WILL WORK BEST WHEN WE'RE A "WE."

GRANDKID LINE #8

Cars!

Several GRANDKIDS fall in to create a "car."

VERSE 2 - SOLOS/FEATURES
SAID THE TIRES TO CAR,
"YOU ARE DRIVING ME TOO FAR!
NOW I QUIT, AND IF YOU MISS ME, THAT'S YOUR LOSS!
CAUSE YOU'LL ROLL ME IN THE DIRT
OVER STICKS AND STONES THAT HURT.
NOW I WANNA BE THE ENGINE, SHE'S THE BOSS!"

GRANKIDS

CHORUS
DO YOUR JOB YA LAZY BUM,
OR YOU'LL MAKE US ALL LOOK DUMB,
AND TOGETHER WE BECOME WHAT WE SHOULD BE.
AND COMPARING HAS NO PLACE,
WE'RE A CAR, WE'RE NOT A RACE!
DO YOUR JOB AND YOU'LL GET BETTER, YOU WILL SEE.
AND THE WHOLE THING WILL WORK BEST WHEN WE'RE A WE.

GRANDKID LINE #9

Pizza!

*Several GRANDKIDS fall into circle, facing out and going round.
Middle GRANDKIDS are sauce and toppings.*

VERSE 3 - SOLOS/FEATURES

WHAT IF TOPPINGS SAID TO SAUCE,
 "WE DON'T NEED YOU, SO GET LOST.
 YOU'RE A DRIP SO WE CAN SKIP THE PART THAT'S YOU."
 SAUCY TEARS WERE CRIED THAT DAY
 TILL THE SAUSAGE STOPPED TO SAY,
 "WE CAN'T HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER - YOU'RE THE GLUE."

GRANKIDS**CHORUS**

DO YOUR JOB YA LAZY BUM,
 OR YOU'LL MAKE US ALL LOOK DUMB,
 AND TOGETHER WE BECOME WHAT WE SHOULD BE.
 AND COMPARING HAS NO PLACE, WE'RE A PIZZA, NOT A RACE!
 DO YOUR JOB AND YOU'LL GET BETTER, YOU WILL SEE
 AND THE WHOLE THING WILL WORK BEST WHEN WE'RE A WE.

GRANKID LINE #10

iPhone!

GRANKIDS fall into rectangle with a cord "tail."

VERSE 4 - SOLOS/FEATURES

WHAT IF IPHONE SAID TO PLUG
 "STOP YOUR HANGING ROUND YOU SLUG.
 YOU REMIND ME WHEN I'M UP AGAINST A WALL."
 THEN THE PLUG SAID TO THE PHONE,
 "OK I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE.
 BUT WHEN YOU WANNA TEXT, THEN WHO YA GONNA CALL?"
 (GHOST BUSTERS)

GRANKIDS**CHORUS**

DO YOUR JOB YA LAZY BUM,
 OR YOU'LL MAKE US ALL LOOK DUMB,
 AND TOGETHER WE BECOME WHAT WE SHOULD BE.
 AND COMPARING HAS NO PLACE, WE'RE AN IPHONE, NOT A RACE!
 DO YOUR JOB AND YOU'LL GET BETTER, YOU WILL SEE.
 AND THE WHOLE THING WILL WORK BEST WHEN WE'RE A WE.

TAG

AND THE WHOLE THING WILL WORK BEST WHEN WE'RE A WE.

SPIKE

OK! We get it, Grameo! Can we bake the cookies now?

GRANDMA

Yep, everybody grab your special ingredient and let's head to the kitchen.

They all stir to exit.

GRAYSON

Wait a minute! We're missing the most important thing. The chocolate chips!

GRANDMA

Of course. How silly of me. I've got ya covered.

Reaches in her pocket, pulls out bag of chocolate chips, opened and torn. She turns it upside-down. A few remaining chips fall out.

How about that...I've been robbed!!! OK, who ate all these chocolate chips?

GRANDKIDS and GRANDMA laugh and ad lib as they exit to the "kitchen."

TRACK CUE #23 BOWS

FULL CAST enters for BOWS at Director's discretion.

THE END

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