

Service Project

written by

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Faith Based Student Musicals
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PEYTON(F) Popular, superficial, accustomed to being followed. Strong actor, decent singer.

MACY(F) Careful to stay in Peyton's friend group, but more thoughtful and mature. Strong actor/singer.

RACHEL(F) Mature, wise, unassuming, not accepted in Peyton's crowd. Strong actor/singer.

HARLEY(M/F) Unconventional, starts assignments at last minute and still makes an A. Deeply engaged in hobby (comic books, classic novels, etc.) Strong actor. Minimal speak-singing.

TRACK #1 OVERTURE

As overture plays, RACHEL(F), MACY(F), PAYTON(F), and HARLEY (M/F) enter the school library. They put down backpacks, etc. and take seats at a table.

Throughout the play, RACHEL is deeply engaged, listening and pondering.

Throughout the play, HARLEY remains totally unengaged in the conversation unless speaking. HARLEY reclines in chair, legs stretched, enjoying a book/comic book/phone game, bag of Doritos, etc. HARLEY is not a slacker, just unconventional.

HARLEY

(speech is slow and relaxed)

Do we have to do this now?

MACY

(urgent)

Yes! This is the last day to turn it in. How much longer do you think we can wait?

HARLEY

Uhhh...til the last **minute** of the last day?

PAYTON

Harley, didn't you hear Ms. Merrick? She said we have to get our service project outline on this form by **5th** period.

HARLEY

And it's only **4th** period. What's the rush?

MACY

The rush is, we all get an "F" if we show up empty handed.

PEYTON

And an "F" means I won't be allowed to buy **ANY** new clothes.

Beat

For a week!

HARLEY

OK, you guys go ahead. I'll listen. But don't tell anyone that I started an assignment this early. I don't wanna set a precedent I have no intention of maintaining.

HARLEY pulls out bag of chips, props feet, leans back and starts munching.

PEYTON

Look, genius, do you think I'd be sitting here in the library with you guys if we didn't have to do this **now**? Well Macy, yes. But you two? I mean, no offense but, has anyone ever seen us hang out together?

MACY

Peyton!!

PEYTON

OK, sorry. Just sayin'

MACY

What she means is... let's get started. I just picked up the last service project envelope in Ms. Merrick's room so we could get started asap! All the other ones were taken.

MACY opens envelope with their assigned service project location.

MACY (CONT'D)

"The Springfield nursing home on Elm Street.

Fill in your local reference.

PEYTON

UGGGGGhhh!!! Are you kidding!! I was hoping we'd get homeless children, or something fun like that. Like, we could do a clothing drive and I could sort out the best ones. But the Nursing home! Do they even have internet there? What do they do for fun? Wheel of fortune? Checkers? BINGO? And those scrubs the nurses wear! Who's the designer on those things anyway?

MACY

It was only envelope left.

PEYTON

OK if we've got no choice, then let's get started.

Now remember, there are no stupid ideas, only stupid people. No wait...well, something like that.

MACY

What she means is...let's brainstorm.

PEYTON

(Chairperson like)

Yes, go ahead everyone. Ideas?

Rachel is clearly thinking, mustering courage to speak. Just as she inhales...

RACHEL

Maybe we could-

PEYTON

(interrupts just as RACHEL begins to speak)

Nothing? OK, well I have an idea for a fundraiser. Something that will make it bearable. Ready?

TRACK CUE #2 FASHION SHOW PART 1**VERSE 1**

I THINK NO MATTER WHERE WE GO,

IT OUGHT TO BE A FASHION SHOW.
CAUSE FASHION IS A SUBJECT
WELL YA KNOW, I KNOW I KNOW.

YOU KNOW MY MOTHER HAS DIRECTED ONE,
THE BIGGEST ONE THEY'VE EVER DONE
SINCE BACK IN 1991
A CENTURY AGO.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Well, whaddaya think? Mace? You're in, right?

MACY

(not wanting to cross Peyton)

Yeah! Yeah, Peyton, I think a fashion show will be a great event...at the nursing home. I mean, especially since your Mom directed one.

PEYTON

...the most successful one. Ever!

MACY

Right, the most successful one ever. Maybe she can give us some tips.

PEYTON

Perfect! Then it's settled. Glad we all agree on this.

Take 2: RACHEL ponders, hesitates, inhales, winding up to speak.

RACHEL

Well, I was thinking maybe-

PEYTON

(interrupting as RACHEL barely speaks)

OK, now for the models. Well, **me**, of course. And I wouldn't do it without you, Macy. You'll be my back up girl, you know holding the accessories, purses, scarves. And let's see...

Eyeing Rachel and Harley.

...what can we do with you two? Let me think.

(under breath)

Macy, how could they fit in a fashion show?

(to all)

I know! Fashion genius that I am. This is the year for outerwear. Jackets, blazers, that will be their look.

TRACK #3 FASHION SHOW PART 2

PEYTON (CONT'D)

(referring to RACHEL)

VERSE 2

NOW WITH A BLAZER THEY WILL PRAISE HER.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO RAISE HER

REPUTATION, LET'S AMAZE HER WHEN WE

DRESS HER FOR THIS SHOW!

PEYTON (CONT'D)

(under breath, to MACY)

What about Harley? This will be my greatest challenge yet.

(to all)

I know. I'm Brilliant!!!

(blatantly to HARLEY who doesn't notice)

SO WITH A JACKET YOU COULD HACK IT.

IN A HIGHER FASHION BRACKET.

IT COULD MAKE UP WHAT YOU LACK.

IT SEEMS THE ONLY WAY TO GO.

PEYTON applauds herself, excited at her ingenuity.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

OOH, so glad we're all on board.

Take 3 for RACHAEL to muster courage to cross PEYTON.

RACHEL

Well, I was think-

PEYTON

Did you hear something, Macy? For a minute I thought I heard someone.

RACHEL'S ASIDE: RACHEL moves downstage while all other characters freeze.

TRACK CUE #4 HERE I AM AGAIN PART 1 (RACHEL)**RACHEL****VERSE 1**

HERE I AM AGAIN - GOTTA MAKE A CHOICE.
 HERE I AM AGAIN - DO I RAISE MY VOICE?
 DO I CROSS THE POWER LINE?
 DEFY THE BOSS? THE RISK IS MINE.

HERE I AM AGAIN IN THE SAME OLD PLACE.
 HERE I AM AGAIN PANIC ON MY FACE.
 DO I SPEAK AGAINST THE FLOW?
 OR DO I LET IT GO?

CHORUS

DO I HAVE TO STAND UP ON MY OWN?
 DO I HAVE TO SPEAK OUT, ALL ALONE?
 ONE IS NOT SO FUN.
 IF THERE COULD JUST BE TWO.

I CAN HEAR MY HEART BEAT MEGA LOUD.
 DO I HAVE TO STAND UP TO THE CROWD?
 OR WILL I CAVE? I'M NOT SO BRAVE.

BUT, RACHEL...IT'S UP TO YOU.

RACHEL does, "Lord give me courage" gesture.

All unfreeze.

PEYTON

I thought I heard someone but, nevermind, it was no one.

(accelerating as she plans)

OK, next, for the lighting. My Mother had a big hit with pink and blue gels for the runway. She went with lollipop lime during the kids' section, and then, for the motorcycle segment...the blacklight strobe! Everyone good with that? Nobody has vertigo or any health problems, right?

MACY

(Again, keeping the peace with PEYTON.)

Sounds great Peyton. Can we borrow everything from your mom?

PEYTON

Well, like I said, it was in the Stone Age, so we might have to look in a warehouse or something for the equipment. Rachel, you could do that, right? I mean, after all, **I'M** doing all the planning here.

RACHEL

Well actually-

PEYTON

Now for the stage. Let's see, who do we know in construction? I can see a tri-level with-

Out of nowhere, HARLEY slams hand/book on table.

HARLEY

(with confident authority, not anger)

STOP!

All strike frozen response poses for a beat.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

(to PEYTON)

YOU! Quiet!

(to RACHEL)

YOU, talk.

RACHEL

Uhh...well, OK then.

HARLEY

And speak up! Clearly you have something to share.

RACHEL

Actually I do have a thought. Thank you, Harley.

I was thinking how we might start by asking the residents of the nursing home what **they** might like and appreciate.

PEYTON

And how are we gonna do that? Take a surv-

HARLEY eyeballs PEYTON "last warning."

HARLEY

Let her speak!

PEYTON

OK, OK.

RACHEL

Before my Nana died last year, we always used to visit her in the nursing home. And you're right, they are sad places sometimes. But my Mom always asked us, "If you think it's sad to **visit** here, how do you think it feels to **live** here?" That's when I started to understand...my Nana didn't have a choice. And she's family. Everybody there is someone's family. And also, that'll probably be me someday. All of us.

PEYTON

Speak for yourself.

MACY

So what's your idea, Rachel?

RACHEL

Just listen to them? Listen to them like my Nana listened to me my whole life.

PEYTON

A listening party? Sounds exciting.

RACHEL

No party. Just listen. Maybe not for **us**, but it's not **for** us.

PEYTON

(lightbulb moment)

Wait. A silent disco?

MACY

Peyton, let's listen.

RACHEL

That's what I mean...sometimes people just wanna be heard. Well here's what we did with my Nana: We asked her questions about her life and recorded her answers on our phone while we listened. Just short answers a couple of minutes. After I listened awhile, she got to the good stuff. I was amazed at her life... she used to get in **big trouble** when she was a kid...

TRACK CUE #5 GLAD I TOOK THE TIME

...for playing pranks on her little brother.

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

SHE LOCKED HIM ON THE SNOWY PORCH
WITHOUT HIS COAT AND SHOES.
AND ONCE SHE TRIED TO USE A TORCH
TO WAKE HIM FROM A SNOOZE.
SHE PROMISED SHE WOULD SHAVE HIS HEAD
IF HE REVEALED HER CRIME.
AND POURED WARM WATER IN HIS BED.
I'M GLAD I TOOK THE TIME.

VERSE 2

ON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DAY,
MY GRANDPA CAUGHT HER EYE.
SHE TRIPPED AND DROPPED HER LUNCHROOM TRAY
AS SHE WAS STRUTTING BY.
THEY BUILT A LIFE WITH PEACE AND STRIFE,
AND SOON WERE IN THEIR PRIME.
THE SEASONS FLEW AS BABIES GREW.
I'M GLAD I TOOK THE TIME.

BRIDGE

HER PRECIOUS BOY, HER PRIDE AND JOY
ONCE PLAYING IN THE SAND.
AND ALL AT ONCE THE TIDE RUSHED IN
AND SNATCHED HIM FROM HER HAND.
THE SUFFOCATING GRIEF THAT FOLLOWED,
HOW COULD SHE SURVIVE?
CREATOR DID HER BREATHING FOR HER -
KEPT HER SOUL ALIVE.

VERSE 3

WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT MATTERS MOST.
WE RAMBLED ON AND ON.
HOW LIFE'S A MIST, THE FATHER KISSED US HERE

AND SOON WE'RE GONE.
 AND WHAT'S THE PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES -
 THE REASON AND THE RHYME?
 SHE SAID, "JUST LOVE, AND TRUST THE LORD."
 I'M GLAD I TOOK THE TIME.

VERSE 4

SHE'S IN THE ARMS OF JESUS NOW
 BUT STILL FOREVER MINE.
 SHE'S IN MY HEART

Holds up phone with loving affection.

AND ON MY PHONE.
 I'M GLAD I TOOK THE TIME.

So, I was thinking maybe we could just listen... to anyone who wants to share. We could record a few voice memos, and send it to whoever they want, or save it on a thumb drive and leave it in the room... for whoever else wants to listen.

PEYTON

Well...I guess there's another idea on the table. So now we need a vote. And if we vote we'll need a tie breaker. Cause it'll be

(to RACHEL, referring to HARLEY)
 you and THAT one.

PAYTON

against Macy and me.

MACY'S ASIDE: MACY moves downstage for aside while all other characters freeze.

TRACK CUE #6 HERE I AM AGAIN PART 2 (MACY)**MACY****VERSE**

HERE I AM AGAIN - GOTTA MAKE A CHOICE.
 HERE I AM AGAIN - DO I RAISE MY VOICE?
 DO I CROSS THE POWER LINE?
 DEFY THE BOSS? THE RISK IS MINE.

CHORUS

IS IT TIME TO STAND UP ON MY OWN?
 STAND UP TO THE QUEEN BEE ON HER THRONE?
 AM I TOO AFRAID TO STAND FOR WHAT IS TRUE?

I CAN FEEL MY HEART BEAT MEGA LOUD.
 THIS COULD GET ME BANISHED FROM HER CROWD.
 WILL I CAVE? I'M NOT SO BRAVE.
 BUT, MACY...IT'S UP TO YOU.

MACY does, "Lord, give me courage" gesture.

ALL unfreeze.

PEYTON

OK, time for the vote, but we need to think about how we're gonna break the tie. Hands up for the fashion show.

PEYTON's hand shoots up. MACY starts to raise her hand, hesitates, closes eyes, lowers hand.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

(surprised, annoyed)

All in favor of the listening party?

Without looking up, HARLEY's hand shoots up.

RACHEL'S hand goes up.

MACY slowly raises hand.

PEYTON

OK, listening it is.

RACHEL

Thank you Peyton. And Harley. And Macy.

TRACK CUE #7 HERE I AM AGAIN PART 3 (RACHEL AND MACY)

MACY

SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA STAND UP ON YOUR OWN.

RACHEL

SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA SPEAK OUT, ALL ALONE.

MACY

ONE IS NOT SO FUN,

RACHEL

IF THERE COULD JUST BE TWO.

RACHEL AND MACY

AND SOMETIMES WHEN YOU STAND UP ON YOUR OWN

YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE NOT STANDING ALL ALONE.

NOW I WON'T CAVE, I'M FEELING BRAVE.

WHEN I STAND UP WITH YOU.

PEYTON

I know when I'm outvoted. And my ideas usually rule, so my thinking must be flawed on this. I know! How about a make up party!?! It's mostly women in those places anyway.

ALL

Peyton!!!

TRACK CUE #8 HERE I AM AGAIN PART 4 (FINALE FULL CAST)

Repeat chorus with Peyton on counterpoint. Add Harley on parts in the comic way their character would join in...others dragging them into the song.

RACHEL & MACY

SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA STAND UP
ON YOUR OWN.

SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA SPEAK
OUT, ALL ALONE.

ONE IS NOT SO FUN,
IF THERE COULD JUST BE TWO.

PEYTON

HERE I AM AGAIN PUT BACK IN MY
PLACE.

HERE I AM AGAIN THINKING
LIFE'S A RACE.

WIN OR LOSE, IT'S NOT A WAR.

HARLEY

YOU SHOULD TRY TO LISTEN MORE.

RACHEL AND MACY

AND SOMETIMES WHEN YOU
STAND UP, ON YOUR OWN,

YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE NOT
STANDING ALL ALONE.

PEYTON

HERE I AM AGAIN AND I'M
FEELING BAD.

HERE I AM AGAIN MAKING PEOPLE
SAD.

**RACHEL AND
MACY (CONT'D)**

NOW I WON'T CAVE, I'M FEELING
BRAVE.

WHEN I STAND UP WITH YOU.

HARLEY

IF YOU'LL BE SURE TO LISTEN
MORE,

THEN I'LL STAND UP WITH YOU.

**RACHEL AND MACY
(CONT'D)**

NOW I WON'T CAVE, I'M FEELING
BRAVE.

WHEN I STAND UP WITH YOU!

PEYTON

NOW I'LL BE SURE TO LISTEN
MORE WHEN I STAND UP WITH
YOU!

THE END

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