



## **BACKSTAB: 10 Minute Play**

from

***BACKSTAB: The Musical***

written by

Marlene Dickinson

**FAITH BASED STUDENT MUSICALS**

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### **THEME**

**Speaking the TRUTH in LOVE**

**“Do not repay anyone evil for evil.”**

**“...by speaking the truth with love, let’s grow in every way into Christ.” Eph. 4:15; Rom 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.

**PART 1**

*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!"

Dusty! I can't say that!

**ASHLEY**

Too aggressive?

**DUSTY**

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**

*ASHLEY ponders.*

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 to her.

**DUSTY**

**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."

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**. 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, like 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. And his wife!  
 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 just 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 light saber 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.

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!

**ASHLEY**

Not appropriate.

**DUSTY**

*(backpedaling)*

I didn't mean that! I meant...

*DUSTY searches for an acceptable explanation.*

I meant colorful. Literally.

**ASHLEY**

What are you talking about?

*DUSTY inhales with delight in her bulb moment.*

**DUSTY**

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.*

**DUSTY (CONT'D)**

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, nevermind.

*Transition actors to Scene 2 by exiting them or turning them briefly upstage.*

## **PART 2**

*DUSTY leans against wall of school hallway, 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 this morning. 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 7:00 – 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.

*(eager)*

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

**ASHLEY**

Chill! Chill! I'll tell you. I told her, "Mia, I know you've been talking about me behind my back. Yesterday, I actually overheard you–"

**DUSTY**

– then something about me beating her up?

**ASHLEY**

What?! No!

**DUSTY**

OK, OK! So what did you say?

**ASHLEY**

*(sheepishly)*

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**

OK good! So you're not done. Go on.

**ASHLEY**

Ok, then I said, "I know everybody likes to gather around you and talk every morning and that's great. But do you have to talk bad about people? Even if it's true, it really spreads, ya know?"

**DUSTY**

*(with aggression)*

Yeah, and you're goin' **down**, sister!

*Ashley shoots DUSTY a "That's enough!" look.*

OK, OK. Sorry. I'm working on it. What **did** you say?

**ASHLEY**

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

**DUSTY**

**What!?** So you were right there and you wimped out?

**ASHLEY**

I'm gonna do it, I just got nervous. Dusty, it's easy to get angry, that comes naturally to everybody.

*Beat to find the words.*

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

**DUSTY**

*(revelation)*

Whoa. Radical.

Confront someone in love...

Ok, lemme think. Gimme a sec.

*DUSTY ponders.*

Ok, how about something like, "Mia you think everybody likes you, the way you stand around talking with all your little minions, but everybody's just afraid of you. We're all sick and tired of you and your nasty attitude."

**ASHLEY**

Take it down a notch.

**DUSTY**

*(syrupy sweet)*

"Mia, your voice is more annoying than nails on a chalkboard."

*ASHLEY gives disapproving look.*

**DUSTY (CONT'D)**

Ugh! Being nice is so much work!

Ok, how about...

*DUSTY ponders, inhales to speak, then:*

I got nothing.

**ASHLEY**

C'mon Dusty, help me.

**DUSTY**

Alright, give me a minute. This is all new to me, ya know.

*Beat to think in new, gentler ways.*

OK, what about, "Mia, we all have feelings, ya know?"

**ASHLEY**

"And you hurt mine."

**DUSTY**

*(aggressive, threatening)*

"Yeah, you hurt Ashley's!"

**ASHLEY**

Dial it back.

**DUSTY**

*(comical restraint)*

You hurt Ashley's.

**ASHLEY**

OK, that's good. How about:

"Mia, what if you walked up and overheard us talking about **you** the way you talk about me?"

How about something like that?

**DUSTY**

OK, I'd handle it a little differently, but if that works for you.

*ASHLEY and DUSTY turn their focus downstage and spot Mia (unseen character) They do a stunned gasp, realizing she has overheard them.*

**ASHLEY**

*(horrified)*

Mia! How long have you been standing there?

**DUSTY**

*(super friendly, backpedaling,  
avoiding eye contact)*

Hey, Mia! Love your shoes!

**ASHLEY**

Mia, I'm so sorry you overheard that. Dusty was just helping me figure out how to talk to you.

*Beat for Mia's skeptical response.*

No really.

Look, I'm sorry we were talking **about** you. What I really want to do is talk **with** you, if you'll listen...

**ASHLEY (CONT'D)**

Yes, I mean, privately, of course.

Dusty, do you mind?

**DUSTY**

**Ugh! Rats!**

*DUSTY exits but stays close by to eavesdrop.*

*ASHLEY adjusts into intimate conversation with Mia.*

**ASHLEY**

Mia, I've really been thinking about how to talk to you...because you're my friend...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...I mean, I'm gonna be nice to you either way, but I'm asking you to stop.

*Beat.*

And...I'm sorry. I'm sorry you overheard us.

*ASHLEY summons DUSTY.*

**ASHLEY (CONT'D)**

Dusty!

*DUSTY immediately appears from her eavesdropping position nearby.*

**DUSTY**

Present!

**ASHLEY**

I figured you weren't far. Maybe you wanna apologize to Mia? That we were talking about her?

**DUSTY**

*(distancing herself)*

Hey, I was just trying to help you.

**ASHLEY**

Right, but still...so she knows we don't mean to hurt her.

*Beat for Dusty to muster courage.*

**DUSTY**

*(under breath)*

Sorry.

**ASHLEY**

What'd you say?

**DUSTY**

*(louder)*

I'm sorry.

**ASHLEY**

One more time, Dusty. You can do it.

I'm sorry. **DUSTY**

OK. See ya later, Mia. **ASHLEY**

*Beat for the air to clear.*

**ASHLEY (CONT'D)**  
Dusty, you're a good friend.

*DUSTY does embarrassed response.*

*ASHLEY hugs Dusty warmly.*

*DUSTY responds awkwardly, comically.*

*They start to exit, then stop for final exchange.*

**ASHLEY (CONT'D)**  
Ya know, I think the Bible says we should actually **pray** for our enemies, and those who mistreat us.

*DUSTY stops.*

**DUSTY**  
*(exasperated)*  
Isn't this enough Christianity for one day?

*As they exit.*

You and your Jesus.

THE END

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