

FIGHTING DEMONS

by Angela Hill



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SYNOPSIS: *"It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles...then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons."-Buddha.*

Ten teenagers find themselves trapped and fighting their own demons. Cindy is hiding a tragic secret, Milton is fighting OCD, and Cyrus is fighting addiction. Alice and Lilah are battling bulimia and cancer, Tabitha has an abusive boyfriend, and Arnold is dealing with abuse from bullies. Will is struggling with his parent's divorce, and Jezz is struggling with thoughts of suicide, while Eli is trying to save everyone in a desperate attempt to redeem himself. In the end, they must choose to stay trapped or fight their way to freedom. This play offers an opportunity for ensemble work and provides strong monologues. It also has opportunities for movement, creativity, and film work, if desired.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(6 WOMEN, 5 MEN, 1 EITHER)*

ELI Teen boy with tragic past searching for redemption

CINDY Young girl with tragic secret

CYRUS Teen boy fighting addiction

MILTON Teen boy fighting OCD

LILAH Teen girl battling cancer

ALICE Teen girl battling bulimia

TABITHA Teen girl abused by boyfriend

ARNOLD Junior high boy abused by bullies

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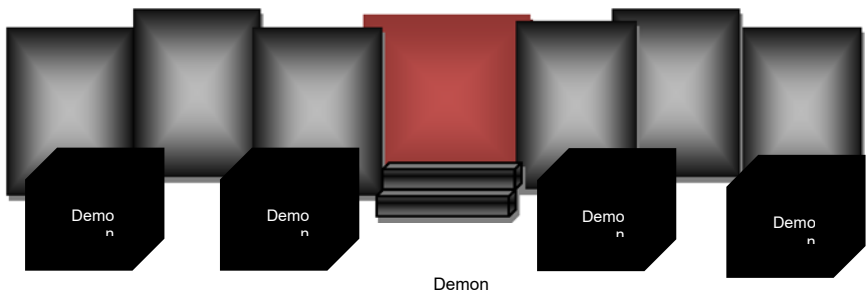
WILL	Teen boy dealing with divorce
JEZZ.....	Teen girl dealing with depression and suicide
GRACE	Eli's sister
NARRATOR	
DEMONS.....	Minimum 5 (may add up to ten)
JIMMY.....	(Video only / nonspeaking) Tabitha's boyfriend

Some roles are gender flexible: Narrator, Milton, Will, Jezz. Feel free to change names if gender flexibility is needed for you group. Five demons are necessary; more may be used- although it might get crowded on stage. If using more than five, they could take turns on stage. The goal is to have as many students involved as possible.

SET & GENERAL BLOCKING SUGGESTIONS

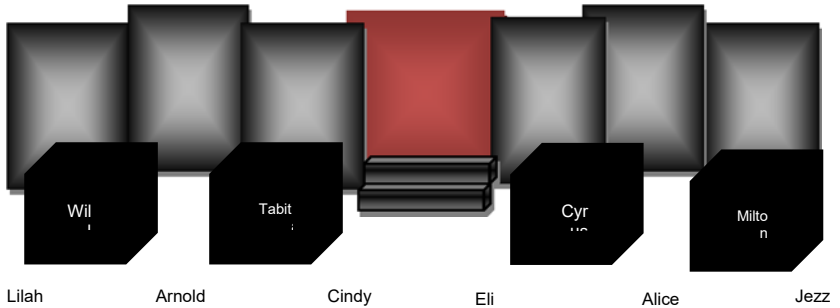
Opening

The following is only suggestions; set can be simplified or make it more elaborated – whatever your budget allows. Six flats (Kindred used insulation board – it is light weight & inexpensive,) screen- lit red (if using video) upstage center, stairs up center and four black blocks. Demons begin on blocks and bring actors one at a time to their marks. Use of flashlights for lighting during demons dance scene can be effective. Have a flashlight for each demon. Let tech people play with different movement of the flashlights.



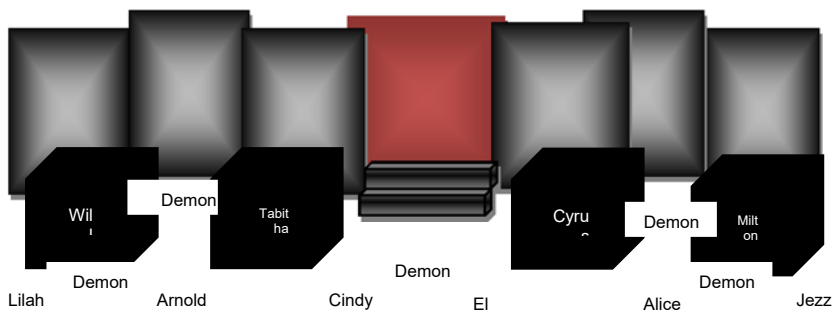
Scenes 1, 2, 3

With the exception of Eli (and at one brief moment in beginning – Cindy), actors must stay in their “space” they may stand, shift, etc. but they must stay within their little area unless moved by a demon.



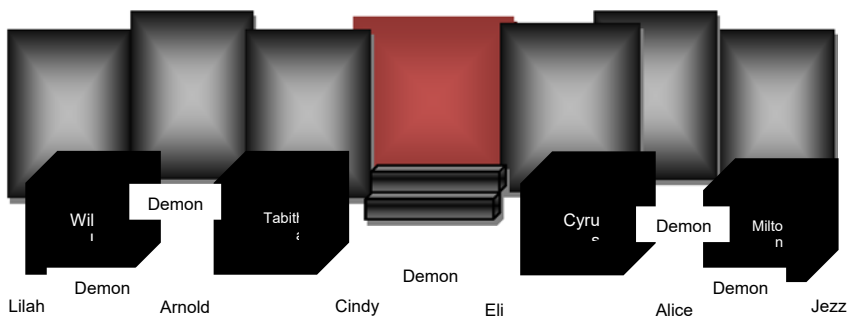
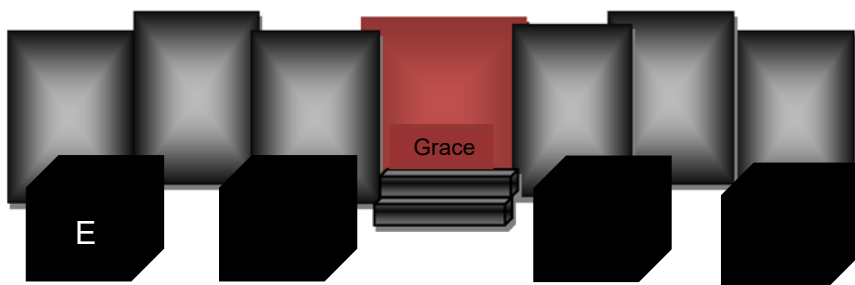
Scene 4

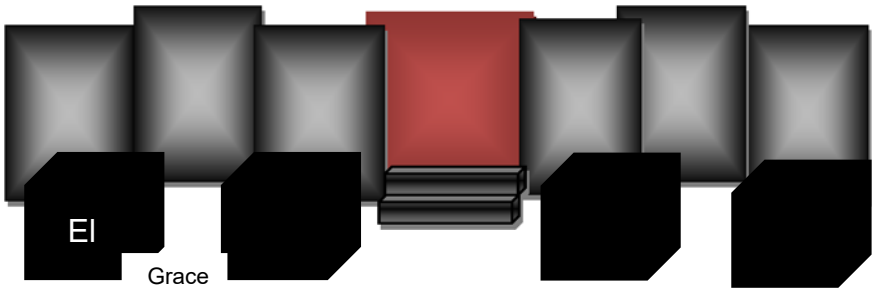
Demons wrap rope around actors & move them into different positions.



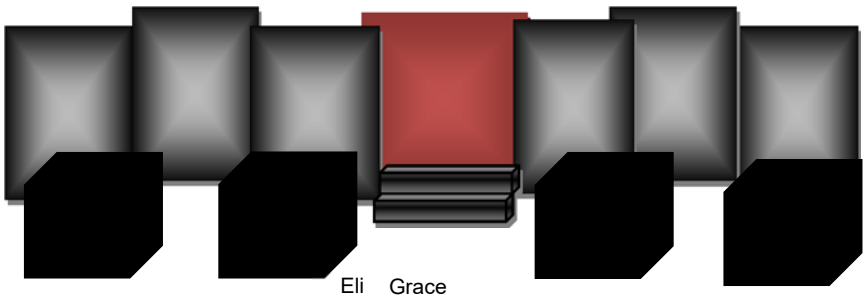
Scene 5

Timing in this scene is crucial. This is an action scene and Eli should literally be chasing after actors as they are pulled off the stage. Demons exit one at a time – some will exit while taking an actor – others will re-enter and grab an actor. The actors never see demons - this includes Eli.

**Scene 6 (1)**

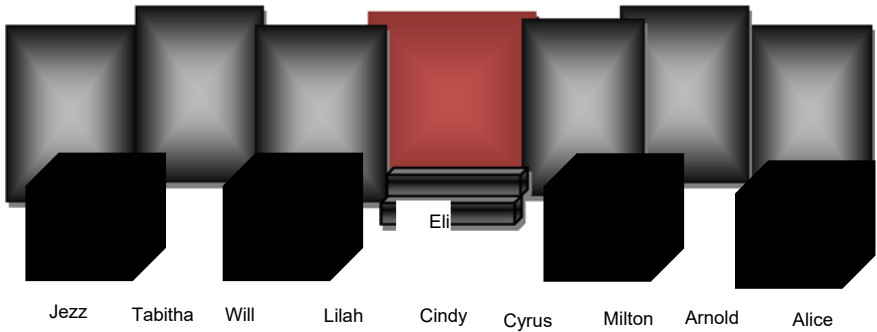
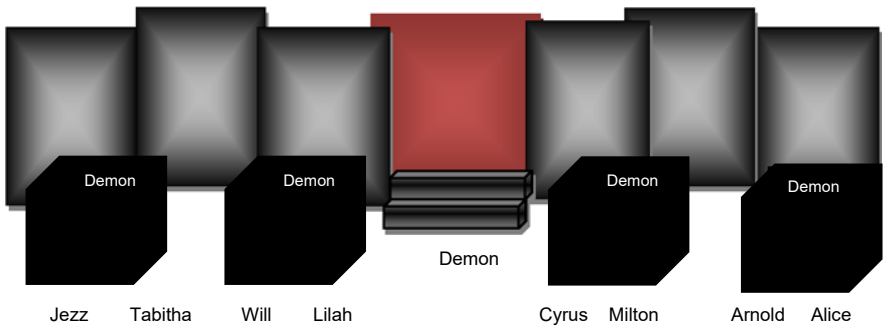
Scene 6 (2)**Scene 6 (3)**

Grace exits upstage center (stairs)



Scene 6 (4)

Actors enter by themselves – ropes are now tied around wrists. Eli unties Cindy and they exit holding hands upstage (stairs) then they exit off stairs to the left and right separating and letting hands go.

**Scene 7: Entrance of Demons**

COSTUME/MAKE-UP SUGGESTIONS

The following are only suggestions. Be creative and remember to use what you have – costuming, set, and make up does not have to be expensive.

Characters go barefoot. This solves numerous problems, including issues of loud shoes on stage during the more active scenes. Demons wear red and black. Actors wear shades of grey and black with a little white. Kindred also added thin black or white rope to costumes as belts, bracelets, etc. Keep in mind costumes should look worn, torn and like characters have been in a battle. Other than demons, make-up and hair should be simple and not distract.

DEMONS: Red dance dress, long sleeves with black fish nets (feet cut out.) Shred both the dress and the fishnets. Hair is crazy, messy and big – Aqua Net should be used in great quantities. Make-up should be zombie/demon like – have fun with it.

GRACE: Something flowing and long – ghost like without being cliché. Kindred used a vintage blue tie dyed evening dress

WILL: We took grey and black t-shirts cut them up the middle in a zigzag pattern and safety pinned one grey side and one black side to together to form one shirt. Safety pins should be seen. A grey tank was worn underneath and grey sweat pants – again shredded. Shirt also had holes cut into it.

ARNOLD: White t-shirt under a grey printed sweater vest – shredded. Grey/black shorts shredded.

LILAH: Black leggings, Grey sweater dress (shredded) with hood and a head scarf.

JEZZ: Grey long sleeve shirt (shredded) - black jeans

ALICE: Grey dress (shredded) black rope belt, black leggings

MILTON: Black pants, Grey shirt with front pocket (shredded)

CYRUS: Grey Pants, black & grey shirt (shredded) and bandanna tied around arm.

TABITHA: Black leggings, Black & grey plaid vest dress (shredded) with white t-shirt underneath. Should have make-up for black eye.

CINDY: Black & white checked dress. This dress was too long so the ruffle on the bottom was cut off and safety pinned back on – with safety pins showing. Cindy should wear pig tails.

ELI: Black fishnet shirt (sleeves cut off & shredded) with grey tank under, grey pants (shredded)

PROPS

Red rope to tie hands (10) – No other props should be used. The simple implication of hand sanitizer works. Having an actual bottle on stage only distracts.

VIDEO

Video can be used if you wish, but the play can stand without it. Video allows the students an opportunity to be creative and experience another form of acting.

VIDEO 1: Runs during the first Demon Dance. It should be snippets of each character fighting with their demon. Examples: Lilah finding her pillow full of hair; Alice going into the school bathroom to vomit; Tabitha fighting with boy friend; etc. In between all the characters pieces Elis' story should run. Try to use a little Eli and a grown Eli. Shots going fishing, walking down the road, throwing flowers in the river, standing at a grave, etc. Have shots of Grace in the background watching Eli. Also have shots of Eli & Grace's hands trying to hold on to each other. Do this for both big Eli and little Eli. Kindred used black and white old time film effects for opening video.

VIDEO 2: Video at end it should be young Eli and grown Eli walking down a road and grown Eli putting his arm around young Eli- short and simple. Kindred started with same old time film effect then faded to color.

For inspiration watch Kindred's videos on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/mrsndintl

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Students are so talented, see if there is someone to compose for the production. Background music during the monologues can add to the characterization and also help with timing. Live music would be amazing. The following are musical suggestions only. For performance of any songs and recordings mentioned that are in copyright, the permission of the copyright owners must be obtained or other songs and recording in public domain must be substituted.

Opening:

Back ground music during narrator's voice over: "Welcome to the Real World" by Don Davis the "Matrix Soundtrack"
 Demon Dance: Cutting from *Dig* (Everything and Nothing Remix) by Mudvayne from "Resident Evil" Soundtrack
 Data track "We're all going to die down here" from "Resident Evil" Soundtrack

Scene 1:

"The Tangent Universe" by Michael Andrews from "Donnie Darko" Soundtrack

Scene 3 (monologues):

CINDY: "Liquid Spear Waltz" by Michael Andrews from "Donnie Darko" Soundtrack

MILTON: "Creepy Grandfather Clock" Horror Sound Effects, Ultimate Horror Sounds, "Halloween Chopped Up"

LILAH: "How It Ends" by DeVotchka "Little Miss Sunshine" Soundtrack

ALICE: "Bulimia Queen" by Jonathan Thomas Miller "1,000 Ways to Die" Soundtrack

TABITHA: "The Whole Truth" by Force Theory "Jesus Camp" Soundtrack

ARNOLD: "Cafeteria" by Force Theory "Jesus Camp" Soundtrack

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CYRUS: “Freebird” California Guitar Trio “Echoes”

WILL: “Breaking Cups” by Force Theory “Jesus Camp” Soundtrack

JEZZ: “Caves” by Force Theory “Jesus Camp” Soundtrack

ELI: “Ave Maria” by Geoff Zanelli “Hitman” Soundtrack

Scene 4:

“Saw Blade” Corner Stone Cues Presents Eton Path featuring Joseph Peters

Scene 5:

Entrance of actors: “Night Terrors” Corner Stone Cues Presents Eton Path
featuring Joseph Peters

Eli rescues **CINDY:** “Ave Maria” by Geoff Zanelli “Hitman” Soundtrack

Finale:

Demon Dance: Cutting from *Dig* (Everything and Nothing Remix) by
Mudvayne from “Resident Evil” Soundtrack

GENERAL HINTS AND TIPS

It is crucial in Scene 1 for the actors to be frantic and desperate – but not crazy. The energy needs to stay up. At Kindred, students watched a clip from the movie “The Killing Room” (be aware this movie is violent, graphic and uses strong language) then actors were tied with hands behind their backs and did the scene while trying to get untied. It helped tremendously. It is also a good idea to have the actors discuss where their characters were and exactly what they were doing before they found themselves trapped.

Only Cindy and Eli can move without demons. Other actors may move within their space (stand, lie down, etc) but they cannot leave without a demon.

Remember that only the audience sees the demons. The actors on stage should never react to the demons. In Scene 5 Eli only reacts to the disappearance of the actors and not the demons taking them or the other actors.

The biggest challenge in the monologue scene is to keep it interesting and to make sure there are ups and downs. Young actors seems to think that drama means, slow and sad. Remind them that they need humor, anger (not just loud anger), happiness, and energy. The monologue scene should be a roller

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coaster ride not a slow plodding walk thru the mud. I gave a prize to anyone who could make me smile during their monologue at practice.

Movement of demons needs to be unusual and disturbing – think “The Grudge” or “The Ring.” It helps to have actors that are dancers and that are willing to try anything movement wise. They must move well and quietly. All of the Kindred demons had previously been in plays where they had lines – all agreed being a demon was one of their favorite roles. The actors must commit to the character and go all out. These are not funny characters they are scary and disturbing—but that doesn’t mean it’s not fun to play. One judge at regions commented that the opening scene reminded him of a “Saw” movie – that’s just what you are looking for...it needs to provoke an instinctual, primal fear.

Any and all pop culture references may be changed or updated as needed.

SCENES

Breakdown of scenes is not only for mood and directional change, but also meant to help the director in scheduling rehearsals. Most directors have a very limited time to rehearse and must be as productive as possible. The scene breakdowns allow for scheduling rehearsals into easy chunks that are productive for everyone.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

***Fighting Demons** was first performed by Kindred High School in Kindred,
ND November 5, 2010.*

ORIGINAL CAST & CREW

Narrator/Jimmy	Cole Jungberg
Demons	Tessa Heitkamp, Ava Hill, Kelsey Kowalski, Madison Miller, Brittany Schumm
Grace	Kendra Gudgel
Cindy	Bobbi Braaten
Milton.....	Ben Gilbertson
Lilah	Sarah Roehrich
Alice.....	Nicki Sneed
Tabitha	Thea Klinnert
Arnold	Nick Kuzas
Eli.....	Spencer Hill
Will	Cole Girodat
Jezz.....	Brittany Wise
Cyrus.....	Casey Wise
Sound/Assistant Stage Mangers.....	Jess Erickson, Angie Johnson
Stage Manger/Understudy.....	Savannah Norberg
Lighting Director	Cameron Gilbertson
Cinematography	Philip Rostad
Tech Crew/Lights.....	Cole Jungberg, Gage Dougherty, Riley Flom, Matthew Rieger
Choreographer.....	Ava Hill
Set	Spencer Hill, Ava Hill
Costumes.....	Nicki Sneed

OPENING

FIVE DEMONS frozen on stage gargoyle like. GRACE walks around them as NARRATOR speaks. As SHE walks by them THEY unfreeze and move as if their bodies have been blown by the wind and then freeze again. Background music is very effective in this scene (see director's notes.

NARRATOR: *(Voice over as GRACE walks across stage)* It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles. Then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons. *(Buhda)*

DANCE OF THE DEMONS: Show Video 1 *(optional)* Demon Dance should not be longer than 1:30 *(Suggested music Data track & "Dig"— see director's notes)*

DEMONS bring each CHARACTER on stage one by one during dance. CHARACTERS have hands in front of them tied by red rope. DEMONS seat them either on the floor or block. Their heads are down and THEY are frozen.

SCENE 1

THEY ALL speak as if THEY are in a trance.

CINDY: One, two buckle my shoe; three, four shut the door...five...

MILTON: ...Five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, ten, ten...one, two, three four, five, six...

LILAH: Six months...that's what the doctor told us. Six months maybe a few more...

ALICE: More, more, I want more I can't stop...once I start, I can't stop...

TABITHA: Stop! Stop! Stop! I want to scream it as loud as I can -but I can't, I'm too scared...

ARNOLD: Scared every day. Scared every minute of every day. Scared to death...

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ELI: Death comes to us all. Everyone dies. There's no control over whether you will or you won't. You will.

WILL: "Will" she said, "Will, your dad and I just don't love each other anymore. Do you understand?"

JEZZ: Understand, Understand? I don't expect you to understand...I don't understand. I just want to stop the pain.

CYRUS: Pain, stress, fear, loneliness...she washes it all away. She's beautiful, tempting and deadly. And once she has you, she will not let go.

GRACE: *(voice off stage)* Let go, Eli, let go.

SCENE 2 - TRAPPED

Timing is crucial to this scene- it must be fast paced. The ACTORS must portray a believable sense of fear and panic. This does not mean THEY yell.

(CINDY & GRACE's lines are over each other.)

CINDY: One, two...

GRACE: Eli...

ELI: Hello?

CINDY: Three, four, five...

GRACE: Eli...

ELI: Hello!

CINDY: Six, seven...

GRACE: Eli...

ELI: Hello?

CINDY: Eight, nine...

ELI: Are you alright?

CINDY: Ten!

ELI: Are you alright?

ELI unties CHARACTERS in the following order: ALICE, tries CINDY, MILTON, JEZZ, CYRUS, TABITHA, ARNOLD, LILAH and WILL. CHARACTERS should ALL try to untie themselves but not succeeded.

Ropes are left on floor beside CHARACTERS until DEMONS enter in scene 4.

CINDY: Ready or not here they come!

ELI starts to untie CINDY. SHE screams and backs away –SHE stays tied through the whole play until end. Other than ELI, CINDY is the only CHARACTER that moves from spot without being moved by a DEMON.

ALICE: Shhh...Cindy...everything's gonna be fine...shhh. Sorry she doesn't much care for men.

MILTON: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten...ten...ten (*HE starts the count again and repeats it three times while ELI unties him*)

ELI: Milt? Milton? You good? (*MILTON nods and continues to count and rubs his hands– ELI goes to JEZZ and unties her.*) Are you ok?

JEZZ: Yeah, watching people lose their minds is great, never been better. What is his deal?

MILTON: I felt people touching me. I don't like to be touched. I'm not a fan of germs and there were people touching me.

ELI: Milton, you'll be ok. There was no one touching you.

(ELI pats MILTON on the shoulder – MILTON cringes.)

MILTON: But I could feel them...One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten...ten...ten...

ELI: It's ok! Relax...

ELI unties CYRUS.

CYRUS: Eli? Is that you? (*CYRUS is more at ease than the others– HE has been here before*)

ELI: Yes, Cyrus it's me.

CYRUS: Is Jezz here? Is she ok?

ELI: Yes, she's ok.

JEZZ: That's a matter of opinion.

ELI unties TABITHA.

CYRUS: This is rough man, every time—it's ugly...hasn't changed a bit.

ALICE: What are you talking about?

ELI: He's tripping. *(Goes to untie ARNOLD)*

TABITHA: He's always tripping.

ELI starts to untie ARNOLD.

ARNOLD: *(Cowers away)* I don't have any lunch money on me - so please just leave me alone.

ELI: What? I just want to take off the rope.

ARNOLD: Oh, ok. That's a new one, how did that get there?

TABITHA: More importantly, how did we get here?

CYRUS: Oooo! I know! Let me answer that one!

TABITHA: I wasn't talking to you.

ELI: I don't know how we got here, Tabitha. *(ELI unties LILAH)*

GRACE: Eli...

LILAH: You mean we're not dead? I thought for sure I died...

ELI: No, Lilah...we're not dead...

LILAH: 'Cause I closed my eyes and when I opened them I was here... thought here was dead.

JEZZ: I wish it was...

ELI unties WILL.

ALICE: You don't mean that.

WILL: So, if we're not dead what are we?

CINDY: There was a little man, he had a little gun, and his bullets were made of lead, lead, lead...

ALICE: Shhh...Cindy, it's ok...

CINDY: He went to the brook, and saw a little duck...

ALICE: Cindy, look at me...it's ok.

CINDY: And shot it right through the head, head, head. *(SHE starts to hum a familiar children's song)*

CYRUS: Ok...she's seriously messed up.

ALICE: She's ok.

CYRUS: No, she's not. Listen to her. She's twisted

ELI: Cyrus, she's fine.

CYRUS: She's a sick twisted little girl -

ELI: This is just how she deals with stress. Right Alice?

ALICE: She recites nursery rhymes to calm herself. She'll be fine, I promise.

CYRUS: Doesn't sound fine to me.

TABITHA: Well you don't exactly sound or look fine. When's the last time you had a hit?

CYRUS: When's the last time you been hit?

ELI: Hey, just leave her alone. We all have issues, and we all have different ways of handling them. Look at Milton, he's gonna rub his hands raw with that hand sanitizer.

MILTON: Would you like some hand sanitizer?

ELI: No thanks, Milton I'm fine.

JEZZ: Dude, I could use more than a little sanitizing.

MILTON: Does anyone know how long we're supposed to be stuck here? 'Cause I don't think I'm gonna have enough hand sanitizer for more than a couple of hours...maybe less if I have to share.

ELI: Milton, don't worry. We'll make sure you have enough – you don't have to share if you run low.

MILTON: Thanks Eli...I don't mean to be selfish. I'll share... I just need to know how long we're here so I can accurately ration it. I don't want to run out.

ELI: I know...I understand.

MILTON: I just don't like germs- I don't liked to be touched.

TABITHA: Neither do I.

ARNOLD: I'm not much of a fan either.

WILL: I'm not a real fan of germs or being touch or hand sanitizer...but that doesn't seem to be the point right now.

ALICE: It's like limbo or something, ya know? We're somewhere that's nowhere.

ELI: Okay, think...everyone needs to really think hard about where they were before we all ended up here.

CINDY: For every evil under sun, there is a remedy or there is none. If there is one, seek 'till you find it; if there is none never mind it.

CYRUS: Twisted.

GRACE: Eli...

ARNOLD: I was in my locker

WILL: Getting your pocket protector?

TABITHA: I remember that it was after school.

ARNOLD: I said I was in my locker not at my locker.

CYRUS: In you locker? (*Laughs*)

ARNOLD: It's not funny.

CYRUS: Yeah it is.

ELI: Knock it off Cyrus! Arnold, it might be embarrassing...but it's important that we know the last thing you remember.

ARNOLD: Some guys from the football team grabbed me held me upside down and shoved me in my locker. It was dark and I couldn't breathe...

ELI: Is that everything?

ARNOLD: I'm claustrophobic...I...was crying.

CYRUS: (*Coughs*) Loser.

TABITHA: Shut up.

CYRUS: Shut up? You're a tough girl now aren't you...not quite so tough when the BF (*you may substitute boyfriend if you wish*) is slapping you around.

ELI: Lay off!

CYRUS: Oh, you gonna be the knight in shining armor Eli?

ELI: Right now you need to shut up and sit down.

CYRUS: You gonna make me?

ELI: If I have to.

JEZZ: Cyrus...sit down.

ELI: Listen to your sister Cyrus...you aren't helping. Tabitha, where were you?

TABITHA: I was just hanging out with Jimmy.

ELI: That's all?

TABITHA: That's all...

ELI: (*ELI exposes a bruise on TABITHA*) Are you sure?

TABITHA: It was an accident...he just...it was an accident.

LILAH: I was at chemotherapy... (*EVERYONE stops.*) You didn't think this was a fashion statement did you?

CYRUS: Yeah! That's what I was doing too...chem-o-therapy.

ALICE: I hardly call what you were doing therapy.

CYRUS: A little time with Dr. Feelgood always does the trick. Right? Little Alice B. Toklas...

ALICE: Don't think so.

CYRUS: Oh...I forgot a little brownie goes in but...*(makes vomiting noise)*

ELI: Not helping-

ALICE: Just because I'm in the bathroom it doesn't mean I'm vomiting.

MILTON: I was in the bathroom too - not the same bathroom...and I wasn't vomiting - I was washing my hands - ten times.

WILL: I was packing up for a weekend at my Dad's - or was it my Mom's

JEZZ: I was writing a note.

ELI: A note to who?

JEZZ: I don't know...to everyone.

ELI: About?

JEZZ: I don't know Eli - what about you? What were you what were you doing?

GRACE: Eli...

ELI: We're not talking about me.

GRACE: Eli...

JEZZ: Well, maybe we should be. Where were you?

ELI: I was at the river, alright? *(Pause)* Never mind...I'm just trying to figure out what got us here-

JEZZ: Why?

ELI: So I can get us out.

JEZZ: Maybe some of us don't want to get out.

ELI: Why would you want to stay?

GRACE: Eli...

JEZZ: Because it's safe.

ELI: You'd rather be trapped and safe then fight your way out to freedom?

JEZZ: Some days yes. And today is a someday.

CINDY: I was in my room...

SCENE 3 - PERSONAL BATTLES

Lights out. Using a good flashlight to light actors works well or use spotlight. If using flashlights, tech people should not be seen. Background music can also be effective. Music suggestions in directors notes.

CINDY: There's this little glass doll I have sitting on my dresser. It was perfect and beautiful. I had for years; I got it when I was five at one of the cheesy tourist shops along the highway. I think it was called Uncle Ukulele's Treasure Palace or something like that. I would always stare at her before I went to sleep. At how perfect her skin was and how beautiful her eyes were. She seemed to have some fabulous dreams hidden behind those eyes.

One day a friend came over...at least I thought he was a friend... but...he wasn't. While he was there the glass doll fell to the floor and broke. I glued her back together the best I could and put her back on my dresser. She still has some cracks and bruises...but I still see some dreams in her eyes.

MILTON: Logically, I know that counting to ten won't stop me from getting sick or getting into a car accident or suddenly losing my vision...but how do I know it won't help? The one time I don't do it could be the one time I needed to do it. And that could mean catastrophe. And washing my hands is just good hygiene and has nothing to do with the voice in my head. Germs are bad and dirty and can cause illness, disease and pink eye, which could possibly cause blindness. And even if I don't catch anything because I don't wash my hands I could pass on illness, disease, or pink eye and I don't think I could live with myself if I ever caused someone to go blind. So I have to wash my hands – ten times...always ten times.

LILAH: Acute Myeloid Leukemia. That's what the doctor said. I'm young but I knew when he said acute he wasn't talking about my sweater. It sucked before I knew I had cancer. I was tired all the time and I couldn't breathe. But once I got the diagnosis...it sucked even more - because now not only was I tired and out of breath I got to add vomiting and hair loss to the list. I remember when I was fifteen and couldn't wait to get my driver's license - six months seemed like forever. Now, six months seems like a blink.

ALICE: Here's the thing...I know I'm not perfect. I know I can never be perfect. But when you look around perfection is everywhere. I'm not fat, I know I'm not fat I'm just big boned, but you don't see big boned girl selling you jeans, heck big boned girls don't even sell you cat food.

So, what's a big boned girl to do? A big boned girl who likes her food. She learns to adapt and to really chew her food. And pizza is not a friend the second time around.

I don't enjoy going into the bathroom after every meal, turning on the water so no one will hear, staring into the toilet - trying to psyche myself up like I'm responsible for the winning basket at the championship game. Kneeling on the cold hard floor. Why are bathroom floors always so cold? I hate the sounds, I hate the smells, I hate how it feels. It's not easy...but neither is being a big boned girl in a skinny girl world.

TABITHA: He loves me. I know it. He really does love me. And I love him. He needs me and I don't know what I do without him. When we first started going out he was so, so sweet. He would call me every night and we'd talk until 3 o'clock in the morning. He'd always hold my hand when we walked down the hall and he would never let me go to lunch without him. But, lately umm, he's been a little stressed out. He's been yelling a lot and...um...he sometimes forgets that I'm not as strong as his buddy's and he hits me in the arm a little too hard. Today we got into a pretty big argument and...well...it was my fault... I really shouldn't be texting any other guys. We've had a few ups and downs. But, he really does love me...he just has a funny way of showing it.

ARNOLD: I just want to know why...why me? Did I wear a sign the first day of school that said, "Hi, I'm a punching bag?" I've never done anything to anyone. I just want to go about my business. I want get to my classes without be hit, tripped or sent for a swirly, I want to get my books without being shoved into the locker. I want to get from my locker to the bus without having obscenities shouted at me and I would like to just once ride the bus without being pelted with food and garbage. And not being lit on fire would be nice too.

CYRUS: High...sweet, sweet high. Beautiful, tempting and deadly. She's what drives me...the only thing that drives me. Motivates me, pushes me. She's all I think of and dream of...that next high. That next escape. Nothing else matters...not life, not death. Just her. I will do anything to be with her. Lie, cheat, steal...whatever it takes to spend one more second wrapped in her arms. She tried to kill me once. A few more minutes with her would have turned me into veggie or fertilizer. She left me lying in my own vomit on the floor, convulsing...but still I can't break her hold on me. I tried to stay away, really I did. But she's calls to me, all day and all night – even in my dreams...my nightmares - begging me...pleading with me to come back and I always do. Why stay away? It's so much easier to be with her, than to be me.

WILL: So, Mom comes home after a girl's night out – The Bad Boys of Barcelona at the Boom Chico Boom Room – aim high Mom. Anyway, she comes home about 3am and decides we need to talk. I have an eight hundred point chemistry test tomorrow and you wanna talk? So, she sits me down says, "Things aren't really working out between me and your father." Really? After 18 years you've decided it's not working?

My parents constantly remind me that the choices I make affect my future. What about you? Mom? Dad? How do your choices affect me? Are you guys going to be the ones shuttling from house to house every other weekend? Where do I spend Thanksgiving? And Christmas? And my birthdays? Who gets me on my birthday? And when you find "happiness" by getting married and having kids with some other unsuspecting victim, will you have any time for me? Will you even remember me? Will you still love me?



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