

“A High School Drama”

Written By Tyler Parker

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WARNING:

This script contains language and situations which may not be suitable for a younger audience or Theatre Company and all productions should contain a mature content warning on the playbill.

ABOUT THE PLAY

A boy from the city moves to a small town and is soon fully into the culture that exists in the town. It is not long before he notices a girl that seems to be popular, but still slightly withdrawn from everyone else. He is intrigued. As this intrigue builds, it culminates in his asking her out on a date. To his shock, she says yes. He is overjoyed and does everything that he can to make sure that her life is perfect. An overtone to the entire production is her displeasure at having to live in such a small town and her way of coping with this fact of life: humour. She keeps an open mind about most things and always tried to find the true humour in life.

This play is very rich with subtle social commentary as well as with some foul language. Due to this fact, the play has been given a mature content warning.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY NOTICE

If you or a theatre company which you work for would like to produce this play, please email for permission through the contact page. All productions who receive permission to produce this play will be required to place all the appropriate legal information on any playbills, posters, and other advertising materials. It is also advised that any company place a mature content warning on their advertising materials and in the final playbill for the production. Any failure to do so will be considered a breach of contract, and appropriate action will be taken.

PRINCIPLE CAST

Hannah is the narrator of the play. She is a senior in high school in a small town in the western United States.

Kevin is Hannah's love interest and also a senior in the same high school. Kevin has just recently moved from the city with his parents.

SUPPORTING CAST

Ashley

Jasmine

Charles

Matthew

Hannah's Mom*

Hannah's Dad*

• These characters will never be seen on stage and therefore could have their lines read by a sound or lighting technician or by a member of the stage crew.

SETS REQUIRED & ELEMENTS NEEDED

Opening: Blank stage with no set pieces on it.

Hannah's Bedroom: A bed, dresser, mirror, towel

School Setting: A single desk with five additional chairs around it

Hockey Arena: A single bench for the player's box

Outside Hannah's House: A set piece that resembles a front step. A railing should go up the right hand side of this piece and a mailbox should be attached to this railing.

The Date: A blanket, a picnic basket, a thermos

Breakfast: Box of cheerios, Box of Special K bars, Juice Glass, Apple Juice box, table, 3 chairs

HANNAH: *(walk out from stage l. to stage c.)* My name is Hannah. I've lived in this little town for most of my life and I hate it here. There is absolutely nothing going on. Every night when I sign on to MSN or MySpace my friends from the city tell me all sorts of things that they are doing. All I can think is "Shit. I never do anything like that." Not that I could. The most we have here is a coffee shop and a rink. Everywhere you look there is nothing going on. As it stands right now, I spend a lot of my time either at school or at my dead-end job at the town coffee shop. I spend all day in the hell known as our town's sorry excuse for a high school and from 4:00 to 11:00 getting either leered at or slapped on the ass by the town's answer to men. As you can see, my life is not what one would call ideal.

HANNAH'S MOM *(off):* Dear, are you talking to yourself again? You know how it worries your father and me. You're sure you don't want to go into the city and see a psychiatrist?

HANNAH: My mother. She's a little... strange. She seems to think that just because I don't like all of the same things that she did when she was my age that I need to see a shrink. She seems to like psychiatrists'. I don't know why. Now where was I? *(motion trying to remember)* Right....work and my ass. So, let me ask you...what do you think? *(turn so back is facing audience and points to her butt)*. Actually, never mind. After I come home from work I get to finally eat something. And I am usually starving. So I eat, and eat. Well, in the morning, I regret having done so. But don't worry. I just exercise a lot by running and through cheerleading practice. Let's pick up the story in the morning, right after I've got up.

(House lights down. Light wash on stage right, where we see a bed set up and Hannah sitting on the lower left corner)

HANNAH'S DAD *(knocks on door off-stage and then says from off-stage):* Honey, you're going to be late for school. Come on and get up.

(Hannah gets up and walks off set with a towel. Sound effect of water running for a shower. When she re-enters, she has dressed and walks over to a mirror beside her bed, fixes her hair, and walks to stage c. where a table has been set up with breakfast-type foods on it. Hannah examines the food and decided on a Special K bar and a quick drink of juice. She drinks out of the box and walks off stage l. while munching on the bar. Lights will go down as Hannah walks off and then come back up as single light flood when she is at her opening position stage c.)

HANNAH: Okay, so you've seen what a boring morning I have. I can't believe people actually somehow enjoy this. But there is rumors' of people in town who thrive on this sort of life. Personally, I don't believe a word that these people say. They have got to be lying to us or being bribed by the mayor or something. Yes. I like that explanation. Bribery. It has a nice ring to it don't you think? Anyways, it is insignificant to our little discourse. Continuing on.

I won't bore you with having to watch the, say, *(thinking)* two and a half minutes it takes for me to walk to school. Let's just dive right back into the scene with me at my desk.

(All lights down. Scene will be reset to have a single desk on stage c. with 5 chairs around it. Lights up on stage c. School bell will ring and cast will enter from stage l. and stage r. and take their respective positions with Hannah sitting at the desk)

ASHLEY: Did you hear what Mr. Tucker did to Jody? I swear she was going to break out in tears if the bell hadn't rung when it did!

JASMINE: And what about that new boy in Psychology. Damn. He's so cute...I wonder if he's got a girlfriend...

MATTHEW: But, Jasmine, you...me...what's happening?

JASMINE *(gives Matthew a quick kiss)*: Don't worry Matty. Nothing. I'm just looking. A girl has the right same as a guy does. But if you ever dare look at another girl, so help me.....

CHARLES: Well, I know that Ashley doesn't need to worry about me. I've only got eyes for her. I mean, look at her. She's the total package. She has perfect tits and a perfect ass.

HANNAH: Okay, I think about right here we need to pause for a moment. *(to rest of cast)* FREEZE. *(speaking to audience)*. Teenagers have very interesting conversations when they believe that no one of watching, don't they? I'll be the first to admit that I have done the same thing. But this group. They're different. Or at least I thought they were. First off, there's Kevin. *(Kevin stands up and models for the audience)* Look at him. He's so....so....ah hell let's get this over with... he's hot and I would totally do him in an instance. *(Kevin sits back down)* Now I suppose I have best introduce you to the rest of the group. Next, we have Ashley *(stands up and move to stage c. beside Hannah)*. She was voted most likely to eat a hamburger off of the cafeteria floor by the freshmen of the school. She's one of the school's perkiest girls and is always happy. It's disgusting. *(Ashley sits back down)* Next up on the hit parade is Charles *(Stands up and walks to stage c. beside Hannah and poses)*. He's dating Ashley, and this has automatically made him popular. He's one of the drama geeks. But we like him all the same. As you have seen, his main interest in Ashley is, well, physical. He will often tell our group of his and Ashley's sexually exploits over the weekend. And to tell the truth, if I wanted to hear about some of the stuff they do, I would subscribe to Playboy or Penthouse. *(Sits down)* Then there is Jasmine and Matthew *(They stand up and walk towards Hannah, stop, and kiss passionately then freeze while staring at each other)*. They are so much alike that I don't think they need separate introductions. They both come from good stable homes and like me, have lived here their entire lives. And from what I've heard, Jasmine plans on living here for the rest of her life. This means that Matthew will stay here. *(They sit down and Jasmine pulls out lipstick and begins to fix hers)* Okay group, it's time for us to get back to reality. Are we ready? *(waits for rest of cast to nod yes)* Go.

ASHLEY: Don't talk about me that way. I am more than something for you to have sex with and show off to your friends. I'm a person, and I have feelings. In fact, I am having a feeling right now. I think you know which one it is...

(Charles and Ashley get up and begin to walk off stage r. Ashley walks off and Charles turns toward the audience, gives them the thumbs up and runs off stage)

JASMINE: Oh. I just remembered. I've got to go to the library and do some extra work for math. I'll see everyone later. Love ya. Bye. *(walks off stage r.)*

MATTHEW: I've...umm...got to go as well. Bye. *(runs off stage after Jasmine)*

HANNAH: *(to audience)* So I finally had Kevin to myself and I was going to make the most of it. No, I wasn't going to have sex, although I have to admit the thought did cross my mind. How very dirty. Sex in school. But, that just isn't me. Sorry. *(to Kevin)* So...Kevin...I've noticed that we seem to be spending a lot of time together....alone. Any reason at all for this?

KEVIN: Umm....no...not really

HANNAH: *(seductively)* Are you sure....I think there may have been some sort of ulterior reason for spending so much time with me.

KEVIN: Umm...I...I mean to say that...err....I suppose that...well, the thing is...I really don't know how to say this...

HANNAH: Then you should just say it. *(sweetly)* Please.

KEVIN: Well...I was wondering...would you like to go out with me someday? I know that there is not that much here to do, but maybe we could drive to that ice cream place down the highway. I think I could get my dad to let me use the car. *(Hannah just stares at him blankly)* I mean, if you don't want to or you're already dating someone that is totally cool. Ya, that's probably it. A girl like you, so nice and sweet, would definitely be dating someone already. Just forget I ever said anything.

HANNAH: I'm not dating anyone and I would *love* to go out with you. How about Saturday?

KEVIN: Hot damn. That sounds great. I've got to get to class though. I'll talk to you later, kay?

HANNAH: See ya *(Kevin runs off stage l. yelling in joy as he does so)* *(to audience)* So Kevin did somehow get his dad to give him the car for the day. Or he stole it. I didn't really care and he never said either way. Either way, we did get to go and have ice cream. I guess it could be considered a first date. It was magical.

(Lights down. New set with Kevin and Hannah sitting on a blanket on stage. Low lights come up to create nighttime)

KEVIN: You see that group of stars up there. We're always told that it is the big and little dipper. But I think that there's just such a boring feeling to that. So I made up my own little theory about them. I decided that they are dueling lovers and that they have somehow come to a standstill where neither one of them can get anywhere else without the other first giving in. But of course, neither one will give in.

HANNAH: *(to Kevin)* How do you come up with this stuff?

KEVIN: My whole life, I have been doing things in theatre. (*Hannah reacts, surprised*) I always loved stuff that allowed me to take on a new persona and create a character on stage. So of course, when I got to high school I joined the improv team. It was great. I could make a fool of myself and have fun all at once.

HANNAH: A fool of yourself? No! You are really good at this.

(Lights fade and come up with Hannah and Kevin sitting on a bench)

KEVIN: You remember when you asked me to tell you something about you that I love? (*Hannah nods*) Well, I've come up with some. I love the way that your hair reflects the light of the arena concession stands. I love the way that you laugh at whatever I say even when it isn't funny, just to keep from hurting my feelings. I love the way that I feel when your name comes up on my call display after we have not seen each other all day long. I adore the way that you absent-mindedly flip your hair whenever you get nervous and then try to convince others that you were not doing it. (*Hannah flips her hair*) I feel so many different emotions towards you whenever we are together, and they all point to one thing...love. (*pause and look to left*) Looks like our ice-time is coming up. Ready to show me some of those moves you've been bragging about?

(lights fade and come back on Hannah at the desk by herself)

HANNAH: He could tell me so many different things about myself that I would never have thought of and yet they seemed to just roll off his tongue as if there was nothing to it. Hell, he had noticed my hair flipping. I never thought that anyone but my mom noticed that. I just began to fall more and more in love.

KEVIN: (*Kevin walks out from stage r. and kisses Hannah.*) Hey, we still on for tonight? I heard that the concert is supposed to be off-the-wall.

HANNAH: Of course. You know they are like, my favourite band! (*Kevin walks off stage c. Hannah turns to audience*) We went to the concert, and it was great. But the next day at school, the shit hit the proverbial fan. While all of this seemed great, I couldn't put some of the things that people were saying out of my mind. I tried not to believe what they were saying about Kevin or me, but it's hard. In a small town high school there's always some sort of rumors going on, and well, Kevin and me were the butt of all rumors and jokes at the time. If people were not saying that Kevin was cheating on me with some other girl because I refused to have sex, then I was being portrayed as a slut. There were even things written on the bathroom stalls...my phone number with the standard 'Want to have a good time? Call Hannah' and then my phone number. I try to replay this scene over, when I first learned of it, hoping somehow it would change. But it doesn't. It was so hard on us and I can't help but think that it was what caused Kevin to do what he did next.

(Lights fade and come up with Hannah and Kevin sitting together at the desk)

KEVIN: Don't worry. No matter what people are saying about us, we know it isn't true. There's nothing we can do about what they think, so let's just let it go. We know the truth, and that's all the really matters.

HANNAH: I can't let it go, damnit. I'm being called a slut and wherever I go there are guys that try and get into my pants. My parents are starting to wonder what happened to their daughter. People think I'm so easy to get into bed. I'm just an object to them. I don't have my own identity anymore. I hate this.

KEVIN: You are so much more than an object. You are a human being. I'll admit, you've got a nice ass and all, but there is more to you. *(slaps Hannah on the ass)* I've got to run. *(Kevin walks off stage l.)*

HANNAH *(picks up phone and dials number):* Jill, can we talk.....Kevin was just over here...NO HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT....He slapped me on the ass though. I can't believe I ever went out with that bastard. What was I thinking... *(lights fade and come back up with Hannah at original position stage c.)*

HANNAH: Around this time, I began to distance myself from Kevin. I stopped answering his calls, got my cell phone number changed, got a new hotmail address for MSN and changed my MySpace profile. Shit, I even stopped hanging out with my friends so that I could avoid him. I couldn't believe I was doing this. I don't want Kevin to end up as someone who can't face himself because of some girl that he thinks used him and then just dumped him when it got too serious. I've been a bitch and I really need to somehow let Kevin know that I'm still in love with him.

(Lights go down on stage and all set pieces are removed. Kevin comes out on stage and stands stage r. Lights back up on Kevin.)

KEVIN: *(monologue to audience)* As you know, Hannah has been doing most of the narration. But I felt you should hear it from me as well. After all, I am the one that is both causing her so much anguish and is caused so much by her. I spent so much time and effort on her. I got my dad to let me use the car. And then what does she do? She treats me like shit and just leave me stranded, up the creek without a paddle and doesn't seem to give a damn about my feelings. Is it something that I did? Did I somehow bring this on myself? I tried so hard to forget that all of those rumors had been written about her by some sorry lame-ass bitch who probably has nothing better to do than make up stuff like that to pass the time. But it always comes back to that, doesn't it? I seriously have to wonder what is going on in that head of hers. Does she think that she is so great that she can just walk all over guys and not have anything happen to her? This sure as hell isn't the city. At least, that was what I thought before I met Hannah, her slut of a friend Ashley, and that idiot Jasmine. I'm not saying that all the girls here are like that. Look at Hannah. I thought that she was the real deal and still try to convince myself that this is the case. But it's hard. Damn, it's hard. Is there anyway that I can keep on loving her with the sort of love that I feel? What am I saying? No matter what Hannah has done or may do in the future, I love her with all of my being. I would throw myself in front of a bullet for her. That girl has made me come alive and see in myself something that I would never have seen before... I have a personality of my own. I need to go talk to Hannah about this. She wants me to come over to her house so we can...talk. I pray to God that we can somehow work this out.

(Kevin walks off stage l. and all lights go down. When they come back up, there is a front step scene set up and Hannah and Kevin on sitting on it. We hear a distant sound of thunder.)

HANNAH: Kevin, before you go on, I really just need to tell you something. I have been treating you like shit for the last couple of weeks and I feel awful about it. I'm becoming something I never wanted to be. A tease and a bitch. I truly do love you, more than anything. I want to be with you. But instead of doing what I should have been, I have been ignoring you and not giving in to my feelings. I feel like I do not deserve you.

KEVIN: But what was it that I did that drove you away? Whatever it is, please tell me so that I can work on it.

HANNAH: That's just it. You did nothing. I tried to convince myself that it was the way that you spoke in words that I just plain could not comprehend, I tried to believe that it was the fact that we are from different worlds. I tried to convince myself that it was the way that you could come up with all sorts of things that you loved when I couldn't, I even tried to convince myself that it was just not meant to be...a teen fling that was meant to fizzle out after a few weeks. But it wasn't. It was so much more than that. I can't even begin to put into words what I feel when you look at me, talk to me, touch me, kiss me. It is a sort of punch drunk love that you just know is meant to be.

KEVIN: I feel so much about you. I love you so much and don't think that I could live without you, but at the same time I want to just walk away and forget that any of this ever happened.*(shocked reaction from Hannah)* I know I can't though. Even if I did, the time that we have spent together has forever been ingrained on me. I do need to confess to something though...a while ago, when we were talking about those rumors that people had been starting about you...I really need to apologize for the way I acted. I never should have done what I did and beg you to forgive you for it.

HANNAH: I just want you to know that I forgive you for that, and want to apologize to you if I lead you on in any way. I know what people had been saying about me, and maybe it got to you. I know that it got to me. I actually began to think that this was how everyone felt about me and I figured that you were going to leave me because of it. God, I don't think I could survive if you left me. I need you. I want you. I feel as though my life has reached a new sense of completeness through meeting you. *(Hannah reached over and passionately kisses Kevin as the house lights go down).*

FIN