

SURPRISE!

Words & Lyrics by Tyler Parker

Music by the cast each performance

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TIME – Now, more or less or exactly. Your choice.

CAST OF CHARACTERS – *In order of appearance*

Jason – A guy who is working towards being an actor. He wants to make it big on Broadway.

Amy – Has always been delegated to an understudy role and is hoping at one point to get a lead role. She is very studious and often gets the reputation of being a little weird.

Kristin – Known as the school slut because of the way she carries herself. She has pink hair and most people thinks that she works at a strip club. Which she does.

Mike – A guy that needs to be in this drama production to graduate. He has always though that theatre was kind of dumb, but is doing this show for the credit. Very loud and often speaks out of turn.

Tyler – The guy in the drama club that often gets cast in a small role and then cut from the show later on. He often ends up doing some sort of technical work on the show after being cut.

Ash-Lee - A drama teacher who lives and breathes theatre. She does not always explain why she says what she does, but rather expects people to just understand.

Jalyn – The school’s guidance counsellor. She spends most of her day writing on her laptop, because she has a cynical attitude towards all of the students she is supposed to be counselling, and needs an escape from the reality of work.

Music

Kristin’s Dance – “Magic” – Xanadu the Musical

Curtain Call – “30/90 Playout” – tick, tick...BOOM!

The Worst Song Possible – Whatever the cast comes up with during the performance

Jason: *(reading from piece of paper)*

And what shall I say to thee, milady? Shall I compare thee to the rising and setting of the sun, or shall I remain silent? Thine eyes draw me to speak of thee. Thy voice inspires mine ears like the sweet song of a silver lark in the early morn. Mine eyes have seen thy beauty. The wonder of you has been forever imprinted on mine mind's eyes. Methinks I shall require my manservant to request thy presence this night when the clock doth strike nine. I shall wait for thee there, forever if need be.

(Jason throws script on floor) BLAH! (walks off stage)

(Amy and Kristin walk on stage and sit on a bench at stage left)

Amy: I really think the part is going to you.

Kristin: No way...I didn't even audition.

Amy: That doesn't matter. We all know that it's always you who gets cast in the lead roles. Besides, you have that....classic look.

Kristin: What the hell is that supposed to mean?

Amy: Just that...I think a role of that sort would fit you better....

Kristin: You sayin' I look old?

Amy: No...just that you have a deeper maturity than some of us...*(whisper)* shit....

Kristin: I don't know if I should take that as an insult or not....

Amy: Don't worry about it. I just think you will get the lead. Haven't you been rehearsing it?

Kristin: *(meekly)* Yes...

Amy: I rest my case.

(enter Mike)

Mike: Hey guys! Watcha talking about?

Amy: How Kristin is going to take over the lead from everyone else who auditioned...and how I will be made an understudy....again...

Kristin: Wait....I never said anything about an understudy...

Mike: Ouch.

Amy: Ya no kidding. I thought we were friends.

Kristin: We are...

Amy: But you just basically said that you don't need me as an understudy for the role. Have you even read the script, or do you prefer to not know what the script is about until the first reading?

Kristin: I prefer to bring fresh insight into the work we do at the first rehearsal.

Mike: If I can step in a second, we still don't know who will get the part...

Kristin: Well if things go at all like they have in the past, we do. But hey, god luck with getting the part.

Amy: It's true. She's got them ever since our grade five show.

Mike: But wasn't that supposed to be...

Kristin: They changed the leads gender for me. I'm that special.

Amy: That was the biggest insult to us all. We have so many guys that could have done that role. And they gave it to *you*.

Kristin: Well...I deserved it more than they did.

Mike: Please don't get me involved in this....

Amy: Too late. You're here. You know the rules.

Mike: Damn rules.

Kristin: Fuck them.

Amy: You shut up.

Mike: I'm confused.

Amy: *(looks at watch)* The list was supposed to be posted fifteen minutes ago. I need to see if I got any part at all. *(Amy gets up from the bench, tries to beginning running off stage left, trips on her own feet, gets back up, and runs off)*

Kristin: I don't need to go running off. I know I have a part. *(pause)* But I guess I'll go anyway.

Mike: I like this part....I'm coming as well.

(Scene. Exit all)

(Enter Kristin, Mike, Amy, Jason, Tyler, and Ash-Lee. Ash-Lee is posting a piece of paper on a bulletin board.)

Jason: Lead male. Yes! I knew all of that work on my monologue would pay off...

Tyler: Clown? I have to be the clown....great....

Amy: I'm playing some chick named Kelly? Oh wait, I'm also understudying for the lead female. Am I psychic or what?

Kristin: My usual role...I'm so shocked....or not....

Mike: I'm in this show? How did that happen? I didn't even audition...

Ash-Lee: *(A drama teacher who lives and breathes theatre. She does not always explain why she says what she does, but rather expects people to just understand.)* An audition is not always required here, nor is it a requirement that you want to be in the show. You have been cast in it and in it you shall be. I suggest you clear your calendar for the next few months. *(exit)*

Tyler: I'm sensing that this is supposed to make sense somehow...is it my spidey sense?

Amy: Your what? ... Forget it...I don't want even to know...

Tyler: I watch a lot of TV....

Kristin: And here, we have the understatement of the year...all you ever do is watch TV...

Tyler: Not true...I watch movies sometimes as well.

Kristin: La-de-frickin-da. It still means you spend most of your day in front of either a TV or movie screen. Get out into the world. Have a life...

Tyler: The real world kinda scares me. It has other people. And.....cats.

Mike: It's true. Cats can scratch out your eyeballs.

Jason: And they are always playing with yarn. You gotta think that at least one of them has figured out how to untie a ball of yarn and strangle us in our sleep with it...

Amy: That's...true...I guess...

Kristin: Wait a second...shouldn't we be trying to find out when our rehearsals are?

Amy: We don't even know what is going to be the show yet.

Mike: Sure we do....Shakespeare abridged.

Tyler: Then why am I a clown?

Jason: Type casting.

Tyler: What is that supposed to mean?

Kristin: You know....people will laugh at your face...

Amy: And then they will not notice the bad acting the rest of us are doing?

Jason: Or maybe they will...

Mike: So you're saying we're going to do something with Shakespeare involved but with clowns?

Tyler: And possibly masks.

Kristin: Sounds kinky.

Amy: Not that type of mask, you slut.

(Enter Ash-Lee from stage right)

Ash-Lee: Okay everyone. Listen up. We are going to be starting rehearsals tomorrow afternoon at 1 pm and they will go until the day before opening. If you have a class during that time, well...I don't give a shit...you're not going. You are mine now. We will rehearse non-stop until you can all recite your lines backwards....at thirteen times their normal speed. I expect you all to come to rehearsal with your scripts annotated and with all of your scenes broken down into beats of action.

Kristin: We don't have scripts yet....

Ash-Lee: A mere technicality. If you want to make it as actors, you will do as I ask and not question me.

Amy: How can we do any of this work without a script?

Ash-Lee: What did I say about questioning me?

Amy: I just...forget it....

Ash-Lee: Good. Now that we have that settled, I'm going to go and create your characters....see you tomorrow at 1. If you are not there, I will find you, and I will destroy you. *(exit)*

Mike: I guess I'm not going to psychology. After all, I just need it to finish school. Not like it is important or anything. She kind of scares me.

Tyler: You and me both. You and me both.

(Scene. All exit stage Blackout.)

Rehearsal – Day One

Ash-Lee: Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to your first day of the greatest play you will ever be in. I expect you to all have come prepared and I want you to be LDP.

Mike: LDP?

Ash-Lee: Letter Damn Perfect. *Letter Damn Perfect.*

Amy: Well I personally know my stuff. I went and read the Coles Notes for all of the Shakespearean plays.

Jason: Because you're a keener.

Kristin: Well, I for one think that we should not have had to do anything like this. Like, seriously. I, like, totally think that this is not fair. I have never had someone who was like such a total pain. She's really getting to me. Why the hell did they give her the play this year? It's so totally unfair!

Amy: Shhh...She might hear you!

Jason: And then we'll have to stay here late.

Mike: We can't...I have homework to do.

Amy: You mean you didn't get it done before we started rehearsal? You need to get with it!

Jason: Hey...Where is....

Ash-Lee: The clown is not required for quite some time...or at all...so we have allowed him to not come to this rehearsal. As for the rest of you, I suggest that you stop talking and start working through your lines and memorizing the blocking I have set out for you. Again, I reiterate that if you do not have all of your work ready for next rehearsal, I may have to kick you off of the play and re-cast the entire show.

Amy: So you're saying that there is a possibility I could get the lead?

Kristin: Highly unlikely. After all, it's always me, has always been me, and will always be me...for as long as we are in school.

Mike: You know, you really can be a bitch....

Kristin: Ya, I know.

Ash-Lee: Enough! Let's go...starting at the top of Act 1.....GO! (*All stand trying to find the lines in their script*) What the hell is the matter with you miserable excuses for actors? I told you to have your lines memorized by now, and you don't! This is pathetic! How many times do I have to tell you....the theatre must become your life. It is mine, and look where it has got me and what I have accomplished!

Amy: Living by herself, with nothing but a pet gecko?

Ash-Lee: I heard that....

Amy: Shit.

Ash-Lee: I expect to see you after rehearsal. We will go over the lines that you miss, you will run the entire show with me, and we will discover what exactly it is that makes you think you are funny.

Mike: Busted...

(Enter Tyler)

Tyler: I'm so sorry for being late...

Ash-Lee: You are not required here....you can leave.

Tyler: Umm...thank you? I feel so shafted....

(Exit Tyler)

Kristin: Weird...

Ash-Lee: Okay. Vocal rehearsal. Has everyone had time to review the scores I passed out?

Amy: What scores?

Ash-Lee: Forget it...just sing damnit!

Amy, Kristin, Mike, Jason (Quartet):

Once in every life

There comes a time to focus on your goal

To bring your needs into focus

To learn

If you trust in yourself

Your goal shall be gained

The prize will be yours

There's nothing you can't do if you believe

Time will become relative when you set your mind on a goal

Your life will no longer seem to drift meaningless

Your fate is your own

No longer can you hide behind others

There is nothing you can't do

If you trust in yourself

Your goal shall be gained

The prize will be yours

There's nothing you can't do if you believe

Believe in yourself and others will believe in you as well.

Ash-Lee: Pathetic! Absolutely pathetic! Who wrote this shit?

Amy: You did...well, the words at least. There never was any music. We had to improvise.

Ash-Lee: Out of my face!

(Scene. Blackout)

After the rehearsal – Girls, Stage Left; Guys – Stage Right

(Lights up on stage left. Dressing table)

Amy: I can't believe her. She is really going to make me stay here and run this whole stupid show with her? What does she think I am – a fucking robot? I do have other stuff that I need to do...like sleep, eat, have a social life – things like that!

Kristin: If you expect to be a success as an actor, you need to commit yourself fully to your craft.

Amy: Full commit myself to my what? The only reason I am even doing this show is the small chance that I might get your role and then I will be noticed by that guy in English Lit.

Kristin: Oh just give him a lap dance...always works for me.

Amy: You...you...whore!

Kristin: Thank you.

(Lights down on stage left and up on stage right. A couch with a pizza box.)

Mike: You gonna eat that last piece of pizza?

Jason: It's been sitting there for...a week...you really want to eat it?

Mike: Hell ya. It's still good. Will be for at least another few days.

Jason: Gross. But....be my guest. I don't want it.

Mike: Score!

Jason: While you eat that...that...whatever that is... I'm going to try and figure out what it is we are supposed to be doing for tomorrow's rehearsal.

Mike: We have rehearsal tomorrow?

Jason: That's what every day means...

Mike: Shit! I guess I'd better work on that as well. What are we doing tomorrow?

Jason: The first few scenes and another run of that song.

Mike: I shudder thinking about that song.

(Lights come up in stage left and we see Kristin and Amy reading their scripts, Mike eating pizza, and Jason shaking his head at Mike)

Ash-Lee (Off-Stage): Everyone! Get your ass in bed before midnight tonight...that means 15 minutes! I expect you to be ready for rehearsal tomorrow.

All: Fuck!

(Scene. Blackout)

The Office

Jalyn: *(typing on keyboard while reading out loud)* I slowly draw you into my bedroom, and begin to remove my *(Cast enters)* Oh hello...is it time for your appointment already?

Mike: Ya it is. What have you been doing? Writing porn?

Jalyn: Err...no....Just doing some research.

Amy: Right....research....

Kristin: Whatever. Her addiction to porn is not why we came here. Though I wouldn't mind having a little private conversation afterwards about it....

Jason: And you wonder why people call you the school slut.

Jalyn: Meet me back here later...

Kristin: Score!

Jalyn: I've been given this minor role in this shit. What's happened to me?

Tyler: You've still had more time on stage than me.

Jalyn: True. I feel better now.

Tyler: I feel worse.

Amy: No one wants to know what a clown feels. You're just supposed to make people laugh.

Jalyn: Well now...why are you here anyway? I am not Dr. Phil!

Jason: Well...we have problems with the drama production and we were hoping you could help us.

Jalyn: With what? Becoming a good actor? Honey, that's not possible.

Kristin: I don't need any help.

Amy: And they all say she is so humble...

Mike: Probably because she spends so much time on her knees....

Tyler: Ooo...burn!

Kristin: Shut up clown!

Jalyn: I still don't know why you are wasting my time. I have my story to write and submit to Pent...work to do on schedules...

Jason: Look. We just need to know if it is normal for a drama teacher to keep the students in class until midnight, make us sleep in the theatre, and threaten our careers as actors if we don't show up for rehearsal 3 hours early...not to mention giving us an order to skip all other classes for the next few months.

Jalyn: It's perfectly normal. What is so wrong with that?

Amy: Umm...I would like to graduate before I turn 65.

Jalyn: You will...I think...

Kristin: But maybe not. You really need to get your nose out of your books and go out and have some fun. It isn't all about studying. You need to experience the opposite sex. Emphasis on sex.

Jason: Moving on....

Jalyn: Damn it. I forgot to save it. Now I have to start all over again.

Mike: I don't think we're going to accomplish anything here. I'm leaving.

Amy: Bye everyone.

All: See you at rehearsal...ugh.

(Scene. Blackout.)

Rehearsal – Yet Again

Ash-Lee: Okay Jason, I want to hear your monologue again. But just the first four lines. I think the rest of the stuff in that monologue was garbage.

Jason: Umm...okay...

And what shall I say to thee, milady? Shall I compare thee to the rising and setting of the sun, or shall I remain silent? Thine eyes draw me to speak of thee. Thy voice inspires mine ears like the sweet song of a silver lark in the early morn.

Ash-Lee: But now...can you do it with an Australian accent? I want to see if your character would work as an Aussie.

Jason: Aren't we doing Shakespeare Abridged? I had practiced with an English accent.

Ash-Lee: Don't you fucking question me! Just do as I say!

Jason: Fine...sheesh, don't have a fit.

(Very bad Australian accent) And what shall I say to thee, milady? Shall I compare thee to the rising and setting of the sun, or shall I remain silent? Thine eyes draw me to speak of thee. Thy voice inspires mine ears like the sweet song of a silver lark in the early morn.

Ash-Lee: That was perfect!

Amy: She's kidding right? It sounds awful. I think having a cat trying to do that monologue like that would have made it sound better.

Tyler: Not the cats again...

Kristin: How did you get in here?

Tyler: I waved my magic wand and poof, like magic, here I was..... how do you think I got in? I walked through the door.

Kristin: Oh right...the door.

Ash-Lee: Okay everyone, listen up! It's dance rehearsal time! I want to run through Kristin's dance. I understand you have some experience dancing already....

Amy: Pole dancing doesn't really count, does it?

Ash-Lee: I did not ask for any comments from the peanut gallery, did I?

Mike: But they are offered none the less.

Ash-Lee: I want to see the dance from act five, scene 12. And 5,6, 7,8...

(Kristin dances a modern choreographed dance to the song "Magic" from Xanadu the Musical)

Ash-Lee: Well, that was...interesting. I guess we will leave it as is. But I would suggest a lot more rehearsal time before the next time you perform it for us. A lot more time. If you want us to believe that you are a magical muse that you need to be much more convincing. Enough for today...go and change.

Jason: It was good...sort of....

Amy: Ya, if you spend some more time in the studio and less on the pole at the club, you'll be great.

Kristin: But why did she choose that song?

Mike: Why has she done anything she has so far?

Jason: He does have a point.

Kristin: *(over her shoulder)* His nose doesn't count...

(All walk off stage. Scene. Blackout.)

The Night Before The Performance

Kristin: I'm actually kind of nervous. Usually on the night before opening, I am really happy-go-lucky, but this time I have this bad feeling that something bad is about to happen.

Amy: Like you not getting to do your part, and me having to do it? Believe me, I know it all.

Kristin: Bitch.

Mike: Probably has something to do with you not getting any...

Jason: Not now!

Mike: Oh right...

Amy: But it is probably true....

Jason: Probably.

Tyler: If I had been at more rehearsals, maybe I'd know what you were talking about.

Amy, Kristin, Mike: I doubt it.

Tyler: That hurts. Just because I got cast as a clown...you make fun of me.

Amy: Ya...we do.

(Ash-Lee walks into rehearsal space)

Ash-Lee: No more talking. I want you all to be running lines. Do an Italian or something damnit. We open tomorrow, and this has to be perfect.

Kristin: Aye, aye captain!

Ash-Lee: Better. *(exits)*

Jason: She just doesn't get it, does she?

Mike: Nope.

(Enter Jalyn)

Jalyn: You! *(points at Kristin)* You missed our appointment this afternoon. Come with me...*now!*

(Kristin and Jalyn exit)

Jason: Looks like we've lost her for the rest of the day. Oh well...anyone want to run some lines with me?

Mike: Sure why not...I need all the help I can get....

Amy: I'm heading over to the theatre. I need to get used to being on that stage.

Tyler: I'm gonna go to class....I've missed too much, and I'm pretty sure my part is being cut.

Amy: What makes you say that?

Tyler: I heard her say the clown part is being cut.

Amy: Oh.

Tyler: Ya.

Amy: Well, bye then.

Tyler: See ya everyone.

Jason: Bye.

Mike: Later.

(Scene. Blackout.)

The Stage

Amy: So, here I am...on stage. With all of you watching me. I feel kind of dirty. But not in a Paris Hilton way. More in a...I think I need to have a shower type of way. I have been rehearsing almost non-stop for the last few months. And now...it's almost over. Funny thing is, we don't have anything to show you. Because what we have been rehearsing is exactly what you just saw. This was the play that we were working on. As a company, we sat down and wondered what we could do to make you interested in the work that we do. And what we came up with is what you just saw. We hope that you enjoyed it. But then again, we also want to hear from you honestly...if you thought that this was total piece of shit, let us know! We want to try to keep improving ourselves. This is the first play that was written specifically for us, so we are still in a growing phase of our company. So there you have it, this was a play about preparing for a play. If you somehow figured that out early on, bravo for you. If you didn't, well, don't feel bad about it. We were trying to fool you. We hope we made you laugh sometimes during this performance. Maybe we even made you cry. Who knows? Sure, we used some pretty cheap shots and some bad humour here and there, but what else would you expect. And hopefully we drew you into our world. So, thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed yourself. And now, without any further bullshit, we present to you...our cast!

(Curtain Call. 30/90 Payout from tick, tick...BOOM! cast recording should play throughout.)