

Totally Okay, Right Now

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TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

CAST OF CHARACTERS

LIZZIE
KATH
MEGAN
ALISHA
GUY
MOM
DAD
OTHER MOM

PLACE

Lizzie's home, school, bus stop, and a few other places

TIME

The present

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

ACT ONE
SCENE ONE

The last sung line of the Happy Birthday song can be heard, and then the blowing out of candles. Lights up on LIZZIE

LIZZIE

(To audience, as a friend)

Wow. WOW! I am like, old! Well, older. Do I feel older? Do I feel different? Like a teenager? I think I should. Should I? Whatever. Guess what? I got a phone!

She thrusts a cell phone over her head in a jubilant sign of victory. She then dials. Lights up on KATH, answering her cell phone.

It's Lizzie. I got one!

(They both scream simultaneously)

I'm calling Alisha.

She hangs up and redials. Lights up on Alisha, answering a regular house phone.

It's Lizzie. I got one!

(They both scream simultaneously)

I'm calling Megan.

She hangs up and redials. Lights up on Megan, answering her cell phone.

I got one!

She opens her mouth to scream but Megan cuts her off.

MEGAN

I know, Lizzie. Kath called me. It is so cool!

LIZZIE

Kath called you already!? But-

MEGAN

-I know but she's...Kath, you know? Anyway...

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(Megan begins screaming. Lizzie joins in)

Lights out on Megan

LIZZIE

This weekend, my dad said-

DAD

The world is your oyster, Lizard.

Lights out on Dad

LIZZIE

(To audience)

Yeah, I know. I had no idea either. My mom explained it-

MOM

-Sort of like you're the next Jane Goodall, Georgia O'Keefe, Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

LIZZIE

(To audience)

Yeah, still no clue, right? Me either. Which made my mom none too happy.

MOM

I'm calling the school.

Lights out on Mom

LIZZIE

She gets like that. Don't panic. She never does call. She doesn't want to alienate the teachers. And my grades are awesome...mostly...except...well, we'll get to that. But the grades, growing up thing is that people are really beginning to bug me about-

Lights up on Dad

DAD

So? What are you going to do when you grow up? You're thinking about the law, right? Like your old dad here. You have the mind. The way you analyze-

Lights up on Mom

MOM

-Or whatever you want. You could be whatever you want. Or a graphic designer. I know everyone in the industry-

OTHER MOM enters

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OTHER MOM

(Wearing a t-shirt which says, "Kath's Mom")

You just need to be successful. And focused. Discipline. Slackers make nothing.

Other Mom takes off her t-shirt, revealing a second t-shirt which says, "Alisha's Mom"

Or you could be a teacher. Give back to your community.

Other Mom takes off her t-shirt, revealing a third t-shirt which says, "Teacher"

Your test scores are excellent in the language arts and social sciences. You could do AP classes next year. Good for college placement. It's not too early to be thinking about that-

Other Mom takes off her t-shirt, revealing a fourth t-shirt which says, "Megan's Mom"

What are you going to be? Geez, I still haven't figured that one out. Want another Pop Tart?

LIZZIE

I really like hanging at Megan's place. Anyway...I'm thinking I should come up with some sort of answer. Decide, you know? My science teacher says-

Other Mom takes off her t-shirt, revealing a fifth t-shirt which says, "Teacher"

OTHER MOM as SCIENCE TEACHER

How you act now is how you will, what you enjoy and excel at now, can easily determine what you will succeed at in the future.

LIZZIE

(Struggling to remember)

Something like what you are good at today is what you will be good at in the future? Past behavior and the future? Anyway, it sounded really good in class so I'm going to do that. This year, I am going to decide what Lizzie is going to be so everyone will get off my back. This year? The Lizzie Decides Year! But first, I have to really decide!!!

Mom, Dad and Other Mom exit. Megan rolls out a bureau which has clothes spewing out of all the drawers.

Don't look at me like that. I have a system!

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She digs and pulls out a few t-shirts. She holds up the first one. It has "TWEEN" printed on it. She tosses it aside.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Clearly, so "Last Year"

Holding up the next one, which says "TEENAGER"

It's weird. I don't think...I mean, I am but...I don't think I'm quite...feeling it. Yet.

She shoves that t-shirt deeply into a drawer. Next one: "BROODING, REBELLIOUS TEENAGER"

This would SO freak Mom and Dad out! But I'll be kind (*with a wink/evil smile*) today.

She dives back in the drawer

Got it!

With a flourish, she pulls out a t-shirt with the printing "GIRL WITH HER OWN CELL PHONE"

Kind of says it all!

She quickly pulls it on, adds a vest and decorative, glittery scarf, grabs a backpack and heads to exit.

MOM
(Offstage)

Coat!

LIZZIE

Mom, it's warm.

Lizzie points to the upstage window. Megan and Alisha hold up a poster of palm trees on a beach behind it.

MOM
(Still offstage)

It's freezing. Look outside.

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Kath brings out another poster, of the frozen Alaskan tundra, and the three girls switch the poster.

LIZZIE

I don't have time. I'll be late for the bus. *(As a threat)* You'll have to drive me.

Mom staggers onstage with a huge snowsuit, snow pants, boots, muffler, and gloves

MOM

Not if you put everything on right now.

LIZZIE

You are clearly trying to ruin my life.

MOM

Everyone needs a hobby.

She tries to shove and wrestle Lizzie into the coat. In the meantime, the three girls switch the poster to a fall day with turning leaves.

LIZZIE

MOM!

Mom has succeeded in cramming a hat and mittens on Lizzie. Lizzie then does a battle crawl to the door and runs for her life, coat not on, hat and mittens on but askew

(To audience)

This is one of the reasons mild mannered girls become crazed. Did you see what that woman just tried to do to me? Embarrassment, heat exhaustion, and lack of trust. All in 30 seconds. Do they offer a class in parental smothering? Or is it just developmental, like gray hair and totally obsessing about gas prices?

Lizzie pulls off the hat and mittens and joins the crowd in a school hallway.

You met my friends but let me introduce you again. This is Kath.

Kath steps forward

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LIZZIE (CONT'D)

I've known Kath the longest. She is completely awesome at sports, especially soccer and volleyball. She's bossy. It's okay. She knows it. Grades just passing but it doesn't seem to bother her. One brother. Parents together. Her mom is...kind of intense but her dad is nice and always brings McDonalds if he knows we're coming over. She's going to be a world class athlete and then a sportscaster for ESPN.

Alisha steps forward

Alisha, really funny but in a quiet way, and super sweet. Always tells the truth, except when it will hurt your feelings and then she tries to lie but she is really bad at it, so you know anyway. Good singer and rocks at crafts. An older sister and a younger brother, Toby, he has Downs Syndrome. Parents together, nice, really religious. You can't swear at her house but they always have really good snacks. She's going to have her own crafting, sewing TV show on cable and be a professional singer.

Megan appears

Megan is super-super smart and good at science. She is what everyone calls a problem solver and she likes it even though she says she doesn't. She also loves to sing but really stinks at it. Watching her ask Alisha how she sounds when we do karaoke is the funniest, most painful thing ever. Parents divorced. Her mom has HBO and Showtime at their place. She has to go to therapy but we all think it is really for her folks. She doesn't have any brothers or sisters but her cousin Drew is in an actual rock band in California. Doctor and maybe research scientist.

MEGAN

Innocent Slime. That's their name. Drew's band. What about you?

LIZZIE

What?

MEGAN

Tell them about you. What you are, what you are going to do.

LIZZIE

That's hard.

(Pause. Then points to her t-shirt)

I'm a girl with a cell phone!

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MEGAN

(To audience) Lizzie has an extensive vocabulary, is really good at Language Arts and Social Studies. She is always nice to new kids and other kids who are, you know, different or something, but not in a fakey way but in a cool way. Parents together. She has the biggest room out of all of us. Her mom only buys whole wheat, healthy snack stuff, doesn't believe in soda, but they have four scooters so we can all go out at the same time, even though one of the scooters is a little busted. I think she should be an editor, like for the New York Times or Pop Stars magazine.

KATH

Supreme Court lawyer or business.

ALISHA

You can be my manager. Or maybe my agent?

LIZZIE

STOP! Class. Let's just go to class! *(To audience)* Here we go. The beginning of the "Lizzie Decides" year.

ALISHA

Don't worry. We'll help.

MEGAN

Empirical data will be collected. I can make a graph.

KATH

I can just decide for you.

LIZZIE

Oh boy. It's going to be a long year.

END SCENE ONE

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SCENE TWO

LIZZIE

Homeroom. Team teaching. Keeps things interesting, I'll say that.

*Lizzie, Megan, and Alisha sit. Kath exits.
GUY enters and sits. DAD, OTHER MOM
and MOM enter, all are wearing
"TEACHER" t-shirts. The following is
recited in round-robin, "Miss Mary Mack"
style*

DAD TEACHER

It's challenge math, math, math-

OTHER MOM TEACHER

Historical facts, facts, facts-

MOM TEACHER

With syntax lax, lax, lax-

DAD TEACHER

All on a Mac, Mac, Mac.

OTHER MOM TEACHER

Ancient times, times, times-

MOM TEACHER

Big words and rhymes, rhymes, rhymes-

DAD TEACHER

Shapes and lines, lines, lines-

OTHER MOM TEACHER

Projects are fine, fine, fine.

MOM TEACHER

Construction tricks, tricks, tricks-

DAD TEACHER

Essays to fix, fix, fix-

OTHER MOM TEACHER

Exciting finds, finds, finds-

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MOM TEACHER

Homework on time, time, time.

DAD TEACHER

Exams are here, here, here-

OTHER MOM TEACHER

Ignore your peers, peers, peers

MOM TEACHER

Please keep in mind, mind, mind-

DAD TEACHER

Your scores are mine, mine, mine.

*They conclude in an excited flurry of cheers
and high-fives*

MEGAN

Oh my god.

ALISHA

Wow.

LIZZIE

They are really, really into the “team” part of team teaching.

GUY

I’m officially scared.

LIZZIE

(To audience)

That’s Guy. He’s my neighbor. I’ve know him since he moved across the street years and years ago. A little ADD, gets pulled out for reading help, only eats tan, brown, and white food, and *loves* the Packers. Decent grades but does awesome in computer lab. Parents divorced but don’t fight. Baby sister and they have two cats. He’s going to be a video game designer specializing in sports games like *Madden Football*.

(Scans the audience for a moment)

I sense some of you haven’t been in school for awhile. Let me bring you up to date. Have you ever seen *Transformers* or those movies with big action, military stuff? That’s what school is like. You’re sitting like an everyday person, minding your own business and then, you have to become an action hero.

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OTHER MOM TEACHER

(Gently)

So, Ancient Greece was a culture rich in-

Tone sounds

OTHER MOM TEACHER

(Drill sergeant style barking as she runs along the desks, slapping down an assignment)
GREEN FOLDER! MOVE PEOPLE, MOVE!!!

Students spring into action. In organized chaos, green folders are tossed in the air, caught, the paper is stuffed into the folder, and lanyards are straightened.

ALISHA

NO!

LIZZIE

What?

ALISHA

I can't find my ID!

Everyone stops, looks to the heavens and, in unison, screams a long, drawn out "NOOOO!" Megan throws herself down on the floor and battle crawls under the desks. She jumps up, lanyard in hand.

MEGAN

I got it, Alisha!

Alisha grabs it, puts it on, and embraces Megan. The students exit.

LIZZIE

(To audience)

See? This is not pretty. Eight times **a day** we go through this. And the week before state aptitude testing week? OMG. You can cut the tension. Advil? On every teacher's desk, I swear.

She points to Other Mom Teacher, who is now splayed on the ground, spent.

It's not their fault. I wouldn't want their job.

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She pauses, thinking

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Wow! Okay! This is good. One thing I don't want to be! A teacher. This is good information.

MEGAN

(Calling from offstage)

I'm inputting it on my graph.

LIZZIE

(Calling)

Thanks.

(To audience)

Okay, class, learning, blah, blah, blah. With the seven million different students in our school, our hall, Magenta Hall, I kid you not, Magenta Hall...with so many students, they actually ran out of colors...well, Magenta has lunch period at 11:15. Yes, in the morning.

*Tone sounds. Alisha, Megan and Lizzie sit.
Everyone else except Kath also sits and eats.*

ALISHA

I don't see Kath.

LIZZIE

Lavender's got the field trip today.

ALISHA

Okay, did you see the *The Choice* last night?

MEGAN

Tanya should **not** have been booted!

LIZZIE

Ya think?

ALISHA

She was fabulous! Okay, her hair is really, really bad-

LIZZIE

-sort of looked like blond popcorn-

MEGAN

-with glitter in it! They put glitter in it! Ew!

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LIZZIE

And the glitter jean-shorts with the pockets hanging out!

MEGAN

A styling disaster. She should just have worn-

ALISHA

GUYS! I was thinking about trying out.

Megan and Lizzie's mouths drop open

LIZZIE

WHAT?

MEGAN

Double WHAT?

ALISHA

Auditions. They announced on TV last night. They're going across the country this summer. I could be a superstar!!! With a recording contract! And concerts! Just like-

LIZZIE and MEGAN

(In unison)

YES!

Dad and Mom run out with a poster of Taylor Swift or another uber-popular teenage singer. The three scream in unison. Dad and Mom exit. Other Mom walks by them and shushes them.

OTHER MOM/LUNCH MONITOR

Girls, eat. Don't scream. You have one minute, eleven seconds.

LIZZIE

Sorry.

ALISHA

We're sorry.

Other Mom walks off

LIZZIE

(Mouth full)

Woe were arents let you.

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ALISHA
(Mouth also full)

What?

Will your parents let you?

MEGAN

(Alisha pauses)

ALISHA
Lots of great superstars have had great obstacles.

(The three pause)

LIZZIE
Well, the good news is that you have ten months to convince them.

Tone sounds. All exit except Lizzie. She turns to the audience.

You know how sometimes, at first you hear an idea and you think it is awesome and then you think about it for a second? Well this is sort of like that. Alisha has a really awesome voice. But she never tries out for anything. She hates even having to read out loud in class. She was nauseous for three days before her Civilizations presentation. I mean she just isn't bossy or pushy or...ambitious at all. She sings for us, with a CD and stuff. But maybe...even if you have one part of being able to do a really cool thing...maybe you don't have all the parts to make it a career. She would never wear glitter shorts with the pockets hanging out. She won't even wear glitter nail polish when we are doing manicures at Megan's. And she can take it off before she goes home. If they had TV shows about superstar crafters, that is what Alisha should do. But...that's not the way stuff is. And another thing. Superstar. That is so weird! I mean, Kath loves, I mean LOVES this singer. You...older people won't know him...well...

Guy comes strutting out, microphone in hand. His hair is styled slightly differently from the previous scene. Screams are heard.

Okay. Look at him. Doesn't he look almost exactly like Guy?

Guy shoves the mike in his back pocket, rearranges his hair, and pulls out a small gaming system.

See? See what I mean? But Kath totally ignores him. Guy is not a celebrity but...well...he is **nice**. For a guy *(She giggles at her own pun)*. Probably just as nice as-

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

*Guy flips his hair back and whips out the
mike. Screams again.*

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

I don't get it. But I do think...I don't want to be an agent. A superstar manager. Or a singer.

MEGAN
(Offstage)

I got it! Inputting it now.

LIZZIE

Thanks. And thanks, Guy.

Guy begins to exit.

Wait!

He does

As my dad says, let's sidebar.

*She walks to a slighting different position on
stage.*

Guys. Boys. All that...stuff. Okay, maybe it is all just a little confusing but, can I say, all you adults are way too focused on it. Anyway. I've know Guy since like, forever.

*They both lie on their stomachs and look at
a spot on the floor. They are now four years
old.*

GUY

It looks like a rock but it's a FROG!

*They flip to their backs. They are now six
years old.*

LIZZIE

If we lie here long enough, do you think a bird will poop on us?

Back on their stomachs. They are now eight.

GUY

If we lie here long enough, maybe my mom will think we are dead and bring us ice cream.

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They sit up. They are now ten.

LIZZIE
(Shaking her hand)

My turn.

She rolls imaginary dice.

They stand, back in the present. Dad runs out, gives them both their backpacks, and exits. Lizzie and Guy look “down the street,” watching for the bus.

GUY
(Trying to sound excited but failing)

My dad got an apartment right next to the amusement park. He says he’s gonna get us season passes.

(Pause)

Way cool.

LIZZIE

They both nod. She then burrows in her backpack and pulls out a candy bar.

Mom gave this for me for snack but my class is peanut-free. Want it?

GUY
(Takes it)

Thanks.

LIZZIE
(To audience)

So, Guy is okay. Then just this year, this.

Lizzie returns to the bus stop position.

Hey, Guy.

He looks the other way, picks up some pebbles and begins throwing them the other direction.

HEY! GUY!

LIZZIE

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GUY
(Head down)

Oh. Hey.

He resumes throwing pebbles the other direction

My mom says-

LIZZIE

Mom enters

MOM
-I think...he's having a rough time. The divorce and all.

LIZZIE
Mom! That was like two years ago!

MOM
Well, Lizzie, I think he may have...discovered girls.

LIZZIE
What?

MOM
You know...

LIZZIE
Discovered girls?! I've been here the whole time! Like he's just figuring out I'm a girl? He's...a boy but he's not stupid.

MOM
No, honey. He may *like* you. And now he doesn't know how to be with you.

LIZZIE
(To audience)
See? Just a little confusing. I have to admit, it bothered me a little. 'Cuz...I don't know why.

(She shrugs)

He stopped talking to me. He just would grunt, "Hey." So, this is what I came up with.

*Lizzie returns to the bus stop and whacks Guy **really hard** with her backpack.*

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

HEY!

GUY

STOP ACTING WEIRD WITH ME!

LIZZIE

Rubbing his shoulder, Guy stares at Lizzie for a moment.

Okay. Sorry.

GUY

Things got better after that. Not great but better. My mom said-

LIZZIE

(To audience)

Wow. Well, that's one solution, I guess.

MOM

That's an idea. Maybe I should be a counselor or diplomat?

LIZZIE

(To audience)

I'll create another table for that.

MEGAN

(Offstage)

Thanks. Okay, as our Team Teachers say, "Let's proceed."

LIZZIE

END SCENE TWO

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE THREE

Lizzie comes home from school.

MOM

Hey Lizard. How was school-

LIZZIE

-Did I learn anything? Yes. Homework? No. Hungry? A little. Will I give you a hug? Absolutely not.

MOM

I am nothing if not reliable.

LIZZIE

True.

MOM

And you are a little bit of a smarty-pants.

LIZZIE

True.

MOM

(Hugging Lizzie)

Isn't it nice to have someone know you so well?

LIZZIE

True...I mean, I guess. Mom, stop. *(To audience)* She is so needy.

MOM

You think I'm needy. I know that look. I'm just a MOM! We never stop hugging our babies.

After Mom gives her one more kiss on the head, Lizzie escapes to the fridge.

LIZZIE

(Getting a snack)

I would ask her for her opinion on my "Lizzie Decides Year" but she would get way too into it. There would be books. Discussion. Possibly weekend trips to random career days at NASA or museums or to China or something. Too painful to even think about.

Dad appears.

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LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Nope. Not asking him either. He would just worry that I was worried about stuff. And I'm not worried. I'm thinking. When you're thinking about stuff, parents get *so* freaked out, thinking that you're depressed or unhappy or have been traumatized when you're really just **thinking about stuff!**

DAD

Hey Lizard. Whatchya thinking about?

LIZZIE

I'm fine! Nothing! I'm fine! I'm not thinking about anything!

Dad and Mom look at each other.

You guys.

Lizzie flops down, snack in hand.

MOM

(To Dad)

We are so high maintenance.

DAD

You are.

MOM

You are.

DAD

No, you!

MOM

No, you!

LIZZIE

You guys! Stop!

They smile and exit as Lizzie pulls out her cell phone. She dials. Megan appears.

Still at After School Hut?

MEGAN

Five more minutes, then Dad picks me up for...you know.

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LIZZIE

(Hand over phone, whispers to audience)

Family therapy.

(To Megan)

My parents are traumatizing me with their bizarre behavior. Can you come over after?

MEGAN

Totally.

LIZZIE

Try to cry, okay? We have nothing good to eat here.

MEGAN

Will do.

They hang up and Megan exits.

LIZZIE

(Yelling)

Megan's coming over tonight after therapy.

MOM

(Offstage)

Okay.

LIZZIE

I was beginning to figure out I needed some additional help.

Megan enters with her backpack. The girls sit.

MEGAN

You need more sources. More data. A wider sampling.

LIZZIE

How do I get a wider sampling of me? Go through a black hole to a parallel universe?

MEGAN

No such thing. Parallel universe, I mean. Lots of black holes.

LIZZIE

I know. Have you seen our fridge?

(They giggle)

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Hello? How did she find whole wheat, gluten-free organic Oreos?

MEGAN

Oh! That reminds me!

She opens her backpack and pulls out handfuls of "fun-size" candy bars.

LIZZIE

Score! Wow!

MEGAN

Gotta love Dr. Dryer. I wonder if she gives adults pizza and hamburgers for crying...I mean sharing their feelings?

They both munch on a candy bar.

LIZZIE

Wow. This is a lot of...have you been saving up or something?

(Pause)

MEGAN

My dad and his new wife are moving. To Washington.

LIZZIE

Oh. I'm sorry.

MEGAN

It's okay. He told me last week. It's okay. I'll probably have to spend summers out there, which completely stinks. With their new baby, whatever it is. She won't even get an ultrasound to find out the sex. Why would anyone not want to know something? So you could be prepared and not be surprised and...surprised like that?

LIZZIE

Well, Washington. I mean, that's cool. The capital. Maybe you'll even get to see the president or something.

MEGAN

Not that Washington. Washington State! Not D.C. He can't even move to a fun, cool place like that, or New York, or Hollywood or something. He has to pick a place nobody knows anything about, way far away. Like they don't need chemical engineers other places? Better places?

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LIZZIE

What's your mom say?

Megan rolls her eyes.

Well, it might mean less therapy.

MEGAN

All the universities I want to go to are far away from there, I wouldn't even get good state residency for MIT or Harvard, if I'm out there in the middle of that dumb state.

LIZZIE

I'm really sorry.

Megan begins packing all the candy away.

MEGAN

Let's just focus on the problem. Okay, so we need more data. Perhaps conduct interviews? See what others want to do, interview those who have fulfilling careers. Definitely talk to your parents...don't give me that look...you could easily have a genetic pre-disposition for a certain job, like Kath and sports, with her mom, or Alisha.

LIZZIE

Alisha? Her mom is an eye surgeon and her dad an accountant. She wants to be a singer.

MEGAN

Have you not seen the eight million craft projects in her house? Hello? Fine motor skills! Scalpel. Glue gun. Same diff.

LIZZIE

Oh. Yeah!

MEGAN

And Kath and-

LIZZIE

-Miss Olympic trials. Okay.

MEGAN

Not everybody is gifted with fast twitch musculature. Okay, we also should expand the parameters. Let's examine what you excel at in school and, more importantly, WHY you excel at it. Is it interest or your particular skill set? Lots of variables. How do we get a control group? That's the question.

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*Lizzie is now digging in Megan's backpack
for more chocolate.*

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Hey! Let's get working. Your life calling isn't going to find itself.

END SCENE THREE

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE FOUR

Lizzie, Alisha, Megan, Kath and Guy sit facing Mom upstage. Mom is wearing a t-shirt which says "Science Teacher"

MOM/SCIENCE TEACHER

So fusion occurs when blah, blah, blah encounters yadda, yadda, yadda

Alisha jumps up and spins to face the audience. She is wearing a t-shirt which says, "I STINK at this!!!" She screams. Mom/Teacher pulls off her T-shirt to reveal a second, "Language Arts Teacher." Alisha peels off the "I STINK at this!!!" T-shirt and gives it to Megan to put on. All the students change seats.

MOM/LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

So an exposition serves the blah, blah, blah by yadda, yadda, yadda

Megan jumps up and screams. Mom/Teacher pulls off her T-shirt to reveal a third T-shirt, "Math Teacher." Megan peels off "I STINK at this!!!" T-shirt and gives it to Kath to put on. All the students change seats.

MOM/MATH TEACHER

So complex fractions blah, blah, blah when you yadda, yadda, yadda

Kath jumps up and screams. Mom/Teacher pulls off her T-shirt to reveal a third T-shirt, "Computer Teacher." Kath peels off "I STINK at this!!!" T-shirt and gives it to Lizzie to put on. All the students change seats.

MOM/COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER

So if you download blah, blah, blah, the site will yadda, yadda, yadda.

Lizzie jumps up and takes a deep breath to scream. Looks at the audience.

LIZZIE

Well, you get it, right?

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

She peels off the "I STINK at this!!!" T-shirt.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

This whole part of the experiment is not really helping. I mean, everyone is good at different stuff. How does that help me decide? I like Language Arts because the reading is fun but how do you make reading fiction a career? And science can be cool with chemical reactions and stuff but structuring experiments-

Megan appears, rapidly writing.

MEGAN

Oh, that part is so easy-

LIZZIE

For you-

MEGAN

For anybody! Oh geez, I could do it in my sleep. It's so obvious.

LIZZIE

Like forming a clear introductory paragraph for a book report?

(Megan pauses)

MEGAN

Excellent observation. Thank you. Fizzy.

LIZZIE

You're welcome. Mutant.

MEGAN

Anyway, this is all really good information we are collecting. I'm not really sure how to...how applicable it all is to our particular research topic...

Lizzie, Kath and Alisha set up the lunchroom table and sit as Megan is talking. Others also sit and lunchroom chatter is heard around them.

Okay, Lizzie, my initial findings seem to indicate that with your analytical and strong language skills, you should be good at debate.

LIZZIE

But I don't like debate.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

You sure? MEGAN

Yes. LIZZIE

Really? MEGAN

Absolutely. LIZZIE

That's a problem. MEGAN

I hate debate too. ALISHA

How can you not like debate? KATH

I don't like it. LIZZIE

Debate is great. You get to actually talk without getting detention! KATH

If the debaters manage not to swear. ALISHA

Everyone looks at Kath for a moment and then break into giggles.

You all are so obnoxious. I was making a point. KATH

About what? Pooping? MEGAN

(All four are now laughing)

Well, her argument was ridiculous and her name was Kitty. I'm only human! KATH

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

Now they are all really laughing. Other Mom/Teacher comes up.

OTHER MOM/TEACHER

Settle down, girls. Three more minutes.

KATH

Three minutes to stuff mystery meat in my face and then P. E. The worst part of my day followed by the best.

LIZZIE

Oh, the irony! And we all agreed. It's not mystery meat. It's horse with a touch of squirrel.

ALISHA

Stop! That always grosses me out!

KATH

She's kidding. Don't be such a baby.

ALISHA

I just don't like-

MEGAN

-Okay, no debate, which takes being a lawyer off the table.

LIZZIE

But didn't you say-

KATH

-she might have a genetical, predisposed thing for being a lawyer.

ALISHA

But if she doesn't LIKE it-

MEGAN

-Genetical isn't a word, Kath.

KATH

Oh please. This research project of yours, with Lizzie as test subject, could easily extend into summer if you don't get to some deciding action, Lizzie. But you would love that, right, Megs? A summer-long science thing. Nerd heaven.

(At the mention of summer, Lizzie glances at Megan)

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE

Put lawyer in the “Maybe” column.

MEGAN
(*Snapping*)

The “Maybe” column? There is no “Maybe” column. This is science. Research. Save “maybe” for your soft sciences.

KATH

Oh! Someone’s getting touchy!

MEGAN

I’m not touchy. I’m being accurate.

KATH

Well, accurate kinda looks like touchy to me.

LIZZIE

Guys, stop.

ALISHA

I think she was using “Maybe” as just an expression, right, Lizzie?

LIZZIE

-course.

KATH

Just an expression isn’t scientific, right, Megan?

MEGAN

Like “bite me” isn’t just an expression, right, Kath?

ALISHA

Let’s not fight.

KATH

I’m not fighting.

MEGAN

I’m not fighting.

KATH

And she started it anyway.

MEGAN

No, you did.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

KATH

Please! I so did not start it.

*Tone sounds. They all jump and exit except
Lizzie, who turns to the audience.*

LIZZIE

Megan and Kath have always...well, they both have rather strong, you know, opinions about stuff. So this isn't the first time things have...they have....well...anyway....I was hoping things between friends get easier as you get older. Like people learn to get along just like we learn stuff in school....but I'm beginning to have my doubts.

END SCENE FOUR

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE FIVE

*Lizzie, Megan, and Alisha are sitting
scrapbooking.*

ALISHA

So Kath got detention

MEGAN

Again.

ALISHA

Are they going to let her go to the meet?

MEGAN

Don't know.

(Lizzie is texting while Megan talks)

What is her problem?! I mean, I like her. She's fun with us, well most of the time...but then...this...picking on...well, you know. What if I got fat? Would she pick on me? Why can't she just-

LIZZIE

Wait. She says, "Going to meet. Gotta go to conning" What is that?

(Megan and Alisha peer over her shoulder)

Wait. She got auto-corrected. Counseling.

MEGAN

About time somebody who needs it has to go.

ALISHA

Wonder what her mom will say about that!? My folks would, I mean, if I acted like...it isn't the way we...well, it's not a good thing. Lizzie, what do you think? You've known her longest.

LIZZIE

I don't know. Honestly, her mom *(lowers her voice)* sorta scares me.

ALISHA

Her dad is really nice.

They all nod.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

MEGAN

But I know what you mean about her mom. I mean, I love the McDonalds her dad brings us but having to always eat it at the park or in his car is just plain weird.

ALISHA

She doesn't approve of it.

MEGAN

It's like everybody is scared of her.

LIZZIE

I am!

ALISHA

Me too.

They all giggle.

But she I still a good person. I mean, she's a mom. She wouldn't do anything really, really mean. I'm sure she wouldn't. Right? Right, Lizzie?

Flashback to the past. Lights dim on girls and Lizzie looks upstage. In a pool of intense light, Kath and Guy (now her brother), each holding a candy bar, and Other Mom stand next to a shopping cart. The sounds of a busy market can be heard. Lizzie rises and grabs a supermarket basket and walks to the corner of the light.

OTHER MOM

Candy? You want more candy? I am not going to be one of those mothers with obese, out of shape kids. Not gonna happen. If you want a candy bar, or any of this crap, you have to earn it. Drop down, give me twenty pushups and then we can talk. *(Pause)* Yeah. I didn't think so.

Other Mom grabs the candy bars out of their hands and tosses them aside.

Come on.

Other Mom, Kath and Guy exit. Lizzie returns to the scene.

LIZZIE

No idea-

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

MEGAN

So she has to hide McDonalds from her star athlete, fancy business tycoon mom? It's still not okay to be a bully like that. It just isn't!

LIZZIE

I know. Yes. I know. But she might need us to be there for her anyway. Do we just cut her out?

ALISHA

I told my mom about Kath. She told me to pray for her.

Spot up on Kath

MEGAN

Social exclusion, the shunning of another, can be an effective method of influencing someone in a group.

Megan cuts a photograph in half and the spot goes out on Kath.

That's how I feel. I don't like bullies.

ALISHA

But it feels wrong. To do that to her.

MEGAN

But *she* is wrong sometimes.

ALISHA

But do two wrongs make a right? Do we push Kath away because she pushed somebody else? At least, she was mean, do we then just turn around and be mean to her? Is that right? Lizzie?

LIZZIE

I don't know.

END SCENE FIVE

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE SIX

The four girls are in Alisha's room. Kath is doing push-ups. Alisha is working on an elaborate, detailed craft project.

KATH

Nineteen, twenty.

(She jumps up)

See?! Not that hard! And she was just whining about it and I told her to shut up. "I can't do it." Yeah, because you're a weak jerk and don't even try so your muscles are like marshmallows. And **I** get detention. She doesn't do anything and **I** get in trouble. Whine, whine, whine. She makes my skin crawl.

LIZZIE

Why do you pick on Maria?

KATH

I wasn't being mean! Geez, everybody is so sensitive. Life is hard. So, I just told her to shut up and try. So? That's all.

MEGAN
(muttering)

Anything else?

KATH

What?

LIZZIE
(loudly)

Did you call her "fat"?

(Pause)

Again?

KATH

Well, she is. Not like it's a secret.

ALISHA

Did your folks have to come in?

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

KATH

She didn't even try one push-up! Stop. The bleeding heart stuff is killing me. Maria is lazy, that's all. She needs to toughen up. I'm actually doing her a favor. She needs a trainer. A coach. I could get her into shape.

MEGAN

You? As Maria's coach? Are you kidding me? Alisha. Lizzie, help me out here. Am I right? I mean, do you think-

Alisha is at a particularly difficult piece placement

ALISHA

SHHH! Wait!

They do, frozen. She very, very gently places the piece.

Got it.

All exhale. Alisha begins very gently blowing on the spot to help set the glue.

What?

KATH

Never mind. *(To Alisha)* Did you talk to your folks?

MEGAN

Wait, we were still talking about-

ALISHA

Yes.

MEGAN
(To Alisha)

What?!

LIZZIE

About auditioning?!

ALISHA

Yes. I asked my dad.

KATH

And???? What did they say? Are they letting you go to the audition?

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

ALISHA

No.

MEGAN

Why not? I mean, what was his reason?

LIZZIE

Oh, Alisha! I'm sorry! That stinks!

MEGAN

Did you give him your reasons? Did he just say "no" with no explanation?

LIZZIE

What did he say?

Dad appears in a spot

DAD

Lisha, no. Why? A number of reasons. Don't cry. First, you're too young. Second, the lifestyle is not one we support or believe in. You know that. We have talked about this before. The behavior and lyrics are inappropriate for everyone, much less a young girl. Let me finish. LET ME FINISH. You **do** get to sing. We are not stopping you from singing. You sing in choir, at home, no one on this earth can stop your beautiful voice. But it is our job to protect you. To judge and weigh the benefits and risks of experience. The risks in this case far outweigh the benefits.

Spot on Dad goes out

KATH

That's all he said!?

(Alisha nods)

That's awful! My parents would never stop me from going after something, being ambitious. That so stinks!

Light change. Dad crosses to Alisha but no one can see him but her. He squats in front of her and takes her hand.

DAD

And, one more thing, most important of all, I believe. The life of a professional singer is not right for you. For Alisha. I know you. I see joy when you sing in choir or at home. But solos? Being in the spotlight? You hate that. I want you to be happy. When you're twenty-one, you can do what you want. But right now, there is a reason you need parental

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

DAD (CONT'D)

permission. You can trust me, sweetie. I'm not stopping your voice. I am protecting it. Okay?

ALISHA

(Still upset but smiling)

Okay, Daddy.

Dad exits.

KATH

The risks outweigh the benefits. Parent-speak. Ugh.

Alisha, smiling, continues on her craft.

And why are you smiling? I would be so angry! You look relieved!

ALISHA

(Frowning)

I'm not relieved! See!

LIZZIE

(To audience)

She is *so* relieved. See, I was right! This friendship, career, life-calling stuff? It's trickier than it looks.

END SCENE SIX

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE SEVEN

Other Mom as teacher is handing out test packets.

OTHER MOM/TEACHER

The verbal section includes blah, blah, blah and yadda, yadda, yadda.

DAD/TEACHER

The math portion has blah, blah, blah and algebraic yadda, yadda, yadda.

MOM/TEACHER

When you are finished blah, blah, blah and then yadda, yadda, yadda.

LIZZIE

(To audience)

Between MAP, ISATs, advanced placement edibility testing, presidential fitness P.E. evals, regular tests, quizzes, you would think I would be getting some answers. Like what I am good at. Like what to do with a friend who has her heart set on being something which would probably make her miserable, another friend who wants everything explained and organized and has parents who really are not helping her with that, another friend who seems highly motivated in becoming the national poster child for *How to Recognize that Bully Everyone is Always Talking About*, and another friend who ignores you, then talks to you, then hangs out with you like the old days, and then ignores you again. I so need a break.

(She raises her hand)

MOM/TEACHER

Lizzie?

LIZZIE

Before we get started, can I go to the girl's room?

Teacher hands her a hall pass. Lizzie takes it and turns to the audience.

Give me a minute to go, then you can have ten minutes and then we'll all meet back here, okay?

Waving the hall pass as she runs through the lobby to the bathroom.

Don't worry. You don't need one of these!

END ACT ONE

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

ACT TWO
SCENE ONE

The bureau with clothes spilling out is back on stage.

LIZZIE

Ah, I feel better. Okay, what should I wear?

She pulls on a baggy sweatshirt which says, "Thinking Hard. Please Leave Me Alone"

Good. Comfortable. And it has a hood so Mom can't complain.

She grabs her backpack, puts on a winter coat and gets ready to leave.

MOM

Why are you wearing that? Are you sad? Are you depressed? Do you need to talk? I'm here for you, you know.

DAD

We both are. Lizard, you need to talk your dad? I'll call work; tell them I'm going to be late.

LIZZIE

You guys! I'm FINE!

MOM

But, sweetie-

LIZZIE

Sometimes I want to look nice, sometimes I just want to blend in so I can think, okay?

DAD

And today is a thinking, blending day?

LIZZIE

Yes.

DAD
(To Mom)

Leave her alone. She wants to think.

MOM

I'm just letting you know you can talk to me-

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE

-about anything! I know!

She has an idea.

I know.

To her parents

Yes, actually, I do have something I want to share.

Mom and Dad very eagerly sit.

I want to share that I don't want to share anything right now! I want to think. Not talk.
Think. Okay?

MOM

Okay. Just-

Lizzie stops her with her hand up

Just-

Lizzie stops her with her hand up again

LIZZIE

Think. No talk. Think.

Lizzie stops her with her hand up again

MOM

Okay. But remember-

DAD

Honey, let her alone. She wants to think. But, Lizard, you know, we are here to hear anything you think, when you think what you're thinking...um...is ready to be...talked about.

(Lizzie looks to the audience)

Let's sidebar.

Mom and Dad freeze

Did you see what my mom is wearing? A T-shirt and jeans. Dad? A suit. Did I ask them if they were sad, depressed, or in need of emotional counseling? NO! Do I ask Mom why she isn't wearing her red party dress with the velvet striped stuff on it to do the dishes or go to Jewel? No. When they want to blend in, they do, no questions. When I do, well, you

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

saw what happened. This is why teenage sarcasm occurs, okay? Just so you know. Because reason appears to have very little impact.

Mom and Dad exit and Guy appears, backpack on, also in a winter coat

GUY

Hey.

LIZZIE

Oh. Hey.

Lizzie begins texting.

GUY

You okay?

She continues texting.

Hey. Look. A rainbow.

Lizzie briefly glances up to the sky.

No. On the snow. From the icicles.

LIZZIE

Oh. Yeah.

She continues texting.

GUY

Hey. Look at that.

He crosses offstage. She continues texting.

(Offstage)

I've never seen anything like this. Think we should call the police?

Lizzie looks up and slides her phone into her pocket.

LIZZIE

What?

She is hit by a snowball.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

GUY

(Running on stage with another snowball)

'Cuz a crime has just been committed.

LIZZIE

Guy, I can't believe you!

Laughing, she begins chasing him.

END SCENE ONE

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE TWO

LIZZIE

(To audience)

So the year keeps going. Progress was being made. Kath only got two more detentions. Alisha managed to make it through a solo at church and only threw up twice before and once after. Megan's dad found a good summer science camp right close to the new place he was moving, and her career chart for me was getting *really* detailed. Nice to be able to take park ranger, orthodontist, and hazardous materials specialist off the table. And then...and it always feels like it comes out of nowhere...report cards come out.

Megan, Kath and Alisha enter, backpacks on. Megan has a piece of paper in her hand, Lizzie is slowly circling around the driveway on a scooter, Kath is playing with a soccer ball, and Alisha is drawing a design on the driveway with chalk.

MEGAN

It is so unfair! And, just, WRONG!

LIZZIE

What?

MEGAN

Look at this. Look! After all my hard work!

Alisha gets up and peers over Megan's shoulder.

ALISHA

It looks good. You got a ton of As!

MEGAN

And what else?

Lizzie rolls over and looks.

LIZZIE

Are you talking about the B minus in Language Arts.?

MEGAN

What else would I be talking about? A B minus!

KATH

Geez, Megan, chillax. I got one B minus and four Cs. I'll trade.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

MEGAN

You don't exactly get it.

ALISHA

What?

MEGAN

It's almost a C!

ALISHA

So?

MEGAN

A C is average! I am not average. I am...well, not average.

LIZZIE

Well...

MEGAN

What?

ALISHA

Lizzie! Megan, she isn't saying you are average.

KATH

Yeah, but what exactly are you saying, Lizzie?

LIZZIE

Well, no, you, Megan, aren't an average person but maybe-

MEGAN

What?

LIZZIE

Maybe you are sort of...average at Language Arts.

Megan is stunned

It's okay. Really. Average is not bad. It's just normal. Like in science? The norm.

MEGAN

I work my butt off in every class. Give me an example. I want proof. Give me an example.

LIZZIE

Okay, your *Animal Farm* essay.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

MEGAN

Well, she graded hard on that. I think she is just an unfair, hard grader.

LIZZIE

You said the book was about farming.

MEGAN

It was set in a BARN!

LIZZIE

The barn was a metaphor.

MEGAN

I hate metaphors. Why can't they just say what something is?

LIZZIE

Exactly. You have trouble seeing why, the point, of a metaphor. It's a literary device. Literary. Language Arts. See? Sometimes you don't get it.

MEGAN

I get it. I just don't understand the reason for it.

KATH

So you don't get it. Who cares? I think they'll still accept you in Club Nerd with a B minus. I mean, I got a C minus in L.A. I don't get it either.

MEGAN

Well, you of all people should get it. All that extra time to study while you're sitting around IN DETENTION.

KATH

Hey! Bite me, brainiac. At least I have more than three friends.

MEGAN

At least my friends are because I'm nice, not because I'm a sports showoff who gangs up on other people for fun.

KATH

Well at least my parents are still together and my dad isn't moving all the way across the country just to get away from me.

They all go silent

ALISHA

Kath!

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

MEGAN

Wow. Okay. Um. I think...I have to go.

Megan exits, running.

KATH

(Defiantly)

She started it.

LIZZIE

And you ended it.

SCENE TWO

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE THREE

Dad is working on the broken scooter. Lizzie wanders over to him.

LIZZIE

Dad, why do you like being a lawyer?

DAD

Is there a screw...honey, hand me that screwdriver right-

Lizzie hands him a screwdriver from the toolbox

-Thanks. What did you say?

LIZZIE

Oh, it's just something...for school. Why do you like being a lawyer? For your job. It sounds like it is just you and the other side fighting all the time. What is it that you like about that?

DAD

Oh boy. Let me see. Well, I've always been sort of a student of people. Everybody. Even the messed up ones, I suppose. Which is actually everybody but-

He tries rolling the scooter but it still wobbles. He goes at it again with the screwdriver.

Anyway, I guess I'm just a fan of the underdog. The guy who doesn't get a fair shake. I really like applying my intelligence to...well, my brain just likes to hammer out how to make things as fair for everyone as possible.

LIZZIE

But you defend...well...some...um...

DAD

Some real jerks. Yes, I do.

He stops working

People can do some very bad things but I don't believe people are born bad. Most people aren't born broken. We break them. And then they break others.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE

But is it hard, if you know somebody is guilty?

DAD

Sometimes, yes. But I've come to learn whenever there is one crime, another has come before it.

*In a pool of intense light, Kath and Guy as
Other Mom grabs their candy bars. Light
goes out.*

Everybody needs somebody in their corner, Lizard. But helping someone isn't just agreeing with them or what they do. People and the things they do aren't black and white, cut and dried. We all live somewhere between science and faith, in the murky middle of our humanity.

END SCENE THREE

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE FOUR

LIZZIE

So Kath and Megan were fighting. Alisha and I didn't know what to do. Megan wanted us on her side, Kath on hers.

Megan rides a scooter across the stage one direction, Kath runs from onstage from the other. They just glare at each other as they pass.

Lizzie crosses the stage and comes home from school. Mom is hard at work on the computer.

MOM

Hey Lizard.

LIZZIE

Hey Mom. Yes, I learned something. Homework? A little. Hungry? A little. Will I give you a hug?

Lizzie leans into her mom and gives her a hug which Mom returns and then resumes working.

MOM

Homework?

LIZZIE

(Looking to the audience)

I just said, yes, I have homework.

MOM

There's...um...stuff in the fridge. I found some pretty good mango-persimmon Fig Newton's at Whole Foods.

LIZZIE

Oh joy.

Lizzie grabs a handful of grapes, grabs the remote, and turns on the "TV."

MOM

Not too loud.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

*Alisha and Kath appear, wearing T-shirts
which say "TV Stars"*

ALISHA

Hi, I'm Alley!

KATH

And I'm Kat!

ALISHA and KATH
(In unison, loudly)

And this is *The Alley and Kat Trying to be Super Pop Stars Show!*

MOM

Turn it down!

*Lizzie changes the channel. Guy, Alisha,
Kath, Megan and Dad gather.*

DAD

As principal of Hollywood Making Everyone a Superstar Academy, I am announcing the enrollment of our newest students. Talented, super nice, super talented, super undiscovered singing and dancing talent Victoria-

Alisha steps forward

-funky and funny best friend Phoebe-

Megan steps forward

Super rich and sort-of-talented evil nemesis Juliet

Kath steps forward

And the super pop star in disguise returning to get his diploma, Miles Cycle!

Guy steps forward.

Lizzie changes the channel rapidly.

KATH

I'm a wizard-

ALISHA

-Shape-shifter-

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

GUY

-Rock star-scientist-

MEGAN

-Blood sucking rookie cop-

KATH

-genius psychic fashion magazine editor-

ALISHA

-who lives on a cruise ship-

GUY

-in New York City-

KATH

-where it is never winter-

ALISHA

-and parents don't exist except for comic shenanigans!

Mom enters, bends over and touches the remote button. Alisha, Kath, Guy and Megan are now "paused"

LIZZIE

MOM!

MOM

You ok?

LIZZIE

Stop asking me that.

MOM

Don't talk to me like that.

LIZZIE

Sorry. Sorry. I'm just...I'm not sure....I don't know what to do.

MOM

About what?

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE

Stuff. Everything. Kath. Kath and...how she sometimes is mean to people. Kath and Megan fighting. What I am going to do. Everything.

MOM

Kath and Megan are two girls with very strong...personalities.

LIZZIE

No kidding.

MOM

But I do know it isn't a good thing to be mean to others. Talk about people behind their backs or to their faces. Being judgmental is-

LIZZIE

You do it.

MOM

What!?! I do not!

LIZZIE

You're always saying stuff about Aunt Connie to Dad.

MOM

Oh. Well...um...

LIZZIE

You call her a narrow minded butt-in-ski. And once you said she would drive Martin Luther King to join a Special Forces wet team. And last year, at Thanksgiving, remember you told her to her face-

MOM

Okay! Okay! Yes, but...okay, everybody talks about other people sometimes. I think it's human nature. Some people make you so crazy; you have to talk it out...figure it out.

LIZZIE

Figure what out?

MOM

How to "be" with them. And, maybe, well, okay, to vent a little bit. It isn't the nicest side of humanity but there is a difference between being a bit of a jerk sometimes because we are upset and being deep down a little bit mean all the time. Sometimes somebody will try to make someone else feel bad just so they feel better. All we really are is what we do, Lizard.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE

What does that mean? You just don't get it.

Mom takes a deep breath of patience.

MOM

Well, maybe a walk to clear your head? Get outside. Sometimes, you have to-

LIZZIE

-Augh, I know, Mom! You don't get it! Never mind.

MOM

I might not "get" some things, but one thing I do get is that Hollywood isn't going to give you any answers.

LIZZIE

Whatever.

Lizzie flops back on her stomach, begins texting, and reaches towards the remote.

MOM

Well, you know what they say. If you don't know what to do, don't do anything.

LIZZIE

What do you think I'm...HEY!

Mom has plucked the cell phone out of Lizzie's hand, takes the television remote and turns off the TV, and pops the rest of Lizzie's sandwich in her mouth. She kisses the top of Lizzie's head and exits with all the devices. Lights out on Kath, Alisha, Guy and Megan.

LIZZIE

But...wait...NO!

Lizzie lunges for her but is too late. Mom is gone. Lizzie lies on her stomach for a moment. She then rolls on to her back. The lights change to indicate she is now outside. A scooter rolls onstage and flops to the ground. Lizzie gets on it. Scoots in a large circle around the stage. For a loop, Guy joins her on a scooter, and then peels off.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

Then Megan. Then Megan and Alisha, both looking like they are chattering but no words come out. Then they exit. Kath enters and jogs next to Lizzie's scooter and then exits. Lizzie continues to circle. She finally comes to a slow stop in front of the audience.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, occasionally, parents might have a good idea? It can be quite flabbergasting.

END SCENE FOUR

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

SCENE FIVE

LIZZIE slowing circling her scooter on the driveway. KATH runs up.

KATH

I got your text. I just want you to know I do not want to talk about the nerd-mutant again. I am so over her.

LIZZIE

It's not about Megan.

KATH

So, what?

Lizzie pauses, trying to figure out how to begin

WHAT? I have practice.

LIZZIE

We've been friends for a long time.

KATH

Yeah.

LIZZIE

It bothers me that when you see somebody is upset or not good at something, you pick on them. You don't give anybody a break.

KATH

Oh, god! Not you too!

LIZZIE

I don't want to hang out with someone who laughs at other people or calls them names behind their backs. Or to their faces. It bothers me. I want to keep being your friend but not if it means I can't be friends with other people.

Kath looks at Lizzie for a moment.

KATH

Whatever. I'm spending way more time with my real friends anyway. Kids who do things. Who don't have to do a science experiment run by a loser mutant science nerd to figure out what to think or who they are.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

Okay. LIZZIE

Okay then. KATH

They look at each other for a long moment.

Whatever.

Kath runs off. Megan enters from the other side of the stage.

I got your text. MEGAN

I just want to say- LIZZIE

-I'm sorry. MEGAN

Oh. Okay. Why? LIZZIE

MEGAN
It is wrong for me to talk about...to be jerky about Kath to you. You've known her longer than me and...she just...really hurt my feelings and I was just-

LIZZIE
-hurt.

MEGAN
Yeah. I was hurt by a lot of stuff I think. You should see all the candy in my backpack.

They both smile

So, anyway. With all this...it is actually a supported fact that different people can gain benefit from a variety of different relationships. Just 'cuz I can't stand Kath and her...opinions, doesn't mean you don't gain something from...you know...her.

LIZZIE
Kath and me sort of are not friends anymore.

MEGAN
You don't have to choose. I just said-

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE

It wasn't about you. It was about Kath and me. It's okay.

MEGAN

Think she is going to talk about you behind your back? Tease you?

LIZZIE

Probably.

MEGAN

I feel sort of bad for her. For Kath. Sort of. Not a lot. Is it okay that I say that to you?

Lizzie nods.

LIZZIE

But let's not talk about her too much, okay?

Megan nods.

MEGAN

How's Alisha? I haven't really talked to her in awhile either.

LIZZIE

She's great. She organized an entire crafting program at her church for the little kids. She's in heaven.

MEGAN

Ha! That's good! Heaven. Church.

LIZZIE

And she sang at her brother Toby's birthday party and she totally did not vomit once. It was awesome!

MEGAN

Lizzie, I'm sorry if I was mean.

LIZZIE

You weren't mean. You aren't mean.

Megan exits

LIZZIE

(To audience)

There were some interesting developments after that. The AP testing came back and I qualified for AP classes in L. A. and...wait for it...science. Megan almost had a cow.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

And Megan placed in all AP subjects (*whispering*) except Language Arts. We don't talk about that. (*Back to full voice*) Alisha's folks actually let her start taking private voice lessons. And we made a new friend.

OTHER MOTHER/MARIA steps forward dressed in an oversized fleece pullover.

Maria. That girl in P.E. that Kath kept...well, anyway....when I stopped hanging out with...well, I was in line with Maria the AP orientation and she is so cool. She's into politics, and her folks actually took her to an actual political convention with delegates and everything once. She has two older sisters. Parents together. He dad travels a lot and speaks three languages. Her mom lets us watch R rated DVDs if it isn't horror and they have a convertible that they said they will take us out in this summer. Megan is bummed but I think they will take her in it before school ends at least once. The best part? Maria doesn't know what she is going to be either.

Other Mom/Maria exits

And Kath? Well, she leaves Maria alone. We say "hi" in the hall. Sometimes. I think she started dating this guy Mike, which is okay. He seems nice. I feel bad about how it all turned out sometimes but what I feel worse about is that I knew Kath for a really long time but I don't really miss her. So the Lizzie Decides Year turned out sort of differently than I expected. I thought I would figure out what, who I was supposed to be.

Dad appears

A lawyer like my dad.

Mom appears

A graphic artist like my mom.

Megan appears

A scientist.

Other Mom appears

A teacher.

Alisha appears

A superstar pop singer.

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Kath appears

An athlete.

Guy appears

A computer analyst.

But I didn't. Figure it out. Okay, so let's look at it one more time. Objectively. In the past year, I did pretty well in school. Awesome in LA. I made a friend. I lost a friend. Survived my Mom's healthy, organic, GMO-free nutritional choices and her attempts at smothering me which she calls parenting. Hung out with my dad while he almost fixed stuff.

She pauses

You know, I think maybe it's how you try to figure the future out that makes you...you, right now. It's just what you do every day. Wow. Yeah! So this is me, today. Lizzie. This is who I am. And I think just maybe...I'm totally okay, right now.

She looks over her shoulder at Mom

And don't you dare hug me!

Mom hugs her anyway

Blackout

THE END

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

Totally Okay, Right Now Prop List
ACT ONE

3 cell phones
1 house phone
Table/bureau with drawers on wheels
Window
3 mounted posters of palm trees & Alaska tundra & fall scene
4 backpacks
6 green folders
4 school ids on lanyards
Cafeteria food on trays
Mounted poster of Taylor Swift
Microphone (does not have to work)
Handheld gaming system
Candy bar
After school snack
Handfuls of “fun size” candy
Graphs and charts on clipboard
Scrapbooks and scrapbooking material
Crafting table (on wheels)
Elaborate craft project
Glue gun
Bead
Scissors
Shopping cart
Shopping basket
Photograph of two girls, cut in half every night
6 Test papers
Pencils
Hall pass

ACT TWO

Long sleeve hoodie with: “Thinking Hard, Please Leave Me Alone”
Snowball
4 scooters
Sidewalk chalk
Report card
Soccer ball
Screwdriver
Toolbox
Laptop computer
Table on wheels
Grapes
Cell phone
Remote

TOTALLY OKAY, RIGHT NOW

T-shirts:

Kath's Mom

Megan's Mom

Alisha's Mom

4 Teacher

Tween

Teenager

Brooding, Rebellious Teenager

Girl with her own cell phone!

Science Teacher

Math Teacher

Computer Teacher

Language Arts Teacher

I Stink At This!!!!

2 TV Stars