

To Speak Again



by
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CAST

COLIN SLIKE. Male, 18, any ethnicity. The best pitcher on the baseball team. He's homosexual and wants to keep it secret. Rarely lets his guard down, but he's a genuine softie underneath.

MAYA YARA. Female, 17, any ethnicity. Sheltered for most of her life, don't let her shy exterior fool you - she's a complete kook on the inside. However, she is levelheaded and doesn't often let her emotions get the best of her.

KAI (KYLE) INGRAM. Male, 18, any ethnicity. Comes from a poor background with a domineering father and has learned to hide his intellect with an easy-going attitude. Cracks easy under pressure. His relationship with Maya is the best thing he's got going for him.

SONYA BONELARK. Female, 19, any ethnicity, must sing and play guitar. Has dyed green hair. Due to SVT (a heart condition), she had to miss school for an entire year. Not unfriendly, just doesn't have time for other people's bullshit.

RAMON VASQUEZ. Male, 18, latino. The beloved class president. Charming with a devilish sense of humor which disguises the fact he uses alcohol to deal with severe anxiety.

RICKY SLIKE. Male, early 20s, any ethnicity. Colin's brother. He's mean to Colin, but most of the time it's playful. Most of the time.

SAM ROOSEVELT. Features are obscured so the audience can't tell Sam's gender or ethnicity. To cut down on the number of cast members, Sam can be played by the same actor that plays Ricky.

ENSEMBLE:

These roles can be played by as many or as few actors as desired.

MEN:

OFFICER TOMLIN. Police officer.

COACH ROMUNDER. Baseball coach.

WOMEN:

JUSTINE FISCHBACH. Reporter.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM. Principal.

ANY:

DEMON 1

DEMON 2

NOTES

The play mostly takes place at Rosewood High School, which is located in a decent sized suburb of a larger American city.

PRELUDE

Lights black.

Consecutive dialogue.

KAI

I don't know what to do.

MAYA

Kiss me again.

SONYA

I am alive.

COLIN

I know it was you.

RAMON

I am a warning.

Repeat until silenced by -

Five gunshots.

SCENE 1

JUSTINE

Thank you for joining us for our special news broadcast this evening. We will be taking a look at -

(her words are drowned out by intense static - she physically appears to "skip" as though on VHS)

I bring you now to our one and only Rosewood High School -

(static)

- share with you about a few notable community members -

(long static)

Ricky says his parents made him drive Colin to school every morning. Colin and Ricky Slike were two average brothers. Always fighting. Always.

It's a morning in the spring. COLIN and RICKY are sitting in a car in silence. RICKY is in the driver's seat while COLIN is in the passenger's.

RICKY

I hate you.

COLIN

Feeling's mutual.

(silence)

Am I allowed to get out yet?

RICKY

Nah. Just not feeling it, you know?

COLIN

Christ.

(silence)

RICKY

Alright. Get the fuck out of my car, Butt muncher.

COLIN

(getting out)

Sure thing, Tiny dick.

RICKY

Faster, Scrotumlicker!

COLIN

I'm out, Jesus!

RICKY

A little blasphemous, but you know what? Can't say I disagree.

COLIN

Fuck off, Asshat.

RICKY

Whatever. Pick you up at what, six?

COLIN
Yup. Later.

RICKY
Fuck off.

RICKY exits. Sound of a car driving away.
Colin begins his walk to class. KAI and MAYA
are onstage together, holding hands.

COLIN
Howdy, Lovebirds!

KAI
Hey, Colin!

MAYA
Hi.

COLIN
Oh! By the way, was the essay due Wednesday or Friday?

KAI
Um...
(looks at MAYA for the answer)

MAYA
Friday.

KAI
Friday!

COLIN
Oh thank goodness, I haven't even looked at the assignment.

KAI
Nope; up top for being boned!

MAYA
It's only two pages.

KAI

Yeah, two pages I'm probably not gonna do.

MAYA

Kai!

KAI

Okay, fine. Two pages I'm going to have you do.

MAYA playfully slaps KAI as he laughs.

COLIN

Well. I have a question for Mrs. Conway, so I'll see y'all later.

KAI

Tell her Maya and I are skipping class to make out!

MAYA makes a squeaking noise and tries to hide herself in her clothes. COLIN chuckles.

KAI

I'm kidding, babe!

MAYA

Oh. I'm relieved and yet at the same time, a little disappointed.

KAI

You'll just have to wait for a few hours.

(gives her a quick kiss)

MAYA

(squeaks)

COLIN

You two are disgusting. See you in class!

KAI

Sorry, can't hear you over the sound of how beautiful this girl is!

COLIN walks away. KAI and MAYA are replaced by RAMON talking with PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

I'm sorry, Ramon, but the chant you came up with is just not appropriate for the students.

RAMON

Their mascot is a chicken, it'd be a fun play on words. Oh, hey - Colin, just the man I needed to see!

COLIN

Yo?

RAMON

Assembly next Friday needs a sports update! The students would love it if you gave the announcement; especially if you did it so we could see your chiseled abs.

COLIN

I'm flattered, but public speaking really isn't my thing.

RAMON

C'mon! Everybody loves the Slike Strike!

(strikes a snake-like pose and lashes an arm out at COLIN)

Hsssssss!

COLIN

No! Get Polo to do it or something.

RAMON

Please?

COLIN

No.

RAMON

Dude, I will get on my knees and beg and whimper like a dog that you forgot to feed until you do this teeny tiny little speaking thing that everybody would love you for. Do you want to make me whimper?

He said no, Ramon.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

Ugh, fine!

RAMON

See you in class.

COLIN

Later, brosef.

RAMON

RAMON and PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM are replaced by SONYA tuning her guitar.

Hey, Sonya.

COLIN

Don't interrupt my tuning.

SONYA

Okay then. See you in class.

COLIN

Mm-hm.

SONYA

SONYA is replaced by COACH ROMUNDER. COLIN freezes.

Colin.

COACH ROMUNDER

Morning, Coach.

COLIN

How's the arm?

COACH ROMUNDER

Better.

COLIN

COACH ROMUNDER

Think you can close for the game next week?

COLIN

Yes. Yes I can.

COACH ROMUNDER

You better be able to.
See you at practice.

COACH ROMUNDER exits, leaving COLIN
alone, all sign of cheer killed.

SCENE 2

JUSTINE

It was the spring semester, and for many it was their senior year. All the hallmarks you expect of American seniors filled the halls that spring: excitement and sadness about the countdown of spring events, fretting about the future, friendships coming together... or falling apart. But of course there was one thing hovering in the backs of everyone's minds. The word may not have been spoken, but the thought was always there through the bustling and business. Graduation.

SONYA is sitting and writing lyrics in a
journal. She doesn't notice MAYA enter and sit
next to her.

MAYA

Hi, Sonya.

SONYA

Holyshitwhatthefuck

MAYA

Sorry.

SONYA

Ah! Don't do that okay?

MAYA

I'm so sorry.

SONYA

It's fine; my heart's beating regularly. Jesus. What could have been so important that you almost killed me?

MAYA

I, um, just wanted to ask you for some advice.

SONYA

What makes you think I'd be good at giving advice?

MAYA

I just... a feeling?

SONYA

Okay. I guess I'll try to do my best.

MAYA

So, um, it's about Kai...

SONYA

Yep, nope, can't help.

MAYA

But I didn't even ask the que-

SONYA

Maya.

MAYA

Yes?

SONYA

Do I look like the sort of person who goes on dates.

(MAYA is silent)

You're supposed to say "no, you don't look like the sort of person who goes on dates."

MAYA

Oh.

SONYA
Yeah, no. I can't help you.

MAYA
Can I ask anyway?

SONYA
No. I won't be of any help.

MAYA
Please?

SONYA
Maya...

MAYA
C'mon, no one else talks to me.
(beat)

SONYA
Fine, you win.

MAYA
Yay!

SONYA
Just keep it short. You two are so adorable it makes me nauseous.

MAYA
(building up speed)
Okay. Um, well my mom doesn't want me to see him anymore; she's, like, really adamant about it and it's impossible to not do what she wants when she gets like that, but he makes me feel so good about myself I can't bring myself to do it, but if I don't my mom will get the Reverend to come over - oh the *Reverend*, this man is just - I don't want to talk bad about a man of God and I am sure that the Lord knew what He was doing when He chose him -
(she mutters a brief prayer under her breath)
- but than man is just...
(leaning in really close, whispering)
...a *jerk*.

SONYA

A jerk, huh?

MAYA

YES. Ugh you should see the way that man runs the children's service - one time, he got so worked up talking about some hellfire and brimstone thing that when a four year old - *a four year old* - started crying because he was so scared out of his wits about it all, do you know what the Reverend did? He screamed about a demon taking residence in the church and literally threw his bible *at the child*. I WAS TEN. I STILL GET NIGHTMARES.

SONYA

Goddamn Maya, you are so S.O.L.

MAYA

S.O.L?

SONYA

Shit outta luck. Mom wins, tada! There's my lovely advice.

MAYA

(looks like she might cry)

Oh.

SONYA

Oh, Maya I'm sorry I just - I'm such a... look. Okay. If you really want to be with him, think about it like this; would you be more miserable if you never saw Kai again or if the Reverend does whatever he's gonna do? Bash your skull in with a cross or something, I guess.

MAYA

I see.

SONYA

Sorry, I guess I can be a bitch sometimes. I hope that helps.

MAYA

Thank you.

SONYA

Don't mention it.

MAYA leaves. SONYA goes back to writing lyrics. KAI bursts in.

KAI

Hey Sonya, can -

SONYA

Jesus tit-wiggling Christ!

KAI

Bad time?

SONYA

Don't... just... stop with the sneaking up and startling me thing.

KAI

My B. Just wanted to ask you something about Maya.

SONYA stares at KAI, then at where MAYA left, then back to KAI.

SONYA

Are the two of you plotting some sort of sick prank?

KAI

What?

SONYA

(mocking)

"Uh, I want advice about Kai!" "I want advice about Maya!"

(forceful)

Talk to each other about your damn problems! Don't talk to me!

KAI

Maya was here?!

SONYA

Duuuuuh - yes!

KAI

(sitting next to SONYA)

What did - what did she want?

SONYA

Dude you are like way too close I can smell whatever you at for lunch.

KAI breathes into his hand, then sniffs.

KAI

It's not *that* bad, it was just grilled cheese.

SONYA

Mm-hm.

KAI

I mean it's -

SONYA

Take your breath and go.

KAI

But what did -

SONYA

Talk with her. Not me.

Pause.

KAI

Can I ask you one quick question?

SONYA

What did I just say?

KAI

...talk with Maya?

SONYA

Yes.

KAI

But you see, it's my dad he's -

SONYA

La la la, I can't heeaaaaarr you...

KAI

- he wants me to break up with her.

Pause.

SONYA

What?

KAI

Oh, so you can hear me.

SONYA

Seriously, you need to talk with Maya. Your dad wants you to break up with her, yes?

KAI

That's what I just said, uh-huh.

SONYA

You might find her more empathetic to that situation than you might think.

KAI

(not understanding)

Oh... I... see...

SONYA

Just... go talk to her.

KAI

Okay. Well, thanks anyway, Sonya.

SONYA

Later, Kai. Oh, don't spread this kindness shit around - I've got a reputation to keep up.

KAI

Peace.

SONYA nods as KAI exits. She writes. She doesn't notice RAMON sit next to her.

RAMON

Ciao, Sonya!

SONYA

Goddammit! What is wrong with people today?!

RAMON

Did I do something wrong?

SONYA

Yes. Giving people heart attacks. Wrong. Very very wrong.

RAMON

Sorry?

SONYA

This had better be good and quick.

RAMON

That's what she -

SONYA

Leave. Now.

RAMON

I'm sorry, I couldn't resist! It'll be quick, I promise!

SONYA

You have thirty seconds before I use this pen to rearrange your internal organs.

RAMON

Spirit Day assembly - about a month away. Guitar? Sing? You?

SONYA

You want me to play?

RAMON

Si.

SONYA

Um, wow, yeah, I'll think about it.

RAMON

How about you just agree to do it now so I don't have to ask any other people?

SONYA

If it means making your life easier, then no, I guess I won't decide yet.

RAMON

Well, then I guess I can ask Zoe Alderman...

SONYA

You will do no such thing.

RAMON

You leave me with no choice, darling.

SONYA

If you ask that fake-boobed, porcelain-faced hussy who thinks that turkey-warble is singing, I will flay you with a spatula.

RAMON

Cool, I'll let ASB know you've agreed to do the thing.

SONYA

I never said that!

RAMON

(exiting)

What's that, invisible Zoe? Why, yes, I'd love to have you perform at Spirit Day...

SONYA

I'll do it, you bitch! But you're taking the blame when I play a twenty-minute song about menstruation!

(SONYA gasps and clutches her chest.)

Shit. Oh shit, where is it?

Dizziness and coughing begin as she searches her person and belongings for a pill bottle of Calcium Channel Blockers. Her chest is causing her a great deal of pain. She can't find the pills.

SONYA

Shit shit shit -

She dumps out the contents of her bag and finds it.

SONYA

Oh thank god.

She takes a pill. Slowly, her breathing becomes regular and she stops feeling dizzy. She sits, exhausted.

SONYA

(tossing things back into the bag)

Fucking hell.

SCENE 3

JUSTINE

High school is a time when everyone is someone you know well, and yet, hardly at all. It was certain that Colin Slike and Ramon Vasquez knew each other - knew the former's achievements in baseball and the later's reputation as busy student body president. But achievements and reputation are never the full story - not even close.

Early evening after school. COLIN and RAMON are waiting to be picked up. Several beats of silence.

RAMON

Who you waiting for?

COLIN

Hm?

RAMON

Who are you waiting for?

COLIN

Oh, um, brother.

RAMON

I see.

You? COLIN

Mi madre. RAMON

Don't you have a car? COLIN

Older sister crashed hers. Needed it for the day. RAMON

That was kind of you. COLIN

It was. Now she owes me. RAMON

Now it's not so kind anymore. COLIN

Our entire relationship is based on favors and debts and shit. RAMON

Sounds healthy. COLIN

I think so. RAMON

(beat)

So... you changed your mind about the assembly?

Nope. COLIN

Principal ain't here to save you from hearing me whimper.
(he gets down onto his knees and tries to
look like the world's most pathetic
puppy dog)

If you make me whimper, it'll be your fault you heartless jerk.

COLIN

Ramon, cut it out.

(RAMON lets out a high pitched dog-whine)

No.

(RAMON starts to roll on the ground like he wants COLIN to rub his belly)

Jesus, Ramon...

(Several beats of COLIN staring down RAMON as he looks back with feigned innocence)

Fine, I'll do it, you happy?

(RAMON lets out an excited yip)

What do I need to do for it?

RAMON

Just a short sports update on how our teams are doing at this point in the year.

COLIN

Sounds simple enough.

RAMON

Yup. Was it worth putting up that much of a fight?

COLIN

You are such an ass.

RAMON

Yes, but you love me anyway.

COLIN

Oh, shut up.

RAMON

Okay.

Pause. RAMON's hand starts shaking and his breathing becomes quick. He looks to see if anyone else other than COLIN is around. He then pulls out a flask and takes a drink, calming him.

COLIN
Is that...?

RAMON
Yeah. Want some?

COLIN
Not 'til the season's over.

RAMON
You sure?

COLIN
Getting kicked off the team is a thing.

RAMON
So's getting kicked off ASB.

COLIN
You're crazy.

RAMON
Maybe.

COLIN
Put that shit away.

RAMON
You gonna report me?

COLIN
I'm thinking about it.

RAMON
Come on, man.

The sound of a car pulling in.

COLIN
Ah shit, Ricky's here.

RAMON

Sounds like you don't care for him very much.

RICKY

(offstage)

Yo, get in the car, faggot!

COLIN

You heard right.

RAMON

(he raises his flask as if to toast)

Godspeed.

COLIN

(starting to leave)

Yeah, yeah. See you later.

RAMON

(stopping him)

Hey, ah, you're not gonna... you know?

(beat)

Please?

COLIN

(beat)

You owe me one.

Exits. RAMON gazes at the flask, lost in thought. His anxiety begins to flare up again and he takes a long drink.

SCENE 4

JUSTINE

High school love, high school romance; written off by most as silly and trite and doomed to fail the second that graduation clock begins to count down, sometimes you find that there are two people just made for each other - right there, in the same little cramped building with hundreds of other students. Maya Yara, Kyle Ingram - these two will be -

(long static)

MAYA and KAI are sitting on a bench in the high school courtyard.

KAI

You sure I can't come over? You told me you talked with your mom about a dinner with all of us.

MAYA

Yeah, she's just... she's a little flustered with Germaine right now.

KAI

Your little dog?

MAYA

Yes! I *wish* you could come over just so you could meet Germaine. He is the cutest little fluffy white dog and his legs are so stumpy he's got to hop around everywhere - it's *adorable!*

KAI

Sounds like a great dog.

MAYA

He is. But it's too bad.

KAI

What's too bad? What do you mean?

MAYA

He's been to the vet four times this month.

KAI

So Germaine's...

MAYA

Yeah.

KAI

I'm sorry.

MAYA

I'm kind of okay with it.

KAI

Really? I mean, it's cool if you are, it's just - Germaine is your dog, you know? He's been your pal since you could barely walk and now that he's... is the vet going to put him down?

MAYA

Soon, yes.

KAI

Man, I would lose it if Bulldozer died.

MAYA

That's different.

KAI

How so?

MAYA

You can still play with Bulldozer. He can still remember who you are. He's not got cataracts filling every blot of his eye. He's not in constant pain from a dozen age-related health issues. Of course you'd miss him if he were to pass. He's still alive. Germaine... hasn't been really alive for some time now.

(pause)

Is that an awful thing for me to say? But it's true. He's been suffering for years. Only reason he hasn't been... yet is because my mom is too attached to him. She loves that dog so much, but she can't see that he's in constant pain. So no, I'm not sad. Wherever Germaine is going, it'll be better than where he is now.

KAI

Some sort of doggy afterlife?

MAYA

Yeah.

KAI

Okay. Whatever makes you feel better, I guess.

MAYA

Do you not think there's a life after this one?

KAI

This one's all we got. That's what I think.

MAYA

No chance of any sort of heaven or hell or anything in between?

KAI

Never really been big on anything the church says. Stopped going when my brothers did. I think that if there is something after all of this, then that's cool but... I don't know what it could be like. I'd like to think that it would be some sort of happy place; reunite with loved ones, that sort of thing, you know? But sometimes - don't laugh at me - sometimes, I have dreams. Dreams where I die and I find myself in this... space. I - shit, I don't know how to describe it - it's like nowhere. But it's somewhere. Do you get what I mean? It's a space that just *is*, and it is vast. And I wander around for a while - then I wake up. Sometimes I think that's what it's really like. After we die. We go somewhere that's also nowhere. And *that* sort of afterlife... that scares me. I'm not making any sense am I?

MAYA

No no, I get the gist of it.

KAI

Good.

MAYA

You should rethink those other ideas - the ones you heard in church a long time ago. Maybe you wouldn't feel so scared.

KAI

It doesn't matter what makes me feel better, what matters is what's closest to the truth.

MAYA

And you don't think heaven... God... could be real?

(beat)

KAI

No.

MAYA

I see.

KAI

Yep.

Long silence.

MAYA

You sure you can't come over to see Germaine?

KAI

I can't, my dad's - I can't.

MAYA

Okay.

KAI

Is something the matter?

MAYA

No.

KAI

Is it what I said about religion and death? I know that's touchy shit for most people, but like -

MAYA

I think you're silly, but no.

(beat)

Kai. I think... there's something we need to discuss.

KAI

(takes a long time before answering)

Yes, we should...

We should talk.

SCENE 5

RAMON is sitting with a bottle of liquor.

DEMON 1 appears from the shadows.

DEMON 1

...not worth it.

RAMON

Stop it.

DEMON 1

You're not.

(silence)

Everyone sees through your bullshit, that smile, those words - nothing but smarmy shit to cover up the real you. And no one wants to know that.

RAMON's hand begins to tremble and he takes a drink to still it. DEMON 1 screeches in pain.

DEMON 1

You think your pithy drink will kill me?! I am everywhere, child - you are a child no matter what your parents say, no matter what that label says, no matter who pats you on the head and says "Good job!"

DEMON 2 ebbs onstage.

DEMON 2

...make it stop...

RAMON takes a drink. The DEMONS howl, 1 with pain, 2 with pleasure.

DEMON 2

Yes... do it... do it! Make it all go away!

DEMON 1

Stop that!

RAMON

You stop!

DEMON 2

I can make it all stop.

RAMON takes a drink. DEMON 1 shrieks in pain, DEMON 2 laughs.

DEMON 2

Numbness, my son - that is my lesson for all your days. Numbness dulls even the sharpest knives.

DEMON 1

You don't deserve your escape!

RAMON

I don't, huh? I'm not scared of you, I mean come on, next you're going to be going off on that insecurity bullshit, you know -

(mimicking)

"You can't form real connections because of your fear! FEEEEEEAAAAARRR!"

(laughing)

Nice fuckin' try, hombre.

DEMON 1

Jokes will get you nowhere, child.

RAMON

That's what your mother said, right before I fucked her brains out.

DEMON 2

Let me help -

RAMON

Aaaaaand you. No. No. No no no. No, I do not need you.

(he puts away the bottle)

I do not need this. Now both of you can go.

(he claps his hands)

Chop chop! No comprende? Get!

(he sharply whistles)

Go!

DEMON 1

Julia Vasquez.

RAMON freezes.

DEMON 1

You remember her, yes? Your cousin? It was... eight... nine years ago now? And you still think you deserve happiness? Child, child, child...

(caressing RAMON's cheek)

You deserve to die.

I can make it stop.

DEMON 2

No...

RAMON

You deserve to rot with the rest of the scum.

DEMON 1

Let me help you.

DEMON 2

No...

RAMON
(beginning to breathe heavy and tremble)

Just a few more sips.

DEMON 2

Quiet you! He is almost mine.

DEMON 1
(to DEMON 2)

No!

RAMON

Only I can ease the lavaflow in your lungs.

DEMON 2

You know what you are; you are a coward, you are useless, you are filled to the brim with lies - practically oozing them out of every orifice - !

DEMON 1

RAMON is overcome with anxious tremors. He takes the liquor and drinks long and deep.

The scene fades with the mingled sound of laughter and screams.

SCENE 6

JUSTINE

In the aftermath of -

(static)

- we were to later learn -

(static)

- Ricky and Colin fought like starved wolves in the shadows left by their absentee parents.

SLIKE Residence. RICKY is asleep on the couch. COLIN enters and sees him. He attempts to sneak by so he can get to his room unmolested, but then he missteps and trips over himself.

RICKY

Good going, Twenty-First Century Dunce.

COLIN

Thank you very much.

RICKY

You fuckin' idiot.

COLIN

Yup, okay, well. I'm going to my room.

RICKY

Nope, nope. You interrupted my nap. Get the fuck back here and sit the fuck down.

COLIN

Woo-hoo.

RICKY

Hey. Mom and Dad aren't home. You mouth off to me, I can do whatever I want.

COLIN

If you're willing to accept the consequences, yes you can.

RICKY

What consequences?

COLIN

Me beating you like you owe me money, which now that I think about it, you do.

RICKY

You could not take me.

COLIN

You haven't seen me pitch.

RICKY

I bet you do.

COLIN

Baseballs, Ricky. I pitch baseballs, Jesus.

RICKY

Which are you better at? Pitching or catching?

COLIN

Fuck off.

RICKY

No, I'm curious. You always struck me as the type that would take it up the ass like a champion. I could be wrong, I mean I've never seen you fuck before you little fag -

COLIN

Shut up.

RICKY

You come out to your baseball studs yet?

COLIN

No way in hell am I coming out 'til after I graduate.

RICKY

Why? Scared the team's gonna fuck you with baseball bats?

COLIN

Stop.

RICKY

Oh boo hoo, little gay boy offended now?

COLIN

If you don't stop I'm going to beat your face until it's shaped like a bowl.

RICKY

You wouldn't.

COLIN

Try me.

RICKY

(stretching out the word, enjoying it)

Faggo-

Before he can finish saying it, COLIN punches him in the face and RICKY falls down. COLIN stands over RICKY, continuing to beat him.

RICKY shouts vulgarities, slurs and apologies during the beating before giving up the struggle. He repeats the words "I'm sorry" over and over until he falls unconscious.

COLIN continues to strike RICKY even though he's gone silent. After an uncomfortable period of time, he stops and stands up.

COLIN

Oh Jesus.

COLIN fishes for his phone. He dials 911. The phone rings. An answer:

911 OPERATOR

Nine-one-one, where's your emergency?

(COLIN is silent)

Nine-one-one, where's your emergency?

(COLIN remains silent)

Sir or madam, will you please state your emergency?

RICKY groans and shifts slightly on the ground.
COLIN hangs up. He sits down on the couch
and attempts to collect himself.

COLIN

Goddamn. Goddamn.

SCENE 7

SONYA is sitting on her bed. She is holding a guitar and has a piece of paper with song lyrics scrawled on it. She starts to play the opening of a song, but messes up. She restarts and messes up again. She takes a deep breath and plays "When Castles Crumble".

SONYA

So we meet again in the dead night in ruins

RAMON is onstage. He is incredibly nervous and takes huge pulls from a liquor bottle in an attempt to calm himself.

SONYA

We whisper to each other secrets with out sins

KAI and MAYA are onstage and talking silently to each other.

SONYA

Listen to me as I beg for your mercy, you will leave and I'll be here

COLIN is onstage. He is about to change into his baseball uniform when he realizes the word "FAG" has been written all over it. He stares, dumbfounded, then exits. RAMON puts down his liquor and also exits.

SONYA

When we break we break hard, when we fall we fall hard oh, we claw and scramble
When we fight we fight more, when we cry we cry more oh, when castles crumble

SONYA continues to practice the song's chords
over the following.

RAMON comes back onstage with a
microphone. He is obscenely drunk. He begins
to speak, addressing the whole student body
(audience) at an assembly.

RAMON

Hey guys! Welcome to... ah - um, shit. What was today again? Aah, whatever it is it ain't
that important, right?

(laughs at himself)

Okay yeah, so, uh, you all! Stand up and cheer! Woooooo! Yeah! Come on, get
pumped, get excited, get fucked, come on just stand up and shout! Rosewood High
School! Rosewood High School! Gooooo Ravens! Yeah! Woooooo yeah motherfuckers!
Ah, shit did I say fuck? Sorry guys I'm not supposed to do that, administration is going
to get mad at me or some bullshit - oh no! Hey, uh, is this thing even turned on? I can
barely even hear my self. Mngh, dios mio, ungh, fucking head.

(stumbles and falls)

Ohff, damn. I'm okay, bros! It's fine. I'm just gonna take a nap now! Oh man. Oh man.

RAMON lies down and passes out.

COLIN comes onstage with COACH
ROMUNDER.

COLIN

What is it you wanted, coach?

COACH ROMUNDER

Colin, there's no good way to say this. I want you on the bench for the next few games.

COLIN

What? Why?

COACH ROMUNDER

Your arm's still recovering. You need to give it a rest until it gets better.

COLIN

It - huh? Coach, I was pitching in top form at practice the other day.

COACH ROMUNDER

Your arm's still giving you problems.

COLIN

No, it's not! Tomas took my speeds on record -

COACH ROMUNDER

I want you on bench. That's that.

COLIN

Who's going to close?

COACH ROMUNDER

Ivar will.

COLIN

Are you kidding me? He doesn't - my throws -

COACH ROMUNDER

Colin. You're on bench.

COLIN

Is this about...? Okay. Fine. I'll be on bench.

COACH ROMUNDER

Sorry Colin. Gotta do what's best for the team.

COLIN

Yeah. Sure.

COACH ROMUNDER exits.

MAYA

Well.

KAI

Well. I guess this is the end for us.

MAYA

Yeah.

KAI

Shame. I really wanted to see if this was going to go anywhere.

MAYA

Yeah.

KAI

I mean, maybe it's actually better to do this now. Maybe we're saving ourselves a lot of pain in the long run.

MAYA

Maybe.

KAI

I mean, shit, even if we did manage to beat the odds and all that shit... it just ends in death. Death or a break up. The end is always the same. It always ends in tears. It always ends in pain.

MAYA

I know.

KAI

Well. Goodbye then, Maya.

MAYA

Kai?

KAI

Mm?

MAYA

Will you give me one last kiss? Before you go?

(beat)

KAI

Yeah.

They kiss, not wanting it to end.

SONYA finishes her song.

SONYA

Okay. Not bad, I guess.

She sets down her guitar and begins to look over her lyrics. She is seized by a pain in her chest.

SONYA

Shit! Gah. Dammit.

She fumbles around her belongings, searching for her pill bottle, the pain slowly increasing. When she can't find it, she begins to panic, making it worse.

SONYA

No. No no no no where is it?

She continues to search, desperate. She drops to the ground, clutching her chest.

SONYA

Oh god.

RAMON, KAI, MAYA and COLIN slowly start to form a semi-circle around SONYA, their faces like stone.

SONYA

(screaming)

Mom! MOM!

Realizing no one can hear her, she clumsily reaches for her phone. She begins to dial 911 when the phone slips from her fingers. She fully collapses.

SONYA

NO. No. NO!

Her condition is too much. She struggles to reach her phone with her hand, growing weaker.

SONYA

MOM! DAD! SOMEBODY!

She's gasping for breath. She screams and with one last great breath -

SONYA

MOM!

- she goes limp.

SCENE 8

JUSTINE

High-schoolers drink. They shouldn't, but they do. Ramon Vasquez, student body president, took drinking to a new extreme in a misguided attempt at self-medication. Things couldn't have seemed to get lower for Ramon after he publicly embarrassed himself in front of the entire school. But before he would be redeemed, he would have to sink even lower a couple of weeks later.

A couple weeks later.

RAMON is onstage, the DEMONS loom behind him, silent and staring. He is sitting with a bottle of liquor and a backpack next to him. He is staring at a gun. He feels a panic attack rising and makes a motion for the liquor bottle, but stops himself.

All is still for several moments.

RAMON checks the time.

RAMON

...shit.

He stares at the gun for a few more seconds before deciding to put it in his backpack. He is about to put the liquor bottle in, then decides against it. He gets up and begins to exit - DEMON 1 coughs. RAMON wheels around; they stare each other down. RAMON breaks first. Leaving, he flips the bird at the DEMONS in a small act of defiance.

SCENE 9

RICKY is napping on the couch. His face is still beat up, but it has recovered somewhat. COLIN storms in. He yanks RICKY off the couch, waking him up.

COLIN

Getting me grounded until summer just wasn't enough for you.

RICKY

(groggily waking)

Huh?

COLIN

Tell me how Coach Romunder found out.

RICKY

Coach who? Found out about what?

COLIN

Coach Romunder. My baseball coach. He found out. Tell me how.

RICKY

Found out about what?

COLIN

Don't play stupid. He found out I'm gay.

RICKY

Why should that matter?

COLIN

Because it turns out Coach Romunder is the worst kind of homophobe, the kind that pretends that they're not.

RICKY

You're sure he knows?

COLIN

Pretty goddamn sure.

COACH ROMUNDER is onstage.

COLIN

(To COACH ROMUNDER)

Coach, make me closer again.

COACH ROMUNDER

Why?

COLIN

Ivar's practically been handing them home-runs in the last innings, I mean come on, why not?

COACH ROMUNDER

He's the best we got right now. Your arm's still off.

COLIN

Are you kidding me? Like hell my arm's off! Check the records, my fastball's only gotten faster.

COACH ROMUNDER

Look, Colin -

COLIN

It's like you're willingly ignoring the facts or something.

COACH ROMUNDER

No, Colin, I -

COLIN

The only good reason I can think of why I haven't been allowed to close is because you have a problem with me being gay.

COACH ROMUNDER

Colin. This school has a very strict non-discriminatory policy. To suggest that I -

COLIN

So it's because of this policy that you won't actually admit that you hate me because I'm gay.

COACH ROMUNDER

Colin. I am going to let those remarks pass this once, but if you ever talk to me in that way again I'm going to have a talk with the administration. Do you understand?

COLIN

Perfectly.

COACH ROMUNDER

Alright. I still have time to change my letter of recommendation if I need to. You can leave practice early today if you'd like.

COACH ROMUNDER exits.

COLIN

(To RICKY)

You know, if it was just the rest of the team that knew, I could've lived with that. I graduate in a couple months so I wouldn't ever have to talk to the fucks ever again if they had a problem with me. But Romunder can fuck up my future, which is why I told you not to fucking tell anyone.

RICKY

What proof do you have?

COLIN

Fine. I don't. But you gotta think it's an odd coincidence that a few days after beating your ass, suddenly my sexuality is the worst kept secret at Rosewood.

RICKY

Can't prove it was me.

COLIN

So it was you and you won't own up to it?

RICKY

Never said that.

COLIN

It was you. Nobody else knew so it's gotta be you.

RICKY

Maybe one of the guys on the team didn't like the way you were looking at him in the shower.

COLIN

Sounds like someone didn't learn his lesson after last time.

COLIN readies himself to strike at RICKY.

RICKY

Okay calm the fuck down I'm sorry, Jesus!

COLIN

Did you do it?

RICKY

No!

COLIN

That's bullshit!

RICKY

You're not going to hit me again.

COLIN

Try me.

COLIN has his hand around RICKY's throat.

RICKY

Okay fine! I did it! I told people!

COLIN

Why would you do that? Now I have to walk on glass until I graduate! Why?!

RICKY

Had to get even somehow for what you did to my beautiful face.

COLIN

That hardly sounds comparable.

RICKY

You beat the shit out of me!

COLIN

I warned you. You didn't listen.

RICKY

You didn't warn me that you were going to knock me unconscious and then bandage me up like an amateur medic. Hospital! I needed to go to the fucking ER, dipshit!

COLIN

You provoked me.

RICKY

Yeah! And I pleaded for you to stop! I was fucking begging, you shithead!

(beat)

Well. I've learned my lesson. I hope you learned yours. Can I go back to napping now?

COLIN

Fuck.

RICKY

Can I?

(beat)

COLIN

Yeah.

RICKY

Thank you.

COLIN

Shut up.

COLIN exits. RICKY is motionless, then lies back down on the couch, visibly shaken.

RICKY

Goddamn. Goddamn.

SCENE 10

JUSTINE

Senior Sonya Bonelark was an interesting case -
(static)

- heart condition so severe it kept her out of school for a year. An affliction that should be wished on no one; she channelled her feelings into her music, and whether she knew it or not, was beloved by many at the school.

SONYA is in a hospital bed, scribbling furiously in a notebook. She gets frustrated and closes it violently. She lays back and closes her eyes.
MAYA enters.

MAYA

Hey.

SONYA

Ah! Can you not do that?

MAYA

Sorry.

SONYA

Maya? Wait, what? What are you doing here?

MAYA

I heard you were in the hospital and wanted to see you.

SONYA

Well, that's nice of you. I guess.

(awkward silence)

Heart condition. SVT.

MAYA

I see.

SONYA

Sucks.

MAYA

I'm sure.

(more awkward silence)

SONYA

Hey, look, I'm glad for the company and all, but we don't know each other very well so...
um... yeah.

MAYA

I know, but you're nice to me.

SONYA

I, uh, okay.

MAYA

When do you think you'll be back at school?

SONYA

Couple of days, probably.

MAYA

So you'll be well enough to graduate?

SONYA

I'd better. I'm so done with high school.

MAYA

It's not that bad.

SONYA

Maybe not for you, but having taken an extra year because my body holds some sort of psychotic grudge against me is akin to living in a circle of hell.

MAYA

So you'll finally be done.

SONYA

Yeah, either through graduating or dying.

MAYA

Don't say that.

SONYA

Look where we are, Maya. It's a possibility.

MAYA

Do you like it here?

SONYA

Nobody likes being in a hospital except for crazy people. And they probably don't even know they're in one.

MAYA

Oh. Is there something I could do to make things better?

SONYA

That's very sweet of you, but no.

MAYA

Okay.

SONYA

Do you mind if I...?

(she indicates her notebook)

MAYA

Oh, no, go right ahead.

SONYA opens her notebook. She writes, but is doing it more to avoid awkward conversation than out of inspiration.

You write songs? MAYA

Yep. SONYA

Can I hear one? MAYA

Nope. SONYA

Okay. Are you sure there's nothing I can do for you? MAYA

Positive. SONYA

Okay. Um, I guess I'll be on my way. MAYA

Okay. SONYA

Hey, Sonya? MAYA

Mm? SONYA

I hope you get better soon. MAYA

I hope so too. SONYA

Bye. MAYA

Goodbye, Maya. SONYA

MAYA exits. SONYA watches her go for a couple seconds, when she becomes instantly energized and tackles writing in her notebook with renewed vigor.

SCENE 11

JUSTINE

Chaos is a part of life, doubly so for a teenager on the verge of being let off the leash for good. Many are lucky enough to have support from friends, family and, ideally, the school to help ease in this tumultuous transition; some are not so lucky. Few admit that they need help and support - all it can take is one person who decided to listen to their instincts and lend an open ear.

RAMON is sitting by himself at lunch. KAI enters with his lunch tray.

KAI

Mind if I sit here?

RAMON gives him a look.

KAI

Misery loves company.

RAMON

(signaling for KAI to sit down)

What's got you miserable?

KAI

(sitting down)

Maya.

RAMON

Of course.

KAI

You?

RAMON doesn't answer.

KAI

Oh. Right.

RAMON grimaces in response.

They sit in silence. Neither of them are hungry.
KAI prods at his lunch with a finger.

RAMON

What're you doing that for?

KAI

I swear these grilled cheeses are made of plastic.

RAMON

I didn't know they had grilled cheese today.

KAI

It's what they've got every day for the "low-income" families.

RAMON

Ah.

KAI

I'm not one to pass up free food, but the least they could do is give out something that won't make my veins explode in a decade.

RAMON

Mm.

KAI

Just like this break up with Maya. Probably going to just keep me sad for years and years until sadness kills me.

RAMON

My god. Just forget about her.

KAI

Yeah? How's forgetting working out for you?

(beat)

Because I can't forget about her. You know, I've tried and I can't.

Logically, it all makes sense. Logically, I should be over her. But even though I've rationalized what I had to do - that we're just kids in high school, that this wasn't going to last anyway, that breaking things off now is saving us both a lot of pain - I just can't stop thinking about all the "what ifs", you know? What if we stayed together anyway? What if everything turned out alright? What if my dad and her mom weren't such fuckheads? I torment myself in a thousand different ways by playing scenario after scenario in my head and when I finally get myself to stop, she's right there in class, smiling a sad smile at me. So no. I can't forget.

RAMON

Fuck.

KAI

Yeah, just about sums it up.

(beat)

That was a good vent, thanks man.

RAMON

Welcome.

KAI

Your turn.

RAMON

I just went.

KAI

Huh?

RAMON

"Fuck." That's all I have to say.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

(over intercom)

Will Ramon Vasquez come to my office? Ramon Vasquez?

KAI

Don't get in too much trouble.

RAMON

Yeah yeah; later, Kai.

KAI disappears and RAMON is now in PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM'S office. OFFICER TOMLIN is standing next to her.

RAMON

Um. What is this about?

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

My god, Ramon.

RAMON

What?

(OFFICER TOMLIN reveals RAMON's backpack)

What?

(realizing)

Oh.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

As part of our agreement allowing you to come back to school, you agreed to let us search your locker for any signs of alcohol. Remember?

RAMON

Just now, yes.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

We were forced to call Officer Tomlin over to deal with what we found in your backpack. Do you know what it is?

RAMON

Of course I do.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

And what is it?

(beat)

RAMON

A handgun.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

Ramon, what were you thinking, bringing a loaded gun to school?

(beat)

RAMON

I was going to kill myself after school.

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

Ramon, why would you -

RAMON

Take a wild guess. My scholarship is gone, I can't go to college anymore, I've gone from getting smiles in the hallway to looks of disgust, my family will barely talk to me, my friends have deserted me - I've ruined everything. My future was wide open; I could have made a difference in the world. Not anymore, not like this. So I figured, that's it, that's all there is. My life ended that day and I need to finish the job. Fuck -

PRINCIPAL DAHLSTROM

- Ramon - !

RAMON

I'm already a "could've been" at eighteen!

... a "could've been"...

(beat)

So what's going to happen to me?

OFFICER TOMLIN

I'm going to have to take you in to the station.

RAMON

Am I being arrested?

OFFICER TOMLIN

Maybe, maybe not.

RAMON

(panicking)

'Cause I can't get arrested, no, no no no, I can't - everything will be - everything - I just can't -

(he begins to hyperventilate)

OFFICER TOMLIN

Whoa, Ramon, calm down, okay? Deep breaths; look at me - deep breaths.

RAMON

I-I-I've ruined everyth... I-ha... I-ha...

OFFICER TOMLIN

Hey hey hey hey; look - look at me. Breathe. Breathe. Your life isn't over. Look, best case scenario, after you talk with me and a couple of other officers, you'll be expelled and we'll set you up with a therapist.

RAMON

Expelled?

OFFICER TOMLIN

You brought a gun to school, Ramon. That's getting off incredibly light.

RAMON

I see, I see. Worst case?

OFFICER TOMLIN

You're eighteen, yes?

RAMON

Yeah, yes.

OFFICER TOMLIN

We'll have to take you to prison.

RAMON

Naturally. Naturally. Do you think it will come to that?

OFFICER TOMLIN

I wish I could give you a more concrete answer, but I hope it doesn't. You seem like a good kid, just...

RAMON

Yeah. Well, what're we waiting for? Take me away, Officer.

SCENE 12

JUSTINE

Time runs out.

Dim lighting. MAYA is onstage alone, waiting for someone in the woods. The sound of a branch breaking.

MAYA

Kai?

KAI
(offstage)

Maya?

MAYA

Kai!

KAI
(entering)

You came!

MAYA

Did you think I wouldn't?

KAI

I couldn't be sure.

(they embrace)

MAYA

I missed you.

KAI

I missed you too. I can't believe we're doing this, we must be crazy.

MAYA

Must be.

KAI

How'd you manage to sneak out?

MAYA

Carefully. I had to tiptoe around poor old Germaine, pop the screen out of my window and use my bedsheet as a rope in complete silence.

KAI

Whoa.

MAYA

I've never done anything like that before! It was so exhilarating!

KAI

You're a regular Steve-O!

MAYA

A who - what?

KAI

He - nevermind.

They laugh.

KAI

Oh man, we're crazy! It's like everything is freaking going well for once - I mean, I'm like all jittery and on edge from excitement and shit but like, also 'cuz I'm scared and waiting for the axe to fall, you know?

MAYA

I'm not scared. It's like being in Romeo and Juliet! Meeting each other in the dark even though our parents hate each other.

KAI

I never read Romeo and Juliet, but didn't they die horribly?

MAYA

Ssh, don't ruin the metaphor, Romeo.

KAI

Oh god.

MAYA

What?

KAI

I've got a pet-name. How disgustingly cute.

(beat)

So... what do we do now?

MAYA

I have a few ideas.

She tackles him to the ground.

KAI

Holy - Jesus!

MAYA

Hey.

KAI

Hi.

MAYA

How're you doing?

KAI

Pretty fucking great. How're you?

MAYA

Couldn't be better.

They kiss.

SCENE 13

JUSTINE

Time runs out.

School assembly. The students are chattering amongst themselves. RAMON is onstage with a microphone and a crumpled script in his hands. He's trembling. Everyone hushes up. RAMON takes a deep breath.

RAMON

Hey, everybody. I'm sure I don't need to introduce myself. Don't worry guys, I'm sober. I am able to stand before you today thanks to Principal Dahlstrom, and not only because she allowed me to speak to you all even though I've been expelled. I'm sure you all are very much aware of my situation, but I think it bears repeating - don't use alcohol to treat anxiety. It's really stupid. Really, really stupid. I want to apologize. As your former student body president, I was supposed to be an example, a role model. It was about a month ago now that I failed in that capacity. So I wanted to say that I'm sorry. When you elected me, you put your trust in my being able to fulfill the duties that being president entails and I wasn't able to follow through. So, I guess I'm also up here 'cause I want to serve as a warning; an example. Don't throw your life away. It's the only one you've got, so make it count. After what I'd done and after I'd received the appropriate consequences, I... sorry - I... was in a very bad place. But thanks to our principal and Officer Tomlin, as well as the new found support from my family; slowly but surely, I am getting back on a path. I don't know if it's the right one, but at least I'm going somewhere now. Just because my life isn't going where I had planned doesn't mean I don't have time to make something of it, you know? I may have been expelled, which means I can't walk at graduation with my amazing, wonderful class, but I will be there to watch and support every last one of you, and I will move forward. Thank you all for letting me speak. So that's it for me and my sad, sad speech, we've got a killer assembly today; it's - ah - it's time to get pumped, huh?

(He rouses the audience)

So so so so so; to kick off our Spring Bash Spirit Assembly, I have the pleasure of introducing our school's one and only Sonya Bonelark! C'mon, everybody, give it up for Sonya!

SONYA enters with a guitar. RAMON exits.

SONYA

Hey. Um, so this is a short, little song I wrote. I came up with it after... a thing happened it doesn't matter what it was, this song's called, "Hello, Raven."

(she begins to play)

Hello, Raven, watching over me
 How does it feel when hearts don't agree?
 Well we'll see
 Hello, Raven, hiding from the sun
 When will you learn there's no need to run
 From the sun?

COLIN is sitting on a bench, brooding over the baseball game he's watching.

SONYA

Talk to me, Raven, you're the only one who will
Plant a seed, Raven, you don't always have to kill
Talk to me, Raven, when you get the chance today
Go on home, Raven, when there's nothing more to say

RAMON is onstage clutching his graduation cap. He simply stares at it as the DEMONS encroach from either side.

SONYA

Hello, Raven, passing off the time
I saw your wings were coated in grime
It's no crime
Hello, Raven, who has lost their home
You can be free with me as we roam
Through this loam

KAI and MAYA are onstage. They are happily holding hands.

SONYA

Talk to me, Raven, you're the only one who will
Plant a seed, Raven, you don't always have to kill
Talk to me, Raven, when you get the chance today
Go on home, Raven, when there's nothing more to say

Goodbye, Raven, don't forget my face
Maybe one day we will have a race
From this place

The high school students applaud. SONYA smiles sheepishly.

ECHO

Lights black.

Consecutive dialogue.

KAI

I don't know what to do.

MAYA

Kiss me again.

SONYA

I am alive.

COLIN

I know it was you.

RAMON

I am a warning.

Repeat until silenced by -

Five gunshots.

SCENE 14

On one end of the stage is JUSTINE and OFFICER TOMLIN. She is holding a local news microphone.

JUSTINE

Tragedy this morning at Rosewood High School. A student shooter entered school grounds, ending the lives of many, injuring more. This is reporter Justine Fischbach on the scene with Officer Tomlin, who was one of the first policemen to respond after the shooting. Officer Tomlin, thank you for allowing us to speak with you after everything that has happened today.

OFFICER TOMLIN

You're welcome, Justine.

JUSTINE

What was your first impression upon arriving at the school?

OFFICER TOMLIN

It was a travesty, Justine.

JUSTINE

Mm. I'm so sorry.

(OFFICER TOMLIN smiles politely)

Would you be willing to talk about exactly what happened this morning?

OFFICER TOMLIN

I can give you the best explanations we have at the moment, yes. Where would you like me to begin?

JUSTINE

Let's start from when the shooter arrived on the premises.

On the other end of the stage, the rest of the cast reenacts what OFFICER TOMLIN describes. The intensity and veracity in their actions starkly contrasts the detached, nearly mechanical speech of OFFICER TOMLIN.

OFFICER TOMLIN

We've ID'd the shooter as one Sam Roosevelt, a student of this year's graduating senior class.

SAM enters.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Sam arrived on campus at about 7:25 AM, shortly before classes began, armed with a Glock 19 9mm pistol. The first victims were together on the courtyard in front of the school.

KAI and MAYA are onstage. They don't suspect that anything is wrong and are teasing each other playfully. SAM points a gun at them.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Sam opened fire.

SAM fires. KAI drops to the ground. MAYA goes to him.

SAM fires. KAI's head snaps back. MAYA screams.

OFFICER TOMLIN

We found two bodies in the courtyard, Kyle Ingram and Maya Yara.

SAM fires. MAYA collapses next to KAI.

JUSTINE

How horrible.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Shall I go on?

JUSTINE

Please do.

KAI and MAYA fade into the background.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Next, Sam entered the building. Few would have been aware yet that there was something wrong and so students would have been by their lockers and walking to class.

SONYA is onstage at her locker.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Sam began to fire indiscriminately into the hallway, wounding many, some fatally.

SAM fires twelve shots, directing a portion of them into the audience. SONYA is hit and crumples.

OFFICER TOMLIN

The perpetrator moved on to a nearby classroom.

SAM reloads. SONYA fades into the background. COLIN is onstage, crouched and hiding behind classroom furniture.

OFFICER TOMLIN

The next victims were in the classroom of Paula Conway. This was when we received the call to Nine-One-One. Colin Slike called us on his cellphone during the ensuing crimes.

COLIN takes out his cellphone and dials
911. SAM menaces a teacher that we can't see.

911 OPERATOR

Nine-one-one, where's your emergency?

OFFICER TOMLIN

We found the teacher, Ms. Conway shot several times on the floor of her classroom.

SAM fires three shots.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Colin was found near her, hiding behind a table.

COLIN

(whispering into the phone)

Rosewood High! Hurry!

OFFICER TOMLIN

The table protected Colin from many of the bullets.

SAM fires four times.

OFFICER TOMLIN

However, Sam still got to him.

Two more shots. COLIN pitches forward at the first, then sprawls across the ground at the second.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Before the shooter could continue, one of the other students managed to attack Sam.

COLIN fades into the background. RAMON is onstage, hiding and unseen by SAM.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Ramon Vasquez tackled and wrestled Sam to the ground.

RAMON leaps on SAM. They struggle.

OFFICER TOMLIN

We're unclear as to what exactly happened during the struggle, but we do know that Ramon was shot in his femoral artery before he was able to get the gun from Sam.

SAM and RAMON are on the ground, tugging at the pistol, each trying to get it free from the other's grasp.

The gun goes off, the bullet ricocheting off of a wall. They continue to wrestle and RAMON headbutts SAM, who reflexively pulls the trigger, the bullet burying itself in RAMON's leg.

RAMON releases SAM, who attempts to get up, but RAMON fights through the pain and grabs SAM's foot, tripping SAM.

The gun falls out of SAM's hands and the two of them crawl towards it, shoving and hitting each other as they do so.

RAMON manages to grab the gun and immediately he turns around and opens fire on SAM, firing four bullets, dropping SAM dead to the ground.

He continues to fire although the clip has been emptied.

Finally, he stops and lays back on the ground, an odd phantom of a smile on his lips. RAMON fades into the background and SAM exits.

OFFICER TOMLIN

And that's how the shooter was stopped; because of someone who shouldn't have been around. Ramon had been expelled and came to school that morning to return library books. He bled out before anyone was able to get there. The way his artery was damaged - there would have been nothing the doctors could have done.

(beat)

That's it. That's what happened.

JUSTINE

Thank you very much for sharing with us today, Officer Tomlin.

OFFICER TOMLIN

Of course.

JUSTINE

(to the camera)

We will be running our exposé on the lives of those affected by today's events later this week. Next up, we will begin our in-depth coverage of the killer, Sam Roosevelt. Thank you for tuning in this afternoon, I am Justine Fischbach reporting live from Rosewood High School.

SCENE 15

The lights are low. COLIN, KAI, MAYA,
SONYA and RAMON are onstage.

COLIN

Is that all?

SONYA

Guess so.

KAI

Why's it so dark?

MAYA

I don't know. It just is.

SONYA

There are a lot of things we don't know anymore.

RAMON

I love not knowing things. Not knowing is my favorite.

COLIN

Feeling cynical, are we?

RAMON

Have you heard the shit the Principal is saying to my parents?

COLIN

Can't say I have.

KAI

Did anyone know Sam?

SONYA

I don't think I did, but then again, I don't - didn't know many people.

COLIN

Don't think we ran in the same circles.

RAMON

Fucker was in our English class, right?

MAYA

Yes.

KAI

Right.

RAMON

Someone should have done something.

COLIN

Sometimes people don't do stupid shit where everyone can see it.

RAMON

(advancing on COLIN)

Hey, fuck you -

KAI

Calm your shit!

SONYA
Stop it!

MAYA
Please.

Pause.

RAMON
That was a fuckin' low blow, man.

COLIN
Sorry. I - we've been through a lot today. Hard to think straight.

RAMON
Yeah, no shit.

MAYA
Is this it?

KAI
I don't know. But I think...

SONYA
No one does.

KAI
...I think it might be. We'll find out soon enough.

RAMON
Yay, waiting.

COLIN
I think it's peaceful.

RAMON
Not with all of... *that* going on.

MAYA
The reporter's still talking.

KAI

Christ, can't she just shut up?

RAMON

Apparently not.

KAI

Is she gonna stick that microphone in everyone's face?

SONYA

My mom will snap her in half if she tries.

MAYA

Me and then Germaine... poor mother...

RAMON

I don't like her.

COLIN

She's just doing her job.

RAMON

Don't care, don't like it, don't like her.

KAI

Oh fuck.

COLIN

What?

KAI

That's my fucking dad she's - hey lady! Fuck off!

MAYA

She can't hear you.

KAI

I - Dad! Dad!

RAMON

Oh my god, I can't handle this shit.

COLIN

Ramon! He's been through a lot, have some -

RAMON

Yeah, well so have I, and I need some goddamn peace and quiet or I'm gonna... I'm gonna...

RAMON makes an exasperated growl and storms off.

KAI

Dad, you fucking... Dad...

MAYA

It's okay, it's okay. He's grieving, he doesn't mean it.

KAI

He means every goddamn word. Maya I need you, I -

MAYA

Kai - Kai, it's okay, it's okay. Come on.

KAI and MAYA look at each other. They hold hands and smile sadly.

MAYA

Shall we?

KAI

Yes.

They exit hand-in-hand.

COLIN

How're you holding up?

SONYA

Better than I would have expected.

COLIN

Better than the alternative, I guess.

SONYA

Yeah, I guess.

I guess.

(awkward silence)

COLIN

Do... you like baseball?

SONYA

No.

COLIN

Okay.

SONYA

I like music.

COLIN

Oh yeah, that's always been your "thing" eh?

SONYA

It's important to have a "thing" as you like to call it. Or at least it was. Not so sure anymore.

COLIN

I was never very good at philosophy. "Do unto others" is about the extent I understand.

SONYA

We'll have plenty of time to contemplate.

COLIN

Yeah.

SONYA

I mean, I've been making music since before I could read and now... I don't think that matters for shit. Not that I can tell.

COLIN

Shit, I remember you from elementary school.

SONYA

(flattered, trying to hide it)

No... don't remember *that* girl.

COLIN

Dunno what you're talking about. You're just the same as you were then; always in the corner at recess, mumbling words to yourself and playing the air guitar...

SONYA

(laughing)

Stop it! Meanwhile, there was little meathead Colin, playing capture the flag with the big kids on the field and getting his ass kicked -

COLIN

Hey, I was better than all of them -

RICKY is onstage.

COLIN

Oh, fuck.

JUSTINE is onstage with her microphone; she goes up to RICKY.

JUSTINE

Excuse me, sir I have a few -

RICKY

Get that fucking thing out of my face.

JUSTINE

(looking back)

Cut the footage.

(to RICKY)

Excuse me, sir, that's -

RICKY

My brother just died, fuck off.

JUSTINE

You can talk about him to me, help remember -

RICKY

Go. Harass. Someone. Else.

JUSTINE is speechless; she turns and leaves.

COLIN goes and stands face to face with RICKY. They stare at each other for a long time. COLIN hugs RICKY. RICKY breaks down.

RICKY

You motherfucker.

COLIN leads RICKY offstage.

SONYA is alone. She faces the audience and talks with them.

SONYA

I guess, I guess.

I guess it's just you and me.

(beat)

Yeah, can't say I'm thrilled about how all of this turned out either.

(beat)

Were you all... too? Sorry, rude of me to ask, forget I said anything.

(beat)

I always thought this would be different. Granted, I'm not sure what I was expecting. Certainly not this.

(beat)

It's relaxing, really. There's so much time and nothing I have to do. Except for wait; just keep waiting for...

(beat)

Will you keep me company while I wait?

(beat)

Good.

THE END