

ACT IPROLOGUE

INT. BASEMENT, 1983.

1A) "PROLOGUE: THE QUEST"

In a corner of a basement sits a table covered with dice, paper, and pencils - the paraphernalia of a table-top role-playing game called *Quest*. Around the table are four girls barely in their teens: FRANKIE, ROSIE, SAMMY, and TAYLOR (the "Questers"). Lighting is 'dungeon lighting' - dim and moody.

Frankie is the "Quest Master" in charge of running the game. The other three are playing the game.

On another part of the stage stand a WIZARD, a BARD, and an ILLUSIONIST. They are the 'avatars' of the three girls playing the game. They exist within the imaginary world of the game and act out the action as it happens.

FRANKIE

The three of you - Wizard, Bard, and Illusionist - stand in a rough stone corridor deep within a dungeon. Your single torch flickers in the darkness.

SAMMY

This feels...creepy.

TAYLOR

What do we hear?

FRANKIE

You hear the distant, echoey sounds of water dripping and creatures slithering.

ROSIE

I don't like the 'creatures slithering' part.

TAYLOR

Ok, we walk down the corridor.

FRANKIE

In what order?

ROSIE
(pointing)

Let's go Taylor's Illusionist first, Sammy's Wizard second, and my Bard last.

SAMMY

Hey - why do you get to go last, Rosie?

ROSIE

Well obviously cuz I'm the most scared.

FRANKIE

Ok, you walk down the corridor. At the end of the corridor you see a huge oak door.

TAYLOR

(to Rosie and Sammy)

Hey, maybe this is the room with the Great Sceptre!

SAMMY

It has to be! It's the last room in the dungeon!

TAYLOR

My Illusionist presses her ear against the door. What do I hear?

FRANKIE

You hear someone - or some *thing* - moving on the other side.

ROSIE

Maybe we could just sneak in and grab it.

SAMMY

Yeah, I could maybe turn invisible and...

TAYLOR

Naw, let's just go in and kick some serious monster butt!

ROSIE

Taylor, why are you always so...

TAYLOR

Enough talk! I kick the door!

ROSIE

Taylor no!

FRANKIE

Ok, roll a twenty-sided!

Rosie picks up a die and rolls it.

TAYLOR

Seventeen!

FRANKIE

The door flies open! Inside the room you see
five goblins!

Five goblins run on stage. Music
intensifies.

TAYLOR

My Illusionist stands in front of them and
yells, "Death to the intruders!"

ROSIE

Taylor, we're the intruders!

TAYLOR

Ok, I yell, "Death *from* the intruders!"

FRANKIE

A goblin runs over to Rosie and swings!

Frankie rolls.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Twelve.

ROSIE

It's a miss! I swing at him!

Rosie rolls a die.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Nineteen!

FRANKIE

You take him down! He dies with a shriek!

The goblin shrieks.

TAYLOR

I cast Disguise and change into a brave
warrior!

FRANKIE

Ok - you're now a warrior with a huge sword.

ROSIE

Sammy do something!

TAYLOR

Yeah cast a spell!

SAMMY

Which one?

FRANKIE

Suddenly you hear footsteps. *Heavy* footsteps.

Frankie makes the sound of heavy footsteps.

TAYLOR

Uh oh...

FRANKIE

...and into the room steps a huge ogre!

An ogre enters the room.

SAMMY

How huge?

FRANKIE

Like, huge.

ROSIE

We can't take down an ogre.

TAYLOR

We can try!

FRANKIE

The ogre looks at the three of you and laughs.

Frankie does an ogre laugh.

TAYLOR

I jump in front of the ogre and say, "Ogre!
Prepare to meet your maker!"

FRANKIE

The ogre...doesn't understand you.

TAYLOR

Oh. Ok.

FRANKIE

The ogre raises his club and swings!

Frankie rolls.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Twenty! The Illusionist is knocked unconscious!

TAYLOR

Avenge me...

ROSIE

We can't beat an ogre. Let's get out of here!

SAMMY

But Rosie, Taylor's still alive!

ROSIE

I -I run out of the room!

SAMMY

Rosie!

The Bard runs off stage.

FRANKIE

Sammy, the ogre slowly turns to face you.
Saliva drips down its huge tusks. What do you
do?

TAYLOR

Sammy cast your fireball!

ROSIE

Sammy run away!

FRANKIE

The ogre moves toward you. Slowly he raises his
massive club over his head. What do you do
Sammy?

SAMMY

I...I...

TAYLOR

Sammy do it!

SAMMY

I cast my fireball!

FRANKIE

Roll!

Sammy rolls.

SAMMY

Twenty!

FRANKIE

A huge fireball bursts from your hands and
consumes the ogre and the goblins! KA-
BLAAAAOOOWW!

The music comes to a climax and
transitions to calmer music.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

As the smoke clears, you see all the monsters
are dead.

ROSIE

I run back in the room and heal the
Illusionist.

TAYLOR

(sarcastically)

Wow. What a hero.

SAMMY

We search the room. What do we find?

FRANKIE

In the corner, covered by cobwebs, is a massive
treasure chest.

ROSIE

The Great Sceptre!

SAMMY

It's gotta be!

FRANKIE

You go up to the chest and brush aside the
cobwebs. Slowly you open the lid...

Frankie makes the creaking sound
of a treasure chest opening.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

...and inside you see...

ROSIE

Wait!

The lighting changes from 'dungeon
lighting' to normal lighting. The
underscore stops.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

What time is it?

All four of them look at their
wristwatches.

TAYLOR

Almost nine!

SAMMY

Oh my god! We're gonna be late for the first
day of high school!

ROSIE

We are such nerds.

FRANKIE

Come on, let's go!

The Questers rush out of the basement.

SCENE 1

INT. HIGH SCHOOL MAIN LOBBY

We hear the morning bell in the main lobby of the high school. EMMA does the morning announcements over the PA system.

1) "STUCK INSIDE A SCHOOL"

EMMA

Hello fellow students, my name is Emma and I'll be doing your morning announcements this year! Welcome to the first day of high school, 1983!

STUDENT #1

I'M FREAKING OUT
THERE'S A MILLION STUDENTS AND ONLY A SINGLE ME

STUDENT #2

I'M FREAKING OUT
CUZ THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE TO FIGURE OUT WHO TO BE

DOUG

HIERARCHIES ARE WHAT HIGH SCHOOL'S ALL ABOUT

STUDENT #3

AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN AND I DON'T FIT IN
AND THAT'S WHY I'M FREAKING OUT

ENSEMBLE

DAY AFTER DAY
RESCUE ME I'M STUCK INSIDE A SCHOOL
CAN'T DISOBEY
GUESS I GOTTA FOLLOW EVERY RULE
EVERYTHING IS CHANGING
NOTHING FEELS THE SAME AS IT DID LAST YEAR
EVERYTHING IS CHANGING
NOTHING COULD BE WORSE THAN BEING HERE
BUT WE KNOW WE GOTTA STAY
DAY AFTER DAY

EMMA

Coming up this week we have a couple big events to kick off your school year! On Wednesday there's the Talent Show, so sign up today and show the world your amazing skills!

MICHAEL

I'M FREAKING OUT
IT'S A WHOLE NEW SCHOOL TO NAVIGATE ONCE AGAIN

STUDENT #3

I'M FREAKING OUT
GOTTA GET TO CLASS BUT I CAN'T FIND MY SPECIAL PEN

JOSH

HOPING THIS YEAR ENDS MY THREE-YEAR DATING DROUGHT

STUDENT #5

BUT MY GOLDFISH DIED AND I'M DEAD INSIDE AND THAT'S WHY I'M
FREAKING OUT

ENSEMBLE

DAY AFTER DAY

RESCUE ME I'M STUCK INSIDE A SCHOOL

WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

BETTER START PRETENDING THAT I'M COOL

EVERYTHING IS CHANGING

I'M NOT SURE I'LL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS YEAR

EVERYTHING IS CHANGING

THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT WANTS TO DISAPPEAR

BUT I GUESS I GOTTA STAY

DAY AFTER DAY

EMMA

And on Friday we have the Get To Know You
Dance. Looking for a love connection? Then ask
that special someone today!

MICHAEL and the "J's" - JESSE,
JOSH, and JACOB - enter.

MICHAEL

Ok geeks! Come over here - we need to talk.

The four of them gather together.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

So as we know, we get bullied a lot every year
because we're geeks. But I've got a feeling
high school's gonna be different!

JESSE

I doubt that...

JOSH

Yeah, why are you so optimistic Michael?

MICHAEL

IT'S A CHANCE TO DO SOME THINGS WE'VE NEVER DONE

JESSE

SCARY PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

JOSH

MAYBE I CAN FINALLY MEET SOMEONE

JACOB
THIS FEELS LIKE A NIGHTMARE

JESSE
WATCHING PEOPLE ACTING COOL AND HAVING FUN

MICHAEL
BUT HIGH SCHOOL HAS ITS RULES AND CLIQUES
COULD BE TOUGH ON GRADE NINE GEEKS
HIGH SCHOOL HAS ITS RULES

THE J'S
HIGH SCHOOL HAS ITS RULES

MICHAEL AND THE J'S
HIGH SCHOOL HAS ITS RULES

The Questers rush in.

TAYLOR
Wow - everyone in high school's so
much...bigger.

SAMMY
And scarier!

ROSIE
It feels like the start of a horror movie.

FRANKIE
High school *is* a horror movie!

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
WHERE THE MONSTERS ARE REAL
WITH A SMILING FACE

SAMMY
AND YOU STAY IN YOUR LANE
OR GET PUT IN YOUR PLACE

ROSIE
WHERE EACH CHANCE TO RISE
IS A NEW CHANCE TO FALL

TAYLOR
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE
AND YOUR BACK TO THE WALL

QUESTERS
CAN'T WE JUST AVOID IT ALL?

EMMA
DAY AFTER DAY
WISH I WASN'T STUCK INSIDE A SCHOOL

STUDENT #1
SOMETIMES WANNA SAY

EMMA AND STUDENT #1
CAN'T WE ALL BE KIND INSTEAD OF CRUEL?

ALL
EVERYTHING IS CHANGING
MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED OF THE SAME OLD ME
EVERYTHING IS CHANGING
AND I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE TO BE
BUT I GUESS I'LL FIND MY WAY
DAY AFTER DAY

TAYLOR

Wow!! That announcements girl is *so great!*
(catches herself)
I mean, she's great at announcements.

SAMMY

Did you hear what she said, Rosie? There's a
Talent Show on Wednesday! You should sign up -
you could sing one of your songs!

ROSIE

I'd rather be stabbed by a goblin.

FRANKIE

This is high school! It's time for us to, like,
grow up!

SAMMY

Yeah, show the world who we really are!

TAYLOR

That does *not* sound like fun.

ROSIE

Taylor you're always so secretive! You never
tell us anything!

FRANKIE

Yeah, we're your best friends! We have the
right to know everything!

TAYLOR

And I have the right not to tell you!

ROSIE

What about you, Sammy? What's *your* high school
dream?

SAMMY

My dream? To go on one date. That's all.

Taylor notices Michael and the J's.

TAYLOR

Well what about those geeks over there?

FRANKIE

That is some hot geek action.

ROSIE

Sammy - go over and say hi!

SAMMY

Say hi to some random geek? No way!

TAYLOR

Come on Sammy, just pick one!

ROSIE

Yeah, like...that one.

Rosie points at Michael, who seems to hear this and looks over.

1B) "A MAGICAL MOMENT"

Michael and Sammy's eyes meet, and time stops as magical underscore begins. They hold each others' gaze for a long moment, not speaking. Then time starts up again and the underscore stops.

TAYLOR

Well, we should get to class. Come on, Sammy.

SAMMY

(still entranced)

What?

ROSIE

Come on, Sammy, let's go!

Rosie grabs Sammy's arm and starts pulling her away. Sammy is still looking at Michael.

SAMMY

Yeah ok.

The Questers leave. Michael shakes off the 'spell' and turns back to the J's.

MICHAEL

Ok geeks, let's talk about goals for the year. Jesse, you go first.

JESSE

I wanna get my Rubik's Cube time down from twelve seconds to eleven seconds.

MICHAEL

Wow. Great. Great goal. Jacob?

JACOB

I wanna have one conversation that doesn't feel like I'm having a tooth extracted.

MICHAEL

Fantastic. Josh?

JOSH

I wanna get noticed by a girl. Any girl. Even the lunch lady.

MICHAEL

I'm sure you and the lunch lady will get along just fine, Josh.

JOSH

What about you Michael?

Music starts.

MICHAEL

I just wanna not to get beaten up so much. Seems like every year the bullies get bigger and we don't. But this year's gonna be different - I can feel it.

2) "I JUST WANNA FIT IN"

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

GOT A BRAND NEW SHIRT
AND THESE BRAND NEW JEANS
A RULER I WROTE MY NAME ON
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
FINALLY IN MY TEENS
AND ALL I CAN SAY IS 'GAME ON!'

BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH
I WAS THE GUY
WHO GOT PICKED ON EVERY DAY
GONNA MAKE A CHANGE
LEAST I'M GONNA TRY
GOTTA FIGURE OUT A WAY

I FEEL LIKE I'M A FREAK
BUT I'M PLAYING IT COOL
I'M A BRAND NEW GEEK
IN A BRAND NEW SCHOOL
CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY

I FEEL OK IN MY SKIN
I JUST WANNA FIT IN

JOSH

IT'S A SCARY THING
BEING IN GRADE NINE

JACOB

CAN'T WAIT TIL I AM SEVENTEEN

JESSE

GOTTA FIGURE OUT
HOW TO SURVIVE

JESSE, JACOB AND JOSH
TODAY AND EACH DAY IN BETWEEN

MICHAEL

I KNOW WE FEEL LIKE FREAKS
BUT WE'RE SORTA COOL
JUST A BUNCH OF GEEKS
IN A BRAND NEW SCHOOL
I KNOW WE USUALLY LOSE
BUT NOW WE'RE GONNA WIN

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

THIS IS OUR NEW REALITY

ALL

A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT WE CAN BE

MICHAEL

GOTTA FIND THE PEOPLE WHO AGREE

JESSE AND JACOB
WITH OUR GEEK MENTALITY

ALL

IF WE TRY TO MAKE IT ON OUR OWN
FOUR YEARS WILL FEEL LIKE THIRTY-THREE

MICHAEL

GOTTA KEEP ONE EAR
TO THE GROUND
AND KEEP BOTH EYES OPEN WIDE
WE'RE GONNA LIVE IN FEAR
UNTIL WE'VE FOUND
SOMEBODY WHO IS ON OUR SIDE

ALL

WE'RE A BUNCH OF GEEKS
TRYIN' TO LEARN THE RULES
TRYIN' NEW TECHNIQUES
NOT TO LOOK LIKE FOOLS
MAYBE THIS IS THE YEAR

OUR NEW LIFE'LL BEGIN
WE JUST WANNA FIT IN

JOSH

So Michael, how are we gonna fit in?

MICHAEL

I've been thinking about it. What we need
is...an ally!

Doug walks up to Michael and the
J's. Doug always appears with at
least two DORKS and DWEEBS
(members of the Dork-Dweeb
Alliance).

DOUG

Greetings!

JESSE

Uh, greetings?

DOUG

So you're the new geeks in the school, correct?

MICHAEL

Uh, yeah, I'm Michael, and this is Jesse, Josh,
and Jacob.

DOUG

Interesting. Three J's.

JACOB

Yeah, we know...

JOSH

And who are you?

DOUG

My name is...Doug.

JESSE

Hello... 'Doug'.

JACOB

So who is... 'Doug', anyway?

DORK #1

Doug is the President of the Dork-Dweeb
Alliance.

DWEEB #1

And the Dork-Dweeb Alliance controls the
Nerdverse.

JOSH

What's the 'Nerdverse'?

DOUG

What's the Nerdverse!?

(laughs)

The Nerdverse is all the nerds, geeks, dorks, and dweebs in high school - the ones who get picked on, bullied, and beaten up. So I - Doug - created the Dork-Dweeb Alliance to protect you.

MICHAEL

Wow! Thank you...Doug.

JACOB

But aren't nerds, geeks, dorks, and dweebs all kinda the same thing?

JESSE

Yeah, what's the difference?

DOUG

Ah, the naïveté of youth!

3) "NERDS AND GEEKS AND DORKS AND DWEEBS"

DOUG (CONT'D)

LOOK AROUND YOU

OPEN YOUR EYES

YOU'LL SEE THERE'S EVERY COLOUR

EVERY SHAPE AND EVERY SIZE

AND FOR EVERY JOCK WHO SEEKS TO THINK THEY OWN THE SCHOOL
YOU'LL FIND TEN OF US HERE HUDDLING IN THE SHADOWS OF COOL
AND WE'RE HETEROGENEOUS AS A RULE

WHEN I WAS EIGHT

I FIGURED I WAS A NERD

I MEAN IT SEEMED LIKE THE PERFECT WORD

TO SUM UP WHO I WAS

AND WHEN I WAS TWELVE

I THOUGHT I MUST BE A DORK

CUZ ALL SUMMER I TALKED LIKE MORK

I WAS MIXED-UP LONELY SAD AND WEIRD

BUT THEN ONE DAY MY CONFUSION CLEARED

NERDS AND GEEKS AND DORKS AND DWEEBS

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT

NERDS AND GEEKS AND DORKS AND DWEEBS
IT'S LIKE A RAINBOW

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE MOCKED BY ALL THE CRUEL ONES
WE THINK THAT WE ROCK THAT WE'RE THE COOL ONES
AND IF YOU TOOK THE TIME TO LOOK
YOU'D SEE THAT EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT

IF YOU CAN READ AND WRITE
A LANGUAGE NO ONE SPEAKS
THEN YOU'RE PROBABLY ONE OF THE GEEKS
WITH A CRAZY WEIRD OBSESSION

JOSH

Like Latin?

DOUG

More like...Elvish.

IF YOU'RE A DWEEB
YOU GET BEATEN UP BY THE JOCKS
AND YOU ALWAYS WEAR UNCOMFORTABLE SOCKS

SO BY THE HOLY PERIODIC TABLE
DON'T BE A JERK JUST LEARN MY LABEL

DOUG, JESSE, JACOB
NERDS AND GEEKS AND DORKS AND DWEEBS
EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT
NERDS AND GEEKS AND DORKS AND DWEEBS
IT'S LIKE A RAINBOW

ALL

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE MOCKED BY ALL THE CRUEL ONES
WE THINK THAT WE ROCK WE THINK WE'RE THE COOL ONES
AND IF YOU TOOK THE TIME TO LOOK
YOU'D SEE THAT EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE MOCKED AND SCORNED BY THE CRUEL ONES
WE KNOW THAT WE ROCK WE KNOW WE'RE THE COOL ONES
AND IF YOU TOOK THE TIME TO LOOK
IF YOU TOOK THE TIME TO LOOK
IF YOU TOOK THE TIME TO LOOK
YOU'D SEE THAT EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT

SCENE 2

INT. BASEMENT

4A) "THE QUEST CONTINUES"

The Questers sit around the table. Lighting is dungeon lighting. The Wizard, Bard, and Illusionist kneel by the treasure chest.

FRANKIE

Dim torchlight flickers throughout the room. Around you are the burnt, stinking bodies of the goblins and the ogre. In front of you is a treasure chest, covered in cobwebs. Slowly you open the lid, and inside you see...

ROSIE

Wait!

Lighting switches to normal lighting.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

There's something I need to say.

FRANKIE

What is it Rosie?

SAMMY

Yeah, tell us Rose.

ROSIE

I can't believe they assigned us a biology paper on day one.

The other three groan.

FRANKIE

Yeah, they're the *real* ogres!

SAMMY

Yeah but the paper's on frogs and frogs are cool!

ROSIE

Are they Sammy? Really?

SAMMY

Yes, they are!

FRANKIE

Sammy, you really shoulda said hi to that geek.

SAMMY

I'm not gonna go up to some random geek and say hi!

ROSIE

So you'd rather remain a loser for the entire year?

SAMMY

Well what about you Rosie? You wanna be a musician but you won't even sign up for the Talent Show!

ROSIE

So?

SAMMY

So if I'm a loser, then you must be, like...

ROSIE

Like what?

SAMMY

(beat)

Never mind.

ROSIE

No, say it!

SAMMY

I'm not gonna say it!

ROSIE

Go on, say it!

SAMMY

I'm not gonna say it!

ROSIE

Don't be such a chicken Sammy! Just say it!

SAMMY

Ok fine!

4) "THE BIGGEST LOSERS IN THE WORLD"

SAMMY (CONT'D)

YOU'RE THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD

ROSIE

What?

SAMMY

I DON'T THINK THERE'S EVEN SECOND PLACE
YOU'RE THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD

ROSIE

That's harsh.

SAMMY

YOU CAN LOOK ACROSS THE HUMAN RACE
GUESS YOU'RE A SINGER WHO JUST DOESN'T WANNA SING

ROSIE

So what?

SAMMY

CUZ BEING CONFIDENT IS KINDA NOT YOUR THING

ROSIE

Confidence is overrated.

SAMMY

IF YOU WERE BRAVER YOU WOULD STEP INTO THE RING

ROSIE

Well y'know what Sammy?

SAMMY

No tell me.

ROSIE

YOU'RE THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD

SAMMY

Didn't see *that* coming...

ROSIE

EVERY OTHER LOSER WOULD AGREE
YOU'RE THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD

SAMMY

You're just saying that cuz *I* said it.

ROSIE

MAYBE EVEN SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ME
YOU WANT A DATE BUT YOU'RE AFRAID TO SAY HELLO

SAMMY

So what?

ROSIE

YOU DIDN'T TAKE A CHANCE SO NOW YOU'LL NEVER KNOW

SAMMY

Maybe I don't wanna know!

TAYLOR
THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO FIND YOUR GEEKY ROMEO
OR CYRANO
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW

SAMMY
Y'know what Taylor? I've changed my mind.

YOU'RE THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD

TAYLOR
Why me?!

ROSIE
I DON'T THINK THERE'S EVEN A DEBATE

FRANKIE AND ROSIE
SHE'S THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD

TAYLOR
I wouldn't say 'biggest'...

FRANKIE AND ROSIE
SHE WAS SO MUCH COOLER IN GRADE EIGHT

ROSIE
YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE

TAYLOR
I'm a private person!

FRANKIE
WHEN WE ALL SPILL OUR GUTS YOU ALWAYS RUN AND HIDE

TAYLOR
I have a rich inner life.

FRANKIE AND ROSIE
SO WE'LL KEEP ASKING AND WE WILL NOT BE DENIED

FRANKIE
SO GLAD I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU THREE
I'M NOT A LOSER IT'S SO OBVIOUS TO SEE
CALM AND COOL AND IN CONTROL
RIGHT TO THE BOTTOM OF MY SOUL

ROSIE
Frankie.

FRANKIE
What?

ROSIE, TAYLOR, SAMMY
YOU'RE THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE WORLD

FRANKIE

No I'm not!

ROSIE, FRANKIE, SAMMY
YOU JUST LIKE BOSSING US AROUND

SAMMY

AROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER WE ARE CURLED

FRANKIE

I enjoy power!

ROSIE

LIKE YOU'RE A QUEEN WHO SHOULD BE CROWNED

SAMMY, ROSIE, FRANKIE

YOU'RE LIKE THE REST OF US YOU'RE NOT A SPECIAL CASE
BEING A LOSER'S JUST A THING WE MUST EMBRACE
LIFE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN WIN LIKE IT'S A RACE
IT'S NOT A RACE

FRANKIE

Well, maybe you're right.

ALL

WE'RE THE BIGGEST LOSERS IN THE WORLD
WE'RE THE BIGGEST LOSERS IN THE WORLD

AND AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED
IT'S A LESSON WE HAVE LEARNED
WE'RE THE BIGGEST, BIGGEST, BIGGEST, BIGGEST
LOSERS IN THE WORLD

FRANKIE

Let's get back to the game. I've just had an idea.

TAYLOR

Your idea better be us getting the Great Sceptre.

FRANKIE

It's better than the Great Sceptre.

4B) THE QUEST CONTINUES

The lighting switches to dungeon lighting.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Ok, so you stand next to the treasure chest.
Slowly you open the lid...

Frankie makes the creaking sound of the treasure chest opening.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
...and inside you see...

TAYLOR
The Great Sceptre!

FRANKIE
(beat)
A scroll.

ROSIE
A scroll?!

SAMMY
Ok, so...we open the scroll.

FRANKIE
You open it. It says, "Sammy, Rosie, and Taylor."

ROSIE
What?

ROSIE (CONT'D)
Frankie those are our real-life names!

FRANKIE
"Sammy, Rosie and Taylor, you must complete the following three quests. Sammy, you must ask a geek to the dance. Rosie, you must perform a song at the Talent Show. Taylor, you must reveal your true self. If you complete these quests, you will receive the Great Sceptre."

Orchestral music stops. The lighting switches to normal lighting.

SAMMY
What is going on...

TAYLOR
Yeah Frankie, what are you doing?

FRANKIE
I'm tired of us being losers all the time!
We're in high school! We have to, like, grow up!

SAMMY
So why don't you have a quest?

FRANKIE
I'm the Quest Master. I give quests.

ROSIE

You're wrecking the game, Frankie.

FRANKIE

Some things are bigger than the game.

(beat)

Good luck. To all of you.

SCENE 3

INT. HIGH SCHOOL MAIN LOBBY

5A) "ANNOUNCEMENTS"

Emma does the announcements over the school PA system. Michael and the J's hang out on one side of the stage and the Questers are on the other.

EMMA

(over the PA)

Hello my fellow students, and welcome to Tuesday! Remember, tomorrow is the Talent Show, and Friday is the Get To Know You Dance!

MICHAEL

It was so nice of Doug to offer us his protection.

JOSH

Doug seems like the mafia.

MICHAEL

Doug is not the mafia! He wants to protect us!

JESSE

Yeah, like the mafia!

On the other side of the stage, Emma approaches the Questers carrying a clipboard.

EMMA

Hey - do any of you wanna perform at the Talent Show tomorrow night?

FRANKIE

Rosie will!

ROSIE

What?

TAYLOR

Yeah Rosie!

(in a *Quest* voice)

"Begin your quest!"

ROSIE

My hands just went numb.

SAMMY

Come on Rose, you can do it!

Emma holds the clipboard out to Rosie.

ROSIE

Ok.

Rosie takes the clipboard and starts signing up. Taylor walks up to Emma.

TAYLOR

Hi! Uh, I just wanted to say you're, like, *really* good at announcements.

EMMA

Thanks!

TAYLOR

Like, *really* good.

EMMA

Uh, well...thanks again!

TAYLOR

I'm Taylor by the way.

EMMA

Oh - Emma.

TAYLOR

Yeah I know.

Rosie finishes signing the sheet.

ROSIE

There. Done.

SAMMY

Way to go Rosie!

TAYLOR

(to Emma)

Rosie's an *amazing* songwriter!

EMMA

I can't wait to hear her play!

Taylor stares at Emma for an awkwardly long moment.

Ok, well, have a great day!

Emma walks away.

TAYLOR

You too!

(to the Questers)

Emma's so cool, don't you think?

SAMMY

Uh, I guess so?

FRANKIE

She seems, like, average cool.

TAYLOR

She's one of those people who's, like, got everything.

ROSIE

What do you mean 'everything'?

TAYLOR

She's, like, got everything! She's pretty, she's popular, she's just like...

The following song occurs only in Taylor's head. The other Questers don't hear it.

5) "PERFECT"

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

PERFECT

PERFECT

THAT'S THE ONLY WORD THAT APPLIES

PERFECT

SHE'S PERFECT

I KNEW IT WHEN I LOOKED IN HER EYES

IF SHE HAD SOUP ONE AFTERNOON

I'M SURE SHE'D USE THE PROPER SPOON

AND THEN PERHAPS A MACAROON

OR MAYBE THREE, SHE'S...

LOVELY

LOVELY

HER HEAD DOWN TO THE TIPS OF HER SHOES

AWESOME

SHE'S AWESOME

LIPS AND HIPS AND LACK OF TATTOOS

THE WAY SHE ACTS IS SO SUBLIME

SHE ROLLS A TWENTY EVERY TIME

SO NOT TO STARE WOULD BE A CRIME

DON'T YOU AGREE? SHE'S...

SOMEONE WHO I SAW AND THEN MY BRAIN JUST WENT KA-BLOW

SOMEONE WHO I'M DESPERATE JUST TO SEE AGAIN SOMEHOW
SOMEONE WHO I'VE WANTED BUT I DIDN'T KNOW TIL NOW

(SIGH)

SHE'S...PERFECT
PERFECT
NOTHING MORE THAT NEEDS TO BE SAID
PERFECT
SHE'S PERFECT
EVEN IF IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD

ROSIE
(to Taylor)

And just like what?

TAYLOR

What?

ROSIE

You said she's pretty and popular and just
like...

TAYLOR

(embarrassed)

Oh, uh...great. She's great. I mean, she seems
great anyway, I dunno.

Sammy, Frankie and Rosie exchange
a look.

ROSIE

Taylor, I don't know how to say this but...are
you, like, *into* Emma.

TAYLOR

What do you mean?

ROSIE

I mean are you, like, *into* her?

TAYLOR

What are you saying?

SAMMY

I mean, if you're *into* her, that's cool.

TAYLOR

I'm not *into* her. She's good at announcements.
That's all.

FRANKIE

Taylor, we don't care who you're *into*. We love
you no matter what.

TAYLOR

This conversation's gotten really weird. I'm
going to class - I'll see you later.

Taylor leaves. The other Questers
exchange a look.

SCENE 4

INT. LIBRARY

6A) "IN THE LIBRARY"

Jesse, Jacob and Josh chat.

JESSE

The greatest of all the undead, without question, are vampires. Vampires simultaneously represent an ancient tradition of gothic horror whilst maintaining a strong romantic and - dare I say - erotic fascination.

JACOB

I *violently* disagree. "An American Werewolf in London" modernized our conception of lycanthropy while at the same time transforming the werewolf from a manifestly laughable trope into a doomed yet relatable Everyman.

They look at Josh.

JOSH

(shrugs)

Mummies are cool.

JACOB

Why are you even *in* this conversation?

JOSH

I'm in this conversation because we never talk to anyone else!

JACOB

That's because people are scary.

JESSE

Yeah, scarier than vampires.

JACOB

I'm ok when people talk to me. My problem is what to say *back*.

JOSH

So how are we ever gonna get dates if we never talk to anyone?

JESSE

Dates? Who said anything about dates?

JACOB

Y'know who I wanna date? A jock.

JESSE

A jock?!

JACOB

Yeah, some girl with like, y'know - legs, and arms...

JOSH

(dreamily)

Yeah, legs and arms...

JESSE

Listen - jocks'll never date us. They're top of the food chain!

JACOB

Yeah but what if we came up with a *plan* to date jocks?

JOSH

A plan?

JACOB

Yeah! Ok so how 'bout about this. We're geeks, right? None of us is ever gonna be good at sports. I mean, look at Josh. There are people with legs bigger than Josh's whole body.

JOSH

What?

JACOB

But we *are* good at something, and that is...

JESSE

(long beat)

Awkward conversational pauses?

JACOB

Memorizing! So here's what we do: we memorize a ton of football stats, and then when a jock walks by - bam! We drop a bunch of stats on her!

JOSH

I hate this plan. I don't even *like* football.

JESSE

I *love* football and I hate this plan.

JACOB

We don't have to *love* football, we have to *pretend* to *love* football! So what do we think? Are we in?

JESSE

Uh, I guess so.

JACOB

Great!

JOSH

(sighs)

I'll start memorizing football stats.

JESSE

I prefer differential calculus but...fine. I'll start memorizing football stats.

JACOB

Y'know, I think this plan could actually work!

Michael walks up.

MICHAEL

Hey geeks! What's up?

JESSE

We're developing a plan to date girls.

JOSH

Michael, what's your secret?

MICHAEL

Secret to what?

JOSH

Talking to girls.

MICHAEL

There's no secret. When you wanna talk to a girl, you just go up to her and say...

Sammy walks by, sees Michael and stops.

6B) "ANOTHER MAGICAL MOMENT"

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hi.

SAMMY

Oh - hi.

Underscore stops.

JESSE, JACOB AND JOSH

Wow...

MICHAEL

Shhh!

(to Sammy)

I'm Michael.

SAMMY

I'm Sammy.

MICHAEL

And this is Jesse, Jacob, and Josh.

SAMMY

Wow - three J's!

JACOB

Yeah, we know.

MICHAEL

And they were just leaving. Right J's?

JOSH

Yeah, right.

Josh walks up uncomfortably close to Sammy.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Bye.

The other J's pull Josh away, and the three J's leave.

MICHAEL

Sorry about that.

SAMMY

That's ok! So...how's high school so far?

MICHAEL

Not bad. It's just weird getting a biology paper on the first day.

SAMMY

Yeah, but it's on frogs.

MICHAEL

So?

SAMMY

Frogs are cool!

MICHAEL

Are they?

SAMMY

Yes! They're this amazing window into how species evolve!

6) "FROGS"

SAMMY (CONT'D)

**TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION YEARS AGO
A FISH GOT TIRED OF THE STATUS QUO
SHE WANDERED ONTO LAND AND FLOPPED DOWN ON A LOG**

FIRST SHE STARTED BREATHING THROUGH HER SKIN

MICHAEL

Cool!

SAMMY

**LOST HER TAIL AND THEN HER LEGS GREW IN
AND THAT'S THE WAY THE LITTLE FISH BECAME A FROG**

**THAT STEP WAS HER CONTRIBUTION
TO THE HISTORY OF EVOLUTION
BUT THAT'S NOT THE END OF THE STORY
AS WE'LL SEE...**

**THE FROG WENT LOOKING FOR HER FROGGY MATE
CROAKED A CROAK THAT SAID, "LET'S PROCREATE!"
AND THAT WAS THE START OF THE MATING HABITS OF FROGS**

**AND THEY MADE A FAMILY
THE FROG GIRL AND BOY
AND THEY MADE A HAPPY HOME
UNDER THE SEA
OR UP IN A TREE**

Sammy is near Michael. Their faces are unexpectedly close.

MICHAEL

You're really passionate about frogs.

SAMMY

It's funny - frogs fall in love just like people.

Sammy and Michael both suddenly realize how intimate and romantic the moment is, and pull away self-consciously.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

I mean...uh...

FROGS ARE NOW A FINE AMPHIBIAN

**PORTRUGUESE AND DUTCH AND LIBYAN
NOBODY'S UNHAPPY WHEN THEY SEE A FROG**

They move closer together, feeling
the romance of the moment.

**SAMMY AND MICHAEL
WHO COULD BE UNHAPPY WHEN THEY SEE A FROG**

They lean in to kiss, but before
they do, Michael suddenly pulls
away.

MICHAEL

Ok, well, thanks! You've given me lots to think
about in terms of frogs and, uh, other stuff!
I'll see you later! Bye!

Michael leaves.

SAMMY

6C) "FROGS REPRISE"

WHO COULD BE UNHAPPY WHEN THEY SEE A FROG

Sammy smiles and runs off.

SCENE 5

INT. HIGH SCHOOL MAIN LOBBY

7A) "ANNOUNCEMENTS"

Frankie, Taylor and Rosie hang around the lobby while Emma does the announcements over the school PA system.

EMMA

Hey everybody! Happy Wednesday! Remember, the Talent Show is tonight, and if you're not on stage I wanna see you in the audience!

TAYLOR

So how are you feeling about your quest, Rosie?

ROSIE

Oh, y'know - heart palpitations, fight or flight response. Doin' great!

Sammy runs up to the other Questers.

SAMMY

Hey!

TAYLOR

Hey Sammy! What's up?

SAMMY

I think I started my quest!

ROSIE

Really?

SAMMY

So remember that geek you said I should talk to?

FRANKIE

Yeah.

SAMMY

I ran into him in the library! Turns out his name is 'Michael'.

On the other side of the stage, Michael and the J's enter. The conversation happens on both sides of the stage.

JOSH

So how'd it go yesterday?

MICHAEL

Well, Sammy and I started talking about the science paper...

SAMMY

...so Michael and I started talking about the science paper...

MICHAEL

...and she started talking about frogs...

SAMMY

...and I started talking about frogs...

MICHEAL

...which I thought was was gonna be really boring...

SAMMY

...but he was really into it!

Music starts.

MICHAEL

So we just kept talking...

SAMMY

...and talking...

MICHAEL

...and talking...

SAMMY

...and one thing lead to another...

SAMMY AND MICHAEL

...and then suddenly...

7) "WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE"

MICHAEL

IT WAS KIND OF INSANE
LIKE A PART OF MY BRAIN
WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE

SAMMY

IT WAS KIND OF A RUSH
AND I TRIED NOT TO BLUSH
BUT IT PROBABLY SHOWED

MICHAEL

I KNEW RIGHT FROM THE START
SHE WAS TOTALLY SMART
AND SHE WAS TOTALLY COOL

SAMMY AND MICHAEL
BUT THE LAST TIME I CHECKED
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT
IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE

ROSIE
IS HE ONE OF THOSE GUYS
WHEN YOU LOOK IN HIS EYES

FRANKIE
THAT YOU JUST KINDA SWOON?

JOSH
IS SHE THAT KINDA GIRL
MAKES REALITY SWIRL?

J'S
PUTS YOU OVER THE MOON?

TAYLOR
SO DID YOU HOLD HANDS?

ROSIE
OR MAKE FUTURE PLANS?

SAMMY
I'M NOT REALLY SURE!

SAMMY AND MICHAEL
OH I ALMOST MISSED
THAT WE ALMOST KISSED
IT WAS KIND OF A BLUR

MICHAEL
IT'S GREAT WHEN SOMEONE FITS

SAMMY
AND YOUR HEART STARTS REELING WHEN THE FEELING HITS

ALL
IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE

MICHAEL
LIKE THE SUN AND THE MOON

SAMMY
LIKE THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

MICHAEL
JUST LIKE ROCK AND ROLL

SAMMY
OR LIKE MAC AND CHEESE
LIKE A PAPER AND PEN

MICHAEL
LIKE A BURGER AND FRIES

SAMMY AND MICHAEL
IT'S LIKE BARBIE AND KEN
WHEN I LOOK IN HER/HIS EYES
AND IT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE

COMPANY
IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE

THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT
MAGIC OF THE MOMENT
MAGIC OF THE MOMENT
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE

SAMMY
So basically these quests are the best thing
ever! I'm going to class - see you later!

Sammy runs away.

ROSIE
At least somebody likes them.

Rosie, Frankie and Taylor leave.

JOSH
So Michael, what are you gonna do?

MICHAEL
What do you mean?

JOSH
About Sammy.

MICHAEL

Well obviously I'm gonna ask her to the Get To
Know You Dance this...

Doug walks right up to Michael and
the J's. Michael notices him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

...Friday.

DOUG

I have it on good authority that one of you has
been fraternizing with...a nerd.

MICHAEL

Yeah, I'm thinking of asking Sammy to the
dance.

DOUG

That...can't happen.

MICHAEL

Why not?

DOUG

Because the Nerdverse is a hierarchy. Dorks and
dweebs on top, then geeks, then nerds at the
bottom.

JACOB

Why are nerds at the bottom?

DOUG

Someone has to be on the bottom, cuz when
someone's on the bottom, it means someone else -
like me - is on top.

JESSE

That makes sense - in a sick, twisted kind of
way.

DOUG

So in order to maintain the hierarchy, dating
outside your social status is strictly
forbidden!

MICHAEL

So you're saying geeks can't date nerds?

DOUG

Precisely.

JACOB

What happens if we do?

DOUG

You will be crushed by The Dork-Dweeb Alliance.

JOSH

What does *that* mean?

DOUG

It means ruined friendships, never being elected to student council, and poisoning the minds of your teachers so you never get above...D minus.

JACOB

You wouldn't dare!

DOUG

Try me.

(beat)

Just obey this one little rule and we'll all get along just...fine.

SCENE 6

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM

8A) 'TRANSITION TO GYM'

At the centre of a gym stage is a single microphone on a stand. It's the Talent Show. The entire school is there.

EMMA
(on mic)

Thanks again for coming to the Talent Show everyone! And for our next act, please put your hands together for...Dani!

The audience applauds again. Dani walks up to the mic carrying a guitar.

DANI
(on mic)

This is a song about my dog.

8) "FARTS"

MY DOG ALWAYS WANTS TO GO FOR A WALK
I WISH THAT I COULD MAKE HIM TALK
HE EATS FOOD AND LAYS AROUND ALL DAY
BUT MOST OF ALL HE FARTS

FARTS FARTS FARTS FARTS
FARTS FARTS FARTS FARTS
FARTS FARTS FARTS FARTS
FARTS

FARTS FARTS FARTS FARTS
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FARTS FARTS FARTS FARTS
FARTS FARTS FARTS FARTS
FARTS

DANI (CONT'D)

Thank you!

Dani leaves the stage to
intermittent clapping. Emma comes
up to the mic.

EMMA
(on mic)

Wow - thanks for that Dani! And I hope I never
meet your dog!

The audience laughs.

EMMA (CONT'D)
(on mic)

So our next performer is - me! This song helped
me through a really hard time. It's called
'Positive.'

Members of the Cheer Team come up
on stage to dance and sing with
Emma.

9) "POSITIVE"

EMMA (CONT'D)
EVERYBODY KNOWS HOW IT IS IN HIGH SCHOOL
JUST WALKING AROUND
TRYIN' TO GET AHEAD
AND THEY'RE TRYIN' TO BRING YOU DOWN

EMMA AND THE CHEER TEAM
THEY SAY WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
AND WHY DOES SHE ACT LIKE THIS?

EMMA
BUT I KNOW I KNOW I KNOW IT'LL BE ALRIGHT
CUZ WORDS DON'T KILL
THEY NEVER WILL
SO I'LL JUST CHILL

EMMA AND THE CHEER TEAM
NOTHING'S GONNA SHAKE ME
BEND OR BREAK ME
NO ONE'S GONNA GET ME DOWN

EMMA
I'M POSITIVE
I'M POSITIVE

EMMA AND THE CHEER TEAM
NOTHING'S GONNA SHAKE ME
BEND OR BREAK ME
NO ONE'S GONNA GET ME DOWN

EMMA
I'M POSITIVE
I'M POSITIVE

WALKIN' THROUGH THE HALLS WITH MY FAVOURITE SHIRT ON
AND I'M FEELING OK
BUT I HEAR ALL THE WORDS
AND I KNOW WHAT THEY SAY

EMMA AND THE CHEER TEAM
THEY SAY WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
AND WHY DOES SHE DRESS LIKE THIS?

EMMA
AND I KNOW I KNOW I KNOW THAT IT ISN'T RIGHT

CUZ WORDS DON'T KILL
THEY NEVER WILL
SO I'LL JUST CHILL

EMMA AND THE CHEER TEAM
NOTHING'S GONNA SHAKE ME
BEND OR BREAK ME
NO ONE'S GONNA GET ME DOWN
I'M POSITIVE
I'M POSITIVE
WHEN YOU HEAR 'EM TALKING
KEEP IN WALKING
NO ONE'S GONNA GET YOU DOWN
I'M POSITIVE
I'M POSITIVE

EMMA
(to Taylor)
THERE'S A LIGHT INSIDE
SO LET IT SHINE LIKE THE SUN

CHEER TEAM
SHINE LIKE THE SUN

EMMA AND THE CHEER TEAM
NEVER LET THEM TAKE
YOUR LIGHT AWAY

NOTHING'S GONNA SHAKE ME
BEND OR BREAK ME
NO ONE'S GONNA GET ME DOWN
I'M POSITIVE
I'M POSITIVE

NO ONE'S GONNA SHAKE ME
BEND OR BREAK ME
NOTHING'S GONNA GET ME DOWN
I'M POSITIVE
I'M POSITIVE

PA PA POSITIVE
PA PA POSITIVE
PA PA POSITIVE

**PA PA POSITIVE
PA PA POSITIVE
PA PA POSITIVE**

PA PA POSITIVE!

The audience applauds. The Cheer Team leaves the stage.

EMMA
(on mic)

Thanks everyone! It's time now for our final performer! Give it up for...Rosie!

ROSIE
(to the Questers)

I'm not going.

FRANKIE
Come on Rosie!

ROSIE
I can't do this!

TAYLOR
Rosie this is your quest! You *have* to!

ROSIE
(deep breath)
Ok. Here goes nothing.

Rosie walks up on stage.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
Uh, hi. This is, uh - this is a song I wrote called "By Your Side."

FRANKIE, TAYLOR, SAMMY
Yeah Rosie! You can do it! Woohoo! Go for it!
Etc.

9A) "BY YOUR SIDE INTRO"

The piano intro plays from side stage. Rosie is standing at the mic, terrified. She doesn't sing.

TAYLOR
(calling out)
C'mon Rosie!

The intro repeats a few times.
Finally Rosie gives up.

ROSIE
(on mic to the audience)
I'm sorry.

Rosie runs off stage. Emma comes up to the mic.

EMMA
Well at least it had less farts in it! Ok, thanks for coming to the Talent Show everybody! See you at school tomorrow!

The audience applauds and starts to leave. Rosie comes up to the Questers.

ROSIE
What a disaster.

SAMMY
You'll do better next time Rosie.

ROSIE
There won't be a next time. I'm going home to sing to my teddy bear.

Rosie leaves.

SAMMY
Well, so much for the quests.

TAYLOR
Hey, there's Michael.

FRANKIE
If you want *any* chance of getting the Great Sceptre, you better go talk to him Sammy.

TAYLOR
It's all on you. No pressure.

Frankie and Taylor leave. Sammy walks up to Michael.

SAMMY
Hey Michael!

MICHAEL
(looks around nervously)
Oh, uh - hey Sammy!

SAMMY
Can I, uh, can I ask you something?

MICHAEL
Anything!

SAMMY

Will you go with me to the Get To Know You Dance?

MICHAEL

Anything but that.

SAMMY

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

Listen Sammy - I'd love to go to the dance with you, but apparently in this school geeks don't date nerds.

SAMMY

What? Says who?

MICHAEL

It's like this rule.

SAMMY

Well it's a stupid rule! There must be a way around it.

MICHAEL

Around the rule?!

SAMMY

Yeah!

MICHAEL

Well, I guess if you stopped hanging around your nerd friends, technically you could say you're not a nerd anymore.

SAMMY

Dump my friends!? I can't do that!

MICHAEL

I dunno - it's the only thing I can think of. Anyway, listen Sammy - we probably shouldn't be seen together. I'll - I'll talk to you later.

Michael leaves.

10A) "HOW CAN I CHOOSE - INTRO"

SAMMY

Was he serious? I can't dump my friends - they're my friends! Or can I? If I dump my friends, I'll have no friends. But then I'll have Michael, which might actually eventually some day turn into love. But then I'll have no friends!

Sammy screams in frustration.

10) "HOW CAN I CHOOSE? (PART I)"

SAMMY

I WISH THAT LIFE WAS A FAIRY TALE
WHERE THE HEROES WERE ME AND ALL MY FRIENDS
CUZ THEN I'D TURN TO THE FINAL PAGE
SO I COULD SEE THE WAY THIS STORY ENDS

HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
BETWEEN TWO OF THE THINGS I WANT THE MOST IN THE WORLD
HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
IS HIGH SCHOOL ALWAYS THIS HARD FOR A GIRL?
HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
BETWEEN SOMEONE I WANT
AND SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO LOSE
HOW CAN I CHOOSE?

SCENE 7

INT. BASEMENT

11A) "TRANSITION TO BASEMENT"

Taylor, Frankie, and Rosie sit around the table.

ROSIE

Where's Sammy?

TAYLOR

I dunno.

FRANKIE

So...should we play?

ROSIE

We may as well. I'm sure she'll be here soon.

FRANKIE

Ok.

11B) "THE QUEST CONTINUES"

Lighting switches to dungeon lighting. The Avatars appear and act out the described action.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

You stand in the dead ogre's lair. Suddenly you hear heavy footsteps coming toward you, and into the room steps...the ogre's wife!

A huge ogre enters the room.

ROSIE

Mrs. Ogre!

FRANKIE

And she's even *bigger* than Mr. Ogre!

TAYLOR

Uh oh.

FRANKIE

She sees the body of Mr. Ogre she let's out a huge roar!

Frankie roars.

ROSIE

Ok now I feel a little bad.

FRANKIE

There's no time to feel bad because Mrs. Ogre
raises her...

Sammy walks in. Music stops.
Lighting switches to normal
lighting.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Oh, hey Sammy!

SAMMY

Oh, uh, hi. Sorry I'm late.

ROSIE

Sammy are you ok?

TAYLOR

You look a little freaked out.

SAMMY

I'm fine. Let's just play.

Lighting switches to dungeon
lighting.

11C) "THE QUEST CONTINUES"

ROSIE

(to Sammy)

We're being attacked by Mrs. Ogre!

SAMMY

Oh. Ok.

TAYLOR

And she's even bigger than Mr. Ogre!

SAMMY

Alright.

FRANKIE

Mrs. Ogre comes at you with a club as big as a
tree trunk! What do you do Sammy?

TAYLOR

We know exactly what to do! Sammy - cast your
fireball!

ROSIE

Yeah Sammy, end the ogre menace forever!

Rosie hands a twenty-sided die to
Sammy. Sammy looks at it for a
moment. Time stops. Everyone but
Sammy freezes in place.

11) "HOW CAN I CHOOSE? (PART II)"

SAMMY

TWO ROADS ARE DIVERGING AND I'M IN THE MIDDLE
NOT EVEN A WIZARD COULD ANSWER THIS RIDDLE
THIS MOMENT DETERMINES THE REST OF MY LIFE
LIKE MY FUTURE IS POISED ON THE EDGE OF A KNIFE
FRIENDS ARE A THING YOU CAN NEVER REPLACE
BUT LOVE LEAVES A MARK YOU CAN NEVER ERASE
THE TIME HAS ARRIVED, I MUST PICK A ROAD
BUT I FEEL LIKE MY HEART IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE

HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
IF I JUST ROLL THIS DIE THEN IT ALL GOES AWAY
HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
BUT I THINK OF HIS EYES AND FORGET WHAT TO SAY
HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
BETWEEN THINGS THAT I WANT
AND FRIENDS THAT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE?
HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
BUT I HAVE TO CHOOSE

11D) "SAMMY'S CHOICE"

ROSIE

Come on Sammy - roll!

Sammy hands the die back to Rosie.

SAMMY

I can't do this anymore.

ROSIE

Can't do *what* anymore?

SAMMY

I gotta move on.

FRANKIE

Move on from *what*, Sammy?

SAMMY

From us. I'm sorry. Maybe one day you'll
forgive me.

(beat)

Goodbye.

Sammy leaves the basement.

TAYLOR

Can somebody please tell me what just happened?

SCENE 8

INT. LIBRARY

12A) "ANNOUNCEMENTS"

Emma does the morning announcements over the school PA.

EMMA

Good morning my fellow students and welcome to Thursday! Tomorrow is the Get To Know You Dance, so ask that special someone today!

Jesse, Jacob and Josh read books on football history.

JACOB

How are your football stats coming along Josh?

JOSH

Pretty good.

JESSE

Hit me with a football stat Josh!

JOSH

Ok.

(concentrates)

The NFL stands for National Football League.

JESSE

Wow. Amazing.

JACOB

Y'know what'd be cool? If we *actually* got dates from this?

JESSE

I can't even *imagine* having a girlfriend! It would be so awesome! Maybe she'd have, like, I dunno...dark hair!

JACOB

My girlfriend would be, like, medium height. Or whatever. Height doesn't matter. In fact nothing matters as long as she exists.

JOSH

I know who I'd date. The girl from the Talent Show.

JACOB

Who, Emma?

JOSH

No, Rosie! The one who ran away.

JACOB

Josh, you heard what Doug said. Geeks can't date nerds.

JOSH

But that's just some arbitrary rule!

JESSE

Yeah but what do us geeks have to offer anybody anyway?

JOSH

We have a lot to offer! Take me for example. I'm not athletic - at all - and I'm not as smart as you two. But I still think I'd be pretty good boyfriend material!

As Josh speaks, a fantasy version of Rosie (FANTASY ROSIE) appears on stage. Josh approaches her.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(to Fantasy Rosie)

If Rosie was my girlfriend, I'd be the best boyfriend ever! Or at least I'd try!

12) "GEEK HEARTS"

JOSH (CONT'D)

I'LL NEVER RACE THE TOUR DE FRANCE
BUT I COULD FIX YOUR DERAILLEUR
AND I COULD RUN THE BOSTON MARATHON
BUT I'D NEED MY INHALER
AND YOU AND I COULD SAIL THE WORLD
BUT WE'D NEED TO HIRE A SAILOR

BUT WHAT I'LL DO IS LOVE YOU
WITH EVERYTHING I GOT
FOR EVERYTHING YOU ARE
AND NOTHING THAT YOU'RE NOT
CUZ GEEK HEARTS BEAT STRONG
AND GEEK HEARTS BEAT TRUE
AND A GEEK HEART CAN LOVE YOU

BABY PUT YOUR RED DRESS ON
ASSUMING THAT YOU OWN ONE
I DON'T HAVE A DECENT SUIT
BUT MY BROTHER SAID HE'D LOAN ONE

JOSH AND FANTASY ROSIE

AND YOU AND I WILL HIT THE TOWN
AND SHOW 'EM HOW IT'S DONE
JUST A COUPLE GEEKS ON THE RUN

FANTASY ROSIE
WE ARE JUST TWO CRAZY KIDS
IN A WORLD THAT'S OUT TO GET US

JOSH
SO LET'S SKIP SCHOOL AND TAKE A WALK
IF OUR PARENTS LET US

JOSH AND FANTASY ROSIE
ROMEO AND JULIET
BUT TWENTY TIMES MORE FUN
JUST A COUPLE GEEKS ON THE RUN

Jesse and Jacob join in.

JESSE
YOU SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE ON YOUR OWN

JACOB
YOU THINK YOU'LL ALWAYS BE ALONE

JESSE AND JACOB
BUT THERE'S NO POINT GRIEVING
CUZ IF WE KEEP BELIEVING
LOVE WILL FIND A WAY SOMEHOW

ALL
A THOUSAND VOICES RINGING OUT
SHOUTING FROM THE DARKNESS
THE WORLD WILL TRY TO HOLD US BACK
BUT WE'LL CARRY ON REGARDLESS
WE'LL FIND OUR WAY TO HAPPINESS
TOGETHER ME AND YOU

CUZ GEEK HEARTS BEAT STRONG
AND GEEK HEARTS BEAT TRUE
AND A GEEK HEART CAN LOVE YOU

JOSH
CUZ GEEK HEARTS BEAT STRONG

ALL
(shouted)
STRONG!

JOSH
AND GEEK HEARTS BEAT TRUE

ALL
(shouted)
TRUE!

JOSH
AND A GEEK HEART CAN LOVE

ALL

LOVE
LOVE
LOVE
YOU

Doug emerges from behind a library bookshelf, slow-clapping.

DOUG

Ah young love! So beautiful and yet so misguided.

JACOB

Doug - were you eavesdropping?

DOUG

It's a library! I was researching Napoleon. And good thing too, because *clearly* you didn't hear me when I said if a geek dates a nerd, there will be consequences.

JOSH

You can't control people's lives! It's not fair!

DOUG

Who said anything about 'fair'? All you need to know is, if you break the rule, your next four years will be hellacious.

Michael walks in.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Oh, hello Michael! I was just having a little chat with your fellow geeks. And I believe we've come to an understanding. Good day!

Doug leaves.

MICHAEL

It's so nice of Doug to watch out for us.

JACOB

Watch out for us?! He's a bully!

MICHAEL

Doug is the only friend we have!

JESSE

Yeah, if we play by his rules!

MICHAEL

There are *always* rules! And the best thing for us to do is follow them.

Sammy walks up to Michael and the J's.

SAMMY

Michael?

MICHAEL

Oh, hey Sammy!

SAMMY

Can I talk to you?

MICHAEL

Sure.

They walk a short distance away.

SAMMY

So - I did what you said.

MICHAEL

What's that?

SAMMY

I dumped my friends.

MICHAEL

What?!

SAMMY

So now we can go to the dance together!

MICHAEL

But that was just, like, an idea!

SAMMY

And now it's real! So we can go to the dance!

MICHAEL

Uh, yeah...I need to think about this.

SAMMY

Think about it?! I just dumped my friends!

MICHAEL

Which I appreciate! I think. Listen, I'll give you an answer tomorrow.

SAMMY

Ok, fine. See you later.

Sammy leaves.

MICHAEL
(to the J's)

I can't believe it! I mentioned dumping her
friends and she did it!

JACOB
She must really like you.

MICHAEL
That's not the point!

JESSE
What other point is there?!

MICHAEL
But what about the rule?

JACOB
Y'know what? I can't listen to this anymore.
I'm going to class. See you later Michael.

JESSE
Yeah, me too.

Jesse and Jacob leave. Josh goes
up to Michael.

JOSH
Say yes.

Josh leaves.

MICHAEL
Take Sammy to the dance? That's impossible!
(beat)
Isn't it?

13) "WHAT IF?"

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
**WHAT IF WHEN SHE ASKED ME
WHAT IF I'D SAID YES?
NO MORE NIGHTS AT HOME
PLAYING SOLO CHESS
I'D THROW THAT STUPID CHESS BOARD OFF A CLIFF
WHAT IF?**

**WHAT IF IT NEVER HAPPENS
AND I END UP ON MY OWN
SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE
EATING FRIES ALONE
LOVE WAS OUT THERE BUT I NEVER GOT A WHIFF
WHAT IF?**

**SAMMY'S AWESOME
AM I NUTS**

MAYBE I'D SAY YES
IF I HAD THE GUTS
BUT IF SHE MOVES ON
THEN THIS DOOR SHUTS

AM I CRAZY? SHOULD I TAKE THE CHANCE?
SAMMY'S AMAZING AND SHE ASKED ME TO THE DANCE

WHAT IF?
WHAT IF?

SCENE 9

INT. HIGH SCHOOL MAIN LOBBY

14A) "TRANSITION TO LOBBY"

Frankie, Taylor and Rosie walk through the lobby.

FRANKIE

I can't believe Sammy dumped us.

TAYLOR

Maybe she fell in love so hard she just...went crazy.

Rosie drops some papers on the ground. She stops to pick them up. Frankie and Taylor leave. Josh enters.

ROSIE

No one falls in love *that* hard. Do they?

JOSH

Uh...hello there!

Rosie and Josh make eye contact. Magical underscore happens.

14B) "JOSH'S MAGICAL MOMENT"

ROSIE

Hi.

JOSH

Uh, I just wanted say, I saw you sing at the Talent Show!

ROSIE

No, you saw me *not* sing at the Talent Show.

JOSH

Yeah, ok, well, I just wanted to say, keep trying! One day you'll do it and it'll be amazing!

ROSIE

Oh...thanks! That's really sweet.

JOSH

No problem! Ok, see ya later!

ROSIE

Ok, bye!

Josh walks a few steps away, then turns around and slowly comes back to Rosie.

JOSH

Oh, uh, hi! Me again. So maybe I had too many gummy worms this morning but I wanted to ask - will you come with me to the dance tomorrow?

ROSIE

Who me?

JOSH

Yeah! I mean...yeah.

ROSIE

But we just met thirty seconds ago!

JOSH

Yeah, but it was a pretty great thirty seconds!

ROSIE

Uh...ok. Yeah! I'd love to!

JOSH

Oh wow! Amazing! Ok, so - so I guess I'll see you there!

ROSIE

Ok, see you there!

JOSH

Ok great! Oh - my name's Josh.

ROSIE

Oh, I'm Rosie!

JOSH

Ok, great to meet you Rosie! Ok bye!

ROSIE

Bye!

JOSH

Ok, bye!

Josh leaves. Rosie does a celebration dance.

ROSIE

Yes!!

Frankie walks up to Rosie.

FRANKIE

Rosie you got a date to the dance!

ROSIE

I know! It must have been the irresistible way
I ran off stage.

SCENE 10

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

15A) "ANNOUNCEMENTS"

Emma does the morning announcements.

EMMA

Happy Friday all you little monsters out there! Tonight's the big night - it's the Get To Know You Dance! If you still don't have a date, it's not too late to ask that special someone!

Taylor is walking down the hallway and Emma sees her.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Taylor!

Taylor stops and slowly turns toward Emma.

TAYLOR

(nervously)

Oh, hi Emma!

EMMA

Listen, I'm having a party on Saturday. If you're free you're welcome to come by.

TAYLOR

You're inviting me?

EMMA

Why wouldn't I invite you?

TAYLOR

Because you're, like, cool and awesome and have a million friends and I'm just like...Taylor.

EMMA

What are you talking about? You're cool and awesome too!

TAYLOR

Really? You think so?

EMMA

Well, I don't really know you, but...

TAYLOR

So we both think the other person's cool and awesome!

EMMA
(hesitantly)

Yeah, I mean, maybe on Saturday we could get to know each other better...

TAYLOR

Do you have a date for the Get To Know You Dance?

EMMA
(beat)

Uh, yeah. My boyfriend.

TAYLOR
(deflated)

Oh. Yeah. Of course.

EMMA

Sorry, I...

Taylor starts to back away.

TAYLOR

Listen, you probably won't see me on Saturday, but it was really nice to talk to you and good luck with the announcements for the rest of the year...

Taylor turns away.

EMMA

Taylor!

Taylor stops.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Can I tell you something?

Taylor turns back toward Emma.
Emma walks toward her.

EMMA (CONT'D)

When I was a kid I had a really bad stutter. Like, really bad. I got teased a lot by the other kids. But it taught me something. You have to be proud of who you are. No matter what anyone says.

15) "ALWAYS SHINE"

EMMA (CONT'D)

I THINK I WAS FOUR WHEN IT FIRST APPEARED
AND THEN LIFE GOT HARD, 'CAUSE DIFFERENT IS WEIRD
THEN CAME THE DOCTORS AND NURSES AND TESTS
AND ALL OF THE TREATMENTS THAT EACH ONE SUGGESTS
AND WHEN I WOULD CRY, MY MOTHER WOULD SAY
ALWAYS SHINE

IT WASN'T EASY, SOME DAYS WERE BAD
I'D GET DISCOURAGED AND ANGRY AND SAD
BUT I TRIED MY BEST
I WOULDN'T LET THE WORLD GET TO ME
NO ONE COULD TELL ME THE PERSON I GET TO BE

TAYLOR, YOU GET TO DECIDE
WHETHER YOU RISE OR YOU FALL
WHETHER YOU SHINE OR YOU HIDE
DO YOU SHUT OUT THE WORLD AND MAKE YOURSELF SMALL
AND QUESTION YOURSELF TIL THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL
YOU GET TO CHOOSE
'CAUSE IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU'LL EVER LOSE
SO JUST KEEP ON
JUST KEEP ON

TAYLOR

THE WORLD'S ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT I HAVE TO HIDE
IT MADE ME ASHAMED FOR WHAT I FEEL INSIDE
I'VE ALWAYS FELT LIKE THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME
JUST PRETEND NOT TO BE WHO I WANT TO BE

BUT WE ALL NEED LOVE IN OUR OWN WAY
AND I'M SCARED BUT I'LL STAND HERE AND SAY
ALWAYS SHINE

EMMA

ALWAYS SHINE

TAYLOR AND EMMA

ALWAYS SHINE

EMMA

Ok, so now you *have* to come to my party. And I
have a couple friends who I think would be *very*
interested in meeting you!

TAYLOR

That sounds...amazing!

EMMA

Ok! See you Saturday!

Emma leaves.

15B) "PERFECT REPRISE"

TAYLOR

PERFECT
I'M PERFECT
THIS IS ME I DON'T GIVE A DAMN
PERFECT
I'M PERFECT
PERFECT JUST THE WAY THAT I AM

SCENE 11

INT. LIBRARY

16A) "IN THE LIBRARY"

Michael waits alone. After a few moments, Sammy arrives.

SAMMY

Hey.

MICHAEL

Sammy! How are you?

SAMMY

Uh, I'm good! I think.

MICHAEL

Thanks for meeting me.

SAMMY

No problem.

MICHAEL

So about the dance...

SAMMY

Yes?

MICHAEL

So the thing is, I really want to go with you. I really do! But it's just...

SAMMY

Just what?

MICHAEL

Listen, Sammy, I'm in a really tough position here. My whole life, all I wanted was to fit in. And I was really hoping high school would be the place.

SAMMY

But you fit in with me.

MICHAEL

I get that, but...no. I can't! Going to the dance with you means four years of high school hell! I'm sorry Sammy, we - we just can't be seen together.

Michael turns and starts walking away.

SAMMY

You mean like the sun and the moon?

Michael stops and turns around.

MICHAEL

What?

16) "WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE REPRISE"

SAMMY

LIKE THE SUN AND THE MOON
LIKE THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

Michael smiles.

JUST LIKE ROCK AND ROLL

MICHAEL

OR LIKE MAC AND CHEESE

Michael starts walking toward
Sammy.

SAMMY

IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE

SAMMY AND MICHAEL

IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE
WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE

They stare at each other for a
moment.

MICHAEL

Well - high school hell it is.

SAMMY

I guess so.

MICHAEL

I better go iron my one good shirt.

SAMMY

Yeah, I should get ready too.

MICHAEL

Ok, I'll - I'll see you tonight!

SAMMY

See you tonight!

SCENE 12

INT. BASEMENT

17A) "TRANSITION TO BASEMENT"

Frankie, Rosie and Taylor sit in the basement, depressed.

ROSIE

Uh, does anyone wanna play some Quest? Maybe if we defeat Mrs. Ogre it'll cheer us up.

TAYLOR

Without Sammy's fireball we'll die and then we'll be even *more* depressed.

ROSIE

I'm so angry at Sammy.

FRANKIE

How can we be angry? That was her quest!

ROSIE

But did she have to dump us?

FRANKIE

The quests are all about growing up.

TAYLOR

So maybe in order to grow up...

ROSIE

...she had to leave us behind.

FRANKIE

Sammy's not the problem. We are.

17) "BIGGEST LOSERS IN THE WORLD REPRISE"

FRANKIE, ROSIE, TAYLOR

WE'RE THE BIGGEST LOSERS IN THE WORLD
EVERY OTHER LOSER WOULD AGREE
IN A BASEMENT WITH A STUPID GAME
JUST LIKE WE DID BACK IN GRADE THREE

DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE MORE PATHETIC, LAME, OR SAD
TO SAY WE'RE JUVENILE MAKES JUVENILES LOOK BAD
DON'T EVEN THINK WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE THAT MAD

WE'RE THE BIGGEST LOSERS IN THE WORLD
WE'RE THE BIGGEST LOSERS IN THE WORLD
WE'RE LIKE A LITTLE PUP
WHO NEVER WILL GROW UP

TAYLOR

Hey listen - there's something I wanna try. Can we play Quest but not fight Mrs. Ogre?

FRANKIE

Uh, Taylor, as the Game Master, I'm the one who decides...

ROSIE

Frankie, maybe it's time to give up a bit of control.

FRANKIE

But...

Rosie shoots her a look.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Ok. Where do you wanna go Tay?

TAYLOR

Let's go to a tavern.

FRANKIE

A tavern?? But...

Rosie shoots her another look.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Ok fine. A tavern it is!

17B) "THE QUEST CONTINUES"

TAYLOR

(nervously)

My Illusionist walks into a tavern. Sitting at the bar is a female elf. This elf looks a lot like...like Emma.

ROSIE

Like Emma from school?

TAYLOR

Yeah, Emma from school. I go over and sit next to her. There's this crazy chemistry between us. I reach out and take her hand. Suddenly we realize we're in love with each other and...and we're just happy.

ROSIE

Oh Tay...

Underscore stops. Lighting returns to normal lighting. Rosie and Frankie get up and hug Taylor.

FRANKIE

We love you so much Tay.

ROSIE

And we're so proud of you.

FRANKIE

How do you feel?

TAYLOR

Scared, but also...really great.

FRANKIE

Also - you finished your quest!

TAYLOR

Yeah I guess I did!

FRANKIE

Congrats!

ROSIE

So I guess that just leaves...me.

SCENE 1318A) "BEHIND THE GYM"

EXT. SCHOOL GYM.

Michael walks toward the entrance of the gym where the Get To Know You Dance is happening. Doug is standing near the doorway, unseen by Michael.

DOUG

I wouldn't go in there if I were you.

Michael stops.

MICHAEL

Why not?

DOUG

I saw your little library romance earlier today.

MICHAEL

You were spying on us?!

DOUG

I was researching wombats! But then I saw someone throw away their entire high school future in about - oh, I'd say three minutes.

MICHAEL

Things have changed. Sammy's not a nerd anymore.

DOUG

Sammy's a nerd and she'll always be a nerd!

MICHAEL

But we get along so well!

DOUG

Nerds don't date geeks! That's the rule.

MICHAEL

There's gotta be an exception!

18) "LIFE IS CRUEL"

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

SAMMY'S GREAT

SHE'S SMART, SHE'S FUNNY

I MEAN, I KNOW SHE'S A NERD - BUT SHE'S COOL FOR A NERD
I'LL GO MEET HER AT THE DANCE AND THEN AFTERWARD
MAYBE WE'LL BE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

That's insane!

THEN SHE COULD WRITE ALL MY SCIENCE PAPERS

DOUG

A RULE IS A RULE
AND THIS RULE IS MINE
JUST FOLLOW ALONG AND YOU'LL BE FINE
THERE'S A PRICE TO BE PAID FOR IGNORING WHAT I SAID
TRUST ME, IT'S NOT A PRICE YOU WANT TO PAY
SO JUST DO WHAT I SAY

MICHAEL

But it's not fair!

DOUG

Life's not fair!

DOUG (CONT'D)

LIFE IS CRUEL 'CAUSE IT MAKES YOU CHOOSE
BETWEEN THINGS THAT YOU WANT
AND THINGS THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE
LIFE IS CRUEL FROM THE DON'TS TO THE DO'S
IT'S A MYSTERY THAT YOU HAVE TO SOLVE
WITHOUT ANY CLUES

SCHOOL IS CRUEL, MICHAEL YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE CUT TO THE QUICK
AND BRUISED TO THE BONE
SCHOOL'S NOT A PLACE TO BE ON YOUR OWN
YOU'LL ONLY GET CRUSHED IF YOU GO IT ALONE

PEOPLE ARE CRUEL, THEY LAUGH AT YOUR TEARS
THEY SHATTER YOUR HEART
UNTIL HOPE DISAPPEARS
THEY PLAY WITH YOUR MIND, THEY PREY ON YOUR FEARS
I SHOULD KNOW AFTER SO MANY YEARS

BAD THINGS HAPPEN, EVERYONE KNOWS
HEARTS GET BROKEN AND THROWN TO THE CROWS
GOOD PEOPLE SUFFER, THAT'S JUST HOW IT GOES
WICKEDNESS SPREADS AND VICEOUSNESS GROWS

THE LION EATS HIS PREY
THE VILLAIN WINS THE DAY
ON THE PLAINS OR IN A SCHOOL
'CAUSE LIFE IS CRUEL

SCENE 14

INT. SCHOOL GYM, FRIDAY NIGHT

19A) "80'S DANCE TUNE"

Students dance at the Get To Know You Dance. The Questers (without Sammy) are in a different part of the gym from the J's (without Michael). At the end of the dance Emma walks up to the microphone on stage.

EMMA

Hello all you little weirdos, and welcome to the Get To Know You Dance! It's Friday night!

Students cheer.

EMMA (CONT'D)

And in a few minutes we'll be announcing the winner of a free school t-shirt!

One student freaks out with excitement. Emma leaves the stage as students start to groove to the music. Michael enters. The J's walk up to him.

JESSE

Michael!

MICHAEL

Sorry I'm late. I got - delayed.

JOSH

Wow. Tonight's the big night!

JACOB

Yeah, it's the Super Bowl of getting dates!

JOSH

What's a Super Bowl?

Jesse and Jacob exchange looks. Josh sees Rosie.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Oh look - there's Rosie.

(calls out)

Hey Rosie!

Rosie looks over.

ROSIE
(calls out)
Oh - hey Josh!

JOSH
(to the J's)
I'm gonna go say hi.

Josh starts to walk toward Rosie
but Michael stops him.

MICHAEL
Do not go over there.

JOSH
What? Why?

MICHAEL
Because geeks don't date nerds. You know the
rule.

JOSH
But...

MICHAEL
A rule's a rule Josh.

ROSIE
(to the Questers)
That's so weird. Why isn't he coming over?

Sammy enters and goes up to
Michael, whose back is turned to
her. During the following
exchange, Michael is cold and
distracted.

SAMMY
Hey Michael!

MICHAEL
Oh, uh, hey Sammy.

SAMMY
How are you?

MICHAEL
I'm great. How are you?

SAMMY
Is something wrong?

MICHAEL
No, nothing's wrong. Nothing at all.

SAMMY

Then why are you acting...different?

Michael turns to face Sammy.

19B) "SAMMY CONFRONTS MICHAEL"

MICHAEL

Listen Sammy, the rules of the Nerdverse are very clear - geeks don't date nerds. I wish it wasn't that way, but it is. So - goodbye.

Michael turns away but Sammy grabs his arm. Underscore stops.

SAMMY

But I dumped my friends because of you!

MICHAEL

Sorry.

SAMMY

But you said you'd go to the dance with me! You promised!

MICHAEL

Sammy I don't have a choice!

SAMMY

There's always a choice!

MICHAEL

Well then I just made it.
(to the J's)
Let's go geeks.

Michael and the J's walk away.
Sammy falls to her knees.

FRANKIE

(to Rosie and Taylor)

Should we - should we go over there?

TAYLOR

She made her decision.

Rosie thinks for moment, then walks up to the microphone on stage. Underscore stops. At some point during the song, Taylor and Frankie join Rosie on stage.

19) "BY YOUR SIDE"

ROSIE

WHEN LIFE FEELS LIKE A CANDLE
THAT DOESN'T HAVE A FLAME
AND YOUR WORLD FEELS LIKE A FEELING
WITHOUT A NAME
WHEN THE SKY IS DARK AND STORMY
AND THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT TO HIDE
CALL ON ME
I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE

IF YOU'RE DOWN AND YOU'RE DISCOURAGED
AND YOU COULD USE A FRIEND
AND LAUGHTER'S JUST A LETTER
YOU NEVER SEND

IF THE OCEAN'S OVERFLOWING
WITH ALL TEARS YOU'VE CRIED
CALL ON ME
I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE

THE NIGHT IS FULL OF MONSTERS
DOWN EVERY PATH YOU'VE STRAYED
AND YOU'VE LOST ALL YOUR DIRECTION
AND YOU'RE COLD AND YOU'RE AFRAID
BUT EVEN IN THE DARKNESS
YOU ARE NEVER ON YOUR OWN
'CAUSE NO ONE EVER MAKES IT ALONE

WHEN LOVE IS ALL YOU'RE AFTER
AND HURT IS ALL YOU GET
AND HOPE IS JUST A STRANGER
YOU'VE NEVER MET
WHEN THE RIVER THAT YOU'RE CROSSING
IS A HUNDRED MILES WIDE
CALL ON ME
JUST CALL ON ME
CALL ON ME
I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE

SAMMY

(to the other Questers)

Thank you.

FRANKIE

It's so good to have you back, Sammy.

The four of them hug. Josh goes up to Michael.

JOSH

Y'know what Michael? Screw you! And screw the Nerdverse! I don't care if I get beaten up for four years - I'm going over!

Josh goes up to Rosie.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hey Rosie. Listen, I'm sorry I ignored you back there. I think you're awesome and talented and I'm so happy to be at the dance with you.

ROSIE

I'm happy to be here with you, Josh.

JOSH

Wow. That's so amazing!

Josh and Rosie walk off to another part of the gym. Jesse and Jacob look at each other.

JACOB

That's it. I'm going over too!

Jesse walks up to a jock.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(awkwardly)

Hi there! Uh, did you know that the, uh, NFL stands for National Football League.

JOCK #1

That is terrible football trivia.

JACOB

Yeah, I guess it is.

JOCK #1

Do you have anything better?

JACOB

(smiles)

Well as a matter of fact I do.

Jacob and Jock #1 walk away arm in arm. Jesse goes up to a jock.

JESSE

Oh, hello there! Did you know that the NFL stands for...

JOCK #2

Wait - is that football?

JESSE

Uh, yeah.

JOCK #2

I prefer differential calculus.

JESSE

Amazing!

Jesse and Jock #2 walk away arm in arm. Michael calls out to Sammy.

MICHAEL

Sammy!

Sammy looks over. Michael goes up to her.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I made a huge mistake. Sometimes when you want something, you have to break the rules to get it.

Michael holds out his hand.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Will you be my date for the Get To Know You dance?

SAMMY
(beat)

No.

MICHAEL

What?

SAMMY

I chose you Michael, but you didn't choose me.

MICHAEL

You're right. I let both of us down, and that's just something I'll have to live with.

(beat)

Goodbye Sammy.

Michael starts to leave but Doug steps in front of him, blocking his way.

DOUG

Now that I know I can trust you, Michael, I'd like to invite you as an honorary member of the Dork-Dweeb Alliance - at a lower status, of course.

MICHAEL

Doug?

DOUG

Yes?

MICHAEL

Get out of my way.

Michael leaves. Sammy turns to the Questers.

19C) "YOUR QUEST IS COMPLETE"

SAMMY

Thanks for taking me back, Questers.

TAYLOR

Hey - what are friends for?

FRANKIE

Rosie - you finished your quest!

ROSIE

Yeah I guess I did!

FRANKIE

And Taylor too!

SAMMY

You finished your quest Tay?!

ROSIE

Taylor's Illusionist fell in love with a lady elf. It was very romantic.

SAMMY

So that just leaves me...

FRANKIE

Sammy, your quest wasn't to go to the dance with Michael, your quest was to ask Michael to the dance. And you did it!

SAMMY

Yeah, I guess that's true!

Taylor turns to the Frankie.

TAYLOR

Which means...

ROSIE

...which means we get the Great Sceptre!

FRANKIE

The Sceptre is yours.

The Questers celebrate.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

But the real reward is way better than the Great Sceptre.

20) "THE QUEST: FINALE"

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

LOOK AROUND YOU
OPEN YOUR EYES
THERE'S A BETTER WORLD AHEAD OF US
THAT'S TWICE ITS FORMER SIZE

ROSIE
AND WHATEVER MONSTERS LIE AHEAD
WE KNOW WE'LL BE OKAY

TAYLOR
CUZ WE'RE READY FOR THE WORLD TO SEE

ROSIE
WE'RE STRONGER THAN YOU USED TO BE

TAYLOR
AND WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING TODAY

SAMMY
WE'RE ALL ON A QUEST
WHETHER WE KNOW IT OR NOT
IT TAKES WHATEVER YOU GOT
TO MAKE IT ON THE JOURNEY

ROSIE
SO SING YOUR SONG

TAYLOR
OR BE WHO YOU REALLY ARE

SAMMY
YOUR FRIENDS WILL CARRY YOU FAR

QUESTERS
SO JUST STEP UP AND FACE YOUR FEAR
AND SING YOUR SONG FOR ALL TO HEAR

QUESTERS/COMPANY
DAY AFTER DAY
LOOK AT ME I'M HERE INSIDE A SCHOOL
FINDING MY WAY
TRYING TO BE OKAY NOT BEING COOL
THE WORLD IS ALWAYS CHANGING
YOU CAN'T JUST STAY THE SAME AS YOU WERE LAST YEAR
THE WORLD IS ALWAYS CHANGING
IF YOU'RE FREAKING OUT YOU JUST HAVE TO FACE YOUR FEAR

JOSH
AND THEN YOU'LL OPEN A DOOR
TO A WORLD NOT SEEN BEFORE
THAT'LL LEAVE YOU WANTING MORE

JOSH AND ROSIE
AND EVERY BRAVE THING YOU DO
TURNS YOU INTO SOMEONE NEW
TIL YOU FIND THE REAL YOU

COMPANY
AND THEN YOU'LL OPEN A DOOR
TO A WORLD NOT SEEN BEFORE
THAT'LL LEAVE YOU WANTING MORE
AND EVERY BRAVE THING YOU DO
TURNS YOU INTO SOMEONE NEW
TIL YOU FIND THE REAL YOU

DAY AFTER DAY
LOOK AT US WE'RE HERE INSIDE A SCHOOL
EVERYTHING'S OKAY
FINALLY FEELING FINE THAT WE'RE NOT COOL
THE WORLD IS ALWAYS CHANGING
WE CAN'T JUST STAY THE SAME AS WE WERE LAST YEAR
THE WORLD IS ALWAYS CHANGING
SO JUST BE STRONG AND THE FUTURE WILL APPEAR
AND WE'LL KNOW WE'LL BE OKAY
WE'LL BE OKAY
DAY AFTER DAY

21) "BOWS (GEEK HEARTS)"

22) "EXIT MUSIC"