

LUNCH LADY:
TATER TOTS OF LOVE

A musical by Stefan Farrenkopf

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

<u>The Students</u>	<u>The Faculty</u>	<u>The Kitchen Staff</u>
Anthony David <i>Anthony's friends:</i> Google Kenny Steven Eric Bobby Camilla Mädchen <i>Camilla's friends:</i> Summer Ginger Marie Hillary Jordan <i>plus</i> Vogelhuber Michael Washington Jeff	Headmaster Burnbush Dean Dean* Mr. Isaac Mr. Williams Ms. Patchoulli Herr Umlaut	Lunch Lady Dessert Lady Sandwich Girl Sides UPS Guy <u>Chorus</u>

*While written as a male role, Dean Dean can also be portrayed by a female. Other than common pronouns and sir / ma'am shifts, line changes for female casting are included.

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SONGS BY CHARACTER

Anthony David:

- Tater Tots of Love**
- My Name Is Anthony David** (and reprises)
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**
- Clubs Reprise / Places I Belong**
- Anthony David’s Love Song**
- I Can Only Dream Of Loving Him**
- Epic Tater Tots and Finale**

Camilla Mädchen:

- Tater Tots of Love**

Order From Chaos
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
I Can Only Dream Of Loving Him
Camilla's Tragic Tale
Epic Tater Tots and Finale

Anthony David's Friends:

Tater Tots of Love
Order From Chaos
Clubs (and reprise)
Hallelujah, It's Taco Day
I Can Only Dream Of Loving Him
Dean Dean is the dean from hell
We're Gonna Run The World Someday
Epic Tater Tots and Finale

Camilla's Friends:

Tater Tots of Love
Order From Chaos
Hallelujah, It's Taco Day
I Can Only Dream Of Loving Him
Dean Dean is the dean from hell
We're Gonna Be Your Boss Someday
Epic Tater Tots and Finale

Dean Dean:

Order From Chaos
Dean Dean is the dean from Hell

Faculty:

Order From Chaos
Hallelujah, It's Taco Day
Epic Tater Tots and Finale

Lunch Lady:

Hallelujah, It's Taco Day
Camilla's Tragic Tale
Epic Tater Tots and Finale

Kitchen Staff:

Hallelujah, It's Taco Day
Epic Tater Tots and Finale

Chorus and / or Soloists:

Tater Tots of Love

Order From Chaos
Famous German's Oom-Pah-Pah
Hallelujah, It's Taco Day
I Can Only Dream Of Loving Him
Dean Dean is the dean from Hell
Epic Tater Tots and Finale

An obnoxious school bell rings just a bit too long. Spotlight hits an old PA speaker, which crackles to lo-fi life:

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Hello, everyone. This is Headmaster Burnbush. I hope you had a happy Monday morning. Welcome back to another exciting week at school. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by student body president Camilla Mädchen.

CAMILLA (V.O.)

I pledge allegiance to the flag of The United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Thank you very much, Camilla. A few announcements before lunch.

Shuffling of papers.

Let's see here. Okay, here we go, ummm. . . . Congratulations to the lady's lacrosse team. Team Captain Camilla Mädchen scored the winning goal in the final seconds of Saturday's game, securing our fourth lacrosse State Championship. Go team!

Let's see. Prom committee is meeting after school today. See committee chair Camilla Mädchen for an agenda. The animee club; am I saying that correctly? No? So sorry; The ani-may club is canceling their meeting tomorrow, as the RPG Club is hosting a Warhammer Tournament? Hmmm? So you might want to check that out.

More shuffling of papers

Let's see here. Ah, Dean Dean has lunch duty this week, and lunch today, lunch today. . . .Ah, today's lunch. Today's lunch is corn dogs with, oh, goody, a special treat. Today the Lunch Lady is serving, with the corndogs, of course, our favorite. Tater tots. Tater tots today. Thank you, and enjoy the rest of your day.

#1: TATER-TOTS OF LOVE

Iso on ANTHONY DAVID D., a nebbish, standing front and center holding a lunchroom tray, on which is a cafeteria sectional plate, on which are, of course, tater tots. Maybe a white milk, too. He sings:

STUDENT

What does she cook there in the kitchen?

STUDENT

What does she serve us in the tiled room with the long rectangular tables

BOTH

**After we wait in line with our plastic trays and our hungry hearts?
Tater-tots of love**

BOTH PLUS OTHERS

**A bundle of kindness in a hair net
With a grease speckled apron pulled a bit too tight across a generous
heart
She picks up with loving hands made more beautiful by protective
gloves
Tater-tots of love**

Deep fried in caring

Lights up on the student body, each holding a tray. A high-school cafeteria: tile floor, long rectangular tables.

CHORUS

Crispy on the outside

BOTH PLUS OTHERS

Made with the love of sharing

CHORUS

Tender and warm within

OTHERS

Tossed with affection
In the smaller section of your plate
To the right of your corndog

BOTH PLUS OTHERS

CHORUS

Tater-tots of love	Oooooohh
Tater-tots of love	Oooooohh
Tater-tots. . .	Oooooohh

. . . of love

ALL

There's not much affection in this high school
We keep our noses clean and our shirts tucked in
And our homework in on time
But in the lunchroom we can find the warmth we're dreaming of
Tater-tots of love

Our self-esteem is not the goal here
A well-educated citizenry is a necessity for our democracy they say
Only the lunch room offers a reprieve from what we're tired of
With tater-tots of love
Tater-tots of love
Tater-tots of love
Tater-tots of love

Some are partial to the meatloaf
Some have a preference for the pot roast
She makes biscuits with creamed chicken
She makes green beans cooked with bacon
She goes over and above

ANTHONY DAVID

Lunch Lady

ANTHONY DAVID AND CHORUS

Serves it all with love

She Serves it all with love

Tater-tots of love

Tater-tots of love

Tater-tots of love

END #1

General hubbub of a busy cafeteria as students take seats with friends and cliques. Anthony David takes a bit longer to do so. As he scans the room:

#2A: ANTHONY DAVID INTRO (THREE CHORDS, REPEATED AS NEEDED)

Anthony David finally takes a seat with a group of boys. As soon as he sits, ISO spot and silence

#2A: END

ANTHONY DAVID

Hi guys! What'cha doing?

pause

I mean, of course. You're eating lunch. What are you talking about?

pause

I don't usually sit with anyone. Usually I just sit by my . . .

pause

. . .But I thought. . . maybe today, you know. *Carpe. . .Diem. . .*

He gives up. When he stands, general hubbub, general lighting, and

#2B: ANTHONY DAVID INTRO (THREE CHORDS)

He takes his tray and finds another table, another group. Sits: silence, except for

#2B: END

WASHINGTON

. . . and the guy says, "What does it look like, a water buffalo?"

General laughter that quickly fades, except for ANTHONY DAVID's. His forced laughter goes on far too long.

Pause. Silence. Then, offering:

ANTHONY DAVID

Ketchup?

They stare. He rises, and: general hubbub, general lighting,

#2C: ANTHONY DAVID INTRO (THREE CHORDS)

He finds yet another table.

#2C: END

ANTHONY DAVID

... and the guy says, "What does it look like, a water buffalo?"

pause

You know what? I'm rich. I'm really stinking rich. Want me to buy you stuff?

Pause, and they go back to speaking – to each other, not to him. Other tables start talking again as well.

#2: MY NAME IS ANTHONY DAVID

Lighting shift as ANTHONY DAVID comes downstage. The talking fades.

**My name is Anthony David
My last name it starts with a D
I've got a whole lot of cool stuff
But that doesn't coolify me**

**I sit all alone in the lunchroom
I sit all alone in the quad
I don't have much of a noggin
I don't have much of a bod**

**I don't have much of a future
That's what my parents were told
They say I watched too much TV
When I was just two years old**

My name is Anthony David

**My last name it starts with a D
Which is also the letter I most often find
When my essays are returned to me**

**I don't really like to do reading
And lectures are always a bore
Sometimes in class we watch movies
I wish that we'd watch movies more**

**They say my neurons were impaired
In the years when I constantly stared
At the TV, the focus of my affections
And now I'm suffering with problems of attention**

**My name is Anthony David
My last name it starts with a D
I don't really feel I belong here
And here feels the same about me**

**It seems like this place could be better
If people were willing to see
The one's they don't notice have something to give
The one's they don't notice, like me**

My name is Anthony David

END #2

: INTRO TO DEAN DEAN

Enter Dean Dean, the Dean of students. He is the dean from hell. He is sharp, angular, good looking in a dean-from-hell sort of way. His clothes are pressed and spotless, his hair slicked back.

END

DEAN DEAN

Washington! Is that gum you are chewing?

WASHINGTON

No, sir. I'm still eating lunch.

DEAN DEAN

Don't talk with your mouth full. Detention.

He scribbles, rips a sheet off of a pad, and tosses it to WASHINGTON in one quick swish.

Jordan. Your shoe's untied, Dear.

She bends to tie it and her shirt tail comes out.

Shirt's untucked. Detention.

Swish. Then, to another student.

You. A word please.

DAVE VOGELHUBER walks over. DEAN DEAN puts an arm around.

How's your dog doing?

VOGELHUBER

Not well, sir. The vet said that there wasn't any hope.

DEAN DEAN

And you were there this morning. At the veterinarian's.

VOGELHUBER

Yes, sir. This morning. . .this morning my father made the decision to. . .to pull the plug. To pull the plug on Sparky.

He breaks down. DEAN DEAN holds him.

It was the right thing to do. I know it was. But it is just. . .so. . .hard.

DEAN DEAN

There, there. This is a very difficult time for your whole family, I'm sure. And yet you are here at school today?

VOGELHUBER

I thought the routine, seeing my friends, I thought it would help.

DEAN DEAN

Well, good. Good. I hope it does. And when you came in, late, did you remember to sign in?

VOGELHUBER

Excuse me?

DEAN DEAN

I understand you were late. You were with your dog. But then, when you came to school, did you sign in?

VOGELHUBER

I . . . I may have forgotten, sir.

DEAN DEAN

Oh, shoot. But see, you said so yourself: you're here for the comfort of the routine. And rules are an important part of the routine. And what are rules without enforcement? That's where I come in. I'm the dean. I'm Dean Dean. There is an order to things, you understand. You do understand, don't you?

VOGELHUBER

I think so, Mr. Dean.*

DEAN DEAN

Dean Dean.

VOGELHUBER

Dean Dean. Sorry.

DEAN DEAN

Indeed you are. What's your name, son?

VOGELHUBER

Dave, sir. Dave Vogelhuber.

DEAN DEAN

Writing on his pad

Dave Vogelhuber. Good. Here you go, my friend. Detention. Find comfort in that. There's an order to things.

Exit VOGELHUBER. Then, to ANTHONY DAVID

DEAN DEAN

You.

ANTHONY DAVID

Me?

DEAN DEAN

Yes. What's your name?

*For female Dean Dean: I think so, Ms Dean.

: *MY NAME REPRISE I*

My name is Anthony David

: *END*

DEAN DEAN

Fine. What are you doing wrong?

ANTHONY DAVID

Pardon me?

DEAN DEAN

What are you doing wrong? What is *wrong* with what you are *doing*?

ANTHONY DAVID

checking his shirt tail
I . . I don't know.

DEAN DEAN

So you don't *know*, then, if you are misbehaving.

ANTHONY DAVID

I don't know?

DEAN DEAN

Right. So, then, it follows that you can't be certain that you are *not* misbehaving – that you are, in fact, behaving well.

ANTHONY DAVID

I . . yes. Yes, sir. I am not misbehaving. I am behaving well. I am not doing anything. Anything bad. I am good. I am being good. Not bad.

DEAN DEAN

You watch it, Anthony David. Straighten up. I've got your number. There is an order to things.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yes, sir. I understand.

DEAN DEAN

Do you?

ANTHONY DAVID

I do. Yes.

DEAN DEAN

Okay then. Get to class.

#3: ORDER FROM CHAOS

Scene change to a classroom setting. Over the course of this song the room will be a math classroom, and English classroom, and an art classroom.

Enter students and faculty, including MR. ISAAC, the math teacher, MR. WILLIAMS, the English teacher, and MS. PATCHOULLI, the art teacher.

FACULTY

**Order from chaos
Order from chaos
To make order from chaos is our destiny
It's why they pay us
To teach order from chaos
Illustrating existence systematically**

MR. ISAAC

Pi!

STUDENTS

Pi!

MR. ISAAC

**Three point one four one five nine
Two six five three five eight
Nine seven nine three two three**

STUDENTS

**Three point one four one five nine
Two six five three five eight
Nine seven nine three two three**

MR. ISAAC

And on and on

MR. ISAAC AND STUDENTS

And on and on

FACULTY

**Order from chaos
Order from chaos**

**To make order from chaos is our sworn duty
It will always amaze us
The order from chaos
That the universe was designed so sensibly**

MR. WILLIAMS

To be!

STUDENTS

To be!

MR. WILLIAMS

**I am, you are, he/she/it
Is, we are, you are, they
Are, I was, you were, he/she/it was**

STUDENTS

**I am, you are, he/she/it
Is, we are, you are, they
Are, I was, you were, he/she/it was**

MR. WILLIAMS

And on and on

MR. WILLIAMS AND STUDENTS

And on and on

Enter Dean Dean. He simply walks across the stage.

DEAN DEAN

**There's an order to things
There's an order to things**

exit

FACULTY

**Order from chaos
Order from chaos
Order from chaos is our specialty
Avoiding the lay-offs
Teaching order from chaos
In the field of our subject most specifically**

And on and on . . .

The faculty fades away, other than Ms. Patchoulli, who wanders the room looking over the shoulders of working students.

END

MS. PATCHOULLI

Be the line. . . Be one with the color, with the shade. . . Don't just paint your subject, feel your subject, be your subject. . . Let your subject's aura be your aura. . . Let your art express your innermost passions and dreams.

to JEFF:

Ah, nice. And what is this?

JEFF

It is a painting of my innermost passion and dream.

MS. PATCHOULLI

Good. Good. And what, exactly, *is* it?

JEFF

It's a cherry red 2005 Rosso Andromeda Lamborghini Murcielago Roadster with Double Overhead Cam 48 Valve 60 degree 6192 CC V12 Engine.

MS. PATCHOULLI

We catch a glimpse of her dark side

And what exactly are you trying to say with this?

JEFF

Ummm. . . All you need is love?

MS. PATCHOULLI

Yes! Yes! Art is alive and well at our fine fine school.

Enter UPS GUY. Without word or hesitation, he walks to ANTHONY DAVID and hands him a package.

ANTHONY DAVID

For me?

UPS GUY exits.

Wait. This isn't addressed to me. This goes to the cafeteria. Sir? Sir?

MS. PATCHOULLI

Anthony David, is there a problem?

ANTHONY DAVID

No, Ms. Patchoulli. Well, yes, actually. The UPS guy just gave me this package, but it's addressed to, well. . .

he reads

To "Lunch Lady," specifically.

MS. PATCHOULLI

And?

ANTHONY DAVID

You think maybe I should take it to her?

MS. PATCHOULLI

Anthony David, it is your life and you must live it. It is your dilemma, and you must solve it. *Be* the solution you seek.

ANTHONY DAVID

So. . .I'll just take it over there, then.

MS. PATCHOULLI

Sure. Whatever.

ANTHONY DAVID

I'll take a journey. To the kitchen.

Pause

I'll *be* the journey.

MS. PATCHOULLI

Good. Good.

ANTHONY DAVID

May I have a hall pass, please?

She hands it to him.

MS. PATCHOULLI

Anthony.

He stops.

Feel the hall pass. Be the hall pass.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yes, ma'am.

Scene change:

#4: CLUBS

The hallway. Four small groups of students are spread across the hall. They are not the elite. Each group has some accoutrement of its interest.

CHESS CLUB

Chess club...

Chess club...

Chess club...

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club...

CHESS CLUB

Chess club...

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club...

CHESS CLUB

Chess club...

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club...

ANIME CLUB

Anime club...

KNIGHTS OF PYTHON

Knights of Python

CHESS CLUB

Chess club...

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club...

ANIME CLUB

Anime club. . .

KNIGHTS OF PYTHON

Knights of Python

ALL

Warhammer!
Warhammer!

CHESS CLUB

Chess club. . .

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club. . .

ANIME CLUB

Anime club. . .

KNIGHTS OF PYTHON

Knights of Python

ALL

Warhammer!
Warhammer!
Warhammer!

#4: END

Enter ANTHONY DAVID with hall pass, carrying package. CLUB MEMBERS mill about; GOOGLE is sitting on the floor with his laptop, referring often to a sheet of green paper next to him

KENNY

Hey Anthony.

ANTHONY DAVID

Hey guys. What are you doing, Google?

STEVEN

Don't bother him. He's working on extra credit.

GOOGLE

Extra credit? *Extra credit?!*

ANTHONY DAVID

So what is it?

KENNY

Oh, geez.

GOOGLE

Only Mr. McDell's Super Impossible Bonus Challenge Extra Credit Extravaganza.

ANTHONY DAVID

Oh.

ERIC

It's worth about a billion points.

GOOGLE

It is *worth* intellectual accomplishment, that's what it's worth.

STEVEN

It's also impossible.

HAYO

Super impossible.

BOBBY

For mere mortals.

STEVEN

Not for him.

GOOGLE

I'll have it done by next period. Watch.

STEVEN

Watcha got there?

ERIC

Ohhhh! It's the new special edition of *Life of Brian*, isn't it? I read about the extras on that on my listserv. Cleese is fascinating in the commentary!

KENNY

Wait, is that the new Miyazaki film? You ordered it, didn't you? For next months anime festival, huh? You did!

ANTHONY DAVID

Guys, wait. It's just a package. I'm taking it to the lunch lady.

ALL (SANS ANTHONY DAVID)

Lunch Lady.

They sigh.

ANTHONY DAVID

What?

STEVEN

Lunch Lady. You know, back when I used to eat in the cafeteria, she was the only one in the whole school who was ever nice to me.

GOOGLE

You? I remember once, what a day. My laptop crashed, and I lost all the code for my CS4 animated graphics project. Somehow she just knew, and she gave me an extra Jello square.

BOBBY

She always remembers my acute peanut allergy.

KENNY

Once, when I was a freshman, there was a big lunch line – it was meatloaf day, you know how everybody loves her meatloaf – anyway, there was a really long line. So, by the time I got there she was already scrapping the pan, you know? And there were all these people behind me. But still, she gave me extra gravy. Just how I like it. All these people behind me, and she still gave me extra gravy.

ERIC

She never seems to run out.

GOOGLE

You know, according to dictionary dot com, “gravy” can also mean “godsend.”

ANTHONY DAVID

You looked this up?

GOOGLE

“no duh” tone

Well, yeah.

STEVEN

Godsend. Yeah.

ANTHONY DAVID

Oh, by the way. Keep an eye out for Dean Dean. He's on a rampage today.

ERIC

When isn't he?

GOOGLE

There's something not quite right about that guy.

STEVEN

Yeah, no kidding.

GOOGLE

No, seriously. Have you ever been in his office?

ERIC

I was, once. I had to pick up my inhaler. He confiscated it.

GOOGLE

Did it smell funny to you?

ERIC

The inhaler?

GOOGLE

The office.

ERIC

I don't know. I was sort of gasping for breath. That's why I need my inhaler.

ANTHONY DAVID

What does it smell like?

ERIC

It's just a plastic inhaler. It's got a steroid, but it is pretty much odorless.

ANTHONY DAVID

Not the inhaler. The office.

GOOGLE

I'm not sure. Kind of like sulfur, maybe?

STEVEN

Yeah! Brimstone! He really is the dean from hell.

GOOGLE

I'm serious.

KENNY

You know, if you look up 'Dean Dean' at dictionary dot com, it says "Spawn of Satan.

Enter several young ladies: SUMMER, HILLARY, GINGER, JORDAN, MARIE, and CAMILLA. They are lovely and confident.

SUMMER

The lady at Nordstrom swore they were a perfect match.

GINGER

I love Nordstrom.

MARIE

How can you love Nordstrom?

GINGER

How can you not?

MARIE

By realizing *it is a store.*

SUMMER

But it wasn't a perfect match. The purse was at least three shades darker.

JORDAN

What did you do?

SUMMER

I went to Steve Madden. They had these.

GINGER

Oh, God. They're perfect!

HILLARY

Ginger. They're shoes.

GINGER

But look at them!

MARIE

Christ.

Exit girls.

Gosh, they're pretty.

KENNY

And athletic.

ERIC

And so very popular.

STEVEN

Popular, and important!

BOBBY

I hate them.

KENNY

A white hot perfect hatred that burns like a thousand suns.

GOOGLE

I almost feel sorry for them.

ERIC

Almost, in a "not at all" sort of way.

KENNY

"The purse was at least three shade darker."

BOBBY

If there is a god, there's your proof.

GOOGLE

Huh?

ERIC

It is evidence of a merciful design to the universe that those girls are unaware of the vacuous ness of their own existence. Those girls are a waste of oxygen that would be better used to rust things.

GOOGLE

Look, guys. I have to go to the nurse to get my Ritalin.

ANTHONY DAVID

Anthony, are you coming tomorrow? To play *Warhammer*?

GOOGLE

Three thirty?

ANTHONY DAVID

GOOGLE

We set up at 3:15

ANTHONY DAVID

I'll be there. Fortify your kingdom.

Exit.

Pause.

Enter SUMMER. She goes to a locker, but sees GOOGLE's paper, still on the floor. She picks it up, reads, thinks, starts writing.

Blackout.

ISO on PA speaker.

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Attention, everyone. This is Headmaster Burnbush with the afternoon announcements. The following items have been reported lost: six TI-83 calculators, two TI-89 calculators, an American History textbook, a blue binder with algebra notes, twelve gray fleeces, a cell phone, and twelve sets of keys. The following items have been found: a silver bracelet, two pairs of glasses, A Honda key, a sports bra, and six hundred dollars in cash. Please come to the main office to claim. Thank you.

Blackout.

Lights up on the cafeteria. The KITCHEN STAFF is eating: SANDWICH LADY, DESSERT LADY, SOUP GUY, and SIDES. Off in the corner is UPS GUY, eating as well. DS is LUNCH LADY herself. They eat in a comfortable silence.

Enter ANTHONY DAVID.

ANTHONY DAVID

Hello?

KITCHEN STAFF (SANS UPS GUY)

Ad libs

Hello!
How are you?
Welcome!

Etc.

ANTHONY DAVID

Taken aback.
Ummmm. . .hi?

LUNCH LADY

Anthony David, welcome. How nice to see you.

ANTHONY DAVID

You know my name?

LUNCH LADY

Of course. *Of course.* I'm Lunch Lady. And this is Dessert Lady.

DESSERT LADY

Hello.

ANTHONY DAVID

Hi.

LUNCH LADY

And Sandwich Girl.

SANDWICH GIRL

A pleasure.

LUNCH LADY

Soup Guy.

SOUP GUY

Hey there, buddy.

LUNCH LADY

And Sides.

SIDES

Dear.

LUNCH LADY

Of course, you've met UPS Guy already.

UPS GUY waves.

What can we do for you, my dear?

Then, aghast:

Didn't you get enough to eat? Soup Guy, get him some chowder. Sides, some mashed potatoes. Quickly.

ANTHONY DAVID

No. No, that's okay. I'm just delivering this package. It was brought to me by mistake.

All but LUNCH LADY look at UPS GUY. He shrugs and keeps eating.

ANTHONY DAVID hands over the package.

LUNCH LADY

Well thank you , Anthony David. You're such a sweet boy.

Ad libbed agreement all around.

I wonder what it could be.

From her apron sting, LUNCH LADY pulls an enormous cleaver and cuts the package tape. The kitchen staff gathers around. When she lifts the flap, a golden light shines from within.

LUNCH LADY delicately reaches in and pulls out a beautiful, shining golden spatula. All are impressed.

STAFF

Oooooohhhh!

LUNCH LADY

Well look at that. Just look at that, will you? It's beautiful, just beautiful. Thank you so much, Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

Oh, but it's not from me. I just brought it here.

LUNCH LADY

Indeed you did. Indeed. Dessert Lady, could you please bring our young friend a brownie?

DESSERT LADY

Of course.

She does. She just has it. Where did it come from?

ANTHONY DAVID

Thanks. But I've really got to get to German class.

LUNCH LADY

Oh, take a minute. Who will mind?

ANTHONY DAVID

Well, Dean Dean for one.

LUNCH LADY

You let me take care of Dean Dean. Sit down. Relax. I wanted to talk to you anyway.

ANTHONY DAVID

To me?

Throughout the following, the KITCHEN STAFF keeps adding food to the table in front of ANTHONY DAVID: milk, a brownie, some steaming hot soup, a banana. UPS GUY sits. And eats.

LUNCH LADY

Yes, to you. I saw you at lunch today. You seemed . . .

Pause.

ANTHONY DAVID

Lonely?

LUNCH LADY

Yes. Lonely. Lonely and sad. Are you lonely and sad, Anthony David?

ANTHONY DAVID

No. No.

LUNCH LADY

And yet?

ANTHONY DAVID

Nothing. Really, nothing.

LUNCH LADY

Have a bite to eat. Go ahead.

As ANTHONY DAVID starts helping himself to the food, he starts opening up.

ANTHONY DAVID

It's just. . .well, I've got friends, you know. Good ones. All these clubs I'm in, and the people are great. We have fun. I wouldn't trade them for the world.

LUNCH LADY

And yet?

ANTHONY DAVID

And yet, there ought to be more. Not more friends. More to school, I mean. The people I hang out with, for instance. They don't even come to the cafeteria anymore, They are so sick of being pelted with meatballs and french fries and insults.

LUNCH LADY

And you?

ANTHONY DAVID

I keep coming. I don't think it should be that way.

LUNCH LADY

Good for you.

ANTHONY DAVID

Well, no. Not really. The pelting stopped after awhile. But I always sit alone.

LUNCH LADY

But not today.

ANTHONY DAVID

No. Today I made the effort to sit with other people. Everybody is in these groups – there's a social order. We're all split up.

LUNCH LADY

That's only natural, isn't it?

ANTHONY DAVID

"There's an order to things."

SOUP GUY

Do you believe that?

ANTHONY DAVID

Well, maybe. But not everyday, you know? People ought to get to know other people. People ought to get to know. . .me.

SANDWICH GIRL

They will, Anthony. If you let them.

ANTHONY DAVID

I did. I tried to sit with them at lunch today.

SIDES

“You know what? I’m rich. I’m really stinking rich. Want me to buy you stuff?”

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah, well. Okay. I was getting desperate.

LUNCH LADY

That’s not you, Anthony. Look, these youngsters. They’re good children. And in the long run, they will respect those who are true to themselves. Don’t change for them, Anthony David. Instead, be more fully *you*. And then maybe you’ll meet somebody – maybe even somebody special – and that person will see you for who you really are.

ANTHONY DAVID

Are you talking about, like, a girl?

SOUP GUY

Maybe a girl. Someone who will understand you.

LUNCH LADY

And whom you will understand. And then maybe others will understand you, too.

ANTHONY DAVID

Like you.

LUNCH LADY

Yes, Anthony David. Like me. And I’ll always be here to listen – and to feed you. But your close friends – they should be your peers.

ANTHONY DAVID

I dunno.

LUNCH LADY

Anthony David, be true to who you are and open yourself to others. You just might discover great things.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah. Yeah, you’re right. Thanks. Thanks, Lunch Lady. Thanks, Kitchen Staff

LUNCH LADY

Say no more of it. Now get off to class.

ANTHONY DAVID

Okay.

He starts to exit; stops.

Lunch Lady?

LUNCH LADY

Yes, Dear?

ANTHONY DAVID

Why are you so nice to everyone? . . . To me?

LUNCH LADY

I'm a Lunch Lady, Honey. That's what I do.

Exit ANTHONY DAVID. KITCHEN STAFF smiles. UPS GUY stands, gets the salt, returns to his seat, and continues eating. Lights fade.

#5: FAMOUS GERMANS OOM-PAH-PAH

Scene change to a classroom – this one is German class. Enter various students. Enter HERR UMLAUT, the German teacher. He is clad in Lederhosen, a German green hat, and a tie. He speaks only in German.

HERR UMLAUT

Guten Tag, Klasse! Willkommen!
Willkommen! Willkommen zurück in
eure Deutschklasse! Nehmt
bitte Platz. Setzt euch. Wir machen weiter
mit unserem Studium des riesigen
Einflusses, den Deutschland und die
deutsche Kultur auf die Welt gehabt hat.
Heute fahren wir fort mit unseren
Schülervorträgen über berühmte Deutsche
die Geschichte hindurch. Also, wer ist der
nächste? Einen Freiwilligen bitte?
Jemanden? Jemanden?

Hello, class! Welcome! Welcome!
Welcome back to German class! Take
your seats, please. Take your seats. We
have been studying the tremendous
influence and impact that Germany and
German culture have had on the world.
Today we will continue with our student
presentations on famous Germans
throughout history. So, who is next? May
I have a volunteer please? Anyone?
Anyone?

A student raises his hand and takes his place.

Each student who gives a presentation should have some sort of visual aid, a posterboard with a big picture of the subject. The subject's name should be on the board too, maybe stenciled with different colored markers. Glitter is always good.

BEETHOVEN STUDENT

Beethoven the composer

**Was born in the city of Bonn
In 1770
He was deaf**

OTHER STUDENTS

Boy oh boy!

BEETHOVEN STUDENT

When he wrote

OTHER STUDENTS

Ode to Joy!

ALL

And he came from Germany!

Students applaud as he takes his seat.

HERR UMLAUT

Wunderbar! Wunderbar! Ludwig von Beethoven war doch aus Deutschland! Dah dah dah daaaaah! Ha ha ha!	Wonderful! Wonderful! Ludwig von Beethoven did indeed come from Germany! Dum dum dum duuum! Ha ha ha!
---	--

Wer ist der nächste, bitte? Der nächste? Der nächste? Kommt schon!	Who is next, please? Next? Next? Hurry, now.
---	---

Volunteer.

Großartig! Toll!	Great! Terrific!
------------------	------------------

SECOND GERMAN PRESENTER

**Have you heard
Of Kissinger?
He is stately, important, and wise
Worked for Nixon
He tried fixin'
The war and won the Nobel Prize!**

HERR UMLAUT

Wunderbar wunderbar wunderbar! Wer ist der nächste bitte? Der nächste?	Wonderful wonderful wonderful! Who is next please? Next?
---	---

This student should hold off on his visual aid until the last word of his verse.

THIRD GERMAN PRESENTER

**She's all that I will ever wish for
I beg you not to differ
All that I own I'd gladly give her
If I could have Claudia Shiffer**

ALL

These are all real famous Germans!

HERR UMLAUT

Bravo! Bravo! Gut gemacht. Und jetzt wird Camilla Mädchen vortragen. Camilla, bist du bereit? Gut. Gut. Bravo! Bravo! Well done. And now, Camilla Mädchen will do her presentation. Camilla, are you ready? Good. Good.

Camilla takes the front of the classroom. She is without posterboard. Her presentation is simple, heartfelt, and touching, especially to ANTHONY DAVID, whose attention is rapt.

#6: JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

CAMILLA

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Is known as the gothic Shakespeare
He began Romanticism
1774 was the year
When he wrote of Jungen Werthers
Who lost the girl he dreamed of
Goethe wrote of the hopelessness
Of living without love**

**Nobel be man
Helpful and good
For that alone sets him apart
From every other creature
On earth**

**Goethe wrote a drama
The story is often retold
Of a man who is given greatness
For the price of his soul
In the end he has limitless knowledge
But he's loveless, tired, and alone
But he's rescued by the angels**

ANTHONY DAVID

I am rescued by an angel

BOTH

**He is rescued by the angels
And he finally finds a home**

**Nobel be man
Helpful and good
For that alone sets him apart
From every other creature
On earth**

ANTHONY DAVID and Camilla are alone in separate ISOs. He looks at her; she looks out.

#6: END

Then, abruptly:

HERR UMLAUT

Ja ja ja. Sehr gut, sehr gut. Gut gemacht.
Sehr schön, wie immer. Noch eine eins für
dich. Und so kommen wir zum Ende noch
einer Klasse. Nächstes Mal, nochmals
Vorträge, eine Vorlesung über
Doppelinfininitiv in Nebensätzen, und Dias
von meiner Reise nach Düsseldorf.
Aufwiedersehen, Tschü-üüüs!

Yes yes yes. Very good, very good. Well
done. Lovely, as usual. Another A+ for
you. And that brings us to the end of
another class. Next time, more
presentation, a lecture on [some grammar
topic fitting for a level IV language class],
and slides of my trip to Dusseldorf.
Aufwiedersehen, Aufwiedersehen.

Scene change to hallway. ANTHONY DAVID's friends are there again, as before.

#7: CLUBS REPRISE / PLACES I BELONG

CHESS CLUB

**Chess club. . .
Chess club. . .
Chess club. . .**

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club. . .

CHESS CLUB

Chess club. . .

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club. . .

CHESS CLUB

Chess club. . .

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club. . .

ANIME CLUB

Anime club. . .

KNIGHTS OF PYTHON

Knights of Python

CHESS CLUB

Chess club. . .

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club. . .

ANIME CLUB

Anime club. . .

KNIGHTS OF PYTHON

Knights of Python

ALL

Warhammer!

Warhammer!

Enter ANTHONY DAVID

ANTHONY DAVID

There are places I belong

There are kids who take me in

Where I know there's nothing wrong with me

I know how to take your queen

I have seen the rings of Saturn

Blow-up the killer rabbit, on two five

KNIGHTS OF PYTHON

Three, sir

ANTHONY DAVID

Three

These are my friends
They understand
I wouldn't trade them for the world
We spend all day
Watching anime
I wouldn't trade that for the world

CHESS CLUB

Chess club. . .

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy club. . .

ANIME CLUB

Anime club. . .

KNIGHTS OF PYTHON

Knights of Python

ANTHONY DAVID

This could be a better school
If we broke the social order
And everyone could see our humble souls

ANTHONY DAVID

These are my friends
They understand
I wouldn't trade them for the world
We spend all day
Watching anime
I wouldn't trade that for a. . .

OTHERS

We are your friends.
We will always understand
We spend all day
Miyazaki is a genius

Enter CAMILLA. She has friends with her: Hillary, Ginger, Maria, and Jordan, but ANTHONY DAVID sees only CAMILLA.

... girl

#7: END

ANTHONY DAVID

Hi.

CAMILLA

With surprising enthusiasm
Hi! How are you?

ANTHONY DAVID

I'm great. Thanks. Do you know me?

CAMILLA

No! No, I don't. What's your name?

#8: MY NAME IS ANTHONY DAVID REPRISE AGAIN

ANTHONY DAVID

**My name is Anthony David
My last name it starts with a D
We've been in German for years now
I just you just haven't seen me**

CAMILLA

No. I haven't. Sorry. When I'm in class I am all about focus. Grades grades grades. You know how it is.

ANTHONY DAVID

Um, sure.

GOOGLE

Anthony David?

HILLARY

Camilla, come on. We have a student council meeting.

GINGER

And the prom committee meeting

JORDAN

And then the lacrosse banquet

CAMILLA

So. I've got to run. It was nice to meet you. To see you.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah, you too. I've got to run, too. I've got a . . .um, I've got. . .

Pause

CAMILLA

Okay, then. Bye.

ANTHONY DAVID

Bye.

CAMILLA and friends start to go.

KENNY

What was that?

ANTHONY DAVID

WAIT!

Camilla turns.

Listen. Some friends of mine and I, we play this game. It's stupid. It's called Warhammer.

GINGER

Warhammer?

STEVEN

Anthony David, what are you doing?

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah, it's an RPG – it's a role-playing game. It's weird, I know. But it's fun. Sorta. It's a lot of fun.

CAMILLA

Yeah?

ANTHONY DAVID

Anyway, tomorrow, we're playing. Just a game, really, in Mr. McDell's room. After school.

Pause.

MARIE

And?

ERIC

Yeah. And?

ANTHONY DAVID

And I was wondering, Camilla, if you'd, maybe, want to come.

Pause. A biggie. ERIC takes a hit of his inhaler. Then:

CAMILLA

Sure.

ANTHONY DAVID

Excuse me?

GOOGLE

Excuse him?

CAMILLA

Sure. It's sounds, I dunno, crazy. Like you said. Weird. Fun. I mean. . .

Turns to her friends

. . .what the heck, right?

MARIA

But Camilla, we've got the Junior Mensa League meeting after school tomorrow after school.

JORDAN

Yeah, and Coach Nettie wants to see the girls who are playing field hockey next year.

HILLARY

We've got that big vote in council.

GINGER

And the meeting with the DJ for prom.

ERIC

Pretty important stuff.

CAMILLA

Oh, shoot. I'm going to have miss all those meetings. You guys will get me caught up, right?

To ANTHONY DAVID

So, Mr. McDell's room, right? I don't think I know him.

ANTHONY DAVID

He's the computer science guy. Room nineteen.

CAMILLA

Okay. Great. Room nineteen. Should I bring anything?

GOOGLE

Ummmm. . a personality?

ANTHONY DAVID

Just you. That's fine.

CAMILLA

I'll make some cookies. Toll House. This is great. I'm excited.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah. Me too. It'll be fun.

KENNY

Sure. Fun. And cookies!

CAMILLA

Okay. Bye. Thanks.

ANTHONY DAVID

Bye.

She exits. ANTHONY DAVID is in a daze, exits the other way. His friends watch him exit in stunned silence.

ERIC

What was that?

GOOGLE

I have no idea.

He sees the girls, notices SUMMER.

Nice shoes. Perfect color.

The girls exit

GOOGLE

A white, hot, perfect hatred that burns like a thousands suns.

Blackout

Obnoxious bell, ISO on PA

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Hello, everyone. A happy Tuesday to you. Hope your morning has gone well. A few announcements before lunch. Dean Dean has asked me to let you know that some students seemed to have parked in faculty parking spaces today. It seems that your cars are. . . Oh dear. I seems your cars are on fire. So you may want to get out there with some water, I suppose. Also, Coach Nettie has postponed this afternoon's field hockey meeting. Let's see. . .oh, okay. Dr. Cognitrou has cancelled the Junior Mensa league meeting today, and, um, the prom committee will meet with the DJ tomorrow rather than today. My heavens. Lunch today. . .Hamburgers. Yum. With fries.

Cross fade to ANTHONY DAVID, in lunchroom, with tray.

8B: MY NAME IS ANTHONY DAVID REPRISE YET AGAIN

ANTHONY DAVID

**My name is Anthony David
My last name it starts with a D
I've got a whole lot of cool stuff
But that doesn't coolify me**

I sit all alone in the lunchroom. . .

Lights up on the populated cafeteria. CAMILLA sits with friends.

CAMILLA

Hey! Anthony David!

ANTHONY DAVID

Oh. Hi, Camilla. How are you?

CAMILLA

Come on. Sit down.

ANTHONY DAVID

What? Really?

CAMILLA

Join us. Please.

ANTHONY DAVID

Sure. Okay.

He sits. General hubbub of a cafeteria ensues.

CAMILLA

So, Anthony David. You met Jordan, Marie, Ginger, and Hillary.

ANTHONY DAVID

Hi.

General ad-libbed greetings.

CAMILLA

This is Jeff Washington, and that's . . .

He sings to front.

ANTHONY DAVID

**My name is Anthony David
My last name it starts with a D
I can't believe this is happening
These people are talking to me**

JEFF

. . .and the string looks at the bartender and says "No, I'm a frayed knot!"

They all laugh. ANTHONY DAVID laughs too long. They look. CAMILLA keeps laughing too, and they all join in again.

ANTHONY DAVID

**It's just like the lunch lady told me
I had to be me just the same
Who thought that I could meet a beautiful girl
With a chat of a Warhammer game**

ANTHONY DAVID

. . . and the guy says, "What does it look like, a water buffalo?"

They all laugh.

ANTHONY DAVID

**I thought my life was impaired
I had my friends, but I had more to share
Then Camilla, she focused my attention
And now I'm suffering with problems of affection**

**I feel like I'm walking in heaven
This is all that I've ever dreamt of
The only thing better than all these new friends
Is actually falling in. . .
I think that I'm falling in**

#8B: END

Lights up on cafeteria. It is later in the day: the students are gone, and the kitchen staff sits in their usual places, eating, with UPS GUY in the back.

LUNCH LADY

Love?

ANTHONY DAVID walks back and joins them. There is a place set for him with food.

SOUP GUY

Atta boy.

SANDWICH GIRL

Oh, Anthony David. Good for you.

SIDES

How wonderful.

UPS GUY gives a thumbs up.

LUNCH LADY

So you really think it's love?

ANTHONY DAVID

I think so. Maybe. I mean, we only just talked for the first time yesterday. And then today, we had lunch. Oh, but she's so pretty. And *nice*. She's always nice. To everybody. And she gave this presentation. We take a class together, and she gave this

presentation, and I could just tell. She understands loneliness, and real longing, and what it means. To be a person. To be a real person.

LUNCH LADY

That's wonderful.

DESSERT LADY

She did all this in a class presentation?

ANTHONY DAVID

Not directly. But I could tell.

SIDES

What was the presentation about?

ANTHONY DAVID

I dunno. It's my last class of the day. German. It was toward the end of my Ritalin dose. Some writer.

LUNCH LADY

A German writer?

ANTHONY DAVID

Well, yeah. It's a German class. We're doing presentations on famous Germans. I'm doing mine next week on Steffi Graff. Or maybe Nietzsche.

LUNCH LADY

Alarmed
Goethe?

ANTHONY DAVID

Huh?

SOUP GUY

Did she do her presentation on Wolfgang Johann von Goethe, German romanticist writer and scientist of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries?

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah. That's it.

SANDWICH GIRL

So she must have talked about his play -

STAFF

FAUST!

ANTHONY DAVID

Not by name. But I think so. Guy sells his soul, right? To the-

LUNCH LADY

You can't see her again.

ANTHONY DAVID

What?

LUNCH LADY

Anthony David, this girl. It's Camilla Mädchen, isn't it?

ANTHONY DAVID

You know her?

LUNCH LADY

She's lovely. And smart, and nice. Student council president. Star athlete. Succeeds at all she does. Wonderful girl. But she won't love you. She *can't* love you.

ANTHONY DAVID

What are you saying?

SOUP GUY

This girl. She's going to break your heart.

ANTHONY DAVID

What, you think that because she is all of those things that she could never settle for a loser like me?

LUNCH LADY

No! No, Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

What happened to "be true to who you are." And "open yourself to others," and "discovering great things."

LUNCH LADY

I meant that. All of it. You'll meet someone else.

ANTHONY DAVID

You don't think I'm good enough for her.

SIDES

Of course we do, Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

No, you don't. Look. I'm late for a Warhammer meeting. It's something we losers do. Except this time, Camilla is coming. You know why? Because she's nice. And because she likes me.

Exits

DESSERT LADY

Oh dear.

SOUP GUY

She's going to break your heart, kid.

LUNCH LADY

She won't love you. She *can't* love you.

Crossfade to hallway. Enter DEAN DEAN.

MUSICAL STING: DEAN DEAN INTRO

: END

Enter ANTHONY DAVID. He's late. He's running.

DEAN DEAN

You!

ANTHONY DAVID

Me?

He checks his shirttail.

DEAN DEAN

Yes. What's your name?

#8C: MY NAME IS ANTHONY DAVID REPRISE RAPID FIRE

Very fast

ANTHONY DAVID

My name is Anthony David

#8C: END

DEAN DEAN

Fine. What are you doing wrong?

ANTHONY DAVID

Pardon me?

DEAN DEAN

What are you doing wrong? What is *wrong* with what you are *doing*?

ANTHONY DAVID

This time he knows the drill.

I am doing nothing wrong, sir.

DEAN DEAN

Wrong! You were running. You were running in the hall.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yes. Yes sir. But school is over, and I'm late. I'm late for a meeting.

DEAN DEAN

Writing a detention slip.

There is an order to things.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yes. Yes, I understand. Sir.

DEAN DEAN tosses the slip on the floor and starts to exit.

Thank you. It won't happen again.

He picks up the slip.

Sir?! Dean Dean, sir!

DEAN DEAN stops.

I'm afraid you make a mistake. You put today's date on this. On this slip.

DEAN DEAN

Of course.

ANTHONY DAVID

But this is after school. So this detention should be for tomorrow. See, I have this meeting, and. . .

DEAN DEAN approaches

Okay. Okay. See, there's this girl, okay? She's going to be there. And I like her. A lot. And I think. . . I think maybe she could like me too. . . maybe.

DEAN DEAN

Mr. Anthony David. Without enforcement, rules are meaningless. With meaningless rules, we would have no order. This is a fine, fine school, Mr. Anthony David. At this school. . .

DEAN DEAN AND ANTHONY DAVID

There is an order to things.

DEAN DEAN starts to exti.

ANTHONY DAVID

I understand. But Camilla-

DEAN DEAN stops

DEAN DEAN

What name did you just say?

ANTHONY DAVID

Camilla.

DEAN DEAN

Camilla Mädchen.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yes! Yes. Camilla Mädchen.

DEAN DEAN

You think Camilla Mädchen might. . . “like” you?

ANTHONY DAVID

Yes?

DEAN DEAN

Anthony David, I know a little bit about Camilla Mädchen. Things you don’t – that you couldn’t possibly know. She won’t love you. She *can’t* love you. I’ll see you in detention in. . .

Looks at his watch

. . .well, thirty four seconds ago, in fact. Hurry, or I’ll be forced to give you another detention for being late.

Crossfade to Warhammer game with BOBBY, ERIC, STEVEN, KENNY, and GOOGLE, underway.

Who's Turn? STEVEN

Your turn. BOBBY

My turn? STEVEN

GO! ALL
Enter CAMILLA, holding a plate of cookies. No one stops playing. Steven rolls.

Yes! He survives! BOBBY

That's the second time he's survived being hit by a war hammer! Nobody survives a war hammer twice! That peeves me. GOOGLE

Oh. Google's mad now. Look out. KENNY

"Peeves"? BOBBY

Hello. CAMILLA

Hello. BOBBY

Is this room 19? CAMILLA

Yeah. ERIC

Anthony David invited me. CAMILLA

We know. STEVEN

I failed! Argh! GOOGLE

STEVEN
Yes!

CAMILLA
Is Anthony David here?

GOOGLE
We figured he was with you.

CAMILLA
Oh. No. So are you expecting him?

KENNY
Probably. What is a musician doing in this game?

ERIC
That's my Dragon Prince.

BOBBY
What's he do?

ERIC
I have no clue. It sounded cool.

CAMILLA
So, okay then. I'll just wait here.

They ignore her. CAMILLA watches, moves closer, watches, moves closer.

KENNY
Can I shoot now?

GOOGLE
No. I'm still moving.

ERIC
Hurry up and move so we can shoot you.

GOOGLE
Hold your horses.

KENNY
We're going to beat you to a pulp.

Finally, she points at the game.

CAMILLA

What's that?

They stare.

Crossfade to detention.

: **DETENTION**

A large group of students, ANTHONY DAVID and VOGELHUBER among them, are on their hands and knees, scrapping gum off of the floor. DEAN DEAN paces with his back straight and his arms crossed.

: **END**

Crossfade to Warhammer.

CAMILLA is in the game now and is doing pretty well.

ERIC

How can horses have a weapons skill?

GOOGLE

They can kick people.

BOBBY

Camilla! We need your help

She rolls. Good one.

ERIC, STEVEN, KENNY
Argh!

GOOGLE, BOBBY
Yes!

Crossfade to detention.

: **DETENTION**

More of the same. SOMEONE sucks on an empty water bottle. SOMEONE ELSE collapses. DEAN DEAN gestures, and TWO STUDENTS drag him/her out.

: **END**

DEAN DEAN

We'll be seeing him again tomorrow. Anyone else want a rest? No? Good.

Crossfade to Warhammer.

Silence. They are all sitting around eating Toll-House cookies. Then:

CAMILLA

Okay. Ready.

ALL

Ready.

They jump back to it. Roll of die. Reactions

Camilla rolls. Another good one.

ERIC, STEVEN, KENNY

GOOGLE, BOBBY

Argh!

Yes!

Crossfade to Detention.

: DETENTION

: END

DEAN DEAN

All right, then. Time to go.

They start to stand. Enter MS. PATCHOULLI.

No no no. Not you, people. Me. Ms. Patchoulli will be taking over for the final few hours.

Groan. Back to the floor. Exit DEAN DEAN.

MS. PATCHOULLI

Okay, kids. Feel the gum. Be the gum. . . . Scrape the gum.

ANTHONY DAVID

Anguish.

Camilla!

Enter UPS GUY, with a small package. He hands it to ANTHONY DAVID.

Another one?

UPS GUY hands ANTHONY DAVID a clipboard and a pen.

Sign for it? Oh. This one is really for me.

He signs and UPS GUY exits. ANTHONY DAVID opens the package and pulls out. . .

:TATER TOT THEME

A tater tot?

He's puzzled, then he smiles. He moves to eat the tater tot.

MS. PATCHOULLI

No snacks, Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yes ma'am.

What to do with the tater tot? Finally, he just sticks it in his pocket.

Crossfade to Warhammer. Camilla has been hugely victorious.

KENNY

That was amazing. Simply amazing.

BOBBY

And you've really never played before?

CAMILLA

Nope. Never have.

KENNY

Amazing.

CAMILLA

I'm just good at stuff.

BOBBY

What does that mean, you're just good at stuff?

CAMILLA

When I try new things. I just, I don't know. I'm good at new things.

STEVEN

We totally needed a Great Eagle.

KENNY

We'll, I'm sorry. I didn't really feel like getting shot out of the sky.

ERIC

We didn't have any fear- or terror-causing things.

BOBBY

Except your giant flame thingy.

ERIC

No. That causes panic, not fear or terror. There's a difference.

BOBBY

Oh.

Enter ANTHONY DAVID, out of breath and looking like hell.

ANTHONY DAVID

Hi.

ALL

Hey.

CAMILLA

Anthony David? Oh my. Are you okay?

KENNY

Where have you been, bro? You missed an awesome game. Camilla rules.

ANTHONY DAVID

I got a detention.

ERIC

Ouch.

ANTHONY DAVID

So I missed it?

KENNY

Dude, it went on for hours. We gotta go. I've got a term paper due. And Google's mom told him to be home hours ago.

CAMILLA

You guys go ahead, I'll clean up.

GOOGLE

What?

BOBBY

You serious?

ANTHONY DAVID

I'll stay and help.

STEVEN

But you didn't even play.

ANTHONY DAVID

I don't mind.

KENNY

Oh. I get it. Sure. Let's go.

ERIC

But that's my stuff.

KENNY

You'll get it back. Let's go.

GOOGLE

I can stay.

KENNY

Dude. We go now.

CAMILLA

Bye everybody. And thanks.

BOBBY

You are a Warhammer goddess. You are welcome anytime.

All exit. ANTHONY DAVID and CAMILLA are alone. Silence for awhile as they clean up.

ANTHONY DAVID

So you had fun?

CAMILLA

Yeah! I really did. It was great. They're really nice people, your friends.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah, they are. Kinda weird.

CAMILLA

We're all weird.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah. But you haven't seen "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" ninety seven times.

CAMILLA

And you haven't spent hours debating appropriate strap thickness on prom gowns.

ANTHONY DAVID

That's weird.

CAMILLA

We're all weird. I like your friends.

ANTHONY DAVID

I like your friends too. Thanks for, well. . .for lunch. For letting me sit with you.

CAMILLA

Thanks for sitting with us. And thanks for inviting me to this.

ANTHONY DAVID

Sorry I missed it.

CAMILLA

Me too.

Pause. They clean up the game.

Look. I'm sorry I didn't know your name earlier. That isn't right. I should pay more attention.

ANTHONY DAVID

It's okay.

CAMILLA

No, it's not. But it's sweet of you to say so.

#9: ANTHONY DAVID'S LOVE SONG

ANTHONY DAVID

**My name is Anthony David
My last name it starts with a D
I think that you're someone special**

I hope that you think that of me

#8D: UNDERSCORE

CAMILLA

I do! Anthony David, I think you're terrific. I mean, we've only just met.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah. We've only just met.

CAMILLA

But still, I know something. You've got something inside you. Something I don't have. And I love that you are so willing to share it.

ANTHONY DAVID

Checks his breath.

I'm not sure what you mean.

CAMILLA

Soul.

ANTHONY DAVID

Yeah. That's me. I'm a regular Ray Charles.

CAMILLA

That's not what I mean. I mean what's in you. Your soul. You're willing to share it. I don't have that.

ANTHONY DAVID

I don't either.

CAMILLA

You did for me.

ANTHONY DAVID

Well, yeah. For you.

CAMILLA

That's what I mean.

ANTHONY DAVID

I just invited you to a game.

CAMILLA

But that's something, isn't it? A sharing of yourself. I admire that.

You do? ANTHONY DAVID

I do. CAMILLA

She said you would. ANTHONY DAVID

Who? CAMILLA

A . . .friend of mine. ANTHONY DAVID

ANTHONY DAVID

**I love you
And I'm hoping that maybe you could love me too
We could walk all around high school
We could be holding hands**

**I could go to biology
You could be down the hall studying chemistry
But I'd leave class a bit early
So I could see you again**

**Together we'd wait for the bus
Everyone would see us
And I'd kiss you goodbye
And maybe you'd cry when you go
And I'd call you as soon as I'm home**

**I love you
And it's something that feels altogether brand new
And it's not 'cause of what you say or do
But just who you are**

**And I hope when you look at me
You see thing that that you didn't quite know that you need
'Cause I realize I'm incomplete
When we are apart**

**I love you
Could you love me, too?**

HER

**I would give you my heart and soul
But those are two things that simply aren't mine to control
You're the one boy who makes me whole
More than anyone can**

**So I love you, too
But I can't feel the same love that I know you do
And I hope that this won't hurt you
I love you as friends
So, please, let's be friends
I love you as friends**

CONTINUE AS UNDERSCORE

ANTHONY DAVID

As friends?

CAMILLA

Close friends.

ANTHONY DAVID

Of course! Friends. That's what I meant. Let's be friends. I love you. As a friend. A new friend. That's all.

CAMILLA

Oh, Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

So, I'll see you at lunch, then, buddy?

CAMILLA

Yes. At lunch tomorrow. I think it's Taco Day.

ANTHONY DAVID

Great! Tacos. Yum.

CAMILLA

So. Tomorrow then.

ANTHONY DAVID

Tacos.

She sighs and exits.

ANTHONY DAVID

**And so it stands
I will smile, I will laugh, I will always pretend
That my dream of a romance did come to an end
I'll still love you, my friend
More than you understand
I love you, my friend**

#9: END

End of Act One

Act Two

The bell. Man, that's annoying.

Pinspot on PA.

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V. O.)

Hello, everyone. This is Headmaster Burnbush. Ladies and Gentlemen, today is Taco Day.

Lights up on cafeteria set. STUDENTS, FACULTY and KITCHEN STAFF are there. It is lunchtime, and spirits are high.

#10: HALLELUJAH IT'S TACO DAY

**Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Yea!**

**Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, it's Taco Day!**

Hallelujah!

**Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Yea!**

**Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, it's Taco Day!**

KITCHEN STAFF

**Ground beef of grade A quality
Never frozen, fresh as it can be
Fried up until browned just perfectly
Spatula-ed with care**

**Spices selected carefully
Sprinkled on the meat delectably
A touch or two intuitively
Taste beyond compare**

**Secret ingredient is that
We never drain away the fat**

ALL

**Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Yea!**

**Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, it's Taco Day!**

STUDENTS

**When everyday is flavorless
Classes, homeroom, quizzes, tests and
Days and weeks and months monotonous
No time left to play**

**When everything's in order
We lose our minds from being bored or
Take a trip south of the border
A mini-holiday**

**Glory glory is feels nice
When lunchtime adds a little spice**

ALL

Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Yea!

Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, it's Taco Day!

FACULTY

It isn't everyday that we
Will let our classes out a bit early
So we can get to lunch before they're out of cheese

ALL

Out of cheese
They're running out of cheese.

A dancing free-for-all breaks out. Trays, plates, silverware and the like are used to create rhythms. Then

KITCHEN STAFF

Shredded lettuce, shredded cheese

STUDENTS

Extra hot sauce if you please

KITCHEN STAFF

Made with kindness, cooked with time

FACULTY

We're cutting in the front of line

KITCHEN STAFF

Giant tubs of sour cream

STUDENTS

Licking spicy dishes clean

UPS GUY

Silently rubs his tummy

ALL

Yummmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm!

Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Yea!

Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, it's Taco Day!

Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Yea!

Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, it's Taco Day!

#10: END

Enter VOGELHUBER..

Enter, behind him, DEAN DEAN. Before even seeing him, VOGELHUBER stiffens. Sniffles

You. There.

DEAN DEAN

Me?

VOGELHUBER

Yes. You. What is your name, son?

DEAN DEAN

Dave, sir. Dave Vogelhuber.

VOGELHUBER

Ah, yes. Yes. How is your dog doing?

DEAN DEAN

My dog is dead, sir.

VOGELHUBER

Oh. And you're upset.

DEAN DEAN

Yes. But it's not that. It's my cat.

VOGELHUBER

DEAN DEAN

Your cat?

VOGELHUBER

I was up late, you know, for the services at the pet cemetery. For Sparky. But this morning I didn't want to be late again, so I was going kind of fast down the drive way. And I ran over my cat.

DEAN DEAN

I'm so sorry.

VOGELHUBER

So, you know. I was late. I had to – you know.

DEAN DEAN

You had to what?

Breaks down.

I couldn't just leave Snowball smashed on the driveway. So I was late. But I did sign in. I did.

DEAN DEAN

I saw that. Unfortunately, this is the fourth time this quarter, isn't it?

VOGELHUBER

No sir. This is the third time I signed in late.

DEAN DEAN

Signed in late, yes. A technicality. Because you didn't sign in last time.

VOGELHUBER

But I served a detention for that!

DEAN DEAN

Mr. Vogelhuber, there is the letter of the law, and there is the spirit of the law. And where the letter and the spirit part ways, well, that's where I come in. And while I am sorry for your loss, I would be neglecting my duty if I did not enforce the three strike rule in this case. And as I always say, neglecting my professional duty will not bring your dead pet back.

VOGELHUBER

But. I . . .

DEAN DEAN

You know what comes next.

VOGELHUBER

Sir?

DEAN DEAN

Come on. Say it with me. It will make us both feel better.

He hands him a detention slip with earnestness.

VOGELHUBER

Yes, sir.

DEAN DEAN AND VOGELHUBER

There's an order to things.

The lights fade and ANTHONY DAVID'S three chords start repeating. His ISO from the top of the show comes up. There's no one there.

#11: I CAN ONLY DREAM OF LOVING HIM

Enter CAMILLA

CAMILLA

**His name is Anthony David
His last name it starts with a D
And frankly I never expected
To have someone mean so much to me**

**I think that I really could love him
If love were an option to choose
But I made a bargain a long time ago
I'm afraid there's just too much to lose
I'm afraid there's just too much to lose**

She steps out of the ISO into a light of her own.

**I guess it looks like I have everything
And I guess that it's true
I'm a success at almost everything
That I every try to do**

**Just because my life comes so easily
Doesn't mean I've paid no cost
I used to only see the things I'd gained
But now I miss the thing I lost**

There is something missing deep inside

And I need it for a happy life

**I can only dream of loving him
I know he'd set my heart free
I could only fall in love with him
Oh – oh – oh
If my soul belonged to me
If my soul belonged to me**

**I was a sad and lonely little girl
Life was hard, as life can be
My family was poor and sad and miserable
And they were counting on me**

**When I found a chance for a better life
I didn't realize what I'd sacrificed**

**And I can only dream of loving him
I know he'd set my heart free
I could only fall in love with him
Oh – oh – oh
If my soul belonged to me
If my soul belonged to me**

CAMILLA

**If my soul belonged to me
If my soul belonged to me**

STUDENTS

**We live our lives
We sacrifice
We pay the price**

CAMILLA AND STUDENTS

**We live our lives
We sacrifice
We pay the price**

ISO up on ANTHONY DAVID, reading a book – FAUST.

STUDENTS

**We live our lives
We sacrifice
We pay the price**

**CAMILLA AND
ANTHONY DAVID**

**Nobel be man
Helpful and good
For that alone sets him apart**

**From every other
Creature
On earth**

Lights fade on students, leaving the two, looking at each other.

#10: END

ANTHONY DAVID

Hi Camilla.

CAMILLA

Hi Anthony David

ANTHONY DAVID

How're you doing, buddy?

CAMILLA

Good. Good, friend. How are you?

ANTHONY DAVID

Terrific. All these people are asking me when Warhammer is meeting next. It's kind of the thing to do. And Google said lots of people signed up to come and watch *Holy Grail* after school.

CAMILLA

Wow. That's great.

ANTHONY DAVID

Thanks to you.

CAMILLA

No. Thanks to you. You did this.

ANTHONY DAVID

In a day? Everyone heard you came to play Warhammer. You came one time, and now it's cool. We're all cool. Everyone is friends now.

CAMILLA

Yeah, they are.

ANTHONY DAVID

Even us.

CAMILLA

Yeah.

ANTHONY DAVID

Good friends. Buddies.

There's a certain tenderness going on here.

CAMILLA

Uh huh.

Enter DEAN DEAN

DEAN DEAN

Hello, Camilla.

CAMILLA

Surprised; caught
Dean Dean!

DEAN DEAN

Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

Sir.

DEAN DEAN

So. Camilla. You and Anthony David seem to have become awfully. . .chummy.

CAMILLA

Yes. We're friends.

ANTHONY DAVID

Good friends.

CAMILLA

Just friends.

This remark gets a puzzled look from ANTHONY DAVID.

DEAN DEAN

Ah. Fine. Camilla, could you find some time this afternoon to stop by my office? We have something to discuss.

ANTHONY DAVID

Is she in trouble?

DEAN DEAN

I don't think so. Camilla, are you in trouble?

CAMILLA

No sir.

DEAN DEAN

Good. I'll see you, then. Say, sixth period.

CAMILLA

Of course.

DEAN DEAN

Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

Sir.

DEAN DEAN

You learn things the hard way, don't you?

ANTHONY DAVID

Excuse me?

DEAN DEAN

Sixth period, Camilla. I'll see you then.

He exits.

ANTHONY DAVID

What was that all about?

CAMILLA

Nothing. I don't know. He probably just wants to talk about the music selections for prom. Nothing too risqué allowed, you know.

ANTHONY DAVID

He seems so. . .ominous, you know? There's just something weird about him.

CAMILLA

Unconvincingly

I don't know what you're talking about.

ANTHONY DAVID

Oh, you know. He's just so mean. And he seems almost. . . otherworldly, somehow.

Chuckles.

Almost demonic.

CAMILLA

Urgent, panicked, hushed.

Anthony, don't say that!

ANTHONY DAVID

What? Camilla, are you okay?

CAMILLA

It's just a meeting, okay? With the dean. The dean of students. Who meets with lots of students. Who's just an ordinary dean. Okay?

ANTHONY DAVID

Sure. Sure.

CAMILLA

So, I better go then.

ANTHONY DAVID

Okay.

CAMILLA

Bye, friend.

ANTHONY DAVID

Bye, just friend.

A forced laugh at this, and she exits.

Enter DEAN DEAN.

DEAN DEAN

So things didn't really work out with Camilla Mädchen.

ANTHONY DAVID

We're just friends.

DEAN DEAN

I suppose that's for the best.

ANTHONY DAVID

I don't really think that it is any of your business.

DEAN DEAN

No, I imagine you don't.

Enter UPS GUY. He give ANTHONY DAVID a package and exits.

ANTHONY DAVID

Wait!

DEAN DEAN

Hmm?

ANTHONY DAVID

He keeps giving me these packages.

To UPS GUY, off.

This isn't for me! THIS GOES TO THE. . . Oh, I get it. Excuse me, Dean. Someone wants to see me.

Exit ANTHONY DAVID.

DEAN DEAN spins on his heel, pulls out his pad, and gets to what he does best.

#12: DEAN DEAN IS THE DEAN FROM HELL

Spoken:

DEAN DEAN

You!

He points, and while the student is looking the other way, DEAN DEAN tugs out the students shirt tail.

Your shirt's untucked.

Swish.

Stopping another student:

Excuse me.

STUDENT

Yes?

DEAN DEAN

Spicy lunch today. Do you by chance have any. . .gum?

DEAN DEAN prepares to rip off a detention slip.

Pause.

STUDENT

No?

DEAN DEAN

Good answer.

Swish.

Get a haircut. BWAH-HA-HA-HA-HA!

He exits.

Sung:

STUDENT

Dean Dean is the dean from hell

ALL

Dean Dean is the dean from hell

STUDENT

Dean Dean is the dean from hell

And there's nothing we can do

ALL

Dean Dean is the dean from hell

Dean Dean is the dean from hell

Dean Dean is the dean from hell

And there's nothing we can do

And we really cannot understand the bitterness within the man**

He seems intent on making life a punishment beyond compare

Your shirttail's out, your jacket's on

Your character is too far gone

* For female Dean Dean: **And we really cannot understand the bitterness of that woman**

GROUP A
And so.

GROUP B
We're sighing
We're crying
We're trying
We're dying

ALL

**Dean Dean is the dean from hell
Dean Dean is the dean from hell
Dean Dean is the dean from hell
And there's nothing we can do**

**It is difficult to comprehend how much we really hate the man*
He's capable of wielding power to bring us all to deep despair
No sense of generosity, has no redeeming quality**

GROUP B
And so.

GROUP A
We're hoping
We're praying
We're always
Obeying

**Detention
Suspension
Expulsion**

DEAN DEAN

Damnation!

**I love my job
I'm bringing torment to their souls
Those unredeemable a – holes
I love my job**

**I love my job
Someday they'll thank me, or maybe not
Don't really care about that**

* For female Dean Dean: **It is difficult to comprehend how much we really hate her
and**

I love my job

**All this talk about building character
The need for discipline in increasingly decadent times
They've written books
About nurturing young minds
I don't need that
This all comes naturally**

VARIOUS SOLO STUDENTS

DEAN DEAN

**I don't think that he really tries, he's
never heard of compromise.**

I love my job

**I once spent twenty hours in the hole
because of chewing gum.**

I'm bringing torment to their souls

He loves our fear, it's just as well

STUDENT

What if he really comes from hell?

Pause

STUDENT

But no. . .

ALL OTHERS

**I wonder
Could he be?
There's no way
But maybe**

**Detention
Suspension
Expulsion**

DEAN DEAN

Damnation!

**If they knew
The whole truth
It'd blow them**

Through the roof

KIDS

**He's just a
Disaster**

DEAN DEAN

**It's their souls
I'm after**

KIDS

There's an order to things

DEAN DEAN

There's an order to things

ALL

There's an order to things

Smoke and fire surround DEAN DEAN's desk as he is revealed in all his demonic glory.

DEAN DEAN

BWAH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

#12: END

Cross fade to PA.

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Hello, everyone. This is Headmaster Burnbush with a few announcements.

Consistent with the new school policy, faculty council has planned and drafted this year's fun-filled, safe, fully sanctioned senior prank. Seniors should pick up descriptions of their responsibilities for prank from Dean Dean's office. Also, faculty council voted unanimously that the service hour graduation requirement can only be achieved through domestic labor at teacher's homes. For a list of faculty cars to wash, lawns to mow, and other rewarding service opportunities, please see service advisor Mr. Benevolo. Thank you.

*A split scene: Stage right: ANTHONY DAVID and LUNCH LADY in the kitchen.
Stage left: CAMILLA and DEAN DEAN in his office.*

Lights up on kitchen.

LUNCH LADY

Hello, Anthony David

ANTHONY DAVID

With package
Hi. I got this. It's yours.

LUNCH LADY

Yes, I know. Sit down, dear.

ANTHONY DAVID

Lunch Lady, I'm sorry. You were right.

LUNCH LADY

I'm sorry, too, honey.

ANTHONY DAVID

You said she won't love me.

LUNCH LADY

I know. I also said she *can't* love you.

ANTHONY DAVID

I thought she was better than that. The social order and all. I thought see could see past that.

LUNCH LADY

She does, Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

Sure. . . . What do you mean she *can't* love me?

LUNCH LADY

Anthony David, there is something you should know about Camilla Mädchen.

Cross fade to DEAN DEAN's office.

DEAN DEAN

Simultaneously
{Camilla Mädchen}, do you love him?

CAMILLA

You know better than that.

DEAN DEAN

Yes, I do. But I'm concerned that perhaps you've forgotten.

CAMILLA

Would that matter?

DEAN DEAN

Ultimately, no. Do you *want* to love him?

CAMILLA

That wouldn't make any difference either.

DEAN DEAN

No. It would just make things. . .messier, I suppose. I don't like messes.

CAMILLA

There's an order to things.

DEAN DEAN

Just remember that you made a deal.

Cross fade.

ANTHONY DAVID

Simultaneously
{A deal?} What kind of deal?

LUNCH LADY

The worst kind. The eternal kind.

ANTHONY DAVID

With Dean Dean.

LUNCH LADY

No no no. Dean is powerful, yes, but he's not that powerful. Dean Dean is a henchman* at best. He's here to make sure Camilla sticks to her end of the bargain.

ANTHONY DAVID

What bargain?

Lights up on office.

LUNCH LADY AND CAMILLA

It was a long time ago.

#13: CAMILLA'S TRAGIC TALE

* For female Dean Dean: sidekick

LUNCH LADY

She was a sad and lonely little girl

Life was hard, as it can be

She always did what she was told

She sold her soul

And she was told

Family comes first

How can she love you if her soul not hers

As sad as that must be

She'll only hurt you in the end

It was never meant to be

CAMILLA

It seemed the right thing at the time

**I was only eight years old
My family was poor and sad and
miserable**

And they were counting on me

The man in the black suit

**Offered a better life to me
And to my whole family
Family comes first**

And so he's only just a friend

**The rest of my life comes easily
I could only fall in love with him**

If my soul belonged to me

It was never meant to be

#13: END

ANTHONY DAVID

I don't believe it. Who ever heard of such a thing?

LUNCH LADY

What's that you are reading there?

DEAN DEAN

To CAMILLA

It's pointless. Do you see?

ANTHONY DAVID

To LUNCH LADY

A book Camilla presented in class. Goethe. *Faust*. . . .Oh.

ANTHONY DAVID AND CAMILLA

I see.

DEAN DEAN AND LUNCH LADY

Good.

Fade to black.

Hallway. GOOGLE sits on the floor, working on the S.I.B.C.Q.E.C.E. STEVEN is hanging astrological charts in his locker. Nothing much is happening. ERIC takes a hit of his inhaler.

Any luck?

KENNY

Shhhh!

GOOGLE

I thought he lost that sheet.

ERIC

He got another copy.

STEVEN

Steven enters.

STEVEN
Hey. You guys want to sign a petition? Turns out that light pollution from the new football stadium is going to virtually eliminate visibility of the Pleidies.

Bummer.

ERIC

Aaaaaah! I give up! I give up! I give up!

GOOGLE

You give up?

KENNY

He gives up.

ERIC

Back at work.
Shhhh!

GOOGLE

Eric takes another hit of his inhaler.

Enter SUMMER, GINGER, HILLARY, AND MARIE. GINGER is reading a quiz from Cosmogirl magazine.

GINGER

Okay, last one.

MARIE

God, I hate these things.

GINGER

“You’re at a Friday-night party relaxing on the couch with friends when (yes – just as you’d hoped!) your crush walks in. How do you get his attention?”

MARIE

Boob job, Botox, or lobotomy?

HILLARY

Shut up. It’s fun.

GINGER

A: “Find a way to ditch your friends (they’ll understand, right?), and go over and talk to him before some other girl corners him.”

MARIE

That “some other girl”? That’s not me. I’ll be in the other room organizing a fund raiser for women’s rights in the Middle East. But you guys go on pursuing your “crush.”

GINGER

B: “Catch his eye, smile and wave, and then go back to talking to your friends (for now anyway).”

MARIE

C isn’t “Be articulate and impress him with your insights and philosophy,” is it?

GINGER

C: “Avoid eye contact while sending him mental “I like you” vibes.”

HILLARY

I’m thinking that’s the wrong one.

SUMMER

A.

JORDAN

Nice. Ditch your friends.

SUMMER

It said you would understand.

MARIE

Oh, we understand, all right.

HILLARY

I understand, Summer.

GINGER

Okay, wait. I have to do your score. Ooooooh, Summer! You're "Sweet."

SUMMER

Finally I know the real me. Thank you, *CosmoGirl*.

HILLARY

All this time I thought you were nice, and it turns out you're actually sweet.

GINGER

"Guys flock to you like mice to cheese fondue."

JORDAN

It doesn't really say that.

GINGER

It does.

SUMMER

I'm cheese fondue?

HILLARY

You're sweet cheese fondue.

SUMMER

Great. I'm a schizophrenic appetizer.

MARIE

Read the horoscopes.

GOOGLE

Hey.

JORDAN

Us?

KENNY

Yes, you. If you deign speak with us. Tell the hot prom queen we want our friend back.

MARIE

Did he really just say “deign”?

SUMMER

Tell her yourself.

HILLARY

Tell *him*.

MARIE

Used it correctly, too.

KENNY

You’re not so great, you know.

JORDAN

Here we go.

GOOGLE

You think the view is so great from up there on Mount. . . Mount Popularity, don’t you, sitting together at lunch, dispensing your petty judgments. Well, we “geeks,” we “nerds,” we “renobs,” we’re sick of it.

MARIE

Did he really just say “renobs”?

STEVEN

You know, a nerd is just someone who isn’t afraid to be himself, who doesn’t let the desire for greater social status get in the way of his good time.

SUMMER

What are you talking about?

GOOGLE

You and your sports and your prom and your student council. You wouldn’t know an original idea if it peed in your Wheaties.

MARIE

And I thought this got weird at “renob.”

ERIC

We’re tired of being judged by a bunch of stupid pretty girls.

HILLARY

Don’t forget the prom queen. She’s “hot,” right?

Who's judging who?

SUMMER

“Whom.”

GOOGLE

#14: WE'RE GONNA BE YOUR BOSS SOMEDAY

**You think we're stupid
You think we're cute
You think our body
Is our only attribute**

**You think you know us
By what you see
We're superficial
We're just skin deep**

**You can judge us with the things you say
You think we will simple go away?**

**We're gonna be your boss someday
We're gonna be your boss someday**

**Oh we're so lovely
You call us hot
You think our lovely
Is all we got**

**We catch your glances
When we walk by
You think you get us
We let you try**

**You judge us by our posterior
We're already your superior**

**We're gonna be your boss someday
We're gonna be your boss someday**

**With your blond jokes and your platitudes
And your 1950 attitudes
We let you think you're so great
We smile, we flip our hair, we wait
'Till you'll fetch us some coffee and**

**Type us a memo and
Beg for a raise in your pay
Put a capital “S” on the “Sucker” on your resumé**

**We’re gonna be your boss someday
We’re gonna be your boss someday**

SUMMER is holding up the sheet of paper she found in Act One.

#14: END

What’s that?	GOOGLE
I found this. It has your name on it.	SUMMER
Oh my gosh.	GOOGLE
What?	ERIC
Is that?	GOOGLE
Yeah.	SUMMER
And is it . . . ?	GOOGLE
Solved. Yes.	SUMMER
Nooooooo!	GOOGLE
What is it?	ERIC
It’s the solution. The answer. To Mr. McDell’s Super Impossible Bonus Challenge Extra Credit Extravaganza. She has the solution.	GOOGLE

Wow. GINGER

Let me see it. GOOGLE

Ummm. . .no. SUMMER

It's probably not right anyway. STEVEN

SUMMER shows STEVEN one small portion of the sheet.

Twelve? STEVEN

Twelve. SUMMER

So? KENNY

Twelve. GOOGLE

And then, a revelation.

Twelve! Yes! Yes! Twelve! It makes sense! Of course! How could I not see it? But how did you. . . Show me your work. You must show me your work!

I don't think so. SUMMER

Gah! Wait. Where did you find it? GOOGLE

You dropped it. MARIE

No. The solution. Where did you find the solution? It couldn't have been the internet. I looked everywhere. GOOGLE

What do you mean? GINGER

I solved it.

SUMMER

HA!

GOOGLE

Yeah, right.

KENNY

What, just because you couldn't do it, you think no one can?

MARIE

Not no one.

ERIC

Just you.

KENNY

What's that supposed to mean?

JORDAN

You play sports. All the time. You're. . .you're so. . .you're on all those committees, you're. . .you're. . .you're *popular*.

STEVEN

Oh. And so we're stupid.

HILLARY

YES! Yes. Sports are for. . .Arggh!

GOOGLE

Sports are for people with such limited imaginations that they can only be sure of their own existence when they smell their own sweat!

KENNY

Yeah? Well you losers are so terrified by even the slightest higher-level social interaction that you spend all of your time with Pikachu, Homer Simpson, and Frodo Baggins!

MARIE

Picachu?! Pokémon sucks!

KENNY

How can you even have an *opinion* about that?

SUMMER

ERIC

How can you care about putting a little plastic ball in a net?

GINGER

It's not plastic. It's polyurethane!

KENNY

That *is* plastic, retard!

MARIE

What?!

STEVEN

Retard! Sports are for retards!

JORDAN

And The Sci-fi channel is for sociopaths!

ERIC

A diet of fashion magazines has given you an unhealthy body image!

GINGER

You have no self-esteem!

STEVEN

Glitter lip-gloss has rotted your brain!

HILLARY

You use *Halo 2* to hide from the real world.

KENNY

Oh, yeah – and *The OC* is sooooo real!

ALL

Each group yelling at the other in unison

YOU MOCK THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SO YOU CAN CLING TO A
PEER GROUP OUT OF FEAR THAT YOU WON'T MEASURE UP IN THE WORLD
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL!

Pause, and then, again together:

What?!

GOOGLE AND SUMMER

To each other
You're just scared.

To their own friends.

GOOGLE
Oh my gosh. She's right.

SUMMER
Oh my God. He's right.

Pause.

GOOGLE
Now what?

SUMMER
Look. We don't judge you. We don't. I mean, no offense, but we really don't care. You do stuff, and we do stuff, and, well. . .we like the stuff we do. And we don't really like the stuff you do. So we aren't friends. That doesn't mean we look down on you.

GOOGLE
We do.

MARIE
You do what?

GOOGLE
We look down on you. We do. I mean, not really. But deep down, okay. . .
Deep breath.

We envy you.
His friends gasp. To his friends:

Oh, come on. We do. Who wouldn't want to be popular? Doesn't it just mean that lots of people like you?
Back to SUMMER.

So we tear you down. To each other. And we pretend that you judge us to make it okay. To make us okay. To define ourselves.

Pause.

JORDAN
Wow.

ERIC
Yeah. Wow.

GINGER

Okay.

SUMMER

Okay. Maybe we judge you too. A little.

GOOGLE

Yeah. We know.

HILLARY

What do we do now?

GOOGLE

You guys want to come play *Warhammer*?

SUMMER

You know what? No. We don't. It just doesn't appeal. Sorry. But you guys should maybe come to a dance sometime.

STEVEN

My sister says I dance like a frog on a hot plate.

SUMMER

Come anyway. You might have fun. We'll play some *They Might Be Giants*.

ERIC

Maybe. You should come watch *Holy Grail*.

MARIE

Yeah. Maybe

Pause.

GINGER

So.

ERIC

So.

SUMMER

Hey. At the very least, in twenty years, at our reunion? Let's say hi. See how we turned out. See if any of this ever really mattered.

GOOGLE

Yeah. Okay. So, ummmm. . . you think maybe I can see that?

SUMMER

Oh, this?

The solution sheet.

Sure. Yeah. Of course.

GOOGLE

Great.

SUMMER

I'll bring it with me. To the reunion.

The girls exit. The boys watch. ERIC takes out his inhaler. Deep breath. Fade to black.

A moment, and then ISO comes up on the PA box.

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Good afternoon, everyone. One quick announcement. The Knights of Python club is moving the screening of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* to the cafeteria due to . . . really? Due to popular demand, it seems. My goodness. That's nice to hear, isn't it? Let me take a moment here to say how thrilled I am to see the ways that students have been getting along lately. The whole school seems more unified today. It's hard to put my finger on it.

Enter DEAN DEAN.

So many people trying new things and getting to know different groups. It warms my heart, it really does. And I hope that you all remember this as –

DEAN DEAN cuts the wire to the PA box. Silence. He exits. Blackout.

Lights up on a dim cafeteria, where all of the students are gathered watching Holy Grail, the scene in which God appears. Snacks, laughter, camaraderie, fun.

Enter ANTHONY DAVID. He's bewildered at the sight.

ANTHONY DAVID

Google!

GOOGLE

Hey, guy. What's up?

ANTHONY DAVID

What's going on?

GOOGLE

Duh. *Holy Grail!* My ninety eighth time and it *still* cracks me up. “Big long nasty teeth!”

VOGELHUBER

Hey, Google! Great movie!

GOOGLE

Dave! You made it! I thought you had detention.

VOGELHUBER

Not today, pal. I finally cracked the system. I found a secret weapon. The one thing that turns even the harshest administrator to an ineffectual toady.

ANTHONY DAVID

What’s that?

VOGELHUBER

Holding it up.
A note from a mother.

GOOGLE

Hey, Dave. I’m sorry about your cat, man.

VOGELHUBER

No worries, man. I never had a cat. Or a dog. I just like to sleep in. Nee!

ALL

Ackey Ackey Patanga!

ANTHONY DAVID

Why are. . .who are all these people?

GOOGLE

The Knights, man. The Knights of Python. Our ranks have grown.

GOOGLE returns to the film.

A big laugh from the crowd, and everyone freezes – even the Pythons themselves. (Author’s Note: Beware. Pause the film before the funny but very distracting “butt-trumpet” moment. And for goodness sake, don’t pause ON the butt-trumpet moment. Especially not in front of an audience of middle schoolers. Trust me. Been there. –sf)

#8E: FINAL REPRISE OF MY NAME IS ANTHONY DAVID. REALLY. I PROMISE.

ANTHONY DAVID

**My name is Anthony David
My last name it starts with a D
I used to dream of a school just like this
I'm not sure how it came to be**

**I guess that I feel kinda happy
It's all that I thought I wished for
It's happened, I'm glad, but it isn't enough
Now that I'm wishing for more
But I can't have the one I wish for**

#8E: CONTIUES AS UNDERSCORE

Enter CAMILLA.

CAMILLA

Hi, Anthony David.

ANTHONY DAVID

Hi, friend.

CAMILLA

Yeah. Just friend.

ANTHONY DAVID

Camilla, there's something I need to say to you.

CAMILLA

Oh, Anthony. I can't. It's not that I don't want to. I just. . .I just cant. That's all. And I think maybe it'd be better if. . .it'd be easier for both of us if we just –

#8E: END

ANTHONY DAVID

I read a book.

CAMILLA

What?

ANTHONY DAVID

A book. A book you told me about. This one.

He pulls Faust from his pocket.

CAMILLA

You read that?

ANTHONY DAVID

Because of your presentation in German class. You seemed so lonely. I felt lonely too. I felt like you understood. That's why I. . . Well, anyway. I read this book.

CAMILLA

Yes?

ANTHONY DAVID

And I figured some things out. About you.

CAMILLA

You did?

ANTHONY DAVID

Like why you are so good at everything, for instance. And I know why you think you can't love me.

CAMILLA

I can't, Anthony. I really can't. I sold my –

ANTHONY DAVID

I love you anyway.

CAMILLA

Anthony, don't.

ANTHONY DAVID

I love you, Camilla. I'll love you forever. I'm giving you my heart, Camilla, if you'll take it. I'm giving you *my* soul.

CAMILLA

Oh, Anthony David.

She runs to him. They embrace. They look deeply at one another. His head tilts a bit. Her head tilts a bit the other way. He leans in. She leans in. Here it comes. . . here it comes. . .

BOOM! Pyro: flames, smoke, noise. The movie blacks out, the freeze breaks, and everyone looks around, amazed and confused.

LOUD MALEVOLENT VOICE OVER

NO! YOU CAN NOT LOVE HIM! YOUR SOUL IS NOT YOURS TO GIVE!

Enter DEAN DEAN. The big mean voice was his.

DEAN DEAN

There's an order to things.

KENNY

What the hell?

With a gesture, DEAN DEAN sends him sprawling.

VOGELHUBER approaches boldly, holding the note from home before him.

VOGELHUBER

Hey, back off, buddy. I've got a note from home!

DEAN DEAN gestures, and the note bursts into flame.

Whoa.

Another gesture, and VOGELHUBER sprawls, out cold.

ANTHONY DAVID

To all
He's a demon! A real live demon from hell!

GOOGLE

I knew it!

ANTHONY DAVID

And he's here to keep Camilla from ever being happy!

DEAN DEAN

She made a deal!

ANTHONY DAVID

And I'm breaking it.

DEAN DEAN

You don't have the authority.

ANTHONY DAVID

I'm getting the authority. By sending you back where you came from.

DEAN DEAN

You? You puny little thing? You're going to take me on all by your lonesome?

ANTHONY DAVID raises his fists in a lame fighting stance. A showdown. DEAN DEAN raises his hand in the same gesture. Suddenly, GOOGLE is at ANTHONY DAVID's side. Then HIS FRIENDS. Then ANOTHER STUDENT, then ANOTHER, until all of the students are standing with ANTHONY DAVID, between DEAN DEAN and CAMILLA.

DEAN DEAN lowers his hand.

DEAN DEAN

Well, that's sweet, isn't it? Of course, I could wipe out all of you with a flick of my finger. However, I tend to leave this kind of dirty work to my underlings.

He snaps twice. Enter THE FACULTY.

CUE: ENTER THE FACULTY

STUDENT

They're all demons!

STUDENT

I knew it! I knew it!

DEAN DEAN

Not demons so much. Minions. They sold their souls long ago, and they certainly know which side of a battle to fight on.

The students are scared.

CUE: ENTER THE FACULTY

Enter THE KITCHEN STAFF. They take fighting positions along with the STUDENTS.

Pause.

Then, DEAN DEAN and THE FACULTY break into laughter. Various ad-libs about the absurdity (including some in German from HERR UMLAUT) Suddenly, silence. HERR UMLAUT steps forward. He stands in a battle stance and is ready to fight.

STUDENT

Oh, crap.

Suddenly, a wild war-whoop comes from off-stage, and in runs UPS GUY. He exhibits spectacular martial-arts moves, and then stands before HERR UMLAUT. Tension. Then:

#16: EPIC BATTLE MUSIC

In dance:

UPS Guy throws several punches. HERR UMLAUT leads UPS Guy in an awkward waltz which ends with UPS Guy fallen.

The battle ensues in dance, with each group using equipment as weapons: STUDENTS use backpacks, textbooks, iPods, GOOGLE his laptop, ERIC spraying enemies with his inhaler; FACULTY use yardsticks, coffee mugs, chalk erasers, briefcases; KITCHEN STAFF uses kitchen tools.

As the fight progresses, STUDENTS fall, KITCHEN STAFF fall, FACULTY fall. DEAN DEAN watches from the side.

Eventually, the only ones left standing are ANTHONY DAVID, CAMILLA, LUNCH LADY, and DEAN DEAN.

#8E: END

LUNCH LADY

Dean, that's enough now. You let these youngsters be.

DEAN DEAN

Out of my way, Lunch Lady.

LUNCH LADY

I'm afraid I can't do that.

DEAN DEAN

I'm afraid you will.

He raises his hand. As he gestures violently toward her, she pulls from out of her apron the Golden Spatula. Holding it before her, she blocks his spell. They are locked together. Finally, with immense effort, she pushes the spell back to him and he falls sprawling.

A moment, and then. . .

She is off guard. With a wave of his hand, the spatula goes flying. Another, and she is knocked across the stage. Another, and she is on the serving counter. She stands on the counter, weak, to face him. DEAN DEAN cuts the air with his hand, and she falls behind the counter.

ANTHONY DAVID

Lunch Lady! No!

He runs to the counter and looks over it. He runs for DEAN DEAN.

You no good, amlevlont, spawn of -

DEAN DEAN grabs him in a spell.

DEAN DEAN

You have been quite an inconvenience. This was to be an easy assignment: come to terra firma, keep an eye on Miss Perfect, make sure she keeps her end of the bargain. Now look. You think you can teach the soulless to love, you arrogant speck?

He drops ANTHONY DAVID to the floor.

All of this destruction is your doing, boy. Including, now, your own.

He lifts his hand in a particularly ominous gesture and –

CAMILLA

No!

She runs and takes the full brunt of the spell.

A moment. She looks at ANTHONY DAVID, and then falls.

DEAN DEAN

Oh. I'm going to get in trouble for that.

ANTHONY DAVID

Nooooooooooooooooooooo!

He lunges for DEAN DEAN, who grabs him by the neck. Lights fade and they are in an ISO.

DEAN DEAN

Let's finish this up the old fashioned way, shall we?

ANTHONY DAVID struggles to no avail. Then, in his struggle, he feels something in his pocket.

STUDENTS AND FACULTY

They are still fallen.

ANTHONY DAVID gets the idea.

Tater tots of love

ANTHONY DAVID puts his hand in his pocket.

Tater tots of love

ANTHONY DAVID pulls from his pocket – THE TATER TOT!

Tater tots of –

#16B: END

ANTHONY DAVID

gasps
Love.

He quickly conceals the Tater Tot behind him.

DEAN DEAN

What?

ANTHONY DAVID

Love.

DEAN DEAN

Ah, yes. Love. Love conquers all, right? It especially conquers those of us from down below. But there's no love here, is there? You are all alone. And you are about to die. BWAH-HA-HA-HA-HA!

With a flourish, ANTHONY DAVID reveals the Tater Tot.

He shoves it down DEAN DEAN's throat.

It takes a moment for DEAN DEAN to realize what just happened.

DEAN DEAN

Oh. Bummer.

An explosion of fire, smoke and detention slips, and DEAN DEAN is gone.

ANTHONY DAVID walks slowly to CAMILLA. He cradles her head in his lap and cries.

When suddenly, a golden, glorious light shines from behind the serving counter. Ascending, with wings and a halo, is the LUNCH LADY, in all her angelic glory.

ANTHONY DAVID

Lunch Lady?

LUNCH LADY

Indeed.

ANTHONY DAVID

You're a . . . You're a . . .

LUNCH LADY

Always have been. I'm here to keep an eye on Camilla. You don't think the big man would give a demon free reign around here, do you?

ANTHONY DAVID

I guess. . . I guess. . . Thanks for the tater tot.

LUNCH LADY

Cooked with love. The baddies don't have much of a defense against that kind of sharing.

ANTHONY DAVID

Can you do anything? For Camilla?

LUNCH LADY

I'm sorry, Honey. I'm only an angel. She's God's, now.

Sound of static, and the PA box crackles to life.

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Attention everyone, please. A quick announcement. Permission slips for the Spanish class trip to Chi-Chi's are due on Thursday. Also, a quick reminder. As stated in the handbook – not the student handbook, I'm talking here about the ultimate handbook – in the handbook it says, let's see, let me find it.

Sound of pages flipping.

Ah yes. I'll read this. "You can give no greater love than to give your life for a friend." There it is, in black and white. Isn't that nice? So it is therefore the decision of this administrator to null and void any suspension, detention, expulsion, or, well, damnation

of any student who gives his or her life to save another. Seems only right. How's that sound, Anthony David?

ANTHONY DAVID

Headmaster Burnbush?

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

She died saving you, Anthony David. Could anyone claim that such a person really has no soul?

ANTHONY DAVID

Headmaster Burnbush? How . . . Burn. . .bush. Burning bush! Good Lord! I mean, are you. . . are you?

HEADMASTER BURNBUSH (V.O.)

Suddenly the lo-fi PA sounds glorious.

I am.

Beat. Back to lo-fi.

Have a nice afternoon.

The obnoxious school bell rings, and CAMILLA stirs.

CAMILLA

Anthony David?

ANTHONY DAVID

Camilla!

The other students stir and rise.

STUDENT

What the heck?

ANOTHER STUDENT

I feel. . .good.

ANOTHER STUDENT

Did we win?

ANOTHER STUDENT

Noticing the fallen faculty

We did! We won!

Excitement ensues, interrupted by the stirring a rising of the Faculty.

ANOTHER STUDENT

Oh. No.

The students wearily return to battle positions. Then, in awe:

FACULTY MEMBER

I feel. . .happy.

ANOTHER FACULTY MEMBER

I suddenly remember what it feels like to be a high school student.

ANOTHER FACULTY MEMBER

I . . I no longer resent my students for their youth, opportunity, and hopeful idealism.

ANOTHER FACULTY MEMBER

Due date extensions for everyone!

Rampant happiness for all.

CAMILLA

Anthony David? What happened?

ANTHONY DAVID

Just like the book, Camilla. Rescued by the angels. And by, well. . .

CAMILLA

Love?

ANTHONY DAVID

I love you, Camilla.

CAMILLA

And I . . . I . . .

She's amazed she can say it

I love you, Anthony David.

They kiss.

#16C: EPIC TATER TOT FINALE

ALL

Tater tots of love

ALL PLUS ANTHONY DAVID AND CAMILLA
Tater tots of love
Tater tots
Of
Loooooooooooooooooooooooooooooove!

School bell rings.
Blackout.

THE END

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