CAST OF CHARACTERS

SUSAN FINNEGAN, a first year math teacher. Means well. Looks out for the kiddos whenever she can.

CAMERON (CAM) KRUEGER, a young, driven man. Princeton-or-bust. Good at most things and terrific at a few. Cameron lives only with his mother. Finding his way.

LISA PLOSKER, acerbic, sassy. Deeply loathes Cameron. A legacy at Princeton, where both of her parents attended. Very smart. As they say, "Don't pluck with Plosker."

BEN BROWNELL, very sarcastic, very witty young man. He's gay, but shhh! Out to Bella and Cam, his two closest friends.

BELLA CARTER, the smartest of them all. An engineer, a good friend, a reliable group project partner. Hermione-esque. Looks out for her friends. Dating Timothy Kimble, but who cares.

TIMOTHY KIMBLE, ooooh booooy. The jock; the brain; the ass. The center of every conversation, not even on purpose. Under a lot of stress from his parents; not too surefooted.

KATE MACKINTOSH, a theater nerd, a Bernie fan. Overdramatic. Often goofy. Funny, cute, "Did someone say Timothy Kimble?"

CODY HARRIS, quiet, bright but subdued; navigating the world while his mother battles cancer. A watcher on the wall.

CASEY OBERFIELD, the doodling girl in the back of class. Peevish, finds Kate incredibly petty and problematic. Not the sharpest tool in the shed but trying. Really trying.

JACK B. HASLETT, perpetually anxious, convinced (as is his family) of his impending failure. Turns to pot. Trips over his own feet.

SCOTT, THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, may be played by any available stagehand personell. Preferably the accompanist. Big dreams, little future. 'Nuff said.
ACT TWO

SCENE TEN

BEN

Hey, Tim, can I talk to you a second?

(Lights up. All but Ben and Tim exit.)

TIM

Is this about Bella?

BEN

What? No. This is about me.

TIM

What’s going on, man?

BEN

I just wanted to tell you something before the weekend because I'm not sure I could ever do it if I don't do it now, so I’m going to do it now.

TIM

What?

BEN

Tim I have a crush on you.

TIM

Cool.

BEN

And...?

TIM

Aren’t you like, good friends with Bella?

BEN

So?

TIM

We were, like, just together. Like, she was my... girlfriend.

BEN

I’ve had girlfriends.
TIM

Ben you’re being weird.

BEN

My bad, man.

(Tim leaves, but...)

BEN (CONT’D)

Don’t worry — I’ll get over it.

(Ben is left alone in darkness.)

BEN (CONT’D)

THERE YOU ARE
THERE’S YOUR ANSWER
PUT YOUR HEART BACK ON ITS SHELF

THIS IS NEW
THIS IS SUBSTANCE
LIVING DEEPLY BY YOURSELF

LOOK AT HIM
IN THE MOONLIGHT
STANDING SILENT, ACTING TOUGH

THANK YOU TIM
GUESS THE MOONLIGHT
PRETTY SOON MIGHT BE ENOUGH

STAY RIGHT THERE
IN THE SUN
WHERE YOU BLIND ME,
WHERE I’M WOUNDED,
WHERE I’M FLYING.

STAY RIGHT THERE...

(Outside the school, at night. Lisa stands alone on the sidewalk. She speaks to a security guard who has called out to her.)

LISA

They’re on their way. About 20 minutes... I’m fine, thank you. I’m fine.
THAT’S THE SOUND OF A GIRL
ALL IN WHISPERS, AS SHE STUMBLING.
NOW, BETTER SET HER FREE,
BETTER LET HER GET ALL HER SHIT IN LINE.
HOW DID SHE SETTLE HERE?

AND THAT’S THE SOUND OF A WORLD
AS IT CRUMBLES, ALL GONE QUIET...
JEEZ ONLY SEVENTEEN, NOTHING IN BETWEEN
HER AND EVERYTHING,
PLEASE LET HER DISAPPEAR.

JUST LOOK AT HER, STILL A LITTLE GIRL WITH
HER
BRIGHT YOUNG EYES,
HAD THE LITTLE WORLD AT HER FINGERTIPS,
AND EVERY WHICH WAY THAT SHE TURNED SHE
SAW SKY...

AND THAT’S THE SOUND OF A SCHOOL
AFTER-HOURS, CLOSED FOR BUSINESS.
I KNOW, LISA HAD IT GOOD,
LISA HAD A LEG UP TO MENTION
JUST GO, THROW IT ALL AWAY,
GO AND GET A BIG, FAT SUSPENSION, AND

THAT’S THE LOOK OF A LIFE,
CLOSED FOR BUSINESS.
SO HOW CAN I COME HOME?

IN I’LL FLOAT, STILL INVINCIBLE,
WITH MY NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPLE
SHORT AND SWEET,
THAT I CANNOT GO BACK TO SCHOOL FOR TWO
WEEKS...

(Lights up on Cameron at his dinner table. Cameron
speaks to his mother.)

CAM
Nearly perfect, Mom. 97. ... There might not be a curve, so... No, I certainly did not fail.
Yeah. Looks like I passed math class. Hurray! ... Don’t say that mom, I hear back in
March. We can’t know for certain. ... Yes, even with an A in calc. ... Look, I’ll come
back every few months. You can visit if you...
(A cake is placed in front of Cameron.)

CAM (CONT’D)
Oh, mom. You didn’t have to... I only mean, cakes are expensive. ... (laughs) ... Thanks, mom. Love you too.

(Lights back up on Lisa.)

LISA
GIRLS TRAPPED UNDER A FALLING SKY
CAN LOOK AROUND AND NEVER SEE THE SUN.
GIRLS TRAPPED UNDER MUST WONDER WHY
THEY NEVER WIN. I’VE NEVER WON.

AND EVERY WHICH DAY THAT I LEARNED,
I COULD FLY...