(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...

(Ben walks forward.)

BEN
Lisa?

LISA
Oh hey Ben. What are you doing here?

BEN
My parents are on their way.

LISA
It’s like eight.

BEN
Why are you here?

LISA
I… just got back from a softball game.

BEN
Really? You’re still on the team?

LISA
(no response)

Sorry.

(Silence.)

LISA
Hey, Ben, not in weird way, but… can I borrow your jacket?
“HONORS MATH”

Sure.

LISA

I’m freezing.

BEN

Yeah of course.

(He brings her his jacket. She puts it on and pulls it tight around her.)

LISA

That is awesome, thank you.

(Silence.)

BEN

I know it’s none of my business, but why are you so angry with Cam?

LISA

Remember in sophomore year I got taken out of school for a couple days? It didn’t matter, like it only went on the record as a couple of absences, something stupid. I don’t know. Anyway, that was for—I tried ecstasy with some friends and my parents heard from someone’s mom—I’m totally going on a tangent here sorry.

BEN

It’s okay.

LISA

Well, so like. My parents flip, they freak out. They’re pretty, you know, pretty conservative. So, um, we drive up in our little Honda Accord to this, ummm, rehab where I spend a few days, for like absolutely no fucking reason at all, like I’m fine. I’m fine, like aren’t I allowed to be human? Can’t I take ecstasy and not have a very good trip?

So I get back to class one day, and by now everyone knows, you know how that works? Shit travels. I’m walking into class. I’m pale, I’m frustrated. Cameron looks me in the eyes—and I know what you’re going to say you’re going to say he didn’t mean it, but if you saw... the way he... and maybe I deserve this.

(tearing up)

Maybe it’s just like, not meant to work out for me. I can’t tell them. I can’t. I can’t do it. They’re not people, Ben. They’re old and unhappy. They don’t even like each other, split up about three months afterwards—my fault? Probably, I’d say so. And Cameron knows! He knows. He told everyone. And he has the audacity to look me in the face, straight into my eyes, and smirk. Like I didn’t just fuck up my parents’ marriage. And he says, “Looks like a spot just opened up.” “Looks like a spot just opened up.”
"HONORS MATH"

(A long pause.)

BEN
I know it’s nothing, but. Cameron’s parents had also just split up. About five months before. He was having a tough time too. I think he felt something… similar? That’s no justification, but—

LISA
Hey, Ben? I’m over it.
YOU PICK UP WHAT PIECES ARE THERE ON THE GROUND,
AND STARE AT THE DARKNESS YOU’RE DANCING AROUND;
AND ALL THAT YOU WORKED FOR, IS GONE IN A DAY…

BEN
SO STAND ON THE SIDEWALK AND WAVE AT THE GUARD.
BEHAVE LIKE THINGS AREN’T AS FUCkED UP AS THEY ARE.
IT’S HARDEST IN THE MOMENT TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY…

LISA
SO YOU STAY AND LET GO FOR A MINUTE
AND BREATHE, LET YOUR HAIR DOWN AND SMILE.

BEN
BREATHE, AND YOU KNOW YOU’RE OKAY…

LISA
AND PRAY, ‘CAUSE YOU KNOW IN A MINUTE,

BEN, LISA
THAT YOU’LL HAVE TO LAY LOW FOR A WHILE…

BEN
WHAT IF WE RUN?

LISA
What?
"HONORS MATH"

BEN
WHAT IF WE SAID THAT WE’RE
JUST ABOUT DONE,
FIND SOMETHING INSTEAD THAT
MAKES US FEEL ALIVE INSTEAD OF ALONE?

LISA
I DON’T KNOW...

BEN
Come on!
WHAT IF WE SPLIT?
GET TO KNOW ME AND CHILL FOR A BIT?
YOU’LL EVEN SHOW ME A CANVAS OF SKY
AS THE WORLD FLASHES BY...
‘CAUSE I’M DONE GROWING OLD.

LISA
I can’t just...

BEN
OR YOU STAY AND YOU
FUCK WITH YOUR PARENTS,
AND TRADE IN WHAT LITTLE YOU HAVE.

LISA
SO STRANGE, AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF THE
SAME THAT IT ENDS UP THIS WAY!

BEN
AND THAT’S THE SOUND OF YOUR WORLD...

LISA
DON’T HIT THE GROUND,
DON’T HIT THE GROUND RUNNING
DON’T HIT THE GROUND,
DON’T HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

BEN, LISA
DON’T HIT THE GROUND,
DON’T HIT THE GROUND RUNNING
DON’T FREEZE UP AND SINK.

LISA
I LIKE HOW YOU THINK.

(Lisa takes out her phone and begins texting.)
"HONORS MATH"

BEN

What are you doing?

STUDENTS
DON’T HIT THE GROUND,
DON’T HIT THE GROUND RUNNING...
(repeat underneath)

CAM

Dear Mrs. and Mr. Plosker,

BELLA

This is your daughter signing off.

JACK

I’m taking an unsanctioned hiatus from rational decision making.

CASEY

Please don’t take this personally. It’s not you, it’s me.

CODY

But it’s not not your fault either. Winky face.

KATE

Take this time to get to know each other again.

TIM

I’ll miss you both, dearly.

CAM

If you ever stop being insane, let me know.

KATE

And tell dad to put a shirt on. Thanks.

BELLA

Until that day, au revoir. Love, Lisa.

BEN, LISA

And, P.S., I’m finally free!

ALL

FREE!

BEN, LISA

AND OH, THE WORLD KEEPS ON CHANGING!
"HONORS MATH"

LISA
SOMETIMES EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT YOU
HAD JUST GOES, AND OH

BEN
WHAT KIND OF WORLD IS IT ANYWAY?
I DON’T EVEN KNOW

BEN, LISA
THE WORLD KEEPS ON CHANGING AND
CHANGING

LISA
AGAIN... AGAIN... OH...

BEN
I’M THROUGH WITH THAT FOOL
BY NOW ANYWAYS.
HE’LL HAVE TOLD THE SCHOOL
SOMEHOW ANYWAYS.
BUT I’M KEEPING MY COOL,
THAT’S HOW ANYWAYS, I’LL LIVE ANYWAYS.
AND ANYWAYS,
HERE’S WHERE I’LL SAY!

LISA
I WON’T GO BACK.

BEN, LISA
I CAN’T GO BACK!
I’LL GO UNDERCOVER WHEN UNDER ATTACK!
AND HERE’S WHAT I’LL SAY TILL THE DAY WHEN
I CRACK
I WILL NOT GO
WILL NOT GO
WILL NOT GO
WILL NOT GO
WILL NOT GO
HE’LL NOT GO
SHE’LL NOT GO
WE’LL NOT GO
WILL NOT GO

WHAT IF WE —
WHAT IF WE SAID FOR THE MOMENT
WE’RE DONE GIVING UP,
AND WE’RE DONE GROWING OLD?
WHAT IF WE SPORE ON OUR LIVES TO BE FREE, 
TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY? 
AND HOW ‘BOUT IT’S NOW THAT I 
BREAK FREE OF PARADISE, 
AND LET MYSELF PLAY IN THE SUN? 

WHAT IF WE RUN? 
WHAT IF WE RUN? 
WHAT IF WE RUN? 
WHAT IF WE RUN? 
IF WE RUN?

STUDENTS 
(underneath) 
DON’T HIT THE GROUND, 
DON’T HIT THE GROUND RUNNING. 
DON’T HIT THE GROUND, 
DON’T HIT THE GROUND RUNNING. 
DON’T HIT THE GROUND, 
DON’T HIT THE GROUND—

BEN 
Where are you gonna go? You can stay at my house for awhile. 
(off her look) 
Don’t worry, I’m gay.

LISA 
Hi gay, I’m Lisa. I think I’ll be crashing at your place tonight. 

(Ben and Lisa exit the stage heroically, middle fingers raised. Back in class, the other students…)

SCENE ELEVEN 

MS. FINNEGAN 
Okay, calm down everybody. Take your seats. 
(to an audience member) 
You there, please sit down. Alright, let’s all go around, and say what we like about Timothy. Kate you start.

STUDENTS 
Yeah, you start, Kate. Go ahead Kate. (Etc…)

KATE 
Me? Really?