SCENE 4

(Another day at the office. DEAN, OLIVER, INDIGO, TERRY, and ENSEMBLE are at their desks, working quietly. Irritated with INDIGO and OLIVER’s newfound friendship, DEAN decides to pick on OLIVER.)

DEAN

(approaches OLIVER)
Hey.

OLIVER

W-what?

DEAN

That’s not how you say hello.

OLIVER

H-hello?

DEAN

Hah, really? What makes me so hard to talk to when all you do is talk to that jumpy freak over there?

OLIVER

I really don’t know what you’re talking abou--

DEAN

(pushes OLIVER lightly on the shoulder)
Shut up. Of course you do!

OLIVER

Don’t...

DEAN

(laughing and pushing OLIVER a bit harder)
Don’t what? You can’t handle a little tap like that? What are you, a girl?
Act 1, Scene 4

INDIGO
(“INNER WORLD,” standing up from their rolling chair)
Shit! This is bad. This is so bad.

TERRY
(noticing INDIGO standing up from their chair)

OLIVER
(starting to panic)
W-what are you trying to do to me?

INDIGO
(“INNER WORLD”)
Where have I seen this before?

DEAN
Stop it, Oliver. It’s not like I hurt you or anything...

INDIGO
(“INNER WORLD”)
Why does this feel so...familiar?

DEAN
(leaning in close to OLIVER)
...you freak.

(Everything freezes, lights dim to notate that the next line is from Indigo’s “INNER WORLD.”)

THE RELATIVE
(voice from offstage)
Quit crying! I haven’t even touched you, you little freak.

(Back to “REALITY.”)

INDIGO
(“REALITY”)
N-no!
Act 1, Scene 4

DEAN

(trying his best not to look too shocked)
Did...you actually say something for once, freak? Don’t worry, your precious Oliver is gonna be just fine.

INDIGO

(louder)
I said, NO!

DEAN

(noticably taken aback)
Alright, alright, no need to act like such a --

INDIGO

Just STOP! Stop it! ENOUGH!

(The whole office is paying attention now, looking around at each other and over their shoulders.)

INDIGO

Stop! JUST STOP!

DEAN

(sitting back down in his chair)
O-okay...I’ll stop.

INDIGO

Why are you doing this? Why would you do this?! Why? Just STOP!

OLIVER

(approaches INDIGO, touches their arm)
Indigo...it’s okay now.

INDIGO

(jumps at OLIVER’s touch)
Oh, I..uh, sorry, I just --

OLIVER

No, thank you.
Act 1, Scene 4

INDIGO
(whispering to themselves)
You’re thanking me...?

(THE BOSS enters.)

THE BOSS
Everything okay out here?

DEAN
Y-yes. Sorry, Boss.

(THE BOSS exits.)

#5: NEW TO ME

(INDIGO stands in the spotlight while OLIVER, DEAN, ENSEMBLE, and TERRY get back to work behind THEM.)

INDIGO
STANDING MY GROUND JUST MIGHT BE NEW TO ME. THE POWER OF WORDS WAS A SIGHT TO SEE. KNOWING MY ASS COULD VERY WELL BE KICKED, I HAD TO ACT BEFORE MY FRIEND WAS NICKED. AND MY HEART POUNDED HARDER THAN EVER.

THAT LITTLE RUSH WAS VERY NEW TO ME. THE LIFT I FELT WHEN DEAN LET HIM BE. SEEING HIS WIDE-EYED STARE AT MY DEFIANCE, CLEARLY HE THOUGHT I’D STAND THERE IN COMPLIANCE. I SURPRISED HIM, MAYBE HE’S NOT SO CLEVER.

THAT WAS NEW TO ME. WHAT DID THAT DO TO ME? NOW MY MEASLY TONGUE CAN CUT THROUGH ICE! BUT CAN IT SURVIVE IN THE COLDEST OF BLIZZARDS? SHOULD THESE SHARP TONGUES BE KEPT TO THE LIZARDS? WHAT IF I PIERCE SOMEONE’S HEART OUT WITHOUT KNOWING MY PART IN THEIR SUFFERING?
A CERTAIN TONGUE COMES TO MIND...

(THE RELATIVE’s voice echoes from off stage)

THE RELATIVE
You ruin everything you touch. You think I’ve hurt you? Just know that you’ve hurt me more than I could ever hurt you.

(Back to “REALITY.” INDIGO recuperates.)

INDIGO
BEING A THREAT IS VERY NEW TO ME. NORMALLY I’M THE ONE TO FLEE. OLIVER WILL BE SAFE FROM THAT EX-FRAT BOY, ALL ‘CAUSE OF ME, THE BUDDING HERO OF THAT BOY. WELL, I GUESS IT’S BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

(OLIVER approaches INDIGO.)

OLIVER
INDIGO, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

INDIGO
WHAT IS IT?

OLIVER
STANDING YOUR GROUND IS VERY NEW TO YOU. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT IS TRUE. HOW DO I PUT THIS? INDIGO, I’M PROUD, SPEECHLESS IN FACT, THAT YOU STOOD TALL AND LOUD, AND I WONDER, WOULD YOU STICK UP FOR YOURSELF THE SAME WAY? THIS IS NEW TO YOU.

INDIGO
THIS IS NEW TO ME.

OLIVER
WHAT DID THIS DO TO YOU?

INDIGO
GOOD QUESTION.

OLIVER
WILL YOU GUARD YOUR FRIENDS AT YOUR EXPENSE?

INDIGO
I DON’T KNOW, MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO.

OLIVER
JUST BE AWARE THAT YOU MATTER TOO.

INDIGO
THERE’S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.

OLIVER
AND PUT YOURSELF FIRST, WHATEVER YOU DO.

INDIGO
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

OLIVER
I HOPE I DON’T SEE YOU LOVING YOURSELF EVEN LESS FROM THIS.

INDIGO
AT LEAST HE’S THANKFUL.
I THINK.

OLIVER
JUST THINK ABOUT THAT.

(OLIVER returns to his desk.)

INDIGO
DOESN’T HE KNOW THAT THIS IS NEW TO ME?
HE SHOULD MOVE ON AND JUST LET ME BE.
I CAN DO SO MUCH MORE THAN WATCH HIS BACK.
MAYBE I’LL STOP AND HE’LL CUT ME SOME SLACK
WHEN HE FINDS THAT HE NEEDS ME TO HELP HIM.
AS FOR ME, I’LL BE FINE.
THIS IS NEW TO ME, AND IT’S MINE.