ACT ONE
SCENE ONE

The stage is completely black. The projection displays an artistic, saturated version of the brain. It’s very pink, more than a brain should be, and stylizes the different lobes of the brain. When the projection is shown completely, the stage is still in black and the orchestra is playing deep, ethereal music (1. “Neuropsychology”). It’s clouded by voices that whisper extremely negative things—“you’re a moron”, “you’ll never be loved or trusted”, “people are dying and you choose to live in ignorant bliss”, “you’re selfish”, “your skin is so dark”—and they get progressively louder as the music gets more complex. The voices grow louder and louder with the music and as they grow, the image gets more distorted, especially the frontal and temporal lobes. When it gets to the point where it can’t get any louder, the lights and music pop up to reveal the PSYCHIATRIST CS in a comfortable suit with a notebook and pen in hand and ADAM and BRIDGET sitting in two seats DS. They both in their pajamas. ADAM looks tired and BRIDGET keeps fidgeting.

PSYCHIATRIST
How do you feel today?

BRIDGET
Good.

(ADAM looks off)

PSYCHIATRIST

How are you feeling?

ADAM

Fine, I guess.

(Beat. The PSYCHIATRIST writes something down then looks up)

PSYCHIATRIST

So, you were telling me, last we spoke, you were starting school soon?

BRIDGET

Senior year. You don’t have / to tell me twice.

ADAM

Yeah...

PSYCHIATRIST

How was it?

ADAM

Okay.

(BRIDGET shrugs)

PSYCHIATRIST

Can you elaborate?

(Music starts (2. “Why Bother“). A backdrop displays a New England college campus in autumn as the projector still stays in front of it. On both sides of the stage, there are two rooms with beds that are pushed in from back stage. ADAM and BRIDGET split off. On STAGELEFT is ADAM walking into bed with a woman, ROSE, as they lie together in bed. This bedroom is ROSE’s apartment and her room is covered in clothes, posters than have thrown on the ground, beers, clothes, and sheets that are falling off the bed. On STAGERIGHT, BRIDGET gets into bed swiftly and stiffly in her room. While her bed is neat and her dresser has an outfit on top of it, there is still some paper and wrappers on the ground. On the projector, the brain splits, light blue on the left and light red on the right.

(An alarm rings on top of the underscore. BRIDGET quickly turns it off while ADAM slowly reaches over ROSE to turn his phone off).
BRIDGET

(Getting up)
Got up at 6:20, my usual wake-up time.

(BRIDGET gets up and starts making her bed).

ADAM

I got up at...7 something?

(ADAM is still trying to reach for the alarm).

BRIDGET

I did some cardio in my room, some stretches, and all that jazz.

ADAM

I had to slump over Rose, my girlfriend, but gave up and went back to bed.

(ROSE gets up and turns off the alarm. BRIDGET starts putting on yoga pants and a shirt that says "WELCOME FRANKLINITES!" on the front and "RA STAFF" on the back. ROSE walks to the other side of the bed).

BRIDGET

Then I showered, put on my shirt—

ADAM

(Rose is poking him)

Rose started poking me at 8 something so I got up.

(ADAM gets up and starts cleaning).

BRIDGET

(While putting on her jacket)

Did my make-up, put on my jacket—

ADAM

Grabbed whatever was around and put it on and grabbed some of the bottles on the ground. Rose was out the door when she said:

ROSE

Are you coming?

ADAM

I said I’d be there in a second and she snapped at me.

ROSE

Well, I’m going. I’m not here for another pity party.
BRIDGET looks at her phone.

BRIDGET
I got a text saying, “I need you right now”. At 4:30 in the morning.

PSYCHIATRIST
That exactly?

BRIDGET
I don’t keep track. He sends / texts like that every day.

ADAM
Not quite but that, that’s / when I knew—

BRIDGET
Looked in the mirror and that’s when I knew—

ADAM, BRIDGET
Today was gonna suck.

(Lights fade in on ADAM in a jack, white t-shirt and sweatpants).

ADAM
AM I GOING ANYWHERE?
PROBABLY NOT
I’M A WORTHLESS BRAT
DROPPED OUT LIKE THAT
WHY GIVE SCHOOL ANOTHER SHOT?
I MEAN I NEED A JOB
OR AT LEAST SOMETHING TO DO
MY FAMILY THINKS I’M LAZY REGARDLESS
WHY SHOULD I FOLLOW THROUGH?
WHY BOTHER BEING STRESSED OUT FOR TESTS
TO GET INTO A LIFETIME OF DEBT
WHY BOTHER WHEN NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
I’LL GET AN OFFICE JOB I’LL REGRET
EVERY DAY IS ANOTHER HEADACHE
ANOTHER POST, ANOTHER BEER;
I’M NOT BITTER
I’M JUST AN ASS
AT LEAST THAT MUCH IS CLEAR

(Lights fade in on BRIDGET who vigorously packing a bagged lunch and several notebooks, her computer, and two calculators).

BRIDGET

AM I GOING ANYWHERE
GOD, I HOPE SO
IT’S MY SENIOR YEAR
I’M FINALLY HERE
WITH A DECENT PORTFOLIO
I’M PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING
I ALWAYS TRY TO IMPRESS
WHEN PEOPLE MOCK
I JUST BLOCK
I DON’T HAVE THE TIME FOR STRESS
WHY BOTHER SAYING THAT “THERE’S NO POINT”
WHEN THE POINT’S IN FRONT OF ME
WHY BOTHER SITTING DOWN ON YOUR BUTT
WHEN NOTHING IN LIFE COMES FREE
EVERY DAY IS ANOTHER STRUGGLE
BUT GIVE ME GLOVES FOR THE FIGHT
I’M NOT A JERK
I JUST LIKE WORK
EVEN IF I AM UPTIGHT

(Both characters ADAM and BRIDGET are ready to go and grab coffee).

BRIDGET

SIP THE COFFEE

ADAM

FILLED WITH MORE SUGAR
THAN I CAN COMPREHEND
LOOKING FORWARD
BRIDGET
SEEING EVERYTHING

BRIDGET, ADAM

I CAN’T WAIT FOR THE END
(Everyone else enters with LINDSEY and OWEN looking busy and ROSE and DAVE looking tired).

LINDSEY, OWEN
THIS IS DUE TODAY
NO TIME FOR TODAY
FOCUS THROUGH THE GRAY
MY LIFE’S ON ITS WAY
HOW MUCH DO I WEIGH?
ISN’T THAT GUY GAY?
IS THAT THOUGHT OKAY
DON’T KNOW WHAT TO SAY
THIS IS DUE TODAY
NO TIME FOR TODAY
FOCUS THROUGH THE GRAY
MY LIFE’S ON ITS WAY

ROSE, DAVE
WHAT’S TODAY
SO TIRED
OH
WELL I TRIED

PSYCHIATRIST
Each brain, just like each person, is different and unique. Still, something can happen to you any day and any moment to change that completely. Change your brain, your fashion, your life completely! But what if you didn’t have a change? What if you were like this for a lifetime?

LINDSEY, OWEN, ROSE, DAVE
HERE’S A BOTTLE FOR MY STRESS
AND PILLS FOR A BLESSED DAY

ADAM, BRIDGET

WHY

ADAM, BRIDGET
BOTHER

LINDSEY, OWEN
WHY BOTHER SAYING THAT “THERE’S NO POINT”
WHEN THE POINT’S IN FRONT OF ME
WHY BOTHER SITTING DOWN ON YOUR BUTT
WHEN NOTHING COMES FREE

DAVE, ROSE
WHY BOTHER BEING STRESSED OUT FOR TESTS
TO GET INTO A LIFETIME OF DEBT
WHY BOTHER WHEN NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
I’LL GET AN OFFICE JOB I’LL REGRET

ALL
EVERY DAY I WILL WRESTLE WITH MY MIND
UNTIL HOW THE WORLD HAS INTERTWINED

BRIDGET, LINDSEY, OWEN
THERE IS SO MUCH IN MY HEAD
WHY IS THIS WORLD FULL OF DREAD?
IT’S WHY I CAN’T GO TO BED

ADAM, DAVE, ROSE
LIFE IS AN ENDLESS PIT OF STINK
LOOK HOW I’M FALLING LET ME SINK
PLEASE JUST LET ME GO DON’T THINK

ALL
WHY
WHY
WHY
WHY BOTHER
(Song ends).