

Act One

Prologue – The Theater

Curtain closed. Actors enter one by one through the center and form a line onstage. First to enter is Mike, an opinionated young man.

Mike:

This all began back in March. I was an innocent young man with a black and white view of the world. A head settled squarely on my shoulders, and, as all teenagers who try to behave like adults, a ten-foot pole up my...

The next to enter is Cierra. She is the epitome of a popular girl at the prime of her life.

Cierra:

Ascending to the top of the social hierarchy is a difficult task. I should know, I was once so low on the totem pole that I was wallowing in mud up to my neck! Play your cards right and you can end up on...

Next enters Tim. He is intelligent and appears to be suave. "Appears" being the operative.

Tim:

Top of my class? That's funny. I never considered grades to be all that important. Maybe it was the fact that when everyone is held to the same standard, it creates a homogenous glob of drones, or maybe it's the fact that I see the whole system as a complete load of bull...

Following Tim we meet Kari. Kari is a staunch traditionalist who embodies Jackie Kennedy. That is, if Jackie Kennedy were a college-aged girl living in our current time. She did keep Jackie's sense of fashion, though.

Kari:

Shamming your way through life is no way to succeed. While it is undoubtedly a way to get through in relative comfort, you are left with no real accomplishment. And let's be honest, who'd want a man with nothing to show but his...

Spencer follows. He is a Pentecostal who looks like a Pentecostal. Full suit. He is as traditional as Kari. He reminds us of Nathan Price, if Nathan Price weren't so... awful.

Spencer:

Dickens put it best, he said: “no one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else”. That is how I try to live. If you are to attempt to be any sort of a decent person, you must put yourself in a place of high necessity with low maintenance. Others come before you. That is the foundation of a good society. We all must understand this if we are to be one nation under...

Last, but not least is Evelyn; an “aesthetic goth,” she likes to keep people on their toes.

Evelyn:

Goth. That’s what some people call it. I choose to call it fashion. It’s not so much the darkness that it represents, it’s the fact that it throws them off your scent. Maybe you were expecting me to be in a pink dress? No thank you. Besides, this helps the imagination out a bit.

All actors exit.

Scene One – The Hub

Spencer stops Mike.

Spencer:

Mike!

Mike:

Yes?

Spencer:

What’re you doing on Saturday?

Mike:

I don’t have plans.

Spencer:

You do now, my church is holding a revival.

Mike:

Hello Dolly?

Spencer:

More like Godspell.

Mike:

What time?

Spencer:

Starts at six.

Mike:

Until?

Spencer:

About eleven.

Mike:

Five hours?!

Spencer:

So?

Mike:

The whole Jesus story takes thirty seconds to tell.

Spencer:

What about baptisms and...?

Mike:

Fire hose.

Spencer:

Beg your pardon?

Mike:

Beg.

Spencer:

No, what did you say?

Mike:

Just get a fire hose.

Spencer:

Fire hose?

Mike:

Why not?

Spencer:

Wouldn't that knock people down?

Mike:

You're a Pentecostal, just call it "falling out" and you're in the green!

Spencer:

And what about babies?

Mike:

Super soaker filled with holy water or we pull out the "slip and slide to salvation."

Spencer:

I don't even know where to begin.

Mike:

Like I've said a million times, if people listened to me the world would be a much better place.

Spencer:

It would at least be stranger.

Mike:

Potato, potato.

Spencer:

Mike, it's "potato, po-tah-to."

Mike:

What?

Spencer:

The thing you were trying to say; it's actually "potato, po-tah-to."

Mike:

Excuse me?

Spencer:

Yeah, have you not heard that?

Mike:

If I had heard wouldn't that change how I say it?

Spencer:

Fair point.

Mike:

That makes no sense though.

Spencer:

What do you mean?

Mike:

I mean doesn't "potato, po-tah-to" imply that they're different?

Spencer:

I mean they're still the same word, but...

Mike:

And who on earth says "po-tah-to"?

Spencer:

Have you ever met that opera professor?

Mike:

I'm a theatre major, not music major.

Spencer:

Just asking.

Mike:

No offense taken.

Spencer:

I didn't assume there was.

Mike:

Good.

Spencer:

So you're coming on Saturday, right?

Mike:

Do I have to?

Spencer:

Give me one good reason why you shouldn't.

Mike:

It's my day off!

Spencer:

And there's plenty of time before 5 P.M.!

Mike:

But I have plans.

Spencer:

Nice try.

Mike:

I do!

Spencer:

So you lied earlier?

Mike:

What?

Spencer:

When you said you had no plans earlier you were lying?

Mike:

Yes.

Spencer:

Really?

Mike:

Yep. I'm a sinner going straight to hell and I'm off to confession right now, though Father Bailey is out of town so I guess I should...

Spencer:

... Go to the revival on Saturday night instead.

Mike:

Why do you want me to go to this five-hour-long church service anyways?! You know I already go to my church on Sunday!

Spencer:

We've been talking about going to a revival together for ages, Mike. Now they're finally doing one.

Mike:

Well that was before I knew they were five hours long!

Spencer:

What's five hours in the grand scheme of things?

Mike:

360 minutes.

Spencer:

Okay...

Mike:

Roughly 1/5th of a day.

Spencer:

Yes, but...

Mike:

Literally enough time to make 100 different packages of ramen and still be done before the service lets out and that is assuming your pastor doesn't go over time.

Spencer:

We're Pentecostal, Mike. Not Baptists.

Pause.

What will it take?

Mike:

What?

Spencer:

I'll put my money where my mouth is, Mike. What will it take to get you to the revival on Saturday?

Mike:

In the voice of a southern debutante:

Spencer J. Hammond, are you offering to bribe me to go to church?

Spencer:

Yes. Yes I am.

Mike:

Bribin' a fellow man to go to a sanctuary and pray! Well, I heard about people like that in the Bible we called 'em Pharisees and our Lord and savior Jesus Christ didn't take too kindly now to them people so I don't see how you can...

Spencer:

Would you quit the theatrics, Mike?

He snaps out of it.

What's your price?

Mike:

Producing a polaroid photo.

Kari White. Strong, brunette, but most importantly, the only lady left in the entire town of St. James who wears respectable clothing. She also happens to be...

Spencer:

My sister's best friend.

Mike:

Bingo. So, you get her – "her" being defined as your sister – to introduce her – "her" now meaning Kari – to me so I may woo her.

Spencer:

Woo her?

Mike:

Woo her.

Spencer:

Woo her?

Mike:

Yes sir.

Spencer:

Her woo?

Mike:

Still true.

Spencer:

And the guy?

Mike:

That's a lie!

Spencer:

You deny?

Mike:

At least I try.

Spencer:

Happened then?

Mike:

Me and Ben?

Spencer:

That's the claim.

Mike:

They defame.

Spencer:

You're not gay?

Mike:

Not that way.

Spencer:

Good to know.

Mike:

Maybe though.

Spencer:

So you did?

Mike:

No, I kid.

Spencer:

Quit it, Mike.

Mike:

As you like.

Spencer:

Saturday?

Mike:

Once you pay.

Spencer:

Fine, okay!

Mike:

What a day!

Spencer:

Now just to be clear:

Mike:

Ha! I win!

Spencer:

We can't keep rhyming forever.

Mike:

You're just jealous of my silver tongue.

Spencer:

The famed sword which leadeth women to their defeat.

Mike:

Deface.

A look from Spencer.

What? I prefer deface to defeat.

A beat.

Spencer:

Look, are you coming Saturday or not?

Mike:

Am I getting my introduction?

Spencer:

Fine.

Mike:

Fine?

Spencer:

Yes.

Mike:

Then yes.

Mike crosses to exit.

You won't regret this, Spence!

Spencer:

I feel like I made a deal with the devil.

Mike re-appears.

Mike:

No, only his second cousin.

Mike exits for real this time. Spencer sighs. In a prayer:

Spencer:

You never said I had to agree with Your plan. But it would be nice on occasion.

Spencer exits.

End of Scene

Scene Two – Cierra's room

Spot on Cierra.

Cierra:

So, Spencer left to begin his crusade to spread the Pentacostalian principle. This led him to commit the most egregious sin...

Lights up, Cierra and Kari are sitting on Cierra's bed with magazines, cutting letters.

Busting into my room?! Really Spence?

Spencer:

Hi, Cie [pronounced "see"], howdy Kari.

Cierra:

Don't engage.

Spencer:

That's not very polite.

Cierra:

Respect is earned, not given.

Spencer:

I respect you!

Cierra:

Respectful people knock.

Spencer:

This is urgent.

Cierra:

Too urgent for common courtesy?

Spencer:

Urgent.

Cierra:

That was a yes or no question.

Spencer:

No.

Cierra:

Then knock.

He exits, then knocks.

Come in!

He re-enters.

Spence! What can I do for you?

Spencer:

I have a favor to ask you.

Cierra:

What is it?

Spencer:

You know Kari?

Cierra:

No.

Spencer:

You don't know her?

Cierra:

No. You're not doing this.

Spencer:

Not doing what?

Cierra:

Don't play cute with me, I know what you want.

Spencer:

You do?

Cierra:

An introduction.

Spencer:

Yes, but...

Cierra:

Not happening.

Spencer:

But...

Cierra:

She's my best friend, Spence. We have a code.

Spencer:

A bro code?

Cierra:

A sister statute.

Spencer:

I would've gone with lady law but that's cool too. Points for alliteration.

Cierra:

I'm not going to introduce you like that.

Kari:

To whom?

Cierra:

To Kari:

Stay out of this.

Spencer:

It doesn't involve you.

Back to Cierra:

Besides, you're not introducing me, I already know her.

Cierra:

It wouldn't be an issue if I were, I trust you.

Kari:

May I ask...