

SHOULD I STAY

A PLAY BY WAYNE LANDRETH

CHARACTERS

CONNOR: 14 YEAR OLD FRESHMEN. IS TRISTAN'S BEST FRIEND AND PUNCHING BAG - M

TRISTAN: 14 YEARS OLD FRESHMEN. LOVES CONNOR AND DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE HIM - M

KELLY: 17 YEAR OLD SENIOR. A FRIEND OF CONNOR AND IS DATING ROBBIE - F

ROBBIE: 18 YEAR OLD SENIOR. A FRIEND OF CONNOR AND IS DATING KELLY - M

SETTING

WATERTOWN NY, PRESENT DAY

ACT 1

Scene 1 - On the bus

Lights up on CONNOR sitting alone on the school bus. We hear the sound of the door opening and footsteps.

TRISTAN appears and takes the seat next to Connor.

TRISTAN
Hey buddy.

Tristan punches him in the arm as a greeting.

CONNOR
Ow, Hi Tristan.

TRISTAN
Did you have a nice morning?

CONNOR
Yeah I guess so. Same thing as always you know.

TRISTAN
Gotcha.

Beat., Tristan looks a little down.

CONNOR CONT
Is everything okay?

Tristan shakes his head

TRISTAN
No. My mom and dad are getting divorced.

CONNOR
Oh man. I'm sorry.

TRISTAN
Thanks. I don't really want to talk about it.

CONNOR
I didn't mean to upset you.

TRISTAN
No no it's fine. Hey have you been doing those workouts like I showed you?

CONNOR
Oh, well..

Tristan punches him again.

TRISTAN

You need to do those Connor!

CONNOR

Why?

TRISTAN

Look at you, you're all fat and no muscle.

CONNOR

Well no need to insult me. You're not one to talk yourself.

TRISTAN

Don't talk to me like that. I'm doing this to help you, you're killing yourself.

CONNOR

Well bullying me isn't going to make things better.

TRISTAN

I'm not bullying you.

CONNOR

Yes you are!

Tristan punches Connor a few more times in the arm.

CONNOR CON'T

Stop hitting me!

TRISTAN

Only if you stop saying stupid shit!

Connor picks up his things and tries to stand up.

TRISTAN

What are you doing?

CONNOR

I'm sitting somewhere else.

TRISTAN

No you're not

CONNOR

Yes I am.

Tristan stands up also.

TRISTAN

No you're not!

BUS DRIVER(O.S)

Sit down please.

TRISTAN

Yeah sit down Connor.

Connor does what he's told while trembling.

Tristan also sits down.

TRISTAN

You always gotta act up Connor, you're so immature.

Connor just looks out the window upset.

Light's out

SCENE 2 - Lunchroom later that day

Lights up on Tristan sitting alone at a table with his lunch tray.

Connor enters with his lunch tray. He notices a flyer on the floor and picks it up. He then approaches Tristan's table.

TRISTAN

So nice of you to join me finally.

CONNOR

Sorry it was a long line.

TRISTAN

Whatever. Whatcha got there?

Connor places the flyer on the table while taking a seat.

Tristan picks up the flyer and looks at it.

TRISTAN

Auditions for the new play "Success Spray". Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday after school.

(to CONNOR)

You want to audition for this?

CONNOR

Well, yeah.

TRISTAN

I didn't know you wanted to be an actor Connor.

CONNOR

What? I told you about it before.

TRISTAN

Oh really? I must've forgot. But that's great though. It'll be good for you to get out of your comfort zone.

CONNOR

Thanks.

TRISTAN

I can help you if you want. I know some things about acting.

CONNOR

Since when have you ever acted?

TRISTAN

Well I haven't actually acted before but you know I watch a lot of movies. Have you ever acted before?

CONNOR

Yes, I was in a small classroom play of Tom Sawyer when I was in the fourth grade.

TRISTAN

That doesn't make you an acting god Connor.

CONNOR

I never said I was!

TRISTAN

So it's settled then, let's meet up after school and we'll work on making you an acting super star.

CONNOR

Okay then jeez. Why is it always an argument with you?

Tristan places his head in his hands.

TRISTAN

I'm sorry. I'm just dealing with a lot. With the divorce, my brothers and school, I'm just very stressed. Could you ever forgive me?

CONNOR

I understand you're dealing with a lot, of course I forgive you.

TRISTAN

Thanks man.

CONNOR

But could you please just chill out? I'm not trying to start a fight with you.

TRISTAN

I know you're not. I'm sorry.

CONNOR

It's okay.

Tristan punches him on the arm but in a friendly way. It still hurts.

Connor gives a pained sound.

TRISTAN CON'T

For god's sakes Connor, toughen up.

CONNOR

I think I'm starting to bruise. Must you always hit me?

TRISTAN

You know you can hit me back.

CONNOR

No.

TRISTAN

Why not?

CONNOR

Because friends don't hit friends.

TRISTAN

You're right they don't, but you're a bit of a pushover.

CONNOR

And that's a good enough reason to keep hitting me?

TRISTAN

Until you grow a pair yeah.

Hits him again.

TRISTAN CONT

Going to hit me yet Connor?

CONNOR

No.

Tristan hits him again.

TRISTAN

Now?

CONNOR

NO.

Tristan hits him once more.

TRISTAN

How about now?

Connor doesn't say a word and just sits there.

TRISTAN CONT

Hey.

Tristan hits him again.

Connor winces in pain.

TRISTAN CONT

I'm sorry Connor I'll stop hitting you, but please answer me.

Connor stays silent.

TRISTAN CONT

Answer me now Connor.

Connor tries to eat his lunch.

Tristan then pushes the tray off the table and onto the floor making a mess.

TRISTAN CONT

God damn it Connor answer me now! NOW!

Connor gets up and grabs his lunch tray, picking up the contents that are on the floor.

TRISTAN CONT

What are you doing?

Tristan grabs his hand and Connor shakes it off, Tristan hits him again.

Connor gets down on the floor, takes a napkin and cleans up the mess. He puts it on the tray and gets up and exits.

Lights out.

SCENE 3 - Connor's bed room

After school.

Connor is sitting on the corner of his bed.

Tristan enters his bedroom.

TRISTAN

Okay Connor let's get to work. Did you get a monologue?

CONNOR

Yeah right here.

Connor hands the monologue to Tristan.

TRISTAN

"A Message to Give". Ooo I like this. Okay, off the bed.

Connor gets up from the bed and Tristan takes his seat on it.

TRISTAN CON'T

Alright do it.

CONNOR

What?

TRISTAN

Do the monologue.

Beat.

CONNOR

You mean right now?

TRISTAN

Yes.

Connor is speechless. "Now? Read the monologue now?" he's thinking.

Connor attempts to speak.

TRISTAN

Without the script.

CONNOR

Dude, I just got this. I can't just memorize it like that.

TRISTAN

That is where you are wrong, my friend. The BEST actors in the business memorize scripts.
(Snaps his fingers) Like that.

CONNOR

Where did you hear that from?

TRISTAN

Someplace don't worry..

CONNOR

Tristan don't start.

TRISTAN

Hub bub bub stop wasting time and do the monologue.

Beat.

TRISTAN CON'T

CONNOR!

CONNOR

Tristan I need to see it!

TRISTAN

Fine! god! It's always an argument with you.

CONNOR

Are you kidding me? You know what, whatever.

TRISTAN

Yeah whatever.

Tristan gives him back the script.

CONNOR

Thank you.

Connor looks over the monologue for a moment.

He then performs the monologue while reading it.

CONNOR *(performing monologue)*

Hello madam, I come bearing a message.

TRISTAN

Stop stop stop stop.

CONNOR

(Annoyed)

What?

TRISTAN

Do you call that acting?

CONNOR

I just started.

TRISTAN

Where's the theatrics? Where's the exaggeration?

CONNOR

Says the guy who never acted in his whole damn life.

TRISTAN

Watch it Connor. Theater actors exaggerate what they do. Watch me.

(performing over the top, looking like a fool)

Hello madam, I come bearing a message.

He waits for Connor's reaction, appearing very proud of himself.

Better, right?

CONNOR

I don't think that's how it works.

TRISTAN

Look Connor, if you want to fail then you can do it your way. I'm just being real with you.

Connor begins the monologue again, trying to take Tristan's direction.

CONNOR

HEL-lo MAD-em, I come BEAR-ing a MES-sage.

Tristan jumps off the bed applauding like he created the perfect performance.

TRISTAN

That's it! That's better.

Light's out.

SCENE 4 - Nightsky 1

Connor sits by his windowsill very drained.

He goes through a drawer and pulls out a tape recorder and begins recording.

CONNOR

Nightsky log #246, It's dark, completely black, but the moon is in full. I know that it's the moon going through its phases but I can't help but feel like it means something. Like it means hope. And I could really use some hope right now. As my parents tell me, life has a funny way of telling us what our destiny is. Life sends us little signs to tell us that things are going to change. We just have to listen. And that full moon means something is abundantly clear. I sure hope that means something. End of log

SCENE 5 - The audition

The next day.

A spotlight center stage. Connor walks into it.

CONNOR

Uh hello, I'm Connor O'Connor. Yes, that is my name. My parents are quite creative. But yes I'm here to audition for the play. I will be performing the monologue "A Message to Give".
Connor then closes his eyes.

Small beat.

CONNOR

(Over the top and hammy like a buffoon)

Hello madam, I come bearing a message. It has been quite a journey. For I traveled a long way to tell you. That our beloved father has died! It saddens me to have to tell you this. It is such a tragedy to tell you. And I...

Connor stops.

He slowly face palms, cringing at himself.

CONNOR

I'm sorry. Could I -- Could I do this again? Please?

Quick beat.

CONNOR

Thank you so much.

Connor wipes his eyes and closes them.

Small beat.

CONNOR

(actually good this time)

Hello Madam, I come bearing a message. It has been quite a journey. For I have traveled a long way to tell you that your beloved father has died. It saddens me to have to tell you this. It is such a tragedy for one to bear. I myself may not know what it may be like to lose a loved one, for I lived a majority of my life alone. But for what it's worth, you are an absolute diamond madam. And I will continue to be at your side, dear sister.

Small beat.

CONNOR CON'T

Thank you so much for the opportunity.

Lights out

SCENE 6 - The cast list

The next morning.

Lights up on the school hallway.

Connor and Tristan enter.

TRISTAN

And so I said to my brother, "If you want to come into my room, don't come into my room".

CONNOR

Aren't you being too harsh with him? He's only 8.

TRISTAN

Dude you have no idea what he puts me through.

CONNOR

He's just a little kid man, cut him some slack.

Tristan notices the bulletin board across the hall.

TRISTAN

Hey the cast list is up!

He takes Connor's arm and pulls him over to the bulletin board where the cast list is posted.

CONNOR (rubbing his arm)

That's my bruised arm! Ow!

TRISTAN

Go on look!

CONNOR

Okay okay.

Connor scrolls his finger through the list.

He stops on the third character.

CONNOR*(reading)*

Connor O'Connor - Gideon

Beat.

CONNOR*(in disbelief)*

I'm one of the leads.

TRISTAN

No way, you are?

Tristan takes a look.

TRISTAN CON'T

Holy crap Connor that's so awesome! Congrats!

They high five.

TRISTAN CON'T

And you thought my suggestions wouldn't work.

CONNOR

(A bit shifty)

Uh yeah haha.

TRISTAN

We got to celebrate, dude.

KELLY and ROBBIE enter, approaching the bulletin board

ROBBIE *(to Connor and Tristan)*

Hey, did you guys get cast?

TRISTAN

Oh no not me, but my friend did.

KELLY

Oh cool which part?

Robbie looks at the list.

CONNOR

I'm Gid-

TRISTAN

(Cutting off Connor)

Gideon.

KELLY

Oh congratulations! He's one of the leads.

TRISTAN

My man Connor can do it.

Tristan punches Connor this time on his right arm.

Connor puts his hand on his arm in pain.

CONNOR

Stop that.

ROBBIE

And we will be joining him, Kelly. Look(*pointing at the cast list*) I got Chester and you got Izzy. Were the big 3!

KELLY (to Connor)

Oh yeah! We've been doing shows for quite a while Connor. We'll show you the ropes.

Kelly and Robbie fist bump.

Then Robbie puts his fist out to Connor.

Connor flinches and backs up.

Beat.

CONNOR

Oh(*Laughs nervously*)

Connor nervously fists bumps Robbie and Kelly.

Tristan puts his fist out as well and they fist bump with him too.

KELLY (to Tristan)

Did you audition too?

TRISTAN

Oh me? Naw, I'm not really into acting. Too much work.

Connor gives him a look of "Are you for real?"

KELLY

Oh, well they'll be other chances. You guys freshman?

TRISTAN

Yup.

KELLY

Then you got plenty of chances. You can even be in the stage crew if you want.

TRISTAN

I'll think about it.

ROBBIE

Well I can't wait to work with you Connor. One fun fact about theater people is that they're very touchy feely, like this.

Robbie goes and hugs Connor.

Tristan's mood drops.

KELLY

Oh Robbie.

ROBBIE

Just making Connor feel welcome.

Kelly's phone vibrates. She checks it.

KELLY

Oh we gotta get going. It was really nice meeting you two.

ROBBIE

Yeah let's talk again soon guys! Bye.

KELLY

Bye!

They exit the stage holding hands.

TRISTAN

Looks like they're dating.

CONNOR

Yeah.

TRISTAN

They seem like a nice bunch.

CONNOR

They do.

TRISTAN

Too nice.

CONNOR

Tristan please.

TRISTAN

Well let's go get lunch then. Come on, snack cakes are on me. I'll let you cheat this time.

Tristan taps Connor's belly.

CONNOR

Don't do that.

TRISTAN

Whatever.

Tristan begins to exit

Connor looks at the cast list again and runs his hand across it.

TRISTAN CON'T

Hey, you coming?

CONNOR

Oh yeah.

He catches up with Tristan, who places his arm around Connor as they exit.

SCENE 7 - The sleepover

The next night.

Lights up on Connor sitting on his bed while Tristan sits on his sleeping bag on the floor. They are looking at the script of the play "Success Spray".

TRISTAN

(Reading from the script)

So like this success spray business? Is it really profitable? Is it really something worth investing time and money into?

CONNOR

(Reading from the script)

I've done some poking around online and MLM companies are kind of suss.

TRISTAN

(dropping script)

Uh Connor more emotion please, thank you.

CONNOR

I'm just learning my lines.

TRISTAN

Well learning doesn't mean lacking emotion.

CONNOR

It's not that I forgot.

TRISTAN

Well you shouldn't be. Remember it was MY method that got you that part.

CONNOR

So acting is literally about acting like an over- the- top buffoon?

TRISTAN

No.

CONNOR

Like if you know acting so well why didn't you audition for this? Why did you say what you said to Kelly?

TRISTAN

Because I don't really want to be an actor.

CONNOR

Then why do you gotta act so high and mighty about this? Did you forget what we talked about? About you calming down?

TRISTAN

I haven't forgotten, but dude I'm dealing with a lot right now. Caught me some slack.

CONNOR

What? You want me to let you bully me all the time? Because of how awful your life is?

TRISTAN

Connor shut up and read the script.

CONNOR

And you know to tell you the truth, I didn't really use your method. I just did what my gut told me and it got me the role.

Tristan is hurt.

TRISTAN

Well if you're so good then maybe you don't need my help then. Good night.

Tristan hastily hands back the script.

Tristan gets inside his sleeping bag and covers his head and starts to cry.

CONNOR

Tristan don't be like that.

Connor tries to put his hand on Tristan but he shakes him away and inches himself and his sleeping bag away from Connor.

Beat.

Connor takes one more look at Tristan softly crying.

Connor puts his head in his hands.

Lights out.

SCENE 8 - Rehearsal 1

The next day

Lights up on Connor, Robbie, and Kelly rehearsing a scene from the play, scripts in hand.

ROBBIE

(In character)

Alright, our shipment has arrived. All our organic scientifically tested and FDA approved success spray is ready to be sold.

KELLY

(In character)

I'm still not sure about this Chester, it feels kind of scummy to coax people into getting into this.

ROBBIE

It'll be worth it trust me! The guys told me that it's going to be slow starting out but if you just keep trying it'll work out. They showed that you could be a millionaire if you try hard enough.

KELLY

You know Chester just because they tell you that and showed you some video doesn't mean that it's worth doing. Like watching those videos about losing weight, they're all like "Hey people! I got the solution to your weight loss and I'm going to tell you right now...but after I ramble for 30 minutes about crap you don't care about and then tell you that you can have the solution for 3 easy payments of \$99.99". It's a scam.

ROBBIE

You're starting to sound like the naysayers that the guys told me to cut off. Look, it'll work out, trust me! We got the office, we got the internet, it'll be great I swear! It's not a scam.

KELLY

Gideon help me.

ROBBIE

He's depressed, leave him be.

CONNOR

(In character)

I'm not depressed.

KELLY

Then what's up? You haven't spoken since we got here.

ROBBIE

Something about success with success spray? We're going to make so much money I can't wait!

KELLY

Calm down Chester you're really starting to scare me.

CONNOR

I mean, why are we even doing this at all?

ROBBIE

To help the community and show them how great success spray is and that they can achieve so much success with it and make money from our success.

KELLY

Success success shut up. I'm only giving it a shot because I DON'T want to work in retail again.

Kelly shivers at the thought.

CONNOR

I get not wanting to work in retail but is this really the only reason Izzy?

KELLY

Well...

ROBBIE

I mean money is nice but we're doing this to help people. And the guys told me they wanted to help us and all their customers and they were so nice! They're my friends. Why would they scam us?

CONNOR

I'm all for giving people a benefit of a doubt but this is extremely sketchy to me. Like why would they just tell you about this AMAZING opportunity and then make us spend thousands of dollars in order to get products to sell and basically manipulate people into joining this company.

ROBBIE

I mean I hear you but..but. success!

CONNOR

Enough with the success!

KELLY

Hey hey hey don't fight. Look, let's take a deep breath and try to sell these products and see where it goes. Let's just stay positive, I'm sure it'll work out. I hope.

Robbie looks up at a clock.

ROBBIE (out of character)

And that's our time.

They all break character.

KELLY

Dang that was getting intense.

ROBBIE

Yeah. I really felt the intensity from Connor.

CONNOR

I'm sorry.

ROBBIE

No no no don't apologize that's a good thing.

CONNOR

It is?

ROBBIE

Yeah, the job of an actor is to make the audience believe what's happening in the story is actually happening. Being that engaged is good!

CONNOR

Wow uh, thank you. People think I'm crazy when I do that.

ROBBIE

Well they don't know what their talking about those dumb asses.

KELLY

Have you ever acted before Connor?

CONNOR

I've done a little play when I was younger but other than that no.

KELLY

Oh nice, you want to be an actor?

CONNOR

I'd like to be.

ROBBIE

Go for it! I can totally see you getting cast in future plays.

KELLY

You could be in the movies Connor.

CONNOR

(grinning)

Thank you.

KELLY

Oh Connor, you want a ride home?

CONNOR

Uh.

ROBBIE

Yeah let's hang dude.

CONNOR

Sure.

KELLY

Yay! Alright, let's go boys.

Kelly, Connor and Robbie pack up and exit the stage.

Lights out.

SCENE 9 - Car ride.

Lights up on Kelly driving Connor home from school. Robbie is in the front with Kelly and Connor sitting in the back.

KELLY

So Connor how's the school year treating you?

CONNOR

Uh okay I guess.

KELLY

Just okay?

ROBBIE

You guess?

CONNOR

Yeah, nothing to really say anything about.

KELLY

Alright.

ROBBIE

Give it time bro, it'll get more interesting. Uh your friend? What's his name again?

CONNOR

Tristan.

ROBBIE

Oh Tristan, how long have you known him?

CONNOR

Since the 5th grade.

ROBBIE

Wow that's long. I've known Kelly since the 6th grade.

KELLY

And now were Seniors.

CONNOR

That is long.

ROBBIE

Yup. And she's my best friend.

Robbie places his hand on her hand.

They smile warmly at each other.

Beat.

CONNOR

Do you two fight?

Robbie and Kelly awkwardly laugh.

KELLY

I mean we have our disagreements.

ROBBIE

Yeah like, she hits me sometimes.

KELLY

I don't hit you that hard.

ROBBIE

Sometimes you do.

CONNOR

Do you get bruises?

ROBBIE

What? No not like that.

CONNOR

Do you like getting hit?

ROBBIE

Not especially.

KELLY

I'll try to stop.

ROBBIE

Thank you.

KELLY

Why do you ask, Connor?

ROBBIE

Does Tristan hit you?

CONNOR

A little.

KELLY

Does he hurt you?

CONNOR

(Dodging the question)

Uh my house is over there.

KELLY

(quickly steering the wheel and pulling over)

Oh shoot.

Kelly stops the car.

Connor rushes to get out.

CONNOR

Thanks for the ride.

KELLY

No problem Connor.

ROBBIE

Later dude. See you in school.

Robbie and Kelly and Connor fist bump.

CONNOR

Bye guys.

Connor exits.

Robbie and Kelly watch him walk towards his house.

ROBBIE

What luck his house came just when you asked him that.

KELLY

Yeah for real.

Kelly puts the car into drive and steers them back onto the road.

KELLY

Guess he doesn't want to talk about it.

ROBBIE

Yeah. I mean hitting in like a joking way is okay but not if it hurts someone.

KELLY

Have I hurt you?

ROBBIE

Kinda. I know you don't mean to hurt me but it's not a nice feeling. I only put up with it since you're my girlfriend and if I hit you back I'll get in trouble. But I would like for it to stop.

KELLY

Babe I told you I will.

ROBBIE

I heard you. Thank you.

KELLY

Did it always bother you?

ROBBIE

...yeah.

KELLY

(Getting a bit irritated)

Look I didn't mean to upset you alright.

ROBBIE

I'm not upset but I don't like it when you do that.

KELLY

You could've told me that before!

ROBBIE

You're right I should have. And now I just did.

KELLY

Just speak up sooner next time.

ROBBIE

I will god.

KELLY

You know if something bothers you like that you should speak up instead of letting it go on for this long.

ROBBIE

I'm sorry, can we please move on.

KELLY

Fine.

Beat.

Robbie let's go of her hand and looks out the window.

SCENE 10 - Bus Ride again

The next morning.

Connor is sitting on the bus and Tristan enters.

TRISTAN

Hey buddy.

CONNOR

Hey.

Tristan sits down next to him, not hitting him this time.

TRISTAN

How was rehearsal last night?

CONNOR

Oh pretty good. Robbie and Kelly said I have talent.

TRISTAN

That's great. Rehearsal must be fun then right?

CONNOR

It is. It's a lot of work though but I love it.

TRISTAN

That's really great. You know I thought about their offer about being in stage crew.

CONNOR

You have?

TRISTAN

Yeah, I think I'm going to do it.

CONNOR

(Trying not to show disappointment)

Oh... that's great.

TRISTAN

Yeah we'll be able to hang out more.

CONNOR

(Looks out the window)

Yeah I'm glad.

Connor bends down to tie his shoe. An awkward pause.

CONNOR CONT

And you'll be able to hang out with Robbie and Kelly.

TRISTAN

Oh yeah! I'll get to hang with the people who see something in my bro. Also see if your acting is as good as they say.

CONNOR

My acting is good.

TRISTAN

Oh I know bud I just want to see it myself.

CONNOR

Why can't you just trust me?

TRISTAN

I do. Is something the matter?

CONNOR

I'm...I'm fine just -- ,(Frustrated and looks back out the window). Really glad you're going to be in theater with me.

TRISTAN

Is there something you want to tell me?

Beat.

CONNOR

No.

Beat.

TRISTAN

(Happily) Okay!*(Back to normal)* So anyway my older brother Teven got pissed at me for taking his Xbox game. He came in yelling at me because my little brother is grounded in his room. He was all “Where the fuck is my game?!” and I was all “I don’t have your fuckin game!”. He got in my face again, you know what I did?

CONNOR

What?

TRISTAN

I headbutted him.

CONNOR

Oh no.

TRISTAN

No no it’s okay. I knocked him down. Then got back up and we started fighting. I punched him and kicked him and so did he. It wasn’t until my mom came in and broke us up. I ended up breaking my night stand.

CONNOR

Oh no, I’m sorry.

TRISTAN

No no it’s okay. Teven shouldn’t have gotten into my face like that. I ended up giving him his game back but I put up a good fight.

CONNOR

It seems like that happens everyday at your house. Why do you always fight?

TRISTAN

Well it's a dog eat dog world bro. And I ain't gettin bit. My dad taught me that.

CONNOR

Is fighting always the answer for you? Like I fight with my sister but I never physically hit her.

TRISTAN

That's because she's handicapped.

CONNOR

And even if she wasn't I still wouldn't attack her like. You know I would be so grateful to have brothers like you. I want to have someone to play with... I can't play with my sister. Why can't you just be nice and get along at home.

TRISTAN

You want to know why? My life sucks.

CONNOR

I know you told me. But haven't you heard the saying "Be the change you want in the world?"

TRISTAN

I do make a change. I beat the crap out of those who piss me off. I'm not dealing with bullshit.

CONNOR

Why not be the stronger person and walk away?

TRISTAN

What like a little bitch? That doesn't prove they're strong.

Connor looks out the window again.

CONNOR

Well it does to me.

Tristan looks at him.

He punches him.

CONNOR

Ow!

TRISTAN

Shut up.

SCENE 11 - Rehearsal

Later that day.

Kelly and Robbie are moving their set pieces on the stage.

Tristan enters.

He quickly walks towards Robbie who's moving a chair.

TRISTAN

Let me help you with that.

ROBBIE

Thanks(*sees it's Tristan*), Tristan right?

TRISTAN

That's me.

ROBBIE

Oh hey man what up.

Robbie puts his hand out to Tristan and they shake.

TRISTAN

Nothing much bro, just here to make some theater magic.

KELLY

Is Connor with you?

TRISTAN

Oh he'll be here. I'm here early because I'm taking you guys' offer to be in the stage crew.

KELLY

Oh awesome! Well welcome.

ROBBIE

Yeah like you might not be on stage but your work is very important.

TRISTAN

Thanks guys, otherwise why do it?(**laughs**)

Kelly and Tristan laugh too.

Connor enters. He sees Tristan and quickly turns to walk away.

KELLY

(*noticing Conner*)

Oh there you are, Connor.

TRISTAN

Connor, my main man!

Connor stops and turns back, trying to not look bummed.

CONNOR

Hey guys.

ROBBIE

What did you turn around for?

CONNOR

Oh nothing. I thought I forgot something.

TRISTAN

What did you think you forgot?

CONNOR

Oh just my cell phone.

TRISTAN

Did you drop it? I could look for it.

CONNOR

No no I got it right here.

Pats his pocket.

TRISTAN

Are you sure?

CONNOR

Yes.

TRISTAN

You're positive?

CONNOR

(Annoyed)

I am.

TRISTAN

Alright, just making sure.

Connor pulls his phone out of his pocket.

CONNOR

See, it's right here!.

TRISTAN

Okay calm down.

CONNOR

Why can't you just trust me for once?

TRISTAN

Connor, calm down.

CONNOR

You need to calm down.

KELLY

Enough you two.

Kelly steps behind the main platform, peeking at backstage.

KELLY

(To an off stage teacher) Oh yes he's right here! *(Back to Tristan)* Looks like your stage crew meeting is starting.

TRISTAN

Oh okay. Bye guys, see you later Connor.

Tristan runs off to the crew meeting.

CONNOR

Thank god.

KELLY

Connor is everything alright?

CONNOR

Yeah everything's fine.

KELLY

Did you have a bad day?

CONNOR

No.

ROBBIE

Then why did you snap at him like that?

CONNOR

(Annoyed)

He was bugging me!

ROBBIE

He seemed like he only wanted to help.

CONNOR

Well Robbie he helps me too much.

ROBBIE

Well as far I see it he was just trying to be helpful.

CONNOR

You don't know him like I do.

ROBBIE

Why what did he do?

KELLY

(Suddenly realizes)

Wait a second, is he the one hitting you Connor?

Silence.

ROBBIE

Ohhh, Oh man. Did he hit you today?

CONNOR

...yes.

Silence.

KELLY

Oh no.

Beat.

ROBBIE

Well he won't be hitting you again Connor, I'll make sure of it.

CONNOR

No please, I don't want him to hit you either.

ROBBIE

Connor, he can't keep doing this to you. Friends...*(looking awkwardly at Kelly)* don't hit each other.

Kelly looks guilty.

KELLY

I think we should start rehearsing now.

They each grab their scripts.

CONNOR

Are you guys okay?

ROBBIE

Uh, we're fine don't worry. Let's focus on the play.

SCENE 12 - Ride home

After rehearsal.

Kelly and Robbie drive home, while Connor and Tristan are on the bus. This is a split scene. On stage left we see Kelly and Robbie in the car, and on stage right we see Connor and Tristan on the bus.

Lights up on the bus:

TRISTAN

Why didn't you want us to ride home with Kelly and Robbie?

CONNOR

I just don't feel like it today.

TRISTAN

Well alright. Man this theater stuff is a lot of work.

CONNOR

I know I told you.

TRISTAN

But I mean, you got to know all the nooks and crannies of the back stage and the control deck, and you have to climb the ladder into the platforms above the stage and it's scary up there. Like is it even legal for us kids to be up there?

CONNOR

As long as you aren't trying to make yourself fall down then it shouldn't be an issue.

TRISTAN

I mean yeah but still. But I'll give it this though, it offers a pretty good view of the stage.

CONNOR

Uh huh.

TRISTAN

Gives me a good view of my bro. Oooo that gives me an idea.

CONNOR

(Deflated)

I'm so glad.

Lights up on the car:

ROBBIE

So how do you feel the day went?

KELLY

Fine, why do you ask?

ROBBIE

Just wondering.

KELLY

Don't give me that.

ROBBIE

Give you what?

KELLY

What you did during rehearsal, I don't appreciate you guilt tripping me for something I didn't even know was bothering you. You're trying to make me the bad guy here when I wasn't trying to be.

ROBBIE

You're not a bad guy Kell, and you wouldn't be a bad guy you'd be a bad girl(*chuckles*)

KELLY

That's not funny.

Robbie stops laughing.

KELLY

What's gotten into you Rob? Why all the tension all of the sudden?

ROBBIE

Well, it's Connor.

KELLY

Connor? What about Connor?

ROBBIE

His thing with Tristan.

KELLY

So ever since Connor came in with his problems you're starting to see problems with us?

ROBBIE

(flatly)

...Yes

Beat.

KELLY

Then what do we do then? Break up?

ROBBIE

No.

KELLY

Then what?

ROBBIE

I don't KNOW.

KELLY

So what do we do?

ROBBIE

Maybe we need to take a break.

KELLY

A break? We can't take a break from each other, we're both in the play.

ROBBIE

A break from our relationship.

Beat.

KELLY

Is that what you really want?

ROBBIE

We need some time apart maybe? Take some time to reflect. Is that okay?

KELLY

You're going to have to find someone else to drive you home then.

ROBBIE

That's fine...

KELLY

(Starting to tear up)

Good, I'm glad you feel that way

Lights back up on the bus:

TRISTAN

Connor, you don't seem happy.

CONNOR

Oh I am.

TRISTAN

I thought by me being in the stage crew you would be thrilled but you seem more upset than ever. Is something going on at home?

CONNOR

No everything's fine.

TRISTAN

Is it your sister? You want me to talk to her.

CONNOR

Leave my sister out of this.

TRISTAN

Then what is it then? Why are you acting so weird?

Connor fidgets anxiously.

TRISTAN

Well.

Beat.

Connor looks like he's about to explode but then stops.

CONNOR

It's nothing. I'm sorry.

TRISTAN

It's okay, I know how you get, that's why you have me. For as long as I'm here, I won't let anything bad happen to you.

CONNOR

You don't have a good memory do you?

TRISTAN

What are you talking about?

CONNOR

Nothing.

Connor looks out the window holding in a wall of tears.

SCENE 13 - Nightsky log 2.

That night.

Connor sits by his windowsill and pulls out a tape recorder and looks out into the sky. He pushes record.

CONNOR

Night sky log #247. The sky is dark without so much of a peek from the moon. Hardly any stars are out, as if they don't want to be seen or are too afraid to show themselves. It feels as though the moon and the stars are just covering themselves in the darkness to avoid showing what they truly want to show out of fear of what may happen. I sure hope they find courage. End of log..

He stops recording and puts the tape recorder away.

SCENE 14 - Bus ride

The next morning.

Connor sits on the bus with his head hidden in his jacket's hood.

Tristan comes onto the bus and notices Connor buried in his hood.

He sits next to him.

Connor immediately scooches away from him.

Silence between them as they ride to school.

SCENE 15 - Rehearsal

Later that day.

Robbie and Kelly are standing at opposite sides of the stage. Each looking at their phones and only occasionally taking peeks at each other, only to quickly look away.

Connor arrives at rehearsal.

CONNOR

Hi guys.

ROBBIE & KELLY

(pretending to be happy)

Hi Connor.

CONNOR

How are things?

ROBBIE

Uhhh

KELLY

Fine, things are fine.

ROBBIE

Yeah just fine.

CONNOR

Oh good. Um, you guys haven't seen Tristan around have you?

ROBBIE

No he hasn't showed up yet.

CONNOR

Oh okay.

(To himself)

Good.

KELLY

So let's get started.

They go to get their scripts.

TRISTAN

(Unseen from above, sounding like a ghost)

Oooooooooo

KELLY

Robbie?

ROBBIE

That wasn't me.

She looks at Connor.

CONNOR

That wasn't me either.

TRISTAN

(Again from above)

Ooooooooo.

KELLY

Who's doing that?

TRISTAN

(Like a ghost)

It is I, the ghost of Indian River High.

Robbie, Kelly, and Connor look around trying to find Tristan.

ROBBIE

Come on man enough of the games.

TRISTAN

Ooooooooo.

CONNOR

Tristan enough! Where are you?

TRISTAN

Aw man how did you know it was me?

CONNOR

I know your voice WAY too well dude.

TRISTAN

Damn.

CONNOR

Look, I'm sorry but we really have to rehearse and you have to get with stage crew.

TRISTAN

Come on up here Connor! Come look at this view.

KELLY *(looking up but not seeing Tristan)*

Tristan sweetie, Connor is supposed to be here on stage to rehearse.

TRISTAN

Connor rehearsed enough. He should have some time to relax.

CONNOR

Where are you anyway?

TRISTAN

I'm up on the platform in the ceiling.

CONNOR*(Placing a hand on his face)*

Oh yeah that.

ROBBIE

Tristan we really need to get to work, shouldn't you be backstage?

TRISTAN

Hey man don't worry it's fine.

ROBBIE

It's not fine you have to-

CONNOR

(To Robbie)

It's his problem not ours. Let's just rehearse.

TRISTAN

Yay! Woohoo! Go Connor!

Kelly, Connor, and Robbie get in their places to rehearse the scene.

CONNOR

(In character)

So have you guys had any luck with signing people up?

TRISTAN

Yeah Connor taken charge! I love it!

ROBBIE

(In character, ignoring Tristan)

Yeah I signed up this skater dude, and I managed to sign up like 6 guys from some nostalgia group on facebook..

TRISTAN

Wow that's a lot!

KELLY

(In character)

Uh guys, we need to order more product otherwise we'll lose our membership.

ROBBIE

I'm kind of broke.

CONNOR

Me too.

KELLY

So what are we going to do then?

TRISTAN

Just put your brain into it girl! Work out that brain! *(Starts laughing)*

Robbie, Kelly and Connor stop rehearsing. Very annoyed, they wait for Tristan to stop cracking up like the pest that he is.

Tristan abruptly stops laughing. A teacher has found him and he's being reprimanded.

TRISTAN

Oh, hi sir.

(Beat)

Well I thought I could be up here.

(Beat)

I'm just watching rehearsal and supporting my friend.

(Beat)

Look I'm sorry but I-

(Beat)

Okay.

(To Connor, Kelly and Robbie)

I have to go guys bye.

They don't respond and just awkwardly stand there.

SCENE 16 - Night sky log 3

That night.

Connor sits by his window. He slowly gets out his tape recorder and begins recording himself.

CONNOR

Night sky log #248...the sky is...black...the moon is...a crescent. No stars...no stars...Nothing to see.....end of log.

He shuts off the tape recorder, quickly puts it down and cries into his hands.

SCENE 17 - The drinking fountain.

Lights up.

The next day.

Connor gets a drink from the water fountain in the school hallway.

Tristan walks up to him and stands close.

Connor jumps when he sees him.

TRISTAN

Hey Con-man.

CONNOR

(Emotionless)

Hi Tristan

TRISTAN

Did you have fun at rehearsal?

CONNOR

(Emotionless)

Yes.

TRISTAN

Robbie and Kelly were nice to you?

CONNOR

(Emotionless)

Yes.

TRISTAN

Nice, nice. So um, you must be enjoying yourself then.

CONNOR

(Emotionless)

Yes.

TRISTAN

I'm really glad to hear that. Uh, I was wondering if you want to hang out tonight.

CONNOR

(Emotionless)

No.

TRISTAN

Why not?

CONNOR

Rehearsal.

TRISTAN

Oh, I mean like it probably wouldn't hurt if you missed one day, right?

CONNOR

(Emotionless)

No.

TRISTAN

Connor, you've worked enough. You need a break.

CONNOR

(Emotionless)

No.

TRISTAN

It's just one rehearsal Connor!

CONNOR

(With emotion this time)

Look, don't try to play these games with me. I'm sorry I got rehearsal and I'm not skipping just to hang out. We'll hang out another time okay so just leave me alone.

TRISTAN

So that rehearsal is more important to you than me huh?

CONNOR

You are important to me, but I want to do the show.

TRISTAN

I feel like I lost you man. I feel like all you care about is doing that show, hanging out with your new best friends and completely leaving me out when I need you.

CONNOR

I'm sorry but I'm doing this show. And you can hit and yell at me all you want. But I'm not letting you stop me. I'm trying to get away from all the shit you put me through on a daily basis.

TRISTAN

Look, I'm sorry that you don't like how I treat you. But I would appreciate it if you were more understanding, you are supposed to be my best bro.

CONNOR

Best bros don't hurt or treat each other like their feelings don't even matter.

TRISTAN

I never mistreated you.

CONNOR

And I'm done with this conversation.

Connor tries to walk away.

TRISTAN

Connor, wait!

Connor stops and looks at him with his arms crossed.

TRISTAN CONT

So what do you want me to do?

CONNOR

I don't know what I want from you anymore. I just want you to stop hurting me.

TRISTAN

Okay I'll stop.

CONNOR

You know, we've had this talk for quite a while.. I've wanted this to work out but now, I'm at a point where I don't think I want to continue. For someone who suffers you never seem to want to be better. And you use the crutch of a crappy homelife as a justification for how you treat me.

TRISTAN

Connor shut up.

CONNOR

No you shut up.

TRISTAN

Don't tell me to shut up! Connor shut up!

CONNOR

Shut up!

TRISTAN

SHUT UP!

CONNOR

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU! GET OUT OF MY LIFE!!

Tristan backs off in shock.

He stands there in disbelief.

Beat.

He then runs off heart broken.

Connor takes a deep breath, and then giggles a little.

Lights out.

SCENE 18 - Rehearsal

Lights up

Later that day.

Kelly and Robbie are on stage waiting around.

Connor enters and starts unpacking his backpack.

KELLY

Hi Connor.

CONNOR

(Happily)

Hi Kelly.

ROBBIE

(to Kelly, whispers)

Should we tell him?

KELLY

(to Robbie, whispers)

Yes tell him!

ROBBIE

(To Connor, normal speaking voice)

So Connor, um.

CONNOR

Yes?

ROBBIE

Well uh, Tristan got kicked out of stage crew.

CONNOR

Oh really? That's great!

KELLY

It is?

CONNOR

Yeah why wouldn't it?

KELLY

You seem a bit tense.

ROBBIE

Yeah, did something happen buddy?

CONNOR

(Anxiously)

Oh I'm fine, I'm just, I'm just so happy.

KELLY

Happy about what?

CONNOR

I told Tristan off.

(Raises his fist and quickly brings it down)

Yes!

KELLY

You what?

CONNOR

I told him off, ended it with him for good.

KELLY

You did?

CONNOR

Yes ma'am.

ROBBIE

So it's over between you two?

CONNOR

Yes it is, it better be.

KELLY

How did he react? He didn't hit you did he?

CONNOR

He ran away like the little bitch that he is.

ROBBIE

Dang dude.

CONNOR

I've been dealing with his abuse for years now and it's finally over. I'm just a little antsy because I never did anything that ballsy before.

Connor takes some deep breaths.

CONNOR

Okay let's get to work shall we.

He gets out his script.

KELLY

You know Connor if you're not feeling well we can take a break today it's no biggie.

ROBBIE

Yeah I mean, ending a relationship like that isn't just something you brush off and move on from.

CONNOR

I just dealt with it for so long and he always made me feel bad for him because of what was going on at home. But I'm done, completely done.

Beat.

ROBBIE

No second thoughts?

CONNOR

None whatsoever.

KELLY

Well, glad you finally spoke up for yourself dude.

ROBBIE

Yeah, good on you for standing up for yourself.

CONNOR

Thank you guys. The only sad thing now is that I don't have anyone to sit with at lunch. Because of my association with that jerk I don't really have any other friends.

KELLY

What do you mean?

CONNOR

I mean Tristan, he's such a violent guy, as well as a pest. So when people find out I'm friends with him they push me aside thinking I'm as bad as him and simply because they don't want to deal with him.

KELLY

Oh that sucks.

ROBBIE

Well, you can eat with me! I usually have lunch in the chorus room, it's a lot more peaceful there than that awful cafeteria.

CONNOR

Then I'll meet you there! Kelly, are you eating there too?

KELLY

Uhh

Robbie and Kelly exchange awkward glances.

KELLY CONT

Yeah, yeah I'll see you there.

CONNOR

Yay! This is going to be so great. Alright, enough talking. Let's rehearse!

Light's out.

SCENE 19 - Chorus Room

The next day. Robbie is in the chorus room goofing around.

Kelly comes in with her lunch tray.

ROBBIE

Hey.

KELLY

Hey.

She puts her tray down.

Beat.

She slowly walks up to him.

KELLY

How have you been?

ROBBIE

I've been fine, you?

KELLY

I've been fine also.

ROBBIE

Yeah?

KELLY

Yeah.

Beat.

KELLY CONT

I miss riding with you.

ROBBIE

I miss riding with you too.

Beat.

ROBBIE

Do you think we could maybe give this another shot?

KELLY

I thought that we weren't broken up?

ROBBIE

We weren't I was just-

KELLY

(Laughs) I was just messing with you babe. But seriously, I'm sorry for hurting you. From now on I'm going to start doing something else instead.

ROBBIE

(Worried)

Like what?

She hugs him.

KELLY CONT

How does this feel?

ROBBIE

A lot nicer. But there's another thing you can do more of.

KELLY

And what is that?

Robbie plants a surprise kiss on her.

ROBBIE

Is that alright?

KELLY

Quite (*laughs*)

ROBBIE

How about some of this?

Robbie then starts showering kisses on her cheek.

KELLY

(*Giggling*)

Robbie.

Tristan enters the stage.

TRISTAN

Hi guys!

Kelly and Robbie break apart.

The mood darkens.

ROBBIE & KELLY

Tristan!

TRISTAN

That's my name!

KELLY

What are you doing here?

TRISTAN

Just wanted to hang out with my friends.

ROBBIE

But we don't really know you.

TRISTAN

Yeah but your friends with my friend Connor so that makes you friends of mine.

ROBBIE & KELLY

Oooo

TRISTAN

What is it?

Connor enters with his lunch tray.

CONNOR

Hi guys I'm here!

Connor freezes in his tracks.

TRISTAN

Connor buddy hey!

Connor doesn't say a word.

Tristan approaches Connor.

TRISTAN CONT

Ooh is that chicken and spirals, yummy.

Tristan takes a nugget and starts eating it, what a prick.

TRISTAN CONT

(Talks while eating)

So guys, what's happening? How's the play going? Come on I'm not getting any younger here.

ROBBIE

Hey Tristan I think you should go.

TRISTAN

Why?

ROBBIE

Because Connor doesn't want you here.

Kelly shields Connor from Tristan.

KELLY

Please leave.

TRISTAN

Why should I go?

ROBBIE

We just told you, go.

TRISTAN

It's not like you own this room.

ROBBIE

Go.

TRISTAN

I'm not going anywhere.

Tristan takes a seat and crosses his arms and rests a leg on his knee, like a spoiled brat.

KELLY

I can't believe you.

TRISTAN

You better believe it sister.

ROBBIE

Tristan please just leave.

TRISTAN

Okay I'll leave, but only if Connor comes with me.

ROBBIE

Connor doesn't want to go anywhere with you.

KELLY

He ended it with you.

TRISTAN

Connor is my friend!

KELLY

He's our friend too!

TRISTAN

No! I'm the only friend he'll ever need and I'm not going to lose him to you two.

Tristan gets up and grabs Connor by the arm forcefully.

TRISTAN CONT

Let's go.

Robbie runs over and grabs Connor's other arm, Connor drops his lunch all over the floor.

ROBBIE

Let him go!

They start pulling on Connor like a rope.

Kelly breaks them apart

Connor becomes emotionless, completely drained..

KELLY

Would you two stop fighting! Tristan, Connor doesn't want to be friends with you anymore.

TRISTAN

He doesn't mean it, he needs me!

KELLY

He does not need you!

TRISTAN

He's nothing without me! He needs me more than anything! He can't get through life without me!

ROBBIE

Man you got some serious issues.

TRISTAN

Connor, please, come back to me, I promise I'll be better, I won't hurt you again, I'll support you and do all the things a good friend does. Just please be my friend again.

Beat.

Connor gets up from the floor. He walks slowly, purposefully towards Tristan.

TRISTAN

Thank you Connor. See he doesn't need you two, I'm the only friend he'll-

Connor continues to walk, he walks right past Tristan and out the door.

TRISTAN CONT

Connor, where are you going?

Tristan runs off after him.

Kelly and Robbie then run after Tristan.

Scene 20 - Hallway

Minutes later.

Connor is walking quickly down the hallway. Tristan follows behind, trying to catch up with him. Kelly and Robbie are close behind.

TRISTAN

(closely behind Connor)

Hey buddy where are you going?

ROBBIE (yelling out)

Are you alright Connor?

They all stop in their tracks in the hall.

TRISTAN

(to Robbie and Kelly)

Why are you guys still here? I'm going beat the crap out of you two if you don't get the fuck out of here.

CONNOR

Tristan! STOP! Robbie, Kelly, can I be alone with him?

KELLY

Are you sure?

CONNOR

Please just leave me with him.

ROBBIE

We're not leaving you alone Connor.

CONNOR

Just go!

KELLY

Let's go Robbie.

Kelly takes Robbie by the hand and pulls him away.

TRISTAN (trying to get close to Connor)

What's the problem?

CONNOR

Do you have amnesia?

TRISTAN

What?

CONNOR

So you forgot what I told you?

TRISTAN

Dude we always fight, then we make up.

CONNOR

Well I'm sick of the fighting. I'm sick of you always hovering over me and trying to control me like I'm your bitch.

TRISTAN

Connor, listen to me. I know I can be hard to deal with but you have to remember that I'm not doing this to be mean. I just care about you a lot and I don't want you to get hurt. You need me.

CONNOR

Is that really true? Or is it that you need me.

Beat.

CONNOR CON'T

I know you mean well. I know you have good intentions. But what you have been doing has been killing me. I told you I'm done, and I meant it.

Tristan tears up and balls up his fists. He stomps on the floor and hits the wall hard and runs away.

Robbie and Kelly appear again. Robbie tries to put his hand on Connor's shoulder.

Kelly stops him.

KELLY

Give him some space.

SCENE 21 - Night sky log 4

That night.

Connor sits by his window looking out at the night sky.

He shuffles through a drawer and pulls out a handheld tape recorder. He pushes record.

CONNOR

Night sky log: #248. The night was once pitch black and with nary a star or just barely a few. Some nights it seemed like there was only one star. Alone. And sometimes there are two and sometimes three. But now it seems that the sky is glowing with stars, and the moon is full. As if that little star has found its way, and the moon welcomes it. It just went through a dark period, now it can work its way to repairing itself. Bless the little star. End of log.

SCENE 22 - Showtime

Kelly, Robbie, and Connor are on stage, this time in their costumes.

The set is a disheveled office space filled with boxes of Success Spray.

KELLY

(In character)

I don't think we'll be selling much of these anymore.

ROBBIE

(In character)

Don't talk like that Izzy we just gotta keep trying.

KELLY

Chester

ROBBIE

It'll be okay Izzy.

Robbie's character's phone rings.

ROBBIE CONT

Oh Jayson hey. Uh we haven't sold much at the moment. The people we signed up are getting mad at how they actually make money. They say it's a pyramid scheme but I'm telling them it's not.

Kelly's character takes the phone.

KELLY

Listen Jayson, we want out of this Success Spray business. We want a refund on all the products we bought from you.

(beat)

Oh my god don't even try! We're not scamming anymore people!

(beat)

Oh my god.

She hands the phone back to Robbie's character and goes back to her desk and puts her head in her arms.

ROBBIE

I'm really sorry about her but the whole town kind of wants us dead now for getting them into this. I know it's not a scam but I'm thinking it would be best to just leave. I know Brennen Hamfutter made millions from this but, it's just not working.

(beat)

Please would you just listen.

Connor's character gets up and walks to Robbie's character.

Connor's character puts his hand out for the phone and Robbie's character gives it to him.

CONNOR

(In character)

This is Gideon speaking. Wait, stop talking. Just listen. Telling people that they will be successful is one thing but not when it consists of them having to buy copious amounts of your garbage

product that people can buy cheaper elsewhere to prove to people to join your company which is more of a cult than anything. We have been busting our fucking asses off to pay back the people who said we scammed them. You should be ashamed of yourself to have run such a company and to brush us with the whole “Just hang in there you will be successful”. Now do me this, give us and all the people their money back as your company’s policy said that we can leave and get refunded for the product whenever we wanted. If people were meant for success they would be successful regardless if they got in your company or not. So shut up with the false promises and delusion and give us our money back. Good night!

Connor’s character hangs up the phone.

KELLY

Damn Gid

ROBBIE

I sure hope we didn’t upset them.

CONNOR

Who cares, someone needed to speak some sense into their deluded minds.

Phones rings again.

Robbie’s character answers it.

ROBBIE

Hello? Oh hi Mr.Myers. I’m glad you got your refund. I’m really sorry for what we did. Our mistake. I hope you can forgive us. Thank you sir. Take care.

He hangs up

Kelly’s character looks at her computer screen.

KELLY

And I got mine too. Everyone’s getting their refund!

ROBBIE

Well I’ll tell you what that’s the last time I let some nice talking guys talk me and you guys into this network marketing cult.

CONNOR

It’s fine man.

KELLY

I knew something was up but I only went along so that I could run a business with you guys.

ROBBIE

I just wanted to get us out of the rut we were in. Crappy jobs, not enough money, life is just hard.

CONNOR

Life is hard, but no matter how hard it may be. As the old saying goes, it can only get better from here. Just got to stay hopeful and keep moving forward. It will get better

KELLY

You're a good man Gideon.

ROBBIE

So what now?

CONNOR

Let's clean this mess up, then we can make a better one.

SCENE 23 - The dressing room

After the show.

Connor and Robbie are in the dressing room. Connor has a table with flower bouquets.

ROBBIE (*pointing to the flowers*)

You must have a lot of admirers.

CONNOR

Oh these are just from my family.

ROBBIE

Aw that was nice of them.

CONNOR

Yeah, it's sweet. I should start a garden.

They laugh.

ROBBIE

So have you heard from Tristan?

CONNOR

No, thank god. When we're in the halls he avoids me.

ROBBIE

Damn, do you ever miss him?

CONNOR

Yes and no(*chuckles*) I feel fine but there's a part of me that wishes I never let him go. He was the only friend I had for so long. And I really do feel bad for him and his family but I just can't deal with him anymore. But without him I'm a little afraid of moving forward without him.

ROBBIE

You're going to be just fine man. Just keep being the awesome person you are and the right people will find you.

CONNOR

Come here.

Connor hugs Robbie.

ROBBIE

You're a good guy Connor.

Connor lets him go.

CONNOR

Thank you.

ROBBIE

Just a moment, Connor, I got to pee.

CONNOR

Thanks for letting me know.

Robbie leaves the stage while Connor packs up his belongings.

Robbie comes back with a bouquet of flowers.

ROBBIE CON'T

Uh Connor.

CONNOR

Aw Robbie thanks.

ROBBIE

Not from me, from someone else.

Connor takes them and looks at the tag.

Robbie leaves the stage again.

CONNOR

Tristan.

SCENE 24 - Connor's Locker

Back to school.

Connor is at his locker.

Robbie and Kelly enter.

ROBBIE

Hey Connor!

CONNOR

Hey guys.

KELLY

We got something for you.

CONNOR

Oh really?

ROBBIE

Yeah, here.

Kelly pulls out a little wrapped present and hands it to Robbie who hands it to Connor.

Connor opens it. It's a picture of all of them together.

CONNOR

Oh my god you guys thank you!

Connor hugs both Kelly and Robbie.

KELLY

Since we're going to be graduating soon we thought we would give something so you never feel alone.

CONNOR

This is so sweet of you guys. I'm going to hang it right in my locker.

ROBBIE

Awesome. So we are still down to meet up for lunch?

CONNOR (laughs)

Well of course!

ROBBIE

Oh Connor another thing, here.

Robbie hands Connor an invitation.

KELLY

Me too.

She hands him one.

Connor looks at each.

CONNOR

You're inviting me to your grad parties?

ROBBIE

Yeah.

KELLY

I know it's a bit early but we wanted you to have something to look forward to.

CONNOR

Oh my god you guys. I just, I don't know what to say.

ROBBIE

You don't have to say anything.

CONNOR

Just.

Connor just hugs them again and tears up.

KELLY

Aw Connor what's the matter?

CONNOR

You guys have been so good to me. I can't thank you enough.

ROBBIE

It's nothing man.

Tristan suddenly shows up. He sees them but they don't see him. He slips behind a bend in the hallway.

Connor lets them go and wipes his eyes.

KELLY

You're going to be alright Connor?

CONNOR

Yes I'll be fine.

Robbie checks his phone.

ROBBIE

(At his phone) Oh crap (Back to Connor) We gotta get moving Connor. (To Kelly) Helga.

KELLY

Oh, we'll see you later Connor okay?

ROBBIE

You're a beast Connor.

KELLY & ROBBIE

Bye.

Kelly and Robbie walk away, hand in hand.

CONNOR

Bye.

Connor looks at the picture they gave him.

Tristan slowly walks toward him, gently knocking on the opened locker door.

TRISTAN

Hey man.

Connor sees him.

CONNOR

Hm.

TRISTAN

You were great in the play.

CONNOR

Thanks.

TRISTAN

Did you like the flowers?

CONNOR

Yes, very nice.

TRISTAN

My mom chose them.

Beat.

TRISTAN CONT

So I was thinking. We've been through a lot this year. Maybe we do need some time away from one another. Maybe for a couple of weeks we could try and go back to being friends again.

CONNOR

No.

TRISTAN

Why not?

CONNOR

We don't need a break, what we need is to break up. You and I are not the same people we were when we were younger. I became one way and you another. We've had lots of good times, and lots of bad times. And those bad times were bad. I don't have any ill will against you, and I don't want you to think that I hate you. I wish you nothing but the best, and I hope I never see you again.

Take care.

Lights out.

Epilogue

A cassette tape. The play button is pushed. A recording can be heard:

CONNOR (V.O)

As my parents tell me, life has a funny way of telling us what our destiny is. Life sends us little signs to tell us that things are going to change. We just have to listen.

Lights come up on each of the characters. A light reveals Connor in his room looking out at the stars. A light on Tristan reveals him sitting alone on the floor with his face in his hands heartbroken. And in another light, we see Robbie and Kelly, in the car driving home, hand in hand.

Lights out on all.

END OF PLAY.