

ADMIT ONE

Written by Kristen Purcell

CHARACTERS:

Kyle Gray, 21

Lexington Cohen, 21

Ellis Cohen, 24

Milo Ames/The Voice, 20

Kennedy Peters, 21

Dad, Various Ages

Setting: New York City, Present Day

Note: // indicate overlapping dialogue

KYLE *V.O*

They say your life flashes before your eyes right before you die. But for me, it was different. I didn't see everything I ever experienced. I saw myself experience the best part of my life. And that, that is the reason I am dead.

Beat.

Let's start at the beginning because, as all theatre people know, the beginning is a very good place to start.

SCENE I

Setting: Diner NYC

Lexington and Ellis are sitting in a booth across from one another. Lexington is playing with the straw in her glass of water.

ELLIS

And you know as the director I just had to put my foot down? Like who really thinks that feather boas will be cute? No one. You know?

LEXINGTON

Yeah, that's crazy.

ELLIS

If we were doing a kids show, have all the feather boas you want. But for Hello Dolly? No. Absolutely not.

LEXINGTON

Yeah, right.

Ellis notices his sister isn't even paying attention.

ELLIS

Earth to Lexington?

LEXINGTON

Yes, I'm listening. Feather Boas. Dolly Parton. I got it.

ELLIS
I said Hello Dolly.

LEXINGTON
Right, sorry.

ELLIS
What's going on? First week of senior year not going well?

Lexington looks up at him, she is clearly upset, but not crying.

LEXINGTON
I didn't get the New York Times internship.

ELLIS
Oh.

Beat.

Well, everything happens for a reason.

LEXINGTON
Yes, I know. But everything I have done was for the reason of working there. Everything. Coming to college. Being a journalism major. All I've worked for was for this. And now I have nothing.

ELLIS
The New York Times is the end goal. You can work at so many different places that will give you more credentials to get there. There's no rush.

LEXINGTON
(upset/angry)
Yes there is.

*Ellis just looks at his sister with concern.
Lexington takes a breath to try and be more calm.*

LEXINGTON
What would Dad think?

ELLIS

Dad would be so proud of you.

LEXINGTON

I just wish Mom would feel the same.

ELLIS

She doesn't need to know. You won't tell her. I won't tell her.

LEXINGTON

Okay. I just don't know what to do anymore.

ELLIS

You keep writing. Dad would want you to keep writing.

LEXINGTON

Yeah, he would.

Lexington slightly smiles and shakes her head in agreement. Ellis goes into his wallet and pulls out some cash. He sets it on the table.

ELLIS

Okay sis, I gotta jet. But is everything else okay?

LEXINGTON

Yeah, everything is great.

ELLIS

Good. Alright, love you, but you're paying next time.

Ellis and Lexington snicker as he exits.

Lexington pulls out a notebook and a pen and she begins to write. A few moments pass. Lights transition to a flashback, in the same diner 10 years ago. Her Dad appears. He takes a seat across from Lexington.

DAD

Ha, we're out to eat and you can't even put your pen away. You are my daughter.

LEXINGTON

Sorry!

She starts to put it away.

DAD

No, no. Please, keep writing. It's nice to see you enjoying it.

LEXINGTON

What's your favorite thing you've ever written?

DAD

I haven't written it yet.

LEXINGTON

What do you mean?

DAD

Everytime I write something I either love it or hate it. There's no in between. So whenever I write something new it has to be better than the last and then it's just a vicious cycle. If it's better than the last then I have to write one that's better. It's the life you choose when you become a writer. Sounds fun, huh?

LEXINGTON

Sounds repetitive.

DAD

The only way to get better.

LEXINGTON

Would you do anything else?

DAD

What do you mean?

LEXINGTON

Would you ever change your job? Would you ever be anything other than a writer?

Her dad takes a second and sips his coffee.

DAD

No. I wouldn't. I love it.

LEXINGTON

Even though it's so repetitive and you're always working to be better? You never hate it? Ever?

DAD

No. I wouldn't do anything else. I love it.

Beat.

You don't have to write, you know that? You can do anything you dream of. Just tell me and I'll help you make it happen. Anything.

LEXINGTON

No, I love writing, I mean....thanks to you. I just wish-

Lights dim slightly.

LEXINGTON

I wish you were still here.

Present day. Dad is gone. Lexington is there all alone, her brother's cash still resting on the edge of the table. She breathes in and out before grabbing her things and exiting.

SCENE II

A week later. College dorm building.

Lights up, dimly lit.

Kyle walks in the dorm hallway with folders in hand. He is listening to music in his headphones and is staring at his music sheets.

Lexington walks by Kyle, looking down at a notebook, trying to scribble something down as she walks. The two bump into each other. Kyle drops his things and falls to the ground. Lexington falls and drops her notebook and pencil.

KYLE

Oh, um I'm so sorry.

LEXINGTON

Totally my fault. I'm so sorry!

Beat.

LEXINGTON

Here let me help you with these.

She goes to pick up his folder and sheet music. She is about to hand back some of the sheets but pauses to read one of them.

KYLE

Here's your notebook.

Beat. She continues reading one of his songs.

KYLE

Oh that's nothing. It's really still a work in progress.

Lexington looks up from the sheet and realizes Kyle is slightly embarrassed. She hands his things back to him.

LEXINGTON

Here you go.

KYLE

Thanks.

LEXINGTON

And for the record, I think what you have is really beautiful.

Kyle is taken aback. He isn't used to sharing his work and receiving compliments.

KYLE

Uh, thank you.

Lexington stands and reaches her hand out for him to hold on to. He grabs her hand and stands up. He realizes he is still holding her hand so he awkwardly pulls his hand back.

KYLE

Sorry.

LEXINGTON

No worries. Were you the one that wrote a piano piece for the cabaret freshman year?

KYLE

Uhh, yeah I did actually. You remember that?

LEXINGTON

I wrote an article for the school newspaper about the event.

Beat. She gestures toward his sheet music.

LEXINGTON

Seems like you still have a real talent for it.

KYLE

Thanks, but I actually have a lot of music I'm working on right now. They're all really works in progress. I mean, I love all of them, but still they aren't great you know? They all just have something missing I guess and I'm not sure what it is. I want to get another person's opinion on them, but I hate sharing my work because what if it's bad and they hate it and they tell me I have no real talent and I'll never make it in the business and everything I've ever worked for was all for nothing.

Kyle stops. Cheeks turn red. He stares at the ground and clears his throat.

KYLE

You know?

Kyle stares at the ground, he is scared of Lexington's answer.

LEXINGTON

Actually, I know exactly what you mean.

Kyle looks up at Lexington and smiles.

KYLE

You do?

LEXINGTON

Oh definitely. I'm a writer. Even though I just lost the New York Times Internship.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

But I understand everything you just said. You just have to keep writing. Because what if you end up writing something that not only you love, but the rest of the world loves it too?

KYLE

I'm sorry about the internship.

LEXINGTON

Thanks, but I'll get by.

KYLE

Thank you for the advice, I really appreciate it.

LEXINGTON

Anytime.

She checks her watch.

I actually have to go, but again, so sorry about bumping into you.

KYLE

Oh don't worry about it. I probably would have fallen over my own two feet anyways.

Lexington giggles.

LEXINGTON

Well, have a nice day. I'll see you around... piano man.

KYLE

Yeah. I'll see you

Lexington exits. Kyle turns and smiles to himself. A moment passes before the door next to him opens up. Milo is standing in the doorway.

MILO

I thought I heard your voice out here.

KYLE

Hey, sorry. I just bumped into this girl.

Lights transition, brighter as Kyle follows Milo into their dorm room.

MILO

Okay so I started writing this song and I really want you to hear it.

KYLE

Milo, this girl. I don't know, there was just something about her that was so enticing.

MILO

Yeah okay cool. But the song.

Milo gestures towards the keyboard to hopefully get Kyle's attention.

KYLE

She was beautiful.

Beat. Kyle feels like he messed up. He rambles.

KYLE

I mean, not that that's her only value. Not at all, she definitely has more to offer in her life than just her looks. I think women are brilliant and funny and so cool. And I think all women are beautiful, you know? Like they're great but there's so much more to them and I want to find that out but like the first thing you see is what they look like. Right? I mean the first thing that anyone sees is what someone looks like or what they're wearing. I heard the first thing humans look at is someone else's shoes.

Kyle and Milo both look down at their shoes. Kyle shakes his head and puts his hand on his head.

KYLE

Oh, no. My shoes. She probably looked at my shoes and immediately thought I was an idiot.

MILO

I'm sure she didn't. But once again, I really want to play you// my song

KYLE

Shoes or not, she liked my music. I mean she didn't hear it, but she liked what I wrote.
Someone actually liked my music.

Milo has sat down next to the keyboard with a look of defeat. He speaks under his breath.

MILO
That makes one of us.

Kyle doesn't hear this and continues talking.

KYLE
And she gave me great advice even though she lost the New York Times internship. But if she
can keep writing, so can I.

Beat.
Oh my god, I have to go write.

*Milo has decided to ignore Kyle and plays his song. He quickly messes it up and his head falls on
the keyboard in frustration.*

KYLE
Milo. It's not that bad. Just a few tweaks and it'll be great. Here.

Kyle walks over to the keyboard and plays the same tune. He plays it perfectly.

KYLE
And then you could do something like this.
*He continues playing, but adding onto the song. It is beautiful. He stops and stares at Milo for
approval.*

KYLE
What do you think?

Milo is visibly upset, but plays it off.

MILO
Yeah I guess that could work. Thanks.

KYLE
Of course. You'll get it eventually.

MILO
Right.

Milo puts his hands over the keys, but doesn't play.

MILO

I think I'm going to get some fresh air. Just think through the music, you know?

KYLE

Yeah, I totally get it. I think I'm going to go to the theater and write some more. Maybe try and find that girl. I didn't even get her name.

MILO

All of that and you didn't even get her name?

KYLE

No. Should I have?

Milo shakes his head in slight disappointment.

MILO

Did she at least get your name?

KYLE

No. But she did call me piano man.

Kyle looks at Milo for approval. Milo just pats Kyle on the back before opening the door.

MILO

At least she didn't say anything about your shoes.

*Milo exits. Kyle looks down at his shoes sadly before grabbing his things and exiting.
Lights dim.*

SCENE III

It is now night-time. Lexington and Kennedy are walking in the quad back from class.

KENNEDY

I really think that professor has a grudge against me.

LEXINGTON

Kennedy, you say that about every professor.

KENNEDY

No, I mean it with this one. He never called on me when I raised my hand.

LEXINGTON

Probably because the one time he did call on you, you told him he was wrong.

KENNEDY

Well he was. Cats is not a well-liked musical. I mean it has its fan base, which is old people, but the theatre kids of today do not like it.

LEXINGTON

I have no opinion on it. Ellis performed it one year at our community theater. I'm pretty sure my dad and I fell asleep.

KENNEDY

See? Not well-liked.

Beat.

I really wish I got to meet your dad.

Lexington lowers her head slightly and grows a little sad.

LEXINGTON

Yeah, I wish you did too. You two would've gotten along so well. You get along with everyone.

KENNEDY

Yeah, except professors.

Lexington laughs slightly and shakes her head.

LEXINGTON

What are your plans for this weekend?

KENNEDY

Okay so, don't hate me.

LEXINGTON

There's a party isn't there?

KENNEDY

Yes// and

LEXINGTON

And you want me to go.

KENNEDY

Yes! Please Lexington, please. I can't go alone!

LEXINGTON

You've gone alone to all the other ones. You know I have// to

KENNEDY

Write. Yes I know, you've spent the past three years writing. And you'll spend the rest of your life writing.

LEXINGTON

But I have to keep getting better. I mean look at the internship.

KENNEDY

Screw the New York Times.

Lexington gives Kennedy a look.

KENNEDY

I just mean screw them for now. They'll realize they messed up. I know you'll be there one day. So for right now, just let loose. Have some fun. Your writing will be there when we're done.

LEXINGTON

I just don't want to disappoint anyone.

KENNEDY

(Playful)

With your writing? Not even possible. But if you don't come to this party with me? I will be very disappointed.

Lexington is hesitant.

KENNEDY

It's your last year to be free and have fun. Especially with your best friend.

Lexington sighs.

LEXINGTON

Fine. You win.

Kennedy is very excited, she can hardly contain it.

KENNEDY

Yes! Okay we're going to have so much fun. I can't wait to pick out an outfit.

Lexington smiles and shakes her head in disbelief to what she just agreed to. Kennedy continues being giddy. Lexington's attention is pulled away as she hears a piano playing nearby.

LEXINGTON

Hey, Ken. I'm gonna go catch up on my writing since I won't be doing it this weekend. I'll see you back at the dorm?

KENNEDY

Okay! I'll go start picking out some outfit options for us!

LEXINGTON

Sounds dreadful.

Kennedy laughs. She responds in a sing-songy voice as she exits.

KENNEDY

You already said yes, no backing out now!

Lights transition, dimmer.

Lexington follows the sound of the piano. She finds herself in the theater and sees Kyle playing the piano. Lexington admires while Kyle plays for a moment.

Eventually, Kyle makes a mistake. He slams his hands against random keys in frustration.

LEXINGTON

Well that ending was a little depressing.

Kyle is caught off-guard.

KYLE
Oh..um..

Kyle gets up to leave, but falls over the piano bench and drops his things everywhere. Lexington rushes up the stairs to the stage to help him.

LEXINGTON
You drop things a lot.

Kyle clears his throat and becomes nervous.

KYLE
Yup, mhm, you're definitely right.

LEXINGTON
What were you singing?

KYLE
Oh nothing really. Just something I wrote.

LEXINGTON
Wow, really? That's amazing.

Brief pause. It becomes almost awkward. Kyle takes the awkwardness one step further.

KYLE
Well, thanks. But, I'll leave you alone. You probably have stuff to do, like work or meet your boyfriend.

Kyle stares straight ahead, realizing he shouldn't have said that. Lexington smiles.

LEXINGTON
I definitely don't have a boyfriend.

KYLE
Oh.

Awkward silence again. Kyle clears his throat.

KYLE

You said you're a journalism major, right?

LEXINGTON

Nice memory. Yes, I am.

KYLE

So what are you doing in the theater?

LEXINGTON

Oh, it's actually kind of nice when I'm not being forced to watch my brother perform.

KYLE

It's the best kind of place.

LEXINGTON

How so?

KYLE

Well no matter where you are in here or in any theater, it's always a different experience. And standing on a stage is a magical feeling. Come here, I'll show you.

He takes her by the hand and leads her to center stage.

KYLE

Now, close your eyes

LEXINGTON

Promise I won't fall?

KYLE

If you fall I'll catch you.
They smile at one another.

KYLE

Or the ground will, there's a 50/50 chance.

Lexington gives him a look.

KYLE

I'm kidding. Close your eyes.

Beat.

How do you feel?

LEXINGTON

I'm not really sure. I've never felt this way before.

She opens her eyes.

The two smile at one another.

Kyle takes his hand away and moves a step back.

KYLE

I think you've found a new place to write.

They smile at each other again.

KYLE

Well, I'll leave you to it.

Lexington watches him as he starts to walk down the stairs.

LEXINGTON

Wait!

Kyle turns around quickly.

LEXINGTON

Come to a party with me...And my roommate, this Friday. Meet us outside of the Orchard dormitories at 10:30.

Kyle smiles.

KYLE

I'll see you then..um...

He realizes he doesn't know her name.

LEXINGTON
Call me Lexington.

KYLE
Well, Lexington, Kyle will see you then.

He continues walking away for a moment, but quickly turns around for another time.

KYLE
Kyle's me..I'm Kyle..by the way.

LEXINGTON
I'll see you Friday, Kyle. I can't wait.

Kyle sighs in relief, smiles, and exits through the auditorium doors. Lexington pulls out her journal, takes a seat center stage. She picks her head up to look at where Kyle exited and smiles. She begins to write.

Lights come up on the piano where the Voice sits. We cannot see who this is, they are dressed in all black, face is covered, and their voice is unrecognizable.. They begin to repeat the same chords Kyle was just playing. Lexington picks her head up quickly and looks at the piano. She is slightly scared.

LEXINGTON
Kyle? Is that you?

VOICE
Aw, miss him already?

Lexington is now very scared. She has her stuff in her hands, trying to decide where to exit.

LEXINGTON
Who are you?

VOICE
I have a proposal for you.

LEXINGTON

Who are you?

VOICE

You don't need to know that Lex. You just need to listen.

LEXINGTON

How do you know my name?

VOICE

I know a lot of things.

She starts to leave.

VOICE

I can get you a job at the New York Times.

Lexington immediately stops walking and stands there for a moment.

VOICE

I know that's what you want, isn't it?

Lexington turns around.

LEXINGTON

How do you know about that?

VOICE

The details are not necessary. You just have to agree to the plan and I can get you what you want.

LEXINGTON

And what would that plan be?

Voice slides Lexington an envelope.

VOICE

Open it.

Lexington picks up the envelope hesitantly.

LEXINGTON

What is this?

Lexington opens the envelope.

LEXINGTON

I don't understand.

The Voice grows slightly angry.

VOICE

It's just the way it has to be.

LEXINGTON

So then, why me?

VOICE

All these questions. Are you going to do it or not?

Lexington throws the envelope back towards the Voice.

LEXINGTON

No, I can't.

Voice starts to exit.

VOICE

I'll just find someone else that wants a job at the New York Times.

Lexington looks back at where Kyle had exited, she thinks for a moment.

LEXINGTON

Wait!

The Voice stops walking. The Voice places the envelope on the piano.

VOICE

Good choice. I'll be in touch soon.

Beat.

Catch you later Lex.

*They whistle as they exit. Lexington lets out a sigh of relief.
She stares at the envelope hesitantly. She takes a deep breath before eventually walking to the piano and grabbing the envelope. Lights down.*

SCENE IV

Flashback: Summer before Lexington leaves for college, 2018

Lights up in a hospital room. Lexington and Ellis sit beside the bed where their Dad lays. He is hooked up to tons of wires and tubes. The monitor is continuously beeping.

ELLIS

Do you think he's gonna get better?

LEXINGTON

Of course he is. He has to.

ELLIS

Sorry. I'm just trying to think of every scenario.

LEXINGTON

And there's only one scenario. Dad will get better.

ELLIS

Lexi.

LEXINGTON

Don't call me that.

ELLIS

What?

LEXINGTON

That's Dad's nickname for me so please..don't call me that.

ELLIS

Okay. But Lexi-Lexington. You have to be reasonable. What if-

LEXINGTON

There's no what if Ellis!

Ellis gets up from his chair. He walks up to the bed and squeezes his Dad's hand.

ELLIS

Hey Dad. I really miss you. I was doing the crossword puzzle and drinking black coffee this morning, just like you do. All I could think was, 'Wow my dad is a pretentious asshole and this coffee sucks.'

Beat.

I wouldn't change anything about you though. You're unique, just like you taught me and Lexington to be. I'm so grateful for you and all that you do. I love you dad, talk soon, maybe over some coffee with sugar or cream or syrup, literally anything in it please.

Ellis kisses his Dad on the head before beginning to exit. After a few steps, he stops himself.

ELLIS

Your turn.

Ellis exits and Lexington watches him leave. She turns back and stares at her Dad's bed. She stands up beside the bed, holding onto her Dad's hand.

LEXINGTON

Hey, Dad.

Lexington begins to cry.

I really wish we could talk. I love talking with you. You've taught me so much. How to ride a bike. That the worst thing someone can say is no. To always work hard. To never drink wine out of a box.

Lexington chuckles as she wipes tears from her face.

And to write from my heart.

Beat.

And I'm going to keep writing, at college. Madison College, just like you did. Journalism major. I got the letter last week and I was about to call you to tell you but then Mom answered the phone and it was the hospital-

Lexington cries more.

You're the only one that supports me. Mom hates that I'm following after you. Ellis is chasing his own dreams. All I have is you. You can't leave me. I need someone to guide me. To tell me what to do when I have no idea what I'm doing. Someone to talk to. Someone to be my best friend. Dad. Please. Just wake up. I need you. I'll always need you. Please.

Monitor begins to beep faster for a few seconds before flatlining. Lights down. Lexington's dad calls out her name.

DAD
Lexington!

We hear him call it out a few more times as it slowly fades away.

SCENE V

Kennedy's voice takes over. Lights up on the girls' dorm room. Lexington is sitting in her chair staring at the envelope. Kennedy stands beside trying to get her attention.

KENNEDY
Lexington!
Beat.
Lexington!

Lexington regains her focus and turns her attention towards Kennedy.

LEXINGTON
Sorry! What?

KENNEDY
Everything okay? What's with the envelope?

Lexington sets the envelope on her desk.

LEXINGTON

Nothing, just something from one of my classes.

KENNEDY

Ugh, it's Friday night. School talk is officially over. It's party time!

Kennedy starts dancing around the room and singing to herself.

LEXINGTON

So, I know we talked about going to a party tonight.

KENNEDY

Oh no, no you don't! You are not backing out now.

LEXINGTON

No, I'm not backing out. I'm just letting you know that I did, however, invite a friend to join us.

Lights down. Lights up on the other side of the stage. We are now in Kyle and Milo's dorm. Kyle is staring into a mirror and is fixing his clothes when Milo enters.

MILO

And where are you going looking all dapper?

KYLE

To a party actually.

MILO

A party? Really? You got invited to a party?

KYLE

Is that so hard to believe?

MILO

No! Not at all.

Beat. Slightly annoyed.

MILO

Oh. I see. You found that girl, didn't you?

KYLE

She found me actually. Lexington. That's her name. I found out her name!

MILO

Well, congratulations. What time are you meeting her?

Kyle checks his watch.

KYLE

In about 5 minutes. You wanna join us?

MILO

You're asking me to third wheel your date?

KYLE

Well she did say her roommate was coming. And she never said it was like an official date type of thing. So I mean it's not like you're interrupting any type of romantic date night thing cause it's not a date. And her roommate will be there. So no. I'm not asking you to third wheel my date because it's not a date.

Kyle looks at Milo who is staring at him with confusion.

KYLE

I'm not nervous at all.

MILO

I can see that. Well, I might as well have some fun. Who knows? Maybe this party will inspire some new music. Ready?

Kyle shakes his head yes. Milo opens the door and exits. Kyle takes one last look at himself in the mirror. He takes a deep breath in and out before exiting. Lights down.

SCENE VI

Lights up.

Kyle and Milo are standing outside of the party. Music is heard, but faint.

MILO

When did she say she would be here?

KYLE
Um, I think soon.

MILO
Maybe just text her?

Kyle pulls out his phone. He stops.

KYLE
So actually, funny story//

MILO
You never got her number, did you?

KYLE
You know me so well.

Milo looks at Kyle longingly. Milo blushes and smiles at Kyle.

MILO
Yes I do.

Beat.

MILO
Actually, Kyle, a lot of my music is about// you

KYLE
Oh, she's here!

Lexington and Kennedy enter. Lexington waves to Kyle. Milo clears his throat, defeated.

LEXINGTON
Hey Kyle!

Kennedy approaches.

KENNEDY
Milo?

MILO

Hey Kennedy! Your roommates with//

KENNEDY

Lexington Cohen, meet Milo Ames.

Lexington reaches out her hand towards Milo, he shakes it.

MILO

Nice to meet you, Lexington.

LEXINGTON

Same to you! How do you two know each other?

MILO

LGBTQ+ alliance club. I'm the vice president.

KENNEDY

And I'm the president. We are a very good team.

MILO

I would have to agree.

Beat.

MILO

Kyle has told me a lot about you, Lexington.

Lexington blushes slightly. Kyle clears his throat.

KYLE

I swear all good things, nothing creepy.

Lexington and Kennedy giggle.

LEXINGTON

That is very kind of you Kyle.

KENNEDY

Yes, very kind, but let's party!

The group walks into the party. Music is blasting, lights are flashing, and there are cheers coming from the beer pong table across the room.

MILO

Well, this is just extravagant.

KENNEDY

Live in the moment Mr. Ames. Let's go school these athletes in some beer pong.

MILO

But, I don't even like beer-

Kennedy has already grabbed his hand to make their way over to the table. Kyle and Lexington alone.

LEXINGTON

First college party?

KYLE

I mean..first one that's like this. Most of the time it's just a chill game of drunk charades in a sweaty dorm room.

LEXINGTON

Woah. That sounds way more fun.

The two make their way towards a table to grab drinks.

KYLE

It is. Until Milo takes one shot too many and falls asleep on the couch.

LEXINGTON

Is Milo your best friend?

KYLE

He is. We've been roommates since freshman year. We both love music.

LEXINGTON

Does Milo write his own too?

KYLE

He does. It's nice to have a friend that understands the same struggles as you.

LEXINGTON

That's how me and my Dad were.

KYLE

Oh yeah? Is your dad a writer?

LEXINGTON

Um, he was. Died in a car accident the Summer before I came to college.

KYLE

Oh, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean// to

LEXINGTON

No, it's okay!

Lexington takes a sip from her cup. So does Kyle. They both look out of place. They look around the party for a moment before looking at each other and smiling awkwardly. They look around the room again. Lexington takes a sip again. She looks at Kyle.

LEXINGTON

Want to get out of here?

Kyle slightly chokes on his drink.

KYLE

And go where?

LEXINGTON

I have a pretty good place in mind.

KYLE

Should we let Milo and Kennedy know first?

LEXINGTON

They look like they're having a lot of fun, I'll just text Ken and let her know. Come on.

The two exit. Milo turns and watches Lexington and Kyle leave, he's upset. He turns back to Kennedy and continues playing.

Lights down.

Lights up, we see Lexington and Kyle walking. Lights change like they are walking under street lights.

KYLE

Where are we going?

LEXINGTON

Just keep walking, we're almost there.

Lights eventually transition to a dimly lit area. The lighting almost looks like the moon reflection off the pond. The backdrop displays Belvedere Castle. Lexington comes to a stop.

KYLE

You brought me to a castle?

LEXINGTON

Well, you showed me your favorite place so now I have to show you mine.

They sit down on a rock looking out on Turtle Pond and up at the castle.

LEXINGTON

This is the Belvedere Castle. Ellis loved going to Shakespeare in the park. So my mom would take him while my dad took me here. It was his favorite writing spot and it eventually became mine.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

Sometimes, I would pretend I was a princess locked in this castle with only my stories to keep me company. Corny, I know, but this is where I fell in love with writing.

KYLE

Hmm Princess Lexington. I can see that.

LEXINGTON

Right? It's a pretty fitting title for me.

KYLE

So..what are you looking to do with this love of writing?

LEXINGTON

My dream has always been to work for the New York Times. It's all my dad and I ever talked about. We loved waking up on the weekends together to go get donuts and the paper. I don't know anything else.

KYLE

That's one bold dream.

LEXINGTON

Yeah it is. But, enough about me. What about you? What do you want to do with your love of music?

KYLE

Theatre.

LEXINGTON

Oh, now that's a very bold choice, especially in this economy.

The two chuckle.

LEXINGTON

What do you want to do with theatre?

KYLE

I want to write my own shows. I would love to write the book or the songs of a show. Being the person to bring stories to so many different people. That just sounds so epic to me.

LEXINGTON

You really love it, don't you?

KYLE

Theatre is so many different art forms combined into one. Everyone should get to experience that, so why not be the person that allows them to do just that?

LEXINGTON
So, that's a yes?

Kyle chuckles.

KYLE
That's a yes.

LEXINGTON
That's exactly how I feel about writing. There's just so much beauty in it.

Kyle looks longingly at Lexington.

KYLE
You're beautiful.

Lexington slightly blushes, but is silent.

KYLE
Oh my. I am so sorry. I mean I'm not sorry that you're beautiful. I mean you are beautiful, but I'm sorry that I just said that out of nowhere and you probably weren't expecting that. And you brought me to this amazing spot and you haven't even said anything rude about my shoes yet, which is great.

(slowing down a bit)
And just the way you talk about writing is the same way I feel about theatre and I just have never met anyone quite like you.

Beat. Kyle looks at Lexington. She smiles.

LEXINGTON
Thank you. I've never met anyone quite like you.

Beat. They smile at one another.

LEXINGTON
And I really like your shoes.

The two chuckle.

KYLE

Really? Not too disheveled for you?

LEXINGTON

Oh not even close.

Beat. Kyle is standing a few feet away from Lexington.

KYLE

Favorite color?

LEXINGTON

Yellow.

Lexington tilts her head towards Kyle to signal it is his turn to answer. The two are circling each other and getting closer after each question is asked.

KYLE

Blue.

LEXINGTON

Sweet or salty?

KYLE

Definitely sweet.

Beat.

KYLE

Go-to karaoke song?

LEXINGTON

Dancing Queen.

KYLE

Ah, good taste.

LEXINGTON
Glass is half–

KYLE
Full.

LEXINGTON
Definitely half empty.

The two grow slightly closer.

KYLE
What's the best meal of the day?

LEXINGTON
Brunch. What's your favorite song that you've written?

KYLE
I haven't written it yet.

Lexington pauses, she stares at Kyle in awe.

KYLE
Favorite thing you've ever written?

LEXINGTON
Haven't written it yet.

The two stare at one another, smiling.

LEXINGTON
We're so different, yet...

KYLE
We're the same in a lot of ways.

Beat. The two are standing very close together. Kyle reaches for Lexington's hand. They lock fingers. Kyle leans in for a kiss, Lexington backs away. She quickly fills the awkward silence.

LEXINGTON

Have you ever wanted something so badly you would risk everything to have it?

KYLE

(A little taken aback)

Uh, not that I know of.

LEXINGTON

Would you ever?

KYLE

Um, I've never thought about it. I'm not even sure what I would want so much that I would have to lose everything to get it.

LEXINGTON

(Slightly upset)

Right.

KYLE

Everything okay?

LEXINGTON

Oh yeah, just coming up with new stories all the time. Should we start walking back?

KYLE

Oh. Yeah, of course, let's go.

The two exit as lights go down.

SCENE VII

Lights up in the theater. Later that night.

Dim spotlight on stage left. A piano is seen.

A few seconds pass before we hear whistling.

The whistling stops. The Voice walks in and sits down at the piano.

They begin to play ABBA's "Dancing Queen."

Lights down.

SCENE VIII

Lights up. Next day.

Split scene: On stage right we see Lexington and Kennedy in their dorm. On stage left, almost as if the rooms are right next to each other, we see Milo and Kyle in their apartment.

KENNEDY

So, how was it? Tell me everything.

MILO

Dude, how did it go last night?

LEXINGTON

It was good.

KYLE

Good!

KENNEDY

Just good? I need more than that!

MILO

That's it? It was good? Okay, I'm so glad you left me at the party for it just to be good.

KYLE

Alright fine, it was better than good.

LEXINGTON

It was perfect. We went to Belvedere Castle.

KENNEDY

You brought him to your favorite spot? Aww that is adorable. I'm so jealous right now.

MILO

Where did you guys go when you left? By the way, I am now a master at beer pong.

LEXINGTON

Yeah it was pretty special. He is super sweet and so easy to talk to.

KYLE

Kennedy carried you guys the whole time didn't she?

MILO

Yeah, she did.

KENNEDY

Awww. You like him.

KYLE

Lexington took me to this castle in Central Park.

LEXINGTON

Yeah, I do.

MILO

Belvedere Castle?

KYLE

Yeah, that's the one. We just talked. It was perfect.

KENNEDY

Are you going to ask him out again?

MILO

Are you going to ask her out again?

LEXINGTON

Should I?

KYLE

Should I?

KENNEDY

Uh, duh!

Lexington's phone starts to ring.

LEXINGTON

It's Kyle.

Kennedy shakes her head yes and puts her thumbs up.

LEXINGTON

Hello?

KYLE

Hey..you.

LEXINGTON

Hi.

KYLE

Oh, it's Kyle by the way.

LEXINGTON

Yes, I know it's you Kyle. I had a lot of fun last night.

KYLE

Yeah me too.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

So, what's up?

KYLE

Oh, right, sorry. Are you, um, busy today?

LEXINGTON

Today?

Lexington grabs the envelope on the edge of her desk and stares at it.

KYLE

Yeah, I was wondering if you would want to hang out again? If you aren't busy. Not to assume that you wouldn't be busy or have plans with someone else or have something going on. But if you are free, would you want to hang out?

Lexington does not respond right away, she continues staring at the envelope.

KYLE
Lexington?

LEXINGTON
Sorry! Just checking my calendar for today.

She sets the envelope back down.

LEXINGTON
I would love to hang out with you today.

KYLE
Really?

LEXINGTON
Yes! Meet in twenty?

KYLE
That's perfect. I'll see you soon.

LEXINGTON
See you soon, piano man.

The two hang up the phone. Kennedy squeals with excitement.

LEXINGTON
Help me get ready?

KENNEDY
Of course!

Lights down on the girl's bedroom. Focus shifts to Kyle and Milo's room.

KYLE
She said yes!

MILO
How exciting. When are you guys meeting?

KYLE

In about twenty minutes.

MILO

Twenty?

Kyle gets up and starts getting ready.

KYLE

Yeah.

MILO

Um, are you forgetting something?

KYLE

Uh, I don't think so.

MILO

We have plans today.

KYLE

It was just working on songs, right?

MILO

Yeah I have a ton of stuff I have to show you.

KYLE

Milo, we'll just do it later or tomorrow. Don't worry about it.

MILO

I wanted to show you these songs last week and you pushed it back.

KYLE

Milo, I'm sorry. I promise we can do it soon, okay?

MILO

Okay. Have fun.

Milo walks over to his desk and places his headphones over his ears. Kyle begins to exit, he shouts back.

KYLE
Thank you!

Lights down.

SCENE IX

Lights up. Later that day.

Lexington and Kyle are walking, holding cups of ice cream.

LEXINGTON
Wait, let me get this straight. You only eat mint chip ice cream?

KYLE
Yup. Only mint chip. Forever.

LEXINGTON
It doesn't taste like toothpaste to you?

KYLE
If it did, would I keep getting it?

LEXINGTON
Good point.

KYLE
I like what I like.

LEXINGTON
Can't argue with that.

The two sit down on a bench in the campus quad.

LEXINGTON
Working on any new songs?

KYLE
Actually, I brought this new song I just started working on to see what your thoughts are on it. If that's okay?

LEXINGTON
I would love to.

Kyle pulls out a blue folder from his bag. He opens it and pulls out a few sheets of paper that he holds on to.

KYLE

I just started working on it, so it isn't anything miraculous. I mean I hope it will be miraculous when I'm done with it. Just needed to warn you that it isn't anything special just yet so like don't get your hopes up.

Beat.

But don't set the bar low, like middle ground is probably good. It's definitely something and will be even more if I keep writing it, which I'm going to do. But you// know

LEXINGTON
Hey Kyle?

KYLE
Yeah?

LEXINGTON
Can I read it now?

Kyle realizes he is still holding the papers.

KYLE
Good idea. Sorry.

He hands the sheets to Lexington.

She turns away from him and reads.

Kyle does various awkward movements, he does not know what to do with himself. Fiddling with his fingers, scuffing his shoes, just looking around at his surroundings, etc.

Lexington's face changes as she reads, she likes it.

LEXINGTON
This is beautiful.

KYLE
Really?

LEXINGTON

Yes, really.

KYLE

Thank you. I really felt inspired after leaving that castle and I---

Lexington's phone rings. She picks it up.

LEXINGTON

Oh, sorry, it's my mom.

Lexington answers the phone.

LEXINGTON

Hey, Mom! I'm actually out right now, can I call you-

Lexington's demeanor changes, she turns away from Kyle.

LEXINGTON

Mom, I was going to tell you.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

It's not that big of a deal, I'm figuring it out.

Beat. Lexington grows frustrated.

LEXINGTON

Yes, Mom. I am figuring it out. It's my life to worry about.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

It's just an internship. I still have so much time to....

Beat. Kyle is looking at his music, pretending not to listen to Lexington.

LEXINGTON

Well why were you even in my room anyways? It's not your life!

Beat. Lexington grows furious.

LEXINGTON

Well I wish he was the one that was still here and not you.

Lexington hangs up. She lowers her head. She quickly wipes her tears away and turns back towards Kyle.

LEXINGTON

I'm sorry about that.

KYLE

Everything alright?

LEXINGTON

My mom found out about the internship.

KYLE

Oh.

Beat.

KYLE

Well maybe she just wants what's best for you.

LEXINGTON

You don't understand.

KYLE

I just think your mom means well//

LEXINGTON

All my life she has been this way.

Lexington grows frustrated.

LEXINGTON

There's no point.

KYLE

I think if you just sit down and talk to her it could really help.

LEXINGTON

This is how it has always been and nothing will ever change.

Lexington looks at Kyle, he doesn't respond.

LEXINGTON

You don't agree?

Kyle stands there. He goes to say something, but nothing comes out. Lexington looks at him, she is upset.

LEXINGTON

Right. I'll just go.

Lexington grabs her things.

KYLE

Wait, I didn't mean to-

She exits. Kyle lowers his voice.

KYLE

Upset you.

Kyle lowers his head and scuffs his shoe in frustration. He grabs his things and exits.

SCENE X

Lights up. Lexington is at Belvedere Castle, alone. She is staring at the yellow envelope. She talks quietly to herself.

LEXINGTON

What am I doing?

Lights dim slightly. Flashback, about 4 years ago. Dad appears next to Lexington, writing in a journal.

DAD

Having some trouble today?

LEXINGTON

Yeah, I'm just stuck. Not sure really where to go from here.

DAD

What's the story so far?

LEXINGTON

My main character is trying to make a decision on what to do. Should they do what is best for them and their future or give all that up to be a good person?

DAD

Why would choosing what is right for them not make them a good person?

LEXINGTON

Isn't that selfish?

DAD

There are times where doing the "right" thing may not always be the correct thing. What feels right for this character? Do they always do the right thing?

LEXINGTON

They have a history of always doing what is right.

DAD

Then maybe it's time for them to be a bit selfish.

LEXINGTON

Yeah, maybe it is.

Lights shift. Present day. Dad is gone. Lexington holds the envelope. She takes a breath and opens it.

Lights down.

SCENE XI

Lights up. Kyle and Milo's dorm room.

Milo is seated at the keyboard. He is writing on a sheet of paper.

Kyle comes into the room looking defeated. He throws his bag near the keyboard and he sulks into the couch. Milo turns to face Kyle.

MILO
Everything okay?

KYLE
No. I messed up.

MILO
What happened?

KYLE
Lexington.

MILO
It's not going well anymore?

KYLE
I just said the wrong thing and she left. I upset her.

Milo gets up from his seat and goes next to Kyle.

MILO
I'm sure she'll come around.

KYLE
I really don't know. I just feel like she's going to be mad at me and I screwed up everything.

MILO
Well everything does happen for a reason. Maybe it just isn't the right time.

Beat.

MILO

Or maybe it's just not the right person.

KYLE

Yeah, I just don't know what to do at this point.

MILO

Well, I'm here to help you, you know that.

KYLE

Yeah, I do. Thanks Milo.

Beat.

KYLE

How's your music going?

MILO

Not great, but I think I'll get some inspiration any day now.

Beat.

MILO

But I have this one song I've been working on for a while now. Look at it for me?

KYLE

Of course.

Milo walks over to the keyboard and grabs the sheets. He holds them out for Kyle to take. Kyle stands up and grabs them.

A moment passes, Kyle is reading the music and Milo is anxiously twiddling his fingers while sitting at the keyboard.

KYLE

Milo, this has potential.

MILO

Potential?

Kyle walks over to the keyboard and sets the music down.

KYLE

Yeah just this chord here.

He plays a chord.

KYLE

Followed by this chord.

He continues playing.

KYLE

And then what you have written is good, just a few tweaks throughout to make it flow better and you'll have a song. Your lyrics are pretty decent as well.

Beat. Milo stares longingly at Kyle.

MILO

All thanks to you.

Milo kisses Kyle. Kyle pushes Milo back. The two stare at each other. Milo quickly gets up and grabs his things.

KYLE

Milo I didn't mean

Milo quickly exits the room. Kyle yells after him.

KYLE

Milo!

Milo is gone. Kyle places his face in his hands in frustration. He slams the door and then sits down at the keyboard. Kyle goes into his backpack and pulls out his blue folder. He places it on the keyboard and begins playing.

*A few moments pass of Kyle playing one of his songs.
There's a knock at the door.*

KYLE
Milo, I'm sorry

Kyle opens the door; Lexington is there.

KYLE
Oh.
LEXINGTON

I'm sorry I just showed up. I just feel really bad about earlier.

Lexington turns her head slightly and sees the blue folder on the keyboard.

KYLE
No, you're okay. I'm sorry. You were right, I don't understand your relationship with your mom and it's not my business to tell you what I thought. I'm really sorry, it won't happen//

Lexington turns back towards Kyle and kisses him. The two pull away and smile.

LEXINGTON
You're okay. Let's just forget about it.

KYLE
I don't even remember what we were talking about.

The two smile. Lexington looks at the folder again.

LEXINGTON
Are you busy right now?

KYLE
Um....

Kyle looks towards the door.

LEXINGTON
Everything okay?

He looks back towards Lexington.

KYLE

Not really, but it's not important right now. I honestly could use a distraction.

LEXINGTON

Okay well, got any good movies?

KYLE

Do you like movie musicals?

LEXINGTON

Do I have any other choices?

KYLE

Definitely not.

Beat.

KYLE

Let me go get what I have and you can pick.

Kyle exits the room. Lexington places her bag on the couch. She turns to the keyboard. She walks towards it and stares at the blue folder.

KYLE

(Off-stage)

Are you more of a Sondheim person or Jason Robert Brown?

Lexington doesn't break focus on the music. She shouts back.

LEXINGTON

I don't know how I'm supposed to answer that question.

KYLE

(Off-stage)

Right, scratch that. I'll keep looking.

Lexington looks off-stage to where Kyle exited and then back to the folder. She takes the folder off the keyboard and quickly puts it in her bag. She sits on the edge of the couch. Kyle enters.

KYLE

Okay, so I've got The Sound of Music or Hairspray, the one with Zac Efron.

Lexington gets up and kisses Kyle.

LEXINGTON

I think I'm going to go with Zac Efron on this one.

She moves her bag off the couch and onto the floor. They sit down.

KYLE

Very good choice.

Kyle puts his arm around Lexington. She smiles at Kyle and then looks down at her bag. Lights down.

SCENE XII

Lights up.

Lexington stands over a copy machine. The lights of the machine go back and forth. After a moment, she takes the papers and places them in the blue folder. She takes the copies and places them in the envelope.

Lights shift as the copier leaves and the piano comes in. Lexington looks around and sets the envelope on the piano. She exits.

Whistling is heard off-stage. The Voice enters. They stop whistling and pick up the envelope. The Voice opens the envelope and stares at the copies, lights down.

SCENE XIII

Two days later. Lights up in the diner. Lexington drinks from her water. Ellis sits across from her.

ELLIS

How did mom even find out?

LEXINGTON

She went into my room and found the letter.

ELLIS

She went into your room? Geez sorry sis.

LEXINGTON

She was going to find out eventually, but it'll be fine. Everything is going to work out the way it was supposed to.

ELLIS

And where did this positivity come from?

LEXINGTON

Just realizing that I will have more chances in the future. Nothing to worry about.

Ellis is slightly taken aback.

ELLIS

You sure you're okay?

LEXINGTON

Yes, Ellis, I swear. I'm just not worried about the internship any more, I'll be there soon enough.

Ellis stares at Lexington as she continues drinking her water.

Lights down.

SCENE XIV

Lights up, the next day. Lexington and Kyle are in his apartment. Kyle is seated at the keyboard, writing something down. Lexington sits on the couch and is typing away at her laptop.

LEXINGTON

Ugh, I cannot wait to be done with homework.

KYLE

Same here. Graduation can't come soon enough.

LEXINGTON

I'm excited to prove my mom wrong. Just wish my dad would be there too.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

What are your parents like?

KYLE

I never got to meet them. They passed when I was really little so my Aunt raised me.

Beat.

She told me my parents were in a band together and that they were amazing. That's when I started to write my own music.

LEXINGTON

Oh, Kyle, I'm so sorry.

KYLE

Thanks. All musicians need to have some trauma in order to succeed right?

Beat.

KYLE

Sorry, I cope with bad jokes.

LEXINGTON

No, I get that.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

Do you ever think how differently your life would be if they were still here?

KYLE

All the time. I think about the concerts I would go to or the musicals we would see together. My aunt said that my mom loved theatre and that she saved all her tickets when she saw them. So I started doing it too.

He gestures to his cork board full of tickets.

LEXINGTON

Why did she like them so much?

KYLE

I'm not sure. I mean I love them because they all say 'admit one' on them. I'm being taken into this world of the show. They're just special to me and I feel connected to my parents in a way.

LEXINGTON

That's how I feel when I write. It almost keeps him here with me in a way.

KYLE

Yeah, exactly.

Lexington walks over to the keyboard and sits on the bench next to Kyle.

LEXINGTON

Play me something.

*Kyle smiles at Lexington before beginning to play. Lexington rests her head on his shoulder.
Lights down.*

SCENE XV

Lights up. The next day.

Kennedy sits in the campus radio station, Milo sits next to her. Kennedy speaks into the microphone.

KENNEDY

Just a reminder to all you coolcats out there, the student center will be hosting a movie night at 8pm. Next up, some Taylor Swift.

Kennedy presses a few buttons before pushing the microphone away from her and taking her headphones off. She turns to Milo.

KENNEDY

If I get hate for playing Taylor Swift, I will continue to play her on repeat.

MILO

As you should.

Lexington enters.

KENNEDY

Look who finally decided to visit me at the station.

LEXINGTON

I never know when you're here, but Taylor Swift started playing so I took my chances.

Beat.

LEXINGTON

Milo! How have you been? I haven't seen you at Kyle's in a bit.

MILO

I've just been really busy. Nice that he's hanging out with someone.

LEXINGTON

Yeah, it's been fun, but Kyle definitely misses you being there.

MILO

I just really have a lot going on.

LEXINGTON

Everything okay?

MILO

Yeah, just working on a lot of music lately.

LEXINGTON

Oh that sounds nice! I think Kyle is on his way here right now actually.

Kyle enters.

LEXINGTON

Right on time!

KENNEDY

Hey, Kyle!

KYLE

Hey, Ken.

Beat. Kyle looks at Milo who is avoiding eye contact.

KYLE
Hey, Milo.

MILO
Uh, hey.

KYLE
How have you been? I haven't seen you in almost a week, I was starting to get worried.

MILO
I'm fine, just needed a few days at home.

KYLE
I'm glad you're okay and I hope you come back soon, the dorm misses you.

MILO
Yeah, maybe, but I actually have to go do some work. I'll see you later Ken. Bye Lexington.

Milo exits quickly.

KENNEDY
I'm sorry, but that was weird right? What was that about?

KYLE
Um, nothing really, just roommate stuff. It's fine.

LEXINGTON
You sure?

KYLE
Yeah, I swear.

KENNEDY
Well, I can always talk to him if you need. Probably just Milo being Milo.

Beat.

KENNEDY

Oh shoot, I gotta play the next song.

She places her headphones on her head and turns the microphone back towards her. She presses a button and speaks.

KENNEDY

(On Mic)

I just love that song. Next up is a new song called Replay.

Kennedy presses a few buttons. She pushes the microphone away from her and takes her headphones off. The song quietly begins to play.

KENNEDY

We should all do something together tonight. I'll try to get Milo to join, if that's okay with you Kyle?

Kyle, looking slightly confused, moves closer to Kennedy.

KYLE

Uh, yeah maybe. Turn up the music please.

Kennedy turns the music up and looks at Lexington. Lexington looks towards Kyle, slightly concerned.

KENNEDY

Everything okay?

Kyle, expressionless, stares at the speaker.

LEXINGTON

Kyle?

KYLE

This is..mine.

KENNEDY

What?

KYLE

(Points at speaker)

This is my song.

Kennedy and Lexington look at one another and then back to Kyle.

KENNEDY

Are you sure?

LEXINGTON

That's not possible.

KYLE

It's mine.

Kyle goes into his bag and sifts through it, he slowly becomes frantic.

KYLE

I wrote this, I swear. It's in my blue folder that I always have. I just can't find the folder right now.

Kyle slightly tosses his bag to the side.

KYLE

(Points to the speaker again.)

I swear this is mine.

LEXINGTON

It must just be a mixup or a joke someone is playing on you.

KENNEDY

But why?

The song has ended. Kyle stares at the speaker, he grows upset.

KYLE

I uh gotta go.

Kyle picks up his bag. Lexington steps in front of him.

LEXINGTON

I'm so sorry this happened.

*Kyle shakes his head in acknowledgement. He exits quickly, wiping away tears as he exits.
Lexington looks at Kennedy.*

KENNEDY

Who would've done this?

Lexington looks to where Kyle exited, looking slightly remorseful.

LEXINGTON

No clue.

Lights down.

SCENE XVI

Lights up in Kyle and Milo's room. Milo is sitting at the keyboard when Kyle rushes in, Milo quickly stands up. Kyle throws his bag on the ground and screams.

MILO

I just heard. That was Replay right?

Kyle shakes his head, his eyes filling up with tears.

MILO

We will figure this out.

KYLE

I'm just so confused. Who would take my song? Why my song?

MILO

I wish I had an answer for you.

KYLE

Have you seen my blue folder anywhere?

MILO

No, I haven't.

KYLE

I just..don't understand.

MILO

It's okay. I'll look for the folder and help figure out who did this.

KYLE

Thank you.

MILO

Anytime.

Beat.

MILO

About the other day, I didn't// mean to

KYLE

It's okay. You're still my best friend, nothing could ever change that.

Milo turns away and picks up the sheets Kyle threw.

MILO

(Slightly upset)

Glad we feel the same.

KYLE

So where do we start?

MILO

Um...why don't I go back to the radio station and try to figure out how Kennedy got the song.

You stay here and look for your folder, it's gotta be here somewhere.

Milo walks over to Kyle and touches his shoulder.

MILO

We'll figure it out, I promise.

KYLE
Okay. Thank you.

The two smile at each other before Milo exits. Lights down.

SCENE XVII

Lights up on Lexington in the theater.

LEXINGTON
Hello? Are you here? We need to talk.

She looks around for the Voice to appear, but nothing.

LEXINGTON
Look, I know I said yes before to this plan, but I'm not so sure anymore. The look on Kyle's face...I just don't think it's right. I can't hurt him anymore. I love//

Lexington cuts herself off. No response.

Lights transition. Flashback about 5 years ago. Dad appears at the piano bench, writing in a notebook.

LEXINGTON
Hey Dad?

DAD
What's up Lexi?

LEXINGTON
When did you know that you loved Mom?

Dad looks up from his notebook and removes his glasses. He turns to Lexington and gestures to her to sit down next to him. She does.

DAD
I guess I just kind of knew.

LEXINGTON
Yeah, but how?

DAD

Love is tough to describe Lexington. How did you know you loved me and mom and Ellis?

LEXINGTON

I don't know, I just did.

DAD

Well that's kind of how it happened. One day I just realized that I loved your mother and there was nothing else I could do about it. I would do anything for her.

LEXINGTON

Would you give up your dreams for her?

Dad thinks for a second.

DAD

I think the love I have for your mom is more than I have for my own dreams, so if I needed to, yes I would. Why so many questions?

LEXINGTON

I'm just curious. I don't think I could ever give up my dreams for a person.

DAD

I think you would be surprised.

Offstage Ellis shouts.

ELLIS

Dad, Lexington, dinner is ready!

The two get up from the bench. Dad starts walking, Lexington stops for a moment.

LEXINGTON

Dad?

Dad turns back around.

DAD

Yeah?

LEXINGTON

I think I would give up my dreams for one person.

DAD

Who?

LEXINGTON

You.

Lexington runs to hug him. Lights transition, present day. Dad is gone, Lexington is alone on stage.

Chords from "Replay" play on the piano. Lexington jolts and turns around. The Voice is sitting on the piano bench.

VOICE

Hey Lex. Did you like the song?

LEXINGTON

I can't do this anymore. I'm done.

VOICE

Why? Cause you love him?

LEXINGTON

Yeah, I do.

VOICE

I think it's a little late for feelings now Lex.

LEXINGTON

I'm done. I don't want the job. I don't want any part of this. Give me the rest of the copies. You can have one song but that's it.

The Voice laughs.

VOICE

I'm not giving you anything. The damage has already been done. Can't wait for you to hear the next one. Catch you later Lex.

*The Voice walks out, whistling. Lexington watches them exit. She begins to cry.
Lights down.*

SCENE XVIII

Lights up on Lexington's apartment. Her bag is placed right next to her desk. Kyle enters.

KYLE

Hey. Thanks for letting me come over.

LEXINGTON

Sorry I didn't ask you sooner.

KYLE

It's okay, I'm here now.

Kyle gives Lexington a kiss.

KYLE

It's been such a crazy day.

LEXINGTON

I know. I'm so sorry about the song.

KYLE

It's okay, just weird. I don't get it, but Milo is at the station trying to figure it out and I know that you'll help me.

LEXINGTON

Of course, anything you need.

KYLE

Honestly, I just need to be distracted right now.

LEXINGTON

Okay, movie?

KYLE

You mean movie musical?

LEXINGTON

Oh right, how could I forget?

The two smile.

LEXINGTON

I'll go pick one out.

KYLE

You have some here?

LEXINGTON

I went and bought a few to have when you come over. Is that okay?

Kyle smiles.

KYLE

That's more than okay.

LEXINGTON

Let me go get them.

Lexington exits, but we can hear her offstage.

LEXINGTON

(off-stage)

Are we thinking more classic or modern today?

KYLE

Surprise me!

Kyle smiles and begins to walk past the desk, he trips over Lexington's bag, making it fall over. Kyle starts picking up the items, he grabs a blue folder that fell out and begins to put it back, but pauses for a moment.

Lexington enters, holding DVD cases.

LEXINGTON

Okay so I got both of the West Side Story ones and Into the Woods. I had no idea Meryl Streep did movie musicals, that completely changes the game for me.

Lexington sees Kyle looking at the folder on the floor. She anxiously keeps talking.

LEXINGTON

Don't worry about that, I'll pick it up.

She sets the movies down and goes to the floor. She tries to take the sheet from Kyle, he pulls it away.

LEXINGTON

Kyle it's// not

KYLE

What is this?

LEXINGTON

It's nothing I swear.

KYLE

It's my songs. *(Beat.)*

It's all of my songs. *(Beat.)*

It was you?

LEXINGTON

No, Kyle, listen I can// explain

KYLE

I can't believe it was you. I trusted you.

LEXINGTON

Just listen, I swear it will all make sense if you just listen to me.

Both of them have tears streaming down their faces.

KYLE

You know I was so upset all day about this song, but as soon as I saw you, I wasn't upset anymore. You took all that pain away. I was going to be okay because I had you and I love you and it was all going to work out. But now? Now what?

LEXINGTON

Love?

Kyle looks at her, heartbroken .

KYLE

Yeah, love. Just for you to go and do this.

He throws the folder at her and rushes out.

LEXINGTON

Kyle! Please, wait.

Lexington runs after him. Lights down.

SCENE XIX

Lights up, dorm hallway. Lexington enters, yelling for Kyle.

LEXINGTON

Kyle!

Milo enters, the two bump into one another.

MILO

Oh, sorry.

LEXINGTON

Have you seen Kyle?

MILO

No, what's wrong?

LEXINGTON

Uh, nothing, just had a little argument. I gotta go find him, let me know if you hear anything?

Lexington begins to walk away.

MILO

Of course. Catch you later Lex.

Milo begins walking and starts to whistle. Lexington stops walking and turns around.

LEXINGTON

Milo?

Milo turns back around, he stops whistling.

MILO

Yeah?

LEXINGTON

What did you just call me?

MILO

(Realizes he messed up)

I called you Lexi, is that not okay?

LEXINGTON

No. You said Lex.

MILO

So?

LEXINGTON

And you were whistling.

MILO

What does that have to do with anything?

LEXINGTON

It's you.

MILO

You're making no sense.

Milo starts to walk away. Lexington runs to get in his way.

LEXINGTON

It was you this whole time, wasn't it?

MILO

Lexi, just calm down. You're upset about you and Kyle, but it'll be fine.

LEXINGTON

Do not call me Lexi. Tell me the truth Milo. This was your plan all along. The folder, the songs, the radio station. Oh my god, it was you. I can't believe I didn't realize it.

Milo is growing angry.

MILO

I didn't do anything. You're crazy.

LEXINGTON

You made me take those songs from Kyle and you sang it on the radio.

MILO

I didn't make you do anything. You stole the songs and you're the one that left them on the piano for me to take. I'm not to blame Lexington, you are!

The two stare at each other.

LEXINGTON

It was you. B-but why? Why would you do this to him? Why would you make me do this to him when he was your best friend?

MILO

Because I couldn't do it to the only person I love.

Milo has tears falling from his face.

MILO

I love him. I have since freshman year, he's just perfect. But he's perfect at everything and I'm not. He writes the best songs, gets to go on dates with the person he likes, he always gets everything and my father never fails to remind me of that. It was about time Kyle got something taken from him.

Lexington stares at Milo in shock.

MILO

You've been a real help.

Lexington slaps Milo across the face. She exits. Milo grabs his face and watches Lexington leave. Lights down.

SCENE XX

*Split scene: On stage right, Kyle is down the sidewalk a little bit from his apartment.
On stage left, Lexington is standing below Kyle's apartment window looking up.*

Lights up on stage left. Kyle is pacing back and forth. He picks up his phone and makes a call.

Moments pass as he waits for the call to be picked up.

Call goes to voicemail.

KYLE

Milo? I could really use you right now. Me and Lexington..well it's complicated. I just really need my friend.

Kyle takes a long pause. He stops pacing and begins walking.

Lights up on stage left. Lexington is looking up at Kyle's window.

LEXINGTON

Kyle! Kyle, it's me. Please come down. I need to talk to you. I messed up, I know that and nothing can change what I've done, but what we had...It was real. I promise you that. I've never met anyone like you. I understand if you can't forgive me, but just hear me out because..

KYLE

But maybe I'm overreacting? Maybe I should just hear her out? I just don't know if I can. She took so much from me. And I don't know why. I just don't get it, why would she take that from me? And the worst part is that I thought she was actually falling for me. I really thought I had found a girl to like me. What a fool.
Anyways, call me back when you get this. I think I'm going to go try to talk to her. I just love her and need to hear what she has to say. I'll see you later bud.

LEXINGTON

(Yelling loudly)

Because I love you. I have loved you since the moment you showed me what the stage meant to you. I love you...please.

*There is no response from the window above her. No one comes walking out the door to meet her.
Lexington falls silent.*

*Kyle puts the phone in his pocket. His head jolts up as he hears Lexington's voice.
Kyle starts running. He tries to call out to Lexi.*

KYLE
(Yelling.)
Lexington!

We see Kyle take a step onto the road to get closer to Lexington. Blackout, stage right.

Lexington's head turns towards Kyle's voice.

LEXINGTON
Kyle!

*Lexington begins to run toward his voice. Just as she starts running, we hear a car honk and
slam on the brakes. She slowly walks towards the sound and we hear a police siren off stage.
Lexington walks faster towards the siren and the lights of the police car go across her face. She
runs off stage toward the light.
Lights down.*

SCENE XXI

*Two months later. Lights up, very dimmed. Lexington is sitting, she can just barely be seen, the
rest of the stage is dark.*

LEXINGTON
Hey. I just came to say I really miss you and I wish you were here.
Today is graduation! I decided not to go and I don't have a job waiting for me at the New York
Times.

Beat.

But, I do have a job! I work at a theatre company. We help fund theatre programs in high schools
all over the country. That way, everyone can have some theatre in their life. Just like you wanted.

I was in charge of naming the fund. I decided on “The Gray Theatre Grant,” after the person that showed me the world.

Beat.

Thank you for showing me the world.

Lights come up to reveal her at a graveyard, sitting next to a headstone that reads “Kyle Gray.”

But it definitely would have been better with you.

She kisses her fingers and places the kiss right on his name. She grabs her things and walks away from the stone, leaving the graveyard.

Milo can be seen in the corner, stepping closer to the stone as Lexi exits. Milo kneels down in front of the stone and begins talking.

MILO

I’m so sorry.

Lexington re-enters. Milo stares up at her. Lexington holds out her hand. Milo pauses for a moment before reaching towards it.

Lights down.

END OF PLAY