



Creative Process

By Kit Barbour

Character List:

- Sam (Mezzo Soprano): Age 20-30, an under confident, self-conscious girl who is very unsure of herself and the world that she lives in. She appears incapable of making her own decisions and is always looking to other people to guide her.
- Ace (Tenor): Age 20-30, a very confident, self-assured guy who seems to have the will to bend the world as he sees fit. He has a strong personality, but every so often there are moments where he almost seems to be unhappy with his identity and is miserably aware that he cannot change it.
- Zack (Baritone): Age 20-30, a troubled guy tortured by his past and starved for someone to notice him and/or to be important to someone. He is clearly not content with living in Sam's shadow and wants to be recognized for all that he contributes to things getting fixed.
- Destiny: (Alto): 20s, must be clearly younger than Sam, she's peppy and energetic and says everything with a smile and a positive tone even if it's something negative. Towards the end of the play, her tone should begin to shift until she speaks in the complete opposite way.
- Lena (Soprano): 20s, a troublemaker/rebel who always likes to be right in the thick of chaos. She's basically the ring leader of a gang called the Weasels and is not smart enough to really commit a crime fast enough to be pulled off effectively.
- The Weasels (varying voice parts): Newt, Melon, Pip, and Bassoon. A gang of delinquents who are always committing petty crimes and never doing enough damage to really be considered proper villains. They are clumsy, goofy and are almost always wearing their masks.

ACT I

SCENE 1

Disclaimer: In the far left corner of the stage, a desk, laptop, and the hands of WRITER should always be visible. The WRITER's face should never be visible. A projector behind the stage will be used to indicate when the things on stage are in the novel or outside of it. If the cursor is idle and blinking, the events on the stage are not within the WRITER's narrative. If WRITER is typing, the events on the stage are within the narrative.

Lights up on a comedically poorly constructed set made to represent a college campus. Some people are studying, some are talking with friends, some are walking to class. SAM (20-30) runs on from stage left looking disheveled. She trips and drop all her stuff causing everyone to look at her. She does not get up, only props her head up on her fist and sighs.

SAM

IT'S A TYPICAL COLLEGE DAY

AND AS A TYPICAL COLLEGE KID

ENSEMBLE

I'M STRESSED

DEPRESSED

AND JUST TRYING MY BEST

SAM

Yes, that!

SAM hops to her feet, her books still scattered at her feet.

SAM

I CANNOT EXPRESS

THE UTTER MESS

THAT MY LIFE IS

I'M A DISASTER

EVERY MORNING IS THE MORNING AFTER

IT'S ALWAYS A WALK OF SHAME

ENSEMBLE

TOTALLY ABYSMAL

EVERYTHING IS MISERABLE

IT'S THE ACTUAL LIVING WORST

WRITER suddenly slams their laptop shut in frustration. There's a flash of light and everyone stumbles and cries out as if there's an earthquake. The stage then goes black except for where WRITER is.

They slowly lift up their laptop again and the lights go back up. ENSEMBLE is scattered around the stage, some people are on the ground, some are just starting to stand up. MOVERS come on stage and start removing the broken set pieces away.

SAM is center stage. ACE (20s-30s) enters stage right holding a clipboard and wearing a baseball cap with the phrase "" on it.

ACE

Alright, people. Here are your new assignments.

He begins to pass out packets to ENSEMBLE.

ACE

Memorize them in the next thirty seconds because once two A.M. hits we've got about twenty pages of sudden inspiration coming our way.

He drops an aggressively large stack of papers onto SAM's lap.

ACE

Spoiler alert...it's terrible.

SAM stares down at the stack of papers for a beat before pushing herself off of the ground, struggling to do so with the large stack.

SAM

What's going on? This is completely different from the stuff we were doing before.

ACE

That's because our writer is starting from scratch.

Everyone gasps in the most overdramatic way.

ACE

I know, it's very shocking yada yada ya. Let's swiftly move on from that and get studying because we don't have much time.

SAM

Where's Tim? He usually gives us big news like this.

ACE

The writer decided to go in a different direction. Ya know, wanted different things than Tim did.

SAM

What does that mean?

ACE

It means this novel is under new management.

Everyone gasps again, breaking out into chaotic chatter.

MAN

Tim was the best editor we've ever had! He caught all of the grammar mistakes. Even the really really hard ones like there, their and they're.

ACE

Yes, Tim was great at grammar and he wore boat shoes and spoke like an inspirational cat poster. But, he's gone now and I'm in charge. So, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, you can direct them to me.

ZACK (20s-30s) raises his hand from the crowd.

ZACK

I have a question. I used to be the minor character of unnamed classmate, but now I'm the main character's best friend.

ACE

That's a comment not a question, but good for you. Congratulations on your upgrade.

ZACK

But...why can't I just stay as a classmate? Sam already had a best friend.

He looks around at everyone.

ZACK

Where is Sara?

ACE

The writer decided not to write Sara anymore so she no longer exists.

ACE puts his hand up cutting another gasp short.

ACE

That's just the way it is, no use getting upset over it. He fired his editor and he decided to fly solo. No editor, no problems that's what I always say.

SAM

If he fired his editor, then who are you?

ACE

My friends call me Ace.

She opens her mouth to ask something else, but he turns his back to her and faces the audience.

ACE

Now, if there are no further questions, we are on a tight schedule and this story needs to get off the ground running shortly.

ZACK

I just don't understand why we have to do this one.

ACE rubs his temples and groans, turning back to face everyone.

ACE

How do I put this delicately?

He clears his throat.

ACE

THIS WHOLE WORLD IS DISPOSABLE

A beat.

ACE

AS LONG AS HIS THUMBS ARE OPPOSABLE

WITH THE PUSH OF A BUTTON
YOU'RE REDUCED TO NOTHIN'
ERADICATED
DISINTEGRATED
COMPLETELY ELIMINATED
SELECT ALL DELETE
THE MOTTO OF DEFEAT
FROM FIFTY PAGES DOWN TO ZERO
GUESS WHAT KID?

He points to SAM

ACE

NOW YOU'RE OUR HERO!

SAM

I don't understand. What was wrong with the old story?

ACE

Oh, you mean besides everything?

SAM

Alright, so it wasn't perfect. That doesn't mean it couldn't have been workshopped or something. Tim always said that anything was worth working for if you care about it.

ACE

I guess our writer didn't care about it anymore. He gave up.

SAM

But, I don't want to be a hero.

ACE

I hate to break it to you, Babycakes, but you've got no choice. Let me spell this out.

*ACE tosses his clipboard back and
gestures to WRITER.*

ACE

YOU'RE JUST A FIGMENT OF SOMEBODY'S IMAGINATION

YOUR ENTIRE EXISTENCE IS ONE BIG SIMULATION

YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE

ANY LITTLE PART OF YOUR LIFE

DON'T YOU COMPLAIN

BECAUSE YOU'RE PREY

FORCED TO OBEY THE

SELECT ALL DELETE

YOU'RE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT

CLICKITY CLICK GONE GONE GONE

NOW YOU'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE

*HE puts his arm around SAM's
shoulders.*

ACE

NOW I KNOW IT'S A HARD TRUTH TO FACE

WHEN YOUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN ERASED

BUT YOU HAVE TO JUST EMBRACE THE

SELECT ALL DELETE

ENSEMBLE

SELECT ALL DELETE

ACE

SELECT ALL DELETE

ENSEMBLE

SELECT ALL DELETE

ACE

BADOP DA DEE DOP BADA DOO DOW

*ACE continues to scat over
ENSEMBLE singing.*

ENSEMBLE

SELECT ALL DELETE

YOU'RE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT

CLICKITY CLICK GONE GONE GONE

NOW YOU'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE

ACE

SELECT

ALL

DELETE

*ACE remains frozen in a pose for a
beat before hastily exiting off stage
left.*

SCENE 2

ENSEMBLE looks over their respective papers, some happily, some unhappily or confused. SAM tries to thumb through her pages but drops the whole stack on the floor sending papers everywhere.

SAM

Damn it!

She bends down to pick up the papers and ZACK and DESTINY (Late teens, early 20s) rush over to help her. DESTINY picks up the majority of the stack while ZACK is only able to grab one or two pieces of paper. They both try and help her up at the same time.

SAM

Thanks guys.

ZACK AND DESTINY

No problem!

ZACK

I'm Zack, we're-

DESTINY

I'm Destiny! I'm your sister!

ZACK glares at her.

SAM

I have a sister?

DESTINY

Yeah, we're super duper close because our parents are dead.

SAM

They are...? That's terrible.

DESTINY

It's okay.

She looks up and puts a hand on her heart. A single spotlight is on her.

DESTINY

We know they're in a better place.

Angelic music begins to play as she remains frozen for a beat. ZACK and SAM look around for the source of the music. The music stops abruptly and lighting goes back to normal.

DESTINY

You should really get to work on studying these notes.

She passes the stack to SAM.

SAM

I know, I just don't know how I'm supposed to even begin with all of this.

ZACK

I can help you!

DESTINY

Me too! I can read it to you if you'd like.

DESTINY clears her throat.

DESTINY

Saaaaammmmmm-

SAM

That's okay, Destiny. I think I just need to go through it on my own.

SAM begins to read and DESTINY and ZACK step closer to read over her shoulders on either side of her. She looks back at them.

SAM

You know, alone.

They nod enthusiastically, continuing to look over her shoulders.

SAM

By myself.

Finally understanding, they both exit arguing quietly to each other. SAM flips over the first page and sits on the stage.

A beat.

She lays down on her stomach.

A beat.

She rolls onto her back.

A beat.

She slams the papers down beside her and gets up.

SAM

HOW DO I KNOW WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO BE?

BY MEMORIZING SOMEBODY'S

IDEA OF ME

IF I'M JUST A THING SOMEONE DESIGNED

THEN WHY DO I

HAVE AN ACHE DEEP INSIDE

I GUESS THE ONLY WAY TO UNDERSTAND

WHO THE HELL I EVEN AM

IS BY READING OVER THE PLOT DIAGRAM

I WISH I KNEW WHAT I WANTED TO BE

ALL RESERVED OR WILD AND FREE

I HONESTLY

AM FEELING SO INCOMPLETE

I JUST WANT TO SEE WHERE I BELONG

THIS ALL JUST FEELS SO WRONG

WHAT IF THIS ISN'T THE PLACE

THAT I'M MEANT TO STAY IN

I GUESS THE ONLY WAY TO UNDERSTAND

WHO THE HELL I EVEN AM
IS BY READING OVER THE PLOT DIAGRAM

*ACE enters from stage right, a long,
coiled up rope slung over his
shoulder. He gives SAM a nod and
continues to walk towards the left.*

SAM

Wait, Ace.

He stops.

SAM

There's a lot about what happens to me throughout the story in these notes, but there's not a lot about who I am.

*ACE drops the rope on the floor with a
THUNK and walks over to where she's
standing.*

ACE

You having a little identity crisis, huh?

SAM

It feels like everyone else is so much more developed than I am.

ACE

What's so bad about that? You have room to grow into who ever you want. Everything is up to you.

SAM

So, I don't have to be the hero?

ACE

No, that's not up to you.

SAM sighs, looking over at the rope.

SAM

What's with the rope?

A hand reaches from off stage and starts rapidly pulling the rope behind the curtain.

ACE

What rope?

SAM stares on in confusion.

ACE

Well, I have things to be doing. I better be going.

He starts to head off stage.

ACE

Good luck with your crisis!

He exits.

A beat.

SAM

HOW DO I KNOW WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO BE
BY MEMORIZING SOMEBODY'S
IDEA OF ME
I'M JUST A THING SOMEONE DESIGNED

BUT I'VE GOT AN ACHE DEEP INSIDE

ENSEMBLE members act the events of SAM's life while she sings in a vague montage like way.

SAM

I GUESS THE ONLY WAY TO UNDERSTAND

WHO THE HELL I EVEN AM

IS BY READING OVER THE PLOT DIAGRAM

She starts throwing the pages back one by one as she's reading them.

SAM

I GUESS THE ONLY WAY TO UNDERSTAND

WHO THE HELL I EVEN AM

IS BY READING OVER THE PLOT DIAGRAM

She throws the rest of the pages up in the air in frustration and sinks down into the pile.

SAM

IS BY READING OVER THE PLOT DIAGRAM

SCENE 3

The set is now loosely resembling some sort of town. It should look like a child has constructed it with buildings made out of cardboard and street signs made with duct tape and paper. ENSEMBLE are reading

*either off their phones or
newspapers.*

ENSEMBLE

LIFE IN...

*They hold out the word "in" while
looking around and the buildings,
street signs, each other and what
they're reading.*

ENSEMBLE

UNNAMED TOWN

IS ABOUT TO TURN AROUND

WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A HERO

NO MORE LIVING IN FEAR OF CONSTANT CRIME

LIFE'S ABOUT TO TURN AROUND ON A DIME

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?

*As if on cue, ACE emerges from the
crowd. His hat now has a piece of
paper taped to it that says 'breaking
news'.*

ACE

The way it happened was so cool, so insane, so unbelievable that you just have to believe it.

*ENSEMBLE are all talking over
each other trying to guess what
might have happened. ACE holds up
his hand for them to be quiet. He*

clears his throat for an excessive amount of time. They collectively urge him to go on, frustrated.

ACE

EVERY HERO GETS THEIR POWERS FROM A TRAGIC EVENT

A SPIDER BITE OR TOXIC AIR FROM A VENT

IT WAS A FIERY EXPLOSION WHEN HER DAD CRASHED THE CAR

AND A VAMP AND A WEREWOLF SMELLED THE BLOOD FROM AFAR

ENSEMBLE collectively gasps and leans in to what they're reading.

ACE

THEY BOTH RUSHED OVER WITH A HUNGER

LIKE NO OTHER

ENSEMBLE

AND THEN?

AND THEN?

ACE

THEY BOTH TOOK A BITE AT THE SAME TIME

'NEATH THE BEAMS OF A BLUE MOONS LIGHT

ENSEMBLE

AND THEN?

AND THEN?

ACE

AND SUDDENLY SHE'S STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

ENSEMBLE

LIGHTNING?

ACE

ELECTRICITY FILLS HER BODY WITH A ZING

ENSEMBLE

WITH A ZING!

ACE

AS SHE RISES TO HER FEET THE GROUND BEGINS TO SHAKE

EVERY TIME SHE TAKES A STEP THINGS TUMBLE IN HER WAKE

SUPER CHARGED

BURNED AND CHARRED

BECOMING THE NEXT SUPERSTAR

*He kicks over one of the buildings to
stand on to make himself taller.*

ACE

And her powers!

ENSEMBLE

AND HER POWERS?

ACE

AND HER POWERS

ENSEMBLE

AND HER POWERS?

NEWT runs on stage right, dressed very classically like a bank robber carrying a sack that reads 'definitely not money'.

ACE

I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THEM BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME

BECAUSE LOOK OVER THERE, HE'S COMMITTING A CRIME

ACE points to NEWT who is picking up the box that says bank and is dumping Monopoly money out of it into the bag. SAM and ZACK run on stage left. ACE hops off the box and rips off the paper on his hat. He runs over towards stage left.

ACE

COME ON KID, IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE

ACE exits.

ZACK hops into a fighting stance.

ZACK

Alright, here we go. What's the plan?

SAM looks around uncomfortably.

SAM

The plan. Right. I definitely have one of those.

ZACK

Hit me with it.

SAM

It's a really good one.

ZACK

Let's hear it.

A beat.

SAM

Well, what do you think the plan is? You know, if you were to take a guess.

ZACK comes out of his stance to think about this.

ZACK

I'd assume it involves tricking him into putting down the sack so we can grab it.

SAM

Right. And you know how we're going to do that, don't you?

ZACK

Are we gonna throw something for him to catch? Ya know, something big that he needs both hands to catch.

SAM nods enthusiastically, looking around for something to throw.

SAM

That's a great idea.

ZACK

Wait, was that not what you had in mind?

SAM

What? No, of course it was. That's exactly what I had in mind.

Conveniently, an inflatable bowling ball is rolled onto the stage. SAM picks it up and hands it to ZACK.

SAM

Here, throw this at him.

ZACK

(shouting)

Hey dude! Think fast!

ZACK throws the ball at NEWT at full speed. He drops the sack in shock and is taken out completely with the ball. SAM walks over and picks up the sack.

ENSEMBLE cheers, lifting SAM up and chanting her name. ZACK stands awkwardly to the side, half heartedly cheering along. ENSEMBLE lowers her to the ground and they start asking her questions all at once.

NEWT sits up and watches on for a beat. WEASELS poke their heads on stage right and gesture for him to run over. Realizing everyone is distracted, he slowly grabs at the sack. ZACK notices.

ZACK

Hey Sam! He's up again.

SAM is absorbed in the moment.

SAM

It was no big deal really. The idea just came to me.

Looking from SAM to NEWT, ZACK steps on the sack just as NEWT tries to yank it away. NEWT springs up and runs off. Everyone misses this. ZACK dumps the money back into the Bank-labeled box as the crowd begins to disperse.

ZACK

Hey, Sam?

SAM

Yeah?

A beat.

ZACK

Never mind.

He exits leaving SAM alone on stage. She looks up.

SAM

What am I supposed to do?

She is met with silence.

SAM

I have no idea how to be a hero.

Silence.

SAM

Hello??????

More silence. Defeated, SAM exits.

SCENE 4

*ACE is sitting cross legged center stage in a robe and eating a donut.
He is reading a stack of papers.*

ACE

THE FLOWERY OUTDATED

VIBRANT YET FADED

BRIGHT BLUE CURTAINS

CAN JUST BE BLUE

EVERY ENGLISH TEACHER

LITERARY PREACHER

HAS JUST BEEN LYING TO YOU

ACE ties his robe and stands.

ACE

NO ONE WANTS TO READ IT

IF IT'S OVER SEASONED WITH

ADJECTIVES ADJECTIVES ADJECTIVES

ADJECTIVES ADJECTIVES ADJECTIVES

ADJECTIVES ADJECTIVES ADJECTIVES

*He breaks out of his frustrated
trance, shaking his head.*

ACE

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS AMOUNT?

ARE YOU JUST UPING THE WORD COUNT?

ARE YOU TRYING TO BE SMART?

BECAUSE THIS PARAGRAPH IS FALLING APART

LET'S SEE

HOW MANY OF THESE

ARE WORDS YOU DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW

*ACE whips a red pen out of his
pocket. He starts to mark the pages
with the pen.*

ACE

I SEE ONE

NO TWO

NO THREE FOUR FIVE SIX SEVEN EIGHT

WHAT THE HELL IS ELUCIDATE

THE THESAURUS IS NOT YOUR BEST FRIEND

ACE rolls up the stack of papers and sticks them in his pocket.

ACE

It doesn't even sound like you wrote this.

There's a beat as ACE nods as if listening to a voice we can't hear.

ACE

So, just don't think. Let the writing come to you. And when all else fails, just add unnecessary drama!

A beat.

ACE

CONFLICT IS THE KEY

TO MAKING A GOOD STORY

WRITER starts typing passionately and ACE exits stage left.

Scene 5

The stage is set for the town. ENSEMBLE is moving around the stage, going about their daily lives. SAM enters stage right, closely followed by DESTINY.

DESTINY

Come on, Sam. I'm your sister. You know you can always talk to me.

SAM stops.

SAM

Well, what if I don't know that?

DESTINY

What do you mean?

SAM

Look, Destiny. I just don't want to talk about it okay?

DESTINY

Okay, that's fine, but if you change your mind I'm here.

*SAM groans, throwing her head back
overdramatically.*

SAM

Just let it go, Destiny.

DESTINY

I am, I just-

SAM

You're always so up in my business. Don't you have a life of your own?

DESTINY

Excuse me?

SAM

WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE WHATEVER I DO

YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO DO IT TOO?

*The line gets deleted and replaced
and SAM moves as if someone is
hitting rewind.*

SAM

YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT TOO?

YOU'RE SO INVESTED IN ME

WHY CAN'T YOU SEE

I WANT YOU TO LEAVE ME BE?

DESTINY

MAYBE BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU

She reverses.

DESTINY

ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO YOU

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WHY DOES THIS BOTHER YOU?

She reverses again.

DESTINY

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

SAM

LEAVE ME ALONE

GIVE ME SOME SPACE

STOP ALWAYS BEING

SAM reverses.

SAM

YOU'RE ALWAYS IN

SAM reverses again.

SAM

JUST GET OUT OF MY FACE!

*ENSEMBLE are all watching the
fight now.*

DESTINY

Sam...

*DESTINY gently puts a hand on
SAM's shoulder.*

DESTINY

YOU'RE ALL I HAVE

AFTER WE LOST MOM AND DAD

SO I GUESS I CAN BE OVERB-

DESTINY reverses.

DESTINY

BE KINDA CLINGY

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY

IS DON'T PUSH ME AWAY

I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING

SAM whirls around.

SAM

You don't know how I feel. I don't even know how I feel. That accident ruined my...

SAM reverses.

SAM

That accident was the worst thing...

She reverses again.

SAM

THAT ACCIDENT NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED

IF YOU JUST HADN'T

MADE US GET IN THE CAR IN THE FIRST PLACE

DESTINY gasps.

SAM

MOM AND DAD WOULD BE ALIVE

DESTINY

ARE YOU SAYING IT'S MY FAULT THEY DIED?

A beat.

SAM

ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY...

DESTINY

ALL YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY

SAM

ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY

DESTINY

ALL YOUR TRYING TO SAY

SAM

ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY IS IT NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED

IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU

SAM appears shocked by her own words.

DESTINY

Nice...

DESTINY exits. ENSEMBLE looks at SAM whispering to themselves. She folds her arms over her chest uncomfortably as they filter off stage leaving her alone. SAM looks up to the ceiling.

SAM

I DIDN'T MEAN IT

Scene 6

SAM

Why did I say that? Why was I even mad at her at all?

A beat.

SAM

Am I even a good person?

Silence.

SAM

Hello????

ZACK enters stage left. He stares at SAM as she shouts before walking over to her.

ZACK

Who are you yelling at?

SAM jumps, looking from ZACK to the ceiling and then back to ZACK with a sigh.

SAM

Apparently no one.

ZACK

Why are you yelling at no one?

SAM

It doesn't matter.

A beat.

SAM

Zack, do you think I'm a good person?

ZACK

(Enthusiastically)

Of course you are.

SAM

Why do you think that?

ZACK

Because you're a super hero!

SAM

Yeah, but that doesn't automatically mean I'm a good person.

ZACK

Well, you're the main character.

SAM

That doesn't mean anything either.

ZACK is silent, stumped.

SAM

I mean...like a quality. Something about who I am not what I am.

*ZACK thinks way too hard about this
before finally coming up with
something.*

ZACK

OH! You have brown* hair!

** This could be replaced with
whatever color hair the actress/actor
has.*

SAM

That's...that's not...

She sighs.

SAM

I just don't feel like a good hero.

ZACK

Aw, come on, Sam. Don't feel like that! You're a great hero. I mean, everyone thinks you're so cool! And you have all those awesome powers...

A beat.

ZACK

I don't know what they are but you have 'em! That's why you're the hero and I'm the side kick. The only thing I contribute is my passionate, undying urge to step in for a society suffering because of their corrupt criminal justice system that never steps in just like they didn't step in when my family was taken by a cult and were never seen again driving me to develop outstanding problem solving and detective skills.

A beat.

ZACK

(uncertain)

But you! Real hero material...

He laughs nervously. A loud alarm sounds and the lights go out.

Scene 7

Lights up.

ACE enters stage left with a piece of paper that says "narrator" taped to his hat. Projected on the screen is a paragraph that ACE is also reading.

All while he is speaking SAM and ZACK are miming out stopping WEASELS committing petty crimes. ZACK solves each one and then SAM does the final step and takes all of the credit.

ACE

CRIME AFTER CRIME, ZACK'S FRONTED SMILE IS WEARING THIN.

WITH HIS GROWINGLY CLEVER IDEAS, SAM ONLY GAINED MORE AND MORE WINS.

SHIVERING FROM LIVING IN THE COLD OF SAM'S SHADOW, ZACK FEELS RESENTMENT GROWING WITHIN.

A RESENTMENT THAT WOULDN'T BE REPRESSED AS HARD AS HE TRIES.

BY THE TIME THE COLD OF WINTER COMES, HE IS REACHING THE END OF THE LINE.

ACE runs off stage right as WEASELS run on. PIP grabs OLD WOMAN's purse.

OLD WOMAN

Oh heavens! My purse!

ZACK sprints across the stage, tackling PIP to the ground. They struggle for a beat before ZACK grabs the purse. He hands it to SAM as MELON and BASSOON start attacking him. SAM gives the purse back to OLD WOMAN.

OLD WOMAN

Thank you, Deary.

WEASELS overpower ZACK, leaving him on the ground and running off stage right as ENSEMBLE is chanting SAM's name. ZACK gets up and brushes himself off. ENSEMBLE runs off stage left cheering and SAM goes to follow them. She stops to look back at ZACK.

SAM

Zack, are you coming? They're throwing a parade downtown.

ACE pokes his head out on stage right. He recites what's projected.

ACE

AND THROUGH A FAKE SMILE HE SAYS

ZACK

Yeah, I'll catch up with you in a minute.

SAM

Are you okay?

ACE

IN AN UNCONVINCING LIE

HE REPLIES

ZACK

I'm great!

SAM exits stage left.

ACE

BUT ZACK IS SAD

Scene 8

ACE disappears behind the curtain briefly before walking onto stage fully with a cardboard cloud hanging around his neck and a spray bottle in his hand. His hat now has the a paper on it that reads "rain". He sprays Zack repeatedly. QUARTET

*rises slowly out of cardboard boxes
singing "Ooo"s.*

ZACK

WHY IS IT THAT WHEN YOU HURT IT ALWAYS RAINS?

QUARTET

IT ALWAYS RAINS

ZACK

HOW COME IT GETS SO COLD WHEN YOU'RE IN PAIN?

QUARTET

PAIN

ZACK

IF I COULD HAVE A MOMENT IN THE SUN

JUST ONE

I WANT NOTHING MORE

THAN TO BE THE ONE THEY'RE CHEERING FOR

QUARTET

CHEERING FOR

ZACK

I DON'T WANNA BE THE LESSER HALF

TO SOMEBODY'S HAPPY EVER AFTER

IT'S A DISASTER

TO BE INVISIBLE

NEXT TO THE IRRESISTIBLE

IT'S BAD

AND I'M SAD

ACE is following ZACK around the stage as he sings still spraying him with the water.

ZACK

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN YOUR SHADOW?

QUARTET

LIVE IN YOUR SHADOW

ZACK

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE NOT TO MATTER AT ALL?

QUARTET

MATTER AT ALL

ZACK

IF I COULD HAVE A MOMENT IN THE SUN

JUST ONE

I WANT NOTHING MORE

THAN TO BE THE ONE THEY'RE CHEERING FOR

I DON'T WANNA BE THE LESSER HALF

TO SOMEBODY'S HAPPY EVER AFTER

IT'S A DISASTER

TO BE INVISIBLE

NEXT TO THE IRRESISTIBLE

IT'S BAD

AND I'M SAD

ZACK lays down on the floor.

ZACK

AND ALONE

*ACE unscrews the cap on the spray
bottle and dumps the water onto
ZACK's face.*

ZACK

AND MISERABLE

IT'S BAD

AND I'M-

*ZACK angrily slams his fists on the
stage and jumps up.*

ZACK

DO YOU KNOW HOW I'VE BEEN FEELING LATELY?

I BET YOU DON'T BECAUSE YOU DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME

QUARTET

ANY ATTENTION

ANY ATTENTION

ZACK

I DON'T WANNA BE THE LESSER HALF

TO SOMEBODY'S HAPPY EVER AFTER

IT'S A DISASTER

TO BE INVISIBLE

NEXT TO THE IRRESISTIBLE

IT'S BAD

AND I'M SAD

ZACK hums sadly. Lights out.

Scene 9

Lights up. A small space on the right side of the stage is set with a blow up mattress and a mirror. SAM is laying on the ground in a pile of confetti on the left side.

Other ENSEMBLE members are pushing themselves up and walking off the stage in various directions. SAM sits up, rubbing her head. She looks at her wrist and sighs. ACE pokes his head on stage left. A paper that says 'narrator' is taped to his hat. He is reciting the paragraph that's projected.

ACE

And here we have our hero, all washed up and hungover. It's rare that Sam drinks, but the festivities clearly got away from her. It's to be expected that she would need a break from heroics at some point, but the party is over now. A hero's work is never finished.

ACE vanishes once more and SAM looks in the direction of where he was.

A beat.

She looks up at the projection.

A beat.

She faces forward again.

SAM

WOKE UP ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD A QUARTER TO ONE

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE

*SAM stands, brushing the confetti off
of her and flicking it out of her hair.*

SAM

IT'S LIKE I'M LOST IN A FIELD

I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM

I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL

IT'S A DISASTER

WHERE DO I GO

TIME GOES BY SO SLOW

WHEN I'M ALONE

THE WORDS ON THE PAGE ARE THERE

BUT ITS NOT ME I SWEAR

IT CAN'T BE THAT ALL I AM

IS A "HERO"

*DESTINY enters stage right along
with ACE who has a piece of paper*

*that says 'door' on his hat. He stands
in the front of the bedroom area.*

DESTINY

Sam-

SAM

Not now Destiny.

DESTINY

But I-

SAM

I said not now.

SAM starts to walk passed her.

DESTINY

I want to talk about our fight.

SAM stops.

SAM

(sighing)

I'm sorry for what I said, Destiny. What happened to our parents wasn't your fault...I just...I'm feeling so confused lately.

DESTINY

Well, maybe I can help.

SAM

I'd rather just figure this out on my own.

DESTINY

But...you let Zack help.

SAM

That's different. Zack is my sidekick, his job is literally to help me.

A beat.

SAM

Look, I don't want to fight with you anymore. Can we just drop it?

DESTINY

I just don't understand why you won't let me help.

SAM

You're always getting in the way! Just let me deal with it and let. Me. Live!

SAM swings ACE as if he were a door and walks through. SAM swings him back sharply and he simultaneously stomps and claps.

A beat.

DESTINY exits.

SAM

SWEAT DRIPPING DOWN MY FACE LIKE WATER ON A LEAF

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THINK

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BELIEVE

SAM looks in the mirror grabbing the sides of it.

SAM

LOOKING IN THE MIRROR FOR ME

BUT THERE'S NO ONE THERE
THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE
ONLY A DISASTER

WHERE DO I GO
TIME GOES BY SO SLOW
WHEN I'M ALONE
THE WORDS ON THE PAGES ARE THERE
BUT IT'S NOT ME I SWEAR
IT CAN'T BE THAT ALL I AM
IS A "HERO"

A "HERO"

A "HERO"

A "HERO"

*SAM flops down on the mattress
dramatically.*

SAM

WHERE DO I GO
TIME GOES BY SO SLOW
WHEN I'M ALONE

Lights out.

Scene 10

Lights up. ZACK is alone on stage sitting with his feet hanging over the edge and holding a loaf of bread. He is miming throwing bread to ducks (aka out towards the audience).

LENA enters stage right. She watches ZACK for a beat.

LENA

Ya know if you feed ducks bread they die, right?

ZACK turns his head to LENA before looking back at his hands at the bread horrified.

ZACK

Oh no...

LENA

(Dismissively)

Eh, they're just ducks.

A beat.

LENA sits down beside ZACK.

LENA

I, on the other hand, will not die from eating bread.

ZACK nods slowly, not understanding.

ZACK

That's good.

LENA stares expectantly at ZACK, holding out her hands. ZACK looks

*at her hands and then at her face
confused.*

A beat.

ZACK

(Finally understanding)

Oh!

He passes LENA a slice of bread.

LENA

Thanks.

A beat.

LENA

So, what's got you down, Zacky boy?

ZACK

Oh...it's nothing...

LENA

(With her mouth full)

Okay.

ZACK

Really, I'm fine.

LENA

(Mouth still full)

Alright, good.

ZACK

Nothing bothering me whatsoever...

LENA gives ZACK a thumbs up.

ZACK

Alright, you wore me down. I'm completely miserable.

LENA nods slowly, still eating the bread.

ZACK

I mean, I come up with all of the plans! I'm the one who's got all of the ideas! Yet, I get no credit. None. I don't even think Sam appreciates me.

LENA

You should join the Weasels.

ZACK

(shocked)

I'm not going to become a criminal.

LENA

Oh, come on! Why not? Rodney's the greatest. He hosts the best parties for us and every Sunday he makes a big pancake brunch...

LENA looks out over the audience and sighs.

LENA

Rodney would never make you feel unappreciated.

ZACK follows LENA's gaze over the audience, seeming to consider for a beat.

ZACK

(regrouping)

Rodney Weasel is a criminal. I will never *ever* join his gang.

LENA

I thought you might say that.

She stands and WEASELS enter stage right, all snapping and wearing leather jackets and sunglasses. ZACK looks on in fear, jumping up as well. Intense music plays for a beat. WEASELS throw off their leather jackets and sunglasses.

WEASELS

YOU FEEL LIKE SUCH A LOSER

LIKE THERE IS NO ONE WHO CARES ABOUT YOU

POOR LONELY PATHETIC ZACK

ZACK

Hey!

WEASELS

WE'VE GOT THE ANSWERS TO ALL YOUR PROBLEMS

INTRODUCING

BASSOON

(overlapping)

WE'VE NEVER SPOKEN BEFORE THIS

WEASELS

(overlapping)

FOR THE FIRST TIME

BASSOON

(overlapping)

BUT THE WRITER DECIDED THAT WE'RE IMPORTANT

WEASELS

(overlapping)

THE CHAMPIONS

OF COMMITTING CRIME

BASSOON

(overlapping)

SO

WEASELS

WE ARE

ROD DA DA DA

DA DA DA DA

RODNEY'S WEASELS

BASSOON

RODNEY'S WEASELS

*PIP and MELON stand on either
side of ZACK.*

PIP

SO YOU'RE NOT PERFECT

ACTUALLY YOU HAVE MORE FLAWS THAN I CAN COUNT

BUT WE CAN FIX...

PIP and MELON look to each other.

A beat.

MELON

MOST OF THEM

IF YOU JOIN US NOW

LENA

YOU LET PEOPLE WALK ALL OVER YOU

BASSOON

PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ORPHAN

NEWT

(overlapping)

BUT WITH US

WEASELS

YOU CAN HAVE A FAMILY

FAMILY

NEWT

RODNEY MAKES US SANDWICHES

WITH THE BEST BREAD

WEASELS

AND ALTHOUGH HE CAN'T GO OUTSIDE

WE STILL HAVE FUN

NEWT

WE HAVE SLEEPOVERS

AND PILLOW FIGHTS

PIP

WE DO COCAINE

ON THURSD-

MELON

(overlapping)

WE THROW PARTIES

AND DO GAME NIGHTS

LENA

BUT WE CAN'T PLAY MONOPOLY

WEASELS

BECAUSE

ZACK

Did you say cocaine...?

*WEASELS look at each other for a
beat.*

WEASELS

IT GOT TOO COMPETITIVE

AND SOMEONE ALMOST DIED

BUT BESIDES THAT

WE'RE A GREAT TIME

WEASELS are jamming out to themselves. ZACK stands awkwardly left out. LENA claps to get their attention and they clear their throats.

WEASELS

IF YOU'RE FEELING DOWN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO
DITCH YOUR AWFUL FRIEND AND THEN
JOIN OUR CREW

WEASELS wait expectantly in an end pose for ZACK's answer.

A beat.

ZACK

I'm gonna have to pass.

WEASELS deflate.

LENA

Well...if you change your mind, Rodney's always looking for recruits.

She starts to walk off.

LENA

And Rodney's not going anywhere.

She exits.

BASSOON & NEWT

WE WILL WAIT FOR YOU

WEASELS are slowly moving off stage on either side.

WEASELS

FOR YOU

FOR YOU

FOR YOU

WEASELS exit. ZACK is left alone on the stage. He stares out over the audience.

Blackout.

Scene 11

A single spotlight is on ACE stage left. His hat has a piece of paper reading "newspaper" on it. Projected on the screen is a newspaper article talking about RODNEY WEASEL's death.

Sad organ music is playing in the background. Colored lights to represent stained glass church windows are shining against the back wall.

WEASELS walk on stage dressed in black, carrying a cardboard box that reads 'casket'. They are humming overdramatically.

ACE

On May 1st, 2020 at approximately 10:47 AM, Rodney Weasel tragically passed away after tripping over his untied shoelaces trying to leave his house for the first time in five years. In the

aftermath of his death, his gang of followers have all been apprehended and imprisoned. The streets are once again safe and the town is at peace.

The lights and music fade out slowly.

ACE

The people no longer live in fear, and the need for a hero is almost nonexistent.

Scene 12

Lights up. ENSEMBLE is scattered around stage going about their day.

SAM and ZACK sit center stage playing Jenga. ZACK is staring intently at the Jenga tower.

A beat.

SAM

(frustrated)

Can you just go already?

ZACK

I'm going, I'm going!

He reaches cautiously for a block towards the top of the tower. DESTINY enters stage right and runs over to ZACK and SAM.

DESTINY

Ooo, Jenga! Can I -

The tower collapses.

DESTINY

Oh...

ZACK and SAM turn to her.

DESTINY

Sorry.

*They begin to wordlessly reassemble
the tower.*

DESTINY

So, can I join?

ZACK

(overlapping)

Yeah sure.

SAM

(overlapping)

If you want.

*She plops down and the tower once
again tumbles to the ground.*

ZACK

You know what? I don't feel like playing Jenga anymore.

*He stands and SAM starts to put the
jenga pieces away.*

ZACK

This is going to sound weird but... I miss the weasels.

DESTINY

(shocked)

Why?

ZACK

It's so boring without them. We have absolutely nothing to do.

*SAM finishes putting the blocks away
and both her and DESTINY stand as
well.*

SAM

If anything, I'm relieved. Hopefully it stays this peaceful.

*A loud ominous strumming of strings
echoes. Everyone looks around for
the source. ACE's head emerges out
of the top of the tallest box. His hat
has a paper that says "narrator" on
it. He sings soulfully as he descends.
The front piece of the box lowers as
he does so. The front piece stops
lowering and he disappears from
sight.*

A beat.

*He kicks down the front of the box
and it stretches out in front of him
like a red carpet. He slowly walks
down it.*

ACE

THE STORY IS GETTING DULL

THE PLOTLINE IS HITTING A LULL

THE WEASELS ARE ALL IN JAIL

WHERE ALL OF THEIR BREAD IS STALE

THERE'S NO THREAT NOW

IT'S A PEACEFUL TOWN

He kicks the Jenga box across the stage and the lights begin to turn red.

ACE

BUT WITHOUT ANY TRAUMA
 THE STORY IS LACKING DRAMA
 PEOPLE ARE CRAVING CONFLICT
 NOT SOMETHING THEY CAN PREDICT
 THEY'RE NOT HAPPY
 THEY THINK IT'S TACKY

WHEN A HERO ALWAYS WINS
 JUST BECAUSE THERE'S NO REAL VILLAIN
 SOMEONE WHO'S PURE EVIL
 SOMEONE WHO'S CAPABLE
 OF THE UNTHINKABLE
 AND THAT SOMEONE IS...

Everyone leans in in anticipation.

ACE

A MASTERMIND A LEGEND

Exasperation is expressed by everyone.

ACE

STRONGER THAN HELL OR HEAVEN

HE'S YOUR THREAT NOW

ACE points to SAM.

ACE

PREPARE FOR THE SHOWDOWN

*ACE moves back on to the red
carpet. He walks backwards back
into the box.*

ACE

ARE YOU READY?

Sound the drums!

WATCH OUT

He seals himself into the box.

A beat.

*He leaps out carrying a scepter and
wearing a cape.*

ACE

HERE HE COMES

*ACE dramatically throws his cape
behind him.*

ACE

INTRODUCING

FOR THE ONLY TIME

IT

He grabs the brim of his hat.

ACE

IS

*He turns his hat backwards
revealing "Villain" in big bold
lettering on the back.*

ACE

I

*The same loud ominous strumming
of strings echoes.*

A beat.

ACE

Why is no one reacting?

Stunned silence.

ACE

(slightly disheartened)

Oh come on! You all love to gasp and now, after I've prepared this whole big reveal, nothing?

A beat.

DESTINY

Well, usually when someone says "it is I" they finish off with their name.

ACE

You already know my name.

DESTINY

Yeah, but I thought maybe you would have a cool villain name.

ACE bangs his scepter on the ground.

ACE

(yelling)

Ace is a cool villain name.

*A rumble seemingly shakes the stage.
ENSEMBLE cowers in response.*

ZACK

Of course it is!

*ZACK laughs nervously and puts his
hands on DESTINY's shoulders.*

ZACK

What she meant to say was we were expecting you to say your already cool villain name in your introduction and we didn't want to interrupt you.

A beat.

ACE

(nodding)

That makes sense.

*ACE bangs his scepter on the ground
once more and ENSEMBLE is drawn
into formation around ACE against
their will almost like they're
attached to strings.*

ACE

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN

SAM

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

DESTINY & ZACK

THERE'S NO WAY IT CAN

ACE

MY GRAND ENTRANCE

Part two!

*ACE moves his scepter causing
ENSEMBLE to sing and dance.*

ENSEMBLE

HE'S A MASTERMIND A LEGEND

STRONGER THAN HELL OR HEAVEN

HE'S YOUR THREAT NOW

PREPARE FOR THE SHOWDOWN

ARE YOU READY?

SOUND THE DRUMS

WATCH OUT

HERE HE COMES

ACE

YEAH

ENSEMBLE

COWER COWER COWER

ACE

FALL TO YOUR KNEES

ENSEMBLE

BEFORE THE ALMIGHTY POWER

ACE

BEFORE THE EEEEEEEEEEE-

ACE carries on for a beat too long.

ACE

-VIL

ENSEMBLE

MASTERMIND LEGEND

STRONGER THAN HELL OR HEAVEN

HE'S YOUR THREAT NOW

ACE

BOW DOWN

ENSEMBLE

IT IS

ACE

IT IS I-

*ACE raises his scepter releasing
ENSEMBLE to from their trance.*

ACE

ACE

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Scene 1

Lights up stage left. WEASELS are sitting behind the bars of a jail cell.

BASSOON is running a tin can across the bars. The others are banging them on various objects and the floor. LENA is holding the bars.

LENA

IT'S A TYPICAL PRISON DAY

AND AS A TYPICAL INMATE

I'M STRESSED AND DEPRESSED

AND I'M JUST TRYING MY BEST

LENA & MELON

STRESSED AND DEPRESSED

WEASELS JUST TRYING OUR BEST

LENA, PIP & MELON

STRESSED AND DEPRESSED

WEASELS JUST TRYING OUR BEST

WEASELS

STRESSED AND DEPRESSED

WEASELS JUST TRYING OUR BEST

STRESSED AND DEPRESSED

WEASELS JUST TRYING OUR BEST

BASSOON

(overlapping)

RODNEY'S DEAD

BASSOON loses himself in the moment. LENA puts out her hand to cut him off.

LENA

Bassoon! Please...

A beat.

LENA

I CANNOT EXPRESS

THE PAIN IN MY CHEST

THAT I FEEL

WHEN I REMEMBER

RODNEY, RODNEY

DEAD IN THE STREETS

*WEASELS drop their tin cans and
flop into dramatic sad poses.*

WEASELS

TOTALLY ABYSMAL

EVERYTHING IS MISERABLE

RODNEY'S DEAD AND THE BREAD IS STALE

BASSOON

(overlapping)

RODNEY'S DEAD

*WEASELS repeat this a few times all
slowly joining in with BASSOON.
ACE runs on stage left. He takes the
bars away and frees WEASELS. They
cheer and celebrate.*

ACE

Come on guys, let's go wreak some havoc!

*WEASELS all put their fists in the
air.*

WEASELS

FOR RODNEY

ACE

No! I set you free. I'm your leader now.

A beat.

WEASELS remain frozen in their poses.

WEASELS

LONG LIVE RODNEY

ACE

(sighing)

Fine! Let's just go.

ACE exits stage left closely followed by LENA and BASSOON. The rest of WEASELS remain on stage.

WEASELS

WE'RE FREE

AS CAN BE

LET'S DO THIS FOR RODNEY

Blackout.

Scene 2

SAM is pacing anxiously on stage, phone in hand.

SAM

Come on, Zack answer me already.

DESTINY enters stage right carrying two suitcases. She waits for SAM to notice her.

A beat.

DESTINY clears her throat.

SAM

(barely looking up)

Hey Destiny.

DESTINY

I'm leaving.

SAM

(not understanding)

Okay, see you later.

DESTINY

Got all my stuff packed.

SAM's phone beeps and she jumps excitedly and then deflates.

SAM

Damn it. Spam.

DESTINY

I NEED

A FAMILY

SOMEBODY TO TAKE CARE OF ME

SAM is still not paying attention, continuing to pace across the stage.

DESTINY begins to follow her, trying to get her attention.

DESTINY

I SHOULDN'T STAY

IF I JUST GET IN THE WAY
IF YOU SAY YOU DON'T NEED ME
THEN I'LL JUST LEAVE

DESTINY stops center stage.

DESTINY

I'M SORRY
I'LL GO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT ME ANYMORE

DESTINY turns to SAM.

A beat.

DESTINY

(louder)

I'M SORRY
I'LL GO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT ME ANYMORE

SAM finally looks up, stopping.

DESTINY

(softer)

I'M SORRY
I'LL GO

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT ME ANYMORE

*DESTINY stares at SAM. SAM
remains silent. DESTINY grabs her
suitcases again and exits.*

A beat.

SAM

I'M SORRY....

Scene 3

*ZACK enters stage left. SAM is still
staring at the spot where DESTINY
left.*

A beat.

ZACK taps her on the shoulder.

She whirls around.

ZACK

Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.

SAM

Destiny left.

ZACK

What?

SAM

She just packed all of her stuff and she left.

ZACK

Where did she go?

SAM

(annoyed)

How am I supposed to know?

ZACK

I'm sorry, I just thought maybe she would have told you where she was going.

SAM

Well, she didn't!

A beat.

SAM

It doesn't matter right now. We need to figure out what we're doing about Ace.

ZACK

(nodding)

Right, right...

He scratches his head, looking around the stage. His eyes lock on something and he rushes across the stage.

ZACK

What if we...

He stops.

ZACK

No, that wouldn't work.

He searches again.

ZACK

Or maybe we could...

He sighs, shaking his head.

ZACK

No, that's dangerous.

He scratches his chin for a beat and then snaps, getting a sudden idea.

ZACK

(overly excited)

We can challenge him to a Jenga tournament!

SAM

How would that possibly help?

ZACK

Oh, it wouldn't. But, it would be fun!

SAM

Come on! Take this seriously.

ZACK

Sam, he hasn't even done anything yet.

SAM

He broke the Weasels out of jail.

ZACK

Those guys are harmless, especially without Rodney.

SAM

Well...we have to be ready for whatever they're plotting.

ZACK puts his hands on SAM's shoulders.

ZACK

And we *will* be. We've got this.

A beat.

She pushes out of his grip.

SAM

You just don't understand the pressure I'm under.

ZACK

Of course I do I-

SAM

(overlapping)

-No you don't, Zack.

ZACK

Sam...I'm under just as much-

SAM

(overlapping)

-No you're not. You're not the hero Zack, I am. You're just a sidekick.

ZACK puts a hand on his chest in shock.

ZACK

(offended)

Well.

SAM

If we fail, it's all going to fall on me.

ZACK

You know what, Sam? Figure it out yourself.

ZACK exits stage left.

SAM

Zack!

Silence.

SAM

Fine! I DON'T NEED YA

I CAN COME UP WITH MY OWN IDEA

YOU WERE ONLY HOLDING ME BACK

A beat.

SAM

Zack...?

Beat.

SAM

Whatever! I'VE GOT POWERS

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THEM BUT I'VE GOT THEM

...yeah

LOOK OUT ACE

I'LL WIN THE RACE
SO GIVE UP THE CHASE
I'M GONNA I'M GONNA

A beat.

SAM

(more confidently)

I'M GONNA I'M GONNA

SAM

(suddenly defeated)

WHO AM I KIDDING
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING
HOW CAN I DO THIS ALONE
BUT STILL IF THERE'S NO OTHER WAY
I GUESS I'LL SAVE THE DAY

Come on Sam! FOCUS
THIS ISN'T HOPELESS
YOU'VE GOT SO MANY GREAT STRATEGIES

*She pauses, folding her arms across
her chest uncomfortably.*

SAM

WELL MAYBE TWO OR THREE
AND IF NOT I'M SURE

ZACK WILL COME WALKING THROUGH THAT DOOR

ANY MOMENT

ANY SECOND

HE'S ALMOST HERE NOW

*She stretches out her arms in the
direction ZACK left. Nothing
happens.*

SAM

(hopeful)

HE'S GONNA HE'S GONNA

Still nothing.

SAM

(hopeful still)

HE'S GONNA HE'S GONNA

She completely deflates.

SAM

WHO AM I KIDDING

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING

HOW CAN I DO THIS ALONE

BUT STILL IF THERE'S NO OTHER WAY

I GUESS I'LL SAVE THE DAY

I GUESS I'LL SAVE THE DAY

IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NO OTHER WAY

SO I GUESS I'LL SAVE THE DAY

I GUESS I'LL SAVE THE DAY

I GUESS I'LL SAVE THE DAY

Blackout.

Scene 4

Lights up. The set is the town. ZACK storms on stage right. He kicks a can across the stage and QUARTET rises out of the boxes singing soulful 'oos'

ZACK

DO YOU THINK THIS IS WHO I WANNA BE?

QUARTET

NO NO NO

ZACK

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I'M HAPPY?

QUARTET

NO NO NO

ZACK

DO YOU ONLY THINK ABOUT YOURSELF?

IS THAT WHY I'M LIVING IN THIS HELL?

BECAUSE YOU ONLY THINK ABOUT YOURSELF?

QUARTET

(overlapping)

THINK ABOUT YOURSELF

ZACK

I DON'T WANNA BE THE LESSER HALF

TO SOMEBODY'S HAPPY EVER AFTER

TO BE INVISIBLE

NEXT TO THE IRRESISTIBLE

I WAS SAD

NOW I'M MAD

ZACK notices the poster of him and SAM. He storms up to it and moves the box out and slightly upstage.

ZACK

WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE THAT I COULD BE A HERO

QUARTET

A HERO

ZACK

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M JUST A ZERO

QUARTET

A ZERO

ZACK

I'M FUN

I'M COOL

I'M-

*ZACK paces for a beat, trying to
think of another word.*

ZACK

I'M REALLY REALLY REALLY COOL

ZACK pushes the box away.

ZACK

I DON'T WANNA BE THE LESSER HALF

TO SOMEBODY'S HAPPY EVER AFTER

I DON'T WANNA BE INVISIBLE

NEXT TO THE IRRESISTIBLE

NOT ANYMORE

NOT ANYMORE

I DON'T WANNA BE ALONE

AND MISERABLE

NOT ANYMORE

NOT ANYMORE

*QUARTET sinks back into their
boxes.*

ZACK

DO YOU KNOW HOW I'VE BEEN FEELING LATELY?

ZACK looks around for QUARTET.

ZACK

I BET YOU DON'T BECAUSE YOU DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME

HMM...

Scene 5

ZACK is still looking around for QUARTET. They rise out of the boxes revealing themselves as WEASELS now in their masks. They are in various poses.

ZACK

(putting out his hands)

No no no no.

WEASELS jump out of the boxes, knocking them over.

WEASELS

NOW YOU FEEL LIKE GARBAGE

AND WE FEEL SORRY FOR YOU

WEASELS gather around ZACK.

WEASELS

WE HOPE THIS MEANS YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND

ABOUT JOINING OUR CREW

WEASELS hesitate for ZACK's response.

ZACK

(assertively)

No thanks.

*He begins to walk off stage but ACE,
LENA, and DESTINY walk on,
blocking his path. He backs up.*

WEASELS

(mimicking)

YES YOU'RE ALONE

AND MISERABLE

They all surround ZACK once more.

WEASELS

BUT WE'VE SURE GOT THE SOLUTION

INTRODUCING

FOR THE SECOND TIME

THE CHAMPIONS

OF COMMITTING CRIME

WE ARE

THE SPA DA DA DA DA

DA DA DA DA DA

DA DA DA DA DA DA

BASSOON

(Incoherently)

THE SPADES

A beat.

ZACK

...The what?

WEASELS repeat exactly as before.

BASSOON

(Incoherently)

THE SPADES

ZACK

Wh-

WEASELS

(interrupting)

WE'VE GOT A NEW LEADER

WE RESPECT HIM ALMOST AS MUCH

ACE

Almost?!

WEASELS

AND LOOK WHO ELSE IS HERE?

*WEASELS gesture to DESTINY.
ZACK looks at her more closely.*

ZACK

Destiny?

WEASELS

SHE WASN'T HARD TO CORRUPT

DESTINY shrugs in agreement.

ZACK

How could you do this?

DESTINY

SAM IS UNGRATEFUL

BASSOON

(overlapping)

PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE HATES YOU

DESTINY

BUT YOU WILL BE HAPPY

WEASELS

IF YOU JOIN THE

SPA DA DA DA DA

DA DA DA DA DA

DA DA DA DA DA DA

BASSOON

(incoherently)

THE SPADES

ZACK

(frustrated)

What are you saying?!

BASSOON

THE SPA-

BASSOON clears his throat.

BASSOON

The spades.

ZACK

The spades?

ACE

Yeah, ya know. I'm the Ace.

ACE gestures to himself.

ACE

Of spades.

ACE gestures to WEASELS. ZACK stands in confused silence.

ACE

Ya know, like cards.

A beat.

ZACK

I don't get it.

ACE

You don't...you know what!

ACE points a finger at him.

ACE

LISTEN UP YOU BLUES CLUES REJECT

ZACK jumps back and ACE gently puts his hands on ZACK's shoulders.

ACE

(softening)

I MEAN...

MY GOOD FRIEND

ACE moves away, extending his hand.

ACE

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE

TO TAKE MY HAND

ACE

AND CROSSOVER

TO THE DARKSIDE

WHERE YOU'LL BE

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PIP hands ACE a large photo of ZACK. A mask is poorly drawn on his face. ACE holds it out to ZACK.

WEASELS

FOR ONCE

They gesture to the picture.

WEASELS

JOIN US

A beat.

ZACK takes the picture and begins to walk over to the poster of SAM.

ZACK

(quietly)

I WON'T BE THE LESSER HALF
TO SOMEBODY'S HAPPY EVER AFTER

ACE

(to Lena)

We got 'im.

ZACK turns to them.

ZACK

What?

ACE

I said "you got this." We're so proud of you!

WEASELS quickly chime in in agreement. ZACK hesitantly looks back at the poster.

ZACK

I WON'T BE INVISIBLE
NEXT TO THE IRRESISTIBLE

ZACK puts his picture over the poster and WEASELS cheer.

ZACK

ANYMORE

BLACKOUT.

Scene 6

SAM is sitting on a mattress stage left. She is reading from a book with a cover that reads "How to Save the Day for Dummies."

SAM

Okay...let's see here...

She leans in closer to the book.

SAM

(reading)

Step one: Identify the threat.

She nods to herself.

SAM

Ace.

She turns the page.

SAM

(reading)

Step two: Assemble a team.

She looks around the empty stage.

SAM

Team...assembled...

She turns the page.

SAM

(reading)

Step three: Devise a plan.

A beat.

SAM

We'll come back to that later. Let's see what else we've got.

SAM turns the page.

SAM

(reading)

Step four: Save the day.

A beat.

SAM closes the book abruptly.

A beat.

She throws it across the stage. SAM puts her head in her hands and screams at the top of her lungs. A knock is heard. SAM lifts her head slightly.

SAM

Come in!

WEASELS, ZACK, DESTINY and ACE enter. SAM stands

WEASELS

(in layers)

HELLO

HELLO

HELLO

HELLO

Guess what?!

A beat.

WEASELS

WE'VE JUST COME TO TELL YOU

THAT WE'VE GOT YOUR FRIENDS TO TURN AGAINST YOU

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL ALONE

BUT OUR NUMBERS HAVE ONLY GROWN

INTRODUCING

FOR THE THIRD TIME

THE CHAMPIONS

OF COMMITTING CRIME

WE ARE

THE SPA DA DA DA DA

DA DA DA DA DA

DA DA DA DA DA DA

BASSOON

(incoherent)

THE SPADES

SAM stares at them, stunned.

SAM

Destiny...Zack...what are you guys doing? We're the good guys! You don't want to be with them.

ZACK and DESTINY remain silent.

SAM

Guys...?

ACE

POOR SAM

YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THEM

ALL YOU'VE DONE IS DRIVE THEM AWAY

WEASELS

YEAH

ACE

CAN'T YOU SEE

THEY WANT TO BE

WITH PEOPLE WHO APPRECIATE THEM

WEASELS

LIKE US

They all start backing off stage.

SO BUH BUH BYE

BUH BUH BUH BYE

GOODBYE

BASSOON

(overlapping)

SEE YA

They exit.

A beat.

SAM rushes across the stage and retrieves the book. She hastily flips through the pages.

BLACKOUT.

Scene 7

Lights up. ACE is center stage sitting with his feet over the edge. He's reading through papers in one hand and drinking out of a mug in the other.

A beat.

He spits out his drink and drops the papers.

ACE

I die?!

He puts down his mug and moves to the middle of the stage. He is looking up as if he is listening to someone.

ACE

Yes, I know death scenes are powerful and dramatic but...

A beat.

ACE

I understand that but...

A beat.

ACE

I know. You want this to be great. But, what if...and hear me out...you didn't kill me off?

A beat.

ACE

YOU'VE COME SO FAR NOW

I BET YOU MUST BE PROUD

YOU'VE DONE SO WELL

THOUGH I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH HELL

But let's be honest...

I'M THE REASON YOU ARE WHERE YOU ARE

SO I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A HEART TO HEART.

YOU DON'T NEED ALL THESE OTHERS

GETTING IN THE WAY

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS TO STAY

ACE grabs the papers.

ACE

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE IT BIG

DON'T YOU WANT THAT

DON'T YOU WANT THAT

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO DIG

DEEPER

DEEPER

DO SOMETHING NOBODY'S EVER DONE BEFORE

GET RID OF ALL THE EXTRAS GIVE ME MORE

TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT WHERE I BELONG

COME ON HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG

STEERED YOU WRONG

COME ON HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG

A beat.

ACE

Sam doesn't have to win. Readers expect good to win, you could do something different. *That...*

ACE smacks the pages.

ACE

That would be a best seller.

A beat.

ACE

PICTURE THIS

JUST THE TWO OF US

MAKING WAVES GETTING FAMOUS

LIVING THE DREAM

THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS SEEN

He tosses the papers behind him.

ACE

DOES GOOD ALWAYS HAVE TO WIN

DOES THERE ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A HAPPY ENDING

WE'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO DO MORE

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE IT BIG

DON'T YOU WANT THAT

DON'T YOU WANT THAT

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO DIG

DEEPER

DEEPER

DO SOMETHING NOBODY'S EVER DONE BEFORE

GET RID OF ALL THE EXTRAS GIVE ME MORE

TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT WHERE I BELONG

COME ON HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG

STEERED YOU WRONG

COME ON HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG

*ACE turns to the blinking cursor on
the projector.*

ACE

COME ON HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG

COME ON HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG

COME ON HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG

*WRITER inches their hands closer to
the keyboard.*

ACE

GOOD DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO WIN

WRITER moves closer still.

ACE

THERE DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A HAPPY ENDING

WRITER moves closer still.

ACE

WE'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE

GET RID OF ALL THE EXTRAS GIVE ME MORE

WRITER begins to type.

ACE

TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WHERE I BELONG

COME ON

HAVE I EVER

STEERED YOU WRONG

BLACKOUT.

Scene 8

*Lights up. ENSEMBLE is walking
around town, going about their
business. SAM enters stage right,*

book in hand. WOMAN freezes in her tracks and begins to twitch. This increases for a beat. The lights flicker and she disappears. Nobody notices this. DESTINY runs on stage left, her mask half off.

DESTINY

Sam!

SAM looks up from her book as DESTINY stops in front of her.

DESTINY

(out of breath)

Ace...the weasels...destroyed...

SAM

Destiny, what's going on?

DESTINY

Ace destroyed the weasels.

SAM

What? What do you mean he destroyed them?

DESTINY

I-I-I don't know. He gave this whole speech and then they started twitching and...and...and then they were gone.

ZACK runs on stage left in the same way DESTINY had.

ZACK

Sam, Ace is getting rid of everyone.

SAM

What are you guys talking about?

*Before ZACK can answer DESTINY
begins to twitch.*

SAM

Destiny...?

The lights flicker and she's gone.

SAM

Destiny!

SAM turns to ZACK.

SAM

What the hell is going on?

ZACK

Listen, Sam. I don't know how much time I have. Ace wants to have a showdown, just you and him. He's getting rid of everyone else so he can overpower you and use your powers to...

ZACK trails off, gripping his chest.

SAM

Use my powers to what? I don't even know what my powers are.

ZACK

I do. You...

ZACK begins to twitch.

ZACK

You...can...

The lights flicker and ZACK is gone.

SAM

No!

*The lights flicker again and two
more people are gone.*

SAM

No...

*The lights flicker again and two
more people are gone.*

A beat.

*The lights go out for longer this time.
They come up and everyone is gone.
ACE is heard laughing from off
stage.*

ACE

See you tomorrow Sam.

*SAM holds the book close to her
chest.*

SAM

WHERE DO I GO

TIME GOES BY SO SLOW

WHEN I'M ALONE

BLACKOUT.

Scene 9

*Lights up. SAM is walking across the
stage, looking around. She walks*

passed a mirror and is scared by her reflection. She examines it and then relaxes.

SAM

HEY

I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW.

SAM puts her hand up against the mirror.

SAM

WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT SOMEHOW

I'VE NEVER BEEN ANY GOOD AT SOLVING RIDDLES

SAM takes her hand away.

SAM

HEY I'VE GOTTA RELY ON YOU MORE NOW

THAT I'VE GOT NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO FOR ANSWERS

SAM backs away from the mirror, turning away from it.

SAM

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TONIGHT

IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW

IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW

SAM looks at the picture of ZACK. She walks over to it.

DESTRUCTION CREATION

NO MATTER WHICH WAY IT GOES

THIS IS IT THE END OF THE ROAD

SAM puts her hand on the picture.

SAM

I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE

*SAM runs across the stage as if
looking for something that's not
there.*

SAM

I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE

*The lights flicker and ZACK appears
on the ground as if thrown there. He
sits up and rubs his head.*

SAM

HEY

ZACK

(sitting up)

HEY

SAM

I'M SORRY THAT I'VE BEEN SO HARD ON YOU

ZACK

IT'S OKAY

SAM

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO

ZACK

(standing up)

None of that matters right now. We don't have much time. You brought me back.

SAM

What? No I didn't!

ZACK

Yes you did. Sam, you have the power to create and Ace has the power to destroy. He wants to use your power to create the world as he wants it to be.

*SAM puts her hands on her head,
breathing heavily.*

SAM

I-I don't even know how I did it...how are we going to stop him if I don't even know what I'm doing?

ZACK

HEY

SAM

HEY

ZACK

I KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD BE BETTER

SAM

YEAH THEY COULD

ZACK

BUT WE CAN BEAT THIS THING TOGETHER

SAM

(overlapping)

TOGETHER

SAM & ZACK

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TONIGHT

IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW

IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW

DESTRUCTION CREATION

NO MATTER WHICH WAY IT GOES

THIS IS IT THE END OF THE ROAD

WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE

WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE

*The lights flicker and Destiny
appears back on stage.*

SAM & ZACK

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE

*Various ENSEMBLE appears on
stage out of set pieces, within
flickering lights and from off stage.*

SAM, ZACK & DESTINY

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE

ENSEMBLE

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TONIGHT

ALL

IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW

IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW

WE WON'T LET OUR WORLD BE DESTROYED

THIS IS IT THE END OF THE ROAD

SAM

I'M NO LONGER ALONE

ZACK & DESTINY

NO YOU'RE NOT ALONE

ALL

NO YOU'RE NOT ALONE

WE CAN BEAT THIS THING TOGETHER

*ACE enters stage right, shocked at
the amount of people on stage.*

ACE

What happened? I destroyed you all!

DESTINY

Sam brought us back.

ACE

She doesn't even know how to use her powers.

ZACK

That's what you thought, but clearly you were wrong.

SAM

No, he's right. I still don't...

ZACK

(to Sam)

Shhhhh. Just play along.

SAM

(to Zack)

Right, got it.

SAM turns back to ACE.

SAM

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU

ZACK

YOU'RE LEAVING TONIGHT, YOU'RE THROUGH

SAM & ZACK

LEAVE TOWN AND NEVER RETURN

DON'T COME BACK OR YOU'LL GET HURT

ALL

IT'S OVER NOW

GO ON GET OUT

ACE backs up towards stage right.

ALL

NO MORE DESTRUCTION
 THIS IS IT THE END OF THE ROAD
 FOR YOU

ACE exits.

ALL

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE
 WE'VE WON TONIGHT
 IT'S ALL OVER NOW
 IT'S ALL OVER NOW
 THIS IS IT THE END OF THE ROAD

SAM & ZACK

WE BEAT THIS THING TOGETHER

ALL

TOGETHER

BLACKOUT.

Scene 10

ACE is walking across the stage with a bindle slung over his shoulder. Faint music is heard in the distance. He looks towards it and it stops. This happens twice more before it starts blasting.

WEASELS run on stage.

WEASELS

YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN THE LAST OF US

MELON

Ha!

WEASELS

BUT YOU WERE WRONG

BASSOON

SO WRONG

WEASELS

YOU THOUGHT YOU'D DESTROYED US

PIP

Ha!

WEASELS

BUT WE'VE NEVER BEEN SO STRONG

NEWT

SO STRONG

*NEWT carries on for a beat and
BASSOON nods encouragingly.*

WEASELS

INTRODUCING

IN OUR FINAL FORM

THE ULTIMATE

WEASEL SWARM

WEASELS get into a ridiculous formation.

WEASELS

WE ARE
GONNA KILL YOU
SO YOU BETTER RUN

BASSOON

RUN RUN RUN RUN RUN RUN RUN

ACE sprints off the stage.

WEASELS

SO LONG

WEASELS wave. Blackout.

Scene 11

*Lights up. ENSEMBLE runs on from
either side of the stage and meet in
the middle for a bow.*

ENSEMBLE

THIS IS THE END OF OUR SHOW
WE'RE SORRY TO HAVE TO SEE YOU GO
BUT IT'S OVER NOW
IT'S ALL OVER NOW
WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE TIME TO THANK OUR CAST AND CREW
AND ALSO TO THANK ALL OF YOU

*They split down the middle and stand
on either side of the stage.
WEASELS enter meeting in the
middle to bow.*

WEASELS

WE KNOW WE WERE YOUR FAVORITE PART
OF THIS ENTIRE PLAY
AND PROBABLY THE BEST PART
OF YOUR ENTIRE DAY
TONIGHT
FOR THE FIRST TIME
WE'RE SAYING
GOODBYE
SO
BUH BUH BUH BYE
BUH BUH BUH BYE
GOODBYE

BASSOON & LENA

NOW WE'RE LEAVING

WEASELS

Bye!

*WEASELS jump off the stage and sit in the front row. SOMEONE comes in and bring them
sandwiches. DESTINY enters stage right. She bows.*

DESTINY

THANK YOU
 FOR COMING OUT
 AND SEEING
 WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

*ENSEMBLE begins to "ooo".
 DESTINY joins the group on the
 right. ZACK and SAM enter from
 either side of the stage. They might
 in the middle and bow.*

SAM

HEY

ZACK

HEY

SAM

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOURSELVES

ZACK

IF YOU DIDN'T THAT'S OKAY

SAM

AND WE HAD FUN PERFORMING AS WELL

SAM & ZACK

TOGETHER

*ENSEMBLE and DESTINY meet
 them in the middle and they grab
 hands, all bowing together.
 WEASELS are cheering in the
 audience.*

BASSOON

Yeah Zack! That's our boy!

MELON

Once a weasel, always a weasel.

ALL

THIS IS THE END OF OUR SHOW

WE'RE SORRY TO HAVE TO SEE YOU GO

BUT IT'S OVER NOW

IT'S ALL OVER NOW

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE TIME TO THANK OUR CREW

AND ALSO TO THANK ALL OF YOU

They gather in the middle of the stage.

ALL

A HAPPY ENDING

A HAPPY ENDING

They all repeat this several times ominously.

ALL

A HAPPY END-

The music cuts abruptly.

BLACKOUT.

Scene 12

WRITER is center stage. The audience still can't see their face. They are typing "A happy ending" and this is projected on the screen. They close the laptop and all of the lights go up revealing WRITER to be ACE. He stands with a smile.

END OF PLAY