

## Lunch

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A full-length play

By Jacques Manjarrez

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## CHARACTERS

### JOSEPH AVERALL

Joseph Averall is quite literally your average Joe. His only unique trait is just how remarkably mediocre he is. He got expelled from his last school at Upper West High after an incident involving him getting into a bit of a brawl. He likes comic books and has always wanted to become a super-hero of sorts. He insists on being called 'Joe'.

### WARLOCK

Warlock is a grim individual who dresses all in black robes. He constantly talks about destiny as he is the self-proclaimed school oracle. Although he might give the impression of a dark, gloomy, unsocial goth, he is actually really willing to help people and make friends. He often reminisces about a younger time when he wanted to be the world's best finger-painter.

### RACHEL SHUSTER

A socialite in her class, Rachel has spent countless hours making contacts throughout the school. She has made many friends this way, including Warlock (though his incessant speaking annoyed her so much that she made him take a vow of silence after he lost a bet with her concerning Saturn's moons).

### NOID PIE THAGREON

Noid is a sophomore student who is entirely academics-oriented. Always concerned about where he will be admitted into college and the future of his professional career. He is friends with Stunt, who often beats him at the fantasy card game 'Dragon's Blade'.

### TERESA 'STUNT' SALSBERG

Teresa 'Stunt' Salsberg stands out for dressing like she just came back from a Punk-Rock concert. A leather jacket and 'punk-ish' shirt accompany her knuckle braces and her eccentric hair. She is well learned in a variety of martial arts and is also a competitive 'Dragon's Blade' player. She's good friends with Noid and Rachel.

### NICK WEIZHAUS

Nick has been The Tattler since Junior year, when he was granted the honor of the hooded sweatshirt from the previous Tattler who was going off to college. 'The Tattler' has acted as the school's vigilante hall-monitor ever since student-gangs took over the halls. Now that he is in that same position of retirement as his predecessor, he's looking for someone to take his place after he leaves. His constant stress is noticed by his girlfriend of three years, Susie.

### SUSIE ERNEST

Susie is a hard-working student, who prides herself on her success in her AP Mongolian History class. Ever since she watched high-school musical, she has always dreamed of having an 'American high-school experience'. She's always wearing some piece of 'High-School Musical' related clothing. Now that she's a senior, she's desperate to not lose her chance. She hopes she can persuade her boyfriend Nick to do something with her. She also tutors Mongolian history on her spare time.

### EDWARD

A class-clown whose terrible jokes get laughs from the masses even though he is barely tolerated by our protagonists.

### CRUMPET

The Cockney leader of the infamous 'Top-Hat' gang, one of the gangs that constantly cause chaos in the halls of Metropolis High. Has a dictator-complex and hates having his power challenged. He is very fearful of 'The Tattler'. He runs the gang with his right-hand man 'Jumpy'.

**JUMPY**

A loyal follower of Crumpet. Unlike Crumpet, he likes talking to the Top-Hat gang's Ruffians.

**MS. BOFFERS**

A teacher who teaches 'Mongolian History 1A'. She grew up with a passion for Mongolian history and is always excited to share her extensive knowledge with the students.

**MR. D. B. COOPER**

Ex-thief and priority target of the FBI, Mr. D. B. Cooper has retired with his fortune from heists and gone to the less-stressful career of teaching his students everything he knows about illegal enterprises.

**PRINCIPAL**

The dictator of the school, the principal has been forced to abandon his ideals of order after he lost control of the school hallways to the roving gangs. He gave The Tattler the responsibility of keeping them under control in exchange for an immunity to detention.

## ACT 1, SCENE 1

Curtains up. The audience is presented with a dark stage with one chair facing forwards center stage. Enter a confused JOSEPH AVERALL from stage left. Joseph sits down in the chair. A singular spotlight is shown at Joseph's position. The PRINCIPAL's voice echoes over the stage.

PRINCIPAL

Name, age, and grade?

JOSEPH

(Blinded by light)

Sorry?

PRINCIPAL

That's your first strike of three. I don't like to repeat myself. I believe the man who is forced to repeat himself is the least listened to. Understand?

JOSEPH

Right... Uh... sorry...

PRINCIPAL

You don't have to be sorry. Just don't test me.

JOSEPH

Yeah... Uh... My name is Joseph Averall. I'm 15 and just transferring as a sophomore, Mr...

PRINCIPAL

I'll ask the questions here... Just Principal. Mr. Principal. Mr. Supreme Principal works just as well.

JOSEPH

(Confused)

Oh, okay. Mr. Principal. Can I ask...

PRINCIPAL

(Interrupting)

Do you have your course schedule?

JOSEPH

Actually, no. That's why I wanted to speak to you today, Mr. Principal. I was pretty sure I had signed up for everything online, but my new guidance counselor, Ms. Roberts? Yeah, uh, she said that you insisted on, and I quote, 'handing the course schedules to students personally'. Now I of course don't know if that's uh, right...

PRINCIPAL

I want to make sure that every student is taking the right courses that we offer. As I say, a waste of a fresh, young mind is a crime against humanity. Because of this, I have assigned myself the responsibility of looking over each student's chosen courses to make sure they are spending their time wisely.

JOSEPH

Okay, is there any course that you don't like in particular?

PRINCIPAL

(Ignoring Joseph)

Speaking out of turn is strike two. It says here that you plan on taking Orwell 101. Is this correct? You may now respond.

JOSEPH

Yeah. I thought it looked fun.

PRINCIPAL

Well you're not here to have fun. I'm reassigning you to take a more... applicable class. Mongolian History 1A. A very interesting course, that offers young students the opportunity to take initiative as the resident experts in all things Mongolia. Report to class in two minutes. Do not be outside class during school hours without a hall pass, as I cannot be held responsible for whatever happens to you. If you would ever encounter anything that would, say, attract your attention between class hours, wipe it clean from your memory and continue walking forward to your next destination. Also, no kale.

JOSEPH

No kale, sir? May I ask why?

PRINCIPAL

Is this some kind of interrogation, Mr. Averall? Any individual who would rather have a salted leaf than a good block of approved industrial meat as God intended will be promptly expelled. Do I make myself clear? You are dismissed.

(Joseph starts to exit)

Oh, and Joseph, take your mind off of Orwell would you? The man was a paranoid lunatic.

JOSEPH

Of course, Mr. Principal.

## PRINCIPAL

Mr. Supreme Principal. Good day... You may leave now.

Joseph exits stage left.

## ACT 1, SCENE 2

In the Mongolian History 1A classroom. The back rows to the class are filled up. The only open seat is next to WARLOCK, an individual dressed in black with a black cowl and black eyeliner. He's pressing a plastic knife against his hand. Joseph enters and sits next to him. EDWARD is talking to some students as Noid. STUDENT 1 and STUDENT 2 are conversing in the back. The teacher, MS. BOFFERS, sits idly by.

## EDWARD

(Bumping into Noid)

Hey! Watch where you're going, nerd!

## NOID

Sorry, Edward.

## STUDENT 1

(to Student 2)

How was your summer?

## STUDENT 2

(to Student 1)

Why does it matter? It's not relevant to the plot.

## JOSEPH

(To Warlock)

Sup'? Uh... My name's Joseph, but you can call me Joe. What's your name?

Warlock ignores him, as the teacher walks in front of the class.

## JOSEPH

Some class, huh? Yeah. Always wanted to learn about Mongolian history... Feel free to speak whenever you want, man... No? Just going to be the mysterious, silent type? Yeah? Fine.

MS. BOFFERS

(To class)

Welcome all! Welcome all! How is every student feeling? Good? Good. My name is Ms. Boffers and I would like to welcome you all to a new semester of Mongolian History! In this class, we will explore and analyze the basics of Mongolian history and culture to prepare you for all more advanced courses in the subject that our school has to offer.

EDWARD

History? What about her story? Am I right?

Class erupts in laughter, save Joseph and Warlock, who are silent. Joseph is confused, and Warlock is still.

MS. BOFFERS

Well done, Edward! Your comedy streak will be like the wake that followed Kublai Khan prior to his establishment of the Yuan dynasty. Now back to formal business... I understand that we have a new student in class this year! A Mr. Averall. Would you please stand up and introduce yourself?

JOSEPH

Uh... Hello everybody! I'm Joseph Averall. But you all can call me Joe. I just transferred here from Upper West High, and I'm really happy to be part of this class! Uh... I like comic books and Netflix and... That's it.

MS. BOFFERS

Great! Thank you Joseph. Now if you will all please take out your textbooks and turn to page 530. We know how glorious was the prosperous reign of Genghis Khan, but was it really in the perspective of his second advisor Monge Temur?

Everybody begins to take out their textbooks and begin reading.

WARLOCK

You read comic books?

JOSEPH

Oh you talk?

WARLOCK

What do you read?

JOSEPH

The boring super-hero stuff, I guess. What about you?

WARLOCK

Manga. Occasionally some Alan Moore.

STUDENT 1

Hey, new kid! Can you keep it down?

JOSEPH

Ah... uh.... Okay. We should really be reading right now.

WARLOCK

I especially appreciate the grim works. The ones with death and blood. Where anarchy reigns. The volumes that reveal the dark side of the human race. The side we would not care to face, for if we gave it its attention we would all descend into madness that could very well destroy the foundations that make our society stable, which is only by mere illusion. We would come to realize how close we stand to the edge of oblivion.

JOSEPH

Right.

WARLOCK

Am I doing something wrong?

JOSEPH

What?

WARLOCK

Isn't this how you establish a conversation?

JOSEPH

Yeah but....

MS. BOFFERS

Joseph! Please stop distracting Warlock and keeps your eyes on your own textbook!

JOSEPH

But... Sorry ma'am.

(Joseph starts reading again)

EDWARD

Yeah, Joey Baloney! Stop distracting Count Dracula! He needs time to plan who he's going to feast on next! Am I right guys? Am I right?



The classroom erupts in laughter including Ms. Boffers, save a confused Joseph and silent Warlock, then goes back to work.

WARLOCK

Do you have a place to eat your lunch, Joseph?

JOSEPH

We're supposed to be quiet... Warlock...

WARLOCK

Upon being dismissed from the class you will proceed to follow me down the red hall. The one that bleeds. Take two hall passes from the hanger.

JOSEPH

The what? What are you talking about?

WARLOCK

Destiny.

JOSEPH

What? Can you please stop? Can you just leave me alone?

MS. BOFFERS

Mr. Averall! I told you once not to bother Warlock! Take a hall pass and report to the principal's office at once!

JOSEPH

... Really?

MS. BOFFERS

Must I repeat myself? I'm sorry but just because this is your first day does not give you an acceptable excuse to pester one of our best and most well-behaved students!

JOSEPH

.... Seriously? Are you deaf? Did you not hear him talking to me just now?

The whole class turns their heads and stares at Joseph.

STUDENT 1

That's pretty rude.

MS. BOFFERS

Mr. Averall! How dare you be so insensitive! Warlock has been victim of a disease that makes him practically mute since eighth grade! That's an extra week of detention for you!

JOSEPH

But...

MS. BOFFERS

And another! Even Dayan Khan knew when to stop! Now report to the principal's office before I drag you there by the collar of your neck! Good day sir!

Joseph, frustrated, exits stage Right.

ACT 1, SCENE 3

In a blue hallway, Joseph mumbles angrily to himself as he makes his way down swinging one hall pass. All of a sudden, Warlock catches up to him from behind.

JOSEPH

(To himself)

Just my luck... Just my luck... Freaking Goth - vampire- thing! I just try to fit in and I can't even do that right! I swear the next time I see him... No Joe. No. Practice restraint. It's this kind of thing that made you mess up at UWS. It's because of that incident that you're in this weird... dystopia school. Make the best of it. Don't lose it all again. Let's do some breathing exercises. Inhale... Exhale... Inhale... Exhale... Whoa, pace yourself! Inhale... Exhale... Inhale... Exhale... Inhale...

WARLOCK

Greetings, traveller.

JOSEPH

Gah! You again? Where did you come from?

WARLOCK

I walk the darker lands from plane to plane. Unseen like the phantom or spirit or ghoul.

JOSEPH

Did you just follow me out of class?

WARLOCK

Coincidence that I would happen to walk out of class the same time you left. Coincidence that we would happen to both walk down the hall I did not suggest. Then again, it was your destiny to walk down this hall, and not the blood hall.

JOSEPH

You know there's only one hall, right? I haven't seen like a fork in the path that would split the halls or anything. There's just the one hall and that one hall isn't red. It's just blue.

WARLOCK

Just as predicted.

JOSEPH

What? Predicted what? What are you even saying at this point?

WARLOCK

Destiny would never have had you walk down the red hall, so only right that I ask you to go down the red hall, knowing you would deceive me and go to the blue hall.

JOSEPH

Can you just... shut up?.. Why does everyone think you're mute?

WARLOCK

They convinced themselves of that. I don't talk often. I swore in eighth grade to spare my voice save in the presence of the chosen one.

JOSEPH

The what? And why?

WARLOCK

The chosen one. The savior of all the lands... Oh, and I lost a bet. Apparently Titan is Saturn's largest moon.

JOSEPH

Savior? Savior of what?

WARLOCK

Do you believe in destiny, Joseph?

JOSEPH

Please just call me Joe.

WARLOCK

Because I do. I believe that the entity of destiny has guided us together and granted us the privilege of being sailors on the ship that is the school. Let the winds of destiny take us.

JOSEPH

Uh huh. Sure... Uh... I think I might be lost.

WARLOCK

I told you to take the red hallway...

JOSEPH

There was no red hallway. Oh come on! It's my first day here! Why does this all have to happen to me on my first day here? Calm yourself, Joe. Calm. Inhale... Exhale... Inhale...

WARLOCK

In addition, I also asked you to bring two hall passes, knowing again you would deceive me and only bring one. Just as fate decreed.

JOSEPH

Really? Me acting rationally is part of fate's master plan? You ever heard of the phrase 'we choose our own fate'?

WARLOCK

Fate is but a human construct. That much is true. Doesn't mean you can't control it.

JOSEPH

Sure. Anyway you should probably be heading back to class now. Why are you even following me again?

WARLOCK

To be witness.

JOSEPH

Witness? Witness of what?

From stage right, a group of poorly-dressed ruffians, each donning a black top hat, bumps into Warlock and Joseph. The ruffians are all being led by their leader and the leader's right hand man, dressed more nicely. Their names are CRUMPET and JUMPY respectively.

CRUMPET

So I says to the sister, you can't expect to enter the lunch trade so easily with nothing greater than a cucumber sandwich! The ignorant! And she says to me that she would just like to trade her wares. A few cookies! I'm thinking she grants wares to Crumpet and sisters and brothers then! And so I said...

JUMPY

Oy! Watch where yer going, ignorants!

JOSEPH

Oh... uh... sorry about that. Just trying to get through.

JUMPY

Not going to pay your respects first?

JOSEPH

Sorry?

RUFFIAN 1

Little boy don't know Captain Crumpet when he see him, he don't!

RUFFIAN 2

(Speaking to Crumpet)

You hear that boss? The wee little ignorant don't know who he talking to!

CRUMPET

That's all right. That's all right, my brothers and sisters. Oy! Jumpy! You recognise this bloke?

JUMPY

Nay, captain! Can't say I've ever seen him before! I think he's a new ignorant!

CRUMPET

Right, Right. And it looks like the 'new ignorant' has found his clan with our old friend Guy Fawkes here! Do I not speak truthfully, my brothers and sister?

(mutual agreement)

Well, young ignorant, you have the pleasure of addressing Captain Crumpet. To my left is my right-hand assistant, Jumpy two-legs.

JUMPY

That's right, ignorant. Pray God you don't forget the name!

CRUMPET

That's the way to do it, Jumpy! Back here we have Ruffian 1, Ruffian 2, and Ruffian 3. We have the honor of being the school's infamous 'Top Hat' gang. And I am terribly sad to say that you are in our hallway, during classes.

JOSEPH

I mean I wouldn't say it was your specific hallway to begin with, right? Right Warlock..?

JUMPY

I don't think our little ignorant or his dark friend either understand the gravity of their situation. What should we do about them, Captain Crumpet?

CRUMPET

Well, Jumpy, I would think that it is our moral responsibility as intelligent beings to educate these ignorants! Aren't I right, my brothers and sister?

JOSEPH

I don't think that's really necessary...

RUFFIAN 1

Let's tear them apart!

RUFFIAN 2

Break them!

RUFFIAN 3

Let's get em, lads!

The Top Hat gang pounces on Joseph and ignores Warlock. Joseph starts fighting in a rage and lands a successful blow on Crumpet before being grabbed.

JUMPY

He's a wild one, ain't he captain?

CRUMPET

That he is, Jumpy! That he is! Quick my brothers and sister, restrain him so your good old Captain Crumpet can get some hits in, eh?

The ruffians detain Joseph. As crumpet chuckles and takes off his gloves.

CRUMPET

So sorry that this is your first impression of our beautiful high school. Really. But no better way to ingrain a lesson in one's cranium than to forcefully punch it in there. Ah well... Welcome to Metropolis High, ignorant!

Just then, figure in a hooded sweatshirt with a large 'T' taped on the front runs from stage right and knocks Crumpet to the ground.

Joseph forces his way out from the grasp of the Ruffians.

TATTLER

Get behind me, kid.

RUFFIAN 1

It's the Tattler!

RUFFIAN 2

What's he doing in our hall?

RUFFIAN 3

Should we retreat captain?

CRUMPET

Does... Does the wolf show his tail to the lamb? On him my brothers and sister!

The ruffians reluctantly attack the Tattler, and are swiftly beaten back by the hooded figure who seems relatively experienced in this. Joseph stares in amazement. The Tattler is not fazed.

RUFFIAN 3

The ignorant is beating us to pulp!

RUFFIAN 2

Have mercy on our souls!

RUFFIAN 3

Let us make our great escape!

CRUMPET

Retreat my brothers and sisters! Retreat!

JUMPY

This is not over yet, you ignorant bastard!

The Top Hat gang escapes the wrath of the Tattler and runs off stage right. Joseph is shocked and Warlock is unfazed.

JOSEPH

How did you...

TATTLER

Do you have your hall pass?

JOSEPH

(startled)

My what? Oh. Oh yeah. I have one.

Joseph shows the Tattler the hall pass.

TATTLER

What about you, Warlock?

Warlock is not responsive.

TATTLER

Didn't expect you to have one. Just try to remember to bring one next time. It's the only way we can identify you as a common student. Even though you are the furthest thing I know from the common student.

Warlock is once again not responsive. Neither is Joseph.

TATTLER

Uh... Don't do drugs... Stay in school... Yeah.

The Tattler runs off stage right. Leaving a stunned Joseph and a non-responsive Warlock.

WARLOCK

As predicted.

JOSEPH

What just happened?

WARLOCK

You were visited by the guardian demon of Metropolis High. They call him the Tattler. He preys on the ill-mannered and servants of darkness. And not like the cool servants of darkness.

JOSEPH

Is he just like the a super-hero or something?

WARLOCK

Something like that. Ah... I see it now...



JOSEPH

What?

WARLOCK

Your destiny. Your fate. Your place in this school. It all makes sense! Don't you see?

JOSEPH

No. No I do not... Whatever. I need to stop by the nurse's office to clean these bruises. Then I'll have to stop by the principal's office. Please stop following me around.

(Sarcastic)

This is really turning out to be a great first day of school.

Joseph storms off stage right, frustrated.

WARLOCK

(to audience)

Fate is a wonderful thing. Like watching a spider weaving together a web of truths... And we are all flies trapped among the strands, destined to encounter the jaws of destiny. And although futile is the effort to escape the apparent jaws, we are still always given one last choice. To accept our destiny then and there, or to fight it till the very end. The Tattler will be leaving the school soon. And our protagonist will soon claim his destiny as the savior this school needs. Whether he wants to or not.

JOSEPH

(offstage)

Hey, Warlock! Where's the nurse's office?

WARLOCK

Down that way, second door on your left!

Warlock exits stage left. The school bell rings.

#### ACT 1, SCENE 4

Now in the library. We see SUSIE ERNEST, a studious senior, studying over a pile of textbooks and papers. NOID is sitting at another desk, studying independently.

SUSIE

(Reading)

....

And in the year 1333, with the death of Rinchinbal Khan at the young age of 6, Tougon Temur, eldest son of Khutughtsu Khan Kusala brought the Mongolian empire to its most devastating week, leading it through a downward spiral of self-destruction. He came out of it more dishonored and demoralized than any Khan prior.

(To herself)

Looks like Kusula never had to study for the AP Mongolian History final.

NICK WEIZHAUS enters stage left, stuffing his hooded sweatshirt, being the Tattler costume, in his backpack. Noid catches a glimpse of this, and looks up anxious.

SUSIE

Hey babe. Where were you?

NICK

Sorry?

SUSIE

You promised me we could do study session together, remember?

NICK

Right. Sorry, Susie. I was just taking care of some business with a teacher.

SUSIE

Again? Who is it this time? Mr. Doesn't-exist?

NICK

What? What do you mean?

SUSIE

You don't have to pretend, Nick. I saw the sweatshirt in your backpack.

NICK

(nervously)

I can explain...

SUSIE

You don't have to. We're all fans at this school.

NICK

Oh my God... Thanks for being so understanding! I was so afraid of how you would take this! And you're really not mad?

SUSIE

Not in the slightest bit. I was also a member of the Tattler fan club for a short time back in Sophomore year.

NICK

The what?

SUSIE

Yeah. That's why you have the sweatshirt, right? You got it at a club meeting! I know they organize some meetings between classes.

NICK

Uh... Yeah... Exactly! Yes! Just coming back from a fan club meeting... With a Tattler sweatshirt...

SUSIE

I have one too. It's never cold enough to wear it. Plus, it's too big for me. Ah, well. Uh, look Nick... It's nice that you've found a group and all... and I realize that you're like really busy with stuff... But...

NICK

But what?

SUSIE

But for whatever reason, you never really make time for me. And I don't know if that's because you don't want to do this relationship thing anymore or...

NICK

What? No! No!

SUSIE

Well than why don't you take some time out of your day and spend some time with me? We never get to do anything together anymore!

NICK

Okay, sure. What do you want to do?

SUSIE

Really? You'll do something with me?

NICK

Anything.

SUSIE

(Softly)

Okay... You could... Take me to the Winter Formal...

NICK

What?

SUSIE

Take me to the Winter Formal!

NICK

The Winter Formal? Oh! Uh... Sure. Why not? When is it?

SUSIE

At the end of the month. It'll be the biggest dance of the semester!

NICK

Aren't those mostly for freshman and sophomores? Do we even do, like, dances anymore? You know... as seniors?

SUSIE

Please Nick! Just let me have this! Just this one time, let's go to the dance together!

NICK

Okay sure. Let's go to the Winter Formal!

SUSIE

There we go! Yeah! Thanks for this. You won't regret it!

NICK

I'm sure I won't.

At that moment, Nick's phone rings. He looks at the caller ID and finds that it's the principal.

NICK

Uh... Hold on, Susie... It's the... fan club. Be right back.

(Nick goes aside and answers the call)

Hello?

PRINCIPAL

Tattler, is that you?

NICK

Mr. Principal! This number is only reserved for emergencies.

PRINCIPAL

Quite correct. So by calling this number, am I not declaring an emergency? Do you take me as incompetent?

NICK

No. Not at all sir. How can I help?

PRINCIPAL

I want to stress the importance that you be present come the day of the Winter Formal.

NICK

That's it? Sir, it doesn't seem like such an emergency.

PRINCIPAL

I don't like to repeat myself Tattler. You know that. That's strike one for you.

NICK

(Sighing)

Yes sir.

PRINCIPAL

This dance is the second largest in the school year. It is necessary that the Tattler be there in case of emergencies.

Noid looks towards Nick as though he has just discovered an opportunity of sorts.

NICK

But sir... I can't make it that day.

PRINCIPAL

Wait... hold on...

(Talking to Secretary)

Who did Ms. Boffers send in? The new lad? Sit him down in my office. I'll be out in just a second... Wounded? Well if he needs tending to, call in the nurse so that she can spit in his face for missing an opportunity to build endurance and character! Oh, how I fear for the next generation...

(Talking to Tattler)

Are you still there, Tattler?

NICK

Yes sir.

PRINCIPAL

Sorry about that. Anyways... You have proven to be a valuable asset to the school in the past. Don't disappoint me now. I expect to see you at the ball at the end of the month. Understand?

NICK

But... Yes sir.

The principal hangs up. Nick looks frustrated.

SUSIE

Is everything alright?

NICK

Yeah... Just the Tattler fan club wants to have a... A meeting the day of the Winter Formal.

SUSIE

Oh. And what did you tell them?

NICK

I told them I couldn't. I told them that I had a date.

SUSIE

Great! This is going to be awesome! We are going to have a blast!

NICK

I'm sure we will.

Nick exits stage right, leaving Susie and Noid studying.

NOID

Interesting...

SUSIE

What?

NOID

Hm? Oh, nothing. Don't mind me, I'm just a side character.

SUSIE

Oh. Okay.

ACT 1, SCENE 5

We are presented with an empty classroom. A bell rings and droves of students start walking into the classroom, filling up all the available chairs. Included in the pack is Joseph, RACHEL SHUSTER, Edward, and assorted students. Joseph sits in the front row next to Rachel. Noid sits behind them.

EDWARD

(To Rachel)

... And so I said: Don't you mean HER-story? Because you see, she said history. It was so good! The whole class broke out in laughter! I was all like, am I right? And I was right! It was awesome!

RACHEL

Doesn't seem that funny.

EDWARD

You had to be there, Rachel. It's all in context. But I promise you: It was comedy gold.

RACHEL

I'm sure it was Edward. I'm sure it was.

(To a beaten-up Joseph)

Hey! New kid! What happened to you? Get run over by a bus?

JOSEPH

Huh? Oh it's nothing. It's all good. Just ran into a wall. That's it.

RACHEL

A wall, huh? That's one hell of a wall. You look like you were assaulted by an army of pissed-off croquet players... What? They can be aggressive!

JOSEPH

It's nothing.

RACHEL

Come on! Tell us what happened!

EDWARD

Yeah, Jacob! Tell us what happened.

JOSEPH

First off, my name is Joe - not Jacob. Secondly, as I said before: I just ran into a door.

RACHEL

You mean wall.

JOSEPH

Yeah, whatever.

At that moment, enter MR. D. B. COOPER  
stage right.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Good morning class!

(Some mutters)

Oh, come on! You have to give me more enthusiasm than that! Let's try again. This time with passion! Good morning class!

(No change in volume of mutters)

Excellent! Welcome all to a new semester of financial economics! I'm your teacher, Mr. D B. Cooper. But you may all call me Mr. Coops or Mr. C or Mr. Heist-king. In this class, you will learn the fundamentals of managing money. No matter what is your profession, be it stock broker or plane hijacker, you'll need to know how to manage your money if you are to survive in today's trying times. And I should know something about surviving in trying times! I spent three months alone in the snowy wilderness in northern Oregon... Allegedly... Anyway your first lesson will be a film on the apparent stability of the market, and why there exists no investment more reliable than plane hijacking. Happy watching!

D.B. Cooper puts on the film and walks off stage  
right. The lights dim. A film flickers into being as

RACHEL

(whispering to Joseph)

Seriously - what happened?

JOSEPH

(Sighing)

I got assaulted by some guys in top hats.

EDWARD

The infamous Top Hat gang? How did you survive them beating you mercilessly with fish and chips and Monty Python DVD's? Am I right?

RACHEL

Shut up, Edward!

(To Joseph)

They're one of the gangs on campus. Just try to stay out of their way... Did they call you an ignorant?



MR. D. B. COOPER

Please no talking, thank you!

JOSEPH

(whispering)

Yeah. Yeah they did.

RACHEL

That's like their thing. They call people ignorants and then beat them up.

JOSEPH

Huh. Nice crowd.

RACHEL

You actually look a bit better compared to some of their other victims I've seen.

JOSEPH

Yeah, well, that might be because I had... Some help.

RACHEL

Help? Help from what?

JOSEPH

There was... This guy... I don't know. It was all really weird. Everything was just really weird.

RACHEL

Yeah, welcome to Metropolis High. What did this 'guy' do?

JOSEPH

He just came in and began, like, punching them down. I mean, like, he really just started beating them! Like, no mercy! He didn't even give the 'Top Hat' gang or whatever a chance! They couldn't touch him. He moved so fast. He was like a blur.

RACHEL

Oh.

JOSEPH

What? Do you know who I'm talking about?

EDWARD

(to Rachel)

Oh wow. Think it was him?

RACHEL

Probably. Yeah.

JOSEPH

What? Who are you talking about?

RACHEL

You know how most high-schools have a kind of school mascot?

JOSEPH

Wait... That's your mascot?

RACHEL

Kind of. He's more of our school vigilante. They call him 'The Tattler'.

JOSEPH

'The Tattler'? Really?

RACHEL

I don't know who came up with the name. Anyway, he's basically a kind of peace-keeper during periods.

JOSEPH

Wait... You mean like a hall monitor?

RACHEL

Yeah. I guess he's our hall monitor. Nobody knows who he really is. At first we thought he was a student, but he's been patrolling our halls for years now. So it's probably a faculty or something.

EDWARD

Or a really bad student. Probably repeated ninth grade like 5 times now.

RACHEL

I swear to God, Edward... If you don't shut up...

NOID

Hey! Quiet down! I'm trying to watch the movie!

EDWARD

(to Noid)

How about you shut up?

RACHEL

Sorry, Noid. Anyway, he or she keeps the gangs and bullies in check. He's our own kind of superhero.

JOSEPH

Wow. And is it like an elective?

RACHEL

What?

JOSEPH

Like, doing the whole vigilante stuff. What he does. Is he part of an elective or a class of some sort? Do you need to be part of a class to do that stuff?

RACHEL

(Shaking her head)

No. No you do not.

JOSEPH

Okay. So he just started beating up guys in top hats and nobody stopped him?

RACHEL

Basically. I mean why would we? He... or she... is making the hallways much safer to walk down.

JOSEPH

And you don't know who he or she... is?

RACHEL

No. We have theories, but they have gone nowhere. It might not even be the same person every time you see them. Just different people taking on the costume and dealing justice to anybody who deserves it.

JOSEPH

Wow.

MR. D. B. COOPER

I've been hearing whispers throughout the movie. I should warn you all, that the notes you take during the film will be the basis for your presentation next week!

Edward yanks Noid's paper right from under him and begins copying it before handing off to Rachel.

NOID

Hey, give that back!

RACHEL

Thanks to the Tattler, the school is a little less chaotic. Even if he is dressed like if the unabomber read too many comics!

JOSEPH

I like comic books.

EDWARD

(to Noid)

Oh my God. Nobody cares what you like.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Quiet please!

ALL

Yes sir.

ACT 1, SCENE 6

The lunch bell rings. Students are eating lunch together while Joseph is center stage alone on a bench eating a sandwich. There is an empty space next to him. Student 1 and Student 2 walk by him talking.

STUDENT 1

Did you hear? The Tattler beat up the Top Hats again.

STUDENT 2

It'll be news when he stops. Are you going to the Winter Formal at the end of the month?

STUDENT 1

Isn't it September?

STUDENT 2

Why does that matter? Are you going or not?

STUDENT 1

I guess. Who isn't?

Joseph sighs and continues eating his lunch.  
Warlock then runs up from stage left and sits  
next to Joseph on the bench. Joseph winces.

WARLOCK

How has been your first day, Joseph the Chosen One?

JOSEPH

It's Joe. And I thought you didn't have to ask.

WARLOCK

I didn't. Just trying to initiate a conversation. Is this not an appropriate method of social contact?

JOSEPH

Wow. You really are awkward. Have you really not talked to anyone since eighth grade?

WARLOCK

Only to family and close friends. A vow of silence .

JOSEPH

And you're speaking to me because you think I am...

WARLOCK

The chosen one, yes.

JOSEPH

Okay. And what does this 'chosen one', like, do? What does the title pertain to, exactly?

WARLOCK

You are chosen to be the savior of the school.

JOSEPH

You know I find it pretty convenient that you, the self-proclaimed "school oracle", talks as vaguely as humanly possible.

WARLOCK

I see that I might be lacking some specifics. A long time ago, there was a prophecy that spoke of a student who would come from far-off lands, seeking fame and glory. This student would forever become a symbol of hope and justice for the Metropolis High student body. The prophecy also stated that said student would have the special ability to accomplish anything that they set their minds to. Therefore, if it is true that you are in fact the savior, you are in the unique position of guaranteed success.

JOSEPH

Guaranteed success? What do you mean? Like, I can do anything I want?

WARLOCK

If you set your mind to it.

JOSEPH

Isn't that, like, a good work ethic?

WARLOCK

The sad truth is that many times, a good work ethic is not enough. The reality is that you can have the key to open every door, but it's useless if it's an electronic lock. Do you have anything I could eat?

JOSEPH

Don't you have your own lunch?

WARLOCK

Do you count three pounds of organic liquorice as lunch?

JOSEPH

I guess not.

WARLOCK

Then I don't have my own lunch.

Joseph takes out from his lunch box an apple which he hands to Warlock.

WARLOCK

Thank you. Now let me tell you a story, Joseph.

JOSEPH

Joe.

WARLOCK

Right, Joseph... Back in elementary school, I was a completely different person. I was not the dark-whispering oracle you see before you today. I wasn't Warlock, servant to the Eternal Pain. I was just an innocent schoolboy by the name of Warren T. Randall, a close follower of the social stigmas and an individual who stuck to the path of least resistance. A follower... I walked the wasteland of ants.

JOSEPH

I get it. You're edgy. Keep going.

WARLOCK

I wore a red baseball cap and had tie-dye shirts that filled my wardrobe. One for each day of the week. One day I found myself walking through the hallway during lunch when I came across an open classroom. Curiosity got the better of me and I peeked inside. What I found was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. A classroom of students, covered in stained clothes, finger painting. Oh, what a sight it was! The smell of tempera! The sound of innocents giggling over a mess-up. The passion being put into such simple shapes and colors. It was marvelous. It was then that I had decided what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I would do everything it took to become the most famous professional finger-painter the world had ever known. So I signed up for the class, and I did not do so well at first. So I stopped.

JOSEPH

... Is that it?

WARLOCK

Hm?

JOSEPH

You're done... That... Okay... So what you're saying is that... That won't happen to me.

WARLOCK

Exactly. Now tell me, Joseph...

JOSEPH

Joe.

WARLOCK

... You have spent a day now at this oblivion of a school. Where do you see your purpose in life? What do you want to do?

JOSEPH

I can be anything?

WARLOCK

Anything.

JOSEPH

I guess... Be like... the Tattler...

WARLOCK

You want to be the Tattler? Perfect!

JOSEPH

Wait! I mean, like, it seems like a pretty cool thing and all. I've always wanted to punch people for a good cause, but...

WARLOCK

Here comes Rachel. I'm sure you've met her before. She has contacts with some key individuals that might be able to provide you with the necessary training to become our school's next vigilante hero.

JOSEPH

Wait! No! I didn't actually mean it!

WARLOCK

Here she comes. Just ask her about it. I'm sure she would be happy to provide assistance.

JOSEPH

No... But...

Rachel walks by Warlock and Joseph.

RACHEL

Hey, Warlock! Hey, new kid!

JOSEPH

...Uh... Rachel?

RACHEL

Hm? Yeah?

JOSEPH

(Stuttering)

C...Can... Can you make me a super hero?

RACHEL

... I'm going to go get lunch.

Rachel begins to walk away, when Warlock shouts after her.

WARLOCK

Rachel! He's the one!

Rachel pauses in her tracks. She drops her bag and slowly turns around to look at Warlock, who stares at her silently.



She then suddenly charges towards Warlock, before violently grabbing his collar.

JOSEPH

Hey! Leave him alone! What are you doing?

RACHEL

I'm sorry, did I just hear something come out of your miserable mouth? You made me a promise! You betrayed my trust! You're going to suffer for this!

WARLOCK

We've known each other for eight years! Have I ever broken a promise? Never! And I haven't started today!

Rachel continues to grab Warlock's collar. She looks towards Joseph and stares at him for a second before turning back to Warlock.

RACHEL

Really? Him? You've got to be joking. Nearly two years of silence and you break it for this low-life?

JOSEPH

This low-life has ears. What's going on, Warlock?

WARLOCK

Remember when I said that my oath of silence was made on a lost bet?

JOSEPH

Wait... You made that bet with Rachel?

RACHEL

Titan has always been Saturn's largest moon. The name is synonymous with 'large'! And that fact sure didn't change in eight grade. Warlock was being particularly annoying in class one day, and I had an idea to shut him up permanently. It was a simple astronomy question that I was sure he wouldn't know.

WARLOCK

The one condition to my loss was I could break my vow of silence when I encountered the chosen one.

JOSEPH

The chosen one? That's me... Right?

RACHEL

(to Warlock)

How can you be sure he's the one?

WARLOCK

Look - it makes sense. He's an exchange student with no friends, trying to find his place. He wants to be the next Tattler. It's his destiny.

RACHEL

The new Tattler, huh? Since when do we need a new Tattler? The school has never been safer.

WARLOCK

It's not our place to question destiny.

RACHEL

... Hey new-kid!

JOSEPH

Joe.

RACHEL

Joseph! Do you have any... skills? Anything that would make you distinguishable as a character?

JOSEPH

Wait what? What do you mean skills? Uhh... I can do a couple of things. I play a bit of basketball... I did karate when I was eight... Oh! Watch what I can do this with my tongue!

RACHEL

What word would you use to describe your proficiency doing said skills?

JOSEPH

What do you mean?

RACHEL

You heard me. Give me a word. Are you good at what you do?

JOSEPH

I mean... I guess I'm pretty... average?

Rachel releases Warlock and stands back in disbelief.

JOSEPH

I mean, I'm not that good. But I'm not that bad... is there something wrong?

WARLOCK

His name is Joseph! He's socially inept! You've heard him try to speak! He's an awkward mess!

JOSEPH

Awkward mess! You should be talking!

WARLOCK

He's the new kid! His only distinguishable quality is a prolific mediocrity in his character... I could go on!... His name is Joseph!

JOSEPH

It's Joe!

RACHEL

... I thought he would be taller... Or at least know some martial arts...

JOSEPH

I got an orange belt in karate. My instructor was really proud of me during my graduation. What's going on?

WARLOCK

He has potential. But he needs training. He has chosen his path. It's his destiny. It's our duty to aid him.

RACHEL

You're sure he's the one?

WARLOCK

As sure as I know that Saturn's largest moon is Europa... I mean Titan.

RACHEL

I'll take him to see my friend Stunt. She might be able to help him... Come with me, Joseph.

JOSEPH

It's Joe... And why should I? You were just insulting me!

RACHEL

There's somebody you need to talk to. Somebody who's going to help you be the next Tattler.

JOSEPH

Wait. Really? You know I was just joking, right? Like I said it would be cool and all but...

RACHEL

Do you ever shut up?

Rachel pulls Joseph off the bench and leads him off-stage.

JOSEPH

Wait! My lunch! Oh, come on!

WARLOCK

Worry not! I shall take care of it!

Warlock begins eating the rest of Joseph's lunch, while occasionally snacking on a piece of raw liquorice.

WARLOCK

Average Joe... It's almost too good to be true.

#### ACT 1, SCENE 7

The audience is introduced to a scene inside a hallway. Students are crouched over playing fantasy card games. Among these is a young sophomore girl by the name of STUNT, dressed in punk clothing and sporting knuckle bands. She is sitting in front of a fantasy game board, with an empty seat across from her. She is impatient. Noid arrives from stage right. He takes the seat opposite to Stunt.

STUNT

You're late, Noid.

NOID

Sorry about that, Stunt.

STUNT

What deck are you using?

NOID

The deck that will topple your winning streak!

Both begin playing the fantasy game in front of them, when they are suddenly interrupted by Rachel and Joseph, who both enter stage left.

RACHEL

Hey, Stunt!

STUNT

Oh, hey Rachel! How you doing?

RACHEL

I'm alright. Hey Noid.

NOID

Rachel.

RACHEL

Uh, Stunt I want to introduce my... Our new classmate, Joseph! Joseph, Teresa 'Stunt' Salsberg.

JOSEPH

It's Joe, by the way. Hi.

STUNT

Howdy! So you're new, huh? Where you hail from?

JOSEPH

Upper West Side.

STUNT

Upper West Side? And what made you leave?

JOSEPH

Got in a bit of a fight.

STUNT

A fight? Nice! I'm liking you already, Joe!

JOSEPH

You see! It's not that hard! Joe! It's literally more of an effort to say Joseph!

STUNT

Now I know y'all didn't come down to nerd-corner USA just to introduce yourselves. What do you need?

RACHEL

Stunt. I need you to give a crash-course of martial arts and self-defense in general.

STUNT

I should have never said anything about my black-belt. Who's the victim this time?

Rachel gestures over to Joseph, who smiles awkwardly.

NOID

Your move, Stunt. Let's go.

STUNT

(All while playing the game in front of her)

Any particular reason why he deserves to learn under me?

NOID

(Playing the game)

Fire trap. Your hero is burned.

RACHEL

Remember that bet I made with Warlock in eighth grade?

STUNT

The one where he can't speak?

RACHEL

Yes. Until he meets the 'chosen one'! Stunt, you're not going to believe this, this is the chosen one!

STUNT

Really? Warlock is talking again? Now I can finally ask him about where he hid my eraser last year.

RACHEL

Stunt, this is serious! We really need your help here. He wants to become the next Tattler. Come on... Please?

NOID

Inferno aura of a thousand suns.

STUNT

Counter with freezing circle.

(Sighing)

Alright, fine. I'll do it.

RACHEL

You mean you'll teach him?

STUNT

Sure I'll teach him. But I want you to know I'm not doing it for some crazy prophecy, or because new-guy-Joe is asking, or because you'll treat me to fro-yo this Saturday after I win first place at the Dragon's Blade ccg tournament. I'm doing it because I owe you a good deal. You've been a loyal friend and have always stuck by my side when I needed you most.

(playing game)

Pit of eternal demise renders your hero unconscious. Check and mate.

RACHEL

Thank you so much, Stunt! I will never forget this!

STUNT

You better not. And... that's game. See what I did there, Noid? I'm not sure you're familiar with that move. It's called 'winning'.

NOID

Hmm...

JOSEPH

Rachel can I talk to you for a second?

(Aside)

Who is this... 'Stunt' you're leaving me with exactly?

RACHEL

Oh! Uh... She's an old friend who also happens to be really skilled at martial arts. Got her black belt when she was eight years old. She'll show you all you need to know in order to fight injustice in our school or whatever you'll do.

JOSEPH

So... She's actually going to teach me how to fight?

RACHEL

That's the idea. Stay here and she'll take you to the school gym to start training. I need to go to my math class.

JOSEPH

Cool... Hey, Rachel?

RACHEL

Yeah, Joseph?

JOSEPH

Thanks. I really appreciate everything you've done for me. I'm really starting to feel part of this school's community.

Rachel smiles and nods before exiting.

STUNT

Let's go Romeo. You've got a lot of work to do.

Stunt leads Joseph off stage left.

## ACT 1, SCENE 8

Before the audience is presented an ominous scene. The main members of the Top Hat gang, including Crumpet and Jumpy, are seated in a dark room around a plastic fold-out table center stage. They seem bored.

JUMPY

Shall we play another game of 'Dice for the Betterment of Society' while we wait, Captain Crumpet?

CRUMPET

Honestly, why can't somebody just bring 'Cards Against Humanity' for a change!

RUFFIAN 1

I hear that the bridge club has it this week!

CRUMPET

What? Did they get bored of bridge already? Right... How about some good-old monopoly?

JUMPY

You mean Monopoly, captain?

CRUMPET

Ay, that's what I said, Jumpy... Where's the game?



RUFFIAN 2

I think the Ethical Finance club has it this week, boss!

CRUMPET

Oh knickle-bonkers!

RUFFIAN 3

That's right funny.

RUFFIAN 2

What's so funny about it?

RUFFIAN 3

Nothing, it's just... You wouldn't expect the favorite game of the Ethical Finance Club to be Monopoly, is all.

RUFFIAN 1

Now, nobody said it was their favorite game. They're just playing it now.

RUFFIAN 3

Right. Fine. But hear me out: Why would the Ethical Finance Club, which focusses primarily on the practice of ethical finances, be playing a game in which in order to win you must do the exact opposite?

RUFFIAN 2

Now hold on. That's not the only valid strategy to win, right? Maybe the club's just trying to find a more reasonable and law-abiding way to play the game.

RUFFIAN 3

There's a card that literally allows you to get out o' jail free! Now that's a right unethical practice, isn't it?

RUFFIAN 1

Right, but you don't necessarily have to play it.

RUFFIAN 3

Ah, you're both ignorant!

JUMPY

Don't call your fellow brother and sister ignorant, ya ignorant!

CRUMPET

Will the four of you ignorants shut up! I'm tired of waiting for this ignorant to arrive!

JUMPY

Maybe we got tricked, captain!

RUFFIAN 1

What if this was a trap put on by the Tattler!

RUFFIAN 1

Wait, he's here?

RUFFIAN 3

(Startled)

Who said he's here? Where's the Tattler?

CRUMPET

He's not here, ignorants! Like I told you all: I got this note on my locker telling me to meet here make some kind of deal.

JUMPY

Who signed it?

CRUMPET

Just a ignorant by the name of... 'Totallynotnoid'.

JUMPY

Don't recognise the name.

CRUMPET

Well of course their not going to give us their real name, ignorant! It's probably just a nickname.

JUMPY

Like your name, captain?

CRUMPET

What?

JUMPY

Well all of us use our nicknames. Me Jumpy, you Crumpet, Ruffian 1, Ruffian 2, and Ruffian 3.

CRUMPET

Well that's not true. My real name is Crumpet. John Crumpet the Third of Eccleshire, honorary son to Sir John Crumpet the Second of Eccleshire.

JUMPY

Oh wow. And I thought it was a bad joke. Because we're all English and all that.

CRUMPET

That's stupid.

Just then, a door opens offstage and all the gang-members look startled, save Crumpet.

CRUMPET

Here's our ignorant!

Noid enters stage left. He is covered by a black cloak. He speaks with a low voice in order to further hide his identity.

NOID

Good afternoon. Did I come in time for tea?

RUFFIAN 2

That's a tad bit racist.

CRUMPET

So you must be the mysterious ignorant by the name of Totallynotnoid. You have a lot of nerve coming here. Isn't that right, my brothers and sister?

NOID

I assure you. I am many things. But an ignorant is not one of them.

CRUMPET

Well! Thank you for the honor and the privilege, Totallynotnoid! I'm sure you already know me. To my left is my right hand man, Jumpy. Behind him are my three trusted advisors and revered officers: Ruffian 1, Ruffian 2, and Ruffian 3.

NOID

A pleasure.

CRUMPET

Now, may I kindly inquire on why you've come to bother us on such a beautiful day as this?

JUMPY

Wait a minute captain! I recognise this bloke! He's in my AP Computer Science course!

CRUMPET

You know, Jumpy, you could have well just said 'Computer Science course'. Nobody would think any less of you if they thought that you weren't taking an advanced course.

JUMPY

Just wanted to be specific is all... It's a real hard class, you know!

NOID

Really hard. The instructor is awesome but impossible.

JUMPY

Anyway, I know this bloke! His name is Noid!

CRUMPET

Noid, eh? How appropriate. An odd name for an odd bloke.

NOID

My name doesn't matter. What does matter is that I've come today with a proposition of sorts.

CRUMPET

A proposition? What could a daft ignorant who goes takes Computer Science have to offer our organization?

NOID

I'm... Not ignorant... I'm not... Look, I know why you have your little...

(coughs)

'Fawlty-Towers' fan clubs during free periods. I know why you're afraid to go conduct your business in the halls... It's The Tattler. The Tattler has shown Metropolis High your true colors unfortunately.

JUMPY

Watch your tongue, ignorant!

NOID

I'm... no... ignorant.

CRUMPET

Hold, Jumpy.

(to Noid)

It's true- this Tattler has always been a thorn in our heel. How do you propose to deal with this?

NOID

It's simple... We expel The Tattler.

The Top-Hat gang laughs.

JUMPY

He really is an ignorant!

NOID

(Pulls out a pencil)

How about I show you a magic trick?

CRUMPET

Stop it! Both of you!

(to Jumpy)

I want to hear what he has to say.

(to Noid)

You talk about doing something that we have been trying at and failing at for years. Nobody knows who the Tattler really is. It's impossible to get near him.

RUFFIAN 1

I heard it's Ms. Boffers.

RUFFIAN 2

Really? Ms. Boffers? Where would she find the time to be a crime-fighting vigilante?

RUFFIAN 3

She certainly doesn't spend her free time grading student papers... I've been waiting for her to grade my essay for a week. I've asked her for it every class, but she just gives me endless excuses for why she can't - like how she burned it for sacrifice to the Kublai Khan.

RUFFIAN 2

Granted, being too busy fighting criminals that she couldn't find time to grade your essay sounds like a fairly valid excuse.

JUMPY

Whoever it is, Captain Crumpet is right. It would be impossible to track this 'Tattler' down and even more impossible to find a way to expel him.

NOID

You just needed a little help is all.

CRUMPET

From who? You? That's right funny! What could you, a scrawny little dork-bloke, possibly offer our organization?

NOID

Connections.

The lights dim.

JUMPY

Uh... Captain?

Suddenly, a spotlight is turned on directed at Crumpet.

CRUMPET

(startled)

Mr... Mr. Principal!

PRINCIPAL

I hope I'm not intruding. Oh wait, I don't care.

JUMPY

Wait... The Principal is going to help us expel The Tattler? The Principal?!

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Supreme Principal, thank you. And yes, I am here to help. It's true the office of the principal and the hooded sweatshirt of the Tattler once worked together, hand-in-hand... But the Tattler has proven to be, shall we say, disloyal in recent days. I think we can all do with a new Tattler.

CRUMPET

And what does this have to do with us? We don't want any Tattler!

JUMPY

Who you thinking to be the new Tattler?

PRINCIPAL

Noid volunteered for the role.

CRUMPET

Oh...

(looks at Noid, who waves)

Oh that's fine then! We're all for it!

PRINCIPAL

Brilliant. Noid and I have already discussed the details of the plan. You all will provide aid in capturing 'The Tattler' so that I may properly reveal him to be the anarchist that he is. This will give me grounds to expel him. Following that, you will help Noid here establish himself as the new Tattler at the next Winter Formal in front of all to see.

CRUMPET

The winter formal, sir?

PRINCIPAL

That's strike one for you, Crumpet. I expect you all to do your part. Good bye. Or not. I don't care.

The lights turn back up and the spotlight disappears.

JUMPY

Welp. Alrighty then.

CRUMPET

Well then Noid - or should I say - The Tattler! What's the plan?

NOID

It is the most ingenious plan I have ever thought up. It's...

Noid looks out into the audience.

NOID

Perhaps we should discuss this in a room with a bit more... privacy...

CRUMPET

Aye...

Curtains close. End of Act one.

Intermission

ACT 2, SCENE 1

Curtains up. The audience is presented with a stage full of members of the Top Hat gang, holding a desperate Rachel hostage in the corner.

RACHEL

Please! Let me go! Have mercy!

JUMPY

Shut your trap!

CRUMPET

No, let her scream! We want the Tattler to know we have her.

JUMPY

When's he coming, captain?

CRUMPET

Any second now, my brothers and sister.

The lights go dim. The gang panics and they hear  
a voice of unknown origin.

JOSEPH

Crumpet.

CRUMPET

(stuttering)

T... T... Tattler.

JOSEPH

Top Hat gang! I'm feeling rather generous today, so I'm going to give you all one warning:  
Let her go, and you can keep one limb of your choosing.

JUMPY

Left leg please!

CRUMPET

Sorry to disappoint you, Tattler, but it is not you who should be posing threats. You see,  
you have fallen into my trap. With me are all the members of the Top Hat gang as well as  
the most vicious bullies from Upper West Side, who decided to come for some reason.  
Now is our chance to fight back against your repeated and consistently well-executed  
attacks.

JOSEPH

Bring in 10 more guys and it might be a fair fight.

JUMPY

Ah! His comeback is too strong!



RACHEL

Tattler, please save me!

JOSEPH

Don't worry, m'lady. I've got this.

The gang throws themselves upon the Tattler. Joseph, dressed as the Tattler, begins to fight back with extremely well-coordinated skill. Taking them all down swiftly.

CRUMPET

Retreat! He's too strong for all of us combined!

The gang retreats as Joseph stands triumphantly over them.

RACHEL

Thank you Tattler! I owe you my life!

JOSEPH

Think nothing of it, m'lady! Just doing my job!

The Tattler (Nick) enters stage left.

TATTLER

Joe! You have proved yourself beyond worthy to don the hooded sweatshirt of the Tattler and be the greatest vigilante our school has ever had. Congratulations.

JOSEPH

Thank you, Tattler! I'm honored!

Warlock suddenly appears out of stage left and casually walks over to Joseph.

WARLOCK

(Shouting)

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

A quick transition reveals Joseph was actually dreaming and laying in his bed in his own room where Stunt is standing above him, screaming just as Warlock was in his dream.

STUNT  
WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

JOSEPH  
Ah! What the hell are you doing?

STUNT  
Waking you up.

JOSEPH  
What? Why? It's Saturday!

STUNT  
Oh, I'm sorry! I was just under the impression that you wanted to learn how to fight, and that you asked me to train you.

JOSEPH  
Well technically, it was Rachel who asked... How did you get in my house this time?

STUNT  
You're mom let me in. She offered me breakfast, to. Nice woman.

JOSEPH  
(sighing)  
Great. Thanks mom, for ensuring my safety.

STUNT  
Well, come on! On your feet!

Joseph gets up sheepishly, rubbing his tired eyes.

JOSEPH  
But it's Saturday! Isn't the school gym closed on weekends?

STUNT  
Today's lesson: lock-picking and infiltration 101. And not the class they teach in school. That one doesn't go as in-depth as one would think.

JOSEPH  
Oh, wait. Sorry, I can't go... I just remembered I have a quiz in Mr. D.B. Cooper's class next week that I need to study for.

STUNT  
I can quiz you on details while were there. It's called multitasking.

JOSEPH

You know I already know how to fight, right? I have a...

STUNT

Yeah, Yeah... An orange belt in Karate. You told me. You're practically a master. Tell you what: If you can punch me, I'll let you stay in bed today.

JOSEPH

...What?

STUNT

Is that like your catchphrase or something? You heard me: punch me and you can stay in bed.

JOSEPH

Me... Hit you?

STUNT

Yup.

JOSEPH

In the face?

STUNT

Yeah. Just try to hit me.

JOSEPH

Now?

STUNT

No time like the present!

Stunt steps closer to Joseph and offers her face to be hit.

JOSEPH

Are you sure? It's going to hurt...

STUNT

That's assuming your fist makes it to my face. Come on, let's go!

Joseph looks anxious as he puts himself in a position to hit her, recalling everything he's been told about Stunt's ability in martial arts.

JOSEPH

... I'm not going to hit a girl.

STUNT

Sure. Let's go, cowboy.

Both exit stage right, Joseph still dressed in his pajamas.

ACT 2, SCENE 2

Open to a study room. Things are deliberately moved aside to make a lot of room in the middle for Nick and Susie, who are practicing their dancing. Their backpacks are against the walls.

SUSIE

(Dancing)

One, two, three. One, two, three. There we go. No. Watch my tempo. Again: One, two, three, swing! There we go. No wait! Watch my tempo!

NICK

I am. I am. Just be patient with me.

(Pausing)

Look, Susie- Do we really need to do this? I have stuff to do, and you have your tutoring job you should go to.

SUSIE

Come on Nick, we've been over this: You can't go to the dance if you don't know how to dance! Seeing as this may be the last chance before prom to go to a dance, I want to get the full experience. The whole package, and that includes a boyfriend who can swing!

NICK

Right. Okay. Fine. Let's just get this over with.

SUSIE

You can't think like that! You've got to learn to enjoy it! When's the last time you had a real American high-school experience?

NICK

You know life isn't 'High-school Musical', right?

SUSIE

Look at me. Just enjoy it. Let go of everything else. I know you're stressed about missing the Tattler fan club meeting. But you have got to recognise that this is far more important than any fan meeting of any kind.

NICK

Missing what? Oh right. The uh... Fan meeting.

SUSIE

Come on, let's continue.

(Dancing)

No. You're right foot and then left foot. I'm leading right now, okay? Just follow me in this. Okay. No. No. Aright just stop for a second. Stop.

Susie separates herself from Nick. Nick looks confused.

NICK

What? What am I doing wrong?

SUSIE

(frustrated)

Everything. Just everything. Look: I'd like to think that I am a very reasonable person. I'm not joking. So many times I've organized a big date and you've stood me up! I get that you have your own responsibilities and stuff, but you do have some obligation towards me. You do owe me something. And this night can be that thing. I just want it to be perfect. And I know that's just a kind of fantasy, you know? But if I can, I want to do everything in my power to make it awesome. You understand? If I can make it next to perfect, I will.

NICK

I understand.

SUSIE

No. You don't.

A phone rings. It is coming from Nick's backpack leaning against the wall.

NICK

That must be mine. Can you get it?

Susie walks over to it while Nick practices his steps alone.

SUSIE

(Answering phone)

Hello, who is this? Mr. Principal!

Nick sprints over to the phone and grabs it from Susie.

NICK

Hello?

PRINCIPAL

Tattler. Is that you?

NICK

Yes sir.

PRINCIPAL

Is now a good time?

Nick looks back at an annoyed Susie.

NICK

Well actually sir...

PRINCIPAL

Good. Now that I have covered basic human social rituals, time to get back to business. I want to stress the importance of your presence this coming Winter Formal.

NICK

(To Susie)

Fan club. It's the fan club.

(To Principal)

Actually, sir, uh, there's something I've been meaning to tell you.

PRINCIPAL

They're behind me aren't they?

NICK

Who? What? No. What I mean to say sir, is that I won't be able to attend the... The meeting on the day of the Winter Formal.

PRINCIPAL

Right.... If that's the case...

NICK

I'm so sorry! I'll make this up with hours of instructed patrol, promise! The thing is, I have a bit of an event.

PRINCIPAL

...Very well. If you insist.

NICK

(stunned)

Wait... Really? That's it?

PRINCIPAL

I absolutely understand if you have plans. Don't worry, I recognise your fierce independence and anarchial behavior as absolutely normal reflexes of the uncontrollable youth.

NICK

Th... Thank you sir! I owe you for this!

PRINCIPAL

Obviously. You can work toward paying off that debt now. There has been some reports of some ruffians... I mean, hooligans. Yes- hooligans- in the library. They seem to have assembled above a red 'X' drawn onto the floor. Do your duty as The Tattler and let the hooligans know who is the real authority here! Over and out!

The Principal hangs up. Nick smiles and looks up at a confused Susie.

SUSIE

Why does the principal have your number?

NICK

He's... The head of the Tattler fan club.

SUSIE

And?

NICK

(Sighing)

He has the meeting taken care of. Meanwhile, I'll be at the dance. I'll be with you. And you know what? It's going to be the most stereotypical perfect teenage fantasy dream you've ever experienced .

SUSIE

Thanks Nick. This is going to be great!

They embrace. Susie runs over to a speaker resting on the floor and turns it on. Slow dance starts playing, and Susie and Nick continue their dancing routine.

NICK

I'll try leading this time.

SUSIE

Yeah, not going to happen. Maybe after you can differentiate your left and right feet. Come on- one, two, three. One, two three. One, two, three, skip! There we go! One, two, three. One, two, three...

### ACT 2, SCENE 3

Open to Mr. D.B. Cooper's classroom. It's presentation day. All of the students are standing in front of their own individual presentation board, presenting their own 'get rich quick' scheme. In the front row is Rachel, Edward, and Noid. Mr. D.B. Cooper is walking in front of the boards with a clipboard, grading as he goes.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Very good. Yes, very good.

(stops in front of Rachel)

Ms. Shuster, would you care to provide an oral explanation of your project?

RACHEL

Certainly, sir. For my 'get rich quick' scheme, I intend to perform at a magic show. For one of my tricks, I will ask for a hundred dollars from the audience. I will then announce that I intend to make the money disappear. Of course, they will assume that it will be through magical means, but therein lies the deception! I will grab the money and run from the stage, making a decent profit!

MR. D. B. COOPER

Very good, Ms. Shuster, very good. What about you, Noid?

NOID

My presentation, Mr. D.B. Cooper, involves coal, a most common commodity. I would sneak into residencies late at night, and raid the coal-ovens of families. Once I gathered a wealth of coal, I will compress it in my cleverly designed compressing engine and turn all of the worthless coal into diamonds that have infinitely more value!



STUDENT 1

Who still has a coal oven?

NOID

Many people, I assure you. Myself included.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Hmm... Yes, well... I do see another hole in your plan Noid, once you broke into the residence of question, why not take their other valuables while you're there? Why just the coal?

NOID

Oh... Because I only require coal for my transfiguration process!

Mr. D.B. Cooper scribbles some notes onto his clipboard.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Great. Thank you, Noid. Now who is next... Where is Mr. Averall? Where is Joseph Averall? Joseph? Absent...

Just then, Joseph comes running in stage left panting with his gym clothes and backpack.

JOSEPH

(panting)

Here!

Mr. D.B. Cooper shakes his head once Joseph enters. He sighs and scribbles some notes onto his clipboard.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Do you have your 'Get Rich Quick' presentation prepared, Mr. Averall?

JOSEPH

My what? Oh... Uh... Yeah, yeah. Um...

(clears throat)

My, uh, 'Get Rich Quick' project is focussed on a very well-thought-out heist on arguably our most, uh, valuable asset: Time.

The class groans. Mr. D.B.Cooper stops writing.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Time? How do you plan to steal... time?

JOSEPH

Uh, well, I'm doing it right now!

MR. D. B. COOPER

(scribbling on clipboard)

Right. 'F' for Joseph.

JOSEPH

It's Joe.

MR. D. B. COOPER

(to class)

Alright, students! Now that I have graded your presentations, I need to go put them in the system. I encourage you all to walk around and admire your fellow classmates' 'Get Rich Quick' plans. We'll continue the lesson once I'm done putting these grades in. Please behave yourselves while I'm gone!

Mr. D.B. Cooper walks out of the class with his clipboard. The second he leaves, the students take out a stereo playing hard metal, paper planes, and other classically disruptive objects, The students wander around, paying no attention to the projects. Joseph, Rachel, Edward, and Noid all meet downstage center.

JOSEPH

That was so unfair.

RACHEL

(to Joseph)

Where have you even been? I haven't seen you in class for the last week!

JOSEPH

I was just training at the gym with your friend Stunt.

(sighing)

I lost track of time.

RACHEL

Well that must mean you guys were working hard, right?

JOSEPH

That's true. I feel more empowered now than I've, like, ever felt anytime before! This girl, Stunt, has been teaching me Judo, Karate, Krav-Maga, acrobatics... All this insane stuff! I'm starting to feel like a real super-hero now!

RACHEL

That's kind of funny.

STUDENT 2

Hey, Rachel! Nice presentation! Really clever!

RACHEL

Thanks, Student 2! Yours was awesome too!

(to Joseph)

Has this like, always been a dream of yours? To be a super-hero?

JOSEPH

Heh... Well... When I was a kid, I used to really love this comic series called 'The Great Ratchetboy'. It was about an ordinary kid who nobody paid too much attention to, but was secretly a caped vigilante! During the daytime, he would wander the school hallways, a face in the background. Nobody cared about him, like he wasn't even there... But at night, he would don a red 'Ratchet' cape and use his ninja-like moves and signature ratchet to take down criminals in a nearby city. I just kind of saw myself in that guy. An average guy who nobody expects that much out of, and who could secretly be a kind of super-hero. I don't know... It's always been a kind of aspiration I guess.

RACHEL

That's kind of cute. Weird and would be repelling if you kept this dream till your late 30's, but cute now. At least your training is helping. According to Warlock's prophecy, you can succeed at anything as long as you put your mind to it.

Edward walks into Joseph's and Rachel's conversations. Noid walks up to listen as well.

EDWARD

(jokingly)

Joseph Stalin! Run into any more doors recently?

JOSEPH

What? No!

EDWARD

What are you training for, Joey Baloney?

JOSEPH

What? Training? I don't know what you're talking about?

EDWARD

I heard you guys talking about how Jo-bo here is training for something. What's the thing?

JOSEPH

... Softball.

EDWARD

Softball? You don't think that's kind of...

NOID

(interrupting)

That seems kind of odd.

EDWARD

(to Noid)

Oh, of course! You would know about odd, wouldn't you?

RACHEL

Shut up, Edward!

EDWARD

Oh, come on! This little nerd knows I don't really mean it!

Edward shoves Noid.

NOID

(stuttering)

It's... It's Noid, not Nerd.

EDWARD

Right, because a nerd is at least smart enough to steal more than coal when you break into a house. When did you grow up? The mid 19th century? Nobody has coal ovens anymore!

RACHEL

Edward! You're being immature!

JOSEPH

Stop it, Edward...

Edward shoves Noid aside. Noid recoils and punches Edward in the face. Edward then looks back at Noid in disbelief before grabbing him by his collar and lifting him up into the air.

Upon seeing this, the classroom surrounds the two of them and starts encouraging them to fight.

EDWARD

(to Noid)

You hear that, Noid? Looks like we got an audience hungry for a show!

NOID

I'm sorry! I don't want to fight! Please release me!

Joseph and Rachel stand idly by.

RACHEL

(to Joseph)

Uh Joseph?

JOSEPH

Yeah?

RACHEL

... Now's your chance.

JOSEPH

To do what?

RACHEL

You wanted to be the next Tattler, right? What does the Tattler do?

JOSEPH

What?

RACHEL

(frustrated)

Do I have to spell it out for you? You have to go and defend the helpless with your sick karate moves and stuff! That's what your whole training with Stunt has been about, right? This is your dream, right?.. What would 'The Great Ratchetboy' do?

JOSEPH

You're right! Now's my chance to prove my worth! Now's my chance to prove I'm real Tattler material!

RACHEL

That's the spirit! If you are the chosen one like Warlock says, you can't fail.

Joseph starts to walk over to the conflict that's already underway. He stands behind an unsuspecting Edward. He pulls up his sleeves and prepares to fight.

EDWARD

(to Noid)

You're officially dead meat!

JOSEPH

Edward! This fight is between you and me...

Edward recoils to punch Noid, and strikes Joseph with his elbow accidentally. Joseph falls to the floor unconscious. Upon seeing this, Edward releases Noid who is also looking down upon the scene.

RACHEL

Ouch...

Just then, a sound of a door opening. All of the students immediately return to their desks and clean up, leaving Joseph on the floor, just as the teacher walks into the room. Mr. D. B. Cooper looks down at Joseph.

MR. D. B. COOPER

(tsking)

Falling asleep in class. How unprofessional! Than again, I wouldn't expect anything less from Mr. Averall here.

The teacher just kicks around Joseph's body to make sure he isn't asleep. He looks back at the students for an explanation, but they all just shake their heads.

MR. D. B. COOPER

Well... Will somebody please escort our disruptive student to the nurses office for immediate attention.

(seeing Rachel with her hand raised)

Rachel. Thank you. Now who here is ready for their quiz next week?

Rachel drags Joseph off stage right.

ACT 2, SCENE 4

Open to a dimly lit library. On down stage right, Warlock is chanting from an archaic tome. On stage left, Rachel is sitting at a table in the library trying to study she looks irritated at Warlock.

RACHEL

Can you please just... Just stop for a second? I'm trying to study. Thanks.

WARLOCK

Apologies. It's just that now that I am permitted to speak, I have a lot of demonic chanting to catch up on.

RACHEL

Can you at least do that a bit softer, please? Please?

WARLOCK

To silence oneself would mean to silent the tormented soul that boils inside.

Warlock lets out a high-pitched shriek.

RACHEL

What was that?

WARLOCK

The tormented soul.

RACHEL

You are officially the worst study partner.

WARLOCK

(sighs and closes tome)

What's up with you?

RACHEL

Uh... I just came back from the nurses' office.

WARLOCK

The nurses' office? What business did you have there?

RACHEL

Would you let me finish? Warlock... Look; I need you to be honest with me. Back when you told me about the... 'chosen one'...

WARLOCK

Yes, Joseph.

RACHEL

Right, Joseph. You said that one of the special abilities of this 'chosen one' would be and inability to fail.

WARLOCK

I never said that.

RACHEL

No? What did you say?

WARLOCK

I said that the chosen one, or savior, would have guaranteed success on whatever they set their mind to.

RACHEL

(sarcastically)

Right. There's the difference.

Rachel goes back to studying.

WARLOCK

What are you studying?

RACHEL

Uh... Quiz for financial economics.

WARLOCK

Who do you have?

RACHEL

D.B. Cooper. You?

WARLOCK

Professor JPMorgan.

A random student walks across the stage carrying a sign that reads: 'Comedy'.



WARLOCK

Why are you studying?

RACHEL

Why? Because I want a good grade in that class. What a weird question.

WARLOCK

No. I mean why now? Why not tonight?

RACHEL

(annoyed)

How about I make another bet with you? Do you know Neptune's largest moon?

(sighing)

It's because I'm going to the dance.

WARLOCK

The dance is tonight? Wow! That was a time jump! Why?

RACHEL

Because I thought it would be fun! Why else?

Rachel goes back to studying.

WARLOCK

I had another vision last night.

RACHEL

Oh, did you?

WARLOCK

Yes. It involved Joseph Averall, the chosen one.

RACHEL

Of course it did. Have you spoken to him recently? Like in the past two weeks?

WARLOCK

Since he started his training? Haven't seen him very often. But that's none of my business. We did our part. Now it's up to Joseph to make his dreams a reality.

RACHEL

Aren't you guys friends or something?

WARLOCK

It would give me no greater honor, but I am not worthy. The chosen one chooses their companions as King Arthur chose the knights of the Round Table. You have spoken with him, haven't you? What's different? Has he completed his transformation into 'the Tattler'?

RACHEL

Well... Not really. Last class he saw Noid getting beat up by Edward and went over to help, but he got elbowed in the face by Edward's... recoil. I bought him to the nurses' office. That's why I was there.

WARLOCK

Oh...

RACHEL

Yeah. I'm sorry Warlock, but I think you might have been wrong about his one.

WARLOCK

Oh well. May I tell you about the prophecy?

RACHEL

Sure. Whatever.

WARLOCK

The prophecy spoke of a time where the chosen's skills will be called upon. When the snow falls on summer's day.

RACHEL

So... We'll never need him?

WARLOCK

I believe it's in reference to the Winter Formal dance tonight, since it's at the end of the month of September.

RACHEL

Tonight! Is he ready?

WARLOCK

According to the prophecy, as ready as he'll ever be.

RACHEL

Warlock, don't think I don't believe in the 'prophecy' when I say that maybe we haven't... given him enough?

Warlock pauses and sighs.

WARLOCK

When I first learned of the existence of the chosen one through my visions, I too had my doubts. Describing this character would be to describe the most boring, dull individual ever to set foot in Metropolis High. The moment I saw Joseph, I knew he was the one. He had to be.

(pause)

But let's assume he isn't. Let's say that Joseph was just the new kid, lost and alone in an alien environment, with no promise of success. He would have spent his years at this school miserable. But together, we gave him hope. We gave him purpose. If not for the prophecy, then for the isolated newcomer- We've done well.

A door can be heard slowly opening off of stage left.

RACHEL

Who's that?

WARLOCK

(whispering to Rachel)

Silence yourself. This is relevant.

RACHEL

What?

Nick as the Tattler enters from stage right.

NICK

(shouting into the darkness)

Hello? Hooligans? You in here? I just want to talk! It's no too late to redeem yourselves and change your evil ways!

(not seeing anybody or any commotion)

Hello?

Just then, a ruffian comes running from behind Nick to hit him over the head with his bat. Nick, sensing this, props his hand up and catches the bat mid-swing.

NICK

(to the Ruffian)

You the Hooligan?

Suddenly, the Tattler tenses up, and falls to the floor.

Noid, holding a Nerf-gun of some sort, walks out from behind stage right with Crumpet, Jumpy, and the other Ruffians. Noid is wearing a black cloak.

CRUMPET  
(stunned-though not literally)

What was that?

NOID  
Oh, I modified my Nerf gun to fire tranquilizing darts. Effective at 100 yards and can down a Rhinoceros.

JUMPY  
I'm pretty sure that's illegal.

NOID  
(sarcastic)  
Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't think that the most intimidating gang in Metropolis High would hesitate at using tranquilizing darts due to concerns concerning their 'legality'.

JUMPY  
I have standards.

CRUMPET  
Shut it, Jumpy.  
(looking at the Tattler)  
Looks like the tables have turned, what do you say to that ignorant? What's the matter cat got your tongue?

Crumpet begins to approach the body to do damage.

NOID  
Don't hurt him yet. Help me carry him to the boiler room so that we may advance towards the next phase in my plan.

CRUMPET  
The one in which you take the Tattler's place at the Winter Formal?

NOID  
Why would you say it like that? We all know the plan.

CRUMPET

What? You afraid somebody will be listening in? Who?

(points at Rachel)

Ay! Ignorant! You didn't hear anything, right?

Rachel gives a thumbs-up. Crumpet nods and begins lifting the body of The Tattler.

RACHEL

(whispering)

Noid...

The Top-Hat gang carries the Tattler off stage. Rachel stands up from her desk and Warlock reveals himself from the shadows.

WARLOCK

We need to tell Joseph.

RACHEL

Warlock...

WARLOCK

Where did you last see him?

RACHEL

The nurse's office. But...

WARLOCK

He's our only hope! This is his chance to become The Tattler. To the nurses' office!

Warlock runs off stage right. Rachel sighs and follows him.

## ACT 2, SCENE 5

The school gym. Joseph is punching away at a punching bag stage right while Stunt walks around him, supervising his technique and quizzing him on matters concerning his upcoming quiz.

STUNT

What airline that works domestically has the most vulnerable security upon boarding?

JOSEPH

Currently, Virgin America.

STUNT

What metal do they use as the external covering of their planes? Lower your stance.

JOSEPH

Yeah. Uh... Tin?

STUNT

Aluminum. Remember your recoil. True or false: You should obtain tickets for the cheapest flight possible when conducting your operation.

JOSEPH

False. A more expensive trip means wealthier passengers. It's all based on maximizing utility.

STUNT

Nice. You're more or less ready for this quiz. Remember to twist your arm... How's your jaw?

JOSEPH

It's getting better. Is he always this late?

STUNT

Well it's not like he has much of a life outside of school, so no.

JOSEPH

Why don't you organize your game another time. How about when you're not training me?

Stunt sighs and looks over her shoulder to Joseph. She stares at him while he punches the bag.

STUNT

Firstly, I didn't expect for you to be up for a training session after I heard you got jawed by that kid Edward.

JOSEPH

He didn't mean to do it, so I didn't expect it.

STUNT

Secondly, Lower your stance. Lower. There we go. Remember, keep your knuckles out when you release. Full force. There we go.

JOSEPH  
You going to the dance tonight?

STUNT  
No. I never go to those things.

Noid enters stage left, donning a black cloak.

NOID  
Sorry I'm late. Had to finish some work.

JOSEPH  
Noid.

NOID  
Joseph... Thanks for looking out for me last period.

JOSEPH  
No problem.

STUNT  
What deck did you bring this time, Noid?

NOID  
The... Uh... Distraction deck?

STUNT  
Ooh... Haven't played that one yet!

NOID  
The strategy is to make the game last a long enough time so that I may continue working on my master plan without your interference.

STUNT  
Huh. That's cool.

Both Noid and Stunt sit down to play while Joseph continues punching away at the punching bag.

NOID  
(To Joseph)  
So, Joseph! How has your quest been going, to become the next Tattler?  
(Playing the game)  
Ray of frost for eight damage.

JOSEPH

I don't know. To be honest, I'm starting to really rethink whether I'm even, like, able to do all the cool stuff the Tattler does. It's complicated.

NOID

(smiling)

It is... but... I wouldn't worry Joseph, I'm sure an opportunity for you to prove you're capable is just at the door, so to speak.

(Playing the game)

Siege giant for twelve.

JOSEPH

... Thanks Noid.

NOID

Now if you'll excuse me, Stunt, I've got to pause this game for a seconds. Nature calls.

STUNT

You're just retreating from your impending defeat!

Noid smiles and walks off stage right.

Just then Rachel, followed by Warlock, barges in stage left.

RACHEL

(panting)

Stunt! There you are!

STUNT

Rachel? Warlock? What are you guys doing here?

RACHEL

Do you know where Joseph is?

JOSEPH

It's Joe. 'Sup guys?

RACHEL

(rushing over to Joseph)

There you are! We couldn't find you back at the nurse's office.

JOSEPH

Oh yeah. Uh... Once I woke up, I decided that there was no better place to go then back to train with Stunt.



WARLOCK

Joseph! Your time is now! Come forward and claim your destiny as the savior of the school!

RACHEL

What he means to say, Joseph, is that we, uh, need... We need The Tattler.

JOSEPH

Really? Well as much as I appreciate you guys saying so, I'm afraid I'm not really Tattler material. I really love these lessons and all, but you guys saw what Edward did to me. I'm sorry, but I just can't.

RACHEL

(to Warlock)

Told you.

WARLOCK

Come on, Joseph. It won't be so hard. You were already in a fight at Upper West Side, right? This should be easier now that you have your new skills.

JOSEPH

I didn't really get in a fight at UWS. I mean... I tried. There were these bullies that were shoving kids into lockers and stuff. When they grabbed me, I tried to fight back. They saw this as a challenge. I wasn't expelled I was moved over concerns about my safety.

WARLOCK

Oh.

STUNT

(to Joseph)

Hold on, hold on. Where is that coming from? You insane? Are you insane? Is this the same Joseph that I've been wasting an hour everyday trying to train?

JOSEPH

Wait, what?

STUNT

So what that you were so brutally beaten at UWS that you were forced to move! Listen to me: I have given you some kick-ass combat skills. You are not going to let them waste away in your memory like a corpse in the Sahara. You owe me for all the training we have done, all the time we have spent hitting punching bags...

JOSEPH

It's only been a couple of weeks.

STUNT

Shut up! On my honor, I will not let these skills I have taught you just waste in your insignificant little head. You will be the next Tattler.

JOSEPH

But I failed to protect Noid...

STUNT

Really? Like, really? You are pathetic. What, do you want me to feel sorry for you?  
(mockingly)

'But Joseph, you can't give up! I believe in you! You are the chosen one! My hero!'. Get up, get a 'Tattler' costume, and go help the god-damn school. Or don't - but don't expect us to pity you and encourage your stupid ego to go become some kind of famous guy like you're the main character in your own play or something!

WARLOCK

She's right. Your destiny does not stop here, Joseph Averall.

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH

Alright, I'll do it. What's the problem?

RACHEL

It's Noid.

Just then, Noid walks in stage left. Immediately seeing the interaction in front of him, he begins to slowly step backwards as everybody else doesn't seem to notice him.

STUNT

What about him?

RACHEL

He's captured the real Tattler! We both saw it all in the library! The Tattler came in to investigate something but then Noid shot him with a sleep dart!

STUNT

Noid? Kidnapping The Tattler? I don't believe that for a second.

WARLOCK

It's true, Stunt! They carried him off after tranquilizing him!

JOSEPH

So we need to go find him?

STUNT

He said he was going to the bathroom or something.

RACHEL

You don't think he knew we were coming and escaped?

STUNT

That would be the smart thing to do.

Just then, Noid stumbles a bit while walking backwards. The gang immediately turn their heads toward him. He smiles and salutes before bolting off stage left.

WARLOCK

I recommend we initiate pursuit.

The gang runs after Noid in pursuit.

## ACT 2, SCENE 6

Open to the boiler room. An unconscious Tattler is tied up stage left surrounded by the Top-Hat gang including Crumpet, Jumpy, and the Ruffians. The Ruffians and Jumpy are sitting around a board game stage right. Crumpet is pacing around the prisoner.

RUFFIAN 3

So? What do you all think?

JUMPY

It's nice. It's good. I enjoy it very much, I do!

RUFFIAN 1

I got to say, before this I didn't think a financially ethical Monopoly edition was even possible!

RUFFIAN 3

I just saw something that could have been made better, and I bettered it is all! That's my philosophy with business and such.

RUFFIAN 2

You make the Ruffian family name proud, Ruffian 3.

RUFFIAN 3

In this edition, you only go to jail if you commit an illegal transaction of sorts. And lose once you go to Jail. There's no getting out o' jail free in this block o' town!

JUMPY

I also like how when you go bankrupt, you don't lose the game, you just get social and federal support and dedicate your life to charity.

RUFFIAN 3

You only lose if you do something illegal or financially unethical!

CRUMPET

Will you all shut up! Where is that 'Noid' character?

RUFFIAN 1

He certainly likes to keep us waiting around, he does!

RUFFIAN 2

Why he say we're doing this again?

CRUMPET

He says that they could interfere with his master plan.

JUMPY

Yeah! Think for once in your life, ignorant!

RUFFIAN 1

Can we play a game while we wait?

RUFFIAN 2

Yeah, I want to play another game!

JUMPY

I call philanthropist!

RUFFIAN 3

Crumpet, you in?

CRUMPET

What? No. No thank you. We can't get distracted from watching this ignorant, else he escapes!

JUMPY

Oy, captain! Come and join us! You have got to take your mind off o' things and just relax with your brothers and sister! How about it?

Crumpet sighs and makes the 'I'm watching you' gesture with his hands towards the captured prisoner who is still unconscious before joining his friends.

CRUMPET

Right. Let's do this.

Crumpet returns to game with companions. A few seconds later, Noid, donning a black cloak, runs in from stage right and looks at the gang's game.

JUMPY

Oy! Noidy-fella! Want to play?

NOID

(anxious)

No. No, no, no. Um... We might need to accelerate our plans a bit.

CRUMPET

What you mean?

NOID

Well it's just that... The Tattler will be here any second now.

CRUMPET

But The Tattler is right here!

NOID

Let's just say there's another... uh... ignorant student who wants the role and has trained with a black-belt in karate for the last two weeks. Then let's say that he's on his way here now with the black belt that trained him and their two friends.

There is a short silence.

JUMPY

Welp. Alrighty then.

CRUMPET

What should we do?

NOID

We need to act fast. Crumpet, do you still have the bag I gave you?

CRUMPET

Yes...

Crumpet reaches from behind the unconscious prisoner and takes out a bag with the word 'Kale' written on the side.

JUMPY

That's not really...

NOID

It is.

JUMPY

Kale is forbidden! How did you get a hold of this?

NOID

I told you: I have connections... The staff lounge.

CRUMPET

So we are to give this to... what's the name?

NOID

The name is Edward. Here's a picture.

Noid hands Crumpet a picture of Edward.

CRUMPET

He looks like a right ignorant.

NOID

Believe me, he is. Once you give this to him, I will run in dressed as the Tattler and give the signal for you guys to restrain him for the possession of Kale. I will then earn the admiration of the students for catching an infamous Kale-dealer and they will accept me as their new Tattler!

JUMPY

Is he really a Kale dealer?

NOID

Technically no, but that's not what the student body will think!

JUMPY

I don't know about this plan and all...

NOID

Jumpy, I know you have doubted me in the past, but you have to trust me. By doing this, I will become the new Tattler and the Top-Hat gang can do it's business in peace.

CRUMPET

He's right, Jumpy. Stop being so paranoid.

Suddenly, Noid and the Top-Hat gang hears some footsteps offstage.

JUMPY

Fine. Fine. What about the Tattler?

NOID

Leave him. There's no way he will regain consciousness before I declare myself as the Tattler.

The footsteps get louder.

NOID

We better move.

Noid and the Top-Hats run off stage in the opposite direction of the footsteps. Shortly after, Joseph, Warlock, Rachel, and Stunt all run onto the stage to encounter the still unconscious Tattler tied to a chair.

JOSEPH

Is that really...

Rachel runs over to the Tattler and tries to wake him but fails.

RACHEL

He's really out.

STUNT

What do we do now?

RACHEL

Well, one of the Top-Hat's said that Noid would try to reveal himself as the Tattler again at the Winter Formal.

JOSEPH

So... We go to the Winter Formal?

RACHEL

We need to stop Noid before he does whatever he's planning to do.

JOSEPH

How?

STUNT

(to Joseph)

Hey! You want to be the Tattler? The real Tattler knows how to take full control of these kind of problems.

WARLOCK

She's right, Joseph. I'm sure we have a good 10 minutes before the ideal time for Noid to proclaim himself as the Tattler. You have to think of a plan to subdue him before then.

JOSEPH

Uh... No. Guys, I have literally done nothing my whole time at this school without your help. That doesn't end now. We got this far together, we're doing this together.

STUNT

You just can't think of a good plan, can you?

JOSEPH

(ignoring Stunt)

We need to work together for the future of this school.

STUNT

Sure. Alright everybody, listen up: I have a my own kind of plan.

WARLOCK

I will be of service, as it is my destiny.



RACHEL

Count me in. This is way more interesting than any 'Winter Formal'.

Stunt explains her plan in whispers to the group as the light dims for the next scene.

ACT 2, SCENE 8

Noid, wearing a Tattler costume, is pacing in front of some curtains, occasionally looking behind them. There is the sound of a party behind the curtain.

NOID

(looking behind curtain)

The dance is going along just as planned. In approximately five minutes, Crumpet and Jumpy should be going out with their bag of kale to plant on that wicked Edward, giving me justification to get my revenge on him, and make me the new Tattler!

Noid continues to pace in front of the curtains.

NOID

I am the Tattler... I am the Tattler... Who's the Tattler? I'm the Tattler.

(practicing monologue)

Our school is hurt. Gang members, free to patrol the hallways, beat innocent students and cause absolute chaos. Hooligans and ruffians run rampant. Lunch trades can happen right under the noses of the authorities and students alike. Our school is corrupt. It needs a hero. And I am that hero. I am... The Tattler! Nobody can threaten me!

The lights go dark.

NOID

He... Hello?

DEEP VOICE

Such a silly little boy.

NOID

(nervous)

Who's there?

DEEP VOICE

You want to be the Tattler, but you don't understand the responsibility behind such a role.

NOID

Show yourself!

Noid takes out his phone and uses the flashlight on his phone to shine it down stage left. He then hears a voice coming from stage right.

DEEP VOICE

The Tattler is a very dangerous job as well. Don't you know? You're always susceptible to people who would want to see you expelled.

Noid shines his light stage right to reveal a figure in a dark cloak.

NOID

Go away! I'm... I'm the Tattler! I'll fight you! I have been studying martial arts through online course for the past month!

Suddenly a voice comes from stage left.

DEEP VOICE

You're practically a master.

Noid shines his light stage left to reveal another figure dressed in a black cloak.

NOID

But... but...

DEEP VOICE

(from the figure on stage right)

You must be so proud.

NOID

(frightened)

Go away! Please! Leave me alone!

The figure on stage left speaks and Noid turns around to look at it as it begins to step closer.

DEEP VOICE

(from stage left)

Oh no, I don't think it will ever be that easily. I am darkness incarnate.

Accept me into your life. Accept the pain, the torment, the burden that comes with being hall monitor. You are alone, as you will always be.

The lights turn on to reveal a figure positioned on both sides of Noid. Noid is currently facing Warlock who has donned his black cloak. Right behind him is Joseph, who is removing a black cloak as Noid continues to be stunned in fear. Joseph suddenly grabs Noid who is too terrified to speak. Rachel and Stunt walk on from stage left.

STUNT

Whoa! You really got him good!

RACHEL

I think that last part might have been a bit too much for the situation.

WARLOCK

(removing black cloak)

Sorry about that. I got too into my role, it would seem.

NOID

J... Joseph? How may I be of service?

JOSEPH

Noid... Noid, Noid, Noid. Uh...

Stunt shoves Joseph out of the way and grabs Noid.

STUNT

(to Joseph)

Let me take care of this, Joe.

Stunt grabs Noid by the collar and sighs. Noid chuckles nervously as Stunt stares at him. Suddenly, Stunt punches Noid across the face. Her three companions gasp in surprise as Stunt begins to unleash a series of punches onto Noid, until he is thrown onto the ground.

STUNT

I've got a bit of a question for you Noid. Can you do me the pleasure of answering it? Can you? In our last game of 'Dragon's blade' you drew an extra card after your first main phase. When I asked you about it, do you know what you said? You said that you got a second card draw on your second main phase. Due to an enchantment you activated on turn three in response to me playing the 'Eagle Sword'.

RACHEL

Uh... Stunt?

STUNT

I'm... not... finished. Now I looked it up, and the only way you could've gotten a second card draw was with 'The Gate of Infinite Wisdom' card which is illegal in standard play, but I can excuse that since this was casual play. But I checked your card list, and you didn't even have the resources to ever cast that card in the first place. So tell me, Noid, how did you ever manage to play a Gate of Infinite Wisdom without ever having the resources to play it? Hm?

NOID

(bruised)

It's... It's just a game.

RACHEL

I think what Stunt is meaning to ask, Noid, is why? Why did you capture the Tattler? Why are you dressed as him now? Why did you ally yourself with the Top-Hat gang? What's the point?

NOID

Well to be honest...

JOSEPH

Hold on, Rachel. I've got this.

(to Noid)

I know how you feel, Noid. I do, really. You've always wanted to do something with your life. To be more than a face in the crowd. To be something better than anybody expected you to be. To defy the Tattler. I can respect that, but...

NOID

Actually...

JOSEPH

But there's better ways of doing it, Noid.

(offers hand to help up)

Join us, Noid. Be more than a stereotype.

NOID

Actually I was going to say that the reason I am, uh, doing this is for another reason...

RACHEL

What? How else could you possibly justify doing this?

NOID

College applications.

There is a pause, before Joseph calmly walks over to Noid and kicks him while he's still on the ground. Noid lets out a yelp.

STUNT

College applications? Really?

NOID

I didn't have enough extracurricular material to get into my top-choice schools. What better extracurricular than the school's own vigilante? It shows that you are smart, strong, and capable!

RACHEL

So you enlisted the help of the Top-Hat gang and captured the real Tattler... all for your college application?

NOID

Sounds stupid when you say it like that.

JOSEPH

Well the gig is up, Noid! How were you planning to go through with this?

NOID

I'll never tell the likes of you, Joseph!

JOSEPH

My... name... is... Joe!

Joseph starts wailing on the already bruised and wounded Noid.

RACHEL

(to Stunt)

Wow he's really going all-out, isn't he?

STUNT

It's a release.

RACHEL

Okay Joe. You can stop now.

Joseph stands up from a whimpering, beaten Noid.

STUNT

What's going down, Noid?

NOID

(gasping for breath)

Top-Hat's... Edward... Kale...

STUNT

What? Speak louder!

NOID

Prove myself...

WARLOCK

I believe what he is trying to say is that Noid had planned for the Top-Hat gang to plant Kale on Edward so he could make a justified arrest as the Tattler and earn the admiration of his class.

JOSEPH

Edward is going to be falsely caught carrying kale! We have to help him!

RACHEL

... Why?

JOSEPH

What? Really? I thought being the Tatter was about protecting the innocent! Edward may not be the nicest kid on the block, but he could be expelled if caught with Kale! That could potentially ruin the rest of his adult career!

(sighs)

I'm going to help him. If anybody wants to join me, I would welcome your company.

Joseph begins to walk off stage. None of the other three friends follow him initially. Joseph, realizing that nobody was following him walks back onto stage and gestures offstage.

JOSEPH

... Please?

Rachel, Stunt, and Warlock follow Joseph off stage - leaving Noid behind. After a second, Joseph runs back on stage and grabs Noid and drags him off stage after his friends.

ACT 2, SCENE 7

The Winter Formal. All students are present, either dancing or talking. Susie is waiting impatiently for Nick in the corner. The teachers are also present as chaperones, occasionally stepping in to interrupt a dance. Edward is talking amongst friends. Two students are conversing down center-stage.

STUDENT 1

This is nice.

STUDENT 2

I still don't understand why we have to have our 'Winter Formal' in at the end of September.

STUDENT 1

Well by then it would be too cold! Just think for once!

EDWARD

(to friends)

I mean, he totally just ran into my elbow. Like pow! He was out like a light! And I wasn't even looking! I would have really broken the guy if I was trying.

Crumpet and Jumpy walk on from stage right followed by the three Ruffians. Jumpy is holding the large bag.

JUMPY

(Pointing to Edward)

So that's the bloke Captain?

CRUMPET

Aye, that's him.

RUFFIAN 1

He does look the right bastard, the ignorant.

JUMPY

So what's the plan?

CRUMPET

We wait just a bit more for Noid to ready himself, then we plant the bag on him! Piece of shepard's pie!

JUMPY

Aye- aye Captain!

RUFFIAN 2

Couldn't think of a better replacement for the word cake?

RUFFIAN 3

Do they even have cakes in Britain?

Ms. Boffers walks up to the Top Hat gang members.

MS. BOFFERS

How are you all doing tonight? Having fun?

TOP-HAT GANG

Yes, ma'am.

MS. BOFFERS

That's swell! This party is turning more wild than the feasts of the Khan Ogedhi! Hope you all have a good time and don't do anything illegal!

TOP HAT GANG

We won't.

MS. Boffers leaves to attend to other students.

CRUMPET

What an ignorant.



Transition to Susie awkwardly standing in the corner. She begins speaking aside.

SUSIE

(to audience)

Literally only underclassmen - just like Nick said. I feel like a giraffe at a... shorter giraffe convention. I don't know. I just imagined it would be a bit... different. There's too many people. It's too loud. Whatever happened to those innocent times? When dances were romantic, when academics came second to drama... Where did the good times go? Times change I guess...

(frustrated)

Where the hell is Nick? This dance is supposed to be perfect!

Rachel walk on stage opposite to the Top-Hat gang. She's whispering into her phone, looking at the Top-Hats from afar.

RACHEL

(through radio)

They're about to plant to Kale on Edward. Warlock, do you have the new bag?

Warlock can be heard whispering into the radio off-stage.

WARLOCK

Got it. Waiting for destiny to unfold.

RACHEL

Just wait for the signal.

WARLOCK

Roger.

Rachel gets off the radio for a second and waits nervously before picking up the radio again

RACHEL

(to Warlock through radio)

So... Warlock... How's life?

WARLOCK

Grim.

RACHEL

Yup. There we go.

Rachel puts the radio down and continues waiting. Meanwhile, the Top-Hat gang continues talking with each other, while listening into Edward's conversation.

EDWARD

(to group)

Yeah, food in general is pretty good. But you guys know something that I would never eat? Kale.

JUMPY

(to Crumpet)

This is stupid! Nobody is going to believe he partakes of this Kale business!

CRUMPET

Nonsense! Once people see the contents of the bag to be the forbidden Kale, they will have no choice but to turn him in to the principal and have him expelled!

JUMPY

What about the real Tattler?

CRUMPET

He'll awake to Noid as the new Tattler, who will call him out for conspiring against the principal and his administration! The school will be free of delinquents and leave room for us to practice our business undisturbed.

JUMPY

What about the karate-master and her friends that Noid warned us about?

CRUMPET

I wouldn't concern myself with such things.

(looks at pocket watch)

Looks like it's our time. Jumpy, give him the bag.

JUMPY

Yes, captain!

Jumpy takes the bag of Kale from Crumpet and starts heading for Edward.

EDWARD

(pointing at Susie)

Hey guys, looks like someone got ditched! Sorry about that, sweetheart! Imaginary boyfriends can be picky! Am I right guys?

JUMPY

(to himself)

What an ignorant...

(to Edward)

Oy! Great joke and all! Well done indeed!

EDWARD

... Who are you?

JUMPY

Just a fan of your work, sir! I wanted to give you this bag as a present for your brilliant comebacks and such.

EDWARD

Uh... Alright. Thanks, I guess.

JUMPY

Keep up the good work!

Jumpy turns his back to Edward and has a face of disgust as he walks back to the Top-hat gang.

JUMPY

(to Edward)

It's done.

EDWARD

Shh... I think Noid's going to make his grand reveal!

RACHEL

(into radio)

Everyone's ready! I hope this works...

The stage darkens.

EDWARD

What's going on?

Joseph, dressed as the Tattler, walks onto center stage, dragging Noid in one arm.

STUDENT 1

It's the Tattler!

STUDENT 2

What's he doing here? Who is he carrying?

STUDENT 1

Is that Noid?

The lights recover from their temporary darkness.

JUMPY

(whispering to Crumpet)

That looks like Noid he's carrying!

CRUMPET

The ignorant wants to take his place as the Tattler!

JOSEPH

(throwing Noid to the floor)

Metropolis High! I regret to inform you all that you guys got a bit of a baddy in your school!

CRUMPET

You're not the real Tattler! Who do you think you are coming in here and beating up poor innocents?

JOSEPH

Oh, you don't like beating up poor innocents? That's funny. And you're right, I'm not the Tattler. I'm a Tattler.

Stunt, wearing a Tattler costume, walks in from stage right.

STUNT

Howdy, y'all. Uh... Noid was working with the Top-Hat gang to overthrow the school or something.

NOID

(struggling to get himself up)

I was not! On them Top-Hats! Show them who rules this school!

The floor is cleared. Joseph and Stunt stand together on one side. The Top-Hat gang stands on the other side, with a wounded Noid.

CRUMPET

You heard him! On them my brothers and sisters!

The Top-Hat gang runs at Stunt and Joseph, who stand in a combat stance as they approach. Stunt and Joseph then execute a series of strikes on the approaching gang. A fight sequence takes place where Joseph and Stunt work together to beat back Noid and the Top-Hat gang until Noid is prone on the ground and the Top-Hat gang begins to retreat!

CRUMPET

We don't have a chance against them! Run my brothers and sisters!

JUMPY

Why does nothing ever work out for us?

The Top-Hat gang retreats leaving Noid behind. There is a silence before the room breaks into celebration. Stun high-fives Joseph.

STUNT

Boom! That's what I'm talking about!

(to Joseph)

You are totally the Tattler now!

JOSEPH

I'm not the only one.

Stunt smiles. Rachel approaches the both of them.

RACHEL

Hate to interrupt the victory-party, but what about the... bag?

NOID

(overhearing, struggling to his feet again)

That's right! Classmates! Your fellow student Edward is guilty for the possession of Kale! In that bag he carries is a whole stash of the forbidden substance!

The classroom gasps. Edward lifts up the bag he has in confusion. Joseph sighs and goes over to him.

JOSEPH

Excuse me, Eddy.

Joseph takes the bag from Edward and throws the bag offstage.

JOSEPH

Sorry. Spasm. Can't control it.

NOID

Get that bag!

Just then, Warlock walks on stage from the direction that the bag was thrown from, holding the bag in his hand.

WARLOCK

I happened to find this bag backstage as I was casually walking on. Could it perhaps belong to anybody here?

NOID

Give it here!

Noid reaches for the bag and aggressively opens it to reveal a bushel of liquorice.

WARLOCK

Um... That's my lunch.

NOID

Oh... Wait. No! There was Kale in there! I swear it!

RACHEL

Likely Noid.

(to students)

Give it up for the Tattlers!

The students cheer and follow Joseph and Stunt offstage, leaving Rachel, Warlock, and Susie on stage with a confused Noid.

SUSIE

... What just happened?

Rachel approaches Warlock

RACHEL

(to Warlock)

We did good, Warlock.

WARLOCK

That we did.

RACHEL

Sorry I made you take an oath of silence for a couple of years.

WARLOCK

I was being pretty annoying. See you at lunch tomorrow?

RACHEL

Treat me to some liquorice?

WARLOCK

Whatever it takes to get rid of it.

Rachel smiles and exits. Warlock looks down at Noid's groaning body. He then turns towards the audience.

WARLOCK

There was no 'chosen one'. But you probably gathered that already. I was just tired of having to be quiet. It was really hurting my participation grade. Now, Joe... Joe's destiny. I thought my destiny was to be the greatest finger-painter in the world. But destiny failed me in that. Or rather, it was preparing me for something else. Something bigger than hand turkeys. Perhaps Joe was the chosen one. Maybe he was destined to succeed. Or maybe we were all destined to help each other. Nick graduated later that year, as did Susie. They went to good colleges, and left a legacy behind them. Their relationship didn't last though because, you know, it's high school.

(Warlock waves to a stunned Susie behind him)

The hoodie was passed on to Joseph, who shared it with Stunt. Together, they made sure the Top Hat gang was taken care of between periods. Time passed. Rachel ended up going to AP Mongolian history and graduated top of her class. But by far the most successful character of this story is Ruffian 3, who founded his own board-game company where he reinvented old board games to better fit with our ethical and moral principles. And me? I returned to my silence- ready to select another 'chosen one' when the time came.

Warlock leaves stage right. After he leaves, Stunt wanders on stage to find Noid.

STUNT

You still owe me a game.

Stunt pulls Noid off stage. The stage is empty save for Susie, who sighs. She begins to exit when Nick comes running on stage after her. He looks battered and a bit tired.

NICK

(yawning)

S... Susie. Is... Is it...

SUSIE

It's over. Great time for you to show up.

NICK

I'm sorry.

SUSIE

It's too late for that.

Susie pouts. Nick sighs and looks down at his phone as if he's searching for something. He then touches his phone and classical music starts playing.

NICK

(yawning)

May... May I have this dance?

Susie looks up at Nick. She smiles and grabs his hand.

SUSIE

I'm leading.

Susie and Nick dance as the lights dim.

Curtains.







