

If You Will:
An Exploration of Gender Expression through Comedy
in a Modern Retelling of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

by
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Abstract

If You Will: An Exploration of Gender Expression through Comedy in a Modern Retelling of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

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If You Will is a modern retelling of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. It follows twins Viola and Sebastian, who move to a new, strange school in Texas after the death of their parents. Due to bullies and the strict gender norms of the school, the twins decide to switch identities so Viola can join the boxing team, and Sebastian can join the softball team. With the help of their friend Axel, the twins navigate crushes, friendships, and bullies to survive high school without revealing their secret. The play is a teen comedy, with themes of gender and sexuality. Many of the characters are LGBTQ+, with the twins both being bisexual and their friend, Axel, being non-binary.

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Introduction

It was always my intention to write a play that explores themes of sexuality with a female main character. The idea of *If You Will* came from my love of both *Twelfth Night* and teen movies from the 1990s and 2000s. I decided to focus *If You Will* on both Viola and Sebastian, setting in a high school with both ending in same-sex relationships by the end.

Twelfth Night follows Viola, who is shipwrecked onto the strange country of Illyria with her identical twin brother Sebastian gone. She disguises herself as a man who goes by the name Cesario and works under Duke Orsino. Viola falls in love with Orsino, and he quickly regards her (as Cesario) as one of his best employees. The play features a genuine love triangle, with Lady Olivia being Duke Orsino's object of affection while she is in love with Viola, who believes her to be a man. The play is resolved in the end with the twins reuniting, Viola revealing her identity, and the twins finding love. It ends with Viola getting to be with Orsino, and Sebastian ends up with Olivia, which is a happy ending for all involved.

Believed to be written around 1601, *Twelfth Night* (also known as *What You Will?*) was written for the Christmas season, specifically, the Christian festival known as Twelfth Night. The play itself is not Christmas-related, but the holiday of Twelfth Night “signals the end of the Christmas season and was a time of revelry, in which norms of society were inverted” (Royal Shakespeare Company). This is, presumably, the reason the play focuses on a young woman disguising herself as a man: to invert social norms.

Modern productions of *Twelfth Night*, such as the 2017 National Theatre production or the 2023 Wilma Theater production, directors and actors will explore

LGBTQ+ identities with the characters. The 2017 National Theatre production not only has Cesario and Orsino kiss before the reveal that Cesario is Viola, but highlights a romance between Sebastian and Antonio, the man who helps Sebastian get to Duke Orsino's estate. In the 2023 Wilma Theater production, a non-binary actor plays both Viola and Sebastian. It is one of many productions that make Feste, the fool who entertains and belittles the characters, a drag queen. The National Theatre had Feste played by a woman. *Twelfth Night* seems to be the easiest Shakespeare play to explore queer themes with, as seen with the many modern productions.

There are only two well-known Western movie adaptations of the play. The first is the 1996 film of the same name, which keeps most of the original play's script for the movie. In *She's the Man* (2006), the movie keeps the same character names and basic plot of the original play but gives it a modern twist. Viola is not shipwrecked; she wants to play soccer and disguises herself as her brother to be able to join the men's team at another school.

Many inspirations for *If You Will* came from already existing *Twelfth Night* adaptations. The first is the 2017 National Theatre production of *Twelfth Night*. It takes place in a more modern-day setting, as seen in the costumes, props, and set. It keeps mostly to the script, only making some small additions to add understanding for the audience. It shows Duke Orsino owning a boxing ring and training, with Viola learning how to fight from Orsino. The production features LGBTQ+ characters, with a romantic relationship between Antonio and Sebastian. It changes Malvolio into a woman and keeps her crush with Olivia. We also see Duke Orsino kiss Viola while she is still disguised as Cesario.

The idea to set *If You Will* in a modern-day high school came from both *She's the Man* (2006) and *Bottoms* (2023). *She's the Man* (2006) is a modern retelling of *Twelfth Night*, but it changes to where Viola disguises herself as Sebastian so she can play on a men's sports team. It makes many references to the original script, even including the most famous quote from the play: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." (Malvolio, 2.5.128).

In *Bottoms* (2023), two unpopular lesbians, PJ and Josie, decide to start a self-defense club to meet girls and raise their status. They lie about going to juvie, claiming that is where they learned to fight. The movie also shows a strange high school that helps tell the stories. The climax of the film involves the rival football team trying to kill the star quarterback, and the self-defense club having to use their skills to kill the opposing team themselves. It's not a realistic high school, but it never tries to be.

With these inspirations in mind, I decided to set *If You Will* in a high school with strict gender roles. I made Viola interested in boxing, but she was unable to join due to it being a men's team. I made the final scene of the play both a reveal of the twins' ruse and a final fight with the antagonist, Frederick. I tried not to make it realistic and a bit absurd at times because I felt it added to the nature of the play. *If You Will* is both entertaining with commentary on gender expression, with an emphasis on characters and relationships.

Before writing *If You Will*, I took the Visiting Artists Seminar in Spring 2023 with Dr. Barnett. In this class, I had to write, direct, and act in a ten-minute play. We had about three weeks to prepare for everything, as it was a half-semester class. This was the

first play festival I took part in with Dr. Barnett, and it is where I decided to make my thesis an original play.

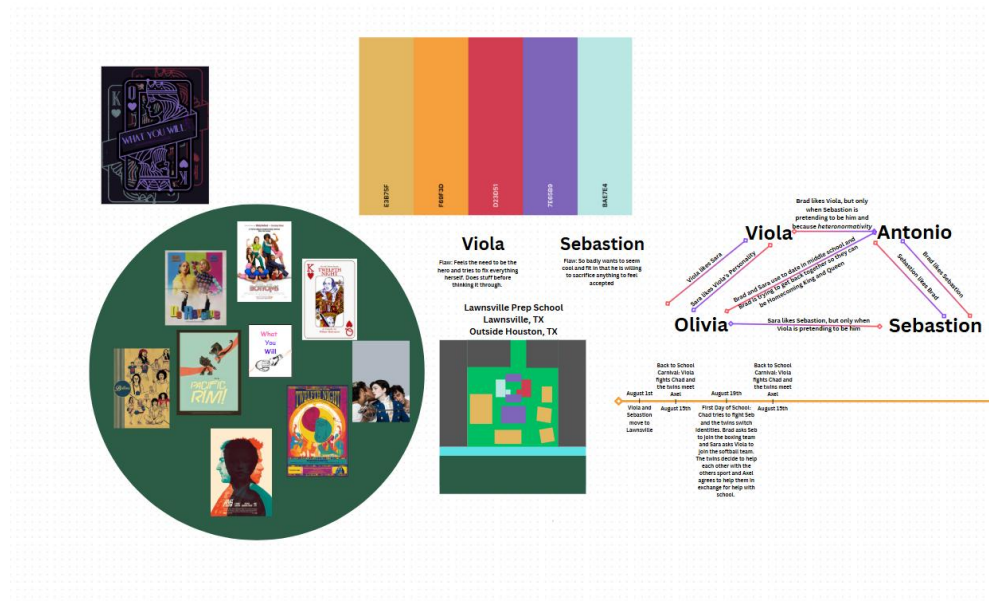
I spoke to Dr. Barnett and took Playwriting, English 3665, in the Fall of 2023. This was where I learned the basics of playwriting and wrote four ten-minute plays. In that class, I also took part in a play festival, where one of our plays was directed and acted out by our other classmates. I also used English 3665 as my Upper-Division Honors Course, where I wrote an additional ten-minute play that was the first draft of the final play I planned on writing. I then went on to do UH 4900 in Spring 2024, where I continued to work on my play. While I ended up changing the plot, I worked with Dr. Barnett on scenes and ideas, as well as a plan to complete my play.

I worked on the play over the summer. I had tried to write a different play originally, but I just could not come up with an act two that was satisfying. I knew I wanted to create a comedic play, but the comedy was just not there in the show. And so, I decided to change the plot with Dr. Barnett's permission.

Along with an outline, I needed to visualize what I wanted with the script. Figure one shows the mind map I created, which includes ideas for poster designs, a color palate, a map of what the school looks like, a general timeline, and the love rhombus.

The visualization helped me more easily create an outline for the play. It also helped me sort out the more minute details that ultimately don't add anything to the actual show.

Figure 1: Mind Map for *If You Will*



The characters of *If You Will* have counterparts from *Twelfth Night* that they are inspired by. I mostly focused on getting the main characters from the original play in and reworking some of the side characters I wanted to include. In the end, there are ten characters in the main script.

Viola and Sebastian are seventeen years old and twins. The two traveled around the world with their parents, who were musicians. When the parents passed away, the twins were sent to their Aunt Marie.

Viola is hot-headed and overzealous, often diving into things before thinking. However, she is loyal to the people she cares about and does everything to defend them. She is a good fighter, being trained in the basics of many different fighting styles. Her main one is boxing, as that is what her uncle taught her, but she has picked up others from the people she met in her life. She is the one who creates the ruse and encourages Sebastian to keep it up, but she is also the first to want to quit when she realizes she has

hurt people. She ends the play with Olivia and gets to join the boxing team as her true self.

Sebastian is more anxious than Viola and avoids confrontation when possible. He is smart, always thinks ahead, and tries to plan out what he wants to do. Softball was something that his mother showed him, and he enjoys keeping up with softball teams. He loses himself in the popularity he gained from Viola's fighting and ends up hurting his friends. However, he realizes what truly matters, comes clean, and protects his sister in the end. He ends the play with Antonio and helps create a co-ed baseball team with Olivia.

Olivia is eighteen years old and is a direct parallel to Olivia from *Twelfth Night*. Instead of grieving over her dead brother, Olivia has just got out of a relationship with Antonio. She realized she was unhappy and the break-up after he makes them miss prom to go have dinner with his dad. She discovered that she was bisexual over the summer and decides to keep it a secret. Olivia is on the softball team but is fighting for girls to be allowed on the baseball team. She meets Viola and develops a crush on her. However, she gets scared of a relationship and instead goes for Sebastian after seeing "him" fight. She ends the play with Viola, after forgiving the twins for their ruse.

Antonio is eighteen years old and is a combination of both Duke Orsino and Antonio from *Twelfth Night*. He comes from a wealthy family and has his father pay the school to create a boxing team. He's popular and athletic, but not the brightest. His best friend is Oliver, but Sebastian quickly charms him with Viola's skills, and he soon develops feelings. Due to the gender norms, Antonio is resistant to acting on these

feelings. He ends the play with Sebastian, coming to accept himself and forgiving the twins for their ruse.

Axel is sixteen and non-binary. Their main inspiration came from Feste, but they are twin's friend who knows the truth. They run the drama club, which is on the verge of being shut down by Frederick, as there is no one else in it but Axel. They are also the only openly non-binary student, which means they have to attend both the women's and men's classes. In exchange for helping with their ruse, they have the twins join the drama club and help them with their homework. They are a bit naïve but extremely kind. Axel feels bad for Oliver after the act One finale and befriends him. In the climax, Frederick uses them as bait to lure the twins and is almost killed. They end the play with Oliver, with the drama club gaining enough members to put a show on.

Oliver is sixteen and is a combination of Sir Toby and Malvolio. He is antagonistic during act One, going after Sebastian to protect Antonio. Oliver is Antonio's best friend, and he does not want to lose him. He learns about the ruse and lashes out, leading to him getting kicked off the boxing team and losing Antonio. He is befriended by Axel and ends up giving up his anger towards Sebastian. He helps save Axel and ends the play in a relationship with Axel.

Frederick is seventeen and is inspired by Sir Andrew and Malvolio. He is the main antagonist of the play. He is the student body president and is from a wealthy family. He likes Viola, but his attempts to ask her out are futile. He tries to get the drama club shut down, as he dislikes Axel for not falling in line with the school rules. He ends up finding out about the ruse and tricks Viola into exposing it to Olivia and Antonio. He asks her out afterward, and when she rejects it, he reveals that Axel will die unless she

goes out with him. He ends the play dead, falling onto his own trap after being bested by the twins.

Aunt Marie, Coach, and Principal are the three adults of the show. In the stage production, I imagine them all played by the same actor. It will be used as a commentary on gender expression, with the actor's gender not mattering for the characters. They also don't appear together in any scenes, so it will also help with production costs. Aunt Marie is the aunt of Sebastian and Viola, who take them in after their parents' deaths. She is trying her best, but she has never raised teenagers before. Both the Coach and Principal work at the school. Coach is only in the final scenes of act one at the football game. The principal shows up at towards the end of act two at the pep rally.

Fall 2024 is when *If You Will* came to fruition, as that is when I created an outline and wrote act one. It took me the entire semester to write the first act. I wrote act two in the Spring Semester, writing a lot of the scenes on paper and transcribing them into the digital copy of the script.

While writing act one, I ended up combining many of the scenes from my outline into larger sections. I wanted it to be fast paced but still possible. I created what I will be referring to as a montage scene, which displays multiple small scenes that happen rather quickly. All the scenes show the twins practicing for the other sport, both with each other and their teammates.

In the spring semester of 2025, I worked alongside Dr. Barnett, Jessica Pruitt, and Kathryn Pendergrass in Advanced Playwriting. We read and critiqued each other's works, offering advice and suggestions for our original works.

Originally, the twins' parents were just gone, sending Viola and Sebastian to their new home months before themselves so the twins could start school. However, to make it more like the source material, I decided to kill their parents instead. This was due to a suggestion given by my peers in Advanced Playwriting. This also meant that the twins were now living with Aunt Marie instead of living near her.

Act two was hard to write and I ended up making it shorter as a result. I combined the final three scenes from the outline into one large scene that ends the play. I was constantly worried that *If You Will* would be confusing, and I plan to continue editing, even after the staged performance.

The Performance

On April 11th, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., I held a staged reading of act one of *If You Will*. It was part of the New Play Festival at MTSU, sponsored by the English Department. It featured two other student playwrights' works, with my play being the last performed.

I spoke to Sarah Hall, a recent MTSU theatre department graduate, and she agreed to direct it. Together, we found actors to play the parts. The play was performed alongside two other student works, Jessica Pruitt and Kathryn Pendergrass. We had been working together throughout the spring semester to critique each other's works.

In March, I put up a poster advertising the show. It also included information if anyone wanted to be a part of the staged reading. I created the poster myself, as I have experience in design. I wanted it to have a modern feel to it but also come across as Shakespearean. As shown in Figure 1, there are posters for *Twelfth Night* that use the King and Queen playing cards to represent Viola and Sebastian. I also made it the same colors as the bisexual flag, since many of the characters are bisexual.

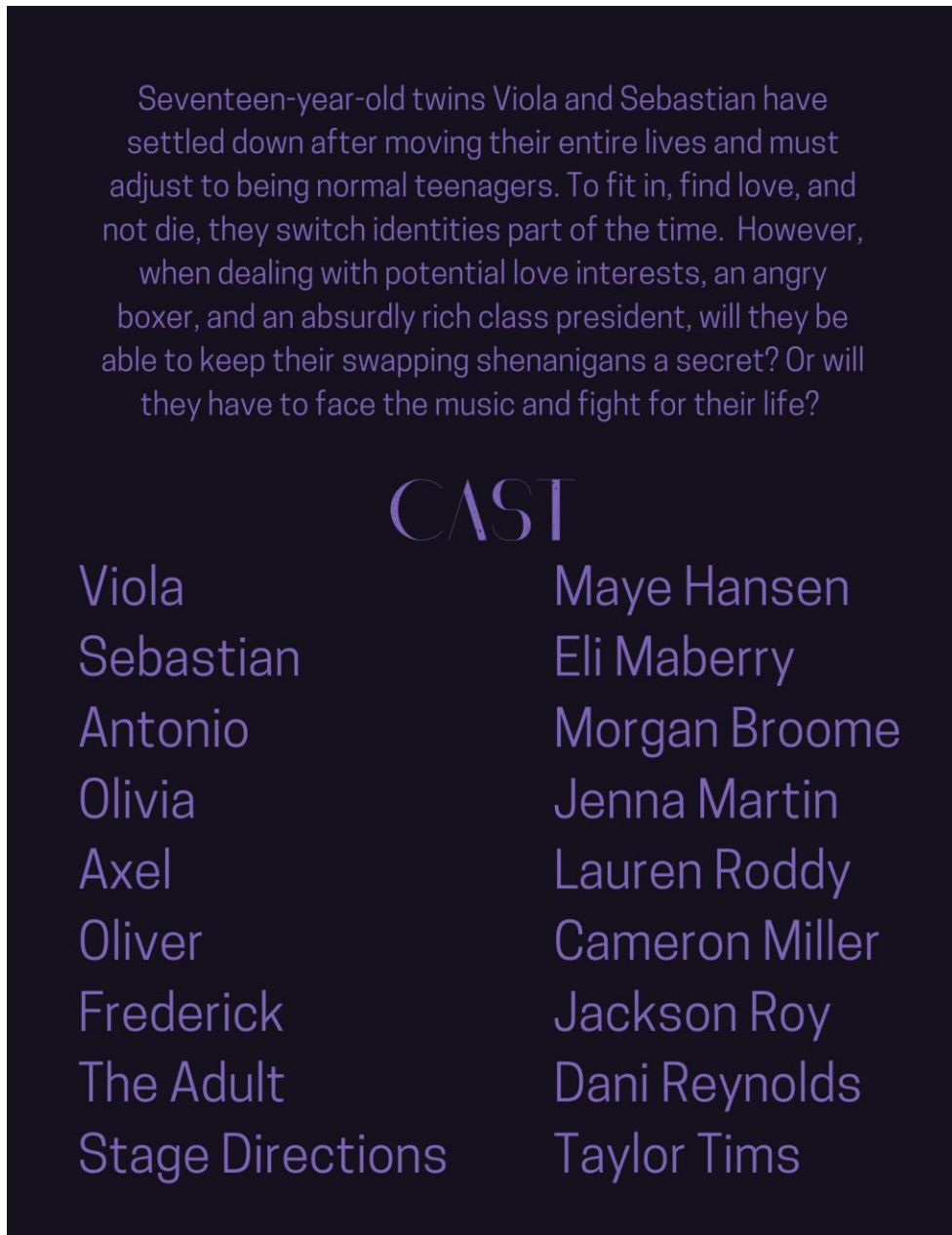
Figure 2: *If You Will* Promotional Poster



The cast included Maye Hansen as Viola, Eli Mayberry as Sebastian, Morgan Broome as Antonio, Jenna Martin as Olivia, Lauren Roddy as Axel, Cameron Miller as Oliver, Jackson Roy as Frederick, and Dani Reynolds as The Adult. Taylor Tims did

stage directions. Figure 3 shows the official cast list, as well as the play description that was handed out as a program for the performance.

Figure 3: The Official Program with Cast List



The cast was able to meet twice before the performance. I was only able to attend the second one. In staged readings, actors will stand when their character enters and sit when they are not in a scene. Sarah Hall directed the actors when to get up. Since there were long passages of stage directions for the fight scenes, she also had the actors faced the audience and acted out the fights.

Act one ends with Olivia and Viola kissing as well as Sebastian and Antonio kissing. Because it is a staged reading and they only practiced twice, Sarah felt it was best to come up with alternate solutions for the ending instead of having the actor's kiss. They decided to hold hands at the end, which made for a more humorous ending while also keeping the actors comfortable.

The rehearsal I attended allowed me to see what worked and what didn't. I was able to hear lines in a way that I hadn't even thought of. For instance, the actors for Antonio and Oliver specially made their lines come to life, giving off a very dramatic performance. Dani Reynolds, who played The Adult, was able to create unique voices for each of her characters, which allowed them to feel different and distinct. Sebastian and Viola had such an amazing dynamic with Axel, and I was able to see how their friendship should be. The rehearsal also made me realize that I need to add more for Fredrick and Olivia. And so, I edited the script that night. The main changes I made was adding Fredrick to more scenes, making his hatred for Axel more obvious, and added more to Viola and Olivia's relationship. In doing this, I also took away some parts from Sebastian and Antonio so that the relationships were more balanced.

The performance was amazing. The audience was small, but the cast still performed well. My main hope would be that people would laugh, and they did. I

attribute that largely to the cast's performances. The cast told me that whenever I want to do a full production to let them know. It was probably the best compliment I could have received.

The audience also seemed to really enjoy it, with many of them speaking to me afterwards about the show and wanting to know what happens next. A staged reading of Act one and two is my next goal, even though the thesis part of my project is complete. I never wanted this to just remain a school project and seeing it performed gave me the push to keep on writing.

Reflective Essay

This process of creating an original play helped me to grow my skills as a playwright. I believe that one day this script could be performed on stage with actors, blocking, and sets. And this creative thesis allowed me to take the first steps to a staged show of my own.

Working with actors, I could see the characters. They had been nothing more than words on a page, but having actors helped me realize who they are. It made me go back and change things just so I could see more of them. I am especially glad I brought on Sarah Hall as it allowed for the cast to meet up more and work on the script than if I was directing it.

It challenged me as a writer. Before this play, I had not written a full play by myself. Writing a ten-minute play or a few scenes of a more extensive play is very different from creating a full script from scratch. Not to mention, I had to come up with characters and plot points by myself. This is part of the reason I decided to do a retelling

of an already existing play. It lets me use characters that have some background already to them.

It also allowed me to explore how gender can often tie us down to certain aspects of life. *Twelfth Night* was written as a subversion of the norms of Elizabethan England. At the end of *Twelfth Night*, even though Viola is revealed to be a woman, she is still dressed as a man. Even though the heterosexual relationships prevail, Viola is still Cesario. These past few years, we have seen how transphobia affects cisgender people as well as transgender. During the 2024 Olympics, a female boxer was “accused” of being transgender because she was strong and didn’t “look” like a woman. There is this belief that you can tell when someone is transgender, when someone is “pretending” to be a different gender than they were born as. This is a big part of why I made it where no one realized Viola and Sebastian had switched. Because often, you can’t tell what a person’s gender is just by looking at them or even speaking to them. A person’s gender is something that can only be defined by them.

Axel shows how transphobia affects transgender people, often making them feel isolated and having to do double the work just to keep up. I based Axel on my best friend Baylah, who is non-binary. Even surrounded by queer people, Baylah has been told that they just don’t fit. They need to be more masculine, more feminine but not too much of either. I’m glad Sarah was able to bring on a non-binary actor to the role of Axel. I also appreciated that Viola was also played by a non-binary actor.

With this modern adaptation, my goal is to create a play that subverts the norms of what we see in teen comedy movies today while also allowing others to feel seen. In the teen movies I grew up watching, it was always some loser girl who became beautiful

and found love. The status quo never changed, only the girl. Character growth is one thing but staying the same and only getting a make-over and boyfriend does not make someone a better person. And yet, I still love these movies because they don't take themselves seriously. A teen movie is allowed to be ridiculous and outlandish because that's what high school feels like. With *If You Will*, the hallmarks of a classic teen movie are there, but with a slight twist. The make-over is change identities, the romance is not heterosexual, and the characters get to have their happy ending while the main villain dies.

I have so many ideas to grow and add to the current script. I want to see this on a stage one day, mainly just so I can see how the characters move and interact. But I also selfishly want to have something I made for myself be seen by others. And maybe I can have a work that inspires someone to create something for themselves as well.

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If You Will
A Two-Act Play
By Stephanie Hall

Characters

VIOLA	17, cisgender female, any race, SEBASTIAN 'S twin sister
SEBASTIAN	17, cisgender male, any race, VIOLA'S twin brother
ANTONIO	18, cisgender male, any race
OLIVIA	18, cisgender female, any race
AXEL	16, nonbinary, any race
OLIVER	16, cisgender male, any race
FREDERICK	18, cisgender male, white
THE ADULT	Late 40's, any race, any gender

NOTES

VIOLA and SEBASTIAN must look believably alike. MARIE must also share some physical traits with them as well. Fight blocking can be changed. ANTONIO is the only trained boxer. VIOLA has been trained in boxing, but her fighting style incorporates some martial arts and street fighting. OLIVER has only been in school fights and does not have good technique in the beginning. SEBASTIAN mimics whatever VIOLA does.

SETTING

Modern Day. Dawnsville Prep School. Dawnsville is a suburb right outside Houston, Texas. A very prestigious school with very strict gender roles. The school is divided by gender, only sharing the sports facilities and the auditorium.

ACT 1

SCENE 1

MARIE's home.

MARIE and SEBASTIAN
are in the living
room.

SEBASTIAN

And then I think I'll keep the Wii in the living room,
Viola likes to do the boxing game, and I don't think you'll
want her putting a hole in the wall.

VIOLA enters.

VIOLA

That only happened once. But, yeah, keep the Wii in here.

MARIE

You know, I was a little worried about having two teens
living with me, but I got to say, you guys are pretty
responsible.

SEBASTIAN

I try.

MARIE

Oh, isn't that back to school bash tonight? Do you guys
want a ride?

VIOLA

Yeah, if you wouldn't mind!

SEBASTIAN

I'm good. I'm going to stay here.

MARIE

Are you sure Sebastian? It could be fun!

SEBASTIAN

I'm good.

VIOLA

Oh, come on, we need to make friends.

SEBASTIAN

That's what the first day can be for.

VIOLA

Yeah, but this is the first time we are going to, probably, be at a school for more than like three months. We should make a good impression. Plus--

VIOLA whispers to

SEBASTIAN.

We can totally have some parties on the weekends.

MARIE

What'd you say?

VIOLA

Nothing!

SEBASTIAN

To VIOLA.

Do you realize that Aunt Marie is going to be in the same house?

VIOLA

To SEBASTIAN,
whispering.

First, you know she works late Fridays and has her girls' nights every Saturday. Second, I'm not saying we invite half the school, but we can invite friends. Friends of friends. Boyfriends and/or girlfriends--

SEBASTIAN

And/or?

VIOLA

All sorts of people! Come on Seb, we are finally getting to be normal teenagers for the first time in our lives. Let's get out there and go crazy.

MARIE

Viola, if you're going, we should leave now. Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

I'll go.

VIOLA

Yay!

MARIE

Oh good! It will be fun. Hopefully.

VIOLA

I know it will.

The three exit.

SCENE 2

The "Back to School
Bash." OLIVIA,
ANTONIO, and OLIVER
are on stage.
VIOLA and SEBASTIAN
enter.

VIOLA

All right, be safe. If anything happens, text me.

SEBASTIAN

Okay. Wait, where are you going?

VIOLA

To make friends. I suggest you do the same.

SEBASTIAN

But--

VIOLA approaches
OLIVIA and friends.

VIOLA

Hi! I'm Viola. I'm new here.

OLIVIA

Hi! Nice to meet you. I'm Olivia.

VIOLA

To SEBASTIAN.

See, it's easy.

OLIVIA and VIOLA

exit.

SEBASTIAN

Great.

A pause. SEBASTIAN
takes out his phone
to call MARIA.

ANTONIO, OLIVER,
and other various
sportspeople enter.

ANTONIO has a drink
with no lid.

SEBASTIAN,
distracted by his
phone, runs into
ANTONIO, causing
his drink to spill.

SEBASTIAN

I'm so sorry, I--

OLIVER

Hey, watch where you're fucking going man. What's wrong
with you?

SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry, I wasn't paying attention. I'm new. I'm--

ANTONIO

It's fine. Can you just go get some napkins?

SEBASTIAN

Sure. Um. Where?

ANTONIO

There's some in the cafeteria. I'm going to the bathroom.

ANTONIO exits.

OLIVER

Well? Do you need to be told twice?

SEBASTIAN

I-no. I just. I don't know where the cafeteria is. I already told you, I'm new.

OLIVER

I heard.

OLIVER grabs
SEBASTIAN by the
shirt.

How about you get out of here before I make you regret being alive.

SEBASTIAN

I can do that.

SEBASTIAN runs off.

OLIVER exits in the
other direction.

VIOLA enters

OLIVIA. She gets a
phone call from
SEBASTIAN. She
waves goodbye to
OLIVIA before
exiting.

SEBASTIAN is in the
auditorium. VIOLA
enters.

VIOLA

What happened? Someone die?

SEBASTIAN

No, I just—we need to go home. I'm going to call Maria.

VIOLA

Home? But we like, just got here?

SEBASTIAN

Yes, well, I accidently pissed off some football guys and
one of told me he was going to kick my ass and—we got to
go.

VIOLA

Slow down, slow down. Who threatened you?

SEBASTIAN

I don't know. He had a jersey on, and he was tall. He was next to this other guy, and he tried to fight me...

AXEL appears from
somewhere.

AXEL

Oh, that sounds like Oliver.

SEBASTIAN and VIOLA
both scream.

You guys done?

VIOLA

How long have you been here?

AXEL

I'm always here.

SEBASTIAN

Do you want us to leave?

AXEL

No, no, please stay! I'm always happy to have people stop by. Name's Axel. And that guy you described sounds like Oliver.

SEBASTIAN

I'm SEBASTIAN. This is Viola. We're new.

VIOLA

Hi. Can you tell me more about this Oliver guy?

AXEL

I mean, I don't know much. He's on the football team and the new boxing team.

VIOLA

You guys have a boxing team?

AXEL

Just got one. This one guy named Antonio started it. His dad donated a bunch of money to get a boxing ring. That's probably who that other guy was, they are always together.

VIOLA

Cool! Hey, I'll join and then take care of this guy.

SEBASTIAN

You could probably take him. God, I'm sweating so much.

SEBASTIAN takes off
his sweatshirt and
sets it down to the
side.

AXEL

What's this about you joining the boxing team?

VIOLA

I've been doing boxing since I was like, what, 10? Just wait, they'll probably make me captain after a week.

AXEL

No, I mean. You can't join the boxing team. The boxing team is a boys' team.

SEBASTIAN

Don't they have a girls' team?

AXEL

Why would they have a girls' team?

VIOLA

For girls! I don't know, I figured that you guys would have a coed team or something.

AXEL

There isn't a girls' team. There isn't a coed team. There is no co-ed anything. Do you guys know anything about this place?

They both shake
their
heads no.

AXEL

Welp, cross this off your teen movie cliché and let me explain to you kids how this all works.

A pause.

Dawnsville Academy is a very prestigious, very expensive school that has existed for a fucking long time, since God was a boy.

SEBASTIAN

It said on the front since 1975.

AXEL

Don't interrupt me. For some old-fashioned reason that I will never understand, the school is divided by gender. Like, pretty much everything. Sports, classes, lunches.

VIOLA

Is that legal?

AXEL

Of course. Private school. Anyway, the only club that's open to anyone is the drama club. Home for all theatre lovers, those who truly appreciate the art.

SEBASTIAN

Is that what you're in?

AXEL

Yeah! How'd you know? The drama club is the only club on campus that anyone can join, no matter what their gender. Um. Right now, it's just me. Though, technically it's me and the four people whose names I put down without them knowing when I made this club.

VIOLA

Huh. The how'd you get this club to happen?

AXEL

Well, when I came out as non-binary, the principal wanted to be progressive. But there was a lot of push-back against her and me. So, she let me make this club as an apology.

VIOLA

So, it's possible to get a co-ed team.

AXEL

Well, no. The principal was okay with me, but the student body president, Frederick? Absolutely not. He's the reason I have double the schoolwork, just cause his dad is rich.

VIOLA

So, I'll convince him, easy.

AXEL

Yeah, but convincing that guy Antonio, that's going to be hard. Especially if Oliver already hates you. Antonio and Oliver are the only two who can actually box. Oliver's probably the best one on the team.

VIOLA

The best you say.

SEBASTIAN

Viola, no. Don't. You. Dare.

VIOLA

I have done nothing.

SEBASTIAN

I don't want you to do anything.

AXEL

What don't you want her to do?

SEBASTIAN turns to
AXEL. VIOLA grabs
his sweatshirt and
exits.

SEBASTIAN

I don't want her to pretend to be me and try to fight that
guy.

AXEL

Wait, seriously? That's so cool, why not?

SEBASTIAN

Because it was different when we were little, and it was
easier to pass as each other. But it's not going to work
anymore, and everyone is just going to think we are crazy
and weird, and then we have to move again. I don't want to
move again.

AXEL

I mean, it sounds pretty cool. I wish I had a twin. Then we
could switch, go to each other's classes.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, but your twin could also mess up and then everyone would know. I mean, Viola and I are so different, no one would buy it for a second.

AXEL

You have a lot more faith in the intelligence of people at this school than I do.

SEBASTIAN

I just don't want her to go and do something stupid.

AXEL

Interesting. So, if she had grabbed your sweatshirt and just walked out of the auditorium, how upset would you be?

SEBASTIAN

What-Viola! Fuck.

AXEL and SEBASTIAN

exit.

OUTSIDE.

VIOLA enters,

disguised as

SEBASTIAN. She

looks for OLIVER.

VIOLA

I probably should have gotten more info than just "guy in jersey."

VIOLA accidentally
runs into a random
stranger.

VIOLA

Oh--

Mimicking SEBASTIAN

I mean, sorry.

The person walks
off. OLIVER and
ANTONIO enter
behind her.

OLIVER

Well, look who it is. This guy just can't pay attention to
anything.

OLIVER goes to put
a hand on VIOLA's
shoulder, but she
knocks his hand
away.

VIOLA

Don't touch me.

OLIVER

You really want to act that way?

VIOLA

You were the one who wanted a fight. So, let's go.

OLIVER

Antonio. You heard the man. He wants a fight.

ANTONIO

I'm not going to stop you. Just go easy on the kid. Don't need you wasting your energy before the season even starts.

OLIVER

You got it, boss.

VIOLA and OLIVER
square off, fists
in front of them.
They go around each
other as a small
crowd form.

OLIVER

You gonna take a hit or just stand there all day.

VIOLA

I was told never start fights.

OLIVER quickly
approaches, trying
to scare her. VIOLA
grabs his arm

I just need to finish them.

before he can pull
away.

VIOLA pulls him
forward and punches
him with her other
hand. She swings
him around and
sends him to the
ground. OLIVER gets
up. He rushes and
she dodges, now
standing behind him
as he staggers to a
stop. He spins
around and she
motions him
forward. They both
run to meet in the
middle, with Viola
ducking to avoid a
punch, holding onto
her wig while doing
it. He attempts

three more punches,
and she blocks all
three. OLIVER
stands back,
clearly trying to
reevaluate, as
VIOLA takes no
pause to punch him
square in the nose.
He stumbles and she
uppercuts him
twice. He falls to
the ground panting.

OLIVER

What the fuck, man?

VIOLA notices the
crowd. She makes a
run for it.

ANTONIO

Hey, wait.

VIOLA runs off.
SEBASTIAN and AXEL
are sitting in the

auditorium. VIOLA
enters.

VIOLA

We got go.

SEBASTIAN

What were you thinking?

VIOLA

Nothing. But we have got to go. Now!

AXEL

Did you kick his ass?

VIOLA

You bet!

SEBASTIAN

Viola, now is not the time. Come on. Axel, we'll see you
later.

AXEL

I'll be here!

VIOLA

We got to move quickly. Make sure no one sees us.

To Axel.

We were never here!

The twins exit.

SCENE 3

The main entrance
of the school.

FREDERICK is
speaking to VIOLA
and SEBASTIAN

FREDERICK

Now the auditorium is just right behind me. Viola, you'll
go left and Sebastian, you'll go right. Your class
schedules have room numbers, and there are maps of both of
your packets. Any questions?

VIOLA and SEBASTIAN
look at each other
and shake their
heads.

Well, I must have done an amazing job explaining it.

VIOLA

Sure.

FREDERICK

To VIOLA

Well, you know this school is quite large, it's quite easy
to get lost. If you ever need assistance, you can have my
number.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, thanks. I actually--

FREDERICK

Not you.

VIOLA

Oh. No thanks. I got a map. I'll be good.

FREDERICK

Well, if you need--

VIOLA

I'll figure it out.

Pause.

Can you leave?

FREDERICK

Okay. Rude.

FREDERICK exits.

VIOLA turns to

SEBASTIAN.

VIOLA

Okay. Whatever happens over there, just be safe.

SEBASTIAN

I will. You be safe too. Who knows what those girls are like?

VIOLA

Hopefully not as violent. Or mean. If those guys mess with you, let me know.

The twins go their separate ways, and each exit.

A school bell rings, and VIOLA enters, looking around at the crowded hallway.

OLIVIA approaches VIOLA.

OLIVIA

Viola, right? Olivia.

VIOLA

Oh, hi!

OLIVIA

Hi. I wasn't sure if you'd remember me.

VIOLA

Of course, I remember you.

OLIVIA

Well, that's good. You went to the bathroom and then after that fight that happened, I just went home. Sorry if you were looking for me.

VIOLA

Oh yeah, those boys. That was crazy. I went home when I saw the fight happening. I hate fighting.

OLIVIA

Okay.

VIOLA

Anyway, does that happen a lot?

OLIVIA

What, fights? Not really. To be honest, I think it's because of that new boxing team. I don't know why he thinks that's a good idea.

VIOLA

Who?

OLIVIA

You don't know him, but his name's Antonio. His daddy gave a bunch of money to the school so he could have his little fight club. It's so stupid.

VIOLA

Yep. Who would want to join a fight club?

OLIVIA

Exactly! Thankfully, we don't have anything like that on our side.

VIOLA

I heard. Anyway, I got to find my first class.

OLIVIA

Oh, do you need help?

VIOLA

Yeah, if you wouldn't mind!

OLIVIA

Of course!

VIOLA hands the
schedule to OLIVIA

Oh, we have classes together after lunch. And your first
one is on the way to mine. Come on!

OLIVIA grabs VIOLA.

I'll take you to your first class and then meet me for
lunch.

VIOLA

That would be great, thank you.

OLIVIA and VIOLA

exit.

SEBASTIAN enters
the boys' side.
This takes place
around the same
time.

OLIVER and ANTONIO
approach SEBASTIAN

SEBASTIAN

Oh shit.

ANTONIO

Hey man.

SEBASTIAN

Oh hey. Didn't see you guys there.

OLIVER

I'm sure.

ANTONIO

Hey, remember. Be nice.

SEBASTIAN

So, can I help you guys?

ANTONIO

Oliver and I just wanted to introduce ourselves. I know we didn't get started on the right foot, but I think we can all just move on. Name's Antonio.

SEBASTIAN

Sebastian.

ANTONIO

Oliver.

OLIVER

Hi.

SEBASTIAN

Um. Hi. And sorry about the whole fighting thing. Won't happen again.

ANTONIO

I hope not. Can't have you getting suspended, I need you for the boxing team.

SEBASTIAN

Huh?

OLIVER

What?

ANTONIO

Look. You can fight. You're a bit wild, but we can fix that.

OLIVER

Hey, no, I didn't say he could join.

ANTONIO

That's not your decision to make, is it?

OLIVER

I'm co-captain, I have a say in who's on the team and who's not. He is not joining.

ANTONIO

Yes, he is. Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

Huh? Um. I don't think I should.

OLIVER

See?

ANTONIO

Hold on. Why not?

SEBASTIAN

Why not what?

ANTONIO

Why don't you want to join?

OLIVER

Does it matter?

SEBASTIAN

I have a lot going on right now. I just moved and I'm still getting unpacked. Plus, you know, school and--

ANTONIO

Look. We meet after school twice a week for two hours, max. Come on, at least come to lunch with us today.

SEBASTIAN

I--

ANTONIO

Great. We'll be in the gym. See you, man. Oliver?

OLIVER

I recommend you don't show. Got it?

SEBASTIAN

Got it.

ANTONIO

Oliver, come on. See ya Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

See ya, dudes?

OLIVER and ANOTONIO
exit.

What?

SCENE 4

SEBASTIAN, VIOLA,
and AXEL in the
auditorium.

AXEL is working on
homework.

SEBASTIAN

And Antonio wants me to meet them for lunch, but I'm fairly
sure that Oliver guy is going to beat my ass.

VIOLA

What does he mean by "wild"?

SEBASTIAN

How should I know? I don't know what I'm going to do. If I
go, Oliver is going to kill me. If I don't go, Antonio is
going to kill me. Is there no, like, "no fighting" policy?

AXEL

Yeah. But theres no cameras in the gym. You can get away with anything in there.

SEBASTIAN

Great, I'm going to die. Viola, I need you to take my place.

VIOLA

What? Why?

SEBASTIAN

Why? You're the one who got me into this mess, you're the one he really wants to fight. I was just trying to be a normal person, but no, you had to play hero.

VIOLA

Hey, thanks to me, they want to be your friend. Plus, he was being an ass, he deserved it.

SEBASTIAN

Then go take care of it then.

VIOLA

Look, I can't just disappear every time you need me to step in. I'm supposed to meet with some girls for lunch.

SEBASTIAN

Well, maybe you shouldn't have gone out to fight the guy in the first place.

VIOLA

Oh please, he would have gone after you anyway.

SEBASTIAN

What's that supposed to mean?

AXEL

Hey! Shut the fuck up. As your drama club president, I forbid you from bickering during club meetings.

SEBASTIAN

Since when are we members of the drama club?

AXEL

Since you added me to a group chat with your sister and asked if we could meet in the auditorium during homeroom.

VIOLA

And that's another thing I'm missing out on because of you—

SEBASTIAN

Vi, I swear—

AXEL

What did I just say? Plus, you're not missing anything. Most people don't stay in their homeroom, it's basically 45 minutes for clubs to meet up.

SEBASTIAN

Ha!

VIOLA

So, we're in the drama club now.

AXEL

Yep! Though, we aren't doing a show. Maybe next year if we get more people, but...um, you're more than welcome to go work on homework. That's what I'm doing.

SEBASTIAN

Why do you have so much? Our first class didn't even assign us anything.

AXEL

Oh, this is the homework that's due next week. And the homework is due in my other classes. Next week I'll be with Sebastian.

VIOLA

Wait, you were serious about that?

AXEL

Why would I lie about this?

VIOLA

I thought you were joking.

SEBASTIAN

So, wait, if I'm in drama club, I can't join boxing then!

AXEL

No one knows this club exists. No matter how many fliers I put up.

VIOLA

Look, I'm sorry. Just don't go! Just have lunch with Axel, and I'll join you another day.

AXEL

We can eat in here. I'll show you the catwalk!

SEBASTIAN

Great. I may be a social outcast, but at least I get to see a catwalk.

VIOLA

Seb...

AXEL

I wish I had a twin.

VIOLA & SEBASTIAN

No, you don't.

AXEL

I mean, you guys have each other's backs. It's sweet.

SEBASTIAN

Eh.

AXEL

Plus, if I had twin, we could swap places and take each other's tests. Take care of the things for each other, you know?

SEBASTIAN

That's it!

AXEL

Is it?

SEBASTIAN

Viola, take my place and go to the gym, and I'll take your place and meet with Olivia!

VIOLA

Absolutely not.

SEBASTIAN

Please?

VIOLA

Sebastian, there is a difference between me wearing a sweatshirt in the dark pretending to be you when no one knew who we were versus pretending to be each other when have met us already. Everyone is going to notice.

SEBASTIAN

Come on, we look practically identical.

VIOLA

It's not going to work.

AXEL

Well...

VIOLA

Are you serious?

AXEL

Hang on, give me a second.

AXEL goes off

stage.

SEBASTIAN

It worked when we were little.

VIOLA

Because we were eight and had shitty bowl cuts.

SEBASTIAN

Well, I'll grow my hair out and you will cut yours.

VIOLA

Fuck no!

AXEL returns with
two wigs.

AXEL

Last year, I got really into hair and make-up. Especially RuPaul's Drag Race. And every spin-off of RuPaul's Drag Race. Anyway, I started making wigs and I made like a bunch of wigs, and I think these two could work. Here, put the wig caps on.

Wig caps are put
on.

VIOLA

I don't think a wig is going to change anything.

SEBASTIAN

Does the school know you have these?

The twins put the
wigs on. AXEL
adjusts them.

AXEL

I bought the supplies with my own money. Plus, they only
use the auditorium for movies and drug presentations.
There. Let's see.

A pause.

You know. This could work. Maybe some shadows under the
chin for you and some light blush for you. I think you guys
could pull it off. Just, maybe don't talk too much.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, we can do pretty good impressions of each other. What
do you say Vi?

In what is meant to
be an impression of
VIOLA.

You wanna go beat up some bullies?

AXEL

Oh, that was good.

VIOLA

Okay. Look. We do this. Axel, you're coming with me.
Sebastian. Don't ruin any potential friendships with these

girls. And if either of us thinks for a second that someone is on to us, we leave. Got it?

AXEL

Wait, why am I going with you?

VIOLA

Cause I'm going to sit with a bunch of boys by myself. I need moral support.

AXEL

They are not going to let me join them.

VIOLA

I'll make them. Please?

AXEL

Okay. But if shit hits the fan, I'm running.

VIOLA

Deal. Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

Deal. Thank you. We can do this. Just trust me!

VIOLA

I'll try.

The school bell rings.

SCENE 5

SEBASTIAN, VIOLA
and AXEL appear in
front of the
auditorium. VIOLA
and SEBASTIAN are
dressed as each
other.

VIOLA

Okay, remember. Her name is Olivia. She's on the softball
team.

SEBASTIAN

I know, I know.

VIOLA

And Sebastian? Please, make her like me. I really want
friends.

AXEL

What am I?

VIOLA

One friend. I would like more.

SEBASTIAN

I got it, don't worry. You guys be safe, okay?

VIOLA

I always am.

AXEL and VIOLA

exit.

SEBASTIAN enters
the cafeteria
SEBASTIAN joins
OLIVIA in the
cafeteria.

SEBASTIAN

In an impression of
his sister.

Hey Olivia.

OLIVIA

Oh, hey Viola! You made it! Were you able to find your
other class?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, that was pretty easy.

OLIVIA

That's good. I had to stop by the office today or I would
have helped you.

SEBASTIAN

It's good. What did you have to go to the office for?

OLIVIA

Oh, nothing major. Our baseball team lost like all of their
players. So, now, the girls' softball team is trying to get

it where we can play. Right now, they are saying no. But, at the very least, they are letting us prepare for our spring semester, which is nice. We almost won the championship last year. Not that anyone cares...

SEBASTIAN

That's so stupid. I love softball. I'm a big fan of the Blue Devils.

OLIVIA

From Duke? Me too! Do you play?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah. I mean, no. I mean. Yes. I did, a few years ago but my family moved so much, it was hard to play very often. I'm out of practice.

OLIVIA

Hey, that's still something. Do you wanna join? The season doesn't start till next semester. That gives you like six months to train with us.

SEBASTIAN

I would love to! But I can't.

OLIVIA

Why not?

SEBASTIAN

It's...a long story.

OLIVIA

Well, at least think about it. Please?

SEBASTIAN

I'll think about it.

OLIVIA

Yay! So, tell me how the first days been?

SEBASTIAN

Decent. Hey, do you know anything about Oliver and Antonio?

They-

OLIVIA

Oh, I know them. Have they tried to hit on you?

SEBASTIAN

You could put it that way...

OLIVIA

God, what fucking creeps. Just avoid them. They just do it for attention.

SEBASTIAN

You seem to know them pretty well.

OLIVIA

I've known both of them since we were little. Oliver is just a shit head who thinks he's tough.

SEBASTIAN

Oh?

OLIVIA

Yeah. And Antonio thankfully isn't that bad, but he's just annoying. I should know, we dated.

SEBASTIAN

You did? What was it like?

OLIVIA

He never took our relationship seriously. Honestly, I felt like he only dated me to take to his dad's house. That was like, the majority of our dates, his dad's house parties, on his dad's boat, with his dad. The rest, Waffle House.

SEBASTIAN

Waffle House?

OLIVIA

And it's like. I like Waffle House, I did. But like every other Friday, Waffle House. The people that worked there knew us by name.

SEBASTIAN

I mean. Maybe he thought you liked it?

OLIVIA

He was always just on his phone though. Anyway. We broke up when he made us miss prom because we had to go have dinner with his dad. I swear, guys just need to go to therapy.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah. Totally. Um. So. You guys aren't together anymore?

OLIVIA

Yeah, but that doesn't stop him from messaging me. I think he's just worried he won't have a homecoming date.

SEBASTIAN

Is that like, important?

OLIVIA

To some people. Have you never been to a homecoming?

SEBASTIAN

Um, no. We moved around so much, usually we were just homeschooled. But we did one time host like a fake prom. My sister and I dressed up and watched *Mean Girls*.

OLIVIA

Well, I guess we have got to make this homecoming special for you. What's your sister like?

SEBASTIAN

Ummm. You know. She's basically just like me. Only...not really.

OLIVIA

Well, I'll have to meet her someday.

SEBASTIAN

Under his breath

You already have.

OLIVIA

What?

SEBASTIAN

I said let's go outside.

OLIVIA and

SEBASTIAN exit.

Gym

ANTONIO and OLIVER

sit on one side of
a boxing ring.

AXEL and VIOLA

enter.

VIOLA

As SEBASTIAN.

Hey, what's up?

OLIVER

Great.

ANTONIO

Hey man. Who's your friend?

AXEL

I can leave.

VIOLA

This is my friend, Axel. They're in my class.

ANTONIO

Cool. You interested in joining boxing?

AXEL

No, I'm good.

OLIVER

Figures. We don't need any weaklings on our team.

VIOLA

Hey, you don't have to be a dick.

OLIVER

And you didn't have to be here.

ANTONIO

Guys, come on.

VIOLA

I'm not going to be intimidated by a guy who can't even fight. In case you forgot, I beat you last time.

OLIVER

You got lucky. That's all. You wouldn't last a second in the ring.

VIOLA

And you could?

ANTONIO

Okay you two, that's enough.

OLIVER

No, no. I think we are just getting started.

OLIVER puts on the
boxing gloves and
enters the boxing
ring.

ANTONIO

Dude, what are you doing?

OLIVER

He thinks he could do better? Well, let's see it. Come on
then. How about a real fight?

VIOLA slowly
approaches.

What? You scared?

VIOLA enters the
ring.

VIOLA

Just being cautious. We're at school, you know. Don't want
to get expelled, you know?

ANTONIO hands her a
pair of gloves.

VIOLA puts gloves
on.

AXEL

Oh shit.

ANTONIO gets
between the two of
them.

ANTONIO

Alright guys. Let's keep this safe and fair. Nothing below
the belt got it.

OLIVER

Got it.

ANTONIO

Sebastian?

VIOLA

Not a problem for me.

ANTONIO

Alright. Go to a corner, both of you.

ANTONIO exits the
ring as VIOLA and
OLIVER go to
separate corners of
the ring.

And Fight!

VIOLA and OLIVER
slowly approach
each other. During
the fight, random

yells and cheers
can be heard by the
students watching.
SEBASTIAN and
OLIVIA enter at
some point.
OLIVER makes two
quick punches, that
VIOLA blocks
quickly. He does
this again, and she
dodges it once
more. He pauses and
then punches VIOLA
in the nose, which
sends her stumbling
backwards slightly.
He stands proud at
his hit and watches
her. She
straightens up and
the two circle one
another. OLIVER
punches forward,

VIOLA ducks and
hits him with a
left hook and a
punch to the gut.
He stumbles back a
bit and then rushes
her with a yell.
VIOLA doges and
goes to the ground,
tripping OLIVER in
the process and
goes to the other
side of him. He
gets up on his
hands and VIOLA
punches him again,
causing him to fall
to the ground
again.
ANTONIO steps in.

ANTONIO

Alright, alright, that's enough.

I think you proved yourself.

OLIVER.

You good, man?

OLIVER

That motherfucker.

stand.

ANTONIO

Hey man, chill.

We have a winner, folks.

He grabs VIOLA by
the shoulders and
pulls her back. She
is now standing.

He goes to help

ANTONIO helps him

ANTONIO grabs
VIOLA's wrist and
holds it up.

Cheers. This is
when VIOLA and
SEBASTIAN see that
they are both
there. VIOLA gives
a small thumbs up.

VIOLA

Well, I got to go. Axel, come on.

AXEL

Coming. Lovely meeting you.

VIOLA and AXEL

exit.

OLIVER tries to go
after him, but
ANTONIO stops him.

ANTONIO

Chill. You lost fair and square.

OLIVIA and
SEBASTIAN stand off
to the side.

OLIVIA

Dang, that guy was good.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah.

OLIVIA

Is he new? He looks familiar.

SEBASTIAN

No clue. Never met the guy. I got to go, I'll see you
later.

OLIVIA

What-

SEBASTIAN leaves.

OLIVIA

Viola! Weird.

SCENE 6

Auditorium

AXEL is removing

Viola's wig as

VIOLA deals with

the bloody nose.

SEBASTIAN enters.

SEBASTIAN

I can't believe that worked.

VIOLA

I know. Those guys didn't even question me. Was everything good on your end?

SEBASTIAN

She thought I was you. She never even suspected it wasn't you. That's crazy, right?

AXEL

Well, our school isn't really known for being very smart.

SEBASTIAN

I can tell. Oh God, did you get hit?

VIOLA

Yeah, he got me. I'll be good.

AXEL

Yeah, as long as no one asks about where you got a bloody nose from.

VIOLA

Oh shit.

SEBASTIAN

What do we do?

VIOLA

I can say that I get nosebleeds.

SEBASTIAN

Well, what do I say? My nose magically healed itself.

VIOLA

I got it. Here, come here.

VIOLA gets up and quickly punches SEBASTIAN in the nose.

AXEL

Hey now!

SEBASTIAN

Ow, what the fuck?

VIOLA

Well now, it's totally realistic.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, the pain is so realistic.

AXEL

Hey guys?

VIOLA

What?

AXEL

You know I could have just used make-up, right?

A Pause.

VIOLA

That would have probably been better

SEBASTIAN

You think?

SEBASTIAN and VIOLA
finish changing
back as they plug
their bloody noses.
They all exit.
OLIVIA enters,
looking for VIOLA.

VIOLA enters.

OLIVIA

Oh my gosh, are you okay?

VIOLA

Yeah, I just get nose bleeds sometimes. It's no big deal.

OLIVIA

It looks rough. Do you need to see a nurse?

VIOLA

I'm fine, thank you.

OLIVIA

Here, let me help you.

OLIVIA goes to fix
one of the nose
plugs.

VIOLA

Um. Thanks.

OLIVIA

Well, come on. We have English together next, right? I can
tell you more about the softball team, convince you to
join.

VIOLA

Yeah. What?

They both exit.

SEBASTIAN enters.

ANTONIO enters,
looking for
SEBASTIAN.

ANTONIO

Hey man, great job. Don't worry about Oliver, he'll get
over it.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, good. Thanks.

ANTONIO

Is your nose good?

SEBASTIAN

The pain feels very fresh. But I'll be fine.

ANTONIO

Well, I can't be having my teammates in pain.

SEBASTIAN

Teammate?

ANTONIO

Yeah man, you're officially on the boxing team. Congrats.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, I don't--

The bell rings,
signaling that
lunch is over.

ANTONIO

I'll see you at practice. Don't be late.

ANTONIO exits.

SEBASTIAN

Hey, wait! No! What?

SEBASTIAN goes
after him.

SCENE 7

Auditorium, same
day.

AXEL, SEBASTIAN and
VIOLA gather in the
auditorium after
school.

AXEL is working on
homework.

SEBASTIAN

This has been. The longest first day. Of. My Life.

VIOLA

I miss being homeschooled.

AXEL

Well, I had a great day. I have friends, I got to hang out in the gym during lunch. My wigs looked amazing. Plus, I got part of my chemistry work for next week done!

VIOLA

Good for you.

SEBASTIAN

I'm on the boxing team, Vi. I don't even know how to box.

VIOLA

I said I was sorry-

AXEL

How come only Viola knows how to box? I thought you guys did everything together.

VIOLA

We both were taught. Uncle Leo, that's what we called him. Sebastian stopped after three weeks.

SEBASTIAN

You kept hitting me and didn't let me get a single punch in.

VIOLA

That's what boxing is--

AXEL

Dear God, both of you stop that. Geez, you ask a simple question and lead to this.

VIOLA & SEBASTIAN

Sorry.

SEBASTIAN

Can I see what you're working on?

AXEL hands over the
paper.

AXEL

It's just chemistry.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, I know this. Here, let me.

AXEL

Shit. I might need you to do all my homework.

SEBASTIAN

Well, it's not too hard. It's like the assignment he showed
us today.

AXEL

You know, you guys might have to keep switching if you want
to keep up appearances. I can help you.

VIOLA

I thought you already were?

AXEL

Well, if you want to continue, you'll need me to help.

SEBASTIAN

Shit. We can't do this forever. What were we thinking?

VIOLA

Seb, chill.

SEBASTIAN

To AXEL

What do you need from us?

AXEL

You just got to help me out with schoolwork.

SEBASTIAN

Deal.

To VIOLA

Viola?

VIOLA

Yeah, sure, we can help you--

AXEL

Yes!

VIOLA

But Sebastian's right. We can't do this long-term. We need to be prepared to swap back in. Swap out? You know what I mean?

AXEL

Sure.

SEBASTIAN

Not even a little.

VIOLA

I think we need to learn from each other. I teach you boxing and you teach me baseball.

SEBASTIAN

Softball.

VIOLA

Same thing.

SEBASTIAN

Not really.

AXEL

So, wait, what do I do?

VIOLA

You help us keep up the ruse, while we train each other.

AXEL

And...?

VIOLA

And we'll help you complete your schoolwork. And be a part of the drama club. Deal?

AXEL

Deal.

SEBASTIAN

Deal!

The three shake on
it then exit.

SCENE 8

The Montage

VIOLA and SEBASTIAN

enter.

SCENE 8-1

SEBASTIAN

Okay, I'm starting to get this, I'm remembering. What's next?

VIOLA

Well, you know how to punch, you just need to practice a bit, but that's only part of it. If you're going to last in any fight, you need stamina.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, yeah, I got that.

VIOLA

Do you?

SEBASTIAN

I can outrun you any day.

VIOLA

Really?

Race ya.

VIOLA runs off

stage.

SEBASTIAN

Hey—Hey!

SEBASTIAN goes

after her.

FREDERICK happens
to walk by and runs
into SEBASTIAN.

FREDERICK

Watch where you're going!

SEBASTIAN

Sorry.

He sees who it is.

Oh. You.

SEBASTIAN exits.

FREDERICK

Asshole.

FREDERICK exits.

SCENE 8-2

ANTONIO and OLIVER
enter with others.

ANTONIO

Alright guys, listen up. This is our first year as a team,
so we still have some kinks we need to work out.

Unfortunately, all are fights will be against each other.
But! We were planning on having a night where folks can
come out and watch some boxing. But the only way we can do
that is if we train.
Now, we are going to divide you guys into weight classes
and then partner everyone up. Oliver, you got it from here.

VIOLA, dressed as
SEBASTIAN, enters
and joins the
crowd.

OLIVER

Line up!

ANTONIO walks over
to VIOLA.

ANTONIO

Sebastian, my man, you made it.

VIOLA

Yep. I'm here. Man.

ANTONIO

Well, hey, we're gonna assign partners, but I figured I
should let you know that me and you are together.

VIOLA

Why?

ANTONIO

Well, you know we're similar enough in build. But mainly?
Just between us, no one else knows how to fight. I figured
this way; you can be my assistant.

VIOLA

Really?

ANTONIO

Yeah. So--

VIOLA

So as your assistant, let me offer up an idea for you.

ANTONIO

Um, sure.

VIOLA

Why don't you let girls be on the team?

ANTONIO

Um, because none of them would join.

VIOLA

You don't know that--

ANTONIO

Plus, there's no way they'd let us have coed. They're real
strict about it.

VIOLA

But the drama club was able to be coed. Don't you think the
team could be better if anyone could join?

ANTONIO

What's a drama club?

VIOLA

That's not important right now. What is--

ANTONIO

Look man, I'm sorry, it's not happening. No girl would be able to handle the kind of stuff we're doing.

VIOLA

Hey, wait--

ANTONIO exits, with
VIOLA following
behind.

SCENE 8-3

AXEL and SEBASTIAN
enter. SEBASTIAN
has a bat. Various
bags on the ground.

SEBASTIAN

Off-Stage.

Come on Vi, keep running.

AXEL

You know, I thought she would be the faster out of the two
of you.

SEBASTIAN

What? Why?

AXEL

I don't know, out of the two of you, she's more...

SEBASTIAN

Cool?

AXEL

I was going say athletic.

SEBASTIAN

Well, we all have our strengths and weaknesses. Plus, you've only known us for like, what, three weeks? If that? You can't tell who's a better runner from three-ish weeks.

AXEL

Yeah, but I can usually read people pretty well. I mean, I could tell you both are bi.

SEBASTIAN

What? How?

AXEL

I knew it. Finally, I have gay friends.

SEBASTIAN

Again, how?

AXEL

Just the vibes I picked up.

VIOLA enters as herself, out of breath.

VIOLA

Time?

AXEL

15 minutes exactly!

VIOLA

Dammit.

AXEL

Better than last time. You didn't throw up.

VIOLA

I just—give me a sec.

SEBASTIAN

Well, look you're getting better. A little bit slow--

VIOLA

Running around a building is different than running on a treadmill.

SEBASTIAN

I know, I know. But you know, you're doing good.

VIOLA

Thanks. You're doing pretty well too.

SEBASTIAN

I think maybe we should try to switch back.

VIOLA

Switch back?

AXEL

What are you switching?

SEBASTIAN

I mean, I think I could try to go to boxing, and you go to softball.

AXEL

What?

VIOLA

Absolutely not.

SEBASTIAN

You said it, I'm getting better.

VIOLA

Yeah, but--

AXEL

You can't switch--

VIOLA

We need more time--

AXEL

Plus, what do I do if you guys aren't switching?

SEBASTIAN

It was just a thought. Sorry I brought it up.

SEBASTIAN exits.

VIOLA

Sebastian!

AXEL

Maybe you should go for it. Give his idea a try.

VIOLA

Well, you'll still be out friend, you know.

AXEL

Thanks. We better go get him.

VIOLA and AXEL
start to grab their
stuff.

FREDRICK enters.

FREDRICK

Oh Axel. Deciding to try something worth while for once in
your life?

AXEL

Ah shit.

VIOLA

Hey, fuck off man.

FREDRICK

That is no way to speak to your student body president. I
deserve respect! Dignity! Admiration-

VIOLA

Bye.

VIOLA grabs AXEL
and leaves.

FREDRICK

That bitch. And yet...my heart still yearns.

FREDRICK exits.

SCENE 8-4

SEBASTIAN and
ANTONIO enter, with
boxing gloves.

ANTONIO

Next week's the game, so most of the guys won't be able to spar and I'll be busy prepping, so we got get as much practice in. You ready?

SEBASTIAN

Yes, but you know, I think we need to stretch a little.

ANTONIO

Didn't we just stretch?

SEBASTIAN

Well, maybe we should do it again. Before you punch me. Just to be safe.

ANTONIO

You good man?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, of course, just trying to be safe.

ANTONIO

That's new. Who are you and what have you done with Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

No one! Why wouldn't I be me, that's ridiculous to assume that I'm not me or that I'm someone else for that matter. I...

ANTONIO

Sorry, just, last week we had to tell you not to kick people when they are the ground--

SEBASTIAN

To himself.

Kicking people on the ground?

ANTONIO

But hey, glad you're trying to be safe! You seem tense though. Here.

ANTONIO starts
massaging his
shoulders.

You got to relax, all that stress tenses you up.

SEBASTIAN

Not relaxed.

Yeah, thanks, I feel more relaxed.

ANTONIO

See? I told you. Now come on.

ANTONIO lightly
hits SEBASTIAN on

the side. SEBASTIAN
flinches.

Dude, what gives? I'm not going to hurt you.

SEBASTIAN

I know...

ANTONIO grabs him
by the shoulder to
look him in the
eyes.

Hey. Look at me. I'm not going to hurt you. You got nothing
to worry about. Okay?

SEBASTIAN just
stares at him.

Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

Huh?

ANTONIO

You sure you're okay?

SEBASTIAN begins to
back away, taking
off his gloves.

SEBASTIAN

Never been better, I just remembered I had a thing, so I
got to go deal with that, bye.

ANTONIO

What?

SEBASTIAN runs off.

Sebastian!

ANTONIO exits after

him.

SCENE 8-5

VIOLA and OLIVIA

enter.

OLIVIA

You know, you have to hit the ball with the bat.

VIOLA

I know, I know. Just...got a lot on my mind.

OLIVIA

It's okay. Your problem is your form. You've batted before, right?

VIOLA

It's been...a while.

OLIVIA

I see. How long's a while?

VIOLA

Like, 12 years?

OLIVIA

12 years? I thought you said you played a little in middle school.

VIOLA

Ummm, I did. I just mainly pitched. That's what I meant. It's been a while since I've batted. But only a few years since I've pitched.

OLIVIA

Oh, okay. Well, here, let me show you.

OLIVIA picks up the

bat.

Left-handed, right?

VIOLA

No, right.

OLIVIA

Really? You've been throwing with your left hand these past few weeks?

VIOLA

Oh, right.

OLIVIA

So, wait, left or right?

VIOLA

Both are good. Both hands, I mean.

OLIVIA

Oh, okay. Well, give me any hand.

VIOLA holds out her
right hand. OLIVIA
takes it and wraps
it around the bat.

And your other hand.

Repeat.

Alright, now hold it at an angle behind your head.

OLIVIA adjusts
VIOLA to the
correct position.
OLIVIA talks into
her ear.

And then when the ball comes your way, you just-

OLIVIA moves the
bat in VIOLA's hand
to a swing.

You get it?

VIOLA says nothing.

Viola?

VIOLA

Yeah?

OLIVIA

Do you think you can try on your own?

VIOLA

Try what?

OLIVIA

What we just did? Swinging the bat?

VIOLA

Right. Can you show me again?

OLIVIA

Yeah. Man, you weren't kidding. What's bothering you?

VIOLA

Oh, just life. School.

OLIVIA

You want to talk about it?

VIOLA

Umm.

OLIVIA

You know you can tell me anything. We are friends!

VIOLA pauses before
removing herself
from OLIVIA.

VIOLA

How about later? I...have a thing.

VIOLA leaves.

OLIVIA

But we're not done! Viola!

OLIVIA exits.

SCENE 8-6

Days later.

SEBASTIAN and AXEL
stand off to the
side in the
hallway.

VIOLA enters, wig
in hand.

SEBASTIAN

You ready to go?

OLIVER enters,
without the others
seeing him. He
watches them,
hiding slightly.

VIOLA

Yeah. Here, Axel, catch.

AXEL catches the
wig. They put it in
their bag.

AXEL

I take it trying to be yourself didn't go so well?

SEBASTIAN

We'll tell you about it on the way.

VIOLA

Where are we going to eat?

AXEL

I was thinking Sonic? Usually, it's packed after the football games, so this is the last Friday we can go without having to wait for 3 hours.

VIOLA

Good with me. I need something cold after practice. This kid punched me in the shoulder, and it really hurt.

SEBASTIAN

Was it Todd? I swear, he has it out for you.

VIOLA

For you, you mean.

SEBASTIAN

Right. Oh, hey, here's that assignment from today.

SEBASTIAN pulls out
his workbook and
hands it to AXEL.

Just give it back to me Monday.

AXEL quickly shoves
it into their bag.

AXEL

Will do! Drinks on me! Just don't get a large.

They exit.

OLIVER walks
towards where they
exit.

OLIVER

When did Todd punch that girl?

He realizes.

Those bastards!

He exits.

SCENE 9

It is one week
later. The first
football game of
the season.

VIOLA and OLIVIA
are leaving the
concessions stand.

VIOLA

So, we are required to work an hour in the concessions
stand?

OLIVIA

Yes.

VIOLA

But we aren't going to be paid?

OLIVIA

No, the money will go towards softball team. So, in way, we are getting paid.

VIOLA

Sure. Anyway, so we can hang out for the rest of the game?

OLIVIA

You bet!

VIOLA

Sweet!

OLIVIA

So, it's been a few weeks since you started. Are there any guys that caught your eye?

VIOLA

What?

OLIVIA

Oh come on. I feel like all we talk about is either softball or school. We're friends, we should know if the other likes someone.

VIOLA

Is that what friends do?

OLIVIA

All the time. So, is there anyone?

VIOLA

Um, you know, there's not really any guy that's caught my attention.

OLIVIA

Really? Well, we can try to find you someone.

AXEL and SEBASTIAN
enter, passing by
OLIVIA and VIOLA.
VIOLA and AXEL wave
to each other.

AXEL

To SEBASTIAN.

Come on, the line's gone down.

OLIVIA

Pointing to

SEBASTIAN.

What about that guy? You know his friend!

VIOLA

Absolutely not.

We shift our focus
over to AXEL and
SEBASTIAN, who have
their snacks.

AXEL

I'm just saying, out of all the rats in fiction, Remy is the gayest one.

SEBASTIAN

Okay, but what about the rat from "Flushed Away"?

AXEL

No, he's closeted.

SEBASTIAN

Sure.

An announcement is heard.

ANNOUCER

Off-stage.

Number 76, Williams, is being taken out of the game after a 15-yard penalty.

AXEL

Damn. I don't know what that means, but that's probably not good.

SEBASTIAN

Wait, Williams? That's Oliver, right?

AXEL

Yeah. He usually is in the whole game. Wonder what happened.

SEBASTIAN

I don't know, but I think we need to leave. Get Viola.

AXEL

What, why?

SEBASTIAN

Oliver is definitely going to be pissed, and I do not want to be here when he tries to find someone to take that out on.

AXEL

You don't know he'll do that.

SEBASTIAN

Just trust me, I--

OLIVER enters, in
football uniform.

OLIVER

Sebastian!

SEBASTIAN

Me?

OLIVER

Who else? Come here you.

OLIVER quickly
approaches
SEBASTIAN. VIOLA
gets up to step in,

but OLIVIA grabs
her.

OLIVIA

What are you doing?

VIOLA

He--

COACH enters.

COACH

Williams! Get back to the bench. You can talk to your
friends at half-time.

OLIVER

To SEBASTIAN.

Don't switch on me, got it.

OLIVER leaves with
COACH.

AXEL

Come on, let's go.

SEBASTIAN and AXEL

exit.

VIOLA

I'm so sorry, I got to go.

OLIVIA

But--

VIOLA

I really am sorry.

OLIVIA

Do you know them?

VIOLA

I-I do. But I'm not seeing him. Or them. They are just friends from drama club.

OLIVIA

Drama club?

VIOLA

I'll be back.

VIOLA exits.

FREDERICK

approaches OLIVIA.

You wouldn't by chance know where she's going.

OLIVIA

No, Fred, I don't. Leave me alone.

FREDERICK

It's Frederick. You've known this since we were 12.

OLIVIA

What part of leave me alone do you not get, Fred? Viola went to go be with her drama club people, whatever that means.

OLIVIA exits.

FREDERICK

Drama club? Why is she in drama club?

FREDERICK exits.

SCENE 10

Auditorium.

SEBASTIAN, VIOLA
and AXEL are all
there.

SEBASTIAN

I can't keep doing this.

VIOLA

Hey, it's okay. I'll just take your place and everything
will be fine--

SEBASTIAN

No, it won't. I can't keep having you pretend to me.

AXEL

Hey, what did he mean by not switching on him?

VIOLA

When did he say that?

AXEL

Like, right before he left.

SEBASTIAN

It doesn't matter! He probably knows and if you go fight him, he's just going to expose us as frauds and this will all be for nothing.

VIOLA

Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

Antonio's going to hate me. Everyone will think we are freaks. Axel's going to be bullied because of us. And it's not like we can just move. Or can we?

VIOLA

Look. No one's going to know. I promise you. Nothing bad is going to happen to you. Or me. Or Axel. I will take care of this.

SEBASTIAN

No, Vi. I need to do this.

AXEL

Your going to get your ass kicked.

SEBASTIAN

I got to go through with it.

AXEL

You can't. Viola? Back me up?

VIOLA is quiet.

Viola?

SEBASTIAN

Vi?

VIOLA

I think you should try.

AXEL

What?

VIOLA

He's angry, so he'll be sloppy. Plus, he's been on the field and doesn't have as much energy. A couple of hits might take him down. And worse comes to worse, you could just run.

AXEL

Yeah, but even if he can escape, Oliver could always go after him.

VIOLA

Then just lead him over here. Back yourself into a corner. I doubt many people will be able to catch up quickly. I could take him out before anyone sees.

AXEL

Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

Will that work?

VIOLA

It's worth a try. Axel?

AXEL

I think it's incredibly stupid.

SEBASTIAN

But?

AXEL

But stupider ideas have worked. There's a small sort of storage area right outside the auditorium. It's where they keep the fancy piano, they only use for choir concerts. You could probably hide out under there.

VIOLA

Then it's a plan.

AXEL

Let's go then. The half is about to end.

VIOLA exits.

SEBASTIAN and AXEL
walk and are back
at the football
stadium.

OLIVIA enters and
approaches them.

OLIVIA

Hey, where's Viola?

AXEL

Sorry, I don't know a Viola.

OLIVIA

But she said she was going after you guys?

SEBASTIAN

Oh, Viola.

AXEL

Viola, of course!

SEBASTIAN

Right. Was she not with you?

OLIVIA

She left after you guys did? I thought she was going to check on you. Said you guys were in drama club, whatever that is?

AXEL

Well, it's a real club for theatre lovers--

SEBASTIAN

Now is not the time.

AXEL

Right.

A loud buzzer goes off, signaling half time.

SEBASTIAN

It's time.

To OLIVIA and AXEL.

You should probably go. Both of you.

OLIVIA

I'm sorry?

AXEL

I'm staying here. You're not dying on my watch.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks.

OLIVIA

What's happening?

OLIVER enters and
approaches

SEBASTIAN. He
stands and stares
at SEBASTIAN.

SEBASTIAN

Are you going to just look at me?

OLIVER

Making sure I'm fighting the right one.

AXEL

You know gentlemen, we could just have a nice chat. Not
even worry about a fight.

OLIVER

Who are you?

AXEL

Axel. Sebastian's friend and drama club president.

OLIVER gives AXEL a
look.

And the person that's going to step back and let you guys
deal with your issues.

AXEL steps away.

OLIVER

Now. Let's see you actually fight.

Both put their
fists up. SEBASTIAN
keeps his eyes open
and waits. OLIVER
takes the first
swing and SEBASTIAN
dodges. OLIVER
swings again and
SEBASTIAN dodges.

Come on, do something.

SEBASTIAN throws a
punch and OLIVER
dodges. He punches

and hits SEBASTIAN
in the cheek. He
stumbles but
quickly rushes and
hits OLIVER in eye.
OLIVER covers his
eye, before
grabbing SEBASTIAN
by the shirt and
upper-cutting him.
At the same time,
SEBASTIAN knees him
in the groin.
OLIVER is taken
down.

OLIVER

Cheap shot!

SEBASTIAN

Catch me then.

SEBASTIAN runs off.
OLIVER tears off
behind him. The
crowd exits as
well.

SEBASTIAN runs on
to an empty stage.
OLIVER follows
behind him.

OLIVER

Now I've got you. There's nowhere to run and no one to save
you.

VIOLA enters out of
the storage area
and rushes OLIVER.
She tackles him to
the ground and
punches him in the
face.

Who the fuck are you?

VIOLA

Sebastian.

She headbutts him.
He's out of it.

SEBASTIAN

I can't believe that worked.

The crowd begins to
be heard.

Quick, hide.

VIOLA is gone.
SEBASTIAN stands
over OLIVER as the
crowd rushes in.
COACH and ANTONIO
push through.
ANTONIO drops a
cooler on the edge
of the stage and
goes over to
SEBASTIAN.

ANTONIO

Are you okay?

COACH goes to
OLIVER and pulls
him up.

COACH

Of all the stupid things you could think of doing, this
really takes the cake.

OLIVER

Look, that guy is a fake. He didn't fight me, someone else
fought for him.

ANTONIO

Oliver, stop it. Just let it go.

OLIVER

But I'm telling you--

COACH

And I'm telling you. We are heading back to the locker room and having a long chat about what is and isn't appropriate behavior.

OLIVER

To ANTONIO.

You have to believe me. Sebastian is a fraud.

ANTONIO

I think you should leave.

OLIVER

Seriously? You've known him for like, what, a month? I've known you since we were 5.

ANTONIO

I know. But you clearly are hung up on something. I think we need some time apart.

OLIVER

Antonio...

COACH

Come on. Rest of you, scram.

COACH drags OLIVER
off-stage.

VIOLA enters as the
crowd exits.

OLIVIA enters.

OLIVIA

To VIOLA.

Where did you go?

VIOLA

I'm sorry, I needed to make sure they were both okay--

OLIVIA

And so you just disappeared? God, Viola, I was worried
something happened to you.

VIOLA

I'm so sorry.

OLIVIA walks off.

VIOLA goes after
her.

ANTONIO

To SEBASTIAN.

And you're sure you're good? No injuries.

SEBASTIAN

A little sore, but nothing major.

ANTONIO

Your eyes look puffy. Here.

ANTONIO moves
SEBASTIAN over to a
cooler that's he
dropped at the edge
of the stage.
UPSTAGE, OLIVIA and
VIOLA enter. The
two pairs are in
separate places.

SEBASTIAN

I'm fine, really.

VIOLA

OLIVIA, please.

ANTONIO

Sebastian, please.

OLIVIA

I'm fine, just, go back to your real friends.

SEBASTIAN

You have to go back to the call box, don't you?

VIOLA

You are my real friend.

ANTONIO

You're more important right now.

OLIVIA & SEBASTIAN

Am I really?

OLIVIA

I feel like you don't want to tell me anything.

SEBASTIAN

I'm fine, why do you even care?

OLIVIA

I mean, you can't even tell me if you're interested in a guy.

VIOLA

It's because there is no guy I'm interested in.

SEBASTIAN

Oliver's right, you've known me for three weeks. You don't care about me.

OLIVIA

Yeah right. You just don't want to be my friend.

VIOLA & ANTONIO

That's not true.

ANTONIO

Look, I don't know why I care so much. I just do. I can't explain it.

OLIVIA

Really?

SEBASTIAN

Well, explain it!

VIOLA

I want you to be my friend.

SEBASTIAN

Because I know what I feel about you.

VIOLA

And I'm telling you the truth, there's no guy I'm interested in because...

ANTONIO

And what do you mean, you know how you feel about me?

OLIVIA

Spit it out!

SEBASTIAN & VIOLA

Because I like you!

Silence.

OLIVIA

What?

ANTONIO

Oh.

VIOLA

I...I like you...

SEBASTIAN

Look, I don't expect you to do anything...

VIOLA

You don't have to feel the same...

SEBASTIAN

You can hate me if you want...

VIOLA

I just figured you'd want to know.

SEBASTIAN

But now you know.

VIOLA

I'll go.

SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry.

Both VIOLA and
SEBASTIAN turn to
leave their scenes.

ANTONIO & OLIVIA

Wait.

VIOLA and SEBASTIAN
stop.
ANTONIO and OLIVIA
both approach the
twin of their scene
and pull them in
for a kiss.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

SCENE 1

VIOLA, SEBASTIAN
and AXEL sit in the
auditorium in
silence.

AXEL

So, you guys have a good day?

Silence.

I'll take that as a no?

Silence.

Yes?

Silence.

Alright, this is getting creepy.

AXEL drops a very
large book on the
floor. Neither twin
respond.

Really?

AXEL screams. Both
twins react.

VIOLA

What? What happened? Are you okay?

AXEL

Are you?

SEBASTIAN

Why did you scream?

AXEL

You guys haven't said a word to me all day. I didn't get a single text from either of you this weekend and you both ditched me during the free period. What the fuck happened?

VIOLA

I'm sorry, I just...a lot happened on Friday.

AXEL

Yeah, I was there, I saw the fight.

SEBASTIAN

Well, after that happened, there was...more.

AXEL

More?

VIOLA

Olivia and I kissed.

AXEL

What?

SEBASTIAN

Antonio and I also kissed.

AXEL

What? Why didn't either of you tell me? You had all weekend.

SEBASTIAN

To be honest, I was having a non-stop mental breakdown over it this weekend. I only told Viola because I live with her.

VIOLA

And I only told him because I was in the bathroom for 3 hours and he needed in there.

AXEL

Still, even a text would have been good. But I mean, happy for both of you.

The twins groan in pain.

What happened?

SEBASTIAN

Well, today I decided to talk to Antonio about, you know, everything.

Flashback. Study Hall.

SEBASTIAN sits in
the gym in the
boxing ring.

ANTONIO enters with
a bag.

ANTONIO

Oh, hey man. You here to spar?

SEBASTIAN

Um, maybe later? I kind of wanted to talk to you.

ANTONIO

Sure. Is this about Friday?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah. I--

A toilet flushes in
the background.

ANTONIO

Shh, someone's here.

SEBASTIAN

What? They're probably just in the locker room, I doubt
they--

ANTONIO

Ha, yeah man, homecomings going to be crazy. I already have a girl in mind to ask--

SEBASTIAN

What?

A faint sound of a door opening and closing.

ANTONIO

Yeah dude, you should totally ask her out. I can be your wing--

SEBASTIAN

Antonio, please. There's no one else in here anymore. Most people are in study hall. Look, can we just talk, please.

ANTONIO grabs hand wraps from his bag and begins wrapping his hand.

What are you doing?

ANTONIO

Well, I came to practice by myself. But you're here now, so why don't we spar a little bit. Come on, we can talk while we fight. Get up.

SEBASTIAN

No, I—its 10 in the morning first of all, I don't want to get sweaty.

ANTONIO

Showers are over there.

SEBASTIAN

Antonio!

ANTONIO

Come on man, get up and let's go--

SEBASTIAN

Why did you kiss me?

Silence.

I mean. I didn't hate it. I actually enjoyed it. But. I don't know, you've never—I mean, I don't know, I guess. What did it mean? To you?

ANTONIO

Can you just get up please?

SEBASTIAN

Please, just tell me.

ANTONIO

Honestly? I don't know. I really don't know.

SEBASTIAN

I mean, that's okay. We can still talk--

ANTONIO

No, no, no. I don't want to talk about it. Or think about it or anything.

SEBASTIAN

So, it meant nothing?

ANTONIO

No, I mean. I think I like you. A lot. But I don't really get it. I don't get why I like you.

SEBASTIAN

Gee, thanks.

ANTONIO

Not like that. I mean. I feel like I can do anything I want to do. But I don't want what I want. You know?

SEBASTIAN

No.

ANTONIO

I don't want to be..."out" or anything. I'm not gay.

SEBASTIAN

Sure.

ANTONIO

I just...you confuse me. And I don't like being confused.

A pause.

SEBASTIAN

Do you want to...fight?

ANTONIO

That would be really nice. You're a really good friend.

Back to the
present.

VIOLA, SEBASTIAN
and AXEL all sit in
the auditorium.

AXEL

Wow.

SEBASTIAN

Yep.

AXEL

And you decided to fight the guy?

SEBASTIAN

It was the only thing he would do with me.

AXEL

You know, there's repressed homosexual tension and then
there's that. Congrats Seb, you've turned the most popular
guy in our school gay.

SEBASTIAN

He kissed me, I've done nothing of the sorts.

AXEL

Chill. Viola, can your rejection top that?

VIOLA

Do I have to?

SEBASTIAN

If I have to, you do too.

VIOLA

Fine. I also went to talk to Olivia at study hall. I had to look for her, but I found her in the shed by the baseball field.

Flashback. Study Hall.

VIOLA enters the
shed and sees
OLIVIA.

VIOLA

Hey.

OLIVIA

Hey.

Silence.

So.

VIOLA

So.

OLIVIA

How was your weekend?

VIOLA

Not bad. Yours?

OLIVIA

Same.

VIOLA

Hey--

OLIVIA

Do--

OLIVIA & VIOLA

Sorry.

VIOLA

You go.

OLIVIA

No, you.

VIOLA

Alright...We should talk about Friday.

OLIVIA

What about Friday?

VIOLA

What about—you kissed me!

OLIVIA

Oh right, that.

VIOLA

Yeah.

OLIVIA

Right, I remember now.

VIOLA

So, like. You want to tell me what this means?

OLIVIA

Look, I'm so sorry for kissing you. It was stupid and irresponsible, and it will never happen again. If you want to stop being my friend, I wouldn't blame you.

VIOLA

I--

OLIVIA

But I just ask that you please not tell people about it. I promise, I'll do anything, I'll stay away, pay you, whatever you need.

VIOLA

Olivia!

OLIVIA

Yes?

VIOLA

It's okay. I'm not upset. I actually...enjoyed it.

OLIVIA

You did?

VIOLA

I mean, minus the fact that you ran away immediately afterwards and then refused all of my calls this weekend, yeah. It was...nice.

OLIVIA

Nice.

VIOLA

But, I get if you don't want to do anything about it.

OLIVIA

Look, it's just...this past summer, I realized that I liked girls, and I figured it would be safer to just...stay under the radar. I mean, most people know me as Antonio's ex-girlfriend. Plus, we're in Texas. Not exactly the most accepting place to be. I always figured I'd stay straight, graduate, get as far away from here as possible and lose my virginity to some goth girl at NYU. At least then, if people did find out, they would just say "Oh, she went to NYU and that's what made her gay."

VIOLA

Wow. That's...an interesting plan for your future.

OLIVIA

Thank you. But...I mean your cool and I like you. But I can't be in a relationship with you. At least, not right now. I'm sorry.

VIOLA

Hey, that's okay. I get it. You have a plan. I won't mess that up.

OLIVIA

Oh thank you.

OLIVIA hugs VIOLA.

So, friends?

VIOLA

Yep. Friends.

The bell rings.

OLIVIA exits.

Back to the
present.

VIOLA, SEBASTIAN,
and AXEL sit in the
auditorium.

AXEL

You know, I thought those two were both straight. Guess I
was wrong.

SEBASTIAN

You might not be.

VIOLA

This was a mistake. I don't even like softball.

SEBASTIAN

Maybe we can convince Aunt Marie to let us move again.

AXEL

You guys need to chill. Haven't ever been rejected before?

The twins look at
each other, before
shaking their heads
no.

Really?

VIOLA

To be honest, we moved around so much this the first time
we've actually had the chance to date a person.

AXEL

Crazy. Well, you guys should have still told me over the
weekend. I could have provided support.

SEBASTIAN

Maybe you could have prevented this.

AXEL

Oh, I doubt that. I probably would have said to go for it.

VIOLA

Well, how was your weekend? We didn't see you
after...everything that happened on Friday.

AXEL

Oh, you know. The usual. Watched some tv, found someone to
join drama club, did homework.

SEBASTIAN

What was that?

AXEL

Okay, so don't get mad. But...

Flashback. Friday.

OLIVER sits on the ground. AXEL walks past, sees OLIVER, stops before slowly approaches.

OLIVER

What?

AXEL

Sorry, I just...Are you okay? Do you want...I don't know, ice? A towel?

OLIVER

I'm fine, fuck off.

AXEL

Got it, sorry.

AXEL goes to leave, before stopping and pulling a handkerchief out of their pocket.

Here, you got some mud or something on your face.

OLIVER

What?

AXEL

Mud. I'm assuming. On your forehead.

OLIVER

And this is?

AXEL

A handkerchief.

OLIVER

You just carry this around with you?

AXEL

Yeah.

OLIVER

Why—You know what? Forget I asked. Thanks.

AXEL

No problem.

AXEL goes to leave.

OLIVER

I thought you were friends with Sebastian? Drama club, I think?

AXEL

You've heard of the drama club?

OLIVER

I mean, barely, but sure.

AXEL

Yes! We're getting our name out there. Maybe we'll get more members now.

OLIVER

How many do you have?

AXEL

Just three at the moment, but I registered two random people to be in the club, so we don't get shut down. So, five.

OLIVER

Maybe I could join?

AXEL

I'm sorry?

OLIVER

I have no friends, no clubs. I have nothing else to do with my life. I could join.

Back to the present.

VIOLA and SEBASTIAN
sit in the
auditorium with
AXEL.

SEBASTIAN

And you said no.

AXEL

I didn't say yes.

SEBASTIAN

But you said no.

AXEL

I told him I'd consider it.

VIOLA & SEBASTIAN

What?

AXEL

He had just lost a fight, his best friend essentially disowned him, I wasn't about to kick him while he's down.

SEBASTIAN

Why not?

VIOLA

Sebastian!

SEBASTIAN

Sorry. What I meant was...gently...kick him while he's down.

VIOLA

I mean, he clearly has some sort of agenda here. Just tell him that we can't let him join at this time. I'll do it for you.

AXEL

I mean, we could.

SEBASTIAN

Axel? He can't join.

AXEL

You should have seen him; he was so sad.

SEBASTIAN

He's tried to beat me up multiple times, unprovoked.

AXEL

We could at least consider it. Maybe, he just wants to join for friendship. We can keep an eye on him and try to prevent any more unprovoked fighting. Maybe, a little kindness is all he needs.

SEBASTIAN

Leave it to someone else then. He's not joining.

SEBASTIAN leaves.

AXEL

Sebastian!

VIOLA gets up.

Viola?

VIOLA

Look, I know you want to help him, I get it. But I'm with Sebastian. He might be doing this to get back at us.

AXEL

And if he isn't? Don't you feel bad? I mean, you're the one who kept fighting him.

VIOLA

I was trying to defend my brother.

AXEL

The first time, yeah. But after that? Sebastian didn't have to join the boxing team. He didn't want to. You just wanted to play the hero.

VIOLA

That's not true. Everything I do is to protect Sebastian. And now I want to protect you as well. We don't know what he is going to do.

AXEL

I'm not saying everyone has to get along. But I mean, maybe we can at least not be jackasses. We've ruined this guy's life enough.

VIOLA

I just don't want Sebastian or you to get hurt.

AXEL

Then trust me! I'm not stupid, I've been through enough to know when someone is using me. I know you and Sebastian aren't using me. And I don't think Oliver is either.

VIOLA

You think or you know?

AXEL

Tell you what. I'll let you go crazy on him if I'm wrong.
But I don't think I am. Do you trust me?

SCENE 2

The next day,
outside the
auditorium during
the free period.

OLIVIA stands
outside the
auditorium.

SEBASTIAN enters.
OLIVIA stops him.

OLIVIA

Hey, Sebastian right?

SEBASTIAN

Um, yeah?

OLIVIA

You're on the boxing team, right?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah. What's going on?

OLIVIA

I saw you on Friday. You got into that fight with Oliver.

SEBASTIAN

Yes, that was me. I was just defending myself.

OLIVIA

I get it. It was very brave of you. Defending yourself and all that.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks. Anyway--

OLIVIA

I'm Olivia by the way. Would you want to meet after school today? Or this weekend?

SEBASTIAN

Um, I got to go. Sorry.

SEBASTIAN and

OLIVIA exit.

SEBASTIAN enters
the auditorium.

AXEL, VIOLA, and
OLIVER are sitting
around.

SEBASTIAN

I'm here, something weird just--

AXEL

Um, Seb, you remember Oliver.

SEBASTIAN

Viola? Can I speak to you in private?

The twins go off to
the side.

VIOLA

Before you say anything, I don't think he joined to bully
you or expose us.

SEBASTIAN

Great. Why is he here?

VIOLA

Axel feels bad for him, and frankly, I do as well. I mean,
he got kicked off the boxing team, his best friend isn't
speaking to him. He's in a terrible situation.

SEBASTIAN

He got himself into this situation.

VIOLA

But we are the reason it happened in the first place.

SEBASTIAN

What happened to us sticking together? Why are you taking
his side?

VIOLA

I'm not taking his side. I just would like to make up for some of the mistakes we've made. It's what mom and dad would have wanted.

SEBASTIAN

Don't bring them into this.

VIOLA

Seb--

SEBASTIAN

You can atone for your mistakes. I'm not the one that started this, so you make him your friend all by yourself.

VIOLA

Sebastian!

SEBASTIAN

Tell Axel I can't meet today. I'm going to go.

VIOLA

You can't just run away from your problems.

SEBASTIAN

Watch me.

SEBASTIAN exits the auditorium.

SEBASTIAN enters the hallway, and approaches OLIVIA.

SEBASTIAN

Olivia?

OLIVIA

Yeah?

SEBASTIAN

Let's meet after school today.

OLIVIA

Oh?

SEBASTIAN

But bring your friend Viola. I got a friend who's interested in her. Make it a double date.

OLIVIA

Um, are you sure? I have other friends. I don't think Viola would be interested.

SEBASTIAN

Well, maybe she'll enjoy it. That's what first dates are for, figuring out if you like someone. Just bring her with you and I'll bring my friend. Deal?

OLIVIA

Um. Okay. Yeah, I'll ask her.

SEBASTIAN

Great. See you guys tonight.

Fade to black.

SCENE 3

A diner.

VIOLA and OLIVIA

enter.

VIOLA

And you don't know who the other guy? This is just some random guy at school.

OLIVIA

I told you, it's that guy on the boxing team and a friend of his.

VIOLA

Yes, but I would like a name.

OLIVIA

Look, I know this is weird and last-minute. I didn't even want to tell you about this. I... I'm just not ready for anything else.

VIOLA

I... Just tell me a name, please.

SEBASTIAN and

ANTONIO enter.

OLIVIA

Um, this is Sebastian. And... Antonio?

VIOLA

And who's...whose?

SEBASTIAN

I'm here for Olivia.

VIOLA

Oh, thank God. Wait, what?

OLIVIA

I asked Sebastian if he wanted to hang out. And he said Antonio is I guess here for you Viola.

The twins argue
silently to each
other over the
date.

ANTONIO

Um, Viola, right?

VIOLA

Yeah.

ANTONIO

Cool.

OLIVIA

Let's sit.

The four sit at the
table.

OLIVIA

So, you guys are on the boxing team together.

VIOLA & ANTONIO & SEBASTIAN

Yeah.

VIOLA

I've seen you guys around.

ANTONIO

Yeah, well Sebastian is probably our best fighter.

VIOLA

To herself.

Yeah right.

ANTONIO

What'd you say?

VIOLA

Oh, sorry. I meant to say I'm really impressed by Sebastian. I'm shocked at you can use those baby hands to throw a punch.

SEBASTIAN

They are normal hands, stop calling them baby hands.

VIOLA

Baby hands.

OLIVIA

Viola and I are on the softball team together. But you probably already knew that.

ANTONIO

Oh, I didn't know you played softball together. What position are you?

VIOLA

Oh, we've just been conditioning but probably...outfielder.

SEBASTIAN

Under breath.

That's baseball.

VIOLA

Wasn't talking to you, was I?

ANTONIO

I'm sorry, do you two know each other?

VIOLA

No.

SEBASTIAN

Never met.

Pause.

OLIVIA

Viola, go to the bathroom with me.

VIOLA

But--

OLIVIA

Now!

VIOLA and OLIVIA
get up and exit.

ANTONIO

What the hell man?

SEBASTIAN

What?

ANTONIO

That's my ex-girlfriend.

SEBASTIAN

She asked me. You never said if she was off-limits.

ANTONIO

But...I mean, is this about everything that's happened? I thought we were cool.

SEBASTIAN

It's about a lot of things.

ANTONIO

You know what, I'm out of here. Tell Olivia and the other one I had to go.

SEBASTIAN

But--

ANTONIO

I'm sorry.

ANTONIO leaves.

AXEL and OLIVER
enter.

AXEL

Oh, hey, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

What are you two doing here?

OLIVER

We were just going to eat together to discuss drama club.

Our waiter left though, so we were just leaving.

AXEL

Wait, is this that date Viola was telling me about? Were you the date?

SEBASTIAN

For Olivia, yeah. Antonio was with Viola.

AXEL

Oh, thank God. Wait, no. Why would you do that, she's your sister?

OLIVER

You guys are siblings?

SEBASTIAN

She asked me, alright. I was going to say no, but then Viola had to go and betray me all so she can feel better about "mistreating" Oliver.

OLIVER

Hey!

AXEL pulls
SEBASTIAN to the
side.

AXEL

He's not coming after you. Can you let this go? He just
needs a friend.

SEBASTIAN

Well, it doesn't have to be me.

VIOLA and OLIVIA
enter again.

OLIVIA

Is everything okay? What's happening?

SEBASTIAN

Everything's fine, but we should probably leave.

OLIVIA

Now? But--

SEBASTIAN

Viola can go home with these two. Are you coming Olivia?

The twins silently
argue with each
other over
everything.

OLIVIA

Viola?

VIOLA

Go. I'll be fine.

OLIVIA leaves with
SEBASTIAN.

OLIVER

Wait, you guys are siblings? That...explains a lot
actually.

AXEL

Viola, are you okay?

VIOLA

Just go home already. I'll call my aunt.

AXEL and OLIVER

exit.

VIOLA pulls out her
phone. FREDERICK
enters.

FREDERICK

Well, well, well. I have to say, being betrayed by your
brother and your best friend in one night must suck.

VIOLA

What do you want?

FREDERICK

You know, your friend Axel has caused quite a bit of trouble for me. I mean, that drama club breaks every school rule and now I find out that they were helping two students pull a ruse on the athletes of this school? And they were cheating on all of their assignments. I think that's grounds for expulsion.

VIOLA

You're literally a teenager, what makes you think you have that power?

FREDERICK

I don't. But I could make life a whole lot worse for your little friend. Unless of course, you want to do me a favor?

VIOLA

What do you want?

FREDERICK

You know homecoming's this Friday. I oversee the pep rally, and I want some spectacle. Something that everyone will remember. We can get back at your brother for betraying you. What do you say?

VIOLA

No.

FREDERICK

Why?

VIOLA

Why? Why would I do that? He may be an ass, but he's still my brother.

FREDERICK

And yet. Not only has he reaped the rewards of your fighting, but he gets to date your best friend. And that friend of his didn't seem too interested in you.

VIOLA

So? I'm not interested in Antonio.

FREDRICK

Well it doesn't matter. The point is, your brother is getting everything. And you are the one that's all alone. But I could fix that.

VIOLA

What the fuck is wrong with you?

FREDERICK

Nothing. Nothing, my sweet angel. I just want to make this school the best it can be. And I want you to be happy.

VIOLA

You've threatened to take away my friend's club. You're the reason Axel has double the homework. Your horrible.

FREDRICK

But I could fix things for Axel. For you.

VIOLA

Really?

FREDERICK

For a price. You give me my spectacle; I make sure your friend keeps the club. And I'll lower their schoolwork to a normal amount. And you get to teach your brother a lesson. So, Viola. Do we have a deal?

Fade to black.

SCENE 4

Friday. Gym.

Homecoming Pep

rally.

FREDRICK,
SEBASTIAN, OLIVIA,
ANTONIO, OLIVER,
AXEL and PRINCIPAL
LEE are scattered
around.

PRINCIPAL LEE
stands with a
microphone.

PRINCIPAL LEE

And the grade who has brought in the most can tabs is...Grade 10.

Very loud yells.

Very good. Anyway, that's the results of spirit week. I'm going to turn things over to our student body president, Frederick

Cheering.

The microphone is
handed to
FREDERICK.

FREDERICK

Thank you. Happy homecoming everyone! Tonight's the big game, so we better be ready to win tonight! I thought we could kick things off with our brand-new boxing team.

ANTONIO brings
SEBASTIAN towards
FREDERICK

SEBASTIAN

What are we doing?

ANTONIO

I told you about this, right?

SEBASTIAN

No, you did not.

ANTONIO

Oh. Well, it's fine. They pitched the idea to me, and I thought it was a great way to promote ourselves. We just spar a little, show off. It will be easy.

SEBASTIAN

Easy, of course.

OLIVIA

You got this Sebastian.

ANTONIO

Come on.

FREDERICK

Give them a hand folks, Antonio and Sebastian.

Cheering.

ANTONIO

So, you wanted us to spar—

FREDERICK

To ANTONIO and
SEBASTIAN.

Actually, I have a different fighter in mind. Someone who really knows how to kick ass. And I thought your best fighter could go up against my best fighter.

SEBASTIAN

Um, I don't think--

ANTONIO

That's a great idea! Oh come on, we've been wanting to do more than just fight each other. It will be fun. Great experience.

SEBASTIAN

But what if I don't win? Or worse?

ANTONIO

Ah, that's okay. As long as you try your best. Give the people a good show.

SEBASTIAN

Alright. Who is it?

FREDERICK

To SEBASTIAN

I'm sure you're familiar with her.

In the microphone.

Come on out.

VIOLA enters.

SEBASTIAN

Viola?

ANTONIO

Hey, Frederick, this is a little messed up, don't you think? We don't hit women.

FREDERICK

In microphone.

Let's keep this clean.

PRINCIPAL LEE

Hey, I don't think-

FREDERICK

To PRINCIPAL LEE.

Silence. Get out of here if you want to keep your job.

PRINCIPAL LEE

leaves.

OLIVIA runs up to
VIOLA.

OLIVIA

What are you doing? This is completely unsafe.

FREDERICK

To OLIVIA.

Back away from the ring.

OLIVIA

Viola!

VIOLA and SEBASTIAN
both enter the
small ring. ANTONIO
passes over a pair

of boxing gloves to
SEBASTIAN.

ANTONIO

Go easy on her. I don't know what Frederick is trying to do, but trust me, I'm going to have some words with him. You'll be fine.

SEBASTIAN

I'm not so sure.

AXEL tries to approach, but OLIVER stops them.

AXEL

I have to stop this.

OLIVER

I know. But I don't think you can though.

AXEL

Shouldn't I at least try?

OLIVER

Just wait. I mean, we don't know what Fred is trying to do. Plus, their siblings. He's not going to hurt her, and she won't hurt him. Right?

AXEL

I hope not.

FREDERICK

Ready? And fight!

The twins approach each other.

SEBASTIAN

To VIOLA.

What are you doing?

VIOLA circles him.

Viola, please!

VIOLA rushes,
causing SEBASTIAN
to stumble. She
does this again.

Vi, come on. Don't do this.

She goes to the
other side of him
and trips him with
her foot. He
stumbles but does
not fall.

For fuck's sake, say something already Vi.

VIOLA body chucks
him into the rope
surrounding the
ring.

OLIVIA

Sebastian!

Viola pauses and
stares.

Be careful.

VIOLA punches
SEBASTIAN in the
face three times,
ending with an
upper cut.

FREDERICK

In microphone.

Oh, he does not look good.

ANTONIO

Come on SEBASTIAN.

SEBASTIAN runs at her and pushes her back. VIOLA stumbles before catching herself and throwing a punch as SEBASTIAN dodges.

AXEL

I have to stop her.

OLIVER

Axel!

AXEL rushes into the ring and grabs VIOLA. She throws an elbow back, knocking AXEL to the ground. Both stop fighting and rush to help AXEL.

FREDERICK

I didn't say you could stop.

OLIVER rushes over.

OLIVER

Axel!

SEBASTIAN

Are you okay?

VIOLA

I'm so sorry.

SEBASTIAN

You should be.

AXEL

I'm fine.

OLIVER

Are you sure?

SEBASTIAN

Why are you here?

OLIVER

Oh I'm sorry I care about people. Please, continue your sibling fight.

OLIVIA

Siblings?

FREDERICK

In Microphone.

Oh, did I forget to mention these two are twins? Ahh, my mistake. I assumed everyone knew that already.

VIOLA

What are you doing? This wasn't part of the deal.

FREDERICK

To Viola.

No, I said I would make life easier for Axel. I never said I'd keep your little secret.

AXEL

What is he talking about?

OLIVIA

What secret?

FREDERICK

But there is something else I want. I think you know what it is.

SEBASTIAN

Viola?

FREDERICK

I still need that homecoming date. What do you say?

VIOLA

Fine.

FREDERICK

Wonderful.

In microphone.

Well folks, this has been fun. Let's clear out and bring out our cheerleaders.

Crowd cheers. The stage is cleared.

ANTONIO helps SEBASTIAN, OLIVER helps AXEL, and OLIVIA helps VIOLA all go out of the gym.

OLIVIA

Viola, what was that?

VIOLA

I'm so sorry--

SEBASTIAN

Why the fuck did you do this?

VIOLA

I was trying to help our friend out. Unlike you, I don't want to hurt people.

SEBASTIAN

Oh my God, is this still about the date? Get over it, you never had a chance with her anyway.

VIOLA

Oh, so because you can't get Antonio, you're going to go for the first girl that looks your way?

SEBASTIAN

She asked me!

AXEL

Stop it, stop it, stop it!

Silence.

OLIVIA

You two are twins?

VIOLA

Yes.

ANTONIO

And your sister knows how to fight?

SEBASTIAN

Yes.

ANTONIO

So, Oliver was telling the truth then? Sebastian wasn't the one fighting. Were you?

SEBASTIAN

Not at first, no. Viola did a lot of the fighting. She was the one that fought Oliver.

ANTONIO

Okay then. Good to know.

ANTONIO goes to the exit.

SEBASTIAN

Wait, where are you going?

ANTONIO

Class. Don't come to practice today. Oliver?

OLIVER

Yeah?

ANTONIO

You coming?

OLIVER

Yeah.

To AXEL.

I gotta go.

AXEL

I understand.

ANTONIO and OLIVER
exits.

OLIVIA

But wait, I was with Viola when that fight with Oliver in the gym. It couldn't have been her. I was right next to you.

VIOLA

Actually, you were with Sebastian.

OLIVIA

Do I even know you?

VIOLA

We didn't switch all the time. Just, sometimes. Mainly during practices.

OLIVIA

Practices. So, like, pretty much most of the time we spent together, I was with your brother?

VIOLA

No- I mean--

OLIVIA

I'm leaving.

OLIVIA exits.

VIOLA

Olivia!

AXEL

Viola?

VIOLA

Axel, I'm so sorry, I did not mean-

AXEL

What did Frederick mean? When he said something about a deal? What was that?

VIOLA

He said that if I fight Sebastian at the pep rally, then he would go easy on you. The drama club wouldn't get shut down and you wouldn't have as much homework.

SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry?

AXEL

Do you really think he will?

VIOLA

He said he would.

AXEL

I appreciate you trying. But it's not going to do anything. He's going to find a way to make my life miserable. You

fighting your brother? That's not going to fix anything. You're just giving him what he wants.

VIOLA

I was trying to help.

AXEL

I know. I'm going to go to the nurse now. I'll text you guys later.

AXEL exits.

SEBASTIAN

I can't believe you destroyed everything because you believed some jackass would help us.

VIOLA

And I can't believe that own brother betrayed me because of a petty squabble.

SEBASTIAN

I wanted to be normal, Vi. I never asked you do any of this.

VIOLA

I was trying to help you.

SEBASTIAN

Yes, you try to help me, you try to help Axel, and how does it end? Oh right, Axel is hurt, our friends hate us, and the whole school watched us fight. How are you helping exactly?

VIOLA

I didn't want this to happen. I did this because I thought I could make life easier for our friend. And you certainly shown that you didn't care what happened to me. I mean, you date Olivia, you get to have all the credit for the fights, and what do I get? I've tried to make life better for you, for Axel, for all of us. I've tried to help the people

whose lives we've made worse. But you don't care. You got to be the cool guy for once and I'm left in the dust.

SEBASTIAN

Well. Maybe you should have thought for once before flying off the handle. Then we could have been normal people.

VIOLA

And that's what you would prefer?

PRINCIPAL LEE

enters.

PRINCIPAL LEE

Sorry to interrupt, but you both will need to go to the office.

VIOLA

Why?

PRINCIPAL LEE

You got into a fight on school grounds.

SEBASTIAN

You let it happen.

PRINCIPAL LEE

Just come on. You go to the nurse. Then come to my office.

PRINCIPAL LEE
exits. The twins
exit in opposite
directions.

SCENE 5

Friday.

After School on

SEBASTIAN sits in
the auditorium.

OLIVER enters with papers.

SEBASTIAN

What do you want? I've already been humiliated enough today.

OLIVER

You didn't show up for our last two classes. Here.

He hands the papers to SEBASTIAN.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks.

OLIVER

Are you...Okay?

SEBASTIAN

Let's see. My sister just beat me up in front of everyone. Antonio hates me. And I have detention next week. So. No.

OLIVER

Yeah. That sucks.

SEBASTIAN

Don't act like you're not thrilled. I'm surprised your not celebrating with Antonio.

OLIVER

I mean, I wanted you exposed but...not like that.

SEBASTIAN

I just don't understand why she did it. I mean, I knew she was upset about the date, but I didn't think it would go this far. I thought she would be mad, we'd yell at each other, then we move on. I was never going to date Olivia. I don't understand her.

OLIVER

I mean, I get it.

SEBASTIAN

You do?

OLIVER

Maybe she felt abandoned and left behind by someone she has known and trusted since she was little. Maybe she was angry and didn't know what else to do.

SEBASTIAN

Huh. Is that why you kept trying to fight me?

OLIVER

I think so. Axel told me to try therapy and that's what I've realized about myself.

SEBASTIAN

Wow. Are you and Axel close then?

OLIVER

They are strange and I don't understand what they are saying half the time. But they've been nice to me. And I needed that. When Antonio was gone and everything.

SEBASTIAN

I'm...I'm sorry. About everything.

OLIVER

I was the one that started it.

SEBASTIAN

But I didn't make it better.

OLIVER

Don't you mean Viola?

SEBASTIAN

It was both of us. She was trying to defend me and I would rather Viola fix my problems than deal with...anything.

Look, I know I messed up. But I just don't understand why she decided to work with Frederick. I mean, she agreed to go to the homecoming dance with him. I get she was trying to prevent people from learning the truth, but Antonio and Olivia found out and you know obviously. The people we didn't want to know already know.

OLIVER

Huh. Yeah, that is weird. But, she'll okay. She can fight.

SEBASTIAN

What do you mean?

OLIVER

Oh this girl last year went to homecoming with Frederick, similar situation actually, blackmail. Anyway, one of her friends tried to step in during the dance and well...

SEBASTIAN

What?

OLIVER

I don't know for sure. And anyone who has even suggested that this happened has been sued. But they allegedly both died.

SEBASTIAN

Died?

OLIVER

Allegedly.

SEBASTIAN

What is wrong with this place? I could almost understand the weird gender rules and rich kids getting everything they want, but murder? Really?

OLIVER

You know, maybe I'm wrong, maybe they both just moved.

SEBASTIAN

Really?

OLIVER

No, they definitely died. There was a funeral and everything.

SEBASTIAN

Great. So, my sister is with a psychopath who will kill her unless she does everything he says. Which she won't because she's Viola.

OLIVER

I think she'll be fine. As long as no one else gets involved.

SEBASTIAN

You're right. Viola knows how to defend herself. I just should not get involved.

SEBASTIAN's phone
gets a text from
AXEL.

We have to get involved.

OLIVER

What?

SEBASTIAN

"Hey Seb, don't worry about Viola and Frederick. I'll take care of that. I already asked him to meet me in the lunchroom during tonight's homecoming dance. I got this covered. -Axel."

OLIVER

Oh fuck.

SCENE 6

The gym, Friday
evening.

Homecoming dance.

OLIVIA stands with
ANTONIO.

ANTONIO

Do you want to...dance?

OLIVIA

No.

ANTONIO

Do you want food? Punch?

OLIVIA

No.

ANTONIO

You agreed to go with me and now you don't want to do
anything!

OLIVIA

Oh please, I didn't want to go with you and you didn't want
to go with me.

ANTONIO

Right, you wanted go with Sebastian.

OLIVIA

No, but he sure would be a lot better than you.

ANTONIO

I swear, you are so petty, I--

OLIVER and
SEBASTIAN enter.

SEBASTIAN

Have you guys seen Viola or Axel or Frederick?

OLIVER

Or all three?

ANTONIO

SEBASTIAN? Oliver? What are you guys doing here?

SEBASTIAN

Look, I'm sorry about lying to both of you. Viola is too. And I promise that both of us will give a much better apology later. But right now, Viola and Axel are probably in danger. Please, help us.

OLIVIA

Violas in danger? Well, I'm sure she will be fine.

SEBASTIAN

Please. Yell and scream at us later about how horrible we are, but right now, I need to make sure my sister and my friend are okay. And I can only do that with you guys.

OLIVER

Do you remember Frederick's date from last homecoming?

OLIVIA

Oh God. What do we need to do?

SEBASTIAN

You'll help?

ANTONIO

Hold on--

OLIVIA

Yes. I don't like being lied to but...but I don't want her to die. Or Axel. Where are they?

SEBASTIAN

I don't know. Has anyone seen either of them.

OLIVIA

I saw Viola enter with Frederick. But then they left. I don't think I saw Axel.

SEBASTIAN

Okay. So, they are probably in the lunchroom already.

OLIVER

Let's go then.

OLIVIA

I'm coming with you! Antonio?

Pause.

SEBASTIAN

Antonio?

ANTONIO

You're just going to forgive them?

OLIVIA

I'm not forgiving, I'm just putting that aside right now. Come on, I know you aren't heartless.

OLIVER

Dude, we'll have a whole debriefing where you tell us about your feelings later, we need to go now.

SEBASTIAN

I know I lied. I never wanted to hurt you. And there's nothing I can do to make it up to you. I'm sorry. But please. If not for me, do it for Viola. She's your real teammate.

ANTONIO

Fine. But don't think this means anything.

OLIVER

Let's go.

All exit.

Lunchroom.

VIOLA and AXEL are
lying in the middle
of the room,
unconscious.

VIOLA wakes up.

VIOLA

Axel? Axel wake up!

AXEL

What the...Viola?

VIOLA

Are you okay? What happened?

AXEL

I don't know. I had asked to meet Frederick here and then
the next thing I knew, I was knocked out. You?

VIOLA

I went to the bathroom. Frederick stayed outside the entire
time and then I woke up here.

AXEL

Huh.

FREDERICK

Off-stage, through
a speaker.

Welcome, to the end of your life.

VIOLA

I'm sorry?

AXEL

What is this, Frederick?

FREDERICK

No one goes against me, you hear. Axel, you've gone against me one too many times. And now I have the perfect opportunity to get rid of you.

AXEL

What the hell?

FREDERICK

Viola, you can always get out of here. You just must do everything I say.

VIOLA

I'd rather die.

FREDERICK

Fine. Then die!

Five people dressed
in black. They have
weapons.

AXEL

Who are these people?

VIOLA

Are they not students?

FREDERICK

The men you see attacking you work for me. Part of my father's private military.

AXEL

How?

VIOLA

What kind of school is this? How is this even allowed?

AXEL

I don't think they really care what happens after school.

VIOLA

They should!

FREDERICK

Show no mercy!

VIOLA

Axel, stay behind me!

AXEL

You're not seriously thinking you can take these guys?

VIOLA

What other options do we have?

AXEL

I'll go check the door!

AXEL runs to the door and pulls on the handle.

On the other side of the door, OLIVIA and OLIVER arrive.

OLIVER pulls back on the door.

AXEL & OLIVER

It's locked!

AXEL

Oliver?

OLIVER

Axel!

AXEL

Viola's in here too!

VIOLA hits a man
with a chair.

Viola! Oliver's here!

VIOLA

A bit busy right now!

OLIVER

Are you okay?

AXEL

There're guys trying to kill us. But, Viola's taking them
out!

VIOLA screams.

AXEL OLIVIA

Viola!

OLIVER

SEBASTIAN and Antonio are going to try going through the
window.

AXEL

I'm going to help her!

OLIVIA

We need to open this door!

OLIVER

I can't break it. We'll need a key.

OLIVIA

Janitors closet!

OLIVIA runs off.

On the other side,
ANTONIO and
SEBASTIAN enter.
SEBASTIAN picks up
a big rock.

SEBASTIAN

I'm going to break the window.

ANTONIO

Wait, I don't think--

SEBASTIAN throws
the rock and it
breaks the window.

Never mind. How--

SEBASTIAN

Give me a boost!

ANTONIO helps
SEBASTIAN go
through the window.

SEBASTIAN enters
the lunchroom. He
goes to pull
ANTONIO in as well.

Grab my hand!

ANTONIO

What?

VIOLA

SEBASTIAN, watch out!

SEBASTIAN turns and
dodges getting hit
by a chair. He

turns back to the window.

SEBASTIAN

Come on!

SEBASTIAN pulls ANTONIO up and through the window.

Are you okay?

ANTONIO

I have so many questions.

SEBASTIAN

Later!

SEBASTIAN pulls off a guy attacking VIOLA.

Are you okay?

VIOLA

What are you doing here?

SEBASTIAN

Helping you!

VIOLA

I've got it!

SEBASTIAN

Do you?

VIOLA

I've already ruined your life enough.

SEBASTIAN

No, you haven't!

The doors to the lunchroom open. OLIVIA and OLIVER enter.

OLIVER grabs an attacker and throws him to the ground.

OLIVER

Out of my way.

VIOLA

Hey!

SEBASTIAN

He's on our side.

VIOLA

Really?

OLIVER

Where are you, Frederick?

VIOLA, ANTONIO, OLIVER, SEBASTIAN, OLIVIA, and AXEL proceed to work together to fight the attackers.

One grabs OLIVIA.

OLIVIA

Help!

VIOLA jumps over, pulls the guy off of her and punches him in the face multiple times, causing him to fall to the ground.

VIOLA

Are you okay?

OLIVIA

How did you do that?

VIOLA

A chair flies
towards the two.

Duck!

VIOLA pushes OLIVIA
down and covers
her.

OLIVIA

You saved me!

VIOLA

Of course!

She pulls OLIVIA

up.

They successfully
knock out all five.

FREDERICK

No! My men!

AXEL

Suck it, Fred!

VIOLA

Let's get out of here.

OLIVIA

Through the window!

SEBASTIAN and AXEL
help VIOLA out the
window.

VIOLA keels over
and goes to the
ground.

OLIVIA

Viola!

OLIVIA begins to
climb out the
window.

SEBASTIAN

Are you okay?

VIOLA

SEBASTIAN, I'm sorry for starting all this. I should have
just...not done anything.

SEBASTIAN

No, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have you fixing my problems.

VIOLA

I shouldn't have tried to fix them in the first place.

SEBASTIAN

I shouldn't have asked out Olivia

VIOLA

I shouldn't have beat you up in front of everyone.

FREDERICK enters.

FREDERICK

How touching. Truly, I'm moved.

AXEL

Leave them alone.

FREDERICK

And I will! I've just got one last thing I need to do!

AXEL

Whatever it is, we don't care.

FREDERICK

I think you should.

FREDERICK grabs
AXEL and drags them
into the
auditorium, locking
the door behind
him.

VIOLA SEBASTIAN

Axel!

ANTONIO and OLIVER
climb out the
window.

VIOLA

We have to go get them.

OLIVIA

Viola, you are in no condition to fight.

VIOLA

Then I'll talk to him. I'll agree to date him or whatever
sick twisted thing he wants.

SEBASTIAN

You're not going to do anything right now. We need a plan.

VIOLA

We need to get in there.

OLIVER

We can go in on the other side.

OLIVIA

We just need a way to distract him long enough so that we can grab Axel.

VIOLA & SEBASTIAN

We need to go to the dressing room.

SCENE 7

The catwalk.

FREDERICK drags

AXEL.

AXEL

Let me go!

FREDERICK

We're almost there. Stop struggling.

AXEL

I'm not going to jump off.

FREDERICK

Oh, I'm not having you jump off.

AXEL

You're not?

FREDERICK

No! Because that wouldn't do me any good. I mean, everyone will assume you just killed yourself and then they'll make a martyr out of you and feel inspired to do theatre out of pity. No, I need to make sure you and everything you love is destroyed.

AXEL

Oh.

FREDERICK ties AXEL
to the catwalk.

FREDERICK

I'm going to blow up the auditorium. And you will die inside.

AXEL

What?

FREDERICK

Oh, you'll hardly feel a thing. It's faster than burning the place down. And cheaper.

FREDERICK starts
the bomb.

AXEL

You can't get away with this! You'll go to jail.

FREDERICK

Even if I do, it will be a nice, cozy jail. And it will have all been worth it. I hope you enjoy the next three minutes. They're all you have left.

VIOLA

Off-stage.

Frederick, wait!

SEBASTIAN enters,
disguised as VIOLA.
He slowly
approaches.

FREDERICK

It's too late for you.

VIOLA

But what about us?

FREDERICK

Us?

VIOLA

You were right. I should just listen to you and do everything you say. I'm sorry I was being so mean. Will you forgive me?

FREDERICK

Oh Viola. I think I can.

FREDERICK steps
away from AXEL.

VIOLA, dressed as
SEBASTIAN enters
and hits FREDERICK
in the back. He
falls.

FREDERICK

You!

VIOLA

Nope!

VIOLA kicks him in
the stomach.

SEBASTIAN goes to
help AXEL.

SEBASTIAN

Are you okay?

AXEL

We need to get out of here.

FREDERICK

You motherfuckers.

AXEL

Now!

VIOLA, SEBASTIAN,
and AXEL run out of
the auditorium.

They make it
outside to the
courtyard.

OLIVER, OLIVIA, and
ANTONIO are there.

OLIVIA

You guys made it!

AXEL

We need to back up.

ANTONIO

Why?

A small explosion
goes off. The
auditorium is on
fire. Everyone
watches.

Oh. That's why.

SEBASTIAN and VIOLA
remove the wigs
they are wearing.

SEBASTIAN

Do you think he'll live?

AXEL

I doubt it.

VIOLA

You know, it wasn't our fault. He stayed in there on his
own.

AXEL

Yep!

SEBASTIAN

That's what I saw.

OLIVER approaches

AXEL.

OLIVER

Are you okay?

AXEL

Oh my gosh, you won't believe what went down!

AXEL begins
recounting
everything to
OLIVER.

OLIVIA

Viola?

VIOLA

We didn't kill him!

OLIVIA

Um. Not what I was going to say.

SEBASTIAN

To VIOLA.

Go. Talk to her.

VIOLA

I'm sorry about everything. I know there's very little I
can do to make it up to you--

OLIVIA grabs VIOLA
into a hug.

OLIVIA

I was so scared in there. And you...you were amazing.

VIOLA

So, you're not mad at me?

OLIVIA

I don't like that you lied to me. You...you have a lot of explaining to do.

VIOLA

And I will! I'll tell you anything you want to know.

OLIVIA

Maybe we can do it over dinner?

VIOLA

I would love nothing more.

OLIVIA

Can...Can I--

VIOLA kisses

OLIVIA.

ANTONIO

Oh. She's gay. Huh. Didn't expect that.

ANTONIO approaches
VIOLA.

Um. Listen, if you want to join the boxing team, I think I can make that work.

VIOLA

Really?

ANTONIO

Yeah, I mean, your good fighter and, well, the only person who was going to stop you is gone.

VIOLA

Awesome.

ANTONIO turns to
SEBASTIAN.

ANTONIO

And I would like you off the team. No offense, I just would rather have the twin that actually does boxing. You're not a bad fighter. Maybe with some practice, next year--

SEBASTIAN

Absolutely not.

ANTONIO

Alright.

SEBASTIAN

I am sorry about everything. I know there's no going back but maybe we can start over? Re-introduce ourselves! Hi. I'm SEBASTIAN. I do not like fighting. My sister does. What do you say?

ANTONIO

No.

SEBASTIAN

Oh. Okay.

ANTONIO

I mean, I like the person I got to know. Both you and your sister, I guess. I don't want to start over.

SEBASTIAN

Then what do you want?

ANTONIO

Do you want to go to Waffle House with me?

SEBASTIAN

Really?

ANTONIO

IHop also works! It's a bit farther away, but I can make the drive. There's also--

SEBASTIAN pulls him
in for a kiss.

We can also go to this coffee shop that serves breakfast.

SEBASTIAN

Or I can just make you some waffles instead.

ANTONIO

That also works.

AXEL

To Oliver.

...and then the auditorium blew up.

OLIVER

I know Axel. I was there.

VIOLA and SEBASTIAN
walk back to AXEL
and hand over the
wigs.

VIOLA

Sorry the auditorium got destroyed.

SEBASTIAN

And your theatre stuff.

AXEL

It's all good. The school's got insurance. I'll just make them pay for it all.

OLIVER

So, is there still a drama club?

AXEL

Hell yeah there is! We meet every Monday.

VIOLA

Where?

AXEL

We'll figure that out later.

SEBASTIAN

If you want join, you can.

OLIVER

Maybe I will.

OLIVIA

I can join too. I don't act but I can...figure something out.

ANTONIO

I guess I can also join. But I don't want to wear anything ridiculous.

AXEL

Oh my God. I finally have enough people to have a real club. I can take David, Sarah, and Michelle out of there.

OLIVIA

Who?

AXEL

Thank you. Both of you. You're best friends I could have ever asked for.

SEBASTIAN

Really? After everything that you've been through because of us.

VIOLA

You got injured.

SEBASTIAN

And kidnapped.

VIOLA

And nearly blown up.

SEBASTIAN

And that was just today!

AXEL

And I would do all over again if it meant I got to keep both of you.

VIOLA

Aww. We should probably get out of here before the police arrive.

AXEL

Oh, one hundred percent.

The others agree.

SEBASTIAN

We could go get something to eat.

VIOLA

If you say Waffle House, I'm running you over with a car.

SEBASTIAN

You need a license to do that.

VIOLA

You don't have one either!

AXEL

Stop bickering, both of you!

They all make their exit.

END OF ACT 2.

END OF PLAY.