

# Twin Beat.

A new musical

Book & Lyrics by Albert Jamae | Music by Allye Sinclair

## CHARACTERS

NINA	(16-17) Feisty, popular girl.
APRIL	(16-17) Brooding, loner girl.
XAVIER	(16-17) Nerdy with a big heart
BROOKE	(16-17) Bubbly girl, a clone of her BFF Kendra
KENDRA	(16-17) Bubbly girl, a clone of her BFF Brooke
ANGUS	(16-17) Cool guy, always wears black
WENDY	(16-17) Nerdy but a little hyper, very colourful
CLAIRE	(16-17) Quiet and reserved
MR. NOLAN	(40-45) Stern but fun teacher.
MANDY	(35-45) Understanding counsellor who's seen it all
LENA	(16-17) Street rapper, very feisty
GIBBO	(16-17) Street rapper, laid back
RAPHAEL	(16-17) Street rapper, Austrian accent
MINOR ROLES	Tour guide, Tech guy, Helena, Shaun, Grace
CHORUS	(16-17) Music students and double up as office workers in Act 2

## SETTINGS

Inside a music school, various rooms.

Inside a large theatre complex.

Outside on the street and in the park.

## STORY

Twin Beat takes place at Rainsley School of Music, a prestigious training ground for students who are looking to make music their career. At the centre of the story are April and Nina, whose shared history is a mystery to the other students. When Mr. Nolan presents the students with a challenge to create duets instead of solos for this year's presentation, doubt and disagreement take a hold on everyone, leaving Nina and April in a worse position than before. As a result, fellow students Brooke, Kendra, Xavier, Claire, Wendy and Angus also lose heart. After a chance meeting with three wise 'fools' on the street, April and Nina question their own decisions and agree to find a way forward. Through a combination of compromise, courage, creativity and commitment each pair of students reconciles their differences with each other.

## ACT ONE

### SCENE 1 – INT. MUSIC ROOM / EXT. RAINSLEY

*ALL STUDENTS gather in class. Musical instruments dotted around.*

#### SONG – HOPE IT NEVER ENDS

NINA           *(sings) Every day goes my way hanging with my friends*  
 KENDRA       *Nothin' brings me down no, no*  
 BROOKE       *Settin' all the trends*  
 ALL            *Cruisin' high, that's no lie hope it never ends, never ends!*  
 NINA           *Every year, it seems so near!*  
 BROOKE       *We put on such a show*  
 KENDRA       *And all around, from every town*  
 BROOKE       *Producers want to know.*  
 ALL            *It doesn't get better than this.*  
 NINA           *With friends like these who needs enemies?*  
 KENDRA       *We joke around*  
 BROOKE       *Our grades are such a breeze*  
 NINA           *It doesn't get better than this so listen while I say*  
 ALL            *(repeat chorus)*

*Teacher (MR NOLAN) enters and kids get off chairs and sit obediently. MUSIC continues under.*

MR NOLAN    Now listen up everyone, we have a new student arriving this morning.  
 STUDENTS    Ooooh.  
 MR NOLAN    Settle down. They're from the local outreach program that we support every year.  
 STUDENTS    (groan)  
 BROOKE        Seriously Mr Nolan, you remember last year's debacle.  
 STUDENTS    (groan)  
 KENDRA        Why do the school keep bringing them in? They obviously don't fit in.  
 MR NOLAN    All the same Kendra, you will all do your best to make them welcome  
 STUDENTS    (unicen like kindy children) Yes Mr Nolan.  
 MR NOLAN    Now I'm going to meet her down at reception so I'll be back shortly, and no loud music while I'm gone.  
 STUDENTS    (unicen) No Mr Nolan.

*Mr Nolan exits. Students giggle. Music continues as LIGHTS SWITCH to APRIL and MANDY outside school.*

MANDY        Now April this is the last chance they're gonna give you kiddo.

APRIL But why here? Surely there's somewhere that's not so full of...people.  
 MANDY They obviously hoped a creative outlet might suit you better, you've tried everything else.  
 APRIL Seriously Mandy I don't see the point of how this is going to 'straighten me out'  
 MANDY Maybe committing to something without quitting so easily might be a nice change of pace?  
 APRIL (groans)  
 MANDY Give it a go. I've pulled a lot of strings to make this happen.  
 APRIL Fine.  
 MANDY You never know you might actually enjoy yourself.

*April doesn't agree.*

MANDY Just don't stuff it up alright?

*Mandy exits.*

APRIL Can't make any promises.  
 (sings)  
*Every day it's all the same I'd rather have no friends  
 They always try to bring you down they're nothing but pretend  
 I'm stuck again with no way out my future will depend  
 On if I find a way out soon I hope it's going to end!*

*April exits. LIGHTS UP ON CLASS.*

ALL (repeat chorus until end)

*SONG ENDS – Students plonk in their seat as MR NOLAN enters.*

MR NOLAN Okay everyone listen up. While our new student is filling out some paperwork let's get to business. First day back, last term, which means what?

STUDENTS Presentation preparation.

MR NOLAN Exactly. You can decide if it's instrumental, vocal or a bit of both. As long as you have it ready...in two weeks.

*Students gasp and mumble panic.*

NINA Excuse me Mister Nolan?

MR NOLAN Yes Nina.

NINA Last year's graduates had four!

MR NOLAN Correct. But the VIP's coming to watch you, the ones who can green light your career, are only available if we make it earlier.

*Students reluctantly grumble.*

WENDY Come on guys, it's gonna be fine. We know we can do this. We can. Yes!

*No one joins in Wendy's enthusiasm.*

MR NOLAN Wendy's right guys, you can do this. You know what I always say, when opportunity knocks...

STUDENTS Open the damn door!

MR NOLAN Exactly! But there is a catch. Given the industry is producing a lot more collaborations these days, we decided we won't be doing our usual solo pieces.

*Students all interested except Nina.*

NINA What?!

MR NOLAN Yes Nina, duets.

*Nina groans childishly. Mr Nolan notices someone at the door.*

MR NOLAN But before we do that, we have our guest to introduce.

NINA Let's see how long this lasts.

*Students mumble in agreement.*

MR NOLAN And I still expect you to show your support and give her a chance. Nina, you can do the welcome.

*Mr Nolan opens the door and APRIL enters. Students mumble. Nina gets out of her chair to preen herself to welcome the new arrival.*

MR NOLAN Everybody meet April Fisher. April, meet the gang.

*As April and Nina spot each other (opposite sides of the stage) EVERYONE ELSE FREEZES – for a 'time stop' effect. April & Nina clearly unhappy to see each other.*

NINA You've got to be kidding?

APRIL Great.

*EVERYONE UNFREEZE resuming as before. Nina and April still looking at each other.*

MR NOLAN Nina? Forgetting something?

*Nina snaps out of her daze and steps forward, deliberately cheesy.*

NINA Hi and welcome to Rainsley School of Music. I'm Nina. We hope you enjoy your stay.

*Nina curtseys and returns to her seat. Other giggle. April's unimpressed and Mr Nolan glares at Nina who smiles innocently in return.*

MR NOLAN Thankyou Nina. Okay April now we just need to find you a...

*WENDY shoves a boy student off the chair next to her and ushers him away.*

MR NOLAN Seat. Thankyou Wendy.

*April sits next to Wendy.*

WENDY     Hi I'm Wendy!

*Wendy forces April to shake hands.*

APRIL       (uninterested) Hey.

MR NOLAN   Okay back to our presentation duets.

BROOKE     Do we get to choose our partners?

KENDRA     Please?

MR NOLAN   Definitely not girls, I want you to have the chance to expand your horizons. So I want everyone to write down their name and put it in the bowl. Let's let fate decide.

*Students write names on pieces of paper as Mr Nolan collects them.*

WENDY       (to April) Well I think fate chose us to sit together so we're bound to be partners.

*Wendy leans into April writing.*

WENDY       If you bend the corner of the paper like mine, chances are...

*Wendy gets a glare from April and backs off. They put their names in the bowl.*

MR NOLAN   Alright here we go, and once I've named the duet you need to sit next to each other and no complaining.

*Mr Nolan chooses names and reads them out. ADLIB some chorus students first.*

MR NOLAN   Next is Xavier and...

XAVIER      Please be Nina please be Nina.

*Brooke teases Nina who rolls her eyes.*

MR NOLAN   Claire.

XAVIER: No! / CLAIRE: Yes!

CLAIRE      Gee thanks!

*Xavier goes and sits next to Claire – both huffing.*

WENDY       Come on now Xavier one must be gracious about this.

MR NOLAN   Angus and Wendy.

WENDY       What the hell?!

MR NOLAN   Wendy?

WENDY       I mean this is gonna be hell good. (to April) Sorry we couldn't you know.

APRIL       I'm sure I'll cope.

*Wendy moves to Angus's table. Mr Nolan pulls out just one piece of paper.*

MR NOLAN   Brooke and Kendra? Girls, you can't write two names on one piece of paper.

KENDRA      Ah but you didn't say we couldn't.

BROOKE Like you said, fate has decided.

MR NOLAN Fine.

*Brooke and Kendra high five each other.*

BROOKE (to Nina) Sorry hun you won't get one of us.

NINA It doesn't matter who I get, because I'm still going to do my thing.

*Brooke and Kendra playfully mock Nina.*

MR NOLAN Okay next we have Nina.

XAVIER Please be me. Please be me!

*Claire whacks him.*

MR NOLAN And...

*Brooke and Kendra cross their fingers for Nina.*

NINA (quietly to them) Just as long as it's not the new kid.

MR NOLAN April.

BROOKE&KENDRA Ouch!

MR NOLAN April, Nina, can you two sit together please?

*Both April and Nina are at a desk by themselves. April pulls the chair out beside her, gesturing for Nina to take a seat. Nina does the same. Nether will budge.*

MR NOLAN Come now ladies this isn't kindergarten. (he waits a moment) Nina go and sit next to April.

*Nina defiantly drags her table next to April's, then smiles smugly to Mr Nolan who returns to the bowl to pull out the remainder of names.*

MR NOLAN (adlib last pairs) Right for the rest of your time until recess go find a spare room and work, together, on a duet and we'll have a listen after lunch.

*Everyone disperses.*

WENDY So do you have any idea what we could do?

ANGUS Well I haven't really...

WENDY Great because I have the perfect piece for us (name it)

ANGUS Seriously?

WENDY Trust me, a bit of tradition will do you good. Besides you just admitted you didn't have anything so I get first dibs.

*Wendy exits happily. Angus follows.*

ANGUS (sarcastic) This'll be good.

*April and Nina left in the room. They move forward or use lighting change to signify room change. A keyboard is downstage.*

**SCENE 2 – INT. MUSIC ROOM 2 – DAY**

*April and Nina keep distant.*

APRIL        So.

NINA         So.

*Awkward pause*

APRIL        So what are we gonna do here?

NINA        (starts tinkering on keyboard) Easy. I've already scored an original piece, you can just harmonise in the chorus...

APRIL        I mean about us. Working together?

NINA        Well it's clear you're not here because you want to be.

APRIL        Clearly. And it's clear you don't exactly want me here either.

NINA        (smiling) Crystal.

*Stand-off.*

NINA        But as you can gather I don't have a choice. The presentation is an opportunity that can make or break my career so I'm hardly gonna throw that away am I?

APRIL        Hmm, where have I seen this situation before...?

NINA        Don't bother bringing that up April. Let's just agree to disagree on what happened and get this song done yeah?

*April annoyed. Nina starts playing.*

**SONG – GO IT ALONE.**

APRIL        You got any lyrics for that little tune you wrote?

NINA        This 'little tune' is what's going to get me ahead of the others. And yes, I do have lyrics.

*Nina hands April a sheet of paper who reads and chuckles mockingly.*

APRIL        Oh man you never could write anything decent.

NINA        And you can do better?

APRIL        If you can pick up the tempo I will.

*Nina plays faster. April makes up lyrics on the spot.*

APRIL        *(sings) I spent all those years, in fury and tears, I felt so deprived  
but a chance I did find, for something that's mine, I felt so alive  
until she came along, and ruined the song  
and my chances were clearly all blown.  
But from it I learned, I yearned to go it alone.*

*April hands the sheet of lyrics back.*

APRIL See?

NINA Oh please you call yourself a lyricist?  
*(sings) I tried to help out, and all that you spout is why poor me?  
 You go have a cry, you never asked why and failed to see  
 Then you blame me for something that's clearly a dumb thing,  
 a mere accident out of my hands  
 You won't understand, I agree, we go it alone*

APRIL You couldn't even rhyme that last line.

NINA At least I'm not predictable.

APRIL You can say that again.

A&N *(sing) But none of it matters, if everything shatters  
 And all of your dreams turn to stone  
 We won't get along so it's better we go it alone*

APRIL So what do you reckon?

NINA Perfect.

*SONG END ABRUPTLY. BLACK OUT.*

### SCENE 3 - INT. CLASS

*NINA and APRIL have re-joined the class who start to trickle into the room with songs in hand. MR NOLAN sits there ready to take notes. BROOKE and KENDRA get straight into their song. They have a cheesy pre-recorded beat from the keyboard so their hands are free for the lame synchronised movements.*

#### SONG: DOUBLE TROUBLE (the chorus only)

B&K *(sing) 'cause we are double trouble you can't have one but two  
 yes we are double trouble a package just for you  
 we hate to burst your bubble but we'll pop it at the seams  
 to have more fun it's two for one the double trouble team, yeah!*

*Students applaud.*

KENDRA It's just the chorus so far.

MR NOLAN Good work girls but I would like to see each of you within your duet, not just a clone of each other.

B&K Sure thing Mr Nolan.

*Nolan sighs.*

MR NOLAN Who's next?

*WENDY and ANGUS enter in middle of argument.*

WENDY ...but you're butchering a classic!

ANGUS It's interpretive!



WENDY Yeah? Well interpret this!

*Wendy goes to hit him with her violin bow.*

NOLAN Wendy!

*She backs down.*

NOLAN Nice of you two to finally join us. Can we see what you've done so far?

WENDY Sure Mr Nolan that would be awesome!

*They try to play a classical piece. Wendy on Violin and Angus on Bass/Electric guitar. Angus clearly over powers with his 'rock' version.*

WENDY See Mr Nolan? You have to agree with me, that display (referring to Angus) was an insult to the masters.

NOLAN Well I wouldn't say it...

ANGUS Can we just change partners Mr Nolan?

WENDY Oh no! We're not giving in that easy!

NOLAN Wendy's got a point.

*Angus groans. Wendy smug.*

NOLAN Which one of you chose that piece?

WENDY (smug) I did sir.

NOLAN That would explain it. Clearly you didn't take into account your obvious different styles.

*Wendy offended. Angus now smug.*

NOLAN Perhaps Angus should have a go at choosing another one.

ANGUS Certainly Mr Nolan that would be awesome.

*Wendy huffs off.*

NOLAN Next.

*XAVIER and CLAIRE do their song. Xavier reading some of his lyrics he has scribbled on paper – but trying not to show it. Throughout song he glances subtly towards Nina. Claire unimpressed as she accompanies on keyboard/guitar.*

SONG: WILL YOU SETTLE?

XAVIER *(sings) It may take a few steps down to see me  
I know im not your type at all  
But if you took the time to know me  
Perhaps you wont be so scared to fall  
Will you settle for me? Will you settle for me?  
Without you im only half as good*

*And won't know what it's like to feel whole  
But together I think its. (has to think)... twice as good  
So will you come for a troll... (reads paper)...stroll.*

*Xavier, embarrassed quickly sits down. A small applause. Claire annoyed and clunks the keyboard and storms off.*

NINA: (aside to Brooke and Kendra) You've got to be kidding me.

KENDRA: (spoken) I think its...

BROOKE & KENDRA: Cute!

MR NOLAN Nice. But it felt like you may have had another agenda in mind Xavier?

*Xavier shrinks as the class chuckle, looking at Nina.*

NINA Oh shut up.

MR NOLAN Okay April and Nina, please tell me you at least got along?

NINA Dandy Mr Nolan. We've come up with, well *I've* come up with a tune and a few lyrics to start.

*April unimpressed.*

NINA April honey are you ready to sing?

APRIL Sure precious, as long as you're good enough to play.

*They smile sickly at each other.*

NINA (sings) *I use to hide in the shadows, where nobody knows  
The difficulties I faced*

*Nina signals for April to start harmonies. She just lamely 'oohs and ahh's' underneath.*

NINA 'til one day I tried, I stepped outside of the  
box that trapped me in space

*April gags at lyrics. Nina keeps gesturing for her to pay attention. April oohs again.*

*I had run out of time, it was my turn to shine and nobody could stop me  
The spotlight was there, it was then I dar-ed to dreeeee..eee..eeeam.*

*(the last line is lamely strung out in a Mariah Carey moment but it falls flat)*

*Brooke and Kendra applaud.*

MR NOLAN Any chance we can hear April sing something?

*Nina clearly annoyed, hands lyric sheet to April.*

NINA Just go to the chorus.

APRIL Sure, but you're still lagging in the tempo so let's try and pick it up a bit eh?

NINA           Sure.

*Nina plays builds tempo as they go along to the point of way too fast.*

APRIL           *(sings) this is my song despite what people say  
This is my song I have to play today  
There's been people in my life who's caused me strife  
But it won't stop me singing my song.*

SONG END.

APRIL           You did that on purpose!

*Mr Nolan takes April aside. Other students begin to leave. Nina chatting with Brooke and Kendra.*

MR NOLAN   Now April, I assured your counsellor that you would easily fit into this group so how about we try a little harder eh?

*April bites her lip.*

APRIL           Sure.

MR NOLAN   And Nina could you come here please?

*Nina bounds over towards them.*

NINA           Mr Nolan. It's obvious Xavier and Claire are clashing so I figured if we put April with Xavier and me with Claire then...

MR NOLAN   We're not swapping partners Nina. And that goes for everyone! Part of the challenge is making it work regardless how hard it is.

*April a little smug. Nina deflated.*

MR NOLAN   Now I don't know what's going on between you two but you will work it out, and find a way to come together, yeah?

*They reluctantly nod. He leaves.*

*TRANSITION BETWEEN SCENES WITH NEXT SONG – Actors to downstage.*

#### **SCENE 4 – STILL IN CLASS**

*April and Nina take opposite sides of stage. Wendy follows April, Brooke and Kendra follow Nina. (they stay in their separate groups)*

#### SONG – WHAT CAN I DO?

APRIL           *(sings) I can't believe her*

WENDY       (spoken) Hey April, what was that? It's like, you two have a bit of history we don't know about, huh?

NINA *(sings) I can't believe her*

BROOKE *(spoken) Hey hun, what just went down?*

KENDRA *(spoken) Yeah that was like, way too much backstory for someone you just met.*

APRIL *Setting me up just to fail*

NINA *I fear she may lead me to fail*

A&N *why were we ever, put here together  
why is there no other way out*

NINA *I'd rather go solo*

APRIL *I know, I'm better without*

A&N *What can I...*

KENDRA *(spoken) Come on girlfriend what's the goss?*

NINA *(spoken) Look it was years ago, we just had this falling out at some stupid little competition thing. Nothing really but she's always blown it out of proportion.*

BROOKE *(spoken) Seems like a big blow.*

NINA *(spoken) More than you know.*

WENDY *(spoken) Details April details?*

APRIL *(spoken) Nina's not the sweet good girl she makes out to be.*

WENDY *(spoken) Yeah but she's...Nina.*

APRIL *(spoken) That's what she wants you to think. But don't dare try to outshine her.*

*(sings) She thinks of nobody else just what's right for her  
She won't care who she steps on to climb  
She is really hard work she'll make me look bad  
I need to somehow keep her in line  
(chorus)*

A&N *So what can I do? To cope with her there  
I can't see a way clear it's a world we can't share  
So what can I do to change things, what's there left to do?  
What can I...(straight into April's next verse)*

APRIL *I'd rather just leave but my options are none  
I have no choice but stay in the show*

NINA *It's obvious Nolan can't see it won't work  
It's clear she just has to go*

A&N *(repeat chorus)*

*April exits with Wendy. Nina keeps singing*

*What can I...(straight into next movement)*

*[MUSIC SHIFTS INTO MOVEMENT 2 – more up tempo]*

NINA           *...I could get her kicked out.*

B&K           *Kicked out?*

NINA           *Kick her right out*

B&K           *no doubt. That could possibly work.*

NINA           *then have my own way*

B&K           *Yay!*

NINA           *then Nolan will say*

B&K           *'Nina, I've been such a jerk!'*  
*I should know that your talent must shine on its own*

NINA           *But what can I do to ensure she'll be thrown?*

BROOKE       *I'm stumped I'll admit*

KENDRA       *or just get her to quit.*

NINA           (spoken) That's it! That's what I'll do.

BROOKE       (spoken) Are you sure this is what you want to do?

KENDRA       (spoken) She seems kinda okay.

NINA           (spoken) Maybe to you, but I know what she's like. She'll blow my chances of making a good impression at the presentation.

KENDRA       (spoken) But isn't easier if you just try and work things out? Just like me and rooky do when we have our little tiffs.

BROOKE       (spoken) Yeah.

NINA           (spoken) Be like you two? Are you kidding me?! You want me joined at the hip with April so life can be full of rainbows and butterflies. So any little 'tiff' we have can be overlooked because we're too much alike to stay cross with each other. And while we're at it, let's wear the same clothes because we can't think for ourselves,' I'm being serious girls!

*Brooke and Kendra deflated.*

NINA           *(sings) Oh what can I do? What can I do?*  
*I need her to quit, she needs to be through*  
*I must get her angry, she must lose her cool*  
*I have to annoy her so she leaves this school!*

XAVIER       (calling offstage) Nina?!

*Nina gets an idea.*

NINA           I got it!

*Xavier enters.*

XAVIER       Nina? Oh there you are. I was wondering if I could get some feedback on my amended lyrics, I mean *our* amended lyrics, as in me and Claire, not me and you.

NINA           I get it. Sure, go ahead.

XAVIER       *(sings) What can I do when she won't notice me?*

*She's such a beauty its easy to see  
If I was a branch then she'd be my tree  
(sung fast to fit in time) what can I do to make myself good enough for her to  
notice me?*

XAVIER (spoken) That last line may need some trimming.

NINA Oh no it's perfect. That wouldn't happen to have been about me would it?

XAVIER (coy) Maybe.

NINA I thought Mr Nolan said...

XAVIER I was trying not to be obvious, but then if I was too subtle you may not notice  
the deeper meaning behind the words.

NINA Right.

*Awkward silence for a couple of beats.*

NINA Why don't we go and have a chat over lunch.

XAVIER What? Me? And you? Eat? Together?

NINA That's what people do.

*Nina drags a stunned Xavier away.*

*MUSIC CHANGES PACE AND CONTINUES under Brooke and Kendra as they  
start to worry.*

KENDRA She didn't really mean what she said about us did she?

BROOKE Well she might have a point. I mean you do tend to follow my lead.

KENDRA Excuse me?

BROOKE That's okay honey I really don't mind. It kind of makes me feel respected in a  
weird way.

KENDRA I follow you?

BROOKE It's nothing to be ashamed of Kenny. It's kinda cute.

KENDRA It's not true! Whose idea was it to get these bracelets? Who came up with the  
colour of the week concept? Who started themed Thursdays? Who...

BROOKE Details, insignificant details. Look, we both love Neenzy beans, but I think we  
should prove her wrong.

KENDRA Prove you wrong.

BROOKE Whatever!

KENDRA *(sings) What can we do?*

BROOKE From now on we act as individuals. *(sings) What can we do?*

KENDRA No copying each other. *(sings) What can we do?*

BROOKE No more morning wardrobe calls.

B&K And no more finishing each other's sentences!

*They grimace.*

B&K Deal!

*They shake hands. Then hover awkwardly, apart from each other.*

B&K           *(sing) Now what do we do?*

*MUSIC STOPS. They exit huffily.*

## SCENE 5 – INT. HALLWAY

*Wendy catches up with Angus in the hallway.*

WENDY       Ooh Angus! Wait up! I know we didn't get off to the best start so I was hoping we could catch up over lunch, you know, two musos, brainstorming ideas...

ANGUS       And you're not just being extra nice because I get to choose what we do?

WENDY       What? I...never, really, I mean, no!

ANGUS       Good, because I already have something in mind.

WENDY       That's...great! So what is it?!

ANGUS       We have a free lesson after lunch, I'll show you then.

WENDY       Fair enough. Well in the meantime there's something else we need to figure out.

*She gestures to his clothes. He looks at himself.*

ANGUS       What?

WENDY       It's just that, you know, perhaps a splash of colour could lighten things up a bit.

ANGUS       Wendy, we don't come to Rainsley just so we can play dress ups. Besides, I thought it was about the music?

WENDY       Yes of course it is, but if you get to choose the music then surely I get to choose what we wear.

ANGUS       Seriously?

WENDY       Of course! Or we can swap if you like. I can find some different music and you...

ANGUS       (defeated) Fine.

*Angus walks off.*

WENDY       I'll save you a seat! Are you still a vegan?! (to herself) We may have to change that too.

## SCENE 6 – LUNCHROOM

### SONG – LUNCH

*Percussion number with cutlery and trays by STUDENTS eating lunch. Ends with a 'BOOM' of trays slamming down on tables. APRIL and WENDY eat together.*

APRIL Do you always have lunch like this?

WENDY Oh no, Tuesdays is A Capella, Wednesdays acoustic, Thursday strictly classical, and Friday for original works.

*Wendy tries to get ANGUS' attention as he gets his lunch.*

WENDY Angus?

*Angus gets his food and deliberately ignores her.*

WENDY Oh he mustn't have heard me.

*BROOKE and KENDRA deliberately sit apart. NINA whispers to XAVIER.*

XAVIER ...and you promise I get to take you out if this works?

NINA Pinky swear. Now go.

*Xavier wanders subtly across the room towards April and Wendy.*

BROOKE So what's happening?

KENDRA Yeah what's...er, going on in this neck of the woods?

*Beat, Brooke rolls her eyes, Nina slightly puzzled.*

NINA Well I figured what better way to get her to want to quit than to make her feel, uncomfortable.

BROOKE Unwanted?

NINA Oh no, very wanted.

*Xavier wedges himself in between Wendy and April, his attempt to be sleazy with April is lame.*

XAVIER Hey there April, Ahhpril, Aprillian, sounds like a princess. Princess Aprillian of Xavier land.

*April and Wendy blank.*

WENDY I need to catch up with Angus. Excuse me, princess.

*Wendy exits. April gets her tray of food and leaves. Xavier shares a thumbs up with Nina then follows her off stage.*

XAVIER (off stage) Wait! Let me carry that for you!

*SFX CRASH! (Food tray)*

NINA And so it begins.

*Nina exits. Brooke and Kendra left with each other, turn their backs. Angus appears downstage as Wendy catches up with him.*

WENDY Angus wait!

*He stops reluctantly.*



WENDY I thought we were going to eat together?  
 ANGUS Wasn't hungry.  
 WENDY Anyone'd think you were avoiding me.  
 ANGUS Never.  
 WENDY Good. Now my mum runs this funky costume shop in town and we're allowed to go in anytime to check out new outfits when we have a show coming up.  
 ANGUS I don't wear 'outfits'.  
 WENDY (looking him up and down) I know.

*He's not impressed.*

WENDY I just figured if we go on stage in front of those important people, dressed the way we are, their attention will be immediately drawn to that, instead of the music, which of course is what it's all about yeah?

*She knows she's got him.*

ANGUS And you promise not to change me too much?  
 WENDY Trust Angus, you need to learn to trust.

*She escorts him away (or directly into next scene).*

## SCENE 7 – INT. CLOTHES SHOP

### SONG – WEAR MY SHOES

*Wendy and Angus in a clothes shop.*

WENDY *Now please don't get me wrong I think your look is great!  
 The way you have that piece of hair that flings across your face  
 Perhaps a little dark, it needs a brighter twist  
 A dash and splash of colour and your eyes won't be duller  
 than those army boots. I think you get my gist.*

*Wendy pulls out something colourful. Angus blank faced.*

ANGUS *(sings) Well what about your look? (sarcastic) It's so cheery and so bright  
 Just looking at that patchwork job could almost make me puke  
 The colour that you're spawning, should come with a warning  
 So anyone who passes should be wearing their sun glasses*

WENDY (spoken) You should know I have very good taste. It's why I get asked to work here on weekends.

*Angus looks at a gawdy bright garment.*

ANGUS (spoken) That would explain it.

*She picks out random clothes.*

WENDY     *so how about this shirt?*  
 ANGUS     *I think I'll stick with black*  
 WENDY     *this scarf will surely work*  
 ANGUS     *there is nothing on this rack!*  
 WENDY     *ooh these pants I really like*  
 ANGUS     *someone stab me in the eye*  
 WENDY     *okay I'll only pick out three for you to choose*  
 ANGUS     *It's like living in a cell*  
 WENDY     *but I'm only trying to help*  
 ANGUS     *It's as if you won't be happy unless I wear your shoes*  
 WENDY     *Wear my shoes?*  
 ANGUS     *Wear your shoes!*  
 WENDY     (spoken) *hmm, if you think it'll help.*

*Angus groans and walks off, she follows.*

*MUSIC CONTINUES as Brooke and Kendra enter.*

BROOKE     *(sings) Now we have to find a look*  
 KENDRA     *one that's all our own*  
 BROOKE     *we can't have people thinking we're just*  
 B&K        *two peas in a pod! Argh! Agreed!*

*Kendra pulls out an ugly outfit and coat. Brooke pretends to like it.*

KENDRA     *Perhaps you could wear this, and match it with this coat*

*Brooke returns the sarcasm and Kendra fakes liking it.*

BROOKE     *Or you could be head honcho, and wear this lovely poncho*

*They toss the clothes to each other.*

B&K        *(aside) I wouldn't feed it to a goat.*

*They toss clothes on floor and try again.*

KENDRA     *Perhaps Nina's right we're just too much the same*  
               *we need to find a different style, a style that's not so lame*  
 BROOKE     *Maybe you go dark and maybe I'll be bright*  
               *it'll match our personality*  
 KENDRA     *then yours will cause fatality*  
               *for you clearly have no clue, an awful sight*  
 BROOKE     *Look this'll never work, you try there and I'll try here*  
               *and we'll be honest with each other, agreed?*  
 KENDRA     *Agreed. As long as you don't cry*

when I say 'it burns my eyes!'  
 BROOKE or when I say it shows your thighs  
 or when I look and simply...sigh  
 KENDRA (spoken, reluctantly impressed) Hmmf. Good one.  
 BROOKE (spoken) Thanks.

*They move to different sides of shop and try things*

BROOKE *So how about this top?*  
 KENDRA *what if I try black?*  
 BROOKE *mmm this scarf just might work*  
 KENDRA *there is nothing on this rack!*  
 BROOKE *Oooh this skirt I really like (puts it on)*  
 KENDRA *(already has same skirt) I could match it with this top*  
 BROOKE *This is just the perfect thing! (puts same top on)*  
 KENDRA *she'll be jealous to the max*  
 BROOKE *I can't way to see her cringe*  
 KENDRA *now there's one more thing I need, so where's the shoes?*  
 BROOKE *Where's the shoes?*  
 KENDRA *Where's the...*

*They look around and one pair sits between them. They both spot them and lunge.*

BOTH Yes!

*They have a shoe each and notice each other dressed identical.*

BOTH Argh!!!

*They storm off opposite sides of stage, tossing the shoes. SONG END.*

## SCENE 8. EXT RAINSLEY – BUS PICK UP

*STUDENTS getting on bus with instruments. MR NOLAN organising them.*

*WENDY hurrying ANGUS up.*

MR NOLAN ...and remember as soon as we get to the theatre, everyone's instrument is to go side stage ready for the rehearsal after recess.

WENDY Now Angus we should sit together to go over the chorus. I'm not really happy with...where's the shirt you agreed to wear?

ANGUS It's in the bag. I only agreed to wear it when we rehearse yeah.

WENDY Of course.

ANGUS (referring to sheet music) And where are the changes you agreed to work on?

WENDY Trust me Angy (gesturing towards her brain) it's all developing up here.

*She exits to bus.*

ANGUS        Something's going on up there. (exits)

*BROOKE and KENDRA are dressed different and refuse to look at each other.*

NINA         Hey what's this?

KENDRA      What's what? I just dressed by myself like I always do.

BROOKE      Ditto...I mean not ditto, I just...

*Kendra smiles to herself and gets on the bus. Brooke sulks. Nina about to leave when XAVIER appears behind her.*

NINA         Uh uh, you have work to do.

*He sighs and waits. She exits. MANDY talking to APRIL aside.*

MANDY      Okay so one week in, everything alright so far?

APRIL        As can be expected.

MANDY      Well at least you get to get out on an excursion? Should be fun.

APRIL        Yay. A hoot.

MANDY      Just try to make friends yeah? Now is there anything you want?

APRIL        To punch Nina.

MANDY      So you have been making friends. Nice. Keep in line April.

APRIL        I will.

MANDY      No I mean keep in line or they'll leave without you.

*The last students enter the bus (off stage) and April catches up. Xavier hovers.*

XAVIER      Hey gorgeous. Can I carry your bag? And your heart?

APRIL        Add to that a black eye and you got a deal.

*Xavier stumped.*

APRIL        No? Maybe next time.

*She exits and Xavier follows cautiously.*

XAVIER      (to himself) Remember, date with Nina, date with Nina.