

# **FIXED**

By  
David Lee White

## FIXED

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*For a lot of people – In particular, Dara Lewis, Kacy O'Brien and Dean Focareta. Also, Janet Haag and the staff at NAMI Mercer as well as Andy Donald, Linda Perlin, Michael Perlin, Kathryn Miller-Haines, Emilia LaPenta and the writers of the Witherspoon Circle. Also, Nicole Dvorin, William Mastrosimone and Allison Trimarco. There are probably lots more. Also, a shout out to CK and KK. I know you're out there somewhere. Peace and blessings to you both.*

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*Fixed* was originally commissioned by the NJPAC Stage Exchange, a program of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center – John Schreiber, President & CEO. It was developed through readings at NJPAC, directed by Charlotte Northeast with Dara Lewis, Maria Konstantinidis, Deena Jiles and Newton Buchanan. It was then workshopped by Yendor Productions where it was directed by Rodney Gilbert, with Andrew Binger, Cynthia Pizzaro, Stephanie Weymouth and Nicolette Lynch. The premiere took place at Passage Theatre in Trenton NJ, directed by Maureen Heffernan and featuring the following cast.

Ronnie	Maria Konstantinidis
Daryl	Philip Gregory Burke
Valerie	Alicia Isabel Rivas
Janine	Deena Jiles Shu'aib

Set Design	Susan DeConcini
Costume Design	Robin I Shane
Sound Design	Chris Sannino
Lighting Design	Amanda Jensen
Graphic Design	Linda Lobdell

Artistic Director	June Ballinger
Managing Director	Damion Parran
Producer	Elizabeth Zuckerman

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CAST. 1 Man, 3 Women

All roles can be played by actors of any race or ethnicity.

Ronnie, Valerie and Daryl are all the same age – 30s in the present 18 in the past.

Ronnie	A woman with schizoaffective disorder
Valerie	One of Ronnie's best friends from high school.
Daryl	Same age. Ronnie's other best friend from high school.
Janine	A mental health caseworker. Middle-aged.

Time: The Present & fifteen years ago.

Place: Various locations in and around the town of Trenton, NJ including Daryl's apartment, a mental health facility, Ronnie's house and "The Rhombus" a sculpture on the grounds of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. Although scene breaks appear within the script, the action should be continuous, with the exception of moments when blackouts take place. In the Passage production, this was achieved by projections rather than large scene changes. I have also seen the play performed on a very simple set with four chairs. The audience was able to follow the changes in location through the dialogue.

NOTE ABOUT THE VOICES – During some scenes, Ronnie is hearing voices in her head. In two of these scenes, the voices are denoted as "Voice 1" and "Voice 2" and are clearly dialogue. In other scenes, they appear in the stage directions. We should hear them during the scene but they should not interrupt the flow of the scene. These are not "horror movie" voices, but voices heard by people suffering from auditory hallucinations. There are many online resources that allow you to hear what these hallucinations sound like. Please use these resources as guidelines for creating your cues.

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## ACT I SCENE I

*A downtown street corner in Trenton, NJ. Midday. RONNIE is alone onstage. She is unkempt – messy hair, dirty clothes. She is talking to people that ignore her and walk past.*

**RONNIE.** Listen. Listen to me. You! Are you listening? Can you see me? I'm right here! Whoa. Sorry. I'm sorry. Stop it! Listen... the Pitbull is on his way. He's behind me. But it's okay. It's okay! The Rhombus is here too. It's everywhere! Do you see the Pitbull? Does everyone see the Pitbull? Go to the Rhombus. I'm going. Who wants to go, huh? Who wants to go? (We hear *VOICES* in Ronnie's head "You're such a freak. Who are you talking to?" *DARYL* enters. He is busy. Distracted. He is leaving one meeting and heading to the next one. He bumps into Ronnie.)

**RONNIE.** Hey, asshole! Don't shove me! I've got every right to be here! I can stand wherever I want to! Okay? Okay? Oh, hey Daryl! You coming to the Rhombus?

**DARYL.** Ronnie? What the hell? Ronnie?

**RONNIE.** Yeah. Hey! Where's Val? We should call Val. (*Voices: "Daryl? Where's Val?"*)

**DARYL.** Oh my God. Where did you...What are you doing here?

**RONNIE.** We gotta call Val. We can go to the Rhombus. All three of us.

**DARYL.** Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** It's me. You know me, right? You know me.

## SCENE 2

*VALERIE enters. We are in her Los Angeles apartment. Valerie is normally very put together – stylish. At this moment, she's trying hard to maintain*

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*that. But it's been a bad day and we're starting to see the cracks. She is on the phone.*

**VALERIE.** They don't even know me! I've been to their auditions a thousand times and they still call me by the wrong name. This is bullshit Elaine. Send me out for different kinds of roles. I'm sick of auditioning for thugs and drug addicts and wacky maids. I want people to actually see my face! God, this city is filled with horrible people. I don't mean you're a horrible person, Elaine. You're different. It's okay. I'm okay. Call me when you get this message. Bye. *(She hangs up.)* Goddammit. *(Phone rings again. She picks it up.)* Who's this?

**DARYL.** Val. Hi.

**VALERIE.** Who's this?

**DARYL.** Seriously? *(Valerie looks at her caller ID.)*

**VALERIE.** Daryl.

**DARYL.** I figured I'd get your voicemail again.

**VALERIE.** No, I just... I was on the other line and... Wow. Oh my God. I got your messages, I just –

**DARYL.** It's been a long time.

**VALERIE.** Yeah. I really did get your messages... You should email me. I get emails. I answer emails.

**DARYL.** There's something wrong with Ronnie.

**VALERIE.** Ronnie.

**DARYL.** Our friend.

**VALERIE.** I know who you mean. Is she okay?

**DARYL.** She's sick.

**VALERIE.** Sick how?

**DARYL.** A few days ago, I'm walking down the street, and there's this crazy woman shouting at people.

**VALERIE.** Wait, wait. Slow down. Where are you?

**DARYL.** Trenton.

**VALERIE.** Where is Ronnie?

**DARYL.** Trenton.

**VALERIE.** And you just randomly ran into her?

**DARYL.** That's what happens in Trenton.



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**VALERIE.** So, Ronnie just shows up one day yelling at people in the street

-

**DARYL.** - screaming like a lunatic.

**VALERIE.** Come on.

**DARYL.** I took her to the police. They took us to a screening center, but she could only stay there for 72 hours -

**VALERIE.** What's wrong with her?

**DARYL.** One person thinks she's bi-polar but he's not sure. Another person thinks it's schizophrenia but he's not sure either. Another person thinks it's something called schizoaffective disorder.

**VALERIE.** What is that?

**DARYL.** It's like a mug of schizophrenia with a splash of bi-polar disorder.  
(*Valerie laughs.*) That's not funny.

**VALERIE.** So, where is she now?

**DARYL.** Wait. I'm not done. I went with the cops to her house. It was a nightmare. There were six cats. They looked like they hadn't eaten in weeks.

**VALERIE.** Daryl, seriously? Is this a joke?

**DARYL.** There was a story about her online. "Crazy Cat Lady in Her Den of Filth." Don't read the comments.

**VALERIE.** You're lying.

**DARYL.** Nope. Her dad died a few months ago. He was sick. He hoarded everything so the place was filled with old papers. Remember Crazy Ray?

**VALERIE.** Jesus. Of course.

**DARYL.** Cops found him hanging in the basement. Suicide.

**VALERIE.** This is like...it's like -

**DARYL.** One of those shitty Lifetime movies you used to make us watch.

**VALERIE.** Ronnie would mock them the whole time.

**DARYL.** Now she's in this place called Harrison House while they review her case.

**VALERIE.** I don't even know what you do about something like this.

**DARYL.** Come out here.

**VALERIE.** I haven't talked to her since we were eighteen. I have things going on. I can't just -

**DARYL.** She asked for you. For both of us.

**VALERIE.** Oh.

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**DARYL.** If it were just up to me, I wouldn't bother you but nothing else seems to be -

**VALERIE.** Yeah, Okay.

**DARYL.** But don't worry about it. You've got a lot going on.

**VALERIE.** I'll come, okay?

**DARYL.** If you can't come -

**VALERIE.** I can come. She wants me to come, I'll come. I just -

**DARYL.** What?

**VALERIE.** It can't be a big thing, okay? I can't be there long.

**DARYL.** Whatever. Just come out here. *(18-year-old Ronnie enters. A bit eccentric looking, perhaps, but she owns it. It's charismatic. Magnetic.)*

**RONNIE.** Val! Hurry!

**VALERIE.** How do I...what's your -

**DARYL.** I'll email you.

**VALERIE.** Do you even have my -

**DARYL.** I've got it.

**VALERIE.** Okay. Bye. *(Daryl hangs up and exits.)*

**RONNIE.** Val? You there?

**VALERIE.** Yes. And so are you apparently.

**RONNIE.** Glad to see me?

**VALERIE.** You're not really here, Ronnie. You're in my head.

**RONNIE.** Are we in my head or your head? Hard to tell sometimes, isn't it?

**VALERIE.** Where are we? When are we?

**RONNIE.** Trenton. We're eighteen. We're at the Rhombus. Daryl! Get out here!

## **SCENE 3**

*Ronnie and Valerie are at the Rhombus. They are eighteen years old.)*

**RONNIE.** This way, folks! The Rhombus sees all, the Rhombus knows all, the Rhombus heals all!

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**VALERIE.** Come on, Pokey! Time is money! *(Daryl enters on crutches. He is eighteen. He can't play sports anymore, but perhaps he still wears his letter jacket. He can't give it up just yet.)*

**DARYL.** I can't believe I'm doing this. I just limped three miles.

**VALERIE.** Please. It's a quarter mile at most.

**DARYL.** When you've got a dislocated kneecap, it feels like three miles.

**VALERIE.** Sit down on a rock or something. Make yourself comfortable.

**DARYL.** Jesus Christ.

**RONNIE.** Perhaps you're wondering what we're doing here.

**DARYL.** The thought had crossed my mind.

**RONNIE.** Ten years ago, this marvelous work of art was installed here on the grounds of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. But this is no ordinary sculpture, my friends. This sculpture has mystical properties. Valerie and I believe it has the power to heal.

**DARYL.** Wow. That's awfully nice of you guys. But I don't think I'm gonna be healing anytime soon.

**VALERIE.** You're not gonna be on crutches the rest of your life.

**DARYL.** No, but once you snap a kneecap there's no going back.

**RONNIE.** Nonsense. You'll be back on the football field in no time.

**DARYL.** I play basketball.

**RONNIE.** Basketball, Hockey, Curling - whatever you want. We're just gonna sit here and soak in the cosmic rays. And also smoke some doobie. Valerie, do you possess the mystic doobage?

**VALERIE.** Yes, I do. *(Valerie takes out a bag of pot and begins rolling a joint.)*

**DARYL.** I don't understand why you guys are doing this.

**VALERIE.** Because we're sorry.

**DARYL.** You already told me.

**RONNIE.** We're really, really sorry.

**VALERIE.** See, the thing is, Ronnie just got her license.

**RONNIE.** The day before, is when I got it.

**VALERIE.** And when school is letting out in the parking lot, you can't see anything.

**RONNIE.** I didn't see you at all. You just came out of nowhere.

**DARYL.** It was an accident. Shit happens.

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**VALERIE.** Also, we like you.

**DARYL.** You like me.

**RONNIE.** Yes.

**DARYL.** But you guys are...you know –

**RONNIE.** Drama geeks.

**DARYL.** I didn't say that.

**VALERIE.** But it's true. We are. We sing showtunes for no reason.

**DARYL.** And you're freaky.

**VALERIE.** What?

**DARYL.** You're always whispering to one another. And you do that weird thing where you talk at the same time and say the same exact thing.

**VALERIE.**

**RONNIE.**

What? No way. We do not do that.  
Do we do that? I don't think we do  
that. No way.

What? Huh-uh. That is not a thing.  
That is not a thing. Shut-up.  
You're being crazy.

**DARYL.** Before you knocked me down with your car, you never said one word to me.

**RONNIE.** You were a jock. We hate jocks.

**DARYL.** But now you like me.

**VALERIE.** You're not a jock anymore.

**RONNIE.** Val!

**VALERIE.** What? He's not!

**DARYL.** This was a bad idea.

**VALERIE.** Wait! Hold on. The truth, okay?

**DARYL.** Okay.

**RONNIE.** Val thinks you're hot.

**VALERIE.** Oh my God! Stop it! That's not it.

**DARYL.** It's not?

**VALERIE.** It is but it's not. If you want to know the truth, we have to make you well because you've been out of school for two weeks now and if I don't keep my grades up, I can't try out for the musical, I won't get financial aid and I won't be able to go to college and I'll have to spend the rest of my life in Trenton -

**DARYL.** I don't understand.

**VALERIE.** I'm failing social studies.

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**RONNIE.** She always copies off your tests. It's the only way she can pass.

**VALERIE.** Hey! You copy off him too!

**RONNIE.** Yes, but I don't have to. He sits in front of me so I'm just copying his work because it's convenient.

**DARYL.** So, why don't you just ask me for help?

**VALERIE.** We're asking. Help us, Daryl.

**DARYL.** Why should I do that? I'm an asshole jock.

**RONNIE.** You're different. You're one of us.

**DARYL.** No, I'm not! I don't sing. I don't dance. I already have friends and we don't do that weird talking-at-the-same-time thing.

**RONNIE.**

**VALERIE.**

If you don't want to talk at the  
same time as us, you don't have  
to. It's okay.

You don't have to do that  
if you don't want to. It's not  
required.

**RONNIE.** Come on. You hate your friends.

**DARYL.** I don't.

**VALERIE.** They're hateful, horrible, people and you know it.

**RONNIE.** You're nothing like those other guys. We can tell.

**VALERIE.** We never bring anyone else out here, Daryl. Swear to God. You should be honored.

**DARYL.** I'm leaving.

**RONNIE.** Fine. Okay. But first, just smoke this. *(Ronnie passes the joint to Daryl. He reluctantly takes it.)*

**DARYL.** I will totally get myself kicked off the team.

**VALERIE.** You can't play anyway.

**DARYL.** I can't. I've never -

**RONNIE.** Come on. It's a peace offering. We're sorry we almost killed you with my car. *(Daryl takes a hit and coughs.)*

**DARYL.** Oh, my God! No way.

**RONNIE.** Hold on, hold on... *(Ronnie takes a hit, then grabs Daryl's face, puts her mouth on his and blows the smoke into his mouth. Daryl breathes it in.)*

**RONNIE.** There. *(Voices – "Wow. You're a bad girl. Such a bad girl.")*

**DARYL.** My knee is killing me.

**VALERIE.** Just relax. The pain will go away.

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**DARYL.** When?

**RONNIE.** On the count of three. Close your eyes. One...two...three.  
*(Ronnie snaps her fingers. Lights out.)*

## **SCENE 4**

*Ronnie's head. In darkness, we hear voices. As the scene progresses, the lights slowly rise to reveal Ronnie alone on stage. The voices converse with Ronnie this time.*

**VOICE 1.** Have you decided to talk?

**RONNIE.** Only to Val.

**VOICE 1.** You really think she's gonna be here? Open your mouth, Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** Why?

**VOICE 1.** Open your mouth or we will have to force it open. *(Ronnie slowly opens her mouth.)*

**VOICE 2.** Hmmm...could be tricky.

**VOICE 1.** She still has her wisdom teeth. We'll start with those.

**VOICE 2.** Ronnie, you're sick. You know that.

**VOICE 1.** You're a lunatic. You're insane.

**RONNIE.** No, I'm not.

**VOICE 2.** It's not your fault.

**VOICE 1.** Lunacy is caused by infection. And the root of that infection lies in the teeth and gums.

**RONNIE.** I want to talk to Val.

**VOICE 2.** Which Val?

**RONNIE.** The real Val.

**VOICE 1.** Often, the infection can be completely eradicated when all the teeth are removed from the gums.

**RONNIE.** I want to see Daryl.

**VOICE 2.** Which Daryl?

**VOICE 1.** Your mouth will be uncomfortable for a while, but you'll be completely fine.

**VOICE 2.** And then you'll take your medication and tell us how to get into the safe inside your house. *(Ronnie shakes her head no.)*

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**VOICE 1.** We have to get into that safe, Ronnie.

**VOICE 2.** She'll let us in. Just as soon as the source of the infection is removed.

## **SCENE 5**

*Daryl's house. The present.*

**VALERIE.** This is crazy. I can stay in a hotel.

**DARYL.** Hotel went out of business.

**VALERIE.** I'm in your way.

**DARYL.** You're really not. I'm just surprised you're not staying with your sister.

**VALERIE.** She still lives with my aunt. She hates me. She says I never call.

**DARYL.** You should tell her to email you. *(Valerie laughs weakly. Awkward pause. They haven't seen one another for a while.)*

**VALERIE.** It's cozy. It's very...Trenton.

**DARYL.** Very Trenton?

**VALERIE.** I mean...you know. Trenton. It's a good thing.

**DARYL.** You can buy a lot more on a public defender's salary in Trenton than you can just about anywhere else in Jersey.

**VALERIE.** It's great. I like it. So, you did the lawyer thing.

**DARYL.** I did.

**VALERIE.** I'm sorry I can't stay long. I have a commercial shoot next week. And then pilot season starts.

**DARYL.** Pilot season.

**VALERIE.** It's where they shoot one episode of a show to try it out and you audition and it's just a thing we do.

**DARYL.** Wow. It sounds really important.

**VALERIE.** It's my job. It is really important. *(Awkward pause.)*

**DARYL.** You want something to drink? Because I surely do.

**VALERIE.** You drink now.

**DARYL.** I'm trying on alcoholism.

**VALERIE.** How's that going?

**DARYL.** Slowly but surely. Persistence is key.

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**VALERIE.** Bring me a Rum and Coke. (*Daryl exits to get drinks.*)

**DARYL.** (*From offstage.*) I saw you on that Burger Mania commercial.

**VALERIE.** Oh, Jesus God.

**DARYL.** Kind of hilarious.

**VALERIE.** That's the last one I'll be doing, though. Apparently the "Burger Mania" CEO supports Proposition 12 which would eliminate a tax break for studios filming inside the Los Angeles city limits. So, I'm taking a stand. (*Daryl re-enters with drinks, laughing.*) Why is that so funny?

**DARYL.** That is some serious, hardcore political activism right there.

**VALERIE.** (*Laughing.*) Shut up! I could get blackballed! Or blacklisted or something.

**DARYL.** I'm really not laughing at you.

**VALERIE.** You totally are. (*She drinks.*) So, where the hell has Ronnie been? You really hadn't seen her at all?

**DARYL.** Not since the night after graduation.

**VALERIE.** At the hospital.

**DARYL.** That's it. I tried to visit her before I left for college. Her dad and brother meet me at the door and tell me to go away. Her dad says "Thanks for all your help but we'll take care of her from now on." Ray just stares at me with that look. Like he was either gonna cry or tear my throat out with his teeth.

**VALERIE.** The Pitbull. Ronnie called him that.

**DARYL.** I thought about tracking her down but...life, you know?

**VALERIE.** Yeah. Wow. Fifteen years.

**DARYL.** Almost to the day. Hell of a high school reunion.

**VALERIE.** Has our class even had a reunion? Who was supposed to put that together anyway?

**DARYL.** Cheryl.

**VALERIE.** Oh, right! Cheryl Takahashi! Duh. What happened? I have this vague memory that you two were engaged.

**DARYL.** The reason you have a vague memory is because I sent you a wedding invitation.

**VALERIE.** Oh. I was really busy.

**DARYL.** Don't worry about it.

**VALERIE.** You guys split up? (*Pause*) Daryl?



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**DARYL.** She died, Val.

**VALERIE.** Oh.

**DARYL.** Two years ago this July.

**VALERIE.** I'm so...oh my God, Daryl. How -

**DARYL.** The big "C."

**VALERIE.** Fuck cancer.

**DARYL.** Yeah, well... We got back in touch during college and she got a job at the high school -

**VALERIE.** You didn't call me.

**DARYL.** Because if you didn't respond again -

**VALERIE.** I would have responded.

**DARYL.** But if you didn't, it might have broken my heart. Do you understand that?

**VALERIE.** Yeah.

**DARYL.** Okay. *(Pause.)* I should let you turn in.

**VALERIE.** I'm fine.

**DARYL.** It's a long flight.

**VALERIE.** I'm fine.

**DARYL.** Well, I need sleep. We're seeing Ronnie pretty early in the morning.

**VALERIE.** Right.

**DARYL.** And then I have a full day of work.

**VALERIE.** I'll hang out here. I don't want to run into anyone else I know.

**DARYL.** Like your sister.

**VALERIE.** She hates me.

**DARYL.** Make yourself at home. I've got Netflix. I assume you're still a movie junkie.

**VALERIE.** Movies, television...it's my whole damn life.

**DARYL.** Then let's just use you as best we can over the next few days and get you back in time for pilot season.

**VALERIE.** Wow. Ouch.

**DARYL.** Sorry. I'll just -

**VALERIE.** It's okay. I'm sorry. Maybe we should -

**DARYL.** Get some sleep.

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**VALERIE.** Yeah. (*Daryl starts to walk away. Valerie lies down on the sofa.*)

**DARYL.** Val?

**VALERIE.** (*Sleepy.*) Hmm?

**DARYL.** If Ronnie hadn't asked for you, I might not have called you. You know when I was leaving you all those messages... I knew I shouldn't keep calling you but I did, and every time I left a message and you didn't call me back a little part of me died. Do you understand that? (*Silence.*) Val? (*Silence.*) God, you can still fall asleep anywhere in about three seconds. (*Daryl gets up, drapes a blanket over Valerie and exits.*)

## **SCENE 6**

*The Rhombus. Ronnie enters carrying Val's backpack*

**RONNIE.** Val! (*Pause.*) Valerie! (*Valerie wakes up.*)

**VALERIE.** Ronnie. Where are we?

**RONNIE.** In your head, Freaky-deaky. We're eighteen. We're at the Rhombus.

**VALERIE.** Oh. I feel like crap.

**RONNIE.** You have mono, remember? You're high on pain meds. You've been out of school for six weeks.

**VALERIE.** I'm never gonna graduate on time.

**RONNIE.** Daryl and I snuck you out of your bedroom.

**VALERIE.** My parents are gonna kill me. (*Daryl enters.*)

**DARYL.** They won't have any idea.

**RONNIE.** Daryl put pillows under your blankets so it looks like you're still there.

**VALERIE.** Yes, because that trick always works.

**RONNIE.** You need the Rhombus so we brought you here.

**VALERIE.** It's no use you guys. Even if I felt better tomorrow, there's no way I can catch up. My grades weren't that great to begin with. I won't be able to do the musical, I'll have to repeat my senior year and my parents will have another reason to like my sister better than me! Oh my God. I'm not gonna be able to go to college in the fall. I'm gonna be fucking stuck here.

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**DARYL.** No way.

**RONNIE.** You're gonna lay here, soak in the healing rays of the Rhombus, then it's a fast track to the finish line, baby. *(Ronnie puts down her backpack.)*

**DARYL.** *(Opening the backpack and pulling out books.)* We got all your assignments from your teachers. Ronnie and I are coming over to your house every day so we can help you catch up.

**VALERIE.** Midterms are in three weeks.

**RONNIE.** And you will take them and you will pass.

**VALERIE.** I can't even swallow.

**RONNIE.** Lie down, baby. Let Daryl and I take care of everything. *(Valerie starts to cry.)*

**RONNIE.** Why are you crying, sissy?

**DARYL.** The pain pills make her all weepy.

**VALERIE.** *(Weepy.)* We're gonna be stuck in Trenton our whole lives.

**RONNIE.** No, we're not. I swear to God, Val. You are going to graduate.

**VALERIE.** *(Still weepy.)* I'm so stupid. I swear, you guys. It's like I never learn anything about anything.

**RONNIE.** Stop crying. I can't with the crying.

**VALERIE.** I would do anything for you guys, you know that? Any. Thing. Whenever we get sick or hurt, we should help each other.

**RONNIE.** We do help each other.

**VALERIE.** Like always and always and always and always and forever and amen. Let's promise, okay? *(Valerie sits up.)*

**DARYL.** What are you doing? Lie down.

**VALERIE.** We're making a vow. Like those kids in that Stephen King movie.

**DARYL & RONNIE.** "Stand By Me."

**VALERIE.** No! That movie sucks. I mean "It." The kids have to fight off the evil clown. Then they vow that they'll all help each other out if the evil clown comes back.

**DARYL.** So, what are we vowing again?

**RONNIE.** To save each other from evil clowns.

**VALERIE.** Gimme your notebook! We gotta write this shit down!

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**RONNIE.** *(Handing her the notebook.)* Jesus. Here. *(Daryl hands her a pen.)*

**VALERIE.** *(Writing.)* “On this day, Daryl, Ronnie and Valerie –“  
*(Coughs.)* My throat hurts. You say it, I’ll write it.

**RONNIE.** “On this day, March whatever it is, we Valerie, Ronnie and Daryl hereby vow, here beside the mystical, trans-dimensional doorway known as the Rhombus -”

**VALERIE.** Slow down.

**RONNIE.** “- to help one another heal whenever disease, illness and misfortune shall strike!”

**VALERIE.** I can’t write this fast.

**RONNIE.** “Transcending time and space to travel to one another no matter the cost!” *(Yanking the contract out of Valerie’s hand.)* This is our contract! Signed in blood!

**DARYL.** In blood? *(Ronnie pulls out a pocketknife.)*

**RONNIE.** Come on, chicken. *(Ronnie grabs Daryl’s hand and quickly cuts his palm.)*

**DARYL.** Ow, bitch!

**RONNIE.** Oh, quit whining. *(Cutting her own hand.)* There.

**VALERIE.** Okay, do me. *(Ronnie grabs Valerie’s hand.)* Ow! Ow! Ow!

**RONNIE.** I haven’t even touched you yet! *(Ronnie cuts Valerie’s hand.)* There.

**VALERIE.** I didn’t even feel that. These drugs are great.

**RONNIE.** Now! Put your bloody fingerprint on our friend contract! *(All three press their hands on the paper. Valerie picks up the notebook and tears the contract into three pieces, leaving the third piece – Ronnie’s piece – inside the notebook.)* You get a piece, you get a piece and I get a piece. Keep this contract with you at all times!

**VALERIE.** Wear it next to your beating heart!

**DARYL.** I’m just gonna keep it in my wallet.

**VALERIE.** That’s okay too! *(Swooning a bit.)* God, my mouth is dry. *(Valerie gently lies on the ground and starts to drift off.)* I love you guys. Stay here, okay?

**DARYL.** We’re not going anywhere.

**VALERIE.** God, I’m sick. How long is this gonna last?

## FIXED

**RONNIE.** Three more seconds.

**VALERIE.** Yeah, right.

**RONNIE.** Close your eyes, baby. Count it down.

**RONNIE. & DARYL.** Three...two...one. (*They snap their fingers. Lights out.*)

## **SCENE 7**

*Harrison House. Janine's office. Janine is capable but harried. Not neurotic. Committed. She's not going to get to the end of her to-do list today. Daryl enters with Valerie. They're late.*

**DARYL.** Hey, Janine. This is Valerie.

**JANINE.** You're late.

**VALERIE.** Sorry. The guy at the front desk got all "Midnight Express" on me. Good thing I don't have any drugs.

**DARYL.** (*To Janine.*) It's a movie.

**JANINE.** I've seen it. (*To Valerie.*) Well, it's nice to finally meet you. I'm afraid I have to meet with a funder in fifteen minutes.

**DARYL.** We've only got Val for a few days. Then it's pilot season.

**JANINE.** You're a pilot?

**VALERIE.** I'm an actress.

**JANINE.** Glad you guys made it past the protestors.

**VALERIE.** What was that all about? Some of them were locked in cages and dressed like cats.

**DARYL.** PEDAs.

**VALERIE.** Pardon?

**JANINE.** Princetonians for Decency toward Animals.

**VALERIE.** Seriously?

**JANINE.** They want Ronnie in jail.

**VALERIE.** Because of the cats.

**JANINE.** Yep.

**VALERIE.** It's not like she choked them to death and ate them.

**JANINE.** You have something against cats?

## FIXED

**VALERIE.** The cats were saved. They have a place to live. I'm not worried about the cats.

**DARYL.** Any progress on the housing thing?

**JANINE.** Good news first. She qualifies for the NEST program.

**VALERIE.** What is the NEST program?

**DARYL.** Long-term housing for people on disability with no assets.

**JANINE.** Now the bad news. Just like we thought, she has to be homeless.

**VALERIE.** She is homeless.

**DARYL.** She still has a house.

**VALERIE.** She can't live there. That place is a dump. It's always been a dump.

**JANINE.** She's the legal owner. It's an asset. To be homeless, she'd have to sell it.

**VALERIE.** No one's gonna buy that thing.

**DARYL.** Of course not. And as long as she has ownership of the house –

**JANINE.** Which is why we have to find where her father kept all his papers.

**DARYL.** We think it's in her safe.

**JANINE.** We need the combination.

**DARYL.** So get her to tell it to you.

**VALERIE.** Uh...okay.

**DARYL.** That way we can have her house razed.

**VALERIE.** You're going to have her house torn down.

**DARYL.** It's the best way to sell off the land.

**VALERIE.** And you have to sell off the land because...

**DARYL.** To get her into NEST. You'd rather she lived on the street?

**VALERIE.** Wouldn't she qualify for NEST then?

**DARYL.** Not if she owns land.

**JANINE.** The only way she qualifies for assistance is if she has no assets.

**VALERIE.** Which is why we have to tear down her house.

**DARYL.** Right.

**VALERIE.** Who's on first, What's on second, I Don't Know is on third.

**JANINE.** Pretty much.

**DARYL.** Hopefully she'll give me power of attorney.

**JANINE.** If Valerie can get her to consent to treatment.

**DARYL.** She won't do anything we say.

## FIXED

**JANINE.** She thinks we're gonna pull her teeth out.

**VALERIE.** I'm sorry, what?

**JANINE.** She's delusional.

**VALERIE.** So drop the meds in her orange juice.

**DARYL.** That would be against her civil rights. Unless she's a danger to someone's safety.

**JANINE.** Dr. Fordham doesn't think she is.

**DARYL.** Not unless she assaults someone.

**VALERIE.** So, this would be easier if Ronnie were a psycho-killer.

**JANINE.** But he has to start giving her meds and she has to keep taking the meds.

**DARYL.** So that we can start ECT.

**JANINE.** Electroconvulsive Therapy

**VALERIE.** Shock treatments? Are you shitting me?

**DARYL.** It's not what you think.

**VALERIE.** I have seen "The Snake Pit." I know what shock treatment looks like.

**JANINE.** It's not like that anymore. She comes in, she goes to sleep, it happens while she's out.

**VALERIE.** I don't want to do that to her.

**JANINE.** Get her to agree to the meds. Maybe we'll get lucky and not have to.

**DARYL.** And don't forget about the safe. And don't mention teeth.

**VALERIE.** Break open the safe, convince her I don't want to rip her teeth out, talk her into taking drugs. This is gonna be so easy, you guys.

**DARYL.** Take it slow. You haven't seen her in a while. You don't know what she's like.

**VALERIE.** Daryl, I convinced everyone in America to eat a 1200 calorie cheeseburger. I've got this.

## **SCENE 8**

*Ronnie's room. Ronnie is in a hospital bed. Janine opens the door. Valerie and Daryl are behind her.*

## FIXED

**JANINE.** Ronnie? Your friends are here.

**VALERIE.** Oh God, Ronnie. It's so good to see you. (*Ronnie leaps out of bed and spits in Valerie's face.*) Did you just spit at me?

**DARYL.** Whoa, whoa, whoa! (*Voice: Bitch!*)

**VALERIE.** Shit. She just spit on me! (*Voice: Fucking bitch.*)

**JANINE.** Ronnie! (*Voice: Fuck her.*)

**RONNIE.** No one is taking my teeth out!

**VALERIE.** I have spit on me!

**JANINE.** (*Handing Valerie a towel.*) Sorry about that. Here.

**DARYL.** This is Val, Ronnie. You've been asking for her, here she is.

**RONNIE.** Oh my God. (*Laughs.*) It is you, isn't it? (*To Janine.*) Out of my way, bitch.

**DARYL.** Ronnie!

**JANINE.** It's okay.

**VALERIE.** You said she wasn't dangerous. She just spit on me.

**JANINE.** Don't spit at your friends, Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** Aye fucking aye, Herr Commandant Bitch.

**JANINE.** If anyone needs the bitch, I'll be right outside. (*Janine exits.*)

**RONNIE.** I hate her.

**VALERIE.** You spit on me.

**RONNIE.** Oh, get over it. How are you? I can't believe this!

**VALERIE.** I'm okay.

**RONNIE.** It's so fucking weird here, Val. So weird.

**DARYL.** Val flew all the way from LA, Ronnie

**RONNIE.** Yeah, right. Val, listen. This is some crazy shit here. This place is disgusting. It's full of crazy criminals and rapists. I am not crazy. (*Voice: You're crazy.*)

**VALERIE.** Of course you're not. We just wanted to -

**RONNIE.** I mean what am I even doing here?

**VALERIE.** I don't know. But look - (*Voice: You are one crazy bitch.*)

**RONNIE.** Sit down! Sit down! Wish we had some booze here. Not allowed. It's like church.

**DARYL.** Alcohol wouldn't be good for you, Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** (*Imitating him.*) "Alcohol wouldn't be good for you, Ronnie." This one hasn't changed. Don't you think he looks good?



FIXED

**VALERIE.** Who? Daryl?

**RONNIE.** No, fucking Leo DiCaprio standing right behind you. Yes, Daryl. I think he looks good.

**VALERIE.** Yeah. He looks good. Ronnie, listen -

**RONNIE.** You look great, Val. Like...super-hot great.

**VALERIE.** Oh. Thanks.

**DARYL.** Ronnie, I'm gonna need you to sign some papers. If you can put your name right here. You would be giving me power of attorney. I could act on your behalf to -

**RONNIE.** I'm not signing this shit. *(To Valerie.)* Val, you remember how we used to scam Mr. Bailey out of hall passes and then we'd just sneak back to my house and get high?

**VALERIE.** I remember. But listen -

**RONNIE.** I can't believe they trusted us. So stupid. *(Voice: Don't forget the notebook.)* Oh! You gotta do something for me. You gotta get into my house and get my notebook.

**VALERIE.** What notebook?

**RONNIE.** Open up your ears! That notebook I carry around! They wouldn't let me bring it from home. I was like "Can we just wait for five minutes while I get some things?" But it was like "No you have to come right now!"

**VALERIE.** It sounds like they needed to get you out of there.

**RONNIE.** Do you really think I'd just sit in my house and forget to feed my cats? Does that sound like me?

**VALERIE.** No. *(To Daryl.)* Help.

**RONNIE.** God I don't even know where they are right now! *(Voice: Pretty babies. Pretty kitties.)*

**DARYL.** Ronnie, listen. Just sign where the sticky notes are.

**RONNIE.** I'm not signing this! *(To Valerie.)* When you get my notebook, I want you to read it. I'm not crazy.

**VALERIE.** I get it. You're not crazy.

**RONNIE.** My dad died.

**VALERIE.** I know. I'm sorry.

**RONNIE.** Ray was in the basement. I found him. *(Voice: Open the door, Ronnie.)*

## FIXED

**VALERIE.** Yes. I heard that too.

**RONNIE.** Pency fucked him up. It's in my notebook. Get it.

**VALERIE.** Okay. I'm gonna go to your house to get the notebook.

**RONNIE.** When you go inside, inside the kitchen, open the cabinet under the sink. There's food there for Bela and her kittens. They said I had no food but you can see it in there. Put it out so it's there for when I get home.

**DARYL.** *(To Valerie.)* House.

**VALERIE.** Okay, Ronnie. We're looking for all the paperwork having to do with the house.

**RONNIE.** *(Voice: They want the house.)* It's my house.

**VALERIE.** I know. But we need to look at all the paperwork. So we can help you with your living situation.

**RONNIE.** I'm not leaving my house.

**VALERIE.** This is very complicated, Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** That week I spent at your house was the best. Over spring break?

**VALERIE.** I remember.

**DARYL.** You wouldn't be giving anyone the house.

**VALERIE.** The paperwork in the safe, Ronnie. I need the combination. I'll go get your notebook if you give me the combination.

**RONNIE.** I think they changed it so I couldn't get in.

**DARYL.** Ronnie please. We're trying to help.

**RONNIE.** Val, remember when you got mono and I took your SAT for you and got a 1520 out of 1600?

**VALERIE.** Oh my God, Ronnie. You've got to take your meds. *(Voice: Shit.)*

**RONNIE.** Oh, shit. You're not Val.

**VALERIE** What?

**RONNIE.** I know where you want me to go! You want to take me to the tunnels! You want my teeth! But I'm not just gonna sit there and let them do that to me! Who are you guys? Why are you doing this?

**DARYL.** It's us, Ronnie. Honest to God.

**RONNIE.** You married, Val?

**VALERIE.** No.

**RONNIE.** Old spinster. Just like this one here. Confirmed bachelor.

**VALERIE.** Daryl married Cheryl Takahashi. Remember her? *(Voice: Ha!)*

## FIXED

**DARYL.** Val – (*Voice: Oh, please.*)

**RONNIE.** Cheryl Takahashi? Bleah. (*Voice: No way.*) No way. She's so boring.

**DARYL.** She died, Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** Boring Cheryl. "Look at me I'm Cheryl I speak in a little mouse voice I'll do anything you tell me to."

**DARYL.** Stop.

**RONNIE.** Not right for you, Daryl. I'm just saying. God, I get bored just thinking about her.

**DARYL.** I can't. (*Daryl exits.*)

**RONNIE.** I told Daryl this. But he just acted like it was nothing. Like nothing I say is worth anything. But I'm right here, Val! I'm right here in front of you, okay? Look at me.

**VALERIE.** I see you, Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** Look at me then! No one sees us, Val. Except in here. They see everything. They see it up here and they see it in the tunnels.

**VALERIE.** What tunnels?

**RONNIE.** There are tunnels underneath here. That's where all the horrible shit goes on. They lead to Pency Psych, they lead to the Rhombus –

**VALERIE.** That's miles away, Ronnie. Are you sure about this?

**RONNIE.** I wouldn't say it if I wasn't fucking sure. Remember how we used to hear those voices in the Rhombus?

**VALERIE.** I don't –

**RONNIE.** Those voices came from the tunnels. There are people down there. They have these tools. They have electricity. They can hear us. They're taking all of this down and reporting it. Sending everything we say to our guidance counselors, the CIA, the president, and then they'll know everything. (*Voice: Stupid bitch.*)

**VALERIE.** Ronnie, listen to me. Nothing you're saying is true. (*Voice: Stupid bitch.*)

**RONNIE.** Of course it is. (*Voice: Tell her.*)

**VALERIE.** It's not. (*Voice: Tell her, tell her.*)

**RONNIE.** Don't tell me it's not true when I know it is, you bitch! Oh my God they heard you say that. (*Ronnie starts moving chairs and furniture around to block the door. Voice: Better go. Better fix it.*)

## FIXED

**VALERIE.** Whoa. What are you doing? (*Voice: Fix the door. Lock it.*)

**RONNIE.** Now they're gonna come here because they heard you! (*Voice: Lock it, okay?*)

**VALERIE.** Don't block the door. (*Calling out.*) Janine?

**RONNIE.** Cut it out! She's part of the whole thing! (*Voice: Unlock this door.*)

**JANINE.** (*From off stage.*) Unblock the door, Ronnie.

**RONNIE.** No! Go to hell! (*Voice: Ha! Go to hell, bitch!*)

**VALERIE.** Do what she says. (*Voice: Go straight to hell!*)

**RONNIE.** No! (*Voice: Tell her!*)

**JANINE.** (*From off stage.*) Come on, Ronnie!

**VALERIE.** Hold on! (*Valerie starts to move the furniture. Voice: I mean what is she even doing here?*)

**RONNIE.** Wait. Stop it! I fucking hate you! What are you even doing here, you bitch? (*Janine enters.*)

**JANINE.** Okay, Sugar plumb. Let's take it down a notch.

**RONNIE.** What? I'm totally fine. This is my friend Val. Have you guys met? (*Voice: Sugar plumb.*)

**JANINE.** It's time to see Dr. Fordham.

**RONNIE.** Oh, great. That prick. It was so great seeing you, Val.

**VALERIE.** We'll see you soon, okay? (*Ronnie and Janine exit.*)

**RONNIE.** (*While exiting – to Valerie.*) I like your hair. (*Valerie watches them go. She stands by herself in Ronnie's room. A beat.*)

**VALERIE.** (*To herself.*) I can't do this. I have to go home. (*Ronnie reappears.*)

**RONNIE.** Hold on. I need you to remember something. (*Lights change.*)

**VALERIE.** What do you need me to remember?

**RONNIE.** We're eighteen. We're at the Rhombus. Right after the "Little Shop" cast party. It's dark. It's a little chilly.

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