

Andi In The Moment

A Play By Michael Tennant

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

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ANDI IN THE MOMENT

Dedicated to Nolan and Jason Livesay. So much of this play was inspired by all the dreaming we did in high school. I clearly remember the days of hanging out in Nolan's room, singing show tunes, and wondering what our lives were going to be like if we followed that golden path to the theater. Here's to our dreams: the ones that came true and the ones that didn't.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

Andi In The Moment premiered at Play With Your Food Productions in Hemet, California on January 17, 2020

Original Cast

ANDI.....Alysia Albeck
CARRIE..... Laura Cherland
DASH.....Alexandra Miller
RICK..... Michael Tennant
WILLIAM WENTWORTH.....Levi Hand

Director Michael Tennant
Stage Manager Kimberly A.R.
Intern, The..... Mattea Leigh

Characters:

ANDI: Female in her mid 30's. An aspiring actress.

CARRIE: Female between the ages of 30 and 50. She is an overzealous agent. Loud, quick witted.

DASH: Andi's roommate. Late 20s – early 30's. She dreams of adventure, but has never dared to venture out of the boring world she knows.

RICK: Male in his 30s or 40s. Obnoxious. Flirtatious. Quick witted. A playboy and an actor.

WILLIAM: Male in his 30s or 40s. Sophisticated. Dapper. Intelligent. Well dressed.

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ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Andi is in the living room of her New York Apartment. She is alone, practicing her presentation to film producers she may one day meet.

ANDI. *(She delivers her dialogue in a friendly professional tone)* Good morning. My name is Andi, and I would love to play a part in your upcoming film project. *(Now she tries a fun tone of voice)* Hey there.... Good morning. I'm Andi, and I'm here to audition for your movie. *(Flirty)* Morning. My name is Andi. I've heard so much about you as a director, and I'd love to read for you. Oh? You have me in mind for a scene with Bradley Cooper, Jake Gyllenhaal, AND Tom Hardy. *(Suave and sophisticated.)* Good morning, gentlemen and ladies. My name is Andrea. Yes, I would be delighted to participate in a scene with Bradley Cooper, Jacob Gyllenhaal, and Thomas Hardy. *(Bradley Cooper, Jake Gyllenhaal and Tom Hardy can be substituted for other popular actors)* I'm happy to give back. It would do wonders for their careers. *(There is a knock at the door.)* Oh? I didn't realize Bradley, Jacob, and Thomas would be arriving so soon to rehearse. I should have thought to prepare them dinner. Oh well.... I've got dessert covered. *(Andi opens the door. CARRIE BENSON, Andi's agent enters.)* Carrie? Hello.... Come in, please.

CARRIE. How are you, Andi?

ANDI. I'm great. What a surprise! What brings you here?

CARRIE. I'm not interrupting anything am I?

ANDI. Not at all! I'm just surprised. You've never been to my apartment before.

CARRIE. I just felt like we needed to have a face to face.

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ANDI. Oh boy.... Is this good news or bad news? It sounds like bad news.

CARRIE. It's just news that we need to talk about in person.

ANDI. You're not going to drop me, are you?

CARRIE. I'm not going to drop you. We have a contract.

ANDI. But contracts expire. I'll be honest, I've been worried lately that you're going to subtly suggest that I go to a new agency. An agency that represents unknown, inexperienced actresses like myself.

CARRIE. I'm not dropping you. You are a wonderful actress and you just need the right people to see you. And you are getting exposure. I had someone walk into my office yesterday and recognize your picture from one of your commercials.

ANDI. (*Completely flattered*) Really? The one where I'm in the park eating a deep fried pickle? They could make me out in the background?

CARRIE. No.... not that commercial.

ANDI. Which one then.... oh no..... no! Not the Pepto Bismol commercial.

CARRIE. You were brilliant! Everyone loved you!

ANDI. That was two years ago. Why do people still remember it?

CARRIE. We want them to remember.

ANDI. I want them to forget! I got all dolled up! I sat in the park on a beautiful day! I ate a fried pickle. I even ate it seductively so people would notice me. But, when I put on an ugly bathrobe, wear no makeup, hair not done, holding my stomach and moaning, no one forgets.

CARRIE. They empathized with you. Gas speaks to people. I actually have it now.

ANDI. That's why you wanted to meet in my apartment rather than your office?

CARRIE. I'm meeting with you because we need a face to face chat.

ANDI. You mentioned as much. You just didn't say why.

CARRIE. Well, Andi.... Change can be a good thing once in a while.

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ANDI. You're dropping me.

CARRIE. I'm not dropping you.

ANDI. You're loaning my talents to another agency.

CARRIE. Agents don't do that.

ANDI. Yes they do! That's how I ended up with you. My last agent politely dropped me by sending me your way. You took me in out of pity.

CARRIE. And it was his loss. A week after I signed you, you booked that Pepto Bismol commercial and.... *(Andi shoots Carrie a dirty look)* Never mind, sorry. Where was I?

ANDI. Change is a good thing.

CARRIE. Well, Andi.... Change can be a good thing once in a while...

ANDI. You just said that word for word 30 seconds ago.

CARRIE. And you keep interrupting me. It's part of a speech I prepared for you.

ANDI. I'm sorry. Continue, please.

CARRIE. Well, Andi... Change can be a good thing once in a while.

(Andi starts to say something and Carrie makes a motion with her hands, warning Andi to stay silent.) And.... Maybe it's time to take a break from film.

ANDI. You're dropping me.

CARRIE. I'm not dropping you.

ANDI. But you don't want me to do film? What do you want me to do? Be your janitor?

CARRIE. Hell no. You can't even keep your own place clean. Why would I trust you to clean mine?

ANDI. Then what do you want me to do?

CARRIE. I want you to..... consider acting in a stage production. *(Andi is surprised, but not upset. More intrigued.)*

ANDI. Really? The stage?

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CARRIE. It could be wonderful exposure. You performing in the spotlight Men and women dressed in tuxedos and gowns coming to watch you. Can you picture it?

ANDI. I've always dreamed of performing on the stage.... But..... it gives me the jitters.

CARRIE. Gives everyone the jitters. It's the chance of a lifetime.

ANDI. Do you have something in mind? Did something come up?

CARRIE. I was contacted about a fairly new show coming to the area, by a playwright named William Wentworth. It debuted in Scotland. They mounted a second production on the West End, and now it's coming to Broadway. It's only going to play for one night, with a few previews leading up to it. But everyone has high hopes the run will be extended and it will play for a very long time.

ANDI. One night? On Broadway? That seems unusual.

CARRIE. I heard the producers tried to talk the playwright into an off Broadway run, but he'd have nothing to do with it. He's personally investing a lot of money to make this Broadway performance a reality. William Wentworth isn't as well known here as he is in England, but I think when people see his work they're all going to be onboard. And.... It's going to play at.... The Majestic.

ANDI. WHAT? The Majestic? THE Majestic? On Broadway?

CARRIE. William Wentworth would settle for nothing less.

ANDI. I can't do that. That's so far out of my league.

CARRIE. I don't usually deal in stage opportunities, but I had a look at the script, just out of curiosity. The female lead is YOU, Andi. It couldn't be more perfect for you. I'd like you to consider auditioning.

ANDI. This is all so sudden.

CARRIE. Things move quickly in this business.

ANDI. I know..... it's just.... going from film to the stage.... when does it audition again?

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CARRIE. Tomorrow morning.... Ten o'clock.

ANDI. Is this gonna be a cattle call? Hundreds of people?

CARRIE. Just a few. Invitation only.

ANDI. I wasn't invited.

CARRIE. I made a phone call. I "worked" with the director years ago. He agreed to see you. He's excited to meet you. *(When Carrie mentions she worked with the director, it's more of a sexual reference)*

ANDI. But he doesn't know me. This is just a formality and a favor to you. I don't stand a chance.

CARRIE. He's seen your work. He loves you.

ANDI. What could he have seen me in? Oh no.... no no no no....

CARRIE. I assured him, you have a far greater range than what he saw on the Pepto Bismol commercial.

ANDI. I'm not going.

CARRIE. Andi, you have to!

ANDI. I have so little stage experience compared to everyone else. It's at the Majestic for heaven's sake. I'm not in that league.

CARRIE. You will be if you're cast. I have a very strong feeling about this. Trust me, Andi.... I am your agent, and I'm telling you..... you want to audition for this. *(Andi's face shows hesitation. Carrie is starting to get impatient with her)* If you don't.... If you don't do this, I'm picking up the phone and telling Pepto Bismol you want to be their spokesperson!

ANDI. Are you sure about this?

CARRIE. I'm positive. I have never been more positive in my life. And..... I've been saving the most exciting news for last.

ANDI. Should I sit down for this? Am I going to faint?

CARRIE. There's a rumor that they're already in negotiations for the lead actor.... Word on the street is.... They're considering..... drum roll please.... *(Andi rolls her eyes and gives a halfhearted drum roll, pounding on whatever is nearby)* Brody McClain.

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ANDI. BRODY McCLAIN?????

CARRIE. Five Academy awards..... and now he's got his heart set on a Tony.

ANDI. I'm not going. No way, no how.

CARRIE. It's Brody McClain on Broadway!!! What do you mean you're not going?

ANDI. He's like.... *(makes muscles with her arms)* I mean.... He's got.....*(thrusts her pelvis)* I mean...

CARRIE. Andi..... you're drooling.

ANDI. Oh, sorry.....

CARRIE. Andi, your forehead is dripping sweat. Deep breaths, Andi.

ANDI..... Brody McClain.... Brody McClain.... Brody McClain.....
ooohhhhhh boy!

CARRIE. Put your head between your legs..... breathe *(Andi leans over, trying to take very deep breaths)* You know.... I heard on the news last week in Hawaii, they felt extreme heat and everyone thought for sure a volcano was about to erupt. Turns out, it was just Brody McClain walking around without a shirt. *(Andi starts wheezing, high pitched, gasping for air.)* Breathe Andi, Breathe!! *(Andi climbs weakly onto the couch, fanning herself).*

ANDI. Are you trying to cast me or kill me? Stop talking about him. My body can't take it.

CARRIE. He could be your co-star. For one magical night..... plus previews....

ANDI. Alright.... I'll give it my best shot. What's the play?

CARRIE. It's called "The Moment."

ANDI. "The Moment" by William Wentworth. What do I need for the audition?

CARRIE. I have a monologue from the script. Here's all the information you need. *(Carrie hands Andi an envelope. Andi opens it.)*

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ANDI. The audition's at Ripley Grier Studio?

CARRIE. Sixteenth floor.

ANDI. I am seriously so nervous right now.

CARRIE. Me too, but you'll be wonderful!

ANDI. I can't believe this is happening. Thank you, Carrie.

CARRIE. You're welcome. Excited?

ANDI. Yes! I have butterflies in my stomach. I've dreamed about the stage so many times, but it was just fantasy. This is so sudden. You really think I have a shot?

CARRIE. Read the script. Follow your instincts. You will be brilliant.

ANDI. Carrie? If I don't get this role.... Are you going to drop me?

CARRIE. I gotta go. I'll meet you tomorrow at the studio. Don't be late tomorrow!

ANDI. I won't be!

CARRIE. Learn your lines!

ANDI. I'll have them down!

CARRIE. Make me proud!

ANDI. Or you'll drop me?

CARRIE. Goodbye, Andrea.

ANDI. Good-bye. (*Carrie exits. Andi closes the door.*) She called me Andrea. I have no idea if that's a term of endearment or a prelude to a reprimand if I don't get the role. Brody McClain. The stage. Brody McClain. The Majestic Theater. Brody McClain. All those seats. That would be such a dream. Even if I don't get the role, I will never forget this moment. (*DASH, Andi's female roommate enters*) Dash!!!! Did you hear any of the conversation? I'm auditioning tomorrow morning at Ripley Grier..... with BRODY MCCLAIN!!!!!!!!!!

DASH. Brody McClain is going to be at your audition?

ANDI. Well..... there's a rumor going around. It's a new play, and Brody McClain is supposed to play the lead role. It's going to play at the

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Majestic, and the auditions are by invitation only, but of course I got invited because I'm really talented and my agent is a bad ass. And, this dialogue..... it's like it was written for me. I am this character! This character is me! If I had a love child with myself, I would give birth to this character!

DASH. You think you'll get the role, Andi?

ANDI. Who am I kidding? I don't have a chance.

DASH. But still..... the chance to be in a room with Brody McClain.... I'm more a fan of his half brother, Crighton McCleary.

ANDI. Who?

DASH. Crighton McCleary. You've never heard of him?

ANDI. No, I don't think so.

DASH. No one really knows exactly what he looks like, because he's a master of disguise. He's in the show, "Undercover Thespian." He's half actor, half detective. He goes under cover to catch criminals.

ANDI. Well.... You watch Under Cover Thespian with Brody's Brother... and I'll actually get under the covers with Brody. If only I could get this part. It would be such a dream come true. But what if I'm getting my hopes up for nothing.

DASH. If you'd like to do this, Andi, then you have to do all you can to make it happen for yourself. It's a really great opportunity for you. You have to take it. Life is so short. It's too short to not take every opportunity you're given.

ANDI. You're right. *(Andi stands and addresses imaginary directors and producers.)* My name is Andi, and I'd be very interested in being in your new production. *(Blackout.)*

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SCENE TWO

Andi walks into the hallway at Ripley Grier Studio. This is the only scene that doesn't take place in Andi's apartment. It requires only two folding chairs, and can simply be placed in a little area of the stage. Carrie is already there, pacing.

CARRIE. Andi! Andi, I thought you were going to be late!

ANDI. I'm 20 minutes early.

CARRIE. They moved up the start time a few minutes.

ANDI. They did?

CARRIE. Yes, but don't ask me why.

ANDI. Okay, I won't.

CARRIE. Would you like to know why?

ANDI. Oh, Jeeze....

CARRIE. The playwright himself is here. He's going to be very hands on in the casting process. But I guess his schedule is tight. Did you read the script?

ANDI. I did.... Honestly, I read it twice. It's beautiful. It may be the most perfect thing I've ever read.

CARRIE. Give this your all, Andi. This audition is going to be a defining moment in your life.

ANDI. I need to check my makeup. Do you think I need to reapply?

CARRIE. No, you're fine. If anything, you're wearing too much make up.

ANDI. Too much makeup?

CARRIE: Remember, Andi, this role was written for you. Don't make yourself look differently than you are. Let them see the real you.

ANDI. Alright, no makeup. Maybe I shouldn't have worn deodorant either.

CARRIE. You've got your monologue prepared?

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ANDI. Worked on it all night. I would like to get warmed up though. Run through it a time or two.

CARRIE. Good. Warming up is good. I'm gonna go eavesdrop on the production crew. Be back in a bit. *(Carrie exits. Andi begins talking once again to imaginary directors and producers.)*

ANDI. Hello.... I'm Andi..... Hi There..... My name is Andi.... Name's Andi..... Hello.... I'm Andi. *(Andi starts in with a bunch of stereotypical actor warm ups that will be seen as comedic, but are actual exercises. There is an actor who walks into the room. His name is RICK. He sits down quietly and begins reading over his lines. He starts to watch Andi as she prepares to warm up. He thinks this is odd, but she's pretty and he's intrigued.)*

ANDI. Hello.... *(starting to talk to imaginary producers again)*

RICK. Hello. *(This throws her a bit)*

ANDI. What?

RICK. I said "hello". You said "hello" so I said "hello" back. I figured it was the polite thing to do.

ANDI. Oh, no.... I was just.... *(she decides not to explain and just offer a greeting)* Hello.

RICK. Hello!

ANDI. Excuse me. *(She returns to her practice)* Hello. I'm Andi, and I'm here to audition for your show. Hi.... My name.... is Andi.... And I have come to audition for you. Good morning, sir or ma'am, my name is Andi, and I am thankful for the opportunity to audition for you. Hello. I'm Andi, and

RICK. Excuse me.... Miss?

ANDI. Yes?

RICK. Your name wouldn't happen to be Andi, would it?

ANDI. Yes.... How did you.....? *(Then realizing. She gives him a look that says she is not amused. She turns her back on him)*

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RICK. I'm Rick. *(he is so cocky and confident, it's a cross between comedic and sickening. Andi ignores him and goes back to her preparations)*

ANDI. My name is Andi, and it is a pleasure to meet you. I hope I didn't wear too much makeup to my audition. *(Rick begins to laugh. He is greatly amused by Andi)*

ANDI. Sir! Are you laughing at me?

RICK. I'm sorry.... I couldn't help it.

ANDI. Well..... please don't distract me. I'm preparing for my audition.

RICK. You have an audition.... I apologize. I had no idea you had an audition.

ANDI. You had no idea? You must have heard me say.... Oh.... I see.... You're being facetious aren't you?

RICK. You're the fourth woman to say that to me today.

ANDI. Shocker.

RICK. Hey.... Don't I know you?

ANDI. Nope. Up until now I've been lucky where that's concerned.

RICK. You look so familiar.

ANDI. Nope. Sorry.

RICK. Oh wow! I remember now! I've seen you in a commercial! Make a face like you have an upset stomach.... Like this.... *(He curls into a ball, hugs his belly, makes a pained face, and moans, just like Andi might have done in the Pepto Bismol commercial)*

ANDI. Sir! You are as annoying as hell!!

RICK. You're upset because I'm familiar with your work? I'm a huge fan! You must have brought Pepto Bismol a ton of business!

ANDI. I'm sure you mean that as a compliment, so... thank you.... But... please excuse me. *(Andi preps to rehearse for her audition. Right as she opens her mouth to say her first line....)*

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RICK. Don't mind me. I'll just be here.... Minding my business. (*Andi is quickly becoming exasperated*)

ANDI. Thank you. (*Andi fixes her hair, takes a breath, and says her line.... However.... Rick joins in.*)

ANDI/RICK. Good morning, My name is Andi, and I'm interested in being in your show.

ANDI. WHAT IN THE NAME OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER?????!!!!!!

RICK. Oh, you're Catholic!

ANDI. No! I'm a vegan, but that's neither here nor there!

RICK. I'm sorry, it just slipped out!

ANDI. Well slip it back in and zip it!

RICK. You're the third woman to say that to me this morning. (*Andi just stares in disbelief*) I'm sorry. Bad joke.

ANDI. No, it was a great joke. It's just that YOU are annoying as hell!

RICK. You're making the same face you did in that Pepto Bismol commercial.

ANDI. Only this time, I'm not acting.

RICK. Take a deep breath. Relax. Would you like me to rub your feet?

ANDI. EEEWWWWWW!!!

RICK. Seventh woman to say that to me today. By tonight I may have a new record.

ANDI. Look.... I am sure you are a wonderful human being, but could you PLEASE allow me to rehearse? This audition is very important to me. I don't want to be rude, but please, stop talking to me!

RICK. You got it. But.... Maybe... you'd like to go for a cup of coffee after the audition?

ANDI. Only if we go to separate coffee shops.

RICK. Wow.... You're the first woman EVER to say that to me.

ANDI. I can all but assure you, I won't be the last. Now please excuse me. And just so I don't mince words, I am not talking to you anymore. You are

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dead to me. I am not interested in your comments. I don't want to go out to coffee with you, and would rather chop off my feet than let you rub them. If you speak to me again, I will throw you from the window, and you will drop all sixteen stories down, and I will become the hero to all the women you have ever annoyed. At this point, I'm certain your own mother is on that list. Are we understood? *(Rick looks down and shifts in his seat. He has never had a woman shut him down this hard before)* Good morning, my name is Andi, and I am here to audition for your production. *(Carrie enters)*

CARRIE. Andi.... Your monologue!

ANDI. I have it all memorized. I'm ready to go!

CARRIE. The director changed the audition material!

ANDI. What???

CARRIE. Totally last minute. They now want to hear a dialogue. I have the script right here. It's not even dialogue from the play you're auditioning for. Some classical foreign romance.

ANDI. Who on earth am I going to read a dialogue with? *(Carrie looks around and sees Rick)*

CARRIE. Excuse me, sir?

RICK. Yes?

CARRIE. Would you mind reading a scene with my client? *(Andi's face turns white)*

RICK. This is your client? *(looks at Andi with a smile on his face)*

CARRIE. Please?! I'll take you both out for coffee as soon as the audition is over.

RICK. Well.... I can't say no to that.

CARRIE. Do you have the dialogue? Here's an extra copy. *(Andi is reading frantically through the new dialogue)*

ANDI. Carrie! This is a love scene!

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CARRIE. I know. They're behind schedule. They want to just cut right to the chase and see who has chemistry. So.... Cozy on up and get to know one another. I'll be right back. *(Carrie exits)*

RICK. Well.... shall we....read?

ANDI. Awww.....damnit! *(Andi sits next to him. She is not at all happy)*

RICK. It looks like you have the first line.

ANDI. You want two black eyes and a collapsed lung?

RICK. Is that your first line? Because the script I have reads a bit more romantically than that.

ANDI. *(sighs... hating every second of this)* "Oh Estaban.... You positively enchant me. Take me in your arms and kiss me. Kiss me like tomorrow will never come. My heart belongs to you, Estaban! Kiss me! Kiss me, you wild, passionate stallion" *(Rick quickly, confidently. moves in for the kiss)* Whoa, whoa whoa.... Cool your jets, Estaban. There's no way I'm kissing you.

RICK. I'm a method actor. If the script says we kiss, then we're going to have to kiss.

ANDI. The script also says you're supposed to be ridiculously charming and devastatingly handsome. Why don't you work on pulling that off first?

RICK. You don't think I'm charming?

ANDI: I saw a man urinating in the subway that was more charming than you!

RICK. You don't think I'm handsome?

ANDI. Well.. I mean....

RICK. You do. I can tell.

ANDI. I never said I thought you were handsome!

RICK. You never said you didn't.

ANDI. Can we please just get back to the script?

RICK: You're the one who stopped us. We were just about to kiss.

ANDI. No, we weren't!

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RICK. Are you chicken?

ANDI. Am I chicken? Did we just suddenly go back to junior high? Yes, I won't kiss you because I'm chicken. And you're a horse's ass! We have a whole barnyard theme going on here.

RICK. If you're too afraid to kiss me, just say so.

ANDI. Why does it have to be that I'm afraid to kiss you? Why can't I not want to kiss you because you're completely disgusting?

RICK. You'll like kissing me. I have a reputation for being quite the pleaser.

ANDI. I don't care about the opinion of your red neck uncle!

RICK. When we go in for that audition, you're going to have to kiss me. Might as well practice now.

ANDI. I'm not touching your lips. You look like someone who has leprosy.

RICK. Are you playing hard to get?

ANDI. I will play dead if I need to.

RICK. So tell me, once you blow this audition, what restaurant will you be working at? I'll make sure and eat there every night.

ANDI. I hate you!

RICK. Hate is a very strong word.

ANDI. Not strong enough! You wanna do the kissing scene? Fine! Let's do the kissing scene. Bring it on, big shot!

RICK. Now you want to kiss me?

ANDI. Hell no! But at least it will shut you up and I won't have to hear your annoying voice. Be warned! You make me incredibly nauseous. If you find yourself covered in projectile vomit, it's your own fault.

RICK. Well let's go!

ANDI. Right now! Bring it, Estaban!

RICK. Get ready to have your world rocked! *(He picks up a script. They lock eyes, staring each other down, daring each other to go all the way.)*

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Wielding their scripts like a weapon.) Oh, Prunella! You are a beautiful exotic creature, Prunella.

ANDI. Yes, Estabon, yes!

RICK. You give me chills up and down my spine, Prunella!

ANDI. I am your oasis in the desert!

RICK. I will drink from your oasis until it runs dry!

ANDI. I am yours, Estabon! Only yours! You are so desirable! I want you!

RICK. You are like the rare desert sunset that occurs every night!

ANDI. You are like a cactus! Prick me, Estaban.

RICK. Oh yes, Prunella!

ANDI. Kiss me, Estabon. KISS.... Me!!! *(They move in to kiss when RICK stops just short. He grimaces).* What are you doing?

RICK. Do you have a breath mint that you could take?

ANDI. A breath mint? Are you kidding me?

RICK. Your breath is atrocious.

ANDI. I.... am going to kick.... your.... *(Andi starts to say "ass". Carrie enters and cuts Andi off, her starting vowel coinciding with Andi's.)*

CARRIE. Andi! You two are up. Are you ready? *(Andi and Rick just stare, unsure of what to do or say.)* Wow! The energy in the room is intense! I can't wait to see this! You can go on in. *(Rick gives Andi a wink and heads through the door to the audition.)* Andi.... it's official. They just offered the role to Brody McClain.

ANDI. For real?

CARRIE. Yes!! Just don't blow this!

ANDI. If Brody McClain is doing the role, why do I have to read with the Estaban from hell?

CARRIE. You're not getting on well with him? He seems so nice. But don't worry, they have to audition others. It's just a formality though, don't worry. Knock the ball out of the park, and it will be your name with Brody McClain up on that marquee.

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ANDI. My name is Andi, and I've come to audition to be Brody McClain's leading lady. (*Blackout.*)

SCENE THREE

Andi's apartment. Andi walks forcefully through her front door. She is very upset. She sits down on the couch and sulks. Dash comes out and finds her.

DASH. Andi! How was your audition? Did it go well? I bet it went so well! Did you get to meet Brody McClain? Is he as sexy in person as he is in the movies? I bet he is. Super sexy. Why are you so quiet? Aren't you going to tell me how it went?

ANDI. I don't want to talk about it.

DASH. Oh..... okay.... Then.... we won't talk about it. Guess what I've been doing all day? Can you guess?

ANDI. I don't want to guess.

DASH. You don't want to guess? I'll just tell you then. I've been watching Brody McClain's brother, Crighton McCleary in Undercover Thespian. This time, he showed up in Las Vegas, to rescue some show girls. There was this mob boss who was about to have his way with them, but they refused to call him "daddy", so he took them up to the top of his hotel and was about to throw them over, when one of the show girls pulled off her wig – it was Crighton McCleary. He struck a power pose, his hair was blowing in the wind. He was so beautiful..... I think it made me ovulate. Then the mob boss walked up and punched him in the jaw. And Crighton McCleary just laughed at him and said "how can I call you daddy, when you hit like a mommy?" (*Crighton McCleary has an Australian accent which Dash imitates*) Then, Barbie Banger, his crime fighting partner, flew over head with a helicopter and lowered a rope. Crighton McCleary

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

grabbed onto the rope, like Tarzan on steroids. He took the other show girl in his arm, and he flew off over all the lights over Vegas.

ANDI. Dash.... I'm really not in the mood.

DASH. Oh, I am. That Crighton McCleary makes me hotter than a bun in the oven. Oh.... I think I just ovulated a second time.

ANDI. What?? *(There is a knock at the door. Dash opens it. Carrie steps in. She walks in slowly, and is giving Andi the look of death)*

CARRIE. Andrea....

ANDI. You're going to drop me, aren't you?

CARRIE. Off the roof! On your head. Maybe it'll knock some sense into you. What were you thinking?

ANDI. No! What were YOU thinking? I'm not good enough for Broadway!

CARRIE. Are you kidding me? You and the man you were performing with were on fire! You two were the best up there! THE BEST!

DASH. You were, Andi? That's great!

CARRIE. If only it would have stayed great.

DASH. What happened?

CARRIE. I'll tell you what happened! The director is mesmerized. Everyone is drawn into the scene. Everyone in the studio is holding their breath, just watching the two of them work. Then.... the time comes for the kiss.

DASH. Yes?

CARRIE. Andi bites him so hard his lips starts to bleed.

DASH. What???

CARRIE. He starts screaming, and running around the stage, bleeding everywhere. He had to cut the audition short and go to the emergency room. I really wish you hadn't done that, Andi.

ANDI. Me too. I probably have rabies now.

DASH. What happened after your co-star ran off stage, Andi?

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

CARRIE. Oh, it only gets better. *(her anger building)* At this point, Andi must have realized what she did wasn't kosher. She stood awkwardly up in front of everyone, and looked like she was getting an upset stomach. Then everyone in the room recognized her from the Pepto Bismol commercial, and they started to applaud her. But what does Andi do? Does she graciously accept her accolades? No, she flips everyone in the room the bird and storms out.

ANDI. I hate that commercial!

DASH. Oh wow! So.... Do you think you got the part? *(Andi and Carrie slowly turn their heads to look at Dash. Pure disbelief. There is a knock at the door. Dash opens it. WILLIAM WENTWORTH, the playwright enters. Dash is immediately taken by his physical, dapper, appearance.)*

DASH. Can I help you?

WILLIAM. Good day, miss. I'm looking for an actress named Andrea. Have I come to the right address?

DASH. Please.... come in. Andi, it's for you.... *(under her breath)* But.... I really kind of wish it was for me.

WILLIAM. Andrea... we met at the audition earlier. Well, we actually didn't formally meet. I watched your audition, and then you waved your middle finger in my face.

CARRIE. She is so sorry about that, aren't you, Andi?

WILLIAM. My name is William Wentworth. I wrote the play you auditioned for this morning.

ANDI. You wrote "The Moment"?

WILLIAM. I did.

ANDI. Did you come all the way down here to tell me in person that I didn't get the role? Because if so, a phone call would have been easier on us both.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

WILLIAM. Your audition was... unconventional to say the least. But you intrigue me. I'd like to discuss the role with you further. *(Carrie steps forward. Perhaps overly enthusiastically)*

CARRIE. I'm Caroline Benson, Andi's agent. I love your script.... so much. And the role of "Emily" is just perfect for Andi.

WILLIAM. I might be very inclined to agree.

CARRIE. Maybe we can schedule a meeting for the two of you to discuss. Let me get my calendar. Ummm..... Let's see..... how about.... Now?

WILLIAM. Now would be wonderful, if that works for you, Andrea?

ANDI. Oh.... yes, now would be just fine.

CARRIE. Terrific. It's all set then. I'll just leave the two of you alone to... discuss. *(To Andi)* Or whatever it is you're willing to do to get the role.

ANDI. Thank you, Carrie.

CARRIE. Call me when you're done. Remember.... No biting.... and only use your nice fingers. *(Carrie exits the room. Dash is still in the room, watching the two of them intently.)*

DASH. This is really exciting! *(Andi stares at Dash until she finally gets the hint that she should leave)* But.... There's something even more exciting in the other room. Bye! *(Dash runs out leaving Andi and William alone.)*

ANDI. I'm really sorry for what happened in the audition.

WILLIAM. Brody McClain has given us a 40 page rider, which now states that his lead actress will not bite his lips.

ANDI. That won't be a problem. I promise.

WILLIAM. And our director isn't one to put up with tantrums from his cast.

ANDI. I will keep myself under control. You have my word.

WILLIAM. I'm treading gently here. I don't know if I'm going to recommend you to the director and producers or not. There's a lot riding

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

on this decision. All conventional wisdom would say to not let you anywhere near my play. But at the same time.... I have a gut feeling about you, and I can't say I always follow my gut instinct, but... I at least listen to it, and consider it.

ANDI. What can I do? Would you like me to read a scene with you?

WILLIAM. I'd actually just like to talk with you.

ANDI. Would you like to sit down?

WILLIAM. Yes, thank you. *(They both sit and get as comfortable as they can, though Andi is visibly nervous)* Andrea.... What made you want to audition for a show on Broadway?

ANDI. Isn't that the place all actors want to be?

WILLIAM. Some. But not all. However, I'm not talking about them. They're not in the room. I'm talking with you.

ANDI. Well.... My agent thought it would be a good fit.

WILLIAM. Do you do everything your agent suggests?

ANDI. Not after that Pepto Bismol commercial.

WILLIAM. So.... Why? *(Andi is so confused)*

ANDI. Should I have not shown up?

WILLIAM. I just want to know why you did.

ANDI. Well.... It's Broadway.... And Brody McClain.... The Majestic Theater.... And Brody McClain... flowers, standing ovations, a good pay check, and Brody McClain.

WILLIAM. Those are your reasons?

ANDI. And Brody McClain. Especially Brody McClain.

WILLIAM. Thank you for talking with me, Andrea. Your audition was lovely. A little bloodier than one might hope for, but lovely none the less. I'm afraid I need to head in a different direction.

ANDI. Why?

WILLIAM. *(Stands)* Best of luck to you, Andrea. *(This quick rejection stuns and saddens Andi.)*

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

ANDI. But I'm excited to be in your show!

WILLIAM. No, you're not. You're excited to be on Broadway, with Brody McClain, and to receive standing ovations, and flowers. You have a lot of beautiful dreams, Andrea, and I hope they all come true for you, but none of those dreams have anything to do with my script. Maybe our paths will cross again. Best wishes to you. *(His hand is on the knob of her front door when she finally gains the courage to open up to him).*

ANDI. Alright, I'll tell you! *(He stops. Andi breathes deeply. And then opens her mouth to speak)* I don't know....

WILLIAM. Yes, you do.

ANDI. I don't know how to put it into words.

WILLIAM. Yes, you do. You just don't know what words you're brave enough to share with someone you just met.

ANDI. I guess that's accurate. It's not easy. It's not something I do, I guess.

WILLIAM. Try doing it night after night, for audiences. My feelings, my dreams, my thoughts, my fears all exploited for their enjoyment every night. For the price of a ticket, I become an open book to them. My sins, my deepest secrets, the ugly parts of my soul.... All made available for their viewing pleasure. And then the critics come on opening night, and decide if the baring of my heart and soul is worthy is of their endorsement. A committee then decides if the true colors of my heart and soul can match the baring of someone else's heart and soul.... One of us will win a Tony Award. So there you are, Andrea. You have read my play. You know me very well. But I don't know you at all. I sense there's something deeper to you, but if you don't let down your walls and be real with me, we've nothing left to talk about. There will be only pleasantries and small talk to exchange, and I despise them both.

ANDI. I'm growing older. *(This catches William off guard. He isn't sure where she's going with this.)*

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

WILLIAM. That's your reason?

ANDI. Yes. That's my reason. What if I don't have much longer to live?

WILLIAM. Why wouldn't you? Are you... not well?

ANDI. I'm not sick. I guess I've just felt like.... I can sense a count down on my life.... I know the clock is ticking for all of us. Sometimes I just think I can sense it more than everyone else around me. On my last birthday, for some reason, I could hear the ticking of that clock a little louder than I used to hear it. I just don't know if I'm going to be someone who is going to live to be an old woman. And I'm okay with that. I know that when the party is over, it's over. But, before I go, I would like to be a part of something special. Something that I can be remembered for. So when I'm gone, I will have left my mark behind.... Even if it's just a thumb print, so that maybe people will see it and look back, and remember that at one point in history, I was here.

WILLIAM. You don't feel like you've done anything important?

ANDI. Not as an artist. But then my agent mentioned Broadway, and I was terrified. This opportunity should not have come to me, but it did. And I was scared to try, but then I was scared not to try because... what if this chance never comes to me again? And then I read your script, and I just understood your character. I felt like.... you wrote her just for me to play. I've thought the things she's thought. I look at life the way that she does. I know this character better than anyone.

WILLIAM. Not better than me.

ANDI. Yes, better than you! You wrote her, but I live her, every single day. I would love to be able to introduce you to her. And if you let me, I will bring her to life. I'll let her speak through me.

WILLIAM. I didn't hear Brody McClain mentioned even once in this last answer.

ANDI. Forget Brody McClain. I gave you the shallow answer of a shallow girl. If you rejected her it would be a loss that I could easily get over.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

WILLIAM. If I reject you now?

ANDI. It would break my heart, because.... you'd be rejecting the real me. But I know I messed up my audition. And I don't know what answer you're looking for now. But the one I just gave you... that's the honest truth. I love this character, and I love your play.

WILLIAM. Thank you, Andrea, for being open with me. I can't promise you anything right now, except for this.... If we go in a different direction, it won't be a rejection of you. The director and producers will of course have a big influence in the casting, but I'll be able to express my opinion and my choice to them. We'll call your agent either way, and let them know the final decision. Have a good day, Andrea.

ANDI. Who is your choice? If.... I may ask. *(William does not respond. He nods his head goodbye and exits. Andi talks to herself.)* This is the real Andi.... And I need to be in your production. More than anything. *(Blackout.)*

SCENE FOUR

Lights up in Andi's apartment. She is sitting on the couch, awaiting news. Dash sits next to her, telling her all about the Undercover Thespian.

DASH. So the whole audience was applauding because the magician, whose name was Dexter Dark Cloud, had just done a trick with two monkeys, and he made bananas disappear and then reappear. And then the monkeys were so happy and started to eat them. But then, a hush fell over the crowd when Dexter Dark Cloud brought out his beautiful, half naked assistant and strapped her down to a table. Then he brought over a huge saw, and was about to cut her right in half. The audience didn't breathe. No one said a word. THEN, one of the monkeys pulled its face off. And it was Crichton McCleary in a monkey suit. He looked at Dexter Dark

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

Cloud and said “I’ll teach you not to monkey around with half naked chicks.” Then he threw his banana at Dexter Dark Cloud and knocked him unconscious. Then, his assistant screamed “You bastard, that was part of our act!” Then, Barbie Banger, Crichton McCleary’s assistant, swung down from the catwalks on a rope and grabbed Crichton. Then, as they swung off stage, he said to the audience, “You wanna see some magic. Watch me disappear.” And then it cut to commercial.

ANDI. Who on earth videos this show? Does no one see the cameras?

DASH. He must hide them all. He’s crafty. And sexy. I can’t wait until the next episode.

ANDI. And I can’t wait until I get some news.

DASH. When were you supposed to find out?

ANDI. A few hours ago. This is doing nothing for my nerves. *(There is a knock at the door.)*

DASH. I’ll get it. *(Dash opens the door. Carrie enters)*

ANDI. Carrie! Do you have any news?

CARRIE. I do. They called me with the final decision.

ANDI. I can’t tell what that look on your face is saying. Did it go badly?

CARRIE. Well.... You got the part. You’re in the show. *(Still not as enthusiastic as she might be – something is off.)*

ANDI. I got the part? I’m in the show? This is the best news I’ve ever heard!!! *(Andi and Dash bounce up and down. Carrie is still not looking thrilled)*

DASH. Congratulations, Andi!

ANDI. Thank you!!

DASH. Are you going to introduce me to Brody McClain?

ANDI. Of course I am!

CARRIE. Andi....

ANDI. Carrie, thank you for this. Thank you for pushing me to do this, and for believing in me. “The Moment” is one of the best pieces of

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

literature I've ever read, and I'm going to make you proud, Carrie, and I'm going to make you proud, Dash, and I'm going to make the author proud, and I'm going to make Brody McClain proud, and I'm going to make the mayor proud, and all my friends at the coffee shop, and.... This playwright is well known in England, right? So I'll probably get a call from the Prime Minister.

CARRIE. Andi....

ANDI. Will I be on a magazine cover, and maybe some talk shows?

CARRIE. Andi....

ANDI. Yes, Carrie?

CARRIE. They want to start right away. There's been a few script revisions the director wants you to get familiar with. And so they wondered if you wouldn't mind having the lead actor over to rehearse.

ANDI. Of course.... When?

CARRIE. He's here now.

ANDI. He's here now?

CARRIE. He's waiting in the hallway.

ANDI. Brody McClain is in the hallway?

CARRIE. Well....

ANDI. Dash, quick, we've got to make the house presentable!

DASH. Presentable, yes! *(They start straightening everything up)*

ANDI. Dash, underwear and bra check. Are there any laying around?

DASH. Ummmm..... I see no underwear and no bras out.

ANDI. Go into my room and get some then!

CARRIE. Andi.....

ANDI. Oh, I'm sorry.... Yes?

CARRIE. There's been a slight change.

ANDI. How slight?

CARRIE. Bigger than slight. Massive.

ANDI. Am I still playing the lead?

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

CARRIE. Oh yes.

ANDI. Is the show still being done at The Majestic?

CARRIE. Absolutely!

ANDI. And Brody McClain is my costar?

CARRIE. Well..... *(wincing)*

ANDI. What?

CARRIE. I'm told that just as he was about to sign his contract, a role in a different project came up, and he took it.

ANDI. No Brody McClain?

CARRIE. I'm afraid not.

ANDI. Then who is in the hallway?

CARRIE. Your new costar.

ANDI. Well... bring him in.

CARRIE. Umm..... okay. *(Carrie opens the door and Rick walks in. Perhaps he has a bandage on the side of his mouth where Andi bit him, or perhaps his lip is just red. Whatever works best for the actor and scene)*

ANDI. What is he doing here?

RICK. It's Andi, right?

ANDI. Carrie, is this a joke?

RICK. Congratulations on the role, Andi, and, no hard feelings about the lip. If I were into kinky things, I probably would have loved it.

ANDI. We just had this place fumigated. Now we're going to have to do it again.

RICK. You're not insinuating that I bug you a little bit, are you?

ANDI. Will you be staying here long? Because if so, I'm going to move.

RICK. I'll help you pack. We can rehearse our lines while we do. Shall we start in the bedroom?

ANDI. You set one foot in my bedroom and I'll bit more than your lips.

RICK. Starving artist!

DASH. *(laughing)* You two are funny.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

CARRIE. Definitely an amazing chemistry. I just think the producers were hoping you'd channel this in a more positive direction.

ANDI. Why are you here and not Brody McClain?

CARRIE. I told you, he found a different project to be a part of.

ANDI. Why? Why, oh why?

RICK. Because you terrified him. When you bit me, he said you looked like a Rottweiler tearing up a piece of meat.

ANDI. He was there? Who are you? Barring that you're an early Christmas gift from Santa, or a very untimely April Fool's joke, how is it that you just show up and start wreaking havoc upon my life. What have you done? Where's your resume?

RICK. Look, I know you're hard pressed to find an actor who won't go on for days about all the different projects they were part of and all the roles they once played, but.... I really don't talk about my past.

ANDI. I know a bunch of actresses who have said the exact same thing. It's because they all did porn.

RICK. I just believe a person is only as good as their latest project. Who cares about the past. That's over. Who cares about what you might do one day? That may not even happen. But we are in this production together now. And I'd like to make it the best it can be.

ANDI. That's great to hear. Please.... Drop out.

CARRIE. Andi..... can I speak to you for a moment in private?

ANDI. You got me into this, Carrie. You came to me. Whatever you have to say to me, you can say in front of everyone.

CARRIE. ANDREA! (*Practically growling*)

ANDI. Coming. (*Andi and Carrie walk into another room of the apartment leaving Dash and Rick alone.*)

DASH. So, you're an actor?

RICK. I am. And who are you?

DASH. My name is Dash. I'm Andi's roommate.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

RICK. It's a pleasure to meet you, Dash. Are you an actress as well?

DASH. Oh, no, no.... I don't think I could ever do anything like you and Andi.

RICK. I don't think you give yourself enough credit. You've got a good look. A good energy.

DASH. You look really familiar to me. Maybe I've seen your work before? Have you done television?

RICK. A few commercials. But that was a long time ago.

DASH. That must be so exciting. I live kind of a boring life.

RICK. I'm sure it's not that bad. What do you do?

DASH. I work at The Twizzle Beam Cafe. That's where I got my name, "Dash". I hurry all around the café. Everyone says I dash about. That's where I met Andi. We both worked there together. But, she got out, and I'm still there. So, if you'd ever like to have an award winning cup of Twizzle Beam coffee, served with a smile, come see me.

RICK. That sounds nice.

DASH. Maybe one day I'll break away and do something exciting and adventurous.

RICK. There's no time like the present. *(Carrie and Andi enter. Andi looks like she has just been severely reprimanded.)*

DASH. Guess what, Andi! Rick has been in some commercials!

ANDI. Oh? For erectile dysfunction?

RICK. Says the Pepto Bismol girl.

CARRIE. I think Andi has something to say to you. Isn't that right, Andi?

ANDI. *(Looks down at the ground, like a child who is forced to give an apology they don't really want to give)* I'm very happy that we will be working together. And I'm sorry I bit your lip while we were auditioning. I'm looking forward to a long and deeply rooted friendship with you, both on and off the stage. I know we will do amazing things together. *(This could not be more insincere)*

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

RICK. Thank you, Andi. I can tell that came from the deepest part of your heart. And, I would like to extend an apology of my own. I think we got off on the wrong foot. I get that I'm not everybody's cup of tea...

ANDI. But you ARE everybody's cup of cyanide.

CARRIE. Andrea!

RICK. The fact is, we're going to be working together, and I'd like it to be a good experience for us both. And, so I was wondering if maybe we could start over. I have tickets tonight to see Hamilton on Broadway, if you'd like to join me. Maybe get to know each other a little better?

ANDI. How did you get Hamilton tickets? It's like... sold out! (*Note – *Hamilton may be substituted for whatever is popular on Broadway at the time.*)

RICK. It wasn't easy. Or cheap. But have a look. (*hands her the tickets*)

ANDI. Are you kidding? These are right up front!

RICK. Will you go with me?

ANDI. I..... will attend.

RICK. We'll have a great time. (*There is a knock at the door. Dash answers it. It is William Wentworth*)

WILLIAM. Hello, Miss.

DASH. Hello again. Andi, it's for you.

WILLIAM. Hello, Andrea. (*Andi runs to hug him.*)

ANDI. Thank you! Thank you, thank you!

WILLIAM. You are very welcome. I take it you've heard the news.

ANDI. I have!

WILLIAM. And Rick, it's a pleasure to see you as well.

RICK. I won't attack you with a hug, but how about a handshake?

WILLIAM. A handshake will do. I'm so looking forward to starting rehearsals with the two of you. I think this production will be one for the books. And now, Andrea.... If this isn't too forward I have a question for you.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

ANDI. Yes?

WILLIAM. I have tickets to a show tonight. I would be honored if you would join me.

ANDI. Oh.... What show? *(Feeling nervous because she just committed to going to Hamilton).*

WILLIAM. I'd actually like for it to be a surprise, but I believe it will be very good.

ANDI. The thing is.... I just accepted an invitation to go and see Hamilton. The seats are right in the front.

WILLIAM. If you could possibly reconsider. I wouldn't ask, but... I believe this will be a very special production, and... I would love to get to know you better off the clock, Andrea.

ANDI. *(Looks over at Rick, and for the first time, is truly apologetic to him)* You understand, don't you?

RICK. Oh.... Of course. *(Rick is trying hard to hold back a genuine look of hurt)*

ANDI. Thank you.... I know these were expensive tickets, and I know I said I'd go with you. And even though I can't....

RICK. Can't or won't?

ANDI. Listen.... Consider the slate wiped clean. We're friends. *(Andi gives him a hug, but he doesn't return it. He's a bit defeated.)*

WILLIAM. Nothing personal. I just like to get to know my actors. It's best for the show. Maybe you and I will go out and do something soon.

RICK. Yeah..... that sounds great.

WILLIAM. Do you need time to get ready, Andrea? If we leave now, we can have dinner before the show. I know a nice place.

ANDI. I'm ready. *(She grabs her purse and they head out the door. The mood is very awkward. Dash isn't sure what to do. Rick is embarrassed. Carrie sees an opportunity. She unbuttons her shirt a bit, and turns toward him.)*

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

CARRIE. My oh my, what to do, what to do? Left with a ticket to Hamilton, what to do? *(Rick takes her not-so-subtle cue.)*

RICK. Well.... Miss Benson..... I don't know if you have plans tonight, but would you like to join me for Hamilton? *(Carrie grabs on to the ticket, jumping up and down)*

CARRIE. I would love to go!!! I'll meet you at the theater? I have to run by the agency, and do a few errands, but I wouldn't miss this.

RICK. I'll meet you outside the theater.

CARRIE. Ohhhhh..... thank you. I'll see you there, handsome. *(Carrie gives him a hug, but he stands still, feeling defeated. Carrie heads out, very excited. Dash watches with interest, and hiding sadness that everyone has something to do tonight but her.)*

DASH. Wow.... Hamilton on Broadway. You guys are going to have a lot of fun. Maybe someday I'll get to do something like that. *(Rick looks at Dash. Walks over to her and without saying a word, he hands her his ticket.)*

DASH. What? No, I couldn't.

RICK. Have fun, sweetheart. *(Rick walks sadly out the door. Lights out on DASH, who is extremely touched at this gesture. Blackout.)*

SCENE FIVE

Andi and William enter. They both have their playbills in hand, but don't reveal the show they saw just yet.

ANDI. Thank you for the evening. It was... truly an experience.

WILLIAM. Did you have an enjoyable time? I noticed you were extremely talkative at dinner, but once we arrived at the performance, you didn't really talk for the rest of the night.

ANDI. Out of respect for the art. Just wanted to focus at the theater.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

WILLIAM. You really didn't talk after we left though. I'm curious to know your thoughts.

ANDI. Don't get me wrong... it was a really cute show. But you had told me this would be better than Hamilton, so.... I guess I just had different expectations.

WILLIAM. You didn't enjoy the evening?

ANDI. It's not that at all. If I'm being honest, I've just always wanted to see Hamilton. And when you mentioned you wanted the show to be a surprise, I figured we'd be seeing something else on Broadway like Wicked, or... Chicago, or... Brigadoon. I just didn't realize we'd be going to a junior high school to watch a bunch of twelve and thirteen year olds put on "Uncle Croaky's Adventure on Lily Pad Island".

WILLIAM. You're disappointed?

ANDI. It's not that I'm disappointed. I'm just really confused right now.

WILLIAM. I see. I'm not shocked, I suppose. I brought another actress with me to the last show the Junior High School put on. She found an excuse to leave at intermission.

ANDI. Oh, I would never have done that. I mean... the dancing frogs were pretty cute, and I would never have the heart to walk out on a bunch of junior highers. I'm sure they worked really hard on that show.

WILLIAM. I'd say they gave it their all.

ANDI. Do you invite all your leading ladies to junior high productions?

WILLIAM. Only the special ones.

ANDI. I'm sensing we went somewhere important to you tonight.

WILLIAM. That's true.

ANDI. Will you tell me about it?

WILLIAM. That was where I went to junior high school. That stage was the first place I ever performed.

ANDI. Really?

WILLIAM. My humble beginnings.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

ANDI. I noticed you getting emotional during the show. This makes so much more sense now, because I couldn't for the life of me understand why someone would tear up as Uncle Croaky was tap dancing with his cousins from across the pond.

WILLIAM. Come on! Junior Highers tap dancing! It was amazing!

ANDI. It was a disaster, but... an amazing attempt.

WILLIAM. Agreed. And I wasn't the only one there tonight getting emotional. It was happening all throughout the audience. It was just radiating from the stage. The little actors setting foot on the stage, some of them for the very first time. They were so brave. All of those people watching them. They must have been terrified. And the pride all the parents and grandparents were feeling as they were sitting throughout the crowd. I was sitting next to the father of a girl playing one of the trees. She didn't have any lines, but it didn't matter. He couldn't have been more proud. Think of it. Every star on Broadway once takes a first step into the world of theater. Who knows what future star we may have seen tonight? What would you give to see the very first performance by Julie Andrews, or Laurence Olivier, or Anthony Hopkins, or...

ANDI. Pauly Shore! (**Pauly Shore may be substituted for an actor that William Wentworth probably wouldn't recognize*)

WILLIAM. Who?

ANDI. Never mind. Continue, please.

WILLIAM. It's a totally different dynamic on Broadway. The audience walks in having paid a significant amount of money, and they expect to see the performance of a lifetime. Heaven help that cast if something goes wrong. But tonight, the audience showed up knowing they were not going to see a perfect show – far from it. But they didn't care. They were there to support art. Pure art. Do you remember the boy at the end of act one who forgot his lines?

ANDI. He looked like he was going to pee his pants.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

WILLIAM. Did you feel the energy from the audience? They were all on the edge of their seats.

ANDI. It was really uncomfortable. I felt so badly for him.

WILLIAM. But we were all rooting for him. I thought he'd run right off the stage.

ANDI. But he didn't! He thought and he thought!

WILLIAM. Every person in the theater was feeling the tension.

ANDI. And then he remembered his lines!

WILLIAM. And he delivered them in the worst way possible! But the crowd applauded like they had just seen Henry V performed to perfection!

ANDI. And his smile..... it was so huge, he was beaming.

WILLIAM. That's what the theater is to me. It's not about doing things perfectly. It's about bringing life to the moment. And I promise you, Andrea, what we saw tonight was full of life. The entire show was on the verge of falling apart every single moment.... But it didn't. In its own right, it was a triumph.

ANDI. I never thought someone could pull so much depth from Uncle Croaky's Adventure on Lily Pad Island. And this was where you first performed? On that same stage?

WILLIAM. My teacher was still directing there until just a few years ago. She retired, and passed away shortly after. It was one of the harder losses in my life. I don't know if I would have developed a love for theater if it weren't for her. She changed the lives of hundreds of students. I still try and make her proud, and keep her memory alive. Sometimes, I'll stay behind after the show is over. I wait for the crowd to leave, and I just sit in the dark theater. If I listen closely, the ghosts from the past come back to the stage. I can hear their voices, performing their lines. I can hear the voice of my teacher, directing her class, or giving us her famous opening night speech fifteen minutes before the curtain goes up.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

ANDI. I feel like a whole veil has lifted and I can see tonight through your eyes.

WILLIAM. Does it change the evening for you?

ANDI. It changes everything.

WILLIAM. Where did it start for you, Andrea?

ANDI. High school. Junior year. I was in a play. Wasn't sure what I was getting into. Never had any idea that play would.... Change the course of my life. That feels weird to word it like that. In the grand scheme of things, it seems like such an inconsequential moment... but it was the start of it all. Some of my favorite memories were just hanging around with my theater friends, and all of us sharing our dreams for the future.... Plays we wanted to be in, characters we wanted to play. How we were one day going to make the theater our full time job. Just dreaming together. And back then we were unstoppable, and we never would have accepted the fact that we would achieve anything less than the deepest desires of our hearts. We'd do this all the time. I can still picture us. Just babies. That's before life steps in and breaks your heart. I barely talk to those people now, and I don't know if any of us ended up where we thought we'd be.

WILLIAM. It's beautiful to dream.

ANDI. They don't always keep you grounded, but they keep you alive. As long as you keep them alive.

WILLIAM. Monday morning, you go into rehearsals for "The Moment."

ANDI. The moment I've waited my whole lifetime for.

WILLIAM. Goodnight, Andrea.

ANDI. Wait... what?

WILLIAM. It's late. I should be on my way.

ANDI. You're not going to try and sleep with me?

WILLIAM. On the first date? Andrea, I'm a gentleman.

ANDI IN THE MOMENT

ANDI. Well, I'm not. I mean, you bought me dinner and a three-dollar ticket to go see Uncle Croaky's Adventure on Lily Pad Island. I should put out!

WILLIAM. You know... I think you talked me into it. *(They sit down on the couch, about to kiss, when Dash enters. She looks extremely sad, and in a daze)*

ANDI. Dash.... Um..... go to your room.... Turn the TV up really loud.... And don't come back out until morning. *(Dash, still in a daze, wanders over to the couch and sits down next to Andi and William)* Dash... is something wrong?

DASH. You just never know when things are going to go bad. You never know when your world is going to fall to pieces.

ANDI. What happened, Dash?

DASH. Everything was perfect. I was having the best night, and on my way home, I passed a newsstand. There was a tabloid paper with an article about the show Undercover Thespian. It said the show will have to continue without Barbie Banger.

ANDI. Why? She was your favorite!

DASH. Because... she's gone missing. They believe that Barbie Banger may be dead. *(Blackout.)*

INTERMISSION

***THE PLAY IS NOT OVER!! TO FIND OUT HOW IT ENDS—
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