

**THE TEXAS HOMECOMING REVOLUTION OF 1995**

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**By Jennifer Faletto**

**(c)Jennifer Faletto  
Boulder, CO**

**CHARACTERS:**

ABBEY AQUINO(17)- Serves as the narrator in the story. Has style. Predominantly Asian descent.

CRYSTAL ANDERSEN(17)- The perfect high school girl. Dresses in pretty clothes. Laura Ashley. Predominantly European descent.

TAMMY SCHNEIDER(17)- The ringleader. Dresses in suburban western wear. Predominantly European descent.

SAMMY FIORELLI(17)- Along for the ride. Dresses conservatively - think GAP. Dyed blonde hair. Predominantly European descent.

JESS CLARK(17)- Along and yet doing her own thing. Busty. Dresses to accentuate her figure. Predominantly European descent.

**NOTES:**

The characters are all high school seniors. They may be played by older actresses with high school energy.

The play takes place in the suburbs of Houston in 1995.

Please no big Texas/non region specific southern accents. The characters live in a wealthy suburb of a major city. Light accents for some, none for others.

\*\* In an effort to invite the audience as much as possible into the world of this high school I think lobby decorations would be helpful. Before Act 1 they can be standard fare - club advertisements, school play, homecoming queen, etc. And then by intermission the Campaign Against Crystal signs can be up. Hand out pins. Sell mums. Anything to make the audience a part of the student body.

## ACT I

## SCENE ONE

SETTING: A high school girl's bathroom. The stage is set with 4 toilets and 4 stalls. The bathroom also has sinks and mirrors. The mirrors can be the fourth wall if that suits the design.

Another part of the stage holds desk/chair combinations, another section holds a row of lockers.

AT RISE: The bathroom. The doors to the stalls are closed and feet can be seen beneath three of the stall doors. The other stall appears to be empty. Scrawled in paint in huge letters across the outside of the stall doors are the words:

**Crystal Andersen wiped her ass with a Texas Flag**

Door one flies open with a bang and TAMMY appears.

She and the other girls address the audience directly.

TAMMY

You could get shot around here for doing something like that.

Door two opens and JESS is revealed.

JESS

Shame on her and her family.

Door three opens and SAMMY is revealed.

SAMMY

It's a dark day in Texas.

TAMMY

(addresses SAMMY)

What are you talking about? It's like Christmas morning.

SAMMY

Well y'all were being dramatic - I wanted a good line too.

JESS

It's so good it's like Christmas and your birthday on the same day.

SAMMY

Like if you were Jesus.

JESS

No, Sammy, it's not like if you were Jesus.

SAMMY

Well if Christmas and your birthday were the same day -

TAMMY

(to the audience)

Things at school this fall have been so dull. All anyone is talking about are SAT vocab words:

JESS

Reprehensible.

TAMMY

Repudiate.

SAMMY

Absolution.

TAMMY

College applications:

JESS

TCU, SMU & Rice.

TAMMY

TCU, SMU & Baylor.

SAMMY

TCU, SMU, ACU.

TAMMY

And homecoming dates:

JESS

Brian Stetland. Major hottie.

TAMMY

Pete Mercer. He's ok.

SAMMY

No one. Yet.

TAMMY

Boring. That's all it's been all summer and all year so far.

JESS

And then today we come to school... and there's this.

SAMMY

Well I think it's really sad, y'all. Her life is over. Her poor mama should probably just send her away somewhere.

JESS

Her poor mama my ass.

TAMMY

Nothing this good has happened in a looooong while.

SAMMY

Well there was that OJ Simpson mess this summer. That was exciting.

JESS

OJ did capture our attention.

SAMMY

I saw the Lion King at the movies eight times.

JESS

My brother's first car was a white Bronco.

TAMMY

But basically nothing. Nothing has been this good since -

JESS

Not since we learned that Mike McDaniels fucked his cat.

SAMMY

There's no need to be obscene.

TAMMY

Not like that was good news.

JESS

No, it was disgusting.

TAMMY

But a HUGE scandal.

JESS

That was sophomore year and you know he still can't get a date.

TAMMY

True or not, that rumor stuck to that boy like white on rice.

SAMMY

That's right it was a rumor.

TAMMY

Maybe, but you believe it.

SAMMY

I do not.

TAMMY

Want to go to homecoming with him?

SAMMY

I don't believe everything I read on a bathroom wall.

TAMMY

What I asked is if you want me to see if he needs a date for homecoming?

SAMMY

No!

TAMMY

No? And why not? Because he's a cat fucker?

SAMMY

I'm waiting for someone else to ask me.

TAMMY

Really, who?

JESS

Yeah who?

SAMMY

Get off my case.

TAMMY

(singing)

Sammy loves a cat fucker.

JESS

(laughing)

Sammy loves a cat fucker.

SAMMY

Y'all knock it off.

JESS

(to the audience)

We know everything about most of the people at school. Anyone worth knowing anything about.

TAMMY

Most of 'em are pretty boring.

JESS

Most of 'em aren't worth your time.

TAMMY

We know who can't keep their legs together and who still hasn't had her first kiss...

JESS/SAMMY

Hey!/I have too!

TAMMY

But this is something totally different.

JESS

Could she really have done something so reprehensible with a Texas flag?

TAMMY

And would she be repudiated?

SAMMY

Or should she receive absolution?

TAMMY

And who made it up if isn't true?

JESS

And why?

SAMMY

Does Crystal hate Texas?

TAMMY

This is a criminal act if I've ever heard of one.

SAMMY

Tammy, could she go to jail for this?

JESS

Well she should, it's a goddamn disgrace.

SAMMY

Jessica! Your mouth. Don't you go takin' the Lord's name over this. It's bad enough we got the Texas flag all covered in shit.

JESS

I don't mind Crystal or anything, but she has always come across as a little too perfect. She's so quiet.

TAMMY

I don't know how she keeps that figure.

SAMMY

Straight A's.

JESS  
Airforce Academy boyfriend.

TAMMY  
Money to burn.

JESS  
That car.

TAMMY  
Now that's a story -

SAMMY  
And she speaks Spanish better than a Mexican. (pause)  
She's in my Spanish class so I know.

A head appears over the top of the  
fourth stall. ABBEY. She addresses the  
audience.

ABBEY  
It's not like you think. These girls were not out to get  
Crystal.

TAMMY  
What we need to decide is where we stand on it.

JESS  
What do you mean? I would never stand in support of someone  
who fouled our flag that way.

ABBEY  
Crystal was just something shiny that caught their eyes that  
morning.

SAMMY  
If she did it. Which we don't know.

JESS  
But we also don't know that she didn't do it.

ABBEY  
They were out to get me.

TAMMY  
Well we either take her side or we don't.

JESS  
Tammy, how could we possibly take her side?

SAMMY  
By saying whoever wrote it is a liar.



TAMMY

Why would somebody come in here and write something so hideously offensive?

JESS

For the same reason they wrote that I blew Chad Meyers.

SAMMY

Because it's true?

JESS

Jealousy.

TAMMY

But you did blow Chad Meyers.

JESS

That's beside the point.

SAMMY

How?

JESS

They wrote it on the bathroom wall because they're jealous of me, not because it's true or not true.

SAMMY

So you're saying someone made that up because they're jealous of Crystal.

JESS

You're as sharp as a tack.

TAMMY

It's a very odd thing to invent.

JESS

True.

ABBEY

But they really weren't sure.

SAMMY

Let's scoot girls, I can't be late for first period again, Señora Cruz will have my hide.

TAMMY

So... what do we think?

JESS

I don't know.

SAMMY

Jesus would say to turn the other cheek.

JESS

Turn the other cheek to a girl who wiped her ass with our flag?

TAMMY

The other butt cheek?

SAMMY

You are blasphemous, girls. I will pray for your souls.

TAMMY

Well please don't. I want to go to a Christian heaven.

SAMMY

Tammy, I am a Christian.

TAMMY

That's what you think.

TAMMY, SAMMY & JESS exit arguing. TAMMY & JESS singing:

Mike McDaniels fucked a cat... (to the tune of Old MacDonald had a farm)

ABBEY

Crystal moved here from somewhere down in south Texas in the middle of seventh grade and had rocketed from being a nobody to being a deity by sophomore year. I've studied her ascension with real curiosity and am still working out the details of exactly how she did it. According to the bathroom wall in the boys room, she has about the best tits anyone's ever seen, although I don't know that anyone has actually seen them. Crystal's serious boyfriend is away at school and constantly sends her flowers and stuff to make it understood that she is spoken for, so I sort of doubt these boys have ever gotten close. The lore surrounding Crystal also includes an all powerful mama. For some reason, Crystal has a "mama" while the rest of us have plain old "moms." All our ordinary moms pray for Crystal's extraordinary mama because she's been married a bunch of times and is routinely seen wearing a red leather miniskirt.

CRYSTAL enters the bathroom. She looks at the writing on the door, ABBEY slips back down into the stall, CRYSTAL goes to the mirror. ABBEY pops back up.

ABBEY

I don't know what Crystal was thinking as she looked in that mirror during first period. But she stared and stared. Was she planning to run away from home? To make a statement in defense of her actions? To deny all accusations?

And what was she gonna tell that mama of hers? Oh don't worry, she can't hear me now. I'm invisible at this school.

CRYSTAL continues to stare into the mirror.

ABBEY

In case you're wondering why I'm not in class myself... it's because Tammy Schneider wants to kick my ass.

*END SCENE.*

SCENE TWO

## TRANSITION MUSIC

Classroom scene. SAMMY sits in a desk/chair combination. She sings along phrases in Spanish with her American accent - not even attempting to pronounce the words. She sings loud and proud.

"Rock the Countries" Central America plays.

Google search term: "Rock the Countries Central America"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAupLjNTae0>

The drum roll of the song begins the scene:

SAMMY

Mexico D.F., Mexico, Guatemala, Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, San Salvador, El Salvador, Managua, Nicaragua, San Jose, Costa Rica, Panama, Panama, Panama, Panama, Panama. (Drum roll).

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE THREE

TAMMY & JESS stand talking to each other at the bathroom mirrors.

TAMMY

There's no harm done, it's not like she was going to get a date.

JESS

Well... she did say she was waiting for someone to ask her.

TAMMY

Nah, she's full of it.

JESS

She's going to lose her shit.

TAMMY

It's better to be going than sitting home watching episodes of General Hospital she recorded and saved all summer - it'll be fun, we can all go in the same lim--

JESS notices the feet of CRYSTAL under the bathroom stall - signals to TAMMY.

TAMMY

Who's in here? Abbey is that you? I waited for you outside of your locker just now.

(silence)

I can see your feet you little shit. Why don't you come out and let's talk about what you said.

(more silence)

I will come in there and drag you out by your ankles.

TAMMY goes into a stall and closes the door. We then see her head appear to look over the top into the neighboring stall.

You can't hide from me... oh, you. Well I can understand why you're hiding. Come on out.

CRYSTAL opens her stall door, stares at JESS. TAMMY climbs down and exits her stall.

TAMMY

Well, what have you got to say for yourself?

CRYSTAL comes out, stares at TAMMY and JESS, turns to them to say something, takes a big breath, looks out at the audience as if to say something to them, decides not to say anything, and then exits the bathroom.

JESS

What was that?

TAMMY

It's like she was possessed or something! Call Sammy and let's get an exorcist in here.

JESS

I wonder if that means she did it?

TAMMY

You're the one who's friends with her.

JESS

Yeah, back in like eighth grade.

TAMMY

Your moms are still b.f.

JESS

No they're not. My mom was trying to sell her mom a house.

TAMMY

But you used to hang out.

JESS

So?

TAMMY

So. I'm saying you know her.

JESS

No one knows her.

TAMMY

When's the last time you guys got together?

JESS

We baby-sat together on New Year's freshman year... um, I don't know. I got a ride in her Porsche once.

TAMMY

Was she weird?

JESS

I don't know. We were so low in that car I was too busy worrying my ass was gonna scrape the ground.

TAMMY addresses the audience:

TAMMY

We should tell you the story of how she got that Porsche. On the second to last day of school sophomore year -

JESS

During finals -

TAMMY

There was this big commotion at the end of the day.

JESS

Especially all the guys were freaking out.

TAMMY

Crystal Andersen's mama had come and parked that brand new Porsche right out in front of the doors to the parking lot and set up this area around it -

JESS

With velvet ropes and everything - really VIP -

TAMMY

And hung up a big sign with a bow that said Happy Birthday, Crystal Andersen.

JESS

Like there might have been another Crystal who was getting a Porsche.

TAMMY

Now we've been at school with Crystal for about a million years so we know it wasn't even her birthday.

JESS

Her birthday's at the beginning of August way before school even starts. This was MAY.

TAMMY

Her mama just wanted to make sure she could show off that car and make a big deal in front of the whole school. It was so tacky.

JESS

Crystal was already kind of popular then, but the car basically turned her into a celebrity.

TAMMY

I mean plenty of kids here have nice cars.

JESS  
I drive a Honda Civic hatchback.  
(JESS does not consider this a  
nice car)

TAMMY  
I have my mom's old Audi.

JESS  
It's six months old.

TAMMY  
The point is that even in a school like this --

JESS  
A school where pretty much everyone has really nice stuff --

TAMMY  
This was over the top.

JESS  
That mama of hers is way out of control.

TAMMY  
You can tell she's never had any money before. Doesn't know  
how to handle it.

JESS  
The money came from one or more of her four ex-husbands.

TAMMY  
I think she grew up really white trash.

JESS  
Small town.

TAMMY  
Remember when she had the luncheon at Nieman's for Crystal's  
junior high graduation?

JESS  
Tried to pay with a Visa.

TAMMY  
Everyone knows that Neiman's only takes cash or AMEX.

JESS  
Everyone knows that.

TAMMY  
You can just tell she's new money.

JESS  
Crystal has about eight Dooney & Bourke bags.



I only have two. TAMMY

I just got a Dooney. JESS

Yeah, but it's a fake. TAMMY

It is not. JESS

The duck looks all wrong on yours. It's flat. Should be poofy. Sorry hon but it's a knock off. TAMMY

Anyway... JESS

Anyway, no amount of money or purses or Porsches are gonna get her out of this. TAMMY

Her reputation at this school is destroyed. JESS

Annihilated. TAMMY

Obliterated. JESS

Devastated. TAMMY

(pause) She's fucked. TAMMY/JESS

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE FOUR

Classroom. Desk/chair combinations.  
 ABBEY, JESS, SAMMY, TAMMY & CRYSTAL are  
 all present. ABBEY addresses the  
 audience.

ABBEY

Before we move on with this story, I want to go back. I want you to see exactly what happened between Tammy and me last week. I know the girls would say I run my mouth too much and that I'm trying to justify my position... but I want you to decide for yourselves.

We were in our World History class, taught by the amazing Coach Baker, reading aloud from our books about the contributions Texans made during World War II --

SAMMY

(reading from the book)

World War II instigated changes that paved the way for the modern Texas we know and love today.

TAMMY

More than three quarters of a million Texans served in the war effort and Texas oil fueled airplanes, tanks and trucks.

JESS

Texas was home to fifteen military bases and forty airfields.

ABBEY

(outraged by this fact)

Texas was also home to more than forty prisoner of war camps - more than any other state.

And then we read a whole section about internment camps and do a class discussion. The first question was something like - did we think internment camps, like the ones set up for Japanese Americans during WWII, could happen again and why or why not? And the response was the classic high school silence, no one cares or is paying attention, and so I say: "Yes, I think it's possible that internment camps could be created again in a world war type situation because some Americans would worry that recent immigrants would fight for their home countries instead of for us." And then Tammy, just to embarrass me or to be a huge bitch or whatever says,

TAMMY

Abbey are you saying that if war broke out with Japan again you might need to be interned because your loyalty wouldn't reside with the United States?

ABBEY  
(to audience)  
And then the rest goes like this:

ABBEY  
(to TAMMY)  
That's not at all what I said.

TAMMY  
Well that's what it sounded like.

ABBEY  
I'm not even Japanese.

TAMMY  
Close enough.

ABBEY  
It's not close.

TAMMY  
I heard you say that people might fight for their home countries instead of for the U.S. So I'm just curious what you would do?

ABBEY  
The U.S. is my home country.

TAMMY  
You're not fully American.

ABBEY  
Yes, I am.

TAMMY  
Were you born here?

ABBEY  
Yes. Were you?

TAMMY  
Obviously. Were your parents born here?

ABBEY  
Yes. And their parents. How about you?

TAMMY  
Texas has always been home to my family.

ABBEY  
Always?

TAMMY  
Texans through and through.

ABBEY

Your last name is Schneider.

TAMMY

Yeah.

ABBEY

So where do you think your family comes from?

TAMMY

My family comes from here.

ABBEY

(to audience)

And here's where I really stuck my foot in, I guess.

ABBEY

(to TAMMY)

Here? Well that's surprising because I didn't know you were a Native American descendant.

TAMMY

I'm obviously not an Indian.

(laughs and looks around for re-  
assurance)

But my family has always lived right here. For like a zillion generations.

ABBEY

This suburb is only forty years old.

TAMMY

Don't be so literal, Abbey. God. What I'm saying is that my family has always lived in Texas.

ABBEY

No they haven't.

TAMMY

How dare you act like you know about my family or about Texas!

ABBEY

(to audience)

You'd think at this point the teacher might break in -- at least calm things down or suggest Tammy ask her parents where their parents and their parents were from -- you know, educate. But no. Coach Baker sat with his feet propped up on his desk looking like he really wouldn't mind seeing a girl fight this afternoon.

So then I went ahead and said,

ABBEY

(to TAMMY)

Just because you have white skin and wear cowboy boots and tight jeans to school doesn't make you "from here" and it definitely doesn't make you more American or more Texan than me. Didn't you do any of the reading about the massive migrations from Germany to Texas? Haven't you ever wondered if with a last name like Schneider, you might be descended not from the white skinned people who have "always lived here" but in fact, from Germans - in Germany? And with that said it's YOU I'd have my eye on interning if we end up in another situation like we were in during World War II!

By the end ABBEY & TAMMY are standing face to face. A silence. Everyone looks around uncomfortably. Except CRYSTAL who is engrossed in the reading.

SAMMY

It doesn't even matter y'all because we're never going to have another war.

CRYSTAL stands up with her book.

CRYSTAL

It says here the largest internment camp in the country was in a place near San Antonio called Crystal City.

JESS

It says here they kept the Japanese and the Germans in separate areas according to the Geneva Conventions.

SAMMY

So should we separate them?

ABBEY

I'm not Japanese.

TAMMY

And I'm not German.

CRYSTAL

(to audience)

I feel like we're starting to deviate from the main story here. This is the moment where I had an awakening.

JESS

Coach, can I set up a world history internment camp for extra credit?

CRYSTAL

(to audience)

An internment camp is defined as a prison for the confinement of the enemy. Confinement in Crystal City.

JESS

Can I?

ABBEY

(to audience)

So that's the story. She wants to kick my ass because she doesn't know where she's from. We just went on with class and then word spread that Tammy was going to kick my ass into next week for saying I was just as much and maybe more of a Texan than she was. You'd think at some point she might thank me for pointing out that she's not actually the descendant of a zillion generations of suburbanites. Of course the rumor mill spun the whole thing about a thousand different ways, but you saw how it happened.

**TURN ABBEY CAMERA OFF**

SAMMY

Basically, Abbey said Tammy was some sort of Nazi.

JESS

I think she said her ass looked big in those Rocky Mountain jeans.

SAMMY

I thought Abbey said that Tammy shouldn't dress like a kicker since she's never even been near a cow.

JESS

Did Abbey say her grandfather fought at the Alamo?

SAMMY

I heard her family makes really amazing tamales at Christmas.

JESS

What's that got to do with anything?

SAMMY

It's just something I heard.

JESS

I don't think Chinese people eat tamales.

SAMMY

She's part Mexican.

TAMMY

(to audience)

You saw what happened: Abbey said foreigners can't be trusted in war time, then called herself a Texan and me a foreigner. Was she not listening in class just now when we learned that Texans practically single-handedly won the war to end all wars? I don't know who she thinks she is, but I'm gonna be reminding her that you don't mess with Texas.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE FIVE

CRYSTAL - The lockers. She addresses the audience.

CRYSTAL

It's hard to get a moment alone together isn't it? As I was saying... When I looked at the photos of the prisoners in Crystal City - it was like looking in a mirror. I know what it's like to be confined.

I will ask you to please not judge me based on what those girls say or what rumors they might ask you to believe. They'll try to distract you from what's really going on.

I can tell you things that they couldn't possibly know.

CRYSTAL pulls a large stack of letters from her locker.

END SCENE.



## SCENE SIX

TAMMY, SAMMY & JESS in the bathroom.

TAMMY

Do you think I could sue Abbey for calling me a German?  
Nobody likes Germans. It's basically racist, right?

SAMMY

My dad would probably do it for free.

JESS

Sammy, your dad represents people who have been in car  
accidents.

TAMMY

And he certainly wouldn't do it for free.

SAMMY

He sues lots of people.

TAMMY/JESS

We know.

They imitate his t.v. commercial.

JESS

"Have you been injured in an auto accident?"

TAMMY

"You DESERVE compensation."

JESS

"Find personal injury law confusing? Full of legalese?"

TAMMY/JESS

"I speak legalese."

TAMMY & JESS laugh. An awkward pause.

SAMMY

He does speak legalese.

JESS addresses the audience.

JESS

Sammy's dad is one of those ambulance chasing lawyers who  
takes all kinds of really shitty cases but still makes a ton  
of money. At least that's what my dad says.

TAMMY

Jess's dad is an orthodontist. He basically did everyone's braces in the whole school. My dad says with what he charges it's our family who is actually going to be paying for Jess's college.

SAMMY

Tammy's dad works for Enron - he's some fancy assistant vice-president or something. My dad says he has more money than sense. Tammy's mom doesn't have to work.

JESS

My mom is a realtor for Re/max.

SAMMY

My mom is a travel agent.

JESS

A lot of the big "new houses" here are cookie cutter mansions basically made out of cardboard but people don't know the difference.

SAMMY

Our family is more cultured than a lot of families around because we've gotten to see the world.

TAMMY

Taking care of four kids *is* a full time job.

JESS

Everyone knows Tammy's mom is a daytime White Zinfandel drinker.

SAMMY

My mom says we should be grateful because of her job we get to go on a lot of really great cruises for free.

TAMMY

My mom says she had too many kids.

JESS

My mom says she'll retire at fifty.

SAMMY

I got my hair braided in Jamaica last spring break.

TAMMY

And with your dark suntan you almost looked like a -

SAMMY

What?

TAMMY & JESS laugh.

TAMMY

Most of the community here is very affluent.

JESS

Many of the inhabitants here are quite prosperous.

SAMMY

And some folks are just plain rolling in it.

TAMMY

But don't get the wrong idea -

SAMMY

That's right y'all we're supposed to be modest about this.

JESS

It's not like every kid is driving a Porsche.

SAMMY

This is public school, after all.

JESS

The residents here have some diversity.

TAMMY

Not everyone lives in an enormous house.

JESS

My house is a four bed three bath, no pool -- lots of custom work though.

SAMMY

My house is a four bed three point five bath, with a pool.

TAMMY

My house is a five bed, five bath, with a game room, a pool, and water views.

JESS

Of a man made pond.

TAMMY

Jealous much?

JESS

3,829 square feet.

SAMMY

4,545 square feet.

TAMMY

4,934 square feet.

JESS

But there are neighborhoods here with tiny houses.

TAMMY

Yeah, the older houses in the way back don't even have vaulted ceilings.

SAMMY

And there are some apartments.

JESS

They're sketchy.

TAMMY

Dubious.

SAMMY

Unsavory.

TAMMY

My mom wouldn't let me go over there to sell Girl Scout cookies in second grade.

SAMMY

But most of the population here has money to burn.

TAMMY

Not that we're bragging. It's just how it is.

JESS

(to TAMMY)

I'm not sure if you have lawsuit material but I'll totally back you up when you fight her.

TAMMY

I won't need back up.

JESS

Everyone's going to be watching. You want to look good.

TAMMY

And how will "everyone" know when and where I decide to kick her ass?

JESS goes to a stall door and reads:

JESS

Abbey Aquino's Ass Kicking: Homecoming Friday. Parking lot. And then there's a picture of you and your shoe is making a waffle print on her ass.

SAMMY

That's next Friday.

SAMMY rushes into the stall.

TAMMY

I didn't write that.

SAMMY

Oh wow. Then there's two columns - Pick a Chick. And - oh, well that's just silly.

TAMMY

What?

TAMMY now rushes into the stall. They are stacked three in a row.

JESS

A lot of people are picking Abbey.

SAMMY

Like almost everyone.

TAMMY

What?! Elena Brewster picked Abbey?

SAMMY

So did Kelly Wells.

JESS

What was Ben Davis doing in here?

TAMMY

Who drew that picture?

JESS

A few people are putting money down.

SAMMY

On a girl fight?

JESS

I'm signing my name in your column.

SAMMY

Me too.

TAMMY

I am going to destroy her.

SAMMY

Mutilate.

JESS

Violate.

Desecrate.

SAMMY

Enough!

TAMMY

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE SEVEN

Desk chair combinations. JESS sits singing along with "Rock the Countries - Central America." JESS pulls out a wad of cash from her cleavage which she counts. Makes notes in her "bookie" notepad.

Begins with the drumroll.

JESS

Mexico D.F., Mexico, Guatemala, Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, San Salvador, El Salvador, Managua, Nicaragua, San Jose, Costa Rica, Panama, Panama, La Havana, Cuba, La Havana, Cuba, La Havana, Cuba... drumroll.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE EIGHT

The bathroom. Begins empty. Doors open.

TAMMY stomps into the bathroom. Checks that it's empty. Goes into a stall and closes the door with a slam. She starts writing new hate. We hear the marker squeaking on the stall door and walls.

ABBEY enters. Takes a cautious glance around, notes there are feet in one of the stalls and quickly and quietly goes into the stall furthest from it. Closes the door and hides her feet.

JESS enters. Has a grin on her face as she pops into an empty stall and closes the door. We hear her begin to write.

TAMMY opens her door and pops her head out. Sees one open stall and quickly goes in and closes the door. Writes.

ABBEY pops out of her stall looking alarmed, starts to head for the exit but hears Sammy approaching with a sneeze. Swiftly ducks into the open stall & closes the door.

SAMMY enters and goes into the only open stall and closes the door.

All doors shut. All feet on the floor but for ABBEY.

Silence. SAMMY starts unconsciously singing a line from Rock the Countries.

ABBEY bolts from the bathroom.

JESS & TAMMY open their doors at the same time and peek out. See each other. Come out casually.

TAMMY

Hey.

JESS

Hey.

*END SCENE.*



## SCENE NINE

CRYSTAL at the lockers with the stack of folded letters. Looks meaningfully into the eyes of the audience.

CRYSTAL

I've decided to take all of you into my confidence. It's easy to be lost in all this chaos but let's focus. I want to share with you the most significant event in my life up 'til now. Listen up.

She reads a letter to them:

Dear Crystal, I have noticed you working in the Bluebonnet Gift Shop next to El Chico. I don't think you're aware of me but I have to tell you I think you're the prettiest girl I've ever seen. My family moved to your town last November and though I am away in school at the Airforce Academy I visit them a few times a year. Since I haven't yet had the courage to introduce myself to you in person, I'm writing to ask if you would consider corresponding with me, if it's not too bold. Looking forward to hearing from you, and send a picture if you have one - I enclose one of myself and hope you will keep it. Fondly, James Williams.

I didn't fall for James right away, just so you know. It took a good six months of letter writing for me to start to trust him. Writing is a really intimate way to get to know someone. Don't you think? It's a beautiful way to fall in love.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE TEN

The bathroom. CRYSTAL is staring in the mirror. SAMMY rushes in.

SAMMY

Oh, hi.

CRYSTAL

Hi.

Awkward silence.

SAMMY

Sorry if I'm disturbing you.

CRYSTAL

It's okay. I'm just...

SAMMY/CRYSTAL

Hiding?/Waiting.

SAMMY

I just... I heard something and I...

CRYSTAL

Am I getting kicked out?

SAMMY

I don't know.

CRYSTAL

What did you hear?

SAMMY

I just heard something about me and... I...

CRYSTAL

You heard a rumor about yourself?

SAMMY

Sort of, yeah.

Unable to wait any longer SAMMY begins to go in and out of the bathroom stalls until we hear her cry out -

SAMMY (Cont'd)

Who in the world? Ugghhh, Why? Have you seen this? Crystal?

CRYSTAL

What?

SAMMY

Have you seen what someone wrote in here?

CRYSTAL

I hadn't noticed.

SAMMY

It says, "Sammy Fiorelli" - (long pause)

CRYSTAL

Yeah?

SAMMY

"Sammy Fiorelli" -- (pause, she almost vomits)

CRYSTAL

Are you all right in there?

SAMMY

"Sammy Fiorelli lost her sacred virginity to Mike McDaniels. So much for saving it for Jesus. Meeeow."

CRYSTAL

What?

SAMMY

Oh my God. Who's seen this?

CRYSTAL

I'm not sure.

SAMMY

I am freaking out.

CRYSTAL

Just scratch it out - no one has to see.

SAMMY

Everyone already knows.

CRYSTAL

Then deny it. It's not true right? You and Mike --

SAMMY

Of course it isn't true -- I mean, did you really wipe your rear end with the state flag?

TAMMY & JESS burst in.

TAMMY

Oh, well isn't this convenient -- look who we have here.

SAMMY

I could say the same.

TAMMY

Are you plotting against me?

SAMMY

Why would I be plotting against you?

TAMMY

I don't know.

TAMMY begins exploring the stalls  
looking at what has been written about  
her.

JESS

(to CRYSTAL)

Have you been in here all morning?

CRYSTAL

What business is it of yours?

JESS

I heard the principal wants to talk to you.

TAMMY

And the guidance counselor.

SAMMY

Yeah they all came into Spanish looking for you. They said  
they were calling your mama.

CRYSTAL

Perfecto.

TAMMY

(looking at the wall of one of  
the stalls)

Crystal, can you draw?

CRYSTAL

No.

TAMMY

What's your handwriting like? Come in here.

CRYSTAL

I do not take orders from you, Tammy.

An announcement comes over the PA  
system.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Will Crystal Andersen please report to the front office  
immediately? Crystal Andersen, please report to the front.

CRYSTAL

That's my cue.

CRYSTAL exits the bathroom.

TAMMY

If I find out she's been in here writing shit about me I will see to it that she -

SAMMY

She's got trouble enough. Leave her alone.

TAMMY

What do you care?

SAMMY

I feel bad for her is all.

TAMMY

I don't.

JESS

I heard there's someone looking for you, too.

SAMMY

What?

TAMMY

Meeeeeeooooow.

SAMMY

Oh y'all are just horrible. You stop that right now.

TAMMY

We're gonna have to start calling you catnip.

SAMMY

Which one of you wrote this?

TAMMY

It wasn't us, hon. I'm madder than hell too. People are writing shit all over the walls and taking bets on me not being able to hold my own against Abbey Aquino. It's an outrage.

SAMMY

People do seem to be talking about her a lot.

TAMMY

I need to get this over with quick and under the radar. We're applying to colleges right now and we have to think about rush. I can't get suspended for fighting.

Do you think the Kappas at TCU or SMU are gonna take someone with a high school record of getting in girl fights? It's totally not classy.

SAMMY

(to audience)

Tammy's older sister Christie was a Kappa at SMU. We all wanted to be Kappas.

TAMMY

A girl should be three things:

TAMMY/JESS/SAMMY

Classy, fabulous, and KAPPA!

JESS

The truth is that Tammy's too heavy to be a Kappa. She could maybe go Zeta or Theta.

SAMMY

The truth is that Jess is too loose to be a Kappa. She could maybe go DG or Tri-Delt.

TAMMY

The truth is that Sammy's way too Jesus loving for the Kappas. She'll rush a Christian sorority for sure.

TAMMY goes back to talking to the girls:

TAMMY

I'll take care of Abbey don't you worry. She won't get away with talking to me like that. I might kick her ass... or...

JESS

Or...

SAMMY

You could forgive her.

TAMMY

Or... I might pull some strings and try to make her the homecoming hog.

SAMMY

But she's a senior!

JESS

Do you know who's picking the hog this year?

TAMMY

I'm gonna find out.

SAMMY

The hog has to be a freshman! It's tradition!

TAMMY

There have been exceptions!

TAMMY suddenly notices the audience and indicates to the girls to shut up.  
Laughs.

TAMMY

(to the audience)

I was just kidding. There's no such thing as a homecoming hog.

JESS catches on.

JESS

Of course not. That's just a myth.

SAMMY crosses her fingers and puts them behind her back.

SAMMY

Hazing is illegal and does not happen at this school.

JESS

(to the girls)

Crystal has the most to gain from writing these terrible things about all of us.

TAMMY

How so?

JESS

It's called, deflecting attention, hellooo.

TAMMY

I see no one's writing scandalous things about you.

JESS

I'm sure they are.

SAMMY

(From inside a stall)

There's something in here that says your hoo ha is smelly.

JESS

What?!

SAMMY

It doesn't really say hoo ha but the rest is there.

JESS

That is not true!

SAMMY

Come on girls, I want to have time to eat my lunch.

TAMMY

I'm skipping lunch until homecoming.

JESS

What are we going to do about these rumors?

TAMMY

It's a predicament.

JESS & SAMMY look at one another -  
unsure of whether TAMMY will allow the  
SAT word game.

JESS

Yeah. An awkward situation.

SAMMY.

A real pickle.

*END OF SCENE.*



## SCENE ELEVEN

The lockers. One of the doors opens and reveals ABBEY eating lunch inside.

ABBEY

No one stuffed me in here or anything. It's where I've been having lunch. I can't do the traditional isolated lunch in the bathroom - there's way too much going on in there. Things are getting weird. Some random guy high fived me **earlier** and was like, "down with the tyrants!" And then when I was sneaking from the bathroom to here just now -- I got asked to homecoming. By Phil Burge! Phil is amazing and I have been in love with him secretly for like three weeks. He was like, "I don't usually do the Homecoming thing but I'm inspired." I mean I don't really care about Homecoming either but I'm super stoked to go with Phil. Phil plays the drums and has an earring. I'll point him out if he comes by.

Crystal's in the principal's office. I wonder if they've called her mama yet. I guess she'll get suspended. Or maybe she'll have to make a public apology. Of course they might just hang her.

(pause)

That's a joke.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE TWELVE

Bathroom. One set of feet can be seen beneath the stall doors which are closed. The sound of someone crying, then peeing. More crying. Then, a large fart. At this, ABBEY'S head pops up over the top of the stall to look at the audience from where she had been hiding two stalls down with her feet tucked up as per usual. Then a flush from the other stall and Abbey goes back into hiding as SAMMY steps out, washes her hands and dabs at her eyes as she looks in the mirror.

JESS enters.

JESS

Oh, I'm so glad you're in here. Do you have Advil? Oh my God I've got the worst cramps.

(Jess begins rooting around in  
her purse)

Shit, I thought I had a tampon.

SAMMY hands JESS some Advil.

JESS

And do you also have a tampon? Oh, never mind, why would you? You're lucky, you'll see. Having your period is totally horrible. Are you crying?

SAMMY nods and tries to speak but can't.

JESS

I'm seriously about to rag through my pants. Do you have a quarter for the machine?

A tampon slides out on the ground and rolls to JESS'S feet from ABBEY'S stall.

JESS

Thanks, Abbey.

ABBEY (from inside the stall)

You're welcome.

SAMMY

How did you know?

JESS

She basically lives in there.

ABBEY

I rotate around.

JESS goes into a stall and closes the door. We see SAMMY realize her crying and farting have been overheard.

SAMMY

(sharp intake of breath)

ABBEY

Don't worry. I don't hear anything when I'm in here.

JESS

So what are you crying about anyway? I thought you were over the whole "someone wrote something mean about me on the bathroom wall" deal.

SAMMY

It's so bad.

JESS

What?

SAMMY

I was like a deer in the headlights.

JESS

What are you talking about?

SAMMY

I didn't want to say it, but I did. It's like I was possessed.

JESS

Didn't want to say what?

SAMMY

I was like watching myself talk from somewhere else and thinking oh no, no... don't do it!

JESS

It's probably not that bad.

SAMMY

Oh it's bad. I might be going straight to hell.

JESS

What? Did you say Jesus Christ or something? It's ok, it happens.

SAMMY

Jessica! (pause) I was at my locker and Mike McDaniels came up and asked me to homecoming and somehow... I ended up saying yes!

The stall doors for both JESS and ABBEY fling open.

JESS/ABBEY

You said yes?

SAMMY

I'm pretty sure it's a sin to associate with persons who engage in... you know,... with a cat.

JESS

Why did you say yes?

SAMMY

I don't know it just came out.

JESS

That cat thing is only a rumor.

SAMMY

Well, you know what they say about rumors.

JESS

What?

SAMMY

That they're grounded in some truth.

ABBEY

I think that's what they say about stereotypes.

JESS

I was sure you'd say no.

SAMMY

What do you mean you were sure?

JESS

It was supposed to be a joke.

SAMMY

You set me up?

JESS

It was Tammy's idea.

SAMMY

Of course it was.

ABBEY

Sammy and Tammy used to be best friends. From kindergarten right through about ninth grade they were inseparable. Tammy and Sammy. Sammy and Tammy. They bought the same clothes and got the same haircuts. In junior high all we ever heard about were their famous sleep overs and how late they stayed up and how much their stomachs hurt from laughing and on and on. And then, the summer after freshman year, Sammy went on this mission trip to Guatemala with her church. Tammy didn't go, her parents thought Sammy's church was culty. Anyway, after that things were different. Sammy turned into a real holy roller and Tammy felt betrayed. They couldn't have their sleep overs anymore because Tammy's parents said Sammy's parents were brainwashed.

SAMMY

Why did she do it?

JESS

Because it's funny?

SAMMY

How does he even know who I am?

JESS

She pointed you out in the cafeteria at lunch and told him that you were totally obsessed with him.

SAMMY

What a bitch.

JESS

Sorry.

SAMMY

He looked so hopeful. I felt so sorry for him. That's why I said yes.

JESS

Tammy said you would, but I figured you'd turn him down.

SAMMY

What am I gonna do?

JESS

It could be fun if we all go together?

ABBEY

Maybe you should kick Tammy's ass next Friday and hospitalize her before she has time to hunt me down in the parking lot.

JESS

Hilarious, Abbey. I thought you couldn't hear anything.

SAMMY

You are going to have to deal with that one on your own.

ABBEY

Thanks a lot.

JESS

You're the one who opened your mouth.

ABBEY

All I asked was where her family came from.

JESS

You embarrassed the hell out of her.

ABBEY

How was I supposed to know she'd say something idiotic?

SAMMY

You should have figured. Now you're gonna have to pay for it.

JESS

Don't make too much of it, just take a punch and move on.

SAMMY

Yeah, it's not like anything really bad can happen to you on school property.

JESS

If you care to know the odds are on you to win.

ABBEY

The odds?

JESS

Don't ask me why but you're favored 4 to 1.

ABBEY

This has turned in to way too big of a deal.

JESS

No it hasn't, honey. You can't tell someone like Tammy they're not really a Texan and expect to walk away.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE THIRTEEN

The Lockers. SAMMY, TAMMY, JESS, ABBEY & CRYSTAL.

SAMMY storms up to her locker. Opens it and begins pulling books for her next class in a huff.

JESS walks up to her locker and gives SAMMY an apologetic look.

SAMMY stifles a cry.

TAMMY walks up to her locker on the other side of SAMMY and gooses her.

SAMMY yelps. Slams her locker shut. Gets in TAMMY's face and stares her down. Then storms off.

TAMMY watches her leave in confusion. Looks at JESS like what the fuck was that?

JESS looks at TAMMY as if to say, what did you expect?

TAMMY rolls her eyes. Gets her books. Casually saunters off to class.

JESS touches up her makeup in the mirror on the inside of her locker door.

ABBEY sneaks up to the lockers making sure TAMMY is gone. Trades books stealthily and slinks off.

CRYSTAL dumps all her books into the locker - pulls out the letters - waits for a moment alone.

JESS dabs on a perfume sample, adjusts her bra. CRYSTAL exits annoyed. When JESS is sure no one is looking, tucks a cigarette and lighter into her cleavage. Exits to class singing with Rock the Countries as it begins for Scene 14.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE FOURTEEN

Desk chair combinations. TAMMY sits singing along with "Rock the Countries - Central America." TAMMY is eating numerous individually wrapped chocolates and trying not to be caught throughout.

Begins with the drumroll.

TAMMY

Mexico D.F., Mexico, Guatemala, Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, San Salvador, El Salvador, Managua, Nicaragua, San Jose, Costa Rica, Panama, Panama, La Havana, Cuba, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana ... drumroll.

*END SCENE.*



## SCENE FIFTEEN

CRYSTAL at the lockers with her letters.

It's all right, I know what you're thinking. You think I'm privileged and that I should be grateful for what I have. Am I right? What if I told you I'm just a prisoner trapped in Crystal City? Would you believe me?

Mama tells me to "Focus on being a good girl, a good Texan and a good Methodist." The rest will take care of itself, she says. She picks my clothes and styles my hair, she makes my lunch, she orders for me if we're out and... and then there's that Porsche. We don't own it. We don't own where we live and according to the creditors who call all the time, we don't own much of the stuff we have. If all goes to plan next fall I'll be off to college on a full scholarship, she'll be back in the dating game and we'll marry well. That's mama's plan for the both of us. How does that sound to you?

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE SIXTEEN

The bathroom. JESS, TAMMY, & SAMMY are fixing hair and doing makeup in the mirrors.

JESS

I swear to God I was walking down the hall after sixth period and CJ Landreaux was walking in front of me in his jeans with that little butt and the white t-shirt clinging to his muscles and I could smell his Ck One five feet back. It took EVERYTHING in my power not to leap on top of him and devour him whole.

TAMMY

You're a certified whore.

SAMMY

Tammy!

TAMMY

I'm kidding.

SAMMY

What about Brian?

JESS

He's my homecoming date, not my husband.

TAMMY

I need to go get my nails filled -- they're looking shitty. Y'all want to go over to the Nail Palace?

JESS

I need to go find Brian or someone and just rub up against him.

SAMMY

That is disgusting.

JESS

I don't care.

TAMMY

Nails, anyone? Hello?

JESS

I've gotta go do my volunteer hours at the old folks home today.

SAMMY

I don't think those fake nails are healthy for you.

TAMMY

You mean your mom won't let you get nails.

JESS

Which means I'll be smelling like old people all weekend.

TAMMY

Just like she won't let you get your ears pierced.

SAMMY

My parents think I'm beautiful the way God made me and that's how I should remain.

TAMMY

You fake tan and dye your hair. Everyone knows.

SAMMY

I am a natural blonde.

JESS

You're gonna get struck by lightning.

SAMMY

I just get highlights.

TAMMY

Sure you do.

SAMMY

And my skin is dark because I'm Italian. I don't need to fake tan.

(pause)

At least I know where my family comes from.

TAMMY

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

SAMMY

It means if you can dish it out you'd better be able to take it!

JESS

Reooow.

(cat fight noise)

SAMMY

And you keep that cat nonsense to yourself. I've just about had it with you both.

TAMMY

Girl, maybe you are about to have your period at long last cause this feels like some serious PMS.

SAMMY

This doesn't have anything to do with PMS. I know how you set me up, Tammy. I know you told Mike I'm in love with him or something and got him to ask me to Homecoming and it's not funny.

TAMMY

It was just a joke. You could have said no.

SAMMY

I don't think it's funny to hurt people's feelings like you do.

TAMMY

Relax, Sammy. Don't take yourself so seriously. Jesus Christ.

SAMMY

Tamara!

TAMMY

I thought you might like to have a date and it was clear you weren't getting one without some help! You should be thanking me.

SAMMY

I don't need your help and I won't be thanking you.

TAMMY

Fine. You and Mike go have a nice romantic time alone.

SAMMY

Fine we will.

TAMMY

Suit yourself.

SAMMY

Cow.

TAMMY

Prude.

SAMMY

Heathen.

TAMMY

Cat fucker's girlfriend.

SAMMY

Spawn of Satan.

TAMMY

Hope you want a cat watching as your cherry gets popped.

Pendeja.

SAMMY

After a moment she explains to TAMMY -

SAMMY

It means asshole.

SAMMY exits.

TAMMY

She doesn't know how to take a joke. And do you see how skinny she's looking lately? The other day she asked me to split a Fig Newton with her.

JESS

She's fine. Come with me to Golden Oaks. We'll steal some cigarettes from the old people and then we'll get our nails done... if you think you should get your nails done before your fight. And let's see if we can find CJ on our way out.

TAMMY & JESS exit.

ABBEY comes out of her stall. As she delivers this monologue she flips the stall doors around to reveal the latest graffiti.

ABBEY

What they've got planned is honestly a fairly exciting afternoon. Everyone's thrilled because we're supposedly getting a mall here next year, but I can't see how that will make this place any better.

At this point all the doors have been flipped and the following has appeared in large letters:

**"Campaign Against Crystal"**

Don't look at me. I wasn't in here when it was written so just like before I don't know who did it. I'm not even sure what it means.

*END ACT ONE.*

## ACT II

## SCENE ONE

One week later. Homecoming Friday. The bathroom. The bathroom has now been heavily decorated with Campaign Against Crystal posters, banners, etc.

All stall doors are closed.

ABBEY opens the door to stall #1 and appears wearing a simple "mum" pinned to her shirt made from a real chrysanthemum with a few basic short ribbons hanging from it.

Google images: "Texas Mums" for an idea of the typical homecoming mum.

The girls address the audience.

ABBEY

The game is tonight and the dance is tomorrow night. That's how homecoming works. You wear your mum to the game but not to the dance. You'll see why. Back when the tradition started the mum, the chrysanthemum flower here, was basically a corsage and could be worn with a nice dress, but that's changed.

JESS opens the door to stall #2 and wears a typical homecoming mum. Plastic chrysanthemum flower at the center, and a slew of ribbons, bells, plastic footballs etc hanging down to her knees.

JESS

Mums are status symbols. If you've got one, it means you have a homecoming date. The size relates to how much your date values you, so you want to be sure and get a big one. The guys pick them out pre-made or have them custom made specifically for you. Some people's moms do homemade mums, but you can usually tell.

TAMMY opens the door the stall #3 wearing an even bigger mum, maybe a "double" (two huge plastic flowers each with ribbons etc.)

TAMMY

Everyone's mums are made with the school colors so he really needs to do something special to make yours stand out.

Customizing a mum includes having your names put on the ribbons, the date, your clubs or teams or whatever, whistles, bells, water guns, laser pointers, anything to make it as unique as you are.

SAMMY opens the door to stall #4 wearing an enormous heart shaped mum (perhaps a "front & back") with a stuffed cat at the center.

SAMMY

If you're just going as friends the guy is supposed to keep it simple.

ABBEY

Phil is so cool - he knew I would rather have something retro. He has amazing taste. Did I already tell you he's a drummer?

SAMMY/TAMMY/JESS

Yes!

ABBEY

I'm not the type who's going save my mum until I'm eighty or tack it to my wall as a memory of the best days of my life, so a live flower is just perfect.

JESS

Brian did a decent job on mine. It's not massive which is fine because my boobs are big, which he obviously knows, and if the mum were any bigger it would just basically be in the way of my boobs.

TAMMY

I'm giving Pete a B- It's okay. It's custom but -- it's fine.

SAMMY

I'm not even sure what to say about mine.

ABBEY

I'll bet Phil only had to spend like twenty bucks on this. So smart. Why waste a bunch of money on all that plastic crap?

JESS

I'm guessing Brian probably had to spend about ninety to a hundred on this. I'm definitely going to order lobster at dinner tomorrow so he'll be spending plenty.

TAMMY

Pete spent a hundred and sixty bucks on this. The receipt is still attached.

(she indicates the receipt hanging from the mum)

SAMMY

I can't even imagine what this cost. It's so heavy I'm having a little trouble walking.

ABBEY

And the guys traditionally wear some homecoming decoration too.

JESS

The guys wear a garter around their arm with a few ribbons and bells and whistles hanging off. Much simpler than what the girls wear.

TAMMY

I customized Pete's garter and made it really great. It's got flashing lights and Pez dispensers and Star Wars action figures because Pete's nuts about Star Wars and Pez. It's totally the best garter at school this year hands down.

SAMMY

I gave Mike a very small garter with a few crosses hanging from it and some bible quotes written on the ribbons. I believe I may end up doing the Lord's work through this situation.

ABBEY

Phil didn't want one at all so I got him this really awesome Pearl Jam bootleg instead.

JESS

I got Brian one of the pre-made ones from the grocery store. Who cares? He's going to leave it in his locker most of the day anyway.

ABBEY

There is actually a supposed point to all these bells and whistles -- and that is to wear them to the homecoming game tonight. I can't believe I'm going with Phil. I mean I still have to worry about getting my ass kicked in the parking lot this afternoon but a lot of people have told me they have my back.

TAMMY

I'll take over from here. This is just the intro so it's like I can't see her right now.

ABBEY

You can see me Tammy.

JESS

Things got really outrageous this week. If you recall, last Friday someone wrote this-



JESS refers to the Campaign against  
Crystal written across the stall doors

- and nobody knew what it meant.

SAMMY

And when we showed up at school on Monday -

TAMMY

Well, we knew what it meant. It meant somebody wasn't going  
to let her get away with the flag thing -

JESS

But did anyone ever figure out if she did it?

SAMMY

She never said a word.

TAMMY

She's always been a quiet one.

SAMMY

Well the principal must not think so since she didn't get  
suspended.

JESS

And her mama must not think so because she doesn't appear to  
have a new asshole.

TAMMY

Well somebody thought she did and set out to take her down.  
Vigilante justice, Texas style.

JESS

It wasn't me.

SAMMY

Wasn't me.

TAMMY

Not me either.

(pause)

Go ahead Abbey.

ABBEY

It obviously wasn't me.

SAMMY

So when we all got to school on Monday morni-

TAMMY

When we got to school on Monday morning, there were signs and  
posters and banners and propaganda everywhere.

SAMMY

It was just like when we have student council elections and people go crazy running for office.

JESS

Nobody knows where all the stuff came from, but by Tuesday the cheerleaders were wearing Campaign Against Crystal buttons on their uniforms.

TAMMY

And while we're here, a quick word on cheerleading. Not that big of a deal. I mean, I think it is to them. But the rest of us got over it in like 8th grade.

JESS

Most of them are not all that cute.

SAMMY

Three of 'em don't have boyfriends.

TAMMY

They're mainly completely prude former gymnasts who haven't even gone through puberty yet.

JESS

It's not the cheerleaders who are getting the action like they show you in the movies. They're goody goodies. The drill team girls are the sluts. There's more of 'em so they have to put out to stand out.

TAMMY

We go to the pep rallies to see the football players take their shirts off. Not for the cheers. Just wanted to clear that up. Where was I?

ABBEY

(from inside her stall but  
peering over the top)

By Tuesday the cheerleaders were wearing buttons...

TAMMY

Right. And then things just progressed from there - the teachers kept taking the stuff down and it kept going right back up - and the stuff that started showing up in the bathroom stalls was the worst!

SAMMY

Crude stuff that we WILL NOT be saying out loud and graphic drawings of Crystal getting run over by her Porsche. I don't know how it is she's still showing up at school.

TAMMY

You do have to give her credit for that.

SAMMY

I know it's made me grateful. I could be in a much worse situation this homecoming.

TAMMY

You're welcome.

SAMMY

I am NOT thanking you. I will never trust you again in my life! But, I have decided to use this situation with Mike as an opportunity to do a good deed and potentially to save his soul.

TAMMY

Oh get over it. It's funny and you have the biggest mum at school so lucky you.

SAMMY

No, Tammy. Not lucky me. I am wearing forty pounds of ribbons on my shoulder with a cat stuck in the center of it and am sure that I'm a laughing stock! Why would he do that? Why would he put a cat on it? Is he totally deranged!?

(pause as she gathers herself)

However, I have decided to bear this gracefully and that is what I will do. Have a great day.

SAMMY begins to exit, shuffling out under the heavy weight of her mum.

CRYSTAL enters, mumless.

JESS

Crystal!

TAMMY

Where's your mum?

JESS

Crystal Andersen without a homecoming mum?

SAMMY

Are you ok? We were just gonna take some of this stuff down.  
(indicating the posters and banners)

JESS

I have a Valium in my purse if you want it.

SAMMY

Jessica!

TAMMY

Why don't you have a mum on? Every year you absolutely have the flashiest -

The most humongous - SAMMY

Ginormous - JESS

Some might even say vulgar - mum of any girl at school. TAMMY

(long pause)  
CRYSTAL  
I've been dumped.

END SCENE.

## SCENE TWO

ALL the girls in the bathroom. In the same positions that ended the last scene. "Rock the Countries" begins to play - we hear the drumroll...

TAMMY

Uh-uh. No one's going to Spanish, no one's getting stuff from their lockers, we're going to stay put and hear about Crystal getting dumped.

JESS

I second.

SAMMY

I have to admit I'm curious. Concerned.

ABBEY

(to audience)

We were all curious. Had the Campaign Against Crystal spread all the way to the Airforce Academy? Was this being considered a national incident? Did the President know? Was this bathroom bugged?

TAMMY

All right, girl. Cough it up.

JESS

Did he hear about the flag?

TAMMY

Is he standing you up for homecoming?

JESS

How much notice did he give you?

SAMMY

I'll share my mum with you.

A long pause while CRYSTAL considers what question to answer.

CRYSTAL

James doesn't want anything more to do with me. He's moved on.

TAMMY

Why?

JESS

Guys are dicks.

SAMMY

What did he say?

TAMMY

How could you even come to school today?

SAMMY

What did your mama say?

JESS

Are you depressed?

SAMMY

Crystal Andersen is single?

TAMMY

With no Homecoming date?

JESS

And no mum?

CRYSTAL

It's honestly hard to get a word in -

SAMMY

No one will notice you're not wearing one, it's no big deal.

JESS

That's the dumbest thing you've ever said. Of course everyone will notice. Why didn't you just go out and get yourself one to avoid the humiliation? That's what Tammy did freshman year.

TAMMY

I did not! I was supposed to go with a guy I know from Klein, a friend, and he got me the mum but got sick before the game and dance. I've told y'all a hundred times.

JESS

Why didn't we ever hear about him again?

TAMMY

I don't know he got a girlfriend or something.

SAMMY

That story reeks.

TAMMY

Oh shut up, Sammy. You've been on three completely platonic homecoming dates and are about to make it four. Please just kiss a guy already so we know you're not queer.

SAMMY

At least I've been invited four times.

TAMMY

Thanks to me!

JESS

I've been to every homecoming, spring fling and prom at this school since I was a freshman.

TAMMY

Let's straighten something out since we're all standing here chatting nicely. Did you or did you not use a Texas flag for toilet paper?

SAMMY

I never really thought you did it Crystal. Everyone knows you're classy and loyal and a good Christian no matter how many times your mama has been married and that -

TAMMY

Look, if no one wiped anything inappropriate with the flag, then that needs to be made known out of respect for the reputation of Texas. And regardless of what some people in here might think, I am a native Texan and I even asked my parents about it and I will defend her dignity and you can kiss my a-- in fact, get out here, Abbey. I'm going to kick your ass right now, at least then that will be done with and then Crystal, we're going to get to the bottom of this mess with you.

Silence.

Abbey, LET'S GO, I'm gonna punch you once or maybe twice in the face and then we can just move on. God damn I'm hungry.

JESS

A lot of people are going to be really disappointed if they miss the fight - should I go get Brian and some of the guys?

TAMMY

No! We're doing this now. Just us. Sammy, bar the door.

SAMMY

I cannot participate in this.

TAMMY

Bar it! Jess, drag her out.

JESS

I don't want to mess up my mum.

TAMMY

Crystal, crawl under there and get her!

CRYSTAL

Is this what we should really be focusing on right now?

Wait!

ABBEY

ABBEY pops up over the top of her stall.  
You said parking lot. End of day. This isn't fair -

TAMMY lurches for Abbey as though to drag her down over the top of the stall. ABBEY climbs over into the next stall to avoid her. That stall has an open door and TAMMY goes in, pulls her fist back and ABBEY crawls beneath into a different stall. TAMMY grabs her by the ankle before she arrives and drags her back into the open stall. Goes in and closes the door. There's a bunch of banging around huffing and threatening and pleading. We can see their feet shuffling.

Ow. Stand still will you.

TAMMY

Let go of my hair.

ABBEY

Don't scratch me. Hey! You're on my mum!

TAMMY

Then we hear a loud thump as TAMMY pins ABBEY up against the wall and then a loud "SMACK." TAMMY has slapped ABBEY across the face. Hard. The stall door opens. TAMMY walks out looking very satisfied with herself. Goes to the mirror to check her hair and mum. ABBEY is holding her cheek.

That's a big middle finger to everyone who bet against me.

TAMMY

TAMMY turns back to ABBEY and approaches her.

And don't you ever believe for one second that you're more of a Texan than I am. And since I'm acting as the defender of our great state, Crystal, it's your turn.

TAMMY

ABBEY comes out and clocks her. Punches her right in the face. Blood comes from her nose. TAMMY goes down.



ALL THE GIRLS stare at ABBEY. She is surprised at herself.

CRYSTAL

Holy shit.

SAMMY

I think she's getting blood on her mum.

JESS

The guys are going to be really disappointed they missed this.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE THREE

CRYSTAL stands at the lockers.

CRYSTAL

It's very easy to get caught up in all this savagery, but I will not be ignored.

Removes multiple very large pads from her bra. She is flat chested. Looks to the audience to see if they are impressed.

She goes to the hallway and pulls the fire alarm.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE FOUR

Desk/chair combinations. CRYSTAL & SAMMY sing "Rock the Countries - Central America." SAMMY looks at CRYSTAL with surprise at her missing bust. CRYSTAL enjoys the attention.

Begins with the drumroll.

CRYSTAL & SAMMY

Mexico D.F., Mexico, Guatemala, Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, San Salvador, El Salvador, Managua, Nicaragua, San Jose, Costa Rica, Panama, Panama, La Havana, Cuba, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana, San Juan, Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Drumroll.

Announcement sounds over the PA system.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Will the student who pulled the fire alarm please report themselves to the office? Please turn yourself in this is a serious offense. Folks, the administration will not tolerate any more pranks or stunts, so please behave appropriately or we will be forced to consider serious actions.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE FIVE

CRYSTAL at the lockers. She reads from the stack of letters.

CRYSTAL

Dear Crystal, I'm so sorry I won't be able to make it to your Homecoming weekend again this year. I've got midterms and tight study restrictions and as usual it is beyond my control. Send me a photo of you in whatever knock out dress you've got picked out. Or send a photo of you without your dress... I hope this mum will make up for my absence and that we can be together soon. I love you and can't wait until I can hold you and sleep next to you and smell your smell and feel your skin. I'll show you what a good boyfriend I can be up close and baby, I promise it will have been worth the wait. Tell the other boys you're mine. All my love, James.

My classmates believe what they want to believe about me. I make it easy for them. They don't know I've never seen him. And I'm not telling. At first it was okay because I didn't really want him to see where I lived or to meet mama. We were enjoying having a secret. Haven't you ever done that? He sent me letters at work, I sent letters back to a PO box I thought was the Airforce Academy. For three years he told me he didn't have phone privileges and I said I couldn't talk either 'cause I didn't want mama to overhear.

For three years she let me believe that someone out there knew me.

I believed what I wanted to believe too.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE SIX

The Bathroom. TAMMY, SAMMY & JESS.  
TAMMY has toilet paper stuffed in her nose.

TAMMY

I know you had class with her so I'm just wondering if you noticed? Everyone's talking about it.

JESS

That is not what everyone is talking about.

SAMMY

No one even cares about Crystal anymore - everyone's talking about Abbey and how she -

TAMMY

Don't bring it up! Tell me about Crystal.

JESS

It's a fact ladies, most girls are not truly blessed with a nice big pair.

TAMMY

Where did they go?

JESS

I swear she had 'em in the bathroom this morning.

TAMMY

My dad says I can get boobs when I turn eighteen.

SAMMY

You should not do that to yourself.

TAMMY

Sell it somewhere else sister, I will fill up a bra someday very soon.

JESS

Your boobs aren't even that small.

TAMMY

That's just because I'm fat right now. When I lose a few pounds the boobs will be the first things to go.

JESS

Are you going to fit in your dress?

TAMMY

I'm skipping lunch right now, aren't I? Sammy, distract me. Tell me about your dress.

SAMMY

It's black velvet-

JESS

Mine's green spandex, a tasteful spandex.

TAMMY

Tasteful spandex?

SAMMY

Mine has a white lace fringe on the top

JESS

Sounds very Little House on the Prairie. Mine has slits up the sides -

SAMMY

Slits are for sluts.

JESS

Unlike you two I'm not afraid to feel attractive.

TAMMY

Mine is black and floor length with a halter style top, a diamond brooch at the center of the bust and a sheer mesh back.

SAMMY

Sounds like something you'd wear to a funeral.

TAMMY

It's much more expensive than the dresses you have but I don't want you to feel bad so I won't mention it.

TAMMY (to SAMMY)

So have you and Mike finalized your dinner plans?

SAMMY

We are going to Steak and Ale.

TAMMY

Alone?

SAMMY

Yes.

TAMMY

Romantic.

SAMMY

NO.

TAMMY

We can save you a bedroom at the after party.

SAMMY

Stop it.

TAMMY

Suit yourself. Jess & the boys and I are going to Brennan's.

SAMMY

I know.

TAMMY

In a Hummer limo.

SAMMY

I know.

TAMMY

We're going to do pictures by the pool at 5:00 - come on, Sammy, it's senior homecoming!

SAMMY

I'm not sure if I want to.

TAMMY

I'm going to look hideous in the photos. You don't want to miss it.

JESS

Do they have lobster at *Brennan's*?

SAMMY

Can y'all imagine? This time next year we'll be in college. Homecoming and high school boys and rumors will be far behind us.

TAMMY

It's all happening so fast.

JESS

I feel like we just had freshman homecoming five minutes ago.

SAMMY

I'm scared to leave home.

JESS

I can't wait to start over.

TAMMY

I want away from my parents so bad.

SAMMY

College is where we're going to find love. Real love. You know like our husbands. And where we're going learn and grow up and all that.

TAMMY

(to audience)

Sammy will be working hard towards an M.R.S. degree.

SAMMY

I do not want an M.R.S., Tammy, I heard that. Well I do but I also want to be an airplane pilot. I'm serious y'all.

JESS

I'm going to study Advertising/Public Relations.

TAMMY

I want to be a nurse. Just kidding. I'll probably run for president. Ok Sammy, you let me know about the pictures.

(pause)

You know it is a bit ridiculous that you're punishing me with this cold bitchy thing when it seems like you're not all that unhappy about going with Mike. You could cut me some slack.

SAMMY

When did you ever cut anyone any slack?

TAMMY

It's senior Homecoming -- you weren't going to have a date.

SAMMY

That's not why you did it. You did it to humiliate me.

TAMMY

Wouldn't Jesus say you should forgive me?

SAMMY

You haven't asked for forgiveness.

(Long pause)

TAMMY

Will you?

SAMMY

You're gonna have to do better than that.

TAMMY

God, you're rigid. Will you forgive me for getting you a homecoming date?

SAMMY

I know you're trying. I will forgive you for trying to humiliate me. I know deep in your heart you feel bad.



TAMMY

I thought it would be funny. I didn't mean to upset you.

SAMMY

Thanks.

TAMMY

So... do you guys want to come with us?

JESS

Come on!

SAMMY

I'm off to meet Mike for lunch so let me run it by him. Y'all better be real nice to him if we do though. No nonsense.

TAMMY

Absolutely not.

JESS

No mischief whatsoever.

TAMMY

No tomfoolery.

JESS

No antics.

TAMMY

No misconduct.

SAMMY

No bullshit.

TAMMY and JESS cross their hearts.

SAMMY

Since we're all being honest and forthright here I'll also say... Crystal Andersen's chest is indeed like a magic trick - now you see it now you don't!

END SCENE.

## SCENE SEVEN

History class. Desk/chair combinations. ALL are seated. The girls are taking a test. Blue books, a scantron and a stapled multiple page test are on their desks.

JESS is racing through, writing down one line answers. It's easy.

TAMMY is second guessing herself, constantly referring back to earlier questions. Worried.

SAMMY is satisfied. Super stoked at each question she knows the answer to. She is feeling very smart.

CRYSTAL is looking around the room. Not filling in anything.

ABBEY is distracted. Filling in her test and watching Crystal.

Anxious moments pass.

CRYSTAL begins looking over at SAMMY's test.

SAMMY looks at her with alarm. Surprise. Signals, NO.

CRYSTAL continues to blatantly look.

ALL heads pop up and look over at SAMMY and CRYSTAL.

SAMMY looks up in shock. Aggressively shoos CRYSTAL away. Begins protecting her test with her arm, her body and her mum.

JESS & TAMMY snicker at what is surely SAMMY's paranoia.

JESS makes a spit ball and shoots it into SAMMY's hair.

SAMMY reacts like a cat who has been sprayed with water.

JESS & TAMMY look down like they are hard at work and CRYSTAL leans over to copy SAMMY's test.

SAMMY notices CRYSTAL and coughs loudly, trying to get the Coach's attention. Fails to do so. Coughs louder -- no reaction from the Coach. Finally begins to violently jingle the bells on her mum. Nothing. Exasperated, she scoots her desk/chair combo out of Crystal's reach.

JESS & TAMMY are laughing and trying to muffle their laughter. JESS writes something on a page she rips from her blue book and folds it into a complex "note." Passes to TAMMY.

TAMMY unfolds the complicated paper, reads it, laughs LOUDLY, pretends to be taking the test again, writes something, folds it back up and passes back to JESS.

JESS

Ha!

Then goes back to pretend test taking.

CRYSTAL begins to scoot her desk/chair combination towards SAMMY. SAMMY notices and begins scooting further. ABBEY, TAMMY & JESS stare in fascination. Finally, unable to stand the intensity, SAMMY yells.

SAMMY

Quit copying my test, Crystal!

ALL freeze.

TAMMY makes the noise of a cat hissing. And then a...

TAMMY

Reeeeeaaaaaooow.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE EIGHT

The lockers. SAMMY & JESS.

SAMMY

I just want to say to you Jessica, while it's just you and I standing here, that you can make any decision you want to tonight and tomorrow night. You know what I mean?

JESS

No.

SAMMY

With Brian.

JESS

Are you after school specializing me?

SAMMY

I'm being completely sincere.

JESS

Would you also like to talk to me about the hazards of drugs and alcohol?

SAMMY

They are not good for you.

JESS

The dangers of teenaged pregnancy?

SAMMY

Listen to me, girl --it happens.

JESS

I'm on the pill.

SAMMY

I just thought it might be nice for you to hear the words out loud: You don't have to live up to anyone's preconceived notions of what a homecoming night should look like.

JESS

Are you repeating verbatim a lecture your parents gave you last night?

SAMMY

My mom said your mom probably wasn't saying these things to you and I felt sad at the thought of you not feeling special and cherished.

JESS

Well, I appreciate that. I think I've got it under control.

SAMMY  
You don't even really like Brian.

JESS  
I like him fine.

SAMMY  
But you don't love him.

JESS  
Don't worry about it.

SAMMY  
I'm just saying I don't think you should feel you have to do anything with him just because he's expecting it.

JESS  
And how do you know he's expecting it?

SAMMY  
Well, just mainly based on your reputation.

JESS  
Well, based on your reputation I think you *should* do something with Mike.

SAMMY  
What's my reputation?

JESS  
Depending on who you ask - frigid bitch or lesbian.

SAMMY  
What?!

JESS  
Do you want to make out with him?

SAMMY  
Oh my gosh, no!

JESS  
You should make out with him.

SAMMY  
No.

JESS  
He's not a bad looking guy.

SAMMY  
I know.

JESS  
At all.

SAMMY  
I know.

JESS  
It would be totally fine to want to. Healthy.

SAMMY  
But I don't.

JESS  
Is it the cat thing? Everyone knows that's the biggest  
bullshit rumor to ever spread around this school. Nobody  
believes it at all.

SAMMY  
(whispering)  
I just don't know why he put the cat in the center of my mum.  
You don't think it's code for like... something he wants to  
do or something?

JESS  
Why didn't you ask him when he gave it to you?

SAMMY  
It's too embarrassing!

JESS  
Why don't I ask him.

SAMMY  
Really?

JESS  
Sure. Easy.

SAMMY  
That would really help me figure out how to act tonight.

JESS  
Act like yourself.

SAMMY  
Obviously. I just mean it will be helpful to know what he's  
thinking.

JESS  
Here's what I'm thinking - make out with Mike, get it out of  
the way with someone you don't care about so that you'll be  
well practiced when it counts.

SAMMY

I don't want to make out with someone I don't care about.

JESS

It's just making out.

SAMMY

I know.

JESS

It's not that big of a deal.

SAMMY

I've made out before.

JESS

Sure.

SAMMY

If I did... you know... let's just say I did want to make out with Mike... how would I

JESS

I knew it! You want to make out with Mike! That's great Sammy you should go for it.

SAMMY

Shhhh. I'm not saying I do I just wanted to ask how -

JESS

(alarmed)

Are you going to ask me how to make out?

SAMMY

No! I know how, I told you. I was going to ask how, you know, how do you let the guy know when you're like, you know, not going to go any further?

JESS

Honey you just tell him. I know they tell you lots of scary things at your church but all boys are not savage beasts who won't listen when you say stop.

SAMMY

My church doesn't say that.

(pause)

But my mom does.

JESS

Well it's not the whole truth. And if they don't stop when you say you want to then you kick 'em in the nuts.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE NINE

The bathroom. ABBEY. The signs that previously read Campaign Against Crystal have been replaced or written over top of with things that say: Abbey Rules, Down with Tyranny, Abbey for President, drawings of Abbey with a crown on, etc.

ABBEY is admiring her mum in the mirror.

ABBEY

Clocking Tammy felt amazing and the effects are rippling out into the school. A group of like, fifteen sophomore girls took all but three ribbons off of their mums to make them look more like mine after lunch. I'm getting kind of popular. Just so you know. I'm not letting it go to my head. It's just nice to be out from underneath her, you know?

CRYSTAL enters. She is dressed in the traditional clothing of an Amish woman. A solid-color dress with long sleeves and a full skirt, covered with an apron. Her hair is in a braid and the back of the head is concealed with a small black bonnet. She wears black stockings and black shoes.

CRYSTAL

Oh, you. You're out of hiding.

ABBEY

Yeah. It feels good. Have you gone in?

CRYSTAL stares at her blankly.

ABBEY

Are you entering witness protection or something?

CRYSTAL

You're welcome.

ABBEY

Huh?

CRYSTAL

You can't even see it, can you?

ABBEY

See what? Are you on drugs?



CRYSTAL  
You would not have been able to rise without my fall.

ABBEY  
That's not true.

CRYSTAL  
Think about it.

ABBEY  
I'm rising because I punched Tammy in the face.

CRYSTAL  
I need you to lay off the cool girl sort of power trip you're on.

ABBEY  
I'm not on a pow-

CRYSTAL  
I need you to lay low. Get me?

ABBEY  
Um. Yeah. I'm not really doing anything, just so you know.

CRYSTAL  
You're getting in my way.

ABBEY  
Right.

They're quiet for a while.

ABBEY  
Are you in a production of The Crucible?

CRYSTAL  
This clothing is part of my new religion.

ABBEY  
Did you join a cult?

CRYSTAL  
I'm going to need you to cancel your Homecoming plans with Phil.

ABBEY  
What?

CRYSTAL  
Break it off.

ABBEY  
I'm not doing that. I like Phil.

CRYSTAL

Sorry. I can't have you drawing the attention you're drawing - it's not part of my plan.

ABBEY

Your plan?

CRYSTAL

I'm burning my privilege, Abbey. I'm burning it all right to the ground and people are barely noticing because you're super visible right now and it's annoying. You can take up with Phil next week - but this weekend - Homecoming weekend is mine. I'm not finished yet.

ABBEY

Not finished with what?

CRYSTAL

My total destruction.

ABBEY

You're kind of freaking me out.

CRYSTAL

I will not be perfect for her for one more second do you hear me!?

ABBEY

Of course I hear you I'm standing right here.

CRYSTAL

I know what's precious to her, how good it makes her feel to think she's raised me right and I know how to leave her with nothing.

ABBEY

You're proving something -- to your mom?

CRYSTAL

I'm not a good girl, a good Texan, or a good Methodist. Do you see? I will not be controlled by her any longer, Abbey.

ABBEY

(to audience)

Now I'd love to tell you that during this exchange Crystal's head started rotating around but you were here so you saw it. Crystal was mad at her mama. And she was Amish, I think. She had totally lost her shit.

ABBEY

(to CRYSTAL)

What are you going to do now?

CRYSTAL

The question is: what are you going to do? I don't need the whole school obsessing about you decking Tammy, landing Phil and being the star of Homecoming. The story is getting all confused. It's my legacy that's being created this week, not yours.

ABBEY

I'm not breaking off Homecoming with Phil. You can suck it.

CRYSTAL

Don't get mouthy with me, Abbey. I may be on the way down but I still hold power in this school.

ABBEY

Actually, you don't. In case you haven't noticed - people stopped caring about you over a week ago.

CRYSTAL

People are fickle. But I'm still in charge of one thing. Oink. Oink.

ABBEY

What's that?

CRYSTAL

I think being the homecoming hog would be even worse than telling Phil you're too sick to go to the game tonight. What do you think?

ABBEY

I can't be the hog... I'm a senior.

CRYSTAL

There have been exceptions.

ABBEY

You get to name the hog? Of course you do. Crystal, no.

CRYSTAL

Course I don't have to name you. Come sundown I could name the sweet little freshman I've been planning on.

ABBEY pleads to the audience.

ABBEY

Hazing!! Hazing! She's talking about a hazing ritual and that is supposed to be forbidden! Make her stop. Don't just sit there.

CRYSTAL

They've been waiting to hear about the homecoming hog all evening -- haven't you? It's a disgusting truth that everyone loves a good hazing ritual.

ABBEY

Stop! This is so completely fucked up! This is not supposed to happen. I'm supposed to get a decent homecoming this year. I've got a really good dress, I... Crystal, please. Please just let me be.

CRYSTAL

Your choice. And you don't mention a word of this conversation to anyone - or you will roast.

ABBEY flees the bathroom. CRYSTAL addresses the audience.

CRYSTAL

I can't have my classmates know that I masterminded a campaign to destroy myself to piss off my mama. I want them to think I was taken down by a godly force. I don't want to be a phony anymore but I still want to be a legend.

END SCENE.

## SCENE TEN

The lockers. TAMMY, SAMMY & JESS. Each gets to tell a secret the others can't hear in spotlight.

TAMMY

I have a confession to make. No, I'm not out to get Crystal. God, don't you know that no one even cares about Crystal anymore? It's about Pete. I've been playing it cool. But I think Pete might be the one. Don't tell my mom she'll freak. She says I can't find the one in high school. I haven't seen him since Abbey got that dirty punch in. I don't know if he'll still like me. He did ask me to Homecoming so he must have liked me at some point, but... I don't know. I'm worried he only asked me so that he could go in the same group as Jess and her tasteful spandex dress.

Spotlight changes to JESS.

JESS

I have a confession too. What? If she gets one I get one. No, it's not about promiscuity. Jesus. You sound like my mom. It's about Mike. Sammy's date, you know the cat guy? So, I promised to ask him about the cat on her mum and I did. I really wanted to do right by her because I could see she was nervous. So I asked him if the cat was supposed to be funny or a joke and... I think he might actually be a little demented because he was like - no, that cat is not a joke - I'm the cat guy. I was marking her. Weird right? But I didn't want Sammy to panic so I told her he said when he put the cat on her mum he was being ironic.

Spotlight changes to SAMMY.

SAMMY

I get my bras at Palais Royal. They have built in padding, not a lot, but enough so that when the air conditioning is on real strong like it is here at school I am protected from indecency. Just wanted to be totally honest after everything we've seen and not seen today.

*END SCENE.*

## SCENE ELEVEN

ABBEY in the Bathroom.

ABBEY

I'm not ditching Phil. And I'm not keeping Crystal Andersen's secrets. I punched Tammy Schneider in the face today and my hand really hurts. People are paying attention to me now. If I can help Crystal hit rock bottom then no one's going to listen to her at all and I'll name the hog myself.

Lights switch to the desk/chair combinations. Spanish class. TAMMY sits singing along with "Rock the Countries" Central America. She is again eating chocolates secretively.

Begins with the drumroll.

TAMMY

Mexico D.F., Mexico, Guatemala, Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, San Salvador, El Salvador, Managua, Nicaragua, San Jose, Costa Rica, Panama, Panama, La Havana, Cuba, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana, San Juan, Puerto Rico.  
Drumroll.

TAMMY begins the scene singing along with the recording. JESS sneaks into the room and slides into the desk/chair combination behind TAMMY. TAMMY continues to sing/hide chocolates as JESS whispers to TAMMY. A second after that, SAMMY sneaks in. Whispers to JESS. JESS whispers to TAMMY. TAMMY looks back at SAMMY. SAMMY whispers again to JESS. JESS relays to TAMMY.

TAMMY

What is going on?

SAMMY

Abbey just told everyone that Crystal has been running the campaign against herself!

After the drum roll TAMMY shoots up from her chair and looks down the line up of girls and says with an air of excitement:

TAMMY

No!

Lights switch to ABBEY in the bathroom.

ABBEY

(to audience)

I don't know why the girl gets called a hog -

From the classroom JESS shouts:

JESS

HOG is an acronym for Homecoming Offer to the Gods. That's how the tradition got its name. It's an old fashioned sacrifice.

SAMMY

No no no, she's called a hog because they tie up her hands and feet like a hog, hog tied.

TAMMY

You're both wrong, she's called a hog because they grease her up real good with baby oil and stick an apple in her mouth before she's presented to everyone.

Lights back to ABBEY in the bathroom.

ABBEY

Anyway - now I just have to decide who I want to roast?

Lights back to TAMMY alone in the classroom, they fade to a roasting red towards the end.

TAMMY

It's really not that big a deal. I mean, plenty of hogs have gone on to lead perfectly normal social lives in their later high school years. I don't know why everyone pays this silly tradition so much attention. So the school sees you in your underwear, greased up and blindfolded cooking on a pretend spit. There's no real fire under there. You know? It's not like we're literally roasting folks.

END SCENE.

## SCENE TWELVE

CRYSTAL at the lockers in her Amish outfit.

CRYSTAL  
(to audience)

People like Abbey don't understand that what I've got, that ceratin something, it's not something you can copy or calculate or take away. I don't know why everyone's so interested in what I'm up to- I suppose I can't help but inspire them.

My mama thought if I had a really fantastic fake boyfriend that it would keep the real boys away and me out of trouble. I've only just started to show her what kind of trouble I can make.

Nobody else knows about James, that's just between us. Don't you say anything now. I might keep writing him, just in my journal. No matter what he's still my first love.

CRYSTAL places all the letters she's been carrying around into the locker and takes down the picture of James.

She has a last look in her locker mirror, adjusts her bonnet and closes the door.

And now for my finale.

END SCENE.



## SCENE THIRTEEN

The bathroom. TAMMY, SAMMY & JESS. SAMMY & JESS are no longer wearing their mums. They are all wearing bonnets and aprons in imitation of CRYSTAL's new Amish uniform. TAMMY's not happy about it. ABBEY is in her usual stall door closed & feet up.

TAMMY

This is not your typical Homecoming Friday.

JESS

The mood at school is so strange.

SAMMY

Abbey told everyone that Crystal was campaigning against herself.

JESS

Word spread fast.

TAMMY

Isn't that just the nuttiest thing you ever heard? Here is a girl who is beautiful and popular and smart, a girl everyone else wants to be -- going to great lengths to ruin her own reputation, and for what?

JESS

She was retaliating against a life of control.

SAMMY

Something about her mama trying to make all her decisions.

TAMMY

Now look, we knew her mama was little overboard but we'd certainly seen worse.

JESS

Had we?

TAMMY

I mean, she didn't try to kill someone else's mama so Crystal could be a cheerleader or something.

JESS

That we know of.

SAMMY

Abbey thought if she told the school that Crystal was out to destroy herself that everyone would stare at her like she was a freak show, demote her socially, and then move on.

TAMMY

I hate to agree with Abbey but I figured the same thing.

ABBEY pops up from her stall. Starts to speak. The girls talk over her, she is invisible again and she sinks back down.

ABBEY

See, Tammy? We have some common ground.

JESS

At first, people felt bad for her.

SAMMY

Really bad.

JESS

Yeah, well she was destroying her whole life. It was shocking... it was -

TAMMY

Absurd.

JESS

It was super ballsy.

TAMMY

Instead of thinking she needed to check in to a mental hospital, which is what I think, people were like, suddenly cheering for her.

JESS

People were inspired. Crystal was tearing apart her image and revealing her true self.

SAMMY

She was human.

JESS

Flawed.

SAMMY

And practicing a strange religion.

JESS

By the beginning of sixth period almost everyone had taken off their mums in some sort of solidarity. If Crystal wasn't wearing one, no one wanted to be caught dead with one on.

TAMMY

After all the money people spent!

JESS

Mums were out and bonnets were in.

TAMMY

Crystal has gone off the deep end. What's to celebrate?

SAMMY

The truth.

TAMMY

What is the truth?

SAMMY

She's not perfect like we all thought she was.

JESS

She's a revolutionary. With her bold gestures she said to us, it's ok to be really fucked up.

SAMMY

And flat chested.

JESS

People started outing their own worst secrets.

SAMMY

If Crystal didn't have to pretend to be perfect -

SAMMY/TAMMY/JESS

Neither did we.

TAMMY

It's no secret my parents are getting a divorce.

JESS

I'd like to live outside of Texas for a while. Just to see.

SAMMY

I think I want a short vacation from Jesus.

TAMMY

So now everyone in the school is like, darkly searching their own soul and wondering if they are themselves or if they are who their parents want them to be.

JESS

I'm not who my mom says I am...

TAMMY

Pete told me he's thinking of applying to Purdue? Ridiculous stuff.

SAMMY

I am who God made me. I think.

TAMMY

It's not complicated.

SAMMY

But how do you know who you really are?

TAMMY

You're Christians and Texans and Americans! Get it together, y'all.

SAMMY

Crystal's already like ten times more popular than she was last week.

JESS

Her new image is totally working for her.

TAMMY

How do you not see this as nothing more than attention seeking behavior?

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Will any students with information about the Porsche burning in the parking lot please report to the front office?

JESS

The big stuff certainly got our attention, but it's so much more than that.

TAMMY

How so?

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Folks, the police have been called. Students who withhold information risk suspension and arrest.

JESS

I don't know exactly.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Folks, Homecoming is canceled.

SAMMY

She's free.

END OF PLAY