

La Salle d'Or

A full-length play

By Alex Coulombe

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR, our narrator

The Joos Family

GOSSUMMER, our hero

SISTER, his sister

ARLENE, his mother

Milton-Bradley High School

JOCK 1, JOCK 2, some jocks

NERD 1, NERD 2, some nerds

ROBERTO, Gossummer's best friend

ADDIE, Gossummer's one true love

QUINTON, Addie's friend

TONY, the leader of the Pack Rats

TOMMY, the brains of the Pack Rats

TITO, the muscle of the Pack Rats

MRS. GORHAM, the chemistry teacher

The Rest of 'Em

ICE CREAM MAN, an ice cream salesman

DELIVERY MAN, with a package of funk

OFFICER SAM, the brainy cop

OFFICER ED, the frightened cop

OFFICER 3, the extra cop

EMILIOSOVICH GONTRAVESKIMAMASHA VALEDO, a seal killer

MR. PRESIDENT, the President of the United States

SETTING

The present day.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Many of the smaller parts can be played the same actors. The music should be performed live by a band. The soundtrack, backdrops, and promotional images from the 2005 Production by the St. Johnsbury Academy Blackbox players is available for download at this link:

www.alexcouombe.com/theatre/la-salle-dor.zip (76.3mb)

SCENE 1

Gossummer's Home. Brooding, ominous music plays. GOSSUMMER, hand over face, on a bench playing with a Japanese Toy consisting of a ball on a string. ARLENE, his mother, in the back preparing food. SISTER, sitting in a corner, continuously pulling her hands back as far as they can go, then bringing them together in a slow clap. A doorbell rings and a delivery man appears with a box. GOSSUMMER looks to ARLENE, who does not respond. He rises to answer the door.

DELIVERY MAN

Hey there. Have I got a package for you. Of funk!

Music plays as DELIVERY MAN strip dances. Suddenly a bunch of firecrackers go off and DELIVERY MAN falls over himself.

GOSSUMMER

You want Mrs. Gorham-- she's two doors down.

GOSSUMMER closes the door, DELIVERY MAN runs away.

ARLENE

Who was that? Oh that's nice. Do you want peanut butter on your eggs, honey?

GOSSUMMER

No.

ARLENE

Wonderful! I know how much you like peanut butter, and we need to use up what we have.

NARRATOR enters and rubs GOSSUMMER's shoulders. GOSSUMMER tries to get away but she holds him steady.

NARRATOR

This is Gossummer. Gossummer Joos. All his life he's only wanted one thing: to make a real difference. It didn't matter how, or what that difference was, whether it be saving the rainforest, or inventing a ray gun that turns people into office supplies. He just wants to be remembered. His life thus far has been... uneventful. Mostly, he's had to focus on taking care of his deaf mute sister and his ...

ARLENE takes a big gob of peanut butter and, moaning softly, smears it over her face.

ARLENE

Crazy, crazy mother. He has so much happiness, and that which to be thankful for, and yet so much grief on the side to tinge the flavor. Like a burger, succulent and well-marinated but served with chips that taste worse than that drool-soaked pillow you've spent all night suckling on. No, that's not quite right.

GOSSUMMER

(spoken)

Yawwwwn.

ARLENE and SISTER yawn in turn.

NARRATOR

I see. Am I boring you?

GOSSUMMER

No no... please. Expositize away.

ARLENE

I yawned because he did.

SISTER mouths wordlessly and nods.

NARRATOR

Look buddy. I'm just trying to do justice to your story. I want to make it clear how the simple desire of asking the girl of your dreams to a dance changed your life over the coming fortnight. I want to make it clear how it steered your life away from a direction completely unnecessary of dramatization, and onto a path that I think might be inspiring.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

In fact, one member of the audience tonight will be so inspired, that they're going to get off their lazy butt for the first time in their life and discover a recipe for the most amazing chocolate the world has ever seen!

GOSSUMMER

What about the rest of them?

NARRATOR

They'll have a good laugh then forget about it.

GOSSUMMER

Fair enough. So without this life changing story, where was my path headed?

NARRATOR

Stop talking and you'll find out.

ARLENE

Don't you speak to my stapler that way.

NARRATOR

(to GOSSUMMER)

Assistant manager at a Kibbles and Bits Puppychow Factory.

GOSSUMMER

That doesn't sound too bad.

NARRATOR

In the future, they use puppies. In the bits. Your job is to push them into the grinder.

GOSSUMMER

Oh.

NARRATOR

I'm just hurt that you wouldn't give me the time of day to properly establish my unbridled excitement to guide the audience along for what I think will be a truly--

GOSSUMMER

Thanks so much I really appreciate it can we move on?

Pause.

NARRATOR

You want me to skip to the... the thing?

GOSSUMMER

Please. And thank you.

NARRATOR

Ahem. This is his life. This is his story. This... is his theme song.

Music starts. NARRATOR scream-sings:

Gossummer! Living the life of a wanderer! In a world of strangers! He likes to eat, peanut butter. His last name's 'Joos', but not the grape kind. It's Scandinavian at least that's what I heard, through the grape-vine! Because everyday, the life of Gossummer goes every way, you know he's awesomer, than any man with any good genetic traits.... Because he's Gossummer the Great! Duh nuh nuh nuh. La Salle D'or!

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 2

School Hallway. QUINTON, ADDIE, TONY, SISTER, NERDS 1, and 2 gather to speak to each other before class. They each react to GOSSUMMER in turns.

NARRATOR

This is him at Milton Bradley High School, see? Notice the way the other students react to him. There are some who like him, yet few who really know him. And still, there are some who avoid his gaze.

TONY growls at GOSSUMMER.

NARRATOR

He's relatively strange, but not compared to these guys:

She references the NERDS, who are huddled.

NERD 1, NERD 2, QUINTON

01, 10, 11, Break!

They jump away from each other and furiously begin punching numbers into their calculators. NERD 1 and NERD 2 run offstage.

NARRATOR

And he's popular, relatively, as in... not hated... but not as popular as these guys:

NERD 1&2 re-enter but with jerseys on and no glasses. They are now JOCKS. They jump up for a chest smack.

JOCKS

(as they go up)

Taste it!

(as they land and flex)

Hard.

JOCK 1 punches QUINTON. JOCK 2 high-fives him. ROBERTO, a white kid dressed to the nines, enters and begins a complicated hand shake ritual with GOSSUMMER.

NARRATOR

Nevertheless, there is life here. Joy and beauty to be had! Take the simplest notion: a pedestrian 'teenage high five ritual' such as this, that at its core symbolizes a true bond, emphatically displaying a friendship and trust--

ALL

Shut up!

Beat. NARRATOR begins to cry.

GOSSUMMER

(placing a comforting hand on her shoulder)

Hey...

NARRATOR

(muffled by tears)

It's just... all I want is to help... you think its easy to explain... this is so hard... you have such a beautiful story and--

GOSSUMMER

Shh shh I know...

NARRATOR

I just want to do it justice, but I just need a way to show that I can and can't be--

GOSSUMMER

(quickly)

I just don't think this story needs a narrator.

NARRATOR

(brushing his hand away, pause)

We'll see.

NARRATOR exits.

GOSSUMMER

Hey Rob, ready for Chem?

ROBERTO

Yo yo yo my brother from another mother! Tha's right, homey. Chemistry, fo sho! And man that hood work last night was chill dawg. I took down dem questions on molecular fission like a gangsta on-- hey man, tha's not cool.

GOSSUMMER

What?

ROBERTO

Stop calling me Rob. I'm Roberto man. Robert-O. Keep it real homey.

GOSSUMMER

Sure Robert.

ROBERTO

(checking for onlookers)

Yeah, fo sho, fo sho. You got the goods bro shnizzle?

GOSSUMMER

(pulling a bag out of his backpack)

Yeah right here. You've gotta start getting this on your own man.

ROBERTO

(taking the bag and opening it)

Sweetoramacle! Pleasure explosions in my mouth. I can't believe my Mom won't make this... yes! Peanut butter and jelly without the jelly. My favorite yo! Here's some drugs.

ROBERTO tosses GOSSUMMER a dime bag.

GOSSUMMER

Thanks for the aspirin.

Long pause. Everyone begins to look around anxiously. GOSSUMMER sighs.

GOSSUMMER

Ms. Narrator?

NARRATOR

(offstage)

What do you want?

GOSSUMMER

What about our song?

NARRATOR

(entering, playing with GOSSUMMER's
toy from the beginning)

I thought you didn't need a narrator.

GOSSUMMER

Well, no. But I do need to an absolutely beautiful singing voice.

NARRATOR

Really?

GOSSUMMER

Ever so much.

Music begins to play. GOSSUMMER and
ROBERTO dance while everyone else swoons
in the background.

NARRATOR

(singing)

Gossummer and Robert-O. Two very different peop-O. Been friends for quite some time now. Ever since a certain club which they did found called Peanut Butter Lovers United. Peanut Butter Lovers United. But Gossummer likes organic cantaloupe, while Roberto likes fried chicken. And Gossummer likes singing, while Robert-O likes beat boxing. You see where this is going. Like Swiss Miss Vanilla-Chocolate pudding. But at least they have their peanut butter...

Everyone looks up to the sky. The school bell rings, and now they all bite, kick and punch each other to get offstage as quickly as possible.

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 3

Class. GOSSUMMER, ROBERTO, TONY, TITO, TOMMY, ADDIE, SISTER and QUINTON all sit in a circle rather calmly.

MRS. GORHAM enters with a whiteboard, cleaning off childish marker drawing as she settles in.

NARRATOR

They're in class!

GOSSUMMER

Really?

NARRATOR

Please?

GOSSUMMER

Fine.

NARRATOR

(exiting)

Yay!

MRS. GORHAM

Alright my scumpsumplets. Is everyone here? Wonderful wonderful. Now settle down. Well today's lesson is going to be on the Periodic Table. Can you all say, 'Periodic Table'?

ALL

Periodic Table.

MRS. GORHAM

Good! Now does anyone know where that table is? As I said, we're going to be having our lesson *on* it, haha, you get it?

QUINTON raises his hand.

MRS. GORHAM

You have a question Quinton. What is your question?

QUINTON

We did that last week Mrs. Gor-ham. And you made that same joke. And the homework, I might add, was on molecular reactions! Shouldn't we be talking about those meh?

MRS. GORHAM

(smiling)

No.

QUINTON

Mrs. Gorham. Meh. Mother pays top dollar to send me to this experimental Montessori high school and I am here to learn.

TONY throws a wad of paper at him.

MRS. GORHAM

You know very well the military subsidizes over sixty percent of this school's cost, so don't go babbling on to me about 'top dollar.'

QUINTON

Even so meh.

MRS. GORHAM

Well. Molecular reactions are... as I'm sure you all read... reactions. Between molecular... er... molecules. Um, did anyone have any specific questions about the reading?

QUINTON's hand shoots up.

MRS. GORHAM

No one?

QUINTON

(quietly)

Mehh...

No one at all?

QUINTON

(louder)

Meeehhhh...

MRS. GORHAM

Oh very well what is it Quinton?

MRS. GORHAM sketches feverishly on the whiteboard over the next few lines of dialogue.

QUINTON

(rising with fervor)

This is actually a two part question. Mahem. First, I was hoping you could affirm for me that a physical change is indeed defined primarily by the fact that the original material or materials can be regained through a physical process, while a chemical change or 'reaction' exhibits a creation of new materials. Part B of my question being: if/and/or that is true, what does oh say, sodium chloride dissolving in dihydrogen monoxide fall under, being that there is a definitive chemical change, and yet through evaporation both the original materials can be regained?

A long pause as MRS. GORHAM stares at her drawing, an incoherent mess of shapes resembling what was on the whiteboard when she entered.

MRS. GORHAM

Tap...ee...oca...chino.

QUINTON

Mrs. Gorham?

MRS. GORHAM

(startled)

What?! Oh, um, that's a very reasonable question. For my favorite neighbor, Gossummer Jews!

She retreats back to the whiteboard.

GOSSUMMER

It's pronounced 'juice.' This again, hm? Ummm... well. Quinton. Your definition of physical changes and chemical changes are predominantly correct, but don't forget that during the creation of new materials in a chemical reaction, the old materials are lost, and yet the mass does not change, by the Law of Conservation of Mass. Second, your salt query indeed does fall under a gray area of physical and chemical changes, and at a glance it would seem to be both. Though in fact, it is a chemical reaction, as seen through the process of ionization. To be clear, there is a chemical change when the positive sodium ions attract to the negative ends of the oxygen, and vice versa with the hydrogen and chloride ions. Yet, when the sodium crystals evaporate and settle, they're not in fact regaining their original form, but rather only appearing so through a conglomerate of ions in relative positions and not a solid made of discrete molecules.

Most of the class looks bored. ROBERTO gives him another secret handshake.

MRS. GORHAM

Wrong.

A long pause as MRS. GORHAM becomes progressively fixated on a spot in the distance. The class begins to search for whatever it is she's looking at.

GOSSUMMER

Mrs. Gorham?

MRS. GORHAM
(diagramming each sentence
on the white board)

It's complicated, so let me explain it with an analogy. It reminds of this one time, when I was in college-- oh! Oh! This is a great story. So a bunch of my friends and I decided to play a trick on the Dean of Admissions. And we talked and talked about it for weeks and weeks making sure it would be just perfect. And finally the night came, and we were all there, hiding behind a bushes in his front yard. These are the bushes. He stepped out of his front door and BAM! We squirted him with his hose. And here's the best part: he was so wet he didn't see us and we got away! It was sooo great! Hah hah aha aha!!
Haa....

No reaction until after a moment, QUINTON pulls out a tissue and blows his nose.

MRS. GORHAM

Right, so um, class should be ending soon, so for tomorrow, um, memorize Chapter Seven. I'll quiz you, and if I can tell you didn't read it, I'm giving you an F, and I don't mean the atomic symbol for Fluoride! Heh.

GOSSUMMER

F is for Fluorine.

MRS. GORHAM

Shut up... possum- der.

The class, including ROBERTO, points and laughs at GOSSUMMER. MRS. GORHAM laughs harder, and tries to sneak out.

TONY

(pulling out his textbook)

Wait... Chapter Seven is ninety-six pages long.

ROBERTO

It's on Oxidation and Reduction reactions yo!

ADDIE

We haven't learned enough to understand this!

TOMMY

There's still forty five minutes left of class.

A pause while MRS. GORHAM gives the same far away stare she's been giving during these moments, but now directed at the students.

MRS. GORHAM

Thank you class. This is all very important feedback and of course I welcome---Brrring! Aha! There's the bell.

TOMMY

No it wasn't.

MRS. GORHAM

See you Monday!

ADDIE

What about tomorrow?

MRS. GORHAM

(leaving, as a jet plane)

VRROOOOOOOM!!

She continues to be heard offstage for some time.

QUINTON

(to ADDIE)

She's strange sometimes. Meh...

Blackout.

End of Scene

SCENE 4

Cafeteria. The same characters re-enter but with lunch trays. Mrs. GORHAM sits by herself. QUINTON sits near her. SISTER and ADDIE sit together. ROBERTO and GOSSUMMER sit together. TONY holds three lunch trays in his lap while TOMMY and TITO give him a full body massage. NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR

They're in the cafeteria!

GOSSUMMER and ROBERTO stare at her until she exits

TONY

Alright boys. The final meeting of the Pack Rats. This is it. Our most evil deevil plot ever. As soon as--

TITO

What are we doing boss?

TONY

Just about to tell you, Tito. Tonight, as soon as the--

TOMMY

What if it doesn't work, boss? Like when we set the ant farm lose on the school and thought they'd eat everyone alive. We served hard time in detention for--

TONY

Do you want to hear my plan or not?!

TOMMY & TITO

Sorry Tony. Yes Tony.

TOMMY

(softly)

I'm sure it'll be great.

TONY

Boys, call me Tones. So tonight, during dorm dinner, we're going to wait in the bathroom until after everyone leaves. If the custodian says anything, we just moan about that anchovy casserole surprise.

TITO gives an honest moan.

TONY

I know right? Works every time. Then, once the coast is clear, we'll um... we'll um...uh, what's that word? Darn it. Uh, help me out here boys... we're gonna 'blank', out of the bathroom...

TITO

Walk?

TONY

No.

TOMMY

Sneak?

TONY

No.

TITO

Jog?

TONY

No.

TOMMY

Snook?

TONY

No.

TITO

Walk?

Closer.	TONY
Crawl?	TOMMY
No.	TONY
Walk?	TITO
Not quite.	TONY
Sidle?	TOMMY
No.	TONY
Jog?	TITO
No.	TONY
Skip?	TOMMY
No.	TONY
Walk?	TITO
No.	TONY
Jump?	TOMMY

No. TONY

Run? TITO

No. TONY

Hop? TOMMY

No. TONY

Pirouette? TITO

No, come on boys. What's the freakin' word? TONY

Get? TITO

TONY
Yeah! That's it. Alright, so when the coast is clear, we're gonna *get* out of the bathroom, and we're gonna go over to the ice cream cooler. That glowing box of frozen delectable treats that make all the girls a getta happy on me. And we're going to steal 'em boys.

TOMMY and TITO gasp.

I know, right? And then we're gonna bring 'em all to that cold abandoned factory down the street. Then, come the dance tomorrow night, when there's no ice cream, we show up and sell them at about fifty bucks a pop, making our profit margin... how high Tito?

TITO pulls out a calculator, but has it upside down and just taps the screen. TOMMY turns it around.

Very very high. TITO

TONY

Just as I thought. Now listen boys. I don't want to lie to you. If we get caught, this could be the end for us. I'm talking horrible things. Unspeakable things. Lethal injection, the rack, the chair, the table, the dresser. It'd be bad. But that's not gonna happen, and by the time we're done here, we'll all be swimming in a sea of kittens with fluffy tails and soft little whiskers. Aww yeah.. .it'll be nice, all dem fluffballs o' kittens. Now you with me?

TOMMY

Certainly Boss! Just one problem... ah... I think that factory's only cold at night. It gets pretty hot during the day. Mom and I were--

TONY flies to his feet, smashes TOMMY and TITO together, and pins them to the ground.

TONY

Don't do you DARE question me, Mother! I'm the most intelligent person in the world, mentally and physically! To question my power is folly. My skill. My finesse. Is unsurpassed! You are nothing. You are all nothing! I'll show you Mother! When they're all dead you... you'll be sorry!! You just wait and see. Just wait. ..and SEE!

By the end of his speech, TONY is in danger of crushing the throats of TOMMY and TITO who fight to breathe. TONY calms down, brushes them up and hoists them up. TOMMY and TITO try to back away but TONY maintains his hold. ROBERTO and GOSSUMMER exit, GOSSUMMER leaving his backpack behind.

TONY

Hey hey hey boys. I didn't mean to yell but... you just can't do that to me. Getting me all frustrated and the like but... aw come on, just give me a hug and we'll call it even.

He pulls them in close.

Yeah that's right boys. Hug it up. Tony's here. It's your Tones.

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 5

Library. ADDIE sits by herself, reading.
ROBERTO and GOSSUMMER enter together.

NARRATOR

They're in the library!

ALL

Shhhh!

NARRATOR

(whispering)

Sorry! They're in the library.

She exits.

ROBERTO

Hey dawg...there's Addie. So what man, are you gonna ask her to the Valentainizzle Dayizzle Danshnizzle or what?

GOSSUMMER

What? Oh, the Valentine's Day Dance. I don't know man... I think it would be too... how do you say...'tombe des nues'. I mean we're only casual acquaintances as it is and... I don't want to ruin that.

ROBERTO

But Goss... Gossomundo, Joos, homes, dawg, everyone talks to Addie. She like a freakin'...uh...dawg. Your sister even talks to her man, and she's a deaf mute!

GOSSUMMER

That more than anything makes her completely out of bounds to me.

ROBERTO

I don't think so. She's all you've been talking about fo the past month. Man. I don't even know why you like her so much!

GOSSUMMER

Well in that case, I'll tell you.

The band starts to play.

GOSSUMMER

(singing)

Her haaaaairrrr--

ROBERTO

No homes I was kidding. I know every reason and more why you like Addie. Shizzle man, I know more about her now than her own parents probably do from hearing you give me the four-one-one on that shorty every second of the day.

GOSSUMMER

More than her parents? My friend, let's not stray into hyperbole.

ROBERTO

Hyperbo-believe it, yo! Like I'm sho any loving parent would be sho to pick up on the fact that their child takes two sips of chocolate milk before eating a pepperoni pizza, and an extra "sipple"--your word-- afterwards, if there's extra cheese.

GOSSUMMER

Well that's an extreme--

ROBERTO

Or that her left leg is slightly longer than her right one, causing a 'perforated bounce' of her hair with each step.

GOSSUMMER

They might know that.

ROBERTO

OR that every Thursday night before she goes to sleep, she counts seals instead of sheep and has never made it past sixty three. Fo sho her parents'll know that. Fo sho she even knows that. I don't even ask how you find this shizzle out, but its kinda creepy yo.

GOSSUMMER

Everyone knows she likes seals.

ROBERTO

You're missing the point. Just go talk to her! As her about the projects.

GOSSUMMER

The projects?

ROBERTO

You know, the project about, er, re-investing seals back into the specific ocean or something, you know man!

GOSSUMMER

Yeah... or I could ask her about that state amendment she got passed last year, or that beautiful concerto she composed, or that mural she's been commissioned to paint along the face of Mt. Rushmore...

ROBERTO

Yeah! Boy oh boy!

GOSSUMMER takes one step.

GOSSUMMER

But alas! I have forgotten my backpack in the cafeteria. Obviously it wasn't meant to be.

ROBERTO

You don't need your backpack to--

GOSSUMMER

(forecful)

To be. Was not. To be! Robert.

ROBERTO

Whoa brotha calm down, don't be a player hater.

GOSSUMMER

I'm sorry man. I dunno... I just gotta work up the courage. Anyway, remind me to pick up my backpack tonight after the Peanut Butter Lovers United International meeting tonight.

ROBERTO

PBLUI! PBLUI! Now you're gonna keep yo promise and teach me how to eat peanut butter upside down. Haha!

Another complicated hand shake as they exit.
NARRATOR runs on.

NARRATOR
They're off stage!

GOSSUMMER
That's completely unnecessary!

NARRATOR
Wait and see...

NARRATOR exits, stomping. JOCKS cross the stage passing a pencil case back and forth.

JOCK #1
Sup Ad-el-aide!

The JOCKS have exited before ADDIE talks.

ADDIE
(progressively louder as they get further away)
Oh hey Butch. Not too much. It's Adelia actually, but Adelaide's cool. I'm just doing some homework. You know, the usual. Um yeah.
(shouting)
I like your jersey! See you around... oh Addie, what are you doing.

QUINTON enters and sits next to ADDIE.

QUINTON
Hi Addie. How are you doing? Mehh...

Music starts. QUINTON drools a little.

ADDIE
(singing)
Oh hi Quinton. I'm doing well. Life is good. What've I got to complain about? I've got more friends than I can believe. And so many talents up my sleeve. My life is productive as a factory, and I've won so many awards, for just being... me. I... do... art, I do sports, I do theatre, I play twelve instruments, I sing.

She sings!
 QUINTON
 And I dance!
 ADDIE
 She dance!
 QUINTON
 And yet...
 ADDIE
 Meh huh?
 QUINTON
 And yet...
 ADDIE
 MEH HUH?
 QUINTON
 All, I, want, is a little romance...
 ADDIE
 Meh...
 QUINTON
 ADDIE
I just want that first kiss, but all anyone wants to be is my friend....!
 Music stops.
 So how are you, Q?
 QUINTON
 Oh please Addie. Call me Q.T. Hehe, like my initials, you know, Quinton Troffpit? QT?
 Sounds like 'cutie', like, someone who is cute? Heheh... meh...
 ADDIE
 Oh hey Quinton that's very clever! How long were you working on that one?

QUINTON

Just lunch. While I was sitting alone in the corner... meh.

ADDIE

Quinton that's so sad. What about your calculator friends?

QUINTON

They're not consistent... sometimes they put on jerseys and act real dumb.

ADDIE

Well, I hope you know you can always sit with me.

QUINTON

I know... but I also know your friends don't like me. And I feel so awkward. Besides, it wasn't that bad! I passed the six hundred mark today for pieces of gum I've found stuck under the table! Meh!

ADDIE

That's revolting. I mean, you can't make a living off of that. How are you ever going to make a difference in the world with those kind of interests?

QUINTON

Make a difference?

ADDIE

Yes! It's your responsibility as a human being living on this planet to change the world in the most profound manner by which you are able. And it starts simple: get out there! Make friends! Relate to people! Get involved in a club. I've in several you'd be great in.

QUINTON

Like what?

ADDIE

Well... to start. You're smart. And caring. Why don't you tutor?

QUINTON

No, whenever I'm around kids under fourteen I get really, really hungry. Mehhhhh.

ADDIE

Well, I don't know what to say Quinton. You're a great guy. And all of your insecurities make me feel much better about myself. I'll see you around, cutie.

QUINTON

Bye Addie! Mehh....

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 6

Cafeteria. A cooler with a large biohazard symbol sits in a corner of the stage. Gossummer's backpack sits in another. Lights remain down. TONY, TOMMY, and TITO enter with flashlights or headlamps. Whenever any of them have the opportunity, they stare at another one of the other's backside with their light. NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR

THEY'RE IN THE CAFETER--!

TONY hits NARRATOR in the head with a ketchup bottle as TITO falls head-first into a trash can.

TONY

Who the frick are you?

NARRATOR

Gossummer?

TONY

Gossummer? What? Kill her!

NARRATOR

Aaagh!

NARRATOR charges at them, they scatter, she exits.

TONY

Yikes. Okay boys. Here we-- hey! Bad Tito! Get out of the trash! Now where do they store the ice cream cooler?

TOMMY

I think I found it, Boss! It's the same size at least... but it looks like they covered the top and put a weird circle and triangle symbol thing on it.

TONY

That must be to keep away the vampires. Clever. All right, let's move these little packages of artificially flavored joy.

TOMMY and TITO are staring at TONY's backside.

TONY

Boys?

TOMMY

Yes?

TITO

What?

TOMMY

We're here!

They lift the cooler and try to move it offstage.
It doesn't budge

TONY

(strained)

Mwah ha ha. Yes... okay weakwads, lift with your arms.

TOMMY

Ah, it's still plugged in, Boss.

TONY

Unplug it then dumbotron!

TITO lets go to unplug the cooler, which immediately crashes to the floor on TONY and TOMMY's feet. They fall to floor and scream.

TITO

Sorry Boss!

TOMMY

What about me?!

TITO
You too.

TONY
Come here Tito, it's time for punishment.

TITO
No... Boss... please...

TONY
Yes, Tito.

TITO begins to shuffle toward TONY when--

GOSSUMMER
(offstage)
Thanks Mr. Adnon. I'll just be a minute. I left my backpack in here somewhere.

GOSSUMMER enters.

TONY
Who's dat?

TOMMY
I think its that kid...uh...what's his face: Wassammer! He's in the Phys Ed and my cooking class. Can't play b-ball for his life but makes a mean peanut butter and marshmalllow--

TONY
Who cares! We've gotta get out of here. Run away! Run away!

GOSSUMMER
Where's that darn light switch?

TONY and TOMMY limp offstage. TITO tries to lift the cooler but can't.

TITO
It's too heavy...

TITO slips on peanut butter that was leaking out of GOSSUMMER's backpack, and his shirt rips off. Without that constraint, he lifts the cooler as though it is paper thin, then runs in the wrong direction offstage. GOSSUMMER turns the lights on.

GOSSUMMER

Ah! There's my backpack. Someday Addie... someday you'll be mine.

As he takes it, TITO runs across the back of the stage with the cooler to exit on the other side. GOSSUMMER looks up, shrugs, then exits.

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 7

Gossummer's Home. NARRATOR enters.
GOSSUMMER and ARLENE enter. They
perform their evening lightning fast in time with
the song. Music starts.

NARRATOR

(singing)

*He's at home! The day ends! Gossummer does his homework! Doing those math,
problems. The juices are flowing in his head, ya, Gossummer Joos' juices are flowing, in
his head. Now he's tired. Looks like he wants to, go to bed, go, to, bed!*

GOSSUMMER lies on the floor with his eyes
closed. ARLENE is above him, staring down
with a quiet intensity. He opens his eyes.

GOSSUMMER

Mom?!

ARLENE

Hi there sweet lungs.

GOSSUMMER

Hello.

ARLENE

Did you reset the Frockendarziel traps like I asked?

GOSSUMMER

Yes Mother.

ARLENE

(removing her apron and
and tucking him in with it)

Oh sweetie. I'm so proud of you! One day you are really going to be something in this
world. I just can't wait to see what. Maybe a toadstool farmer like your Uncle Merle!
Awww... goodnight sugar cluster. Sweet dreams. And don't let the bed bugs anestheseize.

Lights fade. Music starts. A dream sequence begins in which everyone wears a mask. ARLENE stands up on a chair in the center of stage and sings in a made-up language. The rest of the cast starts sneaking up on GOSSUMMER in a semi-circular fashion from offstage, crawling and chanting 'peanut butter'. GOSSUMMER tosses and turning then wakes up with a start, facing the audience, so he still can't see any of the sneaker-uppers. He turns and screams at them. They all jump back a step. Music shifts and they begin to wave their arms around him as though he's the center of a religious ritual. Various characters jump out and startle him. ROBERTO jumps out and just brushes dirt off his shoulder, then gives him the thumbs up. ADDIE comes out as her and GOSSUMMER call each other's names as the two radiate around the circle, hands stretched toward each other just barely out of reach. QUINTON enters into the circle and hisses 'she's miiine!' and steals her away. GOSSUMMER yells "No!!" until she is lost in the circle. GOSSUMMER begins to swim to the front of the stage. Everyone except GOSSUMMER is now seals, and they're attacking him, screeching at him, and butting their noses hard enough to send him careening back and forth across the stage. GOSSUMMER tries desperately to swim away, but gets knocked onto the ground. He tries at once to rise again, but is instantly engrossed by the seals who pile onto him as though in a feast. Only GOSSUMMER's hand is visible, stretched upward, as he screams in pain. Suddenly the seals scatter offstage, leaving GOSSUMMER stretching to the sky, and he's left alone. He collapses to the fetal position and shivers.

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 8

School hallway. Same staging as SCENE 2.
After a moment, ARLENE enters in the back,
breaking up the routine and begins to talk to
ADDIE and SISTER.

ROBERTO

Homes!! You gotta be asking Addie to the dance! It's tonight. Man, if you don't jump on that piece soon, I'm gonna have to lay down da smack down and show you what's what.

GOSSUMMER

Yeah, I'll do it today. I just need-- Mom?

ARLENE

Oh hi sweetie.

GOSSUMMER

What're you doing here?

ARLENE

I'm at work.

GOSSUMMER

You don't have a job.

A pause.

ARLENE

Touche son. Touche.

ARLENE exits.

ROBERTO

Man, we got a free block now don't we?

GOSSUMMER

Yeah. What do you want to do?

ROBERTO

(eyeing SISTER as she walks past)

Yeah fo sho fo sho. This is one sexy sizzling day.

GOSSUMMER

Mm hm.

ROBERTO

Let's go grab a chill smoothie down the street and we can work on how you're gonna get the peanuts to butter up Addie.

GOSSUMMER

Fine. But you're behind on paying your PBLUI dues, so...

ROBERTO

(as they exit)

Aight aight!

TONY

Dammit Mother. I can't believe my perfect plan was foiled. How could that Wassammer character have known we would be there! And who was that ugly screaming woman? Are they in league with each other. It's so...um...not annoying, but...help me out here boys.

TITO

Um... Boss...

TOMMY

Really annoying?

TONY

Yeah! Really annoying. We have to take care of him somehow.

TITO

But boss...

TOMMY

Maybe we can ask him nicely to stay away from the cafeteria?

TONY

No that never works. He must... be killed.

NARRATOR jumps on stage.

NARRATOR

Bum bum bum!

She jumps off.

TONY

That was her!! What the frick!

TOMMY

Boss. Killing a fellow student... don't you think that's a little extreme?

TITO

Boss...

TONY convulses as though about to explode with rage, then:

TONY

Yeah... maybe you're right. Coulda been a coincidence. Okay, tonight again, same time!

TITO

Yeah but Boss...

TOMMY

But there's the dance...

TONY

Oh that does complicated things...

TITO

Tones....

TONY

WHAT TITO!?

TITO

I got the cooler.

TONY

You what?

TITO

I got it. When we left last night I brought it over to the warehouse and everything!

TONY

Seriously? No problems?

TITO

Slipped on some peanut butter and my shirt came off, but besides that... nothin'.

TONY

That means tonight during the dance will be the perfect time to strike with phase one of the plan. Tito my boy! You've never made me so proud. I could rub you... but I'd rather watch. Tommy, rub Tito and tell him how amazing he is.

TOMMY

(reaching under TITO's shirt)

You're amazing Tito...

Soft moan during the massage as lights fade to...

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 9

Ice Cream Stand and Crosswalk. ICE CREAM MAN, stands ready to serve. Music plays as GOSSUMMER and ROBERTO skip in together, holding hands. NARRATOR is licking ice cream.

NARRATOR

They're on the other side of town!

ICE CREAM MAN

Hey there boys. You lookin' mighty fine today. Real... mighty fine. I was starting to think you'd be too afraid to come round these parts no more.

ROBERTO

No way Mr. Pickle! Your ice cream is just too darn good!

ICE CREAM MAN

Pleased to hear it. I got some good eatins' today. Some real shnazzle dazzle that'll make you zippidy do da day all the way to the flamingo parlor... if you receive my meaning.

GOSSUMMER

Wait a minute. You're not Mr. Pickle... who are you?

ICE CREAM MAN

(demonic voice)

No one to be trifled with.

ROBERTO

Alright... well... just give me a peanut butter strawberry.

ICE CREAM MAN

(handing ROBERTO the ice cream)

Ah... good choice with the strawberry there. I got a new ingredient. I'll give you a hint. It starts with a 'weapons grade' and ends with a 'plutonium'. Heh heh. I'm just kidding. Or am I?

ROBERTO smiles and takes a big bite out of the ice cream.

GOSSUMMER

Haven't I seen you somewhere before?

ICE CREAM MAN

Just order. Don't worry, everything's got my *seal* of approval.

GOSSUMMER

Tim... your name is Tim? No... buku. My God... Timbuku.

ICE CREAM MAN

Here to finish the job, by which I mean, your mother will soon be killed! Ha ha!!

A cloud of smoke appears around him and he trots slowly offstage with his cart.

GOSSUMMER tries to follow him but is restrained by ROBERTO.

ROBERTO

Yooooooo! What's yo problem with that there homey! He's be giving us some cool, refreshing smoothie cream and you be going all crazy town lasagna pants on him. What's a matter you?

GOSSUMMER

What're you, Italian now?

ROBERTO

Nah...

GOSSUMMER

That's the guy! From my family vacation to Timbuku...

ROBERTO

(casually)

Oh. The one that killed yo father, made yo mom crazy, and yo sis a deaf mute?

GOSSUMMER

He warped those seals minds, and twisted their whiskers into handelbar mustaches. And if it wasn't bad enough to destroy my family, he framed me for those abhorrent acts! I spent a week alone in a dungeon because of him. No water, and no food but what protein I could salvage from the tails of the Encephalitis Conjunctivuses.

(MORE)

GOSSUMMER (CONT'D)

And now, my God, what if he's after my mother to finish the job?! I swear if he lays a finger on her... if it's the last thing I do... I'm going to make sure that guy gets his just desserts.

Pause. ROBERTO breaks out laughing.

ROBERTO

Haha! Just desserts. Ice cream guy! Good one...good one! Okay so come on now, Addie. You gonna ask her? What's the game plan?

GOSSUMMER

Rob, there are more important things on my mind right now. My mom could be...

ROBERTO

Lame-o excuse-o! Brotha be stalling.

GOSSUMMER

You keep bringing it up like it would be so easy...

ROBERTO

That's just it, yo! It would be.

GOSSUMMER

How?

Pause.

ROBERTO

Just...just...pop a sweet line like 'yo yo yo Addie you know there'd be some lovin' if you add you to me!' Yeah fo sho!

ROBERTO tries to initiate another secret handshake with GOSSUMMER who does not participate. ROBERTO does the entire sequence by himself.

ROBERTO

You know a brotha like me know how to handle the ladies like a firefly. Ya'll check me this morning when that shortie from the hood was all up in my biz-nass.

(MORE)

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

I was looking for a little something something, maybe pull out a love shnizzle, and was like 'yo yo yo Addien's friend sweet thang you looking mighty fine today', but I be getting the four one one and she gonna take a lot more paying before she be playing, y'know wha I'm saying?

ROBERTO does another secret handshake sans GOSSUMMER as he simply stares.

GOSSUMMER

Okay. First of all... I'm pretty sure you're talking about my sister. So no. Second, do you realize where we are? On the other side of town? You keep talking like that, you'll get shot.

ROBERTO

Talking like what my fizzle shizzle dawg?

GOSSUMMER

Have a seat. There's something I've... been trying to find a way to say to you for some time now...

ROBERTO

Yeah wassup homey?

GOSSUMMER

No... no no. Rob I'm not your 'homey', I'm your friend. We have all manner of shared interests and---

ROBERTO

Peanut butter fo life yo!

He initiates a shorter handshake that GOSSUMMER participates in abscent-mindedly.

GOSSUMMER

Yeah, right, exactly. That's how we became friends. We both realized we like peanut butter, and started the club, yeah, you know. It's been what, like two months now since we started hanging out? Now, as your best friend ever Rob, I don't really know how to say this...but, I mean come on... there's a whole side of you I think we're missing out on—

ROBERTO

Homey dawg, just out with it yo, you know we be tight fo sho--

GOSSUMMER

You're not black!

Music starts. GOSSUMMER circles
ROBERTO as though interrogating him.

GOSSUMMER

Robert Stimson, you were born of white color... And I know you're shielding who you really are because you're afraid! Afraid to be judged for the substance within you... and so you hide behind a mask... the mask of a culture that is not yours and never will be. What say you, sir?

ROBERTO

(rapping)

No man, that's not it at all. You must be out of your mind, you must be off the wall! But I'll tell you how it is. I'll tell you once I'll tell you twice, I'm just a chill dawg, yo, who is cooler than ice...

GOSSUMMER

(singing)

Don't you realize you didn't say anything? I myself can see through that veil of poser language you drape yourself in. I see an intelligent young man with deeper insight into the world... but a lot of people can't. All they see is the wannabe without a real personality!

(speaking)

Like in one of those movies when one guy has a smaller brownie than the other guy, and then is like "hey, hey look over there" and switches brownies? Yeah, like that.

(singing)

Admit it!

ROBERTO

No!

GOSSUMMER

You're afraid of saying something you really mean, for fear of other's opinions, of you...

ROBERTO

(rapping)

No! You know you know me, yo! All there is to me, I share to you, and we are, one and the same, my soul has been true—

GOSSUMMER

(speaking)

All I know about you is that you like peanut butter! That's it.

Pause. ROBERTO considers this.

ROBERTO

You're right.

(rapping)

I've been blind to not see, that what you say is true. What the heck is wrong with me? Why haven't I had a clue? But now I'm gonna change, no more me acting strange---

GOSSUMMER

Robert! You're still rapping.

ROBERTO

Oh right.

(singing)

I... will... change!!

They hug.

GOSSUMMER

Wow! I can't believe that spontaneous revelatory musical number we broke into took a whole hour! We gotta get back to class! Then, after class, I should go home and make sure my mom isn't being murdered by a psychopath dressed as an Ice Cream Man.

ROBERTO

Yeah, whaddy a think happened to Mr. Pickle?

They contemplate this for moment, shrug, then run to the crosswalk. ROBERTO is about to go across but GOSSUMMER holds him.

ROBERTO

Dude, let's just cross the street.

GOSSUMMER

No, it's okay. The light will change in a second.

ROBERTO

(looking around)

But there aren't any cars coming.

GOSSUMMER

I just... I can't stomach the thought of ever going back to prison. Breaking out of there then clearing my name was--

ROBERTO

But dawwwwwg.

GOSSUMMER stares.

ROBERTO

I mean... 'youuuuuuu.' It's a victimless crime. I do it all the time and... and you can't let yourself be paralyzed by your fears.

GOSSUMMER

I don't know...

ROBERTO

Come on. I just conquered a fear for you. How about some reciprocation?

GOSSUMMER

Oh alright. But only because you used a big word. It is a pretty stupid law.

GOSSUMMER takes one step. Music starts as two police officers, SAM and ED dive onto the stage.

OFFICER ED

There he is!

OFFICER SAM

Stop where you are!

OFFICER ED

(approaches GOSSUMMER)

Hold still or I'll fire you lemon-headed ear sucker!

OFFICER ED smashes GOSSUMMER to the ground and handcuffs him. GOSSUMMER does not resist arrest, but OFFICER ED handles him as though he is.

ROBERTO

I'm sorry Goss!

He runs offstage. OFFICER SAM speaks to GOSSUMMER, reads him his rights, shouts at him, etc. under OFFICER ED's speech.

OFFICER SAM

(into a radio)

Red eagle to cheese factory. This is red eagle calling cheese factory. We got him boys, we got the bastard. The turkey has laid the egg and is clucking for more. The feathers are ruffled but unplucked, and the tail is wagging lengthwise. I repeat, it's wagging lengthwise. We're bringing him in.

OFFICER ED, holding GOSSUMMER's torso, swings him up so OFFICER SAM catches GOSSUMMER's legs. They carry him out like a stiff log.

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 10

Police Station. GOSSUMMER sits at an interrogation table, drugged and strangely calm. OFFICER ED and OFFICER SAM speak outside the room. OFFICER SAM eats chocolate throughout the scene. NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR

(scolding)

He's at the police station.

GOSSUMMER tilts his head to consider her. She considers him for a moment, then exits.

OFFICER SAM

There he is Sam, Emeliosovich Gontranaveskimamashaveladdoki. The forty year old cold-blooded pygmy seal torturer who's gone unchallenged for thirty eight years. Thank goodness we stopped him before his two hundredth victim.

OFFICER ED

Are you sure that this is him?

OFFICER SAM

Yes! My logic prevails. We found that severed dorsal fin at the town pool. The dorsal fin was shaped like a sailboat. Sailboats float in water. Water is made up of molecules. Molecules that are crossed, a lot. And if you say 'crossed-a-lot' while under water, it sounds like crosswalk. So we knew he had to be there. Plus, look at the picture.

OFFICER SAM holds up a Wanted Poster that looks nothing like GOSSUMMER. In fact, it looks like an upside down version of the ICE CREAM MAN.

OFFICER ED

Right.

OFFICER SAM

Just like him.

OFFICER ED

My God. He's sitting there all calm... it's like he has no remorse. And to think, not just seals but mentally-challenged seals. Every one of them! How sick can you get...

OFFICER SAM

Just try to stay cool when you go interrogate him. We shot up him with a truth serum when he wasn't looking, but even so... he's still Popo Vivo, the Porpoise Rambo.

Spanish guitar riff.

OFFICER SAM

Which really isn't apt since seals and porpoises are different species entirely.

OFFICER ED

I do love porpoises.

OFFICER SAM

I know you do.

OFFICER ED

They're so cute! Did you see the video I sent you?

OFFICER SAM

Yes! Sooo cute. Did you see the photos I sent you?

She shows him photos.

OFFICER ED

Nooo!!

OFFICER SAM

Ready to get in there?

OFFICER ED

Wait, what? Aren't we doing this together?

OFFICER SAM

No. That's illegal now.

OFFICER ED

What? No it's not. Come on, we gotta do our little good cop bad cop routine. I need you on this.

OFFICER SAM

There's no time. He'll be easier to take down if he can't turn us against each other.

OFFICER ED

Whaddy a mean?

OFFICER SAM

Okay, if you really want to know? They say the last time two cops tried to interrogate him at once, he played these mind games on them and somehow got them to eat each other's heads.

OFFICER ED

At the same time?

OFFICER SAM

At the same time.

OFFICER ED

Dear god...

OFFICER SAM

Anyway, be careful in there... no sudden movements. Even by yourself, they say he has a way of feeding on your fears, growing stronger with every whiff, until you're nothing but a blubbering mess on the floor living out your childhood nightmares. Good luck buddy!

OFFICER SAM slaps OFFICER ED on the back to push him into the interrogation room. Over the following, OFFICER SAM looks into the room to give OFFICE ED expressions of encouragement.

OFFICER ED

Umm... how's it going... friend?

GOSSUMMER

Well enough. Was the full body search really necessary?

OFFICER ED

Oh...it was necessary, Popo.

GOSSUMMER

That's not my name.

OFFICER ED

Aha! Terrified to hear your old nickname are you? Frightened by the prospect of the media having a go at you once more, now that you've finally been caught?

GOSSUMMER stares blankly.

GOSSUMMER

Look. I don't know what this is about.

OFFICER ED

Really? Um... aren't you feeling kinda truth... serummy?

GOSSUMMER

Fine. You caught me in the act so I guess it's obvious.

OFFICER ED

Wait... you were in the middle of it?

GOSSUMMER

Honestly, I was just talking to my friend about how I never wanted to do it in the first place but... well, I can't help but think that locking me up here is a little absurd. You know it won't stop me.

OFFICER ED

You're saying... you'll break out?

GOSSUMMER

If you've seen my record, you know I've been in prison before, and that it didn't end well for anyone.

GOSSUMMER waits for a response from OFFICER ED, who is now shaking.

GOSSUMMER

I don't know why I'm being so frank, but come on. Seriously. If you step outside the 'rules of the law' so to speak, I'm sure you can agree with me when I say there's nothing morally wrong with what I did. I mean, no one was around, and not a single person was hurt. So what's the big deal?

OFFICER ED

Not a single... person?

OFFICER ED squeals and runs to the arms of OFFICER SAM, who cuddles him.

OFFICER ED

My God.

OFFICER SAM

What?

OFFICER ED

It's inhuman the way he talks! Which leads me to the conclusion that this man is either totally crazy... or not sane. Those poor seals... I can't go back in there!

OFFICER SAM

You have to!

OFFICER ED

Okay.

He does.

OFFICER ED

(slamming the desk)

So who's this friend of yours? Is he your mentor? Are you just a copycat and it's him we've been after all this time!?

GOSSUMMER

That's a silly notion. Look, you caught me. Let's just focus on giving me a punishment and leave him out of it.

OFFICER ED

But he's committed the same horrific acts as you!?

GOSSUMMER

Horrific? Now just a minute. Yes, honestly. He's done it before. Probably a lot more than me. And I would be lying if I told you that he isn't responsible for egging me on. And yes, there's a thrill to it. A cheap little thrill. Breaking the law. Ooo wee. Doesn't it feel good? But I dare you to look me in the eye and tell me that you yourself haven't done, or at least fantasized, about doing the very same thing. Officer... level with me. Don't you think about it every chance you get? You gotta admit... when no one's around... it's pretty tempting.

They stare for a moment.

OFFICER ED

(attacking GOSSUMMER)

You sick little freak! You really think that about?! You think I'm as screwed up as you are? That I would ever consider--!

OFFICER SAM

(charging in to restrain OFFICER ED)

Ed! No!

OFFICER ED

I'll kill you! I will kill you for the seals you've killed!

GOSSUMMER

This is about the seals I've killed?!

OFFICER ED

DIIIIIIIIIEEEEEEEEEE!!

GOSSUMMER

How do you know about the seals I've killed?!

OFFICER 3, ARLENE, and ICE CREAM
MAN, restrained, run in.

OFFICER 3

Wait!

ARLENE

Stop this! That isn't Gontranaveskimamashaveladdoki...this is Gontranaveskimamashaveladdoki! Leave my favorite son alone.

OFFICER SAM

Is that true Officer Number Three?

OFFICER 3

It sure is. This fine young woman says the bastard came right to her house.

OFFICER ED

Wait... what was that about you killing seals?

ARLENE

But we had our traps set, didn't we son?

OFFICER ED

Traps?

ICE CREAM MAN

She had explosions set to go off at her front door, the madwoman!

ARLENE

They were anti-robot EMP discharges, fistmonkey!

ARLENE

Now the de-legging of Pipple the Piper can be avenged at last. Blammo!

She drops to the floor and rolls offstage.

OFFICER 3

I can see how you would confuse the young man with Popo here. Maybe you were looking at the Wanted Poster upside down?

OFFICER SAM takes the Wanted Poster and flips it.

OFFICERS

(realizing)

Ohhh...

OFFICER SAM

Well I guess you're free to go.

OFFICER ED

Sorry about that.

OFFICER SAM

You can call your parents for a ride or whatever.

GOSSUMMER points toward where ARLENE
just exited, but does not speak.

OFFICER ED

The phone's right over there.

OFFICER SAM

Just dial nine first.

OFFICER 3

Alright fellas. We've got a case of some stolen government weapons over at Boardgame
High we've gotta look into, so let's wrap this up.

GOSSUMMER hasn't moved.

OFFICER ED

Well I guess we should give him something for his troubles.

OFFICER SAM

Oh, I know! You can have some chocolate! Here, have some chocolate.

GOSSUMMER

Can I have a ride?

OFFICER ED

What? No...no.

OFFICER SAM

But have some choc-o-late. Chocolate will make it better...

OFFICER SAM pushes her bag of chocolate into GOSSUMER's hand. A thunderstorm can be heard offstage as the lights fade to...

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 11

Classroom. No whiteboard. The whole class is there except for GOSSUMMER. ROBERTO stares at ADDIE this entire scene.
NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR

Back at school... and they're in class!

NARRATOR exits.

MRS. GORHAM

--and then my friend gave me this huge wad of cheese, and I'm like 'the french don't use deodorant!'

QUINTON and MRS. GORHAM laugh.

Right um, so... balancing ionic equations with polyatomic ions. Dammit where's Gossummer. That kid thinks he knows me. He doesn't know me. Anyway, I left my... everything in my car so, uh, why don't you all read and memorize pages twelve seventeen to thirteen oh five, till I get back... okay bye!

She runs offstage.

TOMMY

(whispering)

The book doesn't go past page eight hundred...

TONY

Let's get out of here and get ready for tonight.

QUINTON

You guys getting dressed up and spiffy like?

TONY

What did you call me?

TONY, TOMMY, and TITO loom over
QUINTON menacingly.

QUINTON

No, for the dance. The dance it might have... mehhhh...!

QUINTON runs away, 'mehhing'.

TONY

Pack Rats, out!

TONY, TOMMY, and TITO exit. QUINTON comes running back in, still 'mehhing' and comes right up to ADDIE, while ROBERTO sits off to the side, staring at her.

QUINTON

Hi Addie... can we talk?

ADDIE

Sure Quinton, what's wrong?

QUINTON

Um... I just wanted to... wish... er say good luck... uh... getting your, good, er, food today. Mehhhh.

ADDIE

Quinton you're always so insecure. What have I told you about confidently voicing how you actually feel. If you've got something to say, something that's meaningful, you can't keep it in. Or it'll just explode inside you like a thousand knives. You've gotta have faith in yourself, and truly give yourself to the world around you. It's your civic duty.

QUINTON

My duuuty. Yeah. Wow. Gee Addie...you're so smart, and... wow Addie. You make everything sound so easy too. I just wish I had the confidence you had. Meh...

ADDIE

You know I see oodles of potential in you Quinton. If you could just get past that tragic refrigerator accident from your childhood, you'd be set! So what's on your mind?

QUINTON tries to speak, but then begins to involuntarily shiver. ADDIE encourages him.

After several attempts, he gets up and waddles away.

QUINTON

Bye Addie... mehhh...

ADDIE remains sitting, reading her textbook.
ROBERTO stands up. Music begins.

ROBERTO

(singing)

Oh no... what's this that I am feeling? An amoeba feeling of my heart. Adelia, the girl my best friend's dreamed of for so long...is suddenly the one that I...longgg for. Could it be I really like her for her own allure? Yes! Could it be I only like her cause of Gossummer? No! Or could it be I only like her cause he talks of her so pure, until I'm crying on the floor, screaming talk of this no more!?

He dances.

No! I really love her. He's had his chance. I'm asking her. I'm asking her to the dance!

GOSSUMMER enters covered in water and mud.

ROBERTO

(still singing)

Addie? Will you go to the dance with me?

Pause.

ADDIE

Do I know you?

ROBERTO

Never mind...

Music stops. ADDIE exits.

GOSSUMMER

What're you doing?

ROBERTO

Goss! Oh... uh... nothing at all.

Fight music starts. ROBERTO and
GOSSUMMER circle each other.

GOSSUMMER

You just asked Addie out didn't you?

ROBERTO

No! What're you thinking...um...yeh..maybe a little bit, mm hmm.

GOSSUMMER

You little slimeball! After all I've done for you.

ROBERTO

Which has mostly consisted of telling me how great Addie is. Come on now...are you
going to cry?

GOSSUMMER

You couldn't make me cry if I was already on the floor crying, and you were the one who
made me! You little lusus naturae...

ROBERTO

You...bottle of...kangaroo gizzard.

GOSSUMMER

Unremitting blob of effluent pimple vomit.

ROBERTO

(making up words)

Calli...pygian ... galan...tine.

GOSSUMMER

You think I'm a dish of boned and stuff meat with beautifully proportioned buttocks?

ROBERTO

Yeah, yeah, yeah I do! You big loser... thing. Ga! I hate your stupid big words and your
stupid little words. There's only one way to settle this!

GOSSUMMER

A well-mediated talk in a comfortable room with soft music and the remedial smell of lavender?

ROBERTO

No. A fight to the death! Cafeteria. One hour.

Blackout. Fight music grows louder.

End of Scene

SCENE 12

Cafeteria. TITO's shirt is still on the floor, smeared in peanut butter. ADDIE, SISTER, QUINTON, JOCK #1, JOCK #2, and MRS. GORHAM chant 'Fight!'

GOSSUMMER

Bring it boy. You picked a hot night to tango!

ROBERTO

Yeah well... you too!

They fight. Impressively at first. There are spinning kicks and expertly dodged punches. Then GOSSUMMER accidentally slaps ROBERTO while blocking one of his punches.

ROBERTO

Pansy.

It degrades into a cat fight.

GOSSUMMER

The pansy is the strongest of all flowers. It can survive the harshest summers and the coldest winters.

ROBERTO

Shut up, shut up, shut up!

Rapid fire slapping and hair pulling. After being thrown across the room, ROBERTO gets up to charge at GOSSUMMER. Everything becomes slow motion and GOSSUMMER stances for 'the kick'. ROBERTO goes down. GOSSUMMER looks to JOCK #1, who throws him a spear. GOSSUMMER spins it around a few times then prepares to bring it down on ROBERTO. He looks to MRS. GORHAM who gives a thumbs down.

Slow motion again as GOSSUMMER brings the spear down toward ROBERTO's face.

ROBERTO

Noooooo!

ROBERTO catches the spear inches from his face.

ROBERTO

Wait! I'm sorry man. I am. I just couldn't stand seeing you not make a move.

GOSSUMMER

Yeah? Well you completely destroyed what little confidence I had built up!

ROBERTO

Really? Ah man...well, I'm really sorry.

GOSSUMMER

Really?

ROBERTO

Yeah! I swear on my love of peanut butter.

GOSSUMMER

Ah, then I forgive you.

He helps ROBERTO up and they hug. Emotional music starts. Lights dim and every one present begins dancing.

GOSSUMMER

What's going on?

ROBERTO

(holding GOSSUMMER in embrace)

Just go with it.

OFFICER ED and OFFICER SAM waltz in, and continue to dance as they speak.

OFFICER ED

It's the dance! And you forgot all about asking Addie out...

GOSSUMMER

Officers?!

ROBERTO's nose leads him to Tito's shirt on the ground, smelling the peanut butter. Like a peanut buttery detective, he touches it, stretches it, and tastes it.

OFFICER SAM

We received word that a certain top secret "ice cream cooler" has been stolen from this very cafeteria. Do you know anything about this?

GOSSUMMER

No.

OFFICER ED

Would you mind helping us?

GOSSUMMER

After you made me walk two miles to school in the pouring rain? Yes, I do mind.

ROBERTO passes GOSSUMMER Tito's shirt. GOSSUMMER smells, also checks and tastes the peanut butter, but then uses it to wipe the sweat, rain, and grime off himself.

OFFICER SAM

Squad car needed to be gassed up and neither of us wanted to do it.

GOSSUMMER

Thanks. Now I feel loads better.

OFFICER ED

But you must have a clue! Apparently you were in the cafeteria the very night the cooler in question was taken.

GOSSUMMER

Oh, well, maybe, but... no clues.

OFFICER SAM

Wait! What's this in your hand.

GOSSUMMER

A shirt, I think. I don't know. Roberto?

ROBERTO

Just a shirt, dude... surfer boy. Word... sorry I'm still working on this.

OFFICER ED

Don't be daft man! This is a clue. Sam: work your magic.

OFFICER SAM

No! I just want to dance.

OFFICER ED

Come on Sam, we're professionals and we're on the clock. Is it a... what's the code word... flaming kiwi?

OFFICER SAM

I don't know...

OFFICER ED

Sam...

They finally stop dancing. OFFICER SAM takes the shirt, complete with peanut butter and Gossummer-grime. She smells it. Rubs it. Swings it around. Focuses.

OFFICER SAM

Alright. Old moldy shirt. Rhymes with bold coldy dirt. Bold dirt. Rolled into a cold flirt. Mishmashed into a job that hurts. It burns on my hand and the back of me. So it's at... the old abandoned factory!

OFFICER ED

Hooray!

OFFICER SAM

Hooray!

GOSSUMMER

Really?

OFFICER ED

I know, right? I don't know how she does it.

OFFICER SAM

And this one is purple herring, so don't discombobulate the triplex.

OFFICER ED

Right!

OFFICER SAM

Gossummer, you're coming too!

GOSSUMMER finally spots ADDIE entering the dance, but it's right as OFFICER SAM pulls him away.

OFFICER ED

Great work Sam. And they laughed at me for choosing you over Shaft. Haha! Let's go!

Arm and arm they exit, dragging GOSSUMMER as they go.

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 13

Old Abandoned Factory. TOMMY, TITO, and
TONY are trying to break open the cooler.
NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR

They're at the old abandoned-- AGHPH!

TONY throttles the NARRATOR and directs
TOMMY to tie her up.

TONY

(terrified)

I've had enough of you, yeh freakin' spook...

TOMMY

They're not anywhere...

TITO succeeds in breaking open the cooler.

TONY

Hah! Do you know what that smell is Tito? That's the smell of success.

TOMMY

Smells more like gasoline to me.

TITO

Ahhh... reminds me of my Mama's bedroom.

TONY

Boys come on. It's a figure of... word please?

TOMMY

A figure of words?

TONY

That'll have to do.

TOMMY

Boss, this doesn't look like ice cream.

TONY

What'd you mean?

TOMMY

It looks kind of like a PU-41 miniaturized hydrogen bomb.

TITO

PU is right. Now it reminds me of my Papa's bedroom.

TONY

Oh. So we have a nuclear weapon?

TOMMY

Yeah... not ice cream.

TITO

Why is a nuclear weapon being kept at our school?

TONY

Does it really matter? This changes our plans though. It looks like instead of selling ice cream to our classmates, we're going to be selling a WMD on the black market.

TOMMY

Boss?

TONY

You boys like Canada?

TOMMY

Don't you mean Mexico?

TITO

I'm not sure, but I think I'm uncomfortable with this.

TOMMY

I definitely am.

Enter OFFICER SAM, with GOSSUMMER
close behind.

Kids? OFFICER SAM

What was that? TONY

It's da feds! TOMMY

I can't go back to juvie! Ma will kill me! TITO

Hide! TONY

Why exactly am I here? GOSSUMMER

Shhh... OFFICER SAM

TONY, TOMMY, and TITO hide behind the
cooler and become progressively more huddled.

OFFICER ED blazes in firing off a dozen
rounds on two separate guns.

OFFICER SAM
Ed! Come on now. Regulations? Sorry about that boys! None of those bullets were aimed
at you. We just saw...a rat.

OFFICER ED
(wild)
Yeah... better watch out! This place is infested with RATS!

OFFICER SAM
Calm down buddy.

GOSSUMMER

What's wrong with him?

OFFICER SAM

He has this, thing, about nuclear weapons. I mean... ICE CREAM! I said ICE CREAM!

OFFICER ED

(still wild)

Come on kids! We know you're in here. We know all about your little plan, so just come out with the... ice cream cooler and we can all go home alive, er, sugar free. No one's going to explode, er, hurt you.

He dives into another space and continues searching. OFFICER SAM has found NARRATOR and starts to untie her.

TONY

(holding a shivering TOMMY & TITO)

I'm sorry boys, but it looks like it ends here. I soaked the factory in gasoline in case we had to make a quick escape. But it looks like we're gonna have to go up with it. It's been a pleasure knowing you.

TONY lights a match and begins to lower it to the floor.

TOMMY

Please Tony!

TITO

I'm scared of Satan's trident...

TOMMY

Tony you're about to blow up our entire county!

TONY

Well I'm... hm. I'm not *sorry*... but what's the other word? Ah, too bad. See you in hell!

Just before the match reaches the ground, ARLENE swings in on a rope and kicks the match out.

ARLENE

Watchootapalopappy! I gotcha Captain Fiddles! It gotcha at last. Twelve long years I've chased you from pirate ship to pirate ship, and today you meet your end, here at the wharf. Oh the irony...

OFFICER ED

Freeze snotbags!

OFFICER SAM

Ew? You're coming with us!

OFFICER ED

Who are you again?

ARLENE

I am Arlena Vadenoskia Joosika. I was sent back through time to fight the wind war dragons of Mongolia, who have taken captive my blueprints for a new time travel device that will one day send me back through time to fight the wind war dragons of Mongolia. But! Alright shadow, if you insist on berating my noble efforts, I bid you, adieu. But don't follow me!

She stares at her shadow for a moment, then flies offstage.

OFFICER SAM

(restraining TOMMY and TITO)

All right boys, let's go. You're going to do some hard time for this one.

OFFICER ED

(restraining TONY)

The chair. The rack. The desk.

OFFICER SAM

Maybe in-school suspension.

OFFICER ED

It's gonna be rough.

NARRATOR

Gossummer you saved me!

She immediately hugs GOSSUMMER in a loving embrace. In fact, she can't keep her hands off of him. GOSSUMMER is taken aback by this and attempts to remove her, but is not strong enough.

TONY

You! It was you Wassammer, all this time. I should have known. I'll get you for this if its the last thing I do. You just wait and see. You just wait... and SEE!

OFFICER ED

Wow, I'd hate to be this Wassammer guy.

GOSSUMMER

I... didn't...

OFFICER SAM

Oh, and can you grab the ... "ice cream cooler" ?

GOSSUMMER goes to the ice cream cooler and pushes it in small, steady quick bursts, struggling against NARRATOR who is still intent on embracing him.

OFFICER ED

Whaddy a think Sam? Drop them off at the station, then bring Gossummer dancing?

OFFICER SAM

Sounds like a plan. They can all sit in the back.

TONY

I'm sorry boys... sorry I let you down. Give me a hug.

TOMMY and TITO try to, but are restrained by the OFFICER SAM.

Hug me?

TITO

(through tears)

I'm trying!

TOMMY

We can't.

TONY

(as he's pulled offstage)

WHY WON'T YOU HUG ME!!

Blackout.

End of Scene.

SCENE 14

Cafeteria. Music plays. Same characters as before, but GOSSUMMER is sitting alone. ADDIE is sitting with SISTER. ROBERTO is having a blast dancing by himself. NARRATOR enters, arm and arm with GOSSUMMER. ADDIE take sa quick glance at them, then averts her eyes.

NARRATOR

Back at the dance! Bow chicka wow wow...

NARRATOR tries to dance with GOSSUMMER, but he's now fixated on ADDIE. She gets his attention.

GOSSUMMER

Sorry.

NARRATOR

Don't be. You should go to her. This could never be.

GOSSUMMER

Because you're a fictional character?

NARRATOR

Shhhh ...

She joins in the dancing, particularly with MRS. GORHAM. GOSSUMMER spends ample time psyching himself up, looking back and forth between ADDIE and the ground. Finally, he rises and as though a squeaky robot, walks over to ADDIE.

GOSSUMMER

(loud)

Hey Addie! How is it going?!

ADDIE

Oh hey, um, Gossummer right? How are you?

GOSSUMMER

Good! Thank you for inquiring. You look disdainful. Is something amiss?

ADDIE

No nothing. So... why'd you cross the room. Do you want to dance or something?

GOSSUMMER

Yes Addie. Yes I do.

ADDIE rises but GOSSUMMER holds her down.

GOSSUMMER

But much more than that! Addie I won't lie to you. As a great woman once said to sad man, if I keep these feeling bottled up inside of me, I'm just going to explode. Addie I love you. I always have. I always will. I've admired you from afar for too long. The brilliance that extends from your mind to your smile. Your glow from when you enter a room, to when you eat pizza. I guess what I'm saying is this: I'm tired of not taking risks. I know I'm not worthy of you yet, but what I want to say is that I will be. I'm determined to make a difference in the world, and that requires chance-taking. Well, here I am taking the first big chance of--

NARRATOR

YAAAAWWWN.

GOSSUMMER

Really?

NARRATOR

You had her at 'explode.' Cut to the chase, Casanova.

GOSSUMMER

Adelia Marmalade, perforated-hair-bounce-Emory, will you be my girlfriend?

ADDIE

Wow, um, seriously? I don't know. I heard you killed seals...

GOSSUMMER

What? Only the rabid, flesh eating seals of Timbuktu whom I killed only to protect my family. And despite my efforts my father was still killed in his struggle to save the rest of us, leaving my mother insane and my sister a deaf mute. You can't hold that against me, they showed us no mercy. But, how could you have kno—

ADDIE looks confused.

GOSSUMMER

Oh, you're talking about-

GOSSUMMER & ADDIE

Today.

GOSSUMMER

(sitting down beside her)

Right... well. Ahem. Word spreads quickly at school. Let's start over. Forget everything I just said. That wasn't me. Right officers?

NARRATOR is sitting behind the cooler eating popcorn, and now gives GOSSUMMER a big thumbs up.

ADDIE

Oh! Well in that case... I guess so. I mean you did found the Peanut Butter Lovers United Club.

GOSSUMMER

How did I not know this? You like peanut butter?

ADDIE

I loooove peanut butter. And I love what you just said. It made me feel so... special.

She leans in for a kiss. GOSSUMMER doesn't notice, and stands up. She falls over.

GOSSUMMER

Excellent. That was precisely my intention. Addie this means so much to me. It's a dream come true and mark my words, I'm going to be a boyfriend worthy of your beauty and

(MORE)

GOSSUMMER (CONT'D)

many accomplishments. Oh we're going to be such a dream couple. Like the Hemingways, the Einsteins, the Jeffersons...

NARRATOR sighs loudly and goes offstage.
She quickly returns with OFFICER ED and
OFFICER SAM. ADDIE starts to pull
GOSSUMMER into a kiss...

You just wait...this is the start of something much much bigger! You and I--

OFFICER ED

Gossummer! We just wanted to come and thank you for that excellent clue you gave us.

OFFICER SAM

That cooler your classmates stole was not in fact filled with ice cream, but an experimental nuclear fusion warhead.

GOSSUMMER

Right, I got that much.

OFFICER ED

As part of the government's contract for subsidizing this school, they're allowed to store hazardous materials and potentially life-threatening chemicals here whenever they please. But you didn't hear that from me.

OFFICER SAM

You heard it from me.

GOSSUMMER

What would have happened?

OFFICE SAM

If they had lit the factory on fire, as they were planning to, a "d-t" reaction of the alpha particles of the helium-4 nuclei of the gasoline-diffused air would have taken place with the compressed neutrons of the device. The near plasmatic temperatures would have then caused a fission of the neutrons into the "blanket" structure, and with, $n + \text{Li-6}$ becoming a $\text{He-4} + \text{T}$ reaction, the neutrons would have converted into a tritium fuel, and the sequential combustion of the numerous devices in the cooler would have created a ripple effect amounting in an over seven thousand megaton discharge!

OFFICER ED

In other words, 'rip', 'kaboom'.

OFFICE SAM

Ed, I'm sure these kids have learned enough about such rudimentary molecular reaction in their chemistry class to know what I was talking about.

The students look at MRS. GORHAM.

MRS. GORHAM

I don't like children.

GOSSUMMER

I followed it.

OFFICER ED

Here's five thousand dollars in reward money, and the New York Times is already on its way to interview you for your heroic deed. Congratulations!

OFFICER SAM

You've really done the world a service young man.

OFFICERS exit arm and arm.

ADDIE

Wow, how's that for your first big change?

GOSSUMMER

I can't believe it. This is the best day of my life. Nothing can ruin it.

Music stops. QUINTON enters with a crate and stands on it. His hair is greased back and he has taken off his glasses, which forces him to squint.

QUINTON

Hi everyone! Meh. I'm here tonight to say something I should have said a long, long, super long time ago. Meeeh. I've always been very insecure, and lacking in my self-confidence area. But thanks to the help of one, very special girl, I have become the confident, sexual beast—meh—you see standing here before you.

(MORE)

QUINTON (CONTD)

You all know her, you all love her, but I really don't think you love her as much as I do. Meh, meh, meh... Adelia Marmalade Emory, will you marry me?

He sees GOSSUMMER and ADDIE holding hands. He points back and forth between them for a moment as tears well up.

QUINTON

(shaking)

Soo... cold...

He cries angrily and runs offstage. GOSSUMMER looks to ADDIE, who does not move for a moment. She then shrugs her shoulders. The music starts and ADDIE and GOSSUMMER dance again. ROBERTO approaches SISTER and begins to dance absurdly with her.

GOSSUMMER

I feel kinda bad for him...

ADDIE

Nahh... something will work out for him... one day.

GOSSUMMER

Yeah, and I don't really want to think about it. This is such a great day. Golly! Here I am with the girl of my dreams, I'm on my way to really making a difference in the world, and my best friend has found himself and even hooked up with...ugh...my sister?!

ROBERTO performs a particularly disturbing dance move between SISTER's legs. ARLENE swings in.

ARLENE

Ay aiyaiyai! Nobody move. I'm just here to rescue the scientist and I'll be off to fight the giant robot Frockendarziel.

QUINTON enters, his face covered in tissues.

ARLENE

There you are you little brain-faced brain-boat you! Get over here. We're gonna go make babies.

She grabs QUINTON, licks him, and pulls him offstage.

GOSSUMMER

That's so wrong... ugh, that's so wrong too!

ADDIE

Hey come on, don't worry about it. Wanna go make out?

GOSSUMMER

No I can't take it anymore! Stop everything!

Music stops. Everyone stares at GOSSUMMER.

Narrator, to the front.

She complies. OFFICERS re-enter.

This is idiotic! I played along with the ride of your little story and tried to act grateful until now because I thought it was going to get my somewhere. But it hasn't. These events have been exaggerated, overwrought, and unbelievable! And all I'm wondering is, did you write this petty dribble, or are you some kind of spooky spirit that knows the future and just felt like coming along for the ride?

NARRATOR

Actually I'm--

GOSSUMMER

Don't answer that. There have been no major reversals, no life changing revelations, nothing! Here I am with the stereotypical girl of my dreams, who in all reality I probably only liked because I thought I could never have her, and goodness knows as soon as that sensation wears off, her annoying little quirks and soon-to-be saggy thighs are going to be all I can see! And... and... I didn't do anything! I just had a smelly old shirt in my hand. I didn't even find it-- Roberto did!

(MORE)

GOSSUMMER (CONT'D)

Why would the New York Times be coming to interview me? It makes no sense! I want to make a difference. I want to make a REAL dif—

An obnoxious ring tone goes off. NARRATOR removes her cell phone.

GOSSUMMER

I could punch you right now.

NARRATOR

Just a minute.

GOSSUMMER

Don't answer that.

NARRATOR

Twice you've said that. Hello? Why yes sir. No, I'm not. Well, yes. He is here. In this very room as a matter of fact. Yes, I'll put him on. It's for you.

GOSSUMMER takes the phone.

ROBERTO

(whispering)

Is that God?

GOSSUMMER

Hello?

MR. PRESIDENT

Gossummer my boy! Is that you? It's an honor to be speaking to you, son.

GOSSUMMER

Dad?

MR. PRESIDENT

Even better! It's the President of these United States.

GOSSUMMER

Oh. Wow. Hello sir. Um, to what do I owe the honor?

MR. PRESIDENT

Well Gossummer, I'm in a bit of a pickle. I'm on the other line with a team of U.S. Navy Seals currently trying to diffuse an active nuclear bomb, placed five miles below Kansas city on a fault line, and it's going to blow North America into dozens of drifting islands in thirty six seconds unless I stop it.

GOSSUMMER

Goodness gracious, sir.

MR. PRESIDENT

The Seals need a decision from their Commander and Chief, but I don't think I can do it. I asked the NSA to give me someone who has a solid record of dealing with seals, and they gave me you. You must be pretty smart son, you sound like you're... seven.

GOSSUMMER

Well... what can I do to help?

MR. PRESIDENT

Make the call. The Seals have three colors of wires in front of him, one color of which needs to be cut. There's brown, black, and white cables, so which one is it?!

GOSSUMMER

My God, this could make up for all those seals I wasn't able to save in Timbuktu!

MR. PRESIDENT

Whatever, son. We're short on time. Twenty-three, twenty-two, twenty-one, twenty, nineteen, eighteen, seventeen...

GOSSUMMER

Alright, well... um... peanut butter... peanut butter. Damn that dream! All I can think about is peanut butter...

OFFICER SAM

Don't fight it. Use it. The human brain is far more powerful than we could ever know, and experience has taught us that thinking is often the worst way to make a decision.

ADDIE

I believe in you.

GOSSUMMER

Alright, well, peanut butter is brown. Brown sounds like crown. What's a king without his crown? Down. Down in the dumps. What color are the dumps? Brown! Cut the brown cords!

MR. PRESIDENT

This is the President. My official order is to cut only the brown cords!

Pause.

MR. PRESIDENT

Ahhhhh! Skippy doo, son, that did it! You've saved America. Well done soldier! Thank you, and good night.

Everyone cheers. GOSSUMMER returns the phone to NARRATOR.

GOSSUMMER

Wow, I did it. I really made a difference. I practically saved the universe! I can do anything now. GARRR!! Why, I feel amazing! This is great! I've never been so happy! Oh, wait, uh, Addie! Shucks, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean what I said about your sagging thighs... I'm sure they'll age very well. Will you still be my girlfriend?

ADDIE

Well... I guess so. I mean, I was thinking the same thing about getting bored with you some day, and some of your quirks are already getting on my nerves. But let's make the best of what we have!

GOSSUMMER

All right!

They embrace and attempt to kiss, but both lack experience and keep bumping noses. Eventually they resign themselves to Eskimo kisses.

ROBERTO

Wow man, you're awesome. Geez, was that great. I want you to know man, I really love you... I really do. I mean, I love you more than I love peanut butter. And Lord knows that I am a man who enjoys his peanut butter.

ROBERTO unscrews the top off a jar of peanut butter and throws it behind him. SISTER catches it. He reaches his finger in and spends a solid fifteen seconds soaking in the pleasure of swallowing this single bite.

GOSSUMMER

You know, I think there's a lesson hidden in everything that's happened these past couple days.

ADDIE

Take chances?

OFFICER ED

Crime doesn't pay?

ROBERTO

Be yourself?

SISTER

Mainstream entertainment is whole-heartedly formulated with minor nuances to give the illusion of diverse plot when in truth it all exists only to reaffirm our pre-existing values rather than challenge us with new ideas because the average audience has no interest in being intellectually challenged?

GOSSUMMER

You aren't supposed to talk... Nevertheless, no, no, and definitely no. I don't think it's that simple. It can only be explained... in a song.

Music starts. Everyone prepares to line dance. Photoshopped images of Gossummer's future play. Afterwards, the future endeavors of all of the other characters are presented.

NARRATOR

(singing)

Once the world was a sad and lonely place...

EVERYONE ELSE

A sad and lonely place! A sad and lonely place!

NARRATOR

But then Gossummer came to rule the human race...

EVERYONE ELSE

He came to rule it, yeah! He came to rule it.

NARRATOR

A man with a mission, into unchartered space, that's where it started.

EVERYONE ELSE

That's where it sta-a-a-rted.

NARRATOR

(preach-singing)

That's where he discovered on an asteroid from Pluto the cure for cancer. And determined and motivated through his life's venture, he became the greatest man who ever lived in this world. Fighting dragons and living amongst the animals, through his good graces showed that with enough determination, anything is possible! He's learned the language of the aliens from Jupiter, and made peace with them so sweet, he found a way to grow chicken on plants as well as several red meats, he's saved kids from burning buildings, and fed those who wanted food, and saved starfish who was washed on the beach, just because he's just that good! Actually he's Great! He's Gossummer the Great!

Blackout.

End of play.