

Odd Man Out

By Alyssa Formosa

Characters

Sloane - Loyal and fighting to keep her best friend with her ability to manipulate everyone around her.

Nora - Athletic nerd with good intentions undermined by her need to be accepted.

Autumn - Quirky and naive, but not dumb. She feels everything very deeply.

Blake - Confident and cool. His passionate heart is looking for someone to heal it.

Square brackets [/] are used to indicate asides.

Scene One

Setting: Courtyard

*Sloane is at her picnic table in the courtyard at school.
Her math homework is spread across the table.*

Sloane: [Alone. Abandoned. Forgotten. Discarded. Detached.
Companionless. Deserted. Desolated. Having no one else.
Confined. To be on one's own. Just me, myself, and I. Who's
bitter?]

Nora: *Enters.* Hey. Where's Autumn?

Sloane: Do I look like I know?

Nora: No.

Sloane: Then why would you ask?

Nora: I don't know.

Sloane: If I knew where Autumn was, I wouldn't be sitting here
all by myself, now would I?

Beat.

Nora: Is that math?

Sloane: It's trigonometry.

Nora: Trig is so eas... challenging. No, really. I almost got a B.

Sloane: I'm triggered.

Nora: Let me know if you need a hand. I'm basically an expert.

Sloane: Sure.

Nora: Have you just been sitting here doing math this whole
time?

Sloane: You're glistening.

Nora: Thanks.

Sloane: Did you shower?

Nora: I thought you guys were waiting. I came straight from practice.

Sloane: I can tell.

Nora: We're getting ready for playoffs.

Sloane: Oh my gosh, playoffs?

Nora: I know!

Sloane: Congratulations!

Nora: Thanks.

Sloane: If you play basketball like you eat, I know you must good.

Nora: Yeah?

Sloane: Yeah. You never stop dribbling.

Nora: I'm not even a point guard.

Sloane: Are you good?

Nora: I'm the captain.

Sloane: So you're good?

Nora: I could always improve.

Sloane: But are you good?

Nora: I guess so.

Sloane: Modest too.

Nora: I am modest.

Sloane: That's what I said.

Beat.

Nora: How's your brother?

Sloane: Not interested.

Nora: Not like that.

Sloane: Why don't you like my brother?

Nora: He's not my type.

Sloane: You would be lucky to get someone like him.

Nora: I thought you said he wasn't interested.

Sloane: He's not.

Nora: Then what's it to you?

Sloane: It's nothing.

Nora: Good.

Sloane: Good. *Beat.* Where is Autumn? Not that I don't love our quality time together, but... You know.

Nora: She's never late.

Sloane: Never late.

Nora: Never.

Sloane: [Have you ever found yourself in this exact situation? Stuck, alone, with someone you can't stand but still have to be civil to because your best friend is her best friend and for some unfathomable reason your best friend decides to keep her around like that stray dog you just can't get rid of?! Yeah, me too. Here are some tips to help you get through these hard times.]

Hey Nora, how come you never wear that perfume I bought you? [It reeks.]

Nora: I only wear it for special occasions.

Sloane: Okay. I'm not mad or anything, I just think it would be the perfect thing for you to put on after basketball. I can tell you work hard.

Nora: I do work hard.

Sloane: By the way, you look really nice today. [She doesn't.] I love that outfit. [I don't.]

Nora: This? I just threw it on after-

Sloane: Here she comes!

Autumn enters.

Sloane: Autumn!

Nora: Autumn!

Autumn: Hi! Sorry I'm late.

Sloane: Where have you been?
It's been over twenty minutes! I had to wait here alone. And then with Nora.
Why do you smell like cologne?
Who were you with?

Nora: I was so worried.
You're never late.
You're always on time! I came here straight after practice.
Why are you blushing?
Who were you with?

Autumn: I lost track of time because I was hanging with Blake.

Sloane: Blake?! Do you know a Blake?

Nora: Blake?!

Nora: Depends which Blake. Blake with the glasses?

Sloane: Doesn't he have contacts now?

Nora: Or Blake the mathlete?

Sloane: He would look so good with contacts.

Nora: Or other Blake?

Sloane: Didn't he get a car?

Nora: How would you describe other Blake?

Sloane: You mean skinny Blake?

Nora: He's more wiry. Like a twig.

Sloane: You're forgetting Blake with the acne.

Nora: And Blake the man-whore.

Sloane: Please tell me it's not
Blake the man-whore.

Nora: Please tell me it's not
Blake the man-whore.

Autumn: It's not Blake the man-whore.

Sloane: Tell me!

Nora: Tell me!

Autumn: Blake with the glasses. He does have contacts now. He
does look really good. And he does have a car.

Sloane: Oo!

Nora: Oo!

Autumn: He told me he thinks I'm really awesome and that he'd
really like it if I'd give him a chance.

Sloane: So?

Nora: So?

Autumn: I'm gonna give him a chance!

Sloane: Ah!

Nora: Ah!

Autumn: He's picking me up at seven tomorrow for a movie.

Sloane: What are you gonna wear?

Nora: What movie are you watching?

Sloane: Is he going to pay?

Nora: Does your grandma know?

Sloane: Are you gonna kiss him?

Nora: I don't know! We're going to *Until Death Do Us Part*. I
don't know what I'm going to wear, I don't know if I should
bring money, I have no idea what to tell my grandma, and I
haven't even thought about kissing him yet! I bet his lips
are so soft. I bet he's a really good kisser. He's probably
really experienced.

Nora: Don't worry. I'll help you get ready-

Sloane: I can help!

Nora: You can borrow a dress-

Sloane: I have lots of dresses.

Nora: It'll be okay.

Autumn: What if he goes to kiss me and my breath smells bad?
What if I smell bad?

Nora: You'll smell fine. This is a special occasion and I have-

Sloane: DON'T BORROW PERFUME FROM NORA.

Autumn: Why?!

Sloane: Because. You have different scents. And Blake has vision troubles which means he relies on his other senses more, like his nose. He probably has a really good sense of smell, like a dog. So, if you borrow perfume from Nora, you will smell like... Not like you. And it's really important to smell like yourself because when you're dating someone you need to be yourself, especially on the first date. So you get to know each other.

Autumn: That makes so much sense.

Nora: That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard. I have the perfect perfume-

Sloane: She can't wear the perfume I gave you!

Autumn: Why?

Nora: I'm not lending her that perfume.

Sloane: Good. Because I bought that perfume for you. Only you. I only want you to wear it.

Nora: Noted.

Autumn: I should really get going, I'm visiting Grandma today. But thanks for hanging around, I'm really glad I got to tell you.

Sloane: Of course.

Nora: I was here anyway. Besides, we're still on Fiji time, aren't we?

Autumn: Always on Fiji time!

Sloane: [Oh yeah. Another word of advice. Don't let your best friend go on a humanitarian trip to Fiji because on that trip she'll meet her new best friend who you now have to put up with and hang out with and listen to their endless Fijian inside jokes about goats and frogs and all the weird places they had to go to the bathroom.]

Autumn: See you guys tomorrow.

Nora: Don't try the kava!

Autumn exits.

Sloane: Would shut up about Fiji already?! It's been six months.

Nora: It was a life-changing trip.

Sloane: What could have possibly happened on a humanitarian trip to Fiji where you were building homes for orphaned children that was so life-changing?

Nora: Well, there was the orphans...

Sloane: There are orphans in Canada.

Nora: It was a really special trip for me and Autumn.

Sloane: There you go again putting yourself before her.

Nora: Look, don't worry about it. You wouldn't have enjoyed yourself anyway.

Sloane: Oh?

Nora: You're not really the "roughing it" type.

Sloane: And you're not really the dressy type but you still offered to help Autumn get ready for her date.

Nora: It's her first date!

Sloane: I've been waiting for it a lot longer than you.

Nora: Have you ever wondered if you guys didn't meet so young if you'd still be friends?

Sloane: Of course we would.

Nora: But I mean if you met Autumn today would you still give her a chance?

Sloane: Why wouldn't I?

Nora: You're just really different people.

Sloane: We have a ton in common. You're the odd man out.

Nora: It's just a thought.

Sloane: A dumb one.

Beat.

Nora: Do you wanna go paintballing tomorrow?

Sloane: Heh?

Nora: I know this place. They have trees. We could hide in trees. We could shoot people from trees!

Sloane: Can't you just do some layups?

Nora: I thought you might be free.

Sloane: It's Autumn's first date.

Nora: So she'll be busy, but you could still do something.

Sloane: I'm going out.

Nora: Where?

Sloane: Out.

Nora: Where?

Sloane: Out.

Nora: Where?

Sloane: I don't know yet. Maybe the movies. Probably the movies.

Nora: Autumn and Blake are going to the movies.

Sloane: Are they? What a coincidence.

Nora: You can't do that!

Sloane: Why not?

Nora: It's her first date.

Sloane: It's her first date and I've never even met the guy.
What if he's a jerk? What if he's a kinky? What if he's
diabetic?

Nora: Diabetic?

Sloane: I have to make sure she's okay.

Nora: Fine. Then I'm going too.

Sloane: Absolutely not.

Scene Two

Setting: Movie theatre

*Sloane and Nora are at the movie theatre dressed
"incognito".*

Nora: [I absolutely did. Do I regret it?]

She looks at Sloane. Sloane is unimpressed by everything.

[Do I?]

Nora eats popcorn. They sit in silence.

Nora: *Mouth full.* Do you want some?

Sloane: No.

Nora continues to eat.

Sloane: Would you stop chewing so loudly?

Nora: *Mouth full.* Sorry.

Sloane: You're such a slob.

Nora: *Eating popcorn.* [Have you ever found yourself in this exact situation? Stuck, about to watch your best friend's first date with her other best friend who, for some unfathomable reason, hates you even though you've been nothing but nice to her despite the fact that you think she limits your best friend because all she could say about the humanitarian trip you and your best friend went on to build homes for orphaned children in Fiji is that it sounded dirty? Yeah, me too.]

My game plan? Keep it inside. Bottle it up and let it all out on the court. Except for the perfume she gave you, keep that bottled up forever. That shit reeks.]

Autumn and Blake enter.

Autumn: No way.

Blake: Way.

Sloane: Here they come!

Autumn: I don't believe you!

Blake: I'm telling the truth!

Autumn: You're telling me that there are only four seasons?

Blake: Yes.

Nora: Can you hear them?

Sloane: Shh.

Autumn: Name them.

Blake: Winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Autumn: You forgot my season.

Blake: I said autumn.

Autumn: You said fall.

Blake: Yeah.

Autumn: Yeah, you forgot one.

Blake: Which one?

Autumn: You have winter, spring, summer, fall, and autumn.
That's five.

Nora: Can you hear them?

Sloane: Shh.

Autumn: What are you laughing at?

Blake: Fall and autumn are the same thing! Do you wanna sit
here?

Autumn: Sure. But I know you're lying.

Blake: They call it fall because it's when the leaves fall down.

Autumn: So I don't have a season?

Blake: No. I mean yes. I mean autumn's the official name, they
just call it fall.

Autumn: So fall's like a nickname?

Blake: Yeah. Exactly.

Autumn: Holy, my brain hurts. Does this mean fall is my
nickname?

Blake: Depends how clumsy you are.

Nora: Can you hear them?

Sloane: No!

Nora: At least we have good view.

Lights dim.

Nora: What movie is this again?

Sloane: Until Death Do Us Part.

Nora: Sounds cute.

Horror music starts playing.

Blake: You're lucky you're here with me.

Autumn: Oh?

Blake: I can protect you.

Sloane: He looks like a movie talker. I bet he's a movie talker.
I hate movie talkers. They just talk talk talk while the
movie's playing. Just watch the movie, man!

Beat.

Nora: Can I hold your hand?

Sloane: No.

Autumn rests her hand palm up.

Sloane: Do you see that?

Nora: Gruesome.

Sloane: She wants him to hold her hand.

Nora: I want you to hold my hand.

Sloane: Why isn't he holding her hand? It's right there!

Nora: Are you a movie talker?

Sloane: What is he doing?

Blake is too busy holding himself to notice Autumn's hand.

Sloane: How long is she gonna leave her hand there? He's had his
chance. Put your palm down.

Autumn puts her palm back down.

Sloane: Good.

Blake glances at Autumn.

Sloane: Why is he looking at her like that?

Blake yawns and stretches.

Sloane: Don't try that.

Nora: Don't open the door!

Sloane: Don't even.

Slowly, Blake's arm makes its way around Autumn's shoulder.

Sloane: Oh my god, oh my god,
oh my god, oh my god...

Nora: Oh my god, oh my god,
oh my god, oh my god...

He did it. What is this?
Middle school?

*She clamps her hand over
her mouth.*

Autumn leans into him.

Sloane: And she likes it?!

Nora: I thought this was a rom-com.

Blake glances at Autumn. Autumn glances at Blake.

Sloane: This is just awkward.

He looks at her. She looks back.

Sloane: Wait.

They lean in.

Sloane: No. No. No!

Nora: No. No. No!

They are about to kiss when-

Nora: *screaming bloody murder.* AH HH!

*Popcorn goes flying and Nora holds onto the popcorn bag
like her life depends on it.*

Blake and Autumn split.

Sloane: What the hell?

Nora: He opened the door.

Sloane rolls her eyes and offers Nora her hand.

Nora: *accepting.* Thank you.

Scene Three

Setting: Autumn/Sloane/Nora's houses

Autumn has just gotten home from her date. She squeals and jumps around. She calls Sloane.

Sloane: *answers.* Hello?

Autumn: Ah!!!!

Sloane: Autumn! How'd it go?

Autumn: He is amazing. Superb. Wonderful!

Sloane: I'm so happy for you.

Autumn: Did you know there are only four seasons?

Sloane: Did you?

Autumn: Doesn't that make so much sense? Because they call it fall because it's when the leaves fall but really it's autumn like me.

Sloane: Wow.

Autumn: Blake's really amazing. He does this thing with his thumbs when he's talk. And he's really smart, but not like in a showy way. I don't know. He's just really cool.

Sloane: You think he's a good guy?

Autumn: I think he's a great guy.

Sloane: Good.

Autumn: You don't sound very excited! I should've called Nora.

Sloane: You haven't called Nora yet?

Autumn: I just got home.

Sloane: You called me before Nora?

Autumn: It doesn't matter.

Sloane: You called me before Nora!

Autumn: You're missing the point.

Sloane: Because Nora sucks!

Autumn: I'm hanging up now.

Sloane: Wait-

Autumn hangs up and calls Nora. Nora jumps when her phone rings.

Nora: *answers.* Hello?

Autumn: My date went so well! He is perfect.

Nora: Zero flaws?

Autumn: None! Did you know that there are only four seasons?

Nora: Yes.

Autumn: I don't think Sloane did.

Nora: You've already talked to her?

Autumn: She's first in my contacts.

Nora: N comes before S.

Autumn: It's by last name.

Nora: Of course it is.

Autumn: I never got a chance to tell her that he kissed me...

Nora: He kissed you?!

Autumn: On the lips!

Nora: On the lips?!

Autumn: With his mouth!

Nora: When?

Autumn: On my driveway. Also, he's kind of my boyfriend now.

Nora: Boyfriend?!

Autumn: My boy.

Nora: You went on one date!

Autumn: We just feel something really special.

Nora: Shouldn't you take your time?

Autumn: I wonder what we'll name our children.

Nora hangs up and calls Sloane.

Autumn: Hello?

Sloane: *answers.* Autumn?

Nora: Nora.

Sloane: What do you want?

Nora: I have something to tell you.

Sloane: Look, I'm waiting for Autumn to call me-

Nora: I just hung up on her to tell you-

Sloane: Are you bragging that she called you? Because she called me first.

Nora: They're dating!

Sloane: They couldn't be.

Nora: They are. But don't-

Sloane hangs up on Nora. They both try calling Autumn.

Autumn: Hi Grandma! ...It went really well. We kissed! ...I know!

Scene Four

Setting: Courtyard

Autumn and Blake sit together eating lunch.

Autumn: What colour does this smell like? She shoves her food under Blake's nose.

Blake: Red.

Autumn: That's what I thought.

Sloane enters. She stops when she sees Blake at her table. Nora enters, distracted, and walks into Sloane.

Sloane: Watch it!

Nora: I thought you were a monster.

Sloane: Look.

Nora: Is that-

Sloane: Yup.

They walk to the table and sit.

Nora: Hey.

Blake: Hey.

Autumn: This is Sloane and Nora.

Blake: I'm Blake.

Autumn: Blake asked if he could eat lunch with us today. Isn't that great?

Sloane: A little unexpected maybe.

Nora: It's nice to meet you.

Blake: You too. How's the team doing?

Nora: We're-

Sloane: Enough about Nora. Tell us about yourself, Blake. Do you have any siblings? What's your favourite food? Are you going to break my best friends heart?

Autumn: Sloane!

Blake: I have a little brother, I like tacos, and no.

Sloane: What kind of grades you get?

Blake: A's and B's.

Sloane: Cats or dogs?

Blake: Dogs.

Sloane: Is Hawaiian a real pizza flavour?

Blake: Yes.

Sloane: Where do you want to be in ten years?

Blake: My future home.

Sloane: Why do you like Autumn?

Blake: She's awesome.

Sloane: Are you diabetic?

Blake: Yes.

Sloane gasps.

Nora: What's your problem with diabetes?

Sloane: Autumn doesn't know how to use an EpiPen!

Autumn: I could learn.

Nora: She could learn!

Sloane: What's your biggest dream?

Blake: NHL.

Sloane: Who are you when no one's looking?

Blake: Still me.

Sloane: What's your darkest secret?

Autumn: Stop it.

Sloane: I'm just getting to know old Blakey-Blake. Isn't that what you wanted?

Autumn: You're hazing my boyfriend.

Blake: I like it when you say that word.

Autumn: Hazing?

Blake: Boyfriend.

Sloane: Nora?

Nora: I don't think hazing's the right word. Harassing has a better connotation.

Sloane: *Stands up.* You're literally no help.

Autumn: Where are you going?

Sloane: I'm not hungry.

She exits.

Autumn: Wait! *To Blake and Nora.* Stay. *Calling.* Sloane!

She exits.

Blake: Is she always that intense?

Nora: She doesn't like you.

Blake: Oh.

Nora: It's okay, she doesn't like me either.

Blake: Oh?

Nora: And she's on her period.

Blake: Oh! *Beat.* Nice salad.

Nora: Thanks.

Blake: Healthy.

Nora: Yeah, I'm in training but I ate all this movie theatre popcorn on Friday, really buttery, so I gotta go light the next couple days.

Blake: What movie did you see?

Nora: Movie?

Blake: You said you were at the theatre.

Nora: Did I?

Blake: You said you ate movie theatre popcorn.

Nora: I think I just said popcorn.

Blake: I just went on a date with Autumn on Friday at the movie theatre.

Nora: Wow. Cool. She told me you were going out for dinner.

Blake: Strange.

Nora: Yeah. What movie did you see?

Blake: Until Death Do Us Part.

Nora: Is that a rom-com?

Blake: Horror.

Nora: I never watch horror.

Blake: There was such a plot twist. You would have never expected James to be the killer.

Nora: I thought Owen was the killer? I mean- That's what I read on the internet when I googled the movie plot because I saw the trailer and I couldn't sleep because I needed to know what happened and I couldn't just go watch it because I don't watch horror, you know I don't watch horror, I just told you I don't watch horror. But joke's on me, because I still couldn't sleep anyway.

Blake: Why did you come on our date?

Nora: That's a big accusation to make.

Blake: Did you?

Nora: Um.

Blake: Why?

Nora: Because. We don't know you. You could be a bad guy.

Blake: Do I seem like a bad guy?

Nora: Well not yet.

Blake: But you're waiting for me to become a bad guy?

Nora: Sloane made me do it! She said she was gonna go and then I told her no and then she told me yes and then I said fine but only if I can go and then she said no but then I came anyway.

Blake: You didn't try harder to talk her out of it?

Nora: She doesn't like me. I told you that.

Blake: Then why did you go with her?

Nora: To keep an eye on her for you!

Blake: For me?

Nora: Yes.

Blake: Did you ask?

Nora: No.

Blake: Then don't do me that favour.

Nora: My teammates don't get mad when I stop their checks without asking.

Blake: That's not the same.

Nora: How so?

Blake: It's basketball. *Beat.* Do you really think I'm going to turn into a bad guy? *Beat.* Nora, at least give me a chance to screw up before you hate me.

Nora: I don't hate you, you're just making me uncomfortable.

Blake: I'm not even that mad that you were on the date. I just want you to trust me.

Nora: Do you trust me?

Blake: You spied on my date.

Nora: I thought you weren't mad.

Blake: I'm not.

Nora: Okay.

Blake: Okay... You trust me?

Nora: Okay, I'll give you a chance to screw up. But if you do screw up-

Blake: I won't. Plus, technically I'm giving you a second chance so...

Nora: One strike, you're out. Don't get that strike.

Blake: I won't. So, do you think you could talk to Sloane for me?

Nora: About?

Blake: Me.

Nora: Why?

Blake: She doesn't like me.

Nora: She doesn't like me either.

Blake: But she might listen to you.

Nora: Why?

Blake: You're a girl.

Nora: What does that have to do with anything?

Blake: She has... You know.

Nora: What?

Blake: That thing.

Nora: What thing?

Blake: She has that girl thing.

Nora: Her period?

Blake: Yeah.

Nora: Sure, I'll talk her.

Blake: Thanks.

Autumn and Sloane enter.

Autumn: We're back! How's it going?

Blake: Great! Right?

Nora: Yeah. Woo!

Autumn: Sloane has something she'd like to say.

Sloane: If you would just tell me what your darkest secret is, I would leave you alone.

Autumn: No.

Sloane: I'm sorry for what I said earlier and that you can't take a joke.

Autumn: Close enough.

Blake: It's chill.

Autumn: Why are you so amazing?

Blake: I was just made this way. Can I walk you to class?

Autumn: The bell hasn't rang.

Blake: We'll walk slow.

Autumn: *Only in Blake's hearing range.* I don't know if I should leave them alone right now.

Blake: Don't worry. Nora's gonna put in a good word for me.

Blake signals to Nora. Nora waves.

Nora: Blake is...

Autumn and Blake exit.

Nora: The worst.

Sloane: You just figured that out?

Nora: He knows.

Sloane: About what?

Nora: About us at the movie!

Sloane: You told him?

Nora: He pressured me into it with his horribleness!

Sloane: You're an idiot! He's gonna tell Autumn.

Nora: I'm sorry! Don't yell at me! I've just been so on edge since Friday. I haven't slept in three nights. I can barely eat.

She takes a big bite of salad.

It's so sad. I wish I never went to that stupid movie!

Sloane: It sounds like he was being pretty awful today.

Nora: It was horrible. I've never felt so trapped in my life.

Sloane: And what you must be going through after watching that movie.

Nora: I've been so scared.

Sloane: We would have never even had to go if Blake hadn't asked Autumn out.

Nora: It's all Blake's fault!

Sloane: So... You want me to do something about him then.

Nora: You can do that?

Sloane: I can with your help.

Scene Five

Setting: Around the school

Sloane: [Phase One commence.] **Nora:** [Phase One commence.]

Sloane walks over to Blake and Nora walks over to Autumn.

Autumn: How was lunch with Blake?

Nora: It was okay. He's very confident. He always knows exactly the right thing to say.

Autumn: Isn't he sweet?

Nora: He was noticing lots of things.

Autumn: He's so aware.

Nora: He was noticing lots of girls.

Autumn: He has eyes.

Nora: Well he wouldn't check the market if he wasn't looking to buy.

Autumn: Do you think that he'd...?

Nora: Just be careful. A smooth talker with a wandering eye is never a good combo.

Autumn: Was he really checking out other girls?

Nora: I could be wrong.

Autumn: I hope you're wrong.

Nora: Just make sure you know what you're getting into.

Autumn: How?

Nora: You could go through his phone.

Sloane: Blake!

Blake: Hi.

Sloane: Nora told me that you know.

Blake: I won't tell.

Sloane: You won't?

Blake: No.

Sloane: I mean, I knew you wouldn't. You seem so trustworthy. It's really attractive.

Blake: Thanks...

Sloane: Also, sorry about lunch. I was in a really pissy mood.

Blake: It's okay, I know why. You'll make it through.

Sloane: Through what?

Blake: You know.

Sloane: Sure. Look, since we're friends now I could really use

your perspective on something.

Blake: What's up?

Sloane: So I was recently seeing this guy and he really wanted to go through my phone but I wouldn't let him and he got really mad.

Blake: Why?

Sloane: I guess he wanted to make sure I wasn't hiding something, which I wasn't, I just didn't like the way it felt. Is that bad?

Blake: Absolutely not. Trust is everything in a relationship.

Sloane: So you wouldn't ever need to go through Autumn's phone.

Blake: Nope.

Sloane: And she'd wouldn't need to go through yours.

Blake: Never.

Sloane: And if she wanted to?

Blake: I hope she never asks.

Blake and Autumn meet in the middle of the stage.

Blake: Hey babe.

Autumn: Hi.

Autumns hugs him and grabs his phone out of his back pocket.

Blake: What'chya doing?

Autumn: Nothing.

She attempts to open his phone.

You have a password.

Blake: That I do.

Autumn: Care to share?

Blake: Not particularly.

Autumn: What if you were dying and I needed to call someone?

Blake: You could use your phone.

Autumn: What if my phone is dead?

Blake: Then you should worry about your dead phone rather than dying me.

Autumn: You mean more to me than my phone.

Blake: Then you don't need to go through my phone.

Autumn: Is it sixteen sixteen?

Blake: No.

Autumn: Two two two two?

Blake: No.

Autumn: What is it?

Blake: It's not my hockey number. It's not my favourite number. What else means a lot to me?

Autumn: Your brother? What's his favourite number?

Blake: Not my brother.

Autumn: Then what?

Blake: F.

Autumn: That's a letter.

Blake: I know. Type it. F-A-L-L.

Autumn: F-A-L... Fall. You're password's fall?

Blake: My favourite season.

Autumn: Here.

She hands him back his phone.

Blake: Thank you.

Autumn: Why are you so perfect?

Blake: We're perfect.

They exit. Sloane and Nora enter.

Sloane: It brought them closer?!

Nora: His password is fall. Like autumn. Like her.

Sloane: I know, Nora, I'm not dumb, like you.

Blake: Hey guys.

Sloane: Hi.

Nora: Hi.

Blake: Do you know where Autumn is?

Sloane: She's not coming to school today.

Blake: She never told me that.

Nora: It was really last minute. She's with Zac.

Blake: Who's Zac?

Sloane: She hasn't told you about Zac yet?

Blake: No.

Sloane: [Phase Two commence.]

Nora: [Phase Two commence.]

Sloane: Zac's a really good family friend. They've known each other forever. It's really cute, actually. We used to think they were going to end up together. You know, until she met you.

Blake: Why is she skipping school for him?

Nora: He's on break from university right now and their time together is very important.

Blake: He's in university?

Nora: He's going to be a doctor.

Blake: Who would want a doctor named Zac? So unprofessional.

Sloane: Blake, are you jealous?

Blake: Of Doctor Zac who has to stick his finger up people's butts?

Nora: I don't think-

Sloane: So you have no close female friends?

Blake: Well I have Rachel, but that's different-

Sloane: Who's Rachel?

Blake: One of my best friends.

Sloane: What do you do with Rachel?

Blake: We just hang out, sometimes we have sleepovers-

Sloane: Sleepovers?!

Nora: Sleepovers?!

Blake: Nothing happens! She just a really good friend.

Sloane: Does Autumn know you have sleepovers with Rachel?

Blake: It's never come up.

Nora: But you never thought to mention it?

Blake: No.

Sloane: At least Zac would have the decency to tell Autumn about Rachel if they were dating.

Blake: I have to go.

He exits. Autumn enters.

Autumn: Hey. Where's Blake?

Nora: I swear they're obsessed with each other.

Sloane: He's probably with Rachel.

Autumn: Who's Rachel?

Sloane: He hasn't told you about Rachel yet?

Autumn: No.

Sloane: She's only his best friend that he spends all his time with.

Nora: And has sleepovers with too.

Autumn: Sleepovers?

Sloane: He was telling us all about her at lunch. I'm surprised he hasn't told you. She seems like a big part of his life.

Autumn: I'm gonna go find my boyfriend. I'll see you guys later.

She exits.

Nora: Good luck!

Sloane: Bye.

Sloane and Nora high five and then exit. Autumn and Blake enter from separate sides.

Autumn: Where were you today?

Blake: I'd ask you the same thing but apparently you were with some guy I've never heard of.

Autumn: And apparently you were with some girl I've never heard of.

Blake: Who?

Autumn: Rachel.

Blake: I wasn't with Rachel.

Autumn: Then where were you?

Blake: At home.

Autumn: We were supposed to meet after school.

Blake: When you didn't show up to school, I assumed our plans were cancelled.

Autumn: Without talking to me?

Blake: You skipped school to hang out with some other guy without telling me!

Autumn: With Zac who I've known longer than I've known even Sloane.

Blake: So you're destined for each other?

Autumn: Only if you're destined for Rachel!

Tension builds between their stare down. It is tense until... they start laughing. They hug.

Blake: I'm sorry.

Autumn: What are we doing?

Blake: Getting mad at each other for no reason.

Autumn: I'm pretty sure I'm right.

Blake: For hating Rachel?

Autumn: I don't hate her. I don't believe in hate.

Blake: I hate Zac.

Autumn: I don't believe you.

Blake: You're too pure.

Autumn: I wanna meet Rachel. I wanna be her friend.

Blake: I can arrange that.

Autumn: And I want you to meet Zac. I feel like you'd have a lot in common.

Blake: What would I have in common with a doctor?

Autumn: You're both boys.

Blake: We're both people too.

Autumn: There we go! Best friends. I can see it now.

They gaze at each other.

Blake: I love you, Autumn.

Autumn: I love you too.

Autumn and Blake exit as Sloane and Nora enter.

Sloane: We made them love each other! L-O-V-E love!

Nora: This is bad.

Sloane: After everything, they realize they love each other!

Nora: This is really bad.

Sloane: Any possible outcome, and it's love!

Nora: Bad.

Sloane: They've been dating like two days!

Nora: It's been a month.

Sloane: That's like two days relationship time.

Nora: We have no chance now. They're gonna fight for each other.
There's no way we can break them up.

Sloane: I don't wanna hear it, Nora.

Nora: There's nothing we can do!

Sloane: If they fight harder, so do we.

Nora: How?

Sloane: Are you still in?

Nora: Of course.

Sloane: You aren't gonna like what we have to do.

Nora: I'm in.

Sloane: Meet at my house at nine. Wear black. This ends tonight.

Scene Six

Setting: Outside Sloane's house transition to outside
Blake's house

Nora ninjas onstage with somewhat recognizable summersaults and cartwheels. Sloane taps her on the shoulder. Nora's inner ninja prepares for battle until she realizes it's Sloane.

Sloane: What are you wearing?

Nora: Black. Like you told me.

Sloane: Lose the shades.

Nora: It's part of the look.

Sloane: What look are you going for?

Nora: Yo, poquito galleta. Nosotros rob-imos el bank por la dinero.

Sloane: That is neither accurate nor Spanish.

Nora: Aren't you pumped?

Sloane: No.

Nora: Beast mode!

Sloane: No.

Nora: I brought you some shades.

Sloane: No.

Nora: Sorry for trying to be inclusive.

Sloane: Fine.

Takes sunglasses.

Let's do this, chica.

Sloane leads the way.

Nora: Yeah! So, we aren't actually robbing a bank, right?

Sloane: I thought that would be the perfect thing to break Autumn and Blake up. Nothing kills your relationship like your best friends getting arrested.

Nora: Where are we going then?

Sloane: That's for me to know and you to find out.

Nora: I'm so nervous. Are you nervous? I'm sweating. Are these pit stains? Are you sweating? You don't sweat, do you? You would've sweated in Fiji. It was so hot! But you probably wouldn't have done a lot of work, so you might not have sweated anyway. You're like a higher being - were you born without sweat glands? Do you ever worry that one day all the sweat you never sweated will build up and you'll just explode? No? I think that sometimes when I hold in a burp. My grave would say, "Here lies Nora, died with a bang and a belch." Are we there yet?

Sloane: Do your lips ever get chapped from talking too much?

Nora: Not usually.

Sloane: If they do, I have a glue stick in my purse.

Nora: Is that Blake's car?

Sloane: Good observation.

Nora: Whose house is this?

Sloane: Whose do you think?

Nora: What are we doing here?

Sloane: Phase three commence.

Nora: What's your plan? Just knock on the door? "Hi, my name is Nora and I would like to share with you today this book of all the reasons you shouldn't be together."

Sloane: Give me your bra.

Nora: No.

Sloane: Give it to me.

Nora: No!

Sloane: Just give it.

Nora: Get off of me!

Sloane: Why?

Nora: No means no!

Sloane: Are you willing to do anything to break them up?

Nora: You can't have my bra.

Sloane: Fine! We'll use mine. *She takes off her bra and throws it on the ground.*

Nora: That's your master plan?

Sloane: It's a booby trap.

Nora: This is pointless.

Sloane: Calm your tits.

Nora: What is this supposed to accomplish?

Sloane: My bra gave me more support than you're giving me.

The porch light turns on and Sloane and Nora get onto the ground and into hiding. Autumn and Blake enter.

Autumn: Weird. I thought I heard something.

Blake: Must've been the wind.

Autumn: What's this? *She picks up the the bra.*

Blake: Is that a bra?

Autumn: What's it doing here?

Blake: Maybe it thinks my driveway's the breast.

Autumn: Blake.

Blake: What?

Autumn: Why is there a bra on your driveway?

Blake: I'm attempting to expand my wardrobe?

Autumn: Is it Rachel's?

Blake: Yeah I had sex with Rachel and she left her bra on my driveway.

Autumn: This isn't a joke!

Blake: I honestly don't know what to say, Autumn.

Autumn: Whose is it?

Blake: Are you sure it's not yours?

The bra is nowhere near the right size for Autumn.

Autumn: It's not mine.

Blake: I have no idea where it came from.

Autumn: I know you check out other girls.

Blake: When?

Autumn: I just thought I was special.

Blake: You are.

Autumn: I need some space to think things over.

Blake: Don't you believe me?

Autumn: I don't know what to believe.

Blake: Then I can't be with you.

Autumn: You're breaking up with me?

Blake: I can't be with someone who doesn't trust me.

Autumn: I should be mad at you.

Blake: There's no reason to be.

Autumn: If you found guys underwear at my house what would you say?

Blake: I would trust you.

Autumn: Would you really?

Blake: Can't you trust me?

Autumn: How can I?

Blake: I thought you were different but maybe you aren't special after all.

Autumn: Don't say that. Don't do this.

Blake: You've left me no choice.

Autumn: I hate you!

She storms away.

Nora: Wait!

Sloane: Nora, no!

Autumn: Guys?

Nora: It was us. We did everything. Blake knows nothing.

Autumn: What?

Nora: We went on your first date and he found out and so we tried to break you guys up because we don't like him so we put the phone idea in both your heads and made you both

jealous of Zac and Rachel and now we planted Sloane's bra on his driveway...

Autumn: You did what?

Blake: This is great. I'm furious, but this is great. This means we're okay Autumn. This is grrrreeeat.

Sloane: You didn't even try to justify yourself, asshole. You just let her go. She wasn't supposed to get hurt!

Blake: You're blaming me for this?

Nora: You did act like a douche.

Sloane: Don't try to help, Nora. You're no help to anyone.

Blake: At least I didn't backstab and manipulate!

Nora: Neither did I!

Sloane: You both think-

Autumn: Stop it!

[Have any of you ever been in this exact situation? When your neurotic boyfriend breaks up with you because you think he's cheating on you but the only reason you think that is because you're two best friends in the entire world plant a bra on his driveway? No? None of you have been through that? I didn't think so. I can't believe I've filled my life with such horrible people.]

Blake: You're mad at me?

Autumn: You broke up with me because of trust yet apparently they came on our first date and you knew about it and you didn't tell me?

Blake: That's different-

Autumn: You're a hypocrite. If you think we're okay you have a lot of figuring out to do.

Sloane: We warned you.

Autumn: Shut up. I can barely stand to look at the two of you.

Nora: I'm so sorry-

Autumn: Do you remember when we were in Fiji, learning how to change the world and become better people?

Nora: Yes.

Autumn: Are you sure? Because I don't think you can remember something you never learned.

Nora: Autumn...

Autumn: And Sloane, the worst part is I should have expected this from you.

Sloane: Well-

Autumn: No. You've been my best friend for twelve years and this is what I should expect?

Sloane: I had to!

Autumn: Congratulations! You got exactly what you wanted. *Beat.*
I can't do this anymore. I can't stay here.

Blake: I'll drive you.

Autumn: I'll walk.

Sloane: I'll walk with you.

Nora: Me too.

Autumn: Like hell you will.

Makes a phone call.

Grandma, can you come get me? I'm at Blake's.

She exits. Beat.

Nora: I could use a ride.

Blake: If you aren't gone in three minutes, I'm calling the police.

Blake goes back into his house.

Sloane: How could you?

Nora: How could you not?

Sloane: We were so close. You ruined everything!

Nora: This was too far.

Sloane: You said you were in.

Nora: You should've told me.

Sloane: You wouldn't have come.

Nora: Who would?

Sloane: You're the one who wanted me to do something about him
so I did.

Nora: All I ever wanted was to be your friend.

Sloane: So now you're leaving me too?

Nora: I have an early practise tomorrow morning because this
isn't the only thing going on in my life.

Sloane: Have fun walking home alone.

Nora: I will.

Sloane: In the dark.

Nora: I will.

Sloane: With all the monsters.

Nora: I will!

She exits.

Sloane: Arggh! *She picks up her bra and looks at Blake's house.
She looks where Nora just left. She doesn't know what to
do.*

Scene Seven

Setting: Courtyard

The girls eat lunch at their table.

Autumn: [Everything is going well. Life is good. I forgave Sloane and Nora, not because I have no one else, but because I wanted to. Things are just like how they used to be.]

How is Blake? I wouldn't know and I wouldn't care. Why? Do you know?]

Nora: Are you coming to my game on Friday?

Autumn: What time?

Nora: Seven.

Autumn: Sure.

Nora: Cool.

Autumn: *To Sloane.* Are you coming?

Sloane: Sure.

Autumn: Cool.

Nora: Cool.

Sloane: Cool.

They eat.

Autumn: I have to pee.

Sloane: I'll come.

Nora: I'll come.

Autumn: It's fine. I'll manage on my own.

She exits. Silence.

Sloane: Are you ready for your game?

Nora: She's sad.

Sloane: Do you think you're gonna win?

Nora: She's sad because of us.

Sloane: I hope you score some baskets.

Nora: Don't you care?

Sloane: There's nothing we can do.

Nora: That girl sitting at the table wasn't our best friend.
That wasn't Autumn.

Sloane: Then who is she?

Nora: I can't believe you don't care.

Sloane: I can't believe you care that I don't care.

Nora: Of course I care.

Sloane: You should try caring a little less. It's a lot easier.

Nora: What did you do that night? After I left.

Sloane: I walked.

Nora: I'm sorry.

Sloane: You walked too.

Nora: But I left you.

Sloane: I don't care, Nora. I'm over it.

Nora: How's your brother?

Sloane: He's fine.

Nora: Still single?

Sloane: Yup.

Nora: Still not interested?

Sloane: Definitely.

Nora: How's math?

Sloane: It's good.

Nora: Are you failing?

Sloane: Who told you that?

Nora: My offer to help still stands.

Sloane: I'm good, thanks.

Beat.

Nora: Do you know what baby mathematicians drink?

Sloane: What?

Nora: The quadratic formula.

Sloane: Don't.

Nora: What did the math teacher say to the pie addict?

Sloane: Nora.

Nora: Be rational.

Sloane: Stop.

Nora: I'll do trig, I'll do algebra, I'll even do statistics,
but graphing is where I draw the line.

Sloane: Stop.

Nora: Why?

Sloane: Puns are my thing.

Nora: Is it bothering you?

Sloane: No.

*Nora progressively gets more and more into Sloane's
personal space.*

Nora: Is it?

Sloane: No.

Nora: Is it?

Sloane: Stop.

Nora: Is it?

Sloane: No.

Nora: Is it?

Sloane: No.

Nora: Is it?

Sloane falls off of the bench.

Sloane: Yes it is!

She gets up to leave but pauses.

It's your turn, Nora. What's the plan?

Scene Eight

Setting: Courtyard

Nora and Sloane guide a blindfolded Autumn onstage.

Autumn: I really don't know why this is necessary.

Nora: We're almost there.

They sit Autumn down at their table in the courtyard.

Autumn: Is this our table? It feels like our table.

Sloane: It might be.

Autumn: Why would you blindfold me to bring me to our table?

Sloane takes to blindfold off of Autumn.

Autumn: Finally. Why are you dressed like that?

Sloane is dressed for winter and Nora is dressed for spring.

Sloane: The reasons for the seasons.

Nora: The reasons for the seasons.

Autumn: What reason?

Sloane: My name is Winter. I am powerful. I am cold. I am lonely.

Autumn: What is this?

Sloane: I kill your beautiful flowers and turn your long days into long nights. Why? I am lonely. Watching white dust float from your windowsill. Cold cheeks, cold hands, cold toes. And you are the shining snowman I trapped inside of a globe, where winters breath is eternal, so I can protect you. So you are only mine. I am beautiful, I am powerful, but I am lonely.

Nora: My name is Spring! I bud new friendships, choke Winter's hard work, and flaunt green but green is envy and you never know whether I'll bring sun, sleet, or rain. I think I'm just a spaz. I nourish flowers and I nourish trees but people forget that I also nourish weeds. I activate allergies, stir up sneezes, and build bloody noses too. I swear I have good intentions, but sometimes when I'm just trying to keep the earth hydrated I end up causing a flood. Whoops! I'm working on spreading my roots and growing dreams to change the world.

Autumn: You guys-

Sloane: Now for our special guest...

Nora: Now for our special guest...

Blake: *enters.* I am summer. I am the wish you make on a dandelion. I am the blazing red sunset you see even when you close your eyes. I am the feeling you get when you jump off a cliff into water. You are taking a chance on me.

If you could dip a cup into the sky and sip on sunshine you would glow. You would glow through your eyes, your teeth,

your lips, your heart; a vision of happiness. You would become drunk on the taste of sunny days in your cup and addiction would fly. But what goes up must always go down - withdrawals, hangovers, heart break - until only a drought-burned image is left. And do you know what mends the symptoms of the summer drought? The autumn rain.

You are Autumn.

Sloane: You are Autumn.

Nora: You are Autumn.

Sloane: You walk to me through the snow.

Nora: You splash with me in the puddles.

Blake: You sprint to me under the sun.

Sloane: We have a snowball fight. You teach me to love the unlovable.

Nora: You stand under your umbrella watching my flowers grow. You support me no matter what.

Blake: We build a sand castle on the beach. You show me that there is still good in the world.

Sloane: Fall is when the leaves change.

Nora: Fall is when the trees let the leaves go.

Sloane: Fall is when you change.

Nora: Fall is when we let you go.

Blake: And fall is now because I'm falling for you.

Beat. No one knows what Autumn is thinking.

Sloane: Say something!

Autumn: [Grandma's gonna think this is hilarious.]

Sloane: Well?

Autumn: Two months ago, I would have thought you were all dumb.

Sloane: That's it?!

Autumn: Well two months ago I thought there was five seasons. I still remember the day I learned there was only four.

Autumn looks at Blake.

Blake: Hi.

Autumn: Apparently we all remember that day.

Nora: It was Sloane's fault.

Sloane: You wanted to come!

Nora: Why would I want to go to a horror movie?

Autumn: It's okay! It's over. There's nothing we can do about it now.

Blake: Is that specific to just that situation, or to other things too?

Autumn: You tell me.

Blake: Do you still hate me?

Autumn: I don't believe in hate.

Blake: So.

Autumn: So.

Sloane: SO ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE HIM BACK OR NOT?

Nora: Sloane!

Autumn: Not yet.

Blake: Oh.

Autumn: Let's go slow this time around.

Blake: Okay. I can wait.

Sloane: KISS HIM.

Blake: You don't have to.

Autumn kisses him. Sloane and Nora high-five.

Blake: Let's go for coffee.

Autumn: Right now?

Blake: Yeah. I still have to win you over. Might as well start now.

Autumn: Give me one second.

She hugs Nora and Sloane.

Thank you.

Nora: Call me later.

Sloane: Call me first.

Autumn takes Blake's hand and they exit.

Sloane: And you're welcome Blake! Asshole.

Nora: He did good.

Sloane: Sure.

Nora: You did good.

Sloane: Thanks.

Nora: We make a good team.

Sloane: Yeah. Well, see ya.

Nora: Where are you going?

Sloane: To get sushi.

Nora: I like sushi.

Sloane: Good for you. *Beat.* Are you hungry?

Nora: Yeah.

Sloane: Do you wanna come?

Nora: Yeah!

Sloane: I won't hold your hand if the soy sauce gets too scary.

Nora: Shut up.

Sloane: Just saying.

Nora: You know, we could go for coffee instead.

Sloane: No. After everything? We can't. No.

The girls stare at each other for a moment. They start running after Autumn and Blake.

End.