

CAROLINE/SCOTT

(Hallway outside auditorium. CAROLINE is in a chair, doing some kind of ridiculous warmup routine, VOCALIZING, etc. No one is sitting next to her. SCOTT walks by, sees an empty seat, then gets the nerve.)

SCOTT

Anyone sitting here?

CAROLINE

You're auditioning? Well, good for you. Make sure you sign up on the audition sheet, Skip.

SCOTT

Scott.

CAROLINE

Sorry. Scott. I feel like one of those actresses who never know the crew people's names. I heard that Carol Burnett personally introduces herself to everyone, so: Hi, I'm Caroline.

SCOTT

We're in the same homeroom.

CAROLINE

Wow, I might be awful.

SCOTT

It's okay, it's happened before. Not that that's bad -

CAROLINE

I am awful.

SCOTT

No, no - you're actually kinda awesome. Especially on stage.

CAROLINE

Oh, we like you.

SCOTT

Um - you - yeah.

CAROLINE

You're nervous. This your first time?

SCOTT

You mean auditioning, right? I kinda can't audition, but -
(Caroline's VAMP begins.)

CAROLINE

Nope. You are. If you want it, you have to go for it.

SCOTT

Yeah, gotta go for it. It's why I sat down next to you.

CAROLINE

You chose the right person.

I PRACTICE EVERY NIGHT
WITH TWO VOCAL COACHES
EVERY SINGLE NOTE
AS THE DAY APPROACHES
MEMORIZE EACH BEAT
KNOW EVERY LINE

BECAUSE

WHEN I GO ON STAGE
I'M IN LOVE WITH
EVERYTHING ABOUT A STAGE
IT'S A FEELING THAT
ALTHOUGH I'M QUITE VERBOSE
I CAN'T DEFINE

I JUST SHINE

So what's in your book?

SCOTT

Book?

CAROLINE

Sorry. What songs do you have prepared?

SCOTT

I'm not auditioning. Look, the reason I sat down was -

CAROLINE

Don't be nervous. Believe me, I understand nerves.

SCOTT

Why are you nervous? You have the best voice in school.

CAROLINE

"But what have you done for us lately?" It was humiliating being in the chorus in Brigadoon last year when I was Maria AND Eliza my first two years. I'm 17 and over the hill in a small Texas town.

(changes her tone)

Okay, I'm back from the dark place.

SO WHEN I GET THE LEAD
NO BELIEVE ME I JUST
HAVE TO GET THE LEAD
HAV'TA PROVE THAT BRIGADOON WAS JUST A
FLUKE THIS YEAR IS MINE

Can you keep a secret?

SCOTT

Sure.

CAROLINE

If I don't get a lead, I'm not doing the show.

SCOTT

If it's any consolation, I think you would make a terrific slutty drug addict dying of AIDS.

CAROLINE

You really mean it? You're not just saying that as a pick-up line?

(she laughs "as if")

SCOTT

Both.

CAROLINE

(punches him in the shoulder)

You are so my new best friend. So - what song are you going to sing?

SCOTT

I'm not. My Dad doesn't want me to audition.

CAROLINE

Look, fathers have a tough time when their sons are... you know, but that shouldn't stop you from -

SCOTT

Their sons are what?

CAROLINE

Your secret's safe with me.

SCOTT

Wait, but I -

OFFSTAGE VOICE

Caroline, you're on deck.

CAROLINE

SO I SIT AND WAIT MY TURN
HOLY CRICKETS IS IT
FINALLY MY TURN
SO MY PREPARATION
DILIGENCE AND DRIVE
SHOULD NOW COMBINE
AND SHINE

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Wish me luck. And seriously, forget what your Dad thinks. Audition. It'd be fun to hang out.

CAROLINE AT THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

CAROLINE

I'm not an activist. Everyone thinks I left the show to take a stand and be political, and they thought that I thought Mr. Powell should be fired, but no. Sure, I kinda wanted him fired last year but... Nope. There is one reason and one reason alone why I left the show and why I am speaking out tonight. YOU CUT MY SONG. Yeah, yeah, I know the character has other songs in the show, but it was my SOLO, my last moment to shine before I go... This was supposed to be my senior year. What if I don't get into Michigan or CCM or CMU and that's it, I never get a lead again? I peaked as a sophomore? My last memory of being on this stage is gonna be me kicking in a line behind Bonnie Jean in the highlands of Scotland! You can't do this to someone. Especially me. This show is my art.

But then I thought, this show was written by someone, and it was his art.

(to the crowd)

You all tried to mess with art. And that's what this is. It's a piece of art, though it has act two problems and that final song is kinda sketchy. It's not some indoctrination device that's going to inject us with something bad if we watch it or heaven forbid, act in it. If we did a show about gangs, we're not all of a sudden going to wear gold bandanas. Just because this show is about drugs, or stealing or guys kissing each other, it doesn't mean we're going to start... shooting up. Look, any good parent knows not to bring a little kid to see this show. But we're in high school. Let us grow up. Nothing in this show is going to make us want to go out and do things we wouldn't normally do or normally be. We are and nothing is going to change it.