

Dancing With Invisible Children

(Drama)

by

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| CHARACTER NAME | BRIEF DESCRIPTION | AGE | GENDER |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Xavier Harris | A druggie and hardcore alcoholic. | 19 | MALE |
| Jasmine York | The counselor. | 22 | FEMALE |
| Shannon Monroe | The daddy's girl, a princess. | 19 | FEMALE |
| Stephen Andrews | Smart and nerdy. Shy | 19 | MALE |
| Anne Wilson | The brainaic turned bad girl. | 19 | FEMALE |

ACT ONE

(SETTING: The Clark County Jail meeting room in Tennessee.)

(AT RISE: The stage should be bare except for a table and five chairs. Bare and seemingly lonely.)

SCENE 1 -

JASMINE (OFF STAGE)

Come in and sit down. This is how
This is going to work. You tell me
Something I tell you
Something. No if, ands,
Or butts.
I'm here to help you
You're here to help each other
We're all here to help ourselves.
The chief said these kids were
Different, harder, more
How did he put it?
Uncontrollable. But he knew I
Worked with druggies, drinkies,
Abuseies and the works.
And I asked him
Just how different could
These
Kids
Be.

XAVIER HARRIS waddles onstage, hands deep in his pocket. He stands center stage and starts his monologue almost immediately. After his monologue ends he will take the first seat.

XAVIER

I was never one
For a regimented
Schedule.
Monday through Friday

7-3, school.

Monday through Wednesday 3-8, work at the local shake shop. Thursday through Sunday

Lay back

Smoke.

Drink.

And be free.

I was never one for a schedule but

I follow it to match the lives of these other folks

Around me.

I,

We, all try

To fit in

In some way or another. A drink here for your Crush.

A smoke there because your friend

Says it's cool.

Then you get caught drinking

And driving

And suddenly

Everyone and everything changes. Suddenly

You're seen as a hazard. A freak.

A killer.

And your schedule dwindles down To nothing.

My schedule as of

The accident.

Monday through Sunday 24/7

Sit in jail and think About the actions

Of days past.

JASMINE YORK walks onstage carrying her briefcase and a notepad. She takes her seat right in the middle of the table and then starts her monologue. She could be talking to Xavier but her eyes look past him to the audience.

JASMINE

I was always a Helper.

Always helping Friends, family

But I never helped Myself.

In high school

I helped friends cheat on

Tests homework and each other. I didn't know that I was

Cheating out on the fun myself.

After college I wanted to

Get back that life.
 Have fun.
 Put my feet in the sand. Feel the wind in my hair. But then
 My friend
 She got cheated on and
 Came to me for help and
 I was once again back in square one.
 Now I focus on helping those
 Who were cheated on
 Who felt cheated on
 Who lost their way
 In this weird and cheating World.

SHANNON MONROE takes her seat and doesn't speak.
 She's annoyed. Angry. She chomps down on her
 bubblegum.

SHANNON

Intentions?
 Good or bad.
 We all have them. I keep thinking
 Of my intentions. Of that one
 Mistake. Did I want what happened
 To happen? No but I did want to hurt her.
 I wanted to take away her pedestal. I wanted to
 Snatch it right from under her. My baby sister,
 Step sister,
 In her final moments of life
 Wasn't such a little baby.
 She was a slut. A whore.
 She put what happened on herself.
 And I sat back and watched.
 I didn't know what her true
 Intentions were. I didn't know
 That she would do what she would
 Do. But then again
 Do we ever know ones true
 Intentions?

STEPHEN ANDREWS slides across the stage. He's
 tired. Sad. Remorseful even. Something heavy weighs on
 his mind.

STEPHEN

Alive.
 I'll do anything to feel it again even
 For just one day. You have to understand
 One day I was a good kid. Good grades,
 Good standing in both
 Sports and with friends.
 But then I got bored
 Of living this life. This lie.
 Then I met Anne.
 Sweet Anne. Beautiful Anne.
 I bet you would do just
 About anything to feel something
 To be alive again wouldn't you?
 Just think about the sweet
 Sensation the pain gifts you
 For the grace of a few minutes.
 Anne asked me to do something. Something reckless and
 Of course I agreed.
 That look in her eyes just made
 Me feel alive again. Just her look.
 You ask if I would do it again?
 Hell yes I would.

ANNE WILSON the good girl turned bad. She kicks out her seat before sitting.

ANNE

Just outta reach.
 My life motto. Just outta reach, able to see
 Unable to touch. Grasp. That 4.0 GPA.
 Touching it. 3.9. That cute boy in advanced
 English? A stoner, a cold
 Hard killer.
 I work my butt off, I do. I read. I write.
 I do the assignments. But to get that scholarship you
 Have to be not just good you have to be
 Great. College needs money.
 We need college to get money.
 A fantastic catch 22 and I know
 I was the only one who read
 The book! That's why I did what I did.
 That's why I took my chances.

That's why I robbed the bank at the corner
Of Woodmere Street.
I had a chance at a new life
I grabbed at it but
Like everything else in my life
It was just outta my reach.

SCENE 2 -

JASMINE

In college they told us
To talk about our feelings.
How are we feeling. What are we feeling.
Why are we feeling like that.
They told us that we should get used to these questions
Now because in the real world
Nobody will ask you how you're feeling
Or why you're feeling that way
Because out here, in the real
World, nobody gives a shit.

SHANNON

In the beginning I was happy.
I was a happy girl. My father
And me we were happy.
Daddy and his little girl.
We lived in a big house overlooking a
Golf course and daddy would play every
Saturday. He left me alone in the
Big house and felt like I was bored and lonely.
So he hired someone, a girl, I don't know.
A Mexican I think. She would play with me,
With my dolls and my ponies and my easy bake oven and
We laughed but I can't remember what we laughed about.
Or her name.
One day she was late and daddy never left for his golf game
And I was in the living room, alone
And I went upstairs holding onto the bannister like a good little girl
And knocked on his door and there was daddy

And this girl in bed together. How could my father
 My father! Be with another woman. That day
 He broke our trust. I haven't trusted him since.

ANNE

I spent a good coupla weeks
 Researching how to rob a bank.
 Preparing in other words.
 I had no idea what I was doing.
 Would it be fun? Sure.
 Would it be scary? Of course.
 A person could face life in prison for a robbery.
 Death if an injured party is involved. I wasn't planning
 On killing anyone. No.
 I was planning for help though. That's what I needed.
 As women we have it so easy.
 Present the problem to a man, a dumb man of course,
 Blink your eyelashes, puppy dog those blue eyes
 Of yours and BAM.
 A man will always try to protect woman. Like
 A mother tries to protect her children. Ha
 What a joke.

XAVIER

The drugs what did they do to me?
 If I could remember I would tell you.

(laughs)

The weed made me calm but for some reason
 Not hungry. My friends would eat and eat with it but
 I sat back and coasted. Weightless.
 Like a bird. But the drinking
 The drinking made me fun.
 Made me who I am. Fun.
 I danced. I sung. I had
 Fun. I was me and it was me.
 It made me feel good.
 You know what I feel in here?
 Cold, rejected
 And angry. In a way I guess it made
 Me turn into the one person
 I didn't want to be, the one person
 That is in every way already me

My father. But not the man who raised me,
 No, not him he was enjoyable. My father
 After the divorce, after mom left
 Saying something about a man
 Playing golf every Saturday.

(pause)

Whatever the fuck that means.

STEPHEN

I felt alive with Anne.
 A general feeling that everyone should feel.
 Breathe in breathe out.
 There you're alive.
 I felt alive with Anne. She treated me like a human being not
 A calculator or textbook with legs. I like movies.
 Old ones. Black and white. Rita Hayworth and Marilyn Monroe.
 I'm funny I try to be at least.
 I like to paint, small animals,
 Happy ones in bright colors.
 And Anne, she loved me for that.
 We would watch those movies together
 I would make popcorn
 I'm a good cook
 And she would take hers with no butter
 She would say "Butter would make me fat."
 And I would laugh. Anne fat impossible.
 She would laugh at me, at the jokes, at my faces.
 When we painted, God, we painted.
 Me, a tree in the middle of someplace
 A place I've always imagined and her
 Well, once she painted a map.
 "Why a map?" I asked.
 "No reason," she replied.
 I didn't know it then, but I know it now
 That map would come back.
 Not just that day but in my dreams
 As well.

ANNE

Remorse.
 Do I feel it?
 Fuck no.

Stephen knew what he was doing,
 I didn't force him.
 People are saying I "used" him.
 I was just using what I was given,
 Which wasn't a lot.
 I needed the money.
 Stephen was just the way to get to it.
 He knew exactly what he was getting
 Himself into. He knew. I knew.
 He is just as much to blame as I am.
 Actually, let me take that back.
 The real blame is you.

STEPHEN

What
 Was
 Your
 Motive.
 That's all the cops kept repeating when they brought me in.
 I kept silent.
 They wouldn't understand.
 No one would.
 What would they say when I told them
 I did it for one reason?
 Anne.
 That I was a just stupid kid,
 That she didn't love me?
 I did it for the
 Way her eyes crinkle when she laughs.
 Way her laugh pulls at my heart
 Way her eyes burn into mine.
 I know she loves me,
 I can feel it.

SHANNON

A bouncing, young, teenage, girl
 Is what was produced from my fathers...
 Mistake.
 If you ask me,
 And no one did,
 Her mother knew that he would help them.
 That's what happens when you sleep with the help.
 You get "helped" and they get helped.

She, my step sister, grew up being cherished by
My former maid, now step-monster,
And my father.
I was pushed to the side.
Whenever I saw the little bitch my,
Nails dug into my skin,
My blood boiled.
I needed to steal away her crown.
I knew then I would do anything to be
Daddy's little girl
Again.
You wanna know how I felt
I felt betrayed. Just like my mother did before she
Did herself in.

Shannon digs through her purse and finds a cigarette. She
lights up.

XAVIER

There's only one drawback with alcohol...
When the bottles empty.
Oh and it makes you feel so
Invincible.
Like you can do
Anything and everything.
Should I play strip poker with my friends?
Alcohol will tell you:
Yeah!! Why not?
Should you jump off this banister?
Alcohol yells out to you:
Do it, pussy!
Should I get in this car drunk?
Alcohol makes you.
Alcohol was my problem,
And my solution.

SCENE 3 -

JASMINE

In college they told us
 To find a job we love and we'll
 Never work a day in our life again.
 My first job right
 Out of college landed
 Me here in the Clark County prison block.
 My assignment to help kids establish the reason or reasons
 For getting them here
 In the first place. All I heard in the sentence was help.
 You can say I chose
 The wrong profession
 That I could've chosen
 Any profession but
 but what. What am I getting at? What I think I wanted
 What I think we all want
 Is who will help us
 In our time of need?

ANNE

We had the bank chosen
 We had the time
 The date
 We had everything ready except
 For one thing.
 Ask yourself this question
 What do all bank robbers need?
 The one piece that separates them
 From the normal people
 Withdrawing their money
 Or depositing their hard earned checks?
 A weapon. I know most people
 Would've said a get away car
 But we had that. We had Stephens's Toyota that his father bought as
 a 16th birthday present.
 What we needed was a gun and
 What I needed was help in getting one.

SHANNON

Daddy took fewer and fewer weekend trips to
 The golf course after
 They moved in.
 He was going maybe once

a month never more
 Than twice in the same
 Month. Instead we had family
 Fun days. We woke up early
 As early as I wanted to
 Mind you and we went to the mall we went to dinner
 We saw movies
 We saw a play
 We went to museums we
 Did everything that little bitch wanted to do.
 Never what I wanted to do
 No
 Never. It was always.
 "Shan we have to make
 Them feel comfortable."
 Or
 "Shan you have to help your sister she doesn't understand the things you so love."
 As if.
 She wanted to fit in she'll have to figure that out
 For herself.

XAVIER

That night wasn't the first
 Time I got shit faced
 Drunk and high.
 It was more like the third.
 We were at a bonfire
 Maybe it was the barnyard
 Maybe it was the beach
 I don't remember where
 We were.
 Maybe we jumped places
 Went from the beach to the barn something.
 There was a fire though
 And I remember shouting
 "HEY LOOK AT ME
 I'M HERE AND I HAVE
 SOMETHING TO SAY!"
 Clapping from people
 From who
 I don't know.
 I helped someone
 Up a girl who was
 Passed out in the sand

Maybe the grass. I helped her up She was cute with
 These great blue eyes
 And she whispered something
 In my ear
 She whispered,
 "Tell me not to go through with this."

STEPHEN

Prepared.
 Anne and I definitely were.
 Except for the weapon.
 I didn't know how to use one,
 She's never seen one in person.
 So I got stuck with it. With finding one,
 With loading one, with holding one.
 There was only one person I knew
 That would have one and I knew that knew
 A simple trade was all it would take.
 A bottle for a weapon.
 A trade with the devil himself.
 A pacifist with a gun
 Now that was a sight to see.
 But I'd do anything for her.
 I promise
 I didn't mean to hurt anyone.
 I was just trying to scare him.
 I wasn't prepared.

SCENE 4 -

SHANNON

Growing.
 The she-devil was growing
 As was I.
 But, she, like most things,
 Did it better.
 I got first runner up in the

Beauty pageant
 Guess who was first?
 I was junior class Vice President
 Guess who was president?
 How can someone
 Who was the product of crossing breeding
 This
 Damn
 Perfect?

(composes herself)

When you're second best
 Pushed from first
 Why is everyone surprised when you
 Snap?

XAVIER

Stuck.
 Were the words I wanted to say
 To the stunning girl in front of me.
 I didn't know what she was
 Asking me to tell her not to go through with this
 To remind her. But, thinking
 About it now, I didn't remind her.
 If I would have spoken up
 Would both of our fates be different?
 Would you not be stuck here
 Wondering when or if we will
 Be
 Set
 Free.

(looks over at Anne)

Fuck.
 I need a smoke.

ANNE

Holding something in your hand
 That can take another persons life
 Is a weird feeling.
 It makes you feel
 Powerful
 And

Scared
 All at once.
 I asked where he got it from but
 He never answered me. Said "A friend
 Gave it to him. I could care less.
 Instead all I thought,
 That whole day,
 Was why he
 The one I wanted to do this with,
 Why he never reminded me
 To not go through with this.

JASMINE

In college they told
 Us the best way to get secrets
 Out and about
 Flying around in the open like
 Butterflies is to
 Play a game.
 Name the first word that comes to your
 Mind. Don't think about
 It. Got one?
 Say it outloud.
 On one, two -

(her cell phone rings)

Oh, will you excuse me
 I just have to step outside for.
 Just a minute. Please
 Talk amongst yourselves.

Jasmine stands and walks offstage. The rest of the group
 looks around at each other.

XAVIER

Hey you got a smoke I can bum?

SHANNON

I don't share.

XAVIER

Man c'mon why you gotta be so mean all the time?

SHANNON

Me mean? I don't even know what I'm doing here. I did nothing wrong.

ANNE

That's what we all think.

SHANNON

Excuse me? I didn't rob a bank here with lover boy.

ANNE

He's not... we're not... We never....

Pause.

STEPHEN

That's all I was to you wasn't I?

ANNE

What are you talking about?

STEPHEN

A joke? A joke the comedian doesn't understand but as the crowd in tears.

ANNE

No. Not just a joke. A pawn a prop. I never needed you.

XAVIER

You obviously needed him for something you both have chairs in the same spot we do.

They get quiet. Shannon lights up another cancer stick.

SHANNON

You know I never smoked.
 I started about two months ago
 Around the same time they found
 The pictures of her on my computer.
 Yeah. Pictures. Pictures
 Of her in varying degrees of
 Badness. You know
 She did all the things
 I wanted to do. She went to her
 First jock party before me
 Her first campfire drink around

Her first time getting
 Stoned was at a party
 She said was on the beach.

(looks over at Xavier)

She would come home so happy
 So alive and I sat back
 And watched as she never
 Once got in trouble. Turns out she wasn't as perfect
 As could be. I took the pictures,
 Yes and put them online
 And watched as she was shared
 Posted, watched. The new viral star.
 People applauded her, men wanted to be
 With her, my friends even liked her more than me
 But I
 Despised her more and more.

STEPHEN

My car, a Ford - no
 A Toyota, maybe it was
 A Ford I don't know I'm not good
 At cars had four cylinders
 Maybe 6. My car,
 The gift that was given to me was used
 Much like I was - as a prop.
 Something that looked good on paper
 But not in real life.

Jasmine walks back onstage. She stays hidden in the
 shadows for just a minute.

JASMINE

Don't mind me, keep going,
 In college we're told
 To keep talking. Keep asking,
 "How does that make you feel?"

STEPHEN

I didn't even want you like that
 I just thought that for once
 I could have a friend
 A true friend

A friend who will like me for
Me.

ANNE

I did like you!
I did! Just not like that!
We've been friends for years!
Elementary school and on how could I love
You when we were already seen
As a couple!
It was always Stephen and Anne
Anne and Stephen. Together
In the same sentence!
But you have to understand
I
NEVER
LOVED
YOU.

She stands, pushing her chair back. She slides across the stage. Shannon looks over at Xavier and passes him her half finished cigarette.

STEPHEN

What do you mean?

ANNE

I did this to get away from you!

STEPHEN

I thought you did this for college?

ANNE

Oh college what a fickle place
Wait four years for a piece
Of paper that could either make you
Or break you.
What good would that do to me.
Live a life like my mother?
Work for thirty years
Have a kid
Get divorced?!
Tell me Stephen

Is that the life you saw
For me?

SHANNON

Divorce isn't so bad.
My parents got it when I was two and
Double everything meant more fun
For me.

ANNE

And look at how you turned out.

SHANNON

You bitch..

She stands.

JASMINE

Girls. Girls! I think its time for a break. We'll meet back here in twenty minutes.

Shannon and Xavier walk offstage first followed by
Jasmine who holds her clipboard and falling papers like a
child. Anne stands off to the left and Stephen approaches
her slowly, afraid of her blowing up.

STEPHEN

We have a break.

ANNE

I can hear.

STEPHEN

Did you mean those things?

Anne doesn't answer.

STEPHEN (cont'd)

Do you want a soda? Or something?

Anne shakes her head no and takes her seat again and
shoves her face into her hands. Stephen walks over to her,
rubbing her shoulders

ANNE

Don't touch me.

Stephen walks offstage.

SCENE 5 -

Xavier and Shannon are standing still on the right side of the stage. They're waiting for something.

XAVIER

You know my ma used to be a stoner. Yeah
I remember she would come home after work
Throw down her rubber gloves
Take her apron off, sit on the couch
And light up. She would look at me
And ask for my sister as if I were the parent instead of her.

SHANNON

Sister?

XAVIER

Yeah. My little sister that's all I knew about her though
Not her name, her age
Her hair color, her eye color. I had to tell her,
My ma, that she, my sister, didn't live with us anymore.
My sis she went to live with her father in some
Bum fuck place somewhere.
All I knew was that my mother was a class
A stonehead. Takes one to know one
Or what's that saying... about the
Apple and the tree.

SHANNON

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree?

XAVIER

That's the one.

(he laughs)

My pa, he used to look at me
And say, "Man do you look
Just like her." If only she
Could see us now.
See me now.

(pause)

You ever think about them?

SHANNON

Them? This goddamn machine never works.

XAVIER

Yeah your sister.

SHANNON

Step-

XAVIER

Or your father?

She looks right at him.

SHANNON

Tell me something.

Do you ever think of them? Your ma? Pa? Sister?

XAVIER

That's what makes us so different princess.

I think about that accident

Every waking

Minute of my

Shitty life. I think about them,

My ma, my pa, my sis,

Every single day.

Don't forget your change.

You never know when you'll need

It next.

Xavier starts to walk away.

SHANNON

You know I know how you feel.

XAVIER

You do?

SHANNON

My stepmother she died
 In a car accident. Not too
 Long after my sister,
 Step, sister ... You know,
 She came to my room the night she did it.
 She came into my room and looked so tired, so sad
 And I liked it, this way it made her look.
 She said she was tired and you know what I said?
 I said, "Then go to sleep earlier."
 And she left. Her wrists were make shift
 Cutting boards and the pictures were
 Her make shift bed. That's how we found her
 That's how the police found her. That's how
 I ended up here.

She kicks the machine.

XAVIER

Isn't life weird like that? The spare change
 It just spits out at you.

(laughs)

Isn't it weird.

Xavier walks offstage. Shannon looks after him, thinking,
 snaps open her drink and sits down. Back in her own
 mind.

SCENE 6 -

The group walks back onstage but Stephen and Anne are
 already onstage in their chairs. Jasmine takes her seat.

JASMINE

I hope everyone had a nice break and is ready.
 I want everyone to take a deep breath...
 Come on in for four counts
 And out for eight. Three times.
 In for four and out for eight.

The group does this except for Shannon.

JASMINE (cont'd)

Close your eyes and imagine where
You are in the world.
We learned in class that breathing is
The most effective form of control.
Do you have a place in mind? Shout it out.

Xavier starts to laugh.

SHANNON

This is stupid.

JASMINE

Ms. Monroe you do want to get
Better right?

SHANNON

Actually Ms. York I've never been better.
In fact

(looks at Xavier)

I'm so goddamn better-

(gathers her stuff)

That I don't see a reason for being here
Any fucking more.

JASMINE

Ms. Monroe -

SHANNON

This is just a joke right? You think we can actually get better
With a breathing exercise.
My ass.

She starts to walk offstage.

JASMINE

Ms. Monroe you haven't accepted the fact that your sister's death -

SHANNON

Step sister! STEP SISTER STEP SISTER STEP SISTER!

JASMINE

That your sister's death, your father's death, was caused partly by you.

Shannon stops dead in her tracks.

SHANNON

That's a goddamn lie.

JASMINE

You put the pictures up didn't you?

No answer.

SHANNON

No she killed herself.

JASMINE

You might as well have done it yourself. You put the gun to her head but didn't pull the trigger.

SHANNON

You have no fucking idea what you're talking about.

She wipes her face.

JASMINE

Ms. Monroe you know you could face more jail time?

SHANNON

Go to hell bitch.

Shannon walks offstage.

ANNE

I know you blame me
And I can't blame you for
Blaming me.
But what can I say anymore?
We all know I'm a shitty person.
Hell,
We are all pretty shitty people.
I might have used someone a little to much,
I might have hurt another person,
I might have done all of this just to get away from this
Shitty ass town
With these
Shitty people.
But hey,
I'm human.

I make mistakes.
 Remember,
 Remorse is for the weak. You want a person
 To blame. Blame him.
 My dad used to say that.
 He wanted a boy.
 Instead,
 He
 Got
 Me.

JASMINE

Blame is such a harsh word.
 We are not blaming you for the actions
 That happened in the past.
 In school we learned that the past
 Is past. Over and done with.
 We are in the present and the future is ahead of us.
 I want you to think about your present
 And think how that will affect your
 Future.
 I want you to ask yourself
 What happens next?

She stands and hands out sheets of paper to each group member.

JASMINE (cont'd)

I want you to ask yourself that
 Question and write it down. We'll share it
 Later on with everyone.

SCENE 7 -

The stage lights dim on the left side where we leave Anne, Stephen and Xavier. Jasmine crosses to the right side of the stage where the lights come up to find Shannon knees to her chest. Smoking.

JASMINE

You know those things could kill you.

SHANNON

They aren't doing a real good job at it are they?
I would like to be left
Alone please.

JASMINE

Before... you said something about divorce.

SHANNON

I don't want to talk about this...

JASMINE

You're not. Just listen.
Way back, back, back
A long time when I was a little
Girl I knew this other
Little girl. Her parents were the idea
Of a perfect marriage
And one day at a parent teacher meeting
I can remember exactly what it was
I sat next to her and my parents sat next to her
Mom. It was the first time she was
Not with her husband the first time
This little girl wasn't with her daddy.
I asked the little girl, I asked,
"Where is your daddy?"
And she looked at me
Shrugged her shoulders and said,
"He's on a mission to count every single star
In the sky."
I looked back at her and laughed,
Said, "That'll take years."
And you know what she said back?
She said, "Not if I close my eyes
And count on my fingers and toes."
"But fingers and toes run out after ten," I tell her.
"Not if I count everybody's," she said.

SHANNON

What happened to her father?

JASMINE

I don't know.

SHANNON

Did he ever come back?

JASMINE

Last I checked she's still counting.

Shannon stands.

SHANNON

Can I tell you something? He's never coming back.

JASMINE

Why do you say that?

SHANNON

My father promised the same things to me.
 And look at what happened to that
 His only daughter in jail
 Him himself buried six feet under
 With a fake mouth where his real one was
 And me wondering and wanting to shout,
 LOOK AT ME DAD I'M HERE AND HAVE
 SOMETHING TO SAY.

JASMINE

And what would you say to him?

SHANNON

What about me dad!
 Your real kid the one
 YOU LEFT BEHIND! The one
 You LEFT BEHIND TO
 Be consoled for by the
 HELP! I never asked for this.
 I never asked for this.

JASMINE

I know. I know. But you won't what
 You cannot do -
 You cannot blame yourself.
 You cannot blame yourself at all.

SHANNON

Isn't it funny?
 That the same bullet he used had my name
 On it first. And to think

That if I didn't start coming here
I would be in the same hole
That my father
And sister sleep in.

JASMINE

That's why I'm here. Lets go back inside.

Jasmine extends her hands and Shannon walks to the left side of the stage. Jasmine stays behind counting her fingers.

SCENE 8 -

Anne stands on the table kicking off papers at the boys remaining. Jasmine moves quickly trying to cox Anne off the table.

ANNE

Boys. You boys
Think the world owes
You everything and nothing
That the world is your mistress
When really its nothing
But something for you to
Screw.

JASMINE

Come down from there now!

ANNE

Uh oh the British are coming
The British are coming! Batten down
The hatches and unlock your true feelings
And for what? To make us go back to
Our cell tonight
With a smile on our face instead of the usual frown?

JASMINE

What happened?

XAVIER

I asked for another piece of paper.

JASMINE

Why didn't you just go and grab another?

XAVIER

I didn't think we would be allowed to.

Jasmine bends over and picks up a few pieces of paper.

ANNE

You boys and the way
 You look at others without
 A care in the world. Catcalling
 Is your calling card
 To unsuspecting girls.
 Women even.
 Everything to you
 Is all fun and games.

JASMINE

That's enough, Anne thank you.

Anne steps off the table.

JASMINE (cont'd)

(to Xavier)

Your paper.

Jasmine glances at her watch.

JASMINE (cont'd)

We have twenty minutes left together. Is there
 Anything else any
 Of you would like to say?
 Anything?
 We can have open floor.

The group stays quiet. Xavier is busy writing.

STEPHEN

You know I used to look at the world and say to myself "Wow this life is truly amazing"
 But lately -

(Looks at Anne)

I look at the world now and say "Fuck all of this"

(to Jasmine)

Fuck your feeling shit

(To Xavier)

Fuck your stoner mentality

(To Shannon)

Fuck you, you psychotic bitch

(finally looks at Anne)

And the biggest fuck you to you. For making me feel like I had at least one true friend you heartless bitch.

He sits calmly sits down.

Pause.

JASMINE

And who are you writing to?

XAVIER

A few people I guess.

JASMINE

And what are you writing to tell them?

XAVIER

Just... a letter... I actually do have something -

Anne stands.

ANNE

You know I do have something to say. I think we all have Something to say. HEY LOOK AT ME I AM HERE AND HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY. Stephen do you remember the weeks after the robbery and how newspapers were calling us this century's Bonnie and Clyde? Do you remember how they slandered our names which made the world seem to hate us all the more? Do you remember what your parents said to you? The night we were caught and led to the back of separate police cruisers? No? I do. My parents looked at me, well not my mother, but my father my father, he looked at me, and said, "How can you disgrace the Wilson name?" And you know what I said back, I said, "I did it just before you could." I mean do you, Do any of you think just what goes through our parents minds? What do they really think of us? What do they really like about us? And, if anything, Do they really love us?

SHANNON

I don't know about any
Of you but
My father loved me.

ANNE

But did he love you enough to
Forgive you? I didn't think so.

JASMINE

Well, its not a great place to end
But it is 6 o'clock. Time is up.
We made great progress today
Folks.

The group stands. Shannon lights up. Xavier hands out
little pieces of folded papers too each member.

XAVIER

Don't read them till tomorrow.

He exits quickly.

JASMINE

Xavier! Same time next week!

The left side of the stage darkens quickly.

XAVIER (OFF STAGE)

Wanna know a little secret? We are all connected, Stories written by the same person With
different endings. Interconnected by the same thread. But there is one key player, The
springboard the author uses As a joke, a starter or a villain. I am all three.

XAVIER (OFF STAGE) (cont'd)

To Shannon - Remember when I said I didn't know much about my sister. She spent time
with her father yes, down in Mexico, but came back when we started high school. Do you
know what else started in high school? Shannon I know you do because you still haven't
forgiven your father for it. Your stepsister came to me to buy her first blunt. Came to me to
have her first sip of the dark, warm liquid. She didn't like it at first, I know She didn't. But
I kept Pressuring her. You cam just about the right time To snap a picture And confirm her
judgement from the rest of us.

A spotlight hits her. The rest of the stage is dark. Anne,
Jasmine and Stephen seem to be frozen.

XAVIER (OFF STAGE) (cont'd)

To Anne -

A spotlight hits Anne.

XAVIER (OFF STAGE) (cont'd)

Remember the night we first met? I think it was that same night with Shannon's sister. Sorry step sister. Do you remember what you told me? I do. You said "Tell me not to do it." And I promised I said "I'll remember." And I didn't. And you didn't. And that next week you were off in Stephen's Ford, yes it was a Ford and not a Toyota, trying to rob the Woodmere bank. The newspapers all said that you got as far as the front door before the alarm started to sound and you ran off and Stephen tripped over himself. And don't you think I tried to stop you from doing this, I drove in my own car to the bank, but I was too late you two drove away I think you were crying and I followed after you for about three miles. Do you remember the old road next to the fields? Do you remember the accident? Do you remember hitting the other car and watching it spin and spin until it stopped and flipped over on itself? Tell us what you did next, Anne. You drove away.

ANNE

(hypotonic)

We ... Drove away.

XAVIER (OFF STAGE)

Tell me did he want to stay behind? Stephen? Did he? Good ole Stephen. And tell me something else, Anne. Did you make him drive away? I want to tell you how they looked, those in the car, their eyes, I watched them die. I watched and stayed as you drove away a coward. The police they took me and arrested me, ME, because of a few bottles in my car and a bag on me. And look where I am now. Look at both of us are you looking, Anne?

Anne looks over at Stephen as a spotlight hits him.

XAVIER (OFF STAGE) (cont'd)

Stephen remember when we were kids And we were out in the play yard and you were on the swings and I was running around, I think I was playing tag, and then someone pushed you off the swing and I think your glasses broke but I do remember there was a bruise on your left hand and I came over and helped you up. Do you remember who pushed you? Do you remember it was Anne. We become inseparable till high school And I know you kept asking what happened? What happened? Well what happened was we drifted apart. A normal high school thing to drift apart from one another. I drifted towards the bad and you, always with this good angel on your shoulder drifted towards the good. They always said opposites attract but what do they know? They know that there is only one place opposites can end up in....

Xavier walks back onstage, a bedsheet in his hands. A spotlight hits him.

XAVIER (cont'd)

Have you all noticed a coincidence? Why my life is so messed up? In turn, all of yours also. It all comes down to me. Drugs messed up Shannon and Stephen. Alcohol messed up Anne and... And... A whole family. Why should I be allowed to live. My dad killed himself. Since I'm living the same life as him it might as well end the same too. I hope your lives are better of without me. Shannon-smile more. You're beautiful. And remember, life isn't a competition. Anne-don't give up on Stephen. Stephen- don't give up on Anne. Jasmine- thank you for trying.
Sincerely,X.

He climbs on top of a chair. The lights start to dim. He steps off the chair just as the stage goes dark.

SCENE 9 -

The stage stays dark. Jasmine walks onstage, a spotlight hitting her.

JASMINE

Turns out I couldn't save them all. Turns out that the one. That needed the most help. Held the silenced scream.

Shannon walks onstage a suitcase in her hands. She looks around and heads offstage - free.

JASMINE (cont'd)

The one that needed the most help gave to those that one thing he always wanted.

Anne and Stephen walk back onstage and take the same seats they sat in before. Anne looks over at Shannon and Stephen grabs her hands. They belong together, like this, locked up.

JASMINE (OFF STAGE) (cont'd)

A sense of closure.

The spotlight goes out.

Curtain.