

“Breathe”

A One-Act Play Written by Arcadia Ewell

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Characters

Male: 5 roles

Females: 7 roles

Students 1-4 and Extras: Universal Roles

Set Requirements: Stage, Curtain, tables, and chairs.

Tech Requirements: Working Lights and Sound. Only a simple system needed.

Kristie : Lead. As the show starts Kristie is very preoccupied with her own life. She's very smart and active in her school. After the death of Rebecca there is a noticeable change within her. She is very depressed and blames herself. Throughout the show you see her come to terms with Rebecca's death until she ultimately accepts it and moves on with her life.

Rebecca: Appears okay. She seems happy when around friends but there is a noticeable change when she is home. She loses her virginity and the boy spreads it around the school. She kills herself by shooting herself.

Bobby: A friend of Kristie's. He didn't know Rebecca but tries to comfort Kristie as best as he can. He has an obvious crush on Kristie.

Thomas: Kristie's boyfriend. He asks her out in the beginning of the show and stays with her throughout her period of mourning. He's a good person and genuinely wants to make Kristie feel better although their relationship is ruined by Rebecca's death.

Savannah: A student. She is jealous of Kristie for her relationship with Thomas and therefore tries to seduce him.

Chloe: Savannah's friend. She sticks by Savannah no matter what; however, throughout the show she starts to doubt Savannah and her motives.

Margaret: Rebecca's mom. She finds Rebecca after she has committed suicide.

Ellie: Rebecca's younger sister. Grows up through the show. At first she is the stereotypical little sister who wants to do everything her big sister does however Rebecca's death ages her. She ends the show as her own person.

George: President of the Academic Team

John: Rebecca's father. Tries to stay strong for his family, but is really heartbroken.

Amy: Kristie's mom

Dave: Kristie's dad

Extras:

Student 1

Student 2

Student 3

Student 4

Holiday Groups

Scene 1

(Show opens on a busy stage. Students are all busily walking around and talking. There can be either one large table or two small tables set up on stage right. Some students may be sitting and talking. REBECCA is stage right going through her book bag. KRISTIE and THOMAS are stage left talking. STUDENTS 1 and 2 cross from downstage left)

STUDENT 1: You wouldn't believe the amount of Chemistry homework I have.

STUDENT 2: Oh I would. I'm sure I have just as much English. And I have basketball after school; I don't have enough time for all this work.

STUDENT 1: Tell me about it.

(STUDENTS 3 and 4 cross from upstage right)

STUDENT 3: So I was thinking of pink for my homecoming dress.

STUDENT 4: Pink, really?

STUDENT 3: Yeah what's wrong with it?

STUDENT 4: With your complexion?

(CHLOE and SAVANNAH cross the stage. SAVANNAH is busily talking. CHLOE picks up a piece of paper and examines it before quickly rushing it over to REBECCA.)

CHLOE: Hey Rebecca, I think you might have dropped this.

REBECCA: Oh uh thanks.

(CHLOE returns to SAVANNAH. They walk away and SAVANNAH mumbles something along the lines of "slut". The two girls laugh. And REBECCA watches after them. KRISTIE waves goodbye to THOMAS as she crosses across the stage to REBECCA. THOMAS exits stage left.)

KRISTIE : *(Excited)* You will never guess what just happened to me!

REBECCA: Oh?

KRISTIE : *(Love-struck)* Only the most amazing thing ever. It's like my whole life has been waiting for this moment! It's all been leading up to this and now my life is complete. I can officially die happy.

REBECCA: *(Sarcastic)* Well hearing that I'm going to have to assume this is about Thomas Scardagan.

KRISTIE : The one and only.

REBECCA: I've got to go. *(Turns to exit.)*

KRISTIE : Wait! *(Pulls her back)* Aren't you going to ask what happened?

REBECCA: What happened?

KRISTIE : He asked me out!

REBECCA: Wonderful, but I've really got to get to class and-

KRISTIE : Yeah, he just came up and was like "Hey" and I was like "Hey" and he was like "So you want to go out Friday" and I was like "yeah."

(There is a pause. Kristie is lost in her thoughts. Bobby enters stage right; he sees them and begins to obviously listen to their conversation)

REBECCA: Then what?

KRISTIE : And then he left.

REBECCA: *(Sarcastic)* Sounds most romantic.

KRISTIE : Hey, don't hate me cause you ain't me.

(Rebecca again starts to leave but turns back to Kristie)

REBECCA: Wait, when did you say you're going out?

KRISTIE : This Friday! I know it's soon but I figure I can probably just do my nails myself and then go shopping for an outfit tomorrow and then that'll leave me time to-

REBECCA: Kristie ! Kristie , stop!

KRISTIE : What?

REBECCA: The academic decathlon is this Friday, remember?

(There is a pause)

KRISTIE : Aw, shoot.

REBECCA: Reschedule your date.

KRISTIE : Are you kidding? I can't do that. I can't just walk up and be like "Hey Thomas. I know you just asked me out which still like totally blows my mind but I really want to reschedule because I, being

the total dork I am, have an academic competition. Oh yeah and while I'm at it let me tell you about the time I threw up on a teacher and about the time I farted in class and every other embarrassing fact about my life."

REBECCA: Kristie , you're the one who joined the team. No one's forcing you to be on it.

KRISTIE : (Sighs) I know I know, and I like the academic team I do, just not when it gets in the way of my love life. Hey, I know! Why don't you take my spot?

REBECCA: Me?

KRISTIE : Yeah! You're second chair on the team and you've helped me study, so you know all the material. Just take my spot. The team will be no worse off.

REBECCA: *(pause)* Well maybe I don't want to.

KRISTIE : Yes, but you will because I'm your best friend and you love me.

REBECCA: Kristie , you made a commitment to-

KRISTIE : I know, but still...

REBECCA: No, absolutely not. I'm busy.

KRISTIE : *(Begging)* C'mon, you know you want to. Please? Pretty please? With a cherry on top?

REBECCA: No.

KRISTIE : Rebecca, there's no one else who can do it.

REBECCA: *(Sighs)* Fine. But you owe me.

KRISTIE : Thank you, thank you, thank you. I love you.

REBECCA: You better.

KRISTIE : You're beautiful. You're fabulous. You're-

REBECCA: Going to class.

(Rebecca crosses to stage left and exits. Kristie bends down to tie her shoe lace. Bobby steps forward.)

BOBBY: Kristie.

(Kristie looks up from her shoe laces. She stands up and brushes herself off.)

KRISTIE: Oh hi Bobby, how are you?

BOBBY: Good. Did I hear you say you're forfeiting your seat this Friday?

KRISTIE: Oh yeah I guess you did, I just have some plans I can't miss.

BOBBY: Oh, well, that sucks. We'll sure miss you.

KRISTIE: No, it's okay, Rebecca's going to fill in for me so I'm sure you guys will do fine. It's not a big deal. I got to go, bye Bobby!

(Kristie quickly exits stage right. Bobby tries to stop her as he has more to say.)

BOBBY: Wait, Kristie! I- *(pause until Kristie is completely gone)* Never mind I guess.

(Bell rings and the stage lights go down.)

Scene 2

(Lights open on a stage with a table stage right. There is a red table cover on it and Thomas and Kristie are sitting at the table looking at a menu. They are on their date but it is obviously awkward. Margaret is frozen sitting at a table stage left reading a book. There are papers and books scattered on the table)

THOMAS: So.

KRISTIE: So.

THOMAS: Do you know what you're going to order?

KRISTIE: I'm thinking...a salad.

THOMAS: Salads are good.

KRISTIE: Yeah.

THOMAS: Yeah.

(Each one seems to daze off, lost in his or her own thoughts)

KRISTIE: What about you?

THOMAS: What?

KRISTIE: What are you going to order?

THOMAS: Oh, um, the chicken. I think.

KRISTIE: Chicken's good.

THOMAS: Yeah.

(There is yet another awkward moment of silence)

KRISTIE: So do you like playing football?

THOMAS: Oh yeah it's great. I mean, it gives me something to do and all my friends are on the team. And it looks really good for colleges.

KRISTIE: Have you decided where you're going?

THOMAS: Not really. I want to keep my options open for as long as possible. There are a couple schools scouting me-

KRISTIE: For football?

THOMAS: Yeah. But you know it's a big decision. I just don't want to rush it.

KRISTIE: That makes sense.

THOMAS: Have you started looking around?

KRISTIE: I don't need to. Rebecca and I have planned since we were like three to go to Stanford together.

THOMAS: Stanford, that's impressive.

KRISTIE: Yeah. I mean, I know it's ambitious, but I'm working really hard on my SAT scores and I've got plenty of extra-curricular's. So we'll see. I'm sending in my application soon.

THOMAS: Why Stanford?

KRISTIE: Well, Rebecca's grandparents have a place up by the campus and we went up to visit when we were really little and I just remember running around the campus and *(Pause)* it was just great. We ended up just spending a whole day chasing each other and laughing until we couldn't breathe.

THOMAS: You and Rebecca are really close?

KRISTIE: As close as we could possibly be. She's like a sister.

THOMAS: I don't really know her all that well.

KRISTIE: I think you would like her. It's hard not to like her. She's the person that will always help you out in a pinch and she's kind and honest. Sometimes it sucks because she's so perfect and like I'm so not in comparison.

THOMAS: Well I think you're pretty great.

(Kristie laughs quietly to herself and Thomas smiles. They freeze. Margaret unfreezes and is obviously upset. Rebecca enters from stage left and starts walking towards the table. She is looking at what Margaret is reading)

MARGARET: *(See's Rebecca, shocked she stands and starts shuffling the papers trying to hide the book)* Oh, Rebecca you're home.

REBECCA: What is that?

MARGARET: Oh nothing. Just things from work.

REBECCA: (*Approaches Margaret and takes the book from her hand. Papers go flying everywhere.*) Is that my diary?

MARGARET: Rebecca!

REBECCA: Why are you reading my diary!?! How did you even get it?

MARGARET: I found it cleaning your room and-

REBECCA: And you just decided to read all my most private thoughts?

MARGARET: Rebecca what you wrote in there, is it true?

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

MARGARET: It can't be true.

(Rebecca turns to exit stage left and Margaret grabs her arm. Rebecca struggles. Margaret is distraught)

REBECCA: Let go of me!

MARGARET: Rebecca, the stuff you said in there. You sounded so depressed. A boy breaking up with you is not worth this!

REBECCA: Let go!

MARGARET: It's just one boy! There will be others.

REBECCA: (*Pushes Margaret violently away*) No there won't, because he wasn't *just* a boy!

MARGARET: Rebecca?

REBECCA: I don't want to talk about it!

MARGARET: Rebecca, tell me you didn't!

REBECCA: Just leave it alone, mother.

MARGARET: Rebecca!

REBECCA: Yes! Okay? I did! I slept with him! I did it for him because I thought it would make him love me like I loved him and it didn't! Because the next day he wouldn't talk to me, he was too busy telling the whole school about what a whore I was and how easy it was for him to get in my pants!

MARGARET: (*angrily*) Rebecca, we talked about this. Abstinence, remember. How could you do something so stupid?

REBECCA: You don't understand.

MARGARET: I understand you let your silly teenage feelings get in the way of our plan.

REBECCA: It's my life! I can make my own plan!

MARGARET: Well, you've clearly demonstrated that.

REBECCA: (*Shakes her head to herself*) As if you care.

(*Rebecca quickly exits stage left.*)

Scene 4

(*Lights come up on a completely empty stage. George, Bobby, and a few students are standing downstage right busily looking at notecards talking quietly to each other. Rebecca enters upstage left looking stressed and crosses to them.*)

GEORGE: (*Angry. Crosses to meet Rebecca and follows her as she walks to the group*) You're twenty minutes late! Where have you been?

REBECCA: Busy.

GEORGE: Busy? Do you even realize how important this match is tonight? We're going up against Eastern High! And if we don't win we'll be the first academic team in four years not to make it to the state championship!

REBECCA: (*annoyed and sarcastic*) I'm sorry, but have you forgotten that this wasn't even my job? If you want to yell at someone yell at Kristie.

GEORGE: Oh believe me I will. I will yell at her for bailing, but now I'm yelling at you for being late. We set arrival times for a reason.

BOBBY: (*trying to calm him*) Alright, well Rebecca's here now, so why don't we just warm up and not waste any more time.

GEORGE: Right, well Rebecca why don't you take the first question?

REBECCA: Whatever.

BOBBY: (*Reading off a flashcard*) What is an equilibrium constant dependent on?

REBECCA: The coefficients of a complete balanced equation.

BOBBY: That's right.

GEORGE: Rebecca, what would you say is your weakest subject area, so we can prep you for that?

BOBBY: Don't you think we should be prepping everyone equally?

GEORGE: I know everyone else's strengths and weaknesses. (*To Rebecca*) I don't know you. I don't know what you're good at and what you suck at. I mean, clearly there's got to be a reason you're not on the competition team on a regular basis.

REBECCA: Excuse me?

GEORGE: I'm just saying if you were as smart as Kristie you would have Kristie 's spot permanently, but you don't. So, we need to make up for that.

(Pause)

It's just the truth.

REBECCA: *(Unreasonably over angry)* Oh, I'll give you something to make up for.

BOBBY: Guys, can we all just calm down?

REBECCA: No, I will not calm down. Tell me George, how are you going to make up for a missing person on your team?

(Rebecca turns to exit stage right. George grabs her arm to stop her.)

GEORGE: You can't leave! If we don't have all our members we have to forfeit.

REBECCA: How about this: you forfeit, and I'll pretend to care.

BOBBY: Rebecca, wait.

GEORGE: I knew you were a slut but do you have to be such a bitch?

REBECCA: If it means I can get away from you!

Scene 5

(Lights come up on a messy bedroom. There is a bed and a door on stage right. Clothes are scattered across the floor. Rebecca comes through the door and drops her book bag to the floor. She is obviously upset, sinks to the floor and begins rummaging through her bag)

MARGARET: *(offstage voice)* Rebecca, you come back here this instant!

REBECCA: No!

JOHN: *(offstage voice)* Rebecca, listen to your mother!

REBECCA: Why should I?

(Ellie enters through door stage right.)

ELLIE: Hey, Becky can I borrow your one pink sweater?

REBECCA: Can you knock?

ELLIE: I didn't think it was a big deal.

REBECCA: It is, you little rodent! Get out of my room.

(Rebecca throws a binder at Ellie. Ellie exits stage right through the door.)

ELLIE: *(bratty)* You're such a jerk!

MARGARET: *(Enters through door, stage right. She looks around room.)* Rebecca!

REBECCA: What are you doing in here?

MARGARET: You need to come apologize to your sister and finish talking to your father and I!

REBECCA: I'm not apologizing to her. She deserves to be hit every once in a while.

(Rebecca turns away and kneels to the floor to start going through her bag.)

MARGARET: We're not done talking about this, young lady!

REBECCA: Well I am!

(Pause)

MARGARET: I didn't want you to be so promiscuous.

REBECCA:

(While talking Rebecca stands to face Margaret so that her back is to the audience)

And I didn't want a bitch for a mother, but we don't always get what we want, do we?

(Margaret slaps Rebecca)

MARGARET: Where did we ever go wrong with you?

REBECCA: Get out of my room.

MARGARET: Rebecca, enough! No more of this behavior!

REBECCA:

(Stands and pushes Margaret out of the door)

I said get the hell out!

(Margaret falls through door and exits stage right. Rebecca slams door closed.)

MARGARET: *(offstage voice)* Rebecca!

(Cue music preferably Breathe Me by Sia. Rebecca collapses to the floor in tears. It is as if she is having trouble breathing, suffocating from the pain. She looks through her diary, getting angry. She stands and begins to throw furniture and clothing, destroying the room. Her emotions escalate. She finally stops in the middle of the room, takes a deep breath, and wipes away the tears. She pulls out a gun from her book bag. Rebecca sits there crying and/or pacing for a few minutes as if she is considering. She should stop center stage looking out to the audience and

place a gun to her head. Lights and music should cut out and a clear gunshot should be heard. There is a moment of complete silence before the music fades back in.)

MARGARET: *(The lights should remain out, but Margaret's voice should be heard clearly.)*

Rebecca? Rebecca, honey I'm sorry. We're just so worried about you, sex is a big responsibility, especially for someone so young.

(It is at this point that Margaret would be finding Rebecca's body, her voice should demonstrate that. The music should crescendo with Margaret's voice)

Rebecca? Oh my god! John! John! Someone, help! Call 911! Rebecca. Oh my god, Rebecca! Oh my baby, what have you done? Oh no! Rebecca. John! Someone! No, no, no. Anyone, please help me. Rebecca. Rebecca!

(Music should cut out. There should be a moment of complete silence and darkness for the audience to absorb what has happened.)

Scene 6

(Kristie should be lying casually on a bed talking on the phone. The stage may be otherwise empty)

KRISTIE: *(Laughing)* No really, Thomas, I swear! And then she just walked away, like didn't say anything else just left. It was hilarious... I know she's such an odd teacher, I don't even understand it...No I'm not doing anything Saturday, we should go out...Well, I don't know what do you want to do?

(Amy and Dave should enter from stage right looking mournful. They should cross to Kristie. Amy should sit on the bed and touch Kristie in some motherly way. Dave should stand close to the bed.)

AMY: Honey, it's time to say goodbye to Thomas.

KRISTIE: *(Sensing something is wrong)* Yeah, sure. Thomas I'm going to call you back. *(To Dave and Amy)* What's wrong?

AMY: Sweetie, um, we have some bad news.

KRISTIE: I don't understand

AMY: Well, earlier tonight-

(Amy loses her composure, beginning to cry and turns away)

DAVE: *(Puts a hand on Amy's shoulder)* Kristie, we just got a call and it would seem that earlier this evening Rebecca past away.

KRISTIE: *(Quiet. After a moment she shakes her head)* No.

AMY: I'm so sorry, honey.

KRISTIE: No. *(Beginning to cry)* Why would you say that? You're lying, she didn't.

AMY: It's going to be okay.

KRISTIE: But, but how?

DAVE: She did it, honey. Rebecca...she killed herself. We don't know why, honey.

KRISTIE: *(Completely past consolation)* No, no she wouldn't. Why? Why would she do that?

(Kristie begins crying in Amy's arms center stage while Dave tries to comfort them both. They should freeze. Full cast should enter the stage behind them dressed in black for the funeral. People are talking quietly; many are trying to comfort Rebecca's family who are standing upstage center. Kristie, Amy, and Dave should unfreeze. Amy and Dave should move upstage. Thomas should enter and greet Kristie; together they should move downstage right. Thomas should look awkward and uncomfortable. Kristie should be fidgeting in some way.)

(Ellie enters upstage left with John and Margret following behind. Margret is an emotional wreck. Ellie crosses downstage to Kristie.)

KRISTIE: Ellie. *(The two girls hug)* How are you?

ELLIE: I'm okay, I guess. My parents are really upset. So it's kind of hard at home.

(Hopeful)

Maybe I could come stay with you one night?

KRISTIE: *(Rudely)* Why?

(There is an awkward pause)

THOMAS: I'm really sorry Ellie.

KRISTIE: *(Detached to the point of almost being cruel)* Why are you apologizing? You didn't do anything wrong. Rebecca did.

AMY: *(stepping up from slightly behind them)* Kristie!

KRISTIE: What, Mom? It's true.

AMY: I'm sorry Ellie. We're all a little tense.

ELLIE: Yeah, sure. Hey, I'm going to go be with my family, okay?

KRISTIE: *(Uncaring)* Whatever.

(Ellie crosses to her parents at upstage right. Thomas and Kristie cross to downstage center)

THOMAS: Are you okay?

KRISTIE: I'm fine.

THOMAS: Well I mean, I'm here if you want to talk about it.

KRISTIE: (*Meanly*) What is there to talk about? My best friend is dead. Talking's not going to change that. So why talk?

THOMAS: (*Uncomfortable, unsure of what to do*) I just thought that maybe it might make you feel better.

KRISTIE: I just told you I feel fine.

THOMAS: You lost someone close to you; it's okay to be sad.

KRISTIE: Thanks for the advice, but I'm not sad and I don't need to talk about it. Why pretend like I do?

THOMAS: Maybe you should go over and talk to Rebecca's parents.

KRISTIE: (*Quiet for a moment, this should be the only line that you can detect any kind of emotion from her*) I wouldn't even know what to say.

THOMAS: You can tell them that you loved her too. And that you're sorry for their loss.

KRISTIE: (*Sighing*) This is so stupid.

THOMAS: It's a memorial; it's supposed to give people a time to mourn.

KRISTIE: No, not the memorial, the whole situation. It's so stupid. (*Mumbling*) Rebecca's so stupid

BOBBY: (*Bobby enters stage right and crosses to Thomas and Kristie. He quickly hugs Kristie.*) Hey.

KRISTIE: (*Back to being detached and mean*) What are you doing here? You didn't even know Rebecca that well.

BOBBY: But I know you. I wanted to come and support you.

KRISTIE: Why does everyone think I need to be supported? I don't need or want your support.

BOBBY: You and Rebecca were so close. I just wanted to make sure you were okay.

KRISTIE: Again, I'm fine! Just leave me alone.

BOBBY: Kristie, now's the time to let it out. It's healthy. You're surrounded with people that love you and want to help you through this.

KRISTIE: (*Speaks loudly and forcefully.*) This isn't about me! I'm fine. It's not like I'm an idiot who's going to go kill myself!

(*Everyone gets very quiet and turns to look at Kristie.*)

MARGARET: I can't do this.

(Margret exits stage left. John looks at Kristie but quickly runs after Margret. Everyone is still watching Kristie to see what she will do or say next.)

KRISTIE: *(Begins to laugh)* You're hilarious. All of you. Because I know I'm not the only one thinking it.

(Kristie exits stage right. Thomas turns to Bobby)

THOMAS: *(Exasperated)* Aw, man, I can't even imagine what she's feeling right now.

BOBBY: Pain. She's in a lot of pain. And so help me if you are anything but absolutely supporting to her...

THOMAS: What are you talking about?

BOBBY: Do you really think she can handle you moving on and dumping her after this? You're not exactly known for your long relationships.

THOMAS: Who said anything about breaking up? Look man, there's really no need to be so upset.

BOBBY: *(Angry)* Great thing to say at a funeral. Boy, aren't you a catch.

(Bobby exits stage left. Lights go down.)

Scene 8

(Lights come up on a practically empty stage. There is a tombstone at center stage Kristie is sitting on her knees in front of it. She is quiet for a few moments.)

KRISTIE: *(Angry, cold)* You're so selfish, you know that? Do you realize how completely selfish it was for you to do this? Sure your pains over, but what about the rest of us, who just have to deal with it? What about your sister? Gosh Rebecca, what about your mom? Did you even think about them and how this would affect them?

(Pause. There is a break in her composure as she gets upset)

Did you think about me? I mean, I'm your best friend for crying out loud and you couldn't find one minute to tell me you were so sad? Damn it I could have helped you! You know I would have!

(Stands and begins to pace)

You're so stupid! You had your whole life ahead of you and you just threw it away! For no reason at all! Really? A boy screwed you and didn't call you back. Get over it. There's a little more to life than one jerk. I can't believe that you did this. God, I'm just so *mad* at you. How could you just run away and leave us all behind, leave me behind? It was cruel. And it hurts, Rebecca, it really hurts.

(There is a pause of silence. Kristie should come to stand center stage directly behind the tombstone)

I hate you for this. I hate you so much.

(Lights fade)

Scene 9

(Lights come up on another school scene. There is a table center stage. Kristie is sitting at the empty table facing the audience. She is not doing anything, just sitting there staring blankly. Students are rushing on and off the stage. Students 1 and 2 cross from downstage left to exit upstage right.)

STUDENT 1: I heard she overdosed on pain killers!

STUDENT 2: No way! Where would she even get that?

STUDENT 1: Apparently she stole them from her dad.

(Students 3 and 4 cross from downstage right to exit upstage left.)

STUDENT 3: I heard Kristie like freaked out at the funeral.

STUDENT 4: What happened?

STUDENT 3: She like went crazy and started shouting about how she was going to commit suicide too.

STUDENT 4: Do you think she will?

STUDENT 3: *(Sad)* Who knows anymore?

(Savannah and Chloe cross from upstage right to exit downstage left.)

CHLOE: I can't believe that, about Rebecca, you know?

SAVANNAH: *(Distracted)* Yeah yeah, it's awful.

CHLOE: I had just like never seen Rebecca as the type to do that. She always seemed so like happy, I guess.

SAVANNAH: *(Gazing at Kristie)* I didn't really know her. Is that Kristie? She looks terrible.

CHLOE: Yeah, apparently she's like really messed up and won't talk to anyone. It's so sad.

SAVANNAH: She'll get over it.

CHLOE: *(Pauses)* That's a bit, harsh. Don't you think?

SAVANNAH: No, I mean, it's just the truth. Do you think all this means Thomas is free?

CHLOE: Savannah, you really need to take it down a level.

(Chloe exits stage left)

SAVANNAH: What?

(Savannah follows Chloe out. Bobby enters stage right and crosses to Kristie. He sits down at the table.)

BOBBY: Hey Kristie.

KRISTIE: Hi.

BOBBY: What's up?

KRISTIE: Nothing.

BOBBY: Oh.

KRISTIE: Have you heard all the rumors? *(Bitterly joking)* I'm practically popular now.

BOBBY: Yeah, don't pay any mind to it. People love to talk.

KRISTIE: They don't know what they're talking about.

BOBBY: No, they don't.

KRISTIE: It's so ridiculous! No one ever paid any attention to Rebecca when she was alive and now she's dead everyone's trying to relate

(Imitating)

Oh yeah I'm so upset, we were so close, like we totally had math together last semester, and she totally sat like four seats away from me. Like no!

(Serious again)

She was *my* friend! They didn't know her, I did.

BOBBY: *(Reaches across the table to grab Kristie's hand)* I'm sorry. I know this is hard for you. Can I do anything to help?

KRISTIE: No, but thanks. I guess.

(Thomas enters stage left. He crosses to Kristie and kisses her cheek. He sits down and Bobby pulls his hand back.)

THOMAS: Hey babe, how are you?

KRISTIE: Fine.

BOBBY: *(Tensely awkward)* Hi, Thomas.

THOMAS: Oh yeah, hi.

KRISTIE: My teachers gave me Ellie's work. They just assumed I would be more than happy to drop it off to her. That's the last thing I want to go and do. I can't even bear the thought of going to Rebecca's house.

(There is an awkward silence. Bobby looks at Thomas expectantly. Thomas is distracted and looking away, possibly playing on a cellphone.)

BOBBY: I'll drop it off for you if you want.

KRISTIE: Really?

BOBBY: Sure. I don't mind.

KRISTIE: But it's out of your way. You live on the other side of town.

BOBBY: Yeah, but it's not a big deal. I'd be happy to do it if it'll help you out. I'm here for you.

KRISTIE: That's really nice Bobby, thanks.

BOBBY: Of course

THOMAS: *(To Kristie)* Hey, I was thinking that maybe we could go out this weekend and do something.

KRISTIE: Oh. I don't know, Thomas. I don't really feel like going out. Sorry.

THOMAS: *(Sad)* Oh, okay, no big deal, I guess.

(Bell rings, the students quickly exit the stage.)

BOBBY: We should probably go.

THOMAS: *(To Kristie)* I'll walk you to class.

(Thomas and Kristie exit stage left. Bobby watches them for a minute before exiting stage right. There is a pause, in which actors could be quickly changing small articles of clothing. Thomas enters stage left and sits his book bag on the table. He begins to go through it, as if looking for something. Kristie enters stage right.)

THOMAS: Hey, Kristie. *(Kristie crosses, Thomas tries to kiss her but she pulls away, and sits her book bag down.)* So, would you happen to have a dress lying around?

KRISTIE: *(Confused)* Why?

THOMAS: That dance is Friday. We're going, right?

KRISTIE: Thomas, you shouldn't just assume I'd want to go, because I don't.

THOMAS: *(Upset by her answer)* Are you sure?

KRISTIE: Well, I don't know. Maybe. I guess. I'll think about it. Okay?

THOMAS: Really?

KRISTIE: Sure.

THOMAS: You promise?

KRISTIE: Yes, yes, I promise. Just as long as you promise not to bug me about it.

THOMAS: I won't. Thanks, babe. You're the best.

KRISTIE: *(Annoyed)* Yeah, whatever.

THOMAS: What's wrong?

KRISTIE: *(Mean)* Do you even know what today is?

THOMAS: *(Joking)* Tuesday?

KRISTIE: You're just a real comedian, aren't you? Excuse me if I don't find it that funny.

(Kristie crosses as if to exit stage left. Thomas grabs her arm)

THOMAS: Wait. I'm sorry, okay. What's today?

KRISTIE: Well if you must know, today's the three month anniversary of Rebecca's...well, you know.

THOMAS: *(Guiltily)* Oh, yeah. I guess I forgot. I'm sorry.

KRISTIE: It's whatever.

THOMAS: *(Back to his normal upbeat tone)* I got to run. But I'll see you after school?

KRISTIE: Yeah, sure.

(Thomas kisses Kristie goodbye and exits stage left. Kristie pulls out a chair and sits down, slumping her head into her hands as if in defeat. Bobby enters stage right.)

BOBBY: Hey there Kristie!

KRISTIE: Oh Bobby, hi.

BOBBY: *(Noticing she is upset. He is concerned.)* What's wrong?

KRISTIE: *(Wiping away tears)* Oh, nothing. I'm fine, really.

BOBBY: *(Crosses to stage right left and kneels beside her.)* No, you're not. I can tell. Talk to me.

KRISTIE: It's just been a hard day.

BOBBY: Because of Rebecca?

KRISTIE: *(Nods)* And Thomas doesn't even care. I tried to talk to him and it was like he didn't even understand why I was upset. He was all excited for the dance on Friday and I'm not even sure if I can make it through today.

BOBBY: Well, he didn't really know Rebecca.

KRISTIE: Neither did you, but you're here.

BOBBY: Maybe it's just harder for him to handle things like this. He doesn't know how to act so he just acts like nothing is wrong.

(There is a pause of silence as Kristie thinks over this idea)

KRISTIE: Do you think there's something wrong with me?

BOBBY: *(Shocked)* Of course not, why would you think something like that?

KRISTIE: Everyone's moved on. They've forgotten Rebecca, made her a memory. She's just that girl that killed herself a few months ago. But I just...I can't do that.

(Cue music preferably "Breathe Me" by Sia. Music should be very quiet; its purpose is only for background effect. Kristie's voice should begin escalating with emotion)

I think about her all the time. I think about how much I miss her and how stupid she was and how completely pissed off I am at her. I'm angry at a dead person, Bobby! Isn't that crazy? I'm mad at her as if she can just come back and make it up to me! I'm just so sad, Bobby! And I can't get over it.

BOBBY: She was your best friend it's okay to be sad and to miss her.

KRISTIE: *(Sobbing)* How could she do this to me? How could she just leave me here all alone?

Scene 10

(At the school's dance. Students are scattered around the stage. Music is playing softly in the background. Bobby is upstage right talking with another male student. Kristie and Thomas enter stage left and cross to him. Kristie seems bored and out of place. She constantly looks around the room, uninterested with anything going on around her. Thomas holds out his hand, as if to lead her to the dance floor, but she just shakes her head. Savannah and a female student are watching their interactions from downstage left. Students 1, 2, 3, 4, and Ellie enter stage left and cross to center.)

STUDENT 1: This is so cool!

STUDENT 2: The middle school dances were nothing like this!

STUDENT 3: What do you think Ellie?

ELLIE: It's fine I guess.

STUDENT 4: What's wrong?

ELLIE: It's just, nothing. (*Shakes head*) Don't mind me. I don't want to ruin everyone's night.

STUDENT 2: No, tell us.

ELLIE: Well, when I pictured my first high school dance, I kind of imagined my sister helping me get ready and giving me advice and well, I pictured her being here with me.

STUDENT 1: Oh Ellie, we didn't realize. We're really sorry.

ELLIE: You don't have to apologize. It's done, and I can't change that. So I'm just going to do my best to have fun and enjoy the night. I know that's what Rebecca would want. (*Joyful*) Besides, the decorations are pretty cool aren't they? So much better than middle school!

(Ellie and Students cross upstage chattering about the dance)

SAVANNAH: (*Motioning towards Thomas and Kristie*) I don't even get why they're still together.

CHLOE: Just leave it alone Savannah.

SAVANNAH: No, I won't. I mean just look at her. She doesn't even want to be here. Thomas should just dump her and find someone else. Someone with a little life!

CHLOE: Savannah!

SAVANNAH: What?

CHLOE: That's not funny! After, well, you know.

SAVANNAH: What? I have to change the way I live because some girl put a bullet through her brain? I don't think so.

CHLOE: Kristie's going through a hard time. You should try to understand that.

SAVANNAH: Just because your friend's dead doesn't give you an excuse to be a total bitch.

CHLOE: Kristie's a bitch? You're the one sitting over here planning about how you're going to steal her boyfriend!

SAVANNAH: Like you aren't thinking the same exact thing! Seriously, Thomas is gorgeous! Any girl would be lucky to have him. Why should he be fawning all over her when she won't even give him the time of day?

CHLOE: Maybe he can understand that she needs kindness, unlike some people I know.

SAVANNAH: Kindness is overrated.

CHLOE: I can't even talk to you about this. Do you have any idea how completely awful you sound right now?

(Chloe exits stage left. Savannah rolls her eyes but follows the student out)

THOMAS: Are you sure you don't want to dance?

KRISTIE: I really don't.

(Thomas sighs, annoyed.)

KRISTIE: Sorry.

THOMAS: Whatever, I guess I'll just go get some punch...or something.

(Thomas exits stage left. Everyone exits after him as the curtain closes. Thomas enters stage left in front of the curtain. Savannah enters stage right carrying a bag. She is skipping slightly. She is drunk. She looks up and sees Thomas.)

SAVANNAH: Oh, hi Thomas!

THOMAS: *(Looks up)* Savannah. What are you doing in here? Shouldn't you be in the gym with everyone else?

SAVANNAH: *(Slyly. Crossing slowly to him)* Well, I could ask the same thing of you.

THOMAS: I just needed a break. Seriously though, you don't have to stay here with me. Go have fun at the dance.

SAVANNAH: Fun? Why go to the gym for fun? *(Patting her bag)* I've got all the fun I want right here.

THOMAS: What do you mean?

SAVANNAH: *(Savannah slowly pulls out a bottle from her bag and holds it up between Thomas and herself.)* Have some. I have to warn you though, it's strong.

THOMAS: You shouldn't have that.

SAVANNAH: *(Laughing)* Oh what are you going to do tell on me?

(Thomas stands and walks slightly away from her. He puts his hands into his pocket and looks out at the audience)

THOMAS: No, I guess not.

SAVANNAH: *(With a serious tone in her voice)* Well I know why I'm here. But why are you?

THOMAS: It's a long story.

SAVANNAH: *(Laughing)* Kristie not doing it for you anymore?

THOMAS: *(Angry, turning towards her)* That's really none of your business.

(Savannah puts her hands up and steps forward a few steps towards him. Laughing slightly she extends the bottle.)

SAVANNAH: Here, seriously have some. It'll take the edge off.

THOMAS: I shouldn't.

SAVANNAH: But you want to.

(Thomas looks away, indecisive. Savannah takes a step closer to him, invading his personal space.)

SAVANNAH: You can take what you want sometimes, even if you think you shouldn't.

(There is a moment of silence. Finally Thomas turns to look at her. Slowly, he takes the bottle and takes a long swig. He hands it back to her and she places it back into her bag.)

SAVANNAH: Now that wasn't so hard, was it?

THOMAS: I should go.

SAVANNAH: *(Savannah grabs his shirt, taking another step in.)* Why? We're not doing anything wrong. We're just talking, right? We can talk.

(Savannah slowly moves her hand down to his wrist. She takes his arm and places it on her waist. She lets her hand travel back up his arm)

SAVANNAH: But we can do something wrong. If you want to, I mean.

(There is a pause. Finally Thomas kisses her. It should be clear to the audience that Thomas initiated the kiss. The kiss should be very intense. Kristie enters stage right.)

KRISTIE: Thomas?

(Kristie looks up and see's Thomas and Savannah kissing. She inhales quickly, shocked.)

Oh my god.

(Thomas breaks the kiss and looks up to see Kristie. He quickly steps away from Savannah and rushes toward where Kristie is exiting. He takes her arm.)

Kristie! Kristie, wait!

KRISTIE: Wait, for what? Wait to watch you shove your tongue down her throat some more? Because I'd really rather not.

SAVANNAH: He wouldn't need me if he had a girlfriend who actually cared enough to kiss him like that herself.

KRISTIE: *(Walks towards Savannah as if to fight her but Thomas holds her back)* Excuse me? What did you just say to me?

SAVANNAH: Oh I think you heard me loud and clear.

KRISTIE: Well I'm sorry, I was a little distracted thinking about how much of a pathetic slut you are!

THOMAS: Kristie!

KRISTIE: *(Glares at Thomas)* What

(Savannah exits stage left)

THOMAS: Please just calm down.

KRISTIE: Why should I? With her, Thomas? Really? With Savannah? That bitch will spread her legs for anything that moves.

THOMAS: Kristie, it's not her fault.

KRISTIE: Oh the hell it isn't!

THOMAS: *(Shouting)* Kristie I kissed her!

(There is a pause of silence. You should see a visible change in Kristie.)

THOMAS: I was the one who started the kiss.

KRISTIE: Why would you do that?

THOMAS: Because, because, well I don't know.

KRISTIE: Oh that's a fine reason.

(Kristie goes to exit stage right; she doesn't make it far though before Thomas interrupts her and so she remains on stage right, slightly upstage. Thomas sighs.)

THOMAS: You know, it was nice to feel wanted for once!

(Kristie stops.)

THOMAS: It was nice to feel like a girl wanted to be with me.

KRISTIE: Are you implying that I'm stringing you along?

THOMAS: I... *(Pauses)* I don't know what I'm implying

KRISTIE: I wouldn't be dating you if I didn't want to be with you.

THOMAS: But we're not dating! Not really. We were never really dating! Rebecca died and you went away. You just retreated back into yourself and for a while I guess that was okay. I knew you were dealing with some hard stuff, and I didn't really know what to do. All I wanted was help you through it until you were yourself again. But it's been three months already and you're nowhere near who you were!

(Pause)

You're nowhere near the girl I fell in love with.

(Pause)

KRISTIE: Do you want me to apologize for mourning my best friend?

THOMAS: *(Exasperated. He begins approaching Kristie)* No, of course not. But she's gone, Kristie.

(Cue music preferably "Breathe Me" by Sia)

THOMAS: She's gone and no amount of tears is going to bring her back. You need to learn to accept that Rebecca died and you're still here. Sooner or later, you're going to have to come back to the world of the living. You're going to have to come back to life. To you.

KRISTIE: I am alive. I am. I'm here.

THOMAS: No, Kristie. You're not. Not fully. Not yet, at least. But you can be, I know you can do it. I thought I could help you do it, but I can't. I can see that now. And *I'm* sorry. But I think this is something you're going to have to do on your own. You're going to have to snap yourself out of it if you ever want to move on.

(Kristie looks away and Thomas begins to exit stage right)

THOMAS: Don't you want that?

KRISTIE: I want you!

THOMAS: You can't have me if you don't have yourself.

KRISTIE: *(Calling to him)* Are you just going to leave me here all alone?

(Thomas stops and Kristie quickly walks towards him, taking his hand)

KRISTIE: I do want to move on. I really do.

THOMAS: I know you do.

KRISTIE: But I can't do it on my own. Please Thomas, I need you.

(Thomas goes to walk away but Kristie pulls on his hand. She is panicked)

KRISTIE: I love you!

(There is a moment of silence. Thomas turns back to Kristie. The actor may touch Kristie in some form of fondness)

THOMAS: No. You don't. But maybe you will. Someday later.

(Thomas exits. Kristie should stand there for a moment staring after him.)

KRISTIE: Thomas!

(Slowly she should turn away and take a moment to compose herself. Perhaps run a hand through her hair in a stressed notion. A group of people in Christmas clothing enter stage left they cross to Kristie.)

CHRISTMAS GROUP: Merry Christmas.

(Kristie takes a moment just to look at them. One person should extend a present to her and she should push it away. As she is doing this another group of people dressed as suiting for valentine's day enter stage left and cross to Kristie, they should be standing slightly downstage left from the Christmas group. One person can be carrying a box of chocolates, another flowers, they should hold out these gifts to Kristie.)

VALENTINES DAY GROUP: Happy Valentine's Day!

(Kristie should look at the gifts but not actually take them. Bobby should come forward from stage left and join her. Kristie should look at him and give a small smile. A third group of people should enter stage left and cross to Kristie, they should be standing slightly downstage left from the Valentine's Day group. They should be in "summer" clothes with bathing suits evident underneath. Kristie and Bobbi should both step up from the Valentine's Day group to them)

SPRING BREAK GROUP: *(All together at once, talking both to each other and to Kristie.)* Spring break bitches! We're going down to the beach, you should come. Go to the pool with me.

(At this point Kristie should slightly laugh at the obnoxious students excited for Spring break, maybe shaking her head to herself. One student should take a pair of sunglasses and put them on top of Kristie's head. She should look at Bobby and take his hand. As this is happening a final group of students should enter stage left and again come to stand slightly downstage left from the Spring Break group. They should be dressed in graduation robes. They should be carrying a graduation cap and gown that they hold out to Kristie)

ONE MEMBER OF THE GRADUATION GROUP: Order your caps and gowns now.

(Kristie should stand there for a moment looking at these items. Finally she should quickly take the cap and gown and hug Bobby. Together, hand in hand they should busily exit stage left happily laughing and talking to each other. Curtains close.)

Scene 12

(Amy, Dave, Margaret, John, Ellie enter stage left. They are all happy and busily talking to each other. Bobby and Kristie enter stage right; they should be wearing graduation robes and holding hands. They are obviously a couple.)

DAVE: There they are! Congratulations graduates!

AMY: Come, come, have some cake!

(As Kristie and Bobby approach the table they are met with hugs and congratulations.)

DAVE: *(To Kristie)* I always knew you could do it.

KRISTIE: Thanks, Dad.

AMY: *(To Kristie)* Sit, sweetie.

(Kristie instead walks to John, Margaret, and Ellie, hugging each of them in turn.)

KRISTIE: Thank you guys for coming. You didn't have to.

MARGARET: Yes, we did. We're so proud of you honey.

JOHN: I'm sure Rebecca would be very proud too.

KRISTIE: *(To Ellie)* You finally look like you're learning how to tame that hair. *(Laughing)* Rebecca would be thrilled.

ELLIE: *(Laughs and touches her hair)* Yes she would be. She always had to point out how messy it was.

KRISTIE: *(Serious)* You've grown up a lot.

ELLIE: Now don't get all mushy on me.

KRISTIE: No I'm serious. You've been like the little sister I've never had and now you seem all grown up.

ELLIE: You're the one who just graduated.

KRISTIE: *(Laughing)* I guess you're right

(Kristie nods and heads back to Bobby. Amy is cutting pieces of cake and busily giving them to people. Thomas and Savannah enter stage left holding hands. Kristie whispers something to Bobby and goes to greet them.)

KRISTIE: Hey.

SAVANNAH: *(To Thomas)* I'll uh... go save us some cake.

(Savannah goes to join the party, leaving Thomas and Kristie together)

THOMAS: I wasn't really expecting to get invited.

KRISTIE: I wanted to invite you. Both of you.

THOMAS: Well that was nice. Thanks.

KRISTIE: I actually, well I wanted to kind of thank you. I know that everything ended in a weird way, but what you said really helped me. It kind of snapped me out of it. So thank you.

THOMAS: You're welcome. I'm just really glad to see you happy again.

KRISTIE: And you Thomas? Are you happy? With Savannah, I mean.

THOMAS: *(Looks over at Savannah)* She's not you. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. I really like her.

KRISTIE: I'm happy for you. I really am.

(Thomas and Kristie should walk over to the table together chatting)

ELLIE: So, what are your plans after school Bobby?

BOBBY: I think I'm going to help out with my dad at the store, just for a while, at least. He's been sick and could use an extra hand.

DAVE: Hey, there is absolutely nothing wrong with helping out your family.

AMY: It's very admirable, Bobby.

JOHN: What about you Kristie?

KRISTIE: *(Pauses)* Well, actually I was accepted to Stanford.

(Margret and John turn to look at each other than smile excitedly at Kristie)

MARGARET: Oh, really?

JOHN: That's great, Kristie. That's really great.

KRISTIE: Thank you.

MARGARET: *(Glances at John before turning back to Kristie)* Will you do something for us, while you're there?

KRISTIE: Anything.

MARGARET: Don't forget Rebecca. Please. Just keep her in your head and in your heart. That way some part of her will be there too.

KRISTIE: *(Nods)* Of course

(There is a moment of still quietness as everyone is momentarily humbled. Finally, Kristie stands.)

KRISTIE: I have to go.

AMY: What? Honey, this is your celebration dinner. Your grandparents will be here soon.

KRISTIE: I know, but there's just something I have to do.

DAVE: Kristie –

KRISTIE: I'm sorry. I'll be back in an hour. I promise.

AMY: But, Kristie –

KRISTIE: Mom, I know. I wouldn't if it wasn't important. Please, just trust me.

AMY: *(Glances at Dave before finally nodding at Kristie)* Okay, be back soon.

KRISTIE: I will.

(Kristie hugs her parent's goodbye and goes to quickly exit stage right. Bobby follows her and grabs her hand at downstage right. They stop to talk. Their families appear to be in a conversation, oblivious to what is going on between them.)

BOBBY: Do you want me to come with you?

KRISTIE: No, stay here. Celebrate.

BOBBY: Are you sure?

KRISTIE: Yeah, I just have someone I need to talk to real quick.

BOBBY: I'm here, you know if you need me.

KRISTIE: I know. And that's wonderful, but I'm fine, really. I promise. It's just something I have to do.

(Kristie and Bobby embrace. Bobby turns back and begins to walk back to the table.)

KRISTIE: Bobby?

(Bobby stops and turns back for a minute)

BOBBY: Yeah?

KRISTIE: Thanks. For everything this year, I mean. I wouldn't have been able to get through it without you.

BOBBY: Always.

KRISTIE: I love you.

BOBBY: *(Smiles)* I love you too. Come back soon.

(Bobby returns to the table and Kristie exits stage right.)

Scene 13

(Lights come up onto the graveyard set from scene 4. Kristie enters stage left and crosses slowly to the tombstone at center stage. She stands there for a moment.)

KRISTIE: *(Awkwardly)* So hi.

(Kristie begins to pace, finally she stops and looks at the tombstone today)

Well, we graduated today, the senior class. It was a really nice ceremony. You would have liked it, I mean.

(Cue music, preferably "Breathe me" by Sia. Music should be soft when Kristie is talking.)

The chorus sang and it was really pretty. All the parents were was crying, and you know that girl Sheila?

(Laughs)

She totally fell across the stage when she went to get her diploma. It was priceless.

(Pauses. Sighs.)

So, I wanted to come and talk to you because well I'm not really sure I'm going to have another chance to. You know how growing up we always planned on going to Stanford together? And our parents got us those matching t-shirts? We wore them until they ripped apart and we were too big to fit in them anymore. Well anyway, I got in. I did it, Rebecca. Stanford accepted me. I'm leaving in a couple weeks, just to get settled in and everything. You know, figure out the town. I thought I'd take some summer classes, I could really use a change of scenery.

(Pauses.)

I don't think I'm going to come back here, Rebecca. Not for a while at least. There's just too much here. Too much pain and too many memories. I kind of just want to get away for a while. Well no, I don't want to I need to. Losing you, it was really hard for me. And I am *finally* starting to get better. I think getting a break from this place will help. So I guess I wanted to say goodbye. Or something like that.

(Kristie bends down and sits before the tombstone; she is quiet for a while.)

Do you remember when we were little and we used to go out to the field behind my house and just dance for hours? That was fun.

(Pause)

This is awkward. It was never awkward talking to you. I guess, well I guess I kind of just wanted to say I'm sorry for what I said to you. I don't hate you. I was mad and hurt for a long time. And I still think what you did was pretty stupid but I forgive you. Heck for a while there I was pretty messed up myself, and maybe now I can kind of understand why you did what you did. I can understand feeling so alone and abandoned that you feel like you have no other option. And I guess, well really what I wanted to tell you is that...well...I just want you to know that you'll always be my best friend. Forever.

(Kristie looks down to her folded palms and freezes. Music should be building to a crescendo. Rebecca enters stage right in a white gown. She crosses to Kristie and looks down on her. She puts a hand on Kristie's shoulder and as they touch both their heads should come up at the same time. Music should fade out.)

End of Show