

OPTIONS

A ten-minute play

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Cast of Characters

ELLEN, a high school senior
MOLLY, also a high school senior

Setting

November of the current year. A high school dance.

ELLEN is standing by the refreshment table, serving herself a glass of fruit punch; MOLLY approaches.

MOLLY

Hey, Ellen.

ELLEN

Hey, Molly. I don't suppose you brought along something to enhance the flavor...?

Ellen mimes pouring liquor into her fruit punch.

MOLLY

Sorry. They were frisking everybody at the door.

Molly helps herself to a glass of punch. Both girls sip and nibble throughout the scene.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

So where's Daniel?

ELLEN

When last seen - surrounded by his soccer buddies, entertaining them with tales of his torn meniscus. And peddling the leftover Vicodin from his knee surgery.

MOLLY

I don't know how you find time for a boyfriend.

ELLEN

How much time do you think it takes?

MOLLY

Well, first you've got to meet someone...and, you know, hang out...I mean, I don't even have time to get a haircut. I've got French vocabulary written on the bathroom mirror so I can étudier while I brosser les dents!

ELLEN

Exactly. You multi-task. Me too. Like I bring my homework to Daniel's soccer games and study when he's on the bench. And college tours: we go together. We went to Stanford last week. His parents paid for a hotel room. My parents thought I was staying in the dorms. Now that was some serious multi-tasking.

MOLLY

What if one of you gets in and the other doesn't?

ELLEN

To Stanford? Neither of us is gonna get into Stanford. You know what percentage of applicants they took last year?

MOLLY

Yeah. 7.6 percent. I don't know anyone who got in except Kendra. Do you? And I don't know how she got in. I mean, sure, she took lots of honors and APs and got straight As, but there wasn't anything special about her. She was in Key Club. But everyone is in Key Club. That's just volunteering. Decorating the Y for the Halloween Carnival for Kids. Bringing meals to old people. Anybody can do that.

ELLEN

She didn't get in.

MOLLY

What are you talking about?

ELLEN

She didn't get in.

MOLLY

Huh...? She's there now. Didn't you read her post about that mass kissing thing on the quad during the first full moon, and her research paper for English Comp about why more male squirrels than females get run over crossing the road-

ELLEN

She's been faking it.

MOLLY

She's not at Stanford?

ELLEN

Oh, she's at Stanford, but she didn't get in to Stanford. She talked some girl into letting her share her dorm room. And she's been hanging out for like the last couple of months, talking about her classes and her exams and stuff - everybody thought she was a student until just this week when the RA finally got suspicious and investigated.

(There is a moment of stunned
silence.)

Check Facebook when you get home. You'll see.

MOLLY

So where did she get in really?

ELLEN

I don't know. Nowhere. Only one of those obscure little colleges with a funny name in the Midwest somewhere that nobody's ever heard of unless they've read one of those books - you know, one of those books that says going to some obscure little college in the Midwest somewhere is just as good as going to Harvard. But who reads those books? Only people with zero chance of getting into any of the good schools.

Pause. From Molly's expression, it is apparent that she has indeed read the book in question.

MOLLY

What would you do?

ELLEN

If I didn't get in anywhere?

MOLLY

Yeah. Anywhere that counts?

ELLEN

(Pause. Casually)

I'm thinking maybe I'll go for having a prom baby.

MOLLY

A what?

ELLEN

A prom baby. You know, it's a baby that's conceived on prom night.

MOLLY

On purpose?

ELLEN

On purpose, or not on purpose, or sort of accidentally on purpose.

MOLLY

You mean, like, if you don't get into Amherst, you and Daniel...

ELLEN

Maybe even if I do get into Amherst. I mean, what if I decide I don't really want to go to Amherst?

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