

BRACE YOURSELF

A short comedy by
Keegon Schuett

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MIRANDA, a young girl with braces.

TOMMY, a normal guy.

LUCY, a good friend.

CRAIG, a dependable bro.

SCENE 1

(Two girls, LUCY and MIRANDA, sit together outside during lunch. Across the stage sitting together are two boys, CRAIG and TOMMY.)

MIRANDA: This is the worst day of my entire life.

LUCY: No! No, today's a big day. It's what—two months now? He's going to ask you—

MIRANDA: He can't see me like this. You have to tell him he can't see me like this.

LUCY: They're just braces, Miranda. You're still very pretty.

MIRANDA: That's exactly what you'd say if I wasn't pretty anymore because of my braces.

LUCY: That's not true.

MIRANDA: Yes, it is and he's going to think so, too.

LUCY: You are pretty. Now you've just got a shinier smile. And besides—

MIRANDA: Don't. Don't tell me that Tommy loves me for my inner beauty. Don't say that. That's cheesy.

LUCY: That's not what I was going to say...but he probably does.

MIRANDA: Probably...it has been two months.

LUCY: Big anniversary. He's definitely going to ask you to the dance, Miranda.

MIRANDA: Not now. Now I'm half metal. I've got robot teeth. He's going to dump me as soon as he finds out.

LUCY: Well, what do you want to do? He's waiting for you.

MIRANDA: I want to die. I want to be invisible. Hand me

the mirror.

LUCY: No. You're obsessing.

MIRANDA: Mirror. Now.

LUCY: Fine.

(She passes her a small mirror. Miranda observes her braces up close, very upset. Craig approaches Lucy.)

CRAIG: Hey, Lucy. Over here.

(Lucy walks to him.)

LUCY: What's up?

CRAIG: Tommy's been looking for Miranda. He wants to talk to her.

LUCY: The dance, right?

CRAIG: Probably. It's been a while.

LUCY: Two month anniversary. Huge.

CRAIG: I think he's got something special planned. Could you send her over?

LUCY: No. I can't.

CRAIG: Why not?

LUCY: It's complicated, Craig.

CRAIG: Well, what should I tell him? He's waiting.

LUCY: I don't know. Tell him she doesn't want to see him.

CRAIG: Anymore?

LUCY: No. She doesn't want to see him.

CRAIG: Wow. OK. Thanks, I guess.

LUCY: No problem.

(Craig goes to Tommy.)

TOMMY: She coming?

CRAIG: Uhh, I don't think so, bro.

TOMMY: Why not?

CRAIG: Lucy said that she said she doesn't want to see you anymore.

TOMMY: At all?

CRAIG: Yeah, that's the way it sounded, man. I'm sorry.

TOMMY: I thought she liked me.

CRAIG: Girls are like that. One minute they love you. Next minute they dump you through a friend, I guess.

TOMMY: I planned this whole thing.

CRAIG: I know. Tough break.

LUCY: *(To Miranda:)* Stop looking in the mirror.

MIRANDA: No. Not until I get used to the glare.

LUCY: Nobody's glaring.

MIRANDA: I meant the way my mouth reflects sun now. Are people staring?

LUCY: No one's looking over here. Tommy was looking for you, though.

MIRANDA: What? What'd you say?

LUCY: The truth.

MIRANDA: No! You didn't tell him about the—

LUCY: I just said that you didn't want to see him.

TOMMY: *(To Craig:)* I made her this necklace with lettered beads. It says, "Will you go to the dance with me, Miranda?"

CRAIG: That's a lot of beads.

MIRANDA: *(To Lucy:)* But I do want to see him. I just don't want him to see me like this.

LUCY: Do you want me to go get him? He'll understand, Miranda. He likes you.

MIRANDA: Oh, God. Uhh, yes. Go tell him I want to see him. Go before I change my mind.

(Lucy walks to Tommy and Craig.)

TOMMY: It's a pretty big necklace. And I was planning on kissing her.

CRAIG: You guys hadn't kissed?

TOMMY: No. And now we can't. We'll never kiss. Never.

(Lucy only catches the end of his sentence. She gasps and quickly returns to Miranda.)

MIRANDA: So?

LUCY: Nothing!

MIRANDA: Nothing?

LUCY: I can't say. Don't worry. It's nothing.

MIRANDA: You're freaking me out, Lucy. What did he say?

LUCY: Don't be mad if I tell you.

MIRANDA: I'm going to be mad if you don't tell me.

LUCY: OK, don't freak out, but I just heard Tommy tell Craig that he's never going to kiss you.

MIRANDA: Never?

LUCY: That's what he said.

MIRANDA: Oh, God. Oh, no! He must have heard about the braces!

LUCY: No! Maybe, but—

MIRANDA: You don't think he wants to see me so he can dump me, do you? Oh my God, he wants to break up.

LUCY: I wish I hadn't heard anything.

MIRANDA: Two months of true love down the drain because my teeth are too crooked.

LUCY: Look on the bright side.

MIRANDA: What's that?

LUCY: Your teeth won't be crooked after the braces come off.

MIRANDA: That's the best you can do? I'm a metal-mouthed monster and now I'm single! I'm gonna die alone! All alone!

(She begins to sob.)

CRAIG: It's not too late, bro. Go talk to her. Convince her that you're still the right dude for her.

TOMMY: You think there's some other dude?

CRAIG: No, bro. No. I'm just saying you need to assert yourself. You want her for another two months, you gotta tell her.

LUCY: *(To Miranda:)* Stop crying! It's not the end of the world. You can win him back.

MIRANDA: How?

LUCY: Own those teeth. He didn't fall in love with you for your mouth. He loves you because of who you are, Miranda. Go tell him what's up.

CRAIG: *(To Tommy:)* You go give her that necklace and she'll give you her heart.

TOMMY: That's poetic.

CRAIG: I know. Now go get her, tiger.

MIRANDA: *(To Lucy:)* You're right. I'm beautiful.

LUCY: You're a catch.

MIRANDA: *(Hyperventilating:)* I'm a catch! I'm not a monster...I'm worthwhile. I'm great. I'm a catch.

LUCY: Hey, hey. Catch your breath.

MIRANDA: I'm freaking out.

LUCY: Go tell him. You'll feel better after you do. Just go.

MIRANDA: Here goes nothing.

TOMMY: Here goes nothing.

(Miranda and Tommy meet at center.)

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