

# FOR (SANDWICH) LOVERS ONLY

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A one-act comedy by  
Owen Stone

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

IAN, very average, 16-year-old high school kid. Works in a sandwich shop owned by his parents. He has never had a girlfriend.

TANNER, Ian's best friend. He and Ian have a very good friendship, and Tanner would do anything for Ian.

JESS, 16-year-old girl who is both cool and strong. She has a rough home life and has been hurt several times in past relationships.

MOM, Ian's mom. Supportive, annoying, and loving.

DAD, Ian's dad. Strange, quirky father.

MOM 2, Jess's mom. Loving, but she is not as emotionally supportive.

DAD 2, Jess's dad. Has a temper, and it is clear that he makes the household a difficult place to be in, although he loves Jess.

HIPSTER FAIRIES, wearing black punk rock clothing and tiny black wings. They are meant to be Ian and Jess's audience.

JOCKS/ZOMBIES, jocks that throughout the course of the show become more and more like zombies until they are fully transformed. They represent all the seemingly impossible to overcome obstacles in Ian's life. They only speak in grunts.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Paramore was the band referenced in the original production of the play and used for transition music. Feel free to change the band to whatever is in the best interest of your production. The usage of a live band would also be an exciting addition to the play. Also, feel free to use area staging or suggested settings and not to clear the set exactly as noted in the original stage directions as per your needs.

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## SCENE 1: THE SANDWICH SHOP

*(Spotlight. IAN stands alone.)*

**IAN:** Girls. It stands to reason that they are probably mutated from some form of evil located beyond the outer reaches of this galaxy. And when one of us guys encounters this creature, well the "outcome does not look good" as Mr. Magic 8 Ball would say. I've been insignificant all my life. I could walk through the entire school without being noticed once. At least the nerdy kids get bullied, but it's like I don't even exist. This is the point in my life where things start to change. This is the point in my life where, to someone, I will become more than a thing to be easily ignored and forgotten. This is where I meet a girl.

*(FAIRIES rush in dancing to Paramore music to set sandwich shop. The JOCKS bring their own table and chairs and sit. They already have food and are making a mess. As the Fairies leave the stage, Ian is left behind the counter. TANNER has entered and stands at the counter eating a sandwich.)*

**TANNER:** Mmmm...god you're good! I don't know how you do it, but every time I eat a sandwich of yours, it's like my taste buds are sitting front row at a White Stripes concert.

*(A Jock grunts as he throws his trash on the ground. Tanner is annoyed but has seen this before. Ian cleans it up)*

**IAN:** Well I hope you enjoy them. You know my parents could have had the cash to put me in college by now if we didn't give you free sandwiches every time you come in here.

**TANNER:** Come on, I offer you priceless advice when I'm here. A sandwich is a small price to pay for my wisdom.

**IAN:** What wisdom? When have you ever given me good advice?

**TANNER:** You never listen to my advice! That's why stuff

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never works out for you. Remember what I told you last week?

**IAN:** Always erase your internet history?

**TANNER:** No dude. I told you if you want to get a girlfriend, you need to stop being such a coward and just ask someone out. Anyone! A complete stranger! I bet if you actually took a chance for once, something mind-blowingly amazing could happen. But you don't have enough meatballs in your meatball sub, do you?

**IAN:** Well, my meatball sub is a little more particular about what kind of sauce it wants. It's gotta be just the right stuff.

**TANNER:** If your meatball sub doesn't hurry up, it's gonna expire and get tossed out in the back.

**IAN:** I could ask someone out if I wanted to. I just haven't met a girl who interests me.

**TANNER:** That is total bull. You know what? I dare you to ask out the next hot girl you see; the next one that walks in here. Cuz I don't think you can do it.

**IAN:** Pfff, that's easy. I'll just call up your mom right now and ask her.

**TANNER:** Dude, totally uncalled for! I am trying to help you.

**IAN:** Yeah, well I don't need your help, because today is my day, I know it.

**TANNER:** You've said that a million times, and look where you are: Sixteen and you've never had a girlfriend. It's time! You've got to step up to the plate and be a man! Or you're gonna die unhappy and alone.

**IAN:** Dude, you don't have to get all dark on me. I get it. I'm gonna do it okay? Today. I'm gonna ask someone today.

**TANNER:** You better, cuz I don't know how much more of

this I can take. Okay, I'm out dude.

*(He starts to exit as JESS walks in. As she heads to the counter, Tanner motions at Jess and Ian motions for him to leave. Tanner shouts back:)*

We're still on for zombies this weekend, right?

**IAN:** Yeah I'll be there.

*(Tanner exits.)*

**JESS:** *(Approaching the counter:)* Zombies?

**IAN:** *(Trying to sound cool:)* Yeah, it's this video game where you're locked in a house and you have to defend yourself against a massive zombie attack. I don't know, it's stupid, whatever.

**JESS:** Yeah...

**IAN:** So I've never seen you in here before.

**JESS:** Well I was starting to get sick of the Subway down the street, so I decided to try you guys out.

**IAN:** Yup, that's basically our business plan. To just be the place that people go to when they get sick of Subway. My parents own the place.

**JESS:** So what's good here?

**IAN:** Well I think the meatball sub is sick, but if you're feeling risky, I would go with the spicy teriyaki sub.

**JESS:** Yeah, sure I'll do that.

**IAN:** Warning, it's hot... *(To himself:)* Like that body.

**JESS:** Excuse me? What did you just say?

**IAN:** *(Snaps out of his act. Realizes:)* I honestly have no idea. Please forgive me—I was trying to act cool. But I came off more...

**JESS:** Like a tool?

**IAN:** Like a tool.



**JESS:** Yeah, I mean jeez I don't even know you. If that's something you say to complete strangers...

**IAN:** No, no, not at all – I was just ugh...could we start over?

**JESS:** How about you just focus on making my sandwich?

**IAN:** Listen, that isn't me. Just please don't base your first impression of me off that statement.

**JESS:** Just stop talking. My "first impression" of you is beyond repair.

**IAN:** Okay.

**JESS:** Thank you.

*(Ian begins to make Jess's sandwich.)*

**IAN:** *(Noticing Jess's shirt:)* Paramore, I love that band.

**JESS:** What did I just say?

**IAN:** I know, I just wanted to say I love that band.

**JESS:** I do too. They're playing a show here this weekend but I couldn't get tickets. *(Trying to be overly Goth to freak Ian out:)* Just another chapter in the saga of my despair and depression.

**IAN:** Right, right, yeah that does suck.

*(Ian wraps up her sandwich.)*

Okay, that'll be four dollars and fifty cents.

**JESS:** Here you go.

*(She hands Ian money.)*

**IAN:** Thank you, come again.

**JESS:** Yeah, right.

*(As Ian is about to exit, a Jock gets up and trips him. Ian doubts. The Fairies strike the sandwich shop.)*

**SCENE 2: OUTSIDE THE SHOP**

*(Jess crosses the stage as Ian closes up shop. As he walks offstage, they run into each other. In this scene, the Jocks/Zombies stand behind Jess, intimidating Ian whenever she says something mean, and the Fairies stand behind Ian cheering him on when he succeeds.)*

**IAN:** Hey, it's you.

**JESS:** Great, you again.

**IAN:** I never got your name. I'm Ian.

**JESS:** Jess.

**IAN:** Nice to meet you, Jess. So how'd you like that sandwich?

**JESS:** Well, my server was a little creepy and made perverted comments to me, but the sandwich was actually not bad.

**IAN:** Oh come on, I said one thing. And it was kind of a compliment anyways. But I'm sorry. I don't know what came over me. I guess I was trying to impress you and I got carried away.

**JESS:** That's not how you impress a girl. You have to be charming, not freaky.

**IAN:** Exactly, and now I know that. So could we please just forget what I said?

**JESS:** Fine, but that's only because I'm never gonna be able to eat at Subway again after that sandwich you made me.

**IAN:** So you'll be coming back?

**JESS:** I guess so.

**IAN:** Sweet, I look forward to it. Making you more sandwiches that is. Not seeing you. Just the sandwiches.

**JESS:** Yeah...okay, well I'm gonna let you get that foot out of

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your mouth now. Bye.

*(Jess continues to exit.)*

**IAN:** Wait.

*(Jess stops.)*

Do you want to maybe go out sometime?

**JESS:** What? Are you mental? You honestly think I'll go out with you?

**IAN:** You said we were starting over.

**JESS:** That doesn't mean you're suddenly my dream guy!

**IAN:** Well why not?

**JESS:** Because you're...because I don't know you.

**IAN:** Well you could get to know me.

**JESS:** Yeah, I don't think that's a possibility. Goodbye.

*(She exits. Ian, defeated, is carried off by the Jocks/Zombies like he just scored the winning touchdown.)*

**SCENE 3: TANNER'S LIVING ROOM**

*(Ian and Tanner are sitting, playing video games, facing out. Beside them is a small table with a radio. Tanner sips on a fast food soda. Two Fairies stand behind the couch/bean bag and share a popcorn, enjoying both the game and Ian and Tanner. We hear shooting and dying SOUND EFFECTS.)*

**TANNER:** No, no, no! What you have to do is get the power up and then shoot the zombie with the ray gun.

**IAN:** Isn't that what I did?

**TANNER:** If you had done that, then you wouldn't be getting chomped down by a crowd of 30 zombies right now.

**IAN:** Whatever dude, I told you I suck at this game.

**TANNER:** Yeah, you do suck. You know, I know people that are a million times better at this game than you. And they could be over right now. But instead I decided to hang out with you.

**IAN:** Well aren't you a sweetheart.

**TANNER:** Actually I am, and I don't think you appreciate me enough.

**IAN:** Tanner, I appreciate you.

**TANNER:** Do you?

**IAN:** Yes I do. Even though your advice sucks.

*(GAME OVER SOUND EFFECT. They set their controllers down.)*

**TANNER:** What advice?

**IAN:** That girl in the sandwich shop? She came in as you were leaving. I asked her out.

**TANNER:** Yeah, okay. And I just got back from a month-long love fest with Emma Stone.

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**IAN:** I speak the truth and nothing but the truth.

**TANNER:** Well what did she say? What did you say?

**IAN:** Well, I compared her to a spicy teriyaki sub.

**TANNER:** Okay, I don't know what that means, but it doesn't sound good.

**IAN:** I wish I didn't say anything. I could've had a chance with her if I had just shut up.

**TANNER:** So, well then what? Then you just asked her out?

**IAN:** I saw her as I was walking home, got her to forgive the teriyaki thing, with some smooth talking. Then, I don't know, I thought maybe she would say yes to a date. But she uh, didn't.

**TANNER:** Ugh, you are so hopeless. What are you gonna do? You suck at video games, and you really suck at talking to girls. You've got nothing.

**IAN:** Hey man, I'm not giving up yet. I think this could still work out. Somehow I just need to convince her that I'm her soulmate... *(Melodramatic:)* her sunrise and sunset, the gravity that holds her to this earth, the oxygen that—

**TANNER:** Aw, dude, that kid zombie is using your large intestine as a jump rope. Sweet!

**IAN:** *(Solemnly:)* That's sick, man.

*(He turns radio up.)*

**RADIO ANNOUNCER:** Okay, we're gonna give away our last two tickets to go see Paramore this weekend. The number is 555-456-2974—start calling now.

*(Ian takes Tanner's drink and writes down the number on it.)*

If you want these tickets, you've gotta come on air and convince me that you need them more than anyone else.

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**IAN:** Dude! Tanner! The shirt, with the girl, and the band.

**TANNER:** What?

**IAN:** The girl, I pretended I knew the band, I don't, she does, there's a concert...

**TANNER:** Are you having a seizure dude? You aren't making any sense.

**IAN:** If you value our friendship in the slightest bit you'll shut up and start calling. I need those tickets!

*(Both boys pull out their cell phones and begin dialing. They stay there as the Fairies strike the scene. A Fairy comes and grabs Tanner's drink, sipping on it while running away.)*

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#### SCENE 4: IAN'S IMAGINATION

*(Ian stands, painting a canvas on an easel. Jess sits on a stool, dressed in white. A Fairy sits by Ian holding his palate, while a Fairy is fanning Jess on her stool.)*

**IAN:** You look absolutely gorgeous.

**JESS:** Ugh.

**IAN:** What? What's wrong?

**JESS:** Well, you're objectifying me. Already. And this isn't even real. I mean, you've got me up on this stool like a trophy on a pedestal. And you're doing a pretty little picture of me. If you want to get with this you're gonna have to try a little harder than just telling me I'm good looking. What? Did you think just because this is your dream everything is gonna go your way? Nope, I don't work like that sorry.

**IAN:** No I didn't think that at all. I was just, I don't know. This is all my subconscious. I didn't come up with this painting thing. I mean, I don't even know how to paint

*(Fairy stands up and yanks paint brush from Ian's hand, taking the easel offstage while the other Fairy closes the fan and leaves. Another Fairy pulls easel off.)*

**JESS:** Well your subconscious is an idiot. I bet you thought that I was gonna walk over in my cute little outfit and make out with you, huh? I bet you'd like that.

**IAN:** I definitely would like that.

**JESS:** Well that sucks, doesn't it? Because that's not gonna happen.

**IAN:** What could I do? I could get you flowers? Chocolate? Write you a poem?

*(As he says this, a Fairy pops out with a bouquet, then one with a box of chocolates, then a third with a scroll, prepared to recite.)*

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**JESS:** Flowers and chocolate are a pointless cliché, and we both know you're not a writer.

*(The three Fairies exit, crushed.)*

**IAN:** Then what should I do?

**JESS:** Let's see...I'm probably the coolest person you know, right?

**IAN:** Oh yeah by far.

**JESS:** Okay, and you're probably the opposite of that for me. So I think you should probably just give up.

**IAN:** Come on, I could be this brilliant amazing person and you wouldn't even know.

**JESS:** In what world?

**IAN:** This one! Earth. I could be your man and we could be perfect for each other. And you want to just miss out on all of that?

*(During this monologue, a Jock/Zombie is sneaking up behind Ian.)*

**JESS:** Listen, you're a sweet kid. But there is nothing here for you. I may be just the dream version of Jess but I know what I'm talking about. She will never fall for you. You should just give up. Really, you should give up. Give up! Give up!!!

*(As the Jock/Zombie pounces:)*

Wake up!!!!

*(Lights out. This marks the only time there will be a shift in the dark. An ALARM CLOCK is heard.)*



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**SCENE 5: IAN'S KITCHEN**

*(Ian's MOM and DAD sit at a kitchen table, eating paninis. Ian enters. Having just woken up, he is dressed in pajamas. He walks to the table and looks at his plate)*

**IAN:** What's this?

**MOM:** It's a panini.

**DAD:** We're trying them out for the store.

**IAN:** Listen, I don't know how many times I've said this. But do you guys know how often I have to eat your sandwiches? I don't wanna hear the whole "We are a sandwich family" talk. I get it. We are a sandwich family. But does that mean that I have to eat paninis and foot-longs and clubs for every meal of the day? I mean, could I get a break once in a while and get some eggs? Cereal? I'm trying to grow up, you know, mature. I could use a bit of change in my life right now.

*(Ian sits down, still angry, and takes a bite of the panini. His parents lean into him.)*

It's not bad.

**MOM:** They're the new craze apparently.

**DAD:** We put them in the store and they are gonna sell like hot cakes.

**IAN:** Pancakes! Why can't we have pancakes for breakfast?

**MOM:** Son, I know that you may not think so, but one day you're gonna look back on this little sandwich shop fondly.

**DAD:** You said you're wanting to grow up, huh? Well, I'm gonna tell you a story. When I started this restaurant I had my own way of doing things. I had these weird and strange creations, with anchovies and soy sauce and bologna. I thought that everyone would love them. But I soon learned that the world wasn't ready for my sandwiches. So I learned

to make the best beef sandwich in town. I stuck to the classics. Every now and then I sprinkle in a little bit of my own flavor, just enough for them to get a taste.

**IAN:** Dad, what are you even talking about?

**DAD:** You've got to respect the world before they can respect your creations.

**IAN:** Umm, yeah. Thanks, Dad. Okay guys, thanks for breakfast. I've gotta go get ready for school. Love you guys.

**DAD AND MOM:** Love ya.

**MOM:** Wait – take your lunch!

*(Hands Ian a paper bag. Ian opens the bag to see what's inside. Ian rolls his eyes and sighs before exiting.)*

**DAD:** *(To Mom:)* You got what I was saying, right honey?

**MOM:** *(She hasn't a clue:)* Yes, dear.

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**SCENE 6: SCHOOL HALLWAY**

*(Jess enters as Fairies clear the kitchen while snacking on leftover paninis. She is carrying books and bumps into a Fairy, causing her to trip and spill her books as Ian walks in.)*

**IAN:** Hey Jess, you need some help?

**JESS:** No, I'm okay.

**IAN:** I think you need some help. Here.

*(He helps her pick up her things as the BELL RINGS.)*

**JESS:** Ugh! I'm late! He said if I was late again he was gonna dock my grade.

**IAN:** Who do you have?

**JESS:** Mr. Redman.

**IAN:** Oh, him? Listen—that guy is an obsessive cat lover. He's got like eight cats. Just tell him you found a stray on your way to school and you had to drop it off at the shelter.

**JESS:** And that'll work?

**IAN:** Yeah definitely. Hey...are you okay?

**JESS:** What does it look like?

**IAN:** Well, it doesn't look good. What's going on?

**JESS:** You really care?

**IAN:** How could anyone not care about you? What's wrong?

**JESS:** Just some family problems. It'll be okay. It always is.

**IAN:** How about you let me take you out this weekend? You can get out of the house. We could talk then.

**JESS:** You don't ever give up do you?

**IAN:** Well, I've never wanted something this much.

**JESS:** Fine.

**IAN:** Wait, seriously? Like you're not just screwing around?

**JESS:** Wipe that stupid grin off your face.

**IAN:** Oh, it's gone. I'll never smile again.

**JESS:** Whatever, I gotta get to class.

**IAN:** Wait—I made you something.

**JESS:** (*Sarcastically:*) Great.

**IAN:** Here.

*(He pulls a heart-shaped sandwich out of his backpack and hands it to her.)*

**JESS:** Okay, I'm already regretting saying yes to you. You're like a sandwich stalker.

*(He takes the sandwich out of Jess's hand and tosses it off.)*

**IAN:** Sandwich? What sandwich?

**JOCK/ZOMBIE:** (*Off:*) UGH!

**JESS:** That's better. Well I guess I'll see you later?

**IAN:** Yeah, I'll see you later. Bye.

*(Jess exits. Ian's grin returns as he turns to the audience. He does a happy dance.)*

**YES!!!**

*(The Jock/Zombie walks onstage with the sandwich, laughs at Ian, then throws the sandwich at him.)*

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## SCENE 7: IAN'S BATHROOM

*(A Fairy rolls a sink onstage. It is imagined that there is a mirror, and the Fairy starts looking into this mirror, enjoying her reflection, while another Fairy comes and drags her off. Ian and Tanner walk to the bathroom sink, looking into the mirror as Ian's fixing his hair.)*

**TANNER:** Okay. Here we go. This is it man. Jeez, why am I nervous? It's not like I'm on a fast moving train, with no brakes, heading for a nuclear power plant. I wish you could've gotten this out of the way a few years ago like a normal person. Here, brush your teeth.

*(He hands Ian a toothbrush, and Ian begins brushing.)*

Now spit.

*(Ian spits in the sink.)*

Okay, what else? Hair, teeth...pits! Gotta remember the pits.

*(He pulls out spray deodorant and sprays an excessive amount under Ian's arms. As Ian inhales the fumes, he starts coughing.)*

**IAN:** Dude, can you stop this? No matter how much you do to make me look good, she's still not gonna be glad to see me.

**TANNER:** Would you shut up? Do you know how often I hear you complain about not having a girlfriend and not being good enough? Well this is your chance. You've gotta stop doubting yourself. This girl definitely doesn't want you thinking you're not good enough. She's let you advance this far: that means she likes you. Now if you can just shut up tonight, you'll be fine.

**IAN:** *(Picks his tie off the counter:)* What could she possibly want with me? She's pretty, she's smart, she's cool. I mean the only reason she agreed to this date was because she was having family problems or something.

**TANNER:** Either way dude, you've gotten this far.

*(Ian puts the tie around his neck and starts fidgeting with it.)*

You've got a date. She at least has some interest in you – now you just gotta build on that.

**IAN:** How do I do that?

**TANNER:** *(Takes over with the tie:)* I know this sounds like a stupid concept, or something your mom would say. But you gotta be yourself. You've seen those romantic comedies where the guy tries to be all cool to impress the girl? She pulls into the gas station he works at. He tricks her into believing he doesn't work there, that he's super rich and actually owns the BMW he's working on.

**IAN:** ...And the only reason he has grease on him is because he just got done saving a family and their dog from a burning vehicle?

**TANNER:** Yeah, all he has to do is say, "sorry, there must be some misunderstanding" but no, he lets her believe it. And then halfway through the film the girl finds out who this guy actually is and she gets all mad at him for lying to her and she says that he should've just been honest in the first place. It happens every single time! I mean haven't the characters in romantic comedies ever actually seen a romantic comedy? I say you skip all of those stupid antics and just be yourself. Learn from all of those dumb movies.

**IAN:** Come on man, we both know that she's way out of my league.

**TANNER:** Ian, there are no leagues!

*(A Jock/Zombie appears with his arm around a Fairy.)*

The idea of leagues is just a lie designed by muscle-headed jocks to oppress guys like us. They put us in a category, a lowly, awkward, unattractive category, and then we stay there

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believing that that's all we're worth. If you believe that she is out of your league, then she is. She is way out of your league. But if you stop thinking about all of that, you can get this girl. You can be her man. Now come on, you're gonna be late.

*(Tanner pulls Ian away as Fairies clear the bathroom and set the car. Ian's parents enter and sit in the car.)*

**SCENE 8: THE CAR**

*(The Jock/Zombie and Fairy couple stand in front of the door intimidating Ian. Ian gets ready to knock on Jess's door but turns around and begins to walk off. Tanner appears, walks on, and slaps Ian across the face and points to Jess's house. The Fairy grabs the Jock/Zombie's hand and leads him off. Ian knocks on the door. Tanner, satisfied, exits. Jess enters rushed and anxious.)*

**JESS:** Hey there. *(In response to his dressiness:)* Wow, you look...nice.

**IAN:** Thanks, you look very lovely.

**JESS:** So where are we going tonight?

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