

HER REIGN

A short drama by
Neeley Gossett

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www.youthplays.com
info@youthplays.com
424-703-5315

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

SOPHIE, a high school student. A social outcast.

ELSIE, a high school student. Sophie's only friend.

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS. The number can vary from 2-15, with potential for additional non-speaking ensemble members.

SETTING

Sophie's dad's house. The night of the homecoming football game.

(*ELSIE and SOPHIE, both teenagers, are in Sophie's dad's living room.*)

ELISE: You're wrong. It'll be nothing like *Carrie*.

SOPHIE: It'll be just like *Carrie*. It's just like the movie. I swear.

ELISE: You're completely overreacting.

SOPHIE: They elected me as a joke. If I stand with the homecoming court, they'll pour pig's blood on me, just like *Carrie*. I know it.

ELISE: That doesn't make sense at all. Even if they wanted to use pig's blood on you, they couldn't. Where would they find a pig around here?

SOPHIE: They've had five days to plot. I'm sure they've come up with some sort of animal blood.

ELISE: I doubt it. It's not like people in these golf course subdivisions raise livestock.

SOPHIE: Then they'd pour fake blood on me.

ELISE: That wouldn't be nearly as bad.

SOPHIE: Are you crazy?

ELISE: It wouldn't be the end of the world. Just wear a cheap dress.

SOPHIE: You're not funny.

ELISE: Sorry.

SOPHIE: And besides, I didn't buy a dress. That's another reason I'm not going to homecoming.

ELISE: I've told you all week, you can borrow one of mine. I have like five different ones.

SOPHIE: They wouldn't fit.

ELISE: They're all different sizes. I'm the weight fluctuation queen.

SOPHIE: I'm just not going.

ELISE: You can't stay here.

SOPHIE: Fine. I'll go to Lewis' house and play Dungeons and Dragons.

ELISE: Don't say things like that out loud.

SOPHIE: There's nothing wrong with D&D.

ELISE: I know. I'm just kidding. I like Dungeons and Dragons too.

SOPHIE: No you don't. You just liked Lewis.

ELISE: For a while, yes. It was about Lewis, but I also like the game now.

SOPHIE: So let's both go to Lewis' tonight.

ELISE: No. You have to walk on the court.

SOPHIE: There's no way.

ELISE: If you don't go, they win. Besides, you have to go. You might win queen. If you do, you get a tiara.

SOPHIE: I don't want a tiara.

ELISE: That's fine. You can give it to me. It's huge. I mean really huge. Last year, the girl who won homecoming queen could barely stand up with it on her head. Do you remember that?

SOPHIE: I wasn't there.

ELISE: She didn't eat for five days before homecoming. Promise me you'll eat dinner tonight. I don't want you getting dizzy up there like she did.

SOPHIE: I'm not even really on homecoming court.

ELISE: They elected you. It doesn't matter why.

SOPHIE: They did it to humiliate me. I'm not going to let them do that again.

ELISE: Exactly. If you go, you're a rock star. They're not going to humiliate you if you don't let them.

SOPHIE: And how do I do that?

ELISE: Think about it. There are more of us than there are of them. There might be thirty popular people in our grade, but there are like two hundred other people. And we're all going to cheer you on.

SOPHIE: That still leaves thirty people to laugh at me.

ELISE: So laugh back. I want to see their faces when you walk onto the field.

SOPHIE: I just want to put a blanket over my head and go to sleep.

ELISE: Then you won't conquer anything.

SOPHIE: I'm not trying to conquer anything.

ELISE: You have to. You have to shoot them down, make them stop.

SOPHIE: Easy for you to say. You've never been through this.

ELISE: People make fun of me too.

SOPHIE: Who? When?

ELISE: My brothers say –

SOPHIE: This is way different. I've been called ugly to my face literally every day of high school.

ELISE: You're so pretty.

SOPHIE: Don't say that.

ELISE: But you are.

SOPHIE: I mean it. Don't say that.

ELISE: Okay.

SOPHIE: (*A few beats.*) You're my only friend. When my phone beeps, I know it's you because you're the only one who texts me.

ELISE: What about Lewis and all those guys?

SOPHIE: They talk to me during D&D but walk right by me at school.

ELISE: Well, I'm the only friend you need anyway.

SOPHIE: I guess so.

ELISE: I know so. Nobody else is as awesome as I am. And I know no one else is as fun.

SOPHIE: Nothing about tonight is fun.

ELISE: I know. I'm just saying that *I'm* fun. I have to show you something.

(Elise pulls out her phone.)

SOPHIE: Don't play that video.

ELISE: I'm not going to.

(There is not an actual video. Instead, an ENSEMBLE MEMBER plays one of Sophie and Elise's fellow students in a social media video.)

VIDEO BULLY: When this ugly girl's name was announced, everyone's face –

ELISE: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hit play.

SOPHIE: I guess it's a good thing I saw it the night after they made the announcement. If I hadn't, I would still think they really wanted me on court.

ELISE: But did you read the comments?

SOPHIE: I started to. I just read the words "smelly, horse-face" and decided to stop.

ELISE: But that was Monday. There are more comments up now.

SOPHIE: Great.

ELISE: They're nice.

SOPHIE: Nothing on a comment page is ever nice.

ELISE: These are. I promise you.

SOPHIE: I just want to forget about the video.

ELISE: Fine. That's fine. But first, just read a few of these comments. They're from all over the country. Wait. No. From all over the world. Look, this one's from Helsinki.

SOPHIE: Where is Helsinki?

ELISE: I don't know, but it seems like a really long way away. You need to read it.

SOPHIE: Okay. Fine. Just this one. But only because it's from Helsinki.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: Don't worry, my dear. This kind of thing happens all over the world.

SOPHIE: That makes me feel worse.

ELISE: I know. It's sad. I'd like to think there is some far off land where people are actually nice to each other.

SOPHIE: I've never been that optimistic.

ELISE: Just read the other comments.

SOPHIE: Fine.

(The following statements should be rapid. The number of ENSEMBLE MEMBERS will vary by production.)

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: You've got to go to the game. Don't let them win.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: I've been bullied too. I'm in college now. It does get better.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: Hey. I'm on the football team. A lot of us want to see you out there tonight. We're not all jerks.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: If you need your nails done before the game, come on by Nail Style. We got ya covered.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: When you walk on that football field, walk like you own it.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: I don't know you, but I heard purple's your favorite color. We're all wearing it tonight in support of you. Photos to come.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: After you rock it out at homecoming, come by for D&D. Usual place and time. We'll save your chair.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: Everybody knows I don't do football games. I abhor sitting on concrete. But I'm coming tonight just to see you, Sophie.

TWO ENSEMBLE MEMBERS: (*In unison:*) Make us proud. Love and kisses from your cousins.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: I actually think she's pretty hot.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: Hey. I work at the diner on Main Street. Come in after the game tonight. Everything's on the house.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: Sophie, you can't back down. You've got to do this. Be a warrior.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER: If you stand up there tonight, you will be standing up for all of us who are afraid to go to school every day.

ELISE: It's pretty convincing.

SOPHIE: I guess so.

ELISE: You guess?

SOPHIE: What do you want me to say, Elise?

ELISE: You don't get it. This is bigger than just you. Other girls are watching you. People from all over the country are rooting for you.

SOPHIE: (*A few beats.*) My dad bought a new suit.

ELISE: He did?

SOPHIE: Monday afternoon, when I first found out, I literally ran from the bus stop to the house so I could tell him. Then he jumped in his car and went straight to the outlet mall to buy himself a new suit.

ELISE: Did he return it after you told him the truth?

SOPHIE: I haven't told him yet.

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