

- 1 ASHLEY: Look, I know it's lame ... but ... I really miss playing
2 Barbies with you.
3 TINA: Barbies? Really?
4 ASHLEY: I said it was lame. But it used to be so much fun!
5 Remember how you used to take half the day setting up
6 your Barbie kitchen —
7 TINA: (*Sarcastic, but loving*) And how you *loved* coming in and
8 knocking stuff over. Yeah. Real fun. (*They both laugh.*)
9 TINA: But you're right. It was fun. And I miss it, too. Look. I get
10 it. If I promise to spend all day Saturday with you, maybe
11 even dragging out the Barbies and if we *never told a soul*,
12 would you cancel your party so that I can have mine?
13 ASHLEY: Um ... Didn't you say you were almost in high school?
14 Barbies? Really? How about a day at the mall instead?
15 Deal?
16 TINA: Deal.
17 ASHLEY: Great. Now I'd better go break the news to a few
18 people ... (*Starts to walk off.*)
19 TINA: How many did you invite?
20 ASHLEY: Oh, just one or two ...

The Party

CHARACTERS

(3 Girls, 2 Guys)

Ashley: Younger sister of Tina; has been threatened to leave Tina and her friends alone.

Tina: Hostess of the party. Wants her sister to stay far away from the basement.

Daniel: Funny guy. Loves to cut up.

Gregory: Loves food. Can be a little dense.

Tori: Friend who shows up late with the food. Very bubbly and happy.

SETTING

Tina's house.

1 ASHLEY: *(Walking into the room with DANIEL. TINA and GREGORY*
 2 *are already On-Stage.)* Geez, he's your guest. Couldn't you
 3 even get the door?
 4 TINA: *(Ignoring ASHLEY. To DANIEL)* You're only thirty minutes
 5 late. Come on in!
 6 GREGORY: I told you to get Daniel here on time you would have
 7 to tell him it starts an hour earlier.
 8 DANIEL: Sorry! My mom made me clean my room before I came.
 9 I am so ready for high school. Surely she'll back off a little
 10 then and treat me like an adult.
 11 TINA: Good luck with that. My mom freaks if I leave a dirty sock
 12 on the floor. I doubt me being in high school is going to
 13 change that.
 14 GREGORY: Not my mom. With working two jobs, she doesn't
 15 have time to care what my room looks like. It's awesome.
 16 DANIEL: No. It's disgusting. Even for me! The last time I was
 17 there, I found molded bologna under your bed *and* I'm
 18 pretty sure I saw cat puke on a plate that was on your
 19 dresser.
 20 GREGORY: Cat puke? I don't even own a cat!
 21 DANIEL: Well you had some kind of nasty brown junk growing
 22 on that thing then.
 23 GREGORY: Brown junk? Dude! Those were refried beans.
 24 *(Pause)* I forgot all about them! I wonder if they're still good.
 25 ASHLEY: You are one seriously sick person.
 26 TINA: *(Now realizing ASHLEY hadn't left)* I thought you were
 27 staying upstairs?!
 28 ASHLEY: Chill. I'm just getting a movie. I told you I wouldn't
 29 interrupt your party, didn't I?
 30 TINA: Just hurry, please.
 31 DANIEL: *(To TINA)* I thought you said she wasn't going to be
 32 here?
 33 TINA: *(Obviously annoyed)* Mom's idea.
 34 ASHLEY: Mom said in order for you all to come over, after
 35 Daniel's streaking incident last time *(Looks at DANIEL),* I

1 had to be here with my friends for you all to be left alone.
 2 I was instructed to check in every hour and text Mom with
 3 a detailed report.
 4 DANIEL: You're kidding! Just for semi-streaking? I was in my
 5 boxers. I've seen bathing suits worse than that!
 6 GREGORY: I'm just mad I missed getting it on my phone.
 7 TINA: Not me! It's bad enough that memory is burned into my
 8 brain forever. I may need some serious therapy in years to
 9 come.
 10 DANIEL: *May* need? Is that really a question for you, Tina?
 11 ASHLEY: Anyway, I'm not going to rat you guys out. Just
 12 please don't do anything stupid so I won't get in trouble for
 13 not checking in on you.
 14 TINA: Good. So go upstairs to your stupid little friends and
 15 leave us alone.
 16 DANIEL: Yeah. This basement is for eighth graders only.
 17 Preschoolers should stay upstairs. Isn't it time for your
 18 milk and cookies?
 19 ASHLEY: Very funny. I should write that down, it's so funny.
 20 GREGORY: *(Was playing with his phone and not paying attention)*
 21 Did somebody say cookies? *(Gets up to go get some.)*
 22 TINA: *(Grabs his arm.)* There aren't any cookies.
 23 GREGORY: What?! Why would somebody say cookies if there
 24 aren't any cookies?! What kind of party doesn't have
 25 cookies?
 26 TINA: Chill. Tori's bringing chips *and* cookies.
 27 ASHLEY: *(With sarcasm)* Unless you'd like to join us
 28 preschoolers upstairs.
 29 TINA: *(Grabs ASHLEY's arm and pulls her to a doorway.)* You got
 30 your movie, now get out of here.
 31 ASHLEY: Geez. So much for being nice, huh? It's not *my* fault
 32 Mom doesn't trust you.
 33 TINA: Whatever. Just get out. You are ruining my party!
 34 Sometimes you are *so annoying*, I just can't stand the
 35 sight of you. *(ASHLEY leaves. Everyone looks a little*

1 uncomfortable about the outburst until DANIEL speaks after a
2 few beats.)

3 DANIEL: So where's the rest of the gang?

4 TINA: Well, Bella and Joy can't come. So of course that means
5 Michael can't.

6 DANIEL: Yeah, that dude is seriously whipped.

7 GREGORY: Where's the cookies ... I mean, where's Tori?

8 TINA: Don't worry. She'll be here soon. While we're waiting,
9 check out these old pictures I found. I put them in a
10 PowerPoint. (*Holds up remote like turning on a projector.*)

11 DANIEL: Always the overachiever.

12 GREGORY: Yeah, no wonder everyone always wants you on their
13 project team. (*ALL act like they are looking at pictures on a*
14 *screen.*)

15 DANIEL: Oh my gosh, look at that picture! Where on earth did
16 you get that? I thought I burnt every last one!

17 TINA: That's the beauty of camera phones.

18 GREGORY: Nice hair, dude.

19 DANIEL: Aw. The Mohawk days. Hard to believe I thought I was
20 cool with that thing.

21 TINA: I can't believe your mom let you get it. She doesn't seem
22 like the my-kid-has-a-Mohawk kind of mom.

23 DANIEL: She isn't. My *dad* was. He didn't really have a choice
24 though. See, I found this awesome picture of him with a
25 mullet —

26 GREGORY: No way! Business up front; party in the back! I can't
27 believe your dad had one of those.

28 DANIEL: Yeah, and a Harley. With that kind of ammo, he had to
29 say yes. I think he was just glad that I wasn't pushing for
30 a tattoo.

31 TINA: (*Staring at the picture*) Bet now you wish he hadn't given in
32 so easily. Those are some serious spikes!

33 TORI: (*Enters and looks at picture.*) Oh my gosh, Daniel! You're
34 like three feet taller with that thing.

35 DANIEL: That was the point! I was the shortest guy in my class.

1 With that hair, no one seemed to notice.

2 TORI: Probably because they were too busy looking at that
3 hairdo!

4 GREGORY: (*Grabbing for the bag she brought*) What took so long?
5 Even Daniel beat you here. A guy could starve at this party.

6 TORI: What? Miss I-can't-even-boil-water didn't feed you?

7 TINA: Hey, I supplied the place. You said you'd supply the food.
8 The last time you guys were here, my mom took money out
9 of my allowance to pay for all the food you ate! Besides,
10 I've got my grandma's salsa I promised. We just didn't
11 have any chips.

12 GREGORY: (*Shoving food in his mouth*) Growing boys need food.
13 Ask anyone.

14 TORI: So what'd I miss?

15 DANIEL: (*Pointing back at picture*) Not one thing, unfortunately.

16 TORI: I really did like your hair that way. No other sixth grader
17 in school had one.

18 DANIEL: I know. The principal tried to make my parents get it
19 cut. And that's when my mom got all "attorney" on him.
20 She didn't even want me to have it, but when she thought
21 they were violating my rights — or rather *her* parental
22 rights — she was all over it! I'm surprised she didn't picket
23 the school.

24 TORI: Oh, I can so see that. She definitely seems like the chain-
25 yourself-to-a-tree kind of person.

26 TINA: A real hippie at heart.

27 TORI: I know. I wish my mom was that cool. She's way
28 overboard the other way. If there's a rule, I'm to follow it.
29 If the principal ever called *my* house, I'd be grounded for
30 the rest of my life.

31 GREGORY: (*Pointing*) But at least you'd never be caught with
32 hair like that.

33 DANIEL: (*Shaking head*) Let's move on, shall we. (*TINA clicks for*
34 *a new picture.*)

35 TINA: Look! That's from the Serve the City project we did

1 at church!

2 TORI: That was a lot of fun. Look how happy that lady is

3 because we helped her.

4 GREGORY: I wouldn't exactly call it fun. We painted for twelve

5 hours straight.

6 TORI: Yeah, but look at you. I think you were supposed to paint

7 the walls, not your body!

8 TINA: (*Mimes clicking again.*) And here's one from 4-H camp.

9 DANIEL: Wow. Were we *young*. It's hard to believe that was just

10 a few years ago.

11 TORI: (*To TINA*) Remember how you were in *love* with the

12 archery instructor?

13 TINA: How can I forget? My mom still has the letters I wrote

14 from that week saying how I was going to marry him! The

15 funny thing is, I don't even think he knew my name.

16 GREGORY: He was way more interested in the hot college girls

17 that were helping out around camp.

18 TINA: Don't remind me. I must've looked so stupid to him. I

19 even left him love notes.

20 TORI: Oh! And then on the last day when you jumped up and

21 kissed his cheek — I thought I would die! You should've

22 seen his face. He probably told all his friends about the

23 stalker girl he met at camp.

24 TINA: (*Clicking*) Well, we've seen enough of that. Here's one of

25 Gregory from our first middle school dance.

26 TORI: (*Pointing and laughing*) What on earth are you wearing,

27 Gregory?

28 DANIEL: Dude, were you trying to be John Travolta from

29 *Saturday Night Fever*?

30 TORI: (*Can hardly contain laughter.*) Oh my gosh! That is the best

31 picture I have ever seen in my entire life.

32 TINA: He even popped his collar! And slicked back his hair a

33 little.

34 GREGORY: Someone told me it was a theme dance.

35 TORI: And you believed them?

1 GREGORY: Obviously. Why else would I look like that?

2 DANIEL: I don't know. I think you were just trying to get the

3 girls, man.

4 GREGORY: Well, believe me, I didn't. The only chick that

5 danced with me was — uh, forget it.

6 TINA: No, you can't lead us on like that and then not tell us.

7 GREGORY: Hey, you were there. If you didn't see it, then too

8 bad.

9 TORI: Wait ... wait ... I think I remember — oh yeah! I didn't see

10 it, but everyone was talking about it the next day.

11 DANIEL: So what's the big deal, who's the mystery lady?

12 (*GREGORY tries to cover up TORI's mouth. They struggle and*

13 *eventually TORI yells out.*)

14 TORI: *Mrs. Trimble!*

15 TINA: *You danced with Mrs. Trimble?!*

16 DANIEL: *The librarian?!*

17 TORI: Now why don't we have a picture of that?!

18 GREGORY: It's not like I had a choice! The old lady grabbed my

19 hand and drug me out there. What was I going to do?

20 Knock her down?

21 DANIEL: Aw, come on. Admit it. You liked it.

22 TORI: Mrs. Trimble — the original Cougar! That's priceless.

23 GREGORY: I never thought I'd live that down. I can't believe you

24 guys don't remember that.

25 TINA: Well, we didn't really know you that well then. We just

26 weren't in the right spot at the right time.

27 TORI: Knowing us, we were in the bathroom trying to figure out

28 how to get Mike Spencer to pay attention to us.

29 TINA: Us? I think you mean *me*.

30 TORI: Let's get real here. He wasn't noticing *either* one of us,

31 but if he had noticed me, I would've left you in the dust.

32 TINA: Wow. And here I thought you were my friend!

33 TORI: I am. *Best* friend. But we both know, back then, we

34 would've picked Mike Spencer over anybody!

35 TINA: I would *never* pick a guy over you, Tori. (*DANIEL "rawrs"*)

- 1 *like a cat.*)
2 GREGORY: Cat fight.
3 TORI: Oh, come on. That was a few years ago. Things are
4 different now.
5 TINA: Are they really? What if Mike Spencer notices you in high
6 school? He's only a sophomore now. You might even have
7 classes with him.
8 TORI: What if he does? You don't even like him anymore.
9 TINA: What if I did? What would you do then? Me or him? Me or
10 him, Tori?!
11 TORI: Really? We're playing the "what if" game about something
12 that is *never* going to happen? Come on. You know you're
13 my best friend for life.
14 DANIEL: Awwww ... now hug and make up. My brother's on his
15 way to take us to the dance.
16 TINA: But we're not through with the slideshow.
17 GREGORY: I think we've seen enough.
18 TORI: Yeah, I sure hope that when we look back on our high
19 school days, we don't look like a bunch of geeks.
20 DANIEL: Heck no. We're in *style* now, girl. When we look back,
21 we'll be wishing we had *always* been that cool.

The Room

CHARACTERS

(2 Girls, 1 Guy)

Tina: Girl who regrets the things she's done when she finds herself in a room filled with reminders of her life.

Tori: Tries to comfort Tina and make sense of their lives. The first to realize what has happened to them.

Chad: Daniel's older brother who picked them up to take them to the school dance. He was the one driving the car that wrecks and brings them here to "The Room."

SETTING

A very stark room filled with note cards (can use real props or mime looking at cards).