

1 fun of by tomorrow.  
2 ANSON: Don't worry about it. I'm sure people have already  
3 forgotten about it.  
4 ABBY: I really hope you guys are right. I can't take much more  
5 of this. I might even have to switch schools. Better yet, I'll  
6 move states.  
7 MOLLY: Oh gosh, here we go again. See you guys tomorrow, I  
8 can't deal with Miss Dramatic anymore.  
9 ABBY: Hush, Molly. Bye, see you tomorrow.  
10 ANSON: Remember, dress normal tomorrow.  
11 ABBY: I'll be sure to. Thanks guys.

12

13 The Next Day at Abby's House

14

15 MOLLY: Hey Abby, I like your hair today.  
16 ABBY: Are you being sarcastic?  
17 MOLLY: No! I'm serious. One hundred times better than  
18 yesterday, promise.  
19 ABBY: Oh good. I woke up an hour early to make sure I didn't  
20 look as bad as I did yesterday.  
21 MOLLY: Don't worry. Everyone will love it and regret giving you  
22 a hard time yesterday.  
23 ABBY: Thank you! I was so nervous this morning. I almost  
24 pretended to be sick so Mom would let me stay home.  
25 MOLLY: You're worried for nothing. I promise it'll be fine.

26

27

At School

28

29 MOLLY: (*Rushes up to ABBY.*) You are *never* going to believe this!  
30 ABBY: What? What's going on?  
31 MOLLY: Looks like you've started a new trend. I just walked  
32 through the sixth grade hallway and *all* the girls had a  
33 bathrobe tie in their hair!  
34 ABBY: No way!  
35 MOLLY: I'm serious, Abby! You've started a new fashion.

## Embarrassing Dad

### CHARACTERS

(3 Girls, 2 Guys)

**Anna Martin:** Main character who has an embarrassing father.

**Grace:** Anna's best friend who is having a party.

**Jake:** Cute boy at the party (no speaking lines).

**Mr. Martin:** Anna's embarrassing father.

**Mrs. Martin:** Anna's mother who is preoccupied with work issues and doesn't have time to take Anna to Grace's party.

### SETTING

Action starts with Grace and Anna on the phone with each other (one on each side of the stage), then action is at Anna's house, and finally action is in the car with (gasp) Mr. Martin.

*Note: For the first part of the play, Grace and Anna can either use phone props or mime being on the phone with each other.*

1 GRACE: So, remember, my party's at eight on Saturday night.  
 2 ANNA: I know! I can't wait. Our first ever boy/girl party! Your  
 3 parents are so *cool* for allowing you to have one.  
 4 GRACE: And they even promised to stay upstairs and let us  
 5 have the basement *all to ourselves!*  
 6 ANNA: That is *so awesome*. My dad would never allow that.  
 7 Especially not with boys in the house.  
 8 GRACE: I'm pretty sure they'll find a way to keep an eye on us,  
 9 even if it means peeking through the windows. But as long  
 10 as no one sees them, I don't care.  
 11 ANNA: My dad wouldn't even try to sneak. He'd be right in the  
 12 middle of things telling stupid war stories that aren't even  
 13 true just to scare the boys off.  
 14 GRACE: I can *so* see your dad doing that.  
 15 ANNA: So how many people are you up to?  
 16 GRACE: Almost thirty. It's gonna be huge. It will probably be the  
 17 party of the year. Everyone will remember this for the rest  
 18 of middle school and probably even into high school!  
 19 ANNA: And plenty of boys, right?  
 20 GRACE: Right now I've got more boys coming than girls.  
 21 ANNA: I like those odds!  
 22 GRACE: Hey, I know how to plan a party! There are going to be  
 23 guys everywhere.  
 24 ANNA: I just hope my dad doesn't drive me. That's the last  
 25 thing I need a potential boyfriend to see.  
 26 GRACE: For real. Why is he always so embarrassing?  
 27 ANNA: He thinks he's funny. But he's not! One time, when I  
 28 was shopping with him and my mom, he picked up a pair  
 29 of huge, ugly granny panties and yelled, "Anna, don't you  
 30 have these?" They were in the plus size section! I didn't  
 31 have a pair of underwear that looked anything close to  
 32 that. The only reason he did it was because there was a  
 33 cute boy that was passing by us and my dad knew it.  
 34 GRACE: I remember you telling me about that. Remember that  
 35 time we were riding in the car with him, and we said

1 something about the gorgeous guys walking on the side of  
 2 the road, and he honked at them and yelled, "My daughter  
 3 and her friend think you're hot!" Then he rolled down our  
 4 windows so they could see who we were, and they ended  
 5 up being my neighbors. They still won't let me live it down.  
 6 I can't even look at them anymore because I'm so  
 7 embarrassed.  
 8 ANNA: I try to block that one out. Thanks for reminding me  
 9 about it!  
 10 GRACE: You have to make sure your mom takes you. If she  
 11 can't, you have to walk here or something.  
 12 ANNA: I would rather show up to your party wearing my mom's  
 13 clothes than have my dad drive me. He'd probably show up  
 14 wearing parachute pants and a belly shirt. Or like that time  
 15 when he just *had* to mow the lawn before my choir concert  
 16 and he showed up wearing grass-stained shoes and a  
 17 sweaty shirt. All because I told him that *other* dads usually  
 18 wore a shirt and tie to school events and that maybe he  
 19 should try it sometime.  
 20 GRACE: Anna, he'll embarrass us at the biggest party of the  
 21 year. Make sure you can find another ride. You have to!  
 22 ANNA: I definitely will. Hopefully I can talk my mom into taking  
 23 me. I promise I will *not* show up with my dad. Knowing him,  
 24 he'd come in and stay awhile and have his little "father"  
 25 chat with all the guys.  
 26 GRACE: Not to be mean or anything, but if your dad drives up,  
 27 I'm locking the door.  
 28

#### Next Day at Breakfast with Anna and Her Parents

31 (*ANNA's mother is preoccupied with reading the paper. She's a*  
 32 *stockbroker and is upset about the plunge in the stock market.*)  
 33 ANNA: Mom, can you take me to Grace's party tonight?  
 34 MRS. MARTIN: (*Thrusting newspaper into MR. MARTIN's face*)  
 35 Would you take a look at this? How am I supposed to face

1 my clients today with numbers like these? I swear I'm going  
2 to wring those bozos' necks who are ruining things on Wall  
3 Street.

4 ANNA: (*A little louder*) Mom, do you think you can take me to  
5 Grace's party tonight?

6 MRS. MARTIN: With numbers like these? I'll be lucky if I even  
7 get to come home tonight! Do you know how many phone  
8 calls I'm going to have to make today to pacify people?  
9 They're going to be freaking out.

10 ANNA: Won't you need a break or something? It won't take that  
11 long to take me there. Then you can go right back to work.

12 MRS. MARTIN: Gee, thanks. Carting you back and forth to a  
13 party. What a great break.

14 MR. MARTIN: I can take you. I'm not doing anything tonight.

15 ANNA: No! I mean ... Mom, can't you take me, please? You know  
16 where Grace lives and I wouldn't want Dad getting lost or  
17 anything. You know how you are, Dad, with directions and  
18 all. Remember that one time you took me to the track meet  
19 and I got there over an hour late? I didn't even get to run my  
20 race. This is one party I can't be late for!

21 MR. MARTIN: That was ages ago! I never get lost now. Not with  
22 my top-of-the-line GPS system.

23 ANNA: I just think it'd be easier if Mom took me. (*Turning back  
24 to MRS. MARTIN*) Mrs. Turner was just saying how she  
25 hasn't seen you in forever. I'm sure she'd love a chance to  
26 catch up on things with you.

27 MRS. MARTIN: Catch up? Do I look like a woman who has time  
28 to catch up on local gossip? Not saying that Grace's mother  
29 isn't a wonderful woman, but she's got too much time on her  
30 hands. I bet if she had clients breathing down her back like  
31 I do, the last thing she'd want to do is sit around and gossip  
32 about who is getting divorced from whom.

33 ANNA: (*Trying to make her mother feel guilty*) Wow, Mom. You  
34 sound so judgmental. I'm sure that Mrs. Turner has better  
35 things to do than gossip. I guess she just thought you were

1 friends ... friends who actually see and *talk* to each other.

2 MRS. MARTIN: Oh, I'm sure I can catch up with her another  
3 time. It's not like she doesn't have a bazillion other stay-  
4 at-home friends who can chat with her all night long.

5 ANNA: Geez. You sound a little jealous, Mom.

6 MRS. MARTIN: Me? Jealous? (*Crumpling the newspaper as she  
7 walks off. She yells this last part from another room.*) And give  
8 up all this? All this stress? Are you crazy?

9 MR. MARTIN: I think that ship has sailed, Anna. Looks like  
10 you're stuck with me. What time do we need to leave?

11 ANNA: But no, you can't take me!

12 MR. MARTIN: Why not? What's wrong with me taking you?

13 ANNA: Nothing ... I just think it would be good for Mom ... she  
14 works too much. Don't you think?

15 MR. MARTIN: There's no doubt about that, but I don't think that's  
16 going to change tonight. What time do we need to leave?

17 ANNA: (*Very begrudgingly*) Fine. (*Sighing loudly*) Five o'clock. I  
18 told Grace I'd help her set up.

19 MR. MARTIN: Five o'clock it is. I'll be ready with bells on.

20 ANNA: (*Groaning*) That's what I'm afraid of.

21 MR. MARTIN: Just a joke, Anna. You need to lighten up.

22 ANNA: I can't! This party is important. You have to promise me  
23 no funny business this time. No mowing the lawn right  
24 before we go. No wearing Mom's old wig. No nerdy glasses  
25 or Flintstone pajama pants. This is the biggest party ever!  
26 I don't want to seem like a dork. I need you on your best  
27 behavior.

28 MR. MARTIN: Best behavior. Got it.

29 ANNA: (*Walking out of room*) I mean seriously, Dad, do you have  
30 to be so embarrassing?

31

In the Car, Pulling up to the Party

32

34 MR. MARTIN: Alright, we're here.

35 ANNA: Bye, Dad. Thanks for taking me. And thanks for being

1 normal and not embarrassing me. I really appreciate that.  
2 (*ANNA walks away from the car, up to GRACE.*)  
3 GRACE: Oh no. Is that your dad in the car?  
4 ANNA: Yeah, he drove me. I couldn't get another ride. But he  
5 promised that he wouldn't embarrass me. In fact, I *told*  
6 him that he *had* to be on his best ... behavior ... Wait,  
7 what's he doing? Why is he stopping ... why is he rolling  
8 down the window?!

9 MR. MARTIN: (*Yelling*) Anna-poo, I love you! You be good, OK?  
10 *Oh look!* Look who's here. (*Pointing*) Isn't that the cute boy  
11 from your class? Jake? I heard you talking on the phone  
12 with Grace about him. Hello, Grace! Look girls, he's  
13 walking your way. You lucky ducks! Now Anna, remember  
14 to call your mommy and daddy when you're ready to be  
15 picked up. But not too late! You don't want to turn into a  
16 pumpkin.

17 ANNA: Oh my gosh! Quick. Get inside.  
18 MR. MARTIN: Now don't rush off, girls. Anna! Come here and  
19 give me a kiss good-bye. You know I can't *leave* without a  
20 kiss from my little girl. You don't want me out here *all*  
21 night, do you?

22 ANNA: (*Turning around and stomping toward the car*) Dad!  
23 MR. MARTIN: (*Still yelling*) Are you really going to leave your  
24 poor daddy without giving him a kiss good-bye?  
25 ANNA: (*Walks over to the car. Through clenched teeth*) What. Are.  
26 You. Doing?

27 MR. MARTIN: How's that for best behavior? Sure hope I didn't  
28 embarrass you. I sure wouldn't want you to *ever* be  
29 embarrassed that I'm your father, or anything.  
30 ANNA: Dad ... come on ... you know I didn't mean ...  
31 MR. MARTIN: Gotta run. (*Yelling out the window as he waves and*  
32 "*drives*" off.) Tell your friend Jake that I'll be watching him!

## First Detention

### CHARACTERS

(3 Girls)

**Brittany:** A girl who gets a detention and is freaked out about it.

**Alice:** Brittany's best friend who is much calmer about getting in trouble.

**Mrs. Rice:** Brittany's teacher who won't cut her any slack.

### SETTING

Action starts at school in a hallway, then moves to Mrs. Rice's classroom, then to a class Brittany and Alice have together, and finally in another hallway.