

1 **BRIANNA:** *(After a long pause of looking at NICK, she shakes her*  
2 *head and walks away. NICK doesn't move.)* I can't do it!  
3 **JENNY:** Why not?  
4 **BRIANNA:** I'm sorry, but I don't want the memory of my first  
5 kiss to be with Nick.  
6 **JENNY:** But it'd be good practice.  
7 **BRIANNA:** Then you practice on him.  
8 **JENNY:** *(Looks back at him.)* Well ...  
9 **BRIANNA:** He's ready.  
10 **JENNY:** I don't know. I mean, I guess it'd beat a mirror.  
11 **BRIANNA:** *(Gives her a little push.)* Then do it!  
12 **JENNY:** Maybe ... *(She approaches NICK slowly.)*  
13 **NICK:** Hurry up, already. Don't be scared. *(Slowly, she leans*  
14 *forward. He makes kissing sounds.)* I'm ready for my first  
15 kiss! I mean, to give you your first kiss. *(Pause, JENNY looks*  
16 *at him. Suddenly, she leans down, picks up the Barbie doll*  
17 *and kisses his lips with the doll. Before he can see, she*  
18 *quickly places the doll behind her back. He opens his eyes.)*  
19 Oh, I see we did a little switch-a-roo, here. But that's OK.  
20 **BRIANNA:** So how did she do, Nick? Did she kiss OK?  
21 **NICK:** Jenny, let me assure you, you are a fabulous kisser.  
22 **JENNY:** *(Trying not to laugh)* I am?  
23 **NICK:** The best!  
24 **JENNY:** Out of all of the girls you've kissed, I'm the best?  
25 **NICK:** The best! *(Applies more lip balm.)* So, you want to catch a  
26 movie this weekend? We can sit in the back and practice ...  
27 **JENNY:** Sorry, I can't! I uh ...  
28 **BRIANNA:** She has plans with me! Sorry.  
29 **NICK:** Oh. OK. Well, maybe some other time.  
30 **JENNY:** Maybe. *(NICK exits, then BRIANNA and JENNY burst into*  
31 *laughter.)*  
32 **BRIANNA:** *(Picks up Ken.)* Oh, Barbie ...  
33 **JENNY:** *(Picks up Barbie.)* Oh, Ken ... *(The dolls kiss.)*

## 8. Consolation Prize

CAST: (1M, 3F) ASHLEY, TARA, PENNY, CORY

PROPS: Books.

SETTING: Library.

*(At rise TARA, ASHLEY, and PENNY are sitting at a table reading. After a moment, TARA glances up, smiles and waves.)*

1 **ASHLEY:** Tara, who are you waving at?  
2 **TARA:** *(Dreamy tone)* Cory. He is so amazing.  
3 **ASHLEY:** And unavailable.  
4 **TARA:** Don't remind me.  
5 **ASHLEY:** Unfortunately, Hailey has him in her back pocket.  
6 **TARA:** I hope she realizes what a lucky girl she is. How long do  
7 you think they've been going out?  
8 **ASHLEY:** Forever it seems. They've been going out for so long  
9 that you can't think of Hailey without thinking of Cory. Or  
10 vice versa.  
11 **TARA:** Well, I think Tara and Cory sound better than Hailey and  
12 Cory. Don't you think?  
13 **ASHLEY:** Yes, but what does that matter? Are you going to ask  
14 him to break up with Hailey because your name has a  
15 better fit with his?  
16 **TARA:** I wish. Or I could try another tactic.  
17 **ASHLEY:** Such as?  
18 **TARA:** I don't know. Let's see, I could ... throw myself at him?  
19 **ASHLEY:** *(Laughs.)* Can I watch while you make a fool out of  
20 yourself? Look, he's coming this way again.  
21 **TARA:** *(Sits up straight and watches him pass, smiling.)* He didn't  
22 even look this way.  
23 **ASHLEY:** Probably because he's looking for Hailey.

1 TARA: Probably. So, how can I get him to notice me?  
 2 ASHLEY: Besides falling at his feet?  
 3 TARA: Yes, besides that.  
 4 ASHLEY: I don't know.  
 5 PENNY: (*Lowers book.*) I have a suggestion.  
 6 TARA: What?  
 7 PENNY: Tell him the truth.  
 8 TARA: What? Just go up to Cory and say, (*Takes Ashley's hand*)  
 9 "Cory, the truth is, I love you."  
 10 PENNY: Not that truth.  
 11 TARA: Then what truth?  
 12 PENNY: The truth he doesn't know.  
 13 ASHLEY: The truth he doesn't know?  
 14 TARA: He doesn't know that I love him.  
 15 ASHLEY: You don't love him!  
 16 TARA: Yes I do!  
 17 ASHLEY: You can't love someone that you barely know.  
 18 TARA: Oh yes I can! I love Cory! Let me shout it to the world!  
 19 ASHLEY: (*Patting her hand*) Let's not and say you did.  
 20 TARA: If it would get his attention, I would.  
 21 PENNY: Telling him the truth will get his attention.  
 22 ASHLEY: Penny, what truth are you talking about?  
 23 PENNY: The truth about her cheating ways.  
 24 ASHLEY: (*Pointing to TARA*) Hers?  
 25 TARA: (*Pointing to herself*) Mine?  
 26 ASHLEY: Does Cory like cheaters?  
 27 TARA: I haven't cheated! You have to have a boyfriend to cheat!  
 28 PENNY: Not hers!  
 29 TARA: Then whose?  
 30 PENNY: Hailey's. (*Matter of fact*) She's cheating on him.  
 31 ASHLEY: She is? How do you know?  
 32 PENNY: Don't ask.  
 33 TARA: No, you have to tell us! How do you know Hailey is  
 34 cheating on Cory?  
 35 ASHLEY: And with who?

1 TARA: Yeah, who?  
 2 PENNY: You didn't hear this from me, OK?  
 3 TARA: OK!  
 4 ASHLEY: OK, sure!  
 5 PENNY: She's cheating with my big brother.  
 6 ASHLEY: She is?  
 7 TARA: Oh my gosh!  
 8 PENNY: Last night, Hailey and my brother were sitting on the  
 9 front porch swing holding hands and laughing up a  
 10 storm.  
 11 ASHLEY: Did you say anything? Like, "Hey, bro, that chick you  
 12 have your arm around has a boyfriend?"  
 13 PENNY: Nope. None of my business.  
 14 TARA: Wow. Why would anyone cheat on Cory? I wouldn't.  
 15 ASHLEY: Really. Poor Cory.  
 16 TARA: Yeah. (*Suddenly smiles.*) Yes, it's so sad.  
 17 ASHLEY: Are you going to tell him?  
 18 TARA: Yes! No, wait! I can't! I mean, I don't want him to look at  
 19 me and always associate me with breaking his heart.  
 20 ASHLEY: But maybe it won't be broken. Maybe he'll say good  
 21 riddance and be grateful to you for setting him free.  
 22 TARA: Maybe ...  
 23 PENNY: Actually, Tara shouldn't be the one to tell him.  
 24 TARA: (*To ASHLEY*) See! I shouldn't be the one to do it!  
 25 ASHLEY: Then you should do it, Penny.  
 26 PENNY: Oh, I can't. I have to live with my brother. I don't want  
 27 to be caught in the middle of this mess.  
 28 ASHLEY: Then who should tell him?  
 29 TARA: Should we send him a note?  
 30 PENNY: Ashley should tell him.  
 31 ASHLEY: Me? Why me?  
 32 PENNY: Because you have no interest in the outcome.  
 33 ASHLEY: Yes, I do! Because I want my best friend to hook up  
 34 with Cory so she'll be happy.  
 35 PENNY: Then you should help your best friend out.



1 TARA: Would you do that for me, Ashley?  
 2 ASHLEY: Tara, I don't know.  
 3 TARA: Please!  
 4 PENNY: Here comes Cory again. *(They ALL sit up and intensely*  
 5 *watch as CORY walks by. TARA smiles and gives him a small*  
 6 *wave.)*  
 7 TARA: He looks sad.  
 8 ASHLEY: Maybe he already knows.  
 9 TARA: But maybe you should go over there and tell him just to  
 10 make sure.  
 11 ASHLEY: I don't know if I want to do this, Tara.  
 12 TARA: Ashley, please!  
 13 ASHLEY: What am I supposed to say? "Uh, Cory, in case you  
 14 didn't know, Hailey is cheating on you with Penny's  
 15 brother."  
 16 PENNY: Leave my name out of it, please.  
 17 ASHLEY: OK. "Sorry, Cory, but Hailey is cheating on you. What?  
 18 How do I know? Let me just say I heard it from a good  
 19 source." *(To PENNY)* You are a good source, aren't you?  
 20 PENNY: Of course I am. I saw them.  
 21 ASHLEY: "And Cory, I know this is hard to hear, but if it was me,  
 22 I'd want to know. Oh, and by the way, my best friend over  
 23 there wants to know if you'll go out with her."  
 24 TARA: You can't say that!  
 25 PENNY: That won't work.  
 26 ASHLEY: Then what's the point of him finding out about Hailey  
 27 cheating on him? He needs a reason to notice you.  
 28 TARA: But not like that!  
 29 ASHLEY: Then how?  
 30 TARA: Well, maybe you could invite him over here to sit with us  
 31 and we can console him. Then, I know! One by one, you  
 32 two can disappear. Like, "Oh, I've got to run! I forgot I had  
 33 to do something! Bye!" Then it'll just be me and Cory.  
 34 *(Smiles.)* Alone at last.  
 35 PENNY: That's actually not a bad idea.

1 TARA: So go tell him, Ashley!  
 2 ASHLEY: I don't know, Tara...  
 3 PENNY: You're the best person to do it.  
 4 ASHLEY: You're going to owe me for this, Tara.  
 5 TARA: I'll pay up! You know I will!  
 6 ASHLEY: *(Stands.)* All right, I'll do it.  
 7 TARA: Thank you, thank you, thank you!  
 8 PENNY: Good luck.  
 9 ASHLEY: *(Walks over to the table where CORY is sitting. He is*  
 10 *reading a book.)* Hi.  
 11 CORY: *(Looks up.)* Hi. *(Pause)* You can sit here if you'd like.  
 12 ASHLEY: Thank you. *(He goes back to his reading. She stares at*  
 13 *him. Long pause.)*  
 14 CORY: Did you want to borrow one of my books or something?  
 15 ASHLEY: No. But thanks.  
 16 CORY: OK. *(Goes back to his reading. After another long pause, he*  
 17 *looks at ASHLEY who is still staring at him.)* Is there  
 18 something you wanted to say?  
 19 ASHLEY: Yes.  
 20 CORY: *(After a pause)* Well?  
 21 ASHLEY: I have to tell you something!  
 22 CORY: What? Like this is your reserved table in the library and  
 23 I'm sitting at it?  
 24 ASHLEY: *(Laughs.)* No, that's not it.  
 25 CORY: OK. *(Stares at her as he waits. A pause.)* Well?  
 26 ASHLEY: *(Blurts out.)* Hailey is cheating on you!  
 27 CORY: She is?  
 28 ASHLEY: I'm sorry to be the one to tell you! But I thought you  
 29 should know. I mean, if it were me, I'd want to know. And  
 30 I'm sure you're really upset and you feel like you could  
 31 almost cry or something, but my friends and I are sitting  
 32 over there ... *(Points to their table)* And if you want, you  
 33 could come over there and sit with us! Maybe we could  
 34 help you feel better or something. My best friend, Tara,  
 35 the pretty one over there wearing the *(Change to correct*

1       color) white shirt ... she's really good at consoling people. I  
 2       know, because she's always been there for me. And would  
 3       you believe that she doesn't have a boyfriend? Lucky for  
 4       you, huh? So, do you want to come over there and sit with  
 5       us? *(Finally takes a deep breath.)*  
 6   **CORY:** So, do you?  
 7   **ASHLEY:** Do I what?  
 8   **CORY:** Have a boyfriend?  
 9   **ASHLEY:** Me? No. *(After he smiles at her)* Single and available.  
 10       *(Quickly)* But Tara over there, the cute one wearing the ...  
 11   **CORY:** White shirt.  
 12   **ASHLEY:** She's available!  
 13   **CORY:** But you're not?  
 14   **ASHLEY:** No. *(As he is smiling at her)* I mean, I don't think so. I  
 15       mean, why are you asking?  
 16   **CORY:** Just wondering if you'd like to hang out sometime.  
 17   **ASHLEY:** Me? You mean, me and you?  
 18   **CORY:** Yeah. And I guess you could bring along your friend  
 19       with the white shirt.  
 20   **ASHLEY:** Oh, no! She wouldn't want to tag along!  
 21   **CORY:** So, is that a yes?  
 22   **ASHLEY:** Yes! *(Quickly)* Wait, no!  
 23   **CORY:** What?  
 24   **ASHLEY:** I can't go!  
 25   **CORY:** Why not?  
 26   **ASHLEY:** Because you ... *(Points to him.)*  
 27   **CORY:** Yes?  
 28   **ASHLEY:** You need to come over to my table and meet my best  
 29       friend!  
 30   **CORY:** The one wearing the white shirt?  
 31   **ASHLEY:** Yes! *(Stands.)* OK?  
 32   **CORY:** *(Stands.)* Sure. *(They go to the other table.)*  
 33   **ASHLEY:** Tara, this is Cory.  
 34   **TARA:** *(Gives him a huge smile.)* Hi!  
 35   **CORY:** Hey. *(They ALL sit down.)*

1   **TARA:** Cory, we're so sorry. But we all agreed you should know  
 2       the truth about Hailey.  
 3   **PENNY:** *(Looks at watch.)* Oh my gosh! Look at the time! I've got  
 4       to go! Bye! *(Rushes out.)*  
 5   **TARA:** When I was in the sixth grade, I caught my boyfriend  
 6       cheating on me in the lunchroom and it really hurt.  
 7   **CORY:** I bet. I'm sorry that happened.  
 8   **TARA:** But I believe the best thing you can do is get on with  
 9       your life and move on as quickly as possible. Heck, when  
 10       Joey cheated on me, I had a new boyfriend by the end of  
 11       the day!  
 12   **CORY:** Good for you.  
 13   **TARA:** *(Stares at ASHLEY.)* Did you say something, Ashley?  
 14   **ASHLEY:** No.  
 15   **TARA:** Oh. Well, didn't you have a dentist appointment?  
 16   **ASHLEY:** No.  
 17   **TARA:** You didn't?  
 18   **ASHLEY:** No. Oh, oh, oh! I was supposed to go somewhere!  
 19       Where was I supposed to go?  
 20   **CORY:** To hang out with me, remember?  
 21   **TARA:** What?  
 22   **CORY:** *(To TARA)* But you can tag along if you want.  
 23   **TARA:** *What?*  
 24   **CORY:** Or I could set you up with one of my friends. Are you OK  
 25       about blind dates?  
 26   **TARA:** *(To CORY)* Wait a minute! Aren't you upset?  
 27   **CORY:** I'll be upset if Ashley doesn't hang out with me.  
 28   **TARA:** *(As ASHLEY giggles, TARA glares at her.)* No, aren't you  
 29       upset about Hailey?  
 30   **CORY:** Oh, not at all. We broke up last week.  
 31   **TARA:** You did?  
 32   **ASHLEY:** You did?  
 33   **CORY:** *(To TARA)* And several times I've thought about asking  
 34       your friend out here, but I just didn't have the guts. But  
 35       when she came over and approached me as a concerned



1 friend ... well, it was like a sign.  
 2 ASHLEY: (*Gleaming*) A sign?  
 3 CORY: (*They stare into each other's eyes.*) It was to me.  
 4 ASHLEY: Really?  
 5 CORY: I think so. It's almost like you could read my mind.  
 6 ASHLEY: (*Giggles.*) I couldn't. What were you thinking?  
 7 CORY: That I wanted to meet you.  
 8 ASHLEY: I'm glad we met.  
 9 CORY: Me too.  
 10 TARA: (*Jumps up.*) Well, gosh, I have to go!  
 11 ASHLEY: You do?  
 12 TARA: Yes!  
 13 ASHLEY: Where are you going?  
 14 TARA: I don't know! Get a root canal! Go to a funeral! Clean my  
 15 room!  
 16 ASHLEY: (*Jumps up.*) Oh, I have to go, too!  
 17 CORY: Are we still going to get together? Maybe after school?  
 18 ASHLEY: I'll have to get back to you on that! (*Rushes after TARA.*)  
 19 Tara, wait!  
 20 TARA: (*As they exit*) Ashley, what just happened back there? He  
 21 was supposed to ask me out!  
 22 ASHLEY: I have no idea! I swear! But you go back over there!  
 23 I'm leaving!  
 24 TARA: But he likes you!  
 25 ASHLEY: And he'll like you once he gets to know you!  
 26 TARA: Look, Ashley, you tried your best to hook me up with  
 27 Cory and it didn't work. It's not your fault that he liked  
 28 you instead of me. That's just the way it goes sometimes.  
 29 ASHLEY: You're not mad?  
 30 TARA: No, I'm not mad.  
 31 ASHLEY: Are you sure?  
 32 TARA: I'm sure. But about me tagging along ...  
 33 ASHLEY: You're going to tag along?  
 34 TARA: If he can set me up with one of his friends. But he better  
 35 not like you better than me!

1 ASHLEY: Are you sure?  
 2 TARA: I'm sure. We'll just consider his friend my consolation  
 3 prize.  
 4 ASHLEY: Hold on. (*Goes to CORY.*) I can do something with you  
 5 after school.  
 6 CORY: Great.  
 7 ASHLEY: And you can find a date for my friend?  
 8 CORY: You bet! And I have the perfect guy in mind.  
 9 ASHLEY: Great! See you after school. Bye!  
 10 CORY: Bye!  
 11 ASHLEY: (*To TARA*) Cory has the perfect guy for you.  
 12 TARA: He does? Who?  
 13 ASHLEY: He didn't say.  
 14 TARA: Maybe it's Ryan! Or Blake! Or it could be Mitchell or  
 15 Daniel or Jason, or ...  
 16 ASHLEY: Come on, let's get to class!  
 17 TARA: Maybe he has a twin brother.  
 18 ASHLEY: I don't think so.  
 19 TARA: Or an older brother.  
 20 ASHLEY: I have no idea.  
 21 TARA: Well, as long as he's cute. Well, he doesn't have to be that  
 22 cute, but he has to be nice. What do you think he looks  
 23 like?  
 24 ASHLEY: I don't know, Tara. But we'll find out in a couple of  
 25 hours.  
 26 TARA: I hope its Ryan. But Bobby or Tyler would be OK, too.  
 27 ASHLEY: Come on! (*Pulls her offstage.*)