

MEAN GIRLS

SCENE 1

DAMIAN: Good morning! Welcome to high school.

JANIS: We're here to welcome you, but also to talk to you about something serious.

DAMIAN: We're gonna tell you the story of our friend Cady. How she moved here from Kenya and how her dodgy decisions caused another girl to get hit by a bus. (theatrical) Actions and consequences!

[SONG: A CAUTIONARY TALE]

[JANIS]

It's a cautionary tale of fear and lust and pride
Based on actual events where people died

[DAMIAN, spoken]

No one died

(sung)

But how far would you go

To be popular and hot?

Would you resist temptation?

[JANIS]

No, you would not!

Just admit it

[BOTH]

Sometimes mean is what you are

Mean is easier than nice

And though mean can take you far

Maybe this will make you think twice

[DAMIAN, Spoken]

Kick! Layout! Fosse!

[BOTH]

This is a cautionary tale

About corruption and betrayal!

[DAMIAN]

And getting hit by a bus!

[JANIS]

You can't buy integrity at the mall, it's not for sale

[DAMIAN, spoken]

Nice

[JANIS, spoken]

Thank you

[BOTH]

This is a cautionary tale

[ENSEMBLE]

Oh, oh

Ayyayah, ayyayah

[DAMIAN, spoken]

Our story begins across the globe in Africa. Africa!

[MUSIC: IT ROARS]

[CADY]

I'm sixteen living in paradise

With the lions and birds and stuff

But I'm sixteen and it's not enough

I'm alone, I mean, there's mom and dad

And the animals we observe

But frankly, they're all on my last nerve

Nobody on the savanna understands

None of my closest friends even has hands

I got dreams exciting me

Like a fire igniting me

I tried to confide in my lions

But they keep biting me

Did you ever get a feeling

Everybody else is happy

Everybody else has friends

And they're better friends than yours

It's a very recent feeling

But it's running through my body

And it roars
It roars

[MRS. HERON, spoken]
Binti, we've lost our funding and we're going to have to go back to the US.

[CADY, spoken]
Maybe I can meet an obese person.

[MRS. HERON, spoken]
It's going to be a difficult adjustment, you'll have to go to a real school.

[CADY]
Mom, I would love that, let's all try something new
We live in a tent
Adventure is what we do

[MRS. HERON, spoken]
True.

[CADY]
I got no time to cry
I got new things to try
Like high school, and skateboards, and rapping
And Starbucks venti chai

Did you ever get a feeling
That a whole new world is waiting
To bring happiness and friends
To the brave girl who explores?
It's a scary kind of feeling, but it's so exhilarating

How it roars
It roars
It roars

Cady (*spoken*): Could you tell me where the cafeteria is?

Sonja (*spoken*): I could. (*keeps walking*)

Cady (*trying to catch up*): I'm a little bit lost.

Sonja (*without eye contact*): Try Google Maps.

Cady (*spoken*): Ow.

(*sung*) Okay, maybe they didn't see me
They stare at their little screens
Plus, it's crowded
With all these teens
Hi, teens!

[SONJA ACQUINO, *spoken*]
Unsubscribe.

[CADY]
They're tough
Challenge accepted
I'm trying to break into a pack
Like baboons, it's natural they attack
I got to fight for the right to belong and fit in

[STUDENTS]
Somebody doesn't fit in

[CADY]
They want to be included, like me
So eventually
I'll win

[STUDENTS]
New kid, poor her!

[CADY & (STUDENTS)]
I'll win (Just ignore her!)

[STUDENTS]
Did you ever get a feeling?

[CADY]
Everybody wants connection
Yes, I know they have their friends
But what is one friend more?

[STUDENTS]
No!

[CADY]
'Cause I know

[CADY the (STUDENTS)]
They know this feeling (We know this feeling)

[CADY]
So, I brush off their rejection
At our core

[STUDENTS]
Just ignore her

[CADY]
We can't ignore

[STUDENTS]
Just ignore her

[CADY & (STUDENTS)]
The roar! (Roar, roar, roar, roar)

[DAMIAN, spoken]
Welcome to North Shore High!

(after applause)

Janis: Hi, I'm Janis.

Damian: And je m'appelle Sasha Fierce.

Janis: This is Damian.

Cady: I'm Cady.

Damian: Well, Cady, as Junior Co-Chair of the Student Activities Committee and his art freak, we volunteer to be your starter companions 'til you find your place at North Shore.

Janis: What he's saying is, we'll help you, Caddy.

Cady: Thank you so much. But it's Cady.

Janis: Yeah, I'm gonna call you Caddy.

Damian: When did you move here?

Cady: Three days ago.

Janis: From....?

Cady: Africa.

Damian: They have schools in Africa?!

Cady: Well, yes, they do but I was homeschooled.

Janis: Why'd you stop being homeschooled?!

Cady: I want to get socialized.

Damian: Oh you'll get socialized all right. Okay, Caddy, I once read on a tote bag that "everything fits somewhere." So keep an open mind and a closed mouth and let's get out there and pick your new life!

Janis: Let's take a little tour around the cafeteria and see where you belong.

Damian: It takes all kinds of people. We'll find your group, your herd, your flock...

Janis: There's Girls That Eat Their Feelings and Girls That Don't Eat...

Damian: I like eating birthday cake around them. Makes 'em crazy.

Janis: There's Debate Team –

Damian: --Dance Team –

Janis: - Mathletes –

Cady: Cool!

Damian: Joining them is social suicide.

Janis: But you can sit at our table!

Damian: We'll be good friends to you.... You can belong with us!

[MUSIC: MEET THE PLASTICS]

[CADY, spoken]

Woah. Who is at that table there?

[DAMIAN, spoken]

Don't look at them, just don't!

(sung)

We call those three 'The Plastics'

They're shiny, fake, and hard

[JANIS]

They play their little mind games
All around the schoolyard

[DAMIAN]

They might insult your clothing
Or make fun of your name

[JANIS]

Like they mocked Jen Moorecock
Till she burst into flame

[DAMIAN, spoken]

And Ms. Moorecock was a teacher..

[JANIS, spoken]

Regina George is the queen bee. She's always dressed up, she always wins Spring Fling Queen. We're just drones who work for her, then die.

[REGINA] (sung)

My name is Regina George
And I am a massive deal
Fear me, love me
Stand and stare at me
And yes, yes I am real

I've got money and looks
I am, like, drunk with power
This whole school
Does my bidding like a chihuahua

I'm the prettiest poison you've ever seen
I never weigh more than one-fifteen
My name is Regina George
And I am a massive deal
I don't care who you are
I don't care how you feel

[JANIS, spoken]

That's Gretchen Wieners, she knows everything about everybody.

[DAMIAN, spoken]

That's why her hair is so big, it's full of secrets.

[GRETCHEN] (sung)

Yes, Regina

No, Regina

Every waking hour

I spend making sure Regina

George can stay in power

If Regina is the sun

Then I'm a disco ball

'Cause I'm just as bright and fun

if you squint and tilt your jaw

I worm your secrets out of you

And bring them to my master

Then I watch Regina make your life a big disaster

[DAMIAN, JANIS]

Disaster!

[GRETCHEN]

Regina is the queen

But I'm the head of worker bees

As I am seated at her right hand

[DAMIAN, GRETCHEN]

Like a self-appointed princess.

[JANIS, spoken]

That is Karen Smith:

The dumbest person you will ever meet

[Damian, spoken]

I once saw her put a "D" in the word "orange."

[KAREN, sung]

My name is Karen

My hair is shiny

My teeth are perfect

My skirt is tiny

It barely covers

My tiny hiney

My name is Karen
I may not be smart

(spoken)
That's it.

[REGINA]
Right
We never really do this
But how'd you like to
Have lunch with us this week?

[CADY, spoken]
Oh, it's okay, I...

[REGINA, sung]
No, no need for you to thank us
There's no need to even speak

[GRETCHEN]
You're new and you don't know things
You need good friends who can tell you what to think
See you here same time tomorrow

[KAREN]
On Wednesdays we wear pink

[REGINA, GRETCHEN, KAREN]
On Wednesdays we wear pink!

[All overlap]

[REGINA]
Here's where you belong
Here's where you belong
Here's where you belong
Here's where you belong

[GRETCHEN]
Yes, Regina
No, Regina
Every waking hour
I spend making sure Regina
George can stay in power
If Regina is the sun
Then I'm a disco ball

'Cause I'm just as bright and fun
if you squint and tilt your jaw

[KAREN]

My name is Karen
My hair is shiny
My teeth are perfect
My skirt is tiny

[REGINA, GRETCHEN, KAREN]

Wear something nice and grab a tray
'Cause we don't do this every day
Say here's where you belong
Say here's where you belong

[REGINA, spoken]

No, really. Say it.

[REGINA, GRETCHEN & KAREN (CADY)]

Say
Here's where you belong (Here's where I belong)

[GRETCHEN]

Come sit with us tomorrow
It'll be fetch!

{End of song. The Plastics stride out. Janis and Damian flutter excitedly around Cady}

Cady: They want me to have lunch with them all week –

Janis (*delighted*): Yessss!

Cady: -- but I already said I'd sit with you guys. Maybe we could all have lunch togeth—

Janis/Damian: Never!/Not really an option.

Cady: I don't know why you hate them so much. Regina seems kind of cool.

Janis: Regina George is not cool! She's a scum-sucking fart-mouth life ruiner!

Damian: Janis hates Regina because when we were in eighth grade –

Janis – Damian! Shall we not?!? Caddy, take their offer. And then come back and tell us every stupid moron thing they say.

Cady: Like spy on them? Isn't that bad?

Janis: Caddy, we're your friends. Would we ask you to do something bad?

{Ding! Sound effect – Janis and Damian freeze. Cady talks “out” to the audience}

Cady: It sounds bad to me, but they’re my only two friends. I don’t want to have “none”

(and we’re back to the scene)

Cady: Sounds fun! Do you have a pink shirt I can wear tomorrow?

END OF SCENE 1

SCENE 2

(We are at lunch the next day. Everyone is wearing pink. Janis and Damian are sitting a little ways away from Cady and the Plastics)

Gretchen: ...You can't wear a tank top two days in a row and you can only wear your hair in a ponytail once a week. So, I guess you picked today. Oh, and we only wear sweats or track pants on Fridays. If you break any of these rules, you can't sit with us at lunch. I mean, not just you, like, any of us. Like, if I were wearing sweatpants today, I'd have to sit over there with the Art Freaks.

(She indicates Janis and Damian who wave back and make weird faces)

Cady: That seems fair.

Regina: A hundred and twenty calories and forty-eight calories from fat. What percent is that?

Gretchen: Forty-eight into a hundred and twenty?

Karen: There's no way of knowing.

Regina *(impatient)*: I'm only eating foods with less than thirty percent calories from fat.

Cady: It's forty percent. Forty-eight over a hundred and twenty equals "s" over a hundred, and then you cross-multiply and get the value of "x".

(The Plastics look at Cady like she has three heads)

Regina: *(feeling threatened)* Whatever. *(makes a decision)* Meet me after school. I'm gonna take you to the mall and buy you some shoes.

Cady: Oh, thanks.

(The Plastics stride away as Janis and Damian sneak over)

Janis: What did she say?

Cady *(watching the Plastics walk away)* I just realized – she's the apex predator.

Damian: The what?

Cady: The alpha. They're predators, but if you're on their good side, you can have a symbiotic or commensal relationship –

Janis *(immediate rage)*: Regina George has no good side! It's like you said, Caddy. She's a predator. Don't be fooled by the pink. And don't mess with her.

END OF SCENE 2

SCENE 3

We are in Regina's bedroom

Cady: Your room is really nice.

Regina: I know, right? It was my parents' room, but I made them trade me. *(then, curtly)* Gretchen, move.

(Gretchen gets out of Regina's way)

Gretchen: Sorry! Ugh, my hips are so wide.

(The Plastics examine themselves in the mirror)

Regina: I need to lose three pounds.

Karen: My ankles are like dog ankles.

(They look at Cady expectantly)

Cady: I'm not sure what we're doing but....me too. I'm ugly too.

Gretchen: Regina! We should show Cady The Burn Book. *(she heads to closet to fetch it)*

Karen: Oh man, we haven't looked at the Burn Book in forever.

Gretchen *(bringing back the book):* Check it out, Cady. We cut out people's pictures from the yearbook and then we wrote comments: "Trang Pak is a grotsky little witch"

Regina: Still true.

Gretchen: "Dawn Schweitzer is fat AND stupid."

Regina: Still half true.

Gretchen *(laughs):* "Janis Sarkisian. Space-slut"

(Cady is startled. She doesn't like this game but especially now with Janis being mentioned)

Regina: *(noticing Cady's discomfort)* Ugh – she's so weird.

Cady: She is? She's in my homeroom.

Regina: Well watch out cause she's mental. People think she's really good at art but it's cause she had to do "art therapy".

Gretchen: Regina and Janis used to be best friends in middle school.

Regina: She was, like, obsessed with me. Then when I couldn't invite her to my 13th birthday party cause my mom said I could only invite six people, she went insane.

Gretchen: Cady, don't worry. We only write stuff about "randos" in here. Friends are, like, very deserving of respect and –

Regina: --Gretchen, she gets it. (*then*) Karen, come with me. I wanna change your eyebrows.

(*Regina leads Karen offstage to the "bathroom". Gretchen follows*)

Karen: Can I still have two?

Gretchen: Do you need me to come with, or...? I could film it --?

(*we hear a door slam, leaving Gretchen onstage with Cady*)

Gretchen (cont): Okay! (*to Cady*) So are you having so much fun with us?

Cady: Yeah! How long were Regina and Janis friends?

Gretchen: Oh...like forever....until the party. Did Regina seem mad at me?

Cady: I don't know. Is she always like that with her friends?

Gretchen: Yes. I mean, only when they go crazy, you know? She did seem mad at me, I think. It started when I burped in the car.

(*Regina and Karen laugh offstage*)

Gretchen: They're laughing! (*Calls through door*) What? What happened that was funny?

(*They don't answer*)

Gretchen (cont): They can hear me.

Cady: Are you okay?

Gretchen: Mmhmm. Mmhmm. It's just....sometimes I feel like an iPhone without a case. Like, I know I'm worth a lot, and I have a lot of good functions, but at any time I could just shatter.

(*Regina and Karen laugh offstage. Gretchen knocks on the door*)

Gretchen: Regina! Let me in! I'm sorry about the car burp!

Cady: I'm gonna go home now.

Gretchen (still trying to get into the bathroom) Okay. Fun. See you tomorrow!

END OF SCENE 3

SCENE 4

Cady walks with Janis and Damian, carrying backpacks.

Cady: --and they have this book. This Burn Book where they write mean things about girls in our grade.

Damian: (*finding Cady's Kalteen bar*) What is this? Can I eat it?

Cady: It's a Kalteen bar. (*off their blank looks*) My mom used to give them to the kids in Africa to help them gain weight.

Damian: I can feel it working.

Janis: What does the book say about me?

Cady: Um....

Janis: Never mind. I can guess.

Cady: She told me about how you were best friends in grade school and that you were really...um...upset when she didn't invite you to her 13th birthday party.

Janis: Wow. Is that how she's telling it? She called me out in front of the whole school *for no reason*. . So she UN-invited me to her party in front of, like, everyone.

Cady: What did you say?

Damian: What could she say? She didn't know why her friend was doing this to her. So she just yelled--

Janis (*yelling like a weirdo*): I'm a space alien and I have four butts!

Damian: It was a bad choice, but she was twelve. And by lunch someone had sharpied "Space-slut" on her locker. After that, no one would talk to her and it got really bad and her parents pulled her out of school for the rest of the year.

Janis: It's not even true. I only have one butt.

Cady: I'm sorry --

Janis (*won't have it*): Don't be sorry! Now you know, Caddy. Regina George is not your friend. We're your friends. And we're gonna make her pay. You know what friends do? They got your back. And when someone messes with you, they attack. Time for a Revenge Party. Are you in?

Cady: (*determined to be a good friend*) Okay. I'm in. What can I do?

Janis: I dreamed of this day for many years, but I never had an "inside man". For this to work, you're going to have to pretend you still like them. Can you do it?

Cady: Yes.

Janis: We need to take away Regina's only achievement -- being a "hot person".

Damian: Yeah. But how?

Cady (lightbulb): I know how! *(she pulls out a Kalteen bar)* *(They clasp hands like football players then break on – “KALTEEN”)*

(Plastics enter other side of stage. Sonja passes by her and makes a wide U to not be near her. Cady walks up to the Plastics with the Kalteen bar)

Gretchen: What is that?

Cady: Ugh! I’m so fat and disgusting! I use these Kalteen diet bars when I need to lose weight.

Regina snatches the bar and examines it.

Regina: I need to lose three pounds. How many calories from fat?

Cady (overcomplicating): Zero. You cross-multiply x over a thousand and then divide it by point five ‘cause it’s kilograms –

Regina: Whatever. Bring me a whole box.

(Cady walks back over to Janis and Damian)

Cady/Janis/Damian: Revenge Party!

END OF SCENE 4

SCENE 5

[SONG: SEXY]

(Karen walks onstage)

Karen: Hi

If I could change the world
I'd make it Halloween
Every single day
And also have world peace

Maybe world peace should be first
World peace and then Halloween

Wait, let me start over
Hi

If I could change the world
I'd make us have world peace
And also Halloween
Every single day

On Halloween
You can pretend to be someone else
It's like the internet
Only in person and with candy

[END OF SONG]

Damian: Cady spent weeks pretending to like Regina. Finally, the school talent show came around...and opportunity knocked.

Janis: Okay – this is probably a good time for us to talk about the power of social media.

Damian: Was it funny when Regina's costume malfunctioned? Yes. Was it even funnier when Regina bent over and it looked like her butt ate her underwear? Yes. One million percent.

Janis: Was it shocking that she stepped on Gretchen's face as she ran away? Not to me, but I still liked it.

Damian: And why did Karen pretend to be asleep? Did she just panic? I think so.

Janis: Now, we all know that harsh internet comments are "hurtful" and "cause pain" and "blah blah blah we gotta stop" etc.

Damian: But what everyone forgets is that *positive* internet comments are worse. 'Cause they create a false sense of love and admiration, and they are more addictive than opioids and Girl Scout Thin Mints combined. For example:

Sonja enters the stage, texting/tweeting/etc

Sonja: That Cady girl's authentic but not in a fake way. Her Instagram is just pictures of lions and no selfies. Righteous. *(reads response)*

Lizzie: I know, right? Cady Heron is, like, effortlessly perfect. I would kill my whole family and eat glass for a hundred years to be that effortless. Follow. Follow. Follow!

(Gretchen and Karen enter the lunchroom.)

Gretchen *(star struck)*: I posted a picture of me and Cady in our Santa outfits and someone commented that we look like sisters. And I was like hashtag whaaaaa?

Karen: I like Cady. She's nice to me.

(Regina enters with her lunch - a baked potato). Cady follows.

Regina: I mean, honestly, I wasn't the worst thing at that talent show. *(then re: her potato)* Wait, is butter a carb?

Cady: Yes.

Regina: *(noticing, suspicious)* Did you change your hair?

Cady: Yeah.

Regina: *(long pause)* I like it. Gretchen, move!

Before Regina can sit, Gretchen stops her, ice cold.

Gretchen: I'm sorry, Regina. You can't sit with us.

Regina *(scoffing)*: What?

Gretchen: You're wearing sweatpants. It's Thursday.

Regina: Whatever. Those rules aren't real.

Karen: They were real the day I wore a vest!

Regina: Because that vest was disgusting!

Gretchen: You can't sit with us! *(crumbling)* I think. You probably shouldn't sit with us?

A beat. Regina admits the truth.

Regina: These sweatpants are all that fit me right now.

They avoid eye contact

Gretchen: What do you think, Cady?

(She turns out to audience)

Cady: Gretchen is weak and she can't land the blow. I could just let it go.....

(to Regina)

Cady: NO (*roars like bloodlust*). Rules are rules.

Regina: Fine. (*to Janis and Damian*) Take a picture, losers! It'll last longer!

Janis pulls out phone and snaps a photo. Regina runs out, humiliated.

Gretchen: She left. She left.

Damian: Exciting.

(Janis and Damian turn to audience)

Janis/Damian: We did say it was a cautionary tale....

END OF SCENE 5

SCENE 6

(to audience)

Janis: So...where did we leave off? Oh, right. *(gleeful)* Regina was humiliated in front of literally everyone.

Damian: And Cady was starting to bask in the power....

Janis: Mean is hard to see – it can happen slow. This is the insane part –

Damian: Where it all flies off the rail. Exciting.

(everyone enters like in the lunchroom. Cady is offstage)

Principal *(from over the loudspeaker):* May I have your attention please for some announcements. First, we want to wish good luck to junior Janis Sarkisian who is a finalist in the Illinois Art Expo this Saturday. Go Lions! Even for art.

Damian: Art! Art! Art!

Principal *(continues):* Secondly, the Student Activities Committee voted and the theme of this year's Spring Fling was a tie between "Circus Under the Sea" and "Elegance", so we're just gonna get balloons. And finally, the nominee for Spring Fling King and Queen are as follows: For King-- Shane Oman, Christian Wiggins and Aaron Samuel. For Queen –

Janis/Damian/Principal *(said at the same time):* Regina George. Karen Smith and Gretchen Wieners.

Damian: Same old. Same old.

Principal: And Caddy Heron.

(Janis looks to Damian confused)

Janis: Did you set that up?

Damian: No.

Janis: Oh boy.

(Cady rushes in looking for Damian, concerned)

Cady: Did you do that?!?!

Damian: It wasn't me! As junior co-chair of the Student Activities Committee, I would never tamper with election materials.

Cady *(can't help smiling):* So I'm really nominated?

Janis *(equally coy):* Or it's the Russians?

(Cady ignores Janis because her phone is blowing up)

Cady: Oh! Wow. So many people are texting me. *(remains glued to her phone)*

Janis: So...Hey – do you need a ride this weekend? ‘Cause Damian borrowed his grandmother’s jazzy---

Cady: What?

Damian: It’s a motorized scooter –

Cady: No, I mean, ride to what?

Janis: My art show. Did you not just hear the announcement?

(Cady isn’t listening. She takes a super happy selfie)

Cady: I have to post something about being nominated.

(Damian grabs Cady’s phone)

Cady: Hey! What are you doing?

Damian: Saving you from yourself. *(Cady is jumping, trying to get her phone back)* Caddy, I did a paper on this! Our prefrontal cortex isn’t fully formed until we’re twenty-five. It’s why we’re not allowed to rent cars! ‘Cause we’ll wreck them just to make a cool Tick Tock.

(Cady manages to retrieve her phone)

Cady: That’s not gonna happen to me. *(looking at texts)* Gotta go, mwah!

(Blows them a kiss and exits, texting like crazy)

Damian: Umm...did she just leave while I was actively caring about her? No. Caddy Marie Heron, get back here!

(they turn out to the audience)

Janis: You can see where this is heading right?

Damian: Straight into a bus.

Janis: Let’s fast-forward a bit. So....obviously, Cady blew off my art competition.

Damian: And the ride on my grandmother’s jazzy. Sad.

Janis: Then, Regina turned the Burn Book in to the principal and said that Cady, Karen and Gretchen wrote it. Then all the junior girls had an assembly where we had to apologize to each other because you know *every single one of us* has said something about someone else behind their back.

Damian: *(disbelieving)* Did you give an apology?

Janis: Of course! *(he gives her a look)* Let’s see....it went like...

(scene starts – everyone is onstage)

Janis: Okay, sure. I have an apology. So I have this friend who is a new student this year, and I convinced her that it would be fun to mess up Regina George’s life. So we gave her these candy bar things to make her gain weight. And we turned her best friends against her. Oh and then Cady – you know my friend, Cady? She got Regina’s boyfriend to dump her.

(The girls react. This is huge. Regina and Cady are staring at each other)

Janis *(continues)*: But then my friend Cady turned out to be just as phony and selfish as Regina George. So my apology is to myself. 'Cause I should have known better.

(The girls and Janis freeze/go into slow mo. Regina is pushing through everyone trying to get out and away from Cady, who is chasing after her. They are in regular time)

Cady: Regina, wait—

Regina: You know what they say about you? They say you are a homeschooled jungle freak who's a less hot version of me.

Cady: I never meant to hurt—

Regina: So you can take your fake apology, roll it up tight and shove it up your fat hairy —

(Regina is hit by a bus. Blackout. Spotlight on Janis)

Janis: And that's how Regina George died.

(Damian joins her)

Damian: Once again, no one died! I mean, technically Regina did die for, like, fifteen seconds but then she was revived. And of course school media started going insane.

(Sonja and Lizzie enter spotlight)

Sonja: I hear she jumped in front of the bus.

Lizzie: I hear Cady Heron pushed her.

(All stare at Cady — spotlight goes to Cady)

Cady: This is not my fault! Regina was a terrible person. We all thought so! I'm the good one in this story! Gretchen wanted me to get rid of her. Not get rid of her just -- It's not my fault she got hit by a bus! *(realizing)* She got hit by a bus. *(pause)* I sound like a monster. I was offered bad choices, sure — but I could have said no.

Principal *(offstage)*: Three weeks suspension. And you're banned from Spring Fling.

(Cady reacts. BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE 6

SCENE 7

(Karen enters texting)

Karen: Dear Cady, Angry Cat Emoji. Poop emoji. Scream face emoji. Send.

(Cady enters on the other end of this text)

Cady: Hey. R U mad at me?

Karen: Not mad anymore. Thank you for letting me vent. Pencil emoji. Dancing ladies. Umbrella.

Cady: what do those mean?

Karen: “Thank you for taking the blame for the whole burn book.” I like to express myself through emojis because I’m stupid.

Cady: You’re not stupid, Karen.

Karen: No, I am! I’m failing everything – Sometimes I think the only thing I understand is the “Rule of Twos”.

Cady: “The Rule of Twos”? Is that a math thing?

Karen: Haha, bikini emoji, no! The “Rule of Twos” is how everything is really two things. Like you were tricking us but you also still had fun with us. And how when Regina was mean to me, it’s because she was unhappy with herself. And that I should probably leave the parking lot immediately. Which I do.

Cady: That’s really smart, Karen.

Karen: And how getting suspended actually made it easier ‘cause you could just hide from everybody. And when you come back tomorrow it’s gonna be so much worse! So I’ll still be your friend.

(Cady takes this in)

Cady: Thanks, Karen.

Karen: Caucasian thumbs up!

(Cady steels herself and walks into.....)

Sonja: I’m voting for Regina George for Spring Fling ‘cause she got hit by a bus.

Lizzie: I’m voting for Cady Heron because she pushed her.

(Cady walks away. Regina enters like the Bride of Frankenstein with her head gear.)

Cady: Regina! You look pretty.

Regina: I’m wearing a spinal halo.

Cady: I’m sorry about the bus. I feel like it’s all my fault.

Regina: Stop making this about you. I’m the one who got hit by a bus.

Cady: Well, I'm sorry about all the other stuff too.

Regina: Okay. Yeah. I'm going to forgive you. Because I'm on a lot of pain medication right now. You know I died for fifteen seconds, right?

Cady: That must have been scary.

Regina: When I woke up in the street, all I could see was my mom's face and Gretchen's big face looking down at me. And they looked so surprised. Not even just sad, just like, surprised that I could be bleeding. Like they forgot I was a human person. I've actually been a human person this whole time.

Cady: I know. It's weird when people treat you like you're famous or something.

Regina: It's amazing until it's not. (*then*) I know I have to change. I know I was harsh. And people say I was a "witch" but not with a "w". But you know what they would call me if I was a boy?

Cady: Strong?

Regina: "Reginald." That's what my mom was gonna name me if I was a boy, so honestly I'd rather be "witch" – with or without the "b".

Cady: Well I'm sorry if I took your spot on the food chain –

Regina (*shutting this down*): Not your fault. Don't apologize for things that aren't your fault. And never apologize for being a boss. (*Regina applies lip gloss expertly through the headgear*) If you're going to be happy in life, Cady, you have to not care what people say about you. Like truly not care. Gotta go. Love ya!

(*Regina exits. Cady takes a beat, then follows. Sees Damian and Janis – gears herself up to approach while they are conversing*)

Damian: So....have you let Cady apologize yet?

Janis: I can't! 'Cause then I would have to admit that I also did bad stuff.

Principal (*offstage*): Okay, it's time to announce Spring Fling King and Queen. I just want to say that you're all winners and that I could not be happier that this school year is ending. The winner of Spring Fling King is....Shane Oman!

(*Kids applaud*)

Cady (*approaching Janis*): Janis. Can I talk to you?

Janis: No.

Cady: Janis, please ---

Principal *continues*: And the winner of Spring Fling Queen is... Caddy Heron.

Cady: What?

Janis: Unbelievable.

Cady: *(moving forward to address the audience. Sonja and Lizzie put a sash and crown on her head)*
Wow. Um, I think people voted for me because they think I pushed someone in front of a bus. Which is terrible.

Regina *(calls out)*: Not your fault! Don't apologize!

Cady: No, I won't. But what is my fault is the way I treated my friend Janis. So I'm sorry. I lied to you and I left you out, and if we're not friends anymore, I understand. And I'll still treat you with dignity.

Principal: You know it isn't really required of you to make a speech.

Cady: Almost done, I promise. When I first moved here, I wanted everyone to like me so bad...I kind of lost myself in the process... We all do that, I think. We think we have to change ourselves to be good enough. But looking at you guys right here...I wish you could see it. You're awesome.

Principal: Really. Most people just take the crown and go.

Cady: Okay. Just one more thing. Plastic doesn't shine. Rhinestones don't really shine. But you do – because you're all stars.

(Scene freezes – Janis and Damian look out to the audience)

Damian: And so, freshmen, the moral of our story is thus: Calling someone stupid won't make you any smarter.

Janis: And even people you don't like at all, are still people.

Both: So get off their backs. Three, two, one....

(scene starts again)

ALL *(big cheering)*: YEAH!