

**ACHE** a play by Jasmine Sheherazade Ebrahim, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

**Scene one**

*Livia on stage with 3 men in black cloaks*

Man one: Livia, what can you see?

Man two: She's scared...

Man three: She knows what she has to do.

Man one: Livia, what do you see?

Livia: I see, a big, big land, full of mischief and mayhem and police cars with their sirens on...

Man one: Interesting.

Man three: Does she know?

Man two: No.

*All men turn to Livia*

Livia: What do I know?

Man two: This.

*Man two, points his staff at Livia. She crumples to the floor remembering.*

Man three: She's remembering.

Livia: No, no, no, no!

Man one: ENOUGH.

*Man two, stops the memories.*

Livia: What was that?

Man one: Your past.

*Livia freezes. Then more desperately,*

Livia: I want to go home.

Man three: Home? You definitely don't want to.

Livia: I do. Where is it?

Man two: You will never get there.

Man one: Livia, will you follow?

Livia: *Hesitant.* No.

Man two: She doesn't want to, let's go.

Man one: Enough. Livia, is coming.

Livia: Where even is this?

Man three: We are in the 'ever before.'

Livia: Ever before? *Men move on.* Wait!

Man one: Here. *Gestures to a machine*

Man two: Let's see, hmm. Yes, yes, ooh, woah, there it is. She must have been BAD.

Livia: Bad? *Suddenly remembers.* Bad...

Man one: What, she's not supposed to remember! What have you done! *Glares at Man two.*

Man three: She needs a family quickly!

Livia: Home?

Man one: Press buttons two and three. I'll chose her family.

Man two: *Still sulking.* It's ready.

Man one: All ready. Step in Livia.

Livia: Finally, I'm going home!

*Steps through the portal activated an disappears into thin air. Screams.*

And I'd give up forever to touch you  
'Cause I know that you feel me somehow  
You're the closest to heaven that I'll ever be  
And I don't want to go home right now  
And all I can taste is this moment  
And all I can breathe is your life  
And sooner or later, it's over  
I just don't wanna miss you tonight  
And I don't want the world to see me  
'Cause I don't think that they'd understand  
When everything's made to be broken  
I just want you to know who I am  
And you can't fight the tears that ain't coming  
Or the moment of truth in your lies  
When everything feels like the movies  
Yeah, you bleed just to know, you're alive  
And I don't want the world to see me  
'Cause I don't think that they'd understand  
When everything's made to be broken  
I just want you to know who I am

## Scene 2: The family

Mother: Be reasonable Sam! It was hard enough when I had just the two boys but now, I've got seven girls!  
Livia is the most mischievous child out of all of them. I told you we should have stopped at eight!

Father: *sighs.* You're doing fine, Maya.

Catherine: Luca's on the phone mum—hey! Livia, don't you dare—no! Give that back Livia Bell!

Mother: Luca? Oh god, the wedding! It's in a few months, he'll want us to organise it...

Catherine: Right, that's it!

Father: We're too old for this.

Livia: *Reading diary* "Dear diary, I hate dance, I feel like telling mum,"

Catherine: Livia!

Livia: "That she is totally out of her place in forcing me!"

Catherine: That's private!

Father: ENOUGH.

*Livia stops. She falls to the ground remembering man one's ability to stop somebody firmly.*

Father: Get up.

*Enter Alexa*

Alexa: What's happened...? Mum?

*Enter Lavender rushing to Livia. Rosalind follows, holding a paintbrush and wearing a beret.*

Lavender: Livia!

Rosalind: Lavender, you haven't finished with me! I have to do something to represent someone inspiring and I chose a random painter. I can't even paint! I need you to stand still, Lavender!

Father: Livia, get up.

*Enter Brittany*

Brittany: What's going on, I can't concentrate—OMG, Livia's dead.

*Enter Roxane*

Roxane: Yeah, obv. Not. You're so dramatic. *Feels Livia's heart.*

Lavender: Roxane, she, is she breathing?

Catherine: *Anxious.* Of course, she is, she's totally fine, right Roxy?

Roxane: Yeah, wait, she's,

Livia: *opens her eyes and frowns.* Where's Lucas?

Mother: Luka! *Grabs the phone.*

Roxane: Fine. She's fine! I told you she was fine. Not dead like Brittany just said.

Brittany: Poor Catherine, Livia, you gave her a heart attack. She thought you were dead! Tell her off Catherine.

Catherine: Yes, Brittany's right. You were immature and scared the life out of your siblings. You are out of your right young lady.

*Livia Laughs.*

Livia: You thought I was dead?

Alexa: Really Livia? I trusted you, I thought, for once you were actually in trouble.

Rosalind: Like the boy who cried wolf. I remember that from school. Lavender, let's go.

Livia: I didn't, Alexa wait!

Lavender: Liv...

*That's the last thing Livia sees before her dad pushes her into the coal bunker.*

Lavender: NOO!

*See black at the end.*

Livia: All by myself,

I'm the only one who knows,

That's fine,

I'm the only one who cares,

It's true,

One day I'll find someone who is there,

And they'll be waiting, for me,

Wishes never work,

Hopes are abandoned,

Family forgotten,

Along with me,

I'm lost and lonely,

Alone in this darkened room,

Feeling the misery,

Alone in this dreary place,

Do they know?

Do they care, about me?

Because if not, I'll build my own future,

Alone in this rotting place,

By myself.

All by myself.

Sometimes I just wish,

Things are fine,

But they're not,  
I'm forgot,  
In the middle of nowhere,  
Let me out,  
Take a chance,  
Let the music roll on so I can have a prance,  
I need to do something,  
Something,  
That I need to do,  
Something, or my hearts in danger,  
Check mate. I'm gone. They want me gone.  
Hearts in danger,  
Full to the brim,  
Maybe it's just better if I walked round the rim.  
Stay low,  
Nowhere to go,  
Stay low,  
Alone in this abandoned room.

### Scene 3

Livia: Oh great, I'll be stuck down here for eternity—if I'm lucky—the rest of my life in order to learn a lesson I don't need to learn! Brilliant. Just brilliant.

*In a dream*

Livia: What—what are you...?

Man two: Livia, a Bell now, are you? Part of their family? Listen, nothing's changed, since, 11 years ago. You are no closer to them than you were the last time we met.

Livia: I don't remember...

Man two: Of course, you don't. Humans have rubbish memory.

Livia: Hey, that's not fair! I can remember, something to do with—a lesson needing learning. That's all... *To herself*. A lesson I don't care about. They don't even like me.

Man two: No. They don't.

Livia: How did you...? I seriously hate this. Can we end here? I'm so bored,

Man two: *Interrupting Livia*. Be like water.

Livia: *Carries on with her 'I'm bored speech'* This is pointless anyway. I don't care about lessons, I don't care about anything, especially not you...wait... *suddenly realizes*. Be like water? What in hell's name does that mean?! Now I know I don't care about 'water.' There is nothing special about water! I drink water, it's gross, I'd rather have juice—that's it!

Man two: *To himself*. I can't believe I'm saying this. *Back to Livia*. Be like water, be like water which is the highest good. Water excels in benefiting the myriad creatures without contending of them and settles where none would like to be. Because it does not contend it is never at fault. It is for these reasons that it comes close to the way.

Livia: What does that mean!

Man two: *rolls his eyes*. It means don't argue!

Livia: What?

Man two: Be like water. Water is the way you will learn your lesson. Water thrives in helping the people around you without fighting with them and goes where others may not wish to be. Because it does not fight it is never to blame. For these reasons it comes close to you learning your lesson.

Livia: I still don't get it. What's special about being a goodie two-shoes?

Man two: Livia, you are to blame for your actions. You are here to redeem yourself. You have been given a second chance in life. Use it well.

Man two: Livia Bell, be like water.

*He disappears.*

*Alexa knocks on the coal bunker door.*

Alexa: Liv, we're having lunch with Kitty.

*Livia pushes the door open.*

Alexa: You look better.

Livia: Yeah. I've been just great.

Alexa: Good on you little sis.

Livia: Are you still, do you believe me?

Alexa: I don't get why you did that. I support you; I believe you, but I also believe Catherine. Just, it doesn't matter. Kitty is Catherine's friend so she will want you to be neat and sensible. Tidy yourself up and be on your best behaviour.

Livia: I'm not doing anything for Catherine. I'm not going to make an effort with her stupid friend.

Alexa: You do that.

*Livia runs off.*

#### **Scene 4**

Catherine: So, then Alexa hugged me hard, too hard, she was thankful that she was alive!

They clap politely, eyeing each other warily.

Catherine: My next story is about when Livia was two years old. One day she was—

Alexa: I think we can stop there. Now we know how smart and courageous Catherine is, we can have dessert!

Lavender: Yum! I'll get the bowls.

Brittany: I'm on spoons,

Livia: I'll get the ice-cream!

Rosalind: Oh no you won't!

Mother: Don't open anything yet, wait for us.

Father: *eying the girls*. I'm just coming,

*In the dining room with dessert. Tension in the room.*

Mother: So, Kitty, it's nice to meet you.

Kitty: Thanks Mrs Bell, you're looking lovely.

Mother: *Blushes*. See that kids. Our guest is kinder than you are.

Kitty: I heard that your oldest son is getting married.

Mother: Yes, he's, Luca is 25. And of course, on short notice, we have to prepare it.

Kitty: I'm sorry Mrs Bell.

Mother: No, no! Don't be dear. Thank you for asking. Quick question, do you like dance?

Kitty: Yeah. I can do ballet, contemporary too. I'm learning Acro.

Mother: Awesome.

Catherine: Mum, can I have Kitty back?

Mother: Yes. She's very charming you know.

Roxane: Yeah, I see the toll she's taken on you.

*Girls laughs.*

Kitty: Good luck with the wedding.

Livia: What wedding?

Alexa: Luca's. In a few months.

Livia: Boring. Can I have some more ice cream?

Catherine: Behave Livia. And no.

Kitty: That's a nice name.

Catherine: Yes, I know, mother chose it for me based on some history she was interested in.

Kitty: I mean Livia, the brown-haired girl over there.

Catherine: Oh, uh, *sees Livia pouring the juice into her mouth*. Livia! Stop being such a nuisance!

Kitty: I love this ice-cream.

Livia: Same, but my parents won't let me have any more, and for that matter, neither with Catherine!

Mother: Be back in a sec.

Kitty: Well, when you come round to my house, you can hog the ice-cream. We have tubs of it. What's your favourite?

Livia: Chocolate. And strawberry, oh, Cookie Dough is marvellous!

Kitty: Awesome.

Livia: I also like the lollies—

Roxanne: Stop leaning over me—budge up.

Kitty: Sit here, *points at a seat next to hers*.

Catherine: But that's mother's chair.

Kitty: Yeah. Now we can talk properly. So, what lollies did you like?

Livia: Those water-melon ones, and the solero! When it is peach—what bliss!

Kitty: I agree.

*Livia grins and so does Kitty.*

Kitty: You can count on me like one, two, three

I'll be there

And I know when I need it, I can count on you like four, three, two

And you'll be there

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh, yeah

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, ooh, yeah, yeah

Livia: You can count on me like one, two, three

I'll be there

And I know when I need it, I can count on you like four, three, two

And you'll be there

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh, yeah

Together: Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, ooh, yeah, yeah

Mother: Here, Kitty, this is a leaflet about dance. With—with me.

Kitty: You teach dance?

Mother: Yeah, my daughters do it too. Catherine's quite the natural, aren't you dear?

Catherine: Yes. I just love it.



Livia: *To Lavender*. She doesn't, she hates it, it's in her diary.

Lavender: You read her diary?!

Livia: Yeah?

Kitty: Thanks Mrs Bell. *Looks at Livia. They grin.*

Livia: I got this feeling inside my bones  
It goes electric, wavey when I turn it on  
And if you want it  
Inside your soul  
Just open up your heart, let music take control  
Ooh, it's something magical  
It's in the air, it's in my blood, it's rushing on  
I don't need no reason, don't need control  
I fly so high, no ceiling, when I'm in my zone  
'Cause I got that sunshine in my pocket  
Got that good soul in my feet  
I feel that hot blood in my body when it drops  
I can't take my eyes up off it, moving so phenomenally  
Room on lock, the way we rock it, so don't stop

*At bedtime.*

Livia: Be like water. I will make Kitty like me. I will be like he said. I will try hard. I will get the best test results—I will make her proud.

### Scene 5

Mother: Livia, wake up! You'll be late for school.

Livia: Yes, just coming.

Mother: Don't be rude, and get up—did you just,

Livia: Yes. *Jumps out of bed and starts getting changed.*

*In the hallway.*

Catherine: Hey, Alexa, listen to this, *shows some video of someone playing violin.*

Alexa: So nice.

Rosalind: I bet you'll be able to play like that soon!

Alexa: I think she already can. Anyway, Catherine, let's go.

Catherine: Bye everyone! Wish us luck.

Livia: Good luck Alexa!

Alexa: See you soon Liv.

*Wave goodbye. Then all others in the car.*

Mother: So, I'm dropping Livia to Bumble Primary, then Brittany to Queens-Wood, Roxanne off to Mullers and Rosalind off to St Kanter. Lovely. Oh, Livia, your school report has been exceedingly low. I will not have my daughter bottom of the class! Work harder. You need to go to school.

Livia: Yes. Fine.

Mother: And a dance club has just been created, I want you to join it. It's tomorrow.

Livia: Whatever.

Mother: There. Bye Livia.

*Livia waves. Mother drives off. In school now.*

Louisa: I don't want to work with Livia!

Teacher: Calm down. Cierra, will you work with her?

Cierra: I agree with Lou. She doesn't try, or work hard. I want to ace the test.

Teacher: Cierra and Louisa, you can pair up. Bridget and Tatiana, you two can be partners. Marcus and Collin, you can work together Livia, you can work by yourself this once.

*Livia nods and puts on a fake smile. But she's actually stopping tears from coming. At the end of the project.*

Teacher: Wow! Well done Cierra and Louisa! 30/50! And Tatiana and Bridget, 32/50! Marcus and Collin, a stunning 39/50! Congrats, you are our winners.

Teaching assistant: Look at Livia's.

Teacher: Good try Livia—oh my! 47/50! Livia is our winner!

Livia: I won! Yay!!!

Teaching assistant: Well, done Livia! A gold star, now, out to break, the lot of you! Livia, stay behind.

Marcus: Livia's in trouble! Livia's in trouble!

Collin: She's gonna get a detention.

Bridget: Of course. She never gets gold stars.

Cierra: I bet she forged the document. To get praise.

Louisa: Obviously, let's play.

Marilla: Hi guys. How were lessons? We got to use the macs.

Evelyn: What you doing?

Marcus: I've got the cheese touch!

Bridget: AGH!

Marilla: Lame. Too babyish, let's go Eve.

Evelyn: Coming, aww.

*Back inside*

Teacher: Well, done. You have worked hard. Have you been getting tutoring perhaps? Or maybe—

Livia: No.

Teacher: You had all this talent—but you never tried? Livia, you have potential, but if you don't work hard, it'll be hidden. Then it's just as good as having no potential at all. Sit down, Livia, the others are coming in.

*Everyone comes in.*

Teacher: Marilla, Evelyn, Kiana, Charity, Tom and Robert, you will be with me and Miss Harvey. We will do lots of tests. You will be assigned a partner and will go round the stations to do each test. 100 marks in total. Good luck.

Teaching assistant: Marilla with Zach, Evelyn with Tom, Charity with Sam, Kiana with Collin, Bridget with Marcus, Cierra with Arthur, Louisa with Alex and Robert with Livia. Let's go!

*Lots of chatter.*

Robert: So, station one.  $74 \times 2$ . Hmm.  $70 \times 2 = 140$  and uh,

Livia: 148.

Robert: Wrong. It's 140.

Livia: It's 148!

Robert: No. It's 140.

Livia and Robert: Mrs Hall!

Teacher: Yes?

Livia: It's 148.

Robert: No, it's 140!

Teacher: Which station?

Together: One.

Teacher: It's 148. Well done, Livia.

Livia: Knew it.

*Robert scowls. Livia grins.*

Livia: Next station:  $78.9 - 42.7 = 36$ . True or false—

Robert: TRUE.

Livia: It's false! 36.2! Not 36, you're wrong Robert. Mrs Hall!

Teacher: Station two? False. 36.2. Livia, good, remember to work together.

Livia: I told you Robert.

Robert: You know what? I won't do this anymore. Now you'll fail.

Livia: Okay.

*Runs to station three.*

Livia: Station three,  $76-8-9-2+7 \times 8=113$ ! Station 4, 62, next station, -11, next,  $42B+19C$ . Station 25, 99.872. Done. Mrs Hall!

Teacher: Yes, yes, 62, yes, 42B, correct, 76, yes, yes, yes—Livia, Robert well done! Full marks!

Livia: Actually, it was me. I got all the answers. Robert quit.

Teacher: Robert?

Robert: She, she, she boasted and—

Teacher: Livia, 100%! You go join Marilla and Evelyn. I'm sorry Robert. Join Marcus and Collin, I'll sort this out.

Marilla: Question 2, what is a comma used for. Boring, question three, is this grammatically correct, yawn, uh, Evelyn, take it.

Evelyn: Question 5:  $6.7111-7$ . These are stupid.

Marilla: I know right. *Notices Livia*. As if Livia's gonna answer these correctly.

Livia: I can! Q1, 71. Q2, In lists and a certain separation in text, Q3, yes, Q4, 45. Q5, -0.2889. Easy. Done.

Marilla: All wrong. All wrong, it's actually, not lists, and Q4 is no.

Livia: Only if the question were flipped. Fractions have to be the same, have the same denominator. Oh, that's question 6! Denominator. There. Sorted.

DING, DING,

Livia: Home-time. 100% all day! Top of the class! Woohoo! Kitty will be so proud.

*Outside.*

Livia: Hi. Alexa! Is Kitty at home?

Teacher: Mrs Bell. Your daughter has been unsettling the other children all day. If this continues, we'll have to move her.

Mother: I'm sorry Mrs Hall, I will deal with her. Thank you.

Alexa: Oh Livia.

Livia: But I got all the answers correct! I got a gold star and 100%!

*Hears squealing.*

Robert: Can't catch me!

Marcus: Evelyn's got the cheese touch!

Tom: Run, run!

Collin: Faster!

Evelyn: I'm coming to get you!

Bridget: AGH!

Charity: Hey, Marilla.

Marilla: Hi.

Charity: Would you like to come to my party?

Marilla: I would love to.

Charity: Perfect.

Bridget: Cierra, quick, quick, Livia's coming!

Livia: Who's got the cheese touch?

Evelyn: Me. There. Now Livia's got the cheese touch. Let's go.

Everyone: Bye.

Livia: Wait!

Robert: Leave us alone.

*At home*

Livia: Why did they react like that? I was right!

Catherine: *Playing the violin, it's screeching slightly.* There! Rosa, I can play exactly like the video.

Rosalind: Of course, I was just messing with you. It's beautiful.

Alexa: Really nice, Cath.

Livia: It's screeching. Let me try. I'll play perfectly, just like in class when I got 100% in everything.

Catherine: Seriously? Fine, go ahead, but it's harder than you think.

*Livia holds it wrong.*

Catherine: Shall I teach you?

Livia: No. I can do it better than you.

Catherine: *snatches it off Livia. Starts playing.*

Livia: Hey! That's—

Rosalind: Don't be so rude!

Livia: Me? But I wanted to be good.

Alexa: Livia, being good doesn't mean being better than everyone else.

Roxanne: Don't explain. She won't get it.

Catherine: *puts it down.* Goodnight.

## Scene 6

Livia: Why is everyone so stupid? I was right. Wasn't I?

Man three: Hello!

Livia: AGH! Oh phew. It's the apprentice.

Man three: I am the face of the men.

Livia: As if. Have you come to tell me what a bad job I have done?

Man three: Don't try and stand out, when you can blend in.

Livia: Blend in?

Man three: If you do what others like, they will like you. Simple. I'm doing pretty well aren't I!

Livia: No! I don't even get it. Stand out—but stick in...at the same time?!

Man three: Don't stand out, stick in.

Livia: Stick in what!

Man three: Let others lead. Let them teach you.

Livia: Sure.

Man three: Trust me, they'll like you. Kitty will like you.

Livia: Whatever it takes for that same feeling to last.

Man three: Blend in. Just like me and my men. And I'm still one of them, the one who's not actually a star. I've let the others be heroes. Think about that.

*Exit Man three.*

Livia: Sure. I'll blend in. I heard Kitty's coming over—and Luca's wedding—so much to look forward to. Just blend in enough to make friends.

## **Scene 7**

*Catherine playing her violin.*

Catherine: I just can't get it!

Livia: You can do it better than me.

Catherine: Thanks a lot! You don't even play violin. You have no idea what it's like. I'm on grade three, three! All my other friends are almost grade eight standard.

Brittany: *Doing her drawing.* Uh oh. Poor, poor you. I'm struggling with this drawing but no, no help for me, just Catherine. Yes, poor, poor you.

Catherine: UGH! You two have no idea.

Brittany: Well, we are the youngest.

Catherine: Yeah well, I quit!

Livia: Catherine, wait!

*Brittany laughs.*

Livia: Teach me. Please.

*Catherine stops.*

Catherine: Sure. That'll teach you.

*Into the lesson.*

Catherine: Wrong. Put it in first position, not third, E string, E! Yes, beautiful. Perfect! Higher, nope. Out of tune. Yes, wonderful!

Livia: Thanks Catherine.

Catherine: Play the piece.

Livia: No, no.

Catherine: Show Alexa the hard work you've put into this.

Alexa: I'm ready. Go, Livia.

*Livia starts playing adding a few squeaks and wrong notes to make sure Catherine doesn't feel bad.*

Catherine: It just needs a bit of work. Then—yeah!

Alexa: You're a natural, Livia.

*Catherine's face darkened.*

Livia: It was Catherine's awesome teaching. Thank you.

Catherine: You're welcome. Alexa's right. You were splendid!

*Livia grins.*

Alexa: Speaking of "splendid" the dance audition is on today.

Catherine: Today?

Alexa: Yeah, and we are all auditioning.

Livia: And I have to join a dance club.

Catherine: Auditions—do you have to get in?

Alexa: Mother wants us to. Look, we're basically adults. We can do anything.

Mother: Girls! Girls, we're leaving in half an hour. Get changed!

Alexa: C'mon let's go!

*All girls come out and grin. Start singing, Livia centre.*

Livia: This isn't a one man show,

I need my team,

My family will be there,

I have to get through,  
Because somebody said,  
That it's important,  
To blend in,  
Somebody said,  
It's important,  
To stand out,  
Catherine: I don't know what to do,  
Please, please, tell me what to do,  
Livia and Catherine together: I don't know what to do,  
Please, please tell me what to do,  
Catherine: I can't dance,  
As well as you can,  
I can't turn,  
I can't be the girl,  
That mother wants me to be,  
I have my own style,  
That resembles who I am,  
I want to be who I am,  
But that is something very different,  
To who I have to be.  
Alexa: I have to prove,  
Have to stand out,  
Have to mean it,  
Have to want it!  
Have to take the chance,  
Be the only one,  
With no confidence,  
I do,  
Want it,



I'll say,

It's true,

But when,

I'm broken,

Who is it that fixes me?

It's you!

Livia and Catherine: I don't know what to do,

Please, please tell me what to do,

Alexa, Livia and Catherine:

I don't know what to do,

Please, please tell me what to do.

Brittany: I love dance,

Dance with all my might,

I love song,

Feel it through my bones,

I can't tell,

What she wants of me,

I need help,

So let me star in the show.

Mother needs me,

It's hard enough being young,

When everyone has grown up,

And your younger sister,

Drives you nuts,

I need a break,

Got to shine,

Got to shine,

I need some help.

Roxane: I can bring it up,

I can show her,

I can tear her down,

Make me stronger,

Tell her,

Hate it,

Rock, rock, rock,

Rock hard!

Lavender: I wanna shine,

Let my colours show,

I wanna grow,

Grow, grow like my sisters,

Shine like the sun,

Tell me where I need to go!

Livia: I don't know what to do,

Everyone: Don't know what to do.

Livia: Please, please, tell me what to do.

Everyone: We don't know what to do,

Livia: I just wanna fit in,

Everyone: All we wanna do is shine!

Livia: But I don't! I don't want to be in the spotlight, I wanna be dancing in the clouds, no care about the world, don't care what they say, about me! But I want a friend, but, but, but I want a friend,

Everyone: But we wanna shine, but we wanna, wanna, shine

Livia: Things will work out, everything will be fine, just about, I need to show, everyone, that I'm more than my actions. I'll be fine, fine, fine, fine. I'll be fine, fine, fine, fine.

Alexa: It'll be fine.

Lavender: Let's do this!

Roxane: Bring our best.

Brittany: We can get in easy peasy!

Everyone *softly, looking up*: I'll be fine, fine, fine, yeah, I'll be fine, fine, fine.

*At the rehearsal.*

Madame Rosette: Everybody up! Yes, everybody to your feet.

Lavender: C'mon Livia, this is the chance to make mother proud.

Livia: I can't get in, I can't.

Lavender: You'll be great, Liv, great!

Livia: No, Lavender, I don't want to, but you'll get in for sure.

Lavender: But this is her dream! She'll accept you, Liv, she'll finally agree...

*Livia shakes her head. Lavender is shocked.*

Madame Rosette: Now, to the bar. Beautiful! No talking please girls.

*Teacher separates the girls. Skip to the audition.*

Madame Rosette: First up Marilla Vespa!

*Livia gasps.*

Livia: Marilla? Marilla?!

Madame Rosette: Beautiful! Spectacular darling. Wonderful. That's a high standard. Marilla has set the bar high!

*Looks at her clipboard.*

Madame Rosette: Evelyn Snow! Fantastic, dance with passion, with joy, yes! Perfecto! Lovely. Next, Cassie Green? Ah, yes, up to the stage please. Lovely, lovely.

*Skips through all the auditions then begins at Lavenders. She looks at Livia, hurt. Then dances her best ever, Catherine shuts her eyes.*

Madame Rosette: Lavender, thank you. Catherine Bell?

*Catherine walks towards the stage.*

Livia: Catherine, you'll do great. I believe in you. Do your style sis, do it your way, mums not here.

*Catherine smiles. She dances incredibly. Then it's Livia's go*

Everyone: Go Liv! Woohoo!

Livia: This isn't a one man show,

I need my team,

My family will be there,

I have to get through,

Because somebody said,

That it's important,

To blend in,

Somebody said,

It's important,

To stand out,

Livia: Or blend in, stand out, blend in, stand out—choose! Just choose, it’s my go, choose! *Looks at her family.* They need me. Blend in. I’ll blend in.

Lavender: Liv, shine, this is your moment, do it for us.

Livia: *murmurs* I’m doing this for you, accept me, please, please accept me...

*Livia dances as everyone watches her.*

Marilla: Some dance. More like a hedgehog in a tutu.

Evelyn: Yeah. She is a total let down. I can’t even see her; she’s so low!

Marilla: *Mutters to herself.* Just try and make the team, Livia Bell.

*Livia runs backstage again, standing next to her family.*

Lavender: Liv! Liv, what happened?

Brittany: You were so bad.

Livia: And, you were so good.

Alexa: Madame Rosetta will tell us who got in, she’s just deciding.

Catherine: She’s coming, fingers crossed girls!

Madame Rosette: Well, done, all of you. I have decided, be considerate about this, you were all magnifique!

Brittany: Come on, come on, say it!

Livia: This audition isn’t everything, Britt. There are other chances, right?

Brittany: Are you nuts? If we don’t get in, mother will be in pieces, which is why most of us danced our best.

Livia: Wait—mum, you’re saying she won’t accept it if we don’t get in?

Brittany: Yeah—now shh! She’s about to put the list up!!!

Madame Rosette: Here are the sheets, thank you again. Any questions, I’ll be in my office. Tell me before you go, once again, thank you girls.

*Everyone rushes to the sheets. Livia stays by herself.*

Livia: What if mum doesn’t accept me? What if, all my sisters get in, and not me, what if they get mad, then everything will be wasted—oh no, oh no...but if they get in, and they’re nice about it—I’m being nice—things will be fine—should I stop, should I try to shine—I want to! But this is better, friends, I, just for a little while. Maybe, maybe he was right, blend in. I can’t stand out—not if I want friends. No. I won’t stop. Its fine—they won’t all get in—will they?

*She ambles to the sheets and meets her sisters there.*

Alexa: Oh Livia, I’m so sorry.

Catherine: We could try again, tell Madame Rosette about your real talent—

Livia: You all got in?

Brittany: Yes. I told you, we all danced our best—except you.

Lavender: Shut up, Brittany. Liv, what happened?

Livia: I'm not a good dancer, you all are.

Roxanne: Let's stop this pathetic pity party, eh? Livia's fine, move on.

Lavender: She's not fine! Somethings wrong—Livia, you've changed, are you OK?

Livia: It's still me, Lavender.

Lavender: It's not. I liked the old Livia. The girl who I cared about, the girl who I loved. Who are you trying to be?

Livia: Lavender—stop! I'm me, OK? Please, this is the right thing.

*Lavender shakes her head and starts to go. Livia stays as the others start to sign out with Rosette.*

*Ahead of Livia. She can't hear.*

Rosalind: Will you quit it? There is no point, Lavender. Stop pestering her.

Lavender: Did you like Livia when she was a troublemaker?

*They stop walking.*

Rosalind: Lavender, that's, she's my sister, of course I—

Lavender: Rosalind! Be honest—did you? Not as a sister, as a child, did she annoy you? Did she?

Rosalind: Well, yes; she got on my nerves. I was doing my art project, and she faked her death, I mean, come on. And then you ran away!

Lavender: So, you didn't. She annoyed you.

*They start walking again.*

Rosalind: So, what? She's improved. Become nicer, quieter, more behaved.

Lavender: You like her now.

Rosalind: I don't get why you're freaking out. Do you know something, because if you do...

Lavender: No! I just, know that she's different. You like her because she's not even trying—she's not trying to be the best—she's not doing anything but complement you and our sisters!

Rosalind: That does make sense.

Lavender: Are you taking me seriously? Rosalind—she's changed, and she won't stop once she finds everyone likes her!

Rosalind: I am. But it's hard when you're shouting like you're crazy!

*She turns around.*

Rosalind: She's here. Look, if you really think it's wrong, and I don't, then look into it. But, maybe it's good for her. She needs to learn how to make friends. I feel like she's taking control over you. She might even have been using you. I think you just quit this crazy business and let the girl actually choose—you don't control her!

Livia: Hey, Lavender, we're getting ice-cream, and I'm getting a double scoop!

Rosalind: She sounds the same.

*Lavender gives her a look.*

Rosalind: And she said about the extra ice-cream, maybe she just wants people to like her.

*Lavender gives her another look.*

Rosalind: What! Why are you looking at me like that, Lavender, please!

Livia: Lavender, are you still—mad?

Lavender: Your different.

Livia: Fine, I am nicer, but that doesn't mean anything, I—

Lavender: It means everything, Livia! It means you are fake! Be yourself, please.

*Livia just stares at her sister, solemn.*

Lavender: Ok. *Lavender sadly sits down. Rosalind joins her.*

Livia: But, I didn't—did I do anything wrong?

Alexa: So, happy now, you were great,

Livia: Really?

Alexa: Okay, you were bad but, you're being a really great sport.

Catherine: How many scoops?

Livia: Two.

Alexa: Which ones?

Livia: *Slowly* Strawberry and Vanilla, those are the only flavours other than chocolate, which you can have this time, I don't want to steal it—but, we, why are you asking?

Alexa: Because,

Catherine: We're going to the shop on Mulberry Hill, the place where all the rich kids live!

Alexa: Hey!

Catherine: Sorry. Are you excited?

Livia: Really—why, and, they're expensive...

Roxanne: It's an ice-cream, Livia. Since when have you been fussy about ice-cream? You love it. And, chocolate, that's your like, fave flavour. Are you sick or something? Gone bananas?

Lavender: *to Rosalind.* See, she would have picked Chocolate in a minute.

Rosalind: Come on, Lavender, she's just being nice. I can't believe I said that.

Lavender: And, Roxanne just insulted her, the Livia I know would have been wound up in a second.

Rosalind: That's nuts, you are nuts.

Lavender: She wouldn't have worried about price either! Remember when she used mums credit card to buy a pack of biscuits mum banned?

Rosalind: Oh yeah. My nail broke and then father banned us from using nail varnish so I couldn't repaint it.

Lavender: Your worried about your nail?!

Alexa: Let's go, Liv. It'll be a treat.

Catherine: Hurry up, get over here, Lavender, Rosalind.

Lavender: Coming.

### Scene 8

Mum: Well, done, well done!

Livia: Everyone was awesome; they all deserved their acceptance.

Alexa: No, no, mum, we were fine. But nothing else, maybe, next year. *Smiles at Livia, kindly*

Catherine: Thanks for the support but,

Mum: You all got in—I am so proud.

Catherine: Mum, no,

Mum: Of course, I'm just so grateful that you all tried—and succeeded, your paths are set, I am assuming you all got in, right?

*The girls stared at each other*

Mum: Catherine, it was you, you didn't get in, I knew I should have booked ballet lessons...

*Catherine looks horrified.*

Livia: No, mum, Catherine got in!

Mum: Zip it, Livia.

Alexa: Mum, please!

Rosalind: I'm going to re-do my nails.

Mum: Sit, Rosalind, sweetie. I'm sure you got in, right darling?

Rosalind: Yeah. I did. Along with my other talented sisters.

*Lavender gives her a look.*

Mum: Yes, yes. Tell me, all about it.

Lavender: We need to rehearse, now.

Catherine: Yes, lets go girls.

Mum: Rehearse? Would Madame Rosette give you a piece that early?

Brittany: Watch us mum!

Roxanne: No, mums not going to watch us, it's for the secret performance, right Brittany?

Brittany: It'll be great, mum!

Mum: That's perfect. Yes, girls, show me. I'd love to see. You girls are fab. You're gonna become real dancers when your older!

Catherine: Perform? To you? Now?

Mum: Yes, Catherine, problem?

Brittany: No mum.

Roxanne: You little—*glares at Brittany*

Alexa: Oh mum! You're no good at secrets, or surprises, are you? We need to practice and then rest up for tomorrow.

Catherine: And isn't it the family brunch tomorrow? With Zain and Luka? Pre-wedding?

Mum: Oh lord! You're right, I need a card, flowers, SAM! *Frantically rushes out of the room.*

Lavender: Finally.

Catherine: Lavender, don't, *Lavender walks away* Lavender, come back, Lavender!

*Lavender goes*

Catherine: What's up with her?

Rosalind: The problem is you, Livia. *She goes to her room.*

Roxanne: You're dead, Brittany, what is wrong with you?!

Catherine: Roxanne!

*Everyone comes to Alexa*

Alexa: What is happening?

Brittany: Shall we practice?

*Roxanne glares at Brittany*

Alexa: Good idea.

Brittany: Can I have a solo?

Roxanne: Do you ever shut up?

Brittany: But can I?

Roxanne: Right, that's it. *Stomps to her room*

Brittany: Somebody's mad!

Catherine: Roxanne's right. You never shut up!



Alexa: Who's up for a quick dance practice?

Livia: Will everyone please stop talking about dance!

Catherine: Livia, wait, what is happening, Livia—

*Livia runs to her room*

Livia: I thought I'd be fine—Okay. I thought they wouldn't all get in. So, I wouldn't be the only one. Am I mischievous?

### Scene 9

Mum: Livia, wake up! Livia, LIVIA!

Catherine: Livia, will you wake up?! Mum's stressed and she's taking it out on us, get up!

*Livia comes out in her nightgown.*

Catherine: Finally, what kept you?

*They walk downstairs.*

Mum: Sam, you need to be cool, but also make sure everything's fine—don't put that there, are you listening? Get up, stop looking at your phone—

Dad: ALRIGHT, Maya. I get it! Will you leave me now and worry about something else? How about the children?

*She looks at the girls. They are shouting, arguing, etc.*

Alexa: Catherine, stop shouting at me! I was there!

Catherine: It just seems like you're ignoring it!

Alexa: I'm not, though, am I?!

Mum: Calm down!

Catherine: You are, Alexandra!

Alexa: Then why are you telling me, instead of doing something about it!

Catherine: Because I want you to do it—it's not my mess!

Mum: CALM DOWN!

*They stop arguing.*

Mum: Why are you standing here? Do something useful!

*She walks back to Dad. Livia emerges into the hall.*

Brittany: Is that what you're wearing?

Livia: Yes. I'm making an effort for his wedding.

Brittany: Is that what you call making an effort?

Livia: Yes?

Brittany: You're so ugly. That dress is as green as your skin. You look like the grass. And what is that? Is it— my necklace! You thief!

Livia: Britt, its mine, stop!

Brittany: *Grabs it and pulls hard.* Oops, its broken. Here, for your lame outfit. Livia, you are pathetic.

*Brittany saunters away, Livia stands leaning on the wall.*

Catherine: Hurry up! You can't wear that, Livia, it's broken, are you brainless or what?

*Livia doesn't move.*

Catherine: Change it!

*Livia runs into her room; she comes out frowning.*

Brittany: Look at you. Were you crying?

*Livia glares at her and punches.*

Brittany: Get off! Livia!

*She scratches her with her long nails.*

Alexa: Livia! Brittany! Enough! Go downstairs!

Livia: Why are you being so mean?!

Brittany: I'm just stating the facts.

Livia: Such as?

Brittany: Such as, I'm beautiful, your pathetic and a cry-baby. That frown really suits you.

*Laughs and struts away*

Mum: Livia, what are you doing in that dress?! It's creased for goodness' sake! Take it off,

*Dad calls*

Mum: I'm coming Sam! *Sigh.* Livia, I thought I bought you a dress, a nice one, I'll get it, *Dad calls again.* I'm coming! I bought all you girls a dress. *Walks to the stairs and grabs Roxanne's shoulders.* Roxanne, can you please get Livia's dress?

Roxanne: Dress?

Mum: It's pink, bright pink, and it comes with a bright pink gloves, lace, the skirt is netted and it's engraved with jewels and diamonds stud the edge. It's beautiful, truly magnificent.

Roxanne: Oh. That. *Chuckles*

Mum: Yes, chop, chop! And aren't you supposed to have a dress?

Roxanne: No, no, I'm wearing my jeans and red top.

Mum: Are you crazy? Roxanne, I'll get the dresses, and yours is black, a ballgown, elaborate designer clothes girls! Imagine.

Dad: Are you coming, Maya?!

Mum: Yes! Will you wait for five seconds while I grab their dresses?!

*Mum storms down to get the seven dresses and comes back up.*

Mum: Who does he think he is?!

Livia: Mum, is that my dress...

Mum: Yes, put it on, pronto, and then hand this one to Brittany. *Gives Livia her pink dress and Brittany's light blue dress.* Roxanne, your is here, give this one to Lavender *holds up a purple dress* and this to Alexa, this to Catherine and this to Rosalind and this one to—

Roxanne: *Rolls her eyes.* I got it mum.

Mum: Yes, ok. I'm coming, Sam! I've got to tend to your bloomin' father now.

*Roxanne raises her eyebrows and goes downstairs. Livia goes to her room and tries the dress on.*

Livia: It's—pink. Very, very pink. I can't go to my brothers in this! I'd rather wear a bin-bag!

*Comes out and knocks on Brittany's door*

Brittany: What?

*She comes out.*

Brittany: Oh, Livia, wow. Is that your dress? *Livia nods. Brittany bursts out laughing. She touches the gloves.* And your gloves, pink lace...Oh, my word. Oh, wow. Wow. It proves my theory. You are a total baby, Livia. Especially in that get-up, you are the official worst dress person in the world. You totally rock that pink dress though! *laughs.*

*Livia turns red. Brittany snatches her dress.*

Brittany: And I get the cool blue dress, silk, woah. It's like a stream at night...I love it! *Livia shakes her head in fury.* You can go now. Bye-bye! *Waves Livia away then cries.*

Livia: Oh, misty eye of the mountain below  
Keep careful watch of my brothers' souls  
And should the sky be filled with fire and smoke  
Keep watching over Durin's sons  
If this is to end in fire  
Then we should all burn together  
Watch the flames climb high into the night  
Calling out father oh  
Stand by and we will  
Watch the flames burn auburn on  
The mountain side (high)  
And if we should die tonight  
Then we should all die together  
Raise a glass of wine for the last time  
Calling out father oh  
Prepare as we will  
Watch the flames burn auburn on

The mountain side  
Desolation comes upon the sky  
Now I see fire  
Inside the mountain  
And I see fire  
Burning the trees  
And I see fire  
Hollowing souls  
And I see fire  
Blood in the breeze  
And I hope that you remember me  
Oh, should my people fall  
Then surely, I'll do the same  
Confined in mountain halls  
We got too close to the flame  
Calling out father oh  
Hold fast and we will  
Watch the flames burn auburn on  
The mountain side  
Desolation comes upon the sky  
Brittany: Now I see fire  
Inside the mountain  
And I see fire  
Burning the trees  
And I see fire  
Hollowing souls  
And I see fire  
Livia: Blood in the breeze  
And I hope that you remember me  
Brittany: And if the night is burning  
I will cover my eyes  
For if the dark returns  
Then my sisters will die  
And as the sky is falling down  
It crashed into this lonely town  
And with that shadow upon the ground  
I hear my people screaming out  
Livia and Brittany: Now I see fire  
Inside the mountains  
I see fire  
Burning the trees  
I see fire  
Hollowing souls  
I see fire  
Blood in the breeze  
I see fire  
Livia: Oh, you know I saw a city burning out (fire)  
Brittany: And I see fire  
Feel the heat upon my skin, yeah (fire)  
And I see fire (fire)  
Livia: And I see fire burn on and on the mountain side

Brittany: I see fire, my sisters call out, but I left them to die. All alone, I need to win. Come out on top. Be that girl that mother sees in me. That my sisters support, be that girl, and not hateful, but I want to win, be the best, want to win, I see fire, and it's my own dark soul.

**Scene 10**

Luka: Girls! Girls, my lovely ladies!

Zain: Those dresses, can I borrow them? Do you think I'd look nice? Yeah?

*They laugh. The boys sit down with mum and dad.*

Mum: Your wedding plan. I don't think she should be it. Have you seen the trouble she causes—and she's not careful at all!

Dad: Maya. They are adults now. You two have certainly grown up.

*They smile.*

Zain: Yes, we try. *Points at his outfit. Old trainers with a white shirt that has a stain and creased jeans.*

Luka: Mm. It's been hard, especially hard with the cost of living going up.

Mum: Well, at least you don't have—

Dad: Maya! Yes, we've been struggling too.

Zain: Hi girlies. Fancy a cocktail?

Mum: They don't have alcohol.

Zain: A mocktail then, OK?

Alexa: Zain, nice to see you.

Zain: Alexa! How's things been, mum break any vases recently?

Catherine: No. Hi Zain. Nice outfit.

Zain: Thanks. *Grins.* My two lovely ladies. Beautiful as ever.

*They take off their jackets revealing mum's dresses.*

Alexa: Still pretty?

Zain: You're blinding me with your beauty! *He mimes being blinded.*

Catherine: Mum bought them. Mine is "sunny yellow" hideous, pure evil.

Alexa: Mum called mine, "a dark blue sea, drowned in beauty." I know right.

Zain: Geez. We really need to visit more. *Sad.* You girls. I miss you.

Catherine: Us too.

Alexa: We had our fun.

*They smile at each other.*

Zain: Now, how about a mocktail, no alcohol, kindly reminded by Mrs Wine.

*He gestures to mum drinking glasses of wine.*

Zain: Rosie Posy! *He lifts Rosalind up making Catherine and Alexa smile.*

Rosalind: Get off! Zain. You were the troublemaker of the group.

Zain: And you were the cute one. I remember when you were a little tiddler. You bawled your little head off. Maybe you hadn't discovered make-up yet.

*The girls laugh again*

Luka: Actually, she had. Hi girls. Rosalind, you discovered make-up when you were several months old. I remember that story like it was yesterday.

Mum: We don't have that much time.

Zain: Here we go again.

Dad: Livia, stop creasing my jacket, it's my best and my favourite so hands off!

Zain: That sounds like our Livia!

Luka: Livia! How are you! *He looks at her dress.*

*Livia wipes her eyes and sits down next to Rosalind. Rosalind kicks her.*

Zain: Is mum being a pain? I can see the dress, pink.

Livia: Worse than the dress, worse than mum.

Zain: Worse than that piece of rubbish? Must be bad. Is it dad?

*Livia shakes her head.*

Luka: Come, we'll talk, Zain, you stay here. Mum, Dad, I'm just going to order some more Vimto, anyone fancy a cream-soda? Of course, you'd say that Zain. Yep, thanks. I'll be quick.

*He pulls Livia inside the restaurant.*

Luka: Now. Livia, hello. It's so great to see you. I was missing the mischief. Fancy a coke?

*Turns to the barman*

Luka: Two cokes please, one cream-soda, three peach mocktails, one wine, a cocktail, two mango mocktails and four lichee mocktails—thanks again.

*Turns back to Livia*

Luka: Geez. £3 for a coke? At this rate there won't be any money left for the actual brunch! Anyway, what's up? I don't see you much now, and I know you're the youngest, but now 11! How's the eleven plus?

Livia: Mums making me stay at Bumble Primary.

Luka: Is it *he makes a face*

*Livia nods*

Livia: They are so mean—they exclude me all the time, and I'm bottom of the class. When I try, everyone hates me, when I don't, they still take it out on me—I don't understand!

Luka: How's that black-haired girl with red lips—Marilla?

Livia: She's the meanest, her and Evelyn.

Luka: Silly. What else, at home, how is mum?

Livia: How do you think. She bought me this hideous dress. With matching gloves and knickers.

Luka: That's low. I imagine your sisters aren't showing you any mercy about it.

Livia: Brittany goes to no end at teasing me and making my life a misery. Especially with the dress. And Catherine and Alexa have been stressed—it's better now I'm not trying to be the best, but still bad.

Luka: Hm. *Grabs the drinks from the bar.* Thanks. Woah, look at these, Liv.

Livia: Should I help?

Luka: You save your strength; I've got my trusty carrier bag. You learn some tricks as you go along. *He puts the drinks in his bag and he and Livia walk out again.*

Luka: Tough. Wait—you said "now that you're not trying to be the best" what?

Livia: I, you'll think I'm crazy.

Luka: I won't. Promise.

Livia: Fine, Luka, I've, I've been having dreams. Dreams about these men, who, were with me in heaven and keep visiting me. Twice. They've visited twice. First a mean man, he told me to 'be like water' and I worked hard and improved my learning, that was an increase, but my, my friends decreased. Then the middle man—the assistant came and told me to blend in. I did, and my sisters are starting to accept me—up until the audition at the dance academy. They all made it—I didn't. I wanted to give them a chance, make sure they were happy, but Luke, I don't know if I'm happy.

Luka: Keep going.

Livia: This morning, everything was terrible, and now Lavender hates me. She wants old me back but, but, I can't.

Luka: Lavender? I thought you two were really close.

Livia: Not recently. I don't know what to do.

Luka: I think I get it now. *They sat arrived at their families table and sat down.* Your classmates and sisters, they didn't like you being the best you said, right? Yes. But when you didn't try at all and just was supportive to them, they were more open. Maybe, if you still tried, but not boasted when you get something right, carrying on being nice, they might be nicer.

Livia: Maybe. That makes sense. I just hope everything becomes better.

Luka: I think I know why Brittany has been hateful. I chose my bridesmaid a few days ago and mum must have told Britt. It wasn't her.

Livia: Mm. Brittany was very rude about my dress...can you tell me who the bridesmaid was, I won't tell Lavender, is it her? Please say.

Luka: You, Liv.

Livia: Me?

Luke: Yes, you.

Luke: It might seem crazy what I am 'bout to say  
Sunshine, she's here, you can take a break  
I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space  
With the air, like I don't care, baby by the way  
Huh

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Here come bad news talking this and that

Livia: (Yeah)

Luke: Well, give me all you got, don't hold back

Livia: (Yeah)

Luke: Well, I should probably warn you I'll be just fine

Livia: (Yeah)

Luke: No offense to you don't waste your time

Livia: You're not

Luke: Here's why

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Uh, bring me down

Livia: Can't nothing, bring me down

My level's too high to bring me down

Can't nothing, bring me down, I said

Bring me down, can't nothing

Bring me down

My level's too high to bring me down

Can't nothing, bring me down, I said

Luke: Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

Livia: (Because I'm happy)

Luke: Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Uh, bring me down





Catherine: Make sure it's not loud.

Brittany: Your drum solo is definitely loud. And that singing. Like nails on a chalkboard.

*Roxanne shoved Brittany and she landed on the ground, her skirt flaring up.*

Roxanne: Now that's what I call entertainment.

Brittany: You hateful pig!

*Livia comes on, not looking at her sisters or her parents.*

Livia: I, I, I have talents,

Roxanne: Here we go again.

Rosalind: Yeah, Livia, this is boring, jazz it up!

Catherine: Ssh.

Livia: But I haven't been using them.

Rosalind: That explains your dancing.

Livia: I have kindness, and in the past, I never gave a second thought to feelings.

Brittany: Hurry up.

Livia: And, yeah.

*Lavender looks at her and Livia feels in need to have her dear sister back.*

Livia: And, I am really, really sorry. I have been a different person lately, I have tried to make friends, but it didn't work. In the past, I was rude, arrogant and taunting. Now, I experienced the same feelings. Even then, someone believed in me, even then, someone trusted me. And I am ever so grateful for them. I am ever so grateful for all of you. And I am sorry, for the grief I caused you, for the annoyance and the pain. And I am sorry for being such a fake these few weeks.

*She looks at her sisters and they stare back.*

Livia: Thank you for your time. *Starts to leave.*

Catherine: Stop.

*Livia stops.*

Catherine: Livia, did you mean that?

Livia: Yes, I meant every word.

Catherine: Then, I forgive you. And Liv, I'm sorry too.

*Livia smiles. Catherine does too.*

Alexa: I forgive you. And I'm ever so sorry for everything we put you through.

*Livia sits down on a chair.*

Roxanne: I forgive you, Livia, now can I go to the band rehearsal!

*Rosalind looks at Lavender and keeps her mouth shut.*

Brittany: You were arrogant, and mean, and rude, and stupid—but I forgive you, anyway, I'm bored, shall we hurry this up?

*She nods at Livia. Livia nods back.*

Rosalind: Do you know how much drama was caused because of you? I don't know if I can forgive you.

Livia: I'm sorry. Truly.

Rosalind: Look, it'll take a while, but I respect the speech and being the youngest is not easy, I imagine, so, yeah. Livia, I forgive you.

*Livia smiles.*

Livia: Thanks.

*The mum and dad walk away. Livia looks at Lavender, tears in her eyes, begging.*

Livia: Lavender, please.

Lavender: What happened?

Livia: I, I wanted you guys to accept me. I wanted friends. But I took for granted the best friend I could ever have. You.

Lavender: Liv, *eyes brimming with tears.* I love you. I do, for the longest time you have been a troublemaker, then when you tried to, become someone else, I felt a part of me disappear. I felt you were leaving me.

Livia: Lavender, I would never,

Lavender: I know. I know now. Livia, I forgive you. Will you forgive me?

Livia: *Sniffles as her face lights up.* Yes! *Hugs her sister.* I love you, Lavender, I love you, all of you, I do, I do.

Alexa: Have you ever felt like nobody was there?

Catherine: Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?

Alexa: Have you ever felt like you could disappear?

Catherine: Like you could fall, and no one would hear?

Together: Well, let that lonely feeling wash away  
Maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay  
'Cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand

You can reach, reach out your hand

And oh, someone will come running

And I know, they'll take you home

Even when the dark comes crashing through

When you need a friend to carry you

And when you're broken on the ground

You will be found

Rosalind: So, let the sun come streaming in

'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again

Lift your head and look around

You will be found

Alexa, Catherine and Rosalind: You will be found

Lavender: You will be found

You will be found  
You will be found  
There's a place where we don't have to feel unknown  
And every time that you call out  
You're a little less alone  
If you only say the word  
From across the silence your voice is heard  
Catherine and Alexa: Even when the dark comes crashing through  
When you need a friend to carry you  
When you're broken on the ground  
You will be found  
Lavender: So, let the sun come streaming in  
'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again  
Rosalind: If you only look around  
Catherine and Alexa: You will be found  
*Everyone keeps singing whilst Roxanne talks*  
Roxanne: I hate soppy songs. And this song is soppy.  
Lavender and Rosalind: You will be found  
Catherine and Alexa: You will be found  
Lavender and Rosalind: Together: You will be found  
*Catherine, Alexa, Lavender and Rosalind together for all the 'you are not alone' but the ones who come in are louder*  
*They circle Livia, smiling*  
Together: You are not alone  
Roxanne: You are not alone  
Brittany: You are not alone  
Everyone: You are not alone  
You are not alone  
You are not  
Lavender: You are not alone  
Lavender: Even when the dark comes crashin' through  
When you need someone to carry you  
When you're broken on the ground  
You will be found!  
Catherine: So, when the sun comes streaming in  
'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again  
Lavender: If you only look around  
Everyone: You will be found  
You will be found  
You will be found  
You will be found!  
You will be found  
Livia: I am found, I am found, I am found...

**Scene 12**

*Chatter amongst guests and the Bells at Luka's wedding*

Catherine: I can't believe he's getting married. After all these years.

Alexa: It's so magical.

Brittany: I just want it to start!

Rosalind: It will start in a few minutes. Very, very soon.

*Lavender rushes in*

Lavender: Livia's up there!

Catherine: Where?

Lavender: Back stage, she's going to come on soon though!

Alexa: How's Roxanne?

Lavender: She's great, just preparing the drum kit and getting all miked up.

Rosalind: She's actually playing the drums for his wedding? Cool.

Zain: Hey girls, we're moving to the front, wanna join?

*They move to the front row*

Zain: It's starting in a few seconds. I'm so proud of Luka. Geesh, I'm about to trigger waterworks!

Lavender: We haven't met his bride. What's she like?

Zain: Beautiful, she's like walking into a palace made of flowers, you'll love her, don't worry. Oh! He's starting...

*All watch the stage*

Priest: Thank you everyone for coming! We are here today to offer our support and blessings to Luka Bell and Yasmina Amira.

Lavender: *To Zain* Aren't you supposed to be his best man?

Zain: Yes! Oh gosh, I need to go! Yep, thanks Lavender!

*He runs to where Luka is.*

Luka: There you are, come on...

*Luke comes on smartly, with Zain following. Livia skips on in a green dress and curtsies in front of Luka. Then everyone turns to Yasmina who comes with bridesmaids. She walks up to the stage. Livia curtsies next to her too. Then she pulls out the rings.*

Priest: Repeat after me, "I Luka Bell,"

Luka: I Luka Bell,

Priest: "Promise to love and care for Yasmina Amira,"

Luka: Promise to love and care for Yasmina Amira

Priest: "Through good and bad,"

Luka: Through good and bad,

Priest: "For better and for worse,"

Luka: For better and for worse,

Priest: Do you promise?

Luka: I do.

*Cheers and claps*

Priest: Same for you, Yasmina. Repeat after me. "I Yasmina Amira,"

Yasmina: I Yasmina Amira,

Priest: "Promise to love and care for Luka Bell,"

Yasmina: Promise to love and care for Luka Bell,

Priest: "Through good and bad,"

Yasmina: Through good and bad,

Priest: "For better and for worse,"

Yasmina: For better and for worse,

Priest: Do you promise?

Yasmina: I do.

*Applause and cheers. Livia gives a ring to both the bride and groom. They put it over their partners finger and then kiss.*

Priest: Beautiful, darlings. Speech?

Luka: Yes. Yasmina, I know you can dance, in fact, I'd call you, "the dancing queen." I'll tell the story about how we first met—Hit it!

*Music starts playing.*

Luka: Ooh

You can dance

You can jive

Having the time of your life

Ooh, see that girl

Watch that scene

Digging the dancing queen

Friday night and the lights are low

Looking out for a place to go

Where they play the right music

Getting in the swing

You come to look for a king

Anybody could be that guy

(Say it's I,)

Night is young and the music's high

With a bit of rock music

Everything is fine

You're in the mood for a dance  
And when you get the chance  
You are the dancing queen  
Young and sweet  
Only 23  
Dancing queen  
Feel the beat from the tambourine, oh yeah  
You can dance  
You can jive  
Having the time of your life  
Ooh, see that girl  
Watch that scene  
Digging the dancing queen  
You're a teaser, you turn 'em on  
Leave 'em burning and then you're gone  
Looking out for another  
Anyone will do  
You're in the mood for a dance  
And when you get the chance  
You are the dancing queen  
Young and sweet  
Only twenty-three  
Dancing queen  
Feel the beat from the tambourine, oh yeah  
You can dance  
You can jive  
Having the time of your life  
Ooh, see that girl  
Watch that scene  
Digging the dancing queen  
Digging the dancing queen

Luka: Thank you, Yasmina, for bringing me the beat and casting yourself, "the dancing queen."

Yasmina: Oh Luka! I really am the luckiest girl in the world.

Luka: Then dance with me: I found a love, for me  
Darling, just dive right in and follow my lead  
Well, I found a girl, beautiful and sweet  
Oh, I never knew you were the someone waiting for me

'Cause we were just kids when we fell in love  
Not knowing what it was  
I will not give you up this time  
But darling, just kiss me slow  
Your heart is all I own  
And in your eyes, you're holding mine  
Baby, I'm dancing in the dark  
With you between my arms  
Barefoot on the grass  
Listening to our favourite song  
When you said you looked a mess

I whispered underneath my breath  
But you heard it  
Darling, you look perfect tonight  
Well, I found a woman, stronger than anyone I know  
She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share her home  
I found a lover, to carry more than just my secrets  
To carry love, to carry children of our own  
We are still kids, but we're so in love  
Fighting against all odds  
I know we'll be alright this time  
Darling, just hold my hand  
Be my girl, I'll be your man  
I see my future in your eyes  
Baby, I'm dancing in the dark  
With you between my arms  
Barefoot on the grass  
Listening to our favourite song  
When I saw you in that dress, looking so beautiful  
I don't deserve this  
Darling, you look perfect tonight  
Baby, I'm dancing in the dark  
With you between my arms  
Barefoot on the grass  
Listening to our favourite song  
I have faith in what I see  
Now I know I have met an angel in person  
And she looks perfect  
I don't deserve this  
You look perfect tonight

Luka: Darling you look perfect tonight...I love you.

Yasmina: Me too.

*Cheers and aww's*

Priest: Help yourself to the drinks, and thank you once more!

*Back to the Bells*

Catherine: Livia, you were fab!

Livia: Thanks.

Alexa: You were, honestly. So were you, Roxanne, playing the backing tracks, great.

Brittany: Yasmina is so pretty; I wonder if she'll let me borrow her perfume?

Roxanne: Daft. I doubt she'll let someone like you anywhere near her treatments.

Alexa: You two!

*Luka comes up to them. They hug him*

Luka: How did I do? Oh, well, I guess I have the answer.

Rosalind: That singing! Blew me away.

Brittany: Same, "perfect" led me to tears.



Luka: Well, she is perfect. And so are you, Britt. Thanks girls.

Livia: Luka, thanks. It worked. *Luka winks.*

Luka: I knew it would. Melted their hearts I'm guessing.

Livia: You guessed correctly.

Catherine: So, how does it feel? To be married, I mean.

Luka: It's like, a dream, Catherine, I'm over the moon. And girls, I'll visit more often, I promise, yes Britt, with Yasmina. We're getting a little spaniel, I'll bring him as well—you'll visit too, right?

Alexa: Of course, we will.

Rosalind: Do you live with her now?

Luka: With Yasmina? Not yet, I'm still living with Zain, but she visits often, and now, probably. We're thinking about it.

Livia: Are you happy?

Luka: Yes. I'm very happy. The happiest.

*They smile*

Luka: Anyway, the dancefloor has opened up, fancy a dance?

*They follow him onto the dancefloor*

Luka: It's just like old times.

Catherine: We miss you, Luka.

Alexa: A lot.

Luka: I know you two lovely ladies will hold up the family. You'll be great and I'll visit, often.

Roxanne: I'm not dancing.

Brittany: I am! Dance with me!

*Luka twirls Brittany around*

Zain: I don't know what I'm gonna do without my brother and my little ladies.

Catherine: We're not that little any more. Only five years between us.

Zain: I'll always think of you as my little sisters, at least that won't change.

Livia: But everything's changing.

Zain: Except our love. We'll always love you, forever. Let's dance!

Zain: They say oh my God I see the way you shine  
Take your hand, my dear, and place them both in mine  
You know you stopped me dead while I was passing by  
And now I beg to see you dance just one more time  
Ooh I see you, see you, see you every time  
And oh my I, I, I like your style

You, you make me, make me, make me wanna cry  
And now I beg to see you dance just one more time  
So, they say

Dance for me, dance for me, dance for me, oh, oh, oh  
I've never seen anybody do the things you do before  
They say move for me, move for me, move for me, ay, ay, ay  
And when you're done, I'll make you do it all again

I said oh my gosh I see you walking by  
Girls: Take my hands, my dear, and look me in my eyes  
Just like a monkey I've been dancing my whole life  
But you just beg to see me dance just one more time

Luka: Ooh I see you, see you, see you every time  
Zain: And oh, my I, I like your style  
Luka: You, you make me, make me, make me wanna cry  
And now I beg to see you dance just one more time

Girls: So, they say  
Zain: Dance for me, dance for me, dance for me, oh, oh, oh  
I've never seen anybody do the things you do before  
They say move for me, move for me, move for me, ay, ay, ay  
And when you're done, I'll make you do it all again

Girls: Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, Woah-oh, woah-oh, woah-oh, ah, ah, ah  
Zain: Let's dance my little monkeys!

*Everyone dances. Enter mum and dad*

Mum: I don't get why she did it, I was counting on Rosalind, or even Brittany! But Livia's too young.

Dad: I agree. I don't get those boys.

Mum: Our sons, Sam, and I am so proud of them for building a life. It's hard. Until I met you.

Dad: Maya, look... *points at Livia and the others dancing*

Mum: She's, she's dancing...and so are the others, they, wow...

Dad: Livia, girls, Zain, Luka, what's going on?

Luka: We're dancing. I love hanging out with the girls, they are so well behaved, you must have been a good influence on them.

Zain: Want to join us?

Dad: Shall we—

Mum: Oh yeah!

*Mum starts dancing*

Mum: You know I'm so proud of each and every one of you. You know that right?

Catherine: Yeah mum, we know.

Livia: And mum, I didn't get in to the dance academy, I'm so sorry. I didn't want you to be disappointed.

Mum: Oh sweetie, don't think that, I'm proud that you tried. You're becoming one heck of a girl, Liv, a wonderful daughter and I wouldn't be mad for the world that you didn't get into that academy. Madame Rosette is crazy not to have you there, but who am I to complain! Sam, get over here!

Dad: Oh, whatever. *Goes up to the boys.* I'm happy that you're enjoying life.

Luka: We are, really happy, Dad. Thanks for putting up with us.

Dad: I loved it, my sons, I have sons who are storming through life taking advantage of the opportunity's, I'm happy, boys, I'm happy!

*The boys grin*

Zain: We are too. Happy to have you.

Luka: Can we visit sometime?

Zain: That'll be ace.

Dad: Of course! You are welcome to come round anytime, boys. You're a good influence on our girls. Anyway, what are we waiting for? Let's dance!

*They start dancing, everyone happy*

Livia: This is the best night ever!

Catherine: I agree, totally awesome.

Livia: I wish it could last forever.

### Scene 13

Man one: I think, by what you've told me, you have learnt your lesson.

Man two: I think we can now say you've been pardoned.

Man three: Well, done, you can go home.

Livia: Home? Wait—home?

Man one: Yes. Where you can choose. Your life can go from here as anything. Now, I'll ask you the question, what do you want to be? What is your purpose?

Livia: I, I don't know...

Man three: It will help us decide where you go next.

Livia: I, I don't want to—

Man two: Answer!

Livia: I don't want to be someone else—I want to be me.

Man two: She wants to be herself. How imaginative.

Man three: No, little girl, what do you want to be?

Man one: Ssh. Let her answer.

Livia: I want to go back to the Bell's. I want a family. I have friends.

Man three: She wants to go back? But sir, that's, that's impossible—she can't do that! We brought her out, I, I crashed the system, she remembers, Livia can't go back!

Man one: Be quiet.

Man two: She wants to go back? That's not happening.

Livia: Wait—what?!

Man one: Livia. We broke down the system when we called you back. You can't go home again. You can start a new life with a family who will know your needs.

Livia: No! No, I want to go back—please...

Man one: Do you really want it? Is that your one desire?

Livia: Yes, please.

Man one: Then we'll get you back. But you should know, it is your last chance. Once your back, you will never have another chance.

Man three: That's impossible—she can't—

Livia: I don't care. It's my biggest desire. I would do anything to get back. I love them, and they love me.

Man two: This is too sappy for my liking. Sounds like a storybook ending.

Man one: Will you both *looks at man two and three* shut up?!

*They are quiet.*

Man one: Now, wish it, will it to happen. If it is your greatest desire you will return, if not—you will be trapped here for eternity. You are taking a risk.

Livia: It is a risk worth taking.

Man one: Then for your sake, I hope we never see each other again.

Livia: Thank you, thank you.

*Livia closes her eyes and returns, awake in bed.*

Livia: You know I want you  
It's not a secret I try to hide  
I know you want me  
So don't keep sayin' our hands are tied  
You claim it's not in the cards  
And fate is pullin' you miles away  
And out of reach from me  
But you're here in my heart  
So who can stop me if I decide  
That you're my destiny?  
What if we rewrite the stars?  
Say you were made to be mine  
Nothing could keep us apart  
You'd be the family I was meant to find  
It's up to you, and it's up to me  
No one can say what we get to be  
So why don't we rewrite the stars?  
Maybe the world could be ours  
Tonight

Mum: Livia, wake up!

Livia: Oh, here we go again!

Livia: Mamma Mia, here I go again

My, my, how can I resist you?

Mamma Mia, does it show again

My, my, just how much I've missed you?

Yes, I've been broken-hearted

Blue since the day we parted

Why, why did I ever let you go?

Mamma Mia, now I really know

My, my, I could never let you go

Livia: *To mum* I'm coming! *To herself* I will never take our family for granted ever again.

*Off stage* Man two: It's a fairy-tale ending—UGH. Let's spice this up!

Mum: Livia! Livia what have you done?! The washing's ruined, your sisters are in a state and your fathers out to pay the bill you caused with that party!

Livia: Maybe I'll just stay here...

Mamma Mia, here I go again

My, my, how can I resist you?

Mamma Mia, does it show again

My, my, just how much I've missed you?

Yes, I've been broken-hearted

Blue since the day we parted

Why, why did I ever let you go?

Mamma Mia, now I really know

My, my, I could never let you go

I've been angry and sad about things that you do

I can't count all the times that I've told you we're through

And when you go, when you slam the door

I think you know that you won't be away too long

You know that I'm not that strong

and I can hear a bell ring

(One more look) and I forget everything, whoa

Mamma Mia, here I go again

My, my, how can I resist you?

Mamma Mia, does it show again

My, my, just how much I've missed you?

Yes, I've been broken-hearted

Blue since the day we parted

Why, why did I ever let you go?

Mamma Mia, even if I say

Bye-bye, leave me now or never

Mamma Mia, it's a game we play

Bye-bye doesn't mean forever

Mamma Mia, here I go again  
My, my, how can I resist you?  
Mamma Mia, does it show again  
My, my, just how much I've missed you?  
Yes, I've been broken-hearted  
Blue since the day we parted  
Why, why did I ever let you go?  
Mamma Mia, now I really know  
My, my, I could never let you go  
**THE END**