Anti-Social

By Don Zolidis

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Full-Length Comedy
10-20 actors

This collection of seven short plays explores the many facets and platforms of social media. From Instagram to Facebook, and even a #throwback to the days when MySpace was cool, Anti-Social pokes fun at the "social" in social media.

1. Parental Oversight

2. The Price of Youtube Fame

3. Trollz

4. Viral/Rival

5. Pinterest is Totally Not Making You Ashamed of Your Life

6. Followers

7. The Last Living MySpace User

This play can be performed as a one-act or as a full-length play. For the one-act version, just perform 4 pieces in any order. For the full-length, include the next three.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Just about every character can be played by an actor of any gender. Adjust pronouns accordingly.

1. Parental Oversight

MOM
DAD
ALLIA
MAGDA

2. The Price of Youtube Fame

TONI
DRAKE
JAMISON
MOM *(off-stage)*

3. Trollz

ASHLEY
KERRY
BOBO
MONDO

4. Viral/Rival

AUSTIN
BRENT
AMELIA
BOSS
WORKERS

5. Pinterest is Totally Not Making You Ashamed of Your Life

HUNTER
KYLI
MCQUAID
ROBINSON

6. Followers

ASHLEY
BAILEY
FOLLOWERS

7. The Last Living MySpace User

TOM
KATHY
JANITOR
FIGURES

Antisocial was first performed at YES Preparatory school on April 15th, 2018. It was directed by Anthony Lane and the original cast was as follows:

Parental Oversight:

Mom	Mara Marin
Dad	Hector Estrada
Allia	Heidi Alanis
Magda	Jennifer Lopez

The Price of YouTube Fame

Toni	Mario Medrano
Drake	Carlos Mendez
Jamison	David Zamarripa
Mom	David Zamarripa

Trollz

Maggie	Nathalie Sanchez
Kerry	Brisa Medrano
Bobo	Reyna Torres
Mondo	Samantha Adams

Viral/Rival

Austin	Leon Godinez
Brent	Jesus Jimenez
Amelia	Jaelys Gonzalez
Boss	Daira Gonzalez

Pinterest is Totally Not Making You Ashamed of Your Life

Kylie	Sonique Villagomez
Hunter	Roberto Jimenez
McQuaid	Angelica DeLeon
Robinson	Stephanie Lopez

Followers

Bailey	Diana Galvan
Ashley	Wendy Castillo

The Last Living Myspace User

Tom	Marco Tello
Kathy	Kimberly Jimenez
Janitor	Sarai Hernandez

Parental Oversight

MOM
DAD
ALLIA
MAGDA

(A living room.)

(MOM and DAD are looking at their phones.)

MOM

Oh. Oh no.

DAD

Oh this is terrible.

MOM

I know. They're only getting worse.

(ALLIA enters, heading past)

DAD

Hold on there young lady.

ALLIA

I'm super busy so –

MOM

Not this time. You come here.

ALLIA

What?

MOM

We need to talk about this Instagram post.

ALLIA

That's private.

MOM

This is for your own good, sweetheart.

ALLIA

Can you just email your concerns to me?

DAD

No we cannot! Sit down, young lady.

MOM

As you know, your father and I are monitoring your posts on social media.

ALLIA

I know.

MOM

And then we find this.

(she takes out her phone)

Hold on I'm scrolling. `Breakfast today: Lucky Charms and OJ.'

(DAD gets up and wanders about as if struck in the head)

DAD

What the heck is that?! No!!!

MOM

Charles. Please.

DAD

I can't even!

MOM

Honey, we said we were going to present a united front.

(MOM puts calming hands on DAD's shoulders.)

DAD

Okay. You're right.

MOM

We still love her.

(DAD fights it.)

Charles? We love our daughter. Right? We love our daughter.

DAD

I guess.

ALLIA

What's wrong with Lucky Charms and OJ?

DAD

Are you serious right now?! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!

MOM *(holding him back)*

Whoah!

DAD

HOW DO YOU NOT KNOW?!

MOM

I think it's time for you to watch the video of the floof doggo again. Honey? Floof doggo.
(She puts her phone in DAD's face and calls up a floof dog video.)

DAD

He's so beautiful.

ALLIA

What's all this about?
(MOM sits down with ALLIA while DAD looks at the video and wipes away tears.)

MOM

Sweetheart, you took a picture of your breakfast and posted it on your Instagram.

ALLIA

Yeah?

MOM

And you can't see what's wrong with that.

ALLIA

No. It was what I had for breakfast.

MOM

How many likes did you get?

ALLIA

I just posted it this morning.

MOM

How many likes.

ALLIA

I don't know –

MOM

HOW MANY LIKES, ALLIA?!
(she shakes her phone in ALLIA's face.)
NONE! ZERO. BECAUSE THAT WAS A BORING PHOTO.

ALLIA

IT WAS WHAT I ATE!

MOM

NO ONE CARES! I thought we raised you better than this. I thought you knew what would make a post on Instagram and what wouldn't. You know what I think – when I see a stupid photo of orange juice and cereal! I mean look at this. Look at the lighting on this, the angle, there's no composition, there's no sense of structure, it's A STUPID PHOTO OF BREAKFAST. When I see this I think – I have failed as a parent.

ALLIA

You haven't failed!

MOM

YOU TOOK A PHOTO OF JUICE YOU IGNORANT CHILD!

ALLIA

And cereal! There was cereal too!

MOM

NOBODY LIKED IT. Your own parents didn't even like it!

ALLIA

But that's you! You control that!

MOM

I'm not gonna like every stupid picture you put on Instagram! I have standards!

DAD

What your mother and I are trying to say is – you are terrible at Instagram.

ALLIA

That was one photo!

MOM

Oh honey – this is a symptom right here.

DAD

There was the photo of the sidewalk you posted. The photo of your shoes. You take a selfie every day of your outfit – like who cares? I don't care. I'm your father and I don't even care. You're not even wearing anything cute.

MOM

You have thirty-two followers, honey. That's not normal.

DAD

And half of them are probably Russian bots.

ALLIA

I don't judge myself by my followers!

DAD

But we do. And we have certain expectations in this family – and all of them involve you becoming internet famous.

MOM

You haven't even gone viral once. Why is that?

DAD

You know the Hendersons? Their daughter went viral with an inspirational tweet about Wonder Woman.

MOM

That tweet was amazing. It changed my life. I am a warrior now.

DAD

I know you are.

MOM

I don't need your validation anymore, Charles. And where are your inspirational tweets?

ALLIA

I'm focusing on Instagram!

DAD

Well I have looked at your Instagram and I am not inspired by you at all. One bit!

ALLIA

Instagram isn't supposed to be inspiring!

MOM

Did you just say that?!

DAD

THIS BREAKFAST PHOTO IS CRAP AND YOU NEED TO GET BETTER.

ALLIA

I'll do better I promise!

MOM

It's too late for that. Do you want to end up like your brother?

DAD

Let's not speak of him.

MOM

He only had nineteen followers.

DAD

No son of mine has only nineteen followers. He's dead to us. I unfollowed him.

MOM

So we have made a decision –
(MOM and DAD hold hands in solidarity)
And this wasn't easy for us -

DAD

Because I hate spending money on you –

MOM

Charles.

DAD

I mean I love you. And this means that we admit that we've failed –

MOM

We've hired an Instagram coach for you.
(MAGDA enters. She wears extreme makeup, maybe tall high heels – she looks striking.)
This Is Magda. She's from somewhere in Eastern Europe so you know she's cool.

MAGDA

I am Magda. Look at me.

ALLIA

I don't even need an Instagram coach!

MAGDA

I have looked at all your photos. And I have liked… NOTHING!

ALLIA

Mom –

MOM

This is for your own good, honey.

DAD

Listen to the nice lady.

MAGDA

I am not here to be babysitter. I am here to make your Instagram amazing. Up. Get up.

ALLIA

I don't want to get up!

MAGDA

I SAID UP!
(ALLIA jumps up.)
Take out phone.
(ALLIA takes out her phone.)
Good. Yes.

MOM

I love that obedience.

MAGDA

QUIET!

MOM

Yes, Ma'am.

MAGDA

I want you to take selfie for me.
(ALLIA takes a selfie.)
What is that.

ALLIA

A selfie?

MAGDA

What is face you made?

ALLIA

My selfie face?

MAGDA

Shut up. Do it again. Better face.

ALLIA

How do I make a better face?

MAGDA

BY MAKING BETTER FACE!

(ALLIA takes a selfie with a different face.)

NO.

ALLIA

You have a really difficult accent –

MAGDA

AGAIN.

(ALLIA takes another selfie. She turns to look at it.)

You look at it again I slap phone out of your hand.

ALLIA

But how do I know if it's good if –

MAGDA

You feel it with heart not with eyes.

ALLIA

But –

MAGDA

Selfie again!

(ALLIA takes another selfie. As MAGDA shouts at her ALLIA takes more selfies.)

Selfie! Selfie! Selfie! Selfie! Selfie!

(ALLIA's exhausted.)

Give me phone.

(MAGDA scrolls through the photos.)

Crap. Crap. Crap. Crap. Crap…

(short pause)

Crap. Your face is disappointing.

ALLIA

But I don't –

MAGDA

Watch.

(MAGDA takes a brilliant selfie.)

ALLIA

Wow.

MAGDA

Yes. Wow yes.

DAD

I love that. I love what she just did. That was an inspiring face.

MOM

Shhh!

MAGDA

Now we post my photo.

(She posts it. Everyone waits.)

(BLOOP. A noise come in.)

(DAD and MOM burst in excitement and clap.)

DAD

YESSS!

MOM

Someone shared it! Oh my gosh this is a dream come true!

ALLIA

It's her photo, Mom!

MOM

But honey, you're getting actual likes on your Instagram.

ALLIA

Of a selfie of her!

(Another BLOOP.)

DAD

Wooooo!

(MOM and DAD high-five.)

MAGDA

You see?

ALLIA

That's ridiculous! Pictures of you get more likes than pictures of me!

(Another BLOOP)

DAD

Someone commented!

MOM

It's a miracle! We're great parents now!

ALLIA

No you're not!

MAGDA

Shhh! With your face maybe selfies are not for you.

ALLIA

What –

MAGDA

Shhhh. Quiet little bird. I want you to feel emotion.

ALLIA

Right now I'm feeling anger.

MAGDA

Good. Yes. Listen to it. Focus on hatred. What do you hate?
(Another BLOOP)

MOM

Ooooh.

DAD

Sweeet.
(ALLIA takes her phone – takes a photo of her parents.)

MAGDA

Yes.

MOM

What are you doing?

MAGDA

If you light them from below they look more disgusting.

ALLIA

Ooh.
(ALLIA takes a photo from a lower angle.)

DAD

Hey now.

MAGDA

Look at their old faces. So stupid old faces.

Skipping Forward

The Price of Youtube Fame

TONI
DRAKE
JAMISON
MOM *(off-stage)*

(Lights up on TONI, with an Ipad.)

MOM *(off-stage)*
Toni are you doing your homework?

TONI *(yelling)*
I'm doing it!

MOM *(off-stage)*
I know when you're lying!

TONI *(off-stage)*
I'm not lying I'm doing my homework leave me alone!
(short pause)

MOM *(off-stage, yelling)*
I feel there's a fifty percent chance you're lying!

TONI *(off-stage)*
Stop yelling at me!
(TONI takes out her Ipad.)

MOM *(off-stage, yelling)*
I only yell because you lie!

TONI
All right let's see what my favorite Youtubers are up to today –
(Lights up on DRAKE elsewhere on stage.)

DRAKE
What up! This is Drake comin' at you from my new MAN-SHUN!
(He waves around at his mansion, which we can't see.)
Real Talk: Five point five million dollars. Your boy went on a SPENDING SPREE! Check out my MAN BUS!
(He points to his MAN BUS)
The best part is the hydraulics! YES! With me as always is my sweet sweet little brother Jamison, who is on loan from his school today.
(JAMISON appears, looking ashamed.)

JAMSION

Hey.

DRAKE *(rubbing JAMISON's head)*
JAMISON! YES! AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCHOOL?!

JAMISON

Yes. You keep calling and saying that we have a family emergency.

DRAKE

BOOM! Big brother coming for ya! You are saved!

JAMISON

There was actually a discussion on 1984 that I wanted to participate in.

DRAKE

1984 was lit!

JAMISON

Literature, yes. It's a book.

DRAKE

I mean the year. Reading is for suckers. I read something once, and I did not like it. And now look at me: WOOO! Let's take the tour of the new house!

JAMISON

Can I actually go home?

DRAKE

Check out this carpet, y'all! IT IS FUZZY. I love me some fuzzy carpet! It's like an animal came into my house like `oh this place looks nice' and then he DIED! And now we walk on him.
(he walks on the carpet and makes little noises like the animal is dying)
Ah! Ah! Ah!

JAMISON

So is there a family emergency?

DRAKE

There is. And it is related to this –
(He takes out a taser)
This is a police grade taser, bro. POLICE GRADE.

JAMISON

I don't like this.

DRAKE

You're going to like it less when I tell you what it's for. But before I tell you what it's for I want to remind y'all out there to subscribe to my channel. Do it. DO IT NOW. OR YOU ARE DEAD TO ME.

JAMISON

I can't believe you get paid to do this.

DRAKE

I get paid so much, bro. That's why I can afford this 5.5 million dollar MAN-shun. WHAT! I am 21 years old, y'all. I make so much more money than your parents! BOOM!

JAMISON

I'm planning on going to college.

DRAKE

Bad idea, bro. College is where they put stuff INSIDE YOUR MIND. And it so much better not to have that stuff. FIST BUMP. All right. Are you ready for the plan today?

JAMISON

Um…

DRAKE

But first I want to remind y'all out there that I have a new clothing line that is dropping this fall – you can get it online – and it is so lit – There's shorts and there are like shirts and YES. You can look just like me. IF YOU ARE MAN ENOUGH. Or woman enough. We don't have ladies' clothes yet but I make no judgments. Wear dude's clothes if you want. You will probably feel better about yourself. If you have low self-esteem. Which is the worst, bro. I want to say something inspirational right now: This is from my heart.

(He taps on his heart)

Believe in yourself.

JAMISON

That's it?

DRAKE

That is it. That is my message for the kids. Believe. In. Yoself. Or just give up. That works too. Deep moment OVERRRRR. Are you ready for the plan?

JAMISON

Not really, but I guess.

(DRAKE puts his hand on JAMISON's shoulder.)

DRAKE

First thing we're gonna do: I'm gonna tase you.
(JAMISON skitters away)

JAMISON
What?! No way!

DRAKE
Hear me out!

JAMISON
I'm not doing this!

DRAKE
What is wrong with you, bro?

JAMISON
What is wrong with you?

DRAKE
You won't even listen to my plan!

JAMISON
The first part involves you tasing me!

DRAKE
That's the only the FIRST part! There's a SECOND part!

JAMISON
I don't want to hear it!

DRAKE
The second is: you get to tase me. And then we go back and forth.

JAMISON
Until when?!

DRAKE
Until one of us can't do it anymore. It's simple. Simplicity is genius. Gandhi said that.

JAMISON
Gandhi did not say that.

DRAKE
I am a Gandhi expert, bro. He also said, check out that booty.

JAMISON

He did not – that is not – that is not something Gandhi would say.

DRAKE

You don't know. He coulda said that. Just because it's not in your so-called "books" don't mean it's not truth. Gandhi also said that. Word.

JAMISON

There is so much wrong with you.

DRAKE

If that was true, why would I have a MAN-shun worth 5.5 million dollars? Huh? I own a helicopter. Do you own a helicopter? Do you? I can't hear you, bro.

JAMISON

I do not own a helicopter.

DRAKE

And I do. So that is why we're doing what I say. All right, ready? I'm gonna tase you first.

JAMISON

…fine.

DRAKE

You might want to take off your pants.

JAMISON

I'M NOT DOING THAT!

DRAKE

YOU HAVE ANGER ISSUES! Pants have metal in them – you never know what's going to happen.

JAMISON

Just do it already!

(DRAKE tases JAMISON)

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

(JAMISON writhes in spastic pain and then collapses to the ground.)

DRAKE

Duuuuude! Did you guys see that?! OMG, y'all!

(JAMISON is still twitching on the ground.)

That's probably permanent brain damage right there. Whoah. This is beautiful. Jamison are you alive?

(he leans down.)

I don't actually know how to check if he's alive or not but this is what they do on cop shows. Jamison. I am the voice of death. Are you alive?

JAMISON

….uhhh…

DRAKE

He's alive! For the record: you are a wuss. Sweet! So let's keep doing the tour of my house!

(DRAKE walks over JAMISON's body to a different part of the stage.)

So they were telling me I had to have granite countertops and what-not, and I was like, no man, I'm having granite cabinets. Check these out. Each of these weighs like four hundred pounds. You can't even open them. I hired like a mad scientist interior designer, it is ridiculous in here. Follow me!

(He moves to another part of the stage. He speaks directly out to the audience.)

Are you jealous yet? Are you super jealous? I tricked out a bus, y'all.

TONI

Man.

DRAKE

I bet you wish you could be a Youtuber, huh?

TONI

Seriously.

DRAKE

Seriously.

TONI

What?

DRAKE

Loserssaywhat?

TONI

Are you talking to me? Through the internet?

DRAKE

How is it possible? Except through Skype or Facetime or Google Hangout or many other apps?

TONI

But – I thought I was watching a video?

DRAKE

Toni, I know all about you.

TONI

You do?

DRAKE

Sure. I know about your time in Girl Scouts where you didn't sell a lot of cookies and nobody liked you, I know about that time you had a stuffed animal pig named Mr. Porkers – and you set him on fire –

TONI

That was an accident!

DRAKE

Was it? Was it, Toni?

TONI

…no

DRAKE

And I know you want to be super famous.

TONI

How do you know all this stuff?

DRAKE

Oh I know many things. You see, I have achieved Nirvana. It happens once you get a million subscribers.

TONI

I didn't know!

DRAKE

Yeah – all your favorite Youtubers – Nirvana. All of them. We are like living gods now.

TONI

Whoah.

DRAKE

Yeah I know. Every time you watch one of our videos we get a small sliver of spiritual power, just like the ancient Greek Gods. You can join us.

TONI

I want to. I want to be so famous. That's all I've ever wanted.

DRAKE

Yes. I know. Take my hand, bro. Join me in the pantheon.

(He reaches out a hand to her.)

(TONI gets up and stretches out to take it -)

(Suddenly they are in another place. Perhaps a cool sound effect happens.

TONI

Am I… inside the internet?

(DRAKE looks around)

DRAKE

No this is Malibu.

TONI

How did I get here?

DRAKE

Because you believed in yourself. And I am now able to warp space and time to my will. Which is how I tased my little brother and he didn't get to tase me because I AM AWESOME, BRO. FIST BUMP.

(TONI tries to fist bump him)

COME ON.

TONI

Sorry!

(she fist bumps him better)

(DRAKE takes out a contract)

DRAKE

Better. All right what I got here is a sweet offer of representation, brah. You join my enclave, you become part of my team, I cross-promote you on my channel – before you know it – you hit a million subscribers and you are golden.

TONI

What should I do on my channel?

DRAKE

What talents do you have? Can you do makeup? Can you sing?

TONI

No. I have no talent at all.

DRAKE

That's all good. I have no talent and look at me, brah. We'll figure it out. All right just sign here.

TONI

Should I read it first?

DRAKE

You're never supposed to read stuff before you sign it.

TONI

I'm gonna read it.

DRAKE

Your funeral.
(she looks it over)

TONI

Why does it say I agree to give up my soul?

DRAKE

Wha-a-a-t?

TONI

Right here. It says I sign away my soul to you.

DRAKE

That's just standard legalese. I don't know it means.

TONI

It means I give you my soul!

DRAKE

Psssht. I mean, if it that's important to you…

TONI

Wait a minute! You have no talent at all. You talk like a frat boy. You have power over time and space. You have six pack abs even though I never see you working it out! I know who you are!

DRAKE

Dude, brah. What.

TONI

It all makes sense now! I know how you got famous!

DRAKE *(voice of the devil)*

JOIN ME.
(JAMISON leaps on DRAKE's back and hits him with the taser)

JAMISON

Not today, Satan!*

*(*You can change this to "Not today!" or "Not today, evil one!" but Not today, Satan is definitely the funniest line.)*

DRAKE

AAAAAAAAAAAHHAAAAHAHHAH!

(DRAKE collapses, twitching.)

TONI

You stopped him.

JAMISON

For the moment. You need to run. That won't hold him for long.

TONI

Huh.

JAMISON

Come on, I'll help you escape!

TONI

Hey do you have a pen I could borrow?

JAMISON

Um… sure.

TONI

Thanks.

(TONI signs the contract)

Hey can I see that taser?

JAMISON

Why –

(TONI tases JAMISON.)

AAAAAAAAAHHHHAHHHH! NOT AGAIN!

(JAMISON collapses on the floor, twitching.)

TONI *(to the audience)*

So I'm super excited about my new channel. I mean, I could keep my soul, but imagine how much more fun my channel will be if I don't have a soul, right? It will be so much more entertaining for you! Remember to subscribe below – if you don't, I WILL FIND YOU.

(Lights down)

Trollz

MAGGIE
KERRY, can be either male or female
BOBO, A troll, either male or female
MONDO, A troll, probably male, but could be female

(A café.)

(MAGGIE is sitting, looking around expectantly.)
(KERRY enters.)

KERRY

Are you Maggie?

MAGGIE

Kerry? Oh my gosh it is so great to actually meet you in person! Should we hug?

KERRY

We should totally hug!
(They totally hug)
I thought this day would never happen! I feel like I know everything about you already!

MAGGIE

I have to say, you are my absolute favorite Facebook friend.

KERRY

Oh.

MAGGIE

I love hearing about your nieces and your dog – oh my gosh your dog – she's so beautiful.

KERRY

My dog gives me faith in humanity. Maybe not humanity, maybe just dogs.

MAGGIE

That is so funny! You are so funny and your life seems so amazing!

KERRY

No your life is amazing! I love hearing about your Scentsy business! It's so great that you can sell so many products from the comfort of your own home!

MAGGIE

I know!

KERRY

And those selfies you take? When you're driving? So inspiring! I wish I looked like that when I was going 75 miles an hour on the freeway.

MAGGIE

Can I tell you something? I cried when Facebook made that video of us celebrating five years of friendship online.

KERRY

Me too!

MAGGIE

Even though we weren't in any of the pictures together, it was so touching.

KERRY

I know. You know, your profile photo doesn't do you justice.

MAGGIE

Oh. That is so sweet.

(BOBO THE TROLL enters the café.)

(BOBO has a bright pink wig, is possibly wearing clothes, but could also be in a full-nude bodysuit.)

Oh dang it.

(BOBO strolls around the café, perhaps putting its fingers on everything. Maybe scratching itself. Maybe getting uncomfortably close to people if there are others in the café.)

KERRY

What?

MAGGIE

Don't look.

(KERRY looks)

I said don't look. It's a troll.

KERRY

Ah man.

MAGGIE

Just ignore him.

KERRY

How do you know it's a him? I can never tell with them.

MAGGIE

I don't really care about the gender of the troll, I just – shoot.

(BOBO sits at their table, right between them.)

(BOBO doesn't say anything. Just stares at each of them in turn.)

KERRY

This is actually a private conversation.

BOBO

This is a public space. If you didn't want to have a public conversation, then you shouldn't have met here.

MAGGIE

So um… anyway how is your new niece?

KERRY

Oh my gosh she is so adorable. She was seven pounds four ounces.

(KERRY takes out his phone and shows a photo.)

MAGGIE

She's beautiful.

BOBO

I mean, if you're into that sort of thing.

MAGGIE

What sort of thing?

BOBO

Come on. That's your baby?

KERRY

It's not my baby, it's my niece.

BOBO

Uh huh. I mean… seven pounds four ounces? Kind of mediocre for a baby, right? I mean what percentile is that baby in? Like 30th? Her Mom probably didn't eat enough.

KERRY

Her Mom ate fine!

BOBO

And yet the baby was only seven pounds, so… and look I totally respect women, but just to play devil's advocate, what if she cared about her baby?

Skipping Forward

KERRY

Don't quote Martin Luther King Junior.

BOBO

Oh I can't quote him? Because I'm a troll? Is that it? Only humans can quote him?

MAGGIE

Kerry – don't feed him. Just ignore him.

KERRY

Maybe we should go to another table.

BOBO

How do you think Martin Luther King Jr. would feel about only letting humans quote Martin Luther King Jr?

MAGGIE

You know what? We're leaving.

BOBO

Running away from the truth.

(MONDO, another troll in a bright blue wig, enters from the other side of the room.)

MONDO

Don't worry, I got this.

MAGGIE

We don't actually need your help.

MONDO

Essential oils… are essential. IT'S IN THE NAME.

BOBO *(standing up)*

Essential to WHAT?!

MONDO

To LIFE. How do you not get that!?

BOBO

Oh sure right you can put oil on yourself and change your brainwaves! That sounds totally logical!

(MONDO and BOBO are standing over MAGGIE and KERRY, arguing.)

MONDO

Check out this article from Fox News.

BOBO
You did NOT just give me something from Fox News!

MONDO
They do SERIOUS reporting!

BOBO
They are a propaganda arm!

MONDO
Oh and the other news organizations aren't?! Here's a list of lies in the mainstream media!

BOBO
That is a biased list of lies! The list itself is lies! Here's a video of all the lies from Fox News!

MONDO
THE VIDEO WAS DOCTORED!
(MAGGIE and KERRY get up to leave.)

MAGGIE
We're just gonna see ourselves out.

KERRY
It was really nice meeting you.
(MONDO comes over to them.)

MONDO
I just wanted to say that not all trolls are like this.

MAGGIE
Okay.

MONDO
So don't judge all of us based on the actions of one troll.

KERRY
I wasn't.

MONDO
That's totally racist, by the way. Doing that. I think you guys are the real racists.

MAGGIE
I'm not, actually. I'm not.

BOBO *(coming over to intercept them)*
Everybody's racist. There have been studies.

MONDO
What does that even mean?! How can everybody be racist?!

BOBO
It's called implicit bias!
(MAGGIE grabs KERRY and pulls him to another spot on the stage.)

MAGGIE
So um anyway… it was really great meeting you.

KERRY
I'm sorry about the trolls.

MONDO *(following)*
Or you're *sorry* about the trolls? What's that supposed to mean?

MAGGIE
Ignore them.

KERRY
Before we go, I wanted to show you a new picture of my dog.

MAGGIE
I really want to see her.
(KERRY looks over at the trolls, and hands his phone to MAGGIE.)
She's so pretty!
(MONDO is looking over her shoulder.)

MONDO
Why is she pretty? Because she's female? If this was a male dog, would you use that language?

MAGGIE
I just thought she was objectively pretty.

MONDO
Mm-hmm. But not handsome. Or a good boy. You see what you're doing there?

MAGGIE
Sorry.

MONDO

I just wanted to say I'm super feminist. The biggest feminist, actually. Like, if feminists had a king and I believed in monarchies, I would totally be king of the feminists.

KERRY

Nice to know.

MONDO

What's that supposed to mean?

KERRY

It doesn't mean anything!

MONDO

So you're just going to dismiss me, is that it? You don't feel like you have to back up any of your opinions? You're here in a public space and you can't handle defending your beliefs? Ohhh-kay. I guess that's how you like it, then.

KERRY

I can defend my beliefs just fine, thank you.

MONDO

You haven't even shared a single article.

KERRY

About what?!

MONDO

Wake up, Sheeple! Don't you see what's going on here? You're believing what they want you to believe!

BOBO *(coming over)*

Literally, LOL'ing right now. Sheeple? You're the sheeple!

KERRY

I am not a Sheeple! First of all, there have been plenty of studies showing that you only believe what you want to believe.

(BOBO and MONDO get on opposite sides of KERRY. MAGGIE moves away.)

MAGGIE

Kerry don't talk to them!

BOBO

Those studies are biased!

KERRY

Not according to Politifact!

MONDO
Oh please?! Politifact is biased! Didn't you see the tweets from one of their employees?!

KERRY
What do the tweets of one of employee have to do with the organization?!

BOBO
Did you just say that?! You don't think those employees are putting their fingers on the scale?!

KERRY
That's what you'd like to believe, isn't it? That's there no objective fact! That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard!

MONDO
Oh and now you're back with the personal insults!

BOBO
What it looks like to have no argument!

MAGGIE
Kerry! Get out of there! You're arguing with trolls about nothing!

BOBO
I was four years in the military so I know all about this!

KERRY
Who cares if you were in the military?!

BOBO
I know that I can fight you!

MONDO
That'll solve everything won't it!

KERRY
If you're threatening to fight someone on the internet you've already lost!

BOBO
Because you're afraid to fight me!

MAGGIE
KERRY NO! GET AWAY FROM THEM!

(KERRY is trapped. The TROLLS surround him, getting closer and closer and louder and louder.)

KERRY

BOTH OF YOU ARE IDIOTS!

MONDO

IF YOU LOOKED AT THIS ARTICLE YOU'D KNOW THAT WASN'T TRUE!

BOBO

OPEN YOUR EYES!

KERRY

ARRRRRRRRRRGH!!!!

(KERRY collapses onto the ground.)

MAGGIE

Kerry?

(Slowly KERRY gets back up. He now has a troll wig on his head.)

No… Kerry? What's going on? What happened to your hair?

(BOB and MONDO watch him.)

KERRY

Not all trolls are bad…

*(*If possible, KERRY is wearing a nude bodysuit under his clothes and can slowly be taking off his clothes during this sequence. If that's a little too much for you, that's fine.)*

MAGGIE

No! NOOO!

KERRY

Maggie…

MAGGIE

Fight it! You're not one of them!

KERRY *(trying to fight)*

I… can't… stop arguing… about nothing on the internet…

MAGGIE

Come back to me, Kerry! You can do it!

KERRY

I have this overwhelming urge to present myself as an expert on health care.

MAGGIE
But you don't know anything about health care!

KERRY
I know, but on the internet I'm an expert! And I feel the need to add LOL after everything!

MAGGIE
Stop!
(MAGGIE runs up to him and grabs him.)
Let's share photos! Let's talk about babies like we used to!

KERRY
It is too late for me… must… share… video of Alex Jones.
*(*alternately, you can use "Talking Points Memo")*

MAGGIE
Not him! Anyone but him!
(MONDO and BOBO each put a hand on KERRY's shoulder.)

BOBO
It's time.

MONDO
Join us.

KERRY
Where are we going?

BOBO
Reddit. It's glorious there.

MONDO
You'll fit right in.

BOBO
Say goodbye to your old life.

MAGGIE
Nooooo!
(BOBO and MONDO drag KERRY off-stage.)
Damn you Facebook!
(She shakes her fist at the sky.)
I'm never using you again!
(She slides her phone away from her.)
Never! You're awful! I'm never looking at you again!
(She tries not to look at her phone.)

I'm completely done with you!

(She's moving closer to her phone.)

I wouldn't even look at my phone except I have my step-counter on there and there's no point in moving if it's not being recorded in my step-counter. And I have like a lot pictures so it's cool.

(She picks up her phone.)

But I am turning off my notifications and…

(She looks at Facebook.)

Like. Like. Like.

(she breaks down crying as the lights fade on her.)

Like. That was cute. Like. Like… Sad emoji… Like…

(end of play)

Viral/Rival

AUSTIN
BRENT
AMELIA
BOSS
WORKERS

(A terrible office of soul-destroying cubicles.)

(AUSTIN has been here forever. His soul is mostly destroyed.)
(BOSS comes in and claps for everyone's attention.)

BOSS
All right let's hit those targets. These terrible insurance policies aren't going to sell themselves.

AUSTIN *(on the phone)*
Yes, hello, this is Austin with Consolidated Insurance –
(They've hung up)
(He dials again.)
Yes, hello this is Austin with –
(They've hung up again.)
(He dials again.)
Yes, hello this is Austin with Consolidated Insurance. We have a special offer for - Yes, Ma'am. Sorry I didn't understand I was calling during dinner. Yes I – no my family is not proud of me. That's right, I am ashamed of my existence, yes, thank you for pointing out that I am a cancerous boil on the rear end of humanity. That really helps me see things clearly. While I have you on the phone –
(They've hung up.)
(BOSS comes over.)

BOSS
New guy can I have a word with you?

AUSTIN
It's Austin and I've been here four years.

BOSS
Whatever. Do you like your job?

AUSTIN
Sure. Yes. There's nothing I like more than facing constant rejection and pain. Luckily, I have a lot of antidepressants that I'm taking and I have four therapists so it helps –

BOSS

I didn't ask for a movie. If you want to keep your job, do better. Okay? Happy smiles on the phone. Or you are out on the street.

AUSTIN

Of course.

BOSS

Oh and I'm lowering your pay just for fun. Come on people let's see if we can take money from the elderly!

(BOSS claps and moves on.)

(AUSTIN is about to dial again when AMELIA enters. Maybe music plays. Maybe a light shines on her. Maybe she's just really pretty.)

AUSTIN *(a little too happy)*

Amelia!

AMELIA

Oh hi Austin.

(Pause. AUSTIN stares at her in wonder.)

AUSTIN

Hi.

AMELIA

How are you doing today?

AUSTIN

Much better, thanks.

AMELIA

What?

AUSTIN

Nothing! Um… are you doing anything this weekend?

AMELIA

Probably just watching Netflix and petting my cat. Like I do every weekend. Alone. Single. Available. Kind of wistfully looking off into the distance and imagining my life with someone special. What about you?

AUSTIN

Same. I mean… I don't know. Um… Maybe… if you're not busy… and you were free… and maybe…

(BRENT enters.)
(BRENT is cool.)

BRENT

What's up office workers? Sorry I'm late. They had two-for-one wings at Hooters. Where I am friends with all the waitresses.

AMELIA *(not impressed)*

Wow.

BRENT

Yeah. Definitely wow. How's it going, Amelia?

AMELIA

Oh you know.

BRENT

Looking foxy today. Me likee.

AUSTIN

We were actually in the middle of a conversation, Brent.

BRENT

Were you? Was it awesome? Were you pouring your heart out? Is there a Loserville convention nearby that you were thinking of attending?

AUSTIN

That's not really a thing.

BRENT

Let me tell you something, Austin: Here at Consolidated Insurance, I run the show. Got it? You are on the bottom and you are always going to be on the bottom. Hey Amelia -

AMELIA

I'm going to the bathroom.

BRENT

Enjoy.
(AMELIA leaves.)
(BRENT moves over to his cubicle, puts his feet up.)
Yessir, life is good.

BOSS

All right people! COME ON. Let's sell that insurance!

AUSTIN

Man, working here is like eating ice cream all day except the ice cream is made out of failure and sadness.

BRENT

What's that you just said?

AUSTIN

I said, working here is like eating ice cream all day except the ice cream is made out failure and sadness.

BRENT

That's pretty funny.

(BRENT takes out his phone and conspicuously tweets that.)

(AUSTIN watches him. Then takes out his phone.)

AUSTIN

Excuse me, did you just tweet what I said?

BRENT

What about it?

AUSTIN

I mean, I said that. That was my saying.

BRENT

Yeah, and I tweeted it.

AUSTIN

But your tweet doesn't say anything about me.

BRENT

Should it?

AUSTIN

It should say, according to my co-worker Austin, and then you could tag me –

BRENT

Why would I tag you?

AUSTIN

Because I said it. I created that idea.

BRENT

Skipping Forward

Are you sure about that?

AUSTIN

…yes.

BOSS

Because this is one heckuva tweet.
(AUSTIN sits back down.)

BRENT

Thank you.

BOSS

So clever. The wit. What are you doing here on the selling floor? Your creativity belongs in management. This tweet…
(She looks at her phone and shakes her head in wonder)
I've rarely seen a tweet so beautiful. And it's already got a hundred likes.

AUSTIN

A hundred likes?!

BOSS

So many retweets.

BRENT *(chuckling)*

R.I.P my mentions! Am I right?
(He high-fives the BOSS.)
Holy cow Dustin Diamond just retweeted it!
(BRENT raises his arms in victory.)
(Word is beginning to spread.)

AUSTIN

Who's Dustin Diamond?

BOSS

Screech, from Saved by the Bell. Come on, catch up.

BRENT *(looking at his phone, like it's about to explode)*

What is happening?!

BOSS

You're going viral!
(AMELIA gets up)

AMELIA

What's going on?!

BOSS

BRENT'S GOING VIRAL! EVERYONE BRENT'S GOING VIRAL! THIS IS A CODE RED! THIS IS A CODE RED!

BRENT

WOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!

(Other WORKERS drop what they're doing and rush over to check out BRENT's phone.)
(AUSTIN tries to ignore them.)

WORKER

George Takei liked it!

WORKER *(overlapping)*

Zach Galifanakis just retweeted it!

WORKER *(overlapping)*

Kelly Clarkson liked it!

(AUSTIN puts his head down and picks up the phone.)

AUSTIN *(on the phone)*

Yes Hi this is Austin at –

BOSS

LEBRON JAMES LIKE IT!

(Everyone stops.)

AMELIA

WHAT?! LEBRON JAMES!

BRENT

HE'S FOLLOWING ME ON TWITTER NOW! LEBRON JAMES IS FOLLOWING ME ON TWITTER!!!! – HE JUST SENT ME A DM!

(Everyone jumps up and down and cheers)

BOSS

Read it!

BRENT

Dear Brent: Awesome Tweet. Here are two courtside tickets for my next game. XOXO LBJ, A.K.A the King.

(BRENT holds his phone in front of him, shaking.)

BOSS

What does X O X O mean?

AMELIA

Hugs and Kisses!

BOSS

LeBron James is giving you hugs and kisses?

BRENT

He's very affectionate.

AMELIA

This is so amazing!

EVERYONE

WOOOOO!

AUSTIN *(on the phone)*

Yes, Hi this is Austin at Consolidated Insurance and -

BRENT

THIS IS THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE! ALL OTHER DAYS OF MY LIFE PALE IN COMPARISON TO THIS RIGHT HERE! I AM SO GLAD I TWEETED THAT!

AMELIA

Marry me! Marry me now!

BRENT

I THINK I CAN DO BETTER!

AMELIA

YOU PROBABLY CAN!

BRENT

STEVEN SPIELBERG IS CALLING! EVERYONE SHUT UP!

(Everyone is quiet and huddles around Brent.)

Yes hello Mr. Spielberg.

Yes it was a brilliant tweet, wasn't it? I wasn't quite E.T. but it was close.

(He holds the phone to his chest)

BOSS *(thumbs up)*

Good one!

(BRENT listens to the phone again.)

BRENT

Well I'm exploring my options with the tweet right now. Whether to go with a T.V. series or a film, uh huh… uh huh… Chris Evans is gonna play me? I'll get back to you – Hey Steve – Steve – I don't even get out of bed for less than two million, so… All right done.

(He hangs up.)

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!

(The other WORKERS start celebrating.)

BOSS

TODAY IS CANCELLED! BRENT IS OUR GOD!

AUSTIN

Yes, hi this is Austin at –

(AUSTIN stares at the celebration in dumbstruck horror.)

WORKERS *(chanting)*

BRENT BRENT BRENT BRENT

(BRENT waves his hands for silence.)

BRENT

I just wanted to say that it was great working here, and even though I am no so much more famous than all of you, and I'm going to have an amazing, wonderful life now, I still think that you guys are tops.

WORKERS

WOOOO!

BRENT

I never learned any of your names because I didn't care about any of you. But you can still say… you knew me. LET'S GO TO HOOTERS! SOME OF THE WINGS ARE ON ME!

(Everyone cheers and chants and stomps off-stage.)

(Pause.)

(AUSTIN picks up the phone.)

AUSTIN

Hi this is Austin from… Consolidated Insurance… and… maybe you could brighten my day by buying a policy – no? Eat rocks and die? Okay, thanks.

(He dials another number as AMELIA comes back in.)

Hi this is – hold on – something more important just happened. You want insurance? Really? I don't care.

(He hangs up.)

AMELIA

I was halfway there and then I realized we were going to Hooters, which I hate and –

AUSTIN

That Hooters is surprisingly close.

AMELIA

Yeah.

AUSTIN

Hey look um… I realized something today. Life is short and you have to go after what you want.

AMELIA

Yeah?

AUSTIN

And uh… you know how you're staying home with your cat this weekend? Maybe um… maybe you could stay home with your cat and me and my cat. I'll bring him over. He's almost friendly.

AMELIA

You wanna do that?

AUSTIN

Because my heart feels full when I look at you.

(AMELIA puts her hand to her heart and crosses over to him.)

AMELIA

That's the sweetest thing anyone's ever said to me.

AUSTIN

Really?

AMELIA

Yeah. That was so beautiful.

AUSTIN

Thank you. I mean it.

(They are very close. About to kiss.)

AMELIA

Hold on one second.

(She takes out her phone and tweets something.)

AUSTIN

Did you just tweet that?!

(Lights down.)

Pinterest is Totally Not Making You Ashamed of Your Life

KYLI
HUNTER
MCGRATH
ROBINSON

(A living room. Maybe a couch. Maybe a kitchen table upstage with a high chair next to it.)

(KYLI is blowing up balloons. A laptop sits on the couch next to her, closed. HUNTER enters upstage with a shopping bag.)

HUNTER
How many plates do you think we're gonna need?

KYLI
Don't tell me you got plates already.

HUNTER
Yeah I stopped off at Party City.

KYLI
You went to Party City?!

HUNTER
It was on the way home.

KYLI
Hunter, we don't even have a theme for the birthday party yet.

HUNTER
So?

KYLI
So how are we gonna get plates when we don't even have a theme?! That's crazy.

HUNTER
I figured these would be okay.

KYLI
What did you get?

(HUNTER reveals the plates. They are blue.)

HUNTER

Um… I got blue ones.

KYLI

This is not happening.

HUNTER

What's wrong with blue plates?!

KYLI

What if they don't fit our theme?

HUNTER

We'll just make the theme "blue."

KYLI

What is wrong with you?

HUNTER

I'm sure blue will be acceptable.

KYLI

Acceptable? That's your goal for Milo's first birthday party? Acceptable. That's what you're striving for? You think the other moms and dads are going to come to this birthday party and be like, "wow this is so *acceptable!* What an *acceptable* party! I'm totally going to share photos online of how *acceptable* this party is! Weeee!"

HUNTER

Maybe you're overthinking this birthday party?

KYLI

I'm sorry, you're right. I'm going a little overboard. I just need some good ideas from Pinterest and then I'll be fine.

(KYLI opens her laptop.)

HUNTER

Don't go on Pinterest. Please. Don't do it.

KYLI

It has so many great ideas for crafts, Hunter.

HUNTER

Every time you go on that site you change!

KYLI

That's absurd.

HUNTER

It's true! You start taking unnecessary pauses all the time! Like you're just thinking – and you're not saying what's on your mind! It's like you're becoming British.

KYLI

How am I supposed to get ideas for the birthday party without going on Pinterest?

HUNTER

Maybe we don't even need to have a theme! We just have cake –

KYLI

Just cake?! Just blue and cake! That's your idea! You're honestly suggesting WE DON'T HAVE A THEME. What do we do for gift bags then? Just paper sacks?! Here you go, here's a paper sack filled with our failed dreams from our pathetic themeless party!

HUNTER

What if we didn't have gift bags?

(KYLI looks at him with contempt.)

KYLI

Who are you?

HUNTER

Do we need gift bags for a birthday party? When we were growing up we didn't have gift bags and we lived.

KYLI

I'm gonna pretend you didn't say that.

HUNTER

Kyli –

(KYLI looks at her laptop and raises her hand for silence.)
*(Pinterest loads. Soft, somewhat menacing piano music plays.**
*(*Whenever KYLI is looking at Pinterest, the music plays. When she stops looking at Pinterest, the music stops.)*

(KYLI's demeanor changes completely as she looks at the site.)

KYLI

This is cute.

HUNTER

What is?

(Pause.)

What is – what is cute?

(Pause)

Did you see something cute?

KYLI

Very cute.

HUNTER

What?

(Pause)

Please just tell me and don't pause like that. It worries me.

KYLI

Why should it worry you? That I take pauses?

HUNTER

Because I don't know what's going on in your head during the pauses.

(pause. She looks at him.)

You just look at me. And you don't say anything.

KYLI

I'm evaluating.

HUNTER

What? What are you evaluating?

KYLI

Are you afraid of what I'm evaluating?

HUNTER

No I just want to communicate with you.

KYLI

I see.

(she turns back to the computer.)

What about a theme of – zoo animals – for the birthday party.

HUNTER

That sounds good.

(Pause. KYLI looks at HUNTER.)

What?

KYLI

It sounds good?

HUNTER

Yes.

KYLI

Zoo animals sounds good. For a theme?

HUNTER

Yeah I think it's fine. We could put animals around and… you know like an elephant and maybe some tigers and lions.

(Pause.)

KYLI

Lions and tigers – at a zoo.

HUNTER

We could make cartoon animals – paint smiles… on them…

(Pause)

KYLI

You want to paint smiles on them.

HUNTER

Yes?

(Menacing pause. KYLI approaches HUNTER very deliberately.)

What? Is there something I'm missing? Why are you taking all these menacing pauses?!

(Menacing pause.)

KYLI

Why do you think they're menacing? Are you hiding something?

HUNTER

No!

KYLI

You seem like you're hiding something.

HUNTER

I'm not! I just don't know what's going on in your head and it's scaring me! What do you want from me?! I THINK ZOO ANIMALS ARE FINE!

KYLI *(exploding)*

ZOO ANIMALS ARE NOT FINE!

HUNTER

Why did you suggest them then?!

KYLI

I WAS TESTING YOU! And you have failed!

HUNTER

What is wrong with zoo animals?!

(Pause.)

KYLI

That's your question?

HUNTER

Pinterest does this to you! Every time you get on Pinterest you get like this!

KYLI

You think a party celebrating the prison-industrial complex and the enslavement of animals is a proper theme for a birthday party? You want to "decorate" with a parade of effigies of sacred creatures – with cartoon smiles – erasing their suffering, erasing their reality, and you think this is the proper way to memorialize one entire year of life of our only child.

HUNTER

So you're saying zoo animals are out?

(Pause)

So what other ideas do you have then?

KYLI

I'm interested in your ideas.

HUNTER

I don't have ideas! I want to know your ideas!

(Pause)

KYLI

So it's my role to come up with the theme.

HUNTER

All right, tell you what, let's do Barney.

(pause)

Let's not do Barney. How about Mickey Mouse?

(pause)

Transformers?

(menacing pause)

Where is this music coming from? Is this the music on Pinterest? It's driving me insane.

(He spots the laptop, rushes over to it, and closes it.)

(Music stops.)

There.

(KYLI changes back to normal.)

KYLI

Wow it's like my mind just cleared.

HUNTER

There's something about that website that is not cool.

KYLI

You're right – I've been spending too much time on the internet, let's come up with a fun idea for a party together. Okay?

HUNTER

Okay!

KYLI

Hug?

HUNTER

Oh my gosh yes!

(They hug.)

KYLI

I don't mean to be mean to you but there's just so much pressure to make this party amazing.

HUNTER

Yeah, I know. When Gemma and Andre had that Gilded Age-themed party for little Bartholomew?

KYLI

With the ice sculptures?

HUNTER

And those gift bags with the handwritten notes saying how much they appreciated our luminosity?

KYLI

I literally died when I got those. Luminosity?!

HUNTER

Who says that?

KYLI

I had to look that word up.

HUNTER

I hated them for that party. They made all other birthday parties look like trash fires in comparison. Except for Scott and Scott's party for Janelle.

KYLI

That's two dads, that doesn't even count. We can't compete with them.

HUNTER

I just don't want to feel terrible afterwards.

KYLI

That's why we've got to have a great party! We need to beat them! We just need a killer idea.

HUNTER

You're right!

KYLI

Think!

HUNTER

And you think.
(They think.)
(They've got nothing.)
(They think again.)
(They've got less than nothing.)

KYLI

Let me just check Pinterest –

HUNTER

No!

KYLI

I won't even be on it for long.

HUNTER

You know what it does to you.

KYLI

I promise. I've got it under control. Just for a minute. I just need a theme and then I'm done.

(KYLI goes over to the laptop. Opens it.)
(The music returns.)
(KYLI changes.)

HUNTER

See anything good?
(venomous pause)
Kyli? Have you um… seen anything?
(pause)

KYLI

Have I seen anything?

HUNTER

Theme-wise?

KYLI

You want to know if I've seen anything theme-wise.

HUNTER

Right.
(Pause.)

KYLI

For the birthday party.

HUNTER

Yes!

KYLI

How do you feel about clowns?
(Pause.)

HUNTER

How do you want me to feel about clowns?
(pause)

KYLI

It's just a question.

HUNTER

Like a circus? Like a circus theme?
(pause)
Um… if that's what you want, then that's what I want.

Skipping Forward

MCQUAID

You think we're clowns?

HUNTER

Ha ha ha.
(he rushes over to KYLI)
What are these people doing here?
(Pause)

KYLI

What did they say they were here for?
(MCQUAID cracks knuckles loudly.)
(ROBINSON looks like he's getting ready for a fight.)

MCQUAID

We'll just make ourselves at home then.

KYLI

They're probably just here to help with the birthday party.

ROBINSON

That's right.

KYLI

Maybe you could help inflate the balloons.

MCQUAID

Oh we'll help inflate – the balloons – all right.

ROBINSON

Yeah we loooove inflating… balloons.
(They both stare at HUNTER and take a balloon each.)
(They inflate the balloons very slowly, staring menacingly at HUNTER.)
(HUNTER goes over to KYLI, unnerved.)

HUNTER

Are you sure they're here to help?

KYLI

Why wouldn't they be here to help?

HUNTER

They seem –
(MCQUAID lets all the air out of his balloon, staring at HUNTER the entire time.)
They're like goons. Why did you bring goons into our living room?

KYLI

They're here to help with the party.

HUNTER

How?

KYLI

Well that depends on you, doesn't it?
(ROBINSON lets the air out of his balloon.)

HUNTER

What do you mean?
(Pause)

KYLI

You never told me about your love for clowns. And now you love clowns. I find that a little too convenient.

HUNTER

Is this about the party?

KYLI

Of course this is about the party. Why wouldn't this be about the party?

HUNTER

I don't like this anymore.

KYLI *(showing him the computer)*

Look at these cake pops – little clown heads. Do you like them?
(ROBINSON and MCQUAID gather menacingly, still half-inflating balloons and dropping them on the ground.)

HUNTER

…I don't know…

KYLI

What about these hat decorations.

HUNTER

I don't know.

KYLI

Don't you like them?

HUNTER

I'm not sure.

KYLI

People on Pinterest like them.

HUNTER

I don't need to look on Pinterest! I feel good about my life.

(Pause)

KYLI

Should you?

HUNTER

Yes! Please! I'm sorry if I did anything wrong! Let's just turn off Pinterest and lead a normal life!

KYLI

You'd like that, wouldn't you? That would be easy. McQuaid. Robinson. I think it's time to start the party.

MCQUAID

Absolutely.

ROBINSON

I've been waiting for this.

(HUNTER lunges and shuts the laptop.)
(Music stops.)
(Everyone snaps out of it.)
(MCQUAID and ROBINSON sound very different – perhaps not like British thugs anymore.)

KYLI

Oh my gosh I feel so much better.

MCQUAID

Why am I in a stranger's house?

ROBINSON

We're so sorry. Sometimes he just wanders away from me! I am so sorry! Come on Pookie.

MCQUAID

I love your drapes, by the way.

ROBINSON

They don't care!

(ROBINSON escorts MCQUAID out.)

KYLI

I'm so sorry. Sometimes I get a little stressed from Pinterest and I start acting weird.

HUNTER

I get a little stressed out when you're on Pinterest!

KYLI

I don't know what it does to me.

HUNTER

Everything on that website just shows you much better everyone is than you! You can't just have a store-bought cake, you have to farm your own wheat and then hand-grind it into flour with your own artisanal wood tools purchased from Amish craftsmen. And your cartoon hippos better be perfect, dang it, or you are the worst failure in human history! And your child is going to grow up hating you for your immense suckitude! Don't you see? Pinterest is making you like this! You're judging everything because you're judging it against obsessive people who ONLY MAKE CAKES. And they post photos of AMAZING CAKES to show you just how pathetic your cakes are! WELL I LIKE PATHETIC CAKES! THAT'S WHY I MARRIED YOU!

KYLI

What?

HUNTER

Cause you're not perfect, but you're good enough.

KYLI

You married me because I was good enough? Like - `this one's okay, I guess I'll spend the rest of my life with her.'

HUNTER

Okay, that came out wrong. Let's have an okay birthday party for Milo. No theme. No gift bags. A crappy cake.

KYLI

What about his friends?

HUNTER

He has no friends he's one!

KYLI

I don't know.

HUNTER
That's the beauty of this age. He won't remember anything. Nothing we do now matters at all.

KYLI
I'm not so sure about that.

HUNTER
I'm just saying that this birthday party is totally pointless and stupid.

KYLI
My Mom's coming for it.

HUNTER
But I don't like her, so I don't care. Kyli: Let's be mediocre parents.

KYLI
I like the sound of that.

HUNTER
It's so much less work!

KYLI
I know!

HUNTER
We can read those books we've always wanted to read.

KYLI
I don't know if I even remember how to read.

HUNTER
We can binge-watch TV shows.

KYLI
I've heard Game of Thrones is nice.

HUNTER
Very nice. Whaddya say? Let's not invite anyone to this stupid birthday party and totally half-ass* it.
*(*okay, if you can't say half-ass, you can cut the end of the line.)*

KYLI
Done!
(Short pause)
Should we have a theme?

HUNTER

Blue.

(They hug.)

(Lights down.)

(end of play.)

Followers

BAILEY
ASHLEY
FOLLOWERS

**BAILEY and ASHLEY could be any gender, but they should be the same gender. If they're male, then their names are BART and ANDREW.*

(A high school gym.)
(BAILEY, dressed in a basketball uniform, is stretching.)
(ASHLEY, also dressed in a basketball uniform, enters, and starts stretching next to BAILEY.)

ASHLEY
Crazy weekend, huh?

BAILEY
What?

ASHLEY
You must've had a crazy weekend.

BAILEY
It was fine.

ASHLEY
Huh that's funny.

BAILEY
Why?

ASHLEY
I just figured you were like abducted or something.

BAILEY
Um… no.

ASHLEY
That's weird, cause I noticed you didn't like any of my tweets this weekend. What's up with that? And I couldn't really think of any other explanation for why you wouldn't like my tweets.

BAILEY
Um…

ASHLEY

I figured you were probably kidnapped and had to jump out of a speeding car or something, and you were probably lying injured in a ditch, bleeding out – I mean that's the only logical reason you would like exactly ZERO of my tweets this weekend.

BAILEY

I guess maybe I didn't see them.

ASHLEY

Or maybe it was just too much effort for you to like my tweets, right? Like you're looking at your phone, and you could tap the heart, but that's SOOO hard to do sometimes, right? Like, SOOO much effort for that.

BAILEY

Probably you're just not showing up in my feed.

ASHLEY

Can I check?

BAILEY

What?

ASHLEY

Give me your phone, I'll check your feed. I want to see.

BAILEY

My battery's really low right now, so.

ASHLEY

Really? Cause I saw that you liked Chelsea's tweet from this weekend. I guess you really liked it. Cause you retweeted it. Which is weird, because it seems like, from my perspective, her tweet was mediocre at best. And yet you retweeted it. I mean, that's crazy, right? Why would you retweet something that was mediocre and yet at the same time never retweet any of my really funny, really awesome tweets?

BAILEY

Maybe your tweets just aren't as good as you think they are.

ASHLEY

Excuse me?

BAILEY

I mean I have standards. For a retweet. Like a tweet has to meet a certain threshold, because I don't want to just be retweeting everything, you know? Nobody likes that person.

(ASHLEY regards BAILEY with a stare of death.)

ASHLEY

You know who else nobody likes? The person who never retweets anything. Because that person is dead weight. You're like a drag on my followers. Because my followers see that nobody else is liking my tweets, so they don't like it, because they don't want it to get weird.

BAILEY

That's kind of messed up.

ASHLEY

I've liked tweets of yours that aren't even that good.

BAILEY

Whatever.

ASHLEY

I've retweeted tweets of yours that were desperate attention grabs. Out of pity. I retweeted out of pity!

BAILEY

Sure you did. That's why you have a lot less followers than me.

ASHLEY

You did NOT just go there.

BAILEY

I wasn't gonna say it, but it's true.

ASHLEY

The only reason I have less followers than you is because you don't retweet my tweets! If you retweeted them, people would see how amazing I am, and they would follow me! I'm totally unfollowing you. That's it. We are done. I am unfollowing.

BAILEY

Okay.

(Pause. BAILEY keeps stretching.)

ASHLEY

You'd just let me go, wouldn't you? You wouldn't even care. You'd just go on with your life!

BAILEY

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

ASHLEY

I want you to say you're sorry!

BAILEY

Fine! I'm sorry!

ASHLEY

Are you?

BAILEY

Arrrgh!

ASHLEY

I want you to tweet an apology to me.!

BAILEY

I didn't do anything wrong.!

ASHLEY

Seriously. You ignored my tweets.

BAILEY

Maybe your tweets deserved to be ignored.
(BAILEY moves elsewhere to stretch.)
(ASHLEY whips out her phone)

ASHLEY

4:27 p.m. I think pandas are basically doggos with hands.
(pause)
THAT WAS AN AWESOME TWEET.

BAILEY

Are you for real? That tweet sucks! It makes no sense.

ASHLEY

I added a gif of a panda! LOOK AT IT!

BAILEY

You can't just get a like for a stupid gif!

ASHLEY

I WAS CLEVER YOU INSECT.

BAILEY

Pandas aren't like doggoes at all! Pandas are like furry burglars!
(FOLLOWER 1 runs in and is right behind BAILEY.)

FOLLOWER 1 *(forming a heart with her hands)*

Like!

(PAUSE. ASHLEY stares at FOLLOWER 1.)

ASHLEY

Um… What the heck is that?

BAILEY

What?

ASHLEY

The person right behind you.

BAILEY

One of my followers. They keep changing their names so I never know who anybody is.

FOLLOWER 1 *(forming a heart with her hands)*

Like!

ASHLEY

Your followers follow you in real life?

BAILEY

Yours don't?

ASHLEY

No.

BAILEY

My followers are super dedicated.

FOLLOWER 1 *(heart)*

Like!

BAILEY

It can get a little annoying.

FOLLOWER 1

Laughing emoji!

BAILEY

Will she like things I say?

(moves a little toward her)

Pandas are just doggoes with hands?

(no reaction from FOLLOWER 1)

ASHLEY

Sorry.

BAILEY

Maybe if you repeat it then she can follow me?

ASHLEY

I don't know, my followers have high standards too.

FOLLOWER 1 *(heart)*

Like!

ASHLEY

Okay fine, what about this tweet? This one is great.
(reads off her phone)
Adaxafil says its side effects include loss of limbs. What's in these pills? Chainsaws?
(ASHLEY stares at BAILEY. No reaction.)
OH COME ON.

BAILEY

WHAT?!

ASHLEY

THAT'S AN AMAZING TWEET!

BAILEY

I hate it when people try too hard with their tweets.

FOLLOWER 1 *(heart)*

Like!
(FOLLOWER 2 runs in, gets right behind BAILEY)

FOLLOWER 2 (heart)

Like! **RETWEET!*** I hate it when people try too hard with their tweets.
("Retweet!" should rhyme with "retreat!" and should be yelled in a throaty, disconcerting way, almost like a frog yelling "ribbit.")*
(FOLLOWER 3 runs in, gets right behind FOLLOWER 2.)

FOLLOWER 3 *(heart)*

Like!
(BAILEY starts doing lunges across the stage, all of her FOLLOWERS are right behind her.)

ASHLEY

Seriously? You got three likes for that!? And I didn't get any for my pandas tweet??!

BAILEY

Why are you obsessed with pandas? Let it go!

ASHLEY

IT WAS FUNNY.

BAILEY

NO ONE ELSE THOUGHT SO.

ASHLEY

Share your followers me.

BAILEY

No.

ASHLEY

Please. I need them. Explain to them how great I am.

BAILEY

My followers respect truth.

(BAILEY starts lunging in the opposite direction – the FOLLOWERS follow very closely.)

FOLLOWER 1 *(heart)*

Like!

FOLLOWER 2 *(heart)*

Like!

FOLLOWER 3 *(heart)*

Like!

ASHLEY

Please! I'm begging you! Let them know how funny I am! Tweet: you should follow Ashley. She's amazing. I'll even write it for you! Give me your phone!

BAILEY

Sorry.

ASHLEY

Can you stop doing that for a second and give me your stupid phone?!

BAILEY

Gotta get ready for the game.

FOLLOWER 1
Like! **RETWEET** Gotta get ready for the game!

FOLLOWER 2 *(overlapping, not in unison)*
RETWEET Gotta get ready for the game!

FOLLOWER 3 *(overlapping)*
Like!
(FOLLOWERS 4, 5, and 6 run in and get behind the other followers)

FOLLOWERS 4-6 *(overlapping)*
Like!

ASHLEY
Oh come on that was just a stupid cliché sports thing!

BAILEY
It was inspirational.

ASHLEY
It was a cliché! It wasn't funny! It wasn't clever! It was just dumb!

BAILEY
And yet… so many likes.

ASHLEY
I can say inspirational sports stuff too! We're taking it one game at a time!
(Nothing happens)
I'm just trying to stay within the system! Can't think too much about… stuff…
(ASHLEY breaks down)
I feel so alone.
(Waits.)
NOBODY EVEN LIKES THAT?!
(BAILEY puts a hand on ASHLEY's shoulder.)

BAILEY
No.
(ASHLEY sniffles.)
Hey. You just have to believe in yourself.
(The Followers Go Crazy)

FOLLOWERS 1-6 *(at different times, overlapping, very rapidly)*
Like! **RETWEET!** You just have to believe in yourself!

FOLLOWERS *(adding comments)*

So true. It me. Mood.

(If you have more actors, more and more followers enter, retweeting and liking)

ASHLEY

Arrrrrrrrghghghghg.

BAILEY

You know there is one way you can get more followers.

ASHLEY

Sell my soul?

BAILEY

No. You can retweet my tweet.

ASHLEY

Never.

BAILEY

Have it your way. But my tweet is just waiting for you.

(Stare down.)

ASHLEY

I'm not doing it.

BAILEY

Good. Don't do it.

ASHLEY

I'm not going to.

BAILEY

I'm sure you're not.

ASHLEY

Definitely not.

(Pause)

Because that would be pathetic.

BAILEY

Yep. Sure would.

ASHLEY

Yes it would.

(Pause)
(ASHLEY falters.)
(She thinks about it. Cracks.)
(She speaks like it's a death sentence.)
Re…tweet. You just have… to believe in your…self.
(she hangs her head)
(Waits.)
(Nothing.)

BAILEY

Maybe nobody likes you.

FOLLOWERS

Like**! RETWEET!** Maybe nobody likes you.
(Lights down on the noise of retweeting and liking)

The Last Living MySpace User

TOM
KATHY
JANITOR
FIGURES

(A post-apocalyptic nightmare.)
(Wind howling.)
(Arctic noises.)
(Maybe some trash blowing through.)
(Lights up very dimly on TOM. He wears ragged clothing, as if he's survived a nuclear holocaust.)
(Elsewhere on stage, we see other FIGURES, standing completely still with their arms at their sides, as if they were frozen in time.)

TOM *(calling out)*

Hello? Is there anybody out there? Anyone?
(wind howling)
That's okay! It's fine. I'm still having fun. On MySpace. Anyone else on MySpace? Anyone?
(A tumbleweed blows through.)
Whee.
(pause)
That's okay I'm just gonna update my page like I do all the time. Let's get some music going.
(A hit song from 2005 quietly plays. Preferably something like "My Humps.")
Yes. This is my jam.
(He sings along, pathetically for a moment.)
(TOM is alone, trying to sing a pop song from 2005 into the howling void.)
(He stops.)
Anybody? Does anybody… want to be on my friend list? My top 10 friends? The number one spot is pretty much open.
(TOM shivers.)
This place used to be so amazing. All my friends were here. Britney Spears was here. And now… Britney?! BRITNEY ARE YOU OUT THERE?
(he waits for an answer. Nothing.)

(A JANITOR enters, mopping.)
Hey! Hey you there!

JANITOR

Just doin' my job, man.

TOM

Are you signing up for MySpace? You should totally sign up for MySpace!

JANITOR

I'm just paid to clean up, sir.

TOM

But you could be my friend. I could friend you. You could be my number one friend. We could listen to music together. You could come to my page; we could listen to music! Do you like Nickelback? 50 Cent? I've got some great Black-Eyed Peas.

JANITOR

Look, I don't make friends at my job.

(JANITOR approaches one of the FIGURES.)

TOM

What are you doing?

JANITOR

These accounts are dead. Haven't logged in in years. I'm deleting them.

(He tips over the FIGURE, and starts dragging it offstage.)

TOM

What?! But they could come back!

JANITOR

I don't make the rules, buddy.

(JANITOR drags the FIGURE all the way off-stage. Returns a moment later, goes to another one.)

TOM

No no no these are my friends!

JANITOR

Tom, your friends aren't coming. They don't care about MySpace. They've moved on.

TOM

Where did they go?

JANITOR

How should I know? Facebook? Instagram? Twitter? Maybe they quit social media altogether and are living rewarding, healthy lives in the real world.

TOM

What?!

JANITOR

It happens.

TOM

That's horrible!

JANITOR

If you want my advice: get out now. Before we shut this whole thing down.

TOM

But what's going to happen to my music choices?

JANITOR

Nobody cares about your music choices. All right? Suck it up.
(JANITOR goes up to another FIGURE.)
(Drags it off-stage.)

TOM

You're a murderer!

JANITOR

Just doin' my job. I got about a billion of these to clean up. Welp.
(JANITOR goes up to KATHY.)
(KATHY startles awake.)

KATHY

Hello?

TOM

Hello!

JANITOR

All right time to go –
(He's about to delete her.)

TOM

No no no she's moving! Look! She's logged in!

KATHY

Where am I?

TOM

This is MySpace! It's so wonderful! You're back!

KATHY *(confused, looking around)*

My web browser must have auto-completed me here.

TOM

I know! And it's great!

JANITOR

All right kids. It's my break time. I'm gonna go surf for a while. I'll be back.
(JANITOR shuffles off.)

KATHY

You're Tom? How do I know you?

TOM

I think I met you in a corporate retreat in 2003.

KATHY

Huh.

TOM

Kathy, right? And then we friended each other on MySpace.

KATHY

I haven't used this account in like a decade.

TOM

No one has!
(KATHY looks around.)
(Howling wind.)

KATHY

What happened to this place?

TOM

It's great! It's really great!

KATHY

There's no one here.

End of Excerpt.
To purchase this play, visit www.concordtheatricals.com