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Haters

A comedy in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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Cast of Characters

NAIA – a person a little in over her head
BEE – her best friend

The Student Council:
HELEN -The student body president. A tyrant.
LUCIA - The vice president. A suck-up.
MARPIT - The treasurer.
YOLANNA - The events coordinator. Planning for the dance. Amazing.

Other Students:
CASH – drinks a lot of Monster.
ALICE – a criminal mastermind. Dead eyes.
SUSAN – her family doesn't recycle.
VITU – does not care about recycling.
BAILEY – a follower
BRECKS – a romantic
ORRY – has great ideas
TOMMIE – making poor chocies
MYLAR – the muscle.
ZARA – overly excited.
M'LYNN – thinks Taylor Swift is over-rated.
RAVI – a true believer.
JOON – a true believer.
TRIBBIN – maybe a bit of a criminal.
SAM – slow and steady.
BRIANA – the mole.
SPARK – just wants to dance. Into BTS.

Adults:
MS. PEABODY – goes after Taylor's exes online.
VICE PRINCIPAL JEFFERS
BARISTA
DRIVER
VOICE OF TAYLOR SWIFT
MR. BARRY

Gender of the Characters: Most of the characters are written as female, but just about every character could be any gender. Feel free to adjust names and pronouns as necessary.

Taylor Swift and BTS: If Taylor Swift and BTS are not mega-celebrities at your school, you may change them to a different person that has the same awe-inspiring, universal appeal. The person you choose must be absolutely the most famous person in the world. One other option

would be Beyoncé – please adjust the lines accordingly. I have indicated where some jokes would need to be changed.

Setting: The play may be set in either a middle school or high school. I've written it for high school, but simply change every reference to middle school if you'd like to set it in a middle school.

Double-Casting: Many of the smaller roles can be double-cast. Additional characters can be added to the crowd scenes for an even larger cast if necessary.

Scene changes: This play is meant to happen quickly – bringing on and off set pieces will grind it to a slow, halting death. I've written "lights change" to delineate when our focus is meant to shift – if you're not able to carve out spaces on your stage with lights, you can simply have those scenes happen in other parts of the stage. Above all, keep it moving and keep it simple.

Lights up on a student council meeting.

HELEN, center, sits on a something that's either a throne or raised platform. She's flanked by NAIA, LUCIA, MARPIT, and YOLANNA.

Helen bangs her gavel on something.

HELEN

Okay let's bring this meeting of the student council to order, y'all.

YOLANNA

First order of business: the dance. The dance is out of control.

MARPIT

Do we have a DJ?

YOLANNA

Um… Mr. Barry has –

HELEN

NO.

YOLANNA

Volunteered to, quote, "spin some sick beats."

HELEN

NO.

LUCIA

That man is a menace. He almost failed me last semester.

MARPIT

You didn't turn in any of your homework.

LUCIA

So.

HELEN

Okay, Yolanna, listen to me: if there is a Math teacher DJ-ing the dance, I will personally call in an air strike. You know I can do that.

YOLANNA

I'm just saying we don't have any budget and Mr. Barry is free.

HELEN

There's a reason he's free: no one wants him.

MARPIT

Harsh. Um – I got an order of business.

YOLANNA

Was I finished?

MARPIT

Probably, yeah. My business is that literally everyone in this school hates each other.

YOLANNA

Cause you're rude. Maybe they just hate you.

HELEN

Hey -

YOLANNA

I'm just saying you interrupt people, so they don't like you. Look inward.

MARPIT

We have a big culture problem –

HELEN

Marpit, we're not solving the culture problem.

YOLANNA

Marpit. That's your name.

MARPIT

Yeah it's my name. Marpit.

YOLANNA

That's not a name. Your parents just threw darts at a board or something filled with letters.

MARPIT

This is what I'm talking about. Culture.

HELEN

Moving on. Naia.

NAIA

Yeah?

HELEN

How is the recycling program going?

NAIA

Um… so I collected all the recycle bins this week and we have… eight.

HELEN

Eight what?

NAIA

Cans.

HELEN

The whole school collected eight cans in the last week?

NAIA

And this note.

She takes out a note.

It's just a QR code attached to a pizza box.

She reads the code with her phone.

Goes to a webpage – "I will never recycle. The planet is doomed, give up, losers. P.S. I used my A.I. assistant to create this website so it took the energy of four power plants to write this message. Basically the equivalent of burning down an acre of rainforest."

LUCIA

Wow. That's a lot of effort to not recycle.

YOLANNA

Respect.

HELEN

Naia, this is supposed to be your thing – you are like *spearheading* this – this is like a massive failure.

NAIA

But I –

HELEN

Why are you making excuses? You know what it's going to look like on your college application when you're like oh I started a recycling program at my school and we got like eight cans cause I'm a total loser?

MARPIT

This is what I'm talking about. People are mean here.

NAIA

People don't want to recycle.

HELEN

Do I care?

NAIA

I think most of the people in this school actively hate the planet. Honestly, most of the boys – they just want to watch it burn.

YOLANNA

I know that's right.

HELEN

I don't care. Fix it. Meeting adjourned.

She bangs the gavel.

Lights change.

BEE enters downstage.

NAIA

What am I gonna do, Bee?

BEE

Maybe put up a poster?

Upstage, VITU crosses and throws a half-eaten bagel in the recycling bin.

NAIA

Hey that's a bagel!

VITU

Yeah?

NAIA

You can't put that in the recycle bin!

VITU

I just did.

He shrugs and exits.

BEE

Ouch.

NAIA

Sometimes I just want like a police state where people like that are rounded up and imprisoned.

BEE

Why do you even care so much?

NAIA

My whole college plan is based on this. I don't have good grades, I'm not athletic, I have to basically save the world to get in anywhere – and this was my plan – start a recycling program –

BEE

It's so backward we didn't even have recycling before this –

NAIA

That's what I'm talking about! This school is basically like a dumpster fire burning tires for heat and exterminating endangered species, I thought maybe if I like, changed it, I could actually get into college and get a good job and make tons of money and get super rich and have like a private jet that takes me to Costco whenever I feel like it.

BEE

That's a beautiful dream, Naia.

NAIA

Right? And then I could have my own island so who cares if the planet dies.

BEE

You know the seas will rise, right?

NAIA

It's a tall island. I'm not stupid. Don't worry, I would let you on the island on holidays.

BEE

You were in that play, maybe you could use your acting skills to create a skit or something -

NAIA

I wish there was something that could bring the whole school together.

RAVI and JOON are crossing upstage, each holding a disposable water bottle.

RAVI

Did you just look at me?

JOON

Why would I look at you?

RAVI

You looked at me!

JOON

I was looking in your general direction and you passed into my field of vision, that doesn't mean I was looking at you. Check yourself.

RAVI

Whoa. Whoa. You did not just say check yourself. I will end you. This isn't over!

NAIA

Hey remember to recycle!

They both drop their water bottles on the ground and exit.

BEE

Good luck with that.

Lights change.

Another student council meeting.
Helen bangs her gavel. Everyone is there except Naia.

HELEN

All right let's get this meeting started.

YOLANNA

Okay, so Mr. Barry said –

HELEN

No.

YOLANNA

He would come in costume like in a space helmet and his "handle" would be DJ Square Beatz with a Z.

HELEN

NOOOOO. I will order a nuclear strike. I have a friend who has the codes.

LUCIA

You have a friend with the nuclear codes?

HELEN

They're not that hard to get.

NAIA runs in, out of breath, holding her phone. She's hyperventilating and excited.

NAIA

Guys guys guys guys guys guys!

HELEN

You're late.

NAIA

Oh my gosh oh my gosh oh my gosh oh my gosh –

MARPIT

Are you okay?

Naia lets out a little squeal.

NAIA

Aaaaaaaaah! Aaaaaaaaaaaaah! Okay. Okay. Okay. Hold on.

She takes a second.

So – I thought – who does everyone in the school like?

YOLANNA

Me.

MARPIT

No.

NAIA

So… So… So –

HELEN

Can you get to the point?!

NAIA

Aaaaaaaah! I sent a message… to… Taylor – Swift.

An electric current runs through everyone –

And…

She holds up her phone.

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhh!

LUCIA

Whaaaaaaaa?!

YOLANNA

Nooooo

MARPIT

Aaaaaaaaaa –

NAIA

SHE SENT ME A VIDEO!!!!

More screams from everyone.

Naia presses play.

We hear the VOICE OF TAYLOR SWIFT

VOICE OF TAYLOR SWIFT

Hey Wilson High* School. It's Taylor.

Everyone screams –

**Feel free to change to Middle School if you're a middle school.*

Skipping Forward

CASH

Which one of you is asking the question? When I look at you I see like nine people. The hallucinations are kind of rough. Mostly it's just like little faces just appear out of the walls and they just scream – they scream – they're really excited and they're screaming at me all the time. Like aaaaaaaaaaaah. The walls need to chill. And the floor.

He drinks from a different can of Monster.

BEE

Maybe you shouldn't drink that much Monster?

CASH

I have a MedicAlert bracelet to call the ambulance when I stop moving.

Lights change to SUSAN and Lucia.

SUSAN

So um… do bottles count or is it just cans?

LUCIA

Just cans.

SUSAN

My family just drinks bottles. So what do I do with them?

LUCIA

I don't know, throw them in the garbage and get a new family.

SUSAN

Get a new family?

LUCIA

This is Taylor. Swift. How many families do you think are out there? Like millions of them. There's only one Taylor Swift.

SUSAN

But like –

LUCIA

What's your name?

SUSAN

Susan?

LUCIA

Susan, you seem nice. There are probably tons of people in this town who would appreciate you as a daughter and who drink out of cans that we could recycle. Okay? Do your part.

NAIA *(to the audience)*

Even the teachers got on board.

Lights change to MS. PEABODY, at a white board, teaching.

MS. PEABODY

Okay class we're supposed to be studying Greek mythology today but news flash – none of that was real. All the ancient Greeks were stupid and they believed things that were dumb. Sorry, nerds.

BAILEY raises her hand.

Hands down, Bailey, I'm not taking questions. What I am taking…

She writes the word CANS on the white board.

Cans. So we're going to use our class time productively and wander the streets looking for cans. I figure there are some great spots on the side of the highway where people just throw garbage out of their trucks.

BRECKS

Isn't that dangerous?

MS. PEABODY

You are young and nimble. If anyone can dodge vehicles on the highway, you can. Which reminds me, we need "Can do" spirit.

She adds the word "Do" right after "Cans." Then she erases the "s" on "cans."

BAILEY

Aren't we supposed to be learning things?

MS. PEABODY

We're learning where the cans are.

M'LYNN

If I don't like Taylor Swift can I stay here?

Everyone stops.

MS. PEABODY

What did you just say?

M'LYNN

She's overrated. All she does is sing about her ex-boyfriends.*

The class reacts.

Ms. Peabody takes a second.

**If you are using a celebrity other than Taylor Swift, feel free to adjust this line and Ms.Peabody's response.*

MS. PEABODY

I need a moment to gather my thoughts.

She holds up her hand.

Okay. There are many eras to Taylor – there is the beautiful songwriting, the showmanship –

BAILEY

Ms. Peabody it's going to be okay –

MS. PEABODY

I need to address this. Because these words that are coming out of her mouth are a cancer that must be cut out.

M'LYNN

I just think that –

MS. PEABODY

You have blasphemed enough! Does she have songs about ex-boyfriends? Yes. Am I a part of an online army that tracks down those ex-boyfriends and savages their social media accounts? Sure. Do I know where the ex-boyfriends live? Of course I do. Do I have a few restraining orders against me? Who doesn't?

M'LYNN

Don't you have a husband?

MS. PEABODY

Pbbbbt. My husband. Whatever. Is he Taylor Swift? No. All right, chop chop, those cans aren't going to find themselves.

BAILEY

Can we at least get orange vests or something?

MS. PEABODY

Me me me me quit whining. Let's go.

Lights change to Bee and Naia.

BEE

Did you see the latest count? Five thousand two hundred and twenty-one cans in three days.

NAIA

Wow.

BEE

I didn't think it was possible, but we're actually going to do it.

NAIA

Really?

BEE

There are people who haven't slept since the announcement, they're just wandering the streets looking for cans. I mean we've basically cleaned out the entire town.

NAIA

Well… we're probably going to run out of cans to recycle then.

BEE

Aren't you excited about this? This is your thing! Not only did you create an amazing recycling program, you're actually the single person responsible for bringing Taylor Swift here! You're like a hero. They're gonna build a statue to you, right next to the one of Taylor Swift they're already building.

NAIA

I just – I don't want to get my hopes up, there are still a lot of cans to get –

BEE

We can do this. Have faith.

NAIA

Yeah that's another issue. It's like a cult.

BEE

It's not a cult.

Ravi, Joon, and ZARA enter, perhaps dressed in robes or Taylor Swift concert Ts. Ravi has a cowbell or triangle and is striking it as they walk across the stage.

RAVI

Praise Taylor.

She strikes the bell.

JOON

Praise Taylor.

She strikes the bell.

ZARA

Praise Taylor, y'all!

They keep walking.

BEE

It's slightly like a cult.

Vitu enters, with a can, tosses it in the garbage.
Ravi, Joon, and Zara see him.

ZARA

I did not just see that.

VITU

What.

ZARA

You just threw that can in the garbage. It needs to be recycled.

VITU

Oh yeah I guess sure whatever.

He tries to walk off but other they block his path.

Ravi rings the bell or triangle menacingly.

What's going on?

ZARA

Maybe you don't like our planet.

VITU

It's kinda mid, to be honest.

JOON

Maybe you'd like to be on a different one.

RAVI

We can arrange that.

JOON

How are we gonna arrange that?

RAVI

I don't know –

JOON

Honestly it's like twenty million dollars to take a ride in one of those SpaceX rockets – we're gonna spend that kind of money on this guy?

RAVI

It was just a vague threat, all right?

ZARA

Guys, if Taylor taught us anything, we need to be making specific threats.

JOON

They will never find your body.

ZARA

Ooh that's good.

RAVI

We're gonna recycle you!

JOON

What does that even mean? You stink at this.

ZARA

Hey where'd he go?

Vitu has escaped.

After him!

They chase after him.

Lights up on TOMMIE, speaking to the audience.

TOMMIE

So I went over to my Grandma's house cause I figured she might have a lot of cans to recycle? Nothing. She had no cans. But she did have money in her wallet because she's an old person and she carries cash. So that was awesome, because she also takes a lot of naps, so I just waited for her to fall asleep. Costco has a special on cases of Kirkland cola, which is like, really really terrible right, so no one wants it and it's cheap? For a hundred and twenty dollars you can buy sixteen cases of thirty cans each. I tried to drink one of them and it was like drinking sadness, so I just poured them all out in my yard, to feed the grass. The grass died or whatever but I figure it's a small price to pay to save the planet.

Check it out: Four hundred and eighty cans! Woo.

My Grandma is pretty sure she got robbed, though. So she's kinda scared these days and isn't sleeping but um… there are trade-offs.

She might have more cash tomorrow though.

Lights change to ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS, speaking to a group of kids.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

All right, can y'all listen for a minute? I know we're all excited about Taylor Swift coming to our school –

Several people in the crowd whisper "Taylor" reverently.

And that's great and that's a wonderful opportunity for our school, but – I'm getting some reports of activities that are not in keeping with our character. Specifically, small crimes.

TRIBBIN

Are they actually crimes if we recycle afterwards?

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

Yes, they are still crimes.

TRIBBIN

But you're recycling.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

Are you wanting to confess something?

TRIBBIN

Let's say if someone shoplifted from many different stores –

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

Those are crimes.

TRIBBIN

But then you recycled afterwards.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

Still crimes.

SAM raises her hand.

SAM

Okay, what if, hypothetically, there was a homeless person and they had a whole bunch of cans in a shopping cart and um… you took it –

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

No! That is so wrong.

SAM

But they weren't using them.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

Yes they were! They were recycling them!

SAM

But Taylor Swift wasn't going to come visit them, so -

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

People! Stop committing small crimes!

TRIBBIN

What if we're not eighteen? Then I think it's cool to commit crimes. They can't even arrest you.

SAM

That's what I heard.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEFFERS

That's not true at all!

Ms. Peabody enters

MS. PEABODY

I think what Assistant Principal Jeffers is saying, if there's a grey area of the law, exploit that.

Skipping Forward

Yes. They have a couch in there.

MARPIT

What are you doing in the faculty lounge?

YOLANNA

What am I not doing in the faculty lounge? Sometimes there's snacks or like a birthday cake for somebody.

MARPIT

You're not faculty.

YOLANNA

So? I just go in places and have crazy eyes and then they're scared to tell me to leave. Can I tell my story?

MARPIT

Fine, whatever, you're in the faculty lounge.

YOLANNA

None of them want to teach anything. They all just want Taylor Swift now.

HELEN

Amazing. This school is so much better now.

SPARK enters.

SPARK

What's up?

LUCIA

Uh – this is a student council meeting.

SPARK

Right. I had a proposal.

HELEN

We're not taking proposals.

SPARK

I'm not that big of a fan of Taylor Swift actually. What if we got BTS instead?

LUCIA

What?!

SPARK

I think it would actually be better – they have like really cool dance moves.

HELEN

We don't get to *pick*!

SPARK

That doesn't seem fair.

YOLANNA

BTS is in like Korea.

SPARK

I'm pretty sure they have a private jet. They could fly here.

HELEN

Look, we don't get to just have our pick of mega-star just because we recycle cans. That's not how this works.

SPARK

What about Rihanna? Rihanna is sick.

YOLANNA

Get out.

SPARK

I say we put it to a vote.

YOLANNA

LEAVE.

SPARK

A'ight. Sheesh. Y'all can't take criticism.

Naia enters as Spark exits

HELEN

There she is!

LUCIA

The recycling queen!

HELEN

I'm the queen, Lucia.

LUCIA

Right, yes, of course, I forgot.

YOLANNA

We're at seventeen thousand cans, girl! Woooo!

NAIA

Um… I have some bad news.

HELEN

What?

Naia takes a deep breath and takes out her phone.

NAIA

I got another video message.

YOLANNA

Aw no.

MARPIT

I knew it! I knew this was too good to be true!

YOLANNA

You didn't know anything, shut up!

LUCIA

What does it say?

NAIA

You better listen.

She hits play again.

We hear the voice of Taylor Swift again.

VOICE OF TAYLOR SWIFT

Hey Wilson High* School. It's Taylor.

They all scream again lightly, they can't help it.

**or middle school*

I'm not going to be able to make it.

They all groan

Unless –

They all perk up

You can collect 200,000 cans by next Friday. Then I'll definitely sing at your dance. Bye.

A moment

NAIA

I'm so sorry guys.

Another moment

HELEN

I mean it's only… 183,000 cans – in four days.

LUCIA

That seems doable.

NAIA

Guys – I don't think it's possible –

YOLANNA

NO. NO. WE ARE *THIS* CLOSE!

MARPIT

183,000 cans is not that close –

YOLANNA

I am *not* going back! Tay-Tay is coming to the dance! I don't care about my family, I don't care about my friends, I don't care about my dog, I care about this! We get everyone together, we work magic! I don't know how, but we make this happen!

HELEN

YES!

LUCIA

YES!

YOLANNA

Wooo! WOOOO!

Cash enters –

How much Monster are you drinking?

CASH

Six cans per hour.

YOLANNA

Double it!

Cash lets out a pained cry and vibrates.

CASH

The voices.

YOLANNA

The voices need to step back and let you have your monster!

CASH

You hear that voices?

HELEN

Let's goooooooo!

Cheers from the student council.

Lights change to TOMMIE

TOMMIE *(to the audience)*

So my parents thought it was a really bad idea for me to go to the bank and take out my college savings to buy cans to recycle them. They were like, "Tommie, this is a bad idea, you've had a lot of bad ideas in your life so far, but this is the worst one. Not even close. Absolutely the worst idea you've ever had. We totally forbid it."

But that just told me I was on the right path. But then I had a problem, how was I going to withdraw all that money without my parents? Solution: dress up a mannequin like my Mom, make her a fake ID, wheel her into the bank. Wrap her head in gauze like a mummy like she just got out of the hospital? Sorry my Mom can't speak cause she had mouth surgery but she wants me to get all my money out in cash.

You will be surprised to learn that this plan did not succeed. They were like, "why are you bringing a mannequin in here" and I was like, "you're very rude you're insulting my mother she's had a lot of Botox."

They were very mean to me.

But if you keep at it, and you pay a stranger to pretend to be your mother, and you visit six different bank branches, eventually you will find someone that gives you eighteen thousand dollars in cash – which I have to say, Mom and Dad, that's not even that much money for college. It only bought 29,000 cans of carbonated water. Took forever to pour them out.

Saving the planet, woo!

Tommie raises their hands in victory.

Lights change to Bee and Naia.

BEE

Did you just see the girl that brought in like nine palettes of cans? She had a forklift. That's so much recycling – it's probably really bad for the planet honestly.

NAIA

Are you serious? Wow.

BEE

What if this actually happens? What if we get to 200,000 cans? You know what? I think Taylor is just testing us and she's going to come anyway. She's trying to push us past our limits. She's so incredible. Just like – the whole idea of this – do you think she'll actually come?

NAIA

I don't think so.

BEE

I think people are going to make it happen – the sophomores* are plotting some serious crimes.

**For middle school, this can be changed to "seventh graders"*

NAIA

I mean, if we get to 200,000 I'll just have to change the number again.

A moment

BEE

What did you just say?

NAIA

Nothing.

BEE

Did you just say you'd have to change the number again?

NAIA

Do you really think Taylor Swift is coming to the school?

BEE

I saw the video. It was her in the video.

NAIA

Yeah it definitely looked and sounded like her in the video.

BEE

I saw the video, Naia.

NAIA

It's a deepfake Bee.

Bee is confused.

I made a deepfake.

BEE

What.

NAIA

It's not that hard, there's so many pictures and videos of her online you can feed it into A.I. –

BEE

Are you serious?! That's like so evil!

NAIA

I had to do something! The recycling program was garbage!

BEE

But this is like illegal!

NAIA

Skipping Forward

BRIANA

Sorry.

BARISTA

What can I get you?

ALICE

She's gonna put in the stupidest coffee order ever.

BRIANA

Let's see… I would like a vengrande half-chai almond milk mochachico with a tiny drizzle of olive oil with shavings of little cocoa beans on top with like a foam bird design -

ALICE

When the coca-cola driver enters.

The DRIVER enters.

BRIANA *(to the driver)*

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING I AM VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT MY COFFEE CHOICES.

MYLAR

Why is she yelling?

BRIANA

I'm nervous okay!
Oh wait ignore that last order I want something different. Um… let's have a tall ventrenti latte shimoobi half-coconut milk double shot red bird.

BARISTA

None of those words are real.

BRIANA

Make them real! I thought Starbucks was the place of dreams!

BARISTA

You're thinking of Disneyland.

BRIANA

I need my double shimoobi mocha latte choc-o-locka! Pronto!

BARISTA

That's totally different than what you said the first time.

BRIANA

That's cause I haven't had my caffeine! I'm going crazy!

She turns to the driver

You might want to go to the bathroom cause this is gonna take some time.

DRIVER

Sounds like a good idea.

The Driver moves off to the side.

ALICE

And when the driver gets in the bathroom, you're going to leap onto her from above, where you have been clinging to the ceiling like a bat for the past seven hours.

Mylar leaps on the Driver.

MYLAR

Eeeeeee!

DRIVER

AAAAAAHHHH!

ALICE

Once you've easily subdued her, you'll take her keys and give them to Bailey –

Bailey returns wearing an identical driver's uniform as Mylar struggles with the Driver.

DRIVER

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE I DO PILATES!

MYLAR

I just want the keys to your truck!

DRIVER

I am a DRIVER! It is my sacred duty to defend the honor of coca-cola! You will pry these keys out of my cold, dead fingers! I am glad to die in the service of tasty refreshment! AAAAAAH!

The Driver charges. She's about to pummel Mylar into oblivion.

MYLAR

Wait! If you give me the keys – you can come see Taylor Swift at our school dance!

DRIVER

Can I have a VIP pass?

MYLAR

Sure.

DRIVER

Sweet. All right then.

She gives the keys to Mylar, who hands them to Bailey.

ALICE

Then Bailey drives to our unloading spot, we unload all the coke, then she goes back to the bottling plant and fills up the truck eight more times. Easy-peasy lemon squeezy.

MYLAR

Do you actually know how to drive?

BRIANA

How hard can it be?

BAILEY

I mean it's a big truck, if anything gets in my way, I'll just run it over.

MYLAR

Sounds smart. I wonder what happens to 14,400 cans of coke when they all get shaken up at the same time?

Lights change.

BEE

This has gotten totally out of control! I heard Alice is planning a raid on the recycling factory on the outskirts of town. They're going to steal all the cans from the recycling plant and bring them back here so they can add them to our recycling!

NAIA

Ooh that's a good idea.

BEE

No it's not! You have unleashed chaos! And for what?! For nothing! Taylor isn't coming –

NAIA

Maybe she's coming – look at this.

She takes out her phone

VOICE OF TAYLOR SWIFT

Hi Wilson High School. It's Taylor. You've done a really great job collecting cans. But I can't come unless you collect 400,000 –

BEE

Is this another deepfake?!

NAIA

Maybe.

BEE

Stop. Committing. Crimes. Tell the truth to everyone - or I will.

NAIA

You'd rat me out?

BEE

Half the sophomores* are felons now. There's a kid who emptied his college savings. I think that kid who drinks Monster is in the hospital.

**or seventh graders*

NAIA

Most of the sophomores were going to be felons anyway, let's be honest.

BEE

Tell the truth… or I'm going to write to Taylor Swift.

NAIA

You wouldn't!

BEE

Watch me.

Bee moves to the side and starts dictating a letter.

Dear Taylor Swift – first off: Big Fan.

Naia gasps and heads to the opposite side of the stage to dictate her own letter.

NAIA

Dear Taylor Swift – first off: *Huge* fan.

BEE

You make the whole world shimmer.

NAIA

You are a hero to millions but Travis Kelce is kind of annoying.*

**Feel free to change this joke if you're not using Taylor Swift.*

BEE

The reason I am writing to you –

NAIA

Is that my friend Bee has gone crazy and is spreading lies about me –

End of Excerpt.
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