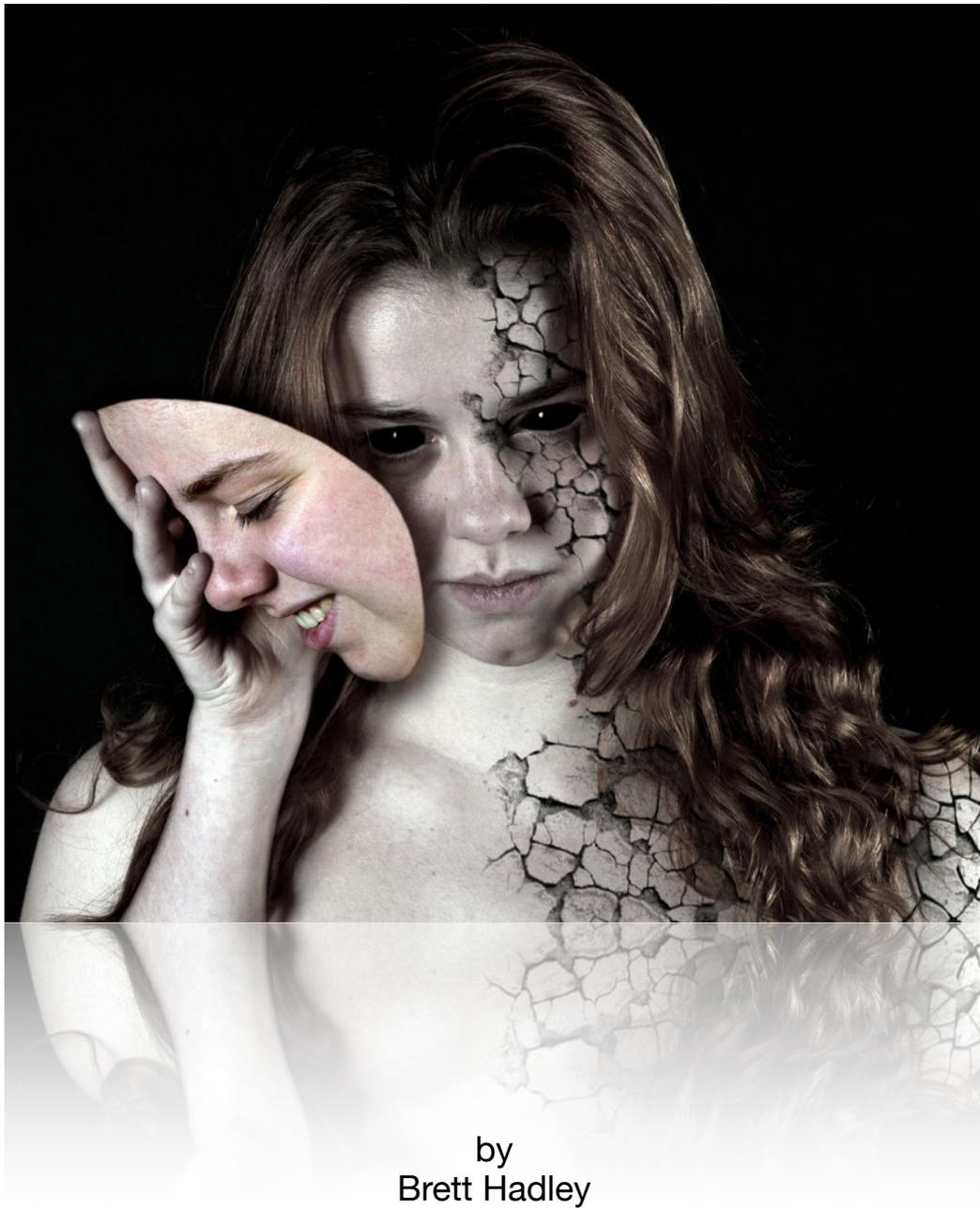


# Per Chance To Dream



by  
Brett Hadley

# Scene-I

*(Lights up on down center stage which is Lizzy's bedroom. She's looking into her mirror)*

**LIZZY:**

*(Trying different expressions)* Hello. Hello. Heellooo. Hi, my name is Elizabeth Myers. Hello, I'm Elizabeth, but my friends call me Lizzy. What's your name?

*(Breaking character)* Can I sound any more stupid! What kind of a name is Elizabeth anyway? *(Diane, her mother, enters unnoticed)* What demented parent would name their child Elizabeth?

**DIANE:**

It was all part of mine and your father's plan to make your life miserable and ensure only mockery and ridicule all the years of life.

**LIZZY:**

Well it's working. What pain did I cause you as a child that you would give me such a horrible name?

**DIANE:**

Twelve hours of labor with no epidural. And it's a lovely name you inherited from your great-grandmother.

**LIZZY:**

She's dead, she won't mind if I change it.

**DIANE:**

Be nice to the deceased.

**LIZZY:**

I have a dumb name. And I'm fat. And I have stringy hair. And big feet. I have canoes for feet! *(Collapses onto bed)* I'm such a freak of nature!

**DIANE:**

*(Sits beside her)* And you're going to do just fine on your audition for the school of arts. That's what this is all about, isn't it?

**LIZZY:**

I guess. I'm just so nervous. They only take the bold and the beautiful people who are like totally perfect--not teenage, human mutants like me.

**DIANE:**

You're not a mutant. *(Takes her by the shoulders)* Listen to me Lizzy, you are a beautiful and brilliant young woman and you are going to knock their socks off with your audition. You've been working for this all your life and you're the best actress since Katherine Hepburn.

**LIZZY:**

Who?

**DIANE:**

Never mind. What's important is that you give this your all and do your best. I know, in my heart, you won't fail.

**LIZZY:**

But what if I do?

**DIANE:**

You won't. Don't let thoughts like those enter your mind. They don't do anything but bring you down, OK?

**LIZZY:**

Yeah, I guess. Thanks mom.

**DIANE:**

That's what I'm here for, to be your number one fan. Now, keep practicing--you want to have your lines down perfect.

**LIZZY:**

O.K.

**DIANE:**

Dinner will be ready in a little while.

**LIZZY:**

*(Brightly)* I'll come help you if you want.

**DIANE:**

No, you practice. Your sister can help with dinner. We don't want to have any distractions now, do we? That's why your father and I decided you should have your own room so you can focus on your acting without distractions.

**LIZZY:**

Alright. But I don't mind.

**DIANE:**

I'll call you when it's ready. *(Kisses her on the head)* Now, get to it thespian.

**LIZZY:**

*(Dramatically)* To be or not to be, that is the question.

**DIANE:**

Cute. I have a smart alec for a daughter.

**LIZZY:**

You have only yourself to blame, it's in my DNA.

**DIANE:**

*(As she exits)* Practice!

**LIZZY:**

Yes ma'am. *(To mirror and seriously pondering the question)* To be or not to be...that is my question. *(Phone rings)* Hello?

*(Lights up on Mandy's room)*

**MANDY:**

Hey Lizzy, it's Mandy. How goes the practicing?

**LIZZY:**

Oh hi Mandy, just a sec. *(Quickly looks through masks and selects the "happy" mask)* O.K. I'm back. How did you know what I was doing?

**MANDY:**

What else would the great Elizabeth Myers, newest and brightest star in the Hollywood sky, be doing?

**LIZZY:**

*(Now begins to take clothes from drawers and try them on with earrings, etc)*  
I'm not in Hollywood yet. I haven't even performed my audition for the arts school yet.

**MANDY:**

Well, you should be and you'll be awesome in your audition, just like everything else you do. You can't fail.

**LIZZY:**

So I've been told.

**MANDY:**

What?

**LIZZY:**  
Nothing.

*(Lights up on Living Room. Both scenes play simultaneously with the speaking scenes dominating while the other continues with silent gesturing to carry on the action)*

**DIANE:**  
Becky! Becky, come down here, I need your help.

**BECKY:**  
*(From offstage)* Be down in a minute!

**DIANE:**  
Becky, where are you? Come down right now!

**BECKY:**  
*(Entering scene and dressed outrageously)* I'm here, I'm here! Don't have a cow!

**DIANE:**  
I don't have cows, I have children. But from the looks of your bedroom one might think I have a pig *(Seeing her for the first time)* and what are you wearing?

**BECKY:**  
It's my new mall cruising outfit. Me, Sally and Stacey are going to the mall tonight to cruise guys and I want to stand out.

**DIANE:**  
You'll stand out alright--as a prostitute! No daughter of mine is going out looking like that. Get upstairs right now and change. And hurry because I need your help with dinner.

**BECKY:**  
But mom, that's not fair!

**DIANE:**  
And who told you life was fair? I never said life was fair. Did your father tell you life was fair?

**BECKY:**  
Yes.

**DIANE:**  
You've had fourteen years living with him now, you should know better than to listen to him.

**BECKY:**

Aaaaaugh! I am such an abused child!

**DIANE:**

Spare me the emotional outbursts and over dramatizations. Now go change!

*(Becky exits)*

**LIZZY:**

So, what are doing tonight?

**MANDY:**

Not much. Making myself beautiful and mysterious for guys who will never be able to appreciate it.

**LIZZY:**

That would be most of the male population.

**MANDY:**

I'm assuming your excluding your boyfriend Brian in that generalization.

**LIZZY:**

Oh yes, of course. He's the exception to the rule.

**BRANDY:**

*(Enters from upstage of Mandy's room)* Mandy, Mandy! Mommy says you have to watch me cause her and daddy are going out tonight to a restera--a retsa--to get sumphen to eat.

**MANDY:**

*(Rolls eyes)* Go away brat I'm on the phone.

**BRANDY:**

Uh-uh. Mommy says you have to watch me and you have to do what mommy says. I wanna play a game.

**MANDY:**

Go play downstairs. Better yet, go play in traffic.

**LIZZY:**

Mandy!

**MANDY:**

I'm just kidding.

**BRANDY:**

Really?

**MANDY:**

No! Now go away!

**BRANDY:**

Well if your not going to watch me then I'm going to watch you. *(Moves close to left of Mandy and stares at her)*

**MANDY:**

Does extremely annoying little sisters qualify as grounds for justifiable homicide?

**TOM:**

*(Entering Living Room scene)*

Hello adoring family! I, your father figure, am home. The king has returned to his castle from a long day of noble labor.

**BECKY:**

*(Re-enters scene)* Dad, can I wear this to the mall tonight?

**TOM:**

Sure.

**DIANE:**

Tom!!

**TOM:**

No, absolutely not! How could you even think to ask?

**BECKY:**

Everyone in this house is so unfair! My life is miserable! *(Storms offstage)*

**DIANE:**

See what you've done? You've upset her. How can you just come home and start contradicting me?

**TOM:**

*(Defending himself)* I've only been home for thirty seconds.

**DIANE:**

Exactly!

**BECKY:**

*(From edge of Living Room)* In light of the atrocities rampant in my life, I've decided to run away and join the circus. Consider this my two-week notice.  
*(Storms off stage again while Tom tries to say something)*

*(Tom turns to say something to Diane)*

**DIANE:**

I've got to get dinner ready. *(Storms off stage into kitchen)*

*(Tom, completely dismayed by being suddenly left alone, shakes his head, picks up a newspaper and sits in chair)*

**MANDY:**

Brandy, I'm warning you, go away.

**BRANDY:**

Uh-uh. I don't have to. Mommy says this is my room to and I can be here whenever I want.

**MANDY:**

If you don't leave right now I'm going to tell all your friends that you like Teddy Stevens, our little next door neighbor.

**BRANDY:**

He's icky! He smells bad and picks his nose!

**MANDY:**

And I'll tell them that you have his cooties!

**BRANDY:**

*(Runs out screaming)* Noooooooooo!

**LIZZY:**

Mandy, you are positively evil.

**MANDY:**

That's the only way to deal with little sisters. By the way, what's up with this new phone number? I called your old number and your mom gave me this one.

**LIZZY:**

Yeah, they put in a line just for me in my room.

**MANDY:**

What? You're kidding.

**LIZZY:**

Mom figured I could use it for my computer so I can get online to the arts school whenever I needed to look up stuff for school.

**MANDY:**

You have so got it made. Your own room, your own phone, your own place to get away from the world!

**LIZZY:**

*(The next few lines they are more to herself and Mandy doesn't seem to hear. She takes off her mask and plays with the death mask)* Yeah, I guess. It can get kinda lonely sometimes and quiet.

*(At the end of every line she says, Mandy reaches for something while Lizzy says her line)*

**MANDY:**

What I wouldn't give to have a room to go to for some peace and quiet.

**LIZZY:**

So quiet the only sounds I can hear are my own thoughts.

**MANDY:**

Sometimes I can't even hear myself think.

**LIZZY:**

Thoughts I don't want to hear. Some I'm afraid of.

**MANDY:**

And I could die a happy person if I didn't have to share a bathroom with my entire family.

**LIZZY:**

Like who I really am. The real me.

**MANDY:**

So many people would love to be you.

**LIZZY:**

Really?

**MANDY:**

Sure! Your own room, your own phone, no annoying little sister!

**LIZZY:**

I have a little sister.

**MANDY:**

Yeah, but at least she's halfway normal.

**LIZZY:**

Most of the time.

**MANDY:**

You think your parents would adopt me?

**LIZZY:**

*(Putting on the happy mask again)* I don't know, I can ask.

**DIANE:**

*(Looks around corner through doorway to Living Room from Kitchen)* Tom, which would you rather have, potatoes or string beans?

**TOM:**

Ah, the master of the house is offered the opportunity to guide in a selection for the evening meal. He must choose carefully for the nutritional well being of his family is at issue.

**DIANE:**

Tom, pick a vegetable.

**TOM:**

*(Looking back to paper)* Potatoes.

**DIANE:**

Thank you.

**BECKY:**

*(Entering from offstage right)* O.K. I look like someone who lives on Sesame Street, are you both happy now?

**TOM:**

Happy as a clam.

**DIANE:**

Thank you Becky. Now go in the kitchen and help with dinner. Your father wants potatoes.

**BECKY:**

Why me? What about Lizzy? Why can't she ever help with anything?

**DIANE:**

She's practicing for her audition.

**BECKY:**

Oh, well, heaven forbid we disturb the stage princess. She must have her practice time! After all, she is the chosen child.

**DIANE:**

Becky, please? The potatoes?

**BECKY:**

I'm such a slave child. You had me just so you wouldn't have to work.

**TOM:**

Best reason for having children--slave labor. And one day you'll pass on this great tradition to your children.

**BECKY:**

I live at dysfunction junction. *(Exits to kitchen)*

**MANDY:**

Hey, you want to go see a movie Saturday night?

**LIZZY:**

That'd be fun. Are you paying cause I'm broke?

**MANDY:**

Yeah, me too. How about an evening of old fashioned TV, that'd be cheaper.

**LIZZY:**

OK, Your house or mine?

**MANDY:**

Are you serious? You want to try and watch TV with my dad the obsessive-compulsive channel changer? We're still trying to get his medication worked out.

**LIZZY:**

I know. How about a video? I could afford that.

**MANDY:**

Sure. As long as we can get everyone to agree on one.

**LIZZY:**

Well, we could watch it here in my room.

**MANDY:**

Your not going to tell me you have your own TV and VCR, are you?

**LIZZY:**

*(Shyly)* Mom thought I could use it to watch drama videos to help me with my rehearsal.

**MANDY:**

Lizzy.

**LIZZY:**

Yeah?

**MANDY:**

You got a pen and some paper?

**LIZZY:**

Yeah, why?

**MANDY:**

I want you to write out your will right now and leave everything to me because I'm coming over to kill you.

**LIZZY:**

Mandy!

**MANDY:**

I'm serious! You have so got the life.

**LIZZY:**

How's that?

**MANDY:**

Your own room, your own phone, great family, the perfect boyfriend—

**LIZZY:**

He's hardly ever around.

**MANDY:**

Exactly. No mutant little sister to deal with and your own VCR!

**LIZZY:**

Yeah, I guess.

**MANDY:**

Don't even try to complain, I won't listen.

**LIZZY:**

I'm not complaining. It's just...I don't know.

**MANDY:**

What? What else could you possibly want?

**LIZZY:**

To really be loved.

**MANDY:**

You have stuff, you can buy love.

**LIZZY:**

*(Again, starting to take off her mask)* Do you think that true love really exists?

**MANDY:**

Don't ask me; ask Brian, your boyfriend.

**LIZZY:**

Not like that. I mean, someone who knew everything about you, every dark secret, and every awful thing you've ever done or even just thought about. Someone who had seen the darkest parts of your soul and still loved you. Do you think that's possible?

**MANDY:**

Um, sure, I guess God's supposed to be like that.

**LIZZY:**

Yeah, but if you've never seen it in a person, how can you believe it about God?

**MANDY:**

*(Cynically)* Why don't you go and ask Him?

**LIZZY:**

*(Holding up death mask)* I've been thinking about doing just that.

**MANDY:**

*(Trying to break the tension)* Are getting all dramatic on me again?

**LIZZY:**

*(Recovering and putting on her happy mask again)* Well, of course. Be dramatic is what I do best dahrling.

**MANDY:**

That's what I thought .

**DIANE:**

Tom, there's something I want to talk to you about. I've been thinking...

**TOM:**

Oh no, not that again.

**DIANE:**

I'm serious. You know, with Lizzy working so hard at school to keep her grades up and practicing for this audition that's so important, I was thinking we should build her a studio.

**TOM:**

A studio?

**DIANE:**

Yes, so she can practice without distractions. Her birthday is coming up and I thought it would be a wonderful gift for her.

**TOM:**

But a studio? Where would we put it?

**DIANE:**

In the attic. It's perfect. I've already gone through and thrown out all the junk and there's plenty of room.

**TOM:**

I don't know Diane. Don't you think we're spending a lot of attention on Lizzy? I know Becky is already feeling a little second rate around here.

**DIANE:**

I know we have lately, but this is Lizzy's time right now. She's a Senior and getting into this art school is so important to her. Becky's time is coming and when it does we'll spend as much time and attention on her also.

**MANDY:**

So, you think you'll make it into that arts school?

**LIZZY:**

Who knows? Only if they take me out of pity.

**MANDY:**

You know what they say; you can do anything you want if you want it bad enough.

**LIZZY:**

Well, if they count how badly my mom wants it, then I'm in for sure.

**MANDY:**

What do you mean?

**LIZZY:**

She should be the one trying out. The way she acts my entire future depends on me getting into this school. If I don't, then I'm destined to be spokesperson for Losers of the World. I mean, sure I'd like to go, I think, but I don't know what I want to do with my life and I feel like I have to have it all figured out right now.

**TOM:**

I guess. It just seems like a lot of pressure we're putting on Lizzy. I don't think it's healthy for her.

**DIANE:**

It seems like a lot now only because we've been talking about it so much lately. I couldn't say this to anyone else Tom, but I believe Lizzy is going to be a very fine and well-known actress someday. I just want to support her in every way we can.

**TOM:**

I think it's great the way you believe in her so much--and so do I. I just feel like we're too focused on this one thing for her.

**DIANE:**

It's what she wants.

**TOM:**

And you don't? You wanted to be an actress yourself once upon a time, remember?

**DIANE:**

Of course I do Tom, but this is her dream, not mine. Lizzy really is a well-rounded person and she's very strong. If we're pushing too hard, she'd let us know.

*(Barrier goes up between Lizzy's room and Living Room)*

**MANDY:**

Well, have you told your mom how you feel?

**LIZZY:**

No way. It'd break her heart to not see *(mocking)* her talented daughter rise to stardom. I'd be such a disappointment.

**MANDY:**

I disappoint my parents all the time. It's no big deal. We're teenagers, we're supposed to be disappointing. They get over it.

**LIZZY:**

Yeah, well, not my mom. It's a life and death matter with her. It's like her happiness depends on my success. I just wish someone would ask me how I feel.

**BECKY:**

*(From doorway to kitchen)* Excuse me O masters of the house. Your humble servant reports that dinner is ready. *(Exits back to Kitchen)*

**DIANE:**

And you wanted a second child.

**TOM:**

No, I wanted a dog, remember?

**DIANE:**

Get Lizzy, I'll get dinner.

**TOM:**

Lizzy! Dinner's ready!

**LIZZY:**

Be right there! I gotta go Mandy, they're calling me for dinner.

**MANDY:**

O.K., I'll see ya at school tomorrow.

**LIZZY:**

Bye. *(Hangs up phone. Selects the "strong" mask and enters living room where Diane is setting out a teacart with plates and food on it)* What's for dinner?

**BECKY:**

*(Very dramatic and holding up plate of rolls as a "sacrifice")* For Madame thespian, whatever she desires. For myself, only the crumbs that fall from your plate.

**LIZZY:**

You know Becky, your the real actress of the family.

**TOM:**

Can we all just sit down and have a nice family meal without any drama?

*(They all sit)*

**LIZZY:**

Looks good mom.

**DIANE:**

Thank you Lizzy.

**TOM:**

I picked the vegetable.

**DIANE:**

Yes, and we're all very proud of you. And it's not a vegetable, it's a starch. Can we eat now?

**BECKY:**

*(Laughing at and making fun of her dad)* Haaa, it's a starch.

**TOM:**

Becky, you want to say the blessing?

**BECKY:**

O.K. *(Everyone bows their head except Becky who looks up)* Good food, good drink, good--

**DIANE:**

*(Warningly)* Becky.

**BECKY:**

*(Quickly)* O Lord for this food we are about to eat we humbly give thanks. Amen.

**ALL:**

Amen.

**DIANE:**

So Lizzy, how goes the rehearsing? Have you picked a monologue yet?

**LIZZY:**

*(Picks up a roll and nibbles on it. This is all she eats for the entire meal)* Not yet, I'm still looking. I'm thinking maybe Shakespeare or Poe.

**BECKY:**

How boring. What about something from Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon?

**LIZZY:**

It has to be classical theatre. And that was a sub-titled movie in Chinese.

**BECKY:**

Oh.

**DIANE:**

Is there anything we can do to help? You know, hold your script...Listen?

**LIZZY:**

No, I think I'm at the point where I pretty much have to trudge along on my own.

**DIANE:**

Just let us know if we can help dear.

**LIZZY:**

I was actually looking at the catalogue for the arts school and--

**BECKY:**

Again! You've read that thing a hundred times! You should have it memorized by now!

**LIZZY:**

Anyway, it says over five hundred people try out each year and they only take seventy-five. Seventy-five! I have no chance.

**DIANE:**

Lizzy, that's not true and you know it.

**BECKY:**

Are we gonna talk about this again?

**TOM:**

You want to talk about the history test you flunked that your teacher called me about today?

**BECKY:**

Go on Lizzy, I'm here for you.

**LIZZY:**

I don't know, it's just, so hard to get in and it seems like my entire future is based on whether or not I make it into this school or not. What if I don't make it, then everyone will know that I'm a loser and I can never show my face in school again. I'll have to drop out and move to Siberia.

**BECKY:**

Can I have your room?

**DIANE:**

Becky!

**BECKY:**

Seriously, if she's that worried and stressed out over this whole stupid audition then I have the perfect solution; don't do it.

**DIANE:**

That's not helping Becky.

**BECKY:**

I'm serious! Why let anything cause so much stress? Life's too short. You gotta learn to relax sis or you'll die of a heart attack before your out of high-school.

**DIANE:**

I'm sure Lizzy doesn't feel that way at all, do you dear?

**LIZZY:**

Well, not exactly.

**DIANE:**

See. She's just fine. Just a little nervous, who wouldn't be?

**LIZZY:**

It's not so much stress really (*begins to take off mask*) as it is lately I've been feeling kind of lost. (*As she continues her lines, Becky plays with her food and uses it to create funny faces. Tom and Diane are focusing on this and laughing instead of what Lizzy is trying to share from her heart*) Like everyone else has it all together and I don't.

**BECKY:**

(*With cucumber slices over her eyes*) You gotta be cool as a cucumber

**LIZZY:**

Like no one really knows me and I don't even know myself. And if no one knows me, how can anyone really love me...I don't even think I like myself.

**BECKY:**

(*Putting celery in her teeth as fangs, carrots in her ears*) Learn to vegetate.

**LIZZY:**

I feel like there's this dark shadow coming after me and I don't know what it is.

**DIANE:**

Stop playing with your food.

**LIZZY:**

Or where it came from.

**TOM:**

*(Balancing a spoon on his nose)* Now this is real talent. Maybe I should try out for the arts school.

**LIZZY:**

Or how to get away from it.

**DIANE:**

*(Still laughing)* What did you say dear? You need to get away?

**LIZZY:**

*(Putting mask back on and recovering)* Um, yeah--from you crazy people. Before you drive me insane!

**DIANE:**

That's funny you should mention that dear. Your father and I have a surprise for you.

**LIZZY:**

A surprise? For me, really?

**TOM:**

That's right. To help pay for your tuition at the arts school, we're selling your sister to the government for scientific experiments.

**BECKY:**

Hey!

**DIANE:**

Tom! Since your birthday is so close, we thought we'd tell you now what you're getting. Your father and I have decided to turn the attic into your own practice studio! Won't that be wonderful? You'll have more of your own space and won't have to be bothered with interruptions or distractions. You can put all your energy into your work.

**LIZZY:**

*(Not too thrilled)* Yeah, that'll be great. Thanks mom and dad...Really. That's awesome. You're the best. I guess I'd better get back to practicing. Still have a lot of work to do.

**TOM:**

Hey, did you get enough to eat? You hardly touched anything?

**LIZZY:**

Yeah, I'm not that hungry.

**DIANE:**

*(Picking up some dishes)* Alright, let us know if you need anything. Becky--

**BECKY:**

Wait! Don't tell me. Help clean up and put away the dishes. The slave child is on it. At least I have some purpose in life.

**TOM:**

She catches on quick, doesn't she?

*(Tom and Diane exit to kitchen taking some dishes with them)*

**BECKY:**

*(Stopping Lizzy just before she exits)* Hey, jerk face.

**LIZZY:**

Yeah dweeb.

**BECKY:**

You know I really do hope you do great on your acting thing and get into that school if it's what you really want.

**LIZZY:**

I know. Thanks.

**BECKY:**

Mostly because I want your room when you leave. But, if you can get some happiness in the process, that's cool too.

**LIZZY:**

Deal.

**DIANE:**

*(From offstage)* Becky!

**BECKY:**

The master calls.

**LIZZY:**

You're a great little sister Becky.

**BECKY:**

You're pretty good too...for a jerk face.

*(Lizzy exits to her room with lights coming up on her as well as the living room where Ron and Diane enter as Becky exits)*

**TOM:**

Diane, I'm worried about Lizzy. She seems, I don't know, distant. And did you see how much she ate tonight? She barely touched any of her food.

**DIANE:**

Well, you'd be nervous too if you were auditioning in front of some of the best stage actors and directors in the country. It's just nerves, she'll be fine once it's over.

**TOM:**

Maybe you're right.

**DIANE:**

Of course I am.

**LIZZY:**

*(To mirror)* For my classical selection I offer Gertrude, Hamlet, Act IV; Scene VIII. One woe doth tread upon another's heel so fast they follow: your sister's drown'd Laertes. There is a willow grows aslant a brook, that shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream; There with fantastic garlands did she make of crow flowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples. *(Handles the death mask)*

**TOM:**

But don't you think we're pushing her awfully hard. I mean, since she's got her own room now we hardly ever see her anymore except for meals where she hardly eats. And now you want to build her a studio in the attic? All she has to do then is call out for pizza and we'll never see her.

**DIANE:**

She has to practice Tom. And she can't be bothered with the TV noise of your baseball games or Becky annoying her. She needs her own space. We have to give Lizzy every advantage we can! And besides, you eat enough for the both of you.

**LIZZY:**

Our cold maids do dead men's fingers call them: There on the pendent boughs her coronet weeds clambering to hand, an envious sliver broke. When down her weedy trophies and herself fell in the weeping brook.

**TOM:**

All I'm saying is that, in a lot of ways, Lizzy is still a very young girl and fragile. All this stress can't be good for her. I think it's making her withdraw.

**DIANE:**

You worry too much. I've got an eye on her dear heart. Trust me, once she's been accepted to the arts school--

**TOM:**

You say that like it's a done deal. How do you know she'll make it? I mean, if so many kids get turned away, how do we know she won't be one of them?

**DIANE:**

Don't talk like that.

**TOM:**

I'm just saying, it's possible she might not--

**DIANE:**

Stop it right there! And keep your voice down. Do you want her to hear you? Don't you think it's hard enough for her already without your or anybody putting doubts into her head? If all you're worried about is the money--

**TOM:**

It's not the money--

**DIANE:**

I told you I'll get a second job--or don't you want what's best for your daughter?

**TOM:**

Forget it. I'm sorry I brought it up. Obviously you have everything under control.  
*(Sits in chair with paper)*

**LIZZY:**

Her clothes spread wide; And, mermaid-like, awhile they bore her up which time she chanted snatches of old tunes. As one incapable of her own distress

**DIANE:**

*(Softening)* No, I don't. I'm sorry Tom. I guess I've felt a lot of pressure too with Lizzy's audition. I just want to protect her, is that so awful?

**LIZZY:**

Or like a creature native and indued unto that element...

**TOM:**

No, of course not. But why is her making it into this school so important? It's just a school.

**LIZZY:**

But long it could not be till that her garments

**DIANE:**

It's a great school, one of the best and Lizzy has such a special talent. I really believe she has what it takes to make it. I just want to support her in every possible way we can. Isn't that what we're supposed to do as parents? Can't we do that?

**LIZZY:**

Heavy with their drink

**TOM:**

Yeah...I guess your right. It's for her best.

*(They hug and lights fade out on living room)*

**LIZZY:**

Pull'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay to muddy death.

*(Slow fade to black. End ACT-I, SCENE-I)*