

Girls Will Be Girls

By  
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| CHARACTER NAME | BRIEF DESCRIPTION                               | AGE | GENDER |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Josie          | Cheer captain, doubtful, anxious but optimistic | 17  | Female |
| Laina          | Arrogant, sarcastic, assertive, impulsive       | 18  | Female |
| Willow         | Timid and emotional                             | 17  | Female |
| Jazzlyn        | Spunky, high maintenance, a bit shallow         | 18  | Female |
| Cass           | Strong, loud, empathetic                        | 17  | Female |

## SCENE 1

The curtains are closed. The sound of a phone's outgoing call is heard.

The dialing comes to an abrupt end.

### PHONE OPERATOR (V.O)

You've reached the inbox of Dr. Erin Galloway at Kennesaw Psychiatric Clinic. If this is a medical emergency, please dial 911. If this is not an emergency, wait for the tone before leaving your message, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Beeeeep!

A teenage girl, JOSIE, hurriedly walks onto the stage with a phone to her ear.

### JOSIE

Hey, Dr. Galloway. It's Josie. I'm just checking in to see if you got my message....s.

Josie paces the stage.

### JOSIE

I'm sure you're just busy, and I totally get that! I was just uh-- I wanted to know if maybe we could move our next appointment to, uhm, to like a sooner date. Maybe? It's just with graduation coming up and finals and... the team, I've just been kind of like, stressed lately.

Josie perks up and starts pacing the stage faster.

### JOSIE

I know in two weeks none of this will matter, and we'll all be going out to pursue "brighter and better futures", but... I just don't want it all to have been for nothing, ya know? We're supposed to be a team, and I kind of hoped we'd stay a team after high school. Like, I'm *seriously* trying with these girls. I've been trying for two years now, but like, they just... They just don't listen, and I still don't think they really take me seriously. I've been trying to speak louder and ask for feedback, and all the other things we talked about when it comes to "being the captain I want to be" but.... I don't know.

Josie stops pacing and runs her hand over her face as if cringing at herself.

JOSIE

Uh, yeah. Anyway, uh- call me back when you can. Please.

Josie goes to hang up before bringing the phone back to her ear.

JOSIE

This is Josie, by the way. Sorry. Bye.

Josie hangs up the phone and covers her face, cringing.

LAINA (OFF STAGE)

Josie!

Josie jumps, dropping her phone. She quickly scrambles to pick it back up.

JOSIE

Uh, yeah?

LAINA (OFF STAGE)

Hurry up!

JOSIE

Yup! Coming!

Josie exits the same way she entered.

## SCENE 2

From behind the curtain, a light comes on, revealing six shadows. All six figures climb on top of each other to stack and create a cheer pyramid.

GIRLS (OFF STAGE)

2, 4, 6, 8! KYS is pretty great! 4, 3, 2, 1! Kennesaw, we get it done!

The pyramid starts to wobble.

LAINA

Cass, move your hand!

CASS

Move your ass!

JAZZLYN

Ow!

JOSIE

Careful!

The startled screams of the six figures erupts as they all fall to the ground with a loud thud.

The stage lights come on as the curtains open. A high school gym takes up a majority of the stage while a smaller portion replicates a cramped locker room with a trashcan outside of it.

Five girls struggle to pick themselves up off the floor. In the middle of them is the unresponsive body of 17-year-old CAYDEN WESCOTT.

Josie picks herself up off the floor.

JOSIE

Are you guys okay?

LAINA

I knew that was going to happen.

LAINA rises to her feet.

LAINA

Hey, uh, who guessed that putting a 185-pound quarterback at the top of a cheer pyramid would end badly? Weird. I feel like somebody said that. I just... can't seem to remember who.

CASS, the stoutest of the five girls, stands up and rolls out her shoulder.

CASS

We get it, Laina. Yeah, ow. Fuck.

Jazzlyn brushes off her skirt.

JAZZLYN

Cayden, *please* stop being so dramatic. Get up.

Cayden doesn't move.

LAINA

I swear to god- Cayden, get your ass up!

Silence.

WILLOW, the tallest of the group,  
approaches Cayden.

WILLOW

Cayden?

Josie joins her.

JOSIE

Is he okay?

Cass picks up Cayden's head by his hair.

CASS

Hey!

She lets go of his hair.

Cayden's head slams down onto the gym  
floor in an instant with a *thunk!*

Cass quickly rises to her feet.

CASS

LAINA

Oh my god.

Holy shit!

Josie quickly kneels down next to Cayden.

JOSIE

Cayden!

JAZZLYN

Is he breathing?

LAINA

Dude, is that what I heard crack?

CASS

Oh- Oh, my god.

WILLOW

Cass, it's okay.

Josie puts her hand to Cayden's neck.

JOSIE

There's no pulse.

JAZZLYN

Are you checking it correctly?

JOSIE

Yeah. I don't know! Maybe!

Josie pulls away, standing up.

WILLOW

Should we call someone? That's what you do in this situation, right? We should call someone.

LAINA

No. Guys, hold on, I feel us doing a thing right now, so I'm just gonna say it.

(Beat)

Deserved.

JOSIE

Laina!

WILLOW

Oh my god.

LAINA

Cayden sucks! I'm just saying! Maybe this is karma for all the shit he pulls.

JOSIE

No. No, he's still a human being with a body and... I wanna say feelings, but--

CASS

It's his fault! He said this shit was easy.

JAZZLYN

We don't know if he's like dead-dead, though. Right? Like, there still might be time to take him to--

LAINA

Did you see the way his fucking head fell? Bro might as well have his tongue hanging out like roadkill.

JOSIE

Uhm, okay, let's--

CASS

Should we leave? Should we just leave?

WILLOW

No, we need to call someone.

Willow takes out her phone.

Laina smacks it out of her hands.

WILLOW

Ow!

LAINA

No! We're not calling someone!

WILLOW

Why not?

JOSIE

Guys, let's just take a deep breath and-

JAZZLYN

I can't go to jail, you guys! I don't think DoorDash delivers there!

CASS

Oh god.

Cass dry-heaves.

LAINA

Swallow it!

JAZZLYN

You better not.

JOSIE

Cassidy, hold it in! Jazzlyn, you're not going to jail. None of us are going to jail, okay?

(To Cayden)

Cayden!

LAINA

Josie, he's fucking dead!

CASS

We need to hide his body.

JOSIE

What?!

Cass approaches Cayden's body and lifts up his legs.

CASS

Someone grab his head.

JOSIE

Cass, no! Guys, can we just-

RING RING!

The girls freeze as a phone goes off. Cass drops Cayden's legs.

They all stand silent as the ringing continues.

WILLOW

It's coming from his pocket.

RING RING!

CASS

Someone needs to answer it.

LAINA

And say what? Just let it go to voicemail.

RING RING!

CASS

What if they get suspicious?

JAZZLYN  
(cries)

Oh my god.

JOSIE

No, no, no! I'll just, uh-

Josie reaches into Cayden's pocket and pulls out his phone.

JOSIE

It's his dad.

RING RING!

JOSIE

Wha-- What do I say?

LAINA

Preferably, leave out the whole dead son thing.

WILLOW

Or... we could ask him for help?

LAINA

Willow, I swear to god! Do you wanna make this a double homicide?

CASS

Laina! That's not funny.

RING RING!

CASS

Just explain that Cayden is busy helping us with tutoring or something!

JAZZLYN

In what? He's like a D-average student, at best.

Josie hurriedly shushes everyone as she presses a button on the phone. *Beep!*

The male voice comes from the other line...  
in Italian.

CAYDEN'S DAD

Ehi, dove sei? Sono tornato a casa e non c'eri. La pratica di calcio è terminata tardi?  
*[Hey, where are you? I came home, and you weren't there. Did football practice end late?]*

The girls all look at each other in a panic.

Cayden's dad stops speaking, awaiting a response.

Silence washes over them all before Josie promptly ends the call.

LAINA

Josie!

JOSIE

I- I don't know Italian!

Laina tosses her hands in the air.

LAINA

Unbelievable.

JOSIE

I'm sorry.

Text messages begin to come through in rapid succession.

The girls scream.

CASS

I got it.

Cass grabs the phone and quickly throws it off stage.

JOSIE

Cassidy!

CASS

Get his head.

Cass moves to pick up Cayden's legs again.

JAZZLYN

His dad is definitely suspicious! What if he calls the cops?

Cass struggles with Cayden's body.

JOSIE

Cass, no! We can't just--

LAINA

No, yes we can. It's either we sit here and wait for the police to arrive, or we ditch the body and leave.

CASS

Thank you.

JOSIE

That is ridiculous! No, we can't just-- I know Cayden wasn't....great, but this is wrong. I mean, we could still get him help, or maybe find a way to inform the authorities of this accident so that he can have a proper burial.

A beat.

LAINA

Josie, that might just be the stupidest thing you've ever said in your life.

JOSIE

I'm just saying... We didn't mean to harm him. We couldn't have known he was too heavy for us to reasonably carry, right?

JAZZLYN

Yeah. Yeah! I mean-- This really isn't that bad.

Cass drops Cayden's legs.

LAINA

Okay, great. Yeah, well, while you two continue to be delusional and get yourselves incarcerated, I say that anyone who actually wants a future - such as myself - make our getaway now.

JOSIE

Laina...

CASS

No, no-- I agree. We could just leave. No one knows we were here.

JAZZLYN

Except all our parents.

WILLOW

And the school.

(Beat)

...Cause they know we have practice here at this time?

Faint whistling is heard from off stage.

CASS

Fuck! Someone's coming!

Oh god! JAZZLYN Shit! LAINA

The girls bump into each other sporadically,  
unsure of where to go.

CASS  
The body! His body!

Cass rushes over to Cayden and picks up his  
legs.

LAINA  
Right!

Laina joins her, fumbling with Cayden's  
arms.

LAINA  
Shit, oh god!

JOSIE  
Wait! Guys, no!

The whistling gets louder.

WILLOW  
Locker room! Locker room!

Jazzlyn helps Laina and Cass with Cayden's  
body as Willow guides them into the small  
locker room.

JAZZLYN  
Shit, white boy's heavy!

WILLOW  
He's Italian.

LAINA  
Shut up, Willow!

The whistling continues to approach.

JOSIE

Guys! No!

The four girls disappear into the locker room with Cayden's body, leaving Josie in the gym.

MS. DAVIS, a big woman with a janitor's cart, enters the gym and smiles brightly at Josie.

MR. DAVIS

Josie! Is ya team's practice still goin' on?

Off to the side, the four girls are struggling to carry Cayden's body in the locker room.

JOSIE

Hi, Ms. Davis. Uhm, no, we actually just ended. Uh- I'm just waiting for them to finish up in the locker room.

Cayden's body falls out of the girls' arms, dropping with a loud thud.

Josie laughs nervously.

JOSIE

We get pretty crazy in there... sometimes.

MS. DAVIS

Hey, I get it. When I was in varsity soccer back in the day, we got pretty wild in the locker rooms. Especially after school hours, if ya know what I mean.

Ms. Davis moves to take a seat on the bleachers.

MS. DAVIS

I'll just take a seat and wait for ya all to clear out, eh?

JOSIE

NO!

Ms. Davis freezes.

JOSIE

I just... Did I say we were wrapping up? I mean... that we are actually staying a bit longer. Yeah. With graduation coming up and only one tournament to go, we need to practice, practice, practice if we wanna go out with a bang.

MS. DAVIS

Hey, I believe in ya guys. No need to listen to all those things people say 'bout ya.

JOSIE

Wait, what?

MS. DAVIS

I'll skip to the west side of the school and circle back.

Ms. Davis leaves with the janitor's cart.

After a moment, Josie sighs.

JOSIE

She's gone!

The other girls return to the gym, leaving  
Cayden's body in the locker room.

WILLOW

Oh... god. If Cayden's body gets found now, Ms. Davis is gonna testify and say she saw all of us here.

LAINA

Technically, she only saw Josie.

JAZZLYN

Laina!

CASS

Way to be a team player.

JOSIE

Okay, guys! Uh-- this is bad. We just... Uh... I think it's for the best that we call someone, and-

LAINA

Absolutely not!

WILLOW

No, she's right! Maybe the cops will understand.

LAINA

Oh, yeah, the cops will understand that five teenage girls killed Kennesaw Youth School's golden boy, and will just let them walk off scott free cause "Oh my god, it was just an accident, you guys! I'm just a girl." No! You guys, we're not fucking calling somebody!

JAZZLYN

Laina! Can you please just... Calm down?

LAINA

Don't fucking tell me to "calm down". Look, Cayden, like, definitely deserved this, but that doesn't stop the fact that he is dead, the janitor knows we're here, and we all look super fucking guilty right now!

JOSIE

Exactly! Which is why we should stop and re-evaluate--

CASS

There have to be other options. We can do something about this.

LAINA

Cass, all you do is throw shit and throw up. You don't do anything!

JOSIE

Laina!

CASS

Okay, ya know what? I throw up when I'm nervous, okay! At least I don't throw *myself* at every being with a penis!

LAINA

That's cause you're a raging lesbian! We've all known it since sophomore year! Grow up!

JOSIE

Can we just--

JAZZLYN

Oh my god.

WILLOW

(voice-crack)

Fuck, we're so fucked.

CASS

Willow.

WILLOW

No, she's right. None of us are getting out of this.

LAINA

Finally, she's sensible.

JOSIE

Please, if I could just say--

JAZZLYN

Wait, wait, wait! Guys.

(Beat)

I think I have an idea.

The girls all look at Jazzlyn.

JAZZLYN

Okay, I mean ... It's not a good idea. And, it's kind of like, completely crazy, but... if we stage this right, we *could* make Cayden's death look like a... suicide. Is that crazy?

A beat.

JOSIE

YES!

CASS

It's perfect! Who has a pen?

Cass and Jazzlyn head into the locker room.

LAINA

In my bag! Front pocket.

JOSIE

Guys, no, that's insane!

JAZZLYN

Look in his bag too. We need to copy his handwriting.

JOSIE

No, no, no, no--

In the locker room, Cass steps over Cayden and opens a locker, taking out a backpack. Jazzlyn lifts Cayden by his arms, dragging him back into the gym.

She lays him down on the floor.

JOSIE

This is crazy. Can we just vote on it, or something? Uhm, all in favor?

Everyone but Josie raises their hand.

JOSIE

Dammit.

Cass returns to the gym with a pen and paper.

CASS

How do you start a suicide note? Do you just like... "Hey, ya'll. It's me."

(Beat)

Or--

Cayden groans.

JOSIE

Oh my god!

JAZZLYN

Holy fuck!

Cayden shifts painfully, attempting to sit up.

Laina stumbles back, quickly grabbing a steel water bottle and bludgeons Cayden over the head.

Cayden falls back to the floor as a pool of blood begins to spread from under his head.

The girls all freeze.

JAZZLYN

LAINA!

CASS

Oh, god.

Cass darts to the gym trash can and throws up aggressively.

LAINA

He was starting to wake up!

WILLOW

That's a good thing!

LAINA

Yeah, I see that now in hindsight! Fuck! Let's just do the suicide note, okay!

JAZZLYN

No! Not okay! We can't do a suicide note now, Laina! He has blood all over him!

Cass returns, wiping her mouth. She groans.

LAINA

Well! Then let's do the first idea and just ditch the body somewhere!

JOSIE

What?! No!

JAZZLYN

Fine, okay! We'll just use some towels to clean up the blood and--

JOSIE

No!

CASS

I'll go get some!

WILLOW

Me too.

Cass and Willow head to the locker room as Jazzlyn and Laina grab Cayden's arms and legs.

JOSIE

NO!

Her voice echoes. The girls all look at Josie.

JOSIE

I-

(sighs)

Okay, look, I know we're all freaking out right now, but we-- We can't do this.

LAINA

Well, not when you keep talking.

JOSIE

Jesus Christ, Laina! Shut up for once in your fucking life!

A long beat.

Josie sighs.

JOSIE

Sorry. I just-- Okay, look, I know you guys hate me, okay? You guys hate each other. And we all hate Cayden. I know that, alright. Cayden was a shitty person. But this morning, he had a future. He had room to change and grow, and we took that away from him.

(Beat)

And I know he sucks, and I know you guys are scared. So am I. I mean... fuck. We have, like, 10 minutes before the police find us here, put us in handcuffs, and everything any of us could've ever wanted to accomplish with our lives will be taken away.

Jazzlyn drops Cayden's arms.

JOSIE

All I've been trying to do all season is prevent this team from falling apart. But fuck, maybe-- maybe it's inevitable. I mean, it's a miracle you all agree on this one thing, and it's burying our classmate? Is this seriously how you guys want to remember each other? Yelling and arguing and --

Josie's voice cracks as the girls all look at each other.

JOSIE

I don't know.

Josie wipes her face.

JOSIE

Go ahead. Just... bury him, or throw him in the dumpster, or whatever you guys were gonna do. And then we can graduate and go our separate ways. And you'll never have to see each other again.

Josie sits down on the bleachers.

Laina sets down Cayden's legs.

JAZZLYN

You know... I don't hate any of you guys. I mean, you guys can be very... frustrating. But *sometimes*, you lowkey crack me up.

CASS

I don't hate any of you either. I mean, Willow and I are chill. Jazzlyn helped me cut my hair in the girls' bathroom that one time, and you--.

Cass sits down next to Josie.

CASS

You do so much.

LAINA

Sometimes too much.

The girls all look at Laina.

LAINA

I mean, like, in a good way.

Josie looks down.

LAINA

Fuck, I'm not good at this. Okay, like, I know I can be a lot to handle sometimes.... Often, but-- Believe it or not, I actually like being here or whatever.

Jazzlyn and Willow sit down.

JOSIE

Really?

LAINA

Yeah. And I'm gonna be like, kinda bummed when it's over. Or whatever.

Laina sits down.

CASS

Me too. I know we're all...passionate, but Josie, so are you. You just have a different way of showing it.

WILLOW

Yeah, like when Cayden was being particularly transphobic on one day and kept asking me very... personal questions about--

Willow motions to her skirt.

WILLOW

You straight-up told him that if he spent less time touching his own crotch he might get the privilege of seeing someone else's.

JAZZLYN

Or when you hosted a bunch of meetings with the school board about banning peanuts in the locker room cause of Laina's allergy.

LAINA

Overkill, but still-- appreciated.

WILLOW

You're always defending us, even if we don't always deserve it. And, we'd defend you.

The girls sit in silence before Josie looks up.

JOSIE

Wait. Defending us. Defending ourselves. Okay, I know how this is going to sound, but we might be able to get out of this while also being honest about killing Cayden.

LAINA

How?

JOSIE

Self-defense. I mean, it is still kind of lying-- definitely lying, but--

Josie stands.

JOSIE

If we make Cayden's death look like self-defense, the police won't just see a dead guy. They'll see a group of equally harmed girls waiting for their arrival.

CASS

I mean... it wouldn't be that hard to believe. Everyone knows Cayden's... issues.

WILLOW

And if it doesn't work?

Josie looks at Cayden's body and then back at the girls.

JOSIE

Then, we'll just hope they put our cells next to each other.

The girls stand.

WILLOW

That's insane.

CASS

And painful.

LAINA

And it's perfect.

(Beat)

Let's do it.

JOSIE

Jazz?

Jazzlyn looks at them all.

JAZZLYN

Okay, fine. Yes, let's do it. Just... no one hurt my ankles, they're my best features.

JOSIE

Alright then. Let's hope this works.

The curtains close as the silhouettes of the girls appear again. They punch, kick, and grab at each other as police sirens are heard, getting louder. By the time they've reached their peak, red and blue lights hit the curtains.

POLICE (OFF STAGE)

Police!

The five girls emerge from behind the curtains with their hands in the air, their faces bruised and clothes torn.

They all stare ahead as the police lights shut off, leaving the stage in darkness.



