



MONOLOGUES

This monologue is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

Northview High School Will Shelter You (If We Must) by Emily Hageman

DARCY

Where else am I supposed to go?

(It could have been a sharp, angry question, but DARCY just sounds tired—so tired. It comes off sounding like an honest question. Where else can she go? JENNY and MOLLY say nothing.)

I can't—I just wake up every day and I think—I can't do this. I can't be me. But I can't like... crawl out of my body and be someone else. I mean, I would give anything. Anything.

(A moment passes.)

And I'm so—so angry. And I hate how angry I am, but I'm livid—and I'm—I'm ashamed. Like—more ashamed than I ever even remotely knew was possible. And I'm just like—looking at my life right now and everyone says that it wasn't my fault, but they say it so much that it makes me think—if they're trying so hard to convince me that it wasn't my fault, maybe it really was.

(A moment passes.)

It's just—I can't do this. I can't. I don't want to—I don't want to do any of this. I mean, I would give up every good thing I've ever had in my life just to—to make all of this go away. Because—I don't know how I can ever live past this, I mean, this is just me now, isn't it? No matter how hard I try, this is going to follow me around for the rest of my life—it's going to hang over my head and I'm always going to know—how much I didn't know. But maybe I did know. And I'm so—I can't even explain with words just how...sorry. No. Forget it. This is—I don't know even know you, I'm sorry, I—

I'm not even—making sense.

I just...I can't explain...there's not enough words for me to say just like—how angry I am. And how much I—my mind is just scrambling twenty-four hours a day and I hate him and I am so hurt and angry and embarrassed and I don't even know how anyone can even look at me, but I get up every morning and I do all the stupid stuff that doesn't even matter and then I come to school and it's just...everything feels so small and hollow now. But I just keep doing it...because I don't know what else there is to do. I guess. I don't—understand. I don't—none of this makes any sense. And I'm not the kind of person who's like—you know, I don't believe that everything happens for a reason, but I do believe there's like—logic.



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And cause and effect. And I—there's no cause, there's no effect, it's just like—staring into a black hole. And I just feel like...I'm inside of it. And he didn't kill me, but he did. But I didn't die. And he killed so many people. He killed them. How could—I've known him my whole life, how could he...he killed people. People with families and kids and friends and lives and—and I knew he was sick, but I didn't know...and even if it wasn't my fault, it must have been in some ways. It must have been. I don't know. I can't...I can't feel anything anymore. I don't want to feel anything ever again. I'm sorry. I'll...I'm sorry. This is—it's too much. It's way too much.

NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL WILL SHELTER YOU (IF WE MUST) by Emily Hageman

Length: 90 minutes. (Flexible - This show can be cut into a shorter play by simply removing one or more of the scenes.)

Cast Size: 11 actors (suggested casting: 7F, 3M, 1 any)

Genre: Drama

Synopsis: In the aftermath of a horrific shooting at a neighboring high school, a group of students is asked to welcome their rivals into their school for the remainder of the year. Over FaceTime and Instagram Live, students from both schools struggle to navigate trauma and grief amidst group projects, student council meetings, and planning for prom. As their preconceptions about each other gradually begin to fade, surprising friendships begin to form, and everyone emerges transformed by the experience. Written to be performed on stage or virtually.

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