

WAFFLEHOUSE

(If a character's name isn't followed by a line of dialogue, this means that the character's dialogue is actually silence.)

The parking lot of a Waffle House in Druid Hills, Georgia. ALENE and MAGGIE are onstage, dancing and rolling on the ground. RUTH and HENRY enter.

RUTH

Thanks for showing me around.

HENRY

Of course I'm glad you picked me and not one of those scary girls like Heather who sells her mom's adderall which is like we all do adderall but not our *mom's* adderall.

RUTH

I don't do adderall -

HENRY

Anyway this is the rest of the gang that I told you about they can't come inside Waffle House because of the wormhole.

RUTH

What wormhole?

HENRY

The one in the bathroom, that's why I told you to go at home.

RUTH

Oh.

HENRY

Anyway this is Maggie and Alene and they're my best friends Maggie is a third Waffle House because she eats a lot of Waffle House and Alene is high.

ALENE

I'm actually not high right now.

HENRY

Alene, you're never not high.

MAGGIE

Where'd you move from?

RUTH

Savannah.

MAGGIE

There are ghosts in Savannah.

HENRY

There are ghosts everywhere, Maggie, not just in Savannah.

MAGGIE

Yeah but ghost presence is, like, especially strong in Savannah.

RUTH

I actually lived right outside of Savannah -

HENRY

There are ghosts in the suburbs, too. They don't discriminate.

ALENE

Do you smoke?

RUTH

Not really.

That's so cool. ALENE

Hm? RUTH

Did you show her the wormhole? ALENE

No I didn't show her the wormhole I wouldn't do that to her she's new but I told her about it. HENRY

My dog disappeared in that wormhole. ALENE

Why was your dog in a Waffle House? RUTH

Because he wanted a waffle? ALENE

That's a weird question, like, why else would her dog be in Waffle House? HENRY

I didn't know dogs were allowed- RUTH

So why'd you move? HENRY

What? RUTH

Why'd you move? In the middle of the year. From the suburbs of Savannah. HENRY

My mom had a nervous breakdown. RUTH

Cool. MAGGIE

Does she do crack? Cause my mom did crack and she also had a nervous breakdown and that's why we lived in Key West for a month. ALENE

Oh I remember when you lived in Key West for a month. HENRY

My mom doesn't do crack. RUTH

So then what was her reason? MAGGIE

I don't really think she had one. RUTH

Abstract. ALENE

What? RUTH

Sorry, 'abstract' is my new, like, 'huh'. Abstract. ALENE

Oh. RUTH

MAGGIE

She must have had a reason.

HENRY

There's not always a reason for something, Maggie.

MAGGIE

There are reasons for nervous breakdowns.

ALENE

Maybe she doesn't feel like talking about it.

MAGGIE

You literally told her that your mom does crack I feel like we've established a safe space.

ALENE

Just because I overshared doesn't mean she has to.

HENRY

I'm so bored with this conversation.

RUTH

She turned 50 and flipped out she shaved her head and threw herself a 15th birthday party and did some stuff with this kid in my class so we moved.

HENRY

ALENE

Retweet.

RUTH

What?

HENRY

What's your Twitter?

RUTH

I don't have one.

MAGGIE

Good. Privacy is an illusion.

ALENE

Only if you have things to hide.

HENRY

Do you have anything to hide, Ruth?

RUTH

No...?

MAGGIE

Good.

ALENE

How do you want to die?

RUTH

Pardon?

HENRY

I love this question.

MAGGIE

Can I go?

HENRY

No, me first.

ALENE

I asked the question.

RUTH

I don't want to die.

HENRY

Lame.

MAGGIE

I would want to get sucked down the wormhole.

ALENE

What if it's closed?

MAGGIE

It's never closed.

HENRY

I would want spontaneous human combustion.

MAGGIE

Ow.

ALENE

I want to, like, choke on a bag of Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

HENRY

What about you Ruth?

RUTH

I told you, I don't want to die.

MAGGIE

No one wants to die, but if you had to...

ALENE

Just say it we all said ours.

RUTH

I would want to be murdered. Home alone. He sneaks through the back door and murders me in my bed. I can hear myself scream before it goes dark.

HENRY

ALENE

MAGGIE

HENRY

You know who I saw the other day?

ALENE

Who?

HENRY

Mrs. Mox.

MAGGIE

No way.

ALENE

I thought she moved to Bermuda?

MAGGIE

No it was Bethesda.

HENRY

Well she's back.

RUTH

Who's Mrs. Mox?

ALENE

Oh, my God I love when we get to tell this story to people.

MAGGIE

That's kinda fucked up.

HENRY

Tell it. No let me tell it. Mary Mox was this girl who used to be in our grade at school until like tenth grade and we all called her Moxie.

RUTH

I thought you called her Mrs. Mox.

HENRY

No that's Moxie's mother.

RUTH

Oh.

MAGGIE

In tenth grade Moxie was going out with this guy named Ben who was on the lacrosse team which is a really good team and Moxie took the lacrosse team's yearbook photo and they totally fell in love which was cute because Moxie was always sort of quiet and artistic and then Ben who was this, like, jock totally loved her.

ALENE

Tell her the next part.

MAGGIE

I'm getting to it.

HENRY

I want to tell it.

At the end of tenth grade apparently things were sort of weird and, like, Moxie's mom is super religious and Moxie was kind of, like, sexually inexperienced and she didn't want to do it with Ben yet and then one night he tried to, you know, *rape* her and she killed him.

RUTH

MAGGIE

ALENE

RUTH

Wait, what?

MAGGIE

It was really awful, the whole thing.

RUTH

She killed him?

ALENE

I say he deserved it.

HENRY

He didn't deserve to *die*.

ALENE

He raped her.

HENRY

He tried to.

ALENE

Fuck you.

MAGGIE

The whole thing's really sad.

RUTH

Where is she now?

HENRY
MAGGIE
ALENE
HENRY

Prison. Well, like, kid prison until she turns 18, then it's Big Boy Prison.

RUTH

For not wanting to be raped.

HENRY

... Yeah.

RUTH

That's one of the worst stories ever.

MAGGIE

It sucks.

RUTH

Where's the prison.

MAGGIE

Like, not that far away. Outside of Athens, maybe.

RUTH

Were you guys friends with her?

HENRY

Maggie was. Maggie was really good friends with her. Maggie was a character witness in the trial. We were all there but Maggie was a character witness.

ALENE

Way to bring down the mood.

HENRY

I so didn't bring down the mood.

ALENE

Yes you did you were the one that brought it up.

HENRY

I brought up *Mrs. Mox*.

ALENE

Which brought up Moxie.

HENRY

It's not my fault the conversation naturally flowed in that direction.

RUTH climbs on top of the car.

ALENE

I don't like talking about her.

MAGGIE

Why is she on the roof of the car?

HENRY

Why are you on the roof of the car?

RUTH

MOXIE!

HENRY

What are you doing??

RUTH

MOXIE WE LOVE YOU.

MAGGIE joins her.

HENRY

Oh no this is crazy and insane and bad.

RUTH & MAGGIE

MOXIE IT'S OKAY.

ALENE joins.

HENRY

You're all insane and are going to get in trouble.

RUTH & MAGGIE & ALENE

MOXIE WE LOVE YOU. THANK YOU. IT'S OKAY.

HENRY

Seriously.

HENRY joins, too.

RUTH & HENRY & MAGGIE & ALENE

MOXIE. MOXIEEEEE. MOXIE CAN YOU HEAR US WE LOVE YOU MOXIEEEEE.

They stare towards the prison, as if waiting for a reply. Maybe they get one.

End of play.