

Uncertainty Theory
One-act play with music

2008 Maura Campbell
233 Crescent Road, Burlington, VT 05401
802/578-4857; ibsen3000@yahoo.com

CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE GRADUATING SENIORS, PRINCIPAL ROLES

Zondi, independent, faithful friend
Samantha (Sam), mediator, class Valedictorian
Amalie*, a French exchange student
Greta*, a German exchange student
Natalie, vivacious, emotional
Colleen, also vivacious and conscientious,
Andrew, comic, hears the beat of a different drummer
Ben, good friend and supporter
Charlie,
Buddy, Sam's boyfriend in the first half
Matt, Natalie's fiance, 20 years old
The Band

*May be double cast

VARIOUS SUPPORTING ROLES*

Casting requirements, 15-30 plus voice-overs, either recorded or live.

NOTE: There are three songs, all parodies. The hip hop and rock songs should be musically invented by performers. The graduation song should be a Cappella in 3/4 time and a melody can also be invented by the ensemble.

SETTING

A high school girl's bathroom and auditorium.

TIME

Graduation day, the present.

Scene 1

A hip hop band tunes up behind a screen.

BAND

MIXING IT UP MY CUP RUNNETH OVER IT'S A
CLOWN'S GRIN WAKING ME UP AS I
CONTEMPLATE MY FATE AFTER SCHOOL
GETS OUT, I'M NO FOOL LIKE IN
SHAKESPEARE CAUSE HE WAS
SMART IN ART AND MAYBE EVEN SCIENCE
I DON'T BUY IT WHAT THEY TELL ME
THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE
REST OF MY LIFE MAYBE THE
REST AIN'T COMING MAYBE THE TEST IS THE
FIRST VERSE OF THE UNIVERSE MANY
WORLDS SPINNING YOU OBSERVE AN
EVENT WHO'S TO KNOW THE OLD ADAGE
WALK A MILE IN YOUR SHOES NO ONE
CAN IT'S THE LAW ASK EINSTEIN HE WAS
INCLINED TO QUESTION DID I MENTION HEISENBERG
TALKING 'BOUT PARTICLES POINT OF LIGHT
CATCH A WAVE GET ON IT CATCH TWO OR TWO-
TWENTY DON'T COUNT WE LEARNED IN SCHOOL
MANY WORLDS MANY WORLDS MANY WORLDS...

Lights down on the band. In the dark.

ZONDI

You should outline them first. Here... No, open.

SAM

Like this?

ZONDI

Wider... Now like that-

Lights come up slowly. ZONDI is showing SAM how to hold her mouth for lip liner. Their backs are to the audience. They are in front of a wall to floor mirror in the girls' bathroom at their high school. They are dressed in graduation gowns.

Zondi (cont'd)

I haven't filled your lips in yet, now hold still!

SAM

(mouth wide open)

I'm just going to wash it off.

ZONDI
Now for the gloss-

SAM
Great, red *and* shiny.

ZONDI
There. Look.

SAM
How am I going to make a speech? My lips will be stuck together.

(panicked)
My notes!

ZONDI
They're in your backpack. I saw you put it in there.

SAM
I am so nervous!

ZONDI
Your fault for being the most brilliant kid in the class.

SAM
I'm taking this off.

ZONDI
You're not going to make it as a lawyer if you can't handle cosmetics! Okay, now pucker up. Perfect! Buddy won't be able to resist you.

SAM
We broke up.

ZONDI
What?

SAM
I told you!

ZONDI
I thought you were waiting until the end of the summer?

SAM
It'll be harder then. Why does everything have to be so hard?

ZONDI
You've got to learn to lighten up. Look at Andrew. Nothing bothers him.

AMALIE enters. She is wearing her gown. It is enormous.

AMALIE

In my country we call this a parachute.

Sam and Zondi try not to laugh.

Amalie (cont'd)

Next week I go home and this is how you will remember me.

SAM

Humiliation is one of the hallmarks of an American graduation. We want you to have the full effect. Somebody's got to have some pins.

ZONDI

Stand over here. Pull that back. Tighter... What about a belt?

SAM

I'll wear it.

AMALIE

It's okay.

SAM

Take it off. Come on.

AMALIE

Why don't we wear it together?

SAM

Cause I'm marching with Andrew.

AMALIE

Andrew!

SAM

Now what?

AMALIE

He was still in bed when I left. He's a kooky, that guy.

ZONDI

A kooky? Listen, Amalie, living with Andrew is like living on another planet.

SAM

Literally!

AMALIE

I'm going to miss him.

She starts to cry.

ZONDI

Now, now, you're going to get us all going. We can't cry until after graduation.

AMALIE

You are going to visit me?

ZONDI

It's already set. My junior year in college.

AMALIE

That's so far away!

Sam puts on Amalie's gown.

SAM

How do I look?

COLLEEN and NATALIE enter; they are wearing very high heels with some difficulty.

COLLEEN

It is so hot! The janitors can't get the air on in the auditorium... What the-

Natalie and Colleen look at Sam.

Colleen (cont'd)

(beat)

You going to hide Andrew in that thing?

SAM

Very funny. Got any pins?

COLLEEN

You'll be behind a podium. For the most part.

SAM

Don't remind me!

NATALIE

I don't know what you're complaining about. Black completely washes me out. I'm a spring. I should be wearing periwinkle.

ZONDI

What am I?

NATALIE

Definitely a winter. You look great in black.

ZONDI

What about Sam?

NATALIE

Either spring or autumn. She could go either way. Of course, some colors suit everybody.

She holds out her left hand.

NATALIE (cont'd)

Like the color bling.

ZONDI

She's got a diamond!

The girls all scream and run to look at it.

ZONDI/AMALIE/SAM

It's beautiful!... When did you get it?... How big is the diamond?... You're crazy!... Do your parents know?

NATALIE

Matt gave it to me last night! He's shipping out in two weeks.

SAM

Are you getting married before he goes?

NATALIE

Are you kidding? My parents would kill me! They can't even know about the ring.

AMALIE

I'm going to miss Charlie!

Now the attention is on Amalie.

AMALIE (cont'd)

These long distance things never work!

A GIRL sticks her head in the bathroom.

GIRL

Five minutes!

NATALIE/COLLEEN/AMALIE/ZONDI

(variously)

Crap - hand me that -

NATALIE

I want you all to be my bridesmaids! We're thinking next summer when he has leave. Don't tell anyone.

ZONDI/AMALIE/SAM/COLLEEN

No... never... promise... Okay...

The girls fix hair, last minute makeup applications, etc. Sam finds a towel and attempts to wipe off the lipstick.

ANDREW leans over a bathroom stall. He has on his graduation cap, but no gown. He takes a picture of the girls.

ANDREW

Say cheese!

THE GIRLS

God, Andrew, etc.

NATALIE

How did you get in here?

ANDREW

Window.

AMALIE

If you're going to take a picture, at least let us pose!

The girls pose. Andrew snaps a picture.

SAM

How about one of Andrew.

ANDREW

And you. You and me.

Sam stands next to Andrew. They put their arms around each other. Amalie takes the picture of them. Andrew doesn't let Sam go right away.

AMALIE

Fromage!

ANDREW/SAM

Fromage!

The girls all start to exit.

ANDREW

One little thing!

They turn to him.

ANDREW (cont'd)

I'm actually here on a mission.

He jumps over the stall wall.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Little delay, I'm afraid. Due to unexpected developments in the parking lot.

ZONDI

What are you talking about?

ANDREW

Have a look.

Zondi goes in the stall, stands on the toilet and looks out the window.

ZONDI

Oh, my God! There's cops everywhere!

Everyone crowds inside the stall to get a good look.

Zondi (cont'd)

Colleen, that's your dad!

COLLEEN

Is he in handcuffs!

AMALIE

No- but he's getting in the police car-

ZONDI

That looks like Brendan's dad!

All the girls run out of the bathroom. Andrew remains. He checks himself out in the mirror - does a series of poses - practices the graduation march.

ANDREW

Da, da da da, da... da...

Sam reenters.

SAM

They won't let anyone leave the building.

ANDREW

I know. Nobody can get in, either.

SAM

Hence the window?

ANDREW

Hence the window. I'm not staying out there in that heat.

Two more bodies come through the window. We hear the thumps as they land on the floor. BEN and CHARLIE emerge, also dressed in gowns. Charlie immediately goes to Amalie.

BEN

Colleen's dad got arrested!

CHARLIE

No, he didn't. That was her mom.

Sam's cell phone rings.

SAM

Hi- in the bathroom!... Oh, my-

ANDREW

What?

SAM

It's Colleen- I'll be right there-

She hangs up.

SAM (cont'd)

There was a bomb threat!

CHARLIE

Colleen's mom brought a bomb to school?

SAM

No! God!

Sam runs out.

ANDREW

Soap. Do you guys see this? The girls actually have soap in the dispenser.

They wash their hands.

BUDDY (O.S.)

Anybody home?

CHARLIE

Get in here!

BUDDY enters through the window- also wearing a gown.

BUDDY

Mr. Spencer got arrested.

BEN

He brought a bomb, too?

BUDDY

What are you talking about? He was drunk and hit Colleen's mother.

ANDREW

No!

BUDDY

Swear.

BEN

Did you see it?

BUDDY

Practically! I mean, I heard it. He just kind of bumped her, I think.

CHARLIE

How do you know he was drunk?

BUDDY

Well, I don't know. I just figured because of the way he was staggering around.

Natalie reenters.

NATALIE

Do you guys even care about what is happening out here! This is supposed to be our graduation day! Colleen is a wreck!

The door opens - bumping Natalie - it is Colleen followed by Sam, Zondi and Amalie. Colleen is in tears.

COLLEEN

I'm not going back out there!

AMALIE

It's all right.

A knock at the door. Sam goes to it.

SAM

Yes?

MR. CHANNING

(the principal)

Sam? This is Mr. Channing. Is Colleen in there?

SAM

Yes.

MR. CHANNING

Can you ask her to come outside?

Colleen shakes her head "no".

SAM

She'll be right out.

COLLEEN

I don't want this day to be happening!

AMALIE

Come on, I'll go with you.

NATALIE

We'll all go.

COLLEEN

No, it's- I'll be all right.

She exits. Three or four cell phones go off at once.

NATALIE/AMALIE/ZONDI/CHARLIE

(variously)

Hello- yeah- what- wow - no, I'm not - you're kidding - when? - Mr. Spencer? - Colleen's with Mr. Channing - I'll call you back - etc.

They hang up.

ALL THE KIDS

Now they're saying Mr. Spencer brought the bomb - it was only an accident in the parking lot - they're rescheduling graduation for tomorrow - my mother was in the parking lot when it happened - why do you think there was an ambulance - I always thought Mr. Spencer was weird and he's always talking about the Manhattan Project - it can't be tomorrow, tomorrow's the annual baseball game - I just want my stupid diploma - well, sorry about Colleen -

Colleen reenters. Everyone is quiet.

COLLEEN

It's okay. My mother's okay. She and my dad hit Mr. Spencer but they didn't run over him. He fell in front of their car; they think he had a heart attack!

BEN

Is he dead?

COLLEEN

The ambulance is coming. Poor old guy!

Andrew opens his gown. Several snacks and drinks are pinned to the inside.

ANDREW

A little fortification!

Everybody moves in on him.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Would Andrew Conley please report to the main office? Andrew Conley?

Everyone moves away. His robe is now devoid of snacks.

ANDREW

Ah. My fan club awaits.

He is slow to move. But then with a decisive motion, he goes back into the stall and starts to climb out the window.

SAM

Andrew! What are you doing?

NATALIE/AMALIE/ZONDI/COLLEEN

Come on, god, didn't you hear that, etc.

ANDREW

I-

Andrew falls from the toilet. Sam and Zondi run to him. His graduation hat falls on the floor. Zondi picks it up and moves it out of the way.

ZONDI

(to Ben and Charlie)

Has he been drinking?

BEN

No! He was fine when we picked him up.

ANDREW

Ah, ye of little faith. I get these spells. Alien invasion. 1999. *I was just a wee bairn when they came for me.* You were there, Sam! Don't you remember?

SAM

(to Natalie)

Go get Mr. Channing.

Natalie exits.

SAM (cont'd)
 What is it, Andy?

ANDREW
 Where's Amalie?

Amalie comes over.

ANDREW (cont'd)
 Let me feel your head.

AMALIE
 What?

Andrew passes his hand over her head
 without touching it.

ANDREW
 I thought so. She's one of us, Sam.
 (To the others)
 It's an alien thing. And now-
 (trying to remain sensible)
 I'm going to sing you a song.

SAM
 (gently)
 You can't sing.

ANDREW
 Oh, but I can! The alien chip. It's going off. Snap crackle
 pop! And I'll sing - and you- you will stop taking life so
 seriously.

SAM
 I wouldn't have to if you would yourself! Just a little!

ANDREW
*Raggedy Sam and Raggedy Andy, she's got brains and he's got
 candy.*

SAM
 Nothing changes.

ANDREW
 That's where you're wrong! Change - is - afoot!
 (Beat)
 Okay, I'm off.

He gets to his feet - more steady now.
 He kisses Sam.

ANDREW (cont'd)
 Sorry, Buddy, had to do it.

Andrew goes back in the stall.

SAM

Where are you going?

ANDREW

Not certain. Uncertain. Uncertain certainty. Certain uncertainty.

He is halfway out the window.

ANDREW (cont'd)

I'll see you later, Sam. Or maybe an hour ago I'll see you. Mix it up and throw it. You know the stars aren't just points of light, they make a constellation.

SAM

Stay here!

ANDREW

Point of light, Sam, if you see it, it's already moved away.

Andrew is gone.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Sorry for the delay, folks. Would seniors please report to the auditorium at this time... seniors please report to the auditorium...

One by one they start to exit the bathroom. Buddy stops Sam.

BUDDY

Hey.

SAM

Hey, what?

(Buddy tries to kiss her.)

SAM (cont'd)

Stop that! We're breaking up, remember?

BUDDY

After graduation. That's not for two more hours.

(They exit. Andrew's cap and Sam's backpack are still on the floor. Blackout.)

SCENE 2

Andrew stands in a narrow point of light. He looks up. Music - maybe something from 2001 Space Odyssey or Star Trek. It gets brighter and brighter and brighter until it blinds him. There is a thunderclap and explosion of light then dark.

ANDREW

Holy crap! Sam!

Lights come up. Several of the graduating students and some underclassmen are poised to sing a song. A conductor stands in front of them, raises her hand, and they begin to sing in 3/4 time, a Capella.

GIRLS/BOYS

TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE,
IT'S A DAY, IT'S A FIRST, IT'S THE REST OF YOUR LIFE,
IF YOU WANDER AWAY WE WILL FIND YOU AND SAY,
HAVE A DAY, HAVE A FIRST, HAVE A WONDERFUL
WONDERFUL, REST OF YOUR LIFE.

TOMORROW WILL KEEP YOU FROM LIVING TODAY
IT'S A HOPE, IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A LIFETIME AWAY,
IF YOU LIVE IN TOMORROW YOU WON'T SEE TODAY,
HAVE A DAY, HAVE A FIRST, HAVE A WONDERFUL,
WONDERFUL REST OF YOUR LIFE!

YESTERDAY CAME AND IT FLOATED AWAY,
IT'S A DREAM, IT'S A ROSE, BUT IT'S STILL NOT TODAY,
IF YESTERDAY CALLS YOU THEN JUST TURN AWAY,
HAVE A DAY, HAVE A FIRST, HAVE A WONDERFUL,
WONDERFUL REST OF YOUR LIFE!

Lights down on the chorus.

MR. CHANNING (V.O.)

And now the student speaker for the Class of 2---,
valedictorian Samantha Elizabeth Stern.

Sam enters and walks up to the podium.

SAM

Mr. Channing, honored guests, families and friends, and
members of the Class of 2---.

(Long beat)

I left my speech in the bathroom. Lucky for me, I read it
several times. Okay, maybe a hundred times. And the essence
of it was planning.

Mr. Spencer used to tell us that we if we fail to plan we plan to fail. And planning and failing are two things that I-
(long beat)

When I came here in the third grade, I knew that I would one day, if I was lucky enough, stand up here with all of you-
(long beat)

Certainly the future is unfinished. But we can be certain as we leave these halls- hallways - that certain things are certain... I was remembering a conversation I had a long time ago - no, it wasn't a conversation, it was an experience. And it was important to the - message I want to give today. On this hallowed day. I can't recall it exactly now but it was the crux of what I-

(long beat)

I want to congratulate my fellow classmates and hope to see you all at the Alumni dinner tonight. Where we will all be alumni. That is, the seniors. And a few others. Thank you.

Lights down on Samantha. Lights up and now several actors representing the principal and graduation guests stand with their backs to the audience stage left.

Seniors enter from the right as their names are called and they acknowledge the audience - muffled applause on a recording. The lines may be pre-recorded or live, but pre-recording will probably give a stronger effect of inner dialogue. Before they exit, each takes a diploma. The SPEAKER announces the name on a loudspeaker. Preferably, a moving spotlight follows them across the stage.

SPEAKER

Nicole Ann Adair!

NICOLE

I take the diploma and sit down. No. I take the diploma and wait until the next row comes up. No. I take the diploma and go backstage. No.

SPEAKER

Joseph Zachariah Elwine!

JOSEPH

That's *Alvine*, nitwit! I am so out of this place!

SPEAKER

Brady Stephen Atkinson!

BRADY

Lord, I was born a ramblin' man, trying to make a livin' and doing the best I can...

SPEAKER

Charles Oscar Arden!

CHARLIE

Look, it's just for the summer. I've saved up some money - I'm going to France and you can't stop me!

SPEAKER

Amanda June Bell!

AMANDA

(she stops for a photo op)

Where are they? Oh! Get my good side! Now my bad side! Okay! That'll look good on the mantle!

SPEAKER

Thomas James Billingsly!

Thomas emerges - mimics Amanda and exits.

SPEAKER (cont'd)

Jake Grant Bradley!

JAKE

Skylar, now covered in the skin of the beast Albatroscis hunkered down in the mud unaware that it was infested with meter long slug-like creatures who could flay the skin of a man with one slurp of their tongues...

SPEAKER

Benjamin Logan Campbell!

BEN

So, Zondi, you want a ride to the party tonight? What do you say I pick you up around six? Yes, I have been working out, thanks for asking!

SPEAKER

Asher Richard Cohen!

ASHER

I'm going to rule the world! My genius will one day be acknowledged and they *will* bow down to me!

SPEAKER

Samuel William Cunningham!

SAMUEL

*We came into the world
we uncurled and hurled the life the hope
for more than our parents...*

SPEAKER

Diana Rose Darien!

DIANA

You are not going to cry. You are not. You spent an hour on your makeup and it's a hundred degrees in here. You are not.

SPEAKER

Natalie Brook DiAngelo!

NATALIE

(balancing in her high heels)
HERE COMES THE BRIDE, ALL DRESSED IN WHITE...

SPEAKER

Colleen Sariah Desautels!

COLLEEN

(tearfully)
I am never going to take you for granted again, ever! I love you Mom and Dad! I love you!

SPEAKER

Matthew John Eaton!

MATTHEW

Ten steps across the stage, twenty-one to my seat, a hundred and thirty-eight to the lobby,
(as he is accepting his diploma)
I don't know you, don't touch my hand...

SPEAKER

Zondi Elena French!

ZONDI

Has anyone noticed that it's a hundred and twelve degrees in here? And that Maxwell Franklin Giardano stinks?

SPEAKER

Maxwell Franklin Giardano!

MAXWELL

I think she was looking at me. Like really looking at me. I *knew* she liked me. I knew it!

SPEAKER

Amalie Susette Leblanc

AMALIE

...and I am so happy that I had a chance to live in this country and make so many friends, I will never forget...

SPEAKER

Andrew Franklin Harris...

(beat)

Andrew Franklin Harris...

(two beats)

Andrew Franklin Harris?

The moving spotlight tries to find him.
Finally, lights become low and dreamy
The recorded sound of applause and so
on is muffled and indistinct. Fade out.
End of scene.

SCENE 3

Alumni Dinner. Music plays - intro to a song influenced by Joplin and 80s grunge. A band appears behind a screen.

BAND

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR-
 (BAMM, BAMM)
 NOTHING SWEETER-
 (BAMM, BAMM)
 SHE'S ROUGH, SHE'S TOUGH AND I CAN'T GET ENOUGH-
 I'M GOING CRA-AZY-
 (BAMM, BAMM)
 SHE'S GOT A WAY-ZY-
 OF DRIVING, OF JIVING
 SHE'S OUTER SPACE AND IN MY FACE
 I'M CRA-AZY-
 AND I WOULD PRAY-ZE,
 IT'S ONLY, MY MIND IS JU-JU-JU-JU-JUST-
 A LITTLE HA-ZY-
 I'M SAYING HAY-ZY
 SHE'S THE BIRD AND I'M THE BEE, I READ IT IN BIOLOGY
 IT'S CRAZY,
 IT MAKES ME CRAZY-
 HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
 (BAMM BAMM)
 NOTHING MEANER
 (BAMM BAMM)
 NOTHING STEAM-Y - ERRRRRRR-
 SHE'S WAY OUT OF MY CLASS AND I'M ASKING FOR A PASS
 TO BE SO CRAZY,
 I WANT TO PLAY-ZY-
 THE TEACHERS, THEY THINK I'M JU-JU-JU-JU-JUST
 A LITTLE LAZY,
 BUT I SAY, HEY-ZE,
 SHE'S FROM ANOTHER PLANET AND I'M GONNA HIT THE PANIC-
 BUTTON MAYBE
 I'M GOING CRAZY,
 HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR,
 (BAMM BAMM)
 HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
 (BAMM BAMM)

Song fades out. Blackout. Dialogue begins in the dark same as Scene 1.

ZONDI

Just look up.

SAM

You're poking that thing in my eye!

ZONDI
I've done this a million times.

SAM
Ow! God!

ZONDI
If you'd just hold still! You're such a baby!

SAM
Hand me a tissue!

Lights come up. Zondi is applying eye liner to Sam. They are wearing dresses. Sam wipes her eyes then looks in the mirror.

A YOUNGER GIRL enters the bathroom.

YOUNGER GIRL
Hi, Sam. I really liked your speech this afternoon.

SAM
Thanks.

YOUNGER GIRL
Congratulations.

The Younger Girl exits stage right toward the stalls.

ZONDI
What am I, chopped liver?

SAM
You probably look too mature to be a graduate.

ZONDI
It's my world weary wisdom... Come on, you're smearing it.

SAM
Just trying to get it. There.

ZONDI
I'm going back to dinner.

SAM
I'll be right out.

Zondi exits SOUNDS OF THE BAND filter in whenever the door is opened. Sam lifts her hair up to see how she looks. The Younger Girl returns. She washes her hands.

YOUNGER GIRL

I think it's really important what you said about uncertainty.

SAM

What did I say?

YOUNGER GIRL

You said something like, "uncertainty is the most underestimated force in the universe."

SAM

I said that?

YOUNGER GIRL

I don't know what it means. But I'll always remember it.

The Younger Girl exits. SOUND OF THE BAND again briefly. Andrew comes through the window. He pops his head over the stall.

ANDREW

Say "cheese"!

He flashes his camera.

SAM

Andrew! Where were you!

ANDREW

Oh, here and there. Mostly- there. What's that on your face?

SAM

It's called cosmetics.

ANDREW

Hm.

SAM

Hm, what?

ANDREW

(playfully)

If you could only see yourself like I see you.

SAM

Oh, shut up. You see me as Dr. Spock.

ANDREW

Do it to me.

SAM

No!

ANDREW

Come on! Just one more time!

Sam walks up to him and grabs his neck like Dr. Spock and he falls to the floor. Then he springs back.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Hey, can you bring me a plate from the buffet? I'm starving!

The door opens. TWO GIRLS - older alumni - enter. Andrew hides. He locks the door of the stall. The girls walk by Sam. One disappears and the other stands in front of the stall that Andrew is in.

SAM

I think that one is out of order.

ONE GIRL

Oh.

She disappears. After a moment the First Girl returns and washes her hands.

FIRST GIRL

(to Second Girl)

I'll wait for you.

Sam hangs out. She smiles at the Girl.

FIRST GIRL (cont'd)

Your eyeliner is kind of smudged.

SAM

It's a new look I'm trying out.

FIRST GIRL

Oh.

SAM

I remember you. You graduated three years ago?

FIRST GIRL

Two. Excuse me.

SAM

Sorry.

(Beat)

I'm just taking a rest. From all the dancing.

Second Girl comes out. First Girl makes a little face at her suggesting that Sam is a little weird. Second girl washes her hands. They exit in silence, but as the door opens we hear both music and their laughter. Andrew pops his head back up.

ANDREW

So, I'm thinking maybe some chicken- white meat if they've got it - rice pilaf, a little salad-

SAM

We were supposed to march together~

ANDREW

I know. I know. I'm sorry. It couldn't be helped. I'm AWOL right now. I wanted to explain-

SAM

AWOL? You're not the one joining the army!

ANDREW

I told you! It's the aliens! No one was watching, so I snuck out.

SAM

You snuck out.

ANDREW

The mother ship.

Natalie enters with Zondi, Colleen and Amalie. Natalie is hysterical. Andrew puts his finger to his mouth to indicate that Sam should be quiet.

SAM

Now, what?

AMALIE

Matt broke up with her.

COLLEEN

He didn't break up, he just broke their engagement.

ZONDI

That's breaking up! You can't go backwards!

NATALIE

It's his stupid mother! She hates me! She's just trying to keep us apart! Now he's going overseas and what if he dies? We won't even be engaged!

COLLEEN

You're eighteen! He's twenty! That's what it means to be an adult!

AMALIE

Natalie, it's up to you and Matt.

NATALIE

Are you kidding? He worships his mother!

ZONDI

You're better off without him then. He sounds really immature.

Natalie starts crying. Group hug. A knock on the door. They don't respond. Another knock on the door.

MATT (O.S.)

Is Natalie in there?

THE GIRLS

Go away!

MATT

I want to talk to her.

COLLEEN

She doesn't want to talk to you!

MATT

Please, Natalie?

ZONDI

Why don't you go home to your mother?

Matt enters. He is very unsure of himself.

MATT

Natalie, please come out and talk to me.

NATALIE

I don't have anything to say to you.

MATT

I was just trying to explain-
 (he pauses and looks at the
 group)
 Could we have a little privacy?

GIRLS

No!

COLLEEN

You don't give a girl a diamond ring on Thursday and break up with her on Friday.

MATT

I didn't break up with her!

COLLEEN

Then where's the ring?

NATALIE

Okay, so it's in my purse! He still broke up with me!

MATT

I just said that maybe we should wait a couple of years-

NATALIE

That's how it always starts!

MATT

Natalie, how many nights do we have left?

NATALIE

Fourteen! And six hours! And something minutes!

MATT

Do you really want to spend the time we have left like this?

AMALIE

No!

NATALIE

What's going to happen, Matt?

MATT

We're going to dance.

He holds his hand out. Natalie throws her arms around him. The girls watch dreamily. Natalie and Matt exit.

AMALIE

I love... love!

Everyone looks at her.

AMALIE (cont'd)

I'm French, *n'est ce pas?*

Zondi and Amalie start to exit. Zondi turns back to Sam.

ZONDI

Are you coming?

SAM
In a minute. I'm fixing my eyes.

They exit. Andrew pops his head back up.

ANDREW
They'll get married.

SAM
How do you know?

ANDREW
I just know. It's an alien thing.

SAM
And what about me?

ANDREW
You and I are married. In 2098.

SAM
Uh huh.

ANDREW
Look. Look at your hand.

She looks.

SAM
So?

ANDREW
You're not trying.

She looks again.

SAM
You're crazy.

ANDREW
I know.

Andrew collapses again.

SAM
Would you cut it out!

She drags him out of the stall. He seems a little drunk; he speaks plainly but with difficulty.

ANDREW
Sometimes things just don't work out the way we want.

SAM

If you weren't my best friend I'd-

Andrew kisses her.

ANDREW

Raggedy Andy and- no, Raggedy Sam. Raggedy Sam. She's got brains. But even you can't know everything. Some things can't be facts. Some things are just theories. Let me explain. This is important, Sam. You know that time you applied to go to France? And then changed your mind? You did go to France. In another universe.

SAM

In another universe I'm in France.

ANDREW

That's right.

SAM

In another universe you graduated today.

ANDREW

Nope. I was never going to graduate. But the France thing. You could follow yourself there. So you see the big decisions aren't that big. Don't worry about the big decisions!

SAM

What about us in that other universe? In 2098.

ANDREW

You think there's only one other?

SAM

It's a nice theory. You want that chicken salad?

ANDREW

Too late.

He feels his stomach.

ANDREW (cont'd)

My stomach's gone.

SAM

Where did it go?

ANDREW

Now it's in my elbow. I'm getting rearranged. Pretty soon I'll be transparent.

SAM

It's an alien thing.

Help me up?
 ANDREW

She helps him up. She doesn't understand what is going on, but she feels an incredible tenderness.

ANDREW (cont'd)
 You know what I love about you?

SAM
 Yeah, I helped you cram for the chemistry final.

ANDREW
 No! You have a big grapefruit heart.

SAM
 Grapefruit.

ANDREW
 It's the alien part of you. I got the brain. You got the heart.

SAM
 I thought I had the brain.

Andrew taps her on the chest. He takes her hand.

SAM (cont'd)
 You don't look so hot.

ANDREW
 You look wonderful.

He collapses again. She catches him.

SAM
 I'm going to get Mr. Channing.

ANDREW
 Oops. There goes my vascular system. Listen to me, Sam. I want you to look up at the sky tonight. You'll see a beautiful bright light. Like an explosion. Snap crackle pop. That will be me waving to you.

A knock on the door.

BUDDY (O.S.)
 Sam? You in there?

Sam no longer sees Andrew.

SAM

Yes.

BUDDY (O.S.)

I was hoping maybe we could dance once.

SAM

Sure.

Sam puts up her hand and makes the
Vulcan sign. Andrew does it, too.

BUDDY (V.O.)

I asked the band to play a song for us.

SAM

Not right now.

ANDREW

Go on. Dance with him.

BUDDY (O.S.)

It's the last set. I just thought we could have one dance.

ANDREW

Look for me. I'll be waving.

BUDDY (O.S.)

Please?

Sam goes out the door. Andrew remains.
A moment later, the door opens. Two
Girls enter. They are chatting
nonchalantly. They walk by Andrew as if
he isn't there. Andrew looks up.

ANDREW

Beam me up, Scotty!

Brilliant white light. He is gone.
End of scene.

SCENE 4

In the dark.

ZONDI

You should outline them first. Here... No, open.

SAM

Like this?

ZONDI

Wider... Now like that-

Lights come up slowly. Zondi is showing Sam how to hold her mouth for lip liner. Their backs are to the audience. They are in front of a wall to floor mirror in the girls' bathroom at their high school. They are dressed in graduation gowns. There are two backpacks on the floor and an extra graduation cap.

Zondi (cont'd)

I haven't filled your lips in yet, now hold still!

SAM

(mouth wide open)

I'm just going to wash it off.

ZONDI

Now for the gloss-

SAM

Great, red *and* shiny.

ZONDI

There. Look.

SAM

How am I going to make a speech? My lips will be stuck together.

(Panicked)

My notes!

ZONDI

They're in your backpack. I saw you put it in there.

SAM

I am so nervous!

ZONDI

Your fault for being the most brilliant kid in the class.

SAM

I'm taking this off.

ZONDI

You're not going to make it as a lawyer if you can't handle cosmetics! Okay, now pucker up. Perfect! Andrew won't be able to resist you.

SAM

We broke up.

ZONDI

I thought you were waiting until the end of the summer?

SAM

I decided to get it over with.

ZONDI

How you feeling?

SAM

Crappy. *Today we stand at the crossroads of life...* Did I really write that?

ZONDI

You'll do great up there.

GRETA, a German exchange student,
enters - she is holding her gown.

GRETA

In Germany we call this a tent.

ZONDI

It's not so bad. Try it on.

GRETA

I did try it on. Buddy and I tried it on together. And his dog. And his garage. There was room to spare.

SAM

Give it over.

GRETA

All I ask is four freshman to walk behind me carrying the train. Sam, what is on your face?

SAM

It's called cosmetics.

GRETA

It doesn't suit you.

SAM
 (to Zondi)
 See?

GRETA
 You shouldn't, what is the expression, gild the lily. In Germany we would call you a *natürliche schönheit*. Natural beauty.

SAM
 In France they called me an Ugly American.

Natalie and Colleen enter.

NATALIE
 There's so much security today. And it is so hot! And I don't know why we couldn't have gotten blue gowns. I look terrible in black.

(To Greta)
 Greta, you're not actually going to wear that, are you?

COLLEEN
 Here, give it to me.

GRETA
 I don't care about it.

COLLEEN
 Alan's barely fits. He would be thrilled to have this. Come on, take it off.

Sam gets out her cell phone. She dials a number.

COLLEEN (cont'd)
 Who are you calling?

SAM
 Andrew. I just, I don't know, I have a funny feeling. Anyway, I've got his cap. He left it in my car last night.

ZONDI
 (sotto voce)
 They broke up.

Sam hangs up the phone. A GIRL opens the door.

GIRL
 Five minutes!

SAM
 I just was thinking, maybe he expected me to pick him up. I think I'm going to go over there.

ZONDI

He's probably already in the auditorium.

SAM

I'll see you guys out there.

Sam exits. The girls fix hair, last minute makeup applications, etc. Sam finds a towel and attempts to wipe off the lipstick. Ben and Charlie come through the window.

ZONDI

What are you guys doing!

BEN

There's cops everywhere!

ZONDI

There's always cops. It's graduation.

CHARLIE

No, I mean, there's been an accident. In the parking lot.

The girls run out of the bathroom. The boys remain. They look unhappy. They wash their hands with soap. After a few moments, Zondi, Colleen, Greta and Natalie return. Buddy is with them.

BUDDY

They won't let anyone go in or out of the building.

The kids crowd into the stall to see if they can see anything.

CHARLIE

Is that your dad, Colleen?

COLLEEN

Yes! What's... he's getting in a police car! Get out of the way, I'm going out there.

Colleen crawls out the window. Sam reenters the bathroom. Everyone looks over the stall at her.

SAM

I can't find him.

ZONDI

He must still be outside.

The SOUND OF AN AMBULANCE SIREN. The kids come out of the stall.

SAM

Then why isn't he picking up his phone?

ZONDI

It's going to be all right. Andrew's never where he's supposed to be.

SAM

He's supposed to be with me!

BEN

Who wants junk food?

Ben opens his gown. Candy and chips, etc are pinned inside. No one moves on it.

SAM

I'm going out there.

BEN

Colleen already went. She saw her parents. She'll find out.

Buddy runs out of the bathroom.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Would Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Conley please report to the main office? Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Conley?

Sam makes a run for the bathroom stall. Ben and Charlie restrain her.

BEN

Sam-

SAM

Let me go!

BEN

Sam, it's Andrew. He... sort of fell down. He was walking up from the lower parking lot and he just fell. And Colleen's dad kind of bumped him. I think he must have fainted. I don't know, it's hot.

He lets her go. She climbs back up on the toilet seat.

SAM

The ambulance is driving away.

She comes back out. She gets out her cell phone and opens it.

SAM (cont'd)

I don't know who to call!

A long pause. The kids come together around Sam. They hug. It is quiet. Buddy reenters.

NATALIE

It's Andrew.

BUDDY

I know. Mr. Channing says we're going to have graduation.

GRETA

Then we'll all go to the hospital. Okay, Sam?

SAM

He used to get these spells. When we were kids. He said it was an alien thing.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Would seniors please report to the auditorium at this time... seniors please report to the auditorium...

Reluctantly, they all exit except for Sam and Buddy.

GRETA

You coming?

BUDDY

Just a minute.

Greta exits.

BUDDY (cont'd)

You know what Andrew likes about you the most? The way you hold up no matter what's going on.

SAM

Why do I always have to hold up?

BUDDY

It's who you are.

He finds a hand towel and wipes off her lipstick.

BUDDY (cont'd)

There's my Sam.

Buddy exits. Lights change to low but a focus light remains on Sam. She sees the graduation cap on the floor and picks it up. She puts it on. She addresses the audience.

SAM

Mr. Channing, honored guests, families and friends, and members of the Class of 2---. I began writing my speech right after Christmas. I like to be prepared. And I gave it to my English teacher who gave it to my history teacher, they made a few suggestions. I took them. I'm pretty good at taking suggestions. I'm pretty good at being pretty good. I like to plan, you see. I like to know what's going to happen.

When I moved here in the third grade the first person I met was Andrew Conley. He was obsessed with Star Trek. We used to argue for hours about whether the aliens were real or not. I mean, even in the third grade I knew it was only television. And it was repeats! I told him it happened years ago anyway so even if it was real it didn't matter because all those aliens must be dead by now. And he'd say, you've got brains, but you don't know everything. Then one day - maybe in the seventh grade - Andrew was sent home because he wouldn't take off his hat. He said he was growing antennae and he didn't want the teacher to see. He said she wouldn't understand. So the next day he came to school and I said, where are the antennae? Huh? And he said they're there. But now they're invisible. And I said, well, I should be able to feel them, right? Maybe they're invisible, but I should be able to feel them... So he took my hand. And he put it over his head. And there was something there. I have to remember that. I have to remember that every day. Something can be invisible but that doesn't mean it isn't there. I used to think uncertainty was the worst thing in the world. Now I think it's what keeps us looking up instead of away. Andrew - wherever you are - we'll see you soon. I'm certain.

She looks up. Her hat falls off. The light on her gets brighter and brighter. Music begins. ANDREW'S ALIEN BAND appears behind a screen. They are in full alien regalia. Big sound from the band as the lights go to black. The end.