

Nationals

One Act

by

Christie Allen

THE CHARACTERS

Tabbie - an exceptionally smart and funny, 18 year old; ungraceful but well-meaning. Oh - and on the spectrum.

Marcy - Tabbie's bestie; highly intelligent, quirky, an outlier.

Alex - Tabbie's other bestie; slightly shy, nerdy, and unsure of his sexual identity.

Natalie - Tabbie's best friend and sidekick; a remarkable and vivacious 18-year old with Down syndrome.

Librarian - a woman who takes her career choice seriously - even at a high school.

THE SCENE

A high school library. MARCY and ALEX sit at a table: The LIBRARIAN sits off to one side at a desk.

ACT ONE

MARCY wearing The Cranberries t-shirt flips through an ACLU magazine. ALEX looks around the library, casually observing people. TABBIE and NATALIE enter and rush up to their table.

LIBRARIAN

No running in the library, please.

TABBIE

We weren't running.

LIBRARIAN glares at TABBIE and NATALIE sternly.

TABBIE

Fine. Sorry.

NATALIE

Sorry.

LIBRARIAN

And do be courteous to others and (signals the Shhh sign.)

TABBIE starts to respond but the LIBRARIAN reinforces the Shhh sign. TABBIE nods. NATALIE nods with Shhh sign back at the Librarian. The girls sit.

ALEX

Hey, Tabs. Nat.

NATALIE

Hey.

TABBIE

Hey, Alex. Marcy.

MARCY glances up to respond and just as quickly resumes leafing her magazine.

MARCY

Tabbie. Natalie.

TABBIE

Oh my god. You guys are not going to believe what's going on.

NATALIE

It's so messed up.

MARCY

Oh my god. Right?! Are you referring to the impending fall of democracy, rise of fascism, systemic racism, criminalization of bodily autonomy and self-identity, banning of books, global warming, world hunger, or ...

NATALIE looks at MARCY like she's crazy.

NATALIE

No.

MARCY

(ignoring Natalie)

It feels like I'm forgetting some things.

NATALIE

Really?

TABBIE

Um - while all that's truly terrifying and causes me serious anxiety now that you've brought it up-

MARCY

I agree. It is anxiety producing. Precisely why we must care.

TABBIE

Right. Yeah. But, it just wasn't what I was referring to right now. I was specifically talking about something immediately more personal-

NATALIE

Yeah.

MARCY

All of those are but OK.

ALEX

Oh is it about the rule changes they just announced for the mid-terms? I am legit freaking out about that, too.

NATALIE

Me, too.

MARCY looks at ALEX disappointedly.

TABBIE

Um. No. I mean that's bad, too. It's happening, for real? Damn. But, I don't know that freaked out is the operative word for me. So-

MARCY

Oh, I know. Did I list the resurgence of repressive and oppressive gender inequality? I think I forgot to mention that one.

ALEX

You did.

NATALIE

Nope.

MARCY

I mentioned it?

ALEX

I don't know. Maybe. I think.

NATALIE

Nope. You didn't.

MARCY

OK. I'm listing it now. Gender inequality.

TABBIE

OK. Yeah. That one's awful, too.

ALEX

It is. Wait. Can I say that? Even though I'm a guy?

MARCY

Absofuckinglutely. It makes you a feminist.

ALEX

It does? I didn't know that- I could be. Cool.

NATALIE

Cool. Welcome.

NATALIE fist-pumps Alex. MARCY nods as LIBRARIAN "ahem's" from across the room. She catches TABBIE's eye and gives the Shh sign again. TABBIE nods and lowers her voice as she continues.

TABBIE

But it's still not what I was trying to share about.

NATALIE

Right.

MARCY

Oh gosh. Don't let us stop you. Please share already.

TABBIE

Thanks. Yeah, so, you know Drill Team made Nationals, right?

NATALIE

That's my girl!

MARCY

Yep.

ALEX

Oh, yeah. Again, big congrats on that!

TABBIE

Yeah. Thanks! Thanks! Super exciting! But, yeah, so my mom says I can't go. And the coach says they can't do it without me!

NATALIE

Wow. Really?!

TABBIE

I know, right?! Wait. Which part?

NATALIE

Both.

TABBIE

Yeah.

NATALIE

That's so amazing the coach said they couldn't do it without you!

TABBIE

Right?! She did say that. Then, she said they could and they would, but still...

ALEX

Yeah. Still.

NATALIE

Cool. Still.

ALEX

But, what about your mom? Why'd she say you can't go?

TABBIE

Well, the Nationals are in Orlando and-

MARCY

Oh god. Yeah, I wouldn't let you go, either.

TABBIE

Wait. What?

NATALIE

What?

MARCY

You said, Orlando. We're boycotting Florida.

TABBIE

We are?

ALEX

We are?