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Tracy Beaker Gets Real

A musical

Book and lyrics by Mary Morris

Music and additional lyrics by Grant Olding

Based on the novel *The Story of Tracy Beaker*

by Jacqueline Wilson

Samuel French — London
www.samuelfrench-london.co.uk



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TRACY BEAKER GETS REAL

First performed by Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company at Nottingham Playhouse on 25th August 2006 prior to a tour with the following cast and creative team:

Tracy Beaker	Sarah Churm
Mum/Louise	Jessica Martin
Cam	Alice Redmond
Justine Littlewood	Suzie McGrath
Peter	Andy Steed
Elaine the Pain	Gemma Page
Justine's Dad	Kirris Riviere

Musicians:

Musical director and keyboards	Dean Austin
Guitars	Phil James
Keyboards	Toby Higgins

Directed by David Newman
Designed by Paul Wills
Lighting design by Guy Hoare
Composed and orchestrated by Grant Olding
Sound design by Adam McReady

CHARACTERS

Throughout the play the characters go back and forward in time to show the events in their past. If a large young cast is wanted the director may choose to cast a young Tracy and an older Tracy. Ditto the other young characters. Extra non-speaking “kids” can be cast if desired.

- Tracy Beaker**, 15 in the scenes set in the present. 10 - 11 in the early past scenes and 14-15 in the recent past scenes (from Act II, Scene 8). Exhausting, rude, cheeky, angry and beguiling.
- Justine Littlewood**, same ages as Tracy. Haughty, smart, and nearly as evil as Tracy.
- Peter**, a year younger than Tracy. Quiet, easily shoved around, but he will follow his star — when he finds out where it is.
- Louise**, same age as Tracy. A pretty girl who wants everyone to be happy and get along. (Can be played by the actor who plays Mum)
- Elaine the Pain**, social worker. A likeable, well-meaning bungler with little intuition and a lot of knowledge.
- Mum**, self-deceiving, unreliable, with poor impulse control. She never had a good mother to teach her how to be a good mother.
- Cam**, writer. Bookish, clever, steady. Spontaneous as long as she has a week’s notice.

The following small roles can be doubled or can be cast individually:

Ted
Julie
Worm scene kids
Stan
Vi
Margaret
Mark
Justine’s Dad
Lady Writer

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

No. 1	Overture	
No. 2	Tracy Beaker's Back	Tracy and Company
No. 3	Hollywood Mum	Tracy and Mum
No. 4	Friends For Never	Tracy and Justine
No. 5	Tropical Sea	Peter and Company
No. 6	Wanted	Tracy
No. 7	Goodenuff For Me	Peter, Stan and Vi
No. 8	Once Upon A Time	Justine
No. 9	Someone I Could Trust	Tracy

ACT II

No. 10	Entr'acte	
No. 11	Something About Her	Cam and Tracy
No. 12	Waiting	Justine and Tracy
No. 13	Will She Still Want Me	Cam, Tracy, Mum and Company
No. 14	Eat My Dust	Tracy and Mum
No. 15	Waiting reprise	Cam
No. 16	Letting Her Grow	Cam
No. 17	Hollywood Mum reprise	Tracy
No. 18	Elaine the Pain	Elaine and Kids
No. 19	Finale	Company
No. 20	Playout	

The vocal score and backing tracks are available on hire from Samuel French Ltd.



ACT I

SCENE 1

No. 1: Overture

The Dumping Ground

Kids are sitting peacefully in the Dumping Ground

Elaine wheels a wheelie bin in. All watch. Cam follows the bin anxiously. Teenage Tracy Beaker pops out of it like a Jack-in-the-Box, screaming loudly

Tracy (*amplified scream*) AAARRRRGGGHHH!!!

Everyone watches, appalled, then —

All AAARRRRGGGHHH!!! Tracy Beaker's back!

Tracy chucks her belongings out of the bin, including a notebook with her life story in it

Kid She's back and she's baaaaad.

No. 2: Tracy Beaker's Back

Tracy

Once upon a time
There was a little girl
A sweet girl who
Through no fault of her own
Ended up in care
Ended up in strife
Wondering why she was left alone.

You might wonder why
A girl as nice as me
Should end up in this place of little care.
You might think I should have

The best in life,
Instead of being shunted here and there.

Justine That's why they call her "Boomerang Beaker"

All And now it's all bad 'cos Beaker's back
Tracy Things'll get more int'resting now Beaker's
back in town

All We're all mad, 'cos Beaker's back
Bringing chaos to the dumping ground.

Cam Tracy —

Tracy (*yelling at Cam*) I'll never speak to you again, Cam Lawson, and
I'll never forgive you, you ... dumper!

Cam That's not fair! I didn't dump you!

Tracy turns on Elaine

Tracy I see all the kids that were here when I left are still here, Elaine.

Elaine Um ...

Tracy Bottom fallen out of the fostering market, has it?! Call yourself
a social worker! (*She sings*)

You will hear how I
Can face the world alone
With no one there to catch me when I fall.
Surely you'll admire
This heroine so fair
Who bravely and with charm will conquer all.

All And now we've lost hope 'cos Beaker's back.

Tracy Back on top and ready to step in and take control.

All It's like a soap 'cos Beaker's back
Making sure she's got the starring role.

Peter tentatively approaches

Tracy What do you want, weed?

Peter Nothing.

Tracy (*to audience*) Peter Ingham, the boy who asked for nothing.

Peter I do ask. I just don't want as much as you.

Tracy's eyes fall on Justine

Justine Well, well, well, dumped again.

Peter Em, Cam didn't actually look like she was dumping Tracy, Justine.

Tracy What would you know about it, dripweed?! (*She turns to the audience*) She dumped me just like all my foster parents. It's the same old story! And I've got it all written down to prove it! (*She sings*)

So when you hear my story,
The story of my life,
I know that I will have your sympathy
So hankies ready, you'll feel so sad and sorry.

Justine Yeah, sorry you came.

Tracy And wonder why the world did this to me.

All And now all is bad 'cos Beaker's back.

Tracy Right on form and ready to come through
'cos I'm so cool.

All Hopping mad 'cos Beaker's back

Tracy Back to putting up with all these fools
and all these rules.

All Get on track 'cos Beaker's back
Stomping through the dumping ground
just like a ten ton truck.

Can't relax, 'cos Beaker's back
Out of love but not down on her luck.
It's all bad.

Tracy It's not bad.
'Cos Tracy Beaker's back!

Justine Sure, it's all the world's fault.

Peter Tracy has been a bit unlucky in life, Justine.

Tracy Will you two stop wittering! (*To audience*) Ignore them, this is my story and I'm telling it my way. (*She opens her life story notebook*) Chapter One. We rewind the years to —

Peter Technically, you can't rewind life, you haven't got a remote, for a start.

Tracy If you don't stop buzzing at me like a giant mosquito you won't be in the story!

Peter leaves

Chapter One. Ted and Julie, the cruel foster parents.

SCENE 2

The past

Ted and Julie appear. They are meek, vegetarian, sandals types. Julie is pregnant

Ted The thing is, Tracy, what with Julie having the baby and all ...

Tracy I can't wait! I'll bath it for you and take it for walks — you should see how fast I can run with a pram —

Julie tries not to panic

It will love having a big sister.

Ted We have to be straight with you, Tracy. Your social worker tells us you don't have much patience for babies.

Tracy That's a lie! I love babies! There was a baby in my last dumping ground and she loved me!

Julie Em, apparently, you shut her in a cupboard.

Tracy It was the airing cupboard! She was warm and comfy there.

Julie Nobody could hear her crying.

Tracy Der, that was the point!

Ted The point is, Tracy ...

Julie What Ted is trying to say, it's not that we don't care about you, but ...

Ted The baby will need our attention.

Tracy Babies can be very demanding.

Ted Then you understand?

Tracy Understand what?

A big silence

You're dumping me?

Julie Of course not, we'll keep in touch.

Ted Take you out on the weekends —

Tracy Don't bother! I never want to see you again!

Julie Tracy —

Tracy AAARRRRGGGHHH!!!

SCENE 3

The past

Back in the Dumping Ground

Elaine I know you must be feeling angry and disappointed, Tracy ...

Tracy I am, Elaine, very disappointed — in you.

Elaine Perhaps we could have a little chat about why all your fosterings go wrong?

Tracy You're the one that sent me to Auntie Peggy Smack-Smack, Mr and Mrs Slimy Stew and now Ted and Julie Chickpea have turned out hopeless as well!

Elaine They still want to visit, to take you out. It's better than nothing.

Tracy No it's not, it's worse than nothing.

Elaine Oh, Tracy, I'm sorry. Here, let me —

Elaine tries to wipe Tracy's eyes. Tracy bats her away angrily

Tracy Tracy Beaker doesn't cry! I've got hay fever!

Elaine If you say so.

Elaine exits

Tracy *(to the audience)* And as if that wasn't enough, little Tracy then discovered the Dumping Ground had been invaded by aliens while she was with Ted and Julie.

SCENE 4

The past

Justine enters and stares coldly at Tracy

Tracy Who are you!?

Justine doesn't answer

Let me put it another way. *(Shouting)* WHO ARE YOU?!!

Justine I ask the questions 'round here.

Tracy Really? Then ask yourself this, little cowpat. Do I really want to cheek the Beaker? Well, do you?

Justine So this is the famous Tracy Beaker. I thought you'd be bigger.

Peter appears

Tracy doesn't see him. He sneezes

Peter Bless me.

Tracy Another one! Where did you come from?!

Peter Exeter.

Tracy Tragic. Are there any more new kids Elaine the Pain forgot to warn me about?

Peter Just me and her.

Tracy What's your name?

Peter (*tiny*) Peter Ingham.

Tracy Pardon?

Peter Peter Ingham. I, em, I have to ... (*He tries to escape*)

Tracy blocks Peter's escape. He is terrified

Tracy Temporary care or dumped for good?

Peter stares at her

Speak up.

Peter My nan died.

Tracy Parents?

Peter shakes his head

Dumped for good.

Peter Are you dumped for good?

Tracy Of course not!

Peter (*to Justine*) Are you?

Justine No! I'm only here for a few weeks.

Tracy That's what they all say.

Justine My dad had some bad luck, that's all. He's getting on his feet again and getting us a new house.

Peter How come you're here, Tracy?

Tracy None of your —

Justine I heard it's because her mum dumped her when she was a baby.

Tracy That's a lie!

Tracy is on the spot. Peter and Justine wait

My mother ... is away.

Justine D'oh! Obviously!

Tracy Making Hollywood films!

Peter buys it

I've been there. To her mansion.

Peter She must be very rich.

Tracy (*at Justine*) D'oh, obviously! (*She sings*)

No. 3: Hollywood Mum

There's a place where dreams are made
Where the bright lights never fade,
And the stars are on parade
Each night.

Justine Yeah, planet fat chance.

Tracy It's the place where I will go
With the one who loves me so
And together we will glow
So bright.
You are beautiful
My superstar
Lighting up the darkest night from where you are.

Mum enters

Peter (*seeing Mum*) Wow!

Mum Adore me
Implore me
And I'll shine brighter still.
So snap me
Unwrap me
Your dreams I will fulfil.
I could have been a great scientist
But I'm just a wee bit dumb
But I know just how to be
A Hollywood mum.

Justine I've never heard of a star called Beaker.

Tracy Well obviously she's not going to use her real name.

Justine So when is she coming back for you?

Tracy Well, she is very busy and in demand.

Justine Sure she is. (Not).

Tracy There's a place where she must stay
But she'll take me home one day
When the sky's no longer grey
She'll come.
Until then from way afar
She will shine, my superstar
Driving in her big pink car,
My mum.

While she shines on me
Life won't be bad.
Nothing else will worry me
I won't be sad.

Mum Adore me
Implore me
And I'll shine brighter still.
So snap me
Unwrap me
Your dreams I will fulfil.
I could have been a great novelist
But how could I waste this bum
And I know just how to be
A Hollywood mum.

I am beautiful.
Tracy You are beautiful.
Mum Keep me in your light.
Tracy Keep me in your light.
Mum I am wonderful.
Tracy You are wonderful.
Mum And I've got absolutely no cellulite!

Tracy Seeing her the way I've seen
Lighting up the movie screen
They will see my dream is true
Mum they will believe in you.
Then see how much they'll envy me
As away from here we run
And our lives will be such fun,

My Hollywood mum.
My Hollywood mum.
My Hollywood mum.

Justine So, all that and you live in a care home.

Peter Maybe she left Tracy here because she's filming in the jungle, Justine. It's no place for a child, the jungle.

Tracy Exactly. And she doesn't want me to miss school.

Justine Dream on, Tracy Beaker.

Tracy Remind me again — why did your dad dump you? Oh, yes, he's hopeless.

Louise appears

Louise Hi, Tracy.

Tracy is pleased to see Louise

Justine You were right, Louise, Tracy Beaker is the biggest liar in the world.

Tracy What?

Louise I didn't ... (*Say that*)

Tracy (*to Louise*) Who is this ... whatever it is?

Louise Justine Littlewood.

Peter She's Louise's best friend.

Tracy Wrong. I'm Louise's best friend.

Justine Wrong. You *were* Louise's best friend.

Louise Maybe we can all be friends.

Tracy Let me think about that for a minute. No. We're leaving, Louise. My room.

Tracy and Justine tug Louise in opposite directions

Justine She's going nowhere, she's with me.

Tracy I'm back and she's dumping you. Aren't you, Louise?

Louise I can't!

Tracy What?

Louise runs off, upset

Justine Told you.

Tracy launches herself on Justine

Elaine rushes on to separate them

Tracy “accidentally” kicks Elaine in the shin

Elaine Ow! (*She hops around*)

The company shouts very loudly, in unison

All QUIET ROOM!

SCENE 5

The past

Elaine and Tracy are in the Quiet Room. There’s a bean bag on the floor

Tracy You have no right to imprison me!

Elaine Tracy, the Quiet Room is for calm thoughts and reflection on your behaviour. Let’s just take a few deep breaths.

Elaine deep breathes on her own

Tracy So how’s your love life, Elaine?

Elaine We both know that staff do not discuss their personal lives with the child — er, the clients. Over-familiarity could lead to more emotional damage.

Tracy Only, you’re not getting any younger.

Elaine This is not about me, Tracy!

Tracy I was just being caring, Elaine.

Elaine I’m the social worker! I do the caring!

Elaine stomps off

Tracy is alone, and we see her vulnerability for a moment

Louise furtively enters

Tracy I knew you’d come!

Louise Shhh. I’ll get in trouble.

Tracy I knew you’d dump her!

Louise I can’t dump Justine.

Tracy What?

Louise She was really nice to me while you were with Julie and Ted.

Tracy But I'm back.

Louise I waited and waited for you to come and see me or phone me.

Tracy I was going to, honest.

Louise It was like you forgot all about me when you got fostered.

Tracy I was busy! I had family responsibilities! I nearly had a baby to look after!

Justine enters

What's she doing here?!

Louise She's got something to say to you.

Louise urges Justine to speak

Justine I'll try to be —

Louise Try hard ...

It nearly chokes Justine

Justine I'll try hard to be friends with you if you try too.

Tracy No way! *(She sings)*

No. 4: Friends for Never

She thinks she can stroll in here
Be all chummy so it seems.

Louise She was only trying to —

Tracy She'll soon find out my friendship
Was only in her dreams!

Louise — be nice!

Justine She acts like she's the queen bee
Making people walk the line.

Louise She's not so bad when —

Justine She is just the perfect person
To NOT be a friend of mine!

Louise — you get to know her.

Tracy She's mad, she's rude
And I really think she should
Go drown herself deep down in the cold blue sea.

Justine She's hard as brick
And she makes me feel quite sick
And she'll never ever get well in with me!

Tracy I'm not impressed now

Justine She's self-obsessed now

Louise (*to both*) You drive me round the bend!

All Let's all just be friends ...

Tracy } For NEVER!

Justine }

Louise (*shrieking*) Stop it! Both of you!

Tracy and Justine stare at Louise for a moment, then resume in unison as if nothing happened

Justine She couldn't be a mate of mine,
I can't pretend.

Tracy Let me make my thoughts about her quite clear.

Justine A perfect day gets cold and grey
When she descends.

Tracy She's a special kind of pain in the rear.

Justine She could be my greatest enemy
Until my life ends.

Tracy She's the girl that no one wants to be near.

Justine } But friends?

Tracy }

Tracy Me?

Justine And her?

Tracy } NEVER!

Justine } She's mean, she's bad
And she must have gone quite mad
If she thinks she could become a friend of mine.
She thinks she's smart
Hope to die and cross my heart
And I'm gonna hate her till the end of time!

Tracy This is my stance now
Justine She's had her chance now
Tracy } So here our story ends
Justine } Won't you be my friend
 For NEVER!

Louise Oh please, can't you even try — for me?

Tracy } Won't you be my friend
Justine } For NEVER!

Louise But —

Tracy } NEVER!
Justine }

Louise Then I just don't know what to do!

Tracy Well I do!

SCENE 6

The past

Kids, Peter, Tracy and Justine are on stage. Tracy and Justine are eyeballing again

Tracy The winner of the dare gets exclusive rights to Louise, right?

Justine The loser never gets to be her friend ever again, right?

Tracy Right. I dare you to climb to the top of the big tree.

Reaction from other kids

Justine Too easy.

Tracy I dare you to sneak into the attic and stay all night — without a torch.

Reaction from kids

Justine How weak is that?!

Tracy I dare you to put itching powder on the toilet seat.

Reaction from kids

Justine Oh, puh-lease.

Tracy Well, you name the dare if you're so smart!

A kid happens to be passing with a jar of worms

Justine First one to eat a worm wins.

Worm wrangling. Justine takes one. She holds it up and lowers it into her mouth. She swallows hard

And I think we have a winner.

Kids are amazed

Tracy I'll eat two!

Peter Eat them together, Tracy, it'll be easier. For you, I mean, not for the worms.

Tracy I don't need advice from a dandelion! (*She eats the worms with great difficulty. She convulses*) I win.

Justine holds her worm up — she had palmed it

Justine Sucker. Imagine being stupid enough to eat worms! What a baby!

They all run off except Tracy

Elaine runs in with a bucket

Tracy puts her head in it and we hear magnified heavings. Elaine is squeamish

Elaine There there.

Tracy It would be easier to let them travel the other way.

Elaine I have to see them safely out.

More heavings. Elaine looks in the bucket

And there they are.

Elaine almost faints and staggers out

Louise enters

Louise (*to Tracy*) How could you do such a thing?

Hungry for More?

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