Vanities

by
Jack Heifner

Music and Lyrics by
David Kirshenbaum

WORKING DRAFT - NOT FINAL VERSION.



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VANITIES

a new musical

Book
by
JACK HEIFNER
based on his play

Music and Lyrics
by
DAVID KIRSHENBAUM

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PROLOGUE - The women are getting dressed at their vanities.

Before the show starts, three women and three vanities with make-up mirrors appear. All costume changes are made in view of the audience. The actors rarely leave the stage.

We find KATHY, MARY and JOANNE seated at their mirrors. They are all dressed in stylish lingerie. They are about to take us on a journey. They look into their mirrors and reflect.

MYSTERY

KATHY
LIPSTICK…

EYEBROW PENCIL...

ROUGE…

POWDER PUFF…

BLUSH…

LIP BALM…

HAIR GEL…

WAX & CREAMS…

FOUNDATION.

JOANNE

POWDER…

EYELINER…

TWEEZER…

MOISTURIZER…

BRONZER…

EYELASH GLUE…

BOBBY PINS…

ALL

KATHY
NOT SO VERY LONG AGO WHEN THE WORLD WAS NEW,
PEOPLE NEVER SAW THMSELVES WITH ANY CLEAR-EYED VIEW.

JOANNE
A FACE UPON A FROZEN LAKE…

MARY

MASCARA…

LIP GLOSS…

NAIL POLISH…

EYE SHADOW…

EYELASH CURLER…

HAIR DIFFUSER…

SKIN CONDITIONER…

CONCEALER…

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MARY
OR FLOWING IN A BROOK…

JOANNE & MARY
WAS USUALLY OUR OWN ONLY GLIMPSE AT
KNOWING HOW WE LOOK.

ALL
THEN SOMEONE MADE A MIRROR,
AND AT LAST WE THOUGHT WE SAW WHO WE WERE.
SOMEONE MADE A MIRROR,
AND THE UNIVERSE BEGAN TO STIR.
SUCH A MYSTERY, BUT FINALLY WE COULD SEE.
WE FOUND OURSELVES WITH OUR OWN REFLECTIONS,
ASKING…WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF ME?

They're not in the gym yet, but are putting on their cheerleading outfits and wigs while the set for Scene 1 assembles. The lighting, staging and orchestration should suggest a sudden transition from the framing device to our story – from a timeless musical style to a real period '60s girl-group sound – and from three women at their vanities putting on their façades to face the world, to three young women now ready to face that world, as well as each other. Either way, there is an explosion of music and the play begins.

I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING

ALL
ISN'T IT AMAZING I CAN FEEL THIS GREAT,
LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD'S WAITING ON ME.

MARY
WHEN I SNAP MY FINGERS, PEOPLE ALL KOWTOW,
AND I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT WAS MEANT TO BE.

KATHY
MY FUTURE'S NEAR,
SO I'M AIMING STRAIGHT AHEAD.

JOANNE
'CAUSE IT'S ALL GUARANTEED
I WILL GET WHAT I NEED,
LIKE MY PARENTS ALWAYS SAID.

ALL
I'M TELLING YOU…
OH-OH, I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING.
NO-OH, I KNOW I CAN HAVE IT ALL.

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WHOA-OH, I WANT THE AMERICAN DREAM…
IT'S WHAT MOM AND DAD BOTH PROMISED,
SO I'LL HAVE IT ON A STRING.
I'LL BE LIVING IN BLISS,
AND I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING.

KATHY
EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS FOR THE WHOLE YEAR LONG,
AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG ABOUT THAT.

MARY
I GET ALL I ASK FOR, FROM A TEDDY BEAR
TO A TROLL DOLL WEARING A PILLBOX HAT.

JOANNE
AS FOR MY GOALS,
THERE'S NO SECRET IN MY SEARCH…
BE A MOTHER AND WIFE
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE,
WITH A FEW SHORT BREAKS FOR CHURCH.

ALL
SO SING IT NOW…
OH-OH, I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING.
NO-OH, I'M NOT GONNA BE DENIED.
WHOA-OH, I WANT THE AMERICAN DREAM…
AND I'LL HAVE THE PERFECT HUSBAND
AND THE PERFECT DIAMOND RING.
HE'LL BE MINE WITH A KISS,
'CAUSE I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING.

JOANNE
I WANNA HAVE A COUPLE KIDS.

MARY
I WANNA JOIN A COUNTRY CLUB.

KATHY
I WANNA LIVE JUST LIKE A QUEEN.

JOANNE
LIKE MISS AMERICA.
I WANNA BAKE A CASSEROLE.

KATHY
I WANNA MAKE A JELLO MOLD.

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MARY
I WANNA COOK, BUT NEVER CLEAN….

JOANNE & KATHY
LA LA LA LA…

ALL
LA LA LA LA LA.

JOANNE
I WANT A MAN TO CHERISH ME.

MARY (overlapping)
I WANT A MAN TO RAVISH ME.

KATHY (overlapping)
I WANT A MAN WHO'S ORGANIZED.

JOANNE (overlapping)
I WANT A MAN.

KATHY
A MAN WHO'LL STICK TO MY ROUTINE…

ALL
AND LISTENS WHEN I TELL HIM:
(clapping)
OH-OH, I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING.
NO-OH, I AIN'T GONNA MISS THE BUS.
WHOA-OH, I WANT THE AMERICAN DREAM.

AND TOGETHER WE WILL GRAB IT,
AND TOGETHER WE WILL SING.
NOTHING'S BETTER THAN THIS…
NOTHING'S BETTER THAN THIS…
AND I DON'T WANNA MISS, I DON'T WANNA MISS…
NO, I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING…
I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING!

(The girls jump and yell at the end of the song—as if ending a cheer.)

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SCENE 1 – A Gymnasium, a small town in Texas - Fall, 1963

The three girls are practicing for the pep rally. There is a set of bleachers onstage with books and lunch bags on it. The characters are dressed as cheerleaders with blue skirts, white blouses and gold sweaters with a blue and gold "T" for Tigers on them. They have paper pom-poms in their hands. As the song ends, the girls line up onstage. Kathy is a woman on a mission and is no-nonsense in her approach.

KATHY

Okay—we've only got a few minutes to finish this pep rally rundown—so listen up! First we do the fight song, then "Give me a T."

MARY

We always do "Give me a T" after the fight song. Let's do it the other way around.

KATHY

That wouldn't make any sense. We have to do the fight song first or else they won't be excited enough for "Give me a T."

JOANNE

Well, let's do it like we've always done it. I don't want to change it. It's hard enough as it is. If we move it around then it'll get all sloppy and what would that look like?

KATHY

Okay, I've decided after the fight song we go right into "Give me a T." Hit it!

ALL

(They go into the cheer)

Give me a T!

(They all echo what the crowd will say back to them after each letter.)

T.

(Mary does the cheer wrong. Joanne notices but Kathy does not.)

Give me an I! I.

Give me a G! G.

Give me an E! E.

Give me an R! R.

Give me an S! S.

Put 'em all together and what have you got?
TIGERS! Yay!

(They all jump and yell...)

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JOANNE
You all aren't together. Now I want to know, is it pom-pom up on "Put 'em all together" or not?

KATHY
I put my pom-pom up.

MARY
Me, too.

JOANNE
(Looking at Mary)
Well, "somebody" had their pom-pom down. At the pep rally last week I just know you both had your pom-poms down and I had mine up. It made it look like I was all wrong, when I was right.

KATHY
Mary, it's pom-pom up on "Put 'em all together" and down on "What have you got." Okay?

MARY
Okay.

JOANNE
Okay. But you don't have to tell me, I always do that.

MARY
Remember at last week's game when that guy shouted for us to shut-up? He said he couldn't keep his mind on the game for all we were doing.

KATHY
That's because you started yelling, "Push him back, push him back, way back," when we had the ball. There we all were telling the other team to push ours back.

JOANNE
I've just never been so embarrassed.

MARY
Okay. I was wrong, but you could have told me. I don't know anything about football.

JOANNE
When we have the ball yell something like, "Get that point," or "Do it again, do it again, harder, harder."

KATHY
"Get that point" is when we kick the ball through the two posts. Not for a touchdown.

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NOT A FINAL VERSION

MARY
When do we do, "Block that kick, block that kick?"

KATHY
Okay, now let me make this clear. When we kick, we yell, "Get that point", and when they kick, we yell, "Block that kick." And when they have the ball, we yell, "Get that ball."

MARY
What do we yell when we have the ball?

KATHY
You yell…well, you yell something encouraging like…like "Go! Go!"

JOANNE
Or "Go all the way, all the way."

MARY
You can't yell, "Go all the way" on a football field. What will people think?

(MARY laughs.)

JOANNE
Now, Mary, enough of that!

KATHY
We've got to finish this pep rally run-down and move on to other things. Did you get someone to do the invocation before the game?

JOANNE
Me? Our minister did it last week.

KATHY
I know our minister did it, but we can't have a Baptist every week.

JOANNE
I guess I could call the Jehovah Witnesses and ask them if they'll pray at the game if we let them hand out their little books?

MARY
Well, tell 'em to make it short. Nobody listens anyway.

KATHY
AND we need to make an announcement that all the creeps who sit in the card section tonight have got to do their job.

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NOT A FINAL VERSION

JOANNE
(with disgust)
All those girls with glasses and pimples.

MARY
All those boys with glasses and pimples.

ALL
Creeps.

KATHY
Those cards were a mess last week, and if they aren't gonna flip 'em right, they should go sit in the band section where they belong.

JOANNE
I died when they spelled out "Yea Team" and it turned out to be "Yea Meat!"

KATHY
What does the team think when they look to the stands for encouragement and see a huge sign reading "Yea Meat?"

MARY
I don't know, but it makes sense to me. The whole team is good enough to eat.

JOANNE
Mary!

KATHY
It's the band's fault. They play at the worst times and never look to see what we are doing. Sometimes they start "The Baby Elephant Walk" right in the middle of our yells.

MARY
How many girls in the band have ever been elected to anything in this school?

KATHY
Zero.

MARY
Zilch.

JOANNE
Goose egg. The girls in the band are the worst.

MARY
So how do we get all the losers in this school to pay more attention to us?

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NOT A FINAL VERSION

KATHY

(MUSIC starts)

It's lack of spirit, I tell you. I love that team…out there hitting and getting themselves killed for the school. Sometimes I think all those students in the stands just want to have a good time.

JOANNE

We're out there screaming and crying and most of the people are down at the snack bar getting French fries. It makes me feel stupid.

AN ORGANIZED LIFE

KATHY

That's why we've got to work harder and make them care.
EVERYTHING IN LIFE DEPENDS ON GOOD PREPARATION.
CHEERLEADERS NEED TO LIVE UP TO DEMANDS.
IF WE'RE NOT EFFECTIVE, THEN WE HAVE TO WORK HARDER,
KNOW OUR ROUTINES LIKE THE BACK OF OUR HANDS.
WE NEED TO DRILL THEM ALL,
SO THAT THE JOB GETS DONE.
WE NEED TO RUN THESE CHEERS,
SO WE CAN CHEER EACH RUN.
WE NEED TO ROUSE THE CROWD,
BUT NEVER CROWD THE TEAM.
AND THEN THE TEAM WILL LOVE US
AND THE CROWD WILL CHEER US
AND THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT WE'RE AS PERFECT AS WE SEEM.

AND THERE,
YOU'VE GOT AN ORGANIZED FRIDAY EVENING.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR VARSITY GAME OF FOOTBALL.
YOU'VE GOT US THERE ON THE SIDELINES,
HELPING THEM WIN.
THEN WE'LL GO WITH OUR GUYS TO SOME PERFECT SETTING,
FINISH THE NIGHT WITH A LITTLE PETTING,
AND THAT'S HOW YOU BEGIN
TO HAVE AN ORGANIZED LIFE.
Now, we've got to decide on the theme for the football dance. It's less than a month away.

MARY

The themes for the football dance are always so corny.

KATHY

Well, I was thinking about "Over The Rainbow."

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JOANNE
I think that sounds more like the prom. Shouldn't the "football" dance have something to do with "football?"

KATHY
LISTEN NOW, I'M SORRY, BUT I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING…
"OVER THE RAINBOW" IS WHAT IT WILL BE.

JOANNE
I DUNNO, I SORTA THINK WE NEED SOMETHING BETTER.

KATHY
"OVER THE RAINBOW" SOUNDS PERFECT TO ME!

JOANNE
WE'LL NEED SOME BIG BALLOONS.

MARY
No…
I THINK BALLOONS ARE SQUARE.

JOANNE
Maybe.

KATHY
WE'LL DECORATE THE GYM.
In lots of colors…!

(Joanne and Mary get more interested in the idea of lots of colors)

JOANNE
I KNOW WHAT SHOES I'LL WEAR.
What are you gonna wear?

MARY
I'LL BUY A TIGHT BLUE DRESS.

JOANNE
I'LL GET A NEW HAIRSTYLE.

KATHY
I'LL MAKE A BIG HUGE RAINBOW
OUT OF CHICKEN WIRE
AND I'LL STUFF IT FULL OF COLORED KLEENEX BY THE MILE.
AND THEN…

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NOT A FINAL VERSION

ALL
WE'LL HAVE AN ORGANIZED NIGHT OF DANCING.
WE'LL HAVE OUR "OVER THE RAINBOW" OUTFITS.
WE'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THE PUNCH BOWL,
SETTING THE TRENDS.
WE'LL BE GIRLS WHO THE REST OF THE KIDS ADMIRE...

KATHY
…THANKS TO SOME PLANNING AND CHICKEN WIRE.

ALL
FOREVER THREE BEST FRIENDS…

KATHY
WHO LIVE AN ORGANIZED…

JOANNE & MARY (overlapping)
WHO LIVE AN ORGANIZED…

KATHY (overlapping)
WHO LIVE AN ORGANIZED LIFE.

(imparting her wisdom to the others, in a spoken "Supremes"-style music setting, while the others sing back-up)

KATHY
Life is full of drama.
Life is full of dreams and promises.
But it's up to you to make it through
and pass each test.
I know…
I know we can run this high school.
So simply –
follow me…
and we can be THE BEST.
NOW WHEN THE DANCE IS DONE,
THEY PICK THE FOOTBALL QUEEN.

MARY & JOANNE
OOH, DRAMA.
OOH, OOH, PROMISES.
OOH.
YOU CAN MAKE IT.
I KNOW.
OOH, WE CAN SHOW THEM.
AAH…
AAH…
AAH…THE BEST.

JOANNE
I REALLY HOPE IT'S YOU.
I'm sure you'll get it, Mary.

MARY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I hope you get it.

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NOT A FINAL VERSION

JOANNE
NO NO, I HOPE IT'S YOU.

MARY
Oh, come on.

JOANNE
IF NOT, I'LL SLIT MY THROAT.

KATHY
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING CERTAIN --
ONE OF US WILL GET IT!
(meaning herself)
BUT TO JUST MAKE CERTAIN, WE SHOULD MAYBE FIX THE VOTE.

AND SO,
WE NEED TO ORGANIZE ALL OUR BOYFRIENDS.
WE NEED TO INFLUENCE ALL THEIR TEAMMATES.
WE NEED TO THROW THEM A PARTY,
THAT'S HOW THIS GOES.
SINCE WE KNOW THAT THE TEAM CONTROLS ALL THE VOTING,
NOTHING IS WRONG WITH SOME SELF-PROMOTING.
ELECTIONS GO TO THOSE WHO HAVE AN ORGANIZED…

JOANNE (overlapping)
WHO HAVE AN ORGANIZED…

MARY (overlapping)
WHO HAVE AN ORGANIZED LIFE.

ALL
SO NOW, WE HAVE AN ORGANIZED COURSE OF ACTION
TO HELP US ORGANIZE OUR ADVANTAGE,
TO STAY IN CHARGE OF OUR CLASSMATES,
PULLING THE STRINGS.
POPULARITY'S YOURS IF YOU GO AND WIN IT.

KATHY
HOW IT ALL ENDS DEPENDS HOW YOU BEGIN IT.

ALL
AND PREPARATION BRINGS
THE JOY OF ORGANIZED LIFE.

KATHY
TAKE CARE OF LITTLE THINGS --

WORKING DRAFT
NOT FINAL VERSION

ALL
YOU'LL HAVE AN ORGANIZED LIFE!
(End of song.)

KATHY
Now that's Coke party on December 13, dance on the 14th and we've got everything planned for the pep rally this afternoon and the game tonight.

MARY
Did ya'll do your English?

KATHY
I couldn't read that "Silas Marner."

JOANNE
When I found out that George Elliot was a woman, I got all confused.

MARY
Kathy, can I borrow your math? Just the answers. I did all the problems but never got any answers. I'll copy yours.

KATHY
(Gets the paper from her notebook)
I don't know if they're right. I got them from Gary. He does geometry better than me.

MARY
(Copying the answers into her notebook)
What's the date?

KATHY
Friday.

MARY
Of course it's Friday or we wouldn't be having a football game tonight. It's Friday, November what?

KATHY
Twenty-second.

JOANNE
Where y'all going after the game?

MARY
That's according to whether we win or lose. If we lose, I'll probably go home. If we win, Jim will want to go parking and score another touchdown.

WORKING DRAFT
NOT A FINAL VERSION

JOANNE
(Covering her shock)
I can't imagine how anyone could lose their self-respect. If I wasn't a virgin, I'd hate myself.

KATHY
Amen.
(Kathy and Joanne look at Mary.)

MARY
I just worry what Jim will try next. When we started dating, I let him kiss me. Then we went steady and I let him kiss and touch me lightly…on the top only. Next he gave me his football letter jacket to wear. So I let him rub up against me, but all clothes on, mind you. Now he's giving me his football jersey. I guess he can put his hand under my bra. But with every gift, I give in a little more. He's got more gifts lined up than I've got parts to give.

JOANNE
(Joanne gasps.)
You can't give in…what do you do after you finally give in?

MARY
(Frustrated and a bit angry)
I just know sometimes when our boyfriends drop us off, they go right over and pick up that trashy Brenda Blair.

KATHY
Isn't it funny I used to like her—but the minute she became a majorette, her reputation went downhill.

JOANNE
I don't know why becoming a twirler automatically makes a girl easy.

MARY
It's hard enough to keep boys down to petting and necking without Brenda putting other ideas in their heads.

KATHY
The ideas are already in their heads. Brenda just puts them in their hands.

JOANNE
Ted's not like Jim. He's true to me.

KATHY
So is Gary.

WORKING DRAFT
NOT A FINAL VERSION

MARY

He's not true.

(Falsely sincere)

I didn't want to tell you, but I know for a fact that he's been out with Brenda.

KATHY (Angry)

You can't stand that Jim plays around, so you want me to believe that Gary does, too. Well, he doesn't.

MARY (Angry, too)

Gary went out with her last week.

KATHY

Where? You just tell me where?

MARY

Last Thursday night Jim and I saw them at the drive-in. Gary's car was parked in front of us. They kept popping up and down, jumping from the front seat to the back and they didn't watch a minute of the movie. I know it was Brenda.

KATHY

It wasn't Brenda!

MARY

Looked just like her.

KATHY

It wasn't Brenda!

MARY

Nobody else but trashy Brenda would carry on like that at the drive-in.

KATHY

It wasn't Brenda. Last Thursday night Gary went to the drive-in with me!

(Joanne gasps, Mary laughs…then this erupts into an argument.)

JOANNE

On a school night?

KATHY

Mary, I thought your mother wouldn't let you go to the drive-in?

MARY

She won't. And if you tell her, I'll never speak to you again!

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JOANNE
None of us are allowed at the drive-in.

KATHY
You said you were going to the library.

MARY
You said you were going to her house to study Spanish.

JOANNE
I don't even take Spanish.

MARY
You were spying on me!

KATHY
I didn't even know you were there!

JOANNE
Stop it you two! I've got a clever idea…let's come to my house after the game and you all can stay over for a slumber party!

(They continue to argue with one another.)

MARY
(Furious)
I can't stay over. My mother says until my grades come up I have to stay home. She can't understand that I don't have time to care about grades.

KATHY
You have to care. We'll never get into college if our grades are bad. Have you mailed your application?

MARY
No. Have you?

KATHY
Let's all mail them at the same time. Let's all meet at the post office and mail them at the same time.

(She writes this on her list)

JOANNE
I can't even fill mine in. Where it says course of study at the university I just had to leave it blank.

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MARY
I want to study psychology. I'd like to figure out what makes my mother tick. When I have the gang over, she runs around the pool drunk in her bra trying to be the life of the party.

JOANNE
Then she falls in the water and the boys have to fish her, then her bra, out.

MARY
Who wants to be around an old lady trying to act young? She's almost forty.

KATHY
I think I'll stick with P.E at college. I guess I can teach P.E.

JOANNE
Teach? Ugh! I just couldn't take it.

KATHY
Well, it's not like teaching anything else. All you have to do is play games. I already know all the games.

JOANNE
You all make me feel awful. There's just nothing I want to study. I want to go to college, but I sure don't care to learn anything.

MARY
I think college will be a blast. I can't wait to get away from my mother. I won't miss her one minute.

JOANNE
I can't stand the idea of a new school with new people.

(MUSIC starts)

MARY
What if they all hate us?

JOANNE
What if Gary, Jim and Ted don't go with us?

KATHY
What if we don't get into the same sorority?

JOANNE
What if we're nothing?

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I CAN'T IMAGINE

JOANNE
SINCE WE STARTED SENIOR YEAR, THERE'S ONE THING ON MY MIND…
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE THREE OF US LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL FAR BEHIND?
WHAT IF I DON'T GET ADMITTED AND BOTH OF YOU DO?
OR IF ALL THAT THEY HAVE LEFT IS A DORM ROOM FOR TWO?
I WOULD NOT GET BY. NO, I THINK I'D DIE,
IF I CAN'T SHARE COLLEGE WITH YOU.

I CAN'T IMAGINE, I CAN'T IMAGINE,
NOT HAVING BOTH OF YOU THERE AT MY SIDE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE, NO, I CAN'T IMAGINE,
NOT BEING WITH YOU THE REST OF THE RIDE.
YES I KNOW I'D STILL HAVE TED,
WHO'S IN MY HEAD AND HEART.
BUT YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE.

ALL
I CAN'T IMAGINE US EVER BEING APART.

KATHY
What if we don't all get to be cheerleaders there?

JOANNE
Oh, I hope you are. You've been head cheerleader from elementary school until now.

KATHY
All I've ever wanted to do is be a cheerleader.

MARY
And you have been.

KATHY
Well, we've got to have a plan. There's so much to think about. Boyfriends. Sororities.
(gasps)
ONE THING JUST OCCURRED TO ME THAT FILLS ME UP WITH FEAR.
WHAT HAPPENS IF THAT BRENDA BLAIR IS STILL AROUND NEXT YEAR?

MARY
WHAT IF EVERY GIRL IS PRETTY AND LOOKS LIKE A STAR?

JOANNE
OR IF EVERY GIRL HAS MONEY AND DRIVES HER OWN CAR?

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NOT A FINAL VERSION

ALL
CAN WE PLAY THE GAME WHEN IT'S NOT THE SAME
AS IT IS RIGHT HERE WHERE WE ARE?

I CAN'T IMAGINE, I CAN'T IMAGINE,
NOT BEING POPULAR ALL MY LIFE THROUGH.
I CAN'T IMAGINE, NO, I CAN'T IMAGINE,
PEOPLE WON'T LOVE US WHATEVER WE DO.

MARY
ALL LIFE LONG, WE'VE BEEN ADORED,
WHICH MAKES ME SORTA PROUD.
SINCE THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THIS LIFE…

ALL
I CAN'T IMAGINE JUST BEING ONE OF THE CROWD.

JOANNE
(to the others)
RIGHT NOW WE'RE FINE.
RIGHT HERE WE'RE GREAT.
OUR WORLD IS HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.
I KEEP IN LINE,
MY PATH IS STRAIGHT,
'CAUSE I HAVE BOTH OF YOU CLOSE TO ME…

JOANNE
RIGHT NOW WE'RE FINE.
RIGHT HERE WE'RE GREAT.
OUR WORLD IS HOW IT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE.
I KEEP IN LINE,
MY PATH IS STRAIGHT,
'CAUSE I HAVE BOTH OF YOU
CLOSE TO ME…

KATHY
HURRYING INTO THE FUTURE,
BUT NOT LETTING GO OF THE PAST.
TAKING ACCOUNT OF WHAT MATTERS,
AND MAKING IT LAST...

JOANNE
RIGHT NOW WE'RE FINE.
RIGHT HERE WE'RE
GREAT.
OUR WORLD IS HOW
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.
I KEEP IN LINE,
MY PATH IS STRAIGHT,
'CAUSE I HAVE BOTH OF
YOU CLOSE TO ME…

KATHY
HURRYING INTO THE
FUTURE,
BUT NOT LETTING GO
OF THE PAST.
TAKING ACCOUNT OF
WHAT MATTERS,
AND MAKING IT LAST…

MARY
IMAGINE WHERE WE
ARE…
IMAGINE WHAT COMES
NEXT…

WORKING DRAFT
NOT A FINAL VERSION

MARY & JOANNE
I CAN'T IMAGINE…

KATHY
Uh-uh!

MARY & JOANNE
I CAN'T IMAGINE…

KATHY
No!

ALL
EVERYTHING'S PERFECT THE WAY IT IS HERE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE, NO, I CAN'T IMAGINE,
HOW IT COULD BE ANY DIFFERENT NEXT YEAR.
WHO WE ARE, THE THINGS WE DO,
TOOK FOUR YEARS TO ARRANGE.
NOW THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME IN MY LIFE.

JOANNE
I CAN'T IMAGINE…

MARY & JOANNE
OH, I CAN'T IMAGINE…

ALL
NO, I CAN'T IMAGINE, WHY IN THE WORLD IT SHOULD CHANGE…!

(The school bell RINGS. The girls grab their pom-poms.)

KATHY
Okay, let's make this pep rally the best of the year!

JOANNE
We've got to get those kids to care about the team!

KATHY
We've got a minute or two, so let's run through "Two, Four, Six" right into "Fight, Fight, Fight." Hit it!

ALL
Two, four, six, eight,
Who do we appreci….

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(The school intercom comes on and the voice of the Principal is heard. The girls stop mid-yell.)

INTERCOM
May I have your attention please? Students, we want all of you to report to your homeroom immediately.

KATHY
What's he talking about?

INTERCOM
I repeat, go to your homeroom.

MARY
Oh, darn, I hate homeroom.

INTERCOM
We have a report, and only a report, that…excuse me…

JOANNE
I'll bet someone stole something from the lunchroom again. This school is full of thieves.

INTERCOM
Students, I am sad to announce the President has been shot.

JOANNE
The president of the student counsel has been shot?

KATHY
Oh, my God.

MARY
Oh, no.

INTERCOM
The President was gunned down in Dallas.

JOANNE
Dallas? I just saw him in algebra?

INTERCOM
If this report is true, classes will be dismissed for the rest of the day.

KATHY
What about the pep rally?

INTERCOM
In any case the football game will take place as planned this evening.

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ALL

Oh—thank God.

(The relief they feel is short-lived as the three women stop and look at one another. They suddenly realize that something larger and more serious has happened, but they do not know how to deal with this sudden change in their perfect world.)

WORKING DRAFT
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TRANSITION – 1963-1968

Music begins. The lights fade on the playing area. The mirror lights slowly come up as the characters drop their 1963 demeanor and return to the framing device of their vanities to change for Scene Two.

MYSTERY II

JOANNE
GAZING IN THE MIRROR,
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS AND INTO YOUR HEART.

MARY
WAKING WITH THE MIRROR,
LEARNING EV'RY DAY'S A BRAND NEW START.

KATHY
THAT'S THE MYSTERY,
IS HOW YOU FIND YOUR WAY…

JOANNE
HOW YOU FIND YOUR WAY…

MARY
HOW YOU FIND YOUR WAY…

ALL
OR SOON YOU'RE SPINNING IN ALL DIRECTIONS,
ASKING… WHO WILL I BE TODAY?

KATHY MARY JOANNE
REVLON…
MAX FACTOR…
CLINQUE…
CHANEL…
HELENA RUBENSTEIN…
L'OREAL…
COVER GIRL…
ESTEE LAUDER…
MAYBELINE…
MARY KAY…

(The three of them make final adjustments to their appearance at the vanities; the lights go out on the vanities and back up on the playing area, and we are back in the world of the story, in 1968.)

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SCENE 2 – A Sorority House in Dallas – Spring, 1968

JOANNE wears a skirt and a blue blazer with the sorority emblem on it. KATHY wears shorts and a sorority sweatshirt. Only MARY is onstage at the beginning. She is in her robe looking through her closet.

KATHY (entering)

Mary, would you stop going through your closet--it's time for our officers' meeting?

(Kathy is still business-like, but something else is bothering her. She tries to be her old self, but her heart isn't in it.)

MARY

I've got my French class tonight, so I figure if I dress "French" and go "oui, oui" a lot, the professor will think I understand what he's saying.

KATHY

(Yelling to the offstage area)

Joanne, get in here. There's a lot to be done.

JOANNE

(Rushing in)

Sorry, I was on the phone. My mother wants me to hurry up with the plans for my wedding. She says it's the only thing she's looked forward to since the day I was born.

KATHY

Okay, let's get started. What are we going to do about all these rush applications?

MARY

(Holding up two dresses on hangers in front of Joanne)

This one or this one?

JOANNE

That one's cute.

MARY

I don't want to look cute. I want to look French.

KATHY

There's a whole group of awful girls whose great-grandmothers were Kappas, so we've got to pledge them. Hopefully they'll drop out in training if we're rough enough.

JOANNE

I need to know, do you think it's right to make it hard on some pledges just because we hate them?

KATHY

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There's one thing no one on this campus does and that's joke about a Kappa. I'm gonna make sure before we graduate that the next group of girls fit the image.

JOANNE

We'll be cruel at rush. I won't even consider a girl who's liable to break the house rules. This is the best house on campus, and if we start letting girls wear jeans to dinner and smoke, then Kappa is finished.

MARY

What does smoking have to do with it? I smoke.

JOANNE

I know and I wish you'd stop. It's totally unladylike.

MARY

For God's sake, Joanne, right now this whole place is so oppressive most of the members are scared to death. We ought to relax the silly out-of-date regulations and let the girls loose.

JOANNE

I don't think this sorority is a place for girls who want to be loose.

KATHY

We simply need girls like us, who are friendly and shop at Neiman-Marcus.

JOANNE

No flower children. No drugs or guitar players.

KATHY

It's our responsibility as officers to leave Kappa as we found it--the best sorority on campus.

JOANNE

We're the tops.

MARY

But you know the song, "The times they are a-changing?" Well, they are.

JOANNE

Well, I don't think the times they are "a-changing." I think the world is just in a crazy phase.

MARY

It's past time when we could take girls and cram them into an image. It's not important!

KATHY

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