

Planet Joey  
A Full Length Play  
Drama  
by  
Dana Trupa

Dana Trupa  
310 West 93rd Street, #1B  
646-247-3507  
petscort@gmail.com



CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Joey	A tomboy	11	Female
Mom	Joey's Mom	30's	Female
Dad	Joey's Dad	30's	Male
Fitz	Joey's cousin	19	Male
Bonnie Patberg	Joey's best friend	12	Female

Scene

Various locations around Joey's interior and exterior home in Mars, PA.

Time

The summer of 1985 through early winter of 1986.

SCENE I: JOEY WARS

LIGHTS UP ON:

We are in the living room of Joey's home— a shabby, ranch-style house on Cherry Street in Mars, PA.

The decor is typical of the 1980's: wood paneling, tons of wicker, trophy deer antlers over the mantle, and a worn, pastel-pink couch, center stage. Stacks of cardboard boxes populate the floor, taped-up and strewn haphazardly around the room.

AT RISE: JOEY is alone in the living room wearing *Star Wars* pajamas, long after bedtime. By the dimness of a night-light, Joey swings a toy lightsaber around in the dark, in battle with a non-existent Darth Vader. She takes great pains to choreograph her Jedi moves, and starts over from time to time, crouching around the room like a ninja. She makes swishing 'lightsaber' noises and other sounds before violently bashing one of the boxes. Triumphant, she stabs in and begins to rip off the packing tape that conceals its contents: winter clothes.

JOEY

(extended monologue to imaginary characters  
in the form of clothing that she pulls from the  
box and throws around)

Take that ugly Santa sweater! Ho Ho Ho! I will not wear you! And how 'bout you, corduroy bellbottoms!?! You cannot paint my bedroom pink and put flowers everywhere when I want the planets and spacey things on the wall! I am a loyal and faithful member of the Stars Wars fan club and I will DESTROY you! Oh, and you, evil black dress— I will never, ever, turn to the dark side and wear *you*, OR braces! I would rather have buck teeth than be a tin mouth! How'd you get in there, sun visor with a dumb bow? You think Han Solo will marry YOU? He will never marry you, he will marry ME! I love Han Solo, and he is mine! Mine! Mine!

MOM

(off)

Christ ! Are you kidding me?

JOEY

Uh-oh.

(Joey ducks behind a bigger box)

MOM

(off)

You're not skippin' Sunday school again, ya hear me!

A very pregnant MOM ENTERS in a ratty, terry-cloth bathrobe and slippers. She flips on the lights.

MOM

I see your sword.

JOEY

So.

MOM

So? Sew a button! Look at this god damn mess! I just spent the entire day packing all of this stuff! What were you thinking Joey?

JOEY

I dunno.

MOM

Why are you still up?

JOEY

I dunno.

MOM

Di'ju have bad dream?

(beat)

Or what?

JOEY

(foreboding)

Dagobah.

MOM

Knock it off with *that* shit!

JOEY

Training for the Rebel Fleet.

MOM

Okay, enough. Give me that sword so I can whip your ass!

Joey runs and screams while Mom tries to catch her.

JOEY

It's not a sword, it's a lightsaber! They told me to do it! They told me to do it!

MOM

Who told you to do what?

JOEY

The Hoojibs.

MOM

The who... the *what*?

JOEY

THE HOO-JIBS. I told you MOM, but you never listen. The Hoojibs look like fat squirrels with big ears and have telepathic abilities... and live in geothermal caves.

MOM

Oh yeah, the rat thingy's.

JOEY

They're not rats! They helped the Alliance defeat the monster and made a base inside the crystal cave!

MOM

They look like rats to me.

JOEY

HOO-JIBS!

MOM

Who my ass, get over here Josephine Lynn! I'm going to beat you 'til...

DAD ENTERS also wearing *Star Wars* pajamas and wielding a toy lightsaber.

DAD

HOO-HAH! I've got you now Jedi Knight!

Dad and Joey joust while Mom tries to get out of the way. She trips backwards, over a box.

MOM

Oooooowow!

DAD

(Dad and Joey continue fighting)

You okay Queen Bee?

MOM

I twisted my ankle!

DAD

Uh-oh.

MOM

It's all your fault Joey, you and them damn rats did this to me!

DAD

C'mere Ma, let's get you and baby Chuckie sittin' up.

MOM

(springs upright)

Hang on a minute. We agreed on Paul, not Chuckie.

DAD

Thought we're gonna name him after the old man?

MOM

The old man's a jagoff.

DAD

Hey hey, c'mon now, Charles is a royal name. Paul is too...

MOM

I need ice! I'm swelling up!

JOEY

Don't worry Mom, me and the Rebels will help you!

Joey exits to get ice.

DAD

Is too...?

MOM

Biblical?

DAD

Yeah! That's the word, biblical! See why I married you?

MOM

Did you put the 'For Sale' sign up in the front yard yet?

DAD

Yes, dear.

Joey enters with an ice pack.

JOEY

Wait, what did yinz say?

MOM

Uh-oh.

DAD

Uh-oh.

JOEY

I knew it! Yinz said you were just putting the winter clothes away! You tricked me! You duped me Mom! I hate you liar! And you're a liar too, Dad!

(Joey throws the ice pack at Dad)

MOM

Joey, settle 'daun!

Joey and her lightsaber bash in boxes.

JOEY

No! No! No! We're not moving! Not if I say we're not!



MOM  
Do something with this kid?

DAD  
C'mere pal, give me that, and stop that...

MOM  
Uh-oh.

DAD  
What?

MOM  
I think the contractions are coming.

(breathes dramatically)

JOEY  
Good! That's what you get for lying! Liar!

DAD  
Hey! No name callin', let's get goin'. Help me help...

JOEY  
I'm not goin'.

DAD JOEY  
Joey no lip, we... NOT GOIN'!

DAD  
We have to go pal... we... maybe you should help name the baby, right Ma?

(looks at Mom who nods)

DAD (CONT)  
Would you like that pal? Would you like to name your new brother?

JOEY  
I can name the baby? Hmm, that's a very interesting offer.

DAD  
Now or never, pal.

JOEY  
Okay, okay! I know the best baby name ever!

MOM

Well don't keep us in suspense.

JOEY

Han...

MOM

No, no, no...

JOEY

Solo!

MOM

That's nuts! Tell your daughter you can't name a baby Han Solo? Will you please?

DAD

Yeah, I agree with Mom, Joey. That's the worst name for a baby, not the best. Try again.

JOEY

Can his middle name be Han? Or Solo?

MOM

Ooo-oooh, they're gettin' closer! Does anybody care that I'm going to have a baby on the floor?

DAD

Hurry and pick a name Joey.

JOEY

Okay, how about....

(she ponders)

MOM

Okay, that's enough, the baby's name is..

JOEY

Scooter!

DAD

Scooter?!

MOM

Scooter?!

JOEY

Scooter Solo.

MOM

Fine, let's go.

DAD

Good job pal!

(high fives Joey)

MOM

We're *not* naming our son Scooter Solo. Where in the hell did she get Scooter? Is that one of those robots?

DAD

Droids, Peg.

MOM

Oh.

DAD

Scooter, I kinda like it, has a nice ring to it!

MOM

Pah-leez.

DAD

Better than Paul. C'mere Joey, help your Mom walk.

Dad and Joey help a 'gimpy' Mom offstage.

JOEY

Dad, why di'ju lie about us moving?

DAD

Joey, I can't tell you everything about everything. You know too much already.

LIGHTS FADE.

## SCENE II: PRINCESS BONNIE, ADMIRAL FITZ, AND SCOOTER SOLO ARRIVE

LIGHTS UP ON:

Joey wears denim overalls in the front yard and tries in vain to yank a HOUSE FOR SALE sign out of the ground. Joey kicks and pulls but it won't budge.

BONNIE PATBERG wears a pretty sundress and looks on demurely.

FITZ ENTERS and toots a harmonica.

FITZ

(Yosemite Sam voice)

What in the Sam Hill is going on here?

JOEY

Fitz! Fitz!

Joey leaps into his arms as he swings her around.

FITZ

If it isn't the hootinst, tootinist, shootinist bobtail wildcat in the west!

Bonnie is instantly smitten.

BONNIE

Is this your Fitz? I mean, your cousin? I mean, is this the cousin Fitz we, I mean you, *always* talk about?

JOEY

(to Bonnie)

Fitz is my very favorite cousin! He is the funnest person ever! He was named after the "F" in JFK. Dad said he's going to stay with us because Uncle Rolly kicked him out on account of his fighting with his new young wife Suzette. Uncle Rolly got divorced from my Aunt Marie and married Suzette an hour later. Fitz was real mad about that- Uncle Rolly having two wives so he's going to live with us and to learn to be a plumber like my Dad! Isn't that right Fitzy, isn't that right Fitzy?

FITZ

Well, you missed the part about me helping yinz pack since your Mom busted up her ankle and had a baby. I'm just hired help, at your service! What'r you rapsCALLIONS up to?

Bonnie twirls in place and Fitz takes notice.

JOEY  
Well, first, we're going to bust down this here...

FITZ  
And who is this tiny dancer?

(bends down and reaches for  
Bonnie's hand)

Joey slashes through his hand with a karate chop.

JOEY  
We're not moving. Officer Patberg, get us some Kool-aid so I can think better, I want to tell Admiral Fitzgerald about the secret mission.

BONNIE  
  
(salutes)  
Okay Princess Joey!

FITZ  
Aren't you going to introduce me to your friend?

JOEY  
Bonnie, I already told you, I'm not a Princess. There is only Princess Leia. I am Joey Organa, Princess Leia's second cousin, captain of the Cherry Street Spaceship and emergency standby unit of the Rebel Fleet. You are Bonnie Patberg, second officer in command. Please hurry, we're thirsty.

BONNIE  
Why do I have to use my real last name?

JOEY  
What do you want your last name to be? Did you even think about it?

BONNIE  
Not really.

(twirls around)

FITZ  
Bonnie can be a Princess, too, Joey. Princess Bonnie, she looks like a princess in that pretty dress.

JOEY

Bonnie CANNOT be a Princess! You're messing up the chain of command. There cannot be two princesses, you don't understand the rules in the Mars galaxy!

BONNIE

I'll go get the Kool-aid now.

Bonnie exits.

FITZ

Don't you mean the Milky Way? Mars is a planet not a galaxy. And a sucky one.

(like a magician, Fitz pulls a rolled joint out from behind Joey's ear and lights up)

JOEY

Someday there are going to be people living on Mars! Mars can be a galaxy, too. Like how we live in Mars, Pennsylvania, and everyone calls us 'Martians'? Duh!

FITZ

The Fighting Planets suck! Worst high school football team in the galaxy. Hey, I have a question- is Mars the fake galaxy as hot as Mars the real planet?

JOEY

Negative, Admiral. The Fighting Planets don't suck! You're just mad you got kicked off the team!

FITZ

Suck like ducks.

(quacks)

JOEY

I'm the captain of this ship and no more talking about Mars or ducks!

FITZ

I thought you were a Jedi?

JOEY

I'm secretly training to be a Jedi at night while commanding the spaceship after Sunday School.

FITZ

Oh man, you're gonna get spanked by the nuns at St. Kilian's! Do they still beat the demons outta ya with those long ass rulers?

JOEY

No, Fitzy. That's only in the movies. Mom and Dad said I get to have a big party after I make my confirmation!

FITZ

I hate Church, buncha hypocrites. What do fake Martians eat? I'm gettin' hungry.

JOEY

No green food but we like astronaut ice cream in a bag. What's a hippo-crit?

(off)

Dang Bonnie! I need fuel!!

FITZ

Someone who's full of you know what. So what's the plan, man?

(tokes joint, toots harmonica)

JOEY

Our first mission is to steal and hide this stupid sign. I figure we can hide it in the backyard under Dad's pile of wood. Then we can...

FITZ

I meant the plan for food, dude! I'll help with the mission... on one condition.

(tokes and blows harmonica)

JOEY

What condition?

FITZ

Who's the babe in the red house? She's hotter than all the planets!

JOEY

Earth to Fitz, come in Fitz: Saturn is really cold. So is Neptune, Jupiter and I think Pluto.

FITZ

Pluto schmooto. The girl that looks like Demi Moore? Name please?

JOEY

Lori the stripper? She's our dumb next door neighbor. She's 21 and drinks cold Iron City beer from a can and pushes her Mom around in a wheelchair.

FITZ

She's a stripper??!! How do you know?

JOEY

Uh-huh. She dances daun' the 'Rocks in this world famous bar. Big Jim Stone spied on her daun' there once and told Dad that she was trying out for the movie *Flashdance*.

FITZ

Way out!

JOEY

She didn't get the part in the movie but the guy who owned the bar liked her so much that he offered her a dance job. So she does that now.

Bonnie enters carrying two glasses of Kool-Aid with curly straws poking out.

BONNIE

Tell your cousin her stripper name.

FITZ

(begging)

Tell me tell me!

JOEY

Will you help me and Bonnie steal the sign and swear to secrecy?

FITZ

Heck yeah!

Fitz kicks the sign and knocks it out of the ground and waves it around like a flag before presenting it to Joey on bended knee.

Joey looks at Bonnie. In unison:

JOEY

Misty Morning!

BONNIE

Misty Morning!



FITZ

Misty Morning.

(Fitz blows something slightly mournful and musical on the harmonica)

DAD

(off)

Well, meet the new baby kids! He's awake, my son is officially awake!

Joey shuffles the sign behind her back and Bonnie shuffles behind Joey. Fitz stands where the sign used to be in the ground.

Mom, Dad, and Scooter Solo enter. Scooter is swaddled in a blanket. Mom's ankle is bandaged, and she continues to limp as Dad passes out cigars.

MOM

Finally, after twenty hours of labor. You didn't wanna wake up, di'ju baby boy?

(she nudges Scooter)

JOEY

Just put it in my mouth Dad.

Dad puts a cigar in her mouth, then puts one in Bonnie's who is still holding the two glasses of Kool-Aid.

FITZ

Cute kid, looks stoned. What's his name?

MOM

I can't say it out loud. What's that smell? Something's fishy around here.

FITZ

(lights cigar and blows)

Must be the cigar Aunt Peg. What'd yinz name the baby?

MOM

(Mom inhales the air and covers Scooter's face)

Blow that over there! Smells like something else. Like a cigarette or something. Don't be giving the girls cigarettes or you're out on the street! This isn't the Ronald McDonald house, ya know what I'm sayin'? You need to earn your keep! You're gonna babysit on Saturday night so your Uncle can take me out. After nine months off the wagon, I need a wine spritzer!

FITZ

On the wagon, Aunt Peg. Can I get a meal first? I'm stravin'.

MOM

What do I look like? A maid service? Go make a grilled cheese sandwich. Make Joey and her friend one, too. I have to feed the baby.

FITZ

What's the baby's name again?

DAD

Tell Fitz and Bonnie your brother's name Joey.

JOEY

Scooter Solo!

BONNIE

Scooter Solo!

FITZ

Scooter Solo!

Scooter Solo screeches in Mom's arms.

MOM

I was pumped up with Demerol when your Uncle picked it. I'm gonna call it Paul. Yinz guys can call him whatever you want.

Mom exits.

JOEY

Thanks for picking my name Dad. I love Scooter so much!

DAD

That's my boy! My son!

Dad hugs Joey as she hands the sign to Fitz and Bonnie slides in front of him.

Dad exits.

FITZ

Whoa, that was close! Let's get this thing outta sight man! Admiral Fitzgerald has a mission of his own: pay Miss Misty and her crippled mom a visit.

(harmonica toot)

FITZ (CONT.)

To the woodpile!

Fitz, Joey, and Bonnie exit with the sign. Bonnie trails behind Fitz and Joey, starry-eyed with two glasses of Kool-aid.

LIGHTS DIM.

SCENE III: MAY THE LORD BE  
WITH YOU, ALL OF YOU

LIGHTS UP ON:

Mom, Dad, and Scooter in the living room. Mom nurses the baby as she barks orders at Dad from the couch.

MOM

You can't put the plates in there without wrappin' them! Use the bubble stuff!

DAD

I told Joey to get the roll.

MOM

Where are the brat packers? Joey! Fitz! Get your butts in here!

Joey and Fitz bound in with a long banner of bubble wrap. They pop, stomp, and roll all over the bubbles.

MOM (CONT)

Knock it off, that's expensive! It's not a toy, we need that for plates!

JOEY

Mom, can I please, please, pretty please with sugar on top, have bubble wrap for my confirmation party? I'll use it as decoration!

MOM

You're not gettin' a piss ant 'til I see that 'For Sale' sign! I know yinz hid it again! No nothin' unless that sign magically reappears! Yinz better re-stack all that wood, too!

DAD

You guys go get it after helping packing. Here, tape up those boxes and get to work.

Dad hands Fitz packing tape.

FITZ

I think someone stole the sign Aunt Peg. I saw a little squirt peeing on it last night.

Joey and Fitz exchange looks.

MOM

Bullshit.

JOEY

(rips apart pieces of bubble wrap and hands them to Dad)

Hey Dad, for my confirmation present, you can get me a puppy, okay? Mom, you can get me Space Invaders. Wait, I told Grandma to get me that, you can just make me orange Tang instead of Kool-aid from now on, and forever! And Fitz, you can get me the Ewok Village. Thank you Jesus! Thank you!

DAD

No dogs, pal. Not with the new baby.

FITZ

Since when do you get presents on your confirmation?

JOEY

Dad, you said I get presents!?

FITZ

You get a used Bible and a pile of rosary beads, if that's what you mean by presents.

DAD

You'll get money. You can buy yourself a present.

MOM

There's a big cake, too!

JOEY

Can I get a Chewbacca cake, Mom? They can make Chewbacca's face out of chocolate icing!

FITZ

You can tell'em to pimp Chewie out, make him all 'Guido' with a big ol' gold cross danglin' around his neck!

DAD

The cake can say "May The Lord Be With You".

MOM

What the hell are yinz talking about? She's not gettin' a *Star Wars* cake for her confirmation party! You will get a double-decker sheet cake with white icing from Giant Eagle with a candy cross, and your name on it, sayin' what it's supposed to say.

JOEY

Don't I get any real presents?

MOM

People will give you some money and I'll save it for you.

JOEY

Can I buy a black kitty-cat as a present for myself?

FITZ

Black cats are bad luck, cuz.

(hisses)

JOEY

Oooh! I know, I know! Can I buy a ferret?! I'll name him Chewbacca and call him Chewie for short!

MOM

No, you can't buy a ferret named Chewie! That's all we need around here. The money is for daun' the road, not for another mouth to feed. And speaking of money, you better wear the white confirmation dress and veil I bought for you from Gimbles. They charged me fifty dollars! Highway robbery for a girl's dress!

JOEY

You know my two rules Mom: I don't eat green food and I don't wear dresses. I want chocolate cake with chocolate icing for my party *annnddd* I'll wear a white robe like Princess Leia for my confirmation! With a gold holster belt!

MOM

Like hell you will! It's your confirmation not Halloween!

JOEY

I'll make you a deal, Mom. If you make me Tang every day I want it and throw me the biggest confirmation party ever I'll wear the stupid dress. Just once. But NO pictures with the dress on.

FITZ

Joey in a dress! Joey in a dress! I'm going to show that one to the entire planet!

DAD

Okay, that's enough.

FITZ

What's your confirmation name?

JOEY

I dunno.

FITZ

You hafta pick a Saint's name or you'll burn in hell with all the other sinners. That's why I'm an atheist. No fire and brimstone for me.

MOM

Shut it Fitz. I'll make a deal with you young lady. You and Fitz put that 'For Sale' sign back up tonight, no questions asked, and I'll think about Space Invaders and Tang. And one Polaroid with the dress on, and not all crumpled up in the mud! You hafta wear the veil, the shoes, and the stockings that go with it, too.

JOEY

Ugh, I don't know, Mom. That doesn't sound fair.

MOM

How about no party, no cake, no presents and being grounded for a week. Sound fair to you?

FITZ

Take the deal, Joey. It's a trap.

JOEY

Okay, I'll take the deal!

MOM

And what's with the Tang? What's the difference between orange Kool-aid and Tang? They're both pure sugar!

Dad and Joey exchange looks.

DAD

Joey wants to be an astronaut.

MOM

What's that got to do with Tang?

DAD

C'mon Peg, really?

FITZ

John Glenn and Buzz Aldrin drank Tang. All the astronauts do.

MOM

Oh.

(to Joey)

MOM (CONT)

Since when do you want to be an astronaut?

JOEY

Since last night when I told Dad.

MOM

I never heard of a woman astronaut! I don't think we're allowed in space Joey.

FITZ

Sally Ride, Aunt Peg. First American woman in space was like two years ago.

MOM

Oh. Well, why do you have to go to space? Why can't you stay here on Earth?

DAD

Let her dream, Peg. You can be an astronaut Joey. That's cool, pal. You gotta study hard though, and go to school for a long time.

JOEY

Like how long, Dad?

FITZ

Like forever and ever. School sucks!

MOM

I don't like this idea, I don't like it at all. We can't afford to send you to some expensive astronaut school.

FITZ

NASA will pay for her to be an astronaut if she's smart enough.



MOM

Aren't you an encyclopedia of knowledge?

FITZ

Everyone knows that Aunt Peg. Hey, inquiring minds want to know- we almost done here? I have uh, I have something to do later.

MOM

Don't forget you're babysitting tomorrow night! You better not stay out late!

JOEY

What are you doing later?

FITZ

Nacho.

JOEY

Nacho cheese?

FITZ

Nacho business.

MOM

Joey, why don't you go on a plane instead? You can be a stewardess and fly all over the world like Aunt Mary! I bet she could help you get a job. She met Uncle Tito in Mexico! Daddy and me could get those buddy passes and come see you. Wouldn't you like that instead of being all alone in space without your family?

JOEY

Space!

FITZ

Space!

MOM

Stay out of this Fitz! Help us up, I want to talk to you in the kitchen. Now!

FITZ

Uh-oh, I released the Kraken.

Fitz , Mom, and Scooter exit.

JOEY

I knew she wouldn't go for it Dad. I don't want to be a dumb stewardess, I'm not pretty like Aunt Mary! I want to be an astronaut! I want to walk on the Moon and Mars!

DAD

Well, Mom doesn't want you to be so far away Joey. She wants you to be here with us. We would miss you so much.

JOEY

I would miss *you*, Dad, but Mom is always yelling at me and now we have to move five hours away to Oakwood. I don't want to move away from all my friends and my cousins. I want to live in Mars forever and be an astronaut.

DAD

Oakwood is only forty-five minutes away Joey. Look, when you get your driver's license you can drive back to Mars and see Bonnie anytime! Fitz is family, you can see him on Sunday's at grandma's. You'll see, you're gonna make a lotta new friends.

JOEY

I don't want to make new friends! I like my old friends!

DAD

C'mere, I want to show you something, but you can't tell Mom I gave this to you. Our little secret, okay pal?

Joey sits on Dad's lap and he pulls a newspaper clipping out of his pocket.

JOEY

Who's that woman?

DAD

After you told me you wanted to be an astronaut I saw this in the *Butler Eagle*. They're sending this science teacher to space and you can read about it. Here.

(hands her the clipping)

JOEY

(reads)

The Space Shuttle Challenger will launch its tenth mission in January. Her name is Crista, the teacher's name is Crista. Can that be my confirmation name Dad?

DAD

Sure, pal! Don't ever give up on your dreams Joey.

Fitz enters.

FITZ

It's 'Fitz-slurps-a-*Slurpee*' time! Anyone named Joey wanna tag along?

(shakes car keys)

JOEY

I do! I do!

FITZ

Okay kid, let's put some eggs in our shoes and beat it!

Fitz and Joey 'moonwalk' offstage.

Mom enters.

MOM

(shouts to Fitz, off)

Don't wreck the Cougar! I measured the gas, ya hear me, so no joyrides!

MOM (CONT)

Well, what are we going to do about this?

DAD

About what?

MOM

What'd ya mean, what? Our daughter! The astronaut?!

DAD

Let it go, Peg. You never know, she's a smart kid.

MOM

Well, it sounds like a pie in the sky piped dream to me. I don't want her to fail... I want her to.. I don't know what I'm trying to say... Being an astronaut is not realistic for a girl, not for people like us, not...

DAD

Not what? Do you know how many times I thought about being something other than a plumber? Not that there's anything wrong with fixin' crappers. Just sayin'.

MOM

If you hadn't knocked me up with her you'd still be hustling pool halls and riding that Harley around!

DAD

(wistful)

My chopper.

MOM

I remember when we were dating you said you wanted to be a comedian. Do you remember telling me that?

DAD

(gesturing with his fist to Mom like Ralph  
Kramden)

Bang, zoom! To the moon, Alice!

MOM

(laughs)

I never had big dreams like you, or her, I guess. I was always too afraid to dream that big, growin' up with nothing. But this kid, she's from another planet. I don't know if I'm doing right by her, ya know what I'm sayin'?

DAD

(still in Ralph Kramden character)

Baby, you're the greatest.

MOM

Maybe she's not mine, or maybe... I'm the wrong Mom for this kid.

DAD

She's yours, she's a pisol just like you, Peg. Let's not crap on her dreams when we're moving, know what *I'm* sayin'? She doesn't want to leave her friends and Fitz and she's been here her whole life.

MOM

You're right. Oh, god, you're right. I just told Fitz to butt out. I told him to tell her to be something else. She worships him and that really jags my nerves 'cause he's nothing but trouble and she'll follow him to the end of the earth for some damn reason.

DAD

Eh, she'll grow out of him someday. He's just the fun cousin who teases her.

Offstage Scooter screams his head off.

MOM

Well, at least I know that one's mine.

Mom exits.

DAD

(practices his schtick)

Hamina-hamina-hamina-hamina. One of these days... One of these days... (He shoots his fist up) POW! Right in the kisser!

LIGHTS FADE.

## SCENE IV: SLURPEES AND THE 'PIRATE CITY' CANTINA

LIGHTS UP ON:

Joey and Fitz are 'parked' in two chairs, in front of a 7/11 store 'slurpin' *Slurpees* in large cups with plastic dome lids and straws. A race is in progress.

JOEY

I'm almost done! I'm beating you!

FITZ

I gotta stop, major brain freeze!

(pauses slurping)

FITZ (CONT)

What flavor di'ju get?

JOEY

Darth Dew. Tastes like Mountain dew and lemonade! What'd ju get?

FITZ

Kissin' cousin. Tastes like cherries and high heels.

JOEY

What's that taste like?

FITZ

Nun-ya.

JOEY

What's nun-ya?

FITZ

Nun-ya business.

JOEY

Shut up!

FITZ

I think there's something in the bottom.

(scrapes the bottom with straw)

JOEY

Nah-uh!

FITZ

No seriously, they put a surprise in it! Like they do in a cereal box. Maybe it's a toy or something.

Joey keeps slurping.

JOEY

Wait, there's something in mine, too! What is this? It tastes MINT-EE.

(beat)

FITZ

Can I have a piece of gum?

Fitz bowls over with laughter as Joey stabs a green wad of gum the size of a golf ball out of the cup with her straw and sticks it to his arm.

JOEY

I hate you Fitz! Jagoff!

FITZ

C'mon kid, I'll make it up to you. Wanna go for a ride in the big, bad 'Burgh?

JOEY

Pittsburgh?! Yeah, I want to go! I want to see Three Rivers Stadium, and the Pirates!

FITZ

Nah, I was thinking more like a detour daun' the 'Rocks. Let's ride past that place where your next door neighbor dances. What's it called again?

JOEY

The Cantina? You're taking me to a strip bar?!

FITZ

I'm not taking you in, just cruisin' past for a sec. I want to see what kind of establishment she works at for, uh, research.

JOEY

Research for what?

FITZ

Don't worry about it, not your concern. It's classified, top secret. Better not tell your parents though, or we'll be in hot sauce. It's a little shady around there.

JOEY

Then why are you taking me ? I want to go home!

FITZ

C'mon, just for a minute. Let me do my research and then we'll go do something you want to do. I won't rat you out for stealing the sign.

JOEY

You stole it!

FITZ

You're the squirt that peed on it.

JOEY

It was your idea to put it in the gutter!

Fitz ignores her as he starts up the engine, flips on the radio, and starts driving. Joey sulks in a silent beat then snaps it off.

FITZ

Fine by me.

(he whistles a song through his teeth)

JOEY

Take me home or I'm telling. You were supposed to get me a *Slurpee* then take me home.

FITZ

Why is everything always about you, cuz? C'mon, I swore to secrecy about the sign, I won't snitch on ya. We'll just go for a quick peek and then we'll ride by the Stadium and we both win!

JOEY

Won't that take too long? Mom will be mad it took so long.

FITZ

Little Joey, so young, so naive. Pay attention grasshopper. We'll tell your parents we got a flat tire and we had to wait for help. Capiche?



JOEY

What about the gas? Mom measured the gas tank!

FITZ

Di'ju happen to see where the line was?

JOEY

Yep, I looked! I looked! It was there.

Joey points to the dash as Fitz slyly takes her hand and puts it on his thigh. She freezes then pulls it away.

FITZ

We on the same page now?

JOEY

Okay.

A bright neon light blinks across their faces. Fitz swerves the wheel and 'parks'. He lights up a joint.

FITZ

There she is, the world famous Cantina. Stay in the car and keep guard, okay? Lock the doors and don't talk to any shady characters. Put the radio on any station you want. I'm gonna go in and use the bat-room, Robin.

(starts to leave)

JOEY

You're leaving me?! No Fitzy, nooooo!!

FITZ

Quit being a whiney crybaby. I'll be back in a minute. Here, keep this goin'.

(hands her the joint)

FITZ (CONT)

Remember, this is a top secret mission, so you need to keep a hawk's eye, okay Captain?

(salutes)

JOEY

I don't want sit in the car all by myself!

FITZ

Just beep the horn three times if Jabba the Hut steals my dope or Darth Vader starts foggin' up the windows.

(breathes like Darth Vader)

Fitz exits and Joey sits alone in the car holding the joint.  
She stares straight ahead, shaking.

LIGHTS FADE.

## SCENE V: PAC MAN, DIRTY DIAPERS, AND GETTIN' COZY

LIGHTS UP ON:

Saturday date night. Mom and Dad canoodle and skitter across the stage like prison escapees.

MOM

(off)  
Have fun kids!

DAD

(off)  
Don't wait up!

CURTAIN UP on the living room. Joey and Bonnie sit slightly apart on the couch and play the original *Pac Man* video game with *Atari* joysticks, using the fourth wall as a television screen. Joey has her feet propped on a coffee table.

Fitz enters with a bandana tied around his nose and mouth with a dirty diaper tied to the end of a toy lightsaber. He waves it in front of them.

JOEY

Hardy har-har, very funny.

BONNIE

Gross!

Fitz sits between them and acts normal with the diaper in his lap. He pulls down the bandana.

FITZ

So what are yinz doing?

JOEY

Stop it Fitz, that stinks! We're playing Pac Man!

Fitz simultaneously pinches their noses as they continue playing.

JOEY

Quit it! Don't touch me jagoff!

Joey swipes his hand away, throws down her joystick, and exits.

FITZ

Wahhh! Wahhh!

(a beat)

BONNIE

Where'd Joey go?

FITZ

Who knows? Probably being a whiney little crybaby in her room. Move over, I'm the king of *Pac Man*.

Fitz takes over Joey's joystick and gets into the game.

Bonnie gets up and takes the diaper and lightsaber off to the side, and sits back on the couch with her hands folded in her lap.

Fitz moves closer to Bonnie.

Joey enters and squeezes between them on the couch and turns to Bonnie.

FITZ (CONT)

Look who's back, the whiney little crybaby. Wahh! Wahh!

JOEY

Don't touch Bonnie, and don't talk to me!

FITZ

Fine, be that way. I don't need you guys to have a good time. I have a date with Misty tonight. Just waiting for the call, any second now.

JOEY

You can't leave! You're not allowed to go anywhere when you're babysitting!

FITZ

Scooter is asleep and yinz can play games and have a slumber party by yourselves. I'll be back WAY before your parents get home.

JOEY

You can't go Fitzy, you can't go! We want you to stay, right Bonnie? Will you please stay with us and play *Pac Man*? We still need to eat supper and we can't cook by ourselves, we're not allowed to use the stove!

FITZ

Chill out, I'll order a pizza. You don't need me around. See-ya, wouldn't wanna be-ya!

Fitz gets up to leave and Joey tackles his shirt and wrestles him back to the couch.

JOEY

I don't want you to see Lori! Why do you have to go on a date with her?

(Fitz shoves Joey)

FITZ

'Cause she's a woman, not a whiney little crybaby. Yinz are on your own. And if you tell, there'll be hell to pay.

(points at them, one by one)

JOEY

(wails)

You can't leave until you order us pizza!

The phone rings.

FITZ

Ah ha! Miss Misty awaits.

Fitz exits to answer the phone offstage.

BONNIE

Why is Fitz going on a date with Misty Morning?

JOEY

Because she strips off her clothes and gives him beer!

(beat)

JOEY (CONT)

Maybe we can steal some beer?

BONNIE

I don't want to drink beer Joey.

(Joey shoves Bonnie)

JOEY

Shut up Bonnie! I want him to play with us and not her! You don't have to swallow.

Fitz enters in a huff and plops down on the couch,  
dejected.

FITZ

She dumped me.

(lights a joint and inhales)

JOEY

Ha-ha, Lori the stripper dumped you! Now you have to stay and play with us!

FITZ

You think my pain is funny?

JOEY

Too bad.

BONNIE

Why did she dump you?

FITZ

Says I'm too young. She's only three years older than me! And 'cause I can't sneak into bars and says she wants to date men her own age. I hate her. I wrote her a love song and sent flowers to the Cantina. What a waste. Blew all my dough on that dumb stripper.

(pulls out his harmonica and toots something  
blue)

JOEY

I told you she was dumb. Want me to get us some beers from my Dad's cooler?

BONNIE

Won't your Dad be mad if we steal his beers?

FITZ

Get me one.

JOEY

Nah, he's not like my Mom. He doesn't count 'em. I'll only steal two, we can split one can and give Fitz a can. I'll be back! Hold down the fort, Officer Patberg!

BONNIE

(salutes)

Okay, Captain Joey!

Joey exits.

Beat.

FITZ

So Bonnie, you got a man in your life?

(takes joint)

BONNIE

My dad?

FITZ

How old are you?

BONNIE

Twelve and a half going on thirteen!

FITZ

Uh-huh. I meant, do you have a boyfriend?

BONNIE

Kind of.

FITZ

No way, what's his name?

BONNIE

Nick Kosiak.

FITZ

Sounds like a chump. Want me to put him in a cobra clutch?

BONNIE

Nooo! He gave me this rhinestone bracelet!

(holds it up)

FITZ

Uh-huh.

(beat)

FITZ (CONT)

I bet he's not as good lookin' as me.

BONNIE

(laughs)

I don't know.

(Fitz laughs)

Joey enters with beers.

JOEY

What are yinz laughing about?

FITZ

I think your friend is high.

JOEY

I'm telling.

BONNIE

I'm not! Shut up Fitzy!

JOEY

Then what's funny?

FITZ

Nothing you'd understand. Why don't you go play Jedi and leave us alone. Or fly-fly away on your spaceship. Me and Bonnie are having fun.

JOEY

Okay! We can play astronaut! I'll get my space helmets!

FITZ

Stop dreaming, Joey, you'll never be an astronaut.



JOEY

You're just mad Lori the stripper dumped you! Ha-ha ha ha-ha! You got dumped by a dumb stripper! Dumped by a stripper! Fitz got dumped by a stripper!

Joey smiles and hands Fitz a beer as she cracks open the other and takes a big swig. She spits some out in a spray—clearly the first time she has ever tasted beer.

FITZ

(slowly cracks open beer)

You know what, let's play astronaut. Where are those space helmets at?

JOEY

I'll get them, I'll get them!

Joey exits to get her space helmets.

FITZ

Mars is a dead end, she'll never get out. You wanna be an astronaut, too, Bonnie?

BONNIE

I want to be an accountant.

FITZ

Yawnsville.

BONNIE

Or a Dallas Cowgirl.

FITZ

Really?

(beat)

FITZ (CONT)

You wanna hit this?

(offers Bonnie beer)

BONNIE

Um, okay! I'll try a sip.

FITZ

Drink up buttercup.

Bonnie sips from Fitz's can, and scrunches her face.

FITZ

(laughs)

You wanna hit this instead? It will have ya flying to the moon! Unlike Joey.

(offers her joint)

BONNIE

I'm allergic to smoke. And nuts. Oh, and pet dander.

FITZ

Uh-huh, uh-huh. This ain't like cigarette smoke, it's dope smoke, not the same at all. Just test drive it, it's like... laughing gas.

BONNIE

It smells funny.

FITZ

Please, Princess Bonnie, just once? For Nick? For me? It will be so much fun! Look, I'll give you your first lesson. You go like this.

Fitz inhales the smoke, holds it in, and exhales.

Bonnie is spellbound.

FITZ (CONT)

Just take your time and inhale, count to three, then blow it out.

BONNIE

I don't know how...

FITZ

Here, just open your mouth. I'll blow the smoke in.

Fitz moves his face close to Bonnie's lips. She has her lips open, eyes closed and Fitz tilts her head back as he slowly blows the smoke in. Bonnie inhales with full cheeks, then bursts into an uncontrollable coughing fit.

FITZ

Don't worry, that always happens to first timers. Pure lungs can't hack it right off the bat.

Bonnie is VERY high now.

Joey enters with two motorcycle helmets.

JOEY

I couldn't find my space helmets, I guess we packed them already, so I got two of my Dad's motorcycle helmets from the garage! We can pretend...

Fitz and Bonnie start giggling as Fitz slides his arm around Bonnie's shoulder. Joey freezes.

BONNIE

(to nobody)

You're soooo funny!

FITZ

Hey Bonnie...

BONNIE

Hey Fitz...

FITZ

Hey Bonnie, which one of my seven laughs do you wanna hear?

BONNIE

How many laughs do you have?

FITZ

Seven! Here's one. Two. Three.

(acts out laughs 1-3)

Bonnie cracks up on the couch and drinks some more beer from Fitz's can. Joey is enraged.

JOEY

You said didn't want to drink beer Bonnie! Gimme that!

Joey shoves a helmet into Bonnie's lap and grabs the beer from Fitz's hand. Joey chugs down as much as she can stand.

FITZ

Let the party begin! Drink! Drink! Drink!

Bonnie is now passed out stone cold, on the couch. Fitz lifts up one of Bonnie's arms which is completely limp and falls down.

FITZ

Lightweight, didn't even make it to the munchy stage.

JOEY

Is Bonnie okay?

(tipsy)

FITZ

She's fine, just stoned. A real party animal.

JOEY

Why did you stone her?

FITZ

I didn't stone her you idjit, she's high 'cause she smoked a joint. You can try some, but only after you get me some more beer and Doritos. Then we can play astronaut.

JOEY

I'm telling.

FITZ

Captain Jo-ey, you're not gonna snitch on us, are you? It's astronaut-party time!

JOEY

(faintly)

Okay, but no more beer.

LIGHTS DIM.

## SCENE VI: ASTRONAUT-PARTY TIME AND TEXAS HOLD'EM

LIGHTS UP ON:

*One hour later:* Bonnie is slumped over an arm of the couch, now wearing the motorcycle helmet. Empty cans of beer are stacked into a pyramid. An ashtray, a King-sized bag of *Doritos*, and an empty pizza box are littered across the coffee table. Joey and Fitz sit on two chairs, center stage, and play 'astronaut'. Joey wears the other motorcycle helmet and holds an imaginary steering wheel. Fitz wears '80's retro headphones, plugged into nothing.

FITZ

(takes joint)

Captain Organa, come in, Captain! Front radar is picking up a massive celestial object in our flight path!

JOEY

(fidgets with imaginary levers and buttons)

Switch all power to front deflector screens, Admiral.

FITZ

Copy that, Captain.

(offers Joey joint)

JOEY

(swats joint away)

The Twin Quasar!

(points straight ahead)

JOEY (CONT)

It's magnificent.

Beat.

FITZ

We've been hit!

(Fitz nearly pushes Joey off her chair)

JOEY

Negative, negative, Admiral. It didn't hit, just scratched the surface!

Fitz takes off his headphones, plops them down dramatically on the chair, and walks back to the couch. He sits and props his feet up on the table.

FITZ

This party sucks.

JOEY

Why?

(removes motorcycle helmet)

FITZ

Nobody fun to play with around here.

(touches Bonnie's dress)

FITZ (CONT)

Why don't you wear dresses?

JOEY

Why don't you?

FITZ

Get me one.

JOEY

I only have one! I have to wear it tomorrow for my confirmation!

FITZ

Go put it on. I want to see you in it now.

JOEY

Why?

FITZ

'Cause I said so.

JOEY

I don't want to.

FITZ

*Do it.*

JOEY

Are you deaf? I DON'T WANT TO.

FITZ

Huh? What did you say? Party's over? G'nite.

(gets up)

JOEY

Wait! Wait!

(beat)

JOEY (CONT)

Will you play astronaut again?

FITZ

Nah, I don't want to play kids games anymore. But if you put on the dress I'll teach you a real game.

JOEY

What real game?

FITZ

Texas Hold'em.

JOEY

How do you play?

FITZ

Show me the dress and I'll show you Texas Hold'em.

JOEY

Okay!

FITZ

And bring me another beer.

Joey exits.

Fitz reaches over to Bonnie's neck, and takes a pulse. He pulls out a pack of playing cards from the shelf under the coffee table.

He grabs two pillows from the couch, moves the chairs off to the side, and sets them down opposite one another, center stage. He sets up his ashtray and begins to shuffle the deck, cross-legged on a pillow.

Joey enters with a can of beer. She wears a white confirmation dress and white patent leather shoes. Joey shuffles across the floor in her fancy shoes and kneels on the pillow opposite Fitz, and hands him the beer.

FITZ

Wow, you almost look like a girl.

JOEY

It's itchy, I hate it. I couldn't zip it all the way by myself.

(scratches herself all over)

Fitz stares at Joey like a lion stares at a herd of elk.

FITZ

Okay, we both get two cards in Texas Hold'em. You keep'em face down until I tell you.

(deals two cards each)

JOEY

Why do they call it Texas Hold'em?

FITZ

No idea. Ace's are high. Get it, high?

JOEY

Hardy har-har. Can I look now?

FITZ

What'cha got?

JOEY

I have two Ace's! Do I win?

(holds them up)

FITZ

Huh. Beginner's luck, you win. Gimme the cards.



JOEY  
What do I win?

FITZ  
You can take off your shoes.

JOEY  
Okay!

(takes off shoes)

FITZ  
Next hand.

(deals)

JOEY  
Can I look now?

FITZ  
Yep, you can look. What'cha got, cowgirl?

JOEY  
I have a joker and... a five with black shamrocks. Do I win?

FITZ  
They're called clubs, you idgit. Nope, you're a loser.

JOEY  
I don't understand this game.

FITZ  
Since you lost this hand, you have to take off your dress.

JOEY  
Okay!

(starts to get up)

FITZ  
You can't leave the playing area. You have to take it off here.

JOEY  
I'll be naked! Except for my underwear.

FITZ

Who cares, your parents need to get an air conditioner, it's like Grandma's fan in here. I'm gonna get comfortable myself.

Fitz takes off his shirt and slowly unbuckles his belt. He lights another joint and takes a long inhale.

FITZ (CONT)

(offers joint)

Ready? C'mon, you can handle it, unlike your friend.

JOEY

What's it like? Is it better than beer?

FITZ

It's way better'n beer, it makes you feel relaxed. Like nothing matters and everything is peaceful.

JOEY

Like an astronaut on the moon without gravity?

FITZ

Yeah, like that.

(beat)

FITZ (CONT)

C'mon, just try it with me. I want the first time you get high to be with me.

JOEY

Why?

FITZ

'Cause you're my favorite cousin.

JOEY

Won't I laugh too much and fall asleep?

FITZ

You'll laugh but you won't fall asleep, not if you do it right. Dodo bird over there did it on an empty stomach. You ate pizza, remember? Just inhale, count to three, then blow it out. Here.

Fitz hands Joey joint and she takes a long inhale.

FITZ (CONT)

Blow it out now!

(beat)

FITZ (CONT)

Feelin' it?

JOEY

Yeah, it feels... peaceful.

(giggles)

FITZ

Peace be with you.

(makes the sign of the cross)

JOEY

And also with you.

Beat.

Fitz slides across to Joey and kisses her on the forehead. He takes her hands into his and pulls her up to her feet. They stand facing one another.

FITZ

You love me, don't you Joey? I don't have to pay for your love.

Fitz finishes unzipping the dress and pushes the sleeves down Joey's shoulders, pulling each arm out, one by one. As he does, Joey covers and crosses her chest with her arms.

He doesn't stop. Slowly and methodically, he pirouettes Joey upstage and slides the entire dress down to the floor, and pulls her close to his body. She is naked except for her underwear.

Fitz and Joey now have their backs to the audience as he pulls her arms away from her chest, one by one. He forms a "T" with their linked arms and bodies, like Jesus Christ on the Cross.

LIGHTS FADE.

Fitz leads Joey offstage in the fading light.

Scooter is heard faintly crying offstage.

LIGHTS UP ON:

Bonnie wakes and starts to move around. Fitz and Joey are no longer in the room but Joey's confirmation dress is still on the floor, center stage.

BONNIE

Where am I?

(removes motorcycle helmet)

Aghast, Bonnie looks around as car headlights shine into the living room. She quickly collects beer cans, grabs Joey's dress, and exits. Scooter's cries have morphed into shrills.

LIGHTS FADE.

## SCENE VII: DAD STRIKES BACK: THE CONFIRMATION

LIGHTS UP ON:

Dad sets the stage in the living room: he places a painting of a young girl kneeling and praying towards heaven on the mantel. The girl in the painting looks a lot like Joey. There are banners and white and gold balloons scattered around the space. Mom enters with a Polaroid camera hanging from a strap around her neck and carries a giant 'bubble wrap' cross.

MOM

Move it to the right. No, left. No, right, left...

DAD

Right or left, Peg?

MOM

Just center it above the couch! Cover those damn antlers with something!

(Mom looks for something)

DAD

Where is she?

Joey quietly enters in her *Star Wars* pajamas and carries a small, taped-up box. She plops down on the couch and vigorously rubs her right eye.

JOEY

Ready.

DAD

For what? A nap? It's show time, pal.

JOEY

I'm ready to move.

MOM

You better move your ass and get ready for your confirmation!

Fitz enters 'shirtless' in pajama bottoms and eats from a bowl of cereal.

FITZ

Morning, sunshine.

DAD

(to Fitz)

Hey, I want to talk to you. Meet me in the kitchen.

Fitz turns back around and Dad follows him offstage.

MOM

Get dressed Joey! We have to take pictures and go to the church soon!

JOEY

Mom, I don't want to make my confirmation.

(she rubs her eye)

MOM

What do you mean you don't 'want' to? What's wrong with your eye?

JOEY

There's a bug living in my eyeball.

MOM

A bug?! Let me see!

(grabs Joey's face)

MOM (CONT)

It's probably just an eyelash.

(blows hard in her face)

JOEY

(Ewokese)

Yub-yub, natt doo.

MOM

What?

JOEY

Bug-bug.

MOM

Enough with the invisible bug in your eye! Get your ass up now!

(grabs Joey by the arm)

JOEY

(scratches and screams)

Ya tenn ay to yah...Boom! Ku chana ma hawata. Ku chana ma hwattas!

MOM

(horrified)

Oh dear God.

Dad and Fitz enter. Fitz is still holding a cereal spoon and sits beside Joey on the arm of the couch.

Joey slides away from him.

JOEY

(mumbles)

Um kacha nabu, yeb nyet-nuh.

DAD

Your nephew has a secret to reveal. Tell your Aunt what you did.

FITZ

I drank all the beer in the cooler. Oops.

Mom is still dialed into Joey as she scratches herself and swipes invisible bugs.

MOM

(hysterical)

Why is she scratching like that? Joey, why are you scratching yourself?

JOEY

(stands up and points at Fitz)

Taraway ah way taa ooce ta ah hah. Ya tenn ay to yah...Boom!

Joey exits.

MOM

(grabs Fitz)

What's wrong with my child? What did you do to her?!!

FITZ

Nothing.

(stands and slowly licks his spoon)

Beat.

Dad grabs his throat with one hand and chokes him. Mom intervenes.

MOM

Let him go! Let go! No! Stop it!

The doorbell rings. Dad releases Fitz.

DAD

If you hurt my daughter, I'll kill you.

Dad exits.

Mom answers the door. Bonnie enters in a white confirmation dress and her hair and make-up are done up for the occasion. She looks radiant.

FITZ

Hi Bonnie, you look fetching.

Bonnie ignores Fitz.

BONNIE

Where's Joey?

MOM

Go Fitz, get dressed.

FITZ

As long as you don't kill me.

Fitz exits.



MOM

(off)

Joey, come on honey, Bonnie is here! We're going to take pictures now! Bonnie, sit on the couch, under the painting, let me take one now. Oh, you look so pretty!

Bonnie complies.

Mom snaps the Polaroid and as the print develops she waves it in the air to dry.

Dad enters with Joey. She is still in her pajamas and stands with her arms crossed.

MOM

Joey, look at how pretty Bonnie looks in her dress! Aren't you going to put yours on now?

Silence.

DAD

She won't say anything. Peg, I'm going to kill him.

MOM

No! No, stay here with the girls! I'll talk to him!

Mom runs out and exits.

BONNIE

(stands and smiles)

Aren't you going to put on your dress now, Joey?

Beat.

Joey charges Bonnie like a bull and pushes her into the couch.

She grabs at Bonnie's neckline as Bonnie screams.

JOEY

Take off that dress Bonnie! Take it off! OFF!

Dad pulls them apart as the girls scream and kick at each other. Both are hysterically crying.

DAD

Stop it Joey!

Bonnie gets away from Joey and stands up.

BONNIE

I don't want marks on my face for my confirmation day!

DAD

Apologize to Bonnie! Why did you...

JOEY

(screams)

Take it off off off!

BONNIE

I don't want to be your friend anymore.

JOEY

I don't want to be YOUR friend anymore!

DAD

C'mon, Bonnie, I'll take you to the church.

(yells, off)

DAD (CONT)

Peg! I'm taking Bonnie to the church. Joey...

(beat)

DAD (CONT)

I don't know what to say to you, pal.

Silence.

Dad and Bonnie exit.

JOEY

(shouts, off)

You better pray for your soul Bonnie!

Joey grabs the bubble wrap cross and throws it across the room. Distraught, she paces the stage. Joey stops and takes note of the painting above the mantel.

She closely inspects the painting to get the pose and facial expression correct, then graciously poses like the girl in the painting.

Mom quietly enters at some point while Joey assumes the prayer position, center stage.

JOEY

OUR FATHER  
WHO ART IN HEAVEN  
HALLOWED BE THY NAME.

THY KINGDOM COME  
THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.  
DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

(beat)

YOU TAKE THE SHINE FROM MY EYE.  
YOU ROB MY TINY SKY.  
WHY, GOD, WHY?

AMEN.

Beat.

JOEY (CONT)

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED.  
I AM A BAD GIRL.

Joey and Mom look at each other.

LIGHTS FADE.

## SCENE VII: A NEW PLANET

LIGHTS UP ON:

*Fall, 1985.* The front yard in complete chaos. A SOLD sash is slapped diagonally across the 'HOUSE FOR SALE' sign. All of the furniture and boxes are packed and stacked in the yard, waiting to be loaded into an unseen moving van. Joey sits alone on the couch in her denim overalls and wears a denim jacket and baseball cap. She is unpacking a box that contains her toys: a lightsaber, space helmets, and her *Pac Man* game. She inspects them one by one, and sets them on the ground. Mom enters with Scooter, who is fast asleep in a stroller.

Joey? MOM

Yeah? JOEY

Can we talk, honey? MOM

Uh-huh. JOEY

How are you? MOM

Okay. JOEY

Mom awkwardly sits beside Joey on the couch.

MOM  
You did nothing wrong, you know that, right?

JOEY  
When are we gonna tell Dad?

MOM

(beat)  
We're not going to tell Daddy, Joey. He'll be too upset.

JOEY

Why?

MOM

Let's just... let's just be happy in Oakwood. Can't we move on and keep this between us, can't we please honey? You will never have to see him again, he is banished from our lives forever. I promise.

JOEY

Are you going to lie to Dad?

MOM

Joey, it's complicated. We don't need the old neighborhood to know all our business...

(beat)

Bonnie enters.

MOM (CONT)

Oh, hi Bonnie! I was just leaving, come, come, talk to Joey.

Mom quickly exits with Scooter.

BONNIE

Hi Joey.

JOEY

Hi Bonnie.

BONNIE

Your Dad told my Dad yinz were moving today.

JOEY

Yeah.

BONNIE

I wanted to say bye.

JOEY

Bye.

BONNIE

Okay, bye.

Bonnie starts to leave.

JOEY

Bonnie?

BONNIE

Yeah Joey?

JOEY

Do you want one of my lightsabers ?

BONNIE

Um, I don't think so. I'm not really into *Star Wars*.

JOEY

I know, but you know how you give your best friend a necklace with two pieces? You wear half and your best friend wears the other half?

BONNIE

Oh, yeah, I know what you mean.

JOEY

I was just going to leave them here for the new family. Maybe they have little kids.

Bonnie sits beside Joey on the couch. Joey hands her a lightsaber.

JOEY

I'm not going to take some of this stuff.

(beat)

JOEY (CONT)

I'm not gonna be an astronaut anymore.

BONNIE

Why?

JOEY

My Mom thinks I should be an airline stewardess instead, and fly all over the world on a plane.

BONNIE

Cool!

JOEY

Yeah, I don't know. She said my Aunt Mary could get me a job.

Beat.

BONNIE

Is Fitz going to live with you guys in Oakwood?

JOEY

He joined the Marines.

BONNIE

Oh.

(beat)

JOEY

Do you still like Nick Kosiak?

BONNIE

He stopped calling me when he met Jennie Lynch.

JOEY

Girls like Jennie Lynch always steal boys.

BONNIE

Yeah.

(looks wistfully at bracelet)

JOEY

Bonnie?

BONNIE

Yeah?

JOEY

Nick has a really big nose.

BONNIE

Really?

JOEY

I don't know how he kissed you with that elephant trunk!

Joey grabs a stuffed bird out of her box and puts it on her nose and tries to kiss Bonnie.

BONNIE

That's so funny!

JOEY

I'm Nick *Nosiak* and I'm going to kiss you Bonnie Patberg!

BONNIE

Quit it!

Bonnie bats the bird away with a lightsaber.

BONNIE

Seamus Cringle said they met in line at the Potato Patch.

JOEY

Boys suck.

BONNIE

Where did your parents meet? Mine met at Greasy Gus's.

JOEY

At a Black Sabbath concert.

BONNIE

Where?

JOEY

Duh! Ozzy Osbourne?

Bonnie shrugs.

JOEY

He bit a bird's head off and let it bleed to death!

BONNIE

Gross!

JOEY

Yep.

BONNIE

What kind of bird?

JOEY

Like a dove.



Na-uh!  
BONNE

JOEY  
He put the Dove's head in his mouth, like this, and it's blood squirt all over the stage...

Joey shoves stuffed bird's head into her mouth and violently pulls at it with her teeth.

BONNIE  
That's so gross! Stop it Joey!

JOEY  
Wanna bite Jennie Lynch's head off?

BONNIE  
Yea!

JOEY  
(to stuffed bird)

Say your prayers Jennie Lynch, because you're gonna drown in your own blood!

Hands Bonnie stuffed bird. Bonnie puts it in her mouth and shakes it around. They crack up.

Beat.

Mom silently enters.

JOEY  
Bonnie, did Nick Kosiak show you...

MOM  
The van is here! Oh Bonnie, I'm so happy you girls kissed and made up! Pack up all that stuff and say good-bye now girls.

BONNIE  
Bye Joey.

JOEY  
Bye Bonnie.

Bonnie leaves the lightsaber behind and waves to Joey and Mom as she exits.

I love you Joey.

MOM

I love you too, Mom.

JOEY

Mom exits.

Joey packs everything back into the box.

Dad enters with a filled black trash bag and looks for a place to leave it.

Dad... I need to tell you something.

JOEY

Yeah, pal?

DAD

(beat)

(sits on box)  
I'm ready to go to my new home now.

JOEY

LIGHTS FADE.

SOUND UP ON:

*Winter, 1986.* Joey and her family have since moved from Mars, PA, when a live news recording of the Space Shuttle Challenger is heard, and the sound of tragedy bleeds into the sound of a blizzard, winds whipping.

LIGHTS UP ON:

The HOUSE FOR SALE sign, buried in snow.

THE END