

## DECISION DAY

Characters

**Lizzy**, a smart, hardworking high school senior.

**Shameena**, Lizzy's practical, sassy best friend. As a practicing Muslim, she wears a hijab.

**Mom**, a human rights lawyer who has raised Lizzy by herself.

**McDreamy**, Lizzy's dream college. He's a Romeo-like romantic who believes that his love for Lizzy is enough to win her over.

**HYPs**, an elite college who is completely self-absorbed and prides himself on his reputation.

**State**, a public school mostly interested in Lizzy's test score but still genuinely willing to care for her.

Act I, Scene 1

The play takes place in LIZZY's house. Mid-stage right is a staircase. Stage Right is a tree and possibly a divider; the stairway creates Romeo-and-Juliet-like balcony. There is a door downstage center. Mid-stage left is a couch. LIZZY sits at the top of the stairs, scribbling on a piece of paper on top of a textbook. She rapidly writes and erases. SHAMEENA sits a few steps below, engrossed in economics.

SHAMEENA

Did you know that the derivative of total cost is marginal cost? Calculus, like, actually applies in real life!

LIZZY

That's great, Shameena. Can you read this and see if it's okay?

SHAMEENA

I read it, like, ten minutes ago.

LIZZY

Yeah, but it's different now!

SHAMEENA

I'm sure it's fine.

LIZZY

Fine? Fine is not enough! This is for him, Meena! It has to be perfect! Perfect!

SHAMEENA

You've been working on it for three hours; how more perfect could it get?

LIZZY

Not all of us have Posse like you, Meena! I need this scholarship. I'm going to get this scholarship. For him. Please. I've been your bestie for ten years. Take two minutes of your time and help me.

SHAMEENA

Can't you get your Mom to read it?

LIZZY

You know she's busy with a case. Help me. Pleeeee/

SHAMEENA

/Okay, okay!

(SHAMEENA reaches up and LIZZY passes her the paper. She reads it.)

SHAMEENA

Excellent.

LIZZY

Even more excellent than it was ten minutes ago?

SHAMEENA

Sure. Honestly, Lizzy, stop obsessing.

(MEENA's phone beeps. She checks it.)

Oh, it's Asher!

LIZZY

How's he doing?

SHAMEENA

He's deploying right now. Oh my god, look. Only my brother would stand in an airport in camo with five Munchkins stuffed in his face.

(MCDREAMY enters Stage Left and starts looking around.)

LIZZY

Only Asher.

MEENA

You know what we should do? We should run down to Dunkin and see if we can stuff even more Munchkins in our faces like a competition and send him a picture back/

MCDREAMY

/Elizabeth? Can you hear? Are you near?

(LIZZY runs to the top of the stairs and beams at him.)

SHAMEENA

Or you could do that.

(Pause.)

I'm still sending my brother that picture. Bye Liz!

(SHAMEENA walks through the door then exits stage left. )

LIZZY

Hi.

MCDREAMY

I thank you for meeting with me today. It thrills me knowing you are interested.

LIZZY

I hope I've done a sufficient job of demonstrating it.

MCDREAMY

I'm very glad our interest is shared.

(They take a moment to stare dreamily into each other's eyes.)

LIZZY

Oh, I have something for you! It's the essay for the Trustee scholarship!

(She passes the essay down to him.)

MCDREAMY

I'll cherish this with absolute delight.

LIZZY

It's not perfect, but it's the closest I could get.

MCDREAMY

I too have something impressive prepared:

(Very dramatic, like a love sonnet.)

My home, a charming city near the sea;

Aflush with cultural amenities

My lovely campus will fill you with glee

And you will never lack activities.

From animation club to Zumba dance,

You'll forever find yourself occupied;

Go out, sign up, be brave and take a chance--

Our students' involvement is our great pride.

And of course, academics do not yield

For writers other schools we far eclipse

Our alumni exceed in every field

And we support astounding internships.

I hope you will entrust to us your fate  
As your refusal would hurt our yield rate.

(MOM and HYPs enter stage left. Mom silently gushes over him. He wears a pristine suit and slicked back hair.)

LIZZY

That was beautiful, but I already love you. Don't get me wrong, it's fun being wooed, but I all need to know is that you love me as much I as I love you.

MOM

(Shouting from the other room.)  
Lizzy! Lizzy! Come down here! LIZZY!

LIZZY

ONE SECOND! Sorry about that.

MCDREAMY

Regardless, regretfully I must leave. I will review your essay with great care. I eagerly await your enrollment. Until we meet again, Elizabeth.

LIZZY

Parting is such sweet/

MOM

/LIZZY! CAN YOU HEAR ME! COME DOWNSTAIRS LIZZY! THERE'S SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL HERE TO SEE YOU!

(MCDREAMY is gone.)

LIZZY

COMING!

(LIZZY climbs downstairs and walks through the door. She stops when she sees HYPs. He bows.)

HYPs

Ah, how the sun smiles charitably on your intelligent features.

LIZZY

Oh my God.

(He starts slinking towards her.)

HYPs

Long has it been since our last meeting.

LIZZY

(Smiling falsely.)

Mom, you didn't tell me he was coming over today. What a very pleasant surprise.

MOM

Well, he's always welcome here.

(Loudly whispering.)

Isn't he just so handsome? Oh Lizzy, you are such a lucky girl!

HYPs

Our destinies are united, Lizzy. Surely you know that your future lies with me.

LIZZY

Mom, can I talk to you for a second?

MOM

Darling, you can always talk to me.

LIZZY

Privately? In my room?

MOM

Well, I'm sure there's nothing HYPs can't/

LIZZY

/Mom.

MOM

Well, if you would be so kind to excuse us just for a fraction of a minute/

HYPs

/Whatever pleases your fancy.

(MOM and LIZZY walk through the door and close it. HYPs sneaks up next to the door to eavesdrop.)

LIZZY

Mom, I already told you, I'm not going there.

MOM

He's a great school. I wish you would just give him a second chance. He gave you one.

LIZZY

Yeah, because I wasn't good enough for him the first time. My answer's no, Mom.

MOM

Then why did you even apply?

LIZZY

Because you made me!

MOM

He's so smart/

LIZZY

/I know he's smart, and prestigious, and if I went there everyone would come up to me and say "Lizzy, you got in there? Wow, you're so smart! However did you do it?" and I would feel superior for a few minutes but Mom. Listen. He's just not the right fit for me.

MOM

I always wanted to go to him/

LIZZY

(Sarcastic.)

/Oh, really, you hadn't mentioned?

MOM

You would learn so much from him! And meet so many people! So many people with...connections! I know you think you're in love with McDreamy, but give HYPS chance. I think he has a lot to offer.

LIZZY

Fine. One more chance.

(HYPS scurries away right before they open the door.)

HYPS

Ah, how lovely to once again bask in the aura of your genius.

(LIZZY shoots MOM a look. MOM smiles encouragingly.)

LIZZY

It's nice to see you too, Hyps.

MOM

Well, I'm very busy with a case right now so I'll let you two be.

HYPs

What kind of case?

MOM

Immigration. There's been a lot of immigration cases recently.

HYPs

That doesn't seem particularly...profitable.

MOM

(Pointedly ignoring the comment.)

I have a lot of work to do, so you two enjoy yourselves.

(MOM exits stage left. LIZZY ambles over to the couch and lies on it. HYPs stands politely to the side. Pause.)

LIZZY

Do you, uh, wanna sit?

HYPs

That would be marvelous.

(LIZZY sits up and moves to the stage right side of the couch. HYPs carefully sits stage left. They are as far away from each other as possible. Pause.)

HYPs (CONT.)

So, based on evidence I cannot disclose, I have reason to believe that your feelings about me are in question.

LIZZY

Well, you're the one who deferred and then waitlisted me.

HYPs

But I did accept you in the end. Most students find it very hard to say no to this.

(He flips his hair dramatically, like a boy in an '80s movie.)

In fact, my yield rate is over 80%.

LIZZY

Good for you.

HYPs

You're not impressed?

LIZZY

It takes more than a number to impress me.

HYPSON

Usually the honor of my attention is attractive enough.

LIZZY

Well, I care about more than just your name.

HYPSON

I have highly rated academics, incomparable extracurricular opportunities, and an esteemed reputation! And if that were not enough, I made you an aid offer, despite picking you off the waitlist!

LIZZY

Every school brags about that stuff. And McDreamy's trustee scholarship is worth more than your offer.

HYPSON

If you're awarded it.

LIZZY

I will be.

(He scooches closer to her.)

HYPSON

Are you certain?

(She looks away.)

LIZZY

I know he loves me.

HYPSON

You're special, Lizzy. Special enough that I want you.

(He takes her hand.)

But you're not especially special.

(She whips her hand away.)

LIZZY

Excuse me?

HYPSON

What I mean is that you're an excellent student-- grades and test scores are highly competitive, and you've demonstrated some promising talent in writing--but you haven't done anything stunning. You've haven't published a novel, or cured cancer/



LIZZY

/What do you want me to do? Win the Hunger Games? Defeat Lord Voldemort?

HYPY

Brown had a student who defeated Lord Voldemort. That's the kind of student your "true love" is going to want.

LIZZY

This is really it? This is your attempt to convince me?

HYPY

Elizabeth/

LIZZY

/No, I'm done! My answer is no.

HYPY

I will give you a future, Lizzy! I will make you!

LIZZY

I think I'm perfectly content making myself, thank you very much.

HYPY

Why won't you listen to your friends? Your mother? The US News rankings? Why are you being so...illogical?

LIZZY

Because of this! Your elitism! You just assume that I want you, and back in November, part of me did. But I'm sick of your self-important, smug superiority. Maybe some people could put up with that for four years. But I'm sick of it!

(He dramatically straightens his suit.)

HYPY

(Gentlemanly.)

As always, it's been lovely to see you. You're completely wrong, of course. I do very sincerely hope you'll reconsider.

(MOM enters.)

MOM

Have we made a happy match?

HYPY

Unfortunately, her stubbornness proved too intractable. However, it would be my greatest joy to forgive her whenever she sees the error of her ways.

(He leaves.)

MOM

What did you do?

LIZZY

I tried to give him one more chance. I really did.

MOM

Lizzy!

LIZZY

Look, Mom, I'm sorry you're upset, but/

MOM

/Why couldn't you just listen? For once? Why did you have to go and...and...wreck your whole future!

LIZZY

Mom! Stop freaking out! I'll get the scholarship for McDreamy and everything will be fine!

MOM

What if you don't, Lizzy?

LIZZY

What, do you not believe in me either?

MOM

You can't hinge everything on a "maybe."

(LIZZY starts storming to her room.)

Lizzy! Wait!

(LIZZY stops.)

I didn't mean that about...wrecking your future. I just can't believe you would throw away a stellar education. I can't believe you would be that...ungrateful.

LIZZY

(Slightly ashamed.)

Mom...

(There is a knock from offstage.)

MOM

I'll get it.

(She crosses stage right, exits briefly, and comes back with STATE.)

STATE

I hope this isn't a bad time. I would hate to be an inconvenience.

LIZZY

We were actually just/

MOM

/Would you like to sit, State?

STATE

Oh, sure, if you wouldn't mind.

MOM

Liz, we can talk later.

(MOM exits.)

STATE

How's life, Lizzy? It feels like it's been ages since we've talked. I know things must be busy, being courted by all those dreamy private schools/

LIZZY

/I'm actually very busy.

STATE

Well, I appreciate you making a little bit of time for me. I know I was probably your safety school, but I really like you.

LIZZY

Why? Because I filled in the right bubbles some morning?

STATE

Mostly that. But also because your essay was funny, and you volunteer at the food shelter, and you've loved writing since you were a little kid. You're just, like, a really cool person, and I could definitely see you being a leader on campus. Anything you want out of college, I'll make sure you'll have. I'll take care of you.

LIZZY

That's very sweet, State, it really is, but/

STATE

/That's why I wanted to offer you admission to our Honors College! Special advising, early registration for classes, honors seminars, honors dorms, honors restrooms/

LIZZY

/I just don't think/

STATE

/I have something else for you, too.

LIZZY

Something more enticing than an honors restroom?

(He pulls out an envelope. She takes it and starts carefully opening it. Reading.)  
 “Dear Elizabeth, based on your outstanding academic achievements and personal qualities, it is our greatest honor to offer you a full tuition scholarship--” You’re offering me full tuition?

STATE

I mean you’d still have to pay for housing and fees and stuff but...yeah. I really like you, Lizzy.

LIZZY

Oh my god, well, thank you. That’s...really generous.

STATE

You’re more than just a test score to me. I mean, you’re mostly a test score. But you are a little bit more.

LIZZY

Wow. I don’t know what to say. Thank you.

STATE

You don’t have to say yes right now. Just...think about me.

LIZZY

Yeah, I will.

(STATE exits left. LIZZY collapses onto the couch.)

LIZZY

What a day.

(She stares at the letter, then folds it back up into its envelope.)  
 Four weeks until McDreamy announces the scholarship. Four weeks. Four weeks...

(Brief blackout.)

### Act I, Scene 2

SHAMEENA has entered and is sitting on the couch with an econ textbook and a box of Munchkins, which she slowly eats. LIZZY is prancing around the room.

LIZZY

Today, today, Meena! He’s announcing the scholarships today!

Really? You hadn't mentioned.

SHAMEENA

He could be here any minute!

LIZZY

You should try these.

SHAMEENA

My whole future hinges upon this day!

LIZZY

(Sing-songy.)

I'm gonna eat all the chocolate ones.

SHAMEENA

(Grabbing SHAMEENA by the shoulders.)

I'm going insane, Meena! This anticipation is going to kill me!

LIZZY

Then let's go do something! Something teenage and rebellious!

SHAMEENA

No! I have to be here when he comes!

LIZZY

Liz, in three months we could be living in completely different states. This is our last real time together.

SHAMEENA

(Jumping on the couch.)

Aaaaaahhhhhh!

LIZZY

(LIZZY's jumping has caused some of the Munchkins to spill. SHAMEENA stands to pick them up.)

Really, Liz, cut it out!

SHAMEENA

(MCDREAMY enters stage right and knocks. He is carrying an envelope. LIZZY immediately stops screaming and runs up the stairs.)

My love!

LIZZY

MCDREAMY

How glorious to be near you again!

LIZZY

What have you brought for me? Is that--is that--?

(He extends the envelope. She snatches it and rips it open.)

“Dearest Elizabeth, it is our great delight to offer you our Dean’s scholar--” This isn’t the trustee?

MCDREAMY

It’s valued one quarter of tuition.

LIZZY

That’s not--I can’t--

(He looks at her with puppy dog eyes.)

That’s very generous. Thank you.

MCDREAMY

I hope it is enough to satisfy.

LIZZY

It’s just...isn’t there anything more you can offer to help me?

MCDREAMY

The competition was extreme; you’re lucky to be awarded merit at all. Now I must attend to other students. I eagerly await your enrollment. Until we meet again, Elizabeth.

(He leaves. LIZZY stumbles down the stairs. From Stage Left, MOM enters, reading a paper.)

SHAMEENA

Well, what’d he say?

LIZZY

He’s giving me a quarter of tuition.

SHAMEENA

That’s amazing! Congratulations!

(MOM is about to pass in front of the door but stops when she hears the conversation, instead moving closer to it.)

LIZZY

Shameena, it’s not enough! It’s not--I was supposed--I worked so hard--he was supposed to love me!--and now--everything I worked so hard for/

SHAMEENA

/Liz, what are you freaking out about? You got a scholarship to your dream school! Do you have any idea how lucky you are?

LIZZY

Yeah, a scholarship that will make my Mom broke!

(MOM rushes off Stage Left, gripping her paper tightly.)

SHAMEENA

Well, then you have that great offer from State/

LIZZY

/I don't want to go State! I want to go to McDreamy! But I can't--my mom/

SHAMEENA

/Liz, stop it! You have three great options to choose from. You're so lucky!

LIZZY

Lucky? My dream is dead, and you're saying I'm lucky?! Well, I'm sure that's easy for you to say, Ms. Posse!

SHAMEENA

I'm not going to my dream school either, Liz! The fact that you can't afford your dream school doesn't make you special! It makes you just like everyone else!

LIZZY

I didn't spend twelve years working my ass off to be just like everyone else!

SHAMEENA

No. You didn't. Because you're not like everyone else. You have options. Great options. Most people would die to be in your position. I mean, look at my family. I gave up any chance at my dream school to accept this scholarship. My brother's risking his life on the other side of the world just to be able to go to college at all. And we worked just as hard as you. So cut the crap. You're not entitled to anything.

LIZZY

You're right. I'm not. And I mean, I am grateful for my options and the fact I can go to college at all, I really am, but it's just, like... I've been spent my entire childhood working constantly so that I could go to the college I want and now...it feels like I've been lost in this...this crowd of college admissions robots. It feels like I've been duped. Like, I've spent my whole life chasing these numbers and letters, and it's still not enough. It feels like that's all I am: not enough. And those numbers and letters and shit, those are how people see you. They judge you on those externalities. And I'm so goddamn sick of it! I don't know, maybe you wouldn't understand.

SHAMEENA

Liz, really? Did you even listen to a word I just said? Because yeah, I totally don't get how you feel. Totally not at all. For me, getting into college was easier than AP Psych. And when people look at me, the first thing they see is always my sweet genuine soul. Oh wait. That's not how it works, is it? Just because I found out my school early doesn't mean the process wasn't every bit as soul-wrenching for me as it was for everyone else. And when people look at me, the first thing they see is this hijab and all of a sudden there's all these judgments about me gushing through their heads based on these prejudiced lies that they keep hearing and all of a sudden I'm not a person, I'm one of the *other*. Because of an externality. So stop it with all the shit.

LIZZY

Meena, you know that's not what I/

SHAMEENA

/Here's the thing, Liz: the world *is* gonna judge us by our externalities. It sucks, but I don't see it changing anytime soon. We have a duty to work for better systems, but you can't force people's hearts. What we get to choose is whether we start becoming what they see or instead focus on the things that really matter. I'm excited for the school I chose. And I'm proud of my hijab because I'm genuinely proud of my faith, no matter what people say. And of course it's infuriating when they make judgments about me. Dehumanizing, even. Which means that I can't let those judgments define me. Liz, if I can deal with all the shit I'm given for an "externality" you can certainly get over this. Because in the end, no one cares about our GPAs or ACTs. They care about how we treat each other. I love you because you're enthusiastic and caring and empathetic. It's when you seek validation in scholarships rather than friendships that you become just another number.

LIZZY

It's so easy to caught up in it all.

SHAMEENA

Here. Have a Munchkin. They clear the mind.

(She does.)

LIZZY

Thanks for saving me a chocolate.

SHAMEENA

I almost ate it, I really did. Now are you done with the sob story?

LIZZY

Yeah. Yeah, I think I am.

SHAMEENA

Good. Now let's think practically. Is your dad going to help at all?



LIZZY

Probably not much. I mean, he's got Mara and their little kids.

SHAMEENA

Okay. Do you wanna go to grad school?

LIZZY

Grad school? Uh... I guess I hadn't really thought about it. Yeah, probably.

SHAMEENA

Then it doesn't really matter where you get your undergrad, does it?

LIZZY

I dunno. I mean, what about getting into grad school?

SHAMEENA

That's all about the opportunities you create for yourself at the college you're at. That's the secret, Liz. You can make the most out of any school. Sure, an elite degree can help, but it's not enough. Grad school, employers, they wanna see you, not a school. And you have the potential to be great anywhere.

LIZZY

You think I should give up my dream?

SHAMEENA

It's not giving it up. It's approaching it from a different angle.

LIZZY

I just...I love him.

SHAMEENA

I know. And I get that, I really do. But this isn't marriage. It's just college.

LIZZY

Just college.

(Pause.)

You really think that's what I should do? Everyone's gonna ask why I'm going there.

SHAMEENA

Lizzy, that's just pride and prejudice. Tell people the truth: that you got a great scholarship and it's a good school. This isn't about what people think of you.

LIZZY

(Sincere but melancholy.)

Yeah. Yeah, it shouldn't be. Thank you.

SHAMEENA

I'm just asking you the questions I had to ask myself. And bringing you Munchkins, of course.

LIZZY

Like every good friend should.

(Beat.)

My mom's gonna flip out when I tell her.

SHAMEENA

Flip out that she's not going to have to take out tens of thousands of dollars in loans?

LIZZY

You know what I mean. Choosing the state school over her old dream.

SHAMEENA

Well, she'll live.

LIZZY

Probably.

SHAMEENA

You'll be fine. Anyway, I should probably go study econ. The AP test is right around the corner.

LIZZY

You still care?

SHAMEENA

Game theory is exciting! And free credits are not to be wasted! Good luck, Liz. You won't need it.

(SHAMEENA throws Liz a Munchkin--which she catches--and exits.)

LIZZY

Hey Mom! Mom! MOOOOOM!

(Mom enters.)

MOM

Liz, you know I hate it when you call me like that. If you want to talk to me, come to the room I'm in.

LIZZY

Mom, I'm ready to make my college deposit.

(MCDREAMY, HYPs and STATE all rush in and line up in a diagonal.)

Deposit? MCDREAMY

Deposit? HYPS

Deposit? STATE

(The colleges walk a few steps away from each other.)

(Mockingly.) MCDREAMY  
Well, well! If it isn't the mighty HYPS!

Are you jealous? HYPS

As if! Her affection belongs to me! MCDREAMY

How much money did you offer her? HYPS

(Defensive.) MCDREAMY  
Enough! Besides, what's *he--*  
(Gestures at STATE.)  
Doing here?

Wooring the lady, of course. STATE

Really? You? HYPS  
(Scoffs.)  
Good luck!

Alright, enough! I've made my decision. LIZZY

Here you go. MOM  
(She hands LIZZY her credit card.)  
I can't wait to see who you choose.

LIZZY

(To the colleges.)

Now, as you know, I love you all very dearly. Except you, Hys. I don't really like you. But the two of you are very dear to me. Unfortunately, I can only choose one.

MCDREAMY

(Looking at STATE.)

This should be easy.

LIZZY

After much careful consideration, the college that I will be choosing to attend next year is...

(She goes and hands STATE the credit card.)

State!

EVERYONE

What?

STATE

You chose me?

MOM

You chose him?

HYPs

Him?

MCDREAMY

I thought we shared a special bond/

LIZZY

/So did I. But you're so expensive.

MOM

Lizzy, what are you doing? I don't understand. You have these two great private options, and you want to go to a state school?

LIZZY

Yeah. He actually has a pretty good writing program, tons of clubs, honors classes, internships. The majors are pretty interdisciplinary so I could keep taking classes in all kinds of things. Like, they have this class on Harry Potter that is so cool. And with the money I'd be saving I'd have a lot of flexibility for the future, whether that's going to grad school or trying to make a career out of what I love. I'm actually...really excited about this choice. Are you...okay with this?

MOM

I mean...I just don't...Your life has been school, Liz. All this time--time that you could have spent with your friends, with me--you've devoted to your homework. All just to go to an...average school?

(HYPS nods.)

When he/

(Points at HYPS. HYPS smooths back his hair.)

/Would take you? You could have so many opportunities. Opportunities that I never had. Why would you reject that?

LIZZY

We're not a good fit.

MOM

That's it? What, do you think State would be a better fit? Do you even think you'd be happy with him?

LIZZY

I think I would. And if not, well, I'll transfer. Mom, I know this seems crazy but I really think this is the best choice.

MOM

I hate to see you throwing away everything you've worked so hard for.

LIZZY

I'm still going to college, Mom. And a good one! And even if I wasn't, my life wouldn't be a waste. My life does not depend on college!

(To herself.)

Wow. My life doesn't depend on college.

MOM

Liz, I want what's best for you. I always wish I'd done more...that I'd had the kinds of opportunities you have now. I wonder sometimes how things would be different if I had...if maybe I could provide more for you/

LIZZY

/Mom, you've done great. You've given me everything I need. And you have a job that helps people/

MOM

/But it's not enough to get you where you want to go. It's not...profitable enough.

(MCDREAMY takes a few steps back, ashamed.)

You've worked so hard for this opportunity, and now it comes...and I've failed you.

LIZZY

Mom, maybe your job isn't very profitable, but it's powerful. You're speaking up for people who the system silences. That matters.

MOM

At what cost?

LIZZY

So I don't get to attend my dream school? Big deal!

(MCDREAMY looks up, shocked.)

I'm still going to a great college. I'm happy, Mom, really. Be happy with me. That's all I want.

MOM

I just hate the thought of you not getting the most out of your life because I couldn't... And the kinds of opportunities, the connections HYPS could provide for you/

HYPS

I really do have the most impressive/

LIZZY

/I know what I'm giving up, and I'm okay with it. State actually has a lot of great opportunities too, Mom.

STATE

Maybe I'm not as competitive, but I do have internships, study abroad programs, master faculty and, if a do say so myself, a rather delightful campus.

(He flexes his biceps. MOM gives him a look. He sheepishly puts his arm around LIZZY.)

I'll take care of your daughter. I promise.

LIZZY

This is the college I want. The college I worked for, the college I'm choosing.

MOM

Alright. If that's what you want, alright.

(She shakes her head.)

I'll be in my office.

(MOM starts to exit.)

LIZZY

Mom!

(MOM stops.)

I never wanted to disappoint you.

MOM

I never wanted to disappoint you either.

LIZZY

I'm not disappointed.

MOM

I just thought you could have more.

LIZZY

I have enough. And I'm so grateful. I promise.

(LIZZY hugs MOM.)

LIZZY (CONT.)

Now go save the world.

MOM

I'll do what I can.

(MOM exits.)

HYPS

I fail to comprehend your decision-making process. I'm very sorry you did not deem me...worthy of your considerable talents. I may still consider you when you transfer.

LIZZY

Thanks, HYPS. I appreciate it.

(HYPS exits. MCDREAMY shuffles towards LIZZY.)

MCDREAMY

I guess I don't have a reason to stay.

LIZZY

My love for you was true. I still want you. Maybe we can begin seeing each other again when I'm ready for grad school.

MCDREAMY

Elizabeth, I'd like that very much.

LIZZY

Until we meet again.

(MCDREAMY kisses her hand and exits. STATE skips up to LIZZY.)

STATE  
 You chose me. Thank you.

LIZZY  
 Thank you.

STATE  
 I'll take good care of you.

LIZZY  
 I know.

STATE  
 I'll be in contact with you about registering for classes soon. Damn, my average ACT's about to shoot right up!

(STATE happily prances away. MOM enters.)

MOM  
 I am proud of you, Liz. I hope you know that. Very proud.

LIZZY  
 Thanks Mom.

(LIZZY's phone starts ringing. MOM smiles and exits.)

LIZZY  
 Hey Meena, what's up?

SHAMEENA (OFFSTAGE)  
 Econ can wait. I just found out about this march for school funding. I mean, talk about numbers. The fact that they expect schools to keep running when they refuse to give them any money--and then they act like it's the economy's fault--I can't even/

LIZZY  
 /Meet at the El in an hour? I'll pick up more Munchkins.

(Blackout.)