

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

#0 - Prologue

Orchestra

(*ELLIE BLAKE* – smart, funny, our hero – bounds onto the stage. She's a tomboy: baggy, rumpled clothes, hair that hasn't seen a comb today. Or yesterday. She addresses the audience.)

ELLIE

So you're never going to believe me. No one in their right mind could ever possibly believe me. But what I'm about to tell you is true. One-hundred-percent true.

(*pauses to make sure the audience is with her*)

Everything started the day before my mom got married.

KATHERINE

(*offstage*)

Honey ...!

(*KATHERINE BLAKE* – decisive, lovely, punctual – enters.)

ELLIE

KATHERINE

(*ignoring KATHERINE*)

Ellie.

The day that I had – I'm talking
mind-bending. Bananas.

Ellie.

Ellie!

ELLIE

What?!

KATHERINE

Hi, sweetie.

ELLIE

(*to audience*)

This is my mother.

KATHERINE

(*waves cheerfully, notices someone in the audience*)

Hi there! You look adorable.

(*to ELLIE, pointedly*)

See, she made an effort. She looks nice. You could do that.

.....	73
CHER	73
ERINE	75
.....	78
PANY	78
.....	85
hestra	85
MBLE	85
hestra	89
.....	90
CHER	92
hestra	94
.....	95
hestra	96
RINE,	
CHER	97
MIKE	103
DICES	104
MBLE	107
.....	108
MBLE	108
.....	118
ERINE	119
hestra	120
.....	121
hestra	123
ELLIE	124
.....	127
CHER	127
ERINE	128
ERINE	130
.....	132
PANY	132
.....	137
PANY	137
hestra	140
hestra	140

ELLIE

I'm in the middle of a story.

KATHERINE

I know. I'm being supportive.

ELLIE

Could you do that somewhere else?

KATHERINE

What if you started by introducing the family –

ELLIE

I'm getting there! It's my story!

KATHERINE

(to audience)

She used to be so sweet.

ELLIE

Mom.

KATHERINE

Fine, I'm going.

ELLIE

Good.

(to audience)

So it was the second Friday in April, and every morning is pretty chaotic in our house, but this was even more crazy than –

(KATHERINE digs a bobby pin out of her pocket and smooths ELLIE'S hair to the side.)

Mom, what are you doing?!?

KATHERINE

I want to be able to see your pretty face.

(to audience)

She hides her face!

ELLIE

Mom!

(ELLIE looks daggers at KATHERINE, who exits, waving one last time at the audience. ELLIE takes the audience back in time.)