

Appendix E: Scenes of Oppression

To accompany Theatre of the Oppressed - Post-show Activity

Study Guide - Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls by Dave Deveau Roseneath Theatre 2018

Scene 5A - Sideshow

HOLLY So you're saying you're Fin now, huh?

FIN Yup.

HOLLY Okay. So first your hair's gone and now this.

FIN Umm, yeah?

HOLLY You look like you had lice or something.

FIN I thought it looked okay.

HOLLY Whatever. So are you, like, my brother now?

FIN Maybe.

HOLLY I've never had a brother. But I kind of liked having a sister.

FIN Did you?

HOLLY I guess. Yeah. Sort of.

FIN Well I'm still sort of your sister.

HOLLY That doesn't make sense.

FIN Not everything has to make sense all the time. Mermaids don't make sense, but you still love them.

HOLLY No I don't.

FIN Right. No more mermaids, just CandyCrush.

HOLLY So what, I'm supposed to call you Fin now?

FIN Yeah.

HOLLY Is that what Mom and Dad said?

FIN That's what I'm saying.

HOLLY But school's about to start.

FIN What do you mean?

HOLLY So what happens then? Do the other kids now?

FIN Not yet.

HOLLY Good.

FIN Good? Why?

HOLLY It would confuse them.

FIN Why would that confuse them?

HOLLY Because you were one thing and now you're something else.

FIN But I'm still me.

HOLLY I don't know.

FIN My teacher doesn't even know yet. I don't know what to tell her.

HOLLY Then don't tell her, okay? It'll be bad enough with your new hair.

FIN What? Why?

HOLLY Because it's nobody's business, okay? This isn't *just* about you, okay? It's about all of us. So zip it.

Scene 5B - Sideshow

DAD So you all ready for the first day of grade four?

FIN I dunno, I guess.

DAD I thought maybe we could talk through a few things before the craziness of morning.

FIN Crazy how?

DAD In case we're running late like we usually are. What I mean is, do you remember when you were little and I took you to the circus.

FIN *(to audience)* He has no idea how important that memory was. *(to DAD)* Doberman Brothers?

DAD Yeah, exactly. And you remember the trapeze artists flying through the air.

FIN Yeah, but I mostly remember other stuff.

DAD Well, do you remember that big webbed blanket that was hanging above the ground just below where the trapeze artists were doing their show?

FIN Uh, not really *(to audience)* Because all I was looking at was the Ring Leader, then the Bearded Lady, then the Mermaids, then-

DAD Well it was there, okay? This big net. And what do you think that was for?

FIN For?

DAD Well, it's called a "safety net" and it's there to protect them in case-

FIN -they lose their grip and fall!

DAD Exactly.

FIN Okay...

DAD Great, you understand.

FIN I understand what the net's for, but I'm not sure what that has to do with the first day of school.

DAD Well, a safety net is something that's there to protect someone, to prevent them from getting hurt in case-

FIN You think I'm going to get hurt?

DAD No, buddy, of course not. But I think that not everyone understands everything we're going through in the same way that I do.

FIN Like mom?

DAD Mom's finding her way.

FIN So wait, what's the safety net for school?

DAD Well, I think it's your name.

FIN Fin?

DAD No, your original name. Fiona.

FIN Oh.

DAD I'm wondering if maybe we can keep the Fin name in our house for now.

FIN So that at school everyone will call me Fiona. And I'll still be a girl?

DAD Just for now. But you and I will know that your name's actually Fin.

FIN And that's for safety.

DAD I need some time to talk things through with the school. That's all I'm asking for. Time.

FIN For how long?

DAD Not long. Just enough to talk to the principal and your teacher so they can talk the other students. Help them understand and adapt.

FIN You don't believe me. That I'm Fin and not Fiona.

DAD Of course I believe you.

FIN Then why would you ask me to hide?

DAD What? No, I don't want you to hide. Just to fall safely back on your old name. For now. In case we slip, Fiona is there to catch you.

FIN Is this about Holly?

DAD What do you mean?

FIN I shouldn't have told you. It would have been easier if I kept it to myself.

DAD No, sweetheart. Please don't say that. I never want you to have to keep things to yourself. I'm glad you told me. And mom's glad too, it just takes time. That's all I'm saying.

FIN *(to audience)* I didn't know what to say. I didn't know what to do. I didn't know anything anymore. I just knew I didn't want morning to come.

Scene 8 - Clown Interlude

We enter an earlier memory.

FIN I'm not a girl. I'm a boy. I've always been a boy. You just haven't been listening. I haven't known how to tell you. I didn't want to upset you. But I need you to know that. So that, I don't know what. So that you know that. It's not just my hair and my name, it's-

DAD It's okay, Fin, we love you.

MOM We love you regardless, Fiona.

FIN It's Fin.

MOM Fin. Yes. I'm sorry, love. I'm sorry.

FIN But all I hear is.

MOM "Where did my daughter go?"

DAD And we will do whatever you need us to do to support you-

MOM Whatever you need, so long as we keep it within the family. Right?

Back to scene.