#### **Cast of Characters**

YOUNG CATHY **ADULT CATHY** YOUNG SHARON **ADULT SHARON** MR. ROSEN (Sharon's father) MRS. ROSEN (Sharon's mother) MR. (GUS) DOOPLE (Cathy's father) MRS. DOOPLE (Cathy's mother) BILL HAGARTY (Cathy's husband) MISS EBERSTADT (elementary school teacher) MISS GORDON (elementary school teacher) MISS FERGUSON (elementary school teacher) ERIC (Sharon's college friend) **MASTER OF CEREMONIES** 

BAS MITZVAH GUESTS (2)

**HOLLY COMMUNION GUESTS (2)** 

Act I

Two families stand apart. Stage right is CATHY DOOPLE with her parents. Stage left is SHARON ROSEN with her parents. The daughters stand between their respective parents. They are pre-teens. MRS. ROSEN and MR. DOOPLE hold newspapers. CATHY and SHARON step out from their parents.

SHARON
(to CATHY) When did we meet? Do you remember?
САТНҮ
(to SHARON) Of course. We were playing jump rope in the schoolyard. We did Double Dutch. We were good!
SHARON
You sure?
САТНҮ
Positive. Anyway, it doesn't matter. You're my best friend, and I hope we stay friends till the day I die.
CATHY and SHARON return to their families. MR. ROSEN and MR. DOOPLE meet center stage.
MR. ROSEN
How's the tailor shop?
MR. DOOPLE
Good. People seem to be buying more suits these days. How's the deli?
MR. ROSEN
Excellent. Lunch has really picked up since that office building opened.
MR. DOOPLE
Glad to hear it.
MR. ROSEN
Gus, I have something to tell you.
MR. DOORLE

What?
MR. ROSEN
This morning when I went outside, I was covered with snew.
MR. DOOPLE
Snew? What's snew?
MR. ROSEN
Nothing. What's snew with you?
MR. ROSEN laughs uproariously while MR. DOOPLE looks at him emotionless. They return to their families. MRS. ROSEN opens the newspaper and shows her husband a story.
MRS. ROSEN
Did you read what's happening in Montgomery, Alabama? There's this Negro woman, Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a bus, and now there's a bus boycott. A young preacher's leading it. His name's Martin Luther King. He looks like someone we should pay attention to.
MR. ROSEN
Good ol' Marty King.
MRS. ROSEN
Marty King. What, everyone's Jewish by you?
MR. DOOPLE shows the newspaper to his wife.
MR. DOOPLE
Did you read this story about a Martin Luther King? He's some kind of agitator, probably getting instructions from Moscow. We need to keep an eye on him.
MRS. DOOPLE
Whatever you say, dear.

#### MR. DOOPLE

By the way, why does Cathy need a Jew for a friend? I don't like it. There are many good Catholic boys and girls right on our street. (to CATHY) I don't want you playing with that Sharon Rosen anymore.

**CATHY** 

Why?

MR. DOOPLE

Just do as I say.

CATHY turns to her mother.

**CATHY** 

Mom, she's my friend.

MRS. DOOPLE looks directly at her husband, then turns to CATHY.

#### MRS. DOOPLE

You can be friends with whoever you like.

CATHY smiles broadly. MISS EBERSTADT stands before CATHY and SHARON, who sit on the floor.

#### **EBERSTADT**

Okay, children, I'm going to divide you into two reading groups. If you remember, you took a little test last month to see how well you read and based on that test, I created two groups—the Tigers and the Bears. Listen for your name. First, the Tigers: Nancy Donahue, Jim Hogan, Ann Porter, Sharon Rosen, and Tom Baker. Next, the Bears: Rosemary Devine, Patrick Rush, Tom Karr, Cathy Doople, and Doris Cook.

SHARON and CATHY look at each other, mouths agape. CATHY starts to cry.

#### **EBERSTADT**

Cathy, what's wrong?
САТНҮ
I want to be in Sharon's group.
EBERSTADT
You will, but I need to help you with your reading.
САТНҮ
I want to be in Sharon's group now!
SHARON
Miss Eberstadt, I can help Cathy.
CATHY continues crying. EBERSTADT can see the great affection they have for each other.
EBERSTADT
All right.
CATHY and SHARON meet center stage.
SHARON
I wish we were in the same class.
САТНҮ
I know. I never get to see you anymore.
SHARON
I have an idea. At two o'clock you say you have to go to the bathroom. I'll say I need the bathroom. Then we can meet there.
САТНҮ

Good idea.

SHARON and CATHY sit on the floor some distance from each other. MISS GORDON enters and stands near SHARON. MISS FERGUSON enters and stands near CATHY. Both SHARON and CATHY look up at a clock and raise their hands.

GORDON
Yes, Sharon?
SHARON
Miss Gordon, may I use the bathroom?
GORDON
Hurry back.
SHARON stands and walks to the side.
FERGUSON
Yes, Cathy?
CATHY
Miss Ferguson, may I use the bathroom?
FERGUSON
Is it necessary?
CATHY
Oh, yes. It's an emergency.
FERGUSON
Hurry back.
CATHY and SHARON meet and hug each other. Suddenly they turn to see their respectiv

teachers, who have figured out the ruse. The girls appear shocked. Fade out. Fade in as Sharon and Cathy sit on a rug watching television.

SHARON
I'm so excited. Who's your favorite Beatle?
CATHY
I like George.
SHARON
George? How can you like George? He's so quiet.
CATHY
Who do you like?
SHARON
You know, Paul. Look in my bedroom. That's all you see—pictures of Paul. What's your favorite song?
CATHY
"She Loves Me."
SHARON
Oh, my God! Oh, my God! I can't believe it.
САТНУ
What?
SHARON
The song's called "She Loves You"—not "She Loves Me." Oh, my God! You are like the number one stupidest girl in the whole world.
CATHY
I'm sorry. I made a mistake.
SHARON

How come you don't know "She Loves You"? The whole world knows "She Loves You."

#### **CATHY**

Can we watch the show? It's almost on.

MR. ROSEN rolls out a cake with candles. We hear klezmer music. SHARON stands between her parents. There is a table with two GUESTS. MASTER OF CEREMONIES (MC) enters.

MC

And to help celebrate Sharon's Bas Mitzvah is her best friend . . .

**SHARON** 

. . . in the whole world.

MC

. . . in the whole world, Cathy Doople!

CATHY enters, lights a candle on the cake, and hugs SHARON.

#### **FIRST GUEST**

Doople? That's a Jewish name?

SECOND GUEST shrugs his/her shoulders.

#### **SECOND GUEST**

I don't know.

CATHY stands between her parents. There is a table with two GUESTS and SHARON.

#### **CATHY**

I want to thank everyone for coming to my Holy Communion. I especially want to thank my parents, Monsignor Conway, Father Richie, Grandma Agnes, Aunt Mary, and Uncle Peter—and an extra-special thanks to my dearest and best friend, Sharon Rosen.

SHARON and CATHY walk from each other, then turn and meet. SHARON holds a paper.

#### **SHARON**

Can you believe I got a 79 on a science test? I would have gotten an 80, except I forgot to write my name and Kamerman took off a point! I need the 80 to make Honor Roll.

#### **CATHY**

If I got 79, my parents would have a party.

#### **SHARON**

I forget to write my name, and now my whole life is ruined. How 'm I gonna get into college?

#### **CATHY**

Did you talk to him?

#### **SHARON**

Yeah. He said (sarcastic voice), "Rules are rules."

#### **CATHY**

Next time write your name.

#### **SHARON**

You're right. Thanks.

SHARON tidies up her apartment. There are candles, incense, ashtrays on various furniture, and psychedelic music in the background. She is in full hippie regalia. There's a knock on the door.

#### **SHARON**

Come in.

CATHY enters wearing a conservative blouse and skirt.

Cathy!

They hug.
Welcome to Penn State. Any trouble getting here?
CATHY
No, it was easy.
SHARON
So glad to see you. There's so much going on—rock concerts, flea markets—perfect time. You're staying here, of course.
CATHY
Are you sure? My father gave me money for a hotel.
SHARON
No way. You're staying right here. You can use my bed. I have a futon.
CATHY
Thanks. You have a Catholic church, I hope. I need to go to mass in the morning.
SHARON
There's one not far from here. I'll show it to you later. Listen, I got big news—tomorrow we're having an antiwar rally. Guess who's coming? Abbie Hoffman! He was one of the Chicago Eight I'm sure you know Nixon started bombing Cambodia.
CATHY
I know.
SHARON
So you'll come.
CATHY
Sharon, I have to tell you something.
SHARON
What?

CATHY
CATHY
I support the war.
SHARON
What?
CATHY
I support the war. I feel if we don't stop communism, we'll be fighting them on the beaches of California.
SHARON
How they gonna get here—in bathtubs? They don't have a navy.
CATHY
It doesn't matter. I can't be against the war. My cousin Tommy's in Vietnam, and I don't want anything to happen to him.
SHARON
Just go with me, okay? You don't have to cheer or anything.
CATHY
(pause) All right.
SHARON
And you can't be wearing these clothes. It's 1970. Would you mind looking a little hip? Do you wear jeans?
CATHY
Of course, I wear jeans. What do you think I am, square or something?
SHARON
I won't answer that.

SHARON looks in her closet and takes out a pair of jeans. Here, try these on. **CATHY** Where? **SHARON** Here, it's just me. (pause) All right, go in the bedroom. CATHY exits while SHARON looks for a top. CATHY returns wearing the jeans. Wow, you look great! **CATHY** Really? **SHARON** Such a beautiful body going to waste. Here, try this. SHARON gives her a tie-dye top. Put it on. Here. No one's looking. CATHY takes off her blouse and puts on the top. Now some beads. CATHY puts beads around her neck. And a hat. CATHY puts on the hat. There you are—a 100 percent certified freak. **CATHY** A what?

## **SHARON** A freak, a hippie. Freak's another name for hippie. Now say, "Far out, man!" **CATHY** Far out, man! **SHARON** And flash the peace sign when you say it, like this. SHARON flashes the peace sign. Far out, man! CATHY flashes the peace sign. **CATHY** Far out, man! **SHARON** Groovy, man! **CATHY** Groovy, man! **SHARON** Now this one's a little different. On this you raise a fist. Watch. SHARON raises a fist. Right on, man! Try it. CATHY raises a fist. **CATHY** Right on, man! Okay?

SHARON
Perfect.
There's a knock on the door.
Who is it?
ERIC
Eric.
SHARON
One minute.
SHARON tidies up, then opens the door. ERIC, a student, enters. He has long hair, wears jeans and a T-shirt.
ERIC
Who's this?
SHARON
This is my friend, Cathy, from Philadelphia.
ERIC
How are you?
CATHY
Good.
ERIC
Do you smoke?
CATHY
Sorry, no.

ERIC
Too bad. Got some good stuff. (to Sharon) You wanna smoke?
SHARON
Sure.
ERIC sits and rolls a marijuana cigarette.
CATHY
Sharon, remember the time your father grounded you for smoking?
SHARON
This is not that kind of cigarette.
САТНҮ
What do you mean?
SHARON takes the cigarette from ERIC, lights it with a lighter, and inhales.
Oh, my God! Sharon, you've really changed.
Blackout.
Act II
SHARON and CATHY meet center stage. CATHY carries a bag containing a blouse.
CATHY
Sharon, you won't believe what happened. I need a blouse for work so I go to Weinberg's to see what they got. Weinberg shows me one for \$11.99, which I think is high, so I go across the street to Sullivan's and I see the same blouse! Here, look.
CATHY takes the blouse out of the bag and shows it to SHARON.
Guess how much? It's \$8.99—three dollars cheaper! Can you believe Weinberg tried to Jew me?

SHARON is shocked. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it. **SHARON** I have to go. **CATHY** Please, I didn't mean it. It just came out. I'm sorry. CATHY grabs SHARON'S arm. Sharon! **SHARON** Please, let go. CATHY lets go of SHARON'S arm. SHARON exits. **CATHY** I'll call you later. CATHY stands forlorn. She approaches her father, who sits reading a newspaper. Dad, I did something terrible today. MR. DOOPLE What happened? **CATHY** I showed Sharon my new blouse and said Weinberg tried to Jew me. MR. DOOPLE So, what's the problem?

САТНҮ
You can't say that.
MR. DOOPLE
Say what—that Weinberg tried to Jew you? That's what they do—cheat you any way they can.
CATHY
You can't say those things. I hurt her and now I think I lost a friend.
MR. DOOPLE
Best news I've had in years. You don't remember—you were too young—how your mother and I fought over your having a Jew for a friend. But your mother insisted, so I gave in. Now Sharon's angry? Fine, you don't need her. I don't know why you wanted a Jew for a friend in the first place.
CATHY
I was in kindergarten. I didn't know anything about religion.
MR. DOOPLE
Well, now you know. And let me tell you something. I don't care what the Pope said—they killed our Lord. Never forget that.
SHARON walks past her father, who sits reading a newspaper.
MR. ROSEN
Hey, not even hello?
SHARON stops.
SHARON
Hi.
MR. ROSEN
What's the matter? You look upset.

SHARON
I had a fight with Cathy.
MR. ROSEN
What happened?
what happened:
SHARON
Cathy showed me a blouse she got at Sullivan's. Then she said she first went to Weinberg's, but "he tried to Jew me."
MR. ROSEN
Huh, what I say? This is how they feel, how they think. It's in the blood. They can't even help it. Now you know—you can't be friends with the goyim. Look, you're leaving for med school next week. I'm sure you can find someone who's a good friend <i>and</i> Jewish. Look, I'm not saying Cathy's not a nice girl. I've always liked her, but you see they're different. Stick with Jews. You'll be happier.
CATHY picks up the phone and dials. MR. ROSEN answers. SHARON stands near him.
CATHY
Hello, Mr. Rosen. It's Cathy. Can I speak to Sharon, please?
MR. ROSEN
I'm sorry, she's not here right now.
CATHY
Do you know when she'll be back?
MR. ROSEN
I can't say.
CATHY

Please tell her I called.
MR. ROSEN
I will.
SHARON opens an envelope, takes out a letter, and looks at it as CATHY reads.
CATHY
Dear Sharon, Words cannot express how sorry I am for what I said. I knew it was wrong the moment I said it. You know I would never say anything to hurt you or say anything bad about your religion, which I deeply respect. After all, Jesus was Jewish. I hope you will forgive me so we can be friends like we've always been. Love, Cathy.
SHARON crumples the letter into a ball and throws it into a trash can. CATHY stands outside as MR. ROSEN and SHARON watch her.
MR. ROSEN
You have to speak to her. I can't have her standing outside every day. It makes your mother nervous.
SHARON
All right.
SHARON and CATHY meet center stage.
You can't keep standing here. It makes my parents nervous.
САТНҮ
What can I do? I've called you a hundred times. I even wrote a letter. What else can I do?
SHARON
Nothing. I can't be your friend.
САТНҮ

How can you say that?
SHARON
You hurt me.
CATHY
I'm sorry. It just came out.
SHARON
It didn't just come out. It's how you feel.
CATHY
It's not. I would never hurt you.
SHARON
But you did.
CATHY
I said I'm sorry. Can't you accept that?
SHARON
No.
CATHY
Sharon, we've been friends since kindergarten. You can't just throw it away.
SHARON
Leave.
CATHY
You can't mean that. Come on.
CATHY tries to hug her. SHARON pushes her away.
SHARON

Get off me!	
CATHY	
Please.	
SHARON	
Go!	
GO:	
CATHY looks at SHARON, then turns and slowly walks away as SHARON watches. SHARON feels a twinge of regret.	
Wait.	
CATHY turns as SHARON approaches.	
What's today?	
CATHY	
Tuesday.	
SHARON	
I mean the date.	
CATHY	
August 23.	
CHARON	
SHARON	
Here's what I'll do. I'll meet you every August 23 for lunch. We'll meet at Country Diner, sa around one o'clock.	зу
CATHY	
What?	
CHADON	
SHARON	
I said I'll meet you once a year at the diner.	

CATHY
Once a year?
SHARON
Yes.
CATHY
That's crazy.
SHARON
Hey, I shouldn't see you at all.
CATHY
What if I have something to tell you?
SHARON
It can wait.
CATHY
I have to wait a whole year to see you?
SHARON
Yes, and don't try to get in touch with me. I'm leaving for med school next week so I'll be busy.
CATHY
Why you being so hard?
SHARON
Yes or no? Tell me now.
CATHY
You should learn to forgive.

SHARON
I'm waiting.
САТНҮ
(pause) Yes.
Fade out. Fade in as SHARON and CATHY sit across from each other at a restaurant booth.
SHARON
How was your year?
САТНҮ
I met a man.
SHARON
Who?
САТНҮ
A friend of my cousin. His name's Bill, Bill Haggarty. We've gone out a few times.
SHARON
You like him?
CATHY
Very much.
SHARON
Is it serious?
CATHY
Could be. Says he'd like a big family. He's an only child.

	SHARON
What kind of work does he do?	
	САТНҮ
Construction.	
	SHARON
Lives in Philly?	
	CATHY
Montgomery County.	
	SHARON
Does he mention marriage?	
We've talked about it.	CATHY
we ve takeu about it.	CHARON
And?	SHARON
	CATHY
Just talking. You know, around the edges.	
	SHARON
Sounds exciting.	
	САТНҮ
Could be. How about you? Any love interes	sts?
	SHARON
I'm too busy studying, and besides, I'm not Women's Liberation.	interested in men. I guess you've heard about

CATHY
Of course.
SHARON
And?
CATHY
I agree. Women should get the same money men get, but I don't feel women need to be so independent. I think a woman can find great happiness with the right man.
SHARON
Guess we have our differences on that one.
CATHY
Don't you ever want to get married, raise a family?
SHARON
Maybe, but not now. I just want to be a doctor.
CATHY
And you will, but I also think it's nice to come home to someone who cares about you.
Fade out. Fade in as SHARON sits across from CATHY as before. CATHY shows SHARON a ring.
CATHY
I'm getting married!
SHARON
What happened?
CATHY

We had dinner in New Hope and right there in the restaurant he gets on his knees, shows me the ring, and asks me to marry him. Everybody cheered and the restaurant gave us a cake, though I think he ordered it ahead of time.

## **SHARON** Congratulations! I'm so happy for you. When's the wedding? CATHY Next April at Mother Mary Redeemer in North Wales. Sharon, please come. It would mean so much to me. **SHARON** I'd love to, but I can't. **CATHY** Why? **SHARON** You know, the agreement. We only meet in August. **CATHY** But this is my wedding. **SHARON** I'm sorry, but we have an agreement. **CATHY** Screw the agreement! It's my wedding—the most important day in my life—and you talk about an agreement? If I had three children and you lived in China, I'd go to your wedding.

**SHARON** 

If you don't like it, this can be our last meeting.
CATHY How long, Sharon? How long must I suffer for a careless mistake? All year I want to talk to you, tell you what I'm doing, and all I get is a lousy few hours in a crummy diner. You know what people tell me? They say I'm a fool. They say if I had any self-respect, I'd tell you to go to hell. But I don't. You know why? Because I love you.
SHARON
That's very nice, but a deal's a deal.
CATHY
Damn you, Sharon. Damn you!
BILL enters. CATHY puts on a coat with a suitcase beside her.
BILL
Don't go. It's an eight-hour bus ride. Tell her you moved to Pittsburgh and can't make it.
САТНҮ
Bill, I'm going. We meet every year and I promised to be there.
BILL
It's ridiculous. Just call and tell her you can't make it. She'll understand.
CATHY
I can't.
BILL
Why?

**CATHY** 

I don't have her number.
BILL
What?
CATHY
I don't have her number.
BILL
How can you not have her number?
САТНҮ
She won't give it to me.
BILL
She won't give it to you? What kind of friend is that? She refused to come to our wedding, won't give you her number, but you persist in seeing her.
САТНҮ
She's my friend. I may not be her friend, but she's <i>my</i> friend. Anyway, this may be the last time I see her.
BILL
Don't say that. You don't know.
Car horn honks.
CATHY
Taxi's here. I'll call when I get there.
CATHY exits. CATHY and SHARON sit across from each other in the diner. A handbag rests next to CATHY.

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**SHARON** 

How was the wedding? Tell me everything!
CATHY
I brought pictures.
CATHY opens her handbag and shows SHARON the pictures.
SHARON
Your mom looks good. So that's Bill—looks so handsome in his tux. And the size of that cake! Bring me a piece?
SHARON laughs.
CATHY
Finished it all.
SHARON
Some friend.
CATHY
(hint of sarcasm) Yeah, some friend.
SHARON
Where'd you go on your honeymoon?
CATHY
Bermuda.
SHARON
Not bad. Only a few hours' flight. So, no more Cathy Doople.
CATHY
That's right. From now on I'm Cathy Haggarty.

	SHARON
Hope you have a happy life together.	
Lhono co (nguco) Lictor Lalmost didn't co	САТНУ
I hope so. <i>(pause)</i> Listen, I almost didn't co	
Why?	SHARON
	САТНҮ
We moved.	
Where?	SHARON
	CATHY
Pittsburgh.	
	SHARON
Pittsburgh?	
Bill found a good job—construction.	CATHY
	SHARON
How'd you get here?	
	CATHY
I took the bus.	
The bus? So much work.	SHARON
THE DUS: 30 HIUCH WOLK.	

CATHY
It's okay. I wanted to see you.
SHARON
Listen, next time fly. I'll pay.
CATHY
That's very kind, but I'm not sure there'll be a next time.
SHARON
Why?
CATHY
I have some issues.
SHARON
What kind of issues?
CATHY
I'd rather not say till I'm sure.
SHARON
You'll be fine.
CATHY takes a small piece of paper from her handbag.
CATHY
Look, here's my number. Call a few days before the twenty-third to make sure I'm coming.
CATHY hands SHARON the paper.
Would you mind telling me your number?

# SHARON

I'm sorry. I can't.

Fade out. Fade in as SHARON stands outside the diner, checks her watch.

#### **SHARON**

Looks like I'm early. Guess I have time for a walk.

YOUNG SHARON and YOUNG CATHY appear as ADULT SHARON watches a series of flashbacks.

#### **YOUNG SHARON**

At two o'clock you say you need to use the bathroom, and I'll say I need the bathroom. Then we can meet there.

#### **YOUNG CATHY**

Good idea.

YOUNG CATHY walks a few steps from YOUNG SHARON, then returns.

**YOUNG SHARON** 

What's your favorite Beatle song?

**YOUNG CATHY** 

"She Loves Me."

**YOUNG SHARON** 

Oh, my God!

**YOUNG CATHY** 

What?

#### **YOUNG SHARON**

The song's called "She Loves You." You are like the number one stupidest girl in the whole world.

YOUNG SHARON and YOUNG CATHY exit. ADULT CATHY appears and speaks with ADULT SHARON.

SHARON
I hate my father. He caught me smoking and now I'm grounded.
CATHY
It's only a weekend. Not so long.
SHARON
You're right. Thanks.
ADULT CATHY walks away, then returns.
SHARON
Can you believe I got a 79 on a science test? I would have gotten an 80, except I forgot to write my name and Kamerman took off a point.
САТНУ
Next time write your name.
SHARON
You're right. Thanks.
ADULT CATHY walks away, puts on her hippie hat and beads then returns. She flashes
the peace sign as she speaks.
САТНУ
Far out, man! Groovy, man! Okay?
SHARON
There you are—a 100 percent certified freak. Listen, I decided something.

**CATHY** 

What?

#### SHARON

Today we'll be friends like we always were. I'll visit you in Pittsburgh, meet Bill, and play with your children. We'll go to dinner, all of us, maybe take a trip somewhere.

#### **CATHY**

That would be wonderful.

#### **SHARON**

Let me get back. I can't wait to tell you.

SHARON enters the diner and takes a seat. She periodically glances at her watch, leaves the table, then returns, continually checking her watch. She looks in her handbag.

Where's her number? Damn, I left it in New York.

After some time, SHARON leaves the table and meets BILL, who enters holding flowers. She walks downstage center, kneels, places the flowers on the ground, and speaks as if addressing CATHY'S stone while BILL stands behind her.

Hey, where were you? I waited all day at the diner and you didn't show up. Can't you do anything right? I had something to tell you. I decided to end our meetings and be friends like we always were, but it was too late. I was looking for something we say when a friend dies, but I couldn't find anything. The closest I found was this:

SHARON takes a small prayer book from her handbag and reads.

"Her kindness, her patience, her comforting words softened the trials of many a day." Do you know what this is? This is said at the death of a sister. Cathy, I'm so stupid. I am the number one stupidest girl in the whole world.

Fade to dark.

#### **End of Play**