

redacted.

//it's not the only way to change things

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REDACTED

Time: Now

Where: In a nondescript classroom in a
nondescript school. In a nondescript city.

When: During a lockdown.

1 needs to be an adult

2

3

4

5

6

One Act.

Running Time: No longer than 45 minutes.

Themes include sexuality, politics, teens, gun
violence.

PRESHOW

The room is filled with stillness. 2 looks around at their friends. 4 sits with their head on their desk. 5 stares longingly at the door. 3 flips through the lockdown binder. 6 stares at the clock. 1 watches carefully.

5

My name is. I'm sixteen years old. Fun Fact about me: I was born in my amniotic sack, which means my mom's water never broke. So that's all I gotta say about that.

6

I'm. My favorite colour is yellow.

5

Oh I forgot to say my favorite colour.

6

Right now I'm outraged because my cosmo teacher decided to "dress code" me. Because my shorts - it looked like I wasn't wearing pants. But it was just cuz I had on a knee length shirt. I'm mad about that. I'm in the tenth grade. I'm actually almost failing math, so that's good. That's kinda what's going on right now. That's me.

5

Can I say my favorite colour? I feel like I got robbed. My favorite colour's yellow. But lately I've been digging a light pink. A nudey pink.

2

My name is. I actually recently went to a Twenty One Pilots Bandito tour. My favorite colour is purple. I'm in grade seven. Cats are the freaking, freakin best.

4

My name is. My favorite colour is blue. I like dogs. Cats are okay. I purposely over feed my cat. I was actually telling someone today about this, and now it's just on my mind. I always love hugging fat cats and skinny cat's like... they're not fun. I'm in sixth grade. My favorite subjects are social studies and english. My least favorite subject is science. French is okay. I'm good at French. That's a lie. I got three out of ten on my last French test and it was a comprehension things and I was bad. I'm mostly good at French. I don't love it. Math is not my cup of tea. I'm okay at math. If I tried harder I think I'd be better.

3

Hi. I'm. Can I make a note that my two cats are named after Michael J Fox? I'm so... avidly uncomfortable. My cats are named after Michael J Fox characters. Marty and Milo. My favorite colour is red.

1

My name is. My favorite colour is orange.

A loud thump is heard in the hall. All students hush each other. Silence. Footsteps. Silence. Breathing. Long Silence.

Black. A sudden loud opening of the door. Bright Light. Black. Gunshots. Scream. Light. Blackness.

SCENE ONE

Lights. Four students sit in a classroom quietly. Giggles are heard. The door swings open, 5 and 6 run in, shut the door and slump against the door. 1 stands in the center of the room.

6

Ever since you said Doug looked like a Claymation... I can't see anything else.

5

Once a month I'll text Doug and be like... you look like this white guy.

4

Like... any white guy? Are they just generic white guys?

5

[Laughs] I sent him a picture of the Yeti. And said... This is what you'd look like if you were a yeti.

6

That's not the Ye/ti!

5

/That's the Yeti!

6

That's the missing link.

A loud crash is heard. All students turn to the door and fall quiet.

3

We should be quiet.

4

I want to hear more about the Yeti.

5

So this isn't a guy who looks like Doug... I just really felt the need to send him this one. This guy is a curler his name is -

6

Oh, it's the guy with the forehead.

5

Yeah.

Giggles fill the room again. Eventually, they die down and sit in uncomfortable silence.

4

[stares at 1] I don't think I'm scared of it anymore.

2

At all?

4

No. I don't think so. It's been this over and over again. I had a dream the other night and it was just the same thing again. We were all in the building -

1 tosses a book bag into the middle of the floor. Everyone falls into a hushed silence.

4

[after a tense moment] and there was this quote on the wall: In a world where you can be anything, be brave. *[Beat]* It was actually be kind... but I changed it to be brave because that seems more fitting. Ya know?

3

I like that they tried to have a cute moment where everyone would be kind together and you were like... No.

2

It's still sweet though. You know. With all of...

3

This.

Silence.

4

[awkwardly] I.. uh... I had margarita mix this morning.

6

Wait what?

4

Yeah...

3

Is it literally just the mix? That's disgusting, why would you do that?

4

I wanted something sweet and something good before... all of this.

6

You woke up late and was like... This is it.

4

Well yeah.

3

And you knew?

4

What?

3

About [gestures around] this?

4

When was the last day that we didn't have this?

Pause. 1 throws the instructions for the lockdown 3 Flips open the binder.

5

We didn't start until three minutes ago. We all know the rules. Respect one another. Crying is okay. Be quiet.

4

Give someone else a chance.

5

You weren't saying anything.

4

Yeah... Well... I don't know the rules anyways. Uhm... Maybe like... keep your shoes on.

3

[laughs] That's not on the list.

4

So I can take my shoes off?

Pause. 4 takes his shoes off. Pause.

4

Have you ever seen Bandersnatch?

2

Like... the Black Mirror Thing? Yeah...

6

I always thought I was really good at decisions... and then the first choice came up and it was like... Frosties or Froot loops and I was like... I don't know which one to choose.

5

I was trying to keep myself as mentally healthy as possible. So I clicked 'take a break' and it was game over.

All laugh.

REDACTED

2

We shouldn't be talking about this.

4

About what?

2

Anything?

5

What did I say?

4

I don't remember.

2

Whatever. I don't really know how to do that anyways.

5

What?

2

[whispers] Take care of my mental health.

6

Right! *[Everyone hushes 6. Whispers:]* I remember being taught like... "I'm hungry." But I don't remember being taught... to reach out for help. Or that if you're struggling with something deeper you could talk to somebody. *[Pause]* That's kind of sad. Cuz if I can't remember it then what are the chances that somebody else has never been taught it and they're struggling... like... a lot. That makes me really sad. That somebody could just be suffering and nobody could ever know that they were.

A voice on the intercom: "This is a lockdown"

There is a moment of silence. All students wait, cowering against the wall. A loud thump is heard

in the hall. All students hush each other. Silence. Footsteps. Silence. Breathing. Long Silence.

Black. A sudden loud opening of the door. Bright Light. Black. Gunshots. Scream. Light. Blackness.

SCENE TWO

3 stands with 1 in the center of the room. Four students sit in a classroom quietly. Giggles are heard. The door swings open, 5 and 6 runs in, shut the door and slump against the door.

4 calmly walks to the windows and pulls the blinds shut. 3 locks the door. 2 methodically moves the largest desk against the door, pushing 6 out of the way.

6
Ever since you said Doug looked like a Claymation... I can't see anything else.

5
Once a month I'll text Doug and be like... you look like this white guy.

4
Like... any white guy? Are they just generic white guys?

5
[Laughs] I sent him a picture of the Yeti. And said... This is what you'd look like if you were a yeti.

6
That's not the Ye/ti!

5
/That's the Yeti!

6

That's the missing link.

A loud crash is heard. All students turn to the door and fall quiet.

4

I want to hear more about the Yeti.

5

So this isn't a guy who looks like Doug... I just really felt the need to send him this one. This guy is a curler his name is -

6

Oh, it's the guy with the forehead.

5

Yeah.

Giggles fill the room again. Eventually, they die down and sit in uncomfortable silence.

4

[stares at 1] I don't think I'm scared of it anymore.

2

At all?

4

No. I don't think so. I had a dream the other night and it was just the same thing again. We were all in the building -

1 tosses a book bag into the middle of the floor. Everyone falls into a hushed silence.

4

[after a tense moment] and there was this quote on the wall: we are most alive when we're connected. *[Beat]* It was actually in love... but I

changed it to be connected because that seems more fitting. Ya know?

2

It's still sweet though. You know. With all of..

Silence.

4

[awkwardly] I.. uh... I had margarita mix this morning.

6

Wait what?

4

Yeah... *[pause]* I wanted something sweet and something good before... all of this.

6

You woke up late and was like... This is it.

4

Well yeah.

[Pause]

4

What?

[Pause]

4

When was the last day that we didn't have this?

Pause. 1 throws the instructions for the lockdown 3 Flips open the binder.

5

We didn't start until three minutes ago. We all know the rules. Respect one another. Crying is okay. Be quiet.

4

Give someone else a chance.

5

You weren't saying anything.

4

Yeah... Well... I don't know the rules anyways. Uhm...
Maybe like... keep your shoes on.

[Pause]

4

So I can take my shoes off?

Pause. 4 takes his shoes off. Pause.

2

You know... the thing you said?

5

Me?

2

No...

4

The in love thing?

2

Yeah. Like... I like the connected thing. You
know? Because I don't really feel connected to
anyone?

6

At all?

2

Yeah... I used to... I think. In my family I used
to. But then - *[pauses]* I guess I've just never
had that kind of relationship?

3

You know... when I think about relationships I think of John Green. Not because I have a relationship with John Green... Well I guess I do. You can have a relationship with anyone as long as you know them... So I think of John /Green -

6

/You know John Green?!

3

Yeah. That John Green.

6

You **know** -

3

No- I do not **know** John Green. I know **of** John Green.

4

Less exciting.

3

Anyways, when I think of John Green I think of... he talks about children modelling adulthood. I think of that a lot. Children aren't inherently supposed to be in relationships. We see what adults are doing and we model that. Even in Kindergarten I had my first "boyfriend".

4

I don't think about relationships. [pause] I guess relationships are all around us. I just... don't think of them. Because it's like... If you're staying up past your bedtime but you don't really know it? Then you don't want to remind yourself that you're staying up past your bedtime... because then you know that you were morally wrong to stay up past your bedtime. Or-

5

Is it morally wrong to be in a relationship?

4

No. *[Pause]*. This is an example I'm clinging to but I feel like it's a plane just heading towards the ground. But, like, you could just forget that you're staying up past your bedtime and then you didn't do anything wrong. **Or** you can have a really deep relationship and then - the example doesn't quite fit.

5

It's instant panic.

2

Yeah.

3

I feel like... It all falls apart so quickly.

5

What?

1

This is not an approved topic of discussion.

[silence overcomes the group again. 2 leans against 6]

2

I don't want this.

6

What?

2

I'm scared. I don't want to be scared anymore.

6

[holds 2's hand] Me neither.

2

Tell me more? Safely?

6

Yeah... [eyes where **1** is] Well.. Everyone tells me that I'm just fifteen. I don't know what a relationship is. I don't know what that feels like... But I feel like I do? Like I know I'm not getting married any time soon. But... Like... I know what it means to feel for someone. You know?

2

Yeah.

6

And I feel like... My relationship with my mother sucks. She's literally the embodiment of everything I don't want to be. She's wrecked every relationship she's ever had. But you're telling me that I don't understand what that means? That I don't know what a bad relationship looks like? Or what a good relationship looks like? I just don't think that's fair!

A loud bang is heard from the hallway.

1

This is not an approved topic of discussion.

All students shift down in their chairs. It all falls quiet.

3

I just don't get it!

4

I don't know what we're supposed to talk about. You know?

3

It's fine... It's just... What am I supposed to say to people?

2

Guys... please...

4

It's true though! Whatever. It's just relationships. Just... be careful.

5

I feel like I attach onto people... and they're my everything. You know? *[pauses and waits for direction. There is nothing.]* I put all my eggs in that one basket. It's dangerous. In the moment... I'm like... This is my soulmate. I don't have to worry about anything, because this is my soulmate. Only... eventually they're not that person anymore... and then... You're left with nothing. You know?

6

I'm sorry I did that.

3

My ex boyfriend and I... we really messed each other up. I also know that I'm only 15 but like... I have a lot of trust issues now. I just feel... Twisted up inside. And I... Can't really anymore.

1

This is not an approved topic of discussion!
[crosses and hits the light switch, freezes with their hand on the door]

The lights slowly darken. The atmosphere gets louder. Banging is heard, you can hear the breath in the air. The lights continue to dim. 3 is alone in their mind.

3

I just! I don't know... I just... Listen - How do you tell your mom that you have dreams about

someone who hurt you? The boogiemán they promised, without a doubt, wasn't real.

The bangs get louder. The breath quickens.

I don't know how I remember everything! You had pillows and a coarse blanket. Do you remember that?

The lights darken. The doorknob rattles.

We went to the police station for her. I sat at the bottom of the stairs, listening, fear pulsing through my body.

The world shrinks. The door gets louder. The breath increases.

You plead guilty.

You haunted me for a long time. Never being able to be touched without breaking apart.

Suddenly silence.

I have made a palace in my mind that I can escape to.

My chest pulsates a bullet out of my heart. Broken pieces left over from a rampage and robbery. I'm still so little in my dreams.

Black. 1 suddenly and loudly slams open the door. Bright Light. Black. Gunshots. Screams. Light. Blackness.

A voice on the intercom: **"This is a lockdown. This is not a drill."**

SCENE THREE

5 stands with 1 in the center of the room. Four students sit in a classroom quietly. Giggles are

heard. The door swings open, 6 runs in, shut the door and slump against the door.

4 calmly walks to the windows and pulls the blinds shut. 3 sits in a desk. 2 methodically moves the largest desk against the door, pushing 6 out of the way.

6
Ever since you said Doug looked like a Claymation... I can't see anything else.

[Pause - There is nothing]

4
Like... any white guy? Are they just generic white guys?

[Pause]

6
That's not the Ye/ti!

[Pause]

6
That's the missing link.

A loud crash is heard. All students turn to the door and fall quiet.

4
I want to hear more about the Yeti.

[Pause]

6
Oh, it's the guy with the forehead.

Giggles fill the room again. Eventually, they die down and sit in uncomfortable silence.

4

[stares at 1] I don't think I'm scared of it anymore.

2

At all?

4

No. I don't think so. It's been this over and over again. I had a dream the other night and it was just the same thing again. We were all in the building -

1 tosses a book bag into the middle of the floor. Everyone falls into a hushed silence.

4

[after a tense moment] and there was this quote on the wall: Love will never be silent. *[Beat]* It was actually hope... but I changed it to love because that seems more fitting. Ya know?

2

It's still sweet though. You know. With all of...

Silence.

4

[awkwardly] I.. uh... I had margarita mix this morning.

6

Wait what?

4

Yeah... *[Pause]* I wanted something sweet and something good before... all of this.

6

You woke up late and was like... This is it.

4

Well yeah.

Pause. 1 throws the instructions for the lockdown 3 Flips open the binder.

[Pause]

4

Give someone else a chance. *[Pause]* Yeah... Well... I don't know the rules anyways. Uhm... Maybe like... keep your shoes on.

[Pause - there is nothing]

4

So I can take my shoes off?

Pause. 4 takes his shoes off. Pause.

2

[plays with the pages of the binder] Do you think you can love anybody?

4

Hmm?

2

You said love shouldn't be silent... but it feels like the world is full of -

5

- Homophobia.

2

Yeah.

4

What?

A loud bang is heard from the hallway. No one moves. No one speaks. 4 waits beneath the door.

Gets up and peers through the window. Stillness.
4 turns and nods to **5**.

5
Listen - I don't know why I'm on Facebook, but I'm on Facebook. There's a pride event happening this weekend... and this grown man just commented: /Can I bring a gun?

1
/Can I bring a gun?

[1 sits at a desk and types at a computer, spitting out the hateful comments said online]

5
That really scares me.

2
Why?

5
Sometimes... I have to straight-out tell people that I'm straight. I am bisexual. I like girls, I like boys.

1
"They should have been killed through the proper channels. As in, they should have been executed by a righteous government."

5
I don't want to get bullied. I don't want to get hurt. I don't want to get death threats... I feel like a fifteen year old girl shouldn't have to worry about that.

4
Yeah.

Pause.

2

You know... There's the rainbow crosswalk too.

4

Yeah.

2

People are just...wrecking that too.

1

"It's about time."

4

I have this one friend... I asked him if he believed that gay people deserve the same rights as him. I didn't think he was this extreme but-

5

What?

4

He said no. There's this... arrogance and they won't change their opinions. Especially him. He's got all these references from the bible - so don't disrespect his religion. [Pause] I heard him say things like /"I got thirty percent on a math test, that's gay"

1

/I got thirty percent on a math test, that's gay.

4

And I know that's not rooted from the idea that gay people deserve less rights... that's not true homophobia, it's just not sensitivity. It's not arrogance. It can be viewed that that person is lesser than them. I don't believe they think that. I just... don't think they were taught they can't say those things. So they do.

5

It's ignorance.

Silence.

5

I remember in the seventh grade we had a sex-ed class. We're talking about why queer topics never came up within that sex ed class - I just asked: Why don't we talk about queer sex ed? He said:

1

Because that's not real.

5

But it is.

1

No one actually thinks they're gay right now.

5

What?

1

Yeah, sex is for girls and boys.

5

And I just thought... I'm bisexual. How do I keep healthy? *[Beat]* It got very heated and I started crying, which I often did in seventh grade and to this day. So then the class ended and my sex ed teacher came up and was talking to me. [**1 approaches 5**] And he said:

1

Let's be honest: in two years you probably won't be bisexual.

5 watches until **1** is out of earshot.

5

So my whole life has been proving him wrong.

6

That sucks. I'm sorry.

5

I think about it all the time. I know it's harder in other places but like... does that mean it doesn't get to be hard here?

4

I used to live in the middle east.

2

Really?

4

Yeah. My brother is gay and he couldn't tell us because I think the penalty there was hands chopped off - which is pretty extreme. [Pause] Someone told me that. Don't trust me. I don't know if it's true. But I do know that it's wasn't just frowned on to be gay. It was illegal. There were norms that you had to follow.

2

What country was that?

4

Saudi Arabia.

5

Saudi Arabia's penalty is chopping off hands. Fun fact.

2

Citation needed.

6

Saudi Arabia's penalty for homosexuality and transgender behavior includes fines, public whippings, chemical castrations, capital punishment and torture.

2

[pauses] Really?

6

Yeah.

2

I came out to my family... and they never really...
[pauses] You know?

4 moves to sit with 2

4

I'm sorry.

2

I'm just scared to... go through all of this... you know and have them not...

4

Accept you.

1

[abruptly] This is not an approved topic of discussion.

2

Please...

4

Just... let us help!

1

This is not an approved topic of discussion!

[The room falls silent again. 5 holds 2's other hand.]

5

I remember one day I was talking to this girl.. She's usually wonderful and accepting, but this was shortly after I came out as bi. She was saying that her parents were absolutely accepting of gay people - but they refused to have one of their children be gay because they didn't want it in their home.

4

Wait -

1

This is not an approved topic of discussion!

A crash is heard from the hallway. Silence overtakes the room.

5

[whispers] My first kiss was with a Christian girl when I was four. I saw the movie *My Girl* and in it she kisses her best friend. I had to learn how to kiss before I had a romantic other. I didn't know anything about sexuality then... because I was four. I thought that's just what you did with your friends. You practice kissing. So we kiss.

4

[whispers:] Did you hear Taiwan legalized gay marriage?

2

Really?

4

When is Harvey Milk day?

5
Who's Harvey Milk?

3
It's May 27.

4
They legalized it on May 22.

5
Who's Harvey Milk?

4
Harvey Milk was the first gay... someone from San Francisco... He was the first gay counsellor?

3
He was the first gay congressman.

4
Really? He served in congress?

3
Yeah.

4
He was assassinated.

2
Uh oh.

4
He was a big figure for gay pride.

5
Is the day the day he was assassinated? Because... like...

4
I think it's his birthday.

3

Taiwan legalized it on the 24.

4

Oh.

1

[throws the binder across the room] This is not an approved topic of discussion!

A loud bang from the hall is heard. A hushed silence falls over the room. Footsteps are heard in the hall. Everyone hunches down against the wall and out of sight. 1 races to the door, freezes with their hand on the knob. Silence.

Suddenly, a cacophony of noise. Footsteps, yelling, talking all crescendos. Suddenly: silence. 5 and 6 are alone.

5

You're dying. You're going to struggle with that. You are going to struggle with jealousy. You're going to wonder what would have happened on your wedding day, who your children would have been, stuff like that.

The noise gets louder. There is pounding on the door. The world is frozen.

6

You're going to wonder who you would have married. Would it be a boy or a girl? You're going to realize it didn't matter. The chance to love would have been enough.

The world becomes overwhelming. Breath can be felt in the air. The world shakes.

5

The sadness will come in waves. If there was a visual, it would be like a tree grafted but two

insanely different trees so it just looks like a frankentree. You are the frankentree. Everything is gonna become dark and dingy; it'll feel like you're at the bottom of a pit and the only thing you'll wanna do is lay and weep while the rain washes over you.

5 and 6 hold hands. Silence overcomes the stage. Darkness creeps in.

6

[looks at 5] /I love you.

5

[looks at 6]/I love you.

A loud thump is heard in the hall. Silence. Footsteps. Silence. Breathing. Long Silence.

Black. A sudden loud opening of the door. Bright Light. Black. Gunshots. Scream. Light. Blackness.

A voice on the intercom: "This is a lockdown. This is not a drill. Lock the doors."

SCENE FOUR

4 stands with 1 in the center of the room. 5 has moved to a desk, sitting silently. Silence. 6 sits at a desk. 3 sits at a desk.

A loud crash is heard. All students turn to the door and fall quiet.

They sit in uncomfortable silence. Beat.

2

At all?

1 tosses a book bag into the middle of the floor. Everyone falls into a hushed silence.

4

[after a tense moment] There was a quote on the wall: If you ever feel like you're just one person trying to change something, I promise there are hundreds, thousands, if not millions of people out there who feel the same way as you, who want to make a difference.

2

It's sweet though. You know. With all of..

Silence.

Pause. 1 throws the instructions for the lockdown 3 Flips open the binder.

The room is filled with stillness. 2 looks around at their friends - silenced. 4 paces the room quietly. 1 resumes their position at their mock computer - typing.

1

Nothing is wrong with me. The world is starting to fight back and the snowflakes are getting offended.

2

Hey...

4 stops and looks at 2.

2

I don't want to be alone in this. I don't know... how- What are you doing?

4

So I do this a lot at recess... and ya know... I know it's pretty weird. I just feel like... When the world feels like it's going to explode it helps... Anyway, I have this spot in the field where I go during recess.

2

Okay...

4

It's kind of between two trees and I think the grass is gone because I do this a lot. But I just... I walk between the two trees and I pretend to be a lawyer. It's kind of funny because sometimes I just yell 'I OBJECT'.

2

Why?

4

Because I think about all of the things I can change.

2

You do?

1

Too many children are allowed to vote. Should not be able to vote till you have some brains in your head.

4

You know I'm pretty political. Right? So I feel like I'm always thinking about the things that I could change if I just had the opportunity.

2

But you're twelve.

4

Yeah, I know. Thanks for pointing it out.

2

Sorry.

1

Keep voting liberal and NDP and gay marriage will become mandatory

4

It's like there are all these voices that think they know what's happening. I feel like I've been taught to research and form my own opinions. But I'm told that I don't know what I'm doing. I am not knowledgeable on what's happening in the world.

2

I don't really like to talk about it... Because... [eyes 1] I keep getting told not to...

4

You know... Our MLA came to our school once. This was right after the NDP lost in the election. I was so ready to ask her questions... Because like... This was right after Jason Kenney lost the pipeline conversation with the federal government. So she came and she presented to the school and I was ready with my questions. Question period came up and I was like "You boasted about the way that the conversation about the pipeline went... But it didn't go the way that you had wanted."

1

You're wrong.

4

She literally just told me that I was wrong!

2

Actually?

4

Yeah. She basically just said:

1

You can't prove me wrong.

4

Which like... I couldn't. Because I was in school and I can't have my phone on me and why would I just have the statistics... You know?

2

Of course you didn't... You're a kid.

4

So I think about all of the things that I could change if like... I was an adult? Like I think about abortion law a lot and it's just ridiculous.

2

Yeah.

4

And like... When you look at Roe v. Wade you can see how laws don't change things. One law doesn't fix all of the things that we need to be fixed. Anyone who wants to have a voice is considered too young, then by the time that we're old enough we're just the dumb generation Z. You know?

1

This isn't an approved topic to discuss.

4

I really don't care! I think that we need to be talking about it. We can't just sit around and pretend that we don't know what is going on. We do. We are so much smarter than they want to give us credit for.

2

It's just weird... Because you're so smart. But you're so young.

4

That's what they prey on though! We're just dumb kids. You know? We drink margarita mix in the morning just because we wanted something sweet, sure. But we're also paying attention. We can change things you know.

1

This is not an approved topic of discussion.

4

So the pipeline became a thing. I think it's bad. I don't think we should be investing any more money in the pipeline. I think we need to diversify our economy. Stop pouring money into a dying trade. Support the people that are already in it, but start offering higher compensation for some of the other job fields. Eventually all of our older oilfield workers will just die-

1

This is not an approved topic of discussion!

There is a bang heard from outside. The students jump. 4 walks to the window and looks outside. 2 grabs at 4's hand.

2

Let's just sit down and listen. Okay? It's okay. We can just... Let's just get out of here.

4

I don't care anymore. I really don't. We are living through the same shit over and over again and we aren't changing anything. We're here. We know what's going on. Sitting around here waiting for some asshole to shut us up isn't going to change anything.

1

This isn't an approved topic of discussion! [**1**
charges the door, freezes with their hand on the knob]

The lights darken.

2

No!

4

It's fine.

2

I don't want to be alone!

4

They're not going to let us change anything.

2

Please.

The lights creep in on 4. The rest of the world falls aside. There is silence. There is breath. There is banging in the hall.

4

I know that I was given privilege. I was born a cisgender, straight white male. Society just gives me privilege. So I learned. I taught myself that I needed to use that to help make change.

Banging in the hall gets louder. The darkness creeps in.

I always thought I had it figured out. What I hadn't expected was that my age and generation alone isolated me. No one listens to me because they think I'm a dumb kid.

The breath gets louder. Footsteps approach.

It doesn't matter that I can cite abortion law to you. It doesn't matter that I have a full plan for the diversification of our economy. It doesn't matter that I can rationalize how to be proper allies to our minority groups.

The banging gets louder and the darkness continues to creep in.

I'm always going to be nothing more than a child that is a puppet to push someone else's illegitimate agenda to you.

Silence overcomes the stage. Darkness creeps in.

Black. A sudden loud opening of the door. Bright Light. Black. Gunshots. Scream. Light. Blackness.

A voice on the intercom: "This is a lockdown. This is not a drill. Lock the doors. Repeat."

SCENE FIVE

2 stands with 1 in the center of the room. 5 has moved to a desk, sitting silently. 6 sits at a desk. 3 sits at a desk. 4 sits at a desk.

A loud crash is heard. All students turn to the door and fall quiet.

They sit in uncomfortable silence. Beat.

1 tosses a book bag into the middle of the floor. Everyone falls into a hushed silence.

Silence.

Pause. 1 throws the instructions for the lockdown 3 Flips open the binder.

The room is filled with stillness. 2 looks around at their friends. 4 sits with their head on their desk. 5 stares longingly at the door. 3 flips through the lockdown binder. 6 stares at the clock. 1 watches carefully.

2

Some homeless guy gave me a bandana. So I gave him some cotton candy.

[Silence]

2

It was blue and pink. But there was only blue left.

Silence. 2 looks around the room.

2

It made me feel like a good person. I don't really know what that means now though. You know? It feels like... It's easier to sit in silence than to say... anything.

I just want to help people. Maybe become a veterinarian. I just want to be asked if I need help. Because... I do. It shouldn't be so hard...

Silence is around 2. The darkness creeps in. They breathe slowly.

I'm scared that the world around me doesn't want to change. I'm scared that it's easier to be quiet than it is to say what I need. I'm scared that I can't breathe in a room full of people because I don't know who's going to pick up the weapon next.

The darkness creeps in, the world gets louder.

I'm scared that no one wants to hear me.

Silence overcomes the stage. Darkness creeps in. The door slams open. There is blackness. A single gunshot is heard. Screams. A flash of light. All students run towards the door. Black. Multiple gun shots. Flash of light. Bodies on the ground. Black. Gunshots. Flash of light. Stillness. Blackness.

*A voice on the intercom: **"This is a lockdown. This is not a drill. Lock the doors. Repeat. This is not a drill."***

Epilogue

Lights. Silence. Footsteps are heard. All actors are breathing in their own space.

2

Desensitization. a process that diminishes emotional responsiveness to a negative, aversive or positive stimulus after repeated exposure to it.

4

In a blink of an eye, a club is replaced by gunfire.
A mosque littered with shells of lives.
Celebration being replaced by fear.

6

Apathy replaces empathy.
Pleas of terror fall on deaf ears.
Resentment yells

1

"Did they complete the job and burn it down"
"these people all should have been killed anyway, but they should have been killed through the proper channels as in, they should have been executed by a righteous government"
"About fucking time"
"They get a taste of their own medicine"
"I'll pray that God will finish the job that that man started, and he will end their life, and by tomorrow morning they will all be burning in hell."
"Nothing is wrong with me. The world is starting to fight back and the snowflakes are getting offended."

3

I am scared to live in a world where hate is more accepted than love.

Where we can scrutinize an entire community based on the color of their skin, or their genitals.

A world where we are all created to be fragments of someone else's life.

5

As though who I choose to love becomes your prerogative.

As though who brings me comfort in the darkness becomes your alarm bells.

As though I am not worthy of the same love as you.

6

As though me loving a woman makes me less of a human.

As though loving a man makes me worthwhile.

As though it is any of your business.

3

Who I am, who I love - that's not yours.

4

I am not your political statement.

2

I am human.

ALL

We are human.

The lights get dark. Breath can be heard in the darkness. There is a loud bang and nondescript yelling. A single gunshot. Silence. Multiple gunshots. Silence.

Voice on an intercom: "This is a lockdown."

Lights come up on an empty stage.

END.