

IF YOU SEE AMANDA

by Mickey Wright

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DEDICATION

*To all the Amandas
I have known ... wherever you are.*

STORY OF THE PLAY

They say Amanda's back. They say she's crazier than ever. And they say Debbie's her next victim. Caught in a whirlwind of gossip, Debbie is swept away from her friend Amanda and from her boyfriend Nathan. Valley High School panics and Amanda blows her top. Rumor has it she may blow up the whole school if Debbie doesn't take a stand. An entangling tale of gossip and truth, prejudice and compassion.

"A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to the soul." Proverbs 18:7

"Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down." Proverbs 26:20

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

This play was first produced by Cornerstone Christian School Drama Department on May 10, 1991. Cast included Susan Hunter, Alissa McLaughlin, Andrea Fowler, Christie Hemphill, Ryan Liljegren, Matt Hanger, Christina Ercek, Dawn St. Pierre, Tara Bartolone, Heather Martell, Pat McGauly, and Adam Sawyer. Technical crew included Mickey Wright, Sam Bass, David Nose, J.R. Marshall, Jason Ransbottom, and Tim Brenner.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 m, 7 w, optional extras)

DEBBIE: Pleasant, friendly. Sensitive to what is right, but also to what her friends say and think.

RAINA: Talks faster than the speed of sound; knows what's going around about everybody and keeps it going around.

AMANDA: Spirited nonconformist.

MARTHA: Cocky, fashionably dressed, sarcastic.

SEAN: Insensitive tough guy.

NATHAN: Compassionate, sensitive. Debbie's boyfriend.

KIM: Ms. Fashion.

CINDY: Martha's friend. Follows her everywhere.

SHERYL: Another friend.

DEREK: Martha's cool boyfriend.

TONY: Excitable, naive freshman.

DAVY: Sean's sidekick.

MR. HATCHMAN: A large man in plaid; teacher.

STUDENTS: May be extras or played by cast.

NOTE: *All characters except Mr. Hatchman are high school age.*

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: High school hallway, first day of school

Scene 2: High school hallway, later that day

Scene 3: High school library, next day

Scene 4: High school hallway, about a week later

Scene 5: School and hospital, the next day

PROPERTY LIST

SCENE 1

TONY: jam box

CAST: books, bags

DEBBIE: registration card, gift-wrapped sunglasses

KIM: earrings

CINDY: new blouse

NATHAN: video cassettes

AMANDA: chocolate syrup bottle, Oscar the Grouch doll,
book bag, skates

SCENE 2

DEREK: paper wad or ball and hoop

SEAN: tire iron

MARTHA: In locker—notebook with skull sketch, shoe and
books with syrup, shredded blouse.

DEBBIE: In locker—syrup bottle, clothes, books, machete.

AMANDA: Oscar doll, paper boat with flag, skates

SCENE 3

HATCHMAN: books

NATHAN: skates

AMANDA: Oscar doll, skates

SET: On shelves and table—books

SCENE 4

NATHAN: note folded like a boat

SCENE 5

DEBBIE: In locker—Amanda's skates with note attached,
Oscar doll, paper boats, syrup bottles, hair ribbons, book
bag.

MARTHA: In locker—clothing, book bag, jackets, cosmetic
case, books, notebooks, etc.

HATCHMAN: Kim's notebook and earrings, tape and
barricade for locker, bullhorn

SOUND EFFECTS

Debbie's voice-over
School bell
School hallway noise (*optional*)
School bell
Hospital intercom
Siren

A copy of the opening children's song "Oh Be Careful" can be obtained at your local Christian bookstore or substituted/deleted.

For the bell and hallway noise in the original production, we hid a microphone and recorder in the school hallway and turned it on just before the bell rang to dismiss classes. It turned out great and was a publicity boost to the play. Use a megaphone to record the hospital intercom or use the intercom system in your building. Sirens (and sometimes school bells and hospital intercoms) are found on standard sound effects CDs.

SCENE 1

(SETTING: Valley High School hallway. Lockers. An arrow shaped sign reads, "REGISTRATION." AT RISE: First day of school. MUSIC fades in softly. CHILDREN singing "Oh, Be Careful.")

All: *(Sing.)*

OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS WHAT YOU HEAR.
OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS WHAT YOU HEAR.
FOR THE FATHER UP ABOVE IS LOOKING DOWN IN LOVE.
SO, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS WHAT YOU HEAR.
OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE WHAT YOU SAY.
OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE WHAT YOU SAY.
FOR THE FATHER UP ABOVE IS LOOKING DOWN IN LOVE.
SO, BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE WHAT YOU SAY.

DEBBIE'S VOICE: *(Overlaps last verse of song.)* I had a friend. She wasn't your basic friend. She was ... I don't know—extremely weird, and yet extremely delightful. She had a special kind of innocence. Childish words. Weird habits. She wasn't like anybody else—not even close. It's hard to describe her, because ... well, I'm not sure what was true and what was ... talk. I'm not even sure why she wanted to be my friend. But she was probably the best friend I ever had. I remember my junior year—the first day of school

(School BELL rings. STUDENTS pass through, stopping at lockers. New clothes. New folders, bags and lunch pails. TONY carries a jam box on his shoulder. A teacher, MR. HATCHMAN, stops him, takes the jam box and gives him a load of books. DEBBIE and RAINA search for their new lockers, guided by their registration cards.)

DEBBIE: That is so rude!

RAINA: *(Rapidly.)* I know, but it's true. Martha, Cindy, and Sheryl—they were all there together. You know that little booth in the corner where they always sit. Like Siamese triplets. I swear, you never see them apart.

RAINA: (*Cont'd.*) Anyway, Martha was real upset because of what happened with Derek. You heard about that, right?

DEBBIE: No. Did they break up again?

RAINA: Major break-up. The big separation.

DEBBIE: (*Looking over lockers.*) Three fifty. Three sixty. Where's the six hundreds?

RAINA: Under the stairs, I think. Anyway, you-know-who skates in, pretends not to see them. So Martha tries to talk to her, ask her how long she's been back. And that's when she goes nuts. (*Finds locker.*) Oh, here's mine! Four forty-two.

DEBBIE: What did she do?

RAINA: (*Opening locker.*) Who? Martha?

DEBBIE: Amanda.

RAINA: Oh! Martha said she started screaming and throwing French fries. And Tony—what a gross-out—he's catching them in his mouth, chewing them up and spitting them back at her. So Amanda—get this—she grabs Martha's ice cream, puts the whole thing in her mouth and sprays everybody. The manager kicked them all out.

DEBBIE: Sounds like somebody's blown this story way out of proportion.

RAINA: I swear. That's what Martha told me.

DEBBIE: Like I said ... I'm gonna look down here. Five forty. Here we go—six fifteen ... six twenty-seven

RAINA: Debbie, wait. (*Finishes at her locker and follows.*) At least we know she's still crazy.

DEBBIE: Who? Martha?

RAINA: Amanda. All those hospitals didn't help her one bit.

DEBBIE: Martha probably said something rude.

RAINA: All she did was ask her about Carrie.

DEBBIE: Carrie? No wonder. She's probably still upset about what happened.

RAINA: Or maybe she feels guilty about what happened.

DEBBIE: (*Frustrated.*) Okay. Here's locker six sixty-five. And there's six sixty-seven. Where is locker six sixty-six?

RAINA: You have number six-six-six?

DEBBIE: Yeah, but it doesn't exist.

End of Freeview

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