

# ANOTHER CHANCE

A One-Act Play

By Martin A. Follose

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

“Along with success comes a reputation of wisdom.” But all the wisdom that Sally has learned from her successes hasn’t prepared her for when her life seems to fall apart. Nor does Ted’s popularity save him when he finds that cheating and revenge have a high price — “What ever a man soweth, that shall he reap.”

After Sally gets an F on a paper, is harassed by Ted, and learns her parents are getting a divorce, she writes a suicide note. She feels that it is impossible to go on, but then from the most unlikely person, she finds that “everything is possible, including the impossible.”

Sally is an above average student who has goals, but chooses a path that so many teens choose today. This play touches on teen suicide and how in one minute everything in a teen’s life can be fine, and the next the bottom falls out.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(5 M, 3 W)*

**SALLY:** A very bright senior in high school.

**SCOTT:** A student who has to work very hard to get C's.

**KATIE:** Sally's friend, another senior.

**ALICE:** A student who is concerned only about having a "popular" boyfriend.

**DOUG:** A senior in high school and friend of Scott.

**TED:** A high school athlete who cheats to get good grades.

**BOB:** A friend of Ted's.

**PETER:** A high school student and a worker at the teen center.

## **SETTING**

The local teen center. There are tables spaced out on stage with chairs. One table and four chairs are CS. At SL are video games, foosball tables, etc. There is a counter SR where food and drinks are sold.

**Scene 1**

(AT RISE: Early evening, the present. SALLY is seated at a table CS. There are other YOUNG PEOPLE sitting at the other tables and at the video games. PETER is behind the counter serving drinks, etc. SCOTT is sitting next to Sally. There are books and papers on the table. Sally and Scott are writing and studying.)

SCOTT: I'm tired of waiting.

SALLY: "He that has no patience has nothing at all."

SCOTT: What?

SALLY: It's a quotation from *Barlett's Familiar Quotations*. (SHE holds up the book.) I'm doing a report for English class on famous quotations and proverbs. (With intensity) I've got to get an A.

SCOTT: You always get A's. (Rising) Would you like something to drink while we wait?

SALLY: No, thanks.

SCOTT: (Crossing to the counter) Can I get a Pepsi?

PETER: Sure, what size would you like?

SCOTT: It's going to be a long night so why don't you make it a large.

PETER: OK. (HE begins to get the drink.) What are you guys doing anyway?

SCOTT: We're studying for Mr. Taylor's semester test. It's going to be a tough one.

PETER: Why are you studying here? This has got to be the noisiest place in town.

SCOTT: Don't ask me! Sally wanted to come here. She's the one with all the answers so we'll follow her anywhere she goes.

PETER: (Setting the drink on the counter) That's \$1.10. (SCOTT gives PETER the money.) Well, good luck on the test—or should I say break a leg?

SCOTT: I'd be lucky if I broke my arm, my writing arm. Thanks. (HE returns to the table with his drink.) Sally, why did you want to come here to study?

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SALLY: It's the quietest place I know. (*Someone at the video game yells.*)

SCOTT: You call this quiet?

SALLY: I have two little brothers, a sister, parents who think they're 18 and two Chihuahuas at home. This place is the quietest place I know.

SCOTT: What about the library?

SALLY: That place is too quiet! (*Looking at HER watch*)  
Where is Katie? I told her to be here at 7:00. She's late.

SCOTT: Katie's always late. I don't see why it upsets you when you know she can never be on time, and remember, (*Quoting*) "He that has no patience has nothing at all."

SALLY: Well, (*Quoting, looking through book*) "Patience provoked often turns to fury." We have a lot of work to do. This test is going to be one of the hardest tests that Mr. Taylor has ever given. If we are going to graduate, we have to pass this test.

SCOTT: I don't see why you're so worried. You always pass Mr. Taylor's tests. I don't know why you even offered to help us.

SALLY: I'm helping you guys so that I won't be the only one to graduate. I don't want to have to give the valedictorian and the salutatorian speech. After all, (*Quoting from some of HER papers*) "For a man to help another is to be a god."

SCOTT: Well, thank you, your godness.

(*KATIE rushes in from SL with books in her arms.*)

KATIE: I'm sorry I'm late. (*Crossing to the table and sitting down*)

SCOTT (*Quoting*) "Better late than never."

SALLY: I thought you didn't like quotations. (*To KATIE*)  
What took you so long?

KATIE: I had to fix my hair and do my nails. Then just as I was leaving, Mom made me do the dishes. So after doing the dishes, I had to do my nails again.

SCOTT: I know what you mean, dishes always ruin my nails, too.

KATIE: Very funny. Did you guys start without me?

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SALLY: (*Quoting*) "Time and tide wait for no man."

KATIE: What? We're studying history not oceanography.

SCOTT: Don't get Sally started. Would you like me to get you something to drink, Katie?

KATIE: Yeah, anything diet. Here, I'll give you some money.

SCOTT: Forget it, the first round's on me. (*HE goes to the counter to get the drink.*)

KATIE: (*After SCOTT is out of earshot*) Did you talk to him?

SALLY: Who?

KATIE: Doug.

SALLY: Doug who?

KATIE: (*Rising*) Come on, Sally, stop playing games.

SALLY: OK, I talked to him.

KATIE: And...

SALLY: And what?

KATIE: And tell me everything you found out — you know if he has a girlfriend, if he likes me.

SALLY: All I could find out is that he has two sisters and no brothers, his sisters' names are Anna and Nicole, his favorite class is PE, he drives a Pinto unless it's broken down, he lives in a brown house on the end of Fourth Avenue, he jogs three days a week, he likes most sports but his favorite is football, he has a dog named Sam, and he has a job at Jack's Gas Station.

KATIE: (*In a dreamy state*) Just my type. (*Coming back to reality*) Did you ask him if he had a girlfriend?

SALLY: Nope, it never came up in the conversation.

KATIE: Sally, what can I do to get him to notice me?

SALLY: How am I supposed to know? Do I look like Dear Abby?

KATIE: Well, now that you mention it...

SALLY: Very funny.

KATIE: Come on Sally, you've got to help me.

SALLY: "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

KATIE: What's that supposed to mean?

SALLY: That means...(*Unsure of what it means*)...bake him some cookies or something.

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KATIE: You know I can't cook. I want to go out with him, not kill him.

SALLY: Just tell him the truth. Tell him you like him and that you'd like him to take you out some time.

KATIE: Do you think it will work?

SALLY (*Quoting*) "There is nothing so powerful as truth—and often nothing so strange."

(*SCOTT returns to the table with Katie's drink, ending THEIR conversation.*)

KATIE: What?

SALLY: Never mind. We have a lot to do so let's get started.

SCOTT: Here's your drink, Katie. (*HE sets the drink in front of KATIE and sits in his chair.*)

KATIE: Aren't we going to wait for Doug?

SALLY: He said he'd come over as soon as he gets off work and to start without him.

(*ALICE enters from SL.*)

ALICE: (*Crossing over to the table*) Hi, guys. Have any of you seen Ted?

SALLY: Who would want to?

ALICE: Me! We have a date.

KATIE: No, we haven't seen him.

SALLY: Why would you want to go out with a jerk like Ted?

ALICE: Because he's popular.

SALLY: So is the flu right now, but nobody goes looking for it.

KATIE: (*Rises and pulls ALICE to the side*) Alice, tell me, what did you do to get Ted to notice you?

ALICE: (*Getting angry*) Look, Katie, Ted is mine and you better not come between us.

KATIE: No, I don't want Ted. I'm going after someone else, but I'm not sure what to do. I can't seem to get him to notice me.

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