

# SENIOR YEAR SURVIVOR

*by James Rayfield*

## **Performance Rights**

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy this script in any way or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Call the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information.

On all programs and advertising the author's name must appear as well as this notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

PUBLISHED BY

**ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY**

**[www.histage.com](http://www.histage.com)**

© 2001 by James Rayfield

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=1620>

### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Reality TV has discovered one of the most daunting, desolate, and demanding terrains on planet Earth – America’s public schools. Six students from Desert Wasteland High School, sporting various backgrounds and personalities, have been selected for “Senior Year Survivor.” Who will be left standing after the slew of competitions, challenges and contests – from homecoming to the prom to the gauntlet leading up to graduation? The audience gets to participate as judges, and alternate endings are included. The contestants who get voted off the show have to go to study hall. The battles and backbiting are as vicious as they are hilarious! You can be sure that, regardless of who’s the winner, you will never look at reality TV or high school in quite the same way again!

**Running Time:**  
50 minutes

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(4 m, 3 f)*

**ANNOUNCER:** The quintessential reality TV show narrator.

**CONTESTANTS:**

**TRACY:** Flag team member, self-centered, arrogant.

**BENNIE:** Deliberate under-achiever.

**HELEN:** Class president, mover and shaker, manipulator.

**ANDY:** Quiet, brainy type.

**GLORIA:** Gothic princess.

**TONY:** Dim-witted football player.

**PROPS**

Handheld microphone (ANNOUNCER)  
6 student backpacks  
6 Etch-A-Sketches  
Briefcase (ANNOUNCER)  
Stacks of college applications  
Laptop computer  
Pens  
Application in large envelope with cardboard backing  
(TRACY)  
Slips of paper  
Ballot box  
Starter pistol  
Card displaying styles of Senior rings  
3 yearbooks – identical  
1 yearbook – different from the others  
Bunch of flowers  
Prom dress  
4 graduation gowns  
3 mortarboards with tassel  
Baseball cap  
2 lunch trays with plates of tuna-noodle casserole  
Glass vial  
Cell phone  
School papers (HELEN)  
Homecoming Queen robe and crown

## SENIOR YEAR SURVIVOR

*(AT RISE: ANNOUNCER slowly moves into a pool of LIGHT. He is dressed in outdoor clothing.)*

ANNOUNCER: This is one of the most unforgiving terrains in the world. Here people are forced to live without human compassion or intelligence. Here the thought of eating native food is so disgusting that many run in terror rather than partake. And here the wild animals that roam the earth are vicious and without regard for human life. Here no one is safe – for the person that seems your friend today can turn on you tomorrow. Alliances are only meant to be broken. It is here that we are setting our latest test of endurance. Here people will fight to survive. They will fight against each other and against the very environment. This is a public high school and this is “Senior Year Survivor.”

*(LIGHTS come up full to show areas of a typical high school: lockers, hallways, cafeteria, classroom, etc. STUDENTS pass through the halls oblivious to the ANNOUNCER. He gestures toward them as he speaks.)*

ANNOUNCER: These are our tribe members – six selected from all cliques that teens desperately cling to in order to survive in this ghastly educational wasteland. This is Tracy.

*(LIGHTS isolate TRACY as she speaks.)*

TRACY: I’m not sure why I wanted to be here – I thought it would look good on my college application. And maybe it would get me a couple of film roles. Look, I’ve been on the flag team for all four years of high school. I think I can survive just about anything. *(SHE notices SOMEONE across the hallway.)* Ugh, there’s Benjamin Lasiter – clearly the grossest person on the face of this earth.

TRACY: *(Continued.)* He is not really clean. And his clothes may be from Goodwill, but he doesn't spread any by wearing them. What's he got that's going to make him survive?

*(LIGHTS isolate BENNIE. He is pretty much as TRACY described him: unkempt and wearing a wild mixture of plaids and colors obviously from thrift stores. His backpack is covered with patches for causes and rock groups and his shoes, while both tennis shoes, do not seem to be from the same pair.)*

BENNIE: I'm not here to win anything. I just want to make sure that people like Tracy Wilkes get kicked off as soon as possible. I'm the spoiler – got nothing to lose, ain't going to win, but I'm going to be there stomping their snooty noses into the ground every chance I get.

ANNOUNCER: *(LIGHTS back up on HIM.)* Here at Desert Wasteland High School the lines are sharply drawn – the in crowd and the not-in crowd.

TRACY: I can't even imagine life not in the in crowd. What do you do with yourself? Who do you eat lunch with? Who do you talk to?

*(LIGHTS come up on HELEN, an in crowd member.)*

HELEN: I've researched it. Being in the in crowd means so much more success in later life.

ANNOUNCER: Helen Traub. Student government president, honors student, potential valedictorian.

HELEN: It's not that I am ruthless. All that talk about me spreading vicious rumors about my opponent during the student government election – well, it's true. But, look, she could have been born half human, half cow. And what with surgery and stuff ... anyhow, politics is all about survival ... and playing politics. Like, here comes Anthony Prezio, a jock that makes dumb jocks look like Fulbright scholars – which I plan to be someday.

Senior Year Survivor

-7-

HELEN: *(Continued.)* Now, Tony, who proves that dumb is more than skin deep, is so far beneath me intellectually that I can insult him right to his face and he never knows it. Watch. *(TONY approaches HELEN'S table.)* Anthony, how does it look for the game this weekend – going to be another fiasco?

TONY: Fiasco – is that that hot sauce you put on chili?

HELEN: No, silly, a fiasco is an outstanding event, you cretin.

TONY: Oh. What's a cretin?

HELEN: A small cuddly teddy bear – just like you. See you. *(HELEN walks away from TONY.)* See what I'm saying? Now, why do I even bother with him? Politics, pure and simple. He's a jock – apparently a good jock – something about his ability to take repeated blows to the head with no apparent effect. And when I ran for SG president I needed the jock block, as we called it. And since Tony thought I liked him he got me what I needed. See? Politics.

*(HELEN exits. TONY is still standing where Helen left him.)*

TONY: She's a great girl. She's kind of a cretin herself, if you know what I mean. But, she just better watch out with this survivor thing we got going, 'cause I've got the stuff that's tuff enough. It's like the sign the coach put up in the locker room: "When the going gets going, that's when the team goes tuff." It's something like that. And remember, "There is no 'l' in 'tuff.'" See you. *(As TONY exits he bumps into ANDY, a quiet, studious type.)* Watch it, zero, can't you see there's a cretin coming through.

*(TONY exits. ANDY looks after him, almost wistfully.)*

ANDY: I am sure once I get to college, that people like him will not be running into me. I hope. But right now they're everywhere and run everything. But once I finish college I'm off to some humongous lab, and you don't see too much of them in the labs unless it's on the specimen table. And that's where I'm going to be –

### **End of Freeview**

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=1620>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!