

# DOORTAGS

A Comedy by Roland Nuñez







## Contents

Act 1	
Scene 1- The Arrival .....	7
Scene 2- Lunch Time .....	16
Scene 3- The Escape.....	20
Act 2	
Scene 1- A Word of Wisdom.....	27
Scene 2- Mistaken Identity .....	32
Scene 3- Pushed to the Limit .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Scene 4- Graduation .....	45

## Cast (In Order of Appearance):

Captain Johnson	<i>Male, late 50s</i>	The Captain in charge of the program
Sparrow	<i>Male or Female, late 20s</i>	The clipboard-wielding secretary
Elana	<i>Female, early 20s</i>	Sorority girl chosen to attend RA Training program
Cadet G	<i>Male, early 20s</i>	ROTC cadet chosen to attend RA Training program
Gerald	<i>Male, early 20s</i>	Insecure genius chosen to attend RA Training program
Zahra	<i>Ethnic Female, 20s</i>	International student chosen to attend Training program
Lieutenant Dhania	<i>Female, mid 20s</i>	Female 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in charge of the RAs
Lieutenant Dhover	<i>Male, mid 20s</i>	Male 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in charge of the RAs
The Guard	<i>Male or Female, late 20s</i>	Silent but sturdy guard keeping the peace and quiet
Janitor	<i>Male, mid 60s</i>	Grouchy janitor who is stuck remembering the old days
Lunch Lady	<i>Female, mid 50s</i>	The love-stricken lunch lady
Alfonso McMillion	<i>Male, early 20s</i>	The very-wealthy nephew of Captain Johnson
RA Guru	<i>Female, mid 40s</i>	The wise spirit who guides lost RAs to self-discovery
Mayvid	<i>Male or Female, late teens</i>	Annoying kid who was thrown out of summer camp

## Scene Appearances

### Act 1, Scene 1:

C. Johnson  
Sparrow  
Cadet G  
Elana  
Zahra  
Gerald  
L.Dhover  
L. Dhania  
Guard  
Janitor

### Act 1, Scene 2:

Gerald  
Lunch Lady  
Zahra  
Elana  
Cadet G  
Dhania  
Dhover  
Alfonso  
Johnson  
Janitor  
The Guard

### Act 1, Scene 3:

Dhover  
Alfonso  
Gerald  
Cadet G  
Elana  
Zahra  
Janitor  
The Guard

### Act 2, Scene 1:

Elana  
Zahra  
RA Guru  
Gerald  
Cadet G

### Act 2, Scene 2:

Dhover  
Zahra  
Elana  
Dhania  
Johnson  
Guard

### Act 2, Scene 3:

Johnson  
Sparrow  
Mayvid  
Dhover  
Dhania  
Elana  
Lunch Lady  
Cadet G  
Janitor  
Gerald  
The Guard  
Zahra  
Alfonso  
RA Guru

### Act 2, Scene 4

Johnson  
Elana  
Gerald  
Dhania  
Dhover  
Cadet G  
Alfonso  
The Guard  
Sparrow  
Mayvid  
Mother  
Father

*Double casting notes: Sparrow and RA Guru, as well as Alfonso and Mayvid, may be double-cast if desired. Mother and Father in Act 2, Scene 4 are played by Lunch Lady and Janitor.*

# DOORTAGS

## Act 1

\*\*\*\*\*

### Scene 1- The Arrival

*Setting: Training facility deep in the outskirts of Johnson Aviation Academy's sand dunes.*

*CAPTAIN JOHNSON, a grumpy general in his mid-50s, is on the phone with the director of Housing and Residence Life. He seems bothered. Lights on.*

**Johnson:** I just don't understand why this is necessary. I have served for twenty two years. I have seen things you wouldn't believe. I've done things you could not fathom. And now you expect me to use my decades of experience to babysit a bunch of rookie Resident Advisors? ... *(pause)*... Yes, I understand that these are direct orders from the Housing Director, but I... *(pause)*... I know, but... *(pause)* Affirmative. I understand. Fine, I'll do it, but the second I hear crying, I quit! *(Hangs up the phone.)* This is definitely not the same school my grandfather started. I miss the good ol' days, when you had to earn your military training. Now they'll give it to any Joe-nobody with a pulse. *(Ponders for a moment)* RAs. Who needs them? College students used to get by just fine without them. I sure as hell did! *(Grumbling)* Don't see me runnin' around recklessly like an idiot. I swear, kids these days... *(trails off)* Speaking of which, Sparrow? Sparrow! Where did you run off to? Sparrow, get the hell back over here!

*SPARROW rushes in hurriedly from Stage Left.*

**Sparrow:** Sorry sir!

**Johnson:** No excuses! I wanted you to have them ready with all their files by the time I finished my phone conversation!

**Sparrow:** Sorry sir!

**Johnson:** *(After a short silence)* Well, where are they? Get them out here!

**Sparrow:** Sorry sir!

*SPARROW runs out Stage Left for a few seconds. While he is gone, CAPTAIN JOHNSON impatiently paces back and forth. After a brief stop, he looks around, and after making sure no*

*one else is around, whips out his flask and takes a sip of vodka. SPARROW comes back with four RAs. CAPTAIN JOHNSON frantically swallows and chokes on some vodka and puts the container away.*

**Sparrow:** *(Pretending he saw nothing)* I present to you, your RAs.

*Four RAs walk in from Stage Left and take a seat.*

**Johnson:** Okay, Sparrow, give me the low-down. Who are they and why should I care?

**Sparrow:** *(Walks up to Elana. Reads from his clipboard)* Elana Delauer. 19 years old. Strategic Communications major. Member of her local sorority. Chosen to become an RA due to her amazing social skills. Has no trouble communicating with others and has the ability to be a great problem-solver.

*(Walks up to Cadet G) Cadet... G? (Pronounces it "guh")*

**Cadet G:** That's "Gee".

**Johnson:** "Gee"?

**Cadet G:** "Gee".

**Johnson:** Boy, where's the rest of your name?

**Cadet G:** Sir, that is my full name, sir! *(Stands at attention and salutes as he's speaking)*

**Johnson:** Hmm, some discipline? I'm liking this one. At ease, soldier. *(Cadet G sits back down.)*

**Sparrow:** Cadet G. Twenty two. Aeronautical Science major. Enlisted with the army for two years before attending the university, and is currently enrolled in JAA's ROTC program. Chosen to become an RA due to his incredible discipline and dedication to anything he commits to. He is very reliable and can get the job done, no matter how treacherous.

*(Walks up to Gerald) Gerald Kulusia. Eighteen. Aerospace Engineer major. Graduated valedictorian of his high school class of 925 students. Entered college with 45 credits, already achieved senior status after one year. Gerald was chosen as an RA because of his outstanding academic abilities. Expected to be a great role-model for incoming freshmen, and a great resource for tutoring.*

*(Walks up to Zahra) This is... umm... how do you say your name?*

**Zahra:** It's Zahra. *(Sparrow unsuccessfully tries to pronounce it.)* You can call me Z.

- Johnson:** Wait, wait, wait a minute. So Z? And G? G? And Z? What is this world coming to?
- Sparrow:** So, uhh, Z...*(attempts to say unpronounceable last name and fails, then gives up)*. Right, Z then. She is twenty years old. Business major. International student. Selected to be an RA because she demonstrates a great sense of compassion towards others and her job. She has spent very limited time in the United States, so she is not fully accustomed to our culture, but the Residential Life department believes that as an RA, she can learn from our culture as well as help residents with moral support. She is great at counseling and programming.
- Johnson:** Very well, Sparrow. Now, pay close attention, aspiring RAs, because I will only be saying this once. Welcome to RA training. My name is Captain Johnson. You will refer to me as Captain Johnson. For the next few days, you will be placed through some rigorous tests to help you become better RAs. If proved successful, this could pave the way to making Johnson Aviation Academy the best program in the world!
- Elana:** Well, what is it exactly?
- Johnson:** Ughh, Sparrow, get me the pamphlet. *(Sparrow hands Johnson a pamphlet, which he reads the following from.)* Let's see, Johnson Aviation Academy's Department of Housing and Residence Life is working in conjunction with the ROTC department in a test project to mass produce RAs that are well-trained, well-disciplined, and that could relate with the military background of the school to better serve the students in the residence halls. *(Puts away pamphlet)* Look, here's the deal. RA training has historically been too soft. You get a bunch of students together, play a couple of games, talk about your feelings, and bam! You put them in charge of a residence hall for a year. Well here at JAA, we don't stand for that. We will train our RAs the way we train our soldiers. We are going to formalize the training to spit out well-disciplined students who can keep the campus under control. The codename for this project is the Resident Advisor Training Corp, or RATC for short. If successful, the plan is to spread this RATC program to every college in the country and have a standardized RA training curriculum. *(Glances at Elana)* Any more questions?
- Elana:** *(After a pause)* RATC, really?
- Johnson:** Listen, I didn't come up with the name, so deal with it. Anyways, before calling it a success, we must make sure that it works, so we chose four students from

completely different backgrounds and majors to be used as guinea pigs for the project. All we can do now is hope for the best.

**Cadet G:** Sir, I will not let you down, sir!

**Johnson:** You had better not. If this project fails, that means I lose my job, and if I lose my job, then YOUR goose will be cooked!

**Zahra:** *(Looks around confused)* Umm, where is this goose of which you speak of?

*Awkward pause. SPARROW leans over and whispers in her ear to explain the expression.*

**Johnson:** Very well, now, it is time for you to meet your commanding officers. Lieutenants, enter the vicinity.

*Lieutenants DHOVER and DHANIA enter Stage Right. Lieutenant DHANIA is very rigid, seems rather uptight, and seems to always have a nasty glare. Lieutenant DHOVER, on the other hand, looks slightly more relaxed, yet still disciplined and firm. GUARD walks in from Stage Left and stands by doorway.*

**Johnson:** Meet Lieutenant Dhania and Lieutenant Dhover. They will be conducting your training sessions during your stay. You will obey and listen to all of their commands, or else.

**Dhania:** Sir, you have a phone call. It is your sister. Something about your nephew coming over.

**Johnson:** *(Grumbling)* Son of a-! I'll need to deal with this now before it gets out of hand. Dhania, Dhover, come with me. I'll give you your briefings in my office while I take the call. *(Turns to RAs.)* And as for the rest of you; you see that guard over there? He will be around any time you are left unsupervised, so don't try anything funny. *(Johnson, Dhania, and Dhover exit Stage Right.)*

*The four RAs sit there twiddling their thumbs, except for CADET G, who sits motionless. A JANITOR walks in from Stage Left and begins to sweep the floor.*

**Elana:** So, does anyone else but me have any second thoughts about coming here? I was told there would be free food and nice pay, but no one said anything about military training.

**Cadet G:** I think this is an ideal environment for all of us to learn great disciplinary skills. It disgusts me to see college students nowadays with their lazy ways. They need to be toughened up!

- Zahra:** I agree with G. This could be fun! The university is paying for us to better ourselves as RAs, so that we may be able to better serve our students!
- Elana:** Uggh, I feel like I'm listening to a public service announcement. Are you guys out of your mind? We're being played! The captain said it himself! We're being used as guinea pigs for some ridiculous program that has yet to be tested! We could be killed!
- Cadet G:** Well, then, so be it! Only the strong are meant to survive. The weak shall perish. It's survival of the fittest, so deal with it.
- Elana:** I'm not going to just deal with it! I'm going to get out of here, and I don't care whether or not you guys want to join me! I won't go through this torture!
- Janitor:** *(Gives a creepy laugh)*. Torture? You don't know the meaning of torture.
- Zahra:** Hi, what's your name?
- Janitor:** My name is Jose Jesus Guadalupe-Perez, but my name's not important. I have seen things that would scar even your grandchildren. I have experienced torture. And this... this is nothing compared to what I've been through. The horror... the hunger... so... many... penguins!!! *(Begins to mumble to himself)*
- Zahra:** Oh, I'm so sorry! Do you need a hug?
- ZAHRA attempts to hug the JANITOR.*
- Janitor:** Don't touch me! No one can ever touch me! Not since I've lost my love. She was my life, and now that she's gone, I am no more! Away with you all! *(Runs off Stage Left past guard)*.
- Elana:** Umm, oookay. Didn't realize this doubled as an insane asylum. *(Notices Gerald)* Hey, you, Gerald, is it? You haven't said a word since you got here. What are your thoughts on this?
- Gerald:** *(Very nervous)* Oh, well, I, uh. I'm doing pretty girl- pretty good! I meant pretty good! Why would I say pretty girl? Not that you're not a pretty girl, you're very pretty. Totally, like I'm sure guys stare at you all the time. Not that I do it, though, cause that would be weird! And, uhh, I'm not weird. Weird would be picturing you naked, which of course I don't do! Soo, yeah...

*ELANA, highly disturbed, moves back to her seat. Lieutenants DHANIA and DHOVER come back in from Stage Right.*

**Dhover:** Rookies, Captain Johnson is currently tied up at the moment with an important phone call. We will take over from here.

**Dhania:** Okay maggots! We are your leaders now. For our first exercise, we are going to go through some fast paced knowledge training. First we need to see how well you know residential housing policies and regulations. A great RA is a well-informed RA. We'll begin with you, cadet. Show the other maggots how it's done on our turf. Cadet, what are the roles of a Resident Advisor?

**Cadet G:** Ma'am, a Resident Advisor serves various roles in the housing department. The RA must serve as disciplinarian, administrator, authority figure, and leader to all college students residing in any campus-owned housing.

**Dhania:** Correct! However, make note that an RA also acts as a counselor and academic resource. They must be capable of sympathizing with students. Now, Gerald, let's see what you can do. Explain to me the role of student programming conducted in housing and residence life!

**Gerald:** Umm, well, uhh-

**Dhania:** Spit it out maggot!!!

**Gerald:** Programs are planned by RAs for students in residence halls in order to build a sense of community, social networking, and overall higher self esteem.

**Dhania:** Good. You may take a seat. *(At Zahra)* Okay, missy, your turn. What is JAA's alcohol policy?

**Zahra:** Drink Responsibly.

**Dhania:** ...No! Okay, let's try a scenario. If you catch two 19-year-olds drinking hard liquor in their dorm, responsibly, what would you do?

**Zahra:** I'd tell them to keep quiet.

**Dhania:** No!!! Tell me, why would you allow two underage college students to drink hard liquor in their rooms?

**Zahra:** Well, the drinking age back home is 15, and-

**Dhania:** Maggot, this is not Africa, or wherever the hell you're from! This is America, so you abide by American rules!

ZAHRA mutters some insults in another language under her breath.

**Dhania:** What was that?!

**Zahra:** (*visibly repressing her anger*) Nothing.

GERALD raises his hand.

**Dhover:** You, with the hand.

**Gerald:** The drinking age here is 21. I would write the students up both for drinking under age, and for drinking hard liquor on campus. The housing policy guide clearly states that even if you are of drinking age, hard liquor is not allowed in the dorms, only beer and wine.

**Dhover:** You are correct.

**Elana:** (*Under her breath*) Show-off.

**Dhania:** Okay, smart-mouth. You think you can do better? A 22-year-old guy has his 17-year-old girlfriend visit him on campus on a Friday. By what time does his girlfriend have to vacate the premises?

**Elana:** Well, she is of the opposite gender, so she may not stay overnight. Visiting hours at the university are up until midnight. However, since it is on a Friday and Friday is considered a weekend, visiting hours are extended until 3am. And, as long as he got prior approval from the housing office, he can bring a guest that is under 18 years of age to begin with.

**Dhania:** Well, aren't you intelligent? Well you're WRONG! Do you see the age difference between those two? 22 and 17? They shouldn't be sleeping together! By allowing them to stay together until 3am on a Friday night, that gives them plenty of opportunity to get jiggy with it. You're a filthy excuse of a woman!

**Elana:** Wait, but-

**Dhania:** Listen, I know your type. You girly girls that think you're too good for the military life. You don't care if men take over this country as long as you get your pretty pink purse to match your adorable Prada shoes. Well listen, if you and Africa over there don't shape up, you'll find your stay here to be rather unpleasant. And that's an understatement.

**Zahra:** *(Raises hand)* Excuse me, but what does understatement mean?

**Dhania:** *(Sighs)* Okay, I give up. Dhover, take over.

**Dhover:** Sure thing, hot stuff.

**Dhania:** What did you call me?

**Dhover:** *(Quickly catching his mistake)* Dhania. Okay, rookies, we will be moving on to learn some skills that every RA must have. We will begin with Door Tags 101. Every successful RA needs to know how to make an effective door tag to place on the doors of their residents with their names on them. It signifies ownership, authority, and makes it easier to remember all those freakin' names. Each of you, take these bags. In each bag you will find a penny, a paper clip, and a piece of string. When I say go, you will use these tools to create a door tag to decorate the doors of your incoming residents in under one minute. Any questions?

**Gerald:** Yeah, how can we possibly-

**Dhover:** Begin!!!

*RAs helplessly try to make door tags with the useless items as Lieutenants DHOVER and DHANIA yell at them constantly. CADET G consistently works to create a decent door tag, while the other three fail miserably.*

**Dhover:** *(Disappointedly)* What a disaster! *(To Cadet G)* Yours isn't too bad. *(To everyone)* Let's move on to something else. Maybe you will all perform better in this next exercise. Now, in order to be an effective leader, every RA must have a powerful and distinct battle cry. I need each of you to show me the best battle cry you've got. Cadet, as you were the only one not to fail miserably in the last exercise, you will go first.

*CADET G yells out a crazy loud battle cry that impresses DHOVER.*

**Dhover:** Very good. Know-it-all, you're next.

*GERALD is very hesitant to shout. When he does, it comes out as a wimpy yelp.*

**Dhover:** You call that a battle cry? My deceased cat whimpers louder than you do! You are a disgrace to RAs everywhere! You will never gain respect from your residents. Okay, miss Z, show me what you've got.

**Zahra:** Oh, I'm terribly sorry, but I do not like to shout. I was taught to be polite at all times and be courteous to all.

**Dhover:** *(Playing it cool)* Don't you worry about it, dear, you shouldn't stress your vocal chords if you don't need to.

**Gerald:** Hey, how come she can get away with-

**Dhover:** Shut up, rookie, you will only speak when being spoken to!

**Dhania:** Dhover, what are you doing? If this is a battle cry exercise, then everyone must perform a battle cry, no excuses.

**Dhover:** Listen, the girl is from another country. We need to be aware that her culture is different than our own. It's the only way to help her ease into ours.

**Dhania:** What are you talking about- *(Looks at her watch)* Crap, it's lunch time. You're lucky the Captain is serious about mealtime. We'll continue this after lunch. Dismissed!

*RAs exit Stage Left, along with the GUARD.*

**Dhover:** You know I love it when you're all go-getter like that.

**Dhania:** Lieutenant Dhover, I need you to work with me on this. You need to stop giving in to those girls. Our job is to be equally mean and degrading to all of them, especially those girly girls that need some people like us to whip them into shape. I've also got my eye on that brainy kid. He's too cowardly, too indecisive. He may slow the rest of them down. It's a shame Cadet G is stuck with the rest of those losers.

**Dhover:** You know, how about you stop worrying about those little rookies and join me for some precious Dhovertime?

**Dhania:** Are... are you serious? Are you asking me out? You men are all the same. A bunch of pigs! *(Exits stage left)*

**Dhover:** I love it when she plays hard to get. *(Exit Stage Left)(Lights out)*

**End Scene 1**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Scene 2- Lunch Time

*Setting: The cafeteria. The Lieutenants are sitting at a table eating lunch with the GUARD. ELANA and CADET G are sitting down eating at another table. GERALD and ZAHRA are in line getting their food. Lights on.*

**Gerald:** *(To lunch lady) Please, may I have some more? Please? (no response) Come on, I'm already malnourished. Look at me! My doctor said that I need to-*

**Lunch Lady:** *(Yelling) My doctor, my doctor, my doctor! I don't care what your stupid doctor said! You are going to eat what I give you and you are going to like it! (All of a sudden she calms down and speaks softly with a smile) Who's next?*

*LUNCH LADY's screaming scares GERALD away. He runs past ZAHRA towards the lunch table.*

**Gerald:** *Hey Z, watch out for that lunch lady. She's insane. (Gerald sits down and hastily eats his food with full force. As the next scene progresses, he tries to eat Cadet G's food, but Cadet G grabs his wrist and twists it. He gives up on him and tries to eat Elana's food, miming the act of begging. Eventually she gives in, and reluctantly gives him her food)*

*ZAHRA goes towards the LUNCH LADY with a smile and her care-free walk.*

**Zahra:** Hello miss, wonderful day we are having. Isn't life beautiful?

**Lunch Lady:** Life is overrated.

**Zahra:** Why, I must respectfully disagree. I love life! I always find something to make me celebrate! What about you? What troubles you?

**Lunch Lady:** Nothing's bothering me.

**Zahra:** *(Reaches out and grabs her hand)* It's okay. You can tell me.

**Lunch Lady:** *(After some hesitation)* Well, it's this guy. He is just so good looking, but he doesn't pay me any attention. It's like I do not exist. How can anyone resist someone with my beauty and my wonderful charm?

**Zahra:** Lunch lady, if it's a man that you want, you need to go for it! My cousin wanted a man, but unfortunately, no man loved her because she was so ugly. But did she let that stop her? No. She went up to a guy, told her her feelings for him, and won his heart. She finally got to marry the town hobo. It was so romantic!

**Lunch Lady:** Bless you, my child. Thank you for your kind words. I hope that life gives you many great tidings. *(Lunch Lady gives Zahra a second helping of food)*

*ZAHRA takes her food and joins the others at the lunch table.*

**Zahra:** So what are you guys talking about?

**Elana:** Okay, so I've been thinking it through, and I think I may have come up with a plan to get out of this deathtrap. It's brilliant!

**Gerald:** I still don't see how that can possibly work. I mean, first of all-

**Cadet G:** *(Interrupting, talking to Elana)* Okay, first of all, what makes you our leader? What gives you the authority to tell us what to do? I only take my orders from those who have earned my respect. And listen, rookie, that's not you. And secondly, I will not allow you to make a mockery out of this training program by talking about such nonsense such as escaping. I will have no part of this! *(Gets up and moves to table with Lieutenants.)*

**Dhania:** Get back to your table, rookie!

**Cadet G:** *(Salutes)* Requesting permission to sit here. I can no longer deal with my colleagues' incompetence.

**Dhover:** *(Pulls out a chair)* Have a seat. *(Cadet G sits down)*

**Dhania:** *(To Dhover)* So, has the Captain's nephew arrived yet?

**Dhover:** Yeah, he got in a half-hour ago.

**Cadet G:** Nephew?

**Dhover:** Yeah, Captain Johnson's sister tries to get him to watch her son every summer, despite his attempts to talk his way out of it. Unfortunately, he can't say no, because his nephew's family is very wealthy and they're huge donors to the academy. Angering them would mean no new administration building next year. So, thus, he's stuck being a babysitter.

**Cadet G:** How difficult can one nephew be to take care of?

*CAPTAIN JOHNSON walks in with ALFONSO from Stage Left. ALFONSO is an uptight pretty-boy who is there against his will.*

**Alfonso:** Uncle Johnny, I told you I didn't want to eat with all these... poor people.

**Johnson:** Alfonso McMillion! Don't talk about these people like that! I will have no nephew of mine making a fool out of me with indecency. You are under my care now, and you will behave properly.

**Alfonso:** Listen uncle Johnny, I am well aware that you hate me as much as I hate you. If you don't want me to go back to Mom and get her to cut all funding to this pathetic excuse of an institution, then you'd best leave me alone.

**Johnson:** You wouldn't dare!

**Alfonso:** Do you really want to play that game, Johnny? If you don't play nice, this place will become Alfonso's Mini-golf Paradise before you know it. *(Smiles, walks towards the girls)* Hello ladies. Here, buy yourselves something nice. *(He throws them money and blows them a kiss.) (Exits Stage Left)*

**Johnson:** I hate kids. *(Exits stage left after him. Janitor comes in with a broom cleaning up.)*

**Elana/Zahra:** *(Simultaneously)* He's so dreamy! *(Both glare at each other)*

**Zahra:** What a nice and handsome young man. I really should get to know him better.

**Elana:** Okay, listen here Z. I've been pretty nice to you up to this point. You're a sweet girl, but you need to understand that Alfonso is mine. We're perfect for each other! We both have class, we're super attractive, and we love money! We are going to get married, then I'll use my millions to buy a Bloomingdales and use it as my closet! *(During Elana's speech, Zahra is slowly building up rage, quietly but steadily.)*

**Elana:** Umm, hello? Bloomingdales? Closet? Did you get all that?

*ZAHRA continues to hold back her anger*

**Elana:** Z, did you hear a single word that I-

**Zahra:** *(Shouting maniacally)* You crazy little poor excuse of a human being! Don't you talk to me in that tone of voice! *(The yelling continues as Zahra switches her yelling to ad-libbing in another language for a bit then stops abruptly, looking around the room.)* I'm sorry, I have a habit of bottling up my feelings.

*At this point, everyone in the cafeteria is staring at her with no sound in the room, then, as she sits down, everyone goes back to their business.*

**Gerald:** *(After a pause)* So, Elana, what was this plan of yours?

**Elana:** *(Still shaken up)* Plan? What plan? Oh, right, the escape plan. Well, the guard has all the keys that are required to get into and out of places. After some bribing, the janitor told me that the guard loves music. So, step one is to get the key from the guard.

**Gerald:** How do you plan on doing that?

**Elana:** Watch me.

*ELANA pulls out a stereo from her bag. She then proceeds to play a song and stands up. (Note: For this scene, any popular song can be used, preferably a line dance everyone can dance to in harmony. If not, everyone can just dance on their own.)*

**Elana:** It's time for a lunch dance party!

*ELANA begins to dance. She quickly gets up and gets GERALD to join her. ZAHRA gets up and joins them. DHANIA gets up and storms over to stop the music. DHOVER stops her, and tries to coerce her to dance with his moves. She tries to pull away but he keeps dancing with her. The JANITOR and LUNCH LADY, and finally, the GUARD begin to join in the dance. CADET G remains sitting, eating his meal. As everyone dances, the LUNCH LADY gets closer and closer to the JANITOR, and both dance together. DHANIA begins to reluctantly move with the music. Meanwhile, ELANA dances by the guard and takes his keys. CAPTAIN JOHNSON arrives and sees everyone dancing.*

**Johnson:** What the hell is everyone doing?! *(Music stops. Everyone sits down. Lights out)*

**End Scene 2**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Scene 3- The Escape

*Setting: The cabin lobby. Splits up the male and female bedrooms. ALFONSO, CADET G, DHOVER, and GERALD are playing cards on the table. GUARD is standing near exit Down Stage Left. Lights on.*

**Gerald:** Wow, what a day, huh? Dancing in the cafeteria, ropes course in the afternoon, and now playing cards with the guys. So what do we manly men talk about now that the girls aren't around, huh? Sports? Cars? ...Babes?

**Alfonso:** Well, I own 3 sports teams, 12 cars, and I've lost count of how many babes. You?

**Gerald:** *(Retreating back to his chair)* Nevermind. *(To Dhover)* So is Z bipolar or something? That was pretty odd what she did today.

**Dhover:** Hey! Don't you talk about such a sweet, delicate, piece of... um... talent... like that. *(Pauses, looks around, then gets up)* Okay, guys, lights out in 5 minutes. Get yourselves ready for bed. I'll be back in 5.

**Alfonso:** Sleep tight, rookies.

**Dhover:** I was talking to you, too, Alfonso. The Captain will have my head if I don't keep an eye on you. Now clean up that mess and go to bed. *(Exits stage right)*

**Alfonso:** I'm too rich for this. *(Exits stage right)*

**Gerald:** What a charmer that Alfonso is. *(Still playing cards with Cadet G, who does not respond)* I don't know what those girls see in him. *(Continued silence from Cadet G)* What a strange camp this is. When I first heard about RA training, I thought we'd have workshops and lectures, not drills and tests of physical strength! And don't get me started on the food service...

**Cadet G:** God, do you ever shut up?

**Gerald:** Well, sorry! Just trying to get to know you better.

**Cadet G:** You know all that you need to know.

**Gerald:** Please? I look up to you. See, I may be very intelligent, but I have some trouble when it comes to confidence. I'm too shy to talk to girls, too insecure to be assertive. You seem to have no problem talking to anyone. And you're killing it at this RA training. What's your secret? Could you give me some pointers? I'd like to learn!

**Cadet G:** Listen to me carefully, Jeremy...

**Gerald:** My name is Gerald...

**Cadet G:** Whatever! I am a soldier, not a counselor. I'm not here to make friends, and I don't sympathize with anyone. I just want to get through this training and move on with my life. The sooner everyone understands that, the better. I'm going to bed. *(Exits stage right)*

*GERALD begins picking up the cards. ELANA enters from Stage Left with a note in her hand.*

**Elana:** Hey, Gerald, you're bunking next to Alfonso, right? Could you put this on top of his bed for me?

**Gerald:** What is it?

**Elana:** An invitation to hang out tomorrow, not that it's any of your business. They confiscated our phones so I have no other way to reach out to him. Now go put it on his bed.

**Gerald:** I don't know, Elana...

**Elana:** Oh, come on, stop being a wimp. *(She hands him the note)*

**Gerald:** Okay...

**Elana:** Goody boy. *(Elana exits stage left)*

*After a brief moment, ZAHRA comes out.*

**Zahra:** Hi Gerald. Could you do me a huge favor, please? I wrote a note for Alfonso. Could you please give it to him for me? I would do it myself, but I'm too shy.

**Gerald:** But, I... okay, fine.

**Zahra:** Oh, thank you so much! *(She gives him the note, then a hug, then exits stage left)*

**Gerald:** Oh boy. So, the hearts of two girls lie in my hands. What to do? I can't give him both notes. Well, Elana is pretty cute. I can't let that ravishing Alfonso fellow have her. But, then again, she'll kill me if I don't leave him the note. Unless I manage to finally man up and tell her how I feel. Hmm... *(Takes a moment to think)* Alright Z, guess you're getting Alfonso!

**Dhover:** Hey, rookie, get to bed! Lights out!

*GERALD throws ELANA'S note in the trash can and takes ZAHRA'S note to the bedroom at stage right. ALFONSO comes back out.*

**Alfonso:** Hey, Dhover, my bed is too close to the window, I could get a chill. And Uncle Johnny wouldn't like it if I get a chill!

**Dhover:** And what do you want me to do about it?

**Alfonso:** Hmm, I don't know. Perhaps we should go consult with my uncle about this terrible predicament...

**Dhover:** No, no! It's fine, it's fine! I'll switch beds with you, okay! Just go to sleep! *(Both of them exit stage right.)*

*The JANITOR comes in from Down Stage left, the cabin entrance, and begins cleaning up. He mumbles to himself. GERALD sneaks back out after a bit and looks around before walking out from stage right.*

**Janitor:** It's late. A boy your age shouldn't be up at this hour.

**Gerald:** I forgot to get my cards... and I'm eighteen.

**Janitor:** Don't matter. Kids in your generation are spoiled. Spoiled I tells ya. What with your eight hours of sleep, and eight glasses of water a day. What's with this eight? Back when I was a kid, we were lucky if we got one glass of water... and forget about sleep! We worked day and night.

**Gerald:** I understand, sir. Say, you seem to have been working here for a while.

**Janitor:** You callin' me old, son?

**Gerald:** Not at all, sir! I was just wondering. Are there any tips that you can give me to do better in this program? I feel inadequate, and any advice on how to survive this RATC program would be quite advantageous.

**Janitor:** So, you want to become a better RA. What if I told you that I knew someone that could help you?

**Gerald:** Really? Please, please tell me who it is!

**Janitor:** *(Looks around to see if coast is clear)* Back in the days of the war, there was a woman we would go to for advice. She told us what we needed to hear to succeed in any predicament. They called her... the RA Guru! *(Optional: For added effect, "RA Guru" can be echoed off stage anytime her name is said throughout the play)*

**Gerald:** The RA Guru?

**Janitor:** Yeh, the RA Guru. Quite the lass she is. Some even question whether she actually exists. Some say, however, that her spirit lives on right around this campsite.

**Gerald:** Wait a minute! How did an RA Guru help you win a war?

**Janitor:** You questioning me, boy?!

**Gerald:** No sir! Not at all sir!

**Janitor:** Wise being, she be, the RA Guru. The RA Guru. The RA Guru. *(His voice trails off as he exits down Stage Left)*

*ELANA and ZAHRA enter from Stage Right.*

**Elana:** Alright, guys. Are you ready? Because we are getting out of here!

**Zahra:** Is that what we're doing? I thought we were getting some ice cream.

*ELANA and GERALD give her puzzled looks.*

**Zahra:** Back at home, we would always sneak out at night to get some ice cream after a long day!

**Elana:** Z, don't think too hard. We're just trying to escape this poor excuse of a training camp.

**Gerald:** Oh, was that tonight?

*GUARD comes in as they are walking towards down stage left.*

**The Guard:** So, it was you who took my keys!

**Elana:** Uh oh.

**The Guard:** Uh oh is right. You three are busted!

**Gerald:** No! I'm too young to go to jail!

**Elana:** Whoa whoa whoa, we don't have to resort to jail, do we?

**The Guard:** Did you know that stealing my keys is a felony? And a state of national security at that? I have access to places you wouldn't believe existed!

**Zahra:** Like candyland?

**The Guard:** No, you bumbling idiot! The point is, you have some nerve to steal those keys from me. Now you will learn just how bad this camp can be!

*As the GUARD advances towards the RAs, the JANITOR comes in from down stage left.*

**Janitor:** Leave them alone!

**The Guard:** Stay out of this, janitor! These kids are mine!

**Janitor:** Now hold up a second. These kids are on their way to see the RA Guru.

**The Guard:** Really now?

**Janitor:** Yes, I talked to the brainy one earlier. Now, I know a certain someone whose visit to the RA Guru got him this lucrative job as a guard. Now be a good fellow and let the kids through.

**The Guard:** Not so fast. Sure, I'll let them through, but first I have a bone to pick. See, I'm a big fan of music, and using music to distract me away from my keys was a low blow. A really low blow. You need to make it up to me.

**Elana:** Well, what do you want us to do?

**The Guard:** That music you played earlier, while catchy, is not my cup of tea. I used to free-style back in the day. I'm one to enjoy a good rap. If you can entertain me with some good free styling, I'll let you through to see the RA Guru.

**Elana:** You want me to rap? I've never done such a thing in my life!

**The Guard:** Listen lady, it's either that, or off to RA dungeon for you all.

**Elana:** Okay, I'll try. Give me a beat. *(Janitor beat boxes)* Listen to me as I do my thing, while I start to sing, when I get married, I want a diamond ring, yo! There was a mouse in my house and ran up my blouse. It scared my spouse! My dog ran towards a frog sitting on a log while fixing a ... clog...

**The Guard:** That... was terrible. I wanna hear some rapping, not Dr. Seuss!

**Zahra:** Ooh, ooh! Let me give it a try! I used to perform free style back at home all the time! *(Begins)* The waves crash down upon the shore of my soul. The sun shines, the sun beams shower my face with warmth. I walk down the narrow path, getting bigger with every step. My journey knows no bounds. I close my eyes and take a breath. Peace.

*Awkward silence ensues.*

**The Guard:** I'm getting the Captain. *(He begins to leave, but is stopped by the janitor.)*

**Janitor:** The boy didn't get a chance yet.

**Gerald:** Who, me? No, no, no! I couldn't possibly-

**The Guard:** Oh boy, this will be fun. Let's see what you got.

**Janitor:** *(To Gerald)* Son, you said you wanna be a better RA, right? Well you've gotta earn it.

*GERALD looks at the janitor. The JANITOR nods to him. GERALD clears his throat and begins as JANITOR starts a beat for him.*

**Gerald:** Yo listen up, my name is Gerald  
Rap is to me like painting's to Davinci  
Beethoven is a famous composer  
But I stepped in and told him "Move over!"  
I'm the newest hot rod on the street  
The honeys take a look and their knees go weak  
And to all the fools that think they're tough  
You'll never beat me, cuz I'm just too rough

*Applause from the rest of them as he finishes his rap.*

**The Guard:** I must say, that was impressive. You may have a future in the business. You all have my leave to go see the RA Guru. However, you have until sunrise to get back. If you are not back, I will hunt you down, and I will find you! *(Guard exits down stage left)*

**Janitor:** Good luck lads. I hope you find what you seek. *(Janitor exits down stage left)*

**Gerald:** Man, I'm awesome!

**Elana:** Settle down, Eminem. What the heck is the RA Guru and why are we supposed to see him? I just want to get out of here! Let's go Z! *(Elana and Zahra exit down stage left)*

**Gerald:** But guys, we should definitely see the RA Guru! You heard what the guard said! Guys! *(Exits down stage left)*

*CADET G comes out of stage right.*

**Cadet G:**      *(Enter Stage Right)* Figures they decided to go through with the escape plan.  
What a bunch of cowards! Over my dead body they're getting out of here. *(Exits  
down stage left.)*      *Lights out.*

**End Scene 3**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Act 2

\*\*\*\*\*

### Scene 1- A Word of Wisdom

*Setting: Out in the woods. ELANA and ZAHRA are roaming around, not knowing where they are, entering from stage right. RA GURU is sitting upstage left. Lights on the two girls on downstage right.*

**Elana:** Who's idea was it to travel alone in the woods with no means of navigation?

**Zahra:** I believe you're the one who told us to-

**Elana:** Look, it doesn't matter who said what, the point is, we're lost. I have no idea where we are or where we're going! What if we're never found again? What if we get eaten by creatures? I'm too beautiful to never be seen again!

*Loud noise is heard from other end of stage.*

**Zahra:** Did you hear that? *(Noise is heard)*. There it is again! I think it's coming from over here. *(Zahra heads towards upstage left)*

**Elana:** Z, don't!

*Lights on.*

**RA Guru:** Who goes there?

*Both girls scream.*

**Elana:** Who the heck are you?

**RA Guru:** Pay me no mind, for I am just a benevolent spirit that roams these lands. There is nothing to see here. So off you go, little ladies.

**Elana:** Yep, we're definitely in an insane asylum. Let's go, Z.

**Zahra:** But wait, Elena. Maybe she can help us! *(Bows down to guru)* Oh wise, benevolent spirit, please share with us your guidance and wisdom. We have lost our way and do not know where we are going.

**Elana:** Get a hold of yourself, Z! She's not a spirit. She's some crazy person that is more likely to kill us the longer we stand here. The sooner we get far away from this training camp, the better!

**Zahra:** Don't be rude, Elena, or she'll never help us! *(To guru)* Please, wise spirit, pay her no mind. She knows not what she speaks.

**Elana:** You people are all driving me insane! Forget it! I'm going on my own.

**RA Guru:** The caterpillar who fails to work hard encasing itself in a cocoon will not reap the benefits of becoming a beautiful butterfly.

**Elana:** Umm, what?

**Zahra:** Don't you get it Elana? The spirit is saying that the only way that we can really become great RAs is to work hard for it, even if at times the work seems unreasonable and tedious.

**Elana:** You understand this chick?

**Zahra:** Well, of course! It's not like I'm stupid or anything.

**RA Guru:** Actually, I was talking about an actual caterpillar I saw about 15 minutes ago. Cute little thing. But your interpretation was good too. Anywho, it sounds like you, Elana is it, want to escape. You do not seem concerned with what consequences it may bring others. Sometimes you need to put the thoughts and feelings of others before those of yourself. Once you realize that people are counting on you, you will be less likely to give up. You are very intelligent and have much to offer. Use those gifts. *(Turns to Zahra)* And you, my dear. I see a very sweet person standing in front of me. However, I'm sensing a darker soul hidden within. A soul full of fury and anger! Look, I am glad that you are so passionate and optimistic about the world, but you must also be realistic. Life is tough, and it's okay to get mad. But by repressing your anger, you are more likely to lash out at your tipping point. It's okay to get angry, and it's better when you are in control. Don't let it control you. Your patience is much greater than you give it credit for.

**Zahra:** Thank you very much Ms. Spirit! I will take your advice to heart.

**Elana:** Okay, “spirit”, if you are so wise and insightful, how about you tell us how to get out of here?

**RA Guru:** The way back to camp is in that direction. Before you run off, at least take a night to sleep on it. Ponder my advice. You will see that you will be better off for it. If things do not improve, then I will gladly show you the way out of here.

**Zahra:** That sounds great! Thank you once again, Ms. Spirit! Come on Elana, let’s go back before they realize we left.

**Elana:** But... but... I don’t wanna go back. The food is nasty, the staff is mean. I just wanna go home...

*ZAHRA drags ELANA out stage left. GERALD enters from stage right.*

**Gerald:** *(Sees the RA Guru)* Holy Obtuse Rhombus! It’s the RA Guru!

**RA Guru:** Who, me? Umm, yeah. That’s me, the RA Guru. How can I help you?

**Gerald:** Ma’am, I have been searching for you! My name is Gerald, and I’m trying to find my true calling in life. I’m trying to make myself a better Resident Advisor for my residents, and a better person in general, but I don’t know what to do. Sometimes, despite my superior intellect, I feel inferior to others. They call me a coward and pansy.

**RA Guru:** Gerald, what you lack in physical dexterity you gain in the mind. You have a very powerful mind capable of doing extraordinary things. However, your biggest obstacle in reaching your full potential is yourself. You lack the confidence that you can do it. I sense that there is more to you than you give yourself credit for. Have you had any victories recently?

**Gerald:** *(Amazed)* Why yes, yes I have! I managed to give a pretty good rap a little while ago. I guess you could say it was pretty fly for a White guy.

**RA Guru:** You see? That was a result of you believing in yourself. If you applied that kind of confidence in everything you do, you should be in great shape when dealing with unruly residents. Now go, my child. Go and be the man you know you can be. And please tell people to stop coming here.

**Gerald:** Gee, thanks RA Guru. But I do have one last question. There is this girl that I like, but every time I’m around her, I get nervous and mess everything up. Do I ever stand a chance at finding true love?

**RA Guru:** If you follow my advice, your true love will find you. Now, quickly, it's almost morning. The cabin is that way. It's where I sent what I assume to be your lady friends.

**Gerald:** Thank you very much RA Guru. I will try! *(Exits stage left)*

*CADET G enters from stage right.*

**Cadet G:** I know I heard them in here. Where did they go?

**RA Guru:** *(Sighs)* Oh geez. How may I be of assistance?

**Cadet G:** Whoa, whoa, whoa. Who are you and what do you want?

**RA Guru:** Well, I am the famous RA Guru, of course! Wise being of RA knowledge. Now quick, ask your question and be on your way.

**Cadet G:** Listen, lady, I don't know what you've been smoking, but you'd better get out of my face before I make you eat that hat you're wearing.

**RA Guru:** It seems someone is very wound up. Please, sit, relax for a second.

**Cadet G:** Absolutely not! I can't let those idiots ruin this training program. The reputation of this school is at stake!

**RA Guru:** Aren't you one of the trainees? Why is it your job to keep them under control? Aren't there staff for that?

**Cadet G:** It doesn't matter. It's not about the title. It's about the work ethic. This generation is full of entitled brats who want everything handed to them. They are too soft. My father taught me better. He taught me that the most important trait to get you through life is discipline. And I will not rest until those colleagues of mine are whipped into shape.

**RA Guru:** Is that what's bothering you? Living up to your father's expectations? It seems to me that all work and no play is making the cadet quite the grouch.

**Cadet G:** Listen, I'm feeling generous right now, so I've decided not to kill you. Nevertheless, what I do with my life is none of your business. Got that?

**RA Guru:** Correct, it's your business, and no one else's. You need to worry less about what your father expects of you and more about what you expect of yourself. Learn to enjoy life every once in a while. Let loose and live a little! Go wild and crazy!

**Cadet G:** I'm not about to take life advice from some homeless gypsy. Now tell me where those other trainees are before I tell Captain Johnson you're living on his private property.

**RA Guru:** Don't be silly, my dear, I am the RA Guru!

**Cadet G:** *(Shouting)* Captain Johnson!

**RA Guru:** Okay, okay! Stop shouting! I'll tell you. Your friends all walked that way. That path leads right back to the camp. But I'm being honest when I say you are a great soldier, cadet. I can sense it in you. You are destined for great things in your life, but you're missing out on the wonders around you with this obsession to have full order and control.

**Cadet G:** Thank you for your cooperation. *(After brief silence)* What's your name?

**RA Guru:** Agnus.

**Cadet G:** You give decent advice, Agnus. Take care of yourself.

**RA Guru:** So, you're not gonna rat me out to the Captain, will you? I've already had to keep the guard and janitor quiet. That janitor's crazy, by the way.

**Cadet G:** Your secret's safe with me... for now. *(Exits stage left) (Lights out)*

**End Scene 1**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Scene 2- Mistaken Identity

*Setting: (Lights on) Girl's bedroom. Lieutenant DHANIA is sleeping. ZAHRA and ELANA come in from stage left from the bathroom, supposedly after changing and brushing their teeth after their encounter with the guru. They quietly get into bed. If CADET G is played as a female, she will come in after them, check to make sure they're back, and lay quietly in bed.*

*Lieutenant DHOVER comes in from stage right, holding the envelope that he found on his bed. With a smile, he heads over to ZAHRA's bed and lays down next to her.*

**Dhover:** Hey sweet thing. I got your note. Didn't realize you had such passionate feelings for me.

**Zahra:** *(Half asleep)* Huh? Wha-?

**Dhover:** Don't pretend you don't know. It's natural for a girl to have such passionate feelings for a catch such as myself. You know, babe, I've had my eye on you too. *(Brushes her hair with his hand)*

**Zahra:** *(Still half asleep)* That feels nice.

**Dhover:** What say you and me run off from this joint together? Let me show you a real good time.

**Zahra:** I like running. *(Slowly wakes up, turns around, and sees Dhover. She quickly sits up. Brief pause, then a loud scream)* What the hell are you doing here? Are you freaking serious? Ooh! Ooh you've done it now. You're making the mad woman come out. You're in for it now! Ooh! *(She continues to shout at him in another language, a different language than last time. Elana and Dhania wake up.)*

**Elana:** What's going on?

**Dhania:** Ben? Ben? What are you doing in here? *(Zahra calms down)*

**Elana:** Wait, Ben? His name is Ben Dhover? Seriously? *(Laughs hysterically)*

*CAPTAIN JOHNSON and the GUARD come in from stage right.*

**Johnson:** *(Shouting Offstage)* You boys better stay over there. This is none of your business! Don't make me come over there! *(To Lieutenants)* What's all the ruckus going on here?

**Dhania:** That ingrate over there is harassing my RAs! He came into our room!

**Dhover:** Shut up Mia. You're just jealous cause you're not my center of attention anymore. I've moved on, sugar.

**Dhania:** Sugar? I'll give you sugar you son of a- *(Captain Johnson and the guard hold her back)*

**Johnson:** Both of you, stop it! Stop it right now! You're supposed to be Lieutenants, and right now I bet the guard can do your jobs better than you! No offense guard.

**The Guard:** None taken, sir.

**Johnson:** Dhover, stand front and center!

**Dhover:** Yes sir.

**Johnson:** I will not have this kind of foolery happening in my camp, you hear me? Listen carefully, because you're on real thin ice. One more stunt like that and you're out of here, got that?

**Dhover:** But sir, she sent me this note. She wrote all these crazy kinky messages on it and-

**Johnson:** I don't care what contrived reasons you spout out of that pothole! Now get back to your station- I mean room- I mean- Just get out of here!

**Dhover:** Yes, sir. *(Dhover exits stage right)*

**Johnson:** Now girls, go the restroom and freshen up. Nothing more to see here.

*ELANA and ZAHRA exit stage left.*

**Johnson:** Lieutenant Dhania, front and center!

**Dhania:** Yes sir!

**Johnson:** Dhania, you know that I'm getting old, and I can't keep this up forever. *(Dhover walks in ready to tell Johnson something, but stops when he hears them conversing. He eavesdrops.)* You and Dhover practically grew up here. I care for the both of you as if you were my own. I'll be needing a successor pretty soon. I've been thinking this through, and I'm thinking of making you captain once I'm gone.

**Dhania:** Captain, I don't know what to say...

**Johnson:** I don't need you to say anything. I just need you to set the example. You need to stop fighting with Dhover. Otherwise it will make my decision that much harder

when the time comes. (*Dhania, enraged with anger, quietly sneaks out of the room.*)

**Dhania:** I understand, Captain.

**Johnson:** Good. Now, come with me. I need a second opinion on tomorrow's training exercises I have planned.

**Dhania:** Yes, sir.

*DHANIA and JOHNSON exit stage right. ELANA and ZAHRA come back in from the bathroom stage left.*

**Zahra:** I'm sorry, Elana. I'm telling you, I didn't mean to-

**Elana:** What do you mean, you didn't mean to? It was your bright idea to listen to that idiot in the woods, and now we're right back where we started! No, we're worse than when we started! Now you pissed off the Captain and the Lieutenants and they're gonna be even harder on us. I'm sick of your crazy emotional outbursts! I'm sick of having to fight with you over Alfonso! I'm sick of having to deal with you!

**Zahra:** Why do you have to be so mean to me?

**Elana:** Don't you turn this around on me! You're the bad one! Not me! Don't act all innocent. I know who that note was meant for. And you only wrote it because I decided to write one first! You can't fool me one bit. You're after my man!

**Zahra:** Look, I said I'm sorry. I didn't mean any harm. If you don't want to forgive me, then fine, just stay away from me for the rest of the training!

**Elana:** Well, fine! Maybe I will!

**Zahra:** Fine!

**Elana:** Fine!

**Zahra:** (*Lays in bed*) Fine!

**Elana:** (*Sits in bed*) Fine! (*To herself*) Stupid girl. Don't know why I have to put up with her. She needs to learn her place. I'm the pretty one, so I get the pretty boy. That's just the way it goes. Just makes me so mad. Oh well, maybe tomorrow will be a better day. (*Goes to sleep*)

*Lights out. Cue dream lighting and dream music. ELANA is standing by herself. Suddenly, the other RAs and Lieutenants start coming in pointing at her as if condemning her. ALFONSO walks in holding hands with ZAHRA. Everyone begins to adlib about ELANA's selfishness, accusing her of her wrongdoings as they walk around her. ELANA starts yelling "Stop", and slowly starts cowering to the ground as everyone starts chanting her name. ZAHRA finally walks up to her and offers her a hand up. As ELANA's about to grab it, everyone pulls ZAHRA away exits the stage, leaving ELANA all alone. Lights out.*

**End Scene 2**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Scene 3- Pushed to the Limit

*Setting: Back at the training facility. CAPTAIN JOHNSON and SPARROW are standing with the JANITOR, the LUNCH LADY, the GUARD, and MAYVID. Lights on.*

**Johnson:** So let me get this straight. These are the only people you could find to play the residents?

**Sparrow:** Yes, sir.

**Johnson:** Ugh, why am I not dead yet? Okay, ladies and gentlemen. We are in the process of training some poor excuses of RAs, and I'm going to need you to pretend to be residents for me. We're going to implement an effective training method called "Behind Closed Doors" where you will all be enacting some hypothetical scenarios to see how well they can respond to the situations. *(Looks at Mayvid)* Sparrow, who is this kid?

**Sparrow:** Well, sir. See, uh-

**Mayvid:** Hi, I'm Mayvid! I'm really excited to be here! You don't know how much fun I think this is going to be. My mom sent me to this summer camp, and I had a lot of fun, but now I'm in this other summer camp, and it looks like it's going to be a lot more fun with all these fun people and the exciting adventures!

**Sparrow:** Sir, the summer camp next door paid us \$200 to get her off their hands.

**Johnson:** Whatever, let's just get this over with. Sparrow, tell the Lieutenants we're ready.

**Sparrow:** Yes, sir. *(Exits stage left)*

**Johnson:** Here are your assignments. Take a few minutes to study them. To become your characters. *(Janitor, lunch lady, the guard, and Mayvid sit down in chairs located on stage right)*

*Both Lieutenants enter from stage left.*

**Johnson:** Lieutenants, have the RAs been briefed?

**Dhover:** Yes sir! They are briefed and ready to go sir! I took it upon myself to group them into teams, Troops One and Two, led by me and Dhania respectively, and made sure they knew what they're doing. That way, you'll know which Lieutenant serves as the better leader. You know, just in case.

**Johnson:** Very well. I'm going to see if my "residents" have any questions.

**Dhania:** *(Once Captain Johnson leaves)* Took it upon yourself? Better leader? Is that why you wanted to divide up the RAs? What are you trying to pull Dhover?

**Dhover:** What I'm trying to pull? Listen missy, I heard you and the Captain talking last night. Have you been sweet-talking the captain for that promotion or something? Giving him a little something on the side? Cause he seems pretty intent on making you Captain. And there is no way you are going to be promoted to Captain before me. Not by a long shot!

**Dhania:** Are you calling me a whore? You think that's the only way I could possibly be made Captain? Not because I'm better at this job than your sorry ass?

**Dhover:** Well then, why don't we just let our leadership styles speak for themselves?

**Dhania:** I guess we will. May the best *woman* win.

**Johnson:** Lieutenants. Call in your RAs.

**Dhover:** Troop One! Get over here!

*ELANA and CADET G enter and stand at attention.*

**Dhania:** Troop Two! Attention!

*GERALD and ZAHRA enter and stand at attention.*

**Johnson:** Okay, troop one. You're with the janitor and the lunch lady. Tell them what they're doing, Sparrow.

**Sparrow:** The situation is as follows. They're a troubled couple who needs some counseling. They've been fighting for weeks and don't know what else to do so you decided to step in. Show us how to deal with the situation.

**Elana:** Okay, G, you take the guy, I'll take the chick. *(To lunch lady)* Okay, miss. What seems to be the trouble?

**Lunch Lady:** Well, you see, my man doesn't want anything to do with me.

**Elana:** I'm sure it's not that bad.

**Lunch Lady:** Yes it is! I try and I try to get him to notice me, to pay attention to me, but for some reason he acts like I don't exist!

**Elana:** Of course he's not going to notice you, not with that outfit!

**Lunch Lady:** I beg your pardon?

**Elana:** That lunch lady look is so last century. You need to show your man you mean business! That tacky outfit isn't going to get you any men, lady! Now go out and buy something that actually lets him know you're a woman and stop moping around like a sad little puppy.

*LUNCH LADY starts crying and runs out of the facility stage left. JOHNSON rubs his forehead in shame.*

**Cadet G:** Okay, what's the situation?

**Janitor:** See, that girl just won't stop bothering me. I keep telling her it's not going to happen, but she keeps insisting. Not my fault she can't take no for an answer.

**Cadet G:** Good, relationships are nothing but distractions. They do nothing but slow us down. You're better off alone.

**Janitor:** Alone? Alone? *(Begins to sob)* You're right! I am alone! Ever since my loving wife was mauled by fourteen rabbid penguins during the war, I've been alone!

**Cadet G:** Are... are you crying? Seriously? Get a hold of yourself, man! Be a man! Not a wimp! Man up! Stop it! Man up-

**Johnson:** *(Interrupting)* That's enough! Cadet, Elana, back to your spots! What kind of performance was that? Troop 2, your turn. Please save this train wreck.

**Sparrow:** Mr. Kulusia, you will be dealing with the guard, who is pretending to be a resident drunk in his dorm. He's had one too many and other residents down the hall have filed noise complaints. What are you going to do?

**Gerald:** Hey, mister, are you okay?

**The Guard:** What's it to ya?

**Gerald:** Well, it seems to me like you are drunk.

**The Guard:** Nonsense! I'm just throwing an awesome party! Now come 'ere and give your pappy a hug!

**Gerald:** Umm, I'd rather not...

**The Guard:** Sure you would! Come on and have a drink with me. Just one.

**Gerald:** Sir, it is against housing policy to drink, and umm, I'm going to have to, umm...

**The Guard:** Have to... what?

**Gerald:** Well, I, umm, have to, umm, write you up for a drinking violation. So now if I could just get your signature here...

**The Guard:** *(Angrily)* You're going to write me up?

**Gerald:** *(Gulps)* Yes...

**The Guard:** *(Advances toward him)* Why you little-

*GERALD runs away cowering hiding behind Lieutenant DHANIA.*

**Dhania:** Seriously?

**Johnson:** *(Sighs)* Okay, Zahra. Let's get this over with. *(Motions to Sparrow with a defeated expression)*

**Sparrow:** Your resident will be Mayvid. Mayvid is a new first year student who doesn't know anything about college. It is your task to make her feel welcome to the university.

**Gerald:** Okay Z. She seems really energetic. Don't let her get to you, okay?

**Dhania:** Shut up, you pansy. Just please get this over with, Z.

**Zahra:** Okay. *(To Mayvid)* Hello there Mayvid! Welcome to our school! I will be your RA. If there's anything you need-

**Mayvid:** You're my RA? Sweet! That's awesome! I've never had an RA before. I was a BA once, but that stands for Beverage Assistant. What does RA stand for, anyways?

**Zahra:** Well, RA stands for-

**Mayvid:** As a beverage assistant, I served all kinds of beverages! I served juice, milk, malts, soda, pop, well actually, soda and pop are the same thing. They're just called differently depending on what part of the country you're from.

**Zahra:** You know, it is very rude to interrupt someone when they are-

**Mayvid:** So, what do you like to say? Soda or pop? Personally, I use carbonated beverage, but that's just me. Seriously, it shouldn't matter though. Why don't they just make one universal word for drinking a soft drink?

**Zahra:** Please, stop talking. *(She is getting angrier and angrier, ready to burst).*

**Elana:** Oh no! She's going to blow!

**Mayvid:** The English language is funny. Actually, most languages are funny. Did you know that mama has the same meaning in just about every language.? I think it's pretty interesting, I mean, papa doesn't. Some people say father, or pop, or poopy, well, maybe not poopy, cause that sounds kinda wrong, but...

**Zahra:** *(Already enraged with anger)* MAYVID! *(Pause)*

*Everyone gets quiet. MAYVID is petrified. ZAHRA takes a deep breath and continues.*

**Zahra:** That's nice, Mayvid. You seem to be a very enthusiastic person. I'd like to stay and talk, but I have other residents to attend to. I'll see you at the hall meeting, okay?

**Mayvid:** *(Not afraid anymore)* Oh, okay. Thank you miss!

**Johnson:** Bravo. Bravo. Finally, someone did something right around here! Thank you! You may go back to your spots. Oi. I have a headache. Okay everyone, we're taking a break. I need to get myself a drink to get through the rest of this training.

*Everyone exits, except for DHANIA, who catches GERALD leaving. The JANITOR comes back out during the conversation to sweep up.*

**Dhania:** You, maggot, stop right there!

**Gerald:** Me?

**Dhania:** Yes, you. Get over here! What kind of performance was that? Cowering in fear? I thought men in general were a bunch of good-for-nothings, but you take the cake.

**Gerald:** I'm sorry lieutenant, I'm trying, but-

**Dhania:** But nothing! You're making me look bad! Z is more of a man than you'll ever be, and she's a girl! Look at you, scared like a little baby. Now listen to me, you are going to give me 500 pushups, you hear me? You are going to march right over there and-

**Gerald:** *(Interrupting)* No! You listen to me! I have put up with a lot in my life! I've been insulted, deceived, and humiliated, and I've let it get to me! Well you know what, a wise woman told me something that I should've known all along! I like who I

am, and no one is going to bring me down because of it. And if you have a problem with that, you come over here and kiss my ass!

*Brief pause. DHANIA looks at him in horror, unable to come up with words.*

**Dhania:** *(After a pause)* I am... so turned on right now.

**Gerald:** Excuse me?

**Dhania:** No one has ever talked to me like that. Most men are afraid I'd kill them. But just hearing you talking to me like that really gets the motor running! Now come on!

**Gerald:** Where are we going?

**Dhania:** *To teach you a different kind of lesson. (Dhania pulls Gerald out through stage left)*

*JANITOR continues to sweep, laughing to himself at the encounter that just happened. LUNCH LADY enters from stage left with a complete makeover. She is dressed up and looks very sexy.*

**Janitor:** Lunch lady? Is that you?

**Lunch Lady:** Lunch lady is such an outdated term. Just call me... lady.

**Janitor:** Well, okay then lady. Damn! *(Pauses)* But it won't work. If you think this is going to get me to change my mind about you, then you're wrong.

**Lunch Lady:** But why, janitor? What is it about me that you find so repulsive?

**Janitor:** It's not you, really. It's just... I'm still mourning the loss of my wife. She meant the world to me. And now... I'm alone!

**Lunch Lady:** But that was fifteen years ago! You have to learn to move on! Trust me. You must learn to take a chance. Run away with me!

**Janitor:** I don't know... I still have the cabins to clean, and the kitchen, and...

*LUNCH LADY adjusts her outfit to show more cleavage.*

**Janitor:** *(After a moment of thought)* Let's get out of here! *(Drops the broom. Janitor and Lunch Lady exit stage right)*

*ELANA and ZAHRA enter from stage left.*

**Elana:** The dream was horrible, Z. Everyone was shunning me. I was so alone. So helpless! Look, I don't want to make any more enemies. I need to have at least someone I can trust during the rest of this training. Even though Alfonso and I clearly make a better couple, I'll back off. You can have him. And I'm sorry for being so mean.

**Zahra:** Apology accepted. *(They hug)* Besides, I'm over Alfonso. He can be such a jerk. I'm not sure what I saw in him to begin with.

*ALFONSO walks in from stage left on his cell phone.*

**Elana:** You know what, Alfonso? You can forget it! You can keep your money. Everything I said in the note was a lie! Good day!

**Zahra:** That's right! It's not going to work out between us. It's over!

**Alfonso:** What's over? What note? What are you guys talking about?

**Elana:** Don't even try to win us back, because it won't work.

**Zahra:** Yeah!

**Alfonso:** *(After a brief pause, he talks on his phone as he exits stage right)* What? No sweetie, it's just a bunch of crazy girls. No idea what they're talking about. Why yes, of course I'll buy you Finland for your birthday...

*CADET G and GERALD enter from stage left.*

**Cadet G:** We're getting ready to start again. Have you seen the lieutenants?

**Gerald:** Oh, I've seen plenty of lieutenant Dhanian, am I right?

**Elana:** What are we going to do? Most of us failed the last couple of exercises. How are we going to pass? If I fail out of RA training, I won't get the free room. I already gave up my apartment.

**Cadet G:** What are you looking at me for? You're the ones that haven't been taking this training seriously.

**Elana:** Those are some pretty strong accusations from someone who made the janitor cry.

**Cadet G:** That wasn't my fault and you know it!

**Elana:** *(mocking him)* That wasn't my fault and you know it!

**Cadet G:** Why you little!

*CADET G advances towards ELANA.*

**Gerald:** Hey! Leave her alone!

**Elana:** I can take care of myself, Gerald!

**Cadet G:** You trying to pick a fight, pipsqueak?

**Gerald:** Uhhh... *(Backs away)*

**Zahra:** Isn't pipsqueak a type of marshmallow?

*All four RAs begin arguing at the same time incoherently. RA GURU enters from stage right.*

**RA Guru:** Hello my friends.

**Zahra:** It's the benevolent spirit!

**Gerald:** It's the RA Guru!

**Cadet G:** It's Agnus.

**RA Guru:** That's right. I am here to remind you to heed my words of wisdom. And to make sure none of you have told the staff that I live here. You haven't, right? But anyhow, you need to understand that you are all RAs deep inside. You just need to reach into your untapped potential. There is still time to turn things around! Believe, RAs, believe, and all your dreams will come true... ooooooh... *(She exits stage right)*

**Elana:** You know what? That crazy lady is right. Why do we keep fighting? We aren't the enemy! They are! Those military officials that keep calling us names and putting us down. We need to band together! Together, we will pass this training! Together, we will conquer all challenges! Together, we will get that free room and board that we were promised at the informational meeting! Together, we will be RAs!

**The Rest:** Yeah!

*CAPTAIN JOHNSON and Lieutenants enter from stage left.*

**Johnson:** Okay, RAs, training will now recommence. RAs, how do you feel?

**All 4 RAs:** WE FEEL GOOD! OH WE FEEL SO GOOD! UGGH!

*The four RAs begin a training montage. Play some montage music of choice as the following scene sets up and occurs: GERALD does push-ups and sit ups as DHOVER yells at him Downstage Right; ZAHRA and ELANA sit as CAPTAIN JOHNSON teaches them important RA lessons and they jot down notes Center Stage; CADET G does squats with huge books in his hands as DHANIA yells at him Downstage Left. End scene after 15-30 seconds. As song fades out, lights go out.*

**End scene 3**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Scene 4- Graduation

*Setting: Still at the training facility. The four RAs are standing front and center as CAPTAIN JOHNSON is ready to give them their RA medals. ALFONSO, THE GUARD, SPARROW, and MAYVID are sitting in the audience watching the ceremony (Mayvid will not be present if ALFONSO is played by same actor). Lights on.*

**Johnson:** What a long and painful journey this has been... and a strange one at that. However, through thick and thin, you four have succeeded in becoming successful RAs. I now present to you these medals. They are a symbol of the intense training that you all went through, making you the best RAs in the world. I will now give each of you personalized medals based on the vast improvements that you have made during training. Elana, I give you the medal of Heart, for being able to care about someone other than yourself. You have realized that the world does not revolve around you, and that made you an effective leader. You provided valuable support to your fellow colleagues.

**Elana:** Thank you, Captain. It feels good to care about others. I have now opened my eyes! When I get back home, I've decided to donate all my shoes to the poor fashion-less girls that need them.

**Johnson:** Zahra, I give you the Brain award. You came in quite oblivious to our training program, unaware of our cultures and customs. However, you've learned a lot these past few days, and even learned to control your temper. You figured out how to deal with the annoyance of a student who even I was ready to strangle!

**Zahra:** Thank you, Captain. And thank you, Elana, for being the first true American friend that I made here. I hope that we can remain friends as we face our first year as RAs together.

**Elana:** Of course, Z. That's what friends are for!

*SPARROW tears up and pulls out a handkerchief.*

**Johnson:** Sparrow, are you okay?

**Sparrow:** It's... it's just so beautiful!

**Johnson:** *(Rolls his eyes)* Gerald, I give you the award of Courage, for being able to stand up for what you believe in on multiple occasions, whether with the guard, or even with my lieutenants.

**Gerald:** Thank you sir. As it turned out, the man I wanted to be was the man I've been all along.

**Dhania:** And what a man he is!

**Johnson:** Lieutenant?

**Dhania:** Captain Johnson, I appreciate the offer of Captain, but I respectfully decline. Gerald taught me an important lesson while we were making out in the RA glitter supply closet. We shouldn't be afraid of who we really are. And I have always wanted to see the world. I plan to leave the force take up travelling. Dhover, you can have your silly Captain position. You'll probably be fired within a year anyway.

**Dhover:** Thanks, Mia. But did I hear that right? You and geekwad over there? Really? I've never been afraid to stand up to you.

**Dhania:** Don't you get it, Ben? Haven't you figured it out by now?

**Dhover:** No! It's not. I demand you tell me why you won't go out with me!

**Dhania:** Ben, I am your long-lost sister!

*Gasps are heard from everyone.*

**Dhover:** Say whaaat?

**Dhania:** No, I'm just kidding. I just really despise you.

**Dhover:** The feeling is mutual.

**Johnson:** Now, if there are no more interruptions, may I continue? *(Gives Cadet G a pair of red shoes).*

**Cadet G:** What are these for?

**Johnson:** I'm not sure. They came with the medals. Anyways, I give you the well-rounded award. While you didn't excel in any one area in particular, you managed to do consistently well more than any other RA. You came into this program trying to better yourself, and better yourself you did. You are the mvp of this RATC program. I only wish my nephew could be as dedicated to hard, honest work as you are.

**Alfonso:** Are you trying to imply something, Uncle Johnny? Do I need to make a phone call to my parents?

**Johnson:** No need, Alfonso, I've invited your parents right to this ceremony.

**Alfonso:** What?

*A man and a woman walk on stage from Stage Left, which consist of the JANITOR and LUNCH LADY in different outfits, playing ALFONSO's parents.*

**Mother:** Oh, honey, look at them! They all just look so precious! And look at our dear own Alfonso attending the ceremony!

**Father:** *(Shakes Johnson's hand)* Hey Johnson! How's Alfonso been treating you?

**Johnson:** Oh, he's been an outstanding citizen. On time to everything and really excited about this training program. In fact, I want to take this time to announce to everyone that the RATC program has been considered a success! The residence life director has approved this program for next year. And Alfonso here has signed up to be the first official trainee! Isn't he just the greatest?

**Mother:** Oh really, dear? Is this true?

**Alfonso:** *(Looks at his parents nervously)* Umm... mmmhmmm?

**Father:** Great! I'll enroll him today! I'm so proud of you son! I was afraid you'd grow up to be a spoiled brat! But I was wrong! Thank you Johnson, for everything.

**Johnson:** Don't mention it.

**Mother:** Now come along now, Alfonso! We're going to begin shopping for new outfits for you for next year! Oh, I'm so excited for you! You and Uncle Johnny are going to have a blast together!

**Alfonso:** But mommy! Do you really want your little baby to be in military training? Surely you want me at home with you! Mommy? Mommy? *(He follows his parents offstage Stage Right)*

**Johnson:** Phew! Glad that's over with. Anyways, where was I? Oh yeah, thank you very much for all your hard work, cadet. You are an example to us all.

**Cadet G:** Thank you, sir. It was an honor working with you, sir.

**Johnson:** Just out of curiosity, though, is there anything in particular, anything at all, that you would say you've gained from attending the RATC program?

**Cadet G:**       *(Looks at the other RAs)* Well, sir. I believe I did.

**Johnson:**     That's great to hear. And what's that?

**Cadet G:**       *(Pause, looks at guard)* Hit it, guard!

*GUARD takes out a boom box and turns on music. CADET G starts dancing, cheered on by his fellow RAs. After a while, he dances off stage, followed by the RAs, followed by the rest of the cast. Cast comes back on for curtain call. Music continues through curtain call.*

**End Scene 4**

\*\*\*\*\*

**End of Play**

# Props

## **ACT 1:**

### **Scene 1:**

4 chairs, cell phone, Flask, 4 paper bags, clipboard with notes, broom, a completed door tag

### **Scene 2:**

2 regular tables, 1 serving table, 8 chairs, a few lunch trays, key ring with keys, money clip with money (real or fake), huge purse, a few bowls, ladle, broom, stereo or mp3 player, music\*

### **Scene 3:**

1 table, 3 chairs, trash can, "Men's Room" and "Women's Room" signs, deck of playing cards, Zahra's note in envelope, Elana's note in an envelope of contrasting color to Zahra's

## **ACT 2:**

### **Scene 1:**

Bean bag chair or table (something for RA Guru to sit on), Trees

### **Scene 2:**

3 beds or sleeping bags, 3 pillows, 3 covers, "Hallway" Sign

### **Scene 3:**

4 chairs, clipboard, cell phone, broom, 2 big books, music\*

### **Scene 4:**

Table, 4 chairs, "heart" medal, "brain" medal, "courage" medal, "All-around" medal/award, pair of red shoes, stereo or mp3 player, music\*

*\*Music Notes: Songs chosen for selected scenes are at the discretion of director. Guidelines for music choice found in the appropriate scene. It is also recommended to have transitional ambient music play during scene changes to drown out the sound of set changes.*

## Costumes

**Captain Johnson:** Army pants, army top (or black shirt), black combat boots

**Sparrow:** Khaki pants, polo shirt, nice shoes

**Cadet G:** Army pants, grey or white T-shirt

**Elana\*:** Preppy outfit; nice pants/skirt, decorative blouse, accessories, etc.

**Zahra\*:** Ethnic outfit or Top, jeans

**Gerald:** striped or checkered button down shirt, cargo shorts, tie

**L. Dhover\*:** Army pants, army top (or black shirt), black combat boots

**L. Dhania\*:** Army pants, army top (or black shirt), black combat boots, hair tied

**The Guard:** Black pants, black shirt, black belt, black shoes

**Janitor:** Baggy painter jeans or overalls, old shirt

**Lunch Lady:** Old skirt and top or dress, apron, hair net

**Alfonso:** Nice dress pants, crisp ironed dress shirt, nice shoes, gel or mousse on hair

**RA Guru:** Ethnic clothing, turban/hat

**Mayvid:** Shorts, t-shirt, sneakers or flip flops

**Mother:** Blouse, pencil skirt

**Father:** Polo and khakis

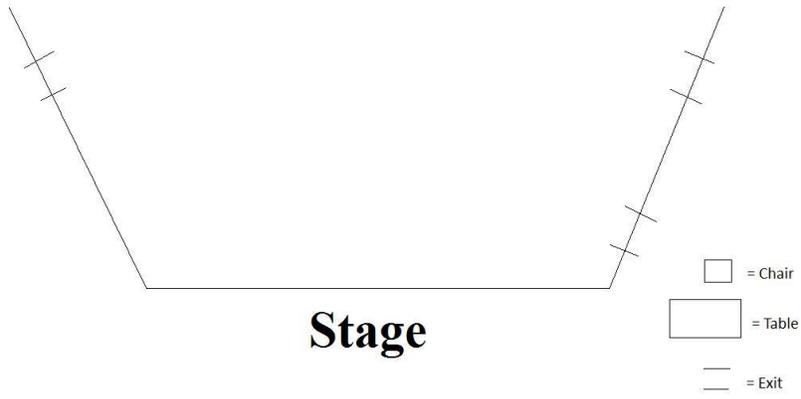
*\*Act 2 Scene 2 attire:*

Dhania, Dhover, Elana, and Zahra will be wearing pajamas for the entirety of Act 2: Scene 2.  
Revert to normal attire for Act 2: Scene 3



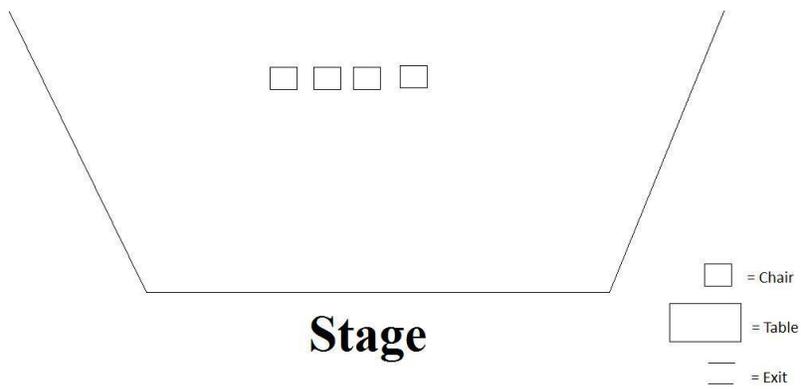
# Stage Layouts

## Basic Stage

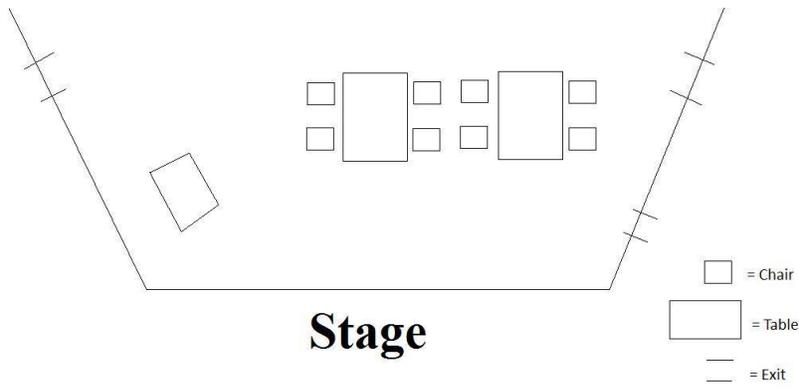


## ACT 1

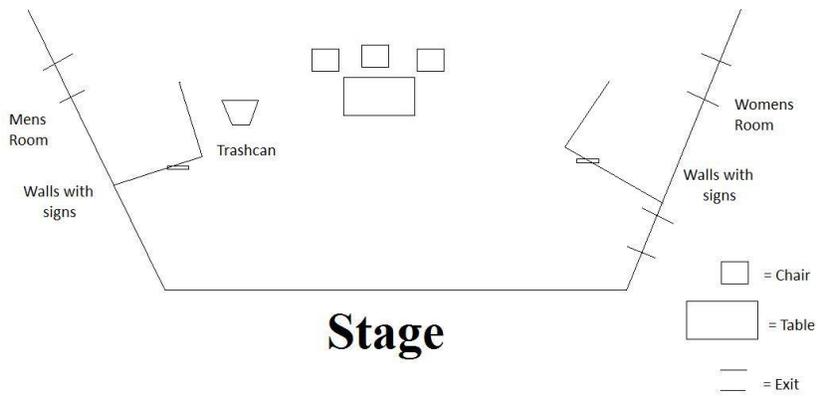
### Scene 1



### Scene 2

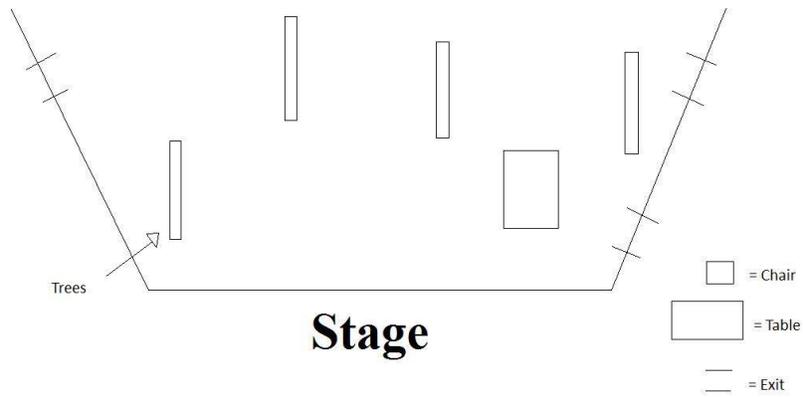


### Scene 3

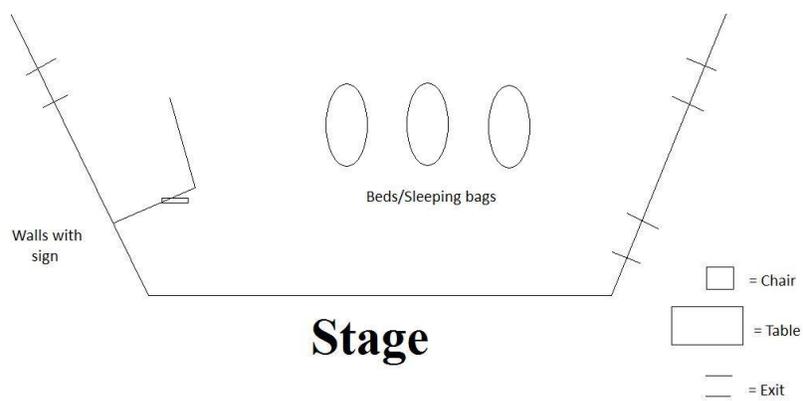


## ACT 2

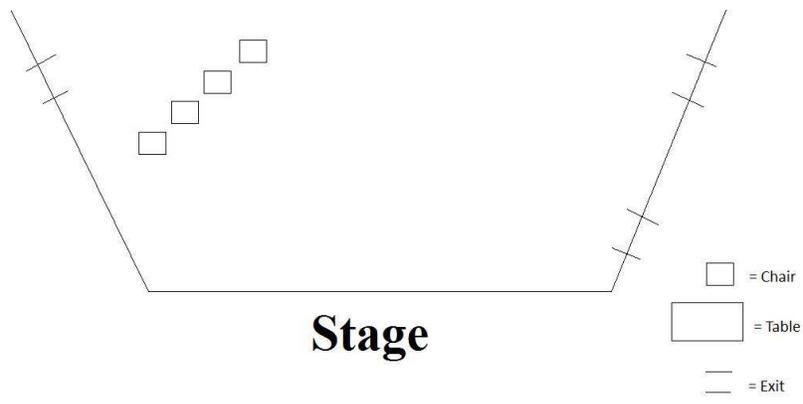
### Scene 1



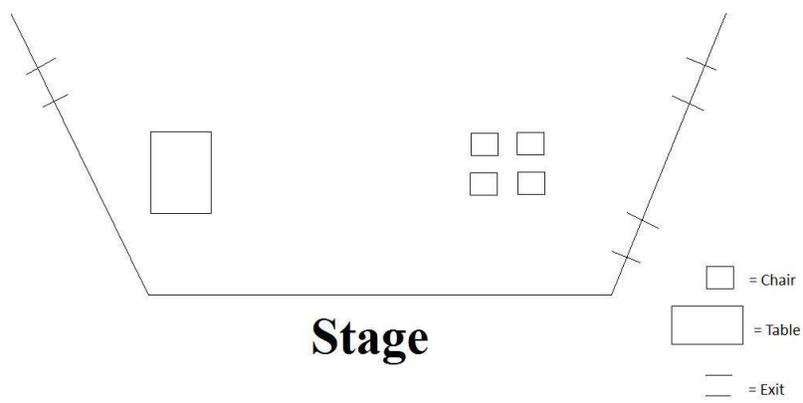
### Scene 2



**Scene 3**



**Scene 4**











***And you thought your school was tough...***

*DOORTAGS* tells the story of four college students taken to Johnson Aviation Academy, the nation's top military school, for a brand-new training program for Resident Advisors, or RAs. Fearing that RA training has become too soft, JAA hopes to mass-produce well-trained, well-disciplined RAs that are ready to tackle any challenge and handle its tougher student population.

An attempt to merge RA training with military training becomes a comedic mess when escape plans are drawn, trusts are broken, romantic mishaps occur, and a drunken captain's nephew comes in for an untimely visit. Add to that the antics of the camp's zany crew, including a crazy janitor with a past, a lunch lady with a secret, and a guard with an affinity for music, and the students will have a boot camp experience that they and their supervisors will never forget!

All in all, the students learn that with a little maturing and some creative thinking, they may be able to become decent RAs yet!