

The Long Problem

An Original Play by Rachel Kruglyak

Excerpt

Scene 1

Lights up

24 students, 14 girls and 10 boys are in math class. Among the students are LUCAS SCOTTSDALE, AYLVA THORNE, BLAKELY BLAIR, McKEILA SARGENT, VIOLET VINCE, and QUINN DRAKE

BLAKELY

I can't believe it's our senior year.

QUINN and VIOLET, who are juniors, cross their arms.

QUINN

Speak for yourself.

Feeling protective of BLAKELY, LUCAS glares at QUINN.

LUCAS

I'm sorry, but what's your name?

QUINN

You know my name.

LUCAS

Are you sure? Because you're a background girl and I don't know those sorts of people.

QUINN

Quinn, okay? My name is Quinn.

LUCAS

And Quinn is also a boys' name.

BLAKELY laughs. VIOLET frowns.

VIOLET

That's enough.

BLAKELY

What?

VIOLET

Quinn is smarter than you, so just shut up.

McKEILA, LUCAS's girlfriend, shoots an apologetic glance at QUINN.

McKEILA

I apologize for my boyfriend, Quinn.

BLAKELY pales. LUCAS looks uncomfortable.

VIOLET

Is that right?

LUCAS

I swear to God, Violet.

McKEILA

Did I miss something?

VIOLET opens her mouth to speak, but then the door bursts open and the teacher MR. EVILTON enters. He walks to the front and slams down a textbook onto the podium.

MR. EVILTON

Class, open to page one.

Looking relieved, LUCAS is the first one to open his book. BLAKELY is quick to follow. McKEILA still looks confused.

MR. EVILTON

This is a class in which I will judge your potential. It's different from a typical math class because I will not spoon feed you the information.

ALYVIA raises her hand

MR. EVILTON

There is no time for questions, Ms. Thorne.

AYLVIA glances around. Others look confused.

MR. EVILTON

Homework will be posted at the end of each class. I expect the homework to challenge you. The first assignment will show me whether you will succeed or fail.

PHOEBE

I'm sorry, but how will one assignment tell you that?

MR. EVILTON

What did I say about questions, Ms. Leighton?

PHOEBE

Well...

Mr. EVILTON

That was a rhetorical question, Ms. Leighton.

PHOEBE nods.

MR. EVILTON

As I was saying, the first assignment will be tricky. I do advise you to work together.

Students are furiously writing this down.

MR. EVILTON

You will do the first question in the book for homework. It will be due tomorrow. I have a meeting to attend.

MR. EVILTON exits.

TOBY

Well, it's just one problem. I think I'll do it later.

AYLYVIA

Don't you want to look at what it is?

TOBY

Not really.

ALYVIA shrugs and turns the page in her book but then keeps flipping through.

VIOLET

Alyvia, you look puzzled.

ALYVIA

Oh, I am.

QUINN

Is the problem impossible?

ALYVIA

You could say that.

BLAKELY groans.

BLAKELY

God, Alyvia, stop being so cryptic.

ALYVIA

The problem is the book.