

Lights up on the waiting area for a water park ride. A couple signs, perhaps as one, indicate the following: "You must be at least this (sign indicating a height - maybe 42") tall to ride." And "Heavier rider must ride in the back" with an arrow pointing Stage Left. MELANIE and SARAH enter from Stage Left, wearing swimsuits, and perhaps wet. A male LIFEGUARD stands on the Stage Right side wearing red trunks, a whistle and sunglasses.

MELANIE

Is he looking?

SARAH

Is who looking? The lifeguard?

MELANIE

No.

SARAH

What, the guy with the goggles?

MELANIE

His friend is kinda cute, too.

SARAH

Who cares?

MELANIE

You have no sense of awareness, Sarah. None.

SARAH

I'm aware.

MELANIE

They've been checking us out.

SARAH

I don't see them anywhere.

MELANIE

Don't look around!

SARAH

You just asked me to -

MELANIE

You need be furtive.

SARAH

Furtive?

MELANIE

A furtive glance. Not a gawking stare.

SARAH

You really need to read better books, Melanie. Seriously..."a furtive glance?"

MELANIE

Look, there's a whole balance of power thing going on. First, you see him. You're interested. Then some time goes by. He sees you.

SARAH

How do you know he sees you?

(MELANIE walks past the "weight" sign, looks at it at some point in her next line. LIFEGUARD watches MELANIE.)

MELANIE

You just know. You feel the weight of his gaze upon you.

SARAH

Paperbacks have totally ruined your view of the world.

MELANIE

You casually go about your business. You see him again. He's following you.

SARAH

That's called stalking.

MELANIE

Like a cat on a prowl.

SARAH

You're pathetic.

MELANIE

The next time you see him, you patiently wait until he looks, then you glance coyly away just as your eyes meet.

SARAH

Well, I don't see either of them anymore. They must have pounced. I think I saw them eyeing a wild herd of mini-doughnuts.

LIFEGUARD

Sorry about the wait. I think there's a problem at the exit to the ride. It'll just be a couple minutes.

SARAH

No worries.

MELANIE

Thanks.

(A beat.)

How tall are you now?

SARAH

I don't know...five - four and a half [insert actor's real height, trying to be exact].

MELANIE

I thought you were taller than that.

SARAH

Nope.

MELANIE

You seem taller than that.

SARAH

Nope.

MELANIE

So we're almost the same height.

SARAH

I guess. Maybe you're a little shorter [or taller, depending on the actor].

MELANIE starts to get herself into position to be the on the lighter end of the ride (Stage Right, closer to the LIFEGUARD.

MELANIE

Where did get that dress you wore to the dance a couple weeks ago?

SARAH

Downtown [or specific local shop]. Why?

MELANIE

I just thought it was really cute.

SARAH

Thanks.

MELANIE

I mean it looked good on you.

SARAH

Thanks. It was about the only one Mom and I agreed on.

MELANIE

I was wondering...my cousin is getting married next month. Do you think I could borrow it?

SARAH

I suppose so.

MELANIE

I mean...do you think it would look good on me? It had spaghetti straps, right?

SARAH

Yeah. Sure. It would be really cute on you.

MELANIE

Thanks.

LIFEGUARD

I think they've gotten things cleared away down there - it won't be long now.

MELANIE

Thanks.

SARAH

No worries.

SARAH sees where MELANIE is standing and starts to move Stage Right, so that she'll be on the lighter side.

MELANIE

You don't think...nevermind.

SARAH

What?

MELANIE

Maybe I could try the dress on tonight?

SARAH

Sure.

MELANIE

That will work. Great.

(A beat.)

Is that swimsuit new?

SARAH

No. Not new new. I bought it this year.

MELANIE

OK. But didn't you wear a different one when we were at Bobby's end of school pool party?

SARAH

I honestly can't remember. I do have two suits. Why?

MELANIE

No reason. It's just that...I was just thinking about the pool party, and I thought you had a different suit on then.

SARAH

I really don't remember which one I wore.

MELANIE

Didn't you wear a two piece?

SARAH

A bikini?

MELANIE

Yeah. I remember Bobby saying something...

SARAH

What? He said what?

MELANIE

Something about the bikini you were wearing.

SARAH

I don't have a bikini. I don't like wearing bikinis.

MELANIE

OK. It must have been someone else. I mean, that makes sense.

SARAH

What do you mean, "that makes sense."

MELANIE

I didn't mean...I was just confused is all. Now that I think about it, of course I've never seen you wear a bikini.

SARAH

I just don't like the way they feel, like they're always slipping.

MELANIE

Right. I understand. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to upset you.

SARAH

I'm not upset.

MELANIE

OK. Good. Well, I suppose we better get ready for the ride.

SARAH

Yeah. I've been looking forward to this. When I was watching people come down, it looked really cool.

MELANIE

Do you think that's where they are?

SARAH

Who?

MELANIE

Who.

SARAH

The goggle boys?

MELANIE

Don't call them that.

SARAH

I don't know their names.

MELANIE

Do you think they're waiting to see us come down the ride? That would be perfect.

SARAH

Perfect for what?

MELANIE slowly shifts position to get to the lighter side of the ride, SARAH slowly counters.

MELANIE

Just perfect. We come splashing down the ride, he sees me laughing and having fun and the sun is shining off the water, and everything is sparkling and then when we walk out the exit, and he...what are you doing?

SARAH

What?

MELANIE eyes SARAH for a moment.

LIFEGUARD

Raft's on it's way up. Wait's almost over.

MELANIE

I know what you're doing.

SARAH

What?

MELANIE

Why don't you just say it?

SARAH

Say what?

MELANIE

You think I'm a cow.

SARAH

What?

MELANIE

Don't pretend you didn't see the sign.

SARAH

What sign? I don't think you're a cow. You're like the skinniest girl in the whole class.

MELANIE

OK, then explain your little shimmy dance to get over here?

SARAH

Fine. I saw the sign. It's no big deal.

MELANIE

Ah-hah.

SARAH

I mean, we're practically the exact same size.

MELANIE

Practically.

SARAH

More or less.

MELANIE

Meaning I'm more and you're less.

SARAH

I didn't say that.

MELANIE

Then what?

SARAH

It's just...you're more athletic.

MELANIE

You think I'm butch?

SARAH

I was going to say muscular. Besides, you were the one moving over there as soon as we got up here. You must think I look like a walrus or something.

MELANIE

Don't put words in my mouth. You're just...I have delicate bones, whereas you...

SARAH

Don't call me "big boned." I'm average boned, thank you very much.

MELANIE

(slightly under her breath)

Maybe for an average hippo.

The two start to push/pull each other to get to the "lighter side."

SARAH

That's it. Listen here, lard butt, haul it to the back of the bus.

MELANIE

Don't call me lard butt, cottage cheese legs.

SARAH

You may outweigh me, but I can still take you down.

MELANIE and SARAH wrestle to get to the Stage Right side of the ride. The LIFEGUARD blows his whistle.

LIFEGUARD

What's going on here?

SARAH

Sorry. Nothing.

MELANIE

Yeah. We're just goofing around.

SARAH

Yeah, we didn't mean anything by it.

MELANIE

Yeah. We just got carried away.

LIFEGUARD

Just cool it, we don't want anyone getting hurt.

MELANIE

Sorry.

(to Sarah)

Sorry.

SARAH

We won't do it again.

LIFEGUARD resumes his post. A
beat.

LIFEGUARD

Good. If you start fighting again, I'll make you wait, and
I'll let these guys in the goggles go next.