



Sample Pages from The Happiness Shop

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THE HAPPINESS SHOP

A DRAMEDY IN ONE ACT BY
Lindsay Price



The Happiness Shop

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Casting

6M+9W+ 13 Either

This play is divided into character groups so that you can rehearse multiple scenes at once with your drama club or class. See the Group Section page for more information.

Character Notes

In Groups Three, Four and Five, Blake 2, Melanie 2, and Wally 2 are playing versions of Blake, Melanie and Wally. It's not necessary that they look alike.

GROUP ONE: Dr. D (Dompster) Dr. Dee (Dompster) Blake (m) Melanie (f) Wally	GROUP TWO: Bezmo Besme Loopy Roppet One (Jordan) (f)	GROUP THREE: Roppets Rubrik (6) <u>Blake's Story</u> Blake 2 (m) Mom (f) Dad (m) Monsieur Grant (m) Ms. Peretti (f) Depression Troll
GROUP FOUR: Roppets Rafter (6) <u>Melanie's Story</u> Melanie 2 (f) Kellie (f) Kensie (f) Kelsie (f) Phoenix (m) Depression Troll	GROUP FIVE: Roppets Rookery (7) <u>Wally's Story</u> Wally 2 Demeter (f) Ajax (m) Coach Lynch Depression Trolls x3	

Make sure that Blake 2, Melanie 2, and Wally 2 temper their acting - they are depressed, but shouldn't act fully depressed. That will bring down the pace and tone of the play if everything they say is sad, sad, sad. Aim for variety.

There are Depression Trolls in Groups Three, Four, and Five. Cast different actors in each of the three scenes and encourage the actors to come up with their own interpretation. What is a Depression Troll?

The Roppets are not robots. They are extremely happy and smile all the time. They should only appear to be slightly mechanical. Their complete happiness is key.

Though Roppet One (Jordan) is in a separate acting group, she stands with Roppet Rubrik and responds when the Roppets as a group respond.

Doubling

If you want to make the cast smaller, reduce the number of Roppets and double the Demonstration scene roles. You could have one (very busy) group of seven do all the demonstration scenes.

In the script there are three specific Roppet groups that have three specific names. If you're combining the Roppets into one group, simply have Bezmo and the Doctors refer to them all as "Roppets" throughout the script instead of "Roppets Rafter, Roppets Rubrik, and Roppets Rookery."

Set

Bare stage with three sets of risers for three Roppet groups. Plus a bench and two cubes or chairs.

Costuming

The Doctors are very eccentric and a little otherworldly. Think about that when you costume them. They definitely should not look like normal regular doctors.

Bezmo, Besme, and Loupy as their assistants are also of that world. They used to live in caves.

Blake, Melanie, and Wally wear jeans and T-shirts.

The Roppets should look like versions of normal teens - jeans and T-shirts but exaggerated - bright, tie-dye, suspenders, hair in pigtails. They should also have a uniform look (e.g. like puppets with deep red cheeks and short white gloves). Whatever you choose, Blake must easily be able to adapt his costume when he becomes a Roppet.

Group Sections

If you want to rehearse multiple scenes at the same time, you can find each group on the following pages:

GROUP ONE	pg 14-18, 19-20, 21-22, 26-27, 32-34, 39-40, 41-43
GROUP TWO	pg 7-10 pg 11-14 pg 18 Besme/Loupy pg 20-21 Bezmo/One pg 26 Besme/Loupy pg 32 Besme/Loupy pg 33 Besme/Loupy pg 40-41 pg 42 Loupy
GROUP THREE	pg 8 All Roppets pg 9-10 All Roppets pg 16 All Roppets pg 18 All Roppets pg 22-26 pg 33 All Roppets pg 39-41
GROUP FOUR	pg 8 All Roppets pg 9-10 All Roppets pg 16 All Roppets pg 18 All Roppets pg 18-19 pg 27-31 pg 33 All Roppets
GROUP FIVE	pg 8 All Roppets pg 9-10 All Roppets pg 10-11 pg 16 All Roppets pg 18 All Roppets pg 33 All Roppets pg 34-39

Original Cast

The Happiness Shop was first staged by Governor Simcoe Secondary School.
The production took place on June 4, 2014 with the following cast and crew:

Besmo: Trent Campbell

Loupy: Kurtis Edmunds

Besme: Meagan Arbeau

Roppet One/Jordan: Taylor Simoneau

Girl/Blake's and Wally's Depression Troll: Lina Barlow

Brother/Ajax: Brett Nicolson

Sister/Mom 1/Blake's Mother: Hope Berg

Mother/Girl 2/Kelsie: Hasna Khalil

Father/Depression Troll: Jonathan Fogg

Neighbour/Friend/Kensie: Sindy Rivas

Mailman/Father 2/Depression Troll: Oti Frigole

Blake: Iain MacCallum

Melanie: Danielle Evans

Wally: Johnathan Warden

Dr. D: Sama Nanayakkara

Dr. Dee: Logan Donald

Mom 2/Kelly: Jamee Landry

Teacher One/Pheonix: Blaine McLeod

Teacher Two/Melanie 2: Kayla Platt

Blake's Father: Cooper Keddy

Monster Grant: Gareth McIntosh

Ms. Peretti: Safa Khan

Blake 2: Dale Falk

Wally 2: Varun Mehrotra

Demeter: Kira Rogers

Wally's Depression Troll: Jacob Hoggan

Coach Lynch: Josh Handley

Roppet: Silas Elliot

Director & Stage Manager: Mrs. Rassika Risko

Assistant Stage Manager: Emily Epp

Lighting Operators: Mackenzie Kerr and Maddie Steele

Sound Operator: Carly Botbyl

Costumes, Hair & Make-up: Ensemble

Props: Mrs. Rassika Risko

The scene is an out-of-the-way, out-of-the-ordinary shop. Rows and rows of ROPPETS stand, frozen in the space. Big smiles on their faces.

BEZMO, BESME and LOUPY enter. BEZMO has a clipboard. LOUPY and BESME carry brooms, rags, dusters, and buckets. They begin cleaning the stage, dusting the frozen ROPPETS while BEZMO supervises.

BEZMO: Another day.

LOUPY: (*happy*) Another day!

BESME: (*sneezing*) Another dusty day.

LOUPY: Way better than being in the caves.

BESME: I guess. (*sneezing*) I can feel the dust in my lungs.

BEZMO: Don't breathe so deep.

BESME: What are they called again? Rope-its?

BEZMO & LOUPY: Roppets.

BESME: Roppet. Roppet. What does that even mean?

BEZMO: Dust, Besme.

BESME: But –

BEZMO: Now.

They dust for a few seconds. But BESME can't help herself. She looks to see that BEZMO is busy and turns to LOUPY.

BESME: How come we have to dust every day?

LOUPY: "Every day?" You've been up here less than a week.

BESME: There's dust in their teeth. (*dusts for a moment*) Why do we have to dust their teeth?

LOUPY: Because. That's our job.

BESME: Their smiles creep me out.

LOUPY: I like being smiled at all day.

BESME: I'm glad we don't do this at night. Creepy.

BEZMO: (*approaching*) Why aren't you working?

BESME: I am! I am! Happy to dust! Tra-la-la! Whee...dusting... *(She starts to dust, and gets distracted with something offstage – this is what is really on her mind. She checks to make sure BEZMO is busy again and whispers to LOUPY.)* Are they real doctors?

BEZMO hears her talking and listens in.

LOUPY: Of course they are. It's an honour to work for them.

BESME: Oh it is, it is... Um, what kind of doctors are they? They seem really odd and something's not –

BEZMO: *(striding over, snatching the duster)* Back to the caves.

BESME: No, no, no, no –

BEZMO: Go! You're not ready to be above ground.

BESME: I won't ask any more questions. Promise. Cross my heart.
(mimes sticking a needle in the eye) Ouch! Sharp...

BEZMO: It's time to Wake Up. *(turns to the ROPPETS and imitates the cheery lilting voices of the DOCTORS)* Hello Lovelies!

LOUPY: *(also imitating)* Wake Up Lovelies!

BESME: *(badly imitating)* Wakey Wakey uh, Lovelies! *(aside to LOUPY)* Why do we have to talk like this?

BEZMO: Rise and shine!

LOUPY: They only respond to the Doctors' voices. Hello Lovelies!

The ROPPETS start to move in place. They stretch, bend, wiggle and move. They quietly greet each other. They are always very happy. They smile as they do all of this. Their cheerful nature is most important. This is what it means to be a Roppet.

BESME: *(aside)* Creepy. *(looks around to make sure no one heard)*

BEZMO: *(very happy, big gesture)* Good morning my lovelies!

ROPPETS: *(very happy, imitating gesture)* Good morning!

BEZMO: Happy Roppets!

The ROPPETS give a cheer, hug each other, give each other hi-fives and thumbs up, dance in place.

BEZMO: Enough. Roppet One! Step forward. Say hello.

ONE steps forward. Very happy.

ONE: *(with a big smile and a big wave)* Hello!

BEZMO: Did you sleep well?

ONE: Oh yes. Like a top. I dreamt of sunshine and roses and everything lovely.

BEZMO: Perform your morning functions.

ROPPET ONE: *(singing and performing the actions)* Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Whee!

ROPPET ONE continues to perform the actions silently and happily.

BESME: *(during the above action, aside to LOUPY)* What's so special about that Roppet?

LOUPY: I thought you weren't asking any more questions.

BESME: What's wrong with being curious?

LOUPY: *(with pride)* She's the Showcase model. The first Roppet. She's everything a Roppet should be.

BEZMO: Roppet One, what is your perfect day?

ROPPET ONE: My perfect day is making cookies with my mother. Aprons on, flour all over the floor, eggshells in our hair. And we're laughing, laughing, laughing. The smell is amazing I can't wait to try one!

BEZMO: And how do you feel?

ONE: Happy. Always happy.

BEZMO: And why are you happy?

ONE: *(very cheery)* Happy is the way for me! Why be anything else?

BEZMO: Well done! Back to your place. *(ROPPET ONE returns to the ROPPET group)* My Lovelies, all together! Perform your morning functions!

ROPPETS: *(singing and performing the actions)* Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Whee!

They repeat the actions silently.

BESME: They look so real. Except for the smiles.

LOUPY: Shh!

BEZMO: My lovelies how do you feel?

ROPPETS: (very cheery) Happy is the way for me!

The ROPPETS cheer, hug each other, give each other hi-fives and thumbs up.

BEZMO: Enough. Roppets Rookery! Present your demonstration!

The ROPPETS ROOKERY group moves happily forward. They form a tableau, a group picture.

BESME: (while they're getting into place, to LOUPY) Why do they have to keep doing their presentations? There's no customers.

LOUPY: Because. (proudly) It makes them happy.

GIRL gives a big dramatic sigh with an over exaggerated pout. All of this is very exaggerated.

BROTHER: What's the matter Tina?

GIRL: I feel sad.

SISTER: Oh no, Mother! Tina feels sad!

MOTHER: Oh no, Husband! Tina feels sad!

FATHER: Oh no, Neighbour! Tina feels sad!

NEIGHBOUR: Oh no, Ms. Mailman! Tina feels sad!

MAILMAN: Oh no! That's awful. Wouldn't it be better to feel happy?

BROTHER: You're right.

SISTER: It would be so much better.

GIRL: I know. (over exaggerated sigh and pout) I don't know how to feel happy.

MOTHER: I do! Put a smile on your face.

GIRL: Like this?

ALL: Yes!

FATHER: And hold your head up high.

GIRL: Like this?

ALL: Yes!

There is the faint sound of a heartbeat. ROPPET ONE starts to shake.

NEIGHBOUR: And put a spring in your step.

GIRL: Like this?

ALL: Yes!

GIRL: Hmm. I do all those things but I still don't feel completely happy.

ALL: Hmmm.

MAILMAN: I know what you need! You need to become a Roppet.

ALL: Yes! Yes! A Roppet!

GIRL: A Roppet? What's that?

The heartbeat gets louder. ROPPET ONE shakes more. She seems to be breaking down.

ONE: What – can't – will you –

BESME: What's this?

BEZMO: Roppets Rookery back to your place! *(they return happily)*

ONE: Test – can't – will you –

LOUPY: Oh oh.

BESME: What's happening?

BEZMO: Didn't you run the Glatt Diagnostic this morning?

LOUPY: I thought you were supposed to do that. Didn't you do that?

BEZMO: Does it look like I did it?

ONE: Why – what – test-can't – the test – fail can't the test –

BESME: What's wrong?

LOUPY: I've never seen that hap–

BEZMO: Shut up. Get the paddles.

LOUPY runs off.

During this ROPPET ONE seems to be fighting between performing her “Roppet” actions and trying to break out of a cage.

ONE: Can't fail the test. Can't fail the test. Don't you dare d-d-dare fail the test. If I fail the test then I don't get good grades. I can't get into the right program and if I can't get into the right program my life is over-over-over and my parents won't love me. No love. Fail the test no love. Get bad grades no love. Test-test-d-d-decide now Jordan. Figure out your life now Jordan. If you want that iPad (or latest electronic) don't fail the test. If you want us to speak to you ever ever again, don't fail the test. Can't – what – why – (shudders and looks around, as if seeing for the first time)

BEZMO: Loupy!

BESME: Who's Jordan?

ROPPET ONE, as if trying out her legs for the first time, lurches forward.

ONE: What's happening?

BESME: (leaning in) I've never seen them look so human.

BEZMO: (pulling back) Don't get too close.

ONE: Where am I?

BESME: Is this a new program?

BEZMO: Loupy! Hurry up!

ROPPET ONE turns slowly and looks right at BESME. She lurches toward BESME.

ONE: Hey. Hey!

BESME: It's talking to me.

BEZMO: Don't be stupid. Loupy!

LOUPY: Coming!

ONE: (lurching slowly forward and reaching out) I see you.

BESME: (stepping forward) It sees me.

BEZMO: (putting BESME behind him) Get back!

LOUPY runs on with two paddles attached together with thick silver wire. They look like the paddles used to restart stopped hearts.

ONE: *(tries to step forward)* You gotta help me. I've changed my mind.

BEZMO: Do it.

BESME: Changed your mind about what?

LOUPY: *(shoving paddles at BEZMO)* You do it. You're in charge of Wake Ups.

BEZMO: Fine.

ONE: *(grabbing BESME)* I want to go home.

BESME: *(pulling away)* Hey!

LOUPY: *(to BESME)* Grab an arm.

ONE: I'm sorry I ran away.

BEZMO rubs the paddles together and tries to get as far away from the paddles while still holding onto them. LOUPY and BESME grab ONE.

ONE: I changed my mind. This makes me feel worse!

BEZMO: I, 2,3, clear!

ONE: Let me out!

BEZMO puts the paddles on ONE's chest. There is the sound of an electrical charge. The lights flicker on and off. BEZMO jumps back. ONE slumps forward.

BEZMO: That smarts.

BESME: What was it talking about? It's just a robot, right?

BEZMO: Roppet.

BESME: What's the difference?

LOUPY: Did you do it?

BEZMO: Roppet One! Say hello.

ONE rises to standing, just as before with a big smile and a big wave.

ONE: Hello!

BEZMO: How are you this morning?

ONE: Happy, as always.

BEZMO: Back to your place. (*ONE returns to her place*) That was close.

BESME: Why would a Roppet have a name? (*BEZMO gives a long look*)
Right. Do your job Besme. Just dust. Happy, happy! Just like the
Roppets...

There is a noise offstage.

BEZMO: (*turning*) Shh! Listen. (*to LOUPY*) Do you hear?

LOUPY: (*excited*) Here they come...

BESME: What?

BEZMO: Customers.

LOUPY: These will be your first, Besme!

The THREE lean in and listen for a moment.

WALLY: (*offstage*) Hello? Hello?

MELANIE: (*offstage*) Hey!

WALLY: (*offstage*) Who are you?

MELANIE: (*offstage*) Who are you?

WALLY: I can't see anything. Why is it so dark?

BLAKE: (*offstage, with a sneeze*) Dusty. Gah.

MELANIE: (*offstage*) Hello?

BLAKE: I left my inhaler at school.

*BEZMO gestures to the others and they run offstage
left as offstage noises become louder.*

MELANIE: I'm getting out of here. How do I get out of here?

BLAKE: Ow. That was my foot.

WALLY: There's a light.

MELANIE: Is that outside?

They stumble onstage, as if being pushed. The three look downstage, out to the audience. No one looks upstage to see the ROPPETS.

WALLY: OK...

MELANIE: Not outside.

BLAKE: *(trying to figure it out)* I was just in my room...

WALLY: Who are you?

MELANIE: No one you need to know.

BLAKE: I opened the door... the black hallway... Is this a dream?

DR. D and DR. DEE pounce on them from behind. The DOCTORS are dressed almost like clown doctors – very exaggerated. Their childishness is misleading.

DR. D & DR. DEE: Hello!

BLAKE, MELANIE, WALLY: *(jumping)* Ah!

DR. D: Welcome!

DR. DEE: Come in, come in!

DR. D & DR. DEE: Don't be shy.

DR. D & DR. DEE: Welcome to our shop!

MELANIE: You guys should put an act together. There's a freak show somewhere with your name on it.

WALLY: Where are we?

DR. D: In a very special place.

DR. DEE: Because you are very special people!

MELANIE: I'm full up on special. How do we get out?

BLAKE: I need my inhaler. I can feel the dust in my lungs.

DR. D: *(going to him)* Oh Blake you'll be just fine.

DR. DEE: The trick is to not breathe so deep.

WALLY: That doesn't sound right...

DR. D & DR. DEE: Oh we know. We're doctors!

DR. D: *(pointing at DR. DEE)* Doctor Dompter.

DR. DEE: (*pointing at DR. D*) And Doctor Dompter.

DR. D & DR. DEE: You can call us Dr. D!

MELANIE: (*backing up*) No thanks.

BLAKE: How do you know my name?

The DOCTORS pull MELANIE forward.

DR. D: Oh Melanie, such a treasure.

DR. DEE: And Wallace, we're so glad you made it.

MELANIE: Wallace?

WALLY: Wally. I go by Wally.

MELANIE: That's not any better.

WALLY: My parents hate children.

BLAKE: How do you know my name? How do you know all our names?

DR. D: It's clear of course.

DR. D & DR. DEE: You're here for the demonstration.

They step back and formally present the ROPPETS with great glee.

DR. D & DR. DEE: Happy Roppets!

The ROPPETS cheer, hug each other, give each other hi-fives and thumbs up.

BLAKE: What the...

MELANIE: This is a dream. I ate too many french fries at lunch and this is my punishment. (*taps herself on the face*) Wake up, Melanie.

WALLY: What are those... things?

DR. D & DR. DEE: Roppets!

MELANIE: (*pinching herself*) Ow.

BLAKE: Robots?

DR. D: No, no!

DR. DEE: Roppets!

DR. D & DR. DEE: Aren't they lovely?

MELANIE: (*pinching herself*) Ow.

BLAKE: I don't like this.

DR. DEE: It's time for the demonstration!

MELANIE: (*turning*) It's time for the leaving.

DR. DEE: (*pulling her back*) You have one minute don't you?

DR. D: Bezmo! Loupy! Besme!

BEZMO, BESME, and LOUPY run in.

DR. DEE: Our dear assistants, they love working for us!

DR. D: (*as if sharing a secret*) If it wasn't for us they'd be living in caves.

WALLY: Who lives in caves?

DR. D & DR. DEE: (*laughing*) Oh Wally!

BEZMO stands by the ROPPETS. BESME and LOUPY run to get a bench which they place behind BLAKE, WALLY, and MELANIE. LOUPY indicates to BESME they're to make the THREE sit down.

BLAKE: (*continuing from above*) I need my inhaler.

MELANIE: Boy needs to breathe.

BLAKE: My mom will be worried if she doesn't know where I am.

MELANIE: All our moms will freak out. Right, Wally?

WALLY: (*with a shrug*) Only if I come home missing a limb.

MELANIE: What?

WALLY: (*looking at the ROPPETS*) I can't help it. I'm kinda interested.

DR. D: Of course you are! Curiosity is a good thing!

WALLY: What do they do? What are they?

MELANIE: Do they always smile like that?

DR. D: Of course.

DR. DEE: Our Roppets are pure happiness.

BLAKE: What?

DR. D: To be a Roppet is to be completely happy.

DR. D: Happy Roppets!

The ROPPETS give a cheer, hug each other, give each other hi-fives and thumbs up.

BLAKE: That's impossible.

DR. D: What is, dear Blake?

BLAKE: Happiness.

DR. DEE: But why?

BLAKE: Because. No one is completely happy. I'm not. Ever.

WALLY: You have to be happy sometimes.

BLAKE: Oh yeah? Are you?

WALLY: Well no, but –

DR. D: (*sliding up to BLAKE*) But what if you could be completely happy?

DR. DEE: Hmmmmm Blake? Wouldn't you like that? Happy without a care in the world?

MELANIE: Are you trying to sell us drugs?

DR. D & DR. DEE: (*laughing*) Oh Melanie!

DR. DEE: The Demonstration!

DR. D: Roppets Rafter!

The ROPPETS RAFTER group moves forward. They form a happy family tableau.

BESME: (*during the movement*) I like this! They're less creepy now.

LOUPY: Shh!

GIRL: Hey Mom, Hey Dad. I'm SO happy to see you.

MOM: Sit down, Jordan. We have something to tell you.

GIRL: Gee that sounds serious.

MOM: Not at all! We're SO happy that you're SO happy.

DAD: That's right! It really brightens our day.

MOM: Just because your father and I aren't together, that doesn't change how we feel about you.

DAD: That's right. Not at all.

GIRL: Thanks Mom. Thanks Dad. That makes me SO happy!

FRIEND: Will you be my best friend?

TEACHER ONE: You've got the lead in the school play!

TEACHER TWO: You got an A on your test.

GIRL: Wow, that's awesome. This is the best life ever.

ALL: Yes, yes!

TEACHER ONE: You're the best student ever.

TEACHER TWO: And the happiest.

FRIEND: I want to be around you all the time!

GIRL: Happy is the way for me! Why be anything else?

FRIEND: You have to tell me. What's your secret?

MOM & DAD: Yes, yes! Tell us!

TEACHERS: How do you stay so happy?

GIRL: It's simple. (*standing with a smile and a big gesture*) I'm a Roppet!

ALL: Of course! (*repeating the smile and big gesture*) She's a Roppet.

DR. D and DR. DEE clap and jump up and down afterward. The ROPPETS RAFTER group happily congratulate each other and go back to their spot.

WALLY: How do you become a Roppet?

MELANIE: It's not real.

DR. DEE: Oh no?

DR. D: Are you sure?

MELANIE: They're just robots.

DR. D & DR. DEE: Roppets.

DR. D: Bezmo! The Show model.

BEZMO steps forward with ROPPET ONE.

DR. D: This is our very first Roppet. Roppet One.

DR. DEE: Isn't she lovely? Our pride and joy.

DR. D: She came to us the same way you did, Blake.

BLAKE: What?

DR. DEE: Down the black hallway.

MELANIE: We didn't choose to be here.

DR. D & DR. DEE: Oh no?

WALLY: (*to MELANIE*) Then why are we here?

DR. DEE: (*confiding*) She felt just like you do, Blake. Divorced parents,
no one listening, all alone...

BLAKE: How do you know about that?

DR. D: We offered her a choice. A way to see the world.

DR. DEE: A way to be.

BEZMO: Roppet One. Say hello.

ONE: (*very happy, with a big wave*) Hello.

BEZMO: Did you sleep well?

ONE: Oh yes. Like a top. I dreamt of sunshine and roses and everything
lovely.

BEZMO: How do you feel?

ONE: Happy. Always happy.

BEZMO: And why are you happy?

ONE: Happy is the way for me! Why be anything else?

BEZMO: Describe your perfect day.

ONE: It makes me so happy when my whole family sits down to dinner.
We chat about our day and we laugh, laugh, laugh. Sometimes
Mom's meatloaf isn't so good though!

BEZMO: And are you a robot?

ONE: A robot, what's that?

BEZMO: A machine.

ONE: Do I look like a machine? I'm a girl.

BESME: What?

LOUPY: Be quiet!

ONE: Machines can't be happy. And I'm always happy.

BEZMO: Return to your place.

ROPPET ONE skips back to her place.

MELANIE: What about her parents? If she's hanging around here –

DR. D: So many questions.

DR. DEE: Our models aren't ripped from their homes, taken like thieves in the night.

DR. D: Dear heart, that would be illegal!

MELANIE: Where'd she come from? Where'd they all come from?

BLAKE: So she doesn't feel sad? She's happy all the time, without even thinking about it?

DR. DEE and DR. D turn slowly to focus fully on BLAKE.

DR. DEE: Why yes.

DR. D: That's the whole point of being a Roppet.

DR. DEE: Your problems are gone.

DR. D: Parents, teachers, those voices in your head...

DR. DEE: Your days are filled with happy thoughts.

BLAKE: *(stepping forward)* How does it work?

MELANIE: *(pulling him back)* Blake. They're crazy. It's not real.

DR. D & DR. DEE: Oh no?

MELANIE: We have to be dreaming.

WALLY: Why are we in each other's dream?

MELANIE: I don't know! Stop asking dumb questions.

DR. D: You want real? Let's see something real!

DR. DEE: We should see what Blake's life is really like don't you think Dr. D?

DR. D: I do agree, Dr. Dee.

BLAKE: No! I don't want to.

DR. DEE: If he's going to make a proper decision.

BLAKE: I have to go home. My mom, she's probably calling the police right now.

DR. D & DR. DEE: Oh I don't think so.

DR. DEE: She doesn't even know you're out of sight.

DR. D: She thinks you're in your room.

DR. DEE: Aren't you?

BLAKE: What?

DR. D & DR. DEE: Roppets Rubrik! The Blake scene!

The ROPPETS RUBRIK move forward. The lights change.

This scene represents what's going on in BLAKE's head and how much trouble he has doing day-to-day things because of it. BLAKE 2 sits. The DEPRESSION TROLL hovers over him. The OTHER CHARACTERS circle around.

MOM: Tell your father to change his weekend.

DAD: Tell your mother I don't want to change my weekend.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Unit 2 test on Monday.

MS. PERETTI: Glacier presentations on Friday.

TROLL: Blake, Blakey, Blake!

MOM: Tell your father we have plans.

DAD: Tell your mother we're going camping.

TROLL: Wow they fight a lot. Do they ever think about you?

MS. PERETTI: Unit 4 test on Thursday.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Les animaux projects due next class.

TROLL: They don't care about you. No one does.

MOM: Blake tell your father.

DAD: Blake tell your mother.

MS. PERETTI: Blake I have to talk to you.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Blake, are you listening?

TROLL: Listen to me, don't listen to them.

MOM: What's he saying about me?

DAD: What is she saying?

MOM: Is he dating?

DAD: What's she spending my money on?

TROLL: I bet they don't even care about you!

MONSIEUR GRANT: What's the matter with you?

BLAKE 2: Huh?

MONSIEUR GRANT: You're not even listening.

TROLL: See how he talks to you?

MONSIEUR GRANT: I asked you a question.

TROLL: He doesn't care.

MS. PERETTI: Blake?

MONSIEUR GRANT: What's the matter with you?

BLAKE 2: I have a stomach ache. Can I go to the nurse?

MONSIEUR GRANT: Sit down.

MS. PERETTI: Sit down. I want to talk to you.

MOM: He is so inconsiderate.

DAD: She never listens.

TROLL: They don't care about you either.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Attendez! I'm still waiting for parent signatures on three quizzes.

TROLL: Who cares!

BLAKE 2: Who cares?

MOM: You hate him, don't you?

DAD: You hate her, right Buddy?

MONSIEUR GRANT: That is not an acceptable answer.

TROLL: No one cares about you, Blakey.

BLAKE 2: My parents are... busy.

TROLL: Too busy fighting!

MS. PERETTI: Sit down Blake.

MONSIEUR GRANT: You're going to have to change your attitude young man.

MS. PERETTI: I want to talk to you.

MOM: We're having his birthday party here.

DAD: We already have plans to go camping. You signed off on those plans.

MOM: Blake wants a party.

DAD: Do you Blake?

TROLL: Who cares about a party?

BLAKE 2: I don't care.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Pure laziness.

TROLL: Who cares?

MS. PERETTI: Blake. Sit down.

BLAKE 2: I'll be late for French.

MS. PERETTI: I'll talk to Mr. Grant.

BLAKE 2: He hates it when anyone walks in late.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Late again? Office. Now.

BLAKE 2: He hates me.

MS. PERETTI: I'll talk to him.

BLAKE 2: Whatever.

MS. PERETTI: You don't believe me?

TROLL: Listen to me, Blakey. Not her.

BLAKE 2: It doesn't matter.

MS. PERETTI: Why did you drop out of the school play?

MOM: Blake wants a party.

DAD: Do you Blake?

MOM: He told me he wants a party, here.

DAD: He told me he wants to go camping.

MOM: Are you calling me a liar?

DAD: I'm calling my lawyer.

MS. PERETTI: Blake.

TROLL: Blake!

BLAKE 2: Huh?

MS. PERETTI: What's going on in your head?

MOM & DAD: You're on my side, right Blake?

MS. PERETTI: Why did you drop out of the school play?

BLAKE 2: Huh?

MONSIEUR GRANT: Lazy.

TROLL: Who cares?

BLAKE 2: I don't know.

MS. PERETTI: Because a month ago you were having a good time.

TROLL: Who's having a good time? Not Blake!

BLAKE 2: I'm fine.

MOM: Tell your father you want a party.

DAD: Tell your mother you want to go camping.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Unit 2 test on Monday.

MOM: So selfish.

MS. PERETTI: Blake?

TROLL: If only things were different...

DAD: I'm selfish? You're a piece of work.

MONSIEUR GRANT: Another missed assignment?

MS. PERETTI: Talk to me, Blake!

MONSIEUR GRANT: So lazy!

MOM: Tell him, Blake!

DAD: Tell her!

BLAKE 2: Leave me alone! Just leave me alone.

BLAKE: I want to be a Roppet!

The lights snap back. Everyone looks around in surprise. BEZMO steps forward to herd the ROPPET group back to their place.

MELANIE: What?

BESME: What?

DR. D: Wonderful!

WALLY: Blake?

BESME: I thought they weren't real.

LOUPY: Do you want to get in trouble?

BLAKE: What do I have to do?

MELANIE: Blake, you're not thinking.

BLAKE: I want to be happy. I'll do anything to be happy.

WALLY: I'm not sure this –

DR. DEE: Bezmo will escort you to the transformation chamber. It's very quick.

BEZMO steps forward and takes BLAKE's arm. MELANIE tries to grab him and LOUPY pulls her back.

MELANIE: Blake, think for a second.

DR. D: When you awake, every thought will be sunshine and rainbows.

DR. DEE: You'll open the door to your room and be completely happy.

BEZMO leads BLAKE off.

MELANIE: This is a sham, a total – *(She tries to move forward again. LOUPY pulls her back and sits her down.)* Stop doing that!

The DOCTORS turn their focus on MELANIE.

DR. D: Oh Melanie.

DR. DEE: So tough. So sarcastic.

DR. D: Not always though. Not to everyone.

DR. DEE: This little tough act of yours is a sham, isn't it?

DR. D: It's not how you feel inside.

MELANIE: You don't know me. You have no – *(tries to get up again, LOUPY pushes her down)* Stop pushing me! I'm going home.

DR. D: *(turning to the ROPPETS)* Time for another demonstration.

MELANIE: No.

DR. DEE: Something real.

DR. DEE: What's Melanie's life like?

MELANIE: I know what it's like.

DR. DEE: You should see it from the outside. So you can make a proper choice.

DR. D: Don't you want to be happy?

DR. DEE: Roppets Rafter! The Melanie scene!

The ROPPETS RAFTER group moves forward. As soon as they are in place the lights change.

MELANIE used to be friends with KENSIE, KELSIE, and KELLIE. They have dumped her and actively bully her.

PHOENIX and MELANIE 2 stand together. A DEPRESSION TROLL hovers behind. The three GIRLS pose off to the side.

PHOENIX: Well. Here we are. School. Another day.

MELANIE 2: I hate school.

PHOENIX: That's one way to look at it. (*dramatically*) I choose to see each passing day as an adventure.

MELANIE 2: Didn't you get stuffed in a locker yesterday?

PHOENIX: That was my (*like introducing an adventure movie*) "locker stuffed adventure." Not as fantastic as mountain climbing but it is what it is.

MELANIE 2: It's humiliating.

PHOENIX: It's only humiliating if I feel humiliated. I don't. You have to look at life from all sides, Melanie.

MELANIE 2: What other side could there possibility be to getting stuffed in a locker?

PHOENIX: They act like animals because they don't know any other way. I feel sorry for them, actually.

MELANIE 2: (*with affection*) You are so weird.

PHOENIX: In two weeks I'm going to Mechanical Engineering Camp. There's no locker stuffing there, I assure you.

KENSIE, KELSIE, and KELLIE come to life.

KENSIE: Kelsie!

KELSIE: Kellie!

KELLIE: Kensie!

MELANIE 2: Speaking of animals...

PHOENIX: Did you know Vervet Monkeys make a specific warning sound for snakes?

KENSIE: Girls, this is going to be an awesome day.

KELSIE: Totally awesome.

KELLIE: It's always awesome when we're together.

KENSIE: Best friends make everything awesome.

KELSIE: Best friends in the whole school.

MELANIE 2: (*bitterly*) Best friends in the whole school. Yeah...

KELLIE: We're best friends in the whole school with the best names. (*pointing*) Kensie... Kelsie... Kellie... (*as if getting this awesome*

bright idea for the first time) I know! We should call ourselves
The K, K –

MELANIE 2: *(she can't help herself)* Don't say it! Do not say what you
were going to say, it's so incredibly... *(she peters off and winces at
being noticed)* Oh...

*The three girls turn slowly to look at MELANIE 2
and PHOENIX.*

PHOENIX: I know seven hundred curse words. If you want something
with extra oomph.

KENSIE: Is someone talking? Do you girls hear anything?

KELSIE: I sure don't.

KELLIE: It's Phoenix and Melanie. They're right there.

KELSIE: *(a little frustrated)* Kellie.

KELLIE: What? *(remembering)* Oh! Oh, right. We're being mean. We
talked about this. I keep forgetting. She doesn't exist even
though she's right there. That's a good one. I'm going to try that
out on my sister.

KENSIE: *(pushing MELANIE)* How many times do I have to tell you,
you're nothing.

TROLL: *(circling MELANIE slowly)* Melanie...

KELSIE: Nothing. Ugly.

KENSIE: *(pushing MELANIE)* How stupid do you have to be? Why are
you even speaking?

KENSIE: Or breathing?

TROLL: Melanie...

PHOENIX: They don't know any better. It doesn't matter what they say.

KELLIE: Shut up.

TROLL: You're a loser, Melanie...

KENSIE: *(pushing PHOENIX)* I matter. Everything I say matters.

TROLL: She's right...

KENSIE: (*referring*) No one in this school speaks to her because I say so. Nobody likes her. No one would ever eat lunch with her. She's worthless, garbage.

KELSIE: She might as well die. No one would miss her.

PHOENIX: I eat lunch with her.

KENSIE: You're less than nothing. Hardly worth my time to crush you. But I could.

KELLIE: (*not quite as threatening*) Yeah. Like a bug.

KENSIE: It's easy, loser.

PHOENIX: (*really big*) And like my namesake I will rise from the ashes and be reborn. (*he poses*) Crush me if you must.

This just totally confuses the girls.

KELLIE: I don't like him. I don't like you. You're weird.

PHOENIX: If the shoe fits.

KELSIE: You deserve each other. Couple of ugly toads.

KELLIE: They're probably dating.

KELSIE: Ugh. Disgusting.

KENSIE: (*getting out her phone*) We have to tell everyone.

MELANIE 2: What?

KELSIE: Gross (*getting out her phone*) You know what I saw behind the bleachers?

KENSIE: Totally, so gross. Do you know what I heard?

KELSIE: Ugh I can't believe it. And there's pictures!

MELANIE 2: Don't do that.

KENSIE: Is someone talking?

KELSIE: I don't hear anything.

KELLIE: But she's – right, right. I keep forgetting. That's so mean. I love it.

They turn their backs and get to work on their phones. MELANIE puts her face in her hands.

PHOENIX: Well. Another adventure. Hey there's vegetarian chilli at lunch. Finally something for the cruelty free crowd.

MELANIE 2: How can you just let it go like that? Let it not bother you?

TROLL: They're right Melanie... you're nothing...

PHOENIX: What would that solve? They're wrong. To be nothing is impossible.

TROLL: Don't listen to him.

MELANIE 2: They're trying to ruin my life.

PHOENIX: They're just trying to pee on their territory. (*or say "mark their territory" if you can't say pee*)

TROLL: You know the truth, Melanie.

PHOENIX: Just like animals do.

The GIRLS look back and laugh meanly. MELANIE looks distraught.

PHOENIX: It's fascinating when you think about it.

MELANIE 2: What is?

PHOENIX: Animals can't exactly put out a sign, "This is my room – keep out," so they have to mark their territory. Scent marking. And of course the most potent scent marker is –

MELANIE 2: OK, OK. I get it.

TROLL: (*turning MELANIE 2 away from PHOENIX*) Who are you going to believe, Melanie? Him or me?

MELANIE 2: He just seems so positive. He doesn't care what they do or say about him.

TROLL: I'm the one inside your head. I'm the only one who knows you.

MELANIE 2: I guess.

TROLL: Those girls are right. You are worthless.

MELANIE: 2: I guess.

TROLL: I'm telling you the truth. There's only one way out of this.

MELANIE 2: But couldn't I –

TROLL: There's only one way out. Believe me, Melanie. It's the right thing to do.

During the above LOUPY has slowly guided MELANIE offstage. This has to happen slowly, so that it doesn't pull focus. No one else notices.

The lights change. DR. D & DR. DEE applaud, but more subdued this time. LOUPY returns. The ROPPET group moves back into place.

BESME: Where'd you go?

LOUPY: Don't ask.

BESME: But –

LOUPY: Be quiet, OK?

DR. D: Oh.

DR. DEE: Hmm.

WALLY: Where's Melanie?

DR. D: In her room of course. Not so tough after all.

DR. DEE: It's hard to see your life from the outside.

DR. D: She made her choice.

WALLY: What does that mean? What did she choose?

BEZMO leads a new and improved BLAKE on stage. He is now a ROPPET, and looks just like them. The DOCTORS applaud.

DR. D: How wonderful!

DR. DEE: Look at him!

WALLY: Blake?

WALLY tries to move forward and is pulled back by LOUPY.

DR. D: This is a happy day.

WALLY: What happened to him?

DR. D: He's new and improved.

DR. DEE: He is completely happy.

DR. D: His parents will be so pleased!

DR. DEE & DR. D: Hello Blake!

BLAKE: (*very happy, with a big wave*) Hello.

DR. DEE: How do you feel?

BLAKE: Amazing. I feel wonderful. The world is such a bright place.
I feel happy from the tip of my head to the tips of my toes!

DR. DEE: And why are you happy?

BLAKE: Happy is the way for me! Why be anything else? I can't wait to see my parents!

DR. D: Off you go, Roppet.

BLAKE runs off.

WALLY: Wait a minute. Blake!

DR. DEE: Happy Roppets!

The ROPPETS give a shout, hug each other, give each other hi-fives and thumbs up.

BESME: (*aside*) Is that what you do here? Turn kids into robots?

LOUPY: They're not robots!

WALLY: This can't be good for him.

DR. DEE: Are you sure?

DR. D: Why not?

WALLY: It doesn't, well, I don't know...

DR. DEE: Didn't he look happy?

BESME: Is that what happens, Loupy?

LOUPY: You better shut up if you know what's good for you. You want to go back to the caves?

WALLY: But it's just pretend. He's not really happy. Not really...?

DR. DEE: Oh no?

DR. D: Don't you want to be happy? Completely happy?

WALLY: Of course I do.

DR. DEE: Aren't you completely unhappy right now?

WALLY: I don't, I mean, I guess so.

DR. DEE: I know so.

DR. D: You've been unhappy for a very long time.

DR. DEE: Roppets Rookery! The Wally scene!

The ROPPETS ROOKERY group moves forward.

WALLY is different and everyone is telling her to change.

DEMETER and AJAX approach WALLY 2. They cross their arms, shake their heads and give a deep sigh.

WALLY 2: What?

DEMETER & AJAX: What's wrong with you, Wally?

WALLY 2: Nothing.

DEMETER: Don't be stupid.

AJAX: What's wrong with you?

WALLY 2: I don't know.

DEMETER: You do know.

WALLY 2: Nope. Haven't a clue.

DEMETER & AJAX: You're not normal.

WALLY 2: Oh is that it? I had no idea.

AJAX: You're freaking Mom out.

WALLY 2: If I'm freaking Mom out, maybe Mom should talk to me.

DEMETER & AJAX: Don't be stupid.

DEMETER: Just act normal.

WALLY 2: What does that mean?

AJAX: You know.

DEMETER: You have try harder.

AJAX: You have to answer questions.



help@theatrefolk.com www.theatrefolk.com

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