

prom night
by Hannah Kurczeski

In a teenager's bedroom, somewhere in a small town, three girls get ready for their senior prom. As the characters don makeup and dresses, their individual explorations of sexuality, religion, family, and self image culminate in a prom night far from the ideal that they'd imagined. A snapshot of girlhood and growing pains, this memory play investigates how we remember, and how we move on.

CHARACTERS

Sarah

Danielle (Dani)

Mary Anne

ONE ACT

SIX SCENES

All scenes take place in the same bedroom, at the same time, on the same night.

Setting

A teenage girl's bedroom, somewhere in a small town.

Characters

3 girls, all seniors in high school

SARAH

Bold, borderline bitchy. Impulsive and an instigator, she's unafraid to say what's on her mind, even if it upsets the people around her. Despite this, she cares deeply about the people in her life—she just doesn't always have the best way of showing it.

DANIELLE (DANI)

The most considerate of the 3, she always tries to take everyone's feelings into account. The peacekeeper and the glue between the other two girls. Hyper-aware of the way others feel. Deeply insecure.

MARY ANNE

Largely conflict-avoidant, quiet, and the most reserved of the three with a strong sense of right and wrong. Very old fashioned, straight-laced, goody two shoes. Has been raised one way her whole life and hasn't really questioned it.

Trigger Warning

Allusion to an eating disorder/body dysmorphia (by Danielle)
 Discussion of abortion
 Use of Alcohol/Underage Drinking
 Cursing

This is a memory play. The scenes are all fragments from Sarah's memory of one night.

NOTES ON DIALOGUE

A “[]” indicates a beat, of varying length. Dialogue written side by side is meant to be said simultaneously, or largely overlapping. Words in *italics* are stage directions and are not meant to be read, except for the few cases where a word is italicized within a line for emphasis. I trust you to use your judgement.

Scene 1

Yellow lights rise on a stage set as a teenage girl's bedroom. It's from an unspecified era; maybe the fifties, maybe the early 2000s. Maybe there are band posters on the wall. Maybe there is nothing but peeling floral wallpaper. There has to be a mirror, a small one, and a bed. There also has to be three prom dresses.

The lights rise almost instantly, as if someone flicked a switch. Three girls rush onto the stage.

SARAH

immediately rushing to the vanity

Don't you guys think it's, like, so unfair that they make prom a Saturday night?

putting on mascara

Well, you know, like. A Friday. At least then we don't have to wake up for church the next morning.

Since always.

Mary? Are you done with that yet?

DANIELLE

shoving into the vanity next to her and grabbing lipstick
When else would they have it?

Since when do you go to church?

studying her reflection

Do you think I should stuff my bra?

Do it

Like I mean

I say go for it

Because you know.

David is gonna be there

Who gives a shit about that guy?

Well like I don't. Obviously.

[]

Ok but I also kind of do.

MARY ANNE

handing over a palette of eyeshadow

Oh. sure.

What

Why

SARAH

Just focus on finding hot guys

DANIELLE

MARY ANNE

Just focus on
Having fun

MARY ANNE and DANIELLE give her a Look

What.

I mean if I was you that's what I'd do. I'm kinda jealous that *I* can't do that, that's what I did last prom.

Yeah, and you ended the night in Richard Keely's pants

I did not.

MARY ANNE laughs

[]

(*coily*) He ended the night in *my* pants

DANIELLE laughs as she applies eyeliner.

Can I borrow someone's hairbrush?

SARAH passes it over.

So

Don't you think it's kinda weird that last year you ended up with Richard and now you're fully going as Brad's date?

Why should it be weird?

Aren't they like best friends or something?

So?

So it's weird right

No it's not

It kinda is.

Is he like, mad about it?

Who?

Richard, you dumbass

Why?

Because aren't they best friends?

And?

And what?

Guys don't care

Guys are like territorial as fuck

SARAH

Well that's because you've got
a perfect little boyfriend
and a perfect fucking life.

[]
[]

Sorry Mary. I didn't mean that.

[]

Is it
Really

Ok good
I just wanted
to make sure.

[]

Whenever

Fine by me

The girls shimmy on their prom dresses.

Yeah

Well... yes

DANIELLE

Maybe joey does

What time d'ya think we should
get on our dresses?

What?

Ok

Ohhh Sarah is that your dress?

MARY ANNE
they do too care

It's ok.

Yes
It's fine

Not too soon or they might
get wrinkled

Oh I just said we could
probably put them on now

It's black

SARAH

Is that a problem?

DANIELLE

Really? I feel like they do

It's like a little black dress,
you know, they're very "in"

Black looks good on you

See? It's sexy

I guess

Like sure, you can go for a
"perfect pretty princess" vibe
But part of the point of prom is looking
hotter than all of your classmates *DANIELLE giggles*

[]

SARAH struggles to zip her dress, then realizes she can't.

Can you zip this?

Sure

No

What?

Not you

DANI and MARY ANNE share a look. Sarah doesn't notice.

I mean

Huh?

Yeah ok it's fine

Whatever

um

someone just

Zip me up

Okay

Oh Dani

I like your dress

Me too

Do you?

Yeah

yeah

why?

Oh

I don't know

SARAH

Well I think you look gorgeous.

yeah. Yeah let's go.

grabbing the keys off the dresser

No. I'm good.

Come on, let's go.

DANIELLE

I can't decide
If I like it or not.

well. Thank you guys.

[]

So.

Do you want me to drive?

They exit.

MARY ANNE

Me too.

Should we go?