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Txt U Later

Comedy/Drama by Jennifer Addesso,
Olivia Biggar, Sophie Buck,
Eleanor Davitt, Susan King
and Sajdeep Soomal

Edited by Susan King



Txt U Later

Comedy/Drama. By Jennifer Adesso, Olivia Biggar, Sophie Buck, Eleanor Davitt, Susan King and Sajdeep Soomal. Edited by Susan King. Cast: 2m, 7w, 2 either gender. Juliette is a typical middle-school girl. She attends Shakespeare Middle School, has a crush on the popular and arrogant Horatio, and longs to be popular and beautiful like the seemingly perfect Ophelia. One day Juliette finds Ophelia's cell phone. She is faced with a choice: does she keep it or give it back? Juliette decides this is her chance to know about the "in" crowd and maybe discover something about Horatio. The decision, however, becomes more complicated than she thought, and Juliette begins to wonder if keeping the cell phone was worth it. She begins receiving harassing messages from Horatio intended for Ophelia, and she realizes he isn't all she thought he was. Juliette learns a little about Ophelia's life as well and finds out it is not as perfect as it seems from the outside. Juliette also discovers some things about her friends: Viola, who advised her in the beginning to give back the cell phone, proves to be a real friend, but she discovers Tina is not a friend at all as she works to make Juliette look like a fool in front of Horatio. Juliette discovers in Romeo the qualities she was looking for in Horatio and comes to realize you can't always be sure who your true friends are. With the helpful advice of her little sister, Claribell (a wise girl for an 8-year-old), and Viola, Juliette comes clean with Ophelia and returns the phone. While this play has many comedic moments, it delivers a serious message about the consequences and complications of deception. *Simple set. Approximate running time: 75 minutes. Code: TJ2.*

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TXT U LATER

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Txt U Later was first presented at St. Andrew's Public School, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada, on June 3, 2008. The production was directed by Olivia Biggar and included the following:

CAST

Juliette Capulette Paige Smith
Marcus Capulette Sajdeep Soomal
Claribell Capulette Abby Smowton
Mrs. Capulette Jennifer Addresso
Horatio Arogant Naylor Lobban
Romeo Montegue Ryan Schouten
Mr. Macbeth Kevin Bутtenham
Viola Peace Zoe Innanen
Tina Enemie. Mary-Beth Smowton
Gertrude Nastee Sophie Buck
Mrs. Bizzaro Eleanor Davitt
Ophelia Hamlet Stephanie Nijhuis
Bus Driver Daniel Mousley
Student of SSPS* Ben MacDonald
Student of SSPS Page Card
Student of SSPS Tasha Franzese

**Shakespeare Senior Public School*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Production Sarah Roden
Music Director and Backstage Directors/Managers
Roxann Ryan
Kayla Vuelten
Autumn Jackson
Hagar Abayazeed

Producers Ms. Decker
Ms. Lehnhoff
Mrs. King

Sets by Eleanor Davitt
Laura Hillier
Tasha Franzese
Emma Christensen
Carrigan Lee
Lindsay Hargreaves
Kailey Martz
Brittany Burns
Riley Blackmore
Samantha Lacey
Loewen Hood
Madison Merkir
Kayla Mott
Deanna Peach
Zoe Innanen
Melissa Rice
Kayla Carter
Tamara White-MacGillivray
Dezerae Nobes
Mrs. King
Kelsie Simpson
Ms. Lehnhoff

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CHARACTERS

JULIETTE CAPULETTE . somewhat insecure; has a crush
on Horatio
CLARIBELL CAPULETTE sister to Juliette;
a bit wacky; mature for her age
MRS. CAPULETTE . . . Juliette's overly concerned mother
VIOLA PEACE Juliette's sweet and sensible friend
TINA ENEMIE. Juliette's friend who turns on her
GERTRUDE NASTEE a girl in Juliette's class;
not a nice person; Ophelia's friend
OPHELIA HAMLET a very popular, pretty girl
HORATIO AROGANT a popular boy at school; likes
Ophelia
ROMEO MONTEGUE Horatio's friend; very sweet;
likes Juliette
MR. MACBETH the wacky teacher
MR. BIZZARO the school counselor; has a crazy sock
puppet named Mr. Squishy

- Up to 5 extras as students for the school bus, hallway and classroom scenes. (Male and female split optional.)
- Extras work as stagehands as well.
- Teachers could be adapted to be male or female.

SETTINGS

- Juliette's bedroom and closet: simple scene with a bed, night table, a lamp, some stuffed animals, a phone and a messy closet the audience can see into.
- The school hallway: Lockers optional.
- A classroom: Students' desks and a teacher's desk.
- The bus: Bus seats (or just use chairs lined up).
- The counselor's office: A simple office scene. Two chairs and a desk between them.

PROP LIST

Two cell phones (one for Juliette and one for Romeo)
A bed with pillows and bedding
A variety of stuffed animals
Desks (about seven student desks and one teacher desk)
Lockers (optional)
A small table with a lamp
A portable phone
A flashlight
A notepad and pen
Books and backpacks for students
Books for Mr. Macbeth's and Mr. Bizarro's desks
Facial tissue (no particular brand) for Ophelia
Digital photos of actors as listed on page 20 of the script

Sound Effects Required

A beeping phone for text messages
Sound of a vibrating phone
Sound of a home phone ringing
Sound of a school bell

Technical Requirements (optional)

A laptop and projector so the messages can be seen by the audience on a scene above or to the side of the screen. If possible.

Slide show with typed messages in PowerPoint (IMB) or Keynote (MAC). This slide show requires a crew member to change slides at appropriate times.

TXT U LATER

JULIETTE'S BEDROOM

STAGE IS DARK (OR CURTAINS DRAWN)

SOUND OF A TEXT MESSAGE BEEP

(JULIETTE sits up in bed. She turns on her light, looks confused, sighs and opens the cell phone.)

ON SCREEN ABOVE THE STAGE. TEXT MESSAGE IS SEEN AS JULIETTE LOOKS AT THE PHONE IN BED ON STAGE. TEXT MESSAGE READS:

“Hey, honey, it’s Aunt Clem. I’m really sorry about your dad. He’s really sick, huh? Well...I am proud of you for taking care of him. Must be hard. I know you two were close. xo. Feel better. Send your dad my best.”

(JULIETTE reads it out loud. She sighs and puts her head in her hands, upset.)

JULIETTE: Aww...poor, Ophelia! I had no idea how hard her life must be. How did I get myself in this situation? At least she will be at her dad’s house so Horatio won’t be able to talk to her. What a mess this is...WHY did I do this? *(She cries.)*

(CLARIBELL enters stage L. She is tiptoeing.)

CLARIBELL. Juliette? What's wrong? I heard the cell phone. (*CLARIBELL sits on the edge of the bed.*)

JULIETTE. Nothing...go back to bed, Claribell.

CLARIBELL. I know I'm just your little sister and I don't know what it's like to be your age, but maybe I can help.

JULIETTE (*talking fast, upset*). I doubt it but... Okay... well...I liked Horatio and he liked Ophelia but now I know he's a jerk, so Viola was helping me and I took the phone and...

CLARIBELL (*looking confused she cuts her off*). Wait... wait...who are these people? Explain from the beginning please...

JULIETTE. Okay...the beginning...let's see... (*Stage lights go out. JULIETTE's voice is heard.*) It's complicated...you see I just got myself in this situation. I didn't mean to but it just happened. So, I guess you need to know who's involved and what exactly IS involved in life at a senior public school...

HALLWAY SCENE

LIGHTS COME ON

(*JULIETTE enters slowly from stage L carrying a bunch of books.*)

JULIETTE. Okay, so here it is...my school. The treacherous domain of your sister, Juliette Capulette. This is the narrow passage of middle-school death itself, the main-door foyer. Everyday at exactly 8:14 a.m. the school bell will ring and about 348 students will busily come through here with big, overstuffed backpacks, muddy

shoes, and tired dreadful faces. They will then proceed to their lockers, open them and remove necessary school items and shuffle along to class. But, who's keeping track? (*Laughing is heard off stage, voices whispering, and papers rustling.*) Here they come!

(*VIOLA, TINA, GERTRUDE, OPHELIA, ROMEO and HORATIO all enter in a crowd then separate to different lockers.*)

JULIETTE. This is the pre-bell crowd...the kids known around the school by most...or maybe that's just me.

(*JULIETTE walks past OPHELIA who is putting her coat in her locker. OPHELIA sees JULIETTE but turns away in what could be considered a snobby way and applies lipstick.*)

OPHELIA (*mumbling*). Freak.

JULIETTE. That girl right there (*points to OPHELIA*) is Ophelia. She's really popular, really pretty, really rich but I don't think she's too bright.

OPHELIA (*turning to HORATIO, ROMEO and GERTRUDE whose lockers are a couple away from hers*). Did anyone DO that math homework? I didn't get it. What does it mean: "square root" (*makes the quotation mark sign*) of 18? There were no squares on it AT ALL! (*Rolls her eyes and crosses her arms.*)

JULIETTE (*rolls her eyes and moves toward HORATIO's locker where ROMEO stands next to him*). Hey, Romeo!

ROMEO. Oh...ummm...hey... Hi! Yo...what's shakin?
(Turns away embarrassed and mumbles to the audience.) What's shakin'? What am I, nine?

JULIETTE. Romeo is kind of a dorky kid I guess. He's sweet and he's sat beside me in every English class since grade two. We're pretty close I guess.

HORATIO *(pulls down his sunglasses and takes out a comb and fixes his hair. Looks into a mirror in his locker)*. I look GOODDDDD. I mean really seriously good. *(Notices JULIETTE.)* Hey...Juliette...don't I look good?

JULIETTE *(surprised he is speaking to her)*. Uhhh... *(She stumbles and trips over her own feet. Her books go flying and she lands in front of him. He suppresses a laugh and turns to look at himself in the mirror again.)*

HORATIO. Ya, I look good! The girls are falling over me.
(Gestures to JULIETTE and laughs.)

JULIETTE. The boy I just embarrassed myself in front of is Horatio. He is also the most gorgeous and luscious boy in this school! He barely knows I exist. We teamed up for a science experiment once. I don't think he realized I was his partner because on the lab presentation day he raised his hand and said, "My partner is absent." But I was sitting RIGHT THERE! Imagine my shame.

(JULIETTE gets up, dusts off her knees, gathers her books and makes her way toward VIOLA and TINA but is stopped as GERTRUDE bumps into her, causing her to drop her books again. HORATIO goes over to OPHELIA's locker and looks like he's flirting with her. OPHELIA is rolling her eyes and ROMEO is trying to get HORATIO to leave her alone.)

JULIETTE. Gee...thanks, Gertrude! Now my Monday is truly complete. I've been embarrassed, shoved, trampled and dirty! I don't know if it gets any better, I really don't!

GERTRUDE (*rolling her eyes*). Okay, loser...what evs... you totally bumped into me...get your story straight and...while you're at it...new shoes. (*She looks at her shoes in disgust and flips her hair back and walks over to ROMEO, HORATIO and OPHELIA.*)

JULIETTE (*makes faces at GERTRUDE as GERTRUDE walks away*). That's Gertrude...queen bee of rudeness... supreme ruler of all that is nasty, empress of hate, yadda yadda blah blah...the whole nine yards. I don't like her and she doesn't like me. Fair enough. (*She walks over to pick up her books but is stopped by VIOLA who stoops to help her pick them up. She turns and smiles at VIOLA.*) Thanks!

VIOLA. No worries. Hey, how about a movie this Friday? My treat...

JULIETTE. Ah, ya...thanks! (*VIOLA smiles and goes back to her locker.*) Viola is a sweetheart and my best friend. She always does the right thing. She is on the honor role, she volunteers, is planning on winning the student leadership award this year and more... Some kids call her a goody goody but, not me. (*She turns and see TINA at her locker.*) Hey, Tina...what's up?

TINA. Huh...a mhm...not much... (*TINA turns to her mirror and fixes her hair and makeup.*)

JULIETTE. Tina is another good friend. She's a bit "iffy" sometimes. She is very concerned with her looks and her place on the social ladder but she is still my friend

though she doesn't always make the best choices...like Viola.

SCHOOL BELL RINGS

(MR. MACBETH enters stage R.)

MR. MACBETH. Alllllrrigghtty, kiddos! Getcha yourselves moving...off to class...don't dawdle...come on...that was the bell...get yourselves movin'! *(Shoos kids out of the hall. Kids exit stage L and R.)*

JULIETTE. Oh... *(Gestures toward MR. MACBETH.)*
That's my core teacher...Mr. Macbeth. So that's pretty much everyone that's involved in this drama...so off to class I go and this is when it all begins...

LIGHTS OUT (OR CURTAIN CLOSES)

LIGHTS UP

CLASSROOM SCENE

(Everyone is at their desks writing and looking up at the board. All is silent. MR. MACBETH has his head down on the desk and is snoring. He has a magazine over his head. The students occasionally look at him, sigh and shake their heads. OPHELIA sneezes loudly and MR. MACBETH jumps up...startled.)

OPHELIA *(looks embarrassed)*. Oops...sorry...excuse me...

GERTRUDE. Ewwww...you got snot all over my book...
ewww.

JULIETTE (*leans over to TINA*). As if she does any work anyway!

OPHELIA (*blows her nose loudly*). Ughhh...I HATE being sick.

(*HORATIO looks horrified at OPHELIA's illness and makes a face.*)

JULIETTE (*looking from TINA to HORATIO*). Isn't he just spectacular?

HORATIO. Who's spectacular?

JULIETTE (*as she looks down at her book*). Ah...ah... well...Sir John A. MacDonald. That man was just incredible and so good-looking...

HORATIO (*rolls his eyes and looks at her like she's nuts*). Ah, okayyy...whatever...

JULIETTE (*slapping her forehead*). Stupid, stupid, stupid! (*Puts her head down on her desk.*)

ROMEO (*leans over to OPHELIA*). So how you doing?

OPHELIA (*coughs and sniffs*). Fabulous...what do you think?

ROMEO. Just asking. You look really sick.

OPHELIA. Thanks for the update, Sherlock. (*She smiles at him anyway.*)

(*MR. MACBETH finally stands up and looks alive.*)

MR. MACBETH. Okay okay...settle down, everyone. Now, the following is very important as it will be on the test next Thursday! Listen carefully and write it all down because it will make or break the mark you get! Listen...

THE BELL RINGS

(The students all get up and start to leave. MR. MACBETH looks distressed and waves his hands frantically.)

MR. MACBETH. C'mon...wait...wait...

LIGHTS OUT (OR CURTAINS CLOSE)

LIGHTS UP
ON THE BUS

(OPHELIA is struggling with her books as she walks down the bus aisle. GERTRUDE is in front of her. VIOLA and JULIETTE are behind her. ROMEO is sitting in a seat.)

VIOLA *(turns to JULIETTE)*. Maybe we should help her out?

JULIETTE. No thanks...

OPHELIA *(sneezes violently and her books go flying)*. Oh man!

GERTRUDE *(laughs)*. Oh you klutz! That was hilarious! *(She sits down beside ROMEO.)*

VIOLA *(bends to help her with her stuff)*. Don't listen to her. She's just jealous.

OPHELIA. Thanks... *(She cracks an awkward smile and takes her books from VIOLA.)*

(JULIETTE looks down and does a double take. Looks more closely under a bus seat. She notices nobody is

looking at her so she bends down and picks up a cell phone from under the seat. She slips it in her pocket. She yells to VIOLA.)

JULIETTE. Hey, V, save me a seat. *(She goes and sits with VIOLA. Other students on the bus appear to be talking but are silent.)*

VIOLA. So what was under that seat?

JULIETTE. Oh...ah, nothing. Thought I saw money but it was just a wad of gum so...

VIOLA *(nods and looks out the window)*. Oh...

JULIETTE *(turns to the audience and speaks)*. I CAN'T tell Viola I found Ophelia's phone. She'll insist I give it back. And of course I know I should...but...when do I ever get the opportunity to know what's going on with the "in" crowd. I would just love a little window into that life. With this phone I can find out if Ophelia is dating Horatio. The rumors say so but it just doesn't seem like it. I would never have a hope with him if she is...so I will just find that out and then I'll give it back tomorrow. Just ONE day won't hurt. I'll pretend I found it on the bus in the morning. I'll be a hero AND a little wiser...no big deal, right? Ya...Viola would never understand. How much trouble can it be? I just hope it doesn't ring now...cross my fingers... *(She crosses her fingers and pats her coat pocket and turns back to VIOLA.)*

OPHELIA. So...Mr. Macbeth's weird, don't you think?

VIOLA. Uh yes...but it kinda makes him interesting, you know, like if he was...

SOUND OF A PHONE VIBRATING

(JULIETTE jumps, screams slightly, and slaps her hand on her coat pocket.)

VIOLA. What's wrong? Juliette, you okay?

JULIETTE. Ah, I'm okay...a bug bit me! Owwww...oh...
(She lifts her jacket and examines her side.) Yup...bug bite...nasty one...

VIOLA. Juliette, it's February! There are no bugs...

JULIETTE. Except this one! It's huge by the look of this bite!

VIOLA *(leaning over and trying to see JULIETTE's side)*.
Let me see...

JULIETTE *(struggling to get away)*. No...no...you don't want to see this...it's nasty...really...

VIOLA *(looking around all worried)*. Do you think it's still here? Oh my gosh...I HATE bugs...

JULIETTE. Ya probably...look around... Oh my stop... gotta run...call you later!

VIOLA *(still looking for the bug)*. Ah...okay...bye. *(Waves at her as she looks under the bus seat.)*

LIGHTS OUT (OR CURTAINS)

LIGHTS UP

JULIETTE'S BEDROOM

(JULIETTE enters stage L. She throws her bag on the bed, takes out the phone and throws her coat, hat and mittens on her bed. She turns on the light and sits down on the bed and opens the phone.)