

SCENE 1: LUNCHROOM

Peter Fyre sits at a high school lunch table. Dylan Barnes storms in with a lunch tray.

DYLAN

Dude!

PETER

What is it this time?

DYLAN

They told me I can't wear my Hell's Bells shirt anymore!

PETER

Wait, seriously?

DYLAN

Yes! It's profane, apparently.

PETER

So stupid, dude.

DYLAN

I'm just sick of it all, Peter!

PETER

I know, bro. I am too. All I've got is you and my drum kit.

DYLAN

And all I'm doing is going to class and playing guitar and doing nothing with anything. I want to get outta here!

PETER

You're telling me. I don't even want to get out of bed some mornings.

DYLAN

A record deal in L.A. That's what I need. So do you.

PETER

Dylan, I think you might've finally had a good idea.

DYLAN

What?

PETER

Dude. You play guitar. I play drums. We need a record deal.

DYLAN
(catching)
And we can get it together!

PETER
There ya go.

DYLAN
Dude, we got it! We'll start a band!

PETER
Well, not yet. I've never seen a two-person rock band do anything notable.

DYLAN
Uh, the Black Keys?

PETER
They tour with a live band. We need a full band. And I think I know where to start.

We hear Harrison playing acoustic guitar and singing as girls pass by him.

HARRISON
I JUST WANNA SING YOU LOVE SONGS
CALL YOU UP ON YOUR PHONE
I I JUST WANNA SING YOU LOVE SONGS
BABY YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE

He keeps playing.

DYLAN
You can't be serious.

PETER
I don't see anyone else with the balls to just get up and start playing! Plus, he's pretty good.

DYLAN
Fine. You ask him.

PETER
Whatever, man.

Peter approaches Harrison and Dylan trails behind.

PETER (CONT'D)
Hey, Harrison, right?

HARRISON
Yeah! You're Peter!

PETER
Uh, yeah.

HARRISON
You play the drums!

PETER
Yeah I do..?

HARRISON
All the girls totally love you man. Leave some for the rest of us!

Dylan stifles a laugh.

HARRISON (CONT'D)
And you're Dylan! Absolute chick magnet on the guitar!

PETER
Haha, yeah, right. So me and my buddy Dylan want to start a band and we were—

HARRISON
I'm gonna stop you there. I'm in.

PETER
(to Dylan)
That was easy.

HARRISON
Man, I've heard you play and you're all "duga duga duga doo doo doo chhhh!" and Dylan, you're like "weedley weedley woo woo woo!"

PETER
Haha, yeah, thanks. Uh, I'll hit you up.

They walk away from Harrison awkwardly.

DYLAN
So that's rhythm guitar. Still need bass. Can't we just get another guitar player to play bass? They're pretty much the same thing and who knows anyone who even plays bass?

PETER
You can't be serious.

DYLAN
What? No?

PETER
A good bass player is really hard to come by.

DYLAN
Ok. I submit to your expertise.

PETER
There's a guy in Jazz band that's really good. Let's see if we can find him.

DYLAN
You listen to jazz? No wonder you're depressed.

PETER
Hey!

SCENE 2: BAND ROOM

As Dylan and Peter walk into the band room, Scott is in there jamming to some jazz. He plays to the end of the song before the two approach.

PETER
Hey man.

SCOTT
Can I help you?

PETER
Oh, we were just listening to you play.

DYLAN
You're really good.

SCOTT
Thanks. I've been playing all my life so I hope I'm good.

DYLAN
Do you play styles other than jazz?

SCOTT
I dabble.

DYLAN
(to Peter)
He dabbles.

SCOTT
I try to keep up with just about everything. Rock, R&B, pop, all that stuff.

PETER
That's awesome. Me and my buddy Dylan are working on putting together a band and are looking for a bass player.

DYLAN
(to Peter)
A bassist.

SCOTT
That's cool. I'm actually not really playing with a group
right now, so you're in luck.

DYLAN
Let's go!

SCOTT
I'm Scott, nice to meet you.

DYLAN
Dylan. And this is Peter.

PETER
Pleasure.

DYLAN
I'll find you on Instagram and hit you up, man.

SCOTT
Sounds good. I'll see you around.

SCENE 3: BASEMENT PRACTICE

Dylan stands shredding on his guitar for a moment or two. Peter walks in. Dylan doesn't notice-- he's in the zone. Peter sneaks back behind the drum kit. Near the end of a phrase, Peter hits a cymbal loudly. Dylan stops and Peter starts playing. After a minute or so, Peter finishes.

DYLAN
Damn, son! You can play!

PETER
Haha, thank you. It's what I spend all of my free time doing.

DYLAN
Well then you'd better be good!

Harrison enters with his guitar.

HARRISON
Was that you playing a second ago?

PETER
Yeah, that was me.

You're amazing!

HARRISON

See! I told you!

DYLAN

You flatter me.

PETER

Scott enters with his bass in a case.

Fellas.

SCOTT

Hey, Scott. Good to see ya.

PETER

Scott, meet Harrison. Harrison, Scott.

DYLAN

They shake hands.

Gentlemen, now that we're all here, we should get to the first order of business. What in the hell are we gonna play?

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Crickets.

Ok then. I'll start. I play rock and classic rock mostly, but throw in some punk as well.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Uh, I play rock and metal mostly but can play whatever.

PETER

I'll play anything you want me to. You name it.

HARRISON

I'm mostly jazz, but rock is fun too.

SCOTT

Alright, good, so we all share rock. Are we talking like Bon Jovi or Green Day?

DYLAN

I mean, I'd be down for something in the middle. I want to play stuff that says something, though.

SCOTT

Oh, we've got plenty to say.

PETER

About what?

HARRISON

DYLAN

About this place, this school, this town. It sucks! And me and Peter are planning on getting out.

SCOTT

Now there's something we can work with.

DYLAN

Oh, I've got it. Peter, give me a rock beat, 4/4.

Dylan snaps the tempo for him.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Alright, you two, follow me!

They slowly build on each other until they are all together. The set morphs into:

SCENE 4: SCHOOL GYM TALENT SHOW

They are in their school gym for the talent show.

DYLAN

SIX OCLOCK WAKIN UP EVERY DAY
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE THIS WAY
ITS TOO EARLY, THE SKY'S STILL GRAY
NOBODY LISTENS TO ANYTHING I SAY
I KNOW I CANT BE THE ONLY ONE WHO
HATES THIS TOWN AS MUCH AS I DO
SO WHY DO THEY STAY STUCK LIKE GLUE
ITS THE SAME OLD PLACE WITH NOTHING NEW

WHO EVEN LIKES IT HERE
LETS ALL RUN AROUND THROUGH THE HALLS
NOBODY LIKES IT HERE
WHY DO I EVEN SHOW UP AT ALL

YOU KNOW THEY MIGHT FIND SOMETHIN, FIND A LIGHT
IF THEY EVEN STOPPED TO TALK AND NOT FIGHT
BUT WHAT DO I EVEN KNOW
ITS THE SAME OLD STORY SAME OLD SHOW

WHO EVEN LIKES IT HERE
LETS ALL RUN AROUND THROUGH THE HALLS
NOBODY LIKES IT HERE
WHY DO I EVEN SHOW UP AT ALL
WHO EVEN LIKES IT HERE
LETS ALL RUN AROUND THROUGH THE HALLS
NOBODY LIKES IT HERE
WHY DO I EVEN SHOW UP AT ALL

WHO EVEN LIKES IT HERE
LETS ALL RUN AROUND THROUGH THE HALLS

NOBODY LIKES IT HERE
WHY DO I EVEN SHOW UP AT ALL
WHO EVEN LIKES IT HERE
LETS ALL RUN AROUND THROUGH THE HALLS
NOBODY LIKES IT HERE
WHY DO I EVEN SHOW UP AT ALL

Thank you.

All of the students erupt with applause. The parents and faculty, on the other hand, are silent. Principal Hill takes the stage.

PRINCIPAL HILL

That was "We Hate It Here" singing their original song, "Nobody Likes It Here." Really an enlightening performance to end the evening with. Thank you for coming to the talent show fundraiser for the band trip to St. Louis this spring and good night.

HARRISON

Dude! They loved it!

SCOTT

So cool!

DYLAN

We need to do this more often!

The guys walk off stage, still celebrating. Principal Hill, however, isn't as excited. He speaks to the vice principal, Mr. Rose and his secretary, Nancy.

PRINCIPAL HILL

Mr. Rose, is this band going to be a problem?

MR. ROSE

I don't know. It could be.

NANCY

I kind of liked it.

PRINCIPAL HILL

Quiet, Nancy. All of the students went crazy for it.

MR. ROSE

This is the last thing we need when we're trying to get new families to move into the district.

PRINCIPAL HILL

They're gonna cause a mutiny amongst all the teens. We'll talk more about what to do in our meeting next week.

MR. ROSE

Drive home safely.

SCENE 5: HOUSE PARTY

DYLAN

Thank you for all of the love from the last few weeks. You're really makin' this little band feel big. For our last song tonight, we're gonna show you a new song, and it's pretty close to me. It was inspired by my last breakup. Anyways, here's "The Thought of Me".

THE FIRST TIME HE KISSED HER
SHE TOLD HIM SHE'D DREAMT OF THIS FOR
MAYBE TWO OR THREE YEARS AND
SHE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TRUE
THE PUPPY LOVE FELT REAL TO HIM
UNTIL THE HONEYMOON CAME TO AN END
SHE WASN'T HAPPY WITH WHO HE WAS AND
HE WAS BROKEN BECAUSE OF IT, HE SAID

YOU DON'T LOVE ME
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
OH CANT YOU SEE
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
YOU DON'T LOVE ME
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
OH CANT YOU SEE
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME

SHE DISMISSED HIS CONCERNS
LIKE A CAR ALARM WITH THE KEYS IN HAND
BUT STILL HE WASN'T FOR SURE
UNTIL THE DAY HE KNEW IT HAD TO END

YOU DON'T LOVE ME
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
OH CANT YOU SEE
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
YOU DON'T LOVE ME
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
OH CANT YOU SEE
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME

HE COULDN'T BE EVERYTHING SHE WANTED
SHE COULDN'T SEE THAT ANYTHING WAS WRONG
ONCE IN A WHILE, HE CONFRONTED HER
SHE ONLY DENIED IT, SHE WAS TOO FAR GONE, HE SAID

YOU DON'T LOVE ME
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
OH CANT YOU SEE
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
YOU DON'T LOVE ME
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME
OH CANT YOU SEE
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF ME

Thank you all so much for comin'.

The band puts their instruments down and goes to join the party. Dylan is the last to get off of the "stage." A girl approaches him before he can make it very far.

AVAH

Hey! You were amazing up there!

DYLAN

You're amazing right here.

AVAH

Oh, haha, you're sweet.

DYLAN

I'm Dylan.

AVAH

Yeah, I know, I'm Avah.

DYLAN

Well, Avah, it's great to meet you.

AVAH

Nice to meet you too. I really loved that last song. It's like it was telling my story.

DYLAN

Thank you. It was telling mine, actually, but I'm glad you connected with it.

Avah takes a step closer to Dylan.

AVAH

You know, sometimes I just wish that other people could see it like you and I do.

Dylan closes the gap between them.

DYLAN

It does look like we see eye to eye.

They kiss.

AVAH

Oh, wow.

DYLAN

No?

AVAH

No! I mean, yes! Very yes!

DYLAN
You have a way with words.

AVAH
Just-- shut up.

They kiss again.

AVAH (CONT'D)
How about we join the party?

DYLAN
Oh, yeah. I forgot about it.

They go off together.

SCENE 6: PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

PRINCIPAL HILL
Thanks for coming in, Bill.

MR. ROSE
Happy to help.

PRINCIPAL HILL
Dylan Barnes to the office, Dylan Barnes to the office.
(To Nancy)

Can you bring him in here when he gets here? Thanks. Oh, and is there any coffee left out there?

NANCY
Yes sir. And I'll go check.

PRINCIPAL HILL
Thank you.

MR. ROSE
Didya go to the boy's basketball game last night?

PRINCIPAL HILL
No, I usually only like watching our team win. And it's been a while since that's happened.

Nancy leads Dylan in. She hands Principal Hill a cup of coffee.

PRINCIPAL HILL (CONT'D)
Amazing, thank you, Nancy. Hello, Dylan.

DYLAN
Mr. Hill.

PRINCIPAL HILL

Do you know why I asked you to come in today?

DYLAN

No, sir, I do not.

PRINCIPAL HILL

Well, you've been making quite the stir lately with your band.

DYLAN

Oh, my band? Yeah, man, we're just having fun.

PRINCIPAL HILL

Hm, it sure sounds like it. What's the name of your band again?

DYLAN

We Hate It Here.

PRINCIPAL HILL

And I believe that is my issue.

DYLAN

What, that we hate it here?

PRINCIPAL HILL

Well, no, but mostly just that you're screaming it out to everyone else.

DYLAN

Sorry, I guess.

PRINCIPAL HILL

You're fine, you're fine. I just wanted to ask you to... how do I say this? I want you to soften your message a touch.

DYLAN

You what?

PRINCIPAL HILL

You know, maybe write songs about other things. Like girls or... things. I don't know. Just be a little more positive.

DYLAN

Dude, I don't have anything else to write about here. There's nothing to do! I hate it here and I'm gonna tell everyone I hate it here.

PRINCIPAL HILL

What do you mean there's nothing to do? Mr. Rose was just telling me about the basketball game last night.

DYLAN

We haven't had a winning season since you were in school.

PRINCIPAL HILL

How about joining a club?

DYLAN

And set up one of the little tables at lunch that everyone just ignores?

PRINCIPAL HILL

Dylan. Just stop. Stop the band. Focus on school, on college!

DYLAN

No, you just stop! You don't get it! This music is all we've got!

Dylan storms out, grabs his guitar and begins to sing/play. The band joins him

DYLAN (CONT'D)

I STAND WAITING AT THE CHECK IN WINDOW
WAITING TO PAY TO SEE HER AGAIN
FEELS LIKE I'M GIVING CASH TO SEE ANOTHER WHORE
WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF THERAPY AGAIN?
AND I KNOW NEXT WEEK I'LL BE BACK
TO GET MY WEEKLY FILL
OF HEARING AFFIRMATIONS AND REALLY NOT MUCH ELSE
AND EVERY MORNING TAKING A PILL

BUT WHY CAN'T I JUST BE HAPPY?
WHY WON'T THE SUN JUST STAY SHINING?
ITS NOT LIKE I'M BEING SAPPY
IM JUST STRUGGLING TO SEE THE SILVER LINING

THE SUN RISES AGAIN AND I'M BACK ON MY FEET
AFTER HALF AN HOUR STRUGGLING TO GET OUT OF BED
AND THEN I GOTTA WALK AROUND LIKE I HAVE MY SHIT TOGETHER
DO YOU THINK THAT I'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD?

WHY CAN'T I JUST BE HAPPY?
WHY WON'T THE SUN JUST STAY SHINING?
ITS NOT LIKE I'M BEING SAPPY
IM JUST STRUGGLING TO SEE THE SILVER LINING
WHY CAN'T I JUST BE HAPPY?
WHY WON'T THE SUN JUST STAY SHINING?
ITS NOT LIKE I'M BEING SAPPY
IM JUST STRUGGLING TO SEE THE SILVER LINING

AND GUESS WHAT? ITS RAINING AGAIN
NO SUN AND THE SKY
PLEASE SOMEONE TELL ME WHY?
AND GUESS WHAT? ITS RAINING AGAIN
NO SUN AND THE SKY

PLEASE SOMEONE TELL ME WHY?

WHY CAN'T I JUST BE HAPPY?

WHY WON'T THE SUN JUST STAY SHINING?

ITS NOT LIKE I'M BEING SAPPY

IM JUST STRUGGLING TO SEE THE SILVER LINING

WHY CAN'T I JUST BE HAPPY?

WHY WON'T THE SUN JUST STAY SHINING?

ITS NOT LIKE I'M BEING SAPPY

IM JUST STRUGGLING TO SEE THE SILVER LINING

SCENE 7: BASEMENT

Dylan and Avah walk into the basement.

DYLAN

So this is the practice space.

AVAH

It's so cool! Do you play all of these instruments?

DYLAN

I mean, I like to play a bit of everything. Obviously guitar is my favorite, but yeah, I mess around with it all.

AVAH

I've always wanted to play something. My mom put me in piano lessons as a kid but I stopped after a couple years.

DYLAN

Well, what do you want to learn?

AVAH

Haha, you're sweet.

DYLAN

No, I'm serious, what instrument down here do you want to play?

AVAH

Oh, um, what's the easiest?

DYLAN

Well, none of them are super easy, but out of the things down here, probably bass. It's pretty simple to pick up but its tough to get really good at it.

AVAH

Ok, yeah, that sounds fun!

DYLAN

So this is how you hold it...

