

AFTER EVER AFTER

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Characters

Rap, a girl with very long hair

Cap, a well-traveled man

Gran, an old woman

Dru, a lively girl

Dope, a quiet boy

Ms. P, a teacher

Tess, a poor woman

Aurora, a beautiful girl

Setting: A classroom with a desks on one side, eight chairs in two rows on the other, and a chalk or dry erase board with the words GET REAL! on it. Each chair has a pad and pencil on it. Across from the chairs are a desk and chair for the teacher.

At rise: RAP is sitting in the foremost chair, with her hair laid out artfully on the floor. She is brushing the ends of her long braid. Silence. She looks around. Silence.

CAP enters from behind. RAP notices him, especially his prosthetic hook hand, the eye-patch and the sword in his belt. He walks, limping, toward the front.

RAP: Please be careful.

CAP: What?

RAP: Like, my hair. Didn't you see it? Please be careful not to step on my hair.

CAP: Any more attitude like that, Missy, and I'll have you walk the plank!

RAP: Whatever!

(He goes into the back row and hovers. Silence. GRAN enters slowly, walking with a cane.)

GRAN: Oh, me. Oh, my. Oh, me. Oh, my.

CAP: Oh, brother!

GRAN: Have they started yet?

RAP: No. Nobody was here when I got here.

GRAN: Well, it's a miracle that I made it here alive.

CAP: It will be a miracle if you make it out of here alive!

GRAN: Oh, my.

RAP: I'm sure the teacher will be here soon.

(GRAN sits in the front row. Silence.)

GRAN: Sorry about your hand. What happened?

CAP: Crocodile. Leg, too. Not that it's any of your business!

GRAN: Crocodile?!? Oh, my.

(Silence. Then, sounds of rustling and bustling from outside.)

DRU *(from offstage)*: This way, you ignorant monkey!

DOPE *(from offstage)*: Are you sure?

DRU: Stop questioning everything I say. It's right in that room, I'm sure.

DOPE: Well, okay.

(DRU appears in the doorway, followed by DOPE, lugging lots of bags.)

DRU: I told you. You're lucky you met me. You would never have found this on your own.

DOPE: Has the class started yet?

DRU: No! Does it look like anything has started?

DOPE: Well, no, but . . .

RAP: The teacher is late.

CAP: The teacher should be thrown overboard! I don't put up with that kind of behavior on my ship.

DRU: Look, I don't know who you are or why you're here, but don't start talking about what you do and don't put up with, on your ship or anywhere else! I've come

a long way, with all these bags to carry, and I'm not interested in anybody's opinions but my own!

GRAN: What's in your bags?

DRU: Why, clothes, of course! I have to be prepared. To look absolutely beautiful. Just in case. Give me those, you numbskull!

RAP: Like, are you and your friend going somewhere after this class?

DRU, *taking a seat in the back row*: My friend? He's not my friend! Do you think I would be friends with someone like him? No way. He was just lost along the way and I happened . . .

DOPE: I . . .

DRU: . . . to find him and I said I'd help him if he carried my bags. That's all. He'd still be out on the road if I hadn't found him.

DOPE, *taking a seat in the front*: I don't usually go places by myself.

GRAN: I don't either, young man. It's very dangerous.

CAP, *mocking*: It's very dangerous.

RAP: Can't you be nice?

CAP: Arrggggghhh!

(DRU whistles a melody. GRAN and DOPE look at each other. Silence. RAP brushes her hair. DRU is busy with her bags. GRAN massages her aching muscles. DOPE looks forward, trying to be invisible. CAP glares at the rest of them. At last, MS. P enters in a rush, settles in at desk during the following.)

MS. P: Oh, good. Everybody is here! Well, not everybody -- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, -- we're missing two. There are supposed to be seven students. Well, I'm sure they'll make it. I am so sorry, everybody. I was about to leave my house and then I remembered a couple of small things I had to attend to. You know, putting things away. Can't leave the house in a mess. I've had a rough morning because I didn't sleep very well last night. Well, well, isn't this exciting? The very first class. I'm so excited. I hope you are too. I do hope those other two arrive. Well, shall we get started?

CAP: It's about time!