

ACT ONE

ONE

A quiet buzzing begins to sound just at the edge of our awareness, an indistinct murmuring of voices, as the house lights slowly fade.

The murmuring builds, growing louder and louder, voices piling on top of one another.

Millions of fragments of emails, status updates, cat videos, dessert recipes, revenge porn—the music of the spheres.

Of a sort.

Suddenly, sharply, nothing.

Silence.

Then, in the darkness, a laptop snaps open.

The gauzy white glow of the screen illuminates the face of Evan Hansen, sitting at a desk with a hard cast on his left arm, alone.

He begins to type.

Start

EVAN: Dear Evan Hansen:

Today is going to be an amazing day, and here's why. Because today, all you have to do is just be yourself.

(Beat.)

But also confident. That's important. And interesting. Easy to talk to. Approachable. But mostly be yourself. That's the big, that's number one. Be yourself. Be true to yourself.

(Beat.)

Also, though, don't worry about whether your hands are going to get sweaty for no reason and you can't make it stop no matter what you do, because they're not going to get sweaty, so I don't even know why you're bringing it up, because it's not going to happen, because you're just, all you have to do is be yourself.

(Beat.)

I'm not even going to worry about it, though, because seriously it's not like, it's not going to be like that time you had the perfect chance to introduce yourself to Zoe Murphy at the jazz band concert last year, when you waited afterward to talk to her and tell her how good she was, and you were going to pretend to be super casual like you didn't even know her name, like she would introduce herself and you'd be like, "Wait, I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. Chloe, you said your name was Chloe?" And she'd be, like, "No, it's Zoe, I said, Zoe," and you'd be, like, "Oh, see, I thought you said Chloe because I don't even, I'm very busy with other stuff right now is the thing." But then you didn't even end up saying anything to her anyway, because you were scared your hands were sweaty which they weren't that sweaty until you started worrying that they were sweaty, which made them sweaty, so you put them under the hand dryer in the bathroom, but then they were still sweaty, they were just very warm now, as well.

Stop.

(Lights shift and Heidi Hansen stands there, holding a twenty-dollar bill.)

HEIDI: So you just decided not to eat last night?