

THE BOYFRIEND PROJECT

A COMEDY IN TWO ACTS

By James Rayfield

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DEDICATION

To Jean Calandra for her wonderful encouragement.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Five teenage girls get so upset with their boyfriends' ways that they form a support group, Good Girls With Bad Boyfriends. Tracy doesn't like the way Paul dresses, Katie wants Tony to be a steady boyfriend, Natalie is tired of Ralph's acting like a wild animal, Donna is fed up with jokes from Jerry at her expense, and Barbara wants to keep Frankie from flirting with every girl around. The girls decide the only way to fight fire is with fire and decide to go to some real extremes to make their points. But hey, these guys do not change - or embarrass - easily! Here's a hilarious comedy that effectively captures the awkward pleasures, pains, and promises of boy/girl relationships.

SETTING

The setting should be simple enough so that there is no time taken between scenes to set the stage. Wagons, simultaneous settings, and in-one sets followed by larger scenes are all possibilities. Whatever solution you come up with should enable the scenes to flow quickly from one to another.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 M, 6 W)

NATALIE: Embarrassed every time she goes out with Ralph.

TRACY: Preppie, president of Future Business Leaders of the World.

KATIE: Only wants Tony to behave like a steady boyfriend.

BARBARA: Science major who will go to any extreme to keep Frankie from flirting.

DONNA: Waitress at the "Doggie Basket" who just wants a little respect from Jerry.

CHERYL: School flirt.

RALPH: Humiliates Natalie with his atrocious table manners and crazy public behavior.

PAUL: Photographer for the school paper who dresses like L.L. Bean's poor cousin.

TONY: Doesn't want to hear the word "commitment."

FRANKIE: Will flirt with any girl he sees.

JERRY: Class clown who constantly makes jokes at Donna's expense.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: NATALIE, TRACY, KATIE, BARBARA, and DONNA are about the stage in various locations that represent their rooms or places of work. The LIGHTS come up on each individual as she speaks.)

NATALIE: *(Sprawled on HER bed which is cluttered with books, clothes and stuffed animals. She is writing a letter.)*
Dear *Teen Girl* magazine advisor, I have a problem with my boyfriend...

TRACY: *(Sitting at a very neat desk typing a letter.)*...his clothes leave much to be desired in the fashion sense. For one thing...

KATIE: *(Writing at a school desk.)*...he's dating other girls, I think. Last night...

BARBARA: *(Writing at a lab table surrounded by equipment.)*... at a party he talked to other girls while I just sat there...

DONNA: *(In a fast food uniform writing on HER order pad.)*...feeling so put down while all the other guys laughed...

NATALIE: ...at the spaghetti running down his...

TRACY: ...pants which are way too...

DONNA: ...cruel to me. I really think that...

BARBARA: ...science must have the answer. If I could just get...

NATALIE: ...frozen yogurt into a mustache and...

TRACY: ...tennis shoes into...

DONNA: ...my face. This is only when we're...

KATIE: ...burping. Which I could live with if there weren't so much...

BARBARA: ...electricity everywhere. Now the computer...

TRACY: ...in his pocket could surely be...

DONNA: ...kept to himself. Besides, he already has enough...

NATALIE: ...spinach all over the table like it's some...

KATIE: ...more attractive girl. So, my question...

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DONNA: ...is...

BARBARA: ...can...

TRACY: ...he...

NATALIE: ...be...

ALL GIRLS: ...changed?

DONNA: Please send me an answer soon since my girl -
friends and I are going to get together and talk about this.
Signed, Desperate Donna.

BARBARA: Bunsen Burner Barbara.

NATALIE: Natalie, the Wash Cloth.

KATIE: Does He Really Care Katie.

TRACY: Sincerely, Tracy Lowell. P.S. I am enclosing my
resume for your files as I will be attending college next
year and after graduation will be seeking employment as
an advertising executive with a magazine such as yours.

(Blackout.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on TRACY'S room where all the GIRLS, except Barbara, are gathered for their meeting.)

TRACY: Okay, can we get started? Is Barbara here?

DONNA: No. I don't think she's coming.

NATALIE: Yeah, she said something about physics homework and a biology project.

TRACY: Well, I for one think this meeting is a lot more important than homework. And if my boyfriend was like hers...

DONNA: He left her at the party Saturday.

NATALIE: No! I saw them come in together, but then I was so busy looking for Ralph that I never saw them again.

DONNA: He left with Cheryl.

KATIE: Ugh! She's the worst. Never comes to the party with a guy, but always leaves with one...

NATALIE: Yeah, somebody else's. I caught Ralph talking to her ...twice, and I told him...

TRACY: Hey, hey, hey. Let's not get into Cheryl's case ... let's get the meeting started. We can dish later.

DONNA: I can tell you plenty about Cheryl and Barbara's boyfriend. Last month, when I was working at Pizza Surprise, they were in a back booth and they were sucking on each other's face so much that the cheese on the pizza got all congealed and they sent it back to get warmed up and then...

TRACY: Dish later, okay?

DONNA: *(To other GIRLS.)* Remind me after the meeting to tell you about when I was working at Love Those Spuds...

TRACY: So, the monthly meeting of the "Good Girls with Bad Boyfriends Support Group" is called to order. Who wants to start?

NATALIE: I'll start. *(SHE moves to the front of the GROUP.)* Ralph really embarrassed me yesterday.

DONNA: At lunch again?

NATALIE: At lunch again. He and Tony were sitting there when I walked up.

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(LIGHTS come up on cafeteria lunch table. TONY and RALPH are seated with their lunches. They are hunched over their plates looking around.)

TONY: Get her, go on, get her. Down her blouse.

RALPH: Here goes. *(HE places some food on a fork and catapults it toward the unseen girl. SFX: A girl's scream.*

TONY and Ralph laugh wildly.) Ten points! Ten points!

I'm ahead by thirty-six points. Now, you get... *(NATALIE, with her lunch tray, walks up to the table with the BOYS.)*

Hey, baby, sit down so Tony can get a clear shot at...

(Picking out the target.) ...that one with the pink scrunchie.

TONY: Man, she's too far. I pick ones that are in range.

RALPH: I choose, I choose.

NATALIE: What are you doing?

RALPH: Lunchroom olympics. It's the macaroni hurl event.

I'm ahead by thirty-six points. Go on, man, the pink scrunchie.

NATALIE: *(Reaching out to stop TONY.)* Don't do that.

(TONY flicks his fork toward the pink scrunchie.)

TONY: Missed!

RALPH: My shot, my shot.

NATALIE: Ralph, I'm never going to speak to you again if you do that.

RALPH: Hey, it's like championship time here. I gotta do it.

(HE flicks his fork.) Way to go! Way to go! *(NATALIE jumps up from her seat as if to leave.)* Hey, wait, baby. I

really got to talk to you about Saturday night. *(To TONY.)*

Okay, pay up, Tony, Tony, Long-Shot Tony, Can't Hit a Ten-Ton Pony.

TONY: *(Handing RALPH the dessert off HIS tray.)* I never get dessert eating lunch with you, man. I'm off. Later.

(HE exits.)

NATALIE: I'm off too. I can't believe that you...

RALPH: *(Rises and puts HIS arm around HER, and guides her to her seat.)* Baby, don't get bent. It's just stuff guys do.

End of Freeview

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