

Start (Sharpay and Ryan rehearse the choreography for their callback; the boom box plays their accompaniment. They are working their butts off. Suddenly, Ryan throws in his signature "jazz square" and stomps on Sharpay's foot.)

SHARPAY

You idiot!

(Ryan turns off the boom box.)

What did I tell you about those stupid jazz squares?

RYAN

Everybody loves a good jazz square – it's a classic. And why do we always have to do what you say?

SHARPAY

Maybe because I know what I'm doing? Just do what I tell you. I'm not taking any chances, understand? That role is mine! I was born to play it!

RYAN

Somebody in this room ought to chill out, sister. And it ain't me. We'll get the roles we want, we always do.

SHARPAY

I'm not just talking about my role in the play, Ryan. I'm talking about my role in like... the school. I'm not a Jock, I'm not a Brainiac... but you know what, I'm the Star – that's my role. And if they take it away from me, who am I?

RYAN

Well... you could just be Sharpay. That's not so bad, is it?

SHARPAY

Are you brain-dead? No one's going to like me if I'm just Sharpay! But on stage, I can be Juliet, I can be Annie Oakley, I can be anyone I want to be, not just dumb old Sharpay. I need something to make me fabulous Ryan. I mean, come on, they named me after a flabby dog!

RYAN

Sharpay, we've had the leads every year since birth. If we get it again, great. If not, we'll still be fabulous. Besides, it could be worse. They could have named you Pug... or Shih Tzu... or –

SHARPAY

But Troy and that... that thing!

RYAN

Look, maybe Troy would like you more if you were just yourself, for once.

SHARPAY

Pardon me, Dr. Phil, but what do you know? You're just a kid.

Scene
1

RYAN

I'm only eight minutes younger than you.

SHARPAY

Yeah, well, those are eight important minutes!

(Troy suddenly barges into the room looking for Gabriella, cell phone in hand.)

End

TROY

Oh, sorry... I didn't know you were in here.

SHARPAY

(instantly sugar-coated)

Hi Troy. Did you come to ask if I'd switch partners and audition with you? The answer is yes! Ryan, you're fired.

RYAN

Sharpay!

TROY

Uhm, no. Have you seen Gabriella? I've really got to talk to her.

SHARPAY

Who?

TROY

(over it, turning to leave)

Forget it!

RYAN

(stopping Troy)

Hey. Last time I saw her, she was in the theater, like about ten minutes ago.

TROY

(surprised)

Thanks, Ryan. You're all right!

(Troy runs out. Ryan beams. Sharpay fumes like Vesuvius about to erupt.)

SHARPAY

How can you stab me in the back like that, helping the enemy?!?

RYAN

I stabbed you in the back?

SHARPAY

Well, at least you admit it. Now take it from the top, and lose those jazz squares.

(Sharpay hits the boom box. Lights fade down.)