

**ACT TWO**#24 – *Entr'acte (Stick to the Status Quo)**band***SCENE 1: ROOFTOP GARDEN — WEDNESDAY, 12:30 PM**

*(Lights up on Jack Scott. He runs and trips into the announcer's booth, flicks on the mic.)*

**JACK SCOTT**

This is Jack Scott with a late-breaking Wildcat Newsflash: Students have been spotted singing and dancing on tables in the school cafeteria! Cliques have gone wild in an unprecedented response to Troy Bolton's callback for the school musical – one skaterdude was even seen mixing in with the school band string section – oh, the humanity, the humanity!

*(Lights out on Jack.)*

#25 – *Rooftop Garden**band*

*(Lights up on the rooftop garden, Horticulture Club headquarters. It's a hidden oasis, filled with flowers in full bloom. Troy and Gabriella run on.)*

**TROY**

Wow, pretty wild, huh?

**GABRIELLA**

I can't believe how crazy it got downstairs just because we got called back.

**TROY**

This is much better, right?

**GABRIELLA**

Much better. So this is your private hideout?

**TROY**

Thanks to the Horticulture Club. My buddies don't even know about it.

**GABRIELLA**

Looks to me like everyone on campus wants to be your friend.

**TROY**

Yeah. Unless we lose.

**GABRIELLA**

Must be tricky being the coach's son.

**TROY**

He's gonna freak when he hears about the singing thing.

**GABRIELLA**

You're worried?

**TROY**

My parents' friends are always saying, "Your son is the basketball guy. You must be so proud." Sometimes I don't want to be "the basketball guy." I just want to be, you know, me.

**GABRIELLA**

I saw how you treated Kelsi at the audition yesterday. Do your friends know that part of you?

**TROY**

Are you kidding? To them, I'm "the playmaker dude."

**GABRIELLA**

Then they don't know enough about you, Troy.

*(beat)*

Playmaker. That's such an odd phrase.

**TROY**

*(mispronouncing)*

How about Pygathorean Theorem? Now that's pretty whack.

**GABRIELLA**

Uhm, I think you mean Pythagorean.

**TROY**

Right. Totally whack!

**GABRIELLA**

At my other schools I was "the freaky math girl." That's all they thought I was... always pointing at me, whispering behind my back. They made me feel like I was a freak and I hated it. That's kind of why I want to keep a low profile here, you know, so I can just be me.

**TROY**

But you can't let people stop you from doing what you want to do. I mean, you are what you do, right? Kinda?

**GABRIELLA**

That's easy for you to say. You're the big basketball star — you love the spotlight. I'm a lot happier curling up with a good book.

**TROY**

Hiding?

GABRIELLA

No.

TROY

Maybe?

GABRIELLA

Well, maybe. I don't know.

*(beat)*

Remember in kindergarten... you'd meet a kid, know nothing about them, then ten seconds later you were best friends, because you didn't have to be anything but yourself?

TROY

Yeah.

GABRIELLA

Singing with you felt like that. Like, safe, you know?

TROY

I never thought about singing, that's for sure. But when I look at you...

*(embarrassed, but mustering courage)*

... it's like anything is possible, you know?

GABRIELLA

*(impressed with Troy's honesty, takes a risk)*

So you really want to do the callbacks?

*(Pause. Troy weighs his response carefully.)*

*(backpedaling)*

That's cool— I mean, I guess I don't want to either.

TROY

No, I'm in.

GABRIELLA

Really? Really?

TROY

Hey, just call me "freaky callback boy."

#26 - I Can't Take My Eyes Off of You

Troy, Gabriella

GABRIELLA

You're a cool guy, Troy. But not for the reasons your friends think.