

**DRAG DRAMA (working title)**

Book, Music & Lyrics by Alan Saunders

Dramaturg Tony Love

Version (July 2023)

Alan Saunders | (689) 867-0658 | [alan@writeineer.com](mailto:alan@writeineer.com)

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The show takes place in a non-traditional performance venue such as a nightclub or restaurant with a stage area. Scenes take place on stage, backstage and within venue. Can be stage in a thrust or traditional proscenium.

Time = Somewhere in the near future

### ACT ONE

Scene 1 – Onstage at SheMoves Drag Club.

Scene 2 – In Nikki’s private dressing room.

Scene 3 – Charlie’s Recording Desk.

Scene 4 – In the dressing room.

Scene 5 – In Nikki’s private dressing room.

Scene 6 – Various spotlighted sections.

Scene 7 – Backstage.

Scene 8 – Charlie’s Recording Desk.

Scene 9 – Spotlighted section.

Scene 10 – Airport and the “workroom”

### ACT TWO

Scene 1 – Onstage.

Scene 2 – Charlie’s Filming Desk.

Scene 3 – In the “workroom.”

Scene 4 – Backstage and in the dressing room.

Scene 5 – Spotlighted Section.

Scene 6 – Charlie’s Recording Desk.

Scene 7 – Backstage.

Scene 8 – Onstage.

Scene 9 – Backstage.

Scene 9 – Onstage.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

All roles except NIKKI HART can be any Sex, Age or Ethnicity.

NIKKI HART (male, Caucasian) a 40-something drag queen, show director responsible for booking queens at SheMoves Drag Club. She's been there for twenty years. Vocal range Baritone.

GEORGIA LINES (male, LatinX or your choice), a motherly figure, early 50s, a backup show director and calls SheMoves home. Vocal range high Tenor. Also doubles as the DRAG ILLUMINATI PRINCESS.

ANNA DUKES (male, POC, LatinX, your choice), a feisty, activist drag queen, an energetic 30's something. Good dancer. Vocal Range Baritone/Rap.

CHARLIE (male or female), a big fan of drag and runs an online video channel called "Drag Drama", he/she is in his/her early twenties and full of energy. Vocal range Baritone (Alto).

PAMALA (female), Nikki Hart's business-minded friend and confidante. Mid 30's. Vocal range Alto.

CHORUS ROLES (doubled among 4 people wearing drag makeup through the performance and easily changed into each role). The various character descriptions are guides only, feel free to cast as you desire.

LAYYA MONTAGUE, a drag performer. The wacky one. Doubles as SEWING MASTER, a grandma type man that teaches sewing.

GINGER BEAR-D, a bearded queen. Cynical, a bit raunchy, witty. Doubles as DEI CONSULTANT a pretentious person with a British accent.

STACY LEIGH, a newer drag performer. A pageant queen. Doubles as WARMUP COACH, a feminine gay man that teaches dance.

TOPPER WARE, a drag performer. Stunt queen. Doubles as FASHION DESIGNER, a silver daddy.

WALK ON ROLES (4, any gender, easily doubled by CHORUS)

GODLIKE QUEEN – the boss of all drag. This role is designed as a special appearance walk-on role for a local celebrity queen or even RuPaul himself.

JOEL (OR JOLINA), Bar Manager of the club. Doubles when needed.

STUDIO ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR, doubled by which ever chorus member is available for that scene.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

1.	SHEMOVES INTRODUCTION	Nikki
2.	THIS IS DRAG (PART I)	Nikki, Chorus
3.	THIS IS DRAG (PART II)	Nikki, Chorus
4.	EV'RY DAY'S A DRAG	Nikki
5.	WIGHEAD SONG	Chorus
6.	PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS (NIKKI'S TESTIMONY)	Nikki
7.	PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS (QUEENS TESTIMONY)	The Queens
8.	I'M A WORKIN' QUEEN	The Queens
9.	THE PAMALA WAY	Pamala
10.	OUR GIRL NIKKI (PARTS I-VI)	Chorus
16.	THIS IS IT	Entire Company
17.	RACE TIME (ACT ONE FINALE)	Entire Company

### ACT TWO

18.	ON SATURDAY NIGHT WE DANCE	Georgia
19.	KISS KISS (PART I)	Nikki, Chorus
20.	YOU KEEP DOIN' WHAT YOU DO	Anna, Nikki
21.	KISS KISS (PART II)	Nikki, Chorus
22.	I'M NOT DONE	Nikki
23.	KISS KISS (PART III)	Nikki, Chorus
24.	EV'RYDAY IS DRAG REPRISE	Nikki
25.	PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS REPRISE	Chorus
26.	NO MORE/DRAG ILLUMINATI	Nikki, Chorus
27.	WHEN I SEE HER	Charlie
28.	DREAMS DON'T WAIT FOREVER	Nikki, Chorus
29.	KISS KISS (REPRISE)	Chorus
30.	LIFE IS YOUR RUNWAY	Entire Company

## PRODUCTION HISTORY & AUTHOR NOTES

Encouraged by my husband, I wrote DRAG DRAMA when the pandemic shutdown started and completed a rough draft within nine months. That draft was reviewed by a script coverage provider and basically told me I still had a long way to go.

The result is a nightmarish, fever dream of me telling a story, grounded in a theatrical reality and inspired by my favorite TV show without infringing on their copyright and getting sued.

My result is a colorful, loud and silly tale about a drag queen coming to terms with aging out of an industry that is all she's known and learning how to step into the next half of her career.

While writing, I quickly learned that certain characters would become stream of consciousness for me and now, looking back, every single event in this story happened to me. Though not in any particular order and any resemblance to persons living or dead are purely coincidental.

Concerning stage directions. They are extensive at the moment, this is because in my past experiences, by leaving many of them out, I discovered that my readers weren't able to follow the story as well. Therefore, even though I have extensive directions in the text, it is assumed that upon production, the directing team will hone in on those directions and make the show their own.

On the music, I've been exploring various ways to incorporate house, pop dance and drag bitch track music on the stage without losing the power of the lyrics and therefore, while each song starts in a specific style or genre, ultimately to build the energy, they usually lead back to house style with drum rolls, cymbal sweeps and dramatic orchestration.

For staging, design and tech, producers and directors can choose to have an elaborate set, or bare furniture.

Alan Saunders

## ACT ONE – SCENE 1

Setting: Onstage at SheMoves Drag Club.

At rise: NIKKI HART hosts, our audience is her audience. In the dark:

(SONG: “01 – SHEMOVES INTRODUCTION”)

NIKKI

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT  
WE CELEBRATE THE TWO DAY WEEKEND RIGHT  
FORGET YOUR TROUBLES, LET’S HAVE FUN  
DRAG IS FOR EVERYONE  
SOME DRINKS, SOME JOKES, JELLO SHOTS  
SOMETIMES A MESS

How the hell are ya Orlando?!

LET ME HEAR THE APPLAUSE FOR THE CLOWN IN THE DRESS

(Applause, dramatic lights up, underscoring)

Hello SheMoves! I’m your host and show director, Nikki Hart! Thank you, thank you welcome back! Tonight, from Drag Race, we have Ruby Chardonnay and all your favorite cast queens! Y’all ready? Put your drinks up! Here’s to you and me, best friends we’ll always be, if we ever disagree, fuck you, here’s to me! Drink up everybody!

(SHE toasts, downs the drink, music starts)

Ahh. Drag queen’s milk.

(SONG: “02 – THIS IS DRAG (PART I)”)

Y’all, it’s only gonna get louder and crazier from here! Come through Saturday! Whew!

YES I’M A CLOWN, DID YOU EXPECT SOMETHING ELSE  
IT’S OKAY TO LAUGH, I LAUGH AT MYSELF

(SHE laughs)

I’M A COMEDY QUEEN, I LOVE TO LAUGH  
MOST OF THESE QUEENS, THEY NEVER LAUGH  
BUT I’M HERE TO ENTERTAIN YOU, SO YA KNOW, LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU  
TIME TO PARTY AND DRINK, HAVE A GREAT TIME, BUT KEEP IT KIND  
KEEP IT HAPPY AND GAY, THIS IS DRAG

QUEENS

KEEP IN KIND! THIS IS DRAG!

QUEENS

THIS IS DRAG, THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID, THIS IS DRAG

NIKKI

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS HERE THESE ARE MY RULES  
SHOW LOVE TO THE QUEENS, DON'T BE ACTIN' A FOOL  
ONLY QUEENS WALK ON MY STAGE

Let me put it another way...

STAY OFF MY STAGE BITCH  
YOU CAN LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH, SNATCH A PHOTO  
MY WEAVE IS OFF LIMITS THOUGH  
THE STAGE IS OUR RUNWAY, THIS IS DRAG

CHORUS

THIS IS DRAG, THIS IS DRAG, THIS IS DRAG!

NIKKI

Let's get this party started SheMoves! Put your hands together and...

MAKE SOME NOISE!

I bring the best drag every week! Welcome to the stage...

(QUEENS enter one by one as announced by NIKKI)

Miss Georgia Lines!

GEORGIA (speaks into the mic as NIKKI holds it)

Y'all wanna know how I stay this fabulous. And at my age? Bitch, I ain't sharing family secrets with you, but I'm a classic!

I'VE BEEN HERE SO LONG, I AM GRANDMA TO THESE WHORES  
YOU WANT A SONG, I'LL SING YOU A SONG  
YOU WANT A FLIP, MEH I'LL BLOW YOU A KISS  
DON'T BE MAKING ME DO THINGS  
THAT COULD BREAK MY HIP

(GEORGIA moves to position and poses)

NIKKI

Move over Tupperware, we've got Topper Ware!

(TOPPER enters)

TOPPER

What surprises will I reveal when you open me up?!

(SHE moves to position and poses as GINGER enters)

NIKKI

Watch out, she's the broad of a thousand faces! It's Ginger Bear-D! Ginger, how do you grow such a luscious beard?

GINGER

It's all the protein I get eating my haters for breakfast!

(SHE moves to position and poses as LAYYA enters)

NIKKI

Your favorite local weirdo! LAYYA Montague!

LAYYA

Don't waste your time labeling me, I'm always unconventional! And yes I'm related to Romeo.

(SHE moves to position and poses as STACY enters)

NIKKI

Our newest cast member it's Stacy Leigh!

STACY

Polished and perfected!

NIKKI

We're here 'til midnight, then DJ Michael will serve the best dance tracks this side of Disney, the dance floor will be yours!

NIKKI & QUEENS

TIME TO PARTY AND DRINK, HAVE A GOOD TIME  
FORGET YOUR GRIND,  
THIS IS LIFE YOUR OWN WAY, THIS IS DRAG

QUEENS

THIS IS DRAG, THAT'S WHAT WE SAID, THIS IS DRAG

(The show is "ON STAGE", focus shifts "OFF STAGE" with PAMALA and JOEL at a podium. NIKKI quickly changes into HER next costume. PAMALA takes HER wig, brushes it out and proceeds to place it back on NIKKI during the following)



NIKKI

Whew!

PAMALA

Great crowd tonight!

NIKKI

Better than it's been.

JOEL

This crowd won't stick around. It's running too long. Cut the cast, get Ruby up there, that's who they want.

NIKKI

My second number first, then Anna. Then Ruby.

JOEL

You started thirty minutes late!

NIKKI

Joel, if I cut, they won't make rent.

JOEL

We don't need full cast for drag race queens. Keep it you and Georgia.

NIKKI

You'll have some unhappy queens on your hands.

JOEL

You will. They're always unhappy.

(HIS phone rings, HE looks at it)

LA? Who's calling from LA?

(HE answers and exits)

NIKKI

(to PAMALA)

I can't cut Anna. She'll burn this place down. Cut my second number.

PAMALA

Okay, but she won't have time to change... guess what that means.

NIKKI

Audience participation segment... ugh.

(NIKKI steps ONSTAGE)

Hey friends! Put your hands together for Orlando's dancing queen, Anna Dukes!

(Applause, ANNA enters, puts on heels)

ANNA

HEY THERE SHE MOVES, IT'S ANNA DUKES  
I'M ABOUT TO SLAY THIS HOUSE DOWN BOOTS  
MY MUG'S THE PRETTIEST, CALL IT URBAN GLAM  
WATCH WHEN I HIT THE FLOOR SHABLAAM!

NO COMEDY HERE, I'M LOUD AND INTENSE  
THIS IS MY CREED, MAKE THE WORLD MAKE SENSE  
I'M GONNA GET MAD, I'M GONNA FIGHT  
Y'ALL GONNA HEAR MY VOICE, TONIGHT

DRAG IS POLITICAL, FEEL THE RAGE  
WAKING FUCKERS UP FOR THE CHANGE  
MY VOICE IS MY POWER, WAIT AND SEE  
THERE'S NOTHING QUIET ABOUT ME

(Dance break)

(Focus OFFSTAGE at the podium, JOEL enters)

JOEL

Anna. Microphone. Things that don't belong together. Where's Georgia?

NIKKI

Shit. I'll find out.

JOEL

No preachin' on the mic! We're not here to give away cash! One wrong move and we'll lose it all.

(GEORGIA enters mid costume change, straps tripping HER up.  
PAMALA and NIKKI help)

GEORGIA

This is a fucking complicated costume change!

JOEL

There she is. Why do I pay a show director. Pamala, could you-

PAMALA

No Joel. Don't even ask me to go on that stage.

(JOEL exits, exasperated, NIKKI and PAMALA are not successful in helping GEORGIA change)

PAMALA

I'm no performer.

NIKKI

Girl, we know.

(to GEORGIA)

String me up after the show?

GEORGIA

Shit. Sorry.

NIKKI

Where does that go?

GEORGIA

I said it's complicated. No sweetie, that goes there.

NIKKI (referring to the straps)

No no, not blaming you. Over and over. That's not right-... it's backwards!

(PAMALA helps GEORGIA remove the costume, JOEL re-enters.  
GEORGIA stands in a bra, panties and panty hose)

JOEL

You're still here and Anna's on the mic. Geez, get Ruby on!

(PAMALA gestures at GEORGIA as if to say "She's naked")

GEORGIA

Fuck it. They've seen me more naked than this!

(GEORGIA grabs HER hair and runs snagging JOEL in the straps.  
NIKKI runs on)

ANNA

Tonight, later in the cabaret, I'll be collecting tips for the Strength and Poise organization. They help the homeless with clothing, haircuts and resume writing. So save those dollars for charity. Drop a one, a five, twenty, fifty, all your money is good here.

(NIKKI wrestles microphone from ANNA. SHE remains awkwardly, then storms off)

NIKKI

Thanks Anna! Anna Dukes everybody! Thank you to my DJ, DJ Michael, hello Michael! Thank you to our bartenders! (SHE can call out their names) They're taking care of you, heavy pours, y'all take care of them, toss 'em that coin hunty! Where're my bachelorettes tonight?

(A loud female scream)

There they are, in the back row, right where they belong!

(OFFSTAGE, CHARLIE approaches PAMALA at the podium with three beer bottles)

PAMALA

Perfect, get on stage!

CHARLIE

Me?

PAMALA

(to GEORGIA)

You too, go help stall.

(PAMALA shoves CHARLIE ONSTAGE, followed by GEORGIA)

NIKKI

And then there's Charlie.

CHARLIE

(handing NIKKI and GEORGIA a bottle and speaking into the mic NIKKI holds)

Smirnoff Ice challenge!

NIKKI

Nothing like binge drinking to forget the night.

CHARLIE

If I win, I get to attend rehearsals and hang out backstage for my-

NIKKI

-Charlie hosts a youtube channel, he's a superfan-

CHARLIE

-Drag Drama! Subscribe for the tea hunty! And maybe I can help you get cast on Drag Race! I'd love to see that!

NIKKI

I've auditioned a million times baby. I sent my audition for next season so maybe this year will be right! Alright, let's get this out of the way. Take a knee!

(NIKKI, GEORGIA and CHARLIE kneel)

Hope I can get back up. Ready? On your mark. Get set. Go!

(SONG: "03 – THIS IS DRAG (PART II)")

(THEY chug. NIKKI finishes, followed by GEORGIA then CHARLIE)

NIKKI

You've been Iced! Three hundred calories, probably why my waist keeps expanding!  
Thank you Charlie. Good try! Give it up for Charlie!

(Focus OFFSTAGE where JOEL, ANNA, PAMALA and GEORGIA are in a panic. THEY sing, overlapping each other)

JOEL

TOO LONG, TOO LONG  
THIS SHOW IS RUNNING WAY TOO LONG  
TOO LONG, TOO LONG  
WHY ISN'T THE STAR ON STAGE

ANNA

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH DOING SOMETHING NICE?  
I NEED ANSWERS STAT, WHO WILL PAY THE PRICE

PAMALA

CUE TWENTY EIGHT GO  
RUBY CHARD FIVE MINUTE NOTICE  
CUE TWENTY NINE GO  
CUE THIRTY STANDBY FOR LIGHT CHANGE

GEORGIA

THANK YOU FIVE  
I'LL SEE THAT SHE IS READY  
IS RUBY CHARDONNAY READY?

(Focus ONSTAGE as the QUEENS finish the number)

NIKKI & HALF CAST (THEN OTHER HALF)

THOUGH WE ALL DO DRAG IN DIFFERENT WAYS

WE ALL WANT YOUR APPLAUSE AND PRAISE  
WITH THE WORLD TRYING TO ERASE US ALL  
WE'LL RISE UP AND WE'LL STAND TALL

NIKKI

WHEN POLITICIANS OUTLAW YOUR ART

HALF CAST

WE'LL KEEP DOING OUR PART!

ANNA

WHEN PROUD BOYS THREATEN YOUR SOUL

HALF CAST

WE'LL KEEP PLAYIN' OUR ROLE

ALL

WE ENTERTAIN AND WE GET LOUD  
WE GET POLITICAL AND STAND PROUD  
WE ARE WHO WE ARE TWENTY FOUR  
WE'RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT ANYMORE!

(Focus OFF STAGE to PAMALA and CHARLIE)

CHARLIE

Oh my god, is she gonna do it?!

PAMALA

It looks like it!

CHARLIE

She's doing it, she's doing it!

(Focus ON STAGE, NIKKI reaches up and pulls off HER wig to a  
thunderous applause)

NIKKI

TIME TO PARTY AND DRINK, HAVE A GREAT TIME, JUST KEEP IT KIND

ALL

KEEP IN KIND! WE SAY IT ALL THE TIME!

NIKKI

WE'RE GOING ALL THE WAY, THIS IS DRAG

ALL

THIS IS DRAG, THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID, THIS IS DRAG!

GEORGIA

DRAG IS FABULOUS

NIKKI

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS

ANNA

DRAG WILL SEDUCE YOU

NIKKI

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS

GEORGIA

DRAG CAN BE ROUGH, IF YOU FIND YOURSELF CAUGHT UP

NIKKI

DON'T FORGET THE IMPORTANT STUFF

ALL

AT THE END OF THE DAY, REMEMBER  
LIFE IS A CABARET, THIS IS DRAG

QUEENS

THIS IS DRAG, THAT'S WHAT WE SAID

NIKKI & QUEENS

THIS IS DRAG!

NIKKI

IN HERE WE'RE ALL THE SAME  
TIME TO PARTY AND DRINK  
HAVE A GOOD TIME  
WE WANT YOU TO HAVE FUN  
QUEENS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY

THIS IS DRAG

THIS IS DRAG!

GEORGIA

Yasss! Shut it down sis!

QUEENS

IN HERE WE'RE ALL THE SAME  
PARTY, GO ON AND DRINK  
THAT'S RIGHT  
KEEP IN KIND!

WE'LL TAKE YOU ALL THE WAY

THIS IS DRAG, THIS IS DRAG

THIS IS DRAG!

(All exit except NIKKI)

NIKKI

SheMoves, are you ready?! You've probably heard about a little TV show where drag queens compete to be the next star Drag Queen. All the way from Seattle, winner of Drag Race season 49, welcome to the stage, Ruby Chardonnay!

BLACKOUT



## ACT ONE – SCENE 2

Setting: Dressing room. Workstations, mirrors, lights, rolling racks of costumes and a dressing screen. NIKKI's dressing area is in the same room but separated with a door.

At rise: GINGER, LAYYA, and STACY are seated. NIKKI enters followed by PAMALA and CHARLIE.

NIKKI

(to PAMALA)

How long?

PAMALA

Ruby's first number is fifteen minutes long. It's spelled out very specifically in her performance contract.

(SHE produces contract and slams down on podium)

NIKKI

Her contract spells out a fifteen minute number?

PAMALA

Yep.

NIKKI

It's in her contract like that?

PAMALA

Yep.

NIKKI

Wish Joel would honor my performance contract.

PAMALA

Salary queens don't count.

NIKKI

Yeah, thanks. Topper ready?

PAMALA

I'll check.

(PAMALA exits)

CHARLIE

Let me watch rehearsals, backstage at shows, you know? Won't be any extra work, I'll hang out and do my thing.

(The QUEENS cover up noticing CHARLIE)

QUEENS

(gasp)

NIKKI

No.

LAYYA

Great, can't wait to hear what lies he'll tell about me this time.

STACY LEIGH

Gurl, he won't notice you, no one else does.

CHARLIE

(to NIKKI)

Come on, give me a chance. You get more fans-

NIKKI

-You get more fans-

CHARLIE

-SheMoves gets busier. Win-win. They want more-

NIKKI

Yeah, off the backs of my queens.

CHARLIE

I want to-

(NIKKI drops stuff on HER station, ANNA enters and approaches NIKKI. SHE stands arms crossed. GINGER and LAYYA listening)

NIKKI

Spill it Anna. What's your problem now?

GINGER

Oh shit.

LAYYA

Hundred bucks she burns down her house.

GINGER  
You're on.

(THEY high five. NIKKI confronts ANNA)

ANNA  
Embarrass me like that again and you won't see retirement!

NIKKI  
No preachin' on the mic!

ANNA  
Can't do something nice, can't pick my own numbers, cause Nikki Hart-

NIKKI  
It's not me, it's Joel.

ANNA  
You're the boss! These queens will tell you what you want to hear, But I ain't got no problem telling you where to put that microphone.

OTHER QUEENS  
Oooh. Girl. Child. Honey.

(TOPPER enters followed by PAMALA who posts the lineup)

TOPPER  
Why's he here?

NIKKI  
Charlie. Go. Only queens back here.

CHARLIE  
Break legs ladies! I love all of you! Nikki, I can help. Don't forget – Drag Drama on Youtube!

NIKKI  
Yeah, yeah.

TOPPER  
Who's got my baton?

(CHARLIE exits. TOPPER searches. STACY LEIGH reads lineup and PAMALA exits)

STACY LEIGH  
Great. The ballad. Again. Call me Stacy Leigh, the ballad queen.

GINGER BEAR-D

Suck it up newbie, gotta put in your time.

STACY LEIGH

Couldn't we rotate?

(The OTHERS moan)

C'mon, I want dancers-

NIKKI

-You've got the ballad.

STACY LEIGH

Can I pick the song?

GINGER

No bitch, You're the bathroom-break-drink-refill queen.

(TOPPER notices an object under a workstation)

TOPPER

What's that?!

GINGER

What's what?

TOPPER

My baton!

(TOPPER attempts to twirl baton, hits GINGER)

GINGER

Look out! Someone's 'bout to lose an eye!

(PAMALA enters followed by GEORGIA who runs to trash can, getting sick, no one notices because they've all been there)

PAMALA

LAYYA, you're next!

LAYYA

I'm coming!

GEORGIA

Jesus christ Pamala! Gasoline shots?!

PAMALA

You ordered something to make me forget my name!

GEORGIA  
It worked.

(GEORGIA sits. PAMALA grabs trashcan and pushes LAYYA off,  
dragging can)

PAMALA  
Layya! Now!

LAYYA  
(clapping on each word)

I. Said. I'm. Coming!

NIKKI  
LAYYA! You're clapping again. Get another drink.

LAYYA (grabbing her hair and running out)  
Shit!

(LAYYA exits, NIKKI slams door)

(SONG: "04 – EV'RY DAY'S A DRAG")

I DO MY JOB, I ENTERTAIN  
HELD BACK BY A BEDAZZLED BALL AND CHAIN  
MOM TO THESE QUEENS, CLOWN TO MY FANS  
BOUND BY A GOLDEN BRACELET 'ROUND MY HANDS  
PARALYZED AND FROZE  
MAKE A MISTAKE, GO FIND A NEW JOB  
WHEN YOU'RE A QUEEN THAT'S JUST HOW IT GOES

I'VE GOT THE TITLE, I'VE GOT THE PAY  
BUT IT DOESN'T GIVE ME ANY SAY  
TOLD WHO TO CAST, DO WHAT YOU'RE ASKED  
BE SURE TO DO IT THIS WAY, OH BE SURE TO DO IT THIS WAY  
WHEN YOU'RE EV'RYBODY'S PUNCHING BAG  
EV'RY DAY'S A DRAG

ONCE FEARLESS TO SHAKE IT UP, NOW WORRIED I'LL FUCK IT UP  
TOLD HOW TO BE, NO AUTHORITY, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL MISCAST  
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL MISCAST, THE NICE QUEEN FINISHING LAST  
EV'RY DAY'S A DRAG

BEEN ROCKIN' THIS STAGE, I THINK I KNOW WHAT I'M DOIN'

GET OUTTA MY WAY, AND SEE WHAT I CAN DO (OO-OO-OOH)  
I KNOW WHAT WORKS FOR ME AND WHAT DOESN'T  
GIVE ME ROOM, I'LL RISE ABOVE IT!

GIVE ME THE CHANCE, I'M YOUR QUEEN  
I'M HERE TO IMPROVE YOUR SCENE  
I KNOW WHO TO CAST, IN CHARGE AT LAST  
WE'RE GONNA DO IT MY WAY  
OH YES WE'LL DO IT MY WAY  
I'VE GOT THIS IN MY BAG  
NO MORE, EV'RYBODIES PUNCHING BAG  
MAYBE SOMEDAY, EV'RY DAY IS DRAG!

(Takes off wig, places on WIGHEAD on a counter)

WIGHEAD  
She did it again!

(Three other WIGHEADS grumble)

WIGHEADS  
Again? Geez find a new gimmick! What's her problem? Etc.

NIKKI  
Wait, what?

(SONG: "05 – WIGHEAD SONG")

WIGHEADS  
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, SOMEONE GIVE HER A CLUE  
WHAT'S IT GONNA TAKE, STAPLES OR GLUE  
NOT HERE TO PREACH, BUT YOU'VE BEEN READ  
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR HAIR ON YOUR HEAD!

NIKKI  
Why's everybody so concerned about my wig?!

WIGHEAD  
Not happy queen? Change it. Quit.

NIKKI  
I can't.

WIGHEAD  
I'm so dying to hear why...

NIKKI

Been here twenty years, I can't walk away.

WIGHEAD

Why not?

NIKKI

And feel like I abandoned everyone? No thanks.

WIGHEAD

You have a choice, be a puppet or take charge, change it.

NIKKI

I'm the reason SheMoves exists.

WIGHEAD

Yeah I've heard it. Get your head out of the past and see today.

NIKKI

I can't live with myself knowing anybody has to deal with rotten ass Joel because I "couldn't cut it as show director." He still scheduled all the same events when I started. Only names change. He's so afraid he's gonna go out of business.

WIGHEAD

Maybe a better option...

NIKKI

I belong here. You don't know what you're talking about.

WIGHEAD

I have my doctorate.

NIKKI

In what?

WIGHEAD

Psychology.

NIKKI

How – never mind, I'm not calling you doctor.

BLACKOUT

## ACT ONE – SCENE 3

Setting: A camera and ring light on a desk.

At rise: In the darkness...

CHARLIE (in a sexy, sultry, call girl voice)

Hello YouTube, you lookin' for drag? Do you want it? Oh yeah baby, I know you want it...

(CHARLIE turns on light, seated at a desk, recording video. HE(or SHE) is full of energy, animated, dramatic, easily distracted, wears wigs and makeup. Throughout video clips of HIM doing silly actions with sunglasses, maybe a wig, etc. Similar to youtube videos)

Hello! Welcome back to Drag Drama! I'm Charlie and I spill the tea on Orlando drag! I am obsessed! When in season, I recap Drag Race so you won't miss any of that drama! If you're new, smash that subscribe button and ring that little ding-a-ling-ding-dong bell to never miss a post!

Guuuuuurllllll. I peeked backstage at SheMoves and... it was a balmy Ninety-Eight degrees... in the shaaaaade. Like Nikki Hart says, the real show happens backstage and woof, I got a front row seat. Nikki yanked the mic from Anna. El scandelo! Anna was not thrilled and let Nikki have it. All over a mic kids. Still I've reported these tense moments between Anna and Nikki before and next week it'll be something else. It's been going on a long time.

But Anna's point rings true. When was the last time we saw Nikki do anything legendary? Not throwing that around lightly. But, she is show director and is busy making drag magic happen, maybe she'll get back to her drag. I'll keep ya posted as it plays out.

On to some drag race tea, any day now, producers will sequester twelve to fourteen queens in LA for six weeks of filming. No phones or laptops so their social media accounts will go silent and that's how we'll confirm the queens that made it. I'll drop that video as soon as it happens!

That's it for now, check back soon and I'll have a list of the queens that disappear. Bye for now my babes!

SEQUE



## ACT ONE – SCENE 4

Setting: Dressing room.

At rise: The QUEENS in various stages of costume changes and refreshing makeup. NIKKI enters. Nobody notices so SHE sighs.

NIKKI  
I'm getting wrinkles.

GINGER  
Well when you take all the gigs, you get the wrinkles too. I'm over here, the pretty one.

NIKKI  
Can't do this without you, sweetie. Who'd go on when I'm changing. Kiss kiss.

GEORGIA  
Ladies, ladies. There's enough attention for everyone in this room to get a fix.

ANNA  
Oh oh I see, you pull your wig off for attention?! Guess I've been doing it wrong.

GINGER  
Ope. There's that...

NIKKI  
Shut up, it's my secret weapon!

ANNA  
It ain't no secret. When you don't know what to do, off comes the hair!

NIKKI  
I'm a man. In a dress. I'm a clown.

ANNA  
Breaking the illusion.

NIKKI  
No illusion here.

ANNA  
Unprofessional.

NIKKI  
I'm professional. I've got a musical theatre degree. The rest of you should-

ANNA  
-Here comes the preacher! Da da da daaaaa!

(ANNA grabs a tiara and puts it on NIKKI)

Preach mama! Oh wait. No preachin' right? Unless you approve?

NIKKI

Shut up bitch.

ANNA

Your majesty, share with us the wisdom you've decided to bestow upon us lowly queens-

STACY LEIGH

Princesses!

LAYYA

Baby Queens!

ANNA

Yass!

GINGER

So low we don't rate as royalty.

GEORGIA

Y'all shut up. Nikki's is why all of you are here. Don't destroy a good thing.

ANNA

She knows she's good. But it's the same, over and over. Nothing new. What used to be-

GEORGIA

-We used to be lucky to get ten people. Nikki worked hard and one night, she got a standing ovation when she walked out on stage. A standing ovation. Fan favorite. She did "It's all coming back to me now" so good, they made her do it three times! Everybody sang with her, so loud you could hear it on the street and people started coming in, then when she ripped off that wig everybody lost their shit! Fifteen minutes to collect her tips and quiet 'em down. Four queens walked out and never came back. That's why she's a legend. That's why she's mother. That's why we still talk about it.

STACY LEIGH

Why didn't you go to New York?

NIKKI

I thought, maybe if New York wasn't in the cards, then maybe I could be on this stage.

(SONG: "06 - PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS (NIKKI'S TESTIMONY)")

COSTUMES, WIGS, MAKEUP AND SCRIPTS

DRAG IS THEATRE WITH TIPS  
NEVER DONE DRAG, SO WHAT THE HELL  
WHEN I PUT THOSE HEELS ON THEY RANG MY BELL

SCHOOL MATES LABELED ME FROM DAY ONE  
I HAD NO CLUE WHO I COULD BECOME  
THOSE HEELS SHOWED ME WHO I WAS MEANT TO BE  
I COULD BE WHO I WANT TO BE

Mom and dad are still disappointed. They don't get it.

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS, PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS  
SLIP INTO THOSE SEXY PUMPS AND OH THE SURPRISES THEY'LL REVEAL  
NONE IN THE WORLD KNOWS WHY, HEELS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
THE SHY BECOME POPULAR WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

LAYYA

Oh I crushed hard on the guy at the 7-11. I'd watch his ass when he grabbed my Marlboros. Never thought I'd get a chance but found a Man for Man ad on craigslist. Straight bro looking for blow job. There was no face but I recognized the hair on his arms. I strapped on a pair of "come fuck me" pumps, put on a wig, some makeup and messaged him.

GEORGIA

You got into drag to blow a straight guy?

LAYYA

Not the only reason. He wanted no strings, no names and no lights. No problem. Gurl, that man barely survived hurricane LAYYA that night.

GEORGIA

A 7-11 love story.

LAYYA

A porno.

GEORGIA

What is happening here?

(SONG: "07 - PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS (QUEEN'S  
TESTIMONY)")

LAYYA

God in the flesh. He came... back a lot that Summer. I got receipts.

IT'S WHO I AM I HAVE NO SHAME  
NOT AFRAID TO SAY SEX IS MY GAME

(to GINGER)

Your turn!

GINGER  
Y'all are filthy.

LAYYA  
A living witness! Spill it!

GINGER  
We were sloshed at the frat when one of 'em found a wig. They dared me to put it on with lipstick and one of the guys had a pair of stiletto pumps from some random girl. I strapped on those pumps and unleashed a sexy beast.

(SHE dances)

THE HAIR BY, THE GOWN BY, THE LOOKS BY ME  
THE JEWELRY BY, THE MAKEUP BY YOURS TRULY  
TAKE IN ALL OF THIS, BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE  
ALL THIS CAN BE YOUR FANTASY

THESE GLITTER HEELS, GIVE ME THRILLS  
THEY'VE CHANGED MY SOUL, AND PAY MY BILLS  
AND WOULD YOU THINK, YOU'D ENJOY THIS FOX  
IF I HADN'T STEPPED OUTSIDE THE BOX

LAYYA  
They kick you out?

GINGER  
Nuh uh. The guy with the stilettos came out, then they all came out. It was wild. I'm their mascot!

LAYYA  
Bitch, you made that up.

NIKKI, GINGER & LAYYA  
PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS, PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS  
SLIP INTO THOSE SEXY PUMPS AND SURPRISES THEY'LL REVEAL  
NONE IN THE WORLD KNOWS WHY, HEELS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
THE SHY BECOME POPULAR WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

TOPPER

Mom was a seamstress and brought costumes home. Brocade gold uniforms, silk prom gowns, majorette onesies with matching sequin heeled boots and those fringe tassels that bounce around. Well I snatched one and hid it in my closet. I'd pull it out and stare. I loved the sparkle. I wanted to sparkle, so I put it on and I was sexy, I popped the hardest boner of my life. Then mom walked in.

STACY LEIGH

Awkward! She mad?

TOPPER

Mad she had to make a new one because I stole. She signed me up for baton twirling lessons though and I was the first twirler at my school!

I TWIRLED THAT BATON, LIKE MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT, CAUSE I DID  
I TWIRLED THAT BATON, HAD TO PROVE I HAD THE TALENT, CAUSE I DID  
AND FOR ONE FOOTBALL SEASON, IN A BACKWATER TOWN  
THE STAR OF THE FIELD WORE HER CROWN

I worked all night in nine inch majorette boots and when I took them off, something didn't feel right.

NIKKI

Tell us sis!

TOPPER

SO I PUT THEM BACK ON!

Bitch, my feet were lit after all that but it was worth it for these calves!

STACY LEIGH

Oh my god, I wanted to be the manger angel. You know the Christmas barn with the baby Jesus? We had one, mom was always looking for that angel. I played with her and Barbie every day. Did a lot of marriages, made gowns, walked them down the aisle to music. I loved them so much, I became one. Gimme a beat!

(Music starts)

Ah seriously? A ballad here too?

NIKKI

Sing it!

STACY LEIGH

PRETTY WHITE DRESS, WHISPY ANGEL WINGS  
GLITTER, SPARKLE SKIN, SHE COULD BE MY TWIN

I BECAME AN ANGEL BECAUSE  
BEING ME WAS A SIN

GINGER

The devil disguised as an angel.

STACY LEIGH

Yeah. That never would have worked as a dance tune.

GEORGIA

Truer words... I thought something was wrong, I mean. I knew I was different. Knew I was gay, but no clue what it meant. Everyone else knew though. School, mom, dad, church. It wasn't good to be gay. But then I put on my first pair of heels, don't even remember why, I saw them and had to know how'd they'd feel. It was like freedom. Can't hate anything that feels good right? But I still worried 'bout what others thought, so I became the best I could to prove I had a reason to be alive. Crazy right?!

HEELS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

STACY LEIGH

SAY IT AGAIN

ALL QUEENS

HEELS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

NIKKI

CAN I GET AN AMEN?  
CAN I GET AN AMEN?

QUEENS

AMEN!

AMEN!

ALL QUEENS

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS, PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS  
SLIP INTO THOSE SEXY PUMPS AND SURPRISES THEY'LL REVEAL  
NONE IN THE WORLD KNOWS WHY, HEELS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
THE SHY BECOME POPULAR WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

NIKKI

WHETHER A THEATRE FIX  
OR A COSTUME THING  
A NEED TO SHINE  
OR A SEXUAL FLING

QUEENS

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

A CLUB KID, TRANS  
OR BIO QUEEN  
STRIPPER, PAGEANTS  
OR A DRAG KING THING

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

BEDROOM STAR, PUBLIC FACE  
HALLOWEEN MASK, THEATRE PLACE  
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM,  
TIK TOK, MYSPACE  
DRAGULA  
OR RUPAULS DRAG RACE

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM

RUPAULS DRAG RACE!

DRAG QUEENS

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS, PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS  
SLIP INTO THOSE "FUCK ME" PUMPS AND NOTICE HOW IT FEELS  
C'MON GIVE IT A TRY, IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
SEE THINGS DIFF'RENTLY WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS, PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS  
SLIP INTO THOSE SEXY PUMPS AND SURPRISES THEY'LL REVEAL  
NONE IN THE WORLD KNOWS WHY, HEELS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
THE SHY BECOME POPULAR, WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS  
WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS  
WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS!

(PAMALA enters)

PAMALA

Save it for the stage! Georgia you're next!

NIKKI

Alright, we've gotta a show going on, get out of here.

(The QUEENS return to dressing area. PAMALA goes into NIKKI's dressing area to steam a costume, followed by NIKKI, when SHE shuts the door, HER cell phone rings)

Hello. Yes that's me. What? Holy shit! You're joking? Oh my god. Yes, of course, yes! I take it you liked my video? All 48 of them. Yes. Thank you! I'll look for that email!

(SHE hangs up, grabs laptop)

PAMALA

What?

NIKKI

I gotta check my eeemaaaiilll...

PAMALA

(PAMALA closes NIKKI's laptop)

No time, we have a problem. Charlie's post.

NIKKI

Oh god no, he post again?

PAMALA

If you don't take care of it, it's gonna be trouble. Social media will kick your ass if you mess around.

NIKKI

Who cares what some drag wannabe posts on YouTube.

PAMALA

Your fans.

NIKKI

He can say what he wants.

PAMALA

You want Joel on your ass-

NIKKI

When I'm on drag race, it won't matter.

PAMALA

You wouldn't last a day. That ain't shade bitch, it's truth.

NIKKI

Harsh!

PAMALA

You are so out of practice, you'd stitch a gown to your thumb and land in the bottom-

NIKKI

-I would'nt-

PAMALA

-You'd pass out in a dancing challenge-



NIKKI

-That might be true-

PAMALA

-And get yourself canceled. It's a different world that you're not a part of. You live an all gay drag fantasy.

(NIKKI stares at HER)

... I'm sorry, I love you. You could produce incredible shows if you weren't so focused on that pipe dream. Step up and win the crown for best show director of SheMoves.

(NIKKI stares at HER)

You're talented, you're beautiful, you look like a model and you're the best dressed clown in Orlando, and that's sayin' a lot. Ya know. With Disney down the street.

(NIKKI stares then turns the laptop screen to PAMALA)

NIKKI

I'm going on drag race!

PAMALA

What? ...we are pleased to invite... join the cast in LA for season fifty of... Review the attached agreement. The list of challenges and the various looks you'll need to bring with you are attached... Holy shit.

NIKKI

I'm going on drag race!

PAMALA

Not 'til I review this.

NIKKI

Pamala, it's Drag Race, let me sign it.

PAMALA

Queen, gimme a minute. I'm not letting you sign away your soul.

NIKKI

Fine.

PAMALA (reading to herself)

Okay. That's fine. That's... ok. What is that? Oh that's referring to that. And that's cool. You film for six weeks, after the 10<sup>th</sup> episode airs you report back to LA to film the finale and reunion episodes.

(Looking up at NIKKI)

This is a long-term commitment. They can call anytime for anything - appearances, publicity, future seasons, spinoffs...

NIKKI

It's a career.

PAMALA

Gurl, they own you. For a 24 hour notice. For four years.

NIKKI

A four year contract?

PAMALA

Potentially. It's set up like the old Hollywood studios. They are your agent. They approve gigs, book tours-

NIKKI

They'll talk to me first right?

PAMALA

I guess, nothing requires it. They control marketing, publicity and your social media. Hmm. Sounds familiar.

NIKKI

Only cause Joel worries. I wouldn't monitor if it weren't for him.

PAMALA

Uh huh. They take a cut of ev'ry dollar you make. You'll be too busy to be show director.

NIKKI

I can't not do it. I've dreamt of this!

PAMALA

I know, but we aren't gonna squander it. If we do it right, this contract will propel you anywhere.

NIKKI

Ommf. This is gonna change everything. Let me sign it!

PAMALA

You're gonna need refreshers. We've got two weeks. Drag queen bootcamp.

NIKKI

You don't forget how to be a queen.

PAMALA

There's so much to do, plan your looks, get into the recording studio, you're schedule

needs rearranged. I need to file trademarks, get all your catchphrases protected. So you'll be ready for any opportunity that comes your way!

NIKKI

Can we do it in two weeks?

PAMALA

When you walk into that workroom. You'll be the winner.

(SHE hands NIKKI the contract and pen)

Sign here. Initial here. And here. Here. And Here. Signature here. Print here. Initial here. List your emergency contact here.

NIKKI

Emergency contact?

PAMALA (reading from the email)

An agent, a direct family member or close friend that will not share. Cast can and will be released for leaking production information prematurely. List contact info should an issue arise during filming.

NIKKI

Okay you and mom?

PAMALA

Makes sense. Sign here! Okay, contract signed. You're going on drag race!

(THEY jump and scream. GEORGIA pokes HER head in)

GEORGIA

Somebody die in this closet?

NIKKI

Eww gurl, get in here, close the door... I gotta tell you something. You can't tell anyone.

GEORGIA

Deal. What?

NIKKI

I got on the show.

GEORGIA

The show? Drag Race?! Oh my god! This is next level!

NIKKI

I know. But no one, not even Joel can know. They'll disqualify me.

GEORGIA

Girl, he's gonna flip.

PAMALA

When he has a drag race queen on cast, he won't be able to grab those dollars fast enough!

NIKKI

I was gonna give up.

GEORGIA

You're only a legend 'til they crown the next one.

PAMALA

Not her. We have a plan.

(JOEL enters waving HIS cell phone)

JOEL

Nikki, a dressing room fight on Youtube?!

NIKKI

Fight? No fight, Anna was-

JOEL

Drag Drama called it a fight and look at those comments! We're screwed!

NIKKI

We talked. It won't happen again.

JOEL

Nothing. I mean, nothing can tarnish us. I'm in budget review and it doesn't look good. Crowds down, not enough drinks going over the bar, you queens cost a fortune. It's getting tough to keep this place open...

(JOEL exits, NIKKI closes door)

PAMALA

So, how ya gonna tell him? Now might be perfect.

NIKKI

I have an idea... I'll tell him tonight. At the show.

BLACKOUT

## ACT ONE – SCENE 5

Setting: Offstage and Onstage

At rise: Prior to and during a performance. PAMALA is at the stage manager podium. SHE speaks into a mic.

PAMALA

Five minutes to number queens, five minutes.

(GINGER enters agitated)

GINGER

Thank you five. Can you do something about Stacy? She wants to do rock.

PAMALA

She's on the ballad.

GINGER

I don't know.

(TOPPER enters killing time twirling baton)

PAMALA

I'll check in.

(PAMALA exits)

GINGER (to TOPPER)

Hit me with that and you won't have to tuck anymore.

(TOPPER pops gum and twirls. LAYYA enters carrying a wig)

LAYYA

This is bull shit!

GINGER

What?

LAYYA

I grabbed deodorant instead of hairspray. My hair won't stay.

GINGER (assisting her with wig)

Smells better.

(PAMALA enters)

All good?

PAMALA  
Can't find her.

(NIKKI enters)

NIKKI  
Gurl, where's those shots?

PAMALA  
Ordered.

NIKKI  
All this has to go perfect.

PAMALA  
Ginger, can you go find Stacy?

(PAMALA exits)

GINGER  
I suppose.

(STACY enters talking on phone via Facetime)

Found her.

STACY  
Yasss! Get it gurl! Yes I'm performing tonight. Yes...

GINGER  
Yo. Bitch. You in this show? Or?

STACY  
What? I've got a minute...

(SHE takes a selfie with the flash and blinds GINGER)

GINGER  
Thanks bitch.

(PAMALA enters with a tray of shots. GEORGIA bombards her and she sets the tray of shots down out of HER sight)

GEORGIA  
Pamala! You got any glue? My heel broke.

PAMALA

In here...

NIKKI

Yasss shots.

(SHE does a shot and proceeds to do physical warmups)

PAMALA

Elmers, Guerilla or Airline?

(SHE rummages podium, JOEL enters, sees tray of shots)

JOEL (to GINGER)

Who are these for?

GINGER (pre-occupied with Stacy)

I don't know.

(JOEL grabs tray and exits, PAMALA comes up from podium with glue, hands to GEORGIA)

PAMALA

Everybody here?

NIKKI

Ginger, LAYYA, Stacy, Topper... Anna?

GEORGIA

She was in the dressing room, I'll go.

(GEORGIA exits)

PAMALA

Get your pre-show-where'd they go?

GINGER

What?

PAMALA

The shots. Geez.

(PAMALA exits, ANNA enters still dressing)

ANNA

Can we turn the AC down a little bit, I'm roasting.

STACY

I'm freezing.

(JOEL enters)

JOEL

Is this going to start? We sold tickets.

(PAMALA enters with tray of shots)

PAMALA

Yes Joel, we're getting there. Queens, do your shots-

(CHARLIE enters, interrupting. NIKKI doesn't notice CHARLIE and proceeds to do another shot)

CHARLIE

Hey queens!

QUEENS

Ugh.

PAMALA

Charlie, we're starting, wait over-

GINGER

Why's he here?

CHARLIE

I'm quiet, you'll never know I'm here.

PAMALA

Two minutes. Two minutes.

(GEORGIA enters)

GEORGIA

Two minutes thank you. No sign of Anna.

ANNA

I'm here.

GEORGIA

She's here.

JOEL

Great, can we start?

PAMALA

Yes yes. Do your-

(SHE has lost the tray of shots again)



I'll get shots during the first half. Do 'em between entrances.

LAYYA

Sober. Yikes.

PAMALA

Queens. Let's go! Cue One Hundred Twelve Go. Music. Curtain!

(SONG: "08 – I'M A WORKIN' QUEEN")

NIKKI (on microphone)

Friends! Put your hands together for the queens of SheMoves!

(NIKKI and GEORGIA enter and dance. Off stage PAMALA is flipping pages in a binder. CHARLIE turns on HIS camera. GINGER notices and walks over to block his view. HE puts it away)

NIKKI, GEORGIA

OUT OF BED AT THE STRIKE OF ONE, WORK  
HIP HOP ABS, FITNESS DONE, DONE!  
DINNER IN THE OVEN BY FOUR OR FIVE  
HIT THE SHOWER TO COME ALIVE  
COME ALIVE, SLAY, LET'S GO!

(PAMALA exits. CHARLIE moves position and records)

I'M A QUEEN, YES A WORKIN' QUEEN  
I WORK, I SLAY, ON THE STAGE I PLAY  
YES, A WORKIN' QUEEN  
RUNNIN' THE SCENE  
NEVER GET IT WRONG, WON'T LET YOU GET IT WRONG  
I'M A FULL TIME WORKIN' QUEEN

(LAYYA, TOPPER, STACY, ANNA, GINGER go onstage to perform)

ALL QUEENS

COME ON QUEENS!  
WE WORK, WE SLAY ON THE STAGE WE PLAY  
WE SPLIT, WE HIT, THAT'S THE DRAG QUEEN WAY

(PAMALA returns with tray of shots. CHARLIE does a shot without anyone seeing. GEORGIA and NIKKI enter offstage. GEORGIA immediately sees CHARLIE and makes a gesture that SHE'S watching HIM. HE puts HIS camera away. NIKKI is flipping through

the script with PAMALA and PAMALA points out the shots to  
NIKKI. NIKKI does another shot)

ANNA, GINGER, TOPPER, LAYYA, STACY  
OUT OF BED AT THE STRIKE OF SIX  
ON TO WORK GRAB A COFFEE FIX  
WORK ALL DAY TILL FOUR OR FIVE  
HOME IN THE SHOWER BY SIX TO REVIVE  
REVIVE, FRESH, DON'T GET IT TWISTED, LET'S GO!

(JOEL enters, watches from backstage. CHARLIE is recording again)

I'M A QUEEN, YES A WORKIN' QUEEN  
I WORK, I SLAY, ON THE STAGE WE PLAY  
YES, A WORKIN' QUEEN  
RUNNIN' THE SCENE  
NEVER GET IT WRONG, WON'T LET YOU GET IT WRONG  
I'M A PART TIME WORKIN' QUEEN

(NIKKI and GEORGIA enter onstage and join the others)

ALL QUEENS

COME ON QUEENS!  
WE WORK, WE SLAY  
ON THE STAGE WE PLAY  
WE SPLIT, WE HIT  
THAT'S THE DRAG QUEEN WAY

GINGER  
We need these full timers out of our way!

NIKKI & GEORGIA  
WE GET THE GIGS

ANNA & GINGER  
WE BEG FOR SCRAPS

NIKKI & GEORGIA  
OUR NAME IN LIGHTS

TOPPER, LAYYA, STACY  
WE NEED MORE NIGHTS

NIKKI & GEORGIA

WE BRING SPARKLE

ANNA & GINGER  
WE ARE THE GLUE

NIKKI & GEORGIA  
WE DRAW THE CROWDS

(NIKKI falls off step and EVERYONE looks at HER)

TOPPER, LAYYA, STACY  
UH WAIT... DO YOU?

ALL QUEENS  
DRAG QUEEN STARS, A CRAZY CREW  
ALL DOLLED UP, JUST FOR YOU  
IF WE MOVE IT'S IN FORMATION  
LIVIN' FOR A STANDIN' OVATION  
LEGENDS, ICONS, THE SYMBOL OF YOUR NIGHT  
THE QUEENS ARE QUEENING OUT TONIGHT

WE'RE THE QUEENS, YES THE WORKIN' QUEEN  
WE WORK, WE SLAY, ON THE STAGE WE PLAY  
YES, THE WORKIN' QUEENS  
RUNNIN' THE SCENE  
NEVER GET IT WRONG, WON'T LET YOU GET IT WRONG  
I'M YOUR FAVORITE WORKIN' QUEEN  
THAT'S ALL!

(NIKKI looks offstage at PAMALA, then looks at GEORGIA before SHE dramatically falls down on the floor. The music stops. GEORGIA checks on HER then runs offstage, grabs a microphone and re-enters)

GEORGIA  
Queen down, queen down! You okay?

NIKKI  
I'm okay. Twisted my ankle.

(The OTHERS help NIKKI offstage to the podium where PAMALA proceeds to check HER ankle and places ice on it)

GEORGIA (on microphone to audience)

As we like to say, the real show happens backstage. While we get Nikki bandaged up, take it away queens!

ANNA, GEORGIA, GINGER, STACY, LAYYA, TOPPER

COME ON QUEENS!  
WE WORK, WE SLAY  
ON THE STAGE WE PLAY  
WE SPLIT, WE HIT  
THAT'S THE DRAG QUEEN WAY

(Focus OFFSTAGE where JOEL is at the podium)

JOEL

What happened?

PAMALA

I'm calling ER now. What? Yes I'll hold.

JOEL

Nikki are you okay?

NIKKI

Doesn't feel broken but it's been actin' up. My doctor recommended surgery but I've been putting it off.

JOEL

Foot surgery?!

(The QUEENS exit from onstage and huddle around the podium.  
CHARLIE is recording)

PAMALA

Yes I'm here. Yes okay. Yep.

(JOEL turns to PAMALA, SHE hangs up)

We're going to the ER. They'll bandage you up and schedule surgery.

NIKKI

I can't, I have shows. How long will it take?

PAMALA

Six weeks. Light duty.

JOEL

Six weeks! What about the shows?

NIKKI

No dancing for me.

GEORGIA

I'll host. Email me the dates.

JOEL

Thanks Georgia.

(HE exits, distracted)

ANNA (investigative)

You don't dance.

NIKKI

I dance.

ANNA

No, you collect tips. We dance. Behind you... What's going on under that party city wig?  
Foot surgery, my ass.

STACY

Hello? Who's filling Nikki's spot?

NIKKI

We'll cancel.

JOEL

Cancel, no, someone's gotta give these people a show!

STACY

I'll do it!

QUEENS

No, not her, yikes. Etc.

PAMALA

Fine.

NIKKI

What?

PAMALA

Grab a pair of boots! The more glitter the better!

NIKKI

You sure?

PAMALA

Gotta give 'em a show.

NIKKI

What are you going to do?

PAMALA

Not sure yet.

(GEORGIA re-enters with boots. PAMALA puts them on and enters ONSTAGE. Silence. SHE is unsure and not standing well. SHE finds the confidence to strut on the stage in the heels)

GEORGIA (on microphone)

Put your hands together for our Stage Manager Pamala!

(PAMALA continues to strut and sings)

PAMALA

I'M A QUEEN, YES A WORKIN' QUEEN  
I WORK, I SLAY, BACKSTAGE IS WHERE I PLAY  
YES, A WORKIN' QUEEN  
RUNNIN' THE SCENE  
NEVER GET IT WRONG, WON'T LET YOU GET IT WRONG  
I'M A BACKSTAGE WORKIN' QUEEN

COME ON QUEENS!  
WE WORK, WE SLAY, ON THE STAGE WE PLAY  
WE SPLIT, WE HIT, THAT'S THE DRAG QUEEN WAY!

(Applause, Focus OFF STAGE)

(SONG: "09 - THE PAMALA WAY (THE SHOW GOES ON)")

(PAMALA proceeds to clean up backstage)

PAMALA

I'M THE ONE THAT GETS HER TO HER GIGS ON TIME  
HER FITTINGS, HER INTERVIEWS ALL ON TIME  
I SCHEDULE DINNER, AND EVEN HER MEN  
I'M HER CALENDAR, DIARY, BANK ACCOUNT AND PEN  
I CANNOT SAY THE SAME WHEN IT COMES TO ME  
ASK ANYONE AROUND ME AND YOU'LL SEE  
I SCHEDULED DINNER WITH A TINDER MATCH AT EIGHT  
NIKKI HAD A TIZZY AND I MISSED MY DATE

I'M A STRAIGHT GIRL LIVING IN A DRAG QUEEN WORLD  
BECAUSE THAT'S THE PAMALA WAY

THE PAMALA WAY, MEANS YOU'RE GONNA BE ON TIME  
YOU GET A SECRETARY, TRAVEL PLANNER, BOOKKEEPER COMBINED  
WITH ME YOU GET A WOMAN, WHO IS ALSO A QUEEN  
A C.E.O, AND M.B.A, AND ALL OF IT IN BETWEEN  
WITH ME, THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE  
THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE, THAT'S THE PAMALA WAY  
THE SHOW GOES ON WITH ME!

IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE SURE SHE LOOKS HER BEST  
HER CLOTHES TAILORED, HAIR ON POINT, WRINKLES PRESSED  
I PLAN EVERY COSTUME AND MUSIC FOR HER BRAND  
I AM PAID, WELL NOT REALLY PAID, TO BE HER FIRST IN COMMAND

WHEN IT COMES TO ME I'M THOUGHT OF LAST  
CONFUSION SURROUNDING ME IS UNSURPASSED  
I'M FOREVER KNOWN AS A FAIRY PRINCESS  
EVERYONE BELIEVES I'M A LESBIAN IN A DRESS

I'M A STRAIGHT GIRL, EVERYONE BELIEVES IS A LESBIAN, LIVING IN A DRAG  
QUEEN WORLD BECAUSE I'D HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY!

THE PAMALA WAY MEANS YOU'RE GONNA BE ON TIME  
I'M YOUR BRAND DESIGNER, REP PROTECTOR, MATCHMAKER COMBINED  
WITH ME YOU GET PROTECTION, YOUR LAWYER ON THE SCENE  
GET THE PRIVATE COACH, TALENT AGENT, EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN  
WITH ME, THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE  
THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE, THAT'S THE PAMALA WAY  
THE SHOW GOES ON WITH ME!

IN THE PAST I'VE TRIED MY OWN THING ALONE  
I'M NOT SURE WHO I'M MEANT TO BE  
SO FOR NOW I'M HERE, WITH THESE QUEENS  
LIVING VICARIOUSLY

I'M A STRAIGHT GIRL, EVERYONE THINKS IS A LESBIAN, MAKING THINGS HAPPEN  
FOR NIKKI HART, MAYBE DOING IT A LITTLE FOR ME TOO, LIVING IN A DRAG  
QUEEN WORLD BECAUSE THAT'S THE PAMALA WAY

THE PAMALA WAY, MEANS YOU'RE GONNA BE ON TIME  
I'M A FASHION COACH, STAGE MANAGER, CURATOR COMBINED  
NOT ONLY DO YOU GET A WOMAN, WHO IS ALSO A QUEEN

I'M THE GAY, THE STRAIGHT AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN  
WITH ME, THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE  
THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE, THAT'S THE PAMALA WAY  
THE SHOW GOES ON WITH ME!

BLACKOUT



## ACT ONE – SCENE 6

Setting:                      Spotlighted Sections.

At rise:                      A group of DANCERS (GINGER, STACY, LAYYA, TOPPER) appear to a snap and a beat

(SONG: “10 - OUR GIRL NIKKI PART I”)

DANCERS

HAVE YOU HEARD? WE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW  
OUR QUEEN'S A HIT, SHE'S MADE IT ON THE SHOW

DANCER 4

The show?

DANCER 1

The show!

DANCER 4

What show?

DANCER 2

THE show!

DANCER 4

(still no clue)

Oh. That show.

(HE shrugs)

DANCERS

SHE'S ONLY TOLD, ONE OTHER QUEEN  
SO OF COURSE, SHE'S TOLD THE ENTIRE SCENE!

DANCER 3

What show?

DANCERS

THE WORLD'S NOT READY, FOR OUR GIRL NIKKI  
NO, YAAASS, SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD  
THE WORLD'S BEST SECRET, IS OUR GIRL NIKKI  
YES, YAAASS, SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD, SHE WILL  
THAT'S OUR GIRL NIKKI, YES SIR! SHE'S GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD!

(NIKKI and PAMALA enter with SEWING MASTER wearing glasses,  
a chain, a sweater followed by DANCERS rolling a cart of props)

PAMALA

Good god girl, you look tired!

NIKKI

I binged all forty nine seasons. Long night.

(PAMALA gives HER a look as if to say “how did you watch 49 seasons”)

I fast forwarded recaps and lip syncs.

PAMALA

No season one?

NIKKI

(PAMALA hands HER a list)

How could anyone watch season one with that foggy-ass filter? What’s this?

PAMALA

I watched season one. You want to win? Put it in your luggage. It’s every-

NIKKI

Girl, you won’t be there, I’ll figure it out.

(SEWING MASTER (LAYYA) steps forward)

PAMALA

You’ll be prepared if it kills me. Sewing lesson.

NIKKI

Sew? I pay people. My designer designs it, I wear it.

PAMALA

Every season some queen tries to wing it. Are you that queen?

SEWING MASTER (LAYYA)

I’m here to show you how to sew!

NIKKI

So. I’ve got hot glue and staples. I can work a glue gun.

(SEWING MASTER (LAYYA) gasps, offended)

SEWING MASTER (LAYYA)

Um. Time. I do have other appointments.

NIKKI

So?

PAMALA

Gotta play the game if you want to win. Sew!

(PAMALA exits)

SEWING MASTER (LAYYA)

Sooo-oo... a little fabric humor there.

(NIKKI doesn't react)

Let's start with fabric. Scissors for lame, knit and vinyl. All delicates except silk. Use these for silk. Nylon and cotton, use these, tulle and netting these. Cardboard, paper and newsprint, this knife.

NIKKI

(picking out fabric)

What's this?

SEWING MASTER (LAYYA)

Oh my god. Put that down. Only use polyester for furniture and puppet shows. Never wear it. Cut.

(NIKKI cuts out a pattern pinned to fabric. It's the opposite shape of whichever body type the actor playing NIKKI has)

Last weekend they boo'ed some queen off the stage at the Fountainbleu because she used a polyester reveal cape. Well let me tell you, the gays were not having it at all. At all. Oh they used to do great shows at Fountainbleu. Then that church took over, now everything is awful. Horrible. Oh my god! Put the scissors down.

NIKKI

(holding up the fabric)

I'm supposed to wear this?

SEWING MASTER (LAYYA)

Isn't that the most beautiful fabric?! Very King and I. Here. Count three yards.

(As HE talks, NIKKI loses count and wraps HIM in the fabric. HE stops and sighs. NIKKI untangles HIM)

(SONG: "11 - OUR GIRL NIKKI PART II")

I remember a production of King and I. Oh the man playing the King was dreamy. Umm. Mmm. He could king me anytime. His boyfriend never found out he was giving blowjobs behind the set.

(HE notices NIKKI, PAMALA enters and watches)

NIKKI

I need some new material.

SEWING MASTER (LAYYA)

I've always felt you needed new material.

(NIKKI stops. Not sure what she heard)

Let's leave the sewing machine for a future lesson. Are you going to win or are you gonna bottom in the first episode?

NIKKI

No one is supposed to know.

SEWING MASTER (LAYYA)

Sew, please. Sew. When you win, tell them who taught you how to sew.

(SEWING MASTER exits)

NIKKI

Did I pass?

PAMALA

I'll give you a "D".

NIKKI

I'll take the "D".

PAMALA

I bet you will.

(THEY exit)

DANCERS

SHE SENT IN HER TAPE, ALMOST EV'RY YEAR  
SHE AUDITIONED MANY TIMES BUT THE POINT WAS CLEAR  
WHAT POINT? THE JUDGES DIDN'T HAVE A SPOT  
NO SPOT? IT WASN'T HER TIME TO GO  
THEY COULDN'T SEE, WHAT WE COULD SEE  
SHE DOESN'T NEED TV

THE WORLD'S NOT READY, FOR OUR GIRL NIKKI  
NO, YAASSS SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD  
THE WORLD'S BEST SECRET IS OUR GIRL NIKKI  
YES, YAASSS SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD  
THAT'S OUR GIRL NIKKI, YES SIR!  
SHE'S GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD, SHE IS!  
SHE'S GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD

(A WARMUP COACH (STACY), NIKKI and PAMALA enter)

NIKKI  
Dancing?

PAMALA  
Warmup and movement.

NIKKI  
I can move my body.

(SHE motions in a sexy way and stops to support her back)

PAMALA  
You're forty... okay forty-ish.

(NIKKI shakes HER head)

Okay, pushing fifty bitch. Warmup exercises keep you from breaking yourself.

NIKKI  
I took this in college.

PAMALA  
You follow the Pamala way, you win.

(PAMALA pushes NIKKI to WARMUP COACH, a feminine spirit followed by DANCERS pushing a stretching/massage table. PAMALA remains onstage reviewing HER clipboard)

NIKKI  
You're a pushy bitch.

(SONG: "12 - OUR GIRL NIKKI (PART III)")

WARMUP COACH (STACY)  
Life is movement. Energy is movement. Our whole universe. Forever in motion. The

harmony of the spheres. The key to managing a grueling schedule is to stretch and warm up your muscles before each and every performance.

(DANCERS help NIKKI on table. NOTE: The actor's real legs are hidden to make a pair of fake legs look like they are NIKKI's)

It clears the mind from anything going on that makes you...

(runs off onto a personal tangent)

...want to find him in a dark alley and beat his ass senseless.

(HE regains his composure)

Let's begin. Note each stretch. The key to flexibility is stretching at least two hours every day. Without warming up, your muscles won't protect you.

(As THEY talk, HE/SHE places NIKKI into unbelievable, funny poses using the fake legs)

Yes. Very nice. Now breathe. Breathing makes it easy. Never perform without a full tank you know what I mean. Yes. Air is flexibility. Lots and lots of air. Oh I'm so excited for you, this is an incredible chance, and oh to say I worked with *the* Nikki Hart. Wow what an honor.

(HE stops with HER in a funny position)

NIKKI

Is this for me? Or you?

WARMUP COACH (STACY)

(gasp. HE helps HER down from the table)

My dear Nikki Hart. Can you do this?

(HE does a fancy yoga pose)

Or this?

(another)

Look, you're over forty, you need advanced stretches to heat up those bones. Now. Do this.

NIKKI

(SHE does the move)

Like this?

WARMUP COACH (STACY)

Well. It's hideous, but I love it!

(HE/SHE has HER do a move and resumes talking)

That's right, wave those arms. Wave those arms. Maybe you shouldn't wave your arms. Bring them down. Down! Yes, we are little spermies swimming to the egg. Swim little spermies, swim!

NIKKI

Gross.

WARMUP COACH (STACY)

It's so worth it for the applause. Mention me on TV! Tootaloo babes, next time we'll focus on pilates!

(WARMUP COACH exits)

NIKKI

That was so necessary.

PAMALA

Fly little spermies fly!

(THEY exit, as DANCERS do a soft-shoe dance routine)

DANCERS

SHE'S GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD, SHE'S THE CAT'S MEOW!

(PAMALA and NIKKI enter)

NIKKI

I am so tired.

PAMALA

Maybe you should have skipped mister cowboy last night.

(DEI MANAGER enters, carrying a stick and clutches "their pearls" when THEY are surprised. THEY speak with a soft calm voice at all times)

I signed you up for DE&I training.

NIKKI

What?

PAMALA

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. You can't blurt out whatever you're thinking. You'll upset somebody. And before you say you don't blurt. You blurt.

NIKKI

Is this a joke? I get upset all the time, you don't see me - I don't blurt.

PAMALA

You have to be a role model now.

(NIKKI blinks at HER)

I'm serious. They'll cancel you over one word.

DEI MANAGER (GINGER) (very dramatic)

Not only words anymore. Without context, you could *look* at someone the wrong way!

PAMALA

(to DEI MANAGER)

Take care of her. She's fragile.

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

(HE speaks very clearly and with diction)

So you're forty?

NIKKI

Yeah.

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

This is going to be an uphill battle.

NIKKI

Why is that?

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

Older adults are always set in their ways.

NIKKI

I-

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

-Words! They can lift us up or cut us down! Learn to facilitate conversation that inspires and fosters change. Everything you say will be scrutinized by the fandom. Your words will either be used to support their ideas, or they'll use them against you. You must always be ready with a quick quip. One that won't upset, offend or provoke anyone.

NIKKI

Not bragging but I'm pretty witty with words, I've-

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

-If you're talking, you're not listening. Yes. Right now. Scenario number one! You're asked to critique a fellow queen. What's the first thing you say?



NIKKI

I'll talk about her looks-

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

Her?

NIKKI

All queens are hers.

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

Wrong. You assumed "her." Bio-queen? Non-binary? Gender fluid? Drag King?

(PAMALA gestures "get it together")

NIKKI

I'm better in the moment.

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

Oh honey so am I. You're gonna need more than "pretty witty" if you don't want to be seen as a joke. Scenario number two.

NIKKI

Happens in the bathroom right?

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

The bathroom...? Oh I see. Is that your feeble attempt at a...

(HE swallows pretentiously)

poop joke?

NIKKI

Pretty witty huh?

(PAMALA is trying to hold back)

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

Oh you think you're funny right? Yes witty and shitty rhyme, that doesn't make it acceptable to offend.

NIKKI

Oh stop. It's not that serious. I'm funny, I'm six-foot-four in a wig and a dress.

DEI MANAGER (GINGER)

There is a wide spectrum of what people believe to be funny.

PAMALA (no longer able to stand and watch)

Okay, so I won't watch any episodes that require you to improv.

NIKKI

You are so supportive. Take a laxative girl.

PAMALA

And she continues with the poop jokes.

(SONG: "13 - OUR GIRL NIKKI (PART IV)")

DANCERS

SHE SCARES ALL THE GIRLS, HER TALENT TOPS THE CHARTS  
THEY QUIT AND WALK AWAY BEFORE SHE EVEN STARTS  
NO NEED TO ALERT THE NEWS, THE WHOLE WORLD'S ABOUT TO SEE  
SHE WON'T BREAK A SWEAT, SHE'S A WINNING BET  
SHE'S A QUADRUPLE THREAT!  
THE WORLD'S NOT READY, FOR OUR GIRL NIKKI  
NO, NO, SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD  
THE WORLD'S BEST SECRET, IS OUR GIRL NIKKI  
YES, YES, SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD  
THAT'S OUR GIRL NIKKI, YES SIR! SHE'S GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD  
SHE IS, SHE'S GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD!

(NIKKI stands being measured by FASHION DESIGNER. PAMALA  
stands nearby)

NIKKI

Thanks for busting out all these looks last minute.

FASHION DESIGNER (TOPPER)

I always do. Credit me when you're famous.

PAMALA

Shhhhh. No one is supposed to know.

FASHION DESIGNER (TOPPER)

Right. Alright, fourteen looks in two weeks. We've got fabrics, colors, I've got your size,  
now go and let me work!

NIKKI

Make it spectacular. Pamala, you gave him the list of runways?

PAMALA

I did.

NIKKI

Nothing off the rack.

FASHION DESIGNER (TOPPER)

Never. Go. I have work to do!

(NIKKI steps down, everybody exits leaving NIKKI and PAMALA.  
PAMALA pulls out a cell phone and makes a call)

PAMALA

Hey Charlie. Yes. Good good. I want to share something with you. But I can't say it.

(We hear "OH MY GOD!" through the phone)

Haha yes. It's foot surgery, if you get what I'm saying. Use that for what you will but don't say anything. We have to keep it under wraps. Understand? Okay yes, you're welcome! Okay bye!

NIKKI

What are you thinking?

PAMALA

You need strategy-

NIKKI

I meant Charlie.

PAMALA

Again, you need strategy. Keep him close. You need a blueprint to maximize your income when it airs which is when you'll get your highest booking fees. You could land a show on Broadway, you could end up on TV or in a movie!

NIKKI

That's all great, I fly out in two days. I need sleep.

PAMALA

Give that up, no sleeping anytime soon. We need to figure out what you're packin'!

NIKKI

Boy clothes for confessionals, and a killer outfit for my entrance into the workroom. That's all I've got so far.

(NIKKI begins pulling costumes off and hanging on HER arm)

PAMALA

Runway themes: Venus, Land of Queens. Old West, Trash to Treasure, a Court Room appearance and a handful of pieces for mini-challenges.

NIKKI

Only taking good stuff. Like that big red dress that makes me feel like Judy Garland in Meet Me In St. Louis. A couple onesies for those silly games.

PAMALA

Nothing green.

(NIKKI turns around with arms full and NIKKI is unable to unload without assistance)

Good god, how much do you think six suitcases can hold?

NIKKI

Help me, it's heavy. I can't fuck this up. Okay, opinion time!

(During the next, NIKKI holds a dress for "yes or no", DANCERS reply and NIKKI hands off to PAMALA to pack)

(SONG: "14 - OUR GIRL NIKKI (PART V)")

DANCERS

THE WORLD'S NOT READY FOR OUR GIRL NIKKI

(NIKKI holds up a dress)

DANCER 1

No.

DANCER 2

Yes.

DANCER 3

Yaasss!

NIKKI

Put it in the suitcase!

DANCERS

SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD

(NIKKI hands the dress to PAMALA, holds up another)

DANCER 1

No.

DANCER 2

Yes.

DANCER 3

Eloquent.

PAMALA

I hated that dress. I thought I burned it out back.

NIKKI

I had it remade.

(NIKKI hands dress to PAMALA, holds up an even uglier dress)

DANCERS

THE WORLD'S BEST SECRET IS OUR GIRL NIKKI

DANCER 1

No.

DANCER 2

Yes.

DANCER 3

Yes Mama!

DANCERS

SHE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD!

NIKKI

Lies! All liars, liar liar liar!

PAMALA

What?

NIKKI

Fail! You're all lying! This is a full blown first world emergency! I am surrounded by a bunch of Nikki Hart minions dancing around me!

(SHE begins tossing clothing out of the suitcases)

All of it, crap! You're gonna let me go on TV and look like crap. I knew some shady shit was happenin'-

PAMALA

Hold up, calm down. What are you afraid of?

NIKKI

It's, it's a freakin' echo chamber. Y'all tip toe around here just trying to keep me happy?! I've had my suspicions.

PAMALA

Oh you have have you?

NIKKI

Y'all telling me what I want to hear, now I've got receipts.

PAMALA

We only tell the truth.

NIKKI

I've blown thousands on this and I can't trust a word any of you say. I'm already the old hag against a bunch of high schoolers. I have to look like a million bucks!

PAMALA

I've seen you sell a bra and panties. Do it on the runway. Calm down. Breathe. This is about the journey. You're a legend, you're iconic, now you've gotta believe it. I've watched you direct a cast of thirty-two queens in between costume changes all while emceeding on the mic. You'll ace every challenge cause you've already done it all. You are the best queen in the city, no the United States, no the universe!

NIKKI

It's like pulling teeth to get a compliment out of you.

PAMALA

You hold us together. Mother. We wouldn't be SheMoves without you. Now stop worrying about what we think and trust yourself. You got this!

(Music beat)

(SONG: "15 - OUR GIRL NIKKI (PART VI)")

PAMALA

WHEN YOU WIN THE CROWN AND YOUR SCHEDULE IS PACKED  
I'M GONNA MISS YOUR ACT  
OF ALL THE GOOD THINGS TO COME THERE'S ONE THING THAT'S BAD  
YOU WON'T HAVE TIME FOR ME  
AND THAT MAKES ME SAD  
THE WORLD'S NOT READY FOR OUR GIRL NIKKI  
NO?

NIKKI

No.

PAMALA

YES

(PAMALA pushes NIKKI to DANCERS with pull behind suitcases)

PAMALA & DANCERS

YOU'LL CHANGE THE WORLD  
THE WORLD'S BEST SECRET, IS OUR GIRL NIKKI  
YES, YAASS, YOU'LL CHANGE THE WORLD!

PAMALA

Tell her again boys!

DANCERS

NIKKI, NIKKI  
THAT'S OUR GIRL NIKKI  
SHE'S GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD!

BLACKOUT

## ACT ONE – SCENE 7

Setting: Dressing room.

At rise: NIKKI walks into dressing room and sits at HER workstation followed by JOEL.

JOEL

Nikki Hart!

(holding a poster)

What the hell is this?!

NIKKI

I don't know Joel, what is it?

JOEL

(reading)

Tonight we are raising funds for Suncoast Youth Coalition, if you'd like to contribute to our donation, please see Anna Dukes.

NIKKI

Fuck.

JOEL

She's a mess and we're cast heavy, so I vote she's the one you let go.

NIKKI

I can't fire her. Is that smart while you're worried about reputation. With me out, you'll need her.

JOEL

Too much trouble. Let her go and book her as a guest every so often. Or don't. I can't afford to pay her every week.

(CHARLIE enters)

NIKKI

Charlie, now's not a good time. Uh.

(JOEL grimaces and exits)

CHARLIE

Sorry, I heard you were upset about my post.



NIKKI

Why would I be upset?

CHARLIE

I didn't mean any harm, you know you're my favorite.

NIKKI

It's a free country, do what you need to do and I'll do what I have to do.

CHARLIE

Seriously, I'm sorry if I overstepped. Keeping fans up-to-date. I want to help. I want to help you, the club, all the queens-

NIKKI

You can help stop bothering me. Just...be in the audience and enjoy the show. Okay?

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, truly.

NIKKI

I gotta get ready.

(HE starts to leave)

Tell the bartender to buy you a drink on my tab.

(ANNA enters in a rage, CHARLIE hovers out of sight)

ANNA

Who tore down my posters!?

NIKKI

I don't remember approving posters.

ANNA

What's everybody got against doing something nice?!

NIKKI

Anna, don't go rogue on me right now. We give the crowd the same experience every night-

ANNA

Yeah, the same jokes, the same bits, hell, you haven't changed costumes in over a year.

NIKKI

People expect us to be as they remember. A good way to spend a couple dollars for some drinks and drag. I'm not against charity, but if we close, we won't have jobs. Then you won't be able to help anyone.

ANNA

Close?

NIKKI

We could, Joel showed me the budget. It's a struggle right now.

ANNA

Your struggle. It doesn't hurt us to collect tips for charity.

NIKKI

Anna, no. Keep the charity shit out of here.

ANNA

Only one way to do drag, the Nikki Hart way.

NIKKI

You're fired.

(Pause)

ANNA

I've been here five years! You can't fire me-

NIKKI

-I'm the show director!

ANNA

Well how about that. Nikki Hart doing her job. You'll regret this. I've got big things happening and I'll take it where I'm appreciated it. Bitch.

NIKKI

Anna. I'm sorry.

(ANNA exits in a rage, JOEL enters)

JOEL

All done?

NIKKI  
It's done.

JOEL  
We're a business, not a charity.

NIKKI  
I have a flight to catch.

JOEL  
Oh that's right, foot surgery.

NIKKI  
I'll explain everything when I get back.

JOEL  
If I have a spot for you.  
(SHE stops, taken aback)

Go. Get fixed up.  
(NIKKI and JOEL exit. After a pause, CHARLIE exits. ANNA appears  
in a spotlight)

(SONG: "16 - THIS IS IT")

ANNA

SHOVE ME ON MY WAY, TAKE AWAY MY LIVELIHOOD  
HELD ON TOO LONG, LONGER THAN I SHOULD  
TOO LATE FOR TURNING BACK, TOMORROW'S A NEW DAY  
FORGET ABOUT THESE MOLDY BITCHES I SLAY!

I AM ON MY WAY, BIG CHANGES FOR ME  
JUST WAIT 'TILL THEY SEE, I'M UP AND COMING  
NOT ONE FOR TURNING BACK, I SET THE PACE  
THESE HOES BEST BE READY, I'VE FOUND MY PLACE

BLACKOUT  
SEGUE

## ACT ONE – SCENE 8

Setting: Charlie's Recording Desk.

At rise: CHARLIE is recording a video.

CHARLIE

Hello drag fans! Charlie again! Weehoo! Click click clack drag track! I've got tea with a capital T to spill so stick around to the end! I am so excited!

With all the queens they've had on the show, I mean, we're in season fifty, with 10-14 queens per season that's like 600 queens and casting is struggling to cast, whatever that means. There's a queen on every corner, I think they mean they are struggling to find personalities. I'm told casting has been reaching out to gay spaces for suggestions on who to cast and inviting those queens. This is big y'all. This means a recommendation can get you on the show. Not only talent or audition video. Biiiiiiig!

Reality TV needs drama. It's not only how skillful and entertaining a queen is, without scandal, without the drag drama, no one would watch.

And now tea with the capital Tea! My sources may have whispered a juicy tidbit to me... you all ain't ready, I'm tellin' you... there might be an Orlando queen next season, and if you're a subscriber you can probably guess who it is! Woo hoo hoo!!!!

One last side note, Nikki Hart from SheMoves is going to be MIA for about six weeks while she recovers from foot surgery according to sources at the club. But she may be leaving at the worst time as SheMoves recently has starting cutting shows and now Anna Dukes has been let go. Yep, I was witness to Nikki firing Anna for raising money for charity. Isn't that sad? Fired for going against company culture? Anna has been a cast queen at SheMoves for a long time, so this should shake some wigs right up. Time will tell if SheMoves is gonna make it.

There's gonna be a lot coming over the next few weeks. It's awesome! Rata-tat-tat-tat-tah! I live for this, there's so much going on I can barely stand it! This is it y'all!

BLACKOUT

## ACT ONE – SCENE 9

Setting:                      Spotlighted Section.

At rise:                      PAMALA, NIKKI enter with DANCERS dragging her luggage.

(Music continues)

NIKKI

Bitch, If I'm not prepared now, I'll never be! Do your best with Joel. I don't want to come back to any drama!

PAMALA

I'll only call you when I burn it down.

(THEY hug)

I'm proud of you. You've already won. Those queens will shit when you walk into the workroom!

(FOUR DANCERS, PAMALA and NIKKI each drag a suitcase behind THEM)

NIKKI

THIS IS IT  
THIS IS MY EVERYTHING  
MY NEXT STEP  
THE NEXT THING

MAKE WAY  
I'M ON MY WAY

I'M ON MY WAY

DANCERS

OOO...  
OOO... OOO...  
AH...  
AH... AH...

OH... OH...  
ON HER WAY  
SHE'S ON HER WAY  
ON HER WAY

NIKKI

I AM ON MY WAY, FEELS LIKE MY HEART COULD BURST  
A DREAM CAME TRUE, I WON'T SHASHAY FIRST  
TOO LATE FOR TURNING BACK, ERASE ALL DOUBT AWAY  
CUT OUT ALL THE VOICES, GAYS MAKE WAY!

I'M COMIN' OUT THE GATE, MY DRAG READY TO RUN  
I MIGHT EXPLODE, WHEN THEY SAY "YOU'VE WON"  
THOSE OTHER QUEENS DON'T KNOW, BRING ON THE BEAT DOWN  
I'LL BE THERE SWINGIN, PREPARE MY CROWN

NIKKI & DANCERS

THIS IS IT, THIS IS OUR EVERYTHING, MY (HER) NEXT STEP, THE NEXT THING!  
THIS IS IT!

SEGUE

## ACT ONE – SCENE 10

Setting: Blank stage/Backstage at the studio.

At rise: NIKKI and other QUEENS dragging luggage behind them, stopping to check they haven't forgotten anything they need. A hustling and bustling stage that also serves as an airport terminal.

(SONG: "17 – RACE TIME")

SOLO 1 (TOPPER)

THE BAGS ARE PACKED, FLIGHT'S LEAVIN' TODAY  
FULL SPEED TO THE RACEWAY

SOLO 2 (STACY LEIGH)

WORKED HARD TO GET HERE, GIMME CREDIT

SOLO 3 (GINGER)

HOPE I DON'T GET THE VILLAIN EDIT

SOLO 4 (LAYYA)

DID I PACK ENOUGH DUCT TAPE? OOPS I FORGOT MY REVEAL CAPE

SOLO 5 (TOPPER)

IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK TO BE SAFE EACH WEEK?

SOLO 6 (GINGER)

LOOKING FORWARD TO JUDGES CRITIQUES

SOLO 7 (STACY LEIGH)

WILL THERE BE FOOD WHEN WE ARRIVE?

SOLO 8 (LAYYA)

GET READY TO LIP SYNC FOR YOUR LIFE!

NIKKI (entering)

I AM ON MY WAY, FEELS LIKE MY HEART COULD BURST  
MY DREAM CAME TRUE, I WON'T GO HOME FIRST  
NO NEED FOR TURNING BACK, I'VE ALREADY WON THE RACE

(A "FLIGHT ATTENDANT" offers NIKKI a package of nuts)

GET THOSE NUTS OUT OF MY FACE!

(The QUEENS including NIKKI are placed into a single-file line and blindfolded for their "workroom entrances". One by one STUDIO ASSISTANT removes blindfold and queen walks through the doors into the workroom, poses for the camera, and moves to a

worktable to watch as others enter. Some react when a QUEEN enters, etc.)

ENTIRE COMPANY

THERE'S FUEL IN THE TANK, ENGINE REVVIN' HOT  
BREAKIN' OUT OF MY SPOT  
THE ROARING CROWD AT THE STARTIN' LINE  
GREEN LIGHT, RACE TIME  
CRUISIN' DOWN THE MAIN DRAG  
I CAN SEE, THE CHECKERED FLAG, WAVIN' AT ME

NIKKI (blindfolded)

I CAME HERE TO SLAY, IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO BACK DOWN  
YOU WATCH, I'LL SLAY, I'LL SNATCH THAT CROWN

NIKKI

I AM ON MY WAY  
FEELS LIKE MY HEART COULD BURST  
MY DREAM CAME TRUE  
I WON'T GO HOME FIRST

TOO LATE FOR TURNING BACK  
ERASE ALL DOUBT AWAY  
CUT OUT ALL THE VOICES  
I CAME TO SLAY!

CHORUS

THERE'S FUEL IN THE TANK  
ENGINE IS REVIN' HOT  
BREAKIN' OUT OF MY SPOT  
THE ROARING CROWN  
AT THE STARTING LINE  
NO TURNING BACK  
ERASE THE DOUBT  
GREEN LIGHT IT'S RACE TIME  
WE CAME TO SLAY!

(The STUDIO ASSISTANT (JOEL) removes the blindfold and NIKKI walks through the door into the workroom)

STUDIO ASSISTANT

Action! Queen walking!

NIKKI

Hello Drag Race! Go ahead and hand me the crown. Your winner has arrived!

(SHE poses. ANNA appears from behind the others)

ANNA

Oh fuck.

(NIKKI looks at ANNA)

NIKKI

Anna?



CHORUS

THIS IS IT!

BLACKOUT

END ACT ONE

## ACT TWO – SCENE 1

Setting: Onstage.

At rise: GEORGIA is hosting a show.

GEORGIA

Welcome back everybody! Bathroom break's over. Yeah I see you. Get to your seats. Hello Saturday night! Put those drinks up! Here's to you and me, best friends we'll always be, if we ever disagree, fuck you, here's to me! Drink up everybody! I feel like a criminal breaking the law up here (she laughs) Obviously my partner in crime Nikki Hart couldn't be here which is why I'm on the mic. She's on her fourth week recovering from ... foot surgery. I'm sorry, I can't say that with a straight face. Send her some love on social media. We miss her and can't wait for her to come home.

(applause)

VOICE (from audience)

Georgia! Will we ever see you on Drag Race?

GEORGIA

You all show me so much love every time I step onto stage. I love my freedom and happy with what I do. I don't need no crown for that. But with Nikki out, I get the opening solo! Hit it DJ!

(SONG: "18 – ON SATURDAY NIGHT WE DANCE")

(NOTE: The booms, whip and crack effects are meant for splits, death drops, hair flips and hand flings. Drunk, SHE hits some, misses some and is late. SHE shrugs when she misses. SHE may get stuck half-way in a split, or perform a split and change HER mind. But SHE is having fun)

(Dramatically spoken)

LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT "SATURDAY AFTERNOON" FEELING BABY  
YOU KNOW THE FEELING I'M TALKIN' ABOUT  
WHEN YOU'RE HOME BY YOURSELF AND FEELING DOWN  
ALONE, LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A FRIEND IN THE WORLD  
YOU KNOW THE FEELING I'M TALKING ABOUT  
  
YOU KNOW WHAT GETS ME OUT OF THAT FUNK  
KNOWING I GET TO COME TO THE CLUB TO SEE ALL OF YOU  
YOU MAKE THIS OLD QUEEN FEEL LIKE A STAR

YEAH BABY IT'S YOU  
I DON'T NEED NOTHING MORE THAN THAT  
I DON'T NEED NOTHING MORE THAN YOU  
THERE'S NO PLACE I'D RATHER BE  
THAN HERE WITH ALL OF YOU  
BABY IT'S YOU

NOW, LISTEN TO ME WHEN I SAY, I HAVE ONE THING TO SAY

HOME IS NOT A PLACE, BUT A FEELING INSIDE  
A FEELING I GET FROM YOU, BABY IT'S YOU  
I COME HOME TO YOU

THERE IS NO ESCAPE, WHEN YOU'RE CALLING TO ME  
YOUR MELODY SETS ME FREE, BABY IT'S YOU  
YOUR BASS DRUM IS MY MUSE

BABY, ON THE DANCEFLOOR WE DO IT RIGHT  
THIS PARTY LASTS ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT  
DJ PLAY THE VIBE, LOCK US IN YOUR TRANCE  
ON SATURDAY NIGHT WE DANCE

(SHE dances)

YOU CAN HAVE ONE GUESS WHERE I'M DANCING TONIGHT  
ON THE DANCE FLOOR WITH MY VIBE, BABY IT'S YOU  
I REACH NEW HIGHS WITH YOU

DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO, WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR ME  
ON THE DANCE FLOOR I AM FREE, BABY IT'S YOU  
SATURDAY ENDS WITH YOU

BABY, ON THE DANCEFLOOR WE DO IT RIGHT  
THIS PARTY LASTS ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT  
DJ PLAY THE VIBE, LOCK US IN YOUR TRANCE  
ON SATURDAY NIGHT WE DANCE

(SHE dances, misses a "CRACK" and...)

Well shit!

(SHE grabs a beer and chugs as music continues)

BABY, ON THE DANCEFLOOR WE DO IT RIGHT  
THIS PARTY LASTS ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT  
DJ PLAY THE VIBE, LOCK US IN YOUR TRANCE  
ON SATURDAY NIGHT WE DANCE

BABY, ON THE DANCEFLOOR WE DO IT RIGHT  
THIS PARTY LASTS ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT  
DJ PLAY THE VIBE, LOCK US IN YOUR TRANCE  
ON SATURDAY NIGHT WE DANCE!

(in between breaths)

Whew! These old bones can't hit anymore, I'm bigger too. But Grandma gets it done,  
been stomping since Moses led all God's people out the desert. Drink up everybody!  
Now, I don't wanna stroke out in front of you all here so welcome to the stage Ginger  
Bear-d!

(applause)

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO – SCENE 2

Setting: CHARLIE's filming desk.

At rise: CHARLIE is filming a new video for HIS channel.

CHARLIE

Hey y'all we'll come back! It's been about four weeks filming the next season of Drag Race which should wrap in two weeks then the queens return home before filming the finale. Speaking of the finale, sources tell me production is shaking things up where they'll announce the winner in front of a live audience.

I'm not sure how that will go, as you know, Drag Race typically films each Top Four Queen walking the runway as though they won, only to pick the final choice when the episode airs. This is to maintain secrecy as the winner leaked in the first few seasons of the show. But to film the finale live? That takes some guts, you never know what these rebellious queens will do. Stay tuned to my channel for all the piping hot tea!

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO - SCENE 3

Setting: A chair in front of a brightly colored "wall"

At rise: NIKKI, ANNA and FIVE QUEENS enter the workroom.

(SONG: "19 - KISS KISS PART I")

GIRL 1 (GINGER)  
WALK INTO THE WORK ROOM LIKE

ALL QUEENS  
QUEENS ON THE RUN

GIRL 1 (GINGER)  
GOOD MORN-TING, KISS KISS

GIRL 2 (TOPPER)  
ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER CHALLENGE

ANNA  
IT SMELLS LIKE MISS CLAROL NUMBER FIVE AND ARMPITS IN HERE

GIRL 3 (STACY LEIGH)  
DID SOMEONE SIT ON MY HAIR, IN THE VAN

NIKKI  
NO, IT ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE THAT

GIRL 3 (STACY LEIGH)  
AT LEAST I CAN SEW

NIKKI  
GO PRUNE YOUR HAIR BITCH

(QUEENS gather around a worktable)

I'M TIRED AND I HATE THESE QUEENS...

ALL QUEENS  
KISS KISS

(NIKKI sits in chair in front of a bright color wall, a reality TV  
"confessional")

NIKKI  
Walking into the workroom for week five. Girl. Four weeks and I've slept maybe ten minutes. Every fifteen minutes some assistant comes around and tells me what to do. (SHE sighs) Can I be put into the Top Four so I can go home?

CAME INTO THIS WITH TOP FOUR DREAMS  
WELL, ME AND THESE OTHER QUEENS  
IT'S NOT WHAT I THOUGHT, IT'S QUITE A TRIP  
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO GET MY GRIP  
FOUR WEEKS IN AND EIGHT QUEENS GONE  
HOW MUCH LONGER CAN I HOLD ON  
I'VE USED UP ALL OF MY DUCT TAPE  
THE JUDGES TELL ME I'M ONLY SAFE

Being safe is pissing me off. I've been doing this for twenty years – and they call me SAFE?! In every. Single. Challenge. Me?! Safe queens go home! Do I need to cry or something to get the judges attention?

(ANNA sits in a chair opposite for HER “confessional”)

ANNA

Today is week five and I am killin' it! Three wins, three high placements. I've got a target on my ass with these other queens though.

CAME INTO THIS WITH TOP FOUR DREAMS  
I'M HERE TO BEAT THESE OTHER QUEENS  
IT'S EVERYTHING I HOPED, IT'S QUITE A TRIP  
EVERY CHALLENGE I JUST LET IT RIP  
FOUR WEEKS IN MY EYES ON THE PRIZE  
THIS IS MY STAR, IT'S ON THE RISE  
THE JUDGES TELL ME I'M BUILT FOR THIS  
WHEN I BEND OVER GIVE MY ASS A KISS!

Really happy with my showing, grunt work got me here and I'm riding it to the crown, watch and see!

(NIKKI and ANNA join the other QUEENS. THEY line up downstage while we hear the voice of a judge, behind us if troupe desires to cast this role, otherwise, spoken via mic from offstage or pre-recorded. Additionally, the confessionals could be short video tracks based on reality TV style)

JUDGE VOICE

Hey queens! So you think you can dance? Well, to be the next drag star, you'll need to slay the house down boots with a dance routine that brings the funk. This isn't a solo challenge, no one singular sensations here. This week you'll be working in pairs to create a choreographed dance sequence. So hop to it dance moms, but watch out for that

nutcracker! Gypsy Queen you'll be paired with Denny Alfresco. Jonesy Blues you'll be working with Diamond Star and Nikki Hart, you will be paired with Anna Dukes.

(ANNA walks over to NIKKI)

ANNA

Well shit. Guess I'm playin' with the bitch who fired me.

NIKKI

Shut up.

ANNA

And she's doing bitchy today. Well alright.

NIKKI

Go ask production to be paired with somebody else.

ANNA

That's what you want. This is my day bitch.

(SHE opens a folder with instructions)

Dancing challenge. Easy. Choreograph a dance routine to the song "Werk".

(Throughout ANNA and NIKKI are "choreographing" as are other QUEENS.  
They stop, test a move, change it, etc. NIKKI strikes a pose)

ANNA

That's a safe move, what about like this?

NIKKI

I don't want to chance it, do a grapevine.

ANNA

Safe isn't good Nikki.

NIKKI

Well my knee won't bend like that.

ANNA

Maybe foot surgery will fix it.

NIKKI

So funny.



ANNA

You always choreograph safe. Wouldn't want to twist an ankle at your age.

(SONG: "20 – YOU KEEP DOIN' WHAT YOU DO")

YOU THINK YOU'RE THE BITCH ON TOP  
YOU COULD LEARN A THING OR TOO  
I KNOW THIS IS NOT ABOUT ME  
I'M BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY YOU

NIKKI

Without me, there's no drag, Joel, will cut it. SheMoves needs me.

ANNA

No, you need us.

YOU MIGHT BE STUCK IN YOUR PAST  
I'VE MOVED ON AHEAD  
I THINK YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST  
BUT SOON THE CLUB WILL BE DEAD  
YOU CALL YOURSELF SHOW DIRECTOR  
I CALL IT RIGHT PLACE RIGHT TIME

YOU KEEP DOIN' WHAT YOU DO  
CAUSE I AM DOIN' MY THING TOO  
WHEN I'VE PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS  
WE'LL SEE WHO MAKES IT TO THE TOP  
GATEKEEPING THE DOOR TO HEAVEN  
AND I'M LIVING IN HELL

NIKKI

Charity hasn't worked since the crowds got younger. They don't care.

ANNA

Make them care.

NIKKI

Or you could read the room.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART, YOU DO  
I'VE BEEN AT THIS LONGER THAN YOU  
YOU DON'T KNOW ALL THAT I DO

BUT DRAG HAS CHANGED, GET A CLUE  
YOU WANNA RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY  
WHEN I CAN'T PAY THE BILLS

NIKKI & ANNA

YOU KEEP DOIN' WHAT YOU DO  
CAUSE I AM DOIN' MY THING TOO  
WHEN I'VE PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS  
WE'LL SEE WHO MAKES IT TO THE TOP

NIKKI

YOU THINK YOU CAN SOLVE ALL THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS  
WITH A MICROPHONE AND A STAGE

ANNA

At least I am tryin'! Is fly spermies fly workin' out for you?! You never do anything for us.

NIKKI

Maybe if you'd lose the drama I could do more. You follow my lead!

ANNA

I'm not following you to my death being safe every challenge.

NIKKI

It's a TV show.

ANNA

When I win the crown I'm set for life. People listen to winners. And I'm not wasting a chance to say something needs changed. Like you.

NIKKI

You don't get it.

ANNA

Go back to your theme park entertainment.

NIKKI & ANNA

YOU KEEP DOIN' WHAT YOU DO  
CAUSE I AM DOIN' MY THING TOO  
WHEN I'VE PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS  
WE'LL SEE WHO MAKES IT TO THE TOP

NIKKI

ANNA

YOU KEEP DOIN' WHAT YOU DO  
CAUSE I AM DOIN' MY THING TOO            I'M DOIN' MY THING TOO  
WHEN I HAVE PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS   YES I HAVE PULLED OUT ALL THE

NIKKI & ANNA

WE'LL SEE WHO MAKES IT TO THE TOP  
YES, WE'LL SEE, WHICH OF US WILL MAKE IT TO THE TOP!

(SONG: "21 - KISS KISS PART II")

GIRL 1 (GINGER)

CAN SOMEONE SHOW ME A SMOKEY EYE

GIRL 2 (TOPPER)

YOU HAVE THE PERFECT FACE... FOR MAKEUP

GIRL 1 (GINGER)

YA KNOW, IF YOU'RE GONNA BE TWO FACED  
MAKE SURE ONE IS PRETTY

NIKKI

WHY DO YOU WANT TO DO IT THAT WAY?

ANNA

I DON'T HAVE THE CRAYONS TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU NOW

GIRL 3 (STACY)

MIRRORS DON'T LIE, LUCKY FOR YOU THEY DON'T LAUGH EITHER

GIRL 2 (TOPPER)

DID YOU HURT YOURSELF REACHING FOR THAT ONE?

GIRL 1 (GINGER)

CAN A BITCH GET A SANDWICH UP IN HERE?

ANNA

CANCEL MY SUBSCRIPTION TO YOUR ISSUES

NIKKI

BITCH! I'M TIRED AND I HATE THESE QUEENS

ALL QUEENS

KISS KISS

(NIKKI returns to confessional and sits, could be pre-recorded)

NIKKI

DAY IN DAY OUT, IT'S ALL THE SAME  
KEEPING SANE IN THIS EXHAUSTING GAME  
UP AT DAWN LIKE ON DEATH ROW  
THEN WE WAIT FOR HELLO HELLO HELLO  
INTO HAIR AND MAKEUP DONE  
MY JUNK TUCKED TIGHT, IS THIS CALLED FUN?  
THE JUDGES MAKE ME JUST WANT TO QUIT  
GOD HELP ME IF I CUT A BITCH

(NIKKI, ANNA and GIRLS stand downstage)

JUDGE VOICE

Queens, I've determined your rankings. This week you worked in pairs, but tonight on this runway, you'll be judged individually. Anna Dukes. You're the winner of this week's challenge.

ANNA

Oh my god! Thank you, thanks I-  
(SHE starts to cry)

JUDGE VOICE

What's going on Anna. Tell me.

ANNA

I'm tired. It's been a few hard weeks. From dealing with jerks back home-  
(SHE glances at NIKKI)  
and preparing to film, it's been a lot. Everywhere I go, some old queen at the top has somethin' to prove. Been living out of my car and... it's every day is hard. I'm so grateful for this opportunity. Thank you. Thank you!

JUDGE VOICE

Thank you. And for all of you queens. None of you will have any problem finding gigs. You're part of our family now. We love you. You may join the other girls.

ANNA

Thank you, and I love all of you!

NIKKI (to audience)

Living out of her car? Really bitch? Leave it to Anna to build it up for TV... I'd know if she lived in her car. Right? Attention whore. Does she really live in her car?

JUDGE VOICE

Nikki Hart and Gypsy Queen. I'm sorry my dears but you are up for elimination. Please return to the work room to prepare to lip sync for your place in this competition. Queens, as a reminder. One of you will go home tonight.

NIKKI

How in the hell am I in the bottom? That bitch set me up. They could send me home!

(Dream sequence fanfare music)

GODLIKE QUEEN VOICE

You betta wake up girl!

(GODLIKE QUEEN appears)

NIKKI

What? Are you?

GODLIKE QUEEN

Yes. Yes I am.

NIKKI

Am I dreaming?

GODLIKE QUEEN

(Sultry style with exaggeration)

To be the next star drag queen, you must prove it to the world. If you can't be proud of yourself, how can you expect anyone else to be proud of you?

NIKKI

No one notices.

GODLIKE QUEEN

I notice.

NIKKI

Yeah, have you noticed I've only been safe?

GODLIKE QUEEN

Safe isn't bad. It's not great. Safe makes you worry about jobs. Safe makes you worry about being mugged. Safe kills people before they die.

NIKKI

Great. That's Nikki Hart. Safe and responsible.

GODLIKE QUEEN

Don't throw out all responsibility. Just ask yourself if it matters.

NIKKI

Does it?

GODLIKE QUEEN

What about your dream to get on this show? Isn't that important?

NIKKI

Can't dream if bills aren't paid.

GODLIKE QUEEN

Use this to stop worrying and go for it. Go big! This is your shortcut to fame. You write the ticket! You wanna be a singer? Politician? Broadway? Drag is your gateway and what you do here is what will get you there. This is the gold medal of drag, only a handful of queens make it as far.

NIKKI

I'm one of 'em.

GODLIKE QUEEN

Damn right baby. The next star drag queen must be a designer and model, a content producer, brand manager and inventor. A public face for the community, well-versed in politics, charity. Able to interview and be interviewed. Poised but in control. Thick skinned, friendly to fans. She must be able to handle the grueling tours while remaining professional when running on little sleep. Us Drags be doing it all girl.

NIKKI

I'm tired already.

GODLIKE QUEEN

You want that higher booking rate back home? Forget the sleep and focus here. Lemme hear it!

NIKKI

Yes Mama!

GODLIKE QUEEN

What?

NIKKI  
Yes MUMAAW!

GODLIKE QUEEN  
That's a drag race queen! All my queens are winners, whether they get the crown or not. It's not the destination, it's leveraging the journey to build your brand. That's my business.

NIKKI  
You always go full ham?

GODLIKE QUEEN  
I don't think that's any of your business. Here. Take a Tic Tac.

NIKKI  
Oh no thank you.

GODLIKE QUEEN  
I'm not offerin' bitch. Take it. Now go stomp that runway. And Nikki?

NIKKI  
Yes mother?

GODLIKE QUEEN  
Leave your wig on, queen.

(Dream Sequence Fanfare as GODLIKE QUEEN exits)

NIKKI  
Did she my breath stinks?

JUDGE VOICE  
Two queens stand before me. Queens, this is your last chance to determine if you're moving forward in this competition, into the Top Four or if you've shown us everything you've got. One of you will go home. The moment has arrived, it's time to show us what you can do. Ladies, don't miss a thing. Leave it all on that stage!

(The number is HER lip sync but also sung to audience)

(SONG: "22 - I'M NOT DONE")

NIKKI  
I am a Drag Race Queen. Or am I a SheMoves Queen?

THEY TOLD ME, JUST BE YOURSELF  
THEY TOLD ME, JUST HAVE FUN  
NOT A FAN OF WALKING IN BLINDLY  
NOT COMING IN UNPREPARED  
NOT GONNA TAKE THIS LIGHTLY  
CAUSE I'M NOT DONE, I'M NOT DONE

YOU CAN TELL ME RISK PAYS OFF  
TAKE A CHANCE, JUST JUMP AND FLY  
IT CAN WORK LIKE THAT UP IN MY HEAD  
HOW DO I SHOW IT OUTSIDE

HUSH MY MIND, FIND MY RAGE  
I BELONG HERE, STOP PLAYING SAFE  
CROSS THE LINE, BURN IT UP  
TAKE THE CHANCE, STEP MY PUSSY UP  
CAUSE I'M NOT DONE, I'M NOT DONE

THEY TOLD ME, BRING HOME THE CROWN  
THEY TOLD ME, DON'T LET US DOWN  
WHERE DID THEY FIND THIS FAITH IN ME  
FEELING TOTALLY UNPREPARED  
IF THEY SEE SOMETHING IN ME  
I CAN'T BE DONE, I'M NOT DONE

HUSH MY MIND, FIND MY RAGE  
I BELONG HERE, STOP PLAYING SAFE  
CROSS THE LINE, BURN IT UP  
TAKE THE CHANCE, STEP MY PUSSY UP  
CAUSE I'M NOT DONE, NO I'M NOT DONE

WHO DECIDES WHO A WINNER IS, WHO DECIDES WHO IS BETTER  
IF A WINNER IS BETTER, CAN A WINNER BE ANYONE WE MEET  
ANYONE WE MEET  
HOW'S THAT FOR A WAKE UP CALL FACE CRACK  
WINNERS CAN BE THE HELPERS, THE TEAM MATES, THE LITTLE GAL IN BACK  
THE LITTLE GAL IN BACK

WINNERS DON'T STAND IN A SPOTLIGHT, BUT WE NEED THEM, HANDS DOWN  
WE MAY NOT KNOW THE WINNERS, BECAUSE NOT ALL WINNERS WEAR A  
CROWN, NOT ALL WINNERS WEAR A CROWN  
NOT ALL WINNERS WEAR A CROWN



(NIKKI reaches up and pulls HER wig off)

HUSH MY MIND, FEEL MY RAGE  
I FOUND MY PLACE, STOP PLAYING SAFE  
CROSS THE LINE, BURN IT UP  
TAKE THE CHANCE, HELP SOMEBODY UP  
CAUSE I'M NOT DONE, NO I'M NOT DONE  
CAUSE I'M NOT DONE,  
I'M NOT DONE

(NIKKI stands downstage joined by GYPSY QUEEN opposite as though SHE performed)

JUDGE VOICE

Queens. The judges and I have made a choice.

(A pause. Judges are not happy NIKKI removed HER wig)

Nikki Hart. You stay. You may join the other girls. Gypsy Queen, I'm sorry but your time is over. Take your last prance and say good night.

(Spotlight only on NIKKI)

(SONG: "23 - KISS KISS PART III")

JUDGE VOICE

Nikki Hart, you've won this challenge... welcome to the Top Four my queens!

NIKKI

THE SWITCH HAS FLIPPED, I'M WINNING THIS GAME  
I KNEW TOP FOUR HAD MY NAME  
IT'S EASY ONCE YOU CRACK THE CODE  
I'VE GOT TALENT, AND IT SHOWS  
WELL, I'VE GOT SOMETHING, IT GOT ME HERE  
I JUST NEEDED TO GET IN GEAR  
BUT I'M STILL TIRED AND I HATE THESE QUEENS, KISS KISS

JUDGE VOICE

Welcome to top four ladies! In a few weeks, one of you will be the next star drag queen when we film the finale. Remember, gag orders are still in place until released. Tentatively we plan for the eighth, but travel managers will confirm with you when we are solid. And... our twist for this finale... the crowning will be live!

QUEENS

Live, what? Wow! Yikes, Etc.

JUDGE VOICE

Yaasss, live. We'll be filming in front of a live audience. I need the Top Four to stick around, you have title holder contracts to sign and the rest of you are released. Head on back to your home clubs and we'll see you soon! Thanks everybody! Drag Race Season Fifty is wrapped!

(All "sign" NIKKI signs last. Work lights. NIKKI takes one last look)

NIKKI

(SHE breathes, looks at contract)

I'm a Drag Race Queen.

(GODLIKE QUEEN appears)

GODLIKE QUEEN

I'm proud. Except the wig thing.

NIKKI

You saved me?

GODLIKE QUEEN

I think you have everything to be my next winner. No gimmicks. You're better.

NIKKI

It's a nod to the past.

GODLIKE QUEEN

Leave it there. Be a pro.

(SONG: "24 – EV'RYDAY IS DRAG REPRISE")

NIKKI

I'VE GOT THE TITLE, I'VE GOT THE PAY  
MAYBE NOW I'LL HAVE A SAY  
I KNOW WHO TO CAST, FORGET THE PAST  
I'LL DO IT MY WAY  
I KNOW HOW TO DO IT MY WAY  
NO MORE EV'RYBODY'S PUNCHING BAG  
WHEN EV'RY DAY IS DRAG

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO – SCENE 4

Setting: Backstage, in and around dressing room.

At rise: PAMALA on HER phone. JOEL reviewing lineup. NIKKI enters with suitcase and gown in suit bag. Everybody preparing for show.

JOEL

Welcome back!

NIKKI

Thanks, sorry I'm so late, I-

JOEL

-What? Okay, cool.

(JOEL exits as PAMALA crosses to podium on the phone)

NIKKI

Hey girl.

PAMALA

Yea, Michael, who you still missing? Okay, I'll bring 'em up.

(Puts phone away)

What's up? You ready for tomorrow?

NIKKI

All packed, it's all in the car.

PAMALA

Don't drag out curtain call, it's gonna be tight getting to the airport.

NIKKI

I won't. What's up with Joel?

PAMALA

Whaddya mean?

NIKKI

He's helping...

PAMALA

Since you left. I'm sure it's eye-opening. Maybe he'll have a bit more respect.

(JOEL re-enters)

JOEL (to NIKKI)

We can't fit the crowds in the cabaret when you host.

NIKKI

A good thing.

JOEL

Not when it empties in here. I'm gonna have Georgia host. You take main, she's got cabaret, two wins.

NIKKI

What about when I'm traveling? Who's left for the...

JOEL

Three wins... I hired Anna back. She's a drag race queen too so...

NIKKI

Maybe now's a good time to discuss my performance contract... the one from Universe of Wonder... My agent.

JOEL

Salaried staff don't get performance contracts. You're paid to produce, not perform.

NIKKI

I'm at producer that performs.

(ANNA enters with a "contract". GEORGIA passes carrying a Wighead and dragging a suitcase to dressing room)

ANNA

Georgia! Thanks for booking me!

GEORGIA

Thank Joel.

ANNA

Happy to be back.

(to NIKKI)

Hey sis!

NIKKI

Hey girl.

GEORGIA

We're happy you're back.

JOEL

Yes very happy.

(ANNA hands JOEL a contract)

What's this?

ANNA

My performance contract. Now that I'm a drag race queen. I'll be back, gotta grab my drag from the car.

(NIKKI walks into dressing room with GEORGIA)

JOEL

(stopping ANNA)

I get it, drag race, but this is-

ANNA

-Are you asking me to discount my rate?

JOEL

A bottle of Grey Goose? Every night? We're your home, without us you'd...

ANNA

A thirty-dollar bottle. And I will be doing a charity number because well... if you don't like it, I'll go somewhere else.

JOEL

(A pause)

What flavor of Grey Goose?

ANNA

Citron. Because I'm a classy queen.

(JOEL exits, focus on NIKKI and GEORGIA in dressing room)

NIKKI

Joel took me off the cabaret.

GEORGIA

Why? Maybe he's preparing, Miss Top Four! What's wrong? Jitters? The day I stop getting the pre-show jitters, I'm done.

NIKKI

No one needs me anymore. Pamala's got it. Joel's helping.

GEORGIA

Of course, he's got two drag race queens on payroll now.

NIKKI

He won't honor my contract.

GEORGIA

Someone's gotta manage this raggedy bunch.

NIKKI

I wished so hard-

GEORGIA

-No no baby. You dreamed.

NIKKI

Wish, dreamed?

GEORGIA

Wishes come, whether you're ready or not. Makes 'em dangerous. Dreams are gifts from a higher source. And I don't know how but it clears everything out the way and delivers.

NIKKI

I've been read. Need a new dream.

GEORGIA

You know how fast you forget a dream after you wake up? You try to make sense of it. It falls apart, nothing makes sense. You try to remember but no. Then over time, bits and pieces start to whisper. That's a dream. Only there when you put in the work to grab it.

NIKKI

Was it my dream though?

GEORGIA

Your next big thing?

NIKKI

An option. I'm close to aging out.

GEORGIA

Bitch, I'm fifty-five.

NIKKI

You wanna be doing this at sixty?

GEORGIA

I don't want to think about ot.

NIKKI

I can't help but think about it.

GEORGIA

There's a whole buncha bitches in this town that call you mother. But all of 'em would kill for your spot. They know they wouldn't be here if it weren't for you.

NIKKI

I love drag, I love being here and putting on the show every night.

GEORGIA

Maybe you're meant to be here. But if it's not fun anymore.

(ANNA enters)

ANNA

Okay. Which you bitches stole my drag? Ginger?

GINGER

Pft. Second hand shit.

ANNA

Layya? You playing a joke?

LAYYA

No ma'am. Where was it?

ANNA

In my car. Nikki?

NIKKI

Been here the whole time.

ANNA

Oh god. Someone stole my drag! My makeup, my bag. My finale gowns were in there!  
Oh my god.

PAMALA

Hold on, calm down. Maybe it's in here?

ANNA

I picked it up on my way in, I can't go on TV without my gown!

(SONG: "25 – PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS REPRISE")

GINGER

(handing ANNA a pair of heels)

Here girl, these will fit you...

PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS, PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

LAYYA

SLIP INTO THOSE SEXY PUMPS, OH THE SURPRISES THEY'LL REVEAL

STACY

(a wig)

Watch those high kicks, you might get your foot caught. This my ballad hair.

NONE OF THE WORLD KNOWS WHY DRAG CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

TOPPER

(a gown)

THE SHY BECOME POPULAR

ALL

WHEN YOU PUT ON A PAIR OF HEELS

(The QUEENS help ANNA pack. NIKKI watches)

NIKKI

NONE OF THE WORLD KNOWS WHY

DRAG CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE...

Pamala!

(PAMALA approaches)

PAMALA

What?

NIKKI

I need a shot! I want to forget me.

PAMALA

I'll get the gasoline!

(PAMALA exits, NIKKI panics, PAMALA enters)

You sure?



NIKKI

Cover my numbers!

(downs the shot, everything wonky)

SEQUE

## ACT TWO – SCENE 5

Setting:                      Nowhere.

At rise:                      NIKKI is in a nightmare.

VOICES (a nightmarish crescendo)

You're just a clown in a dress. Wishes are handed to you, dreams require work. Just sign right here. Nikki Hart, I'm sorry my dear but you are up for elimination. Just be yourself. You're just a clown in a dress. Just a clown... Just a clown...

(CHORUS enters as "drag queen zombies" and all speak at once)

(SONG: "26 – JOIN THE DRAG ILLUMINATI")

ZOMBIES

I need more sequins. Can I do something other than the ballad? Sign here, fog juice delivery. How much can I spend on my show? Can I add a stripper to drum up some more peeps? I need. When can we order new opening number outfits? Time to renew my contract.

NIKKI

Stop!

NO MORE I NEED THIS, NO MORE CAN YOU HELP ME SIS  
NO MORE THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE, NO MORE, I'M NOT HAVING FUN

TRENCH COAT (JOEL OR CHARLIE OR ?)

Psst. Psst. You need a way out? Of this nightmare montage.

NIKKI

What? Who are you?

TRENCH COAT

Tired of the bullshit? Want something?

NIKKI

What is this?

TRENCH COAT

Sign this contract-

(Confronted with another contract NIKKI screams)

NIKKI

Ah!

TRENCH COAT

Not the reaction I was expecting.

NIKKI

NO MORE CONTRACTS TO SIGN, NO MORE EVERYTHING IS FINE  
NO MORE LET ME DO THIS SONG, NO MORE SCREAMING ALL DAYLONG

TRENCH COAT

Calm down. Shhhh. Go ahead, dig yourself out.

DRAG IS YOUR LIFE, IT'S WHAT MAKES YOU TICK  
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT JUST WON'T CLICK  
YOU WANT MORE PATRONS, YOU WANT MORE FANS  
WE CAN HELP IMPLEMENT YOUR PLANS

(As HE sings, ZOMBIE DRAG QUEENS enter and circle NIKKI)

NIKKI

A drag secret society?

TRENCH COAT

It's a thing.

FROM GIGS TO HONORS, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK  
ANYTHING YOU DESIRE, ANYTHING YOU LACK  
WON'T YOU JOIN US, MEMBERSHIP IS LIFE LONG  
DRAG ILLUMINATI IS WHERE YOU BELONG

NIKKI

Who's a part of this?

TRENCH COAT

Can't tell you. But all the top queens belong to us.

NIKKI

All of them?

TRENCH COAT

All of them.

LADY BUNNY FOUNDED US BACK IN NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR  
WHEN OUR LEADERS WON'T PROTECT US, WE GO TO WAR

OUR HANDS ON EVERYTHING, QUIETLY RUNNIN' THE SCENES  
AN ELITE CROWD, THE WHO'S WHO OF QUEENS

So what do you want?

NIKKI

Stop telling me what to do!

TRENCH COAT

Perfect! We're a secret society of the most powerful drag queens and we can make everything happen. What do you want?

NIKKI

To disappear.

TRENCH COAT

We can make that happen too. Look. Talent will get you so far, but without us, you'll never get to the top.

ZOMBIE CHORUS

WE CONTROL THE SPOTLIGHT, WE CONTROL YOUR FAME  
YOU'LL HAVE ADORING FANS, SCREAMING YOUR NAME  
JOIN THE DRAG ILLUMINATI, YOU'RE LIFE WON'T EVER BE THE SAME!

NIKKI

What's the catch. And I'm done signing contracts. I'm doing things my way now.

TRENCH COAT

No more contracts. You keep doing what you do. Nothing changes, except you've got us in your corner.

NIKKI

Not interested.

(The ZOMBIES close in on NIKKI)

TRENCH COAT

I see you don't understand what I'm offering.

(Slowly reaches into coat to grab... a phone)

So... how about a free sample?

NIKKI

A free sample?

TRENCH COAT

You name it, tell me something that's in your way. A boss, an ex?

NIKKI

I don't know... Wait! Charlie. Could you get a youtuber off my ass?

TRENCH COAT

I can make it go away.

(HE dials)

NIKKI

Don't kill him or anything...

TRENCH COAT

Kill him! Hahaha! Kill him... (turns to ZOMBIES) she thinks we'd kill- look, we don't kill anybody. What's the channel?

NIKKI

I don't know-

TRENCH COAT

-It's in your hands. Let me show you what I can do!

NIKKI

Drag Drama.

TRENCH COAT

When you wake up, Drag Drama won't ever be in your way again!

YOU'VE GOT THE TALENT, YOU'VE GOT THE STYLE  
WITH OUR HELP, YOU'LL GO THE EXTRA MILE

TRENCH COAT & ZOMBIE CHORUS

EXTRA MILE!

WE CONTROL THE SPOTLIGHT, WE CONTROL YOUR FAME  
YOU'LL HAVE ADORING FANS, SCREAMING YOUR NAME  
JOIN THE DRAG ILLUMINATI, YOU'RE LIFE WON'T EVER BE THE SAME!

TRENCH COAT

Well?

NIKKI

I don't know.

TRENCH COAT

This offer only comes around once. Sign now or we'll never offer again. (Pause) Okay.  
Pack it up. Clear out. On to the next.

NIKKI

Everything I want?

(NIKKI isn't sold yet, TRENCH COAT encourages ZOMBIES to close  
in on NIKKI)

TRENCH COAT

Opportunities, open doors, fame, fortune, the adoration of fans. The choice is yours,  
fortune favors the bold.

(The ZOMBIES "consume" NIKKI and SHE becomes a ZOMBIE.  
THEY dance)

NIKKI

NO MORE CUT THE QUEENS, NO MORE I DON'T HAVE THE MEANS  
NO MORE GET MORE BUTTS IN SEATS, NO MORE LONG ASS MEET & GREETINGS

TRENCH COAT

Ugh.

ZOMBIE CHORUS

WE CONTROL THE SPOTLIGHT, WE CONTROL YOUR FAME  
YOU'LL HAVE ADORING FANS, SCREAMING YOUR NAME  
JOIN THE DRAG ILLUMINATI, YOU'RE LIFE WON'T EVER BE THE SAME!  
SIGN!

NIKKI

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SIGNING FOR

ZOMBIE CHORUS

SIGN!

NIKKI

CAN SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S IN STORE

ZOMBIE CHORUS

SIGN!

NIKKI

CAN YOU POINT ME TOWARDS THE GOOGLE REVIEWS

ZOMBIE CHORUS  
SIGN!

NIKKI  
WHICH MEMBERSHIP PLAN SHOULD I CHOOSE

TRENCH COAT  
WHICHEVER ONE DOESN'T PUT YOU IN DEBT?

I don't know. Look. It's a big club and you aren't in it... yet!

GET ON BOARD WITH US, JOIN THE DRAG ELITE  
WITH OUR SECRETS, NO ONE CAN COMPETE  
MONEY, POWER, FAME AND FORTUNE TOO  
WE HAVE IT ALL, AND WE WANT YOU  
JOIN THE DRAG ILLUMINATI, YOU'RE LIFE WON'T EVER BE THE SAME!  
SIGN!

(Before SHE makes a decision, a pause showing HER wrestling  
with the idea of signing)

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO – SCENE 6

Setting: Charlie's Recording Desk

At rise: CHARLIE sits. After a moment HE raises HIS phone, reading comments made on HIS video posts.

CHARLIE

“Get a real job that requires your pansy ass to work.” “An annoying drag queen wannabe that couldn't lip sync if his life depended on it.” “You're a teenager taking rumors and gossip and vomiting it back out, it's not new or fresh.”

Woke up to hundreds of these hateful comments. We all love drag right? Don't we? Then why cut each other down? If it's all valid, why do we compare each other's art? I'm not a queen. It didn't happen for me. But I can be a little part of it with this channel.

We laugh at the comedy queens, we're afraid of bitchy queens, we stare in awe when a pageant queen walks the stage, while social media racks up hateful, hurtful comments. What happened to respect? Who goes out of their way to cause drama for somebody else. Let me say that again. People who have time to purposely cause hurt and drama. How bad off do you need to be to want to destroy someone? Your opinion not enough? No, then it gets personal, skin color, hairstyle, how feminine or masculine, why? There's never any reason to personally attack is there?

Drag is art. Amazing art and *entertainment* that makes my life more exciting. But when it controls how you are as a person? Well, you're the kind of person that I don't want to be around.

(SONG: “27 - WHEN I SEE HER”)

LIFE WAS NEVER UNICORNS AND RAINBOWS  
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, NO  
LIFE WAS ALWAYS HIDING FROM BULLIES  
I'M NOT A FIGHTER, SO

IT'S HARD TO DISCOVER WHAT YOU HAVE INSIDE  
WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE, FOR YOUR LIFE

THEN WHEN I SAW HER DANCING ON THE STAGE  
SUDDENLY I WAS FREE FROM MY CAGE  
I'LL NEVER HAVE HER TALENT  
I DON'T WANT TO TUCK MY CROTCH  
JUST LET ME LIVE MY FANTASY  
I JUST WANT TO WATCH, I JUST WANT TO WATCH



THE WORLD NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE HER WHO CREATE OUR DREAMS  
THE WORLD NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES  
I'M NOT A DRAG QUEEN, NEVER SAID I COULD BE  
SOMEDAY I'LL STAND IN HER PRESENCE AND NOT BE DISMISSED  
AND ON THAT DAY, I'LL FEEL LIKE I EXIST

LIFE IS ALWAYS UNICORNS AND RAINBOWS  
WHEN I SEE HER, WHEN I SEE HER, WHEN I SEE HER

At the end of the day, isn't this just drag?

(HE resumes reading)

"You are so gay, no one listens to you." "Why don't you die?" "If you did drag, I'd gouge out my eyes with a turkey baster."

SEQUE

## ACT TWO – SCENE 7

Setting:                      Spotlighted Section.

At rise:                      PAMALA and NIKKI watch CHARLIE’s post. THEY both sit quietly until NIKKI speaks.

NIKKI  
I don’t feel like a winner.

PAMALA  
You cheated.

(JOEL enters waving phone)

JOEL  
Pamala, get the lineup ready. I need a minute with Nikki.

PAMALA  
It’s ready.

JOEL  
Pamala. Go.

(PAMALA exits)

What this is? Did you have anything to do with this? Is he talking about you?

NIKKI  
Yes. But I didn’t do it.

JOEL  
Nikki. You’re supposed to be my best, my leader. How could you do this? On social media?

NIKKI  
I guess I wasn’t thinking. I wanted-

JOEL  
What’s going on with you? This isn’t the Nikki Hart I know. She’s a leader, sets a good example. I chose you because you have it. The others don’t.

NIKKI  
Why don’t I get a chance to do it? Huh? You tell me what to do, when to do it. God forbid I try anything new.

JOEL

I've never stood in the way of your ideas. You haven't brought any... I would jump on any of your ideas. You know that. I've never told you no. Have I?

NIKKI

Well. I guess not.

JOEL

I expect my show director to be professional at all times. You represent this club, I'd never have recommended you for Drag Race if I knew you'd treat a cast member like this.

NIKKI

You did what?

JOEL

You're the leader. It falls on you to be the bigger person.

NIKKI

No, the drag race thing.

JOEL

What? They called and asked if any of you were ready to compete on Drag Race. I gave them you and Anna.

NIKKI

I was recommended?

JOEL

Well...they asked.

NIKKI

I have to go.

JOEL

Fine. Georgia covering?

NIKKI

She is. I'll be back after the filming.

JOEL

Hurry back! SheMoves is home to Nikki Hart, the next star drag queen!

(HE exits. Leaving NIKKI in thought)

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO – SCENE 8

Setting: On stage.

At rise: Top 4 QUEENS stand in a tableau. GODLIKE QUEEN addresses audience.

GODLIKE QUEEN

Welcome back friends! This season's winner of Drag Race will receive a crown and scepter courtesy of The Joseph Alan Company, a year's supply of makeup from Anastacia Beverly Hills and a cash prize of five-hundred thousand dollars. A reminder that I hold the final decision and nobody else, so if you have a problem with it, you can take it up with me. And I'm not afraid to poke a bitch in the neck. Now the winner of Rupaul's Drag Race season 50 is... Nikki Hart!

(Music, applause and the crown is placed on NIKKI's head. All goes silent)

(SONG: "28 - DREAMS DON'T WAIT FOREVER")

NIKKI

I HAD A DREAM, I THOUGHT WAS MINE  
I'D WEAR THIS CROWN, WELL NOW IT'S TIME  
FEELING LIKE A CLOWN, IN A (SEQUENCE)\* GOWN

I HAD THAT DREAM, SO LONG AGO  
I WAS A DIFFERENT ME, SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW  
WAS THIS DREAM EVER MEANT FOR ME?

DREAMS DON'T WAIT FOREVER  
RELICS OF A PLACE AND TIME

DO I KEEP ON DREAMING

OR LET IT GO-O-O-O

SHOULD I LET IT GO

IT WAS EXCITING, TO CHASE SOMETHING NEW  
I PLAYED MY ROLE, LIKE ALL DRAG QUEENS DO  
BUT THIS IS NOT EXCITING, SOMETHING FEELS WRONG  
FOLLOWED OTHERS DREAMS, SO I COULD BELONG

I STAND HERE WONDERING, WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ME  
IF I WEAR THIS CROWN WILL I STILL BE ME

(Lights up on QUEENS, PAMALA and JOEL watching. NIKKI reaches up towards HER head)

PAMALA

Oh no, please no...

GEORGIA

Oh here comes that weave!

(NIKKI pauses, takes off the crown instead)

NIKKI

INSIDE FEELS DIFFERENT, MY HEART AND SOUL AT WAR  
I WILL NOT WEAR THIS CROWN, WHEN SOMEONE NEEDS IT MORE

DREAMS DON'T WAIT FOREVER  
IF I CAN CHANGE, MAYBE DREAMS DO TOO  
FORGET THE PAST AND KEEP ON GOING  
FIND SOMETHING NEW-E-E-EW

DREAMS DON'T WAIT FOREVER  
BUT I'VE GOT FIRE IN MY SOUL  
ONLY GOT ONE LIFE TO LIVE FOR  
DREAMS COME AND GO-O-O-O

DREAMS DON'T WAIT FOREVER, NO  
DREAMS CAN'T WAIT FOREVER, OH-O-O-O  
THIS DREAM, BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE

(NIKKI addresses audience)

NIKKI

I know this is about you. It's about all of you. Fans, family and friends and those of you who had no idea what you were getting into tonight. But. I do this for... Anna.

(NIKKI places crown on ANNA and exits)

(SONG: "29 – KISS KISS REPRISE")

CHORUS

I CAME HERE TO SLAY, IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO BACK DOWN  
I'LL SNATCH THAT CROWN  
WHAT IS HAPPENING? GIRL!  
IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING? GIRL!  
DID THIS BITCH JUST GIVE UP  
WHAT IS HAPPENING? ATTENTION WHORE  
SHE'S A QUEEN ON THE RUN!

(Over the scene change, characters have THEIR say)

LAYYA

That's some crazy shit ain't it?! Who would've guessed she'd give it up to her rival... Nikki has always been different. I mean she's done everything, she's made it, she leads us at SheMoves... I guess she didn't want to give that up traveling the world, staying in hotels away from friends and family for the next few years.

STACY

I'd like to believe she was being nice. Anna deserves it. She's got the drive to go to her next level. Nikki's a great mentor and would be a great show director if she'd commit to it.

TOPPER

Cringey right?! I bet the producers are so mad! Their front runner gave them the big middle finger... but that's what drag is, going against mainstream.

GINGER

Who puts in all that effort and money to walk away when they win? I'm concerned for her future. She might be forced to step down or move on from the club.

CHARLIE

We may never find out her real reason. But I'll say this. She's a class act.

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO – SCENE 9

Setting: Backstage.

At rise: NIKKI enters, hangs a post while STACY, LAYYA and GINGER standby.

NIKKI  
Tonight's lineup.

STACY  
I'm not doing the ballad?

NIKKI  
Not tonight. I'll do it.

(PAMALA enters)

STACY  
Why?

NIKKI  
Be happy or I'll put you back on it.

PAMALA  
I'm on the lineup?

NIKKI  
Yes. I'll cover your stage manager stuff. You need to be on that stage.

PAMALA  
Thanks!

(THEY hug)

NIKKI  
How's Joel? He mad?

PAMALA  
He's thrilled. Said sales have never been higher since you gave up the crown for Anna. Either way, he'll get over it. He won't let you go. Don't worry about it.

NIKKI  
I'm worried about the crowd.

GEORGIA's VOICE (ONSTAGE)

SheMoves Drag Club are you ready to party tonight!!!

(Loud applause. ANNA enters, views lineup and stands beside  
NIKKI waiting cue)

ANNA

I could say a whole lot.

NIKKI

Isn't it exciting?! I'm either about to be boo'ed off this stage or have the night of my life!  
Who knows?! I'm the clown in the dress here and it's my job to make them laugh.

ANNA

Well... you've always made me laugh.

NIKKI

Gimme a graceful exit if they boo.

ANNA

Don't worry, sis. You're in good hands.

GEORGIA's VOICE

Now put your hands together for the winner of Drag Race, SheMoves' very own Anna  
Dukes!

NIKKI

Go, show them why you won!

(ANNA exits onstage as GEORGIA enters offstage)

GEORGIA

You ready?

NIKKI

Yeah, since it's probably my last night on this stage. I'm so ready.

GEORGIA

Good, we need new drama. I miss all the old drag drama we used to kiki about. The  
good old days.

ANNA's VOICE (ONSTAGE)

And now, welcome to the stage... Nikki Hart!

(Silence)



NIKKI

Oh my god.

GEORGIA

Go. Do it.

PAMALA

Make them laugh.

BLACKOUT

## ACT TWO – SCENE 10

Setting: Onstage.

At rise: NIKKI enters to silence. SHE stops awkwardly.

NIKKI

Hello everybody. I'm Nikki Hart...

(SHE pauses, building up confidence)

...I am Orlando's "almost" Drag Race winner!

VOICE (from the crowd)

We love you Nikki Hart!

(Wild applause)

I know I didn't get the result you wanted. But it's about the journey right? Not the destination? I just happen to enjoy the journey a bit more than the destination.

(Applause)

The drag race crown is Anna's dream and I can't wait to see what she does with it. When she isn't busy traveling the world meeting fans and spreading her message of charity, she'll be hosting right here!

(SONG: "30 – LIFE IS YOUR RUNWAY")

NIKKI

And not to drag the party down, but... Drag brings people together. To make moments. Memories we'll carry outside these walls. We need every single one of you, for even in the littlest of ways to make the world a better place.

SOMETIMES WE MAKE LIFE HARD, IT'S EASY TO WALK AWAY  
THROW YOUR HANDS UP, SOMEONE ELSE CAN SAVE THE DAY  
I ALWAYS THOUGHT, IT WAS ME AGAINST THE CROWD  
WHEN SOMEONE FUCKS IT UP, I COULD DO IT PROUD

GEORGIA

(entering)

WHEN THINGS SEEM SO IMPORTANT, YOU WANNA BREAKDOWN AND CRY  
IS IT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT, STOP AND ASK YOURSELF WHY  
IF THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED, CAN'T FOCUS ON YOUR CRAFT  
TAKE A LESSON FROM THE SHOW, SOMETIMES WE JUST NEED TO LAUGH

NIKKI & GEORGIA

IF WE TAKE ACTION, NO MATTER HOW GRAND OR SMALL  
IT MATTERS WE ARE IN THE RACE, TOGETHER WE WIN FOR ALL  
WE WIN FOR ALL!

LIFE IS YOUR RUNWAY, IT'S YOUR FASHION SHOW  
NOW PRANCE AND SLAY, BE A PRO, ON THE RUNWAY  
WHEN DRAMA BLOCKS YOUR WAY, WAVE IT AWAY  
SPOTLIGHT ON YOU, THIS IS YOUR RUNWAY

(NIKKI hands microphone to ANNA, who nods to NIKKI)

ANNA

DON'T WORRY WHAT OTHER PEOPLE DO  
YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU  
WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO GET YOUR GOAT  
REMEMBER WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME DAMN BOAT  
MEAN WHAT YOU SAY AND SAY WHAT YOU MEAN  
WORDS ARE POWER, KEEP THEM CLEAN  
BUT IF YOUR FRIENDS EVER GIVE YOU STRIFE  
GET OUT THERE AND LIP SYNC FOR YOUR LIFE  
FOR YOUR LIFE!

CHORUS

FOR YOUR LIFE!

ANNA

I've got six new queens Orlando! And that's only the beginning. Drag isn't just what we do. There's all kinds, some of it you'll love, some of it you'll hate, but the world would be boring if we're all the same! Tonight, we have a very special award. For being our mother, I crown Miss Nikki Hart as the first ever SheMoves Drag Mother! Put your hands together for Nikki!

(PAMALA enters, places crown on NIKKI. SHE walks the runway, all the QUEENS remove THEIR wigs in support)

Put your drinks up! Here's to you and me, best friends we'll always be, if we ever disagree, fuck you, here's to me! Drink up everybody!

NIKKI

I have a special challenge for someone in the audience... Charlie, where's Charlie? I know you're here...

(CHARLIE appears beside PAMALA offstage)

There he is. Charlie. Get up here, Smirnoff Ice Challenge rematch!

(PAMALA hands CHARLIE 3 bottles and HE enters giving a bottle to ANNA and NIKKI)

Take a knee! Go!

(THEY perform the challenge. CHARLIE wins)

CHARLIE  
Yaassss!

NIKKI  
Keep watchin' Charlie's YouTube Channel Drag Drama as he's going to be doing an in depth documentary on all of us here as the official SheMoves historian! Put your hands together for Charlie!

CHARLIE  
You truly are a legend.

NIKKI  
SheMoves, put your hands together for your cast!

(Entering on their solos)

ANNA  
YOU CAN BE THE GLITZY AND GLAM

GINGER BEAR-D  
OR BACK ROLL TRASHY-CHIC

LAYYA  
YES MA'AM

STACY LEIGH  
BE A FASHION QUEEN OR A BANGEE GIRL

GEORGIA  
GIVE THOSE LOOKS A TWIRL!

TOPPER WARE  
A PARTY CITY QUEEN OR BARBIE DOLL

NIKKI  
A NARCOLEPTIC GOOFBALL

LAYYA  
A GOTHIC WITCH OR PRETTY GEEK

GEORGIA

A PRO-PORTIONIZING FREAK

DRAG QUEENS

IF LIFE IS MOVING BACKWARDS  
AND YOU'VE LOST YOUR POWER TO SLAY

NIKKI

BRUSH AWAY THAT SEASON ONE FILTER  
AND WORK YOUR RUNWAY

CHORUS

RUNWAY! WORK YOUR RUNWAY!

GEORGIA

WORK YOUR RUNWAY!

ENTIRE COMPANY

RUNWAY!  
LIFE IS YOUR RUNWAY, IT'S YOUR FASHION SHOW  
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LIFE IS YOUR RUNWAY, IT'S YOUR FASHION SHOW  
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NIKKI

Thank you for spending your time with us! We laughed, we cried. Now I have to pee.  
Support your queer spaces, your local queens and stand up for each other. Life isn't all  
that serious. We need clowns as much as we need people to laugh at them! Good night!

FULL COMPANY

LIFE IS YOUR RUNWAY, IT'S YOUR FASHION SHOW  
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(GEORGIA sings over chorus)

FULL COMPANY

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NOW PRANCE AND SLAY, BE A PRO, ON THE RUNWAY

WHEN DRAMA BLOCKS YOUR WAY, WAVE IT AWAY  
SPOTLIGHT ON YOU, THIS IS YOUR RUNWAY

BLACKOUT

END ACT TWO