

What Goes Down in the Boogie-Down

An Original Musical

by

The Highbridge Voices Chamber Choir

Final Revision

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	GENDER
Robert Smith	The drunk narrator	Male
Victoria Jones	Down on her luck woman	Female
Mrs. Roldan	Young Kat's teacher	Female
Young Kat	Main character as a kid	Female
Official Men #1 and 2	CPS	Male
Young Victoria		
Katerina Jones	Main character	Female
Joshua Perez	Kat's boyfriend	Male
Yesenia Harris	Kat's best friend	Female
Rap Girls	Back up Robert's rap	Female
Young Robert	Flashback during rap	Male
Robert's Brother	Dies during rap	Male
Mr. Jenkins	Spanish teacher	Male
Random Man	Tries to revive Victoria	Male
Street People #1-3	Comment on the fight	M/F
Dr. Walters	Kat's Doctor	Female
Nurse	Nurse bringing Kat to Mom	Female
Dr. Seymour	Victoria's doctor	Male

SCENE ONE

An obviously drunk man totters onto the stage, drinking from a bottle wrapped in a paper bag. This is ROBERT SMITH, a disheveled man of the neighborhood: the South Bronx. In the alleyway between a drug store and a supermarket, he bumps obliviously into garbage cans and bags that are strewn along the pavement. He takes a sip, totters to the front of the stage, and looks directly into the audience. Light music plays from somewhere close, maybe a boom box in someone's window. He spots someone he likes, a girl, and, squinting through his drunkenness, speaks.

ROBERT

(pointing directly and even
walking into the audience)

Hey? Hey! Yo! Miss!

(singing an off-key,
unrecognizable tune as he
approaches)

Can I get your number? I wanna call you up! No? Your loss!

VICTORIA JONES enters from stage right. She sees Robert hitting on the woman in the audience and exaggeratedly rolls her eyes.

VICTORIA

Would you leave that poor woman alone? I'm sure she doesn't have time for your drunk nonsense.

ROBERT

Well, excuuuuuuuse me!

VICTORIA

You excused. For now.

Victoria keeps walking while Robert stares at her.

ROBERT

I seem to remember a time you didn't mind all this "nonsense."

Victoria turns around.

VICTORIA
That was a long time ago, old man.

ROBERT

(eyeing her)
Too long.

VICTORIA
Stop looking at me like that before I come over there and slap you.

Robert fakes stumbling to the ground as he squints to get a closer look at Victoria.

ROBERT
Look, you got me tripping all over myself, you so fine.

VICTORIA

(sucks teeth)
Oh please! That flattery ain't gonna get you nowhere.

ROBERT
Yo. Why you so salty? I mean, you used to be so sweet, but out of all the flavors you salty right now.

VICTORIA
Nah, nah. I'm Kool Aid, but you just don't know my flavor.

Victoria starts to walk away again. Robert begins to get back up on his feet.

ROBERT

(honestly)
You know, Mami, we used to have some good times, even if it was a long time ago. Remember?

VICTORIA

(beat; then, not harshly)
You drunks always have selective memories.

ROBERT

(wistfully)
Yeah, well, occupational hazard. I guess.

Victoria turns to go. It looks as though Robert is going to be left alone on the street. Just before exiting, she hesitates and turns around.

VICTORIA

I'm making that chili you like later this week. I'll have a whole lot of it. You can come by if you want some. Like you used to.

ROBERT

(smiling)

Yeah. Yeah. That sounds nice.

Victoria smiles back and leaves. Robert shrugs his shoulders and looks back to the audience. The introduction to "Life is Hard" begins underneath his dialogue.

ROBERT

(sighing; to audience)

Oh well. She'll be back. After all, this is the Bronx. Everybody knows everybody's business in our neighborhood. The street talks more than Facebook these days. Unfortunately, it's not all glitz and glamour. As you shall see..

Robert sings "Life is Hard" with the company.

SCENE TWO

Victoria comes out of a bodega with a beer. She sits on the edge of the stage and drinks from the bag, just like Robert. Behind her, as she drinks, a scene materializes.

A classroom. Several eager students, all no more than 5-7 years old. MRS. ROLDAN, the teacher, stands at the head of the room.

MRS. ROLDAN

So. Does anyone know the answer to six times three?

Several children raise their hands, shouting "Me! Me! Mrs. Roldan!" But before anyone can answer, a bell rings.

MRS. ROLDAN

Well, I guess we will just have to end class on a cliffhanger. We will pick up there tomorrow. Please get ready for dismissal.

As the students gather their coats and other belongings, Mrs. Roldan approaches a student in the middle of the room.

MRS. ROLDAN

Kat. Can I speak to you in the hallway?

KAT JONES, 6, rises without a word, unsuspecting. While Victoria continues to drink at the edge of the stage, Mrs. Roldan takes Kat to the other side of the stage, ostensibly outside the classroom.

MRS. ROLDAN

Is everything OK? I noticed some scars on your arms.

KAT

Oh no, I'm ok. I mean... I know... I mean...

Kat begins to cry. Mrs. Roldan cradles Kat in her arms.

MRS. ROLDAN

Shhhhh. Shhhhh. It's OK. It's OK.

(pause)

You can trust me. Please. Is anybody hurting you?

Kat is clearly conflicted. Should she tell? As she whispers into Mrs. Roldan's ear, two official looking men appear on the other side of the stage. Victoria still sits on the edge of the stage drinking from her paper bag, seemingly oblivious to the scene going on behind her. The official men cross the stage and reach Kat just as she finishes whispering in Mrs. Roldan's ear.

OFFICIAL MAN #1

Excuse me, Miss. We received a call.

MRS. ROLDAN

Yes, that was me.

Official Man #2 squats down in front of Kat.

OFFICIAL MAN #2

(gently)

Hi. What's your name.

KAT

Katerina. But you can call me Kat.

OFFICIAL MAN #2

OK, Kat. Can I ask you a favor?

KAT

Sure.

OFFICIAL MAN #2

Can I see your arms?

Kat looks up at Mrs. Roldan who nods her head. Kat reluctantly rolls up her sleeves to reveal bruised arms.

OFFICIAL MAN #2

Thank you, Kat.

Official Man #2 rises, nods at Official Man #1, who takes Kat brusquely by the arm.

MRS. ROLDAN

What are you doing with her?

OFFICIAL MAN #1

Stay out of this, ma'am.

MRS. ROLDAN

Wait! I didn't say...

Official Man #1 guides Kat away as
Official Man #2 steps in front of Mrs.
Roldan.

OFFICIAL MAN #2

(sympathetic)

I'm sorry Ma'am. It's for her own good.

A crestfallen Mrs. Roldan relents as a
kicking and screaming Kat is taken
away. When Kat and Official Man #2
reach the other side of the stage, a
group of students are congregated there
as if outside, watching Official Man #2
pull Kat out of the school. The
onlookers are curious, but afraid. From
the mob emerges a younger version of
Victoria, and what plays out next
happens almost directly behind where
the modern-day Victoria drinks, sitting
on the edge of the stage.

KAT

Mommy! Mommy!

YOUNG VICTORIA

What's happening? Where are you taking my baby?

OFFICIAL MAN #2

Ma'am, it would be better off if you just stay out of this
for now. You will have your chance...

YOUNG VICTORIA

(hysterical)

I don't want my chance! I just want my...

KAT

(crying)

Mommy!

YOUNG VICTORIA

Baby!

"Life is Hard" (reprise) starts to
play softly underneath the scene.
Official Man #2 drags Kat away with the
mob and Young Victoria looking on. The
mob gossips and whispers.

Official Man #1 walks by and sympathetically shrugs his shoulders before following Official Man #2 and Kat offstage. The mob watches as Young Victoria slumps to the floor and cries, directly behind the modern-day Victoria, who drinks from the bag with no discernible emotion. The song ends and the stage goes black.

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 3

Kat, now 16, walks the busy hallway of a high school, hand-in hand with her boyfriend, JOSHUA PEREZ, also 16. They appear smitten with each other. Behind a set of lockers, unseen by our young lovers, is YESENIA HARRIS, 16. She is clearly eavesdropping on their conversation.

JOSHUA

What class do you have now, Kat?

KAT

Spanish.

JOSHUA

I'll walk you.

KAT

Cool. What you have?

JOSHUA

Study Hall. I don't know if I can get anything done, though. I'll just be thinking about you.

KAT

(not harsh)

Oh, stop Josh. We've been together two years. Don't get all mushy on me now.

JOSHUA

I'll try.

They walk in silence for a moment.
Then:

KAT

So, how has your day been so far?

JOSHUA

(smiling goofily)

Not great. Until now.

Kat blushes.

JOSHUA

You're so cute when you blush.

KAT

(flattered)

Here we go again. You're just full of compliments today. Haven't you heard the expression "flattery gets you nowhere?"

JOSHUA

Is it true?

KAT

I don't know. Say something else sweet and we'll test out the theory.

They both laugh and then slow down in front of Kat's classroom.

KAT

Well, this is my classroom right here.

JOSHUA

OK, well, I'll miss you.

KAT

Miss you more.

She kisses her boyfriend goodbye, then walks away. As she walks, she playfully calls over her shoulder:

KAT

And stop being such a sap!

Joshua smiles as Kat exits. He is clearly lovesick. Eventually, Joshua staggers down the hall to his own classroom. After he has regained some of his equilibrium, he checks his watch and starts to hustle down the hall, afraid he will be late. He is stopped by Yesenia, who eventually emerges from behind the lockers to impede Joshua's progress.

JOSHUA

Yo, Yesenia. Watchou doing? I'm going to be late for class!

YESENIA

I think when you hear what I have to say, you won't be so worried about being late to class.

JOSHUA

(slightly more interested)

Oh yeah?

YESENIA

Yeah. There's something you need to know.

JOSHUA

(trying to leave)

C'mon, Yesenia. I have to go. Can't this wait until after school?

Joshua heads off past Yesenia who stops him cold with:

YESENIA

I guess. If you think vital information about your girlfriend can wait until after school.

Joshua stops. Turns around.

JOSHUA

"Vital information?"

YESENIA

Uh-huh.

JOSHUA

Are you talking smack about your best friend, Yesenia? Because that seems like a pretty crappy thing to do.

YESENIA

It's not "talking smack." This is straight from the source, honey.

Joshua turns around.

JOSHUA

OK. You have my attention. What is it?

A long pause. Yesenia is definitely milking this. Then:

YESENIA

You really want to know?

JOSHUA

(walking away again)

I'm out of here, Yesenia. I'm tired of your games.

YESENIA

(quickly)

Kat is pregnant.

A long pause as Joshua tries to process this. He turns around.

JOSHUA

Nah. You're lying.

Joshua starts to walk away again.

YESENIA

Oh yeah? Go ask her yourself.

This stops Joshua in his tracks. He turns around, walks quickly past Yesenia. (Maybe he even bumps her shoulder as he passes.) Yesenia smiles sinisterly. Lights come up on a classroom that has been set up on the other side of the stage where MR. JENKINS, a Spanish teacher in his forties, stands at the front of the room, writing on the board. Kat is in the front row. Joshua barges in. Everyone's heads snap toward Joshua's abrupt entrance. He goes directly to Kat's desk and slams his hands on it. Kat is clearly startled and disturbed.

JOSHUA

I need to speak to you. Now.

MR. JENKINS

Excuse me, Mr. Perez. Who do you think you are interrupting my class like this and --

JOSHUA

(slams desk again)

Now!

KAT

(clearly embarrassed; quietly)

Later, Josh!

JOSHUA

No, not later. Now!

MR. JENKINS

Get out of my classroom!

Joshua doesn't move and keeps his eyes fixed on his girlfriend.

JOSHUA

(seething)

Is it true?

MR. JENKINS

Mr Perez!

JOSHUA

Is it true?!

A pause. Everyone in the room is frozen, including Mr. Jenkins.

KAT

(quietly and desperately)

Can we please talk about this somewhere else?

JOSHUA

IS IT TRUE?!?!?!?

Kat realizes she has no out. She bows her head.

KAT

(stuttering to get it out)

Y-y-ess. It's...it's true.

Another long pause as everyone waits to see what Joshua will do. Even Mr. Jenkins can't move. The furious Joshua waits, stares at his girlfriend with clenched fists. After a few tense moments, Joshua turns around and storms out of the room. Kat begins to cry. She is comforted by a few students.

MR. JENKINS

(trying to restore order)

OK, everyone. Settle down, settle down.

Kat continues to cry Mr. Jenkins lets Kat cry and be comforted. With Kat's crying the only sound:

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 4

Joshua is walking down the street, hands in pockets, clearly upset. He is alone, except for an occasional passerby. He stops at the edge of the stage and is illuminated by only a spotlight.

JOSHUA

Why? Why didn't she tell me she was pregnant? We're supposed to trust each other, and she's hiding the biggest of secrets.

On the other side of the stage, a spotlight illuminates Kat. They are on opposite ends of the stage, and the scene alternates their thoughts, as they are clearly talking to themselves and not each other.

KAT

I feel so terrible. I should have told him. I know. But I honestly don't know what to do? Get an abortion? Have the baby? Is any of this fair to him? Lord, what should I do?

JOSHUA

I regret doing it now. We should have waited. Now wasn't the right time. It's too early for this. But I love her so much.

KAT

Why did I do this? I know what my values are. I just got overwhelmed by the moment. I just love him so much.

JOSHUA

I should've been more sensitive to her needs. Maybe she wasn't ready. Maybe I wasn't ready.

KAT

I didn't want to disappoint him.

JOSHUA

I didn't want to disappoint her.

KAT

I should've known better for both of us.

JOSHUA

I should've known better for both of us.

KAT

I don't want to lose him.

JOSHUA

I don't want to lose her.

(pause)

I just need some time to think.

KAT

I'll give him some time.

Kat and Joshua sing "Hourglass."

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 5

Robert, paper bag with beer in hand, enters, the beat to "Lil Bro Rap" playing softly beneath as he speaks.

ROBERT

(to audience)

Well, folks, *that* just happened. All in a day's work in the boogie-down, though. People love, people hate, people get hurt, get high, get glad. It is what it is. I've been through my own tough times, too. Hard not to when you've been here long enough. I could tell you some stories...

A wistful Robert sits down at the edge of the stage, the rap beat getting gradually louder as he sips and shakes his head.

ROBERT

I tell ya, there are things I should've done differently all along. I've done things, sold things, given things... Damn. My little bro, he was innocent, he didn't deserve what happened to him. I miss him like crazy.

Robert, still sitting and drinking, hangs his head. He picks it up and breaks into "Lil Bro Rap."

The scene behind Robert as he raps: a trio of girls come out and sing with Robert. On another part of the stage, a younger version of Robert and his little brother act out what Robert raps.

SCENE 6

Victoria at home. She looks a bit weary and is cooking, cutting vegetables while a radio plays softly in the background. She hums and dances gently to the music. She goes to the door and opens it to get rid of the smoke. Waves her hand. She goes back to the kitchen and continues cutting vegetables. On the other side of the stage, we see Robert staggering up the steps with brown bag and beer in his hand. As Victoria continues to cut, blood from her nose drips on the cutting board. Victoria wipes it away and tries to keep cutting. Her cuts get noticeably slower. At some point, it is clear she is in pain. She tries to continue to cut, but starts to bleed again from her nose. Within moments, she passes out. Robert continues up the steps until he reaches Victoria's door.

ROBERT

Mmm, mmm! That chili smells good, Vicky! I'm coming for it.
I'm coming for it!

Robert sniffs at the half-open door of Victoria's apartment.

ROBERT

Hello? Hello?

Robert becomes concerned. He opens the door wider, and tentatively walks inside. He walks through the apartment and eventually finds Victoria on the floor in the kitchen. He panics, sips again, drops the bag. He runs frantically into the hall.

ROBERT

(yelling)
I NEED HELP!

Robert runs back into Victoria's apartment. He picks up the phone on the wall and dials 9-1-1.

ROBERT

(slightly slurring words)
Hello? Yes? I need an ambulance! NO, please now! She's unconscious! She can't speak! She's unconscious!

Robert runs back in the hallway and sees a RANDOM MAN.

ROBERT

(seeing the Random Man)
I think she's dead! Oh my God! Can you help me?

RANDOM MAN

(skeptical)
You drunk again, Robert?

ROBERT

(flustered)
No! I mean yes, but...I need help! Please!

The Random Man decides to help. They enter the apartment together and the Random Man sees that Robert is telling the truth. The Random Man runs to Victoria and bends down to see if she is breathing.

RANDOM MAN

Did you call 9-1-1?

ROBERT

Yes. Yes. They're on their way. Please help her. Can you help her?

RANDOM MAN

I don't know. I'll try. I can't hear her breathing.

The Random Man begins performing CPR on Victoria. Robert looks on nervously.

ROBERT

(almost crying)
Please help her!

The Random Man continues to perform CPR.

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 7

Yesenia sits on a stoop, holding her phone, head down and texting. She smiles at something she sees on her phone. Continues texting. Kat enters without Yesenia noticing. She slaps the phone out of Yesenia's hand. A few people across the street observe what is happening.

STREET PERSON #1

Yo bro, yo bro. Peep this.

YESENIA

(looking up without initially realizing who it is)

Hey, what the hell is...

(realizing it's Kat)

Oh. It's you.

STREET PERSON #2

(quietly)

That phone is gonna be broken.

STREET PERSON #1

Yeah, no doubt.

Yesenia rises off the stoop and picks up her phone.

KAT

(incredulous)

"It's you?" That's all you have to say?

YESENIA

What do you want me to say?

KAT

I want you to apologize! I trusted you! You were my best friend! I confided in you! And then you stab me right in the back? I tell you my deepest darkest secret and you...

YESENIA

Oh, please! I'm tired of you acting all innocent! You've got a good man. You should've told him. You don't appreciate what you have.

There is a significant pause. Kat appears to realize something.

KAT

Wait a second. You like Joshua, don't you?

YESENIA

(defensive)

No! I don't!

Yesenia walks away from Kat, turns around and crosses her arms. A bigger crowd has now gathered around the scene.

KAT

(walking towards Yesenia)

Yes. Yes, you do. That's what this has been about all along, isn't it?

YESENIA

(turning around to face Kat;
they are face-to-face)

No it isn't!

KAT

Yes it is! Just be honest!

A frustrated Yesenia tries to smack Kat. Kat blocks her. They briefly tussle before separating.

STREET PERSON #3

Ooooooh! Dammmmmmmnnnnnn!

As they fight, the music starts for the song "Kat and Yesenia Fight", an instrumental piece. A large crowd starts to gather in a circle around them including the three Street People. They yell various things like, "Get 'er in the head" and "Don't back down now, girl!" Another person begins recording the scene on a cell phone. When the music and the fight end, Kat and Yesenia leave, storming off toward opposite sides of the stage. The crowd is clearly disappointed.

STREET PERSON #1

That's it?

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 8

The high school hallway. Kat walks through, holding her books against her chest in between classes. Joshua enters and tries to catch up with her.

JOSHUA

Kat! Wait up!

Kat keeps walking, clearly aware that it is Joshua pursuing her.

JOSHUA

Kat!

Joshua catches up and grabs Kat's shoulder. She turns around reluctantly and angrily.

KAT

What? What do you want?

JOSHUA

I want to talk. I want to know how our baby is.

KAT

"Our" baby? What do you mean "ours?" I thought you didn't want anything to do with it.

JOSHUA

Can't we just talk about it without fighting?

Kat appears to consider.

KAT

No. No. I have to go to class.

JOSHUA

(reaching out and taking her hand)

Let me walk you.

KAT

(pulling away)

No. Look, I know I said I'd give you time to think about all this. I know it's a lot to process. But I need some time, too. Away from you. For now, at least. Please. Just let me go.

She walks away. Joshua watches her go.

JOSHUA

(calling after her)

I'm here Kat! I'm here!

Kat walks offstage. Joshua watches long after she is gone. He takes out his cell phone, dials a number, and waits for someone to pick up.

JOSHUA

Yeah, hi. Look, I know I'm probably the last person you want to hear from right now. But I need your help.

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 9

A doctor's office with an ultrasound machine and screen set up for business. DR. WALTERS, a woman in her thirties, takes notes on a clipboard. After a moment, Kat enters the room in a hospital gown and goes to sit down on the papered gurney.

KAT

Hello, Doctor.

DR. WALTERS

Hello, Ms. Jones. How are you feeling?

KAT

Eh. Some days good, some days OK.

DR. WALTERS

Any morning sickness?

KAT

Not so far.

DR. WALTERS

Cravings?

KAT

(chuckling)

A few. I suddenly feel like tuna fish sandwiches with ice cream.

DR. WALTERS

Together?

KAT

(slightly embarrassed)

I know. It's weird.

DR. WALTERS

(consulting clipboard)

Don't feel bad. I've heard weirder.

KAT

Really?

DR. WALTERS

Yup.

KAT

Like what?

DR. WALTERS

Would you believe sardines and Skittles?

KAT

(laughing)

Yeah. I guess that is weirder.

DR. WALTERS

(still consulting and writing
on clipboard)

There's always someone weirder, Kat.

There's a knock on the door. After a
moment, Joshua bursts in.

JOSHUA

Did I miss it? Am I too late?

KAT

Josh! What are you doing here?

JOSHUA

I told you. I want to be here for our baby.

KAT

How did you know where I'd be?

JOSHUA

Yesenia. She said she came with you to the doctor when you
first found out and figured you'd be here.

KAT

(clearly moved)

Yesenia told you?

JOSHUA

Yeah. I don't know if she was happy about it. But she did.

DR. WALTERS

Well, we need to get your ultrasound going. Do you want this
person to stay?

Kat looks warmly toward Joshua.

KAT

Yes.

Joshua walks deeper into the room and takes Kat's hand on the gurney. Dr. Walters rubs Kat's belly with the lubricant and then places the transducer on Kat's stomach. Kat, Joshua, and the doctor watch the screen. After a moment:

DR. WALTERS

Congratulations. It's a girl.

Joshua and Kat eye the screen, then each other. They kiss. Dr. Walters smiles and leaves. Kat and Joshua sing "Hourglass Reprise."

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 10

Robert sits on a stoop, again drinking out of a paper bag, looking more worried than he has before. He addresses the audience.

ROBERT

(to audience)

Well, here we are folks. I'm getting drunk again because ...well, that's what I do. But I'm not sure what else I can do. My friend is in the hospital, my neighborhood is falling apart. I wish there was something I could do. I wish I didn't drink so much. I wish...

Robert starts to cry. He drinks again. Keeps crying with his head down. Before long, Joshua and Kat walk by, holding hands.

KAT

That was really sweet of Yesenia. I know she's hurting, but it was nice of her to put that aside.

JOSHUA

You should call her tonight, get that all squared away.

KAT

You're right. I know she's in pain. And I want to be there for her. She screwed up, but at least she's trying to make up for it now. And in a way, I'm glad she told you.

JOSHUA

Really?

KAT

Well, kind of. She forced me to face up to it. And now I have you back.

JOSHUA

Yes. Yes, you really do.

As they are about to kiss, they hear Robert wailing. They both look to the steps and see Robert, drunk with his head in his hands. Kat seems inclined to help. Joshua is initially reluctant. He eventually relents and allows Kat to approach the despairing man.

KAT

(gently jostling Robert's
shoulder)

Excuse me, sir? Sir? Are you OK? Sir?

Robert eventually raises his red-rimmed eyes. He looks at Kat, and doesn't seem to believe what he is seeing.

ROBERT

Kat? Kat? Is that you?

Unnerved by the fact that he knows her name, Kat backs away.

KAT

How do you know my name?

ROBERT

What do you mean, Kat? I was in your house all the time when you were a kid. You don't remember me?

Kat searches Robert's face.

KAT

I don't think so. I...

Robert reaches out and grabs Kat's hand.

ROBERT

Please, Kat. Please.

Kat is transfixed and can't move. Joshua tries to break the trance and pulls Robert's hand off his girlfriend.

JOSHUA

Yo, you really got to step back, bro. Like, you drunk. You really don't know what you're saying.

ROBERT

(rising, tottering)

Look, I'm not trying to start nothing, but I gotta talk to the girl.

(beat; looks at Kat)

Katerina. It's Katerina, right?

KAT

Yes. Yes. How do you know?

ROBERT

Your mom is Vicky, right? I know you haven't seen her in years but...

JOSHUA

(angry; stepping in between Kat and Robert)

That's enough! Leave her alone! She doesn't want to hear this stuff!

Kat gently pushes Joshua away and approaches the teetering Robert. She takes Robert's hand.

KAT

You know my mom?

ROBERT

(trying to focus; serious)

Yes.

KAT

You know Victoria Jones?

ROBERT

Well, I always called her Vicky, but yeah. Yup. Yeah. She's my friend.

KAT

(desperately)

Where is she?

Robert looks like he is about to fall asleep.

ROBERT

(eyes glazing over)

What?

KAT

(shaking Robert; urgent but not angry)

WHERE IS SHE?

Kat's urgency makes Robert snap to.

ROBERT

She's in the hospital. St. Vincent. I called the ambulance. They took her there. She's sick. You gotta go and see her.

KAT

(confused)

What?

ROBERT

(almost falling asleep)

She needs you, Kat. I know she lost you, but it wasn't her fault. I swear. It wasn't her fault...

Robert falls down on to the stoop. He drinks out of the bag again, and starts muttering to himself.

ROBERT

(mumbling)

She needs you..

Robert finally falls over and, clearly wasted, continues muttering.

ROBERT

(softly)

It wasn't her fault...

Robert appears to fall asleep with the bag in his hand. Kat goes toward Robert, props him up. Joshua approaches and hugs his girlfriend from behind.

JOSHUA

Don't pay attention to him, Kat. He's just a drunk. He doesn't know what he's talking about.

KAT

He *is* a drunk. But that doesn't make him wrong.

JOSHUA

What do you mean?

KAT

I think I remember him. And he knows my mom. My *real* mom. I never knew how to get in touch with her. I was happy with my new family, so I just kind of forgot about it. But now, I think I want to see her.

JOSHUA

For real?

KAT

(beat; thinking)

Yeah.

JOSHUA

You sure you want to do this?

Kat stops again to consider. Then:

KAT

We gotta go to St. Vincent.

Kat takes off abruptly. Joshua takes off after her.

JOSHUA

Really? You think she's really there?

KAT

Yes. I do.

Kat walks offstage in a hurry. Joshua, a bit flummoxed, follows.

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 11

Victoria lies in bed, not exactly comatose, but clearly not feeling well. She sings "Victoria's Song" about her illness and the long-ago loss of her daughter. As the song finishes, Victoria collapses in bed and appears to fall asleep. After a moment, Kat, Joshua, and a NURSE appear on the opposite side of the stage.

NURSE

She may have just recently fallen asleep. I saw her a little while ago and she was...

Victoria, hearing the voices, rises out of her slumber.

VICTORIA

No, no. It's OK, Nurse. Let them in. I'm OK. I'm OK. I could use the company.

NURSE

(somewhat skeptical)

Okay.

Victoria motions Kat and Joshua into the room, then props herself up on the bed to look more "presentable." The Nurse leaves and Joshua and Kat approach Victoria cautiously. They stop at the edge of the bed. Nobody speaks for a moment. Then:

VICTORIA

(a bit out of it)

So. Who are you? Do I know you? You from the insurance company or something? Cause I don't have any money right now.

Victoria looks at her frozen visitors. Examines their faces. She seems to come out of her stupor.

VICTORIA

(gaining her bearings)

Hey. Who are you guys?

Kat looks at Joshua, then cautiously approaches the bed. She takes her Victoria's hand.

KAT

(tentatively)
I'm....I'm your...daughter.

Victoria seems perplexed at first,
before understanding what Kat is
saying.

VICTORIA

(incredulous but hopeful)
Kat?

KAT

(beat)
Yes.

VICTORIA

(reaching her hand out to Kat's
face)
Kat? Is that really you?

KAT

(leaning in to Victoria's hand,
near tears)
Yes. It's me. It's me.

VICTORIA

(a beat as she realizes what's
happening)
Oh my god. I've dreamed of this moment for years.

KAT

Me too.

They both cry and embrace. After a
moment, Kat pulls away.

KAT

Listen...I need to tell you...

VICTORIA

(grasping Kat's hand)
You can tell me anything.

And yet Kat turns away, unable to
contain her tears. Victoria still holds
Kat's hand.

VICTORIA

(softly)

Listen. Honey. I know this isn't easy. I've thought about you for years. You've never been out of my mind. You don't have to love me or even like me. I did some things wrong. But now that you're here with me, and we have a chance, I hope you can confide in me. I don't know what's going to happen to me but...

Kat suddenly turns around.

KAT

(blurting out)

I'm pregnant!

Kat falls into Victoria and cries more. Victoria eyes a sheepish Joshua, calls him over to the bed. Joshua comes over and puts his hand tenderly on Kat.

KAT

(rising and trying to regain control of herself)

I want you to meet someone. This is my boyfriend, Joshua Perez.

Joshua holds out his hand.

JOSHUA

It's nice to meet you Ms... Ms...

VICTORIA

Jones. Ms. Jones But you can call me Vicky.

JOSHUA

Ok. Vicky. It's nice to meet you Vicky.

They shake hands limply.

VICTORIA

Are you the father?

Joshua looks to Kat, isn't sure what to say. Kat decides it is time to get to the heart of the matter.

KAT

(carefully)

Yes. Yes he is. We're going to do this together. We're... We're...

VICTORIA

(caressing her daughter's face)
That's fine honey, that's fine. You certainly don't have to justify yourself to me.

A beat. Kat looks to Joshua and decides to go all-in.

KAT

So, we came here because we wanted you to know. We wanted you to hear it from us. We heard about your condition. We heard it from...

VICTORIA

(gently interrupting)
Robert. I know. He's a good man. He's a drinker, but he's always looked out for me.

KAT

(amazed)
How did you know?

VICTORIA

Call it motherly intuition.

Victoria, with an obviously arduous effort, rises in the bed. She looks her daughter square in the face. She grabs Kat's hand again.

VICTORIA

Is this what you want?

KAT

What? What do you mean?

VICTORIA

Stop fooling around, child. You know what I mean. Tell me the truth. Is this what you want?

A bleary-faced Kat considers the question.

KAT

(honestly)
I don't know.

(beat)
Did you want me?

Victoria relents a bit of her grip on Kat's hand. She stares off into the distance, almost totally removed from the situation. Then she snaps back.

VICTORIA

No.

(beat)

But when I did have you, it was the greatest thing that ever happened to me.

(beat; now near tears)

Listen, there's something I need you to know. If I'm dying, which I might be, I have to say something. I have to get it off my chest. Back then? It wasn't me. Your father wasn't a good man. But I was still wrong. I should have kept him away from you. I was a coward. I should've done better. I should've done much better. But I was young. And I was a ...

(beginning to cry; almost hysterical)

I was a...

KAT

(bawling and leaning into Victoria)

I understand! I understand! I always knew!

VICTORIA

(crying)

Thank you. Thank you. I hope you've had a good life.

KAT

I have! I have! My foster families have been good to me. But it's not the same.

VICTORIA

I understand. And I'm sorry.

KAT

I don't want you to be sorry. I just...

VICTORIA

I know. I know. But if I *am* dying I need you to know...

DR. SEYMOUR

(interrupting; with forced
levity)

Nobody's dying!

We see DR. SEYMOUR in the doorway on the opposite side of the stage. He walks into the room and approaches Victoria's bedside. He immediately addresses himself to Kat and Joshua, extending his hand.

DR. SEYMOUR

(shaking Kat and Joshua's
hands)

Hi. I'm Dr. Seymour. How do you do? How do you do?

They barely respond, too eager for what he has to say.

VICTORIA

(anxious)

Well. Don't keep me in suspense, Doc. What's the news?

DR. SEYMOUR

(very chipper)

It's good! Your test results came back. It's better than we expected.

VICTORIA

(cautiously thrilled)

Really?

DR. SEYMOUR

Yep. The cancer hasn't spread. You have a great prognosis, Mrs. Jones. You're expected to make a full recovery!

KAT

Oh my god! Mom! What great news!

Victoria momentarily seems like she can't move, even after this great news. Everyone in the room becomes worried. What's wrong with Victoria?

KAT

What happened? What happened? Are you OK? Mom! Mom!

Victoria eventually shakes herself from her stupor.

VICTORIA

I'm fine, I'm fine. I promise.

KAT

Then what is it?

A beat as Kat, Dr. Seymour, and Josh await Victoria's response. Then:

VICTORIA

(quietly)

You called me mom.

After a moment, an elated Kat hugs Victoria. Joshua eventually joins them. A pleased Dr. Seymour watches.

DR. SEYMOUR

I love a happy ending!

Dr. Seymour smiles and leaves the room. During this family embrace, Robert, bottle-in-bag in hand, returns to the front of the stage.

ROBERT

Well, that's how it is in the Boogie-Down. Some days we get a happy ending. Most days we don't. But at least today, my girls are reunited. You can't ask for much more than that.

Roberts sips again and exits as the company returns for a final reprise (with somewhat more optimistic lyrics) of "Life is Hard." Behind them, Kat, Victoria, and Joshua maintain their embrace. The song fades.

LIGHTS OUT.

The End.