**ONE: CORY MCBETH**

*Scene I-5. CORY MCBETH is in the bathroom at Duncan’s house party, debating how far to go with a revenge prank targeting Duncan.*

MCBETH

Cory McBeth. McBeth. Just get out there, and get it over with. C’mon now. Three, two… Ugh! Team finds out, I’m hunted down, they knock me out - with a football, they toss my body down the stairs, and no one finds me ‘cause no one cares. And besides, the dude likes me!

We’ve been classmates for what, ten years? He invited me to his party, I’m eating his food, I’m using his bathroom. If he’d been in the chem lab, he would’ve grabbed the extinguisher ten seconds before me. He’s the principal’s little prince. If he gets hurt, everyone cries. Students, teachers, God, probably. If I get hurt… what? Mom and Dad buy me a grave, thoughts and prayers, Amen. And that’s it. Say goodbye to old Cory McBeth.

**TWO: BANKS MAROON AND CORY MCBETH**

*Scene I-3. BANKS MAROON and CORY MCBETH are conversing in the hallway. Three members of the Modern Militia have just approached them with arcane predictions: McBeth will be prom king, and Floyd, Banks’s little brother, will become wildly popular.*

BANKS

Dude, I freaking hate those militia kids. I thought you did, too. Don’t get hung up on them. I don’t know why they think their little cult act is so cool, but if they ever tried to talk to us again, I’d drop-kick any one of them in a second.

MCBETH

They’re not a cult, Banks.

BANKS

Not so fast, my nugget of naiveté.

*He begins to count on his fingers.*

BANKS

Their clothes? Cult clothes.

*He stops counting.*

BANKS

Rumors are rumors, but you know they do some sinister stuff in their spare time.

MCBETH

Sinister?

BANKS

Sinister, my boy. Strategies, schemes—Don’t drink the cafeteria milk.

MCBETH

Whatever, Banks. Come on, we have history.

BANKS

We’ll be history if we don’t watch our steps! This school’s a minefield, son! They’ve probably got bombs under these tiles!

*BLACKOUT.*

**THREE: LM and CORY MCBETH**

*Scene I-7. LM and MCBETH are at DUNCAN’s party, about to play a cruel prank on him.*

LM

He’s out-of-his-mind trashed. It wouldn’t be hard to slip him some of these.

MCBETH

What are those?

LM

Nothing major. If we only give him a couple, the worst that’ll happen is he’ll puke—just like when his “best buddy” Malcolm iced our cupcakes with shampoo. We’re nothing but agents of karma.

MCBETH

And when we get caught?

*She shakes her head.*

LM

We’re just two poor, miserable freaks attending our first ever Duncan Castile party. We’re so, so grateful to be here, and we’re having the time of our lives with beautiful Duncan and all of his beautiful, shiny, friends. If anything happened to Duncan... I’d lose my mind.

**FOUR: ROSS AND MR. BENSON**

*Scene II-4. DUNCAN’s death by poisoning has just been announced.*

*ROSS is in a classroom, talking to a teacher after class.*

MR. BENSON

I’ve been teaching here for thirty years. I’ve seen pranks, fights—that death threat two years back. Never anything like this, though. Nothing like this.

ROSS

Mr. Benson…

*He lays his head on the desk, dejected.*

ROSS

Why is it so dark?

MR. BENSON

Daylight Savings Time.

*An uncomfortable silence settles over the room.*

MR. BENSON

There was a dead falcon in the lot this morning. Killed by an owl—at least, that’s what Dr. Luka said. Had to move it aside to park my car.

ROSS

Did you hear about the deer?

MR. BENSON

No. What deer?

ROSS

There was this dead deer over on Garland this morning, and another deer—really big one—was eating its guts.

MR. BENSON

That’s… alarming.

*ROSS nods.*

ROSS

That’s not normal. It’s an evil day, Mr. Benson. An evil, evil day.

**FIVE: THOMAS FOSTER AND CORY MCBETH**

*Scene V-III. THOMAS and MCBETH have fled the school after the shooting. They are now hiding out in Birnam Wood.*

THOMAS

Whole town knows it’s you, man. You’re on the news.

MCBETH

Am I?

THOMAS

Oh, yeah.

MCBETH

All right, another sip of that sick fame elixir. Have you heard anything about LM?

THOMAS

She’s fine. I mean, she’s been running down the halls screaming, but she’s alive.

MCBETH

Can’t someone give her something? What’s her damage?

THOMAS

You’re her boyfriend. You tell me.

MCBETH

I don’t know biology. God, I hope she’s okay. Hey, Thomas.

THOMAS

What now?

*MCBETH raises his gun at him.*

THOMAS

Whoa.

MCBETH

Here.

*MCBETH laughs and tosses a wad of cash to THOMAS.*

MCBETH

A little prize for you, my good man. A token of my gratitude.

**SIX: ADRIA AND RACHEL**

*Scene IV-2. ADRIA is talking to RACHEL during a volunteer session. Dooley isn’t there, as he’s been skipping school since Duncan’s murder.*

ADRIA

Hey, pal. Dooley isn’t here today. What are we going to do?

RACHEL

Color.

ADRIA

Sorry, kid. Dooley’s the man with the crayons.

RACHEL

That’s okay. I can use this pencil.

*RACHEL begins to color.*

ADRIA

Don’t hold it that way. See, your hand’s all gray now.

RACHEL

You’re being weird. Dooley’s coming back, right?

ADRIA

Rachel. I’ll tell you when I know.

RACHEL

But Dooley’s your best friend.

ADRIA

Well, they say everyone’s a friend you haven’t met yet.