

The Banality Briefs

By Shannon Cartwright

NOTES

The Banality Briefs celebrates the friendship between women throughout the course of their lives. This play should be performed by two females and could be entered in Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting or even Humorous Interpretation. Five scenes comprise the play; however, the scenes can be performed in any order desired. The key to the performance lies in the actresses' ability to portray a myriad of different women at different points in their lives. Remember, all of these women come from very different backgrounds. Obviously, the two cheerleaders in the first scene appear to be typical 'valley girls;' however, by taking out the phrase 'oh my gosh' and the words 'like' and 'totally' the characters can now be as non-stereotypical as the performers choose. It is important to show as much variety within the characters as possible. While humor is found throughout the script, it is the reactions from each performer that will heighten the fun of the overall performance. Be creative with blocking, have fun with the characters, and by all means, do not be banal!

Cast of Characters:

Cindy and Cathy, two high school cheerleaders

Marcie and Gina, two Goth-like college roommates

Susan and Pam, two young mothers

Christine and Charlotte, two middle-aged business women

Netty and Gladys, two elderly women in a retirement home

Settings:

A high school gymnasium; Victoria's Secret; an Italian bistro; the break room at a law office; a retirement home

LIFE IS FULL OF SPIRIT

Cathy: Oh my gosh! Cindy, you'll never guess who I'm going to prom with!

Cindy: Oh my gosh! Cathy, like, you'll never guess who *I'm* going to prom with!

Cathy: Oh my gosh! Like, you got a date too???

Cindy: Oh my gosh! (*Pauses, reflects, and said with a little attitude.*) Cathy, like, don't act so totally shocked.

Cathy: Oh my gosh! Cindy, like, I am so sorry. I totally forget how you're so overly sensitive that you make me want to barf!

Cindy: Oh my gosh! Cathy, like, if you were being more totally honest

with yourself, you would have, like, said that you totally forgot how I'm so overly sensitive it makes you want to *bark!*

Cathy: Oh my gosh! And like, I totally forgot what an incredibly *insensitive* cow you are!

Cindy: Oh my gosh! At least I totally don't give, like, the milk away for free!

Cathy: Oh my gosh! What? Like, you're totally *charging* these days?

Cindy: Oh my gosh! Like, I feel totally horrible!

Cathy: Oh my gosh! Like, I totally do too!

Cindy: Oh my gosh! Cathy, you are like my BFF and I totally can't believe we are, like, having an argument at what *should* totally be one of the most, like, important bonding moments in our beautiful and totally full of cheer teenage years!

Cathy: Oh my gosh! Cindy, we are totally BFF's and I can't believe we are having, like, an argument at what *is* totally one of the most important, like, bonding moments in our beautiful and full of cheer teenage years!

Cindy: Oh my gosh! Then tell me! Who are you going to prom with?

Cathy: Oh my gosh! No. You tell *me* who *you're* going to prom with!

Cindy: Oh my gosh! Okay. Let's, like, *both* say his name totally at the *same* time! Okay?

Cathy: Oh my gosh! Okay!

Both: Ready? Set? O-kay! Dallon! (*Both girls react sharply.*)

Cindy: Okay, like, you're going to our senior prom with Dallon Foster, quarterback on the football team?

Cathy: No! Oh my gosh! I can't believe you think I'd go out with, like, a total meat-head like that! I'm going to prom with, like, Dallon Baker, the totally fine captain of the hockey team!

Cindy: Oh my gosh! For a second, like, I totally thought you were going to say Dallon Crane from the chess club!

Cathy: As if! So, like, let's go to the mall and, like, totally check out the new prom dresses!

Cindy: Totally! But only if, like, we stop at the smoothie place and get an Italian ice first.

Cindy: Like, that's totally something to cheer about! Let's go!

SHOPPING AT VICTORIA'S SECRET

Marcie: Gina, tell me again why we're shopping at Victoria's Secret?

Gina: Thad said that I was his queen, and I needed to start dressing the part.

Marcie: Well, did you tell Thad they don't sell crowns and scepters here?

Gina: No. I just thought if Thad's willing to give me his credit card to go shopping, then who am I to argue.

Marcie: (*Holding up a lacy bra.*) Hey, Gina, what do you think of this one?

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Gina: Nice. You know, Marcie, I don't get it. Why do we refer to a bra as singular and panties in the plural?

Marcie: I don't know. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular? Hey, check out these new swimsuits!

Gina: Oh, no! That's the last thing I want to be shopping for!

Marcie: Why? You need a new suit, and summer's just around the corner.

Gina: No thank you.

Marcie: What? You mean, you'd rather go au natural?

Gina: What, skinny-dipping? (*Thinks about it for a second.*) I don't know. Isn't it an oxymoron for a fat person to go skinny-dipping?

Marcie: Gina, you're the last person on this earth I would call 'fat.'

Gina: Besides, I don't think women who refuse to shave their arm pits should wear strapless swimsuits. (*She holds up her arms as if to prove a point.*)

Marcie: (*Looking at her underarms.*) I don't know, Gina. If you were to braid it just right, you might start a new craze.

Gina: Sure, Marcie. Women will see my hairy armpits all braided with a barrette at the end, and some hot shot from Sports Illustrated will see me and they'll put me on the cover of their swimsuit edition.

Marcie: I don't know. Stranger things have happened! Besides, lots of female athletes don't shave.

Gina: Not the swimmers! Last night I went over to Thad's apartment, and he was watching ESPN on television. They were showing synchronized swimming. He wanted to change the channel, but he couldn't get the remote control to work. I told him that his batteries were low, but he wouldn't listen. So, Thad just started pushing the button on the remote control harder. Honestly, men can be so stubborn.

Marcie: Did he ever get it to work?

Gina: No. I told you. The batteries were low, so I just walked over and turned the channel for him manually.

Marcie: Isn't it funny how women do more 'manual' labor around the house than men?

Gina: Well, to be honest, I was happy to turn the channel.

Marcie: Oh, you don't like Thad watching all of those women in swimsuits?

Gina: Oh, I could care less what Thad chooses to watch, but I tell you, Marcie, that sport scares me to death.

Marcie: Synchronized swimming?

Gina: Absolutely!

Marcie: You're afraid to watch synchronized swimming?

Gina: Well, in synchronized swimming, everyone does exactly what the others do in the water, right?

Marcie: Right.