

RUBY STRANGELOVE

Young Witch

DIALOG SHEET

(Music)

TITLES

(Car, storm)

TED: Where is she? My wife, she's having a baby.

NURSE: Name?

TED: Ah, Sara. Ah, Sara Strangelove.

(Storm)

SARA: Compact. This is for you, little girl.

TED: Huh?

SARA: Your Grandmother gave it to me, and now it's yours.

NURSE: Mr. Strangelove, sorry to disturb you. There's a call for you down the hall.

TED: Okay. Thank you. I'll be right back.

(Music)

WOMAN: (Voice on phone) Congratulations on the birth of your daughter.

TED: (On phone) Max Strangelove.

WOMAN: (Voice on phone) Congratulations on the birth of your daughter.

TED: (On phone) Hello?

WOMAN: (Voice on phone) Congratulations...

TED: (On phone) Hello?

(Music)

NURSE: (Placing stones on floor)

(Phone ringing)

SARA: What are you doing? Ahhhhhh!

(Baby crying)

TED: Ruby. It's okay baby. Oh, daddy's here. It's okay, you're okay. Oh, all right.

8 years later

(Music)

(Piano music)

TED: (Voice) Ruby? Ruby? Ruby Strangelove, get down these stairs, you'll be late for school.

RUBY: Coming Dad.

TED: (Voice) Sweetheart, it's past eight thirty.

RUBY: Come on Dad, I'm a girl remember, girls take longer to get ready than boys. Something you're just going to have to deal with, Dad. Hello, you don't want to be late, do you?

(Banjo music)

TED: No. Come on.

(Song)

TED: (Waving to all town members)

WOMAN: (Talking in distance)

TED: Okay. Plan B. (Backing up car)

(Song)

TED: (Voice) Two minutes late, darn it.

RUBY: (Voice) Dad, I love you, you're the best, but you got over it.

RUBY: (Voice unclear) Dangers, don't... toss a ball up here.

TED: Love you, too.

(Music)

PRINCIPAL McGUIRE: A tardy card for you Miss Strangelove, second of the week.

RUBY: I'm sorry Principal McGuire.

McGUIRE: Now you've moved up a grade young lady, you need to understand that with the fourth grade comes responsibility. So make a change, shall we Ruby?

RUBY: Yes sir.

(Music)

McGUIRE: Ah, Miss Wilcox, how are you today? And ah, how's your father keeping?

RUBY: Hey Scooter.

SCOOTER: (Voice) Hey Ruby, got to go, got to get my lunch.

RUBY: Band practice is at six at my house, okay?

SCOOTER: Sure. I guess.

RUBY: You guess? What's up?

SCOOTER: I really like the band, Ruby; I just don't feel like I'm good enough. I can only play that one song, and it doesn't look like I'm getting any better at it.

RUBY: What are you talking about; you're going to be a great drummer, Scooter. We all march to a different beat. You've just got to believe in yourself.

ALEX: You hear that boys? It'll be right, Madison just got to believe in himself.

BOY: (Voice) Believe in himself.

ALEX: (Voice) Who will believe in you strange bug, your mommy?

BOY: Yeah, your mommy.

RUBY: Don't go there Alex.

SCOOTER: Don't worry Ruby, she's a loser.

ALEX: Loser? At least my mom stuck around.

BOY: Huh, stuck around.

RUBY: One day she'll be back.

ALEX: Oh yeah, is that what your dad told you. (Voice) Well, my dad told me that's a... (Unclear) Out of the (Unclear) of your mom.

RUBY: Oh yeah, who do you get to read it for him.

McGUIRE: Miss Strangelove, Mr. Madison, why are you not in class?

ALEX: We'll finish this later. Shall we, boys?

(Music)

SCOOTER: Come on Ruby, she's not worth getting upset about.

TED: Hey Mike.

BRIAN: Hey, hey, how's my favorite employee?

TED: Hey Brian.

BRIAN: Donut?

TED: Thanks.

BRIAN: Love your new draft, from the new library project, Ted. You're really putting everything into that aren't you buddy? (Whisper) Keep up the good work.

MISS HOWIE: (Reading) Oh, if only we could get through until Looking Glass House, said Alice. And as she did, the glass began to turn soft, like gauze; and to melt away like a bright silvery mist. In another moment, Alice went through the glass and had jumped lightly down into the looking glass. The very first thing she did...

KIDS: (Laugh)

HOWIE: Alex Wilcox, see me after class.

(Bell rings)

HOWIE: Oh, before you go, an announcement. The Wicker Elementary "Battle of the Bands" is taking place in two weeks time. First round of tryouts it next Friday. I'm sure many of you will be keen to enter. Now remember, this contest is for original songs only, no "Biebers", no "One Direction", no "Mylie Cyrus".

RUBY: Oh?

HOWIE: There are flyers on my desk and a list on the school notice board to which you can add your name. Ah, Miss Wilcox. Please see me.

ALEX: Later strange bug.

HOWIE: You think I don't know that you tore up the paper.

(Band practice)

RUBY: Okay, okay, time out. You're doing fine, but I don't think we're all playing the same song. We'll take changes a little slower until we nail them up and get back up to tempo. Don't think so much, be the beat. And ah one, two, three, four.

(Band practice)

RUBY: Oh!

(Piano music)

TED: Not great?

RUBY: They're trying Dad. They're really trying.

TED: Well, that's all any of us can do, honey. What about you, you got something new for me before bed?

(Song)

Sometimes when it's raining
And the world turns to gray
I keep wishing, I keep seeing the clouds away

Sometimes when the wind blows
And I'm locked out at sea
I remember what my momma said to me
Don't be afraid, hold your head high
Aim for the stars and reach for the sky
Believe in yourself, you've only begun
Just follow your heart and shine like the sun
My beautiful one

Sometimes when it's raining
And the sunshine peeks through
Here's a rainbow and it reminds me of you.

RUBY: Dad, sometimes I wish so hard mom that could come back that it hurts inside. Like someone kicked me in the stomach. But, will she Dad, is she really coming back some day?

TED: Of course she is. (Kisses her) Some day.

(Music)

KACE: (Voice on radio) You're listening to Kace the Kid on WKRS, and if you haven't looked out your window yet this Saturday, then you got a surprise coming to you. You might want to change out of those shorts and put on a sweater, cause we got snow this morning here in Wicker. That's right... Bob Beckerman at the weather center... what happened buddy.

BOB: (Voice on radio) We all make mistakes, right Kace?

KACE: (Voice on radio) I guess so, more than others. Bob. Anything else you want to tell us about, twister on the way?

BOB: (Voice on radio) Very funny.

TED: Hey, whoa, whoa. All right you two, that is enough. Go on, get out of here. Take yourselves down to the lake. Somewhere you can't break anything.

(Music)

RUBY: Oh, oh, oh.

SCOOTER: I never saw your dad yell, is he mad at us?

RUBY: No. It was the dressing table, he loves that table. It was my Mom's.

SCOOTER: Will we be in trouble?

RUBY: Dad doesn't really do trouble, we're a team.

SCOOTER: Oh no, Ruby.

RUBY: It's all right, Scooter. We can handle this.

ALEX: You looking for your mom, Strange bug? Maybe a dad who's always late.

BOY: (Laugh) In the lake.

RUBY: You're so funny.

ALEX: Oh yeah, Strange bug, you want to see how funny I can be? Boys.

BOY: Hey, hey dweeb.

ALEX: Come and get it, over here. Come and get her inhaler.

RUBY: (Coughing)

(All talking at one)

ALEX: Over here, I'm right here. Come and get it.

RUBY: (Coughing)

ALEX: Come and get it.

RUBY: Heyyyyyy! (Freezes everybody)

(Music)

RUBY: What's happening to me? (Runs away, collapses)

SARA: (Voice) Ruby, Ruby, open your eyes. I'm talking to you from a parallel dimension.

RUBY: Who are you?

SARA: (Voice) I am your mother, I'm Sara.

RUBY: Mommy?

SARA: (Voice) I have so much to tell you my darling. Just like me, you are a witch. But now you must go home, Ruby. Tell your father that you heard my voice. Go, now, there's no more time.

RUBY: Oh, oh.

(Collapses)

SCOOTER: Ruby, Ruby, what the heck happened?
Ruby. Oh, oh.

TED: (Voice) What happened?

SCOOTER: (Voice) She just blacked out.

TED: (Voice) What?

SCOOTER: (Voice) She blacked out.

TED: (On phone) Thanks. I'll see you soon. (Hangs up)

TED: Okay Scooter; your mom will be here in a few minutes, you drink your hot chocolate.

SCOOTER: Thanks Mr. Strangelove. Ruby, she'll be all right, won't she?

TED: She'll be fine, Jim. But listen, you got to promise me something... you can't tell anyone about this, not even your mom.

SCOOTER: No sir, no sir, my lips are sealed.

TED: Okay. Good man, Scooter.

(Music)

RUBY: Oh, oh.

TED: Hey there sleepy head.

RUBY: Is Scooter here?

TED: Scooter's long gone, sweetie. It's Saturday night; you slept nearly twelve hours straight.

RUBY: (Voice) What?

TED: It's okay, don't be worried. Rest is just what you needed. How do you feel?

RUBY: Confused. I heard Mom's voice.

TED: Yeah, I know.

RUBY: She spoke to me.

TED: It's time you know who you are.

TED: Don't be scared sweetie, I'm right here. I love you. Trust yourself, trust yourself. Trust yourself.

RUBY: Mommy?

SARA: It's me; it's me my darling. But time is short and you have to listen to me. (Voice) What I told you is true; you are a witch, like me and those before me. I was born into a parallel dimension, mirror image of Earth.

SARA: But this is a dark world Ruby, filled with those who would claim the power we hold. (Voice) On the night you were born a bad man named, Danforth took me.

SARA: He desires my powers, should this happen, I can never return.

RUBY: But you have to return to Dad and me.

(Pounding)

SARA: Listen to me, (Voice) you and only you can stop him.

SARA: On the night our worlds align a door between them will open. (Voice) Through the door you can expel the bad forces that work in your dimension back into their own.

SARA: Only then will I be free to return.

RUBY: I'll do anything. Just tell me what you need me to do.

(Pounding)

SARA: Now I must go.

RUBY: Don't go yet. If you only knew how long I've waited just to see you. Please.

SARA: We have both used too much energy, energy that we will need. (Voice) Good bye my darling, hold these words in your heart...

SARA: ...and in your mind. Facing mirrors must do battle, one for good and one for ill, out of the darkness light will triumph, and bring them to you.

(Pounding)

CLOWN SOLDIER: (Voice) All hands The Danforth. Clear the way.

DANFORTH: You jammed the door, again.

SARA: I just wanted some privacy.

DANFORTH: My men heard voices.

SARA: (Laugh) I was singing.

DANFORTH: Of course you were, my darling. No matter, in two weeks, on the night of the alignment, as custom dictates, you will be my wife. And, you will impart to me all the gifts and powers that you possess.

SARA: As you wish.

DANFORTH: As I know. (Voice) We will be conjoined, and the United Kingdom of America will be mine, sooner than you think.

SARA: Uh.

DANFORTH: Oh, you do know that you will never see them again, don't you? (Voice) Either of them.

DANFORTH: You forget where you are, (Voice) my dear.

DANFORTH: Smile!

(Music)

DANFORTH: (Voice) Keep the door open tonight, I want her watched.

SARA: You can force me to smile, but you can never make me happy.

(Music)

ANNOUNCEMENT: (Voice) Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, keep smiling, there's nothing to fear. The clown police are here for you, always listening and always watching.

TED: Strawberry sauce?

RUBY: You knew all these years and all you can say is "strawberry sauce"?

TED: Don't be angry with me, Ruby. You needed to be ready and only your Mom can make that decision.

RUBY: I'm not angry, I'm scared. (Voice) I'm eight years old, Dad, and all I want out of life...

RUBY: ...is a Mom a Dad and my friends. (Voice) Not this.

RUBY: Not... oh, by the way sweetie girl witch. (Voice) I thought we were a team.

TED: I hear you.

RUBY: What if I can't do it? What if I let Mom down and she's stuck there forever?

TED: I have something you need to see.

TED: Now, open it, it's yours.

RUBY: (Voice) Mine? Wow!

RUBY: What's all this stuff, Dad? These things are ancient.

TED: (Voice) It's been in your Mom's family for hundreds of years. Everything she knows she learned from this box.

TED: See, the portal needs to be opened using a mirror.

RUBY: Like tonight?

TED: No, no, no, this is much more powerful. (Voice) And it can only happen on the night when our two worlds align.

RUBY: (Voice) Get real, Dad.

RUBY: How are we supposed to know when a dark world hiding behind a mirror aligns with ours.

TED: Wait here.

(Police car drives up, then drives away)

RUBY: They're star charts? I thought that was just a hobby?

TED: No, look. This... is eight years ago, on the day you were born, May eighth. See how the stars and planets are lined up?

RUBY: Sure, but...

TED: Okay. No, look... (Voice) this is two weeks from now, November twenty-ninth.

RUBY: We only have two weeks? How can I learn everything I need to know in just two weeks?

TED: I know, it's a big ask.

RUBY: How do you know all this, Dad? Did Mom tell you before she was taken?

TED: Your Mom told me a little. I knew she might be in danger, but that was all. The rest I had to figure out for myself.

RUBY: That's a lot to figure out by yourself. Sorry I wasn't much help.

TED: Ah, that's okay.

RUBY: You must have been scared?

TED: At first, sure, but I had you. And when I was with you I didn't feel frightened any more.

RUBY: Mom talked about the bad in our world.

TED: There are people here who mean us harm; we must expel them through the portal before Mom can return. The portal won't allow the good through while the bad remains.

RUBY: So, we need them all in one place at the same time?

TED: Right. Any ideas?

RUBY: Maybe someone's already done it for us. (Shows him flyer on Band contest)

(Music)

TED: We need you in that contest.

RUBY: Leave it to me, Dad. I'm all over it.

(Music)

SCOOTER: No way!

RUBY: Way! Why would I make this up? You know I don't exaggerate or imagine things. Okay, some times I do, but I swear on everything I just told you, it's true.

SCOOTER: Okay, I understand, but what do you going to do?

RUBY: Not me, Scooter, we.

SCOOTER: We?

RUBY: The twins will be here at five, and I need you to back me up.

ERIC: They'll kill us.

ERIC: (Voice) It'll be carnage.

ERICA: It'll be embarrassing.

SCOOTER: It'll be a disaster.

RUBY: Way to back me up, Scooter.

SCOOTER: Sorry.

RUBY: Come on, you guys. The first song is Friday, that gives us four days. We can do this.

SCOOTER: We can?

RUBY: Scooter!

SCOOTER: We can!

ERICA: (Voice) Ruby!

ERICA: Let's get real. We're not a band... Eric has no rhythm. I need ten minutes to change my chords, and Scooter is a horrible, horrible drummer. I'm sorry Scooter.

SCOOTER: Not a problem.

TWIN ERIC: And even if that wasn't all true...

ERICA: ...which it is. (Voice) The Battle has trials and two rounds.

ERICA: That's three songs and we have one.

RUBY: Songs? Songs I can do. (Voice) Twenty-six of them.

ALL: Twenty-six?

RUBY: Look, I'll make you a deal. I'll play you the songs. All of them if you want. When I'm done, you make the choices. (Voice) Want to be a part of it, cool?

RUBY: You don't, that's okay too, but I still need you to be my friends. I love you guys. What do you say?

ERICA:: Sure!

ERIC: All right!

SCOOTER: It's cool.

(Song)

(Song goes over the air waves)

KACE: (Voice) Ah, we seem to have some gremlins over here at WKRS. Not sure what this is, but if you know, and are enjoying it as much as I am, turn up the sound, and wifi.

(Song continue)

RUBY: (Paints Dads face)

(Doorbell)

PIZZA MAN: (Voice) I love you, too. (Laugh)

(Song continues)

TED: My naughty girl.

RUBY: No wait. I'm naughty. Stop!

TED: (Tickles her)

ALL: (Cheering, clapping)

SCOOTER: Awesome!

(Storm)

RUBY: (Reading) Trans with these here... (Unclear) (Places stones around on floor)

RUBY: Enchantment surround me, I entreat.

(Sounds)

RUBY: Did I do that?

RUBY: Transform this room to ah... to ah... to a house of treats.

TED: Ruby, you okay honey?

TED: Ruby! What in the world?

(Music)

RUBY: What, I messed up.

TED: A word, young lady. (Voice) And clean up this room.

TED: The magic is real, Ruby. It's not a game.

RUBY: I just wanted to play a little, Dad.

TED: I understand that, but from here on in, we need to focus.

RUBY: You're the boss, Dad.

TED: Sure, well I used to think that. Now I'm not so sure.

(Somber music)

SHERIFF: We all know what's happening. Our girl saw it at the lake. She can't remember the details, but it was the Strangelove kid. Her time has come.

MAN: Already? She's so young.

SHERIFF: (Voice) Her Mom was twelve. She's eight. That's not good. She's a powerful one all right; and we got to stop her.

MAN 2: How do we do that?

SHERIFF: We're working blind here, got no communication with home, so we use what we have. McGuire!

McGUIRE: Yes, Sir!

SHERIFF: You see Strangelove every day; just make sure she don't get an easy ride. Huh?

McGUIRE: Oh, absolutely, Sir.

SHERIFF: Zebub, Reagan, same goes for her old man. Let's make them think twice about messing with us. (Laugh)

(Evil music)
(No one is waving)

RUBY: Dad!

TED: You feel it, too?

(Music)

HOBO: (Sign says "Will work for food")

HOBO: (Turns sign over "Believe Ruby")

RUBY: Dad! Did you... did you see that?

TED: See what, sweetie?

RUBY: Good morning!

McGUIRE: Good morning! Sara!

RUBY: I'm sorry Sir, what did you say?

McGUIRE: I said, good morning, Ruby. How nice to see you here early.

RUBY: Nice to see you, too Sir.

ANNOUNCEMENT: (Voice) Good morning school. All those wishing to enroll in this year's "Battle of the Bands Contest" please sign up outside the Teacher's Room on the southeast corridor. That's all. Wishing...

RUBY: Okay guys, this is it! No turning back.

SCOOTER: Let's do it.

TWINS: Yeah!

HOWIE: Are you and your friends entering, Ruby?

RUBY: That's right, Miss Howie.

HOWIE: Good, this is an opportunity for you all, especially you, Ruby. You'll be amazed at the doors it could open.

ALEX: Are you kidding me? Strange bug is adding her name to the Bands list. Come on.

BOY: Alex, we still don't know what happened at the lake.

ALEX: Get me a soda, Sweetie, and you... you don't want the nerds to think you're a chicken, do you?

BOY: Chicken? Me? (Laugh)

ALEX: Say it ain't so... you got a band Strange bug?

RUBY: Maybe, what's it to you, Alex?

ALEX: Oh nothing, so this band... got a name, does it?

RUBY: Of course.

ALEX: So, what is it? Where's Mommy?

BOY: (Laugh) Where's Mommy! (Laugh)

ALEX: I'm waiting.

RUBY: Ruby Strangelove and... Ruby Strangelove and the Peanuts.

SCOOTER: The what?

RUBY: Work with me Scooter.

ALEX: The Peanuts. (Laugh)

ALL: (Laugh)

RUBY: Yeah, the Peanuts.

SCOOTER: I don't want to be a peanut.

RUBY: You're a peanut, deal with it.

ALEX: Okay, Peanut, but know this, you'll be throwing down with "Habeaus Chorus". Catch you Friday freak show.

BOY: (Laugh) Friday freak show.

SCOOTER: "Habeaus Chorus". Cool name.

RUBY: Rehearsal is tonight; we're not gonna let Alex Wilcox get the better of us. Right?

ALL: Right!

BOY: (Voice) So, you need a drummer?

ALEX: (Voice) I already have a drummer, and besides drummers need to know their left from right, genius.

ALL: (Laugh)

TED: Sweetie, what's wrong?

RUBY: Nothing.

TED: Sure?

TED: You know, if you don't talk to me, I can't fix it.

RUBY: You can't fix this, Dad.

TED: Oh yeah, says who?

RUBY: Can you make Alex Wilcox not be such a loser?

TED: Oh, Alex Wilcox. Kids can be cruel sometimes, Honey.

RUBY: Yeah, I get that. What I'd really like to know is why?

(Sirens)

TED: Personally, I blame the parents.

(Music)(Sirens)

SHERIFF: License and registration.

TED: That's the third time this month, Sheriff, you know who I am.

SHERIFF: License and registration.

(Music)

SHERIFF: You know you got a light out at the back?

TED: You sure, I, I don't think I do?

SHERIFF: (Smashes the light out) Do now. Pay at the station house.

TED: Sheriff... why? Why us?

SHERIFF: Cause I don't like you Strangeloves. And, I don't trust you. Any news on that wife of yours?

TED: Yeah.

SHERIFF: Thought not. (Laugh)

(Band auditions)

(Music)

DANFORTH: You look exquisite.

(Music)

DANFORTH: What a bride you'll make. (Kisses hand)

(Music)

WOMAN: (Voice) The boss wants to see you. (Humming)

TED: You want to see me Brian?

ZEBUB: Mr. Zebub!

TED: Mr. Zebub? Hey, you mind if I grab one of these donuts?

ZEBUB: Do I mind, yes, yes, yes. I mind, yes I mind. Things are changing Strangelove... yeah, starting with this...

TED: My Library project? I don't understand.

ZEBUB: Here are my notes.

TED: But... you said so yourself...

ZEBUB: Forget what I said; listen to what I'm saying. You better shape up. I got my eye on you.

TED: Come on, Brian.

ZEBUB: Ah, ah, ah,

TED: Mr. Zebub. I put everything into that. You know I did.

ZEBUB: That's all for now. I need passengers on my ship, you understand, you got two days to fix this.

RUBY: Hey Dad!

TED: Hey Sweetie, how was your day?

RUBY: Good, how about yours?

TED: Hey, what do you say we go get a hamburger?

RUBY: But it's not even a Thursday.

TED: Ahh, let's live a little.

(Starts car)(Storm)

HOBO: (Sign: Reach out to your enemies. Ruby)

TED: Something happened at work today.

RUBY: Oh yeah?

TED: Brian, my boss, he was... different.

RUBY: That's weird. In school yesterday, I could swear Principal McGuire called me Sara. And him and Mrs. Peach were looking at me real strange.

TED: you Mom did say there were people from both sides here.

RUBY: I think Miss HOWIE is one of us.

TED: I always liked her.

RUBY: That waitress, she's been staring at us. You think...

TED: She looks familiar. We should be careful.

RUBY: Maybe, maybe not.

TED: Hey, hey, Ruby. Ruby! Ruby!

RUBY: Hi, you look like somebody who appreciates good music. You like music, right?

WAITRESS: Sure! Some.

RUBY: Battle of the bands, Friday next. Free barbecue!

WAITRESS: Oh yeah?

RUBY: Sure, bring a friend.

TED: What was that?

RUBY: Reach out for your enemies.

TED: Free Barbecue?

RUBY: We need to give them a reason to come to the Battle, right?

TED: Oh, smart kid. Thank you for eyes open.

RUBY: Wide open.

TED: I'm sure I know that waitress from somewhere.

(Music)

CLOWN: Your dinner.

SARA: Thank you.

CLOWN: You're welcome.

SARA: Do I know you?

CLOWN: No, ma'am. (Closes door)

(Music)

KACE: (Voice) Kace the kid here on WKRS, and what a beautiful day we got here in Wicker. I don't know about you, but today feels like one of those days where it's just good to be alive, doesn't it? When the sun is shining and all's well with the world...

MAN: (Blowing car horn) Get out of the road!

(Car)

RUBY: What is it, Dad? What's wrong?

TED: Oh, sit down honey, I got some bad news. I lost my job today.

RUBY: What? That's insane.

TED: They're closing in, Honey. We knew we'd have challenges. And this is one of them. They're trying to scare us.

RUBY: Well they don't scare me.

TED: Honey.

RUBY: Team Strangelove, right? Right?

(Music)(Song)

BOTH: (Singing)

JACOB: Don't stop, you play beautifully.

SARA: Thank you. (Voice) You look familiar, how long have you worked here?

JACOB: I've been here since your mother gone dimension. When you were a little girl, I worked in the kitchen. I used to...

SARA: You used to bring me water. I remember you. Jacob, right?

JACOB: Sorry for what happened to you.

JACOB: I wish I could help you.

SARA: Perhaps you can.

(Music)

WICKER TOWN
PARALLEL WORLD

ANNOUNCEMENT: (Voice) Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, Battle of the Bands is getting closer. It's time to smile. Put a smile on someone's face. (unclear)

JACOB: (Voice) Remember this well, it's the fastest route from the mansion to the hall of mirrors.

(Music, laugh)

(Motor)

RUBY: Okay Mr. Zebub. You want to mess with the Strangeloves, well good luck with that. Manhole. Phone.

(Phone ringing)

ZEBUB: (On phone) Hello, hello. Hello?

(Music)(Phone ringing)

ZEBUB: (Falls in manhole) Ohh. (Crawling out) Oh, oh.

RUBY: (Laugh) Hah! (Laugh)

(Alarm clock)(Music)

RUBY: Good morning, Dad.

TED: That is not my daughter, what have you done with Ruby?

RUBY: You see the new and improved Ruby, Dad. Oh, places to go, people to see. French toast anyone?

TED: Sure!

HOWIE: Let's assume that I have thirty six hundred and forty-eight apples. I need to divide them ...

SCOOTER: Two hundred and four.

HOWIE: Very good, Scooter. What if I say it takes six hours to fly from the capital of Peru to...

SCOOTER: Lima.

HOWIE: Okay. To the capitol of Uruguay...

SCOOTER: Montevideo.

HOWIE: Right. And then I want to fly on to Cuba...

SCOOTER: Ah...

HOWIE: I want someone else... Scooter? Alex Wilcox?

ALEX: Ah... ah... Baltimore?

BOY: (Throws paper, can't control hand)

ALEX: Hey, what's your problem, genius?

HOWIE: (Voice) Ruby Strangelove... misuse is a mistake Ruby; pick your battles, big day tomorrow.

(Music)

RUBY: (Sends signals to the kids playing)

RUBY: (Voice) Oh my God, is the whole school entering?

SCOOTER: I think I'm going to hurl.

McGUIRE: Well, we're just glad you could step in on such short notice.

MAN: Glad to be here, but I don't know how much help I'll be cause honestly I don't know a darn thing about music.

McGUIRE: I'm sure you'll be fine. Now, each judge has a wild card vote, and I'm sure that won't be necessary, you just follow our lead and...

RUBY: Do I have to sign in?

McGUIRE: Of course, did you write your name on the board?

RUBY: Yes Sir!

McGUIRE: Oh, “Ruby Strangelove and Crumb nuts”.

RUBY: It says the Peanuts, but that was a working title, we’ve changed the name.

McGUIRE: To...?

RUBY: Ahh, ahh...

McGUIRE: Well?

RUBY: We’re the “Misfits”. “Ruby and the Misfits”.

McGUIRE: Okay.

ERIC: We’ll be “Ruby and the Misfits”, pretty cool.

McGUIRE: “Ruby Strangelove and the Misfits”. Okay, you’ll be called.

(Music)

McGUIRE: “Habeaus Chorus”.

(Habeaus Band performing)

McGUIRE: Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. See you next Friday. Who’s next?

RUBY: That’ll be us.

ALL: Let’s do this.

McGUIRE: Introduce yourselves.

RUBY: (On microphone) We’re “Ruby and the Misfits”.

McGUIRE: Good. Well, you better get on with it.

RUBY: Okay guys, this is it, just believe. And ah one, two, three, four.

(Band performing)(Song)

JUDGE 2: (Clapping, cheering) Yahoo, yeah.

McGUIRE: Well, thank you, but I’m not really sure that’s exactly what we’re looking for.

JUDGE 2: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Look, I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to take issue with you there.

McGUIRE: Well, you're entitled to your opinion.

JUDGE 2: Yes I am.

McGUIRE: But, I think you'll find... that it's two against one. (Pause) Don't you think?

JUDGE 2: Nope! I don't think so, the way I see it, it's more like two against the wild card. Misfits, I think we'll see you on Friday for the final.

ALL: (Cheering)

JUDGE 2: Am I right?

McGUIRE: Of course, of course you're right. You're fired, but you're right.

ALL: (Cheering)

(Music end)

SHERIFF: Hey, what you figuring on doing tonight?

ALEX: I don't know, I thought...

SHERIFF: You thought, you thought, let me clear something up for you young lady, you're going to practice, then you're going to practice, then you're going to practice some more. That Strangelove kid ain't never going to get the better of a Wilcox. We clear?

ALEX: Yeah!

SHERIFF: Yeah, what?

ALEX: Yes, Dad.

SHERIFF: Done told you a hundred times, call me Sir. Go on, get, go on! Just like her mother.

RUBY: Look at this, this is the alignment. What is the moonrise time?

SCOOTER: This time of year, we're on nine-thirty, and ah... what's it called, how's that work?

RUBY: Turtle here. Stone circle concentrates the power. It has to be ten feet across. If the circle isn't complete it won't work.

SCOOTER: Man, we're going to need some space.

RUBY: The stage is the only space big enough.

SCOOTER: But then we're gonna have to...

RUBY: ...be on that stay at nine-thirty.

SCOOTER: So...

RUBY: ...we have to be in the final showdown, Scooter. It's the only way.

SCOOTER: I see a problem, what if the bad guys see the stones, they're going to figure something's up, right?

RUBY: I got that covered and you're going to help me.

(Music)

RUBY: Ten feet exactly.

SHERIFF: Oh, Ruby Strangelove, you're so sly. Just like your mother was.

RUBY: Our songs for the "Battle", we're gonna learn them and we're gonna learn them good. Remember guys, believe. Believe in yourself, and you can do anything.

(Band practice)(Doorbell)

FAN: Is this Ruby Strangelove's house?

TED: Sure, and you're...

FAN: We're fans.

(Band music)

TED: Fans?

FAN: Oh my God, is that them?

ALL: (Cheering) "Ruby and the Misfits".

(Band playing)

CROWD: (Cheering)

McGUIRE: This is the final rehearsal for the “Battle”; I need these parental permission slips handed in before you arrive tomorrow. Anyone who arrives later than eight pm will not... I repeat... not... be allowed to participate. Is that clear?

ALL: Yes, Principal McGuire.

McGUIRE: Is that clear?

ALL: (Louder) Yes, Principal McGuire.

SCOOTER: Are we ready?

RUBY: Ready, as we’ll ever be. We did good, Scooter. Real good.

ERICA: Hey guys, what’s next? Go “Misfits”, right?

ALL: Right!

(Music)

ALEX: My dad told me to give this to you. He said you’d understand.

SCOOTER: (Sees metal falling, pushes Ruby away) Oh, oh, oh.

RUBY: Are you okay?

SCOOTER: My hand, I think it’s busted. Oh, oh, oh. (Crying)

(In hospital)

NURSE: (Voice) Paging Dr. Bender.

RUBY: Excuse me, Doctor. We’re friends of Scooter, Scooter Madison...

DR: Oh yes, he’s fractured two bones in his left hand, but other than that, he’s fine.

RUBY: He plays the drums. Can he still play?

DR: Well, not for a little while, but afterwards no problem.

TED: We'll think of something, Honey.

(Music)

TED: What is this? Hey! What's going on, what are you doing?

REAGAN: Foreclosure, Strangelove. You can't go through life just not paying your bills.

TED: What the hell are you talking about, I, I pay my bills regularly, you know I do.

REAGAN: Well, not according to your account records you don't.

TED: Oh, this is impossible.

REAGAN: Well, we called your employer to check what was going on, they said you don't even work for them any more.

TED: Yeah, that, that's only been a few days. Come on, this is insane.

RUBY: Dad, what's happening?

TED: Nothing Sweetie, just, just stay in the car, okay.

SHERIFF: This here is a foreclosure notice, (Voice) effective immediately, Strangelove.

SHERIFF: You got ten minutes to collect some things, (Voice) and then if I was you, I'd better go find a place for you and that kid of yours to sleep.

TED: Sheriff, you got to help me out here.

SHERIFF: Nine minutes, fifty... forty-nine, forty-eight, forty-six...

TED: It's only for a few days, Sweetie. First thing Monday morning we'll get this all straightened out, I promise.

HOTEL CLERK: You're all set.

TED: Right, thank you. Okay, let's go.

TED: Oh well, yeah, it's not too bad, huh? Ruby? Oh. hey now, come on Sweetie... I know it's a lot to deal with.

RUBY: It's just too much. Your job, Scooter's hand, our house.

TED: Why don't you get some sleep, Honey? Things always look better in the morning.

RUBY: Why do grownups always say that? Things never look better in the morning.

TED: I'll figure it out, okay, somehow.

RUBY: Somehow? If Scooter can't play, I won't be there to open the portal. Don't you get it, I'm never going to get Mom home, I'm never going to see her again. Never!

TED: Sweetie, Ruby...

RUBY: (Slams door)

(Music)

SARA: (Voice) Ruby, Ruby... Ruby... Ruby...

RUBY: Mom?

SARA: (Voice) We bear great responsibility, Ruby.

RUBY: I want our house back; I want Dad to find a job. Why can't I use what I have to do that?

SARA: (Voice) Our life isn't only about magic, Ruby. It's about people. If your heart is true, you need never know regret.

RUBY: What should I do?

SARA: (Voice) Reach out to your enemies, Ruby.

RUBY: You're just a dream, aren't you? You're not really here.

SARA: (Voice) A dream is always part of you, Ruby. Remember, facing mirrors will do battle. Trust yourself. Use the power wisely and we will be together soon. Believe Ruby, believe.

(Music)

TED: Ohhh, what time is it?

RUBY: Time to rise and shine, sleepyhead. Oh, cute. You, you have bad head.

TED: Okay, you seem much... happier.

RUBY: That's because I am, and you're right, things do look better in the morning.

(School bell)

RUBY: Have you seen Scooter?

KIDS: Believe!

RUBY: Have you seen Scooter?

KIDS: Believe!

RUBY: Eric. Please.... Stop.

KIDS: (Singing)

RUBY: There you are, I've been looking all over.

ERICA: Listen Ruby wait, we know...

RUBY: You do, how can you possibly...

ERICA: We know everything? Scooter told us. Don't be mad at him. We kind of figured it out anyway.

RUBY: You did?

ERICA: Duh! I get what you want, but you've got to be honest. There's been something different about you the last few days. And my cousin told me all these rumors about your Mom.

RUBY: The rumors?

ERICA: You know, that she was special... gifted, that she was ah...

RUBY: A witch?

ERICA: If you want to put a label on it, something special is going on, and if Scooter hand broke, I'm sure you would go against any code to help out a friend, would it?

RUBY: You're right, but that's not why I'm here. Get out here!

ALL: Whoa!

SCOOTER: Are you serious? No way!

RUBY: Scoot, I know how bad you want this... but you're gonna need help. Think you can teach him the part, for me?

SCOOTER: For you, of course Ruby.

RUBY: You're being okay with this, it means a lot to me. And, the other thing, nice work Sherlock.

ERICA: I knew. Personally, I think it's kind of neat that you're ah, kookie.

ERIC: Yeah.

(Music)

DANFORTH: Ravishing. You'll be the talk of our evil alignment celebration, and so you should be.

(Music louder)(Parade sounds)

DANFORTH: Smile, my dear. Wave to your people. (Voice) They adore you. Enjoy it while you can.

DANFORTH: After the ceremony this will be the last memory you'll have of the air outside the palace.

(Music ends)

SARA: (Voice) Ruby, Ruby, it's me.

RUBY: Sorry, Miss Howie?

HOWIE: Yes, Ruby?

RUBY: Did, did you say something?

HOWIE: Ah, no, I don't think so.

SARA: (Voice) This is your time, my darling. Tonight our worlds align. Be strong, know that many will try and stop you. But, if you are true, we will be together soon.

(Music)

TED: (Voice) Okay, time to move, we still got to pick up Scooter and the others. You know what to do?

RUBY: Check!

TED: Got the stones?

RUBY: On the back drop.

TED: Yeah, of course. We're good, right?

RUBY: Good to go.

TED: (Voice) Let's do this.

(Music)

ALL: (Conversation)

TED: (Voice) We all good?

BOY: Yeah!

TED: (Voice) Let's go!

BOY: (Voice) Let's get there.

RUBY: What time is it?

TED: Quarter to eight, we're good. Plenty of time. Oh!

(Traffic jam)

RUBY: (Voice) Dad, we can't be late. Not after everything.

BOTH: Plan B.

(Music)

SHERIFF: (Blocking road)

TED: What is it, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: Road's closed, Strangelove. You'll be wanting to turn around, I expect.

TED: I, I got to get these kids to their Concert.

SHERIFF: Well, that ain't gonna happen... is it? When will you people just accept when you're beaten?

RUBY: (Voice) Because we're not beaten.

SHERIFF: (Laugh)

RUBY: (Voice) Tell him we're not beaten, Dad.

TED: No, we're not. Don't worry about me; you just get to that concert.

RUBY: But Wilcox?

TED: You leave Wilcox to me.

TED: (Voice) Say Sheriff, you know, you really are a jerk.

SHERIFF: Excuse me.

TED: (Voice) No, I, I, I don't think I will, in fact I think I'll say it again. You really are a jerk.

TED: I mean, you look the part with your fake Aviators and your diving watch... and that mustache. Did I mention, "The Village People" called they'd really like that back.

SHERIFF: All right, Strangelove...

TED: I mean, I see those guys out looking for that thing. You know... they are some, there are... apparently there is a copyright questions, possibly if you...

(Music)

WOMAN: Perfect day, oh the excitement. Oh! (Laugh)

JACOB: You're wanted downstairs.

WOMAN: But I, I, I...

JACOB: Now!

JACOB: We have to make it look real, we don't have much time.

(Music)

ERICA: Which way Ruby, which way?

RUBY: I don't know.

ERICA: What do we do?

(Howling)(Storm)

HOBO: You kids are in need of a little direction. Don't be afraid.

ERIC: But, but how did you know?

HOBO: My job is to know, son. Follow me. It's friends.

(Music)

RUBY: Where did you come from?

HOBO: I've always been here. I'm a guardian, I go wherever I am needed looking out for people like you, Ruby Strangelove.

RUBY: Will I see you again?

HOBO: You'll see me again, you can be sure of it.

RUBY: I wish you luck.

(Music)

McGUIRE: Ah, Ruby and the Nitwits, right? I'm sorry; I don't appear to have your parental consent forms.

RUBY: But, I handed them in yesterday.

McGUIRE: No, not here. Sorry, I know you had a lot riding on this Miss Strangelove but rules are rules, right?

HOWIE: Ruby, there you are. You're up first, go on through.

McGUIRE: Or they would be if their consent forms had been handed in. It's a real shame.

HOWIE: But Ruby gave me the consent forms yesterday, Principal McGuire. They're on your clipboard, I put them there myself.

McGUIRE: Well, they're not here now.

HOWIE: Well, why don't you check again?

McGUIRE: It's a waste of time. Well. Well, how did... I'll be...

HOWIE: Good thing you checked.

McGUIRE: Yes. Yes, indeed. Well, go. Thank you, Miss Howie.

HOWIE: Thank you. Principal McGuire.

(Pounding)

DANFORTH: Why didn't you answer? Sara? Answer me!

DANFORTH: Find her!

(Announcing)

ANNOUNCEMENT: (Voice) Finally today we have a waiting this year, the marriage of our beloved Commodore Danforth and his bride...

(Horns)

(Ruby's band playing)

CROWD: (Cheering)

(Song)

KACE: Kace the Kid on WKRS . Wicker Elementary's Battle of the Bands contest, lots of excitement going on down there. This is "Ruby and The Misfits".

SHERIFF: Not exactly a front row seat, is it?

(Locks cell)

SHERIFF: You all will be spending your kid's big night right there, Strangelove.

TED: She doesn't need me. She'll be just fine on her own.

SHERIFF: (Laugh) You are such a loser Strangelove. No-one ever tell you nice guys finish last?

TED: We'll see.

SHERIFF: I guess we will.

(Back to Song)

CROWD: (Cheering)

(Music)

SARA: (Dressed as clown, running)

CLOWN: Ahh, come back, get her. Out of the way, come back.

SARA: (Taking off outfit and makeup)

CLOWN: Okay. Open up. Open up. Open.

(Back to Song)

RUBY: They're better.

(Song over)

CROWD: (Cheering)

McGUIRE: Thank you "Habeaus Chorus". And of course all our other acts. Now it's time for you to decide which of our final two bands will compete in our Battle. If I could have all the other acts on stage, please.

CROWD: (Clapping)

McGUIRE: And so, to determine who those bands will be, the Clockometer, if you please. When I call out the name and number of your favorite act, please applaud as you see fit. If your favorite act was the "Musketeers", number one, please applaud now.

CROWD: (Clapping)

McGUIRE: For number 2, "DJ Me J". Applaud now.

BOY: Darn!

CROWD: (Booing)

McGUIRE: And, if your favorite act was number 3, "The Mighty Habeaus Chorus" show your appreciation now.

CROWD: (Cheering)

McGUIRE: And for "Ruby and the Misfits". Applaud now.

CROWD: (Cheering)

McGUIRE: And so, “Habeaus Chorus” goes head to head with “Ruby and the Misfits” in our final Battle. Well done, there. Now, as is tradition, a coin toss will decide the running order.

RUBY: We need to go last; otherwise it will be too early.

McGUIRE: It’s never gonna happen, Strangelove, trust me. And I will ask the first act to reach tonight’s final to nominate “Habeaus Chorus”. Miss Wilcox.

ALEX: I think we’ll take heads, Principal McGuire. Thank you, Sir.

McGUIRE: Thank you, Alex.

RUBY: (Shouting) Stop!

RUBY: I knew it.

(Music)

McGUIRE: And it, it’s... tails. First or second strange...? I mean, Ruby.

RUBY: Second, I think, Principal McGuire. Don’t you?

CLOWN CROWD: (Shouting, running, pounding on door)

(Music)

CROWD: (Cheering)

ALEX: Oh, didn’t see you there, Judas. Follow that Strange bug.

RUBY: Oh, this is it, guys, just do your best.

ALL: Go Misfits, believe.

(Band playing, song)

SARA: Oh, oh, oh.

(Pounding)

SARA: Come on, Ruby.

ALL BAD GUYS DRAWN IN: Ohhhh. Ahhhhh. Ahhhhhh.

SHERIFF: You know, Strangelove, today is a great day.

TED: Oh yeah, how's that?

SHERIFF: Cause I think today is the day I finally get you and your freaky kid out of my world.

TED: I wouldn't bet on that if I were you, Sheriff.

SHERIFF: Oh yeah? How's that?

TED: Oh, just a feeling.

SHERIFF: I don't want to go back there. Please help me. I don't like it. Come on. Help me, help me, boy. Come on, help me.

TED: You know, Wilcox... I don't think so.

SHERIFF: Help me buddy. Ahhhh.

(Music)

CLOWN: Ah, ah, ah. Don't move.

SARA: Oh, oh, oh.

DANFORTH: Hello Sara, you were so close.

RUBY: Hurry Mom.

DANFORTH: (Voice) She's on her way.

DANFORTH: I'm sure little Ruby will enjoy our wedding.

SARA: No!

DANFORTH: (Laugh)

HOWIE: I don't think so, time for you to go back where you came from.

WAITRESS: Not until I get my free barbecue.

(Fight)

WAITRESS: Ruby! You are coming with me to like your Momma.

RUBY: Ohhhhhhh, Mom!

SARA: Ruby! Oh, oh.

DANFORTH: Well, well, well.

SARA: True will Ruby, true will.

DANFORTH: Some you win, and some you lose.

RUBY: Facing the Earth, facing the Earth, must do battle.

BOTH: (Chanting) Facing the mirror, must do battle. One for good and one for ill.

RUBY: And stay out of my town.

(Music)

SARA: Hey, don't you have a song to finish.

RUBY: (Laugh)

(Back to the Band, song)

CROWD: (Cheering, clapping)

HOWIE: Wow!

RUBY: Pretty good for a bunch of misfits, huh?

ERIC: Ruby, we've never played that one. Did you... you know...

RUBY: Did I what?

SCOOTER: Maybe just a little... .magic?

RUBY: I didn't have to; the magic was in you all along. You just needed to believe to find it.

FITCH: (Voice) Once again, I cannot apologize enough for the conduct of Mr. Reagan. A full inquiry will be launched by my employers at the bank, but... as I am sure you will appreciate... considering the unexpected disappearance of Mr. Reagan, he may never have to answer for his actions.

TED: Well, thank you for coming, Mr. Fitch. Ah, if you'll excuse me, I don't want to be late for work. Not on my first day back.

FITCH: Of course. Well, welcome to your new... sorry. Welcome back.

SARA: (Laugh) It's certainly nice to be home.

FITCH: I'll be in touch.

TED: Thank you.

FITCH: Take care. (Leaves room)

TED: Ruby! Ruby! Where is she?

(Song)

RUBY: Penny for your thought, Scoots.

SCOOTER: Any time.

RUBY: That never happened.

SCOOTER: Nope.

RUBY: Tell a living soul and I'll turn you into a frog.

SCOOTER: Understood.

(Music)

CLERK: Good morning sir, do you have a reservation?

DANFORTH: I do. Name is Danforth, Thomas Danforth.

CLERK: Ah yes, will you be staying with us long, Mr. Danforth?

DANFORTH: Oh, I think I'm going to be here for quite a while.

(Song)

KACE: Kace the Kid, right here on your favorite and mine, radio WKRS. And, do we have a treat for you right now. The newest kids on the block and the winners of the Wicker Elementary Battle of the Bands, here with my new favorite song, this is "Ruby and the Misfits". Don't you dare touch that dial.

(Song)

THE END

STARRING:

SEANNA PEREIRA - RUBY

ED STOPPARD - TED

TWINNIE-LEE MOORE - SARA

STEVE NICOLSON - SHERIFF

COREY JOHNSON - ZEBUB

STEVEN HARTLEY - McGUIRE

CHENUSE AITCHETJI – SCOOTER

KATHERINE MARY DE LA ROCHA - ERICA

KAROLINA POPRACKA - ALEX

SHON GOLOD

ARDEN JAMES DEX - ERIC

VELIZAR BINEU - JACOB

ATANAS SREBREV

AMY MC ALLISTER - HOWIE

STEPHEN REA - DANFORTH