



Proudly Presents

**MALCOM X. JEFFERSON  
ELEMENTARY PROUDLY  
PRESENTS A FIFTH-GRADE  
PRODUCTION OF  
*A CHORUS LINE***

**WRITTEN BY GREGORY T. BURNS**

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**Characters:**

**Miss Highnote**, the choral director at Malcolm X. Jefferson Elementary

**Rodrigo**, a fifth-grader, portrays the character, Zach, the director

**Bethany**, a fifth-grader, the stage manager

**Bertha**, a fifth-grader

**Henrietta**, a fifth-grader

**Hillary**, a fifth-grader

**Sarah**, a fifth-grader, portrays the character, Diana, a dancer

**Douglas**, a fifth-grader, portrays the character, Paul, a ‘happy’ dancer

**Maria**, a fifth-grader, portrays the character, Cassie

**Alice**, a fifth-grader

**The Scene:** In and around the Malcolm X. Jefferson Elementary auditorium

**Bethany:** Dear Diary, Today we were all assigned parts for our upcoming, fifth-grade production of *A Chorus Line*. I didn’t get an onstage role, but Miss Highnote, our choral director, asked me to be the stage manager. Mom’s happy I won’t be onstage, because she said Miss Highnote is nuts for choosing such a mature musical in the first place. Tomorrow, we’re having a mandatory company meeting, and I have to take notes.

**Miss Highnote:** (*Addressing the company*) Children, do any of you know what it means to really want something? I mean *really* want something?

**Rodrigo:** I wanted to go to Disneyland one time, but my parents said that families on food stamps can’t go on dream vacations.

**Miss Highnote:** But, Rodrigo, you *wanted* to go to Disneyland, correct?

**Rodrigo:** Yes.

**Miss Highnote:** And when your parents told you that you were too *poor* to go, how did that make you feel?

**Rodrigo:** It made me feel sad.

**Miss Highnote:** But didn’t it start a *fire* in you? Didn’t it make

you want to get out there, get a job, save your money and take your family to Disneyland someday?

**Rodrigo:** *(Beat)* No. *(Beat)* Uh-uh. *(Beat)* I'm only ten. I'm too young to get a job.

**Miss Highnote:** You're missing the point! All of you are missing the point! The dancers in *A Chorus Line* are saying to themselves, "I hope I have what it takes to be cast in the chorus." That's why they sing the song, "I Hope I Get It." Don't any of you hope you get the part?

**Bethany:** *(Raising her hand)* Miss Highnote, everyone's already been cast, remember? You auditioned us last week, and you posted the cast list yesterday outside the choir room door.

**Miss Highnote:** *(Irritated)* Shut up, Bethany! *(Beat)* There's a reason you were given the arduous task of being the stage manager. I never want to hear you speak! *(Beat)* Ever!

**Bethany:** Dear Diary, I think Miss Highnote really likes me. Tomorrow, she wants all of us to sit in the front row of the auditorium while she choreographs Henrietta, Bertha, and Hillary in their big number, "At the Ballet."

**Miss Highnote:** *(Humming along with the music)* Stop, stop, stop! All of you girls—just stop! I want the three of you to come down here to the front of the stage.

**Bertha:** *(Slightly out of breath)* What's the matter, Miss Highnote? Did we do something wrong?

**Miss Highnote:** Well, Bertha, let's see. The three of you were dancing...in your tutus...and it just dawned on me. Something is not quite right here. Something is amiss. Something is making me not buy into this whole idea that the three of you were really inspired to dance after seeing your first ballet.

**Bertha:** But we love the ballet. We all do. Don't we girls?

**Henrietta:** Absolutely. I love ballet!

**Hillary:** I do, too!

**Miss Highnote:** *(Trying to be tactful)* Please, understand that I do not question your love for the ballet. It's just that I think the three of you have been inspired by something even *more* than ballet.