

SENIOR YEAR SURVIVOR

by James Rayfield

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Reality TV has discovered one of the most daunting, desolate, and demanding terrains on planet Earth – America's public schools. Six students from Desert Wasteland High School, sporting various backgrounds and personalities, have been selected for "Senior Year Survivor." Who will be left standing after the slew of competitions, challenges and contests – from homecoming to the prom to the gauntlet leading up to graduation? The audience gets to participate as judges, and alternate endings are included. The contestants who get voted off the show have to go to study hall. The battles and backbiting are as vicious as they are hilarious! You can be sure that, regardless of who's the winner, you will never look at reality TV or high school in quite the same way again!

Running Time:
50 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 3 f)

ANNOUNCER: The quintessential reality TV show narrator.

CONTESTANTS:

TRACY: Flag team member, self-centered, arrogant.

BENNIE: Deliberate under-achiever.

HELEN: Class president, mover and shaker, manipulator.

ANDY: Quiet, brainy type.

GLORIA: Gothic princess.

TONY: Dim-witted football player.

PROPS

Handheld microphone (ANNOUNCER)
6 student backpacks
6 Etch-A-Sketches
Briefcase (ANNOUNCER)
Stacks of college applications
Laptop computer
Pens
Application in large envelope with cardboard backing
(TRACY)
Slips of paper
Ballot box
Starter pistol
Card displaying styles of Senior rings
3 yearbooks – identical
1 yearbook – different from the others
Bunch of flowers
Prom dress
4 graduation gowns
3 mortarboards with tassel
Baseball cap
2 lunch trays with plates of tuna-noodle casserole
Glass vial
Cell phone
School papers (HELEN)
Homecoming Queen robe and crown

SENIOR YEAR SURVIVOR

(AT RISE: ANNOUNCER slowly moves into a pool of LIGHT. He is dressed in outdoor clothing.)

ANNOUNCER: This is one of the most unforgiving terrains in the world. Here people are forced to live without human compassion or intelligence. Here the thought of eating native food is so disgusting that many run in terror rather than partake. And here the wild animals that roam the earth are vicious and without regard for human life. Here no one is safe – for the person that seems your friend today can turn on you tomorrow. Alliances are only meant to be broken. It is here that we are setting our latest test of endurance. Here people will fight to survive. They will fight against each other and against the very environment. This is a public high school and this is “Senior Year Survivor.”

(LIGHTS come up full to show areas of a typical high school: lockers, hallways, cafeteria, classroom, etc. STUDENTS pass through the halls oblivious to the ANNOUNCER. He gestures toward them as he speaks.)

ANNOUNCER: These are our tribe members – six selected from all cliques that teens desperately cling to in order to survive in this ghastly educational wasteland. This is Tracy.

(LIGHTS isolate TRACY as she speaks.)

TRACY: I'm not sure why I wanted to be here – I thought it would look good on my college application. And maybe it would get me a couple of film roles. Look, I've been on the flag team for all four years of high school. I think I can survive just about anything. *(SHE notices SOMEONE across the hallway.)* Ugh, there's Benjamin Lasiter – clearly the grossest person on the face of this earth.

TRACY: *(Continued.)* He is not really clean. And his clothes may be from Goodwill, but he doesn't spread any by wearing them. What's he got that's going to make him survive?

(LIGHTS isolate BENNIE. He is pretty much as TRACY described him: unkempt and wearing a wild mixture of plaids and colors obviously from thrift stores. His backpack is covered with patches for causes and rock groups and his shoes, while both tennis shoes, do not seem to be from the same pair.)

BENNIE: I'm not here to win anything. I just want to make sure that people like Tracy Wilkes get kicked off as soon as possible. I'm the spoiler – got nothing to lose, ain't going to win, but I'm going to be there stomping their snooty noses into the ground every chance I get.

ANNOUNCER: *(LIGHTS back up on HIM.)* Here at Desert Wasteland High School the lines are sharply drawn – the in crowd and the not-in crowd.

TRACY: I can't even imagine life not in the in crowd. What do you do with yourself? Who do you eat lunch with? Who do you talk to?

(LIGHTS come up on HELEN, an in crowd member.)

HELEN: I've researched it. Being in the in crowd means so much more success in later life.

ANNOUNCER: Helen Traub. Student government president, honors student, potential valedictorian.

HELEN: It's not that I am ruthless. All that talk about me spreading vicious rumors about my opponent during the student government election – well, it's true. But, look, she could have been born half human, half cow. And what with surgery and stuff ... anyhow, politics is all about survival ... and playing politics. Like, here comes Anthony Prezio, a jock that makes dumb jocks look like Fulbright scholars – which I plan to be someday.

End of Freeview

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