

Changing Directions

By: Vincent Andersen and Jordan Montague

Act 1, scene 1:

[Cafe]

Lucy enters stage right.

Lucy: (mentally rehearsing order under breath) Hi, may I please have a small tea with one sugar? Hi, may I have a small tea with one sugar please? Hi-

Lucy exits stage left. Dan enters stage left, drinking coffee.

Dan: That's definitely going to leave a hole in the stomach or something, Holy God..

Dan turns to leave stage left. Lucy enters stage left. They collide.

Lucy: Ohp, sorry! I'm so sorry. That's my fault, I should've been watching where I was going.

Dan: Oh, shut up. I'm getting over a major headache, and this coffee is...terrible..

Lucy: I'm so sorry s- wait, Dan? From high school? The one who slept through our whole math exam because of that grad party? It's me, Lucy!

Dan: (realization)...Yeah...and you were the one whose homework I copied for, like, all of high school.

Lucy: Oh, I mean, you did some of it by yourself. You deserved those grades!

Dan: No, you did all the work. How have you been doing?

Lucy: I've been doing...not bad!

Dan: Not bad?

Lucy: Well, you know. It could be better. How about you?

Dan: The wagon has gone completely off the rails actually. Off a cliff at this point.

Lucy: ...Oh. Well, if there's anything I can do to help...

Lucy and Dan make their way to a table.

Dan: Why do you always try so hard to put others before yourself?

Lucy: I guess it's because my goals are...kind of out of reach. I want a raise, but it's not like I'd be able to just go up and ask.

Dan: So you don't try because you think you won't get it?

Lucy: I know, I know, it's a stupid excuse and I'm a grown adult so I should probably-

Dan: No, I understand. I'm the same, just.. In a different way.

Lucy: What kind of different?

Dan: I'd usually be running around with the wrong crowd, not thinking about the consequences that could come after.

Lucy: I mean, it's never too late to change...right?

Dan: (visible discomfort) Yeah...(looks at wrist) Would you look at the time? Anyway, see you around.

Lucy: Uh, bye!

Dan exits stage right. Cafe man enters stage right, and stops by another table.

Lucy: (to herself) Okay, you got this. It's just one little complement. I can put myself out there!

Cafe man walks toward stage left. Lucy walks up to Cafe man.

Lucy: Um...hi!

Cafe man: Hi..?

Lucy: I, uh, really like your hat!

Cafe man: (surprised) Oh, thanks.

Lucy: Have a nice day!

Cafe man: You too!

Cafe man exits stage left.

Lucy: (to herself) That wasn't so bad.

Lucy exits stage right.

Act 1, scene 2:

[City street]

Friend dances around. Dan enters stage right.

Friend: Dan! I've been trying to get in touch with you for days! Why haven't you been out lately?

Dan: Oh...I've been...Well, busy with work lately and didn't have time to go out.

Friend: Busy with work? What work? Actually, it doesn't matter. Me and the others are going out again tonight! You gotta come this time!

Dan: I really can't...I still have more stuff to catch up on.

Friend: You could be catching up on something a lot more fun though! Come on, Dan!

Dan: I really can't tonight, okay? Just leave me alone.

Dan exits stage left.

Friend: Whatever.

Friend continues dancing around.

Act 1, scene 3:

[Office]

Boss sits at their desk. Lucy knocks, enters stage left.

Boss: Come in!

Lucy: Good morning, sir.

Boss: Ah, Lucy. Come have a seat.

Lucy sits opposite Boss.

Boss: I heard you wanted to meet with me to discuss something?

Lucy: Yes, I was, uh doing a lot of research on the-

Boss: (chuckling) Well, research is what we pay you to do!

Lucy: (uncomfortably laughs) Yes, um, I mean I was doing other research. On salaries for my position? And, well, this is how much other people with the same amount of experience are getting paid.

Lucy slides papers across the table. Boss briefly scans them.

Boss: I see.

Lucy sits in uncomfortable silence. Boss reads through papers.

Boss: I'll look into it. Are you free...2 o'clock next wednesday? I'll let you know by then.

Lucy: Yes! Yes, um, thank you.

Lucy stands up. Boss stands up.

Boss: Have a good day.

Lucy: You too!

Lucy awkwardly exits stage left.

Act 1, scene 4:

[Dan's apartment]

Dan sits on the couch, flipping through work papers. Friend stands on stage right. Phone rings and Dan answers.

Dan: Hello?

Friend: Dan! A new place just opened up on Smith street! We should go check it out tonight!

Dan: I'm...not sure...

Friend: Come on! I've heard from the others that it's really nice there!

Dan: I'll...think about it...

Friend: Alrightttt, but you should really come!

Dan: Yeah...yeah I'll see...I have to go now, so I'll talk to you later...

Dan hangs up. Friend exits stage right.

Dan: Should I go..? It's been a while since I hung out with them...but all this work is building up...

Classmate enters stage left. Phone rings again and Dan answers.

Dan: Hello?

Classmate: Hey Dan, did you do your part of the group project yet?

Dan: Uh, I'll try to get it done soon.

Classmate: Come on dude, you need a good grade on it to pass the course!

Dan: (sighs) I know, I know. I was busy...

Classmate: Welp...at least try to get something finished...

Dan: I'll see what I can do...

Classmate: Alright, I'll talk to you later then.

Classmate hangs up.

Act 1, scene 5:

[Office]

Boss sits at their desk. Lucy enters stage left.

Lucy: (visibly anxious) Hi, um, you wanted to see me?

Boss: Ah, yes. Have a seat.

Lucy sits opposite Boss.

Boss: So, I took a look at the papers you showed me last week.

Lucy shifts uncomfortably.

Boss: Considering how much of an asset you've been to the company, and the salary range for your position, I agree that you deserve a salary increase.

Lucy: Really? I mean, thank you. Thank you so much!

Boss: Thank you for bringing that to my attention. If you hadn't spoken up about it, I might not have realized how much you were being underpaid for your efforts. You have a good day now.

Lucy: You too, sir. And thank you again!

Lucy and Boss stand up and shake hands. Lucy exits stage left.

Act 1, scene 6:

[City street]

Friend sits on the ground. Dan enters stage right, sees Friend, and tries to exit stage right.

Friend: Dan! It's been days since you went out with us.

Dan: I'm aware.

Friend: Well, since you're already here, let's hang out! There's a deal going on today! You don't want to miss it!

Dan: I'm..going to have to pass..I have some stuff that needs to be done for tomorrow morning and if it doesn't get done then-

Friend: Who cares, Dan?! It's been days! Maybe even weeks at this point, I can't tell! You need to hang out with us again at some point! Tonight should be that night!

Dan: I've honestly had enough of you.

Friend: YOU'VE had enough of ME? Who's been waiting around for god knows how long to hear back from my so called friend, just to be blown off whenever he thinks he's too good for us anymore?!

Friend stands up.

Dan: I'm trying to get help!

Friend: You used to be fun. It's like I don't even know you anymore!

Dan: Well maybe you don't.

Dan storms off stage left. Toxic friend huffs and sits back down.

Act 1, scene 7:

[Cafe, in winter]

Lucy sits at a cafe table. Dan enters stage right.

Lucy: Dan!

Lucy stands up, hugs Dan.

Dan: It feels like forever since we last saw each other.

Lucy: It really has. What have you been up to these past few months?

Dan: Well, it's still hard work but at least I'm passing all of my college courses now.

Lucy: Oh, Dan, that's great! I'm so glad. Do you know what you want to do after college?

Lucy and Dan sit down.

Dan: I'm not too sure yet, but I have some options lined up. What've you been up to?

Lucy: Well, I finally got the courage to ask for a raise...and I got it! I'm working on a big project now, and my boss gave me the leadership position for it.

Dan: Oh, that's great. Good for you!

Both sit in comfortable silence.

Lucy: You know, I think you're a lot braver than you make yourself out to be.

Dan: I'm not the only one. You are too.

Lucy: We've come a long way since we first reconnected, huh?

Dan: (cringing) Yeahhhh, you know what? You're right.

Lucy: I called it, didn't I? I said it's never too late to change.

Dan: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Whatever. Oh, did I tell you I adopted a cat?

Lucy: No kidding! What's its name?

Dan: His name is Gumdrop, you know, because Christmas is around the corner and all...

Lucy: Aw, that's adorable! What are your plans for the holidays?

Lucy and Dan stand up.

Dan: Oh, not too much.

Lucy: We should find some time to see each other again!

Dan: You just want an excuse to see Gumdrop, don't you?

Lucy: Of course not! Well...maybe...

Dan: Right...

Lucy and Dan exit stage right.

The end