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Wheeler-dealer

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Characters

MANDY BLAKE—In a wheelchair

MRS BLAKE—Mandy's mother

FIONA

MRS APPLEBY—Deputy Principal

PRUE—One of the in-crowd

SUE—ditto

LOU—ditto

AUDIENCE 1

AUDIENCE 2

AUDIENCE 3

Setting

The following are all established through the dialogue: playground of Huntly High School, the Blakes' living room and Huntly High School hall.

This play is written for a proscenium arch stage with a small apron but would work well in other performance spaces.

Wheeler-dealer

Curtains are closed. MANDY enters, wheeling her wheelchair along the apron as she speaks, stopping and turning every so often to address the audience before finally stopping centre stage.

MANDY: [To audience] Okay, what's the first thing you want to know about me? My hobbies? My favourite food? [Looks down at her wheelchair] No, it's this, isn't it? You're busting to know all the nitty gritty things. Was I born this way? How do I go to the toilet? You don't see me, you see this chair. So does everybody. Like yesterday, my first day at my new school. My first day at any school since... I'll show you what happened.

[Curtains open on a schoolyard. Benches here and there. A rubbish bin or two. Some lunch rubbish lying around. Brick walls and asphalt. MRS BLAKE enters, hurrying.]

MRS BLAKE: Watch out—there's a bit of a drop there. I told you to wait for me.

[MANDY'S MOTHER scurries over and pulls MANDY back. MANDY rolls her eyes, but says nothing.]

MRS BLAKE: We're late. *[She smooths down her dress and pats her hair, and then licks her finger and wipes a smudge off MANDY'S cheek.]*

MANDY: Mum!

[As MANDY turns her wheelchair, MRS APPLEBY appears, carrying a pile of papers and smiling far too widely.]

MRS APPLEBY: [To MANDY, overly sweetly and loudly] Hello, Amanda. I am Mrs Appleby.

MANDY: [To audience] Gets some people this way. Think I hear with my legs.

MRS APPLEBY: Welcome to Huntly. *[She pats MANDY on the shoulder.]*

MANDY: [To audience] Or that I'm a pet. *[Pants like a puppy]*

MRS APPLEBY: [To MANDY'S mother] Well, Mrs Blake, I know you must be anxious to get Amanda settled in, so here's her timetable. *[She hands it over.]* I've arranged for