
Mango Time



Characters

21-YEAR-OLD MANJARI

MANJARI—eleven years old

SHERONA—eleven-year-old school bully

POONAM—Manjari's mother

CHERYL—Sherona's mother

JUDE—a member of the 'Mummy Mafia'

HELEN—a member of the 'Mummy Mafia'

BEV—a member of the 'Mummy Mafia'

MISS KENT—Manjari and Sherona's teacher

CHORUS—school children; members of the 'Mummy Mafia'

21-YEAR-OLD SHERONA

Setting

The playground and classroom of Goondari Primary School and Sherona's front garden, ten years ago. Brisbane airport departure lounge, present day.

Mango Time

[2TY/O MANJARI enters, wheeling a carry-on overnight bag. The curtains are closed.]

21Y/O MANJARI: My flight for Mumbai has been delayed. I've had an idea since I've been waiting here. I'm thinking of writing a set of rules for kids starting at a new school. Rule number one is definitely: Be careful who you speak to. I wish I'd had a rule book ten years ago. I was eleven. We'd just moved to Goondari.

[2TY/O MANJARI moves to the side of the stage. The curtains open to reveal the CHORUS as children standing in line ready to go into the classroom. MANJARI enters and tries to join the line, but nobody will partner her. She is shoved back and back down the line. At the end is SHERONA.]

SHERONA: Keep away from me! I don't want your germs.

MANJARI: Sorry? Hi, I'm Manjari.

SHERONA: You're what?

MANJARI: Who. My name is Manjari. It means 'bud of a mango tree'. What's your name?

SHERONA: Mango Tree, Mango Tree! Gotta prune the Mango Tree!

[SHERONA starts prodding at MANJARI. The line moves offstage.]

21Y/O MANJARI: And so it began. The more I tried to be nice to Sherona, the more she tormented me. And everyone stood behind her—out of her way.

[MANJARI enters the playground, in which CHORUS members are children playing games. SHERONA enters. She and the CHORUS encircle MANJARI, muttering 'Mango Tree, Mango Tree' ...]

SHERONA: You know what mango trees love? Dirt! C'mon, let's dig a hole and plant the mango tree!

[The CHORUS and SHERONA drag MANJARI offstage. 2TY/O MANJARI watches.]