

## SAVING GRACE

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**Synopsis:** *Saving Grace* is a modern day story inspired by the life of John Newton, writer of the most performed work of music in English, *Amazing Grace*. O'Grady, a new student, is quickly accepted into Newt's group of friends and becomes co-lead singer of Newt's band. Hali and her girlfriends want to win the Front Line Music Contest by joining Newt's band as well. But Newt and his buddies have already entered the all-guy category, wrecking Hali's plans of winning Group of the Year. Hali gets revenge though when she learns a big secret about O'Grady that would take the guys right out of the running. In this battle of the sexes, O'Grady teaches the others about life, acceptance, and grace.

**CAST** (3-5M; 6-13F)

### **Male**

Newt: Male, central figure, replicates circumstances of Newton's Life

Ace: Male

Cayle: Male

Boz: Male (For fewer male cast, combine Boz with Ace)

Dane: Male (For fewer male cast, combine Dane with Cayle)

### **Female**

O'Grady: Female, but is dressed as a boy. She will be mistakenly assumed to be a boy.

Hali: Female Dominant.

Janine: Female Ditzzy character

Rain: Female

Qianna: Female

Stevie: Female

Indie: Female (For fewer female cast, combine Indie with Hali and adjust dialogue)

Litzzy: Female (For fewer female cast, combine with Hali)

Kya: Female (For fewer female cast, combine Kya with Rain)

Jade: Female (For fewer female cast, combine Jade with Rain or Paige)

Myla: Female (For fewer female cast, combine Myla with Qianna)

Neve: Female (For fewer female cast, combine Neve with Stevie)

Paige: Female (For fewer female cast, combine Paige with Stevie or Jade)

**Length:** 35 to 45 Minutes

**SCENE 1: School Office (SR)**

**(5 chairs with Newt, Ace, Boz, Cayle and Dane are sitting on them. Small Garbage Pail. Hali enters with attendance sheets)**

Hali: Well, surprise, surprise. Newt's in the office. Again.  
Newt: You guys hear something? Oh. Look. It's Hali. I saw your lips moving but nothing important coming from them. I see you're still the school office gopher girl.  
Hali: You ever thought of making this your home? You and your little ... sisters.  
Cayle: Hey, hey. Let's show some respect for us musicians.  
Ace: Hey Hali. We're looking for another "guy" to join our band.  
Newt: Except for the fact that you can't sing, I think you'd fit the role.  
Hali: Sorry. I try to limit my association with intelligent life. So, what are you doing here?  
Boz: Waiting for you my dear, so we can be marked present on those attendance sheets. Then we head to Newt's garage to jam.  
Cayle: That's another word for unrehearsed music session. Just so you know.  
Hali: Thanks for the insight. So. Skipping school. And you want me to be an accomplice. Yeh, right. I don't think so. You know I can't keep quiet about this you know.  
Dane: What we do know is you can't keep quiet about anything.  
Ace: So do us a favour Hali, zip the lips and pretend you never saw us.  
Hali: What's in it for me?

**(O'Grady walks in, stops, a bit lost)**

Newt: I'll take those attendance sheets into the office for you.  
Hali: Yeh, like I'm going to trust you with these.  
Newt: **(Newt points off in the distance)** Well, would you look at that.

**(Hali looks and Newt takes the attendance sheets from Hali)**

Boz: Foiled by the magic of misdirection. Hali, you are so gullible.  
Hali: **(Hali leaves)** Whatever.  
O'Grady: **(To Cayle)** Excuse me. Is this the office?  
Cayle: It sure ain't the mall. You new here?  
O'Grady: Yeh. Kind of. Sort of. Just temporary. I think.  
Newt: You don't sound like the decisive type.  
O'Grady: I can be. Sometimes. You know where I'm supposed to register?  
Newt: You're in luck. I just happen to have the attendance sheets in my hand.  
Dane: You wouldn't happen to be into music? Like, play anything? Sing?  
O'Grady: Yeh ... sing, mostly. Why?  
Ace: You have to audition as part of the registration process. That's what we're here for. But it'll be five bucks to audition.  
Newt: Ignore him. We have a band and we're looking for another singer.  
O'Grady: Really. I was in a band. Lead singer.  
Dane: This might be your lucky day.  
Cayle: It might be our lucky day.  
Dane: We practice in Newt's garage.  
O'Grady: Well, I'd be very interested.  
Boz: We're just heading there now.  
O'Grady: But, shouldn't we be going to class?

Cayle: We are. Sort of. Music is educational, isn't it? Besides, what difference does it make whether you start today or tomorrow. You're new. It's not like you're skipping class.

Boz: Come with us and we'll see how good you can actually sing.

O'Grady: Well, I suppose I could.

Dane: You sound like you have a unique voice ... for a guy that is.

O'Grady: For a guy? Oh. Right. Yeh, that's funny, because you see ...

Dane: What kind of music you like?

O'Grady: Lots of stuff. Hey, you didn't register me yet.

Newt: What's your name?

O'Grady: Last name's O'Grady.

Newt: O'Grady. Hmm. Duly noted. Follow us ... O'Grady.

**(They leave with O'Grady following and Newt at the end. Just before exiting, Newt turns and tosses the attendance sheets into the trash can and follows them out)**

## **SCENE 2: School (SL)**

**(Paige, Stevie & Neve in one group chatting. Kya, Rain, Jade in another group chatting. Qianna, Myla & Janine in a third group chatting. Hali, Indie, Litzy enter. Indie is carrying a poster)**

Indie: You guys see this?

Qianna: **(Qianna takes the poster and reads it)** Front Line Music Group Contest. You saying we should go see this?

**(Qianna passes the poster to Myla)**

Hali: No.

Myla: Hey, maybe Newt would be interested in this. We should show him.

**(Myla passes the poster to Stevie)**

Litzy: Not.

Stevie: You're not thinking we should enter this.

Indie: Sort of. Maybe. Possibly.

Jade: What do you mean by sort of?

Rain: What do you mean by maybe? Possibly?

Paige: What do you mean by "we"?

Myla: We don't sing.

Jade: Trust me, we know.

Litzy: We don't need to sing.

**(Qianna grabs poster from Stevie)**

Qianna: What are you talking about. This is a music contest. Correct me if I'm wrong, but doesn't imply that ...

Litzy: No problem. You're wrong.

Janine: Uhm. Excuse me. What about me?

Neve: What about you?

Janine: You think I'm just an airhead?

Hali: You have another hidden talent?

Janine: I can sing. I can jam. I'm a rocker.

Kya: Oh, you're a rocker all right. Right off your rocker.

Litzy: We just tell Newt we're going to join his band as back up.  
Neve: You want to be in a band with the guys?  
Kya: What if he says no?  
Indie: We'll tell him there's cash involved.  
Jade: You're going to pay them?  
Litzy: You got a loose wire up there? Of course not. We join their group, we enter the contest, we win the prize and split the money.  
Qianna: Cha ching. Cha ching.  
Rain: I like the sound of that already.  
Litzy: Of course, we take our administrative cut first. Then we split the remaining funds. If there's anything left. If you know what I mean.  
Myla: So what are we waiting for? Let's go tell them.  
Indie: We will. Right after school.  
Kya: But they aren't here today.  
Hali: Don't you worry your silly little head about that. I'm pretty sure I know where we can find them. Meet at the flag pole after school.  
Janine: Woo hoo. Road trip!

### **SCENE 3: Newt's Garage (SR)**

**(Boz, Cayle, Ace, Dane, O'Grady with band instruments)**

**(Song 1 – may be sung as a competition between guys and girls as girls enter)**

Qianna: You guys skipped school today.  
Ace: Thanks for the news bulletin.  
Indie: So you're probably wondering why we're here.  
Boz: I barely even noticed.  
Cayle: Never crossed my mind.  
Dane: But I'll bet you're going to tell us anyways. So. Why are you here?  
Paige: We thought you might want to team up with us and enter the Front Line Music Contest.  
Jade: Serious cash involved.  
Ace: No thanks.  
Neve: You don't like cash?  
Kya: You don't like music?  
Myla: You don't like to win?  
Ace: We don't like intrusive pestilent females.  
Janine: You should learn to like everyone. Your loss. Okay ladies, let's go.  
Hali: Get a hold of yourself Janine.  
Dane: We've already entered the contest.  
Rain: You entered your band?  
Stevie: How did you know about it?  
Ace: They're asking how we knew about it.  
Boz: What you take us for?  
Litzy: You really want me to answer that?  
Ace: We entered the all-guys category.

O'Grady: You did?  
Janine: Well, so much for that. Okay ladies, let's go.  
Indie: Hold on. That just means that we'll have to enter on our own and compete against them. You sure you want us to do that?  
Boz: You might have a hard time competing in an all-guys category.  
Cayle: But then again, maybe not.  
**(The guys laugh)**  
Litzzy: Don't need to. We're not interested in the little prize. We're going for the whole shebang. Group of the Year.  
Paige: Yeh. Group of the year. We're gonna win big time cash.  
Qianna: Cha ching. Cha ching.  
Rain: That's such a sweet sound. Do it again.  
Qianna: Cha ching ...  
Qianna: } **(Together)**  
Rain: } Cha --- ching.  
Rain: Beautiful. Just beautiful. It makes my eyes water with emotion.  
Hali: Well, ladies. I think we've completed our business here. It's time to go.  
Janine: What do you mean? I don't have anywhere to go.  
Hali: Yes you do. Follow us. We've got some planning to do.  
Janine: Really. Cool. Hey, we're going to plan some stuff. Okay ladies, let's go.  
**(The girls all file out the door with Stevie and Paige last out)**  
Stevie: You've just passed up the deal of a lifetime.  
Paige: Don't come sniveling to us when you lose.  
Dane: I'll try to contain myself.  
Boz: Pestilent? Nice word. You think anyone even knew what it meant?  
Ace: You kidding. I don't even know what it means. My mother uses it on me all the time so I knew if fit the cause.  
Dane: I didn't think they were ever going to leave.  
Ace: Let's eat. I'm starved. **(Ace pulls out a bag of chips)**  
Boz: Hey, pass those puppies around.  
Ace: After I get my share.  
Cayle: Sweet. I'm dying.  
Dane: How about we offer some to our new band member first? Try having some manners.  
**(Ace gives in and holds them out to O'Grady)**  
O'Grady: Oh. Well, thank you. Should we say grace before we eat these?  
Ace: What?  
O'Grady: Give thanks. Grace. Why don't we all stop and say grace together.  
**(Ace, Boz, Dane and Cayle are confused and look at each other)**  
Ace: } **(Together)**  
Boz: } **(Together)**  
Dane: } **(Together)**  
Cayle: } Grace?  
O'Grady: Uh, no. That's not what I meant. Never mind. I'll say grace. **(O'Grady pauses, looks around)**  
O'Grady: Close your eyes.  
**(O'Grady prays while others stare)**

O'Grady: For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful. Amen.

Cayle: Well, that was ... interesting.

Ace: All that for a handful of chips?

**(Newt walks in with sunglasses that have the left lens broken or missing)**

Cayle: Hey Newt. You missed O'Grady's little speech.

Ace: Where you been? I thought you said you'd only be gone fifteen minutes.

Dane: The girls were here trying to weasel their way into joining our band for the Music Contest. But Ace pulled out the pestilent card.

O'Grady: What happened to your sunglasses?

Newt: You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

Ace: Tell me and I'll let you know.

Newt: I was riding my bike ...

Ace: Stop. Heard enough. Don't believe you.

Boz: Let him tell his story.

Ace: He doesn't own a bike.

Newt: I borrowed yours.

Ace: You took my bike?

O'Grady: So what happened to your glasses?

Newt: As I was sayin', I was riding my bike.

Ace: *My* bike!

Newt: His bike ... and a truck goes by and shoots a stone at me, hitting me right in the left eye. Smashed the lens.

Cayle: Lucky you didn't get it in the forehead. You'd be road kill.

O'Grady: Wasn't no luck. It was the grace a God, Newt. Grace a God.

Ace: Didn't we already do the grace thing?

Cayle: **(To O'Grady)** We should call you O'Gracie.

Boz: Or Gracie for short. Right Gracie?

**(The guys laugh)**

O'Grady: Sure. Feel free. No such thing as luck – just the grace a God. He must have cool things planned for you.

Ace: Well I hope he plans on getting you your own bike.

Newt: I came by the bay. Navy ships were there. That means my dad is back in town.

Dane: Hey, why don't we all take Ace's boat out to the ships.

Ace: First Newt swipes my bike, now you wanna take my boat. What, I look like a free ride to you guys?

**(Newt, Boz, and Dane pause, look at each other and then)**

Newt: } **(Together)**

Boz: } **(Together)**

Dane: } Yep.

Newt: You know we're not supposed to go around them.

Boz: Exactly. What fun would it be if we were allowed?

Cayle: Don't you think that's a bit dangerous?

Ace: You aren't taking my boat out at night. There aren't any lights on it.

Dane: Then let's go tomorrow morning.

Cayle: I'm okay with that.

Boz: I'm in.