

Cedric

MEGAN JONES: Yep. That's right. Just so we're clear. I'm not like you. Any of you. So. Leave me alone.

WAYNE HOPKINS: H...

PUFFS: Shhhh!

Start (Suddenly, descending like an angel from an unexpected place—perhaps the audience—a very cool young man enters.)

CEDRIC: And my name...is *Cedric*.

(Blaring guitars, drums, and rock concert lighting greet Cedric as he in turn greets everyone, audience included. Some Puffs applaud. Some become overwhelmed. Some have no idea what's going on but hey, they are happy to be here. Cedric eventually makes his way to the center of this clump of Puffs.)

CEDRIC: Thanks. Now, gather round. Don't be shy. Welcome to the Puffs!

CEDRIC & PUFFS TOGETHER: HI!

CEDRIC: Just a few things to get you acquainted to the school. First, the stairs move.

(Sally Perks gasps.)

CEDRIC: Don't freak out. Just breathe. Second...the Puffs don't exactly have the best reputation here. People will make jokes about you.

PUFFS: Aw.

CEDRIC: Or throw food at you.

PUFFS: Awhhh.

CEDRIC: Or they might curse you.

PUFFS: AHHHH!

CEDRIC: In fact, here is a list of curses you can expect to be hit by at some point in the next week.

(A piece of parchment, frightening in length, falls from the ceiling. Some truly terrifying and embarrassing sounding spells are listed. "Wedgi-o," "Nose-us Boogerus," "Forgetus Your Parents," etc. Spells that really make you wonder if this whole magic thing is a good idea. The Puffs all become very nervous about this terrifying place.)

CEDRIC: But, none of that matters. Because really, we're a bunch of nice, fun, happy people. Also, *badgers*. Badgers are great! That being

said, there's something very important we need to discuss. What do you think the most important part of magic school is?

OLIVER RIVERS: Learning magic?

CEDRIC: Wrong.

(This marks the first time Oliver Rivers ever failed to answer a question correctly in a school.)

CEDRIC: The House Cup. Here, you earn points for doing something right, and you lose them for doing something wrong. The Puffs have come in last place in the House Cup for...ever. But together we are going to change that. This year, we're going to win. Or, we're going to get second. OR, *we're going to get third.* Third or nothing!

(Somehow, third sounds like the most enticing of the three. Cedric puts his hand out in the center and motions for the other Puffs to join him. All chant.)

PUFFS: Third or nothing. *Third or nothing!* THIRD OR NOTHING!!!!

CEDRIC: Whoever wins the most points? They'd be a real hero.

(Cedric looks to Wayne.)

WAYNE HOPKINS: *Me?*

CEDRIC: Maybe! Well, I'm off to bed.

J. FINCH: If Cedric's going to bed, I'm going to bed too! J. Finch out!

PUFFS: *Ooo! Bed! *Sleep! *I brought my own pillow! *I hope I have dreams! *Etc!

(The Puffs exit, except for Wayne, Megan, and Oliver.)

MEGAN JONES: So, it's official. The next seven years are gonna suck. Can you believe this group of dingbats?

WAYNE HOPKINS: I think everyone seems nice.

MEGAN JONES: You're talking to me? You're not running away?

OLIVER RIVERS: Why would we do that?

MEGAN JONES: Um. Everyone knows my mom worked for...*You-Know-Who.*

WAYNE & OLIVER: Who?

MEGAN JONES: *The Dark Lord.*

WAYNE & OLIVER: ...*Who?*

MEGAN JONES: Whatever, the guy was a super evil wizard.

WAYNE & OLIVER: There are *evil* wizards?!