

Hope for You

by Taliyah Holloway

Setting: Scene opens in the back yard. There are lounge chairs all around. There is a Gazebo up stage right. There is a rose garden down stage.

Brycen: A senior boy, who is best friends with Angelia. He is preparing for both homecoming and college. He doesn't want to lose his friendship with Angelia.

Angelia: A senior girl, who is best friends with Brycen. She is preparing for both homecoming and college. She wants a beautiful white rose, with a specific meaning, from Brycen. She also wants to pursue a romantic relationship with him.

White Rose: The "third party" between Angelia and Brycen. It is the "listening ear" between the two people.

SCENE 1

BRYCEN and ANGELA are sitting in the lounge chairs relaxing in the sun and talking.

Angelia
You know what would make you the absolute best best friend right now?

Brycen
Well, we both know I'm already the best, but I'll let you tell me so proceed.

Angelia (*Looks at BRYCEN*)
You would be the bestest bestest bestest best friend if you polished my toes for me.

Brycen (*Looks at Angelia over the top of his glasses.*) Run that by me one more time please. If I do what ma'am?

Angelia
Please please please Bryce. They look horrible and you know when I do them myself, they look like a dog tried to sculpt clay. Just look.

Brycen (*Looks at HER toes*)
I'm sure you could be charged with committing all kinds of federal felonies and misdemeanors with those things.

Angelia (*Looks at BRYCEN with a puppy dog face.*) So are you going to help me?

Brycen
Fine I'll do it. I'm not the best but I'm sure whatever anybody does is better than this catastrophe.

(ANGELIA digs in her purse to retrieve everything she needs. SHE hands everything to BRYCEN and he begins on her nails.)

Angelia
So, you remember when I told you Nina and I was going homecoming dress shopping Saturday?

Brycen
Yea, I don't know why you're going anywhere with her anyway. You know she can't stand the ground you walk on. You know she's just trying to see what you're wearing so she can wear the same thing.

Angelia
Brycen, everybody deserves a second chance, and it's our senior year, so maybe she has changed her ways.

Brycen
Angelia let's be real. Nina has been trying to one up you since the sixth grade. Do you really think she has made a big turnaround now? I mean think about it. Do you remember in the 8th grade when we had that big Ms. Valentine pageant?

Angelia
Yeah.

Brycen
You had been practicing and rehearsing all month long and you thought for sure that you were going to win. You even dragged me into your practices.

(BRYCEN laughs a little as he continues. ANGELIA smiles as SHE watches BRYCEN paint her nails.)

You had got down to the last rehearsal and performed your entire routine; you did really well by the way. Nina got so jealous that she cut up your gown just so that you wouldn't be prettier than her.

Angelia
Yeah. I cried for an hour. You and my mom ran around for hours trying to find another dress that was just as perfect. Even though she tried to sabotage everything, we still ended up being friends our 9th grade year.

Brycen
Do you remember that time our parents took us and 10 of our friends to the amusement park for spring break?

Angelia
Oh yeah. We went to Wild Adventures and we stayed the whole day.

Brycen
You had the biggest crush ever on Jason Taylor. You wanted to sit by him on all of the rides and you wanted to sit next to him when it was time to eat. You were blushing all over the place.

(BRYCEN shakes HIS head as HE smiles.)

It was the cutest little crush I have ever seen.

Angelia (*Smiles really big.*)
Yes, Brycen. I remember. What is the point in this walk down memory lane?

Brycen (*Smile quickly fades.*)
We walked around the park for like 20 minutes after lunch looking for Jason and Nina.

(ANGELIA's smile slowly drops.)

When we finally found them, they were at the ice cream shop holding hands and kissing. You were so mad, you walked up to her and poured sprite all over her. See, that's what I mean. Since the sixth grade Nina has either tried to take what you have, mess you up in some way, or made plans with you only to let you down again.

Angelia (*Lets out a huge sigh*)
Okay, maybe you're right. Even after all that, I still felt like there was some hope, but now I'm not so sure.

Brycen (*Looks up from Angelia's nails*)
Why?

Angelia
Because we were supposed to go get our dresses this Saturday, but she bailed on me.

(ANGELIA pauses for a minute.)

What are your plans Saturday?

Brycen
Uh oh I can already see where this is going. Luckily, I don't have any plans.

(Looks up from ANGELIA's nails)

Let me guess. You need me to go with you because you need another opinion as well as a male perspective.

Angelia

See, this is why we have been best friends since we were two. You just know me so well. So will you go with me?

Brycen

I'll go with you on one condition.

Angelia

If the condition is helping you pick out a tuxedo, then consider it done. I can't have the most awesomest friend in the world looking crazy on his last homecoming. We are aiming for Homecoming King here.

Brycen

Why thank you, but that's not the condition. If I go with you to get your dress, you have to wash my baseball, basketball, and football uniforms.

Angelia *(Angelia's mouth drops to the floor)*
You can't be serious.

(The flowers in the rose garden start to snicker at the two.)

Angelia *(Points to the roses.)*

See, even mama Delila's roses think that condition is funny. Speaking of those amazing roses.

(ANGELIA looks up shyly at BRYCEN.)

I would absolutely love it if someone gave me a white rose.

Brycen

Why a white one?

(ANGELIA innocently looks down at the grass and starts to play with it while smiling)

Angelia

Look it up.

Brycen *(Looks confused.)*

Okay, I will. So, are you going to take me up on that offer we were talking about? I'm pretty busy this week, which means I kind of need you to help with the uniforms. It's your call Ang.

Angelia *(Pauses for a minute and thinks.)*
Fine, I'll do it.

Brycen *(Puts the finishing touches on ANGELIA's toes)* Great! My bag is in the mud room when you're ready. I'm ordering pizza. Want some?

(BRYCEN gets up and walks towards the house.)

Angelia

Yes, please. My toes look great Bryce. Thank you.

(BRYCEN screams back 'welcome' as he calls for pizza. ANGELIA gets up and goes to the rose garden. SHE begins speaking to the roses.)

You all look beautiful today.

Roses *(All together)*

Thank you.

(ANGELIA sits down in front of the roses.)

Angelia *(to the brightest white rose in the garden)* Bryce is an amazing friend. We have been so close since we were kids. Like, I really really love him. I couldn't ask for a better best friend. The problem is, I want to be more than friends. We talk everyday all day long. We are always at each other's house. For goodness sakes, we go on family vacations together. I can't see myself being best friends with or being this close with anybody else.

(ANGELIA walks back to the lounge chair that she was previously sitting in. BRYCEN returns from calling for pizza. HE takes a seat next to ANGELIA.)

Brycen

Pizza will be here in about an hour.

(THEY both reach in their bookbags and start on homework.)

Angelia *(Shyly looking down at her pencil.)*

Bryce, I have a question.

Brycen *(Looks up from his work.)*

Wassup?

Angelia

Who's your date for the homecoming dance?

Brycen

Um, I was thinking about asking Moni-ca, but I think Vincent already asked her. Then, I was thinking about asking Taylor or

Rachel.

Angelia *(Looks a little let down.)*
Oh.

Brycen *(Notices ANGELIA's change in mood.)*
But then again I might not.

(Awkward silence.)

Brycen

So who are you going to the homecoming dance with?

Angelia

Um, well nobody right now. No one has asked me yet.

Brycen

I'm sure someone will ask you soon.

(The phone in the house rings)

Brycen

I'll be right back.

(BRYCEN leaves to go answer the phone. ANGELIA goes to the white rose.)

Angelia *(To the rose)*

I wish I could go to the dance with Bryce. If we went to our last homecoming dance together, it would be like our first real date as a couple. I mean of course we have been on plenty of best friend dates and outings, but it's different as a couple. Ooh wouldn't it be nice if Bryce asked me to the homecoming dance and gave you to me? That would be perfect. Do you know the white rose has a really special meaning?

(ANGELIA starts playing with the edge of her shirt.)

I really want to be Bryce's girlfriend not just his best friend. We even got accepted to the same college. I mean it would be great if we started our adult life as best friends. Wouldn't it be nice if we could be there as a couple? I have to be honest, even if we never become a couple, I would just as happy if I had him as my best friend for the rest of my life.

SCENE 2

Setting: *The play switches to a school's gym or a dance hall. There are lights and homecoming decorations all around. There is a punch bowl. There is a stage and podium*

upstage. There are a few extra people around to make the room look filled with high school students dressed in their homecoming dresses and tuxedos. BRYCEN and ANGELIA walk into the dance and meet unexpectedly.

Brycen (Looks in awe at ANGELIA.)
Wow, Ang. You really look amazing.

Angelia (Looks in amazement at BRYCEN.)
Thank you, Bryce. You're looking dapper yourself.

Brycen (Looks down awkwardly at his feet.)
So who's your date?

Angelia (Nervously points towards the punch bowl.) Regan. Who's yours?

Brycen (Looks over at the group of girls in the corner.) Misty.

(THEY both look at each other sadly and walk over to their respective dates.)

SCENE 3

Setting: They play goes back to Brycen's back yard. There are lounge chairs all around. There is a Gazebo up stage right. There is a rose garden down stage. It is a few hours after homecoming has ended. Both ANGELIA and BRYCEN are in Brycen's back yard. ANGELIA has taken off her shoes, which are now lying in the grass. BRYCEN has loosened up his tie. Both BRYCEN and ANGELIA are nervously looking around.

Angelia
So how was your night?

Brycen
It was okay. After the dance I took Misty to get some ice cream and took her home.

(BRYCEN looks nervously at the ground.)

How was your night?

Angelia (Looks sadly off in the distance)
Oh. It was fine. After the dance, we went to the park for a little while. After that, Regan took me home, and then I came here.

(ANGELIA whispers to herself as SHE walks around the garden.)

I kind of wish that I could have gone with someone else, but that's ok.

(Pauses for a second and looks back at

BRYCEN.)

So, do you like her?

Brycen (Chuckles a little as HE shakes his head.) If you're talking about Misty, then no, I don't. I would ask you the same about Regan, but we both know he bats for the other team.

(ANGELIA snickers a little, but her smile quickly fades. BRYCEN turns towards ANGELIA and looks into her eyes.)

Ang, I was watching you at the dance. You seemed like something was wrong. So let's get to the bottom of it. What's wrong?

Angelia (Takes a deep sigh.)
Well, I'm just gonna come out and say it. Brycen we have been friends a very, very, very long time. We have been through everything together. We have gone on all types of family vacations together, been through all kinds of relationships together. I think you may know me better than I know myself. I guess what I'm really trying to say is...

(ANGELIA looks into BRYCEN's eyes.)

Brycen, I love you, and I want to be your girlfriend not just your best friend.

Brycen (Looks down at his feet and whispers.) I know.

Angelia (Completely surprised.)
You do?

Brycen
Yes, I do.

(BRYCEN starts walking back towards the rose garden.)

I have been noticing for a while now that you talk to the roses. I haven't said anything because, well, you're not the only one who does. But what you didn't know is that I ask them what it was that you said, and they told me everything.

(BRYCEN bends down to pick up the brightest whites of the white roses)

What you also didn't know is that I talk to the very same rose that you talk to. We both know that I'm not always the best when it comes expressing myself without letting someone else hear it first. So...

(BRYCEN hands ANGELIA the rose.)

I told the rose exactly how I feel. Ask it to tell you what I said.

(ANGELIA looks down at the rose in her hands in shock, and with a nervous tone, SHE speaks.)

Angelia
Beautiful white rose, please tell me what Brycen has said to you.

(THE WHITE ROSE clears its throat.)

White Rose
I love Angelia so much I think it may overtake me sometimes. I couldn't have asked for a better person to grow up with. Over the years, I can't think of one time where we have had a real argument. That's one of the reasons that I love having her by my side. I will honestly do anything and everything for her because she is just that special to me.

I remember the other day she asked to get a white rose. I knew immediately when she said she wanted it that it would be hers, but I asked her what it meant, and she said to look it up. A pure white rose in early tradition means true love, innocence and purity. This rose describes her so well.

But here is where I get scared. We're both starting college in the fall, which means a new world for the both of us.

(BRYCEN backs away to get more roses.)

Although I think it would be absolutely amazing to have Angelia as my girlfriend, I don't want to risk losing her as my best friend. Maybe as time goes on, we can try a relationship in the future.

(BRYCEN comes back to stand in front of Angelia. HE begins to recite the last line with the rose)

So, Angelia, if you'll have me, I would love to be your best friend for life.

(ANGELIA looks up into BRYCEN's eyes and smiles. ANGELIA smiles and accepts all the roses BRYCEN has for her.)

Angelia
Brycen, I would love to have you as my best friend for life.