

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

[We are at school, and there's lots of kids just hanging around, waiting for the bell to go to start the day. Cue Song 1: Strange Girl.]

HALEY

Hey! Here she comes!

ROBERT

I wonder what she's gonna do weird today?

STEPHANIE

Who knows!

ALL

SHE'S A STRANGE GIRL
THAT'S WHAT WE THINK
NO ONE ELSE IS LIKE HER
SHE'S A HOSE WITH A KINK
A SANDWICH WITH NO PICNIC
AND NO PRETTY IN PINK
SHE'S A STRANGE, STRANGE GIRL
THAT'S WHAT WE THINK!

SHE'S A STRANGE GIRL
EVERYONE KNOWS
HARDLY LIKE THE REST OF US
AND, MAN, DOES IT SHOW!
A TRY HARD AND A TRAGIC
TAKE A LOOK AT HER CLOTHES
SHE'S A STRANGE, STRANGE GIRL
EVERYONE KNOWS

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS AT ALL
WHY SHE WON'T TRY TO JUST FIT IN
IT MUST BE LONELY WAY OUT THERE

ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

SHE'S A STRANGE GIRL
STRANGER THAN MOST
DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS
AND CREEPS LIKE A GHOST
SHE ALWAYS SPEAKS SO WEIRD
AND SHE'S A LITTLE MOROSE
SHE'S A STRANGE, STRANGE GIRL
STRANGER THAN MOST

IT WOULDN'T BE SO HARD TO CHANGE
INTO SOMEONE THAT WE ALL LIKED
SHE SHOULD HAVE TO JUST BEHAVE
LIKE EVERY OTHER GIRL AND GUY!

SHE'S A STRANGE GIRL
NOW YOU WILL SEE
IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG
JUST A MOMENT OR THREE
KEEP WATCHING ALL THE ACTION
AND WE'RE SURE YOU'LL AGREE
SHE'S A STRANGE, STRANGE
SO STRANGE
STRANGE, STRANGE GIRL
NOT LIKE YOU AND ME!

[Sarah "Almost" Jones enters. She's wearing totally mismatched clothes - striped socks with black shoes, a scarf, an old battered hat and the like - and carrying a school bag that looks like it came out of the 1920's. As she walks in, everyone stops and stares at her. Some students whisper to each other, some look her up and down, some just get out of her way. Gillan, Bradley and Wordwood, three bullies, are standing nearby.]

SARAH

What are you all staring at?

GILLAN

We don't know. We didn't bring our animal book with us.

[The bullies snigger.]

SARAH

[Sarcastic.] Oh, how original.

BRADLEY

Is that all you got to say?

SARAH

I don't think your pea-sized brain would handle anymore than that.

WORMWOOD

[Giggles.] That's a good one!

GILLAN

Quiet, loser.

BRADLEY

Yeah, quiet, loser.

WORMWOOD

My name's not Loser, it's ...

GILLAN and BRADLEY

We said quiet Wormwood!

[WORMWOOD closes his mouth.]

SARAH

Gee, you guys really know how to make your point.

GILLAN

What's that meant to mean?

SARAH

Gillan, I always thought some people evolved from the cavemen slower than others; you just proved me right.

BRADLEY

What?

WORMWOOD

Heh ... cavemen ...

GILLAN

Quiet! *[To Sarah.]* At least we're not strange, like you.

SARAH

What's that supposed to mean?

GILLAN

You don't do what everyone else does, or like the things that everyone else likes.

SARAH

Name one thing.

GILLAN

Easy. Computer games. Everyone in our class has computer games. We play them all the time.

SARAH

Ah, so that's what's wrong with everyone...

GILLAN

[Unfazed.] You probably wouldn't even know what to do if you had a computer game. Hey - you probably don't even have a TV!

SARAH

So what if I didn't?

GILLAN

That would make you even more strange, wouldn't it Strange Sarah?

BRADLEY

Strange Sarah!

WORMWOOD

Strange Sarah!

[More students join in the chant of "Strange Sarah" until everyone is chanting it. They keep getting louder and louder until the bell rings. Everyone disperses, leaving Sarah by herself. She turns to the audience.]

SARAH

That's better. Now you and I can talk. Hi, my name's Sarah. Sarah "Almost" Jones. Not that my middle name is "Almost", but I prefer to be known as Sarah Jones. I'm not old enough to legally change my last name yet - I'm stuck with Smith for the time being. So, my last name is almost Jones, time-wise, if you get my meaning. Hence, I'm Sarah "Almost" Jones. Nice to meet you. Don't worry about those guys - they're neanderthals. It happens every day. People need rituals; and I guess that is theirs. Why do I want to change my name to Jones? You see, there's one person who I aspire to be when I finally finish school ... then university ... get my master's degree ... then my doctorate ... and train in various forms of self-defense and ancient history - Dr Indiana Jones. Dr Jones is a well known archeologist, and a few films have been made about him. You may have seen them. Of course, Hollywood never gets the truth right, but I know the truth. [Cue Song 2: *Indiana*.] One day, I'll be as revered and honoured just like Dr Indiana Jones. And I'll take pride of place as Sarah Jones - without the "Almost".

SARAH

ONE DAY COMING
ONE DAY SOON
EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO
CHANGE THEIR TUNE

I DON'T KNOW WHEN
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW
BUT I HAVE FAITH
THAT'S ALL I NEED RIGHT NOW

AND I'LL BE THERE
ON A STAGE SOMEWHERE
AND EVERYONE WILL SEE
WHAT I WAS BORN TO BE
AND THERE'LL BE

INDIANA!

ENSEMBLE

INDIANA - OOH, OOH, OHH

SARAH

SHAKING MY HAND
INDIANA!

ENSEMBLE

INDIANA - OOH, OOH, OHH

SARAH

JUST HOW I PLANNED
INDIANA!

ENSEMBLE

INDIANA - OOH, OOH, OHH

SARAH

I WON'T BE UNKNOWN
IT'LL BE ME

SARAH AND ENSEMBLE

AND INDIANA JONES

SARAH

HEAR THE CHEERING
SEE THE CROWD
TASTE THE MAGIC
FEEL SO PROUD

NO MORE SNEERS
NO MORE DOWNS
NO MORE TEASING
I'LL BE RENOWN

AND WHEN IT STARTS
I'LL BE ON THE MARK
AND YOU'LL SEE ME RUN
'TIL MY JOURNEY'S DONE
AND THERE'LL BE

ENSEMBLE

INDIANA - OOH, OOH, OHH

SARAH

SHAKING MY HAND
INDIANA!

ENSEMBLE

INDIANA - OOH, OOH, OHH

SARAH

JUST HOW I PLANNED
INDIANA!

ENSEMBLE

INDIANA - OOH, OOH, OHH

SARAH

I WON'T BE UNKNOWN
IT'LL BE ME

SARAH AND ENSEMBLE

AND INDIANA JONES
IT'LL BE ME
SARAH "ALMOST" JONES!

ENSEMBLE

INDIANA!

[Casey, Sarah's best friend, enters. Sarah continues to talk to the audience.]

SARAH

Anyway, one day it will happen. You can count on it. Until then, remember the name: Sarah "Almost" Jones.

CASEY

Are you talking to yourself again Sarah?

SARAH

Casey! Do you always have to sneak up on people like that?

CASEY

I guess that's why they call me Creeping Casey.

SARAH

You're weird.

CASEY

And you can talk.

SARAH

Touche.

[Mr Landry, a teacher, enters.]

MR LANDRY

I see you're late again Casey. And Miss Smith...

SARAH

Jones ...

MR LANDRY

Smith... Also hanging about?

SARAH

I was just waiting on Casey. She often loses her way at school, you know.

CASEY

I do. If it wasn't for our intrepid explorer Mrs Indiana Jones...

[Sarah punches Casey to silence her.]

MR LANDRY

That's quite enough. You two are meant to be in class. Sarah, make sure that Casey finds her way.

SARAH

Yes Mr Landry.

[Sarah and Casey begin to move off.]

MR LANDRY

And Sarah, you're to go to class as well.

SARAH

That was implied, Mr Landry. But thank you for the reminder.

[Sarah and Casey exit.]

MR LANDRY

She really is a strange girl that one.

[Black out.]

SCENE TWO

[We are in the classroom. Mrs Lighttower is handing out books to her students, who are all chatting amongst each other. Sarah and Casey enter.]

GILLAN

Well, if it isn't Creeping Casey and Strange Sarah.

SARAH