Just Ordinary
By Erin Spake

ALLY
Female, 17. Primary Narrator.

SARAH
Female, 16. Naive

CADEN
Male, 17.

LILITH
Female, 17. Resistant

NOAH
Male, 18.

GUARD
Male or Female, adult.

AUTHOR’S NOTE: The characters in this show are never intended to speak to one another. This play should flow with each line jumping on the next. Many lines overlap.

(Complete blackout. ALLY stands center stage.)

ALLY
It wasn’t supposed to end like this.
(Lights up.)
ALLY
It wasn’t supposed to end like this.

(CADEN and LILITH enter from stage right. SARAH and NOAH enter from stage left. From right to left characters stand: LILITH, CADEN, ALLY, SARAH NOAH)

NOAH
Please don’t call my parents, please.

LILITH
You can’t make me talk. I have rights.

NOAH
Please, please, please.

LILITH
I want a lawyer.

ALLY
It was supposed to be an ordinary night.

SARAH
I guess it started with a text.
Yeah it was a text in a group chat.

No, I don’t remember who sent it.  

I didn’t send it. I just wanted to hang out.

I don’t think the text itself was the issue

I invited everyone over.

Ally invited the five of us over.

It was an ordinary night.

Ordinary.

Sure, it was ordinary

You can’t make me talk.

Just ordinary.

We were just playing cards

Watching a movie?

Just being kids

Does it really matter?

You can’t make me talk.

It was a usual night, but then…

You can’t make me talk.

There was this party.

Noah kept talking about some party

It was just a couple of the football guys

For the record, I didn’t want to go
It wasn’t a big deal. NOAH
So we went to the party CADEN
So we went to the party ALLY
Don’t waste your breath. I’m still not talking LILITH
There were so many people there SARAH
Sarah had never been to a party CADEN
And it was so loud. SARAH
She’s the baby of our little group ALLY
I’m sixteen and don’t waste my time drinking. Sue me CADEN
She’s kinda defensive about it. SARAH
I have a future I care about SARAH
Really defensive about it NOAH
Surely I’m not the first teenager to care CADEN
It’s really cute NOAH
The entire time she kept asking if we could leave SARAH
We were just standing against the wall talking over the unjustifiably loud music CADEN
We were hanging out SARAH
We could have stood by a wall anywhere. Why here? ALLY
Why here? CADEN
Lilith looked incredibly bored NOAH
After a while she just disappeared into the crowd SARAH
We didn’t see her till maybe an hour later

When she came back she was acting...strangely

Umm, I mean...yeah. It looked like she was...

I wasn’t...

I wouldn’t know.

She slurred her words. She was stumbling around….

She was definitely…

I wasn’t…

She was drunk

I wasn’t drunk!

That’s my friend. Stop accusing her...

We didn’t know she drank.

So I had a sip. Just a sip.

I knew I should have left then

We all should have left.

I could have just gone home

But I hate being treated like a child

I should have just gone home

But we all stayed

Lilith is my best friend, and I saw the way they were judging her

No, I don’t know why he started drinking

It could have been the football guys
All of them were there

They were all so drunk

They are all such pigs.

Maybe it was his dad

He’s pretty hard on Noah

He...um...well… he hits, Noah

Noah has a hard life. I doubt anyone would understand

It could have been anything, really

He started drinking

And he kept drinking

And drinking

He wouldn’t stop

Of course I was concerned. Do you think I’m heartless?

We had never seen this side of him

That’s my best friend

That wasn’t our friend

I looked him straight in the eye

Sarah was begging him to stop

But it was like I wasn’t even there

I don’t remember

It all happened too fast
It’s the body’s reaction to large amounts of alcohol
SARAH

Suddenly he just wasn’t anymore
CADEN

The liver can’t metabolize the sudden intake of alcohol
LILITH

He wasn’t there.
SARAH

He was somewhere else
CADEN

The body becomes depressed
NOAH

I don’t remember
CADEN

It can cause sleepiness
CADEN

He was stumbling all around
SARAH

Slurred speech
LILITH

He just kept mumbling
CADEN

And emotional change
ALLY

He started crying
NOAH

All I can remember is feeling angry
SARAH

It changed so fast
LILITH

He was so angry
CADEN

Sarah tried to talk to him
SARAH

He just grabbed me and...
ALLY

He literally threw her into a wall
NOAH

I would never hurt Sarah on purpose
LILITH

He doesn’t get angry often
CADEN

I’ve never seen him like that

NOAH

I wouldn’t hurt anyone

LILITH

He looked exactly like...

ALLY

I couldn’t stand in his way

LILITH

His dad

CADEN

He told us he had to leave

LILITH

I begged him not to get in that car

SARAH

Even Lilith couldn’t stop him

ALLY

Then she…

CADEN

I couldn’t believe it

LILITH

It was the only thing I could think to do

SARAH

She slapped him

NOAH

I can’t remember what happened next

ALLY

He got in the car

NOAH

Such a bad idea…

CADEN

I should have left…

SARAH

I could have left…

LILITH

Why didn’t I leave?

NOAH

I don’t remember

ALLY

He drove off

CADEN

An ordinary night…

SARAH

It all went wrong

CADEN
We froze

We watched him from the driveway

No, I’m done. That’s all you’re getting out of me.

Then all of the sudden...

The beginning of the end

Noah turned the corner

Time slowed down

(ALLY’s voice continues as background noise. Other characters speak over ALLY. ALLY’s lines slowly get louder and faster.)

He sped up

Tick-tock

I saw lights flash

Tick-tock

I heard the crunch of metal against metal

Tick-tock

I don’t remember

Tick-tock

I ran down the street

Tick-tock

I don’t know

Tick-tock

We all followed Sarah
I heard the sirens
ALLY
The end.
SARAH
The ambulance came...
CADEN
Right after the police did.
ALLY
But the passengers in the other car
LILITH
Oh, Noah, why?
SARAH
It was too late for that poor girl
ALLY
It was like those pictures they show you in drivers ed
CADEN
The ones that are supposed to scared you out of drinking
SARAH
The really gory ones, where you can’t really tell what’s left of the person.
LILITH
But ten times worse
CADEN
He was put in cuffs right in front of us
SARAH
And all I could think was
LILITH
He’s eighteen
ALLY
He’ll be tried as an adult
ALLY
It started as an ordinary night.
ALLY
No, it wasn’t.
LILITH
Not even close…
ALLY
It wasn’t ordinary
CADEN
Nope.
LILITH
You heard my story.
ALLY
Not ordinary at all
LILITH
Let me go home now

ALLY
It wasn’t supposed to end like this

(In the next section the characters should say the line together, each emphasizing their own word. Then repeat the line at different speeds)

ALLY
It wasn’t supposed to end like this.

LILITH
It wasn’t supposed to end like this.

CADEN
It wasn’t supposed to end like this.

NOAH
It wasn’t supposed to end like this.

SARAH
It wasn’t supposed to end like this.

(At once, all characters go silent and watch as GUARD comes on from stage left and leads NOAH stage right. NOAH looks at all four characters then out at the audience. NOAH hangs his head and exits with GUARD.)

ALLY
Not like this.

(Blackout)

END OF PLAY