



“Everything We Wanted” by Harini Senthil
3rd Place, Short Play 13-15

Everything We Wanted

Cast:

Mike

Ella

Ivy

The Genie

Locations:

Classroom

Park

Scene I

Location: Classroom

Mike, Ella, and Ivy are quietly doing their homework in a classroom during study hall. Mike looks up from his papers and suddenly notices a large box on the desk next to him that contains a picture of an old-fashioned lamp.

Mike (says in a shocked voice): Hey! How did that box with a lamp suddenly get here? It wasn't here two minutes ago!

Ella (replies sarcastically): I don't know. Why don't you open it up? Maybe if you rub it, a genie will pop out and grant you three wishes

Ivy: Let's open it together!

Mike, Ella, and Ivy walk over to the mysterious box. **Mike** opens the package and lifts out a strange, antique lamp. It is golden in color adorned with multicolored gems on the sides. The lamp stands in stark contrast with the ordinary classroom and the students.

Mike: What should I do with this old lamp? Should I rub it?

Ella: Why not? What's the worst that could happen?

Ivy: Maybe we shouldn't. It's not ours to begin with and who knows what the consequences of this object might be.

Ivy's pleas go unheard. **Mike** and **Ella** each rubbed a side of the elusive lamp vigorously. At first, nothing happens, but in a few seconds, **The Genie** enters the stage from the left.

The Genie: Well, well, well, looks like I have been summoned. To whom do I owe the pleasure? By the way, thank you so much for releasing me from this lamp. It was kind of tight and cramped in there.

Mike introduces himself and so do Ella and Ivy.

Mike: I'm Mike

Ella: I'm Ella

Ivy: And I'm Ivy. How did you get here? What do you want from us?

The Genie: Relax... I'm not here to ask for anything. In fact, I want to offer the three of you a reward for freeing me from the lamp. Each of you can request a wish and I will grant it.

Mike, Ella, and Ivy think carefully about their potential wish requests.

Ella: I want to be popular. Everyone will love to hang out with me and I'm going to be the most popular girl at school.

Mike: I want to be perfect. I will be the best at every activity I attempt and I won't have to practice anything.

Ivy waits the longest before answering.

Ivy: I don't really want anything for myself. All I could ever wish is for the world to be a better place.

The Genie: Great choices, Mike and Ella. Ivy, isn't there anything you want for yourself? I mean really, how can you be so selfless for a teenager? You don't want fame, fortune, popularity, or effortless perfection? Anyway, I don't think I can grant your wish because no

one else has ever asked for it before. It's not the best idea to be the first trial for my wishes. Think again and see if you change your mind

Ivy: No, I'm happy with my choice even if I don't get a wish.

The Genie: Moving on from that. All right then, there's a standard short disclaimer I have to give before granting any wish.

The Genie (in a fast voice): Terms and conditions apply to the Genie's wishes. Not everyone will be satisfied with the end results.

Consequences may be life-altering but there are no take-backs or returns on these wishes. The Genie is not responsible for any potential repercussions that users may endure. For more information, please refer to the 500-page document with every instance of granted wishes.

The Genie (claps his hands and says): Now for the fun part.

Mike and Ella spin around and squeal.

Ella: I'm so happy everyone will admire my wonderful self and want to become me.

Mike: I can pick up any musical instrument and I'll immediately be a virtuoso. My genius will be known to the world.

Ivy: I'm perfectly happy staying my ordinary self.

Scene II

Location: Park

Mike, Ella, and Ivy meet each other at a park a few months later.

Mike and Ella look unhappy but Ivy appears cheerful.

Ivy: Hey guys, I haven't seen you in a long time. I think we last saw each other with the Genie. How have your wishes turned out?

Mike sighs and replies: It was fun at the beginning to show off but honestly I doubt my own abilities now. I think I'm losing my skills and talents because I never practiced. Even prodigies have to put in effort to get better and sustain their abilities.

Ella: Same for me. I'd always wanted to be admired by everyone but now I realize that my "new" companions aren't really good friends. They don't really know me; just the persona that the world sees. I miss my old friends because they actually cared about me. Exterior appearances and connections don't mean everything. I wish I appreciated the people in my old life more.

Ivy: Wow, I didn't realize the consequences of those wishes. I'm relieved that I didn't wish for anything and stayed grateful for the

things I have. Turns out, the Genie's wishes bring more unhappiness than the delight you would have expected.

Mike and Ella in unison: We got everything we wanted, but at what cost?