

TOPIC: Say whatever you think but be honest

John's true self

Characters

John – the main character

Dave – John's best friend

Jessica – a popular girl who enjoys mocking John

John's parents – **Agnes** and **Herry**

Boy 1, boy 2, boy 3 – friends of Jessica

Act I, Scene 1

John is a normal teenager who has issues because of his weight. He is bullied everyday by his schoolmates.

~In the hall of the school~

John enters the school and is constantly pushed by all the other students. He opens the locker and finds a message on the door: "**Moby Dick – Useless prick!**" He hears some students laughing. It seems to him that the whole school is laughing. (Some feathers are falling from his wings.)

Scene II

He arrives in the classroom. Jessica, the most popular girl in school, and also the one John likes, heads to him.

Jessica: Hi, John! How are you?

John: Hello, Jessica. I'm... fine, thanks! (*he gives her a suspicious look*)

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Jessica (*smiling*): Yeah, I've heard about the locker. (*Ironical*) Who would do something like that?!

John: I might have an idea...

Jessica: Oh (she's changing the subject), anyway... Someone told me that tomorrow is your birthday. Let's go to the café near our school and have a drink together!

John (*surprised*): Really?! Aaa... ok.

Jessica: Great. See you there after school. I have a little surprise for you, my friend. You'll love it!

~She leaves the place~

Scene III

John and his friend, Dave, in the schoolyard.

Dave: Believe me! I'm your best friend and I wish you the best. That... girl is lying to you. You shouldn't trust her!

John: I think you're jealous, because it seems I'm getting more attention than you these days. Can't you see she's just a nice girl who can see beyond looks. Why don't you give her a chance?

Dave: Don't be so naive! She didn't even know your name yesterday and now she's inviting you out...

John: I don't care about your opinions, words, jealousy, suspicion or about whatever this strong opposition to my happiness is caused by. I'm going anyway!

Dave: Fine, do what you want! But don't forget you've been warned.

~He leaves angrily~

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Act II, Scene 1

In the café

John enters dressed up and hesitatingly he goes to Jessica's table

Jessica: Hey, you! Happy birthday!

John: Thank you!

Jessica: I hope you don't mind, but I've brought some friends of mine (*boy 1, boy 2, boy 3*)

John: Sure, your friends are my friends, too.

Jessica: Look, here's our present for you.

John: Oh, you shouldn't. That's so kind...

Jessica: It was a real pleasure. Come on, open it!

John: Oh! (He opens the present and he finds two weighing machines. He remains speechless)

Boy 1: Aren't you saying anything, John?

Boy 2: His name in Moby Dick! (*laughter*)

Boy 3: What's the matter, Moby, don't you like the present?

Jessica: I'm sure he does. You should check if it works. If I think a little more maybe you should have bought three weighing machines, in case...you know ...in case you break them down.

Boys: Yeah, yeah. Let's see. (*The boys are forcing John to sit on the weighing-machines, one for each leg*). *John is too shocked to say or to do something. He leaves the café quickly.*

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Scene 2

John's home

John enters his house slamming the door. He goes right to his room, where he listens to rock music very loud.

Agnes: John, come to dinner, darling!

John: I'm not hungry.

Agnes: Turn the music off dear! How can you listen to this? It's tuneless and noisy!

John: This is what keeps me alive.

Agnes: Can you repeat? I can't hear a word! It's too loud! Have you done your homework?

John: No, I haven't!

Agnes: Why are you acting like this? Has anything wrong happened at school today?

John: Leave me alone!

Agnes leaves his bedroom. She is talking with Herry about their son.

Agnes: Something's wrong with John. He's been very rude to me. That's so not him.

Herry: He might have had a bad day. We all have now and then. Don't worry! He'll be fine.

Agnes: No, he won't. Go talk to him!

Herry: I'll do it tomorrow. Can't you see I'm busy now? *(he is reading the newspaper)*

That night John took an overdose and he almost died.

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Scene 3

Next day at the hospital

John and Dave

Dave: How could you do something like this? Are you insane?!

John: You were right. She was lying to me, but at the same time she was honest.

Dave: What do you mean?

John: I am what they say I am. That's why I wanted to disappear. I felt worthless.

Dave: Death is not a solution. And you're not worthless, please, trust me this time!!

John: What's the point? They're not going to change. I just don't understand... why are they doing this to me?

Dave: Maybe it's time for **you** to change. I'm sure you can do it. You've spent so much time thinking about this, but you haven't done anything about it. Find what you don't like about yourself, and improve it. And I am telling you this as a friend. Sometimes, the truth can hurt you, but in the end, it can also release you. It's up to you. So... the big question is: what are you going to do from now on?

(Dave leaves John alone. He thinks that he should finish what he started at home. He remembers that he asked Dave to bring him some pills. He opens the bottle and inside he finds a note: "**You know that Moby Dick was the one of the kind, don't you?**" John smiles, and realizes that he is what he is. Or he can get better. Either way he is unique.)

*~That's when he starts collecting the feathers and put them back on the wings.
The truth has won. ~*

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The end