

# Anything for ~~the dress~~ you

Paula Pimenta

*English version by Fernanda Sampaio*

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**Conexões Youth Theatre Project Brazil**  
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REALIZAÇÃO



Characters:

Luiza

Ana

Duda

Laura

Renata

Eduardo

João Pedro

Lucas

Davi

Math teacher

Students

Luiza's Father

Luiza's Mother

Robber

Police Officer

Setting:

School, João Pedro's house and Shopping Mall

Scene 1

*Classroom.*

*The bell for the last class hasn't rung yet. Several students are standing talking noisily.*

*Luiza is writing in her notebook, oblivious to her schoolmates' excitement. Ana walks into the classroom and goes straight to her desk behind Luiza.*

Ana – Writing poetry again, Lu? Has inspiration visited you this morning? I'll bet it's on account of Valentine's Day coming up...

Luiza (*quickly closing her notebook*) – It's just a composition assignment. I couldn't finish it last night 'because I had to go out with my mom.

Ana – Yeah, sure! A rhyming composition... No need to be embarrassed, Luiza! I know perfectly well that you have a poetic streak and you should be proud of it. I only object to you not writing about someone real instead of going on and on about some Prince Charming you think one day will show up in your life...

Luiza – What's this? Have you been prying into my notebooks?

Ana – I'm sorry. I didn't mean to. I saw your poems the day you lent me your Geography notes. I thought it was part of the notes and I only realized that it was something else when I had read it...

Luiza – Why didn't you turn the page then? Didn't your mother teach you that it's impolite to read other people's mail without them knowing about it?

Ana – First of all, it wasn't mail. Second of all, you're not other people. You're my best friend. Come on, Lu, I tell you everything. I never thought you'd keep a secret from me.

*Luiza is quiet for a moment and turns to the front. Soon she turns back again.*

Luiza – I'm sorry. I'm embarrassed, that's all. I don't think I write well.

Ana – You write super well. All you need is an inspiring muse guy, so your poetry gets directed at someone real. By the way, you know who I think has a crush on you?

*The bell rings and the teacher enters the classroom.*

Math teacher – Everybody silent, please! What’s with the excitement at this time of the morning? I know it’s Friday, but you must focus on the class. Have you forgotten it’s a school Saturday tomorrow and you have exams? If I hear another sound I’ll have a mind to give you the test today!

Ana (whispering) – I’ll tell you at the break...

*They open their notebooks to copy the topic the teacher has started writing on the board. A student sitting in the last row elbows a friend sitting next to him.*

Lucas – How about a bib, João Pedro? Stop heaving and sighing. Luiza is looking forward already. Or do you fancy staring at her back now?

João Pedro – Leave me alone.

*The teacher hears this and comes closer to the boys.*

Math teacher – It seems you two really want to take the test now... Or should I send you to the principal’s office?

Davi (*sitting behind Lucas*) – Send them to the principal, Miss. It’s not fair to punish the whole class for the disobedience of two people.

Lucas – Cool, man. With a friend like you, who needs enemies?

Math teacher – That’s enough! Lucas, go sit in the front desk. And you, João Pedro, change seats with... (*looks around*) Ana.

Ana – With me? But what have I done?

Math teacher – So far nothing, but I know what a chatter box you are. And I need to finish with the exam topics. Hurry up, let's go!

*Movement in the class. Lucas moves forward, Ana back and João Pedro sits shyly behind Luiza.*

Math teacher – Very good, I'm serious now. If I hear another word unrelated to this topic, I'll give you the test today, to the whole class. Therefore, you either pay attention or you'll have to deal with your classmates' fury later!

*The class is quiet for a while. The teacher writes on the board. João Pedro sniffs the air around Luiza's hair, eyes closed. Lucas sees this and shakes his head in a gesture of disapproval. From way back, Ana sees this too and starts writing on a piece of paper. She gives it to Davi, who reads it and looks amazed. Someone knocks on the door. The teacher leaves for a moment and soon returns.*

Math teacher – Listen up. All teachers are called to the principal's office. I won't be long. If I hear any noise when I come back, you know what will happen.

*She leaves the classroom. One second later everyone starts talking.*

Davi (to Ana, shaking the note in the air) – You don't know what you're talking about. João Pedro doesn't like Luiza. I mean, not the way you think!

Ana – Why is he staring at her like a goof then?

Duda (sitting next to Davi) – Sorry to butt in, but JP can't be into Luiza, that stinking show-off. He's staring at her hair just because it's right there in front of him!

Ana – Has anyone asked your opinion?

Davi – No fighting guys...

Lucas (coming closer) – Who's fighting?

Davi – Are you nuts? If the teacher sees you here, we'll be in big trouble!

Lucas – I just want to get my pencil sharpener from my bag.

Duda – Great! Then you can tell Ana that JP doesn't like Luiza.

Lucas – Come again? João Pedro has a major crush on Luiza. Just look at the clown. All is missing is him kissing her hair.

*Ana laughs and Duda frowns.*

Davi (*to Lucas*) – João will kill you for letting his secret out...

Lucas – Big secret. Any seeing human with half an eye has known about it for quite a while now.

Ana (*to Duda*) – You need glasses, girl...

Duda – Shut up!

Davi – Don't start again...

*The teacher enters and Lucas runs to his seat. She glares at him, but he shows his pencil sharpener and sits hurriedly.*

Math teacher – Listen up. Change of plans. Unfortunately I won't be able to go on with the revision. All 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will meet with the principal now. So, you can either go to the yard or stay here and study. Don't forget you have an exam tomorrow. Get ready for a tough test with lovingly prepared questions!

*All the students get up fast and leave the class, celebrating the premature end of class.*

## Scene 2

*João Pedro's house*

*Lucas, Davi and João Pedro are playing videogame.*

João Pedro – I won again!

Lucas – You know what they say, don't you?

Davi – Lucky in game, unlucky in love?

Lucas – Exactly!

João Pedro (*enigmatic*) – I don't think I'm that unlucky...

Lucas – Sure. We all know Luiza is crazy about you...

João Pedro – Why can't she be?

Davi – Get real, dude. The girl doesn't even know your name. She never looks in your direction.

Lucas – And, instead of taking advantage of destiny, which made an appearance disguised as a math teacher who sat you near her, you did nothing. You just stayed there sniffing her hair instead of coming up with some topic for a conversation!

João Pedro – She smells like orange blossoms...

Davi – You need to be more discrete. Her friend, Ana, is on to you. In fact, I believe the entire class knows!

João Pedro – Did you tell?

Lucas – No one needed to tell. Anyone can see. You almost drool whenever she passes by and even sighs when she walks in the class. Seriously, João, why don't you lay off the platonic love stuff and tell her how you feel?

Davi – Definitely. Nothing like a resounding no to forget once and for all.

João Pedro (*getting up*) – Quit bothering me. You don't know anything and won't shut up with your nonsense. I know she loves me. That's what matters. Enough stupidity now. I have to study and you should go home and do the same!

Davi – Weren't we going to study together?

Lucas (*walking to the door*) – Stop pouting, dude. I'm out. That's what comes from trying to help others!

Davi – Wait for me. I'm out of here too. If I stay, João Pedro may brain wash me and tomorrow I'll answer "Luiza" to all the exam questions!

*They leave, João Pedro closes the door. Then, he switches off the TV and goes to his room.*

Scene 3

*João Pedro's bedroom*

*João Pedro picks up his bag from the corner, opens a notebook and gets a wrinkled note from it.*

João Pedro (*talking to himself*) – Those guys don't know what they're talking about. If only they could imagine what someone sent me...

*He unfolds the paper, smiles, reads and sighs. A sudden knock on the door frightens him. Laura enters.*

Laura – Why are you alone? Weren't the boys here just a minute ago?

João Pedro (*trying to fold the note hurriedly*) – How many times have I told you not to enter my room uninvited, Laura?

Laura – But I did knock. I'm your older sister. Don't presume to tell me what I may or may not do. What are you hiding back there?

João Pedro – Nothing.

Laura (*tickling her brother*) – Nothing?

João Pedro – Knock it off!



Laura – Got it!

João Pedro – That’s invasion of privacy!

Laura (*reads*) – “You’re the cutest guy ins school. I’m nuts about you. Do I have a chance?” Wow. So my baby brother has made himself a fan? Who’s the hospital case?

João Pedro – I don’t know. I mean, I think I know... but I’m not sure. And she’s not a hospital case!

Laura – Call her then. Call the girl you think it is. Clear that doubt!

João Pedro – You insane? I can’t call the girl and ask her if she has sent me an anonymous love letter. If it’s not her, she’ll think I’m conceited for thinking she’d do something like that for me!

Laura – Well, the girls who wrote the note must be shy... otherwise she would have told you live and not in writing. And unsigned, to top it!

João Pedro – Luiza is shy...

Laura – Luiza? Is that her name? So, you’ll have to get close to Luiza and show her you like her too. That’s the only way she’ll have the courage to confess. By the look on your face, you’re also nuts about this girl!

João Pedro – I can’t. I had a chance to talk to her today, but if I said anything, the whole class would hear and stare at us...

Laura – Good thing you didn’t say anything then. If she’s shy, she’d feel uncomfortable too. You’ll have to do it somewhere else, not in school. Stick around and listen to her conversation with a friend; try to find out places where she plans to go or usually hangs out in. A bar or a club... Then, go there and make

it look like a coincidence. I'll bet that in a different environment, it will be a lot easier for you to talk...

João Pedro – Laura, you're a genius!

Laura – I know! I only hope you remember this next time you complain I enter your room uninvited. Now, how about giving me a hand with the dishes?

*João Pedro frowns, but follows his sister.*

Scene 4

*Shopping Mall*

Luiza – Couldn't you decide to come shopping on any other day, Ana? This place is jammed on account of Valentine's Day next week. And we have a test tomorrow. I need a good grade to pass Math!

Ana – I won't be a minute. I have already tried the dress on. You'll see how beautiful it is. The thing is, my dad only gave me the money today and I don't want them to run out of stock because of Valentine's Day. Come on, we're only five minutes from my house. Soon we'll be there studying!

Luiza – Refrain from trying any other outfits on, please...

Ana – I promise I'll get the dress and leave. Hey, I just remembered. I didn't have time to tell you in class about the boy I found out has a crush on you!

Luiza – There you go again.

Ana – Come on, Lu, aren't you the teeniest bit curious?

Luiza – Me? No! I'm not interested in anyone in class.

Ana – Luiza... I've told you a million times. The Prince Charming you're waiting for, the one you write poems to, only exists in your dreams. The way you go

you'll never have a boyfriend. Wouldn't it be worth it to give a chance to a real boy?

*Luiza stops in front of a shop window and stares inside, hypnotized.*

Ana – Hello? Ground control to Luiza...

Luiza – Look, There he is.

Ana – How did you know? That's the dress I like, that one in the window!

Luiza – Dress?

*Eduardo, a sales clerk, comes to the door.*

Eduardo – Hi, girls. Can I help you?

Ana – Hi... I tried on this dress in the window last week and I'd like to pick it up.

The saleslady who helped me was Renata.

Eduardo – Ah, Renata is off today. But I can help you. Would you like to try it on again?

Ana – No need. We are in a hurry...

Luiza (*cutting her*) – Yes, she would. She wants to show me how it looks on her.

Actually, I think I'll try one on myself...

Ana (*to Luiza*) – You will what?

Luiza (*to Eduardo*) – Do you have other models? I'll take this opportunity and see lots. Such nice things in this store!

*Eduardo smiles and moves away to get the clothes.*

Ana – Have you gone bonkers, Luiza?

Luiza (*whispering*) – It's him, Ana.

Ana – Him whom?!

Luiza – The boy from my poems. The one I've been waiting for my whole life!

Ana – But you only just met him!

Luiza – I knew it would be love at first sight... I was sure I'd recognize him the moment I saw him!

Ana – But this guy has nothing to do with you. He's tall, looks older, looks like a model...

Luiza – So? I can't date a model? Look. He's coming back! Shhh!

Eduardo (*to Ana*) – Look, this is the dress from the window.

Ana – Thanks!

Eduardo (*to Luiza*) – And here are some others that I think will look great on you. I mean, you are already great-looking, but these dresses will highlight your beauty even more. What do you think? Did you like any of them?

Luiza (*looking at Eduardo's face*) – Wonderful.

Ana – Which dress, Luiza?

Luiza (*waking from her day dream*). All of them.

Eduardo – I knew you'd like them. Here. The fitting room is back there. My name is Eduardo. If you need anything, call me.

Luiza – Eduardo...

Ana – Come, Luiza!

*They enter a fitting room while Eduardo folds a few clothes.*

Scene 5

*Fitting room*

Ana – You've gone definitely mad! If you try them all on, we won't leave here before the mall closes. There are about 20 dresses in your hand!

Luiza – I want them all. Did you hear what he said? That I'll look great in them?

Ana – Every salesman talks that way. Also, I know perfectly well that you don't have money for even one of those dresses.

Luiza – I'll find a way. I'll come back tomorrow. You can lend me the money.

Ana – Luiza, get real! I only have enough money for this one dress. I had to beg my dad to give it to me as a gift. And he warned me this is both my birthday and Christmas presents together.

Luiza – I'll work something out!

Eduardo (*from outside*) – So, girls? If you need a different size, let me know and I'll get it!

Luiza – This is fine, thanks. I'm trying them on. Almost finished.

Eduardo – Take your time.

Ana – At least try them on for real, will you?

Luiza – I have an idea. Let's get out of here.

Ana – But you haven't tried any of them on.

*Luiza leaves the fitting room and Ana follows behind.*

Luiza – Eduardo, I love the dresses. It's just that I didn't bring any money. I came in just to keep Ana company, but I didn't expect to find so many lovely clothes. I'll have to come back tomorrow. We came straight from class, you know, no money...

Eduardo – No problem, gorgeous! Which one do you like? I'll reserve it for you.

Luiza – I... Look, no need to reserve it. It's just that I liked so many of them... If by any chance they all get sold until tomorrow, I'll ask you to suggest others. Your taste in clothes matches mine completely...

Eduardo – I'm glad I could help...

Ana – As I'd said, I'll take this one.

Eduardo – It is so you. Is it for a special occasion? Are you trying to be the belle of the ball?

Luiza (*annoyed*) – Pay up, Ana. I have to study.

Ana – What a change of heart. Five minutes ago you had all the time in the world...

Eduardo (*to Luiza*) – I'll be waiting for you tomorrow, ok? But I'll want to see you in the dresses this time... I'll bet you looked even more dazzling with them on. More dazzling than you already are!

Luiza – Thanks... I'll be back tomorrow. You can count on it.

Eduardo (*to Ana*) – Here's your bag.

Ana – Thanks. Bye!

Luiza – See you tomorrow, Eduardo!

Eduardo – See you tomorrow, gorgeous!

*They leave and Eduardo starts folding the clothes looking very conceited.*

## Scene 6

### *Classroom*

*Several students walk into class. The bell hasn't rung yet.*

Davi – I don't get it. Why do we have to sit here today? Why can't we stay in the back, as we always do? Did you forget we have an exam? It's way more difficult to cheat here!

João Pedro (*whispering*) – Will you shut up? If you go on, everyone will see we have changed places!

Lucas – Do you really think no one would notice otherwise?

Davi – I’m serious, man. If you don’t tell me the reason, I’ll go back there where I belong!

Lucas – I’m with Davi!

João Pedro – OK, but just be quiet about it, will you? I want to find out if Luiza goes anywhere after class. ‘Cause, if she does, then I can talk to her out of school. Now, can you guys help me, or will that be too much of a problem?

Davi – Why can’t you talk to her right here?

João Pedro – Because she’ll never have the guts to declare her love here.

Lucas – Declare HER love? What are you talking about? João, you’re the one with love to declare.

João Pedro – Shhh! Look, there she comes. If you stay quiet I promise I’ll tell you a secret.

*The boys stop talking and Luiza and Ana get to their usual seats.*

Ana – Why are you sitting here? Do you think the teacher will buy this? It’s the last week of school and you’re trying to reverse the image of trouble-makers you worked so hard to build all year long...

Lucas – Can you hear anyone talking? It must be someone totally insignificant, because I don’t see anyone...

Math teacher (*entering the class*) – ‘morning. All I want to see on your desks are pencil, eraser and pen. I’ll hand out the tests in a minute. You can leave when you’re done.

Luiza (*whispering to Ana*) – In case we don’t meet at the exit, I’ll be at your house at 3 and we go to the mall from there.

Ana – All right. But what excuse are you giving this time for not buying anything again?

Lucas – You gals off to the mall this afternoon? What a coincidence. João and I are going too.

Ana – Luiza, can you hear anyone talking? It must be someone totally insignificant, because I don't see anyone!

Math teacher – Lucas and Ana, if I hear another word, you two will take the exam at the principal's office.

*Everyone is quiet and starts taking the test.*

## Scene 7

### *Entrance to the mall*

Ana – I'm not going in with you. It's so embarrassing to get there and see you try everything on and once again buy nothing!

Luiza – But I am going to buy something. There must be something there that costs twenty bucks. That's the most my mom would give me.

Ana – Sure. You'll get a pair of socks. Actually, one sock. Get real, Luiza, this is an expensive store!

Luiza – Anyway, I have to go there to give some explanation to Eduardo. I told him I'd be back, remember?

Ana – Hurry up then. I don't want to waste my whole Saturday here. I was busy with very important stuff at home.

Luiza – Really? When I got there all I saw was you snooping other people's Facebook pages...

Ana – Exactly!



*They enter the mall and go towards the store.*

Scene 8

*Entrance to the mall*

Lucas – João, this anonymous note comes obviously from someone who wants to play with you. I'll bet Davi put it in your bag!

João Pedro – It's a girl's handwriting. Davi wouldn't have written it so well. He would have made at least three grammar mistakes.

Lucas – But even if it's a girl, what makes you think it would be Luiza? Why her exactly?

João Pedro – Because I feel there's something between us... I don't know what it is. Since the first time I saw her I knew she was different from the other girls...

Lucas – You're tripping, João. She's the same. She has two eyes, a nose, a mouth...

João Pedro – It's no use talking to you. You never liked anyone, how can you possibly understand?

Lucas – And I hope I never do if it means looking like a fool the way you do!

João Pedro – Do you think I can control it? When I see Luiza, the world seems to be turning in slow motion.

Lucas – That's where you're wrong. The world keeps turning at the normal speed. She is a slow walker, that's all. And while we're on the subject...

*They spot the two girls in the mall.*

Lucas – There they are. We found them. Now go and talk to Luiza while I try to distract pain in the neck Ana.

João Pedro – What am I going to talk about though?

Lucas – It’s up to you, my friend. You made me lose my Saturday to come here and you don’t even know what you’ll talk about? Had I known, I’d have stayed home!

João Pedro – You weren’t doing anything at home. You were just snooping into other people’s Facebooks!

Lucas – That is way better than it sounds. But enough talking. Go talk to Luiza once and for all. Get this done with quickly, then we can go buy the videogame you promised!

João Pedro – That’s the only reason you came, wasn’t it? It wasn’t to help me at all.

Lucas – Of course I’m here to help you. I even helped you this morning when I told Ana you and I were also coming here. This way it won’t look like we’re stalking those two. They’ll think it’s a coincidence.

João Pedro – OK. I’m convinced. Let’s move before they vanish into a store.

*They enter the mall and start following the girls.*

## Scene 9

### *Entrance to the mall*

Duda – Davi, are you sure the boys are coming here? How do you know they meant this specific mall?

Davi – I know simply because Lucas called me to tag along. João Pedro wanted to see Luiza and he found out she was coming here today. He’s obsessed with that girl. But how about you? What is this urgency to talk to them? Can’t it wait till Monday? I missed my football match to be here with you. I’m not complaining, mind you. It’s always great to see you...

Duda – Are you serious?

Davi – Of course. I love to see you out of school. I’ve always found you nice, interesting, beautiful... and your company is great anywhere.

Duda – That’s not what I meant. I’m asking if João Pedro is coming here only on account of Luiza.

Davi – Ah... Why are you this interested in João’s crush on Luiza? Are you by any chance...

Duda (*cutting him short*) – I’m not interested in anybody’s crush. I just think he deserves something better. If he’s really into her, that will be such a waste. Luiza is so bland. They’ve got nothing in common!

Davi – I think they are a good match. They are both shy, they are good students and have the same physical type...

Duda – That doesn’t mean anything. Have you never heard that opposites attract? Let’s go. Let’s find them before they find Luiza.

Davi – I should have gone to my football match.

*They enter the mall and look for João Pedro and Lucas.*

Scene 10

*Shopping Mall*

*Ana and Luiza arrive at the front of Eduardo’s store.*

Ana – Look. There he is inside.

Luiza – My... he’s more gorgeous than I remembered...

Ana – Go talk to him.

Luiza – Let’s go to the lady’s room first. I want to check my hair.

Ana – Your hair looks great. Exactly as it does every day. I swear!

Luiza – Let’s get a drink of water then. My mouth is so dry I won’t be able to talk to him.

Ana – Oh, Lu... Let’s get this over with! Look, he’s looking this way. We’ll have to go in now. It will look bad if we run away!

Eduardo (*approaching*) – Hi, girls. You’re really here! I thought you’d said you’d come back today just as a cover up. I thought you didn’t really like the clothes. I’m glad I separated the dresses. How do you want to pay? Cash, check or charge?

Ana – Is it ok if Luiza tries them on again? I think she put on some weight . The clothes may not look as good today as they did yesterday...

Eduardo – Nobody puts on weight overnight. She looks as elegant as she did yesterday. By the way (*to Luiza*), what a great figure you have... Have you ever considered being a model?

Luiza – Me? I’m short, my teeth are a little crooked, I have some tubbies here and ...

Ana (*interrupting*) – Luiza can’t handle compliments. But anyway, even with a model’s figure, she told me she wants to try them on again. Just to be sure. Is that ok?

Eduardo – Sure. Make yourselves comfortable. I’ll get them.

Ana – Luiza, are you nuts? He praises you and you rub all your flaws on his face. If he finds you pretty, why make him change his mind?

Luiza – I was just nervous. An Apollo like that talking about my body... You’re probably right. I really can’t take a compliment!

Ana – What you should be nervous about is trying on 50 new outfits and not having the money to buy even one. You should have a model’s bank account on top of having their figure...

Luiza – We’ll just have to find a tiny accessory to go with my student’s bank account now, won’t we...

Eduardo – Here are the outfits. The fitting room is still in the same place, but today you will come out in the dresses as you try them on, won’t you? After all, it’s not every day that a rising model stops by. I want an exclusive fashion show before you are scouted by the photographers!

*Luiza only smiles uncomfortably and goes with Ana to the fitting room.*

Scene 11

*Shopping Mall*

João Pedro – Look, there they are in that store. They’ve just taken a number of clothes to the fitting rooms.

Lucas – I have an idea. Let’s go in too and browse around, so, when they come out, we’ll already be there. That way, it won’t look like we went in to meet them. It will be like we didn’t know they were there...

João Pedro – But what if Luiza...

Lucas – Go on, João! This is your chance!

*They go in the store and a saleswoman comes to greet them.*

Renata – Hi, can I help you?

Lucas – We’d like to see some clothes...

Renata – Is it for a special occasion?

Lucas – Yes, especially for João Pedro to see the girl he loves.

João Pedro (*elbowing Lucas*) – I... it’s not for me. It’s for a friend of mine. It’s a gift... a birthday gift.

Renata – What does she look like? Chubby, slim... my height?

João Pedro – She’s skinny. And shorter than you. A lot shorter. She comes up to my shoulders.

Renata – OK. I’ll get a few options for you to choose from. Just a sec.

*She walks away. They chat in a corner of the store.*

João Pedro (*whispering*) – I’ll kill you. What if Luiza heard you from in there?

Lucas – Relax! She’s probably too focused looking at herself in the mirror.

*Luiza leaves the fitting room wearing a dress and João Pedro is hypnotized.*

Eduardo – What did I tell you? You managed the impossible... to become even more beautiful!

Luiza – Thanks... It’s the dress. Anyone would look beautiful in it...

Renata – Oh, no, I guarantee that it’s not every girl that would look like this. You look like a top model in that dress!

Eduardo – Didn’t I tell you?

Ana – Aren’t you the saleslady who helped me the first time I came here? I stopped by yesterday to buy it, but it was you day off.

Renata – Too bad you came yesterday. But I’m happy that you bought it. Was it Edu who helped you?

Ana – Yep. Then, Luiza saw this dress and decided to come back today to get it... I mean to try it on again and see if she really wants it.

Eduardo – How could she not want it? This dress looks like it was made for her!

Renata – Absolutely. You look like a diva!

João Pedro (*thinking outloud*) A princess...

Renata – Oh, boys. I apologize. I went for your clothes and got distracted. Actually I was planning to show you that very dress that customer is trying on. What do you think?

Ana – João Pedro? Lucas? What are you doing here?

Renata – Do you know each other? What a coincidence!

Luiza – I'll go change.

Renata – Hold on just a sec. This boy wants to buy a gift for a friend. From what he told me, she has about your figure. Could you turn around, so he can take a better look?

Ana – Better not, or he may faint from passion.

Luiza – Ana!

Eduardo – She's right. You will gather quite a following with the dress. I already am one of them...

Renata – This is the last one. If neither of you takes it, someone will surely get it today. Don't forget Valentine's Day is coming up.

João Pedro – Buy it, Luiza. It looks wonderful on you. I mean, you look wonderful in it. I mean, you are wonderful anyway, but this dress...

Renata – Wow, you really caused a great impact on your friend. He's stuttering!

Luiza (*awkwardly*) – Thanks, João... I love it, but if you liked it, take it for your friend. I'm sure she'll love it too. It is the cutest dress ever...

Eduardo – But if you loved it, why don't you take it? I'm sure Renata will find another cool outfit for your friend to give to his girlfriend.

João Pedro – It's not for my girlfriend!

Lucas (*whispering*) – He wishes...

Luiza – I'll try the others on before I make up my mind.

*Luiza goes into the booth.*

Ana (*to Lucas and João Pedro*) – Here we go. She will try on 500 dresses, they will all look stunning, but she has no money for any of them.

João Pedro – She has no money?

*Duda and Davi enter the store.*

Duda – What’s this? Are you all working on a research paper? What is half our class doing here?

Davi – Quite a coincidence, isn’t it?

Lucas – What do you mean coincidence? Didn’t I tell you we were coming to the mall? You said you couldn’t come along because you had a football match...

Davi – Sure... But it got canceled, so I decided to take a stroll in the mall. Can you believe I didn’t even remember you guys were coming?

Duda – I met him by accident at the door and asked him to help me pick some clothes.

Renata – Oh, so you want to see some clothes. Is it for a special occasion? Can I help?

Ana – You wouldn’t have some spy’s uniform, would you? That one is obviously following Luiza, probably to buy the same clothes. She has no personality of her own!

Duda – Listen here, you...

Davi (*holding Duda back*) – As a matter of fact, I think we’ll try a different store. This one is kind of overcrowded.

Duda – No thanks. I want to stay right here. The mall is a public place and I can go into any store I want. Even the ones with low quality clientele.

Eduardo – Our store has the finest clientele, I’ll let you know. At this very moment, there is a very pretty girl in our fitting rooms. She is as beautiful as any professional model.



Luiza (*leaving the booth*) – I seem to have heard a voice... Davi. I knew it was you. And Duda too? What's going on here? Why has everybody from our class decided to hang out right here?

Eduardo – So, have you tried them on? Are you taking them all, gorgeous?

Luiza – Well, actually...

Eduardo – No problem. Today it will be only the dress. Or, if you want, you can pay in installments and then you can take them all now!

Duda – I'll bet she doesn't have money to buy anything.

Ana – Has anyone asked your opinion?

Renata – Girls, no fighting in here, please. If you have a bone to pick, could you please do it outside?

Ana – Let's go, Lu. You'll come back another day for your clothes. Isn't that a good idea? The store is too crowded today.

Eduardo – You don't need to come back another day. Renata is already helping the other customers. I can finish your purchase in a second. Do you want to buy it in installments?

Luiza – I...

Duda – Ah ha. Didn't I tell you? I'll bet she doesn't even have any money! She must have come here just to hit on the sales guy.

Luiza – You don't know what you're talking about. I'm here to shop for clothes.

Duda – Why are you as red as a lobster then? Why don't you pay straight away if cash is not a problem?

Eduardo (*to Luiza*) – No need to hurry. If you want to check something else. Maybe some accessories. We have amazing purses to go with the dress!

Luiza – Thanks, but the thing is...

Duda – She forgot the wallet at home... Wanna bet that will be her excuse?

Renata (*to Duda*) – Shall we let your friend finish her buying in peace, dear? In the meantime, how about you telling me exactly what it is you're looking for. We have some amazing outfits that will look great on you!

Duda – I've already found what I'm looking for.

Renata – Wonderful! What is it? I can check your size for measure in the stock. How about you boys? Just browsing?

Lucas – Yes. And we're done browsing. We're leaving now, aren't we, João?

João Pedro – Actually, I want to browse some more...

Eduardo – Luiza, you can check the purse in there if you want. If you want to try anything else on... In the meantime, I'll wrap your dress to help move things along.

*Luiza and Ana move away, pretending to be looking at the purse.*

Ana – Luiza, I think you'll have to tell the truth.

Luiza – That Duda is making things worse. If I just say I don't want it, she'll keep repeating I have no money!

Ana – Luiza, forget about Duda. Tell Eduardo you need to think it over. There's no law that you must buy a dress once you've tried it on!

Luiza – I tried it on twice. Duda will insist that I came here just to hit on him and Eduardo will believe her...

Ana – Isn't that the naked truth?

Luiza – It was at first... But I really liked the dress. I felt great in it. I know Eduardo paid me all those compliments just to talk me into buying it, but João Pedro also said I looked pretty in it ... and he looked like he really meant it!

Ana – Luiza, João Pedro finds you beautiful even in the school uniform. By the way, remember when I told you yesterday that...

Duda (*comes by and interrupts*) – Luiza, are you gonna take that dress or not? I saw you wearing it when I was coming in. That’s exactly the one I liked and... I do have the money to buy it, you know?

Ana – Buy it already then. Then you can leave and set us free of your ever so annoying presence. Luiza can surely find another dress that will look great on her. Unlike you!

Luiza – But I want the dress!

Ana (*whispering*) – Wise up, Lu. This is your chance to escape this rock and hard place deal. And you have the extra bonus of having the perfect excuse to come back later and ask if they have received a new batch of dresses.

Luiza (*sadly looking at the dress Eduardo is folding*) – I mean, ok. You buy it, Duda. I don’t mind. After all I liked so many outfits here...

Eduardo – I’ll bet you looked great in all of them. But are you sure? You seemed to like that dress the best.

Luiza (*hesitating*) – I... am sure. Actually, I’ll pick another one another time. It took me so long trying them on that it’s gotten late. I’ll come back with more time...

Duda – What did I say??? I was dead sure that if I offered to buy the dress, she would jump at the opportunity and agree. I only said that to prove my theory.

Luiza doesn’t have the money. And you know what? I will buy that dress now. And every time I wear it, I’ll remember that she is a big fat liar.

Luiza – Why do you hate me so much, Duda? What have I done to you?

Renata (*whispering*) – It's clear as day that you stole her boyfriend. Now she wants to take something that's yours to get even.

Luiza – But I haven't stolen anyone's boyfriend...

João Pedro – Duda, I'm sorry, but I came into the store first. I'm the one who'll buy the dress.

Lucas – What? But I thought that your friend's birthday idea was a fairy tale!

Ana – I must admit I thought the same...

Duda – It's not fair he takes the dress for someone who may not even like it, when I've seen it and loved it!

Renata (*to Duda*) – Sorry, honey, but he did come in first. And you haven't even tried it on... What if it doesn't look good on you?

Ana – I'm sure it wouldn't fit.

Duda – Are you saying I'm fat?!

Renata – So, João Pedro, how would you like to pay? Check or charge?

João Pedro – Cash. Here it is.

Lucas – Wait a second. Isn't that the money for your videogame?

Davi – Of course it isn't. João may be in love with Luiza, but he wouldn't trade a brand new videogame for a gift for her...

Luiza – João may be what?

Ana – Did I get this right? Is João buying the dress for Luiza?

Duda – Of course he isn't doing that!

Luiza – Yes. Of course he isn't. Where did you get that idea? Ana, let's get out of here.

João Pedro – It's my money and I can do whatever I want with it.

Lucas – He is buying the dress for her...

Renata – How cute! Luiza, it's not every day that we find a boy like this, you know? Did you hear that, Eduardo? When do you ever stop buying something for yourself to buy me a gift?

Eduardo – Hey, I've done that. I remember that on our one month anniversary I didn't get myself a Big Mac to buy you a milk-shake!

Renata – Did you hear that, girls? The beginning of a relationship is great. After that he doesn't even remember my birthday!

Luiza – You two go together?

Eduardo – Yeah. Since we were 15. We've been together for six years!

Luiza – But I thought...

Duda – That he would fall for you? Get real, Luiza!

Renata – Here's your invoice and change, João Pedro. Check this out. You still have enough for a sandwich and milkshake!

Lucas – This is a mistake. He doesn't want the dress. Could you give him back his money please?

Renata – After we issue the invoice, you can only exchange it for another product. We have a no refund policy.

Davi – Do you sell Playstation games here?

Duda – You should give me the dress. I guarantee I'd value it more than Luiza! She doesn't care about you!

Davi (to Duda) – And you do?

Duda – Me? No... I mean...

Lucas – I got it! João, it was Duda who sent you the anonymous note. And you spent all that money thinking it was Luiza who did it!

Duda – That’s a lie. I didn’t send anything. Wait a minute... he was going to buy that dress for Luiza because he thought she’d written the love letter?

Ana – What note are you talking about?

Lucas – If it wasn’t you, Duda, how do you know it was a love letter?

Davi (*to Duda*) – You sent a love letter to João Pedro? And I missed my football match because I thought you were interested in me.

Lucas – There must be some customer protection law. We haven’t even left the store yet. You have to give his money back!

João Pedro – Shut up, Lucas. I want the dress!

Lucas – Are you deaf, man? Luiza doesn’t even know you exist. It was Duda who wrote the stupid note!

João Pedro – She hasn’t confirmed that.

Davi – Let’s have it, Duda! Was it you who sent the note they are talking about? So, you were just tricking me to get me to tell you what João Pedro was up to?

Lucas – Why are you so interested, Davi? Are you into Duda or what?

Duda – What if I did send the note? It’s nobody’s business if I did!

Eduardo – I don’t know the whole story, but it’s obvious to me she sent it.

Renata – Listen, kids. I’m thoroughly enjoying the little drama of yours, but could you argue outside? You’re scaring other customers away. Look. There’s a young man at the door looking in. He looks frightened by the commotion.

Lucas – We’ll only leave if you give my friend a refund!

Ana (*whispering to Luiza*) – Let’s go, Lu.

*They go to the door while the others go on discussing vigorously.*

Scene 12

*Shopping Mall*

*Luiza and Ana walk by the store while the man who was looking at the window goes in. The excitement goes on inside. The two talk outside.*

Ana – OMG! What a hullabaloo inside! Well, at least we managed to get out without having to give the real reason why you didn't buy the dress!

Luiza – Do you really think João Pedro was going to buy it for me?

Ana – I'm sure he bought it for you. He practically confessed it. Also, yesterday during class, Lucas told me he was in love!

Luiza – With me?! But he never showed anything.

Ana – He's always showing it. He close to drools every time you walk by. And he sat around you during the test today. He was probably trying to find out what we were doing later. You didn't see it just because Eduardo was clouding your thoughts. And before him, a certain Prince Charming who only exists in your dreams.

Luiza – I should have known the prince would have had a princess...

Ana – Lu, knock it off with the Prince Charming deal. It's so much better to like someone who likes you back. Someone near, someone willing to please you, someone who buys a dress just to make you happy...

Luiza – But I had no idea João Pedro liked me!

Ana – Now you do.

Luiza – But I don't have any feelings for him...

Ana – You haven't even given him a chance. He's cute and nice. Everybody likes him. Some people more than like him, by the way. Duda, for example. Did you see how crazy she is about him? And she isn't stupid. She is in there, flirting, trying to convince the poor boy that she appreciates him much more than you. I'll bet she'll walk out of the store with your dress in a bag...

Luiza – Do you think he'd give up on me that easily?

Ana – Let's look through the window. I'll bet she's charming him right now. It's only a matter of time until he falls for it...

*They look through the window and see something different inside.*

Luiza – Look. Isn't that the guy who went in when we left?

Ana – Yeah. The one who had been looking through the window for a long time, remember?

Luiza – But why is he alone in the store? Where is everybody? I didn't see anyone leaving... Hey, what's that in his hand? Isn't it a...

Ana – It's a gun! Luiza, it's a robbery. He must have forced everyone into the fitting rooms and he's taking the money from the register! Let's hurry out of here before he sees us and forces us in there too. We have to call the police!

Luiza – But what if he leaves the store? We won't know where he is headed. You go get the police and I'll stay here to check where he goes in case he runs away!

Ana – Ok! But stay away; don't let him see you!

*Ana goes call the police and Luiza watches through the window.*

Scene 13



*In the store, the robber gets all the money from the register. When he's putting it in his pocket, Lucas's face appears through the fitting room curtains.*

Lucas – Sir? Could just leave a bit of money in there? It's just that my friend had bought a dress by mistake and we really need the amount he spent. When you came in I had just convinced the saleslady to refund him, my friend had even returned the dress, but then you came in and...

João Pedro (*shows his face*) Lucas, are you crazy? That man is not joking!

Robber – You can bet I'm not. Back inside you two, or else...

*Luiza, as she sees the robber pointing a gun at the boys, starts screaming for help.*

*The robber panics and makes João Pedro a hostage.*

Robber – You come with me, boy. And pray. If anyone stops me, you are screwed!

*He points the gun at João Pedro's head and drags him out of the store, with his arm around the boy's neck. As they leave the store, Luiza screams even louder.*

Luiza – Let him go. The police are coming and you'll be arrested!

Robber – I'll let him go... but only to take you in his place. A defenseless girl has much more appeal than a strong boy. No one will try anything while I have you.

And you'd better shut up if you don't want the end of my gun in your mouth!

*The robber grabs Luiza and lets João Pedro go. He tries to catch his breath for some time. Everybody comes out of the fitting room and come closer to him.*

Lucas – João, are you all right?

Renata – Why did you stick your head out of the fitting room while he was still in the store? That was a stupid thing to do.

Duda – It was Lucas's fault. He got out first! João, speak to me. Can you talk?

Davi – I want my mommy!

Lucas – Where is he taking Luiza?

*João Pedro seems to wake up suddenly and sees the robber carrying Luiza away.*

*(Suggestion: Use the audience space to stage the robber's escape scene).*

João Pedro – Luiza! Luiza, don't worry. I'm coming!

Duda – You're not coming anywhere. Who do you think you are? Superman?

*João Pedro runs after the robber while Ana arrives with a Police Officer.*

Ana – Where is the robber? Where's Luiza?

Davi – The robber took her as hostage.

Lucas – And nutty João Pedro went after them.

Eduardo – They went that way!

*The Police Officer runs after them. Ana tries to follow, but Lucas holds her.*

Lucas – I won't let you risk yourself too, Ana. Stay here. The Police Officer will bring Luiza back.

Ana – How did this happen? Luiza was outside. I told her to come with me get the police, but she wanted to stay and watch the guy!

Lucas – Cool down, Aninha... It will work out!

Ana – Nothing will work out. I will have to call her parents, they will have a heart attack and they will blame me. Actually, it is really my fault. I should have insisted that Luiza come with me.

Lucas – Give me the phone. I'll call. Stop blaming yourself. If there is someone to blame here, it is me. It was my fault he took João. And then Luiza screamed and then...

Davi – Could you call her parents already? They need to know that their daughter is in danger!

*Lucas and Ana move away to make the call while the others look where the Police Officer and the robber have disappeared.*

Scene 14

*Shopping Mall*

*João Pedro is hiding behind a pillar when he sees the Police Officer coming.*

João Pedro – Officer? Are you looking for the robber? That’s him, wearing a backpack, in front of the jewelry. Maybe he’s planning a robbery there now. He did stay a long time looking at the window of the other store too. He must be waiting for the perfect time to go in. The girl he’s holding is Luiza. She not his accomplice, though, just a hostage. He has a gun in his belt and has threatened to kill her if she didn’t stay quiet.

Police Officer – Thanks, kid. I knew he had a hostage. I have to free her without frightening him, because, if he feels threatened, he may take it out on your friend. I’ve asked for backup, but my colleagues are not here yet. If I am to disarm him, the best way is to have someone distract him from the front, while I go from behind and capture him.

João Pedro – I’ll help you. We can’t wait. Look at poor Luiza’s face. She’s dying of fear. She’ll start crying any minute now and he’ll get mad!

Police Officer – No way. You’re just a boy. This job is for professionals. I don’t want to put you in danger too!

João Pedro – I don’t care if he kills me. All I want is to save Luiza. I’ll distract him and you grab him.

*João Pedro runs off before the Police Officer can answer. He stops in front of the robber and starts reciting nursery rhymes.*

João Pedro: “Eeny, meeny, miny, moe. Catch a tiger by the toe. If he hollers, let him go, Eeny, meeny, miny, moe.”

Robber: What the hell?

Luiza: João Pedro?!

João Pedro:

“Mary had a little lamb,  
whose fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
the lamb was sure to go.”

Robber: Are you crazy, boy? If you don’t leave here now, I’ll...

João Pedro:

“Little Miss Muffet sat on a buffet  
Eating her curds and whey,  
Along came a spider,  
Who sat down beside her  
And frightened Miss Muffet away.”

Robber: That’s wrong. Miss Muffet didn’t sit on a bouffet. She sat on a tuffet.  
Didn’t your teacher teach you that?

*The Police Officer takes advantage of the robber’s distraction and grabs him from behind. He pushes Luiza away to get his gun. She slips. João Pedro holds her before she falls.*

João Pedro – I got you. Now get away from here. I’ll help the policeman.

Luiza – No, João Pedro, no! He’s dangerous.

*The Police Officer immobilizes the robber by the neck and tries to take the gun from him. The robber raises his arm to aim the gun, but the moment he puts his finger on the trigger, João Pedro starts to tickle him. People scream, but the robber starts to twitch and jerk. The Police Officer manages to get hold of the gun. Next, he handcuffs the robber.*

Police Officer – Are you crazy, boy? Never do that again!

João Pedro – But it worked!

Police Officer – He could have killed you.

Robber – No I couldn't. It's a toy gun...

João Pedro and Police Officer – What?!

*The Police Officer confirms it's really a toy gun.*

Robber – All I wanted was to give my girlfriend a present. Valentine's Day is coming and I had no money for a gift!

Police Officer – So you decided to steal? Now your girlfriend will have to visit you in jail!

*The robber goes on whining while the Police Officer takes him from the Mall.*

Scene 15

*Shopping Mall*

João Pedro (*comes to Luiza*) – Are you all right? I was so worried...

Luiza – I am, thanks to you! João, I don't know what to say...

Luiza's mother (*comes running*) – Baby! Are you all right?

Luiza's father – What has that criminal done to you? Did he hurt you?

Luiza – He didn't do anything. He used me as a shield, to protect himself from other people. But João Pedro and the officer saved me.

*Ana and Lucas come running.*

Lucas – They're alive!

Ana – Luiza, are you all right?

Luiza – I'm great... But can we go home now? I won't be all right in a minute if one more person asks me if I'm all right!

Luiza's father – Yes, let's go home. You'll never come to this mall again, you hear?

Luiza – Don't overreact, dad! Nothing happened. The poor thief was only trying to be romantic...

Ana – Bye, Lucas. I'll go to Luiza's house. Thanks for the help. Thanks a lot for calling Luiza's parents. And for calming me down.

Lucas – Don't mention it, Ana. It was my pleasure.

Ana – We'll talk on Facebook, ok?

*Luiza and Ana say goodbye to their classmates and go away with Luiza's parents.*

João Pedro (*to Lucas*): I'm beginning to understand why you spend so much time on Facebook...

Lucas (*laughing and pushing João Pedro*) – Leave me alone.

João Pedro – Where are Davi and Duda?

Lucas - Duda left after you ran after Luiza even though you knew she was the one who sent the note.

João Pedro – I'll talk to her. I wish I liked her, but the heart wants what it wants...

Lucas – Don't worry about it. Davi went after her. He seemed pretty intent on consoling the girl... He even forgot all about his football game.

João Pedro – Hey, talking about games. How about going home for a Playstation match?

Lucas – Cool!

Final scene

*Classroom*

*All the students are around Luiza, interested in her adventures at the mall.*

Luiza – ... but in the end, everything worked out thanks to João Pedro!

João Pedro – That's not true. I didn't do anything...

Luiza – Yes, you did. If he hadn't distracted the robber, the Police Officer wouldn't have managed to get him. And it was João who held me. I would have fallen hard on that floor when the robber let me go...

Lucas (*to João Pedro*) – Now you are a hero, man. But you'd better not try to fly. You're no Superman!

João Pedro – Yes, but it was you who got the girl. I'm not blind to the glances you and Ana are exchanging. I should have known all that bickering was a sign of love!

Lucas – Yeah, we do get along online. Now we must go from virtual to real. While we are on the subject, would you mind trading seats with her?

João Pedro – Of course not. It suits me too. Then I'll have a chance to talk to Luiza. It's been hard around all these people...

*The teacher enters the class and the students go to their seats.*

João Pedro – Luiza, can I sit next to you today?

Luiza – Of course you can, João.

Math teacher – Listen up, silence. I know the excitement is because some of your colleagues witnessed a robbery at the mall, but I want you to calm down. It's

normal to be curious, but you'll have to wait till the break to talk to them about it!

*The teacher turns to the board to start writing.*

Luiza – João, I'd like to thank you again... You may think you didn't do much, but seeing you at that moment, with the gun pointed at me, you were the best sight I had in my life. I thought that man was going to kill me. I couldn't believe it when I saw you running towards him... You saved me!

João Pedro – I couldn't leave you there. I wouldn't bear if he did anything to you. I'm glad it all worked out... I mean almost everything.

Luiza – What didn't?

João Pedro – I lost the dress. I went back to get it later, but it had been sold. I really wanted to give it to you...

Luiza – You didn't need to. I ended up getting something much better...

João Pedro – What?

Luiza - You.

*He smiles to her and they kiss. All the students in the class celebrate, except for Duda, who looks angry.*

Math teacher – What's going on? Don't you know it's against the rules to display affection in class? Do you think that simply because it's Valentine's Day we are going to change the rules? Luiza and João Pedro, this is the first and last warning: next time I see something like that, I'll send both of you to the principal's office!

*João Pedro and Luiza smile to each other and, as soon as the teacher turns around, they hold hands under their desk. Duda folds her arms and sighs.*

Davi – Sad, Duda baby?

Duda – I'm outraged. Why can everybody have a happy end but me?



Davi (*gets a pack from his bag*) – Maybe this will cheer you up?

*She opens the pack and sees the dress Luiza had tried on in the store.*

Duda – You bought the dress? For me?

Davi – I know you said you wanted it just to piss Luiza, but I’m sure it will look better on you than on her. Then I thought you might like it...

*Duda grabs Davi and kisses him. After the kiss, Davi leans back and smiles.*

Davi – I guess you do like it...

*They kiss again and the class applauds and cheers.*

Math teacher – What’s this. Didn’t I just say this is forbidden in class? What is going on here? Has Cupid been hitting you all with his arrows? I’ll give you one minute to settle down. If anyone wants to declare their love, do it now or forever hold his peace!

Lucas – Ana, I’ve been thinking...

Ana – No time to think. We only have a minute!

Lucas – But I’d like...

*She shuts him up with a kiss. The class applauds and cheers, including the Math teacher.*

**THE END**