

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“But You’ll Be Fine” from *The Pact*
Music by Derrick Byars, Lyrics by Tia DeShazor

SHOW SYNOPSIS

When a group of best friends finally keep their promise to meet up in New York City for a raucous reunion weekend - friendships are rekindled, loyalties are tested, and life-choices are questioned in this Musical Comedy that examines barriers to intimacy in interracial friendships. Shaylene, Elise, arrive at the Harlem home of their longtime friend Kori and realize that their fourth friend, Beth has not been invited to the reunion. *The Pact* is a funny look at how women (three black, one white), who come from the same neighborhood and same economic background grow up to relate to each other -or not- in today's America. Does geography, politics, race and economic realities affect sisterhood and do they still have enough in common to remain BFFs? These friends won't give up without a fight, but are all friendships worth fighting for?

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

Elise is set to leave for New York for a reunion weekend with her oldest friends. It's a much needed trip away from her precocious ten-year-old twin girls. Although she wants to let her hair down and forget her cares, she has a bubbling up of fresh worries as she prepares her white friend Beth to take her girls to rural Vermont. She is trying to make her friend understand a situation she will never fully be able to grasp, that being a black girl is a fragile state of being, and should be handled with care and attention to details that only Black women can truly understand. She is trying to do this without offending her friend, who she knows has the best of intentions. This scene begins in Elise's foyer when she lets herself in (after the girls have gone to the car) and continues on the porch and by cell phone at the end. When performing the scene it's helpful to use the mentioned props (sunscreen, Band-aids) and at the very least the phone for the final section.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Black/African-American Female in her 30s. Elise is the fun, outgoing, peacemaker of the group of friends. Even so, she carries the trauma of being othered in predominantly white spaces through her childhood and adulthood. Thus, she easily loses her easy-going demeanor at the possibility of her daughters being in harm's way. She can't go have a good time until she is sure Beth understands her. Soprano/Belt C4 - F5

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Pay close attention to how the song escalates both lyrically and musically. Not only in each stanza but also the overall song.