

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Catch Me” from *She Reached for Heaven* *Music and Lyrics by Oliver Houser*

SHOW SYNOPSIS

On the outside, high school junior Jes Holt is doing everything she’s supposed to: she’s co-captain of the cheer team, the best student in her class and is on track to win the prestigious merit scholarship. On the inside, Jes has never felt more alone. It’s the one-year anniversary of her mother’s passing, and Jes feels unable to connect with her best friend, Heather, and her father, Blake, about the loss of her mom.

When Jes sprains her arm during cheer practice and is prescribed oxycodone as a pain reliever, she meets the charming and affable Cody, who we soon discover is the personification of oxycodone itself. As Jes begins prioritizing her relationship with Cody, her grades and other relationships deteriorate until her life is all but ruined. After being arrested for theft and possession of heroin, Jes engages in the grueling process of getting clean in rehab. But a bitter argument with her dad prompts Jes to flee and reconnect with Cody.

Jes overdoses, but Blake finds her body and expresses remorse for not opening up to her about the loss of her mother, who is revealed to have died as a result of alcohol addiction. Jes’s soul hears him and expresses her desire for another chance at life. Just as she appears to have died, Heather arrives with Naloxone and revives Jes just in time.

Jes connects and makes amends with the people in her life. As time accelerates, she volunteers at the rehab clinic, her dad escorts her down the aisle to get married, and she cradles a newborn in her arms. While aware of Cody’s pull every day, Jes is now resolved to choose connection and embrace life in all its pain, beauty, complexity and joy.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

“Catch Me” occurs early in Act I. It’s the one-year anniversary of Jes’s mother’s death. Jes is hurting but doesn’t feel comfortable opening up to the people closest to her. She has just had a lackluster morning with her dad, who is focused on positivity and avoids talking about the anniversary of Jes’s mom’s death. This is followed by an unfulfilling conversation with her best friend and fellow co-captain of the cheer team, Heather. Jes feels completely alone even when surrounded by others, and is desperate for the kind of intimate connection that has eluded her since her mother’s passing. The song is an inner monologue, and begins while Jes is alone in the locker room before cheer practice. It is an urgent cry for someone—anyone—to meet that burning human need for connection and love that we all share.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

JES - 17 years old, alto/mezzo. (F#3 - D5) Jes is sensitive, empathetic and introspective, and feels like an outsider despite seemingly fitting in.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

To create a dynamic performance arc, you might explore beginning this song intimately, as if Jes is afraid to say these words aloud for the first time, and letting it grow into an all-out plea for connection by the end of the song. You might imagine that Jes is calling out and singing to her fellow cheerleaders, none of whom are able to hear her.