

THE HURRICANE PLAY

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Book by Jonelle Robinson

CHARACTERS:

THE SCIENCE PEOPLE

DR. HOOD – owner of The Hurricane Lab, evil.

THE PUPPY FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCE – a dog, loves purple.

SUZY THE SCIENTIST – a genius, fresh out of grad school.

THE WEATHERMAN – talks to people through screens.

THE HURRICANES

HURRICANE MARIAH – a diva.

HURRICANE KENNY G – has big feelings, plays the sax.

HURRICANE CHER – the wise one, has a tambourine.

HURRICANE USHER – the dancer.

THE FLORIDIANS

SHEILA – The mom, extravagant.

BILL – The dad, conservative.

RIVER – The sibling, a vegan anti-capitalist and environmentalist. They are sometimes referred to as “Dylan.”

BETTE – The aunt, Sheila’s sister. Also extravagant.

SETTINGS:

The Hurricane Lab in Gowanus, Brooklyn

An Olive Garden in Boca Raton, Florida

SCENE 1

Suzy opens her phone to check the news and The Weatherman pops up.

SONG 1: HURRICANE

Music starts. Cast enters. Weatherman speaks:

WEATHERMAN:

This just in!

There are massive hurricanes terrorizing England, New Hampshire, Boca Raton, Florida, and...
Brooklyn!

(Disco - It's Raining Men - feel)

ALL:

Ahhhh!!!!!!

It's a hurricane!

We need to hide!

A Hurricane!

Coming down the pike!

A hurricane (2,3)...and it's scaring - the neighborhood -
the whole neighborhood!

4 HURRICANES:

We're hurricanes!

No one is safe!

We're hurricanes!

We got something to say!

We're hurricanes! We'll blow you away!

And we're up to no good!

(2 bar transition)

Bridge:

They're swirly! They're twirly!

They churn up the sea!

They're swirly! They're twirly!

They tear up the trees!

They 'cause massive blackouts and make all the freezers turn off!

.....

So you can't eat the ice cream!

The ice cream melts
I can't live without ice cream!
This is awful!
We're out of ice cream!
Noooooooooooo!!!!

(2 bar disco transition)

WEATHERMAN:

This just in!

Hurricane Cher is flying over Boca Raton!

Cher: *(Whoa! {See Sean Hayes impression})*

WEATHERMAN:

Hurricane Usher is flying over New Hampshire!

Usher: *(Does dance moves)*

WEATHERMAN:

Hurricane Mariah is terrorizing England!

Mariah: *(hits a High E {Can use whistle - Prince blocks their ears})*

WEATHERMAN:

Hurricane Kenny G is destroying Brooklyn!

Kenny G: *(blows sax)*

ALL:

Ahhhh!!!!!!

It's a hurricane!

We need to hide!

A Hurricane!

Coming down the pike!

A hurricane (2,3)...and it's scaring - the neighborhood -
the whole neighborhood!

(1,2)

It's a hurricane!

(Note: During the final chorus, Dr. Hood and The Puppy Formerly Known as Prince trap The Hurricanes!)

WEATHERMAN:

On a brighter note, it's Suzy's first day at The Hurricane Lab! Good luck today, kiddo!

SUZY:

Thank you! I'm a little nervous. If this job doesn't work out, I'll have to go back to Boca...

WEATHERMAN:

You've got this. You interned for NASA, for crying out loud!

SUZY:

You're right. I've got this.

WEATHERMAN:

You do! And if you need me, I'm just a click and a swipe away.

(Suzy smiles and puts her phone away as The Weatherman exits. She fixes her clothes and confidently walks over to Dr. Hood as he tampers with The Hurricanes.)

DR. HOOD:

(mumbles to self) Arggg... I just can't seem to figure this thing out!

PRINCE:

(says dryly) Oh dear. *(puts on purple PPE and takes a few steps back, warns Suzy)* You may want to stand back.

(The contraption creates a mini explosion that makes Dr. Hood's hairs stand up. The Hurricanes laugh. Dr. Hood shoots them a look and they become silent. Prince growls at them.)

PRINCE:

(hands Dr. Hood a towel) Here ya go.

(Dr. Hood grabs the towel and wipes his face, then turns to see Suzy standing there smiling and waving.)

SUZY:

Hi there, I'm Suzy the Scientist. It's my / first day!

DR. HOOD:

First day. Yes, *I know*. I'm / Dr. Hood.

SUZY:

Dr. Hood! Yes, *I know!* I'm a huge fan! I studied you in grad school. *(Suzy sees the hurricanes in their vessels.)* Wow! So these are the Hurricanes?

PRINCE:

They are! And soon there will be more.

DR. HOOD:

We heroically take hurricanes off the streets!

PRINCE:

So we can study them.

DR. HOOD:

And it is *very* important that they stay trapped... uh, I mean, *contained* in their vessels. They are highly destructive! Don't you see how dangerous they are?!

(Mariah files her nails, Kenny is napping, Usher is making up a dance, Cher is reading a philosophy book. Actors can come up with their own actions, too!)

SUZY:

They look pretty calm to me.

DR. HOOD:

What!!! They are mean and aggressive, and they destroy things! (To Prince) At least they do in my lab findings... *(winks to a "ding")*

(Dr. Hood gives Prince a treat.)

DR. HOOD: (To Suzy) Whatever you do, you must remember to never let them out! In the name of science! They might try to convince you otherwise.

SUZY:

Oh.

DR. HOOD:

Now for your first task: fix the Thing-a-ma-jig.

SUZY:

The Thing-a-ma-jig?

DR. HOOD:

The Thing-a-ma-jig. If it works, it will make the hurricanes stronger than they've ever been! This device will be worth *(like Dr. Evil*)* One Million Dollars. *(to Prince)* Then I will sell the Thing-a-ma-jig and we will become rich and famous!

SUZY:

Me? Famous?!

DR. HOOD:

Uh.. *that's right!* I will... say that you helped me.

PRINCE:

Just think of what this will do for your career!

(They are obviously lying but Suzy is too naive. Her eye's light up)

DR. HOOD:

You've got until Monday.

SUZY:

Can I have a few more days? I'm going to Florida this weekend for my mom's 65th birthday!

DR. HOOD:

(nervous, needs Suzy) But you have to help me! That's why I hired you, I can't do this alone!!!
(beat) I mean... I need people who are *dedicated* to science! If you are not cut out for this work, I can simply find someone else.

PRINCE:

Deuces.

(They walk away, slowly...)

SUZY:

Wait! I'm sure my mom will understand.

DR. HOOD:

Very good. *(To Prince)* Come along, Prince. Let's leave Suzy to her task.

(Dr. Hood and Prince exit, Suzy sits.)

SUZY:

What am I going to do? My mom will be so upset.

MARIAH:

Do you mind?

SUZY:

Ah!!

MARIAH:

You were sitting on my train. Rude.

SUZY:
You can talk?!

KENNY G.:
Typical human. Thinks they're the only ones who can riff.

USHER:
Or dance!

SUZY:
I'm sorry, I didn't know.

CHER:
Hey, everyone, snap out of it! She's new here, *give her a chance*. (to Suzy) So you want to be a famous scientist, huh?

SUZY:
Well my dream is to fight climate change! That's why I became a scientist, to make the world a better place.

CHER:
And how do you plan to do that with someone as *corrupt* as Dr. Hood?

SUZY:
Pardon me?

MARIAH:
Darling, we were captured against our will and put here to be studied. Like lab rats, ugh.

CHER:
If only I could turn back time, I would've never blown near Brooklyn! Suzy, you can make this right. All you have to do is release us.

KENNY G.:
Use the key! Dr. Hood carries it around his neck.

SUZY:
I don't know, Dr. Hood said you were dangerous. He warned me about this.

USHER:
You trust Dr. Hood?! That man is evil.

KENNY G.:

Everything that man says about us is simply not true! Ohhh it makes me so mad!!!

CHER:

Take a deep breath. You don't want to get angry, you'll prove those humans right.

SUZY:

Why didn't you say this before?

KENNY G.:

Hurricane J-Lo was the last to say something. The very next day, she was *gone*.

(Mariah rolls her eyes, they have a feud)

CHER:

They sent her back to the Bronx.

USHER:

I don't wanna go to the Bronx!

MARIAH:

Well now you know the truth, darling.

HURRICANES:

Will you help us?

(Beat)

SUZY:

I'm sorry, I can't. I really need this job.

CHER:

Your mom's not gonna be happy!

SUZY:

What choice do I have? I'll explain everything. But now, it's time to fix this Thing-a-ma-jig!

SCENE 2

(It is the evening before Sheila's 65th birthday and they are celebrating at an Olive Garden.)

SONG 2 - EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Intro:

**We've worked up a sweat
With our power walking --
Tennis playing --
Day!!!!!!**

**Now we gotta transition
as only we can do,
it's the Boca Floridian
way!**

**Put on your best white pants -
Don your fav'rite Hawaiian shirt
We're gonna let loose and conga outta here.
(come on shake your body, baby do that conga!)
Hurry, get out of our way!**

Chorus:

**It's the early bird special!
Get in the car!
Special!
It's not too far,
But traffic may be awful
We can't be late
It's our favorite early bird spe-cial!**

verse:

**Order before 7 o'clock
For the best wedge salad on the block!
The Soup du jour
And filet of sole
Will only cost you 13 bucks!**

Bill: Actually, \$12.99, if you want to be accurate.

Sheila and Bette: Oh, Bill! You know what we mean.

River: Why does he always hafta do that!

**It's the early bird special!
We can't wait
Special!
It's gonna be great
We gotta parking spot
And won't be late
For our favorite early bird special!**

We miss our Suzie!
River: what about me?
**She's got so many, so many degrees
We don't have favorites,
but Suzie is our favorite
She's the smartest in the family**

And she's missing ...

**The early bird special!
Sheila's birthday-eve!
Special!
Oh how we grieve
The absence of our Suzie
We can't believe
she's missing
the early bird special!**

Conga Tag:
**And tomorrow we celebrate
Sheila's
65th
birthday!
Happy Birthday
Everyone!
Conga!
Everyone
Conga!
Ain't that special?!**

(Folks are conga-ing! We see The Weatherman on the monitor.)

WEATHERMAN:

And there you have it, folks! Sunny skies for Sheila's birthday weekend! Sending my warmest regards!

SHEILA:

(flattered) Ohh! Well you've definitely made this early bird feel special! Thank you!!! Wow, almost 65! (*in awe of her fabulousness*)

BETTE:

And not lookin' a day over 50! Is it hot in here or is it just *Sheila*?!

SHEILA:

Oh, Bette! I guess I get my glow from spendin' time with the folks I love most. (*to River*) Well, that and good genes.

RIVER:

What's wrong with my jeans?

BETTE:

(*checks list*) Let's see... for tomorrow's big birthday bash, we have bingo! We have congaaa!

SHEILA:

But we don't have Suzy. Huh. She shoulda been here hours ago. (*to WEATHERMAN*) Have you seen her?

WEATHERMAN:

Well no, I guess I haven't.

SHEILA:

Ok now I'm worried. This doesn't sound like my Suzy, to be late for her own mother's birthday weekend. And no word from her, either.

BETTE:

Oh, I'm sure she's on her way. Here, come! We have something special just for you!

SHEILA:

Oh!

(*They seat Sheila for a surprise.*)

BETTE:

Sooooo remember those blackouts we had back in June? And the freezers turned off, which melted all the ice cream?

WEATHERMAN:

The Boca Blackout! A devastating time for us all.

BILL:

And all because of those gosh darn Hurricanes! They caused the blackouts, ya know!

RIVER:

Dad!!! That's not true, it's propaganda!

BETTE:

Well, whatever the cause may have been, it turns out that someone saved a little ice cream before it disappeared!

SHEILA:

(in disbelief) No!

BETTE:

Oh yes.

(She signals River to get the coveted "ice cream bucket with a single candle." The Weatherman puts on a birthday hat through the screen.)

ALL:

Happy birthday Sheila / Mom !!!!!

SHEILA (IMMA):

Oh! I never thought I'd see ice cream again! How on earth were you able to get this?

(Everyone points to Bill, he waves)

SHEILA:

That's why we call him Bill, cause he always foots it. Thank you, my dear!

RIVER:

Make a wish, mom. May I suggest giving back rightful land to the indiginous?

SHEILA:

That sounds nice! But I'm wishing for Suzy to hurry up and get here. I haven't seen her in so long, my smart Suzy...

(She shuts her eyes for a few seconds and makes her wish, then she takes a deep breath and blows out her candles.)

BETTE:

I hope you get your wish, Sheila. *(to all)* Ice cream, anyone?

SHEILA:
(crying) Oh!!!!

RIVER:
I don't buy into capitalism! And it's RIVER, not Dylan!!! I changed my name in solidarity years ago!

BILL:
Cry me a *River*, Dylan!!!

BETTE:
What is all this fighting? *We should* be celebrating my sister's birthday!

SHEILA:
I don't feel like celebrating. I feel like traveling. To Brooklyn. Who's coming with me???

BILL:
Sheila. I understand that you are upset, but I think you may be overreacting.

SHEILA:
Uh-uh. My gut tells me something is wrong. I'm seeing the smoke signals, and where there's smoke, there's fire. (to Weatherman) Isn't that right?

WEATHERMAN:
That's technically true.

SHEILA:
Well that settles it.

BILL:
What is settling? The smoke? I don't get this metaphor.

SHEILA:
We're going to Brooklyn!!!

(Sheila exits. Everyone follows her except for The Weatherman, who waves goodbye).

SCENE 3

(The Hurricane Lab. Prince is eating "Raspberry Beret Caviar" as Dr. Hood plays with buttons and levers. We hear "lightning" and Prince hides)

DR. HOOD:

Oh, don't worry about that. Just a little purple rain. But soon I will unleash these violent hurricanes and they will wreak havoc on Brooklyn!!! All I need is the Thing-a-ma-jig.

PRINCE:

The Thing-a-ma-jig?

DR. HOOD:

The Thing-a-ma-jig. It will make them strong by taking away the very thing that makes them special – their words! Without them, they won't be able to sing or express themselves, and that will make them angry and aggressive!

PRINCE:

(impressed) No!

DR. HOOD:

Oh yes. Get ready to party like it's 1999!

(Dr. Hood pulls a lever and we hear more lightning. They both laugh / howl maniacally!)

DR. HOOD and PRINCE:

Muahahahahah / Oooooowwwwwwww

MARIAH:

(to Hurricanes) Are you all hearing this?! I need my words! I can't sing without it!

USHER:

How will we talk to each other?

KENNY G.:

And how will I describe how I'm feeling?? You know I have some big feelings!!!

CHER:

Stay calm! I have a plan, I'll reason with him. *(to DR. HOOD)* Hey! This is injustice! First you trap us here and tell the world we're bad when we're not, and now you want to take our words?!

DR. HOOD:

And also take credit for your work. Don't forget that part.

MARIAH:
That is cruel, even for you.

USHER:
Let us go. Please!

DR. HOOD:
Your boo hooing bores me. Ask again and I'll send you where the sun don't shine!

HURRICANES:
(gasp) The Bronx!

(Suzy enters)

SUZY:
Dr. Hood! I have the Thing-a-ma-jig!!!

DR. HOOD:
Already?! But...but how?! I've been working on that thing for years!

PRINCE:
How does it work?

(Suzy puts the Thing-a-ma-jig in place. Note: the actors decide what it looks like!)

SUZY:
All I need is some lightning to give it electricity. That should make it turn on.

(Dr. Hood uses his levers and buttons to make lightning! It hits the contraption, turning it on! The Hurricanes lose their words. They get angry and are violently stewing in their vessels! Dr. Hood and Prince are ecstatic, and Suzy is horrified! Prince holds up a purple umbrella and Dr. Hood puts on a parka.)

DR. HOOD:
YES!!!!

HURRICANES:
NOOOOOO-mmm-mmmmm-mmmmm!!!!

SUZY:
I don't understand, what's going on?

PRINCE:

They are being silenced. Prepare for the storm.

SUZY:

The storm?!

(Suzy takes out her phone and The Weatherman pops up)

WEATHERMAN:

Suzy! There you are! Listen, catastrophic storms are about to be released in your area!

SUZY:

You never said the Thing-a-ma-jig would hurt the hurricanes!!! You're not a good man.

DR. HOOD:

Who do I look like, Charlie Brown? *(to Prince)* It's time!!!

(The Floridians enter with party paraphernalia. Sheila has tupperware with food.)

SONG 3: DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN *(to be sung right before the release of the hurricanes)*

Chorus:

IT'S DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
IT'S HIS EVIL PLAN!

Verse:

HE'S USING THE HURRICANES
FOR DISRUPTION
RILING THEM UP
FOR DESTRUCTION

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT
PEOPLE OR STUDIES
ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS
FAME AND MONEY
FAME AND MONEY
FAME AND MONEY!!!!!!

Chorus:

IT'S DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!

IT'S HIS EVIL PLAN!

Verse:

CHER AND MARIAH,
KENNY, AND USHER'S
VOICES AND SWAGGER
LEAVE A LOT TO UNCOVER -

TAKE THEIR VOICES
AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
ANGER AND HURT!
A HURRICANE ATTACK!
A HURRICANE ATTACK!
A HURRICANE ATTACK!

Chorus:

IT'S DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
DR. HOOD'S EVIL PLAN!
IT'S HIS EVIL PLAN!

underscore:

Dr. Hood:

I now release these evil hurricanes out into the world! Mwah ha ha!!!!

(like Ghostbusters, the hurricanes are unleashed to fly throughout the land!)

Suzy and family:

Nooooooooooooo!!!! You're better than that, hurricanes!

Cher, Mariah, Kenny G, Usher, we connected!

We understood each other!

If only there was a way you could express your feelings in a different way!

(lightbulb goes off!)

With your words!

We must give you back your words!

(Underscore ends. End of song)

(During the song, Dr. Hood grabs the Thing-a-ma-jig and uses his key to release the hurricanes.)

SHEILA:
SUZY!!!!!!!!!!!!

SUZY:
Mom?! How did you get here?

BETTE:
We hopped on a party bus!

SHEILA:
Not even a phone call on your own mother's birthday?!

RIVER:
I think there are bigger things for us to focus on right now!!!

DR. HOOD:
Looks like it's time to skadaddle. Enjoy your stay in Brooklyn! *(to Suzy, menacingly)* And thank you. For *everything*.

(Dr. Hood and Prince exit, and they take the Thing-a-ma-jig with them. Chaos ensues!)

SUZY:
Ok everyone, don't panic! I will fix this!

SHEILA:
We will fix this, dear!

BETTE:
We can accomplish anything when we work together!

RIVER:
What if you made another Thing-a-ma-jig?

SUZY:
But this time it can give them back their words! Brilliant! Hmm.. I'll need more lightning.

WEATHERMAN:
I can help with that!

(The Floridians work together to make Thing-a-ma-jig 2, an improved version! They use theatre magic to build the machine within seconds!)

SUZY:
Here goes nothing. *(to Weatherman)* Ready?

WEATHERMAN:

I'm ready when you are, kiddo!

SUZY:

And...

ALL:

3... 2... 1... GO!

(The Weatherman releases a lightning strike that activates Thing-a-ma-jig 2. The words come back to The Hurricanes and they turn into gentle breezes, floating in the sky. The device also affects River and Bill. and they start to communicate effectively!)

RIVER:

Dad? I feel the sudden urge to tell you what's on my mind.

BILL:

I feel the same urge.

RIVER:

I wish that you could accept me just as I am! It hurts my feelings that you don't.

BILL:

River, I just want what's best for you! I wasn't thinking about your feelings. I'm sorry.

(River and Bill hug)

BETTE:

Looks like your Thing-a- whatever it's called worked on Bill and River!

WEATHERMAN:

Good job, kiddo!

SUZY:

Thanks but it was a group effort. We built this Thing-a-ma-jig *together*.

MARIAH:

(floating) Oh, thank you darling! It's so nice to have my words back! But now my hair is a mess, where is my Glam?!

CHER:

I never thought I'd see the day where Cher gets silenced! You did a good thing.

USHER and KENNY G.:

(Usher does a dance) We're proud of you, Suzy.

WEATHERMAN:

Breaking news!!! This just in: Dr. Hood and The Puppy Formerly Known as Prince have been captured at the New Jersey state line!

(Enter a defeated Dr. Hood and Prince)

ALL (except for Dr. Hood and Prince):

Yayyy!!!!!!

SONG 4. FINALE: WE CAN WEATHER ANY STORM

Verse:

If you silence a diva
Or put a tiger in a cage
Put baby in the corner
All you'll get is rage

But if you take time to listen
Hear what we have to say
That anger can change to healing
And make a better day

Chorus:

Never let someone take away your voice
Our feelings are valid - from our sorrow to our joy
Be curious.
Ask questions
That's how we transform
When we use our voice and work together
we can weather any storm

Verse:

A hurricane wreaking havoc,
A dog that's eaten your shoes
a child sulking in the corner
Think of those as clues

If you take time to listen
Hear what we have to say
That anger can change to healing
And make a better day

Chorus:

Never let someone take away your voice
Our feelings are valid - from our sorrow to our joy
Be curious.
Ask questions
That's how we transform
When we use our voice and work together
we can weather any storm

(key change)

Never let someone take away your voice
Our feelings are valid - from our sorrow to our joy
Be curious.
Ask questions
That's how we transform
When we use our voice and work together
we can weather any storm
we can weather any storm
we can weather any storm
we can weather any storm!!!!

The end!