MEARTH

Book by Jonelle Robinson

Music by Lawrence Rush

BCT Youth Advisors: Sage Lewis and Nola Krug

CHARACTERS

GALAXY CREW

JUPITER - Likes the finer things in life; sceptical of everyone AL - Loves to eat!

TUBY - Knowledgeable; believes in facts and science

MUSHROOMIANS

CHANTERELLE - Manager of Produce
SHIITAKE - Assistant Manager of Produce
BUTTON FOSTER - Broadway Star
MOREL - Nervous Intern
PORTOBELLO - Loves to eat!

CLOUDS

CUMULUS - loves to make jokes! STRATUS - has very dry humor NIMBO - sensitive; just wants everyone to get along

TROLLS

MAYOR THAYER - Mayor of Troll Towers THEO - Assistant to Mayor Thayer TERRY - Mayor Thayer's child

DRAW YOUR CHARACTER BELOW!

SCENE 1 -- WELCOME TO MEARTH!

(Mushroom Village, Daytime)

SONG 1 -- BEYOND THE HORIZON

(AII) - OUT BEYOND THESE WALLS OUT THERE IN THE UNIVERSE I KNOW THERE MUST BE NEW WORLDS TO EXPLORE

SOMEWHERE SOMETHING CALLS
CALLS US TO THE UNIVERSE
CALLS US ALL TO SEARCH FOR SOMETHING MORE

WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL FIND THERE WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL LEARN SO MANY HAVE MADE THE JOURNEY NOW IT'S OUR TURN

WE'RE GOING OUT BEYOND THE HORIZON
WE'RE TRAVELING SOMEWHERE NEAR THE STARS
WE'LL FIND NEW WORLDS WE ONLY DREAMED OF
WITH RAINBOW SKIES AND FLYING CARS

WE'RE GOING OUT BEYOND THE HORIZON
TO LEAVE BEHIND THE THINGS WE KNOW
AND LEARN NEW THINGS, WE'LL DO THINGS AND VIEW THINGS
BEYOND THE HORIZON

(Solo) - BUT WHAT IF WE GET LOST (Solo) - AND WHAT IF WE GET DIRTY (Solo) - I PROMISE YOU IT WILL BE WORTH THE COST WHEN YOU ARE SEEING THINGS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

(AII) - TIME TO MAKE A START TIME TO SEE THE UNIVERSE GRAB ALL YOUR BAGS OUR ROCKETSHIP AWAITS

GOODBYE, ALL WE KNOW HELLO, GREAT BIG UNIVERSE WHATEVER'S NEXT, WE'LL LEAVE IT TO THE FATES

EVERYTHING IS READY

SOON WE'LL SEE OUR HOUSES DOWN BELOW ONE, TWO, THREE, AND BLASTOFF AND HERE WE GO

WE'RE GOING OUT BEYOND THE HORIZON
WE'RE TRAVELING SOMEWHERE NEAR THE STARS
WE'LL FIND NEW WORLDS WE ONLY DREAMED OF
WITH RAINBOW SKIES AND FLYING CARS

WE'RE GOING OUT BEYOND THE HORIZON
TO LEAVE BEHIND THE THINGS WE KNOW
AND LEARN NEW THINGS
(LEARN NEW THINGS)
WE'LL DO THINGS
(WE'LL DO THINGS)
AND VIEW THINGS
(AND VIEW THINGS)
BEYOND THE HORIZON

(A giant spaceship adorned with blinking lights lands on a grassy field that sits below mossy mountains, blue skies and bluer rivers, a golden sun and white, decadent clouds. THE GALAXY CREW exits the ship, fascinated by this new (to them!) world.)

JUPITER: So, *this* is Planet Mearth. Hm. Looks nothing like the pictures.

AL: It's very... green.

TUBY: (gasps excitedly) Oh my gosh!!! Real grass! (collects a sample of the grass and carefully stows it away)

(JUPITER and AL both look at eachother, confused.)

JUPITER & AL: Grass?

TUBY: The green stuff. Isn't it cool?! On this planet, it grows from the ground and it provides oxygen for the species who live here. The trees, too.

JUPITER & AL: Trees?

(TUBY points up towards the trees and pulls out a map. The others' stomachs rumble.)

AL: Can we eat the trees? I'm a Starvin' Marvin over here!

JUPITER: NEED! FOOD! NOW!!!!

(Produce of all varieties pop up from the ground and from the trees. THE MUSHROOMIANS enter, enthusiastically collecting the food into sacs and baskets and the like. They are jubilant, and sing and chant as they harvest the food and prepare for a giant feast, the Annual Funny Fungus Party. We see party planners, designers, painters, bakers, families and various other town Mushroomians.)

TUBY: (sees on the map) Ah! We must've landed on Mushroom Village! How exciting!! It's one of the oldest villages in this galaxy and it's where all of the planet's food is grown!

CHANTERELLE: (with Shiitake) Grown, harvested, prepared and shared... you name it, we do it! Hi, I'm Chanterelle, Manager of Produce. Nice to meet you. (gives them a firm handshake)

SHIITAKE: And I'm Shiitake, Chanterelle's assistant. We make sure all the food here in Mushroom Village gets handled properly.

(MOREL rushes to CHANTERELLE and Shiitake, and nervously stands beside them with a clipboard.)

MOREL: Umm.. excuse me, Chanterelle? Shi-shiitake? So sorry to bother you but according to my inventory, it seems we are missing some strawberries from the field...

(All the Mushroomians panic and make panic'd noises, which gets broken up by a loud burp. Everyone suddenly turns to the noise and finds PORTOBELLO covering their mouth bashfully.)

ALL: Portobello.....

PORTOBELLO: (embarrassed) Sorry, I was hungry! I couldn't wait for the feast tonight.

AL: A feast, you say?

TUBY: Don't tell me we're visiting during the Annual Funny Fungus Party?!

CHANTERELLE: Ah! So you're familiar with our traditions.

JUPITER: Tuby knows *everything* about Planet Mearth.

AL: Yeah, they've been reading about this place for years.

TUBY: I wouldn't say I know everything, but I know that I have exceptional best friends! These two surprised me with this trip! I've *always* wanted to visit.

JUPITER: Took us a whole light year to raise the money but it was worth it. (to self) Even if I can't get this Mearth mud off my shoes...

(AL picks up a piece of cheese from a Mushroomian's basket and goes to eat it. A Mushroomian grabs it, throws it back in their basket and responds with a "hmph!" as if to say, "the audacity!" They return to work, casually humming like before.)

SHIITAKE: With all that traveling, and also trying to steal our cheese, I figure you must be hungry?

CHANTERELLE: You're more than welcome to join us for dinner! We love visitors and we have more than enough food to share.

SHIITAKE: We're talkin' fruits, veggies, nuts, cheese...

CHANTERELLE: ...and the piece de resistance, our traditional garlic and cheese pie!

JUPITER & AL: Cheese?

TUBY: (*To Mushroomians*) Please excuse my friends, we don't have cheese on our planet. (*To Galaxy Crew*) I'll explain it to you later.

SHIITAKE: So, what do ya say?

(Galaxy Crew talk privately amongst themselves.)

JUPITER: Do you think it's safe to have dinner with them? We don't know them or their customs.

TUBY: It's just dinner, I think we'll be fine. Plus... we have no food.

(AL turns around immediately and speaks for the group.)

AL: We would love to come tonight.

(MOREL rushes to ring a giant bell that alerts the Mushroomians, they all halt.)

CHANTARELLE: ATTENTION MUSHROOMIANS!!! For tonight's Annual Funny Fungus Party, we will be having guests from Planet ______!

(THE MUSHROOMIANS burst with excitement and now move double time to accomplish their tasks for the night!)

SCENE 2 -- THE FEAST

(Mushroom Village, Nighttime)

(The Annual Funny Fungus Party has officially commenced! There are bright colors and lots of food being placed on tables underneath a starry sky. THE MUSHROOMIAal resources (corn husks, banana peels, eggshells, seeds, twigs, etc.). There is a giant garlic cheese pie sitting on a pedestal with fancy lights. Sometimes the Mushroomians stop and stare, or take pictures with it...it's a big deal. There are all types of foods including stinky cheeses, and sometimes the Mushroomians pass out after sniffing.)

(NOTE: The actors can pick what foods are on the table!)

SONG 2 -- FUN AT THE FUNGUS PARTY

(AII) - WE'RE HAVING FUN AT THE FUNGUS PARTY
WE'RE MARINATING IN THE GROOVE
WE'RE FEELIN' STUFFED CAUSE WE'RE EATIN' HEARTY
BUT WITH THIS BEAT, WE CAN'T HELP BUT MOVE

WE'RE HAVING FUN WITH OUR FELLOW FUNGI WE'RE BUTTONED UP FROM STEM TO CAP WE'RE ON OUR FEET, WELL EXCEPT THAT ONE GUY I THINK MOREL (AYA) NEEDS A NAP

WE'LL EAT A FEW S'MORES
THEN WE'LL LET LOOSE OUR SPORES
THE FUNGUS PARTY'S GOT IT GOIN' ON

HEY THERE, CHANTERELLE! LOVE THE ORANGE, YOU'RE LOOKING SWELL OO, SHIITAKE (ORVILLE)'S ACTING COCKY CAUSE THEY BEAT US AT HOCKEY

HELLO PORTOBELLO (RAFA) SUCH A GENTLE GIANT AND ALWAYS SO MELLOW

OH PORCINI, DON'T BE A MEANIE YOU'RE EAU DE EARTH SMELLS SO DIVINE OF ALL THE SHROOMS, YOU REALLY SHINE

WE'RE HAVING FUN AT THE FUNGUS PARTY AND PRETTY SOON WE WILL ALL BE FRIED WHOEVER THOUGHT OF THIS IS A SMARTY OUR GILLS ARE FLARED WITH FUNGUS PRIDE

SO HAVE SOME DIP THEN SAY "HI" TO A FUNGUS THEN GO AND TEAR UP THE PARTY FLOOR BUT IF YOU SAY "THERE'S A FUNGUS AMONG US" WE'LL GLADLY SHOW YOU THE DOOR

WHEN YOUR FETE'S IN BAD CONDITION, FUNGI MAKE A GREAT ADDITION THERE AIN'T CLOSIN' TIME WHEN THE SHROOMS ARE FEELING PRIME IT ALWAYS GETS EXCESSIVE WHEN THE FUNGI GET EXPRESSIVE THE FUNGUS PARTY'S GOT IT GOIN' ON GOIN' ON WE GOT IT GOIN' ON

(MOREL rings a bell and THE MUSHROOMIANS get into position.)

CHANTARELLE: My fellow Mushroomians! It is my honor to introduce our MC for the evening! Please give it up for the girl with the golden voice, Broadway's Button Foster!

(The crowd goes wild as BUTTON FOSTER enters the stage, as if accepting a Tony award. She waves to the crowd with her Hollywood smile, occasionally posing for photos)

TUBY: Wait... the Button Foster??? Star of Thoroughly Modern Mushroom and Anything Grows?!

AL: Even we know who she is, she's an intergalactic icon!

(BUTTON FOSTER swiftly grabs the mushroom shaped microphone.)

BUTTON FOSTER: Good evening, my humble Mushroomians! It seems like only yesterday I was but a wee little button of this indigenous village, long before my Tony's, my Emmy's, my house in The Hills... I'd go on but *I don't want to show off*. Anyway, what a privilege it is to return after so long. I'm a button who knows her roots, after all!

Oh! My dearest funny fungi, you have survived yet another year and weathered every storm thrown in your direction. Let us give thanks for this food that you worked so hard to cultivate, and let us not forget! The greatest gift we have on Mearth is the ability to love.

(BUTTON FOSTER signals to stand, and they do. The Mushroomians perform the "GRATITUDE RITUAL")

ALL: To the fertile soil and to the beaming sun, to the quenching cries of clouds, and to everyone.

(Button dramatically holds a pie cutter in the air and the Mushroomians "ooh" and "aah" at the sight, then she cuts into the garlic and cheese pie. Everyone applauds!)

CHANTARELLE: Let's eat!

(Excitement brews!)

JUPITER: (feels rain for the first time) is that... water falling from the sky?

AL: I felt it, too.

(We suddenly see a flash of lightning and hear a loud crack of thunder, which quickly turns into a storm! The Mushroomians panic.)

CHANTERELLE: Quick!!! Grab the food! Save what you can!

SHIITAKE: All of our hard work is getting washed away!

CHANTERELLE: Is that a tornado?! Run!!!!

(Everyone exits, except for The Galaxy Crew who gets swept up in the tornado. It takes them all the way up to Cloudyville.)

SCENE 3 -- IN THE CLOUDS

(Cloudyville)

(*NOTE: The actors can decide what actions they are pantoming during charades)

(THE GALAXY CREW blow into Cloudyville with the tornado from the storm. They enter a world with the bluest skies and the fluffiest clouds. They immediately see "The Chart," a marker of how much rain has fallen, and how much rain still needs to fall.)

GALAXY CREW: (entering with the storm) Whoooahhhh!!!!

JUPITER: Is everyone OK?

(Extremely loud laughter is heard from afar.)

AL: What's that sound? Where are we?

(THE CLOUDS enter as THE GALAXY CREW hide. The clouds are telling jokes.)

CUMULUS: I got one! What do you call a grizzly bear that gets caught in the rain?

NIMBO: What?

CUMULUS: A drizzly bear!!!

(They burst into hard laughter and rain pours! STRATUS adjusts "The Chart.")

TUBY: (to Galaxy Crew) I know where we are. We're in Cloudyville.

STRATUS: I'm waiting for you to tell a joke that's actually funny.

CUMULUS: Stratus, your sense of humor is so dry. You wouldn't get it.

NIMBO: Ok, you two. Relax. We need to keep the laughter up, we have a lot more rain to produce! Hmm...what about charades?

CUMULUS & STRATUS: Yeah, that works.

NIMBO: I'll go first!

(Nimbo starts pantomiming an action and they all laugh, causing even more rain to fall. NOTE: the actors can determine what the pantomime actions are.) STRATUS: (calls out the action) Obviously you are _____ (ex: flossing your teeth with spaghetti) (They laugh even harder and more rain falls. THE GALAXY CREW also laugh, they are enjoying the show.) STRATUS: Hey Cumulus, want to be my partner in the next round? CUMULUS: ...sure. (STRATUS and CUMULUS come up with an action that once again makes all the clouds laugh uncontrollably! More rain falls. NIMBO calls out the action. The Galaxy Crew's laughter can be heard over The Clouds, and eventually they stop and follow the noise. The Galaxy Crew are so busy laughing to notice that The Clouds are standing over them, until...) THE GALAXY CREW: AHHH!!! (This screams scare NIMBO, who screams back in response.) STRATUS: Hey! OK, let's bring the noise down. Who are you? CUMULUS: Are you lost? TUBY: (Jumps in quickly) Um..hii! We're visiting from Planet and a terrible storm brought us here. AL: And boy am I glad it did! It looks fun up here, I want to play. JUPITER: Whoa whoa whoa... (to Galaxy Crew) didn't you just see these clouds make all that rain? How do we know they didn't cause that storm? STRATUS: Don't blame us for that. We don't make storms in Cloudyville, only rain. CUMULUS: The tears from our laughter give water to the planet below us. NIMBO: There's a quota we have to hit each month, hence "The Chart."

STRATUS: Is this information going over your head?

(THE CLOUDS laugh.)

CUMULUS: Stratus, you're so shady...

NIMBO: (sniffs) Is something burning?

(Everyone starts to violently cough.)

STRATUS: Uh oh... I think we have a burnt fossil fuel situation.

(NIMBO starts to cry.)

CUMULUS: Don't worry, Nimbus, we're getting out of here. Hop on, everyone!

(THE GALAXY CREW climb aboard the clouds, and they all float away from the burning fossil fuels. Everyone stops coughing, finally.)

AL: First a storm in Mushroom Village, then burning fossil fuels in Cloudyville...is this normal?

CLOUDS: NO!

NIMBO: I wonder what's causing it...

STRATUS: Well, wontcha look at that. Troll Towers.

TUBY: Don't the Trolls govern the land?

NIMBO: They do. They make the rules for all of Planet Mearth.

CUMULUS: Could you pop down there and let Mayor Thayer know what's going on? I

bet they can fix this.

JUPITER: Brilliant idea!

CLOUDS: Good luck!!!

(THE GALAXY CREW wave as they exit the cloud.)

SCENE 4 -- HAVE A LITTLE HEART

(Troll Towers)

(THE GALAXY CREW enter Troll Towers, the land of governing. These are high rise luxury towers, fully inhabited by Trolls in suits doing government things. MAYOR THAYER enters with BUTTON FOSTER and the kids hide.)

MAYOR THAYER: As always, it's an honor to have you visit, Ms. Foster.

BUTTON FOSTER: Ms. Foster! Why so formal, Bill? You know this is my favorite place to stay when on Mearth.

MAYOR THAYER: This is what I love to hear!

BUTTON FOSTER: But I must say, lately it's been looking a bit grim in the sky. *So rainy, so cloudy.* It's starting to affect my tan. And after that awful storm the clouds caused in Mushroom Village... ugh! As a valued guest, I'm certain you will rectify this situation.

MAYOR THAYER: Anything to keep our VIP guests content!

BUTTON FOSTER: This is what I love to hear.

MAYOR THAYER: I should mention, we're having a giant feast tonight in the Towers Dining Hall. A Large shipment of produce just came *floating* in. Will you join us for dinner. *Ms. Foster?*

BUTTON FOSTER: Ha! Oh, Bill.

(BUTTON FOSTER exits and MAYOR THAYER's demeanor changes instantly. They hold down a button on the intercom.)

MAYOR THAYER: (very serious) THEO??? I need to see you in my office ASAP!

(Enter THEO with two large buckets that say "Terrible Storms" and "Burnt Fossil Fuels.")

THEO: Yes. MAYOR THAYER?

MAYOR THAYER: We're going to have to up the fossil fuels that we're dumping onto the Planet. I don't think the clouds have gotten the "hint"...

THEO: On it.

(THEO empties the buckets. TERRY enters.)

MAYER THAYER: What are you doing here? You should be in the Towers studying with the rest of the young Trolls.

TERRY: (finds the courage) Look, dad. I can't take it anymore! I don't like Troll school. It's like prison, I feel trapped.

MAYER THAYER: Don't be dramatic.

TERRY: They don't let me ask questions. Sometimes the things they teach us don't quite add up...

MAYER THAYER: What doesn't make sense to you? Maybe I can help you to understand.

TERRY: Well, today we learned that the clouds are bad because they cause terrible storms, but I've *never* seen this happen before.

MAYER THAYER: The clouds are our biggest enemies! The clouds are causing this weather shift! They get angry and release thunder and lightning, and soon they will be responsible for the demise of this great planet we live on! We don't want *that*, do we?

TERRY: But... but...

MAYER THAYER: Of course we don't! Now why don't you go back to the Towers and behave like a good Troll. You don't want the other Trolls thinking that you are...different. Off you go.

(MAYOR THAYER gets back to work as Terry walks away defeated. Terry overhears the Galaxy Crew talking amongst themselves.)

AL: Wow, there are so many things wrong with this picture!

TUBY: None of this was in any of the books I read about Mearth.

TERRY: What books?

GALAXY CREW: (startled) Ahhhhh!!!

(The scream scares Terence and he screams back.)

TERRY: Hey, you're not Trolls. You're not even from this planet.

TUBY: Uhh, we're visiting from Planet ______, and we're trying to stop --

JUPITER: (interrupts) -- trying to stop guessing where some out-of-towners can get lunch in this joint! Got any recs? (Nervous laughter) He he... (To Galaxy Crew) Terence is a Troll. I don't know if we can trust him, gotta stay vigilant.

TERRY: Oh wow, you're from Planet ______ ? Your planet seems really cool, I've been reading about it for years!

JUPITER: (surprised) Huh... go figure. Well, we've only been on this planet for about half an hour and we've seen storms that have devastated communities!

AL: And burnt fossil fuels that are destroying your resources!

TUBY: You have to talk to MAYOR THAYER (RAFA)! There must be some compassion in there somewhere.

TERRY: Actually... there isn't. Trolls don't feel loving or caring emotions. We have hearts but they don't work.

(Everyone is confused.)

TERRY: Our hearts get deactivated in Troll school. They say it prevents us from doing good work on this planet. The Mayor hasn't felt love in years! They simply won't listen to me.

JUPITER: You have to try! Your planet won't survive these storms for much longer. Mearth needs you.

(TERRY gains the courage and marches right up to MAYOR THAYER, telling them just how they feel.)

TERRY: I've got something to say and I will not be silenced! You really hurt my feelings when you dismissed them, and I wish you wouldn't lie so much! And I wish... I wish you showed me more love!

SONG 3 -- LISTEN TO YOUR HEART

(TERRY) - YOU'RE THE ONLY DAD I HAVE
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER ME ALL OF MY LIFE
AND I KNOW DEEP DOWN YOU CARE
THOUGH IT MAY BE HARD TO SEE NOW
THERE'S A BETTER YOU THAT YOU CAN BE NOW
AND MAYBE THERE'S SOME LOVE FOR ME NOW
IF YOU COULD TRY AND FEEL IT

(ADD GALAXY CREW) - IF YOU JUST LISTEN TO YOUR HEART HEAR WHAT IT'S TELLING YOU COMPELLING YOU TO DO

(ALL) - JUST TRY AND LISTEN TO YOUR HEART DON'T BE AFRAID LET THE DARKNESS FADE AWAY LISTEN TO YOUR HEART IT'S ONLY ASKING YOU TO LOVE

(TERRY) - PLEASE DON'T TURN AWAY
THERE IS LOVE IN EACH OF US AND I KNOW YOU FEEL IT TOO

(CLOUDS) - WHAT'S THE POINT IN TEARING DOWN ALL THIS ANGER IS DESTROYING THERE IS SO MUCH YOU COULD BE ENJOYING

(MUSHROOMIANS) - LET THE GOOD INSIDE YOU BLOSSOM

(ALL) - WE CAN TELL YOU, IT FEELS AWESOME IF YOU JUST LISTEN TO YOUR HEART HEAR WHAT IT'S TELLING YOU

COMPELLING YOU TO DO
JUST TRY AND LISTEN TO YOUR HEART
DON'T BE AFRAID
LET THE DARKNESS FADE AWAY
LISTEN TO YOUR HEART
IT'S ONLY ASKING YOU TO LOVE

(TERRY) - IT'S ONLY ASKING YOU TO LOVE

(MAYOR THAYER throws their hand over their heart and feels for the first time in a very, very long time.)

MAYOR THAYER: Terence, it's hurting me to see you like this. Literally, my heart hurts. What is this feeling?! Owww!

(THEO rushes to the Mayor.)

THEO: Are you ok, Mayor Thayer?

MAYOR THAYER: (overwhelmed with emotion) No, Theo, I'm not. Terry's request for love reactivated my heart, and now it's...expanding. (To TERRY) I'm so sorry for treating you, and this planet, terribly.

THEO: Well, I hate to break up this love fest, but, um. The Towers are on fire.

(THEO points to the fire and everyone panics! They move out of the way just before the Towers collapse.)

MAYOR THAYER: My Towers!!! How did this happen???

THEO: The fossil fuels.

JUPITER: On our planet, we call that "karma."

(Everyone stares at JUPITER...bad timing.)

JUPITER: What?

MAYOR THAYER: No no, It's true. Karma means that you get what you give, and that's exactly what happened here today. Terence, fellow species of Mearth, can I work with you to create a better future for us all?

AL: Yes but only if you feed us... we still haven't eaten anything.

JUPITER & TUBY: (embarrassed) AL...

MAYOR THAYER: Ha! Who's hungry?

ALL: WE ARE!!!!!!!

SONG 4 -- FINALE

(ALL) - IF YOU JUST LISTEN TO YOUR HEART HEAR WHAT IT'S TELLING YOU COMPELLING YOU TO DO WHEN YOU JUST LISTEN TO YOUR HEART YOU WON'T BE AFRAID LET THE DARKNESS FADE AWAY LISTEN TO YOUR HEART IT'S ONLY ASKING YOU TO LOVE

LET'S TRAVEL OUT BEYOND THE HORIZON EXPLORING SOMEWHERE NEAR THE STARS WE'LL FIND NEW WORLDS WE ONLY DREAMED OF WITH RAINBOW SKIES AND FLYING CARS

LET'S ALL GO FAR BEYOND THE HORIZON
TO LEAVE BEHIND THE THINGS WE KNOW
AND LEARN NEW THINGS, WE'LL DO THINGS AND VIEW THINGS
BEYOND THE HORIZON

THE END!