Ride the Cyclone

Character breakdown

- The Amazing Karnak - the narrator and deep rumbling voice of a fortune telling machine. Non-singing role.

- Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg, A democratic type A student who is willing to do anything to succeed. Self congratulatory with the highest GPA. Belter, alto/soprano.

- Constance Blackwood - The nicest girl in town. Big hearted and afraid to speak up, but finds her voice. Alto.

- Misha Bachinski- An aggressive Ukrainian rapper living with adoptive parents in Canada. While he's intense, he's open minded and feels emotions deeply (for his ex-fiance, Talia). Baritone.

- Noel Gruber: A gay nihilist and aspiring writer. He worked at taco bell before his death, but dreamed of a classy European lifestyle. Tenor.

- Ricky Potts: A quiet student with a physical disability who is able to dance and sing in purgatory. Has a wild imagination and is a lover of cats. Baritone.

- Jane Doe - A ghost-like, mysterious character. Her head was cut off during the accident and no one could identify her body. She doesn’t know who she was in the afterlife and neither does anyone else. Classical operatic voice, soprano.
CONSTANCE (CONT' D)

We were at the top of the loop, when the roller coaster made this kind of screaming metal sound. Sparks were shooting all over the place. And then the screaming and the sparks just stopped.... and there was like this weightlessness.... My heart jumped like a gazillion beats a second, but I didn't scream like the other kids.... No, I was just soaking it all in, 'cause on a certain level it was so rad.... sailing through the air upside down, you could see all the other rides. And it was like something unlocked in me; my heart just welled up with all this love for everything.

Images and all this feeling flooded into me. Like climbing back into my bed in the morning and feeling the heat left over from my body, hanging upside down from the monkey bars until my head starts to tingle, smelling jiffy markers, listening to music and dancing around my room before going out to a party and pretending I’m going to have the perfect time, finishing an essay, un-doing a knot, pizza night, Halloween, watching my baby brother dance naked to ABBA, being in the choir at the height of the Hallelujah chorus and feeling all the voices rattle my bones. I started laughing like a crazy person, giddy with endorphins, all dancing leprechauns and rainbows and unicorns, streams of chocolate, whirling rides, flashing lights.

There’s no shame in loving my small town. The only good things that happened to me happened in Uranium. It took a horrible accident for me to realize how goddamn wonderful everything is.  

End

#18 JAWBREAKER/SUGARCLOUD

CONSTANCE

I USED TO THINK THAT LIFE WAS JUST A JAWBREAKER
YEAH, YOU SUCK AND YOU SUCK
AND YOU SUCK AND YOU SUCK
AND YOU SUCK SOME MORE
YEAH, YOU SUCK SOME MORE
(NOEL and JANE DOE put on bowlers.)

NOEL

(as Didi, French accent)
There is no room at this Inn, for it is Christmas... Shall we hang ourselves?

JANE

(as Gigi, French accent)
I hear it gives you an erection.

NOEL

(as Didi, French accent)
Then we must hang ourselves ... immediately.

CONSTANCE

(as Mary)
Or we could just go to the manger, Joseph.

KARNAK

Aspiring Iconoclast, enfant terrible...Noel Gruber, the most romantic boy in town.

Start

NOEL

I've seen the movie the Blue Angel about a billion and one times.... If there is something better on this earth than Marlene Dietrich playing Lola Lola (The heartless booze hound harlot) I don't even want to hear about it.... I tried to go as her every year for Halloween—I always chickened out... And I'd go as something like C3P-O...but in my heart, I was Lola Lola, dressed up as C3P-O... that was always my Halloween costume's subtext. Mom tells me I've got to try to blend in, so I tried really hard to dial it back... I had to...we live in a town where every year on July 11th when Seven Eleven gives out free Slurpees it's like seriously the major cultural event of the year.... I'm not even making a joke right now. It's like, a Slurpee Woodstock.

I was born in the wrong town, the wrong country, the wrong era! I wanted to feel, goddamn it. I wanted bad love. I wanted a man that would drive me to drink. I craved dissipation. I wanted to wake up in an alleyway in my own vomit, missing teeth. I wanted to drink myself to death on the cup of life...

"Anyone who hasn't experienced the ecstasy of betrayal knows nothing about ecstasy at all." Jean Genet. I was a sexual provocateur and a novelist, who never wrote a novel...or had sex.... End
CONSTANCE

We get pretty crazy sometimes...

OCEAN

Constance Eleanor Blackwood. You know I find the word 'crazy' offers...

CONSTANCE

(Gritting teeth)
That's why Ocean scripts all our improvs in advance.

Start

OCEAN

My time, Constance, my time...

(She sits her back next to JANE.)

Look, I've seen enough reality TV to get what you want us to do here... Who's the best? I mean sure, grades, humanitarian efforts, extracurricular activities, prestigious university, spiritual mastery of both Judaism and Catholicism-Nailed my Confirmation and Bat Mitzvah, in the same week. And I'm not even bragging about that because it's against my Buddhist beliefs... I am the best here, by any metric of society I get that.... (trembling voice) ...but if that's how worth is measured, I want no part of it! Look... some of us are left wing, some of us are right wing... but the last time I checked it takes two wings to fly!! We are community! We are Family! We are the World! End

(CONSTANCE claps enthusiastically, kids grudgingly clap - almost a Pavlovian response to OCEAN many speeches in their high school.)

SFX: SAL PASSOON #2 OCEAN CONCEDES

KARNAK

Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg heroically concedes.

OCEAN

(Ice)
She does what?!

KARNAK

I respect you taking the moral high ground. Next.

#7 WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS