SARA
No, I hate this, I hate the fact that you never say how you're feeling. And you know what? Everyone else hates that about you too. Mania tells everyone what's wrong, Mania opens up to people, Mania makes people open up to them, no one wants to talk to you, no one ever wants Depression around, this no fun grey cloud, etc... I just want Mania back.

(Mania enters from Stage Right. She immediately makes the stage her space.)

MANIA
I'm back, bitches!

SARA
Oh, hold up, I didn't think we were roller-coastering this month. Usually I have a little bit to get back on my feet.

(Mania gives papers to Sara and Depression. When their hands are full, she just throws them around.)

MANIA
You said you wanted me back! Well, while I was gone, I had some ideas for your self rev, which neither of you worked on like you said you would. I really have to do all the work around here.

SARA
I was kind of waiting for you to come back, actually. It's kind of hard to write with just Depression and me.

MANIA
Oh, I know, Depression is boring and sad and I for one hate being around her. We all know I'm your favorite.

SARA
It's not that--

MANIA
You literally just said you couldn't work without me.

DEPRESSION
She said it was hard, it's not impossible, you're not

the Queen of the Brain or anything.

MANIA
Are those fighting words, Depression?

SARA
Wait, what?

DEPRESSION
I didn't say anything, you don't need to get defensive--

MANIA
Luckily for you, I brought a bag of props for this self rev. None of those are relevant now because we cut all of that but I also brought a ping pong set and I challenge you.

SARA
What?

MANIA
Oh, no, I don't have that either. Dodgeball then!

(Mania and Depression put the coffee table onto the couch, creating a table.)

DEPRESSION
This is the biggest waste of time and energy.

MANIA
No it's not! I need to win!

(Sara crosses upstage center, upstage of the table)

SARA
Hold on, hold on. Do I need to take some Excedrin? Are you two like, actually playing dodgeball in my mind or is this supposed to be representative of unhealthy behavior?

MANIA
Wait, Sara, do you not remember writing this part? It's from the first draft.

SARA
What first draft.

(Mania hands Sara pages.)

MANIA
It was just the two of us at the time. It's okay if you don't remember some of the things you did. All you need to know is that the time was very productive. You got a lot of work done.

(Depression takes the pages.)

DEPRESSION
This is basically word vomit. We can't pass this in.

MANIA
I'm the boss around here and I challenge Depression to a game of dodgeball! We wrote it in the script, so it's happening. We made a plan so we're keeping it. Well, we're trying! And whoever wins gets to stay with Sara next.

(Mania puts a stack of papers on the table.)

SARA
Oh, shit, you're really doing this.

MANIA
I told you I would so I am. I actually follow through.

(They start to play, crumpling up the papers around them to use as dodgeballs. Sara circles around the stage, watching the scene.)

DEPRESSION
That's bullshit, you don't follow through with anything! I'm the one who has to deal with your empty promises!

MANIA
Just give up, Depression, no one wants you here anyways.

DEPRESSION
As long as you're around, Sara needs me. Someone has to bring her back to reality.

MANIA
And you're "reality"? We don't need you! We're doing great on our own! Right Sara? We're so great! Aren't

we great?

(Mania and Depression switch places.)

DEPRESSION
That's the problem, you don't even realize that you're the problem!

MANIA
I'm not the problem, you are. Sara and I were fine until you came along. We were creative and outgoing and had so much potential and then you came in out of nowhere and fucked it all up! High School Sara could have been awesome!

DEPRESSION
(to Sara:)
No offense, Sara, but it wasn't us who made you awkward.

SARA
It's fine. That's a topic for another self rev. Let's just put these down before you accidentally hurt--

(Mania swings too hard and "hits" Sara)

SARA (Continued)
Fucking hell, Mania!

MANIA
Sorry, thought we were cool. Now where were we?

DEPRESSION
We were just at you not realizing that you're the problem around here. You literally just hit Sara in a metaphorical dodgeball game. You're so impulsive that you're writing yourself as impulsive!

SARA
Wait, hold up, am I not part of the conversation anymore? I thought I was the one writing this.

MANIA
I'm the reason Sara gets out of bed every day! I'm the reason Sara gets anything done! I'm the reason she creates anything, why she thinks the way she does--

DEPRESSION
Stop convincing her that you're the good guy and that I'm the bad guy. Just because she loves you and hates

me--

MANIA
She loves me because she is me! We use our million thoughts to write the greatest stories the world has ever seen.

DEPRESSION
This exactly why they couldn't diagnose her! You had to mask symptoms with excuses. People recognized depression.

(They switch places again.)

MANIA
Ha! People saw you and they didn't do shit about you! It wasn't until I came along that people actually gave a fuck about us.

DEPRESSION
You constantly lie to her, and you always have from the beginning. You told her that you and all your manic antics were normal so she didn't say anything. All anyone saw was me so they put her on antidepressants, but you're not supposed to do that with bipolar disorder. Plain depression could have been an easy fix a long time ago--

MANIA
Plain Depression would have killed her--

DEPRESSION
You're the one who tried to kill her, not me!

MANIA
They were your meds!

DEPRESSION
It was your idea!

MANIA
That was a mutual decision, do not put that on me.

(For the first time, a real "ball": Mania takes an empty pill bottle and hits it way past Depression)

MANIA (Continued)
I win.

(Mania turns to Depression.)

MANIA (Continued)
Bye, bitch. See you at Spring Break!

(Depression leaves Stage Right. Mania begins to reset the couch/coffee table while Sara goes back to the downstage chair. Mania sits at the couch.)

MANIA (Continued)
(to Sara:)
Now what do you want to do?

SARA
I need to finish this self rev.

MANIA
Fine, let's do that then.

SARA
Actually, I can't do this with you here.

MANIA
So what are you gonna do, Sara? Just not do the work? You do know you can't do that.

SARA
I know, but this isn't due for a bit, and hopefully I'll be in a better mind space when it's time.

MANIA
You're never going to be in a better mind space. I'm always here with you. You're going to be living with me, with Depression, with the meds, and the therapy, you'll be living with all of that for the rest of your life. And you can't control me. You can't just shut me up. You're not in charge of me, I'm in charge of you.