SPARK and the DANGEROUS SWITCH
IN ANCIENT TIMES, A BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT BROUGHT FORTH A MYSTERIOUS STONE...

WITH TRANSFORMING POWERS.

AS THE AGES PASSED, THE POWER OF THE STONE WAS COVETED BY MANY.

LOST FOR AGES, THE STONE WAS UNEARTHED IN MODERN TIMES...

ERIC BATTLES WERE FOUGHT FOR THE POSSESSION OF THIS RARE ARTIFACT.

...AND PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS TO SERVE THE GREATER GOOD.

THIS AMULET NOW BELONGS TO A HEROIC YOUNG GIRL NAMED AMBER (A.K.A. SPARK).

HOWEVER, SHOULD IT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF DARK FORCES, THEN DESTRUCTION WILL SURELY FOLLOW!
I'll take that amulet, thank you.

You'll take what?

Oh, that's funny.

Take this!

Better luck next time, Extinguisher.

Oof!

Elsewhere...

I need these pills loaded on those trucks, ASAP!

Hey, we're brewing up trouble over here, boss!

Are these things legit?

Oh yeah, sure. And we're giving them a little something extra, too!
Zap!

Amber, is that you?

Hey dad!

Everything good?

Yeah, everything's fine. Just had a little fire to put out.

Love you, girl.

Love you too.

Good night.

Don't ask stupid questions!

Just do your job, goons!

Err...

We don't mean any trouble, Doctor D.

Uhhh...
THE NEXT DAY AT AMBER'S SCHOOL

DID YOU SEE SPARK ON YOUTUBE LAST NIGHT??

SHE TOTALLY EXTINGUISHED THE EXTINGUISHER!

SEND ME THE LINK—GOTTA SEE THAT!

SO WHAT'S NEW ON THE 'NET?

SWEET! CHAD IS HAVING A PARTY SATURDAY!

OOPS. I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE FILMING!

YOU DON'T MEAN ANY TROUBLE, HUH?

THEN DON'T CAUSE ME ANY TROUBLE!

OKAY BOSS!

WE'RE ON IT!

UGH!
Dude, did you see where Ally broke up with Jake last night?

Right? And on Snapchat!

Now that's embarrassing.

Hey guys, be cool...

Yeah...

I'm sure Jake doesn't feel cool right now!

'Snicker'

'Smile'

Get back to work!
HEY JAKE! DOING ALRIGHT? ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

NO THANKS, AMBER.

I'M GOOD.

SEE YOU AROUND?

I'M NOT SURE I BELIEVE YOU--

--BUT SURE, I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.

DR. D IS A REAL JERK.

BUT THESE SKETCHY PILLS PAY MY BILLS.
Um, Dad. Can I ask you a question?

Not to be snarky, but you just did.

Okay, fine... do you care if I go to a party this weekend?

Do you care if I ask you a million questions about the party?

Like who, what, when, where and how?

Yes, Dad. I'll text you the details.

I can't believe it, D-minus!

Hey Riley... Ally just dumped me and my grades are tanking.

Oh no! DJ... I'm on my way. See you in 10.

Jake! Over here!
Yeah, text me those deets.

The deets from my sweets.

Be sure you have an exit plan if things get weird.

Remember, you may be a superhero, but you are still my little girl.

What do I do if my dad gets weird?

'Snicker'.

Don't you have homework to do?

She dumped me on Snapchat!

I feel like I can't catch my breath!

GOTCHA covered. Have some ANXY's right here. I use 'em to take the edge off.

My grades are in the toilet!

Take these. I just got them, but I'm sure my boyfriend can get more.
ARE YOU GUYS READY FOR THE PARTY?

JEANS AND MY NEW PINK TOP, YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

THINK JAKE WILL BE THERE, ALBY?

THAT WOULD BE WEIRD!

I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR AN OUTFIT!

I KNOW THAT DRESS IS IN HERE SOMEPLACE.

WELL... THIS IS NICE—BUT TOO MUCH FOR THIS PARTY.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT!

I FEEL LIKE THE POSTER CHILD FOR EPIC FAILS!

HEY—HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE PARTY!

HEY—YOU GOING TO THAT PARTY AT CHAD'S HOUSE TOMORROW?

JAKE? MORE LIKE JOKE!

YEAH, MAYBE...

HMMM, AMBER...

YEAH... OK SEE YOU THERE.
I love your outfit!

I hear the DJ has a good play list.

Hello, ladies, welcome!

That sounds epic!

Awesome light show!

Let's get this party started!

Come on in!

Hi there!

Make yourselves at home.

There are snacks in the kitchen.

Okay, arrived at the party—

...and all my social anxieties!

Jake, you made it! Alright!

Let's do this thing!

—brought some chips. Riley's pills...
Hey! Everybody! Ally's here!

Bathroom! Where's the bathroom?

Excuse me!

Coming through!

Face it, Jake—

Riley says these will take the edge off.

I hope she's right...

You're a mess!

Well?

Not a thing...

Wait!

Let's party!

Yeah! Go Jake!
WHAT'S WITH MY FINGERS?

TURNING BLUE?

CAN'T CATCH BREATH!

SOMEONE HELP ME!

URGH...

OH MY GOD! WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

JAKE! JAKE!

JAKE WAS DANCING AND THEN JUST FELL OVER!

I DON'T THINK HE'S BREATHING!

HE'S REALLY PALE--

I'M CALLING 9-1-1!!

SLAP!

HELP! MY FRIEND JUST COLLAPSED AT A PARTY AND WON'T WAKE UP!

HAS HE BEEN DRINKING, DID HE TAKE ANY PILLS?

I DON'T KNOW. WE WERE ALL JUST DANCING AND HE FAINTED!
The ambulance should be there any minute...

Yeah, he's overdosed.

Looks like these are the pills.

I hope none of you kids touched these.

Just dust from the bag can cause an O.D.!

Time for the naloxone.

We have a pulse.

Going to roll him on his side--

Just in case he gets sick.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT JAKE ALMOST DIED BECAUSE HE TOOK SOME PILLS.

--SUPPOSED TO BE A SUPERHERO.

YOU DIDN'T KNOW.

YOU CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE, SWEETHEART.

YOU ARE A HERO FOR CALLING 9-1-1 WHEN YOU DID.

JAKE MIGHT NOT BE HERE, IF YOU HADN'T CALLED.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP HIM!

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE--uh--

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

YOU PROBABLY SAVED MY LIFE!

I'VE JUST BEEN FEELING LIKE SUCH A MESS WITH SCHOOL AND THE BREAKUP.

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN THOSE STUPID PILLS!

WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

AND WHAT WAS THAT WEIRD SYMBOL ON THE BAG?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE SYMBOL.

BUT I GOT THEM FROM MY COUSIN, RILEY.

'I DON'T KNOW, RILEY. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?'

BAD DUDES, HUH...
WHERE CAN I FIND YOUR COUSIN?

SHE DETAILS CARES--IN A LOT OVER NEAR THE PARK.

WHY? WHAT ARE YOU--

I'M GOING TO WARN HER ABOUT THOSE PILLS!

AND MAYBE GET SOME INFO TOO!

FIRST, A LITTLE RESEARCH OF MY OWN!

IS DR. DANIELS THE SWITCH?

AND A LITTLE RESEARCH OF MY OWN!

AREA DOCTOR SUSPECTED OF DRUG TAMPERING

OF COURSE! THE SWITCH!

TIME FOR SPARK TO MAKE THE SCENE!

I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS SITUATION.

RILEY PLEASE WHATEVER YOU DO

DON'T TAKE ANY OF THOSE PILLS YOU GAVE JAKE!

ZAP!

SPARK! I DIDN'T KNOW!

I'M SO SORRY!
ZAP!

There it is! Weird symbols and all!

I had better scope this place out carefully...

...and sneak up on them from behind!

Did you see where that kid nearly died from taking some pills?

Do you think those were ours?

That ain't our business.

We just do what Doctor D says.

Okay, recess is over!

"Doctor Q.D., that is!"

Pick up the pace, you morons!
WE HAVE ANOTHER DELIVERY GOING OUT TONIGHT!

ZAP!

WHAT? SPARK?!

SORRY BOYS...

BUT THIS DELIVERY IS CANCELLED!

NOT SO FAST, SPARK!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE CAST INTO DARKNESS.

NOT AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO MY FRIEND, JAKE!

YOUR PILL TAMPERING DAYS ARE OVER!
YOU'RE THE ONE DESTINED FOR DARKNESS!

CRACK!

Boom!

KABOOM!

Rumble

WHAT?

NOOOOO!

CRASH!

LIGHTS OUT SWITCH!

HARRRRM-- Mmmm...
THAT EVENING...
SURE FEELS GOOD TO GET CLEAN!

LATER THAT WEEK...
HI JAKE! SO GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK AT SCHOOL!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, AMBER.
SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH ALL OF THAT.

WHO KNOWS WHAT WAS IN THAT WAREHOUSE?

THIS WHOLE THING'S BEEN EXHAUSTING!

NO THANKS! I'M GOOD. THERE'S TOO MUCH WEIRD STUFF OUT THERE.

HEY-UM--

IF YOU GUYS ARE EXHAUSTED, YOU SHOULD TRY SOME OF THESE STUDY PILLS.

I ONLY FEEL SAFE TAKING PILLS PRESCRIBED BY MY DOCTOR.

GOOD CALL, AMBER. AND WE SHOULD TELL A TEACHER ABOUT THAT GUY AND HIS 'STUDY PILLS'.

HEY, WANT TO STUDY FOR THE CHEMISTRY TEST TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL?

WELL, SEE YA!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
FACTS ABOUT OPIOID MISUSE

Opioid deaths have increased by **264%** from 2012 to 2015.

103,000 teenagers had an opioid use disorder in 2017.

The number of pregnant women using opioids increased by **70%** between 2015 and 2017.

Teens who are prescribed opioids are **33%** more likely to develop an opioid abuse problem.

Statistics were made possible by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

CENTERSTONE

To make an appointment, call **(877) HOPE-123**

For more resources in one, easy-to-use location, visit: centerstone.org/teen
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Do you think that Jake's circumstances made him want to use drugs? Why or why not?

- Even though Jake had the pills in his pocket the paramedics had no real way of knowing exactly what he took. Why?

- Jake got his pills from his cousin so he didn’t really know what was in them. Would it have been better to take drugs from his parents’ medicine cabinet and use them? Explain your answer.

- Jake was obviously upset about a lot of things and was looking for a way to deal with it. What are some safer ways he could have tried to handle the stuff he was going through?

- How could his friends have been more helpful to Jake?

- Why is important to check in with friends who are going through hard times?

- What is one simple thing you can do if you know someone is going through a hard time?
DID YOU KNOW THAT ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES ARE OFTEN TAMPERED WITH IN DANGEROUS AND EVEN DEADLY WAYS? PLAY IT SAFE! ONLY USE MEDICINE AS PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR—AND ALWAYS AVOID UNLAWFUL DRUG USE AND ANY SUBSTANCE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN.

LEARN MORE AT centerstone.org/teen

READ ALL ABOUT SPARK'S ADVENTURES AT CENTERSTONECOMICS.ORG