

♡ Sophie ♡

The Rules

By Martha Patterson



AT RISE: JAMIE comes out of the door to the steps where JULIE is sitting and drops her backpack on the steps. JULIE is studying from a book open on her lap, which she puts away after a minute. During the scene they may get up and pace around.

JAMIE

Thank God that gnarly old bell finally rang. I was just about to croak! And that science project we have to do! How am I ever going to finish that?

JULIE

I like school.

JAMIE

Guess what? I just bought this sweater with a \$25 gift certificate I got for Christmas! It cost \$20 more than the gift certificate was worth, so it means I can't go skiing next weekend with the kids from school.

JULIE

Life Lesson 1: don't spend more than you have coming in.

JAMIE

What's that?

JULIE

Something my father taught me. Don't spend what you don't have.

JAMIE

But I did have it. It just means I can't go skiing.

JULIE

Life Lesson 2: You have to make choices.

JAMIE

Uh, excuse me? I think I did. I chose the sweater. Which'll keep me nice and warm while I'm writing that term paper that's due tomorrow.

JULIE

Life Lesson 3: Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

JULIE

(Lying on her side.) That was uncalled for.

JAMIE

It was, like, totally called for.

JULIE

Rule Number 7: No one is without sin.

JAMIE

Rule Number 8: Let he who is without sin cast the first stone, idiot.

JULIE

(Getting up and dusting herself off.) Hey. Does this Joel have a friend?

JAMIE

A friend? Of COURSE he has friends!

JULIE

Could we maybe go on a double date? I think maybe my parents would let me, if he was nice.
(JULIE adjusts her glasses.)

JAMIE

With YOU?

JULIE

Listen. I wasn't trying to be mean to you. It's just, you're so popular and everything. When you were assigned to be my science partner I couldn't believe we'd be working together.

JAMIE

Really?

JULIE

You even wear makeup.

JAMIE

Julie, EVERYONE wears a little.

JULIE

I don't.

JAMIE

Well, you should. Just some mascara and a touch of lip gloss would help.

JULIE

Really. So could we go on a double date?

JULIE

I always wanted to be cool. Like you.

JAMIE

Life Lesson Number 9: Don't rule anyone out. *(She puts her arm through JULIE'S and they start walking offstage.)* Let's go to the park, and pick up some bread on the way at the bakery and feed the ducks.

JULIE

(Smiles.) Okay.

JAMIE

And I'll tell you something. I need help with that science project.

JULIE

Oh, yeah. Mass, volume, and density. "The amount of liquid displaced is directly related to its weight."

JAMIE

I think you're going to displace my last best friend.

JULIE

Amanda?

JAMIE

She ruled me out. She's a piece of fluff. Told me I couldn't come to her birthday party 'cuz my birthday present to her last year was just a comic book. "Superwoman." And I like superwoman.

JULIE

I do, too.

JAMIE

So you'll help with my science project?

JULIE

You bet. Life Lesson 10: A friend in need is a friend indeed.

(They exit, arm in arm.)

(Lights go down.)

CURTAIN