

THE FATALES

A Pop Superhero Feminist Comedy and Epic Concert for Truth

By Lauren Gunderson

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“Being born female is dangerous to your health”
Anne Firth Murray

THE FATALES

A group of princess superhero pop stars save the world

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE – the leader – fights with fists, leads with business savvy. Having a growing metaphysical crisis. Red lipstick.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE – a little hurricane of smarts and sass. Red scarf.

SAINT KISSES – Cute but sexy nerdy librarian vibe. Follows Ninja. Red tights.

SUPERSMALL– Youngest and cutest but a prodigy of music. Her only weapon is the sweeping power ballad, red barrette.

NINJA REDHEART – Embodies Madonna-Whore complex. Sexy but adorable too. Her weapons are swords and tears. Red nails.

Tone:

This is a feisty world that apes pop culture fantasies of women. So. Play to those fantasies and archetypes: queen, princess, diva, sex kitten, goddess, and heroine.

Their documentary selves blend with their concert performance selves, which gradually, gradually reveal their true selves.

We start with the ridiculous. We will get to authentic. We end with revolution.

ONE!

*(Huge pop music beat and light display pronounces the entrance of **The Fatales**, a girl group of women decked out in the sparkly space between pop-star, Disney princess, and comic-book super heroine.*

When they're not singing, they do displays of fighting and princess waving and sexy/athletic dance.

This is their song...)

GIRLS!

ALL:

*We are the girls
Hey Hey Hey Hey
We got the world at our feet*

*We are the girls
Hey Hey Hey Hey
There's not a scourge we can't defeat*

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We are the girls and we're friends cause that's what living's about

SUPERSMALL:

We fight for each other, it's the only way out.

SAINT KISSES:

We also like reminiscing

NINJA REDHEART:

About friends and cats and kissing

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We won't stop the feminist fight cause we're the half-sky that's missing!

ALL:

*Yeah Yeah Yeah!
We are the girls
Hey Hey Hey Hey
We got the world at our feet*

*We are the girls
Hey Hey Hey Hey
There's not a scourge we can't defeat*

SUPERSMALL:

We are the girls and we know we hold the fate of all nations

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We're a princess team, we stand up to predation.

NINJA REDHEART:

We're a girl power riot.

SAINT KISSES:

Defeat us? Just try it.

SUPER SMALL:

We wont swallow your rules unless we can deep fry it.

ALL:

Yeah Yeah Yeah!

*We are the girls
We are the girls
We are your girls!*

(The song ends in grand pop flourish. They pant. That was awesome.)

TWO!

(We transition quickly to a cozy backstage area.

*This is a documentary session to get to know your favorite girls.
They all totally know they're being filmed. The audience is the camera.
Laughter and hanging is half authentic, half presentation.)*

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

First I wanna say a huge Fatales HOLLA to our fans!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Hey fans!

SUPERSMALL:

We love you, fans!

NINJA REDHEART:

We love you so much, fans!

SAINT KISSES:

Like so much that it's a legitimate food source!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And we all want you to know that this is for you. This chance to just relax, and hang out and get to know us? Is totally and definitely for you.

SAINT KISSES:

Because we get that a lot of this is wish fulfillment.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But that's what it is for us too. Right?

SUPERSMALL:

Oh hell yeah. We are like... our own wishes come true.

NINJA REDHEART:

Which, not gonna lie, is like winning the Kentucky Derby by riding *yourself*.

SAINT KISSES:

So thanks for watching and stuff!

NINJA REDHEART:

All the stuff!

SUPERSMALL:

So much stuff! This is for every one of you who've loved us and stood by us and bought our albums.

SAINT KISSES:

And ringtones.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And lunch boxes.

NINJA REDHEART:

And yoga pants.

SUPERSMALL:

And cell phone covers.

SAINT KISSES:

And all natural baby food.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And cat carriers.

NINJA REDHEART:

And yoga pants.

SUPERSMALL:

And backpacks.

SAINT KISSES:

And tasteful lingerie.

NINJA REDHEART:

Don't we get free yoga pants?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Do we?

NINJA REDHEART:

(a commercial for yoga pants)

They're so great for around the house, casual Fridays, or brunch with the girls. Oh here they are.

(from nowhere takes out some yoga pants which is obviously product placement.)

They make your butt look so good even when you're not wearing them.

SUPERSMALL:

It's weird but they actually do.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But let's be honest here. The cameras weren't exactly our idea.

SAINT KISSES:

Not these cameras at least.

(They all quick-pose for a thousand cameras flashes.)

SUPERSMALL:

I think we were all a little nervous about these cameras. I mean that's a lot of truth. On display.

SAINT KISSES:

(being a terrible actor)

Yeah, Princess. Isn't this *too* personal?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I say... nothing's too personal for our fans.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Because our fans deserve the real us.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Exactly. So here we are. The authentic, the genuine, *the un-airbrushed*.

NINJA REDHEART:

(not sure about that)

I mean...

SAINT KISSES:

(not sure about that)

But not really though right.

SUPERSMALL:

You want the truth about *The Fatales*? Awesome. It's not complicated. Some of us are princesses.

SAINT KISSES:

Which you can tell by our posture.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And some of us are also superheroes.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Which you can tell by our squint.

(They all superhero squint into the distance.)

SAINT KISSES:

(whispering)
I never know when to stop –

(They stop squinting)

Ok now.

SUPERSMALL:

And all of us sing about it.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

As a collective and international defiance of evil.

NINJA REDHEART:

With dance!

(A small cheerleader-ish song erupts)

BEGIN!

ALL:

Begin Begin!

WeBegin!

ToWin ToWin!

We're Gonna Win!

Cant' Stop The True!

The True The True!

From me and you!

Yeah you!

Yeah you!

Yeah –

(and we're done.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Hi there. I'm Princess Sugar Justice. And I'm the democratically elected leader and creative director of *The Fatales*.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Even though we always work as a team, we like to have a leader to organize and make sure we all get tickets next to each other when we see movies.

NINJA REDHEART:

Princess fights for justice with her superpowers of deflection and business savvy.

SAINT KISSES:

She can make a bullet ricochet off her bare hand–

SUPERSMALL:

And invest in sensible bonds.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Her super villain is the Dastardly Prince of Casual Misogyny, whose rage she deflects with grace -

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And long term financial security.

(Princess does a hand deflection dance thing.)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Next!

NINJA REDHEART:

My name is Ninja RedHeart and my powers are sword-like-but-perfectly-manicured nails, stealth, and girl tears.

SUPERSMALL:

It's actually a super disarming combo.

NINJA REDHEART:

I tug at your heartstrings. Which I then ninja nail chop to pieces. Chop-Strings!

(Ninja RedHeart does a fast ninja chop.)

SAINT KISSES:

Her Super villain is The Dastardly Fundamentalist.

NINJA REDHEART:

What a dick.

SUPERSMALL:

His weapon is the constant babble, which it's actually pretty easy to defeat with earplugs,

DOCTOR UNIVERSE"

The cranked up soundtrack to *Les Mis*,

NINJA REDHEART:

Or just yelling "YOU CARE AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT WHAT MY LADY BUSINESS HAS BEEN UP TO FOR A PURITAN!"

(She does a fast ninja chop.)

ChopStrings!

SUPERSMALL:

Next!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I'm Doctor Universe, and I use my powers of unlimited healing to beat back the wreckage of untimely death.

NINJA REDHEART:

Like Neosporin.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Like really good Neosporin.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Her super villain is The Dastardly General Mayhem, who destroys everything in his path in a never-ending quest for power.

SAINT KISSES:

When does that man sleep?

NINJA REDHEART:

He doesn't.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I might have spiked his blood lust with eternal Adderall, so as tired as he gets... no nappies.

SAINT KISSES:

So mean.

NINJA:

ChopStings!

SUPERSMALL:

NAPLESS.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And this is Saint Kisses.

SAINT KISSES:

HelloHelloHello.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Her super power is very special.

NINJA REDHEART:

Because you'd never guess it.

SAINT KISSES:
I mean. It's basically that I'm smarter than I look.

SUPERSMALL:
(whispered)
By a lot.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Her super villain is The Great Taker.

NINJA REDHEART:
Who is also dastardly.

DR. UNIVERSE:
You can just assume that all of our villains are dastardly.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
They just wake up that way.

SUPERSMALL:
He takes what he wants and takes and takes -

SAINT KISSES:
But I use my powers of pattern detection and underappreciated vocabulary to stun and outsmart him before he even knows what the hell is up, because I take umbrage and the un-irenic!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
She also uses knives.

SAINT KISSES:
And nun-chucks.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Cause why not.

(Saint Kisses whips out some girly nun chucks and the Doctor surprises us with a concealed knife.)

NINJA REDHEART:
And then there's SuperSmall!

SUPERSMALL:

Hey y'all!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

She is a princess whose powers are mighty because her story is the saddest of all.

SUPERSMALL:

Plus I can't swim very well.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

But despite the emotional baggage, maybe because of it, when she sings of love and hope her voice lifts and tightens our hearts like –

SAINT KISSES:

Pilates for the soul.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Pilates for the soul.

NINJA REDHEART:

In fact her only weapon is the sweeping power ballad.

SAINT KISSES:

It is.

SUPERSMALL:

It is.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The tonal qualities of her voice remind all listeners of beautiful weeping. No one is immune.

NINJA REDHEART:

I'm like constantly devastated. But in a great way.

SAINT KISSES:

She is.

SUPERSMALL:

She is.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Tell them about your super villain.

SUPERSMALL:

I don't know. I'm feeling a little blah, you know. You go ahead.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Well I mean... you should tell it. They want to know about your whole thing. Come on.

SUPERSMALL:

I just... it's hard to describe.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Then forget the villain, talk about yourself.

NINJA REDHEART:

The fans want to know!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Especially guy fans.

NINJA REDHEART:

They love her.

SUPERSMALL:

It's hard to talk about myself too. I just. Let's move on.

SAINT KISSES:

No it's not hard. Duh. You're gorgeous.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And you're strong.

SUPERSMALL:

But I mean... not strong like *y'all*.

NINJA REDHEART:

OhMyGod, yes you are.

SAINT KISSES:

You so are. Like *so so* are.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Don't get down, girl. You're a *Fatale*. When *you're* down, *we're* down. All for one.

SAINT KISSES:

And one for *yeah!*

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

(*to us*)

We think of ourselves as quintuplets, even though we only met a year ago.

NINJA REDHEART:
HoldUp. Has it been a year already?

SUPERSMALL:
A year soon, duh.

NINJA REDHEART:
Oh my god, it's going to be our birthday?!

SAINT KISSES:
Oh my god, it is!

NINJA REDHEART:
Oh my god, happy birthday to us, oh my god! Are we having a party?!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Well. The concert is on our anniversary.

SAINT KISSES:
Princess! Did you throw us a concert party?

NINJA REDHEART:
A birthday party that is also a concert because we love both parties and concerts?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Pretty much, yeah I did.

SUPERSMALL:
Wow you guys, I've never had a real birthday party before.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Well that's one way to share our joy with our fans.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
With a song? A pre-birthday song? Unplugged? A song from SuperSmall?

SAINT KISSES:
That somehow snaps into the mathematically exact resonance that links nostalgia with empowerment.

SUPERSMALL:
I mean...

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

A solo?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

It's important for Super to have solos.

NINJA REDHEART:

Can I have a solo?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

She needs to really express herself.

NINJA REDHEART:

Can I have a solo?

SAINT KISSES:

She's had a hard life.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

It's why she's so entertaining.

NINJA REDHEART:

Maybe if I had a harder life I could get a –

(SuperSmall cuts her off with this beautiful solo...)

WHY?

SUPERSMALL:

*Why,
Can't I
Love you
Like I
Want to?*

*Why,
Am I,
Alone
Always,
Alone.*

*I need to tell somebody
That I'm real, I'm here.
I want to yell my story
Before I, disappear.
So I'm gonna sing it out, sing out loud
Find my pride, and be alive!*

*Why
Did I
Think that
I need-
ed you.*

*So I
Say goodbye
to fear
Cause I'm
Still here.*

(The Fatales are weeping and applauding.)

SAINT KISSES:

We are so fucking awesome.

(Black out.)

THREE!

(They are in a dance rehearsal, Saint Kisses is leading.)

SAINT KISSES:

Okok. Try it again. Super, it's a *left* turn. Princess, you're making the same mistake. Doctor, it's too exact. We need some *je ne sais quoi*, some "fire eyes" if you get me.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

(making whatever "fire eyes" means)

Oh I get you.

SAINT KISSES:

All right. Places, ladies. Ok. Blah blah we're talking, we're laughing, and Doctor looks out to the arena full of fans and says...

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

"See? The main point of being pop princess fighter song heroes?"

NINJA REDHEART:

"We're nobody's ho-bodies."

*(They do another quick pop anthem for you.
It has a lot of clapping.)*

NOBODY'S HO-BODIES

ALL:

*Nobody's! Ho-Bodies!
Ain't no time! We live our lives!
You heard that right! We bark, we bite!*

NINJA REDHEART:

*I'm the Ninja with a redredheart
You say stop, just watch me start.*

SAINT KISSES:

*My name is Saint Kisses and I'll be you Misses
But first meet my friends,
Cause sisterhood don't break, don't bend.*

SUPERSMALL:

*Step it up, y'all! Step it up, tall!
Y'all know my name is SuperSmall.*

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I am the Doctor,

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

and I am the Princess.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We sing, we fight, we know what's right

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And we'll be your witness.

ALL:

Nobody's! Ho-Bodies!

YeahYeahYeahYeah!

Boom.

*(Super Awesome Finish Pose!
With their signature superhero squint.)*

SAINT KISSES:

OH DAMN THAT WAS AWESOME.

DOCTOR:

That was *it*, y'all.

NINJA:

That was really good right?

SUPERSMALL:

I really turned left.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

That was great, everybody.

NINJA REDHEART:

Our bodies were so great!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

God it feels good to be great.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I mean I'm loving the energy we're getting now. I'm loving the pop and I'm loving the vitriol.

NINJA REDHEART:

I've been working on my vitriol.

SUPERSMALL:

I can tell.

SAINT KISSES:

It was totally vituperatory.

NINJA REDHEART:

Fuck yeah it was.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

(to us re: the cameras)

All right, language. These are still on right?

SAINT KISSES:

Do they ever go off?

NINJA REDHEART:

(pinching her eyes to see...)

I think they're on.

SAINT KISSES:

Yeah they're totally on.

(Ninja and Saint switch to perfect smiles since they're on.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Good, because I want us to really open up. Our power is our candor, right?

NINJA REDHEART:

Are you talking about our awesome concert coming up?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

No, I want us to -

SAINT KISSES:

We have a concert coming up!

SUPERSMALL:

OhMyGod, like they don't know that.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Yeah who doesn't know that?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Ok, ladies -

NINJA REDHEART:

Like maybe vegetables haven't heard yet.

SAINT KISSES:

Fucking carrots.

(Laughing)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Ok. What I wanted to talk about was ourselves, not our concert.

SUPERSMALL:

But this is the biggest one we've ever done.

NINJA REDHEART:

And we want it to be awesome and electric -

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But we also want it to be important and honest.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Because our songs are from our hearts.

SAINT KISSES:

Our *real* hearts.

SUPERSMALL:

But not our *real* real hearts.

NINJA REDHEART:

Cause those are gross.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Look. Yes we're a billion-dollar pop music machine, but we're also regular women.

NINJA REDHEART:

I'm very regular.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And the point is that regular women can change the world.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I mean I've been telling them since the beginning: this isn't just music, it's revolution. That is why we do this, you know? We sing because we have to, because it's too big to keep inside.

SAINT KISSES:

Like the Von Trapps.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We sing because there is nothing left to say.

NINJA REDHEART:

And because we've been told that shouting is aggressive.

SUPERSMALL:

And crying is annoying.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

So we sing. To shut up the world, we sing. To speak at all, we sing.

SAINT KISSES:

(like this is a threat)

"Do a dear, a *female* dear."

NINJA REDHEART:

Can I just say that I think we're a big deal. We are like the quintumvirate of –umvirates. I mean... *five* superheroic singers?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Most people only know one.

SAINT KISSES:

And *two* of them are princesses?

SUPERSMALL:

Who rule with temperance and accessories.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

YesYesYes, but we're so much more than princesses and ninjas and – Ok back up. So. We started the band when we all realized that we're *all* girls who love music, who believe in a better world, and who are princesses or superheroes or ninjas or magical healers.

NINJA REDHEART:

Isn't that insane?!

SUPERSMALL:

I mean when does that ever happen?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

OhMyGod though. How we met, you guys.

NINJA REDHEART:

Girls!

SAINT KISSES:

How we met and formed this group is amazing because we found each other by total and complete chance.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But we are united to defeat evil by choice.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And that's a big choice to make, you know?

NINJA REDHEART:

Like. There's actual evil out there. So. We're on it.

SUPERSMALL:

And then we were like: We need a name! So we said: *The Fatales*.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

The Fatales.

NINJA REDHEART:

That's French.

NINJA REDHEART:

But not only are we princesses and superheroes, we're also singer-songwriters. And all of these are real jobs, *mom*.

SAINT KISSES

Triple Word Score!

SUPERSMALL:

SuperPrincessSparklePopAttack!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We rule, we fight, and we perform confessional ballads. Why can't I be a complex and thus complete woman?

SAINT KISSES:

You can, girl.

NINJA REDHEART:

Yes. I finally can.

(The high five. Then superhero squint.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

This question does come up so we should get right to it: *how* do we fight crime?

SUPERSMALL:

Oh that's easy.

SAINT KISSES:

And so much fun!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Well it's all about the dramatic reversal.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

The surprise groin punch.

SAINT KISSES:

And the upending of expectation based on gender. Which works like this:

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Some of us look cute.

SUPERSMALL:

We're supposed to.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Some of us look sexy.

NINJA REDHEART:

You know it.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Some of us pull off that geek chic thing that is super easy to mess up.

SAINT KISSES:

I love Scrabble.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But while you're looking? One of us has already put a knife, stiletto, or very sharp piece of fruit to your carotid artery.

SUPERSMALL:

Unless you're a tweenage fan in which case we put a free bonus track on your iTunes!

NINJA REDHEART:

Free stuff!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But. Let's be honest. We don't do as much crime fighting as we used to.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Yeah. Before we had the responsibility of music videos and product placement, we had more time for the little things in life.

NINJA REDHEART:

Not that we're complaining! We love our fans.

SUPERSMALL:

We love our music.

SAINT KISSES:

And we love the fact that we get to share our truth with the world on all media platforms.

(Princess is a little annoyed by this)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Well. We share some things more than others of course.

NINJA REDHEART:

I mean we don't share all of our "before pictures" or anything.

SUPERSMALL:

Even stars have to have some secrets, am I right?

SAINT KISSES:

The whole world has secrets because secrets are fun!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Or they're lies with longevity.

(Pause.)

NINJA REDHEART:

Or. Not. That.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

(Trying to cover the awkward...)

Don't you find it to be true that you rarely meet people who really get you? It's easy to get along, sure, but to find women who really really get you? That's hard.

SAINT KISSES:

It is hard.

NINJA REDHEART:

It was hard. Now we have each other.

SUPERSMALL:

Yeah. And with this group, with this flourish? We were all like: gotten.

SAINT KISSES:

Like immediately.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Like instantly gotten.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Which is why we knew right away that we could be a pop group.

SUPERSMALL:

OhMyGod it was so funny when – remember the night we met?

SAINT KISSES:

OhMyGod that was so funny.

SUPERSMALL:

You weren't even there.

NINJA REDHEART:

But we all know the story. At the club? Oh tell it again, it's so funny. Tell it, Princess, tell it.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

OK. So. I showed up at this awesome place and I totally thought "Oh shit. There's no one here." And then like a second later I look up and see... SuperSmall.

SUPERSMALL:

And I saw her but I'm kinda shy so she was like.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

So I was like – "Hi, I'm Princess Sugar Justice, and I don't know you or anything but are you a princess too?"

SAINT KISSES:

And she was like –

SUPERSMALL:

And I was like, "Um. Yeah, but I'm also a super hero with perfect pitch, excellent balance and super-fine hair."

SAINT KISSES:
Amazing.

NINJA:
What?!

DOCTOR:
When does that ever happen?

NINJA REDHEART:
Oh wait, but then....

SUPERSMALL:
Yeah I love this part.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Yeah so I walk in and hear this and was like, "You guys!"

SAINT KISSES:
Girls!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
"You girls! I'm a singing superhero doctor!"

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
And we were all like:

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Shut the entrance!

SUPERSMALL:
No way!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
We are such great role models!

SUPERSMALL:
It was crazy. Here we were, all of us vigilantes for musical justice drinking alone.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
The place turned out to be a bar.

NINJA REDHEART:
But sometimes vigilantes get lonely.

SAINT KISSES:
So lonely!

SUPERSMALL:
There's not always anyone to punch with or softly critique your outfit.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Her cape was orange when we met.

SAINT KISSES:

Oh god.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

With her complexion?

SUPERSMALL:

I didn't know! Now I know! No cape!

SAINT KISSES:

When you're fighting misogyny on your own it's hard to have the kind of perspective you really need to look your best.

SUPERSMALL:

It's easy to feel crazy if you're by yourself, singing and crime fighting night after night.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

It's takes an emotional toll and you have to lead with confidence or else you're just a lady in a cape.

NINJA REDHEART:

And sometimes it's *orange*.

SAINT KISSES:

Hahaha.

SUPERSMALL:

Some people look good in orange.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Ok. So suddenly. In a flash. Here we are, three women with nothing to lose, everything to fight, and near perfect harmony.

(Princess, Doctor, and SuperSmall harmonize real quick.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And then, like the goddesses of all faiths were calling us to this collective vocation... I was called up for karaoke.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And she was like: "Do y'all know *Living on a Prayer*?"

SUPERSMALL:

And I was like: "Girl, I live on an actual prayer!"

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And we went up there and nailed it -

SUPERSMALL:

And we realized in that moment, in that instant, that we could be a team.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Well. Even after y'all handled the Bon Jovi key change, I will admit that I wasn't quite convinced yet. I mean I was almost convinced but... you gotta be careful when you're starting a new girl group. But then I saw that Doctor was in these amaze black leather boots with amaze femme-but-lethal kitten heels.

NINJA REDHEART:

Sharp, girl.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Bless y'all.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And I was like: where did you get your boots?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And I was like: from the outlet.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And I was like: upon whom are you exacting revenge tonight?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And we were both like:

DOCTOR UNIVERSE and SUPERSMALL:

Those who have ravaged and ransacked the Mighty Feminine!

NINJA REDHEART:

Girl, stop!

SAINT KISSES:

Too much love in the house tonight!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And we all laughed.

And formed an alliance like right then.

(They cheer and high five)

But three isn't a movement.

NINJA REDHEART:

Which is it was great that we walked in.

(They cheer and high five)

SAINT KISSES:

And we were all like:

NINJA REDHEART:

"Let's just fucking do this thing."

DOCTOR UNIVERSE

Oh my god, language, Ninja.

NINJA REDHEART:

Sometimes my passion comes across as boorish.

SAINT KISSES:

But y'all just think about it. Last year we were all nobodies. Like *nobodies*.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Aw.

NINJA REDHEART:

And now look at us.

SAINT KISSES:

We're amaze.

NINJA REDHEART:

Amaze times five.

SUPERSMALL:

And we sing.

SAINT KISSES:

Which makes us -

NINJA REDHEART:

(singing this)

Amaze time five hundred and one!

(They cheer and high five)

SAINT KISSES:

We're also really rich cause our merch sells like meth, can I get an amen.

(They cheer and high five)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But it's not about the money.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Mo money, mo taxes.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Money is just a causeway to independence.

NINJA REDHEART:

Which is what we really wanted in the first place.

SUPERSMALL:

That's what would have saved us in our past lives.

SAINT KISSES:

That would have given us metaphorical wings to fly metaphorically away from metaphorical and literal danger.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

But now we got bank, y'all.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We fight the patriarchy –

NINJA REDHEART:

We sing and dance –

SUPERSMALL:

We got a room of one's one.

SAINT KISSES:

With four roommates.

NINJA REDHEART:

Also we need milk.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And honesty. Wouldn't that be nice.

(Pause.)

NINJA REDHEART:

But milk first.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

(trying to not get righteously upset)

Can I just... we're supposed to be real right? Ok. This is all a show. All of it is a show.

SAINT KISSES:

You mean the actual upcoming show in which we're performing?

NINJA REDHEART:

Yes! Our epic concert that's going to be epic!

SUPERSMALL:

Y'all better be watching!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

No. I'm talking about us right now. *We* are the show. Sitting here talking to them. We're performing. Aren't we?

SAINT KISSES:

Well. No.

NINJA REDHEART:

Are you saying we're fake?

SUPERSMALL:

We're not fake.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

No. We're not fake, no, but we are... perfect.

SUPERSMALL:

Right.

NINJA REDHEART:

Exactly.

SAINT KISSES:

Which is awesome for us.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

And not entirely honest. We stood for something when we started. We wrote songs about voice and justice and we're still saying the words but are we living them? Otherwise this is just some useless heaven.

SAINT KISSES:

I mean... does heaven have a use?

NINJA REDHEART:

It's useful to get in, I think.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I'm just saying... We can admit that this started as all mighty female empowerment and now it's mainly... shiny. We can admit that right?

(Pause)

SUPERSMALL:

Or... we can sing some more?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Yeah. That'd be a good transition back to things comfortable.

(Saint, Doctor, Super and Ninja all get in the same line up as at the top of the scene. They're ready to run "Nobody's Ho-Bodies" again.

They wait for Princess to get in position.

She finally does.)

SAINT KISSES:

Three, two, one, and -

(Blackout.)

FOUR!

*(Common Room.
More casual and relaxed.
Ninja paints her nails red and plays Scrabble with Saint Kisses.)*

NINJA REDHEART:

"Crowns."

SAINT KISSES:

You can't keep added s's to everything. How many s's do you have?

NINJA REDHEART:

A lady never tells.

(Princess is away from the group thinking. Until SuperSmall enters and approaches her.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Hey.

SUPERSMALL:

Hey.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

How's it going?

SUPERSMALL:

I'm ok. It's a little crazy all this. The cameras.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I know. It's kinda getting to me too.

SUPERSMALL:

I didn't mean that, it's not that kinda bad.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I'm not saying it's bad, it's just... intimate. It's making me a little anxiously existential.

SUPERSMALL:

Yeah. Uh. What's with that?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

What?

SUPERSMALL:

The honesty stuff. What is that? Is that a new album concept or ?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

No it's just... who we are. Our fans deserve to know who we are and I'm starting to forget.

SUPERSMALL:

They do know who we are. They know who are *to them*. So.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

So... I don't think that's enough.

SUPERSMALL:

Ok. Well. You're being a little righteous about it, don't you think?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I am not being righteous.

SUPERSMALL:

More than usual, yes you are. Are you trying to win a prize or something?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I'm trying to make sure we don't forget.

SUPERSMALL:

Ok. I love you, but you have this thing you do where you speak for all of us and I'm just saying be careful.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I'm not hurting us with this.

SUPERSMALL:

Ok. I know you. Better than anyone.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

So why are you assuming the worst?

SUPERSMALL:

I'm not, I'm assuming that you have a plan that you're not telling us and I'd like to know what it is. I trust you, I'm just saying that if something is on your mind, please just talk to us first. Or me. At least talk to me.

(Pause)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I had a dream. Or a memory. Or something in between. I saw us up on that stage, exactly as we really are, fully alive and saying “yes, goddammit this is what I went through, this is who I am.” And everyone... cheered. They thanked us. They understood.

And I woke up and immediately thought “That would never happen. Right? They’d hate us if they knew. We’d have to give all this up.”

But fuck that. Why would that be the case?

(to Doctor, sincerely)

Why can’t we tell the truth?

(Playing her Scrabble tiles)

SAINT KISSES:

“Patriachy.”

(Immediately adding an “s”)

NINJA REDHEART:

“Patriarchys.”

SAINT KISSES:

That’s not – you can’t just add an “s” to the end. That’s not how you pluralize it. Use your “s” somewhere else.

NINJA REDHEART:

“Spatriachy.”

SAINT KISSES:

I’ll give it to you.

SUPERSMALL:

Look. Truth is not what this is. It never was supposed to be. We are the fantasy because reality is too much to bear.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But reality is not going to stop and fantasies will.

SUPERSMALL:

It doesn’t have to stop.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

It does.

SUPERSMALL:

You cannot say that to them. They will freak out. Just. For now? Keep this between me and you... while I figure it out. Ok? I mean we started this thing. If *we're* not in sync the whole thing cracks.

(moment)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I hated NSync.

SUPERSMALL:

Thank god Justin made it out.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I hear that.

SUPERSMALL:

Dear Pop Gods, please let us made good hairstyle choices.

*(SuperSmall and Princess smile.
Ninja and Saint Kisses look up from the game.)*

NINJA REDHEART:

Do I hear someone praying to the Pop Gods in here?

(Doctor runs in...)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Okok I'm here, I'm here. I had a SparkleMergency.

SAINT KISSES:

Jesus.

NINJA REDHEART:

Are you ok?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

It's fine. I'm all good now. I heal quickly.

NINJA REDHEART:

Don't sparkle me out like that.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Take a breather, Doctor. Now that we're all here. I thought we could get to work.

SUPERSMALL:

Work on what?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

A new song.

NINJA REDHEART:

A NEW SONG!

SAINT:

Oh sweet.
I was thinking about
something with
harmonica.

NINJA:

I had an idea for one
about kittens and
mittens and RAGE.

DOCTOR:

I was just reading in
The Atlantic about
creative brainstorming
strategies.

(A they get out notebooks and pens.)

SUPERSMALL:

Why do we need a new song?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

For our birthday. I think we need a new sound. Something that really says “No.
We’re not going to take it anymore”.

SAINT KISSES:

But we don’t ever take anything. That’s our thing.

NINJA REDHEART:

Is this about the spatriarchy again?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I just want something new. Something grand and really political. Our fans will go
with us, they love us, they want us to blow their minds.

SAINT KISSES:

We could bring some dogs onstage?

NINJA REDHEART:

Yeah! Like a lot of dogs, like a million dogs!

SUPERSMALL:

Or. How about a love song?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

A what?

NINJA REDHEART:
Ooohhhh. A love song? I love love songs!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
We're not doing a love song.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Don't we already have a love song?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
No we don't because we don't do love songs.

SUPERSMALL:
No. We haven't done them *yet*.

SAINT KISSES:
Why don't we do love songs again?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Because everyone does them and we're not everyone and "There is no evil angel but Love." You know who said that?

SAINT KISSES:
Hillary Clinton?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Shakespeare. Come on.

NINJA REDHEART:
I don't know, y'all, people love love. We could have that song everyone plays at weddings and proms.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
We don't sing love songs. That's the deal.

SUPERSMALL:
No one signed that deal. And our fans want this because love is a titanic human driver.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
How do you know? Has any one of us ever actually been in love?

SAINT KISSES:
Twice.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Once and a half.

NINJA REDHEART:

I love cats and pie.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We don't need a love song.

We need an epic Save The Children drum fury with a digital world chorus. Love is an idiot emotion of weak people who want to be tricked and tamed and erased by chemical feelings of bonding. Does that sound worthy of us? No. No it does not.

(Pause)

SUPERSMALL:

I think we could nail it.

NINJA REDHEART:

I love nailing it.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Just let us riff for a second.

SAINT KISSES:

If we suck it, we chuck it. That's our motto.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Is it?

NINJA REDHEART:

Paint me a picture here. It's a song about a girl singing about... like... a guy?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

This is useless and trite.

SUPERSMALL:

Wait. I like the one's where the guy sings about the girl. Those are great. Super sweet and apologetic. What about that?

SAINT KISSES:

Ooh, I like it. But it could be two girls too.

NINJA REDHEART:

Or two guys.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

OkSo our song is about a person singing about a person. And they want... like... to kiss the other person?

SAINT KISSES:

YeahBut they want to *love* the other person. But let's say they can't kiss for some reason.

NINJA REDHEART:

Drama!

SAINT KISSES:

It's a tale as old as time.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Which is why it's played out and boring.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Aww. See. Nobody ever wrote songs for me.

SUPERSMALL:

Whoa! That's great! That's good. Write that down.

NINJA REDHEART:

Oh yeah I like it!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Like what?

SAINT KISSES:

What you just said. Start with that. "Nobody ever wrote songs for me." That's good.

SUPERSMALL:

Try it, Doctor.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Ladies, come on, can we not -

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

(improvising)
Nobody ever wrote songs for me.
So I'm not sure how this goes.

SAINT KISSES:

Keep going yeah – yes – awesome – art.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

*Nobody ever asked after me
So I thought that I was alone.*

SUPERSMALL:

Break some hearts, killas.

NINJA REDHEART:

*But then I hear from you in the night
As I sleep and I dream your voice is right
Beside me and tells me that I'm not alone.
You say I'm the one.*

SUPERSMALL:

That you're waiting to hear from.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Oh shit, this is so good.

SAINT KISSES:

*Nobody ever told me I was nice
So I thought I couldn't be.*

DOCTOR UNIVERSE

*Nobody asked what I thought
But you? You understood me.*

(Princess Sugar Justice doesn't join this awesome jam.)

ALL BUT PRINCESS:

*And then I hear from you in the night
As I sleep and I dream your voice is right
Beside me and tells me that I'm not alone.
You say I'm the one.*

SUPERSMALL:

That you're waiting to hear from.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

*So now that you given me my voice
I got no other chance and no other choice
I'll do anything
I'll say anything*

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

(jumping in and getting off track...)

I'll rip my heart out of my chest

And staple it to you

Cause it's your fault I'm like this

It's not me it's you, It's not me it's you –

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

(guiding the group away from where Princess was taking them)

Back to the verses!

SAINT KISSES:

Nobody ever though I was worth love

So I might be doing it wrong.

SUPERSMALL:

Nobody made me better than me,

But you do and I am.

ALL BUT PRINCESS:

And that's my song.

(Pause. Awesome. Pause. Awesome.

Then a towering drum crescendo way beyond a jam session brings us...)

ALL BUT PRINCESS:

That's.

My.

Song!

SUPERSMALL:

We are amazing!

NINJA REDHEART:

That was insane!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

That is some solid gold shit!

SAINT KISSES:

Oh my god that is going to be everywhere!

NINJA REDHEART:

Whose idea was the love song?

SAINT KISSES:

Super! Super did it!

SAINT KISSES:
Yeah, Super, Yeah!

NINJA REDHEART:
You are the beast of ballads, girl!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
THIS IS NOT WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING.
THIS IS NOT WHO WE ARE.
THIS IS NOT HOW WE SAVE OUR SOULS.

(They stare at her. Princess walks off.)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
What the – ?

(Black out.)

SIX!

*(A small dressing room away from the cameras
where PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE is putting on lipstick.*

*DOCTOR UNIVERSE and SUPERSMALL enter as Doctor finishes her line
from the previous scene.)*

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

- fuck, Princess? Ok can we not, with this anymore? New songs? Down with love?
What's going on with you?

SUPERSMALL:

And don't say "I'm fine" cause we're better friends than that. What's really wrong?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

*What's wrong is that everything reminds me of all the things I built this sparkle
machine to forget.*

(Pause.)

I can't think without... thinking.

I know I got upset and I'm sorry. That's why I came in here to freshen up. *Alone.*

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Uh huh.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

'Pour yourself a drink, put on some lipstick, and pull yourself together.' You know
who said that?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Shakespeare.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Elizabeth Taylor. Come on.

SUPERSMALL:

You don't need lipstick and you don't need a drink. You need to talk to us.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Talk to us.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I've said it already. I don't like the new song, I don't like that we can't be honest. I'm
trying to get over it. I'm fine, ok.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

What did I say about that. You're not fine.

SUPERSMALL:

And neither are we. We are not fine and that's starting to be all your fault. Is it the concert?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Is it the birthday?

SUPERSMALL:

Are you feeling old?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I'm not old, I'm useless. We are useless if we are not real.

SUPERSMALL:

Well we're not real. And thank god we're not. The world would eat us up. The would flay us and fry us and eat us if we dared to be ordinary and powerful. We have to shine to survive.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We have to *lie* to survive.

SUPERSMALL:

Yes, goddammit. Yes yes yes we do. You want to be royalty? You want superstrength and superfriends and super superiority? Or do you want *life*. *Fuck life*. Life is just one F away from lie, anyway. See what I did there? *Wordplay*. So fuck you.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

If we lie we're powerless. And being powerless is how we got here.

SUPERSMALL:

But we're here! We're on top of the world! We're mighty and we're getting paid for it!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I don't want any of that if I have to hide.

SUPERSMALL:

We're not refugees, we're performers, this is a performance, that's the whole point!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The point is fuck-the-patriarchy, that's the point. And the patriarchy just loves that we're distracting ourselves with fame and glitter while they go right on *fucking*

people over. If we refuse to be played, then we can start to play them. I'm not afraid of the truth, I'm afraid of denying it.

SUPERSMALL:

Well I'm afraid of everything coming undone, everyone leaving and fading and falling away, and if you don't care if that happens, then I'm afraid of you.

(Pause.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Your fear is your acknowledgement.

(SuperSmall slaps Princess. Doctor gasps.)

SUPERSMALL:

That's real. How does that feel?

(Slaps her again.)

SUPERSMALL:

Reality.

(Slaps her again.)

Realness.

(Slaps her again.)

The real –

(Slaps her again.)

fucking

(Slaps her again.)

world.

*(Slaps goes to slap her again – but Princess holds her hand.
Beat.)*

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The most dangerous thing in the world is truth.

SUPERSMALL:

The most dangerous thing in the world is a good story that people like better than the truth.

*(Princess releases SuperSmall.
Are they going to fist fight?)*

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I don't want to fight you. Let me fight for you.

SUPERSMALL:

Sure. But leave the group alone. Or just leave.

(SUPERSMALL exits. Pause.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Shit. Shit. You hate me.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I don't actually. I'm with you.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

You are?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Of course I am. I think about how we were every day, every hour. And the singing and sparkles and re-imagined gender iconography – it's all more than I ever thought I'd have, but... yes, the truth is more powerful than all this. It's just going to be hard.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I know. The girls aren't gonna like it. But our fans will stick with us. We might even get new fans. We might even get Nobel Peace Prizes!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Slow down, Barack. First we convince the girls that honesty is the best way forward. And that we can still deliver it in song.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

What? No. No more songs.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We're a band, girl. A girl band.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But we're more than that. We have to be more than that. We're a movement.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We're both. And people want us the way they want us. Which is, right now, being loud and bouncy. And in order to get the truth out we need an audience. So. We don't sing just *some* song... we use one *big* song. One huge, big, towering musical number that blows the world away. We already have our huge, madly costumed, corporate-sponsored, arena act simulcast, live-streamed and translated around the world in a week. And *that* is the time for a big reveal. *That* is a global moment that no one will want to miss. Ok?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Ok. Ok.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We do a few old numbers, fan favorites.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Of course.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We throw up some of the documentary to set the tone of a big reveal.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I like it.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Then we launch into the radical stuff. A new song, the big one, the one that, in front of the entire world, tells the truth for all of those who can't.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Yes. Yes. Fuck yes.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Fuck yes is right. But no cursing.

(black out)

SEVEN!

*(Common Room. Back with the group.
SUPERSMALL isn't excited.)*

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

So. This is our chance to make some Epic. Gorgeous. Musical Realness.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

This is when we prove that we are superheroes. This is when we do that for real.
This is our moment, ladies.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And we can't say no.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

It's too good.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We're too good.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The girls out there who listen to us because they can't speak because no one will
listen to them.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We do it for them.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The women who listen to us on ellipticals and feel like that's their only moment of
lifestyle domination.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We do it for them.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The kids who've never heard us.

(Ninja and Saint Kisses gasp.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Who never hear anything but shame and violence.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We do it for them.

SAINT KISSES:
I mean, ok but... we're not changing the costumes right?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Nope.

NINJA REDHEART:
What about solos? Do we get solos?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Everyone gets solos.

NINJA REDHEART:
Everyone?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Everyone.

NINJA REDHEART:
I get it, I like it, I'm in.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Thank you. THANK YOU.

SAINT KISSES:
Me too. I'm not ashamed. Let's use our jamming for some good!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
YES! Ladies this is the real deal and I'm so proud to be doing this with you. I thought I was going to be doing this on my own.

NINJA REDHEART:
Of course not, you dummy. Truth! Justice! Solos!

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
What about you, Doctor?

SUPERSMALL:
Um. No. I can't.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Yes you can, we'll all be there with you.

SUPERSMALL:
You're right, I can. But I won't. Because this is a bad idea.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But wait, it's going to be so powerful.

SUPERSMALL:

For you, not me, because I'm not doing it.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Well we're not doing it without you.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

You're essential, please.

SAINT KISSES:

I don't get it. Why don't you want to do this?

SUPERSMALL:

Because I'm not like y'all. You know I'm not. And I like the fiction. I need it. I'm nothing without it. And our fans want powerful princess warriors, they do not want reality. They will throw that reality back at us, because we only have the power as long as we are entertaining. You want to rip their comfort from them? Good luck with the merch table after that.
Tell your story, don't tell mine.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But. We need this, the world needs this –

SUPERSMALL:

The world will boo us.

(Ninja and Princess gasp)

NINJA:

They wouldn't.

SAINT KISSES:

OhMyGod.

SUPERSMALL:

They will boo us, because we won't be *us* anymore. We'll be what we were and that was not pretty.

(Ninja and Princess gasp)

NINJA:

Not pretty?

SAINT KISSES:

OhMyGod.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Well. I think they'll cheer.

SUPERSMALL:

Either way. I'll be sick that day.

(Doctor leaves.)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Wait.

NINJA BUTTERSCOTH:

Doctor, come back.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Can we talk about this?

SAINT KISSES:

Ok. Let's just... Is this really a good idea? I mean maybe the Doctor is right.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

She's not right. And I'm tired of people making it harder for women to tell their truths just because they're uncomfortable and unpleasant for the rest of the world, a majority of which just stood there and let the unpleasantness happen. They watched it happen to you and you and her and me. And then they want us to sing for them? Not anymore. I'm not doing it anymore.

NINJA REDHEART:

I thought you said we were singing.

SAINT KISSES:

With big costumes?

NINJA REDHEART:

And lots of solos?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We are. We are.

SAINT KISSES:

Is Doctor really not going to be there? That won't work. We can't have four out of five Fatales.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

She'll come back.

NINJA REDHEART:

If Princess cools down and stops yelling at us about how singing is selling out.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

She's not saying that.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

What if I am? What if I'm saying that who we really are is more important than performing the way the world wants us to be. What if I am say that singing is easy, and honesty is hard.

NINJA REDHEART:

If you are saying that? Then *you* should leave not The Doctor.

SAINT KISSES:

"Singing is how we speak at all" that's literally what you said. What the hell is different now?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The difference is that I think we've been kidding ourselves the whole time.

SAINT KISSES:

That's such bullshit.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We've been calling ourselves heroes and radicals and crime fighting divas but we're just diversion so that the world can take a break from the horror it brews up everyday and watch us smile pretty for the cameras. We're fooling ourselves if we think we're anything but decoration right now, and I don't care if they turn on us, someone in that crowd, many someones, will hear us and know that they can be heard and *that's changing the world. Merch is not changing the world.* Our anniversary is days away, do you know what means? That we've been doing nothing for too long. So. The Doctor is with me. Are you?

NINJA REDHEART:

We're not doing nothing. This is everything to me.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Then you need to grow up.

NINJA REDHEART:

Fuck you.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

She doesn't mean that. Princess, you don't me that.

SAINT KISSES:

I think she does. And I don't what we did to you, but *you're* the problem here not us.

NINJA REDHEART:

Let's go find The Doctor.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Fine. Go.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

It's not fine. We can't split up. We're the Fatales.

SAINT KISSES:

Tell her that.

(Ninja and Saint Kisses leave too.)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

What the hell is happening? We had a plan.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

If they're not going to tell the truth, I will.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

It's not your truth to tell.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Isn't it? You and I are bound by this truth. Cancel the stupid concert, get me on Oprah.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I'm not cancelling the concert. And you can get yourself on Oprah.

(DOCTOR UNIVERSE goes to leave. Comes back.)

But if you do really meet Oprah, give her a big hug for me.

(Ninja re-enters.)

NINJA REDHEART:

I'm leaking a version of our love song and that shit is gonna catch like measles in an anti-vax camp. So.

Measles.

(Ninja and DOCTOR UNIVERSE leaves. Princess is alone.)

EIGHT!

***(SUPERSMALL's private dressing room.
Ninja and Saint Kisses are fuming, Doctor is distracted.)***

NINJA REDHEART:

What the hell is she thinking? I mean this is –

SAINT KISSES:

This is sabotage.

NINJA REDHEART:

It is sabotage. Real, crazy, pirate-style sabotage.

SAINT KISSES:

How do spell sabotage?

NINJA REDHEART:

With a “u”.

SUPERSMALL:

There is no “u” in sabotage. And she’s having her early mid-life crisis or something. This business gets to all of us.

NINJA REDHEART:

But she is destroying the us. She is destroying The Fatales. And we are supposed to be an indestructible princess musical team of might and right and she is undoing that.

SAINT KISSES:

Is she allergic to something? Maybe it’s gluten.

NINJA REDHEART:

She watched you leave. She didn’t stop you. You are one of us and she is our leader, and she watched you walk away without saying anything. When we have the biggest concert of all time in like days and she’s pulling this crap? Changing stuff, trying to tell us that music isn’t power.

SAINT KISSES:

And the love song thing, where was the aggression coming from.

NINJA REDHEART:

I like who we are! I like that we’re impossibly awesome! Who wouldn’t want more of that?

SAINT KISSES:

The bottom line is she's being weird. Not you. And we're with you. She does that to one of us she does it to all of us.

NINJA REDHEART:

And you are not different from us. We're all Fatales. There's no category except that one.

SAINT KISSES:

And pirate sabotage.

NINJA REDHEART:

And that one.

(DOCTOR UNIVERSE enters.)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Ok. So. We're going to take a deep breath because we have a show to prepare for.

SAINT KISSES:

Wait wait what's the deal with Princess?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I don't know. But. We're not waiting for her to do what we know we need to do.

NINJA REDHEART:

Which is sing solos and power walk.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Yes.

NINJA REDHEART:

Ok then.

SUPERSMALL:

Wait, she's not coming back? I was just saying that *I* can't do the whole reveal thing, not her. This was her idea. She should do the big show not me. It's her group.

SAINT KISSES:

But she didn't want the group. She basically said that singing was stupid.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

She just needs some time to cool off and meditate or something. The concert is still on. We're going to plan it like she's going to be there... with some wiggle room. And hey. This is not your fault. You were right to stand up for yourself.

SUPERSMALL:
I didn't want to break us up. That's not what I was doing.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
You didn't.

SAINT KISSES:
She did.

SUPERSMALL:
But I need us to be us. We can't stop being us. Y'all are the only family...

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
We know.

NINJA REDHEART:
We're still here.

SAINT KISSES:
The show must go on.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
And so must we.

(pause)

NINJA REDHEART:
Because. We're still The Fatales. Right?

SUPERSMALL:
I don't know what else to be.

(Black out.)

NINE!

(Exactly where the four of them were before: SuperSmall, Saint Kisses, Ninja RedHeart, and Doctor Universe stand. Waiting. Waiting.)

SAINT KISSES:

We could harmonize?

(They attempt a five-part harmony but it's missing the fifth part. They stop.)

(Black out.)

TEN!

(They four of them stretch and doing vocal warm ups all with their own earbuds in their own smartphones playing their own wildly different music. They hum and sing and dance along with their own music and create a soft and strange dissonance.)

(Then Ninja trips and falls flat on her palms.)

NINJA REDHEART:

Oh shit god wait.

(They all spiral into their own superhero poses to defend her and Doctor says -)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Sparklemergency?!

NINJA REDHEART:

No I'm ok. I'm ok. Sorry. Everybody go back to... what they were doing...

(They recover. And wait for something to do.

Black out.)

ELEVEN!

(DOCTOR UNIVERSE is leaving a voice message for Princess...)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

(on her cell)

So. I think you're going to come back. I think it's gonna happen soon. Because you know we can't do this without you. I mean rehearsals are going great, the songs sound actually fine but... you're the heart of this thing. Even when you push too hard and treat your friends like enemies, which you did, you're still our leader. This is big. And our sponsors are wigged out. And we released that love song and it's amazing. Come back.

(Then Ninja and Saint Kisses leave a voice message for Princess)

NINJA REDHEART:

So, PS the songs sound awesome and you're not here so...

SAINT KISSES:

Yeah. Think about that. Awesomeness, you're not here, solve for x.

NINJA REDHEART:

Yeah.

(Pause.)

SAINT KISSES:

Also.

NINJA REDHEART:

Also come back.

SAINT KISSES:

Yeah it's weird that you're not here and even though we sound great it's not... right.

NINJA REDHEART:

Yeah it's not right. We're The Fatales.

SAINT KISSES:

So make it right.

NINJA REDHEART:

Yeah.

SAINT KISSES:

And come back.

NINJA REDHEART:

And don't be weird.

SAINT KISSES:

And say sorry for when you were weird.

NINJA REDHEART and SAINT KISSES:

Love, Us.

*(Then PRINCESS appears calling SUPERSMALL...
Who doesn't pick up. It goes to voicemail.)*

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

It's me. And. I'm just sorry for all this. But I hope you can understand that... I'm proud of you. Of what you made out of the shit that was handed to you. I'm proud of Ninja and Saint Kisses and the Doctor, of what we've made of ourselves. But I'm more proud of who we really are. That's why I have to speak this out. But. I won't if you don't want me to. I really won't. I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't believe that it could help people. That it might stop this from happening to someone else. If you could do that, wouldn't you? Would that be the world spun right? Call me.

(Reveal SUPERSMALL listening to the message over and over...)

VOICE OF PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

If you could do that, wouldn't you?
Would that be the world spun right?

VOICE OF PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Would that be the world spun right?

VOICE OF PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Would that be the world spun – ?

(Doctor turns off her phone...)

TWELVE!

(Princess is sitting alone.

***This becomes her interview with OprahSomething,
who is “off camera”***

*As an intro, OprahSomething plays The Fatales newest release
“A Real Love Song,” which is the love song they made up that Princess
hates.)*

ALL:

*But then I hear from you in the night
As I sleep and I dream your voice is right
Beside me and tells me that I’m not alone.
You say I’m the one.*

SUPERSMALL:

That you’re waiting to hear from.

Which fades into canned audience applause for OprahSomething)

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

That was The Fatales’ latest release “A Real Love Song,” which surprised the entire world when it came out without lead singer, Princess Sugar Justice, who is here with us. Hello, Princess.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Hi. Thank you so much for having me on.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

We love you, we love The Fatales.

(canned audience approval)

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

And that. Is a great song.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Oh. Thank you.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

It’s a little different for you isn’t it. Or for the group.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

A little. But. They sound great don't they.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

They do. Except we're all a little confused as to why we don't hear you on the single. What's going on? Lemme shoot straight. Are you in the group?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Yes I am. Just taking an artistic break, you know? We're all still great friends, and I know it's a shock for some of our fans but... sometimes you just change. I changed. And I wanted to switch my legacy from music, which I do love, to real activism, which I love more. So.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

That's great, that's really great.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

It feels great.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Question. Will you be watching the big concert tonight? For those living on the Moon The Fatales are launching an enormous show tonight with quite the interesting teaser.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I love my girls so I will of course be watching tonight. And I think they'll probably be broadcasting on the Moon too. So don't worry.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

That's great. Do you know what the big secret is?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

The secret?

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

We've heard all about a secret that's coming out tonight. Do you know what it is?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Oh. Yes. I think I do.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

You do?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Yes. Because it's my secret too.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Oh my. Well. Can you tell us anything now?

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I can tell you my part of it. It's something I've held back from my fans from the beginning. It's something I can't hold back anymore. Not because it's eating at me or anything like that. It's because I know I'm not the only one who's dealt with this. And I want to be a voice for those people as well as myself.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Well go on, girl. We're here for you, aren't we audience?

(Supportive canned applause.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Well. I...

(This is harder than Princess thought)

And this is not me speaking for the rest of The Fatales. So. You see it's a very personal, very... hard thing to talk about. Even though a lot of women... Ok. Um. I guess I can start by saying that I was married young –

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Wait. Wait. I think we should pause. Because we have a little surprise for you today.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

A what?

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

There are a few people who wanted to come by. Shall we bring them out? Do we wanna see whose back stage?

(Excited canned applause)

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Alright, come on out ladies!

(DOCTOR UNIVERSE, Saint Kisses, and Ninja come out to cheers!)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Oh my god.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Hey girl.

NINJA REDHEART:

Hi, Princess.

SAINT KISSES:

Hello OPRAH OH MY GOD!

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

What are you doing here.

(to Oprah Something)

What are they doing here?

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Now Princess. We just could not let today's big concert go on without hearing from the whole group. So. Surprise.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Jesus Christ, Oprah, a little warning next time.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I'm gonna go ahead and get straight to the point. We love you, we miss you. We know you know all the lyrics. Will you come back and do the concert with us tonight?

(The canned audience freaks out with applause and cheers.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

What are you doing? What is this?

NINJA REDHEART:

Just for tonight. One night. We love your spiritual vacay or whatever but we think, and we know the world thinks, that we're better together.

SAINT KISSES:

And I think you'll love the line-up. It's everything you wanted, with room for fan favorites – yay, fans! – with new stuff – surprises! – and some extra special stuff for later.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

What about Super?

NINJA REDHEART:

She's busy preparing. It takes a lot of work to make it look that easy!

(The canned audience loves this.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Excuse us one quick second, Oprah.

(Princess pulls DOCTOR UNIVERSE to the side, taking off her mic)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We need you. And. All this split-up-the-band stuff is distracting from the concert. And how much have you talked about us versus what you really want to talk about? We can't help that we're all in this together. We do not work alone, not anymore, not since *Living on a Prayer's* key change. I know this, you know this. They know this.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But I tried to call her. I tried to explain.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

This was her idea. She wanted us to come get you, to bring you home. She's with us... even if she doesn't reveal. At least she'll sing her heart out. She'll be there. She'll be behind us. Probably literally in the back. We're reading, but you just gotta show us you're on our team too. They just need to know you've got their best interest at heart, that this isn't just some personal thing for you. I kinda need to know that too.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Of course this isn't about just me.

Or.

It wasn't supposed to be.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

There we go.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Is there a tearful "I'm Sorry" that I'm missing?

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

It's not that tearful.

OPRAH SOMETHING VOICE:

Oh.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

But it's real.

(Pause.

Princess speaks directly into her lapel mic and to us.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

So. I'll see you, and Oprah, and everyone watching around the world... tonight.

(Blackout as *the studio audience goes crazy – applause, cheers –*

***Which turns into an arena's worth of cheers and applause as
legions of fans wait for the big show to begin.)***

THIRTEEN!

*(This is the big show, y'all.
In the blackness or strobe-lit, glowy-stick concert vibe we hear...)*

BIG ANNOUNCER VOICE:

From all over the world – London, Tokyo, Cape Town, and New York City – they’ve heard you. And tonight... you will hear them like never before on Earth.

(Epic cheers!)

You’ve loved them since you met them...

*(More arena cheers as the chorus of their song **GIRLS!** Plays...)*

ALL:

*We are the girls
Hey Hey Hey Hey
We got the world at our feet)*

BIG ANNOUNCER VOICE:

You’ve loved them through the good times...

*(Part of their song **NOBODY’S HO-BODIES!** Plays:*

ALL:

*Nobody’s! Ho-Bodies!
Ain’t no time! We live our lives!)*

BIG ANNOUNCER VOICE:

And you’ve loved them through the hard times...

*(The weepiest part of SUPERSMALL’s song **WHY?** plays...*

SUPERSMALL:

*Why,
Can’t I -)*

BIG ANNOUNCER VOICE:

And through it all. The Fatales have Loved. You. Back.

(The audience freaks out at this! Cheers! Squeals! Love!)

BIG ANNOUNCER VOICE:

Now. You are moments away from the concert event of the entire history of the world. Reunited after some brief drama, with never-before-witnessed behind-the-scenes footage, promising a special secret of monumental importance, and broadcast live on every continent, The International Spaceship, and the Moon comes... Your Fatales!

(As we hear some of the early documentary footage starting to play for the arena audience...)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

OkOkOk! That was great, you guys. That was so great.

SAINT KISSES:

That was great, wasn't it.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I mean I'm loving the energy we're getting now. I'm loving the pop and I'm loving the vitriol.

NINJA REDHEART:

I've been working on my vitriol.

SAINT KISSES:

I can tell.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

So scary.

We transition to...)

FOURTEEN!

(Backstage.

Princess, Ninja, Saint Kisses, and DOCTOR UNIVERSE look fucking awesome. They are pop diva superhero princesses to the extreme and they are ready to rock.

But they're nervous too. They smile at each other as they stretch and center themselves.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Can I just say... thank you. For making me come home.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Oh girl.

NINJA REDHEART:

Not gonna lie I was real mad at you.

SAINT KISSES:

She called you a pirate.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

I just. I thought I could do this by myself. But I can't. Not without you. So thank you.

NINJA REDHEART:

Aw. We got you girl.

SAINT KISSES:

Through freak-outs, cheek-outs and meek-outs.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

And thank you for not being afraid.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Well. I'm a little afraid.

NINJA REDHEART:

You are?

SAINT KISSES:

Oh good, she's real.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Of course I am. But I have to believe that we're bigger than that.

NINJA REDHEART:
Hell yeah.

SAINT KISSES:
Fatales forever.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Fatales forever.

(Princess looks around for The Doctor.)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
She'll be here.

NINJA REDHEART:
Hey. Wanna make sure our spirit animals are still the same?

SAINT KISSES:
Yeah!

NINJA REDHEART:
Lemur

SAINT KISSES:
Lion

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
Orca

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Red-Tailed Hawk –

(SUPERSMALL enters, also looking ready to rock.)

SUPERSMALL:
Panda.
(They all stop - horrified.)
Just kidding. Monarch Butterfly. Obviously.

(They all relax.)

NINJA REDHEART:
WhoaGirl.

SAINT KISSES:

Freak my out.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:
That was almost a SparkleMergency.

SUPERSMALL:
Sorry. Kidding. Rocking the boat.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Hey.

SUPERSMALL:
Hi.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Can we... For just a sec?

SUPERSMALL:
Sure.

(They move away for the others.)

SUPERSMALL:
Hey.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
Hey. Um.

SUPERSMALL:
We don't have to talk about it.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
We do. Because it's my fault and you were right. It's not my story to tell, it's yours.
And the whole point is that we should be *able* to tell our stories, not that we *have* to.
So. I'm sorry.

SUPERSMALL:
Thank you.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:
I care about nothing more than this group of amaze women with amaze cheekbones.

NINJA REDHEART and SAINT KISSES:
I know right.

SUPERSMALL:

Ok.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Ok?

SUPERSMALL:

Yeah.

(Doctor and Princess hug it out.)

SAINT KISSES:

Aww. We're back, baby.

NINJA REDHEART:

We're so back!

SAINT KISSES:

Because we're The Fatales!

SUPERSMALL:

Yeah we are.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Alright. Any last minute mediations or harmonizations before we go out?

(They do a five-part harmony, followed by their superhero squint.)

We're good.

NINJA REDHEART:

So good.

SAINT KISSES:

The best.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Better than the best...

SUPERSMALL:

And even though this is too perfect...

And even though this seems like a world made just for us..

We're real.

(They do a five-way high-five. And start this thing...)

TEN!

(In the blackness... the girls take their place to the most dramatic part of Carmina Burana's "O Fortuna".

Then the music cuts and lights hit The Fatales.

The crowd cheers.)

NINJA REDHEART:

Hello, World. We're The Fatales.
And to some people... we're just dolls,

SAINT KISSES:

we're sweets,

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

we treats,

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

we're cute, easy, bite-sized.

SUPERSMALL:

But you know better. Which is why this night. Is for you.

(Wild cheers as they launch into GIRLS!.)

GIRLS!

ALL:

*We are the girls
Hey Hey Hey Hey
We got the world at our feet*

*We are the girls
Hey Hey Hey Hey
There's not a scourge we can't defeat*

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We are the girls and we're friends cause that's what living's about

SUPERSMALL:

We fight for each other, it's the only way out.

SAINT KISSES:

We also like reminiscing

NINJA REDHEART:

About boys and cats and kissing

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We won't stop the feminist fight cause we're the half-sky that's missing!

ALL:

Yeah Yeah Yeah!

We are the girls

Hey Hey Hey Hey

We got the world at our feet

We are the girls

Hey Hey Hey Hey

There's not a scourge we can't defeat

SUPERSMALL:

We are the girls and we know we hold the fate of all nations

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We're a princess team, we stand up to predation.

NINJA REDHEART:

We're a girl power riot.

SAINT KISSES:

Defeat us? Just try it.

SUPER SMALL:

We wont swallow your rules unless we can deep fry it.

ALL:

Yeah Yeah Yeah!

We are the girls

We are the girls

We are your girls!

(Suddenly an isolated, silent spotlight hits...

PRINCESS'S TRUE STORY:

(Princess wears bright red lipstick and holds the lipstick tube.

During this confession, she takes off her Princess Superhero Pop star outfit to reveal the garb of a midwestern housewife.)

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

This. Is who I am and how I got here.

We were living together and he was getting worse and worse. Drunk and pushy and just a serious asshole most of the time. He was a cop and all his buddies would get all amped up after work and he'd come home and... just be a dick. To me to my daughter. He'd just yell at nothing. He'd yell at lipstick "why're you wearing that shit, where were you, who's that for?" It's for me! I like it! My grandmother wore it, are you gonna get mad at her?!

It's not a big deal but... I mean it's scary when it's happening. When you get shoved like that it's... I get dizzy.

My daughter would see it, I tried to keep her away – she was four – and it just got to a point... I had to leave. I was leaving.

I packed while he was at work. I told my sister I would be there in an hour. He came home early. Shit. Layla was already in the car, the car seat, the truck was full. I was getting the last bag. He came in.

He figured it out in a second. He started yelling. He slapped me. I was thinking "where's your keys, where's your purse" like I was going to the movies for Christ sake. He hit me again. I'm on the carpet – I get dizzy – I'm on the carpet, hands and knees, he's calling me a bitch, he says I can't leave, clickclick I hear the gun cock, clickclick, I hear the gun, clickboom...

Then nothing. Nothing.

He got off. Our daughter lives with my mom. And I am... nothing.

*(She takes the red lipstick like she's going to apply more, but her hand jerks from her mouth dragging the red across her face **like a scar.**)*

(Then the spot widens as the Fatales sing the chorus from "A Real Love Song" except that Princess is not singing with them.)

ALL:

*And then I hear from you in the night
As I sleep and I dream your voice is right
Beside me and tells me that I'm not alone.
You say I'm the one.*

SUPERSMALL:

That you're waiting to hear from.

(Then the spot jerks and lands on Ninja...)

NINJA'S TRUE STORY

(Holding a bottle of red nail polish.

During this confession, she takes off her Princess Superhero Pop star outfit to reveal the garb of a young Pakistani shepherds daughter.)

NINJA REDHEART:

This is who I am, and how I'm here.

I wear red nails because it reminds me of my hands. My hands are great. They make fists, they turn pages, they point... they point really well.

Also I can hide them. The nails. Red nails. Usually you can't see my hands and if I think you can I clench them up tight. That worked for a while then I got scared and took off all the polish except one pinkie, left hand, "Strawberry Rush," Revlon. You can still interact with people with just one tiny red nail tucked up inside you palm, which is tucked up inside the fabric. It's totally possible. I did it. I needed it.

And then I fell. A group of men were yelling at me in the market, and I turned to run, and I fell. My hands went flat. They saw the polish. They called me terrible things. They dragged me behind a shop that sells citrus and checked to make sure there was no other finery on my person. They checked and checked. They took turns checking. Thank god for the relentless smell of orange peel from the shop that backed onto that alley. The smell of oranges saved my... soul... for the afternoon at least.

(She drips red nail polish over her pelvis, it runs down her legs.)

Which is how I made it home even when everything tripped me. But word of my dishonor had beat me home. To salvage the family, to erase me from my shame, to finish everything that god gave me, my brother thought that acid to the face would be appropriate. I thought not. But then again. What do I know.

(She pours the polish over her face like the acid that was tossed at her

red, red red.)

(Then the spot widens as The Fatales sing the chorus from “Nobody’s Ho-Bodies” except that neither Ninja nor Princess sing with them.)

ALL:

*Nobody’s! Ho-Bodies!
Ain’t no time! We live our lives!
You heard that right! We bark, we bite!*

(Then the spot jerks and lands on DOCTOR UNIVERSE...)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE’S TRUE STORY

(DOCTOR UNIVERSE wears a red headscarf.

During this confession, she takes off her Princess Superhero Pop star outfit to reveal the garb of a Congolese doctor.)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

I run a clinic. It’s for women. Well.

Sometimes people think that a vagina is separate from the women who wear them. Just so we’re clear? It’s not.

My clinic was not intended to be in a war zone. But I think the war zone intended it. The war zone sought us out and dragged it’s dripping luggage and sat down right next to us and stayed there. War is not swift. When it’s on the ground and not dropped from the sky, it is a fat, smelling man that won’t get up and is deaf and rude and does not talk because he’s too busy stuffing fists in mouths.

More and more women came to me. Not with babies. With blood.

As soon as they could walk, as soon as they could see straight, as soon as the coast was clear and those men were certainly done and certainly gone she would run, or more likely crawl, to me. I would try to save them. I would try to save every part of them. With stitches and ointment and permission to weep I would try to save them.

So when those men came to my door. When they hit me and held me down and took a gun into me... I knew what to do. I slept with a knife under my pillow so I stabbed two of them in the gut, but they other five of them laughed as the guy bled out on my floor. The knife got away from me. Then all time and feeling and fate got away from me.

And after they were done, they stabbed me.

And I bled and bled and bled.

(She holds one end of the red scarf by her waist and lets it unfurl onto the floor like blood from between her legs.)

One last reminder that sometimes people think that a vagina is separate than the women who wear them. That the world is separate from the women who wear it.

(The spot immediately jerks to Saint Kisses...)

SAINT KISSES'S TRUE STORY:

(Carrying a red travel scrabble set.

During this confession, she takes off her Princess Superhero Pop star outfit to reveal the garb of a Californian freshman in college.)

So the main issue was that I was like three letters away from beating my sister in online scrabble. She's at home in Sacramento but we play online while I'm at State – it's cute – anyway.

I had all consonants – X, F, T – that were good for, of course, absolutely nothing on their own. And I had to keep passing, passing. And here she was getting by on “ape” and “no” and “le”. *Le?* Come on.

So I was being beaten by an 8th grader *and* I was trying to finish my paper on Russian history – why the fuck I took Russian history I do not know – ugh, Czars – anyway.

The paper was due the next morning, I'm losing at Scrabble, I cannot deal with this convergence of pressure.

And I was running for student council. I'm leaning in. Anyway.

So I'm walking to class and I'm trying to think of words for X F T the whole time. I am taking this way too seriously but this is SCRABBLE and my sister is not gonna beat me. We love each other but not more than Scrabble.

I pass the Avery Hall.

“Faxt”? No.

I cross the quad.

"Tufx"? No.

And he is there.

I hear someone yell.

And he pulls out a gun.

I hear someone scream.

And he walks toward me. And he lifts the gun – I don't know guns – a handgun of some kind?

And he lifts the gun. And he fires on a woman. F.

(she retrieves from her pocket and drops a Scrabble tile)

And he fires on another. T.

(she drops a Scrabble tile)

And he fires on me. X.

(she drops a Scrabble tile)

Which hits me in the chest.

Which kills me in 11 minutes.

Which he intended to do because I was blonde. Because I would never date him.

Because women are withholders and witches and whatever the fuck has been killing us for centuries.

I die thinking on the grass, the wet green grass and think...

There is no word for this.

(The spot widens to include SUPERSMALL who sings a part of her solo "WHY". The other Fatales are made silent behind her...)

SUPERSMALL:

*I
Say goodbye
to fear
Cause I'm
Still...*

*(Doctor is not sure she wants to do this... but she goes for it.
She's the only one left...)*

SUPERSMALL's TRUE STORY:

(During this confession, she takes off her Princess Superhero Pop star outfit to reveal... nothing. She uses a white sheet to cover herself.)

SUPERSMALL:

This is... who I am. And why I am so scared of the real world.
My birthday was on a Monday afternoon.
My parents wanted a boy.
Everyone wants a boy.
I was not a boy.
So on Monday night they threw me in a river.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

Birthday

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

Birthday.

NINJA REDHEART:

Happy

SAINT KISSES:

Birthday.

SUPERSMALL:

I died that day. The exact same day as her -

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

and her -

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

and her -

NINJA REDHEART:

and her -

SAINT KISSES:

and her.

SUPERSMALL:

The same hour I think. The same moment exactly. Which is how, I think, we met.
How we dreamt up this too perfect alternate life together. How we defy our fates
and live at all. All of us bound by the last act of our lives thinking...

SAINT KISSES:

Do people do this to boys?

SUPERSMALL:

And just as there is a special hell for people who are most cruel to girls, there is also
a special heaven for those who die like we did. This heaven is a place for us to be full.
Of life and power and voice. We are full creatures here. We are ferocious and
magnificent and proud. That we are.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE:

We are.

DOCTOR UNIVERSE:

We are.

NINJA REDHEART:

We are.

SAINT KISSES:

We are.

SUPERSMALL:

And we were all that before we vanished.

*(The group starts to hums... very lightly at first.
It's a simple song. They are a choir. A chorus.*

Our big number...

Our finale...

Our closing act...

Has no words. We shouldn't have to tell you why.

*(SuperSmall joins in the vocal anthem.
It grows and is eventually bolstered by all the vanished voices of all the
vanished women. Half the sky joins them.
The sound is bigger than these five could make on their own.
It grows – it grows – so that even when they stop humming it continues
without them.)*

(The Fatales stand and face the world with pride.

The hover. They are angels. They are ghosts.

*And then they disappear in an instant, leaving behind only the
piles their clothes made as they vanished from inside them.*

Silence.)

THE END

In the end...

The Fatales birthday is really their death-day.

The final concert is a way of telling the world how they really died, which is their origin story. All abused, attacked, dead from violence against women. All killed on the same day across the world.

PRINCESS SUGAR JUSTICE – shot to death by her cop boyfriend when she tried to leave him for being abusive. Based on:

<http://www.nytimes.com/projects/2013/two-gunshots/?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Aw>)

DOCTOR UNIVERSE – runs a women's health clinic, outspoken against the government, raped and mutilated by soldiers. Based on:

<http://www.newsweek.com/when-we-rape-we-feel-free-congolese-soldiers-open-harrowing-new-documentary-254405>

SAINT KISSES – Gunned down on her college campus by a fellow student who targeted girls that he thought refused to date him. Based on:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Isla_Vista_killings

SUPERSMALL - Abandoned by her parents when she was born a girl and drowned.

Based on: <http://www.womensviewsonnews.org/2012/02/gendercide-200-million-women-missing/>

NIJA REDHEART – attacked with acid by her brother then poisoned by her family for dishonoring them when she was raped by six men including an uncle.