

The image features a central illustration of a white daisy with a bright yellow center, growing from an open book. The book is depicted with white pages and a dark blue spine. The background is a textured, light blue surface with vertical brushstrokes.

The **BOOK** *of*
EMPTY PAGES

~Love lives on~

*** 2019 WORKSHOP ***

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Hammering home his weekly sermon, PASTOR JACK tells his congregation that if they open their minds to the idea that their scars don't define them, they're about to get a whole new appreciation for life.

Meanwhile, local singer-songwriter SAM has just finished his final song at a small bar gig. When the audience begs for an encore, a young woman named DAISY enters the bar, frantically-looking for her bar-hopping husband, DIRK, who is nowhere to be found. To avoid being rude, she listens to SAM 's encore, where he performs an unfinished song about how he's seeking a new beginning after a recent breakup. DAISY then departs to continue her search. After quickly packing his things to help this stranger, SAM exits the bar and is immediately struck by an out-of-control pickup truck.

Back at home, DIRK ends up stumbling in later than expected, and when she questions him about his whereabouts, he mocks DAISY for not having a job ever since her mother passed away. She confides in her father, PASTOR JACK, who tells her that marriage is tough. He suggests applying for a job opening he saw in the church bulletin: a caretaker position over at Franklin Mills, the local Rehab and Recovery Center. She does.

When she gets the job, her first case is a brand new patient, named SAM, who just got out of the hospital, 8 days after being struck by a drunk-driver. Upon arrival, SAM, like every Franklin Mills patient, receives an empty book to use as a journal, a memoir, or a story-telling vehicle. We soon learn that SAM's rapidly-spreading infection calls for amputation of his arm. But to salvage his future in music, he chooses a much riskier alternative: trying to get his hands on an antibiotic that is not quite on the market yet. Unfortunately, it is also extremely expensive and requires pre-qualification.

As fate would have it, SAM and DAISY fall madly in love in the age-old *relationship that can't happen*. Meanwhile, several other characters try to either help the relationship or break it up along the way. We also discover that DIRK was the drunk-driver who hit SAM. After several twists and turns, some expected and some unexpected, the book is empty no more. It is now filled with the one-of-a-kind love story of SAM and DAISY, for the new beginning they each were seeking was right in front of them, the moment they decided that their scars didn't define them. As SAM's fateful test results come in, the plot to take them down comes to fruition.

In the end, everybody learns an important lesson:

Long after life's gone, love lives on.

PRINCIPLE ROLES: 6m, 2f

SAM: 4 solos, 2 duets, 1 cameo

23-year old singer/songwriter; charismatic and charming; gets in life-threatening car accident; protagonist.

DAISY: 2 solos, 3 duets, 3 cameos

24-year old ingénue; fading pink hair; endearing and sweet; in abusive marriage; falls in love with Sam; protagonist.

NANCY: 2 solos, 1 cameo

45-year old new center supervisor; crabby chain-smoker; played by a male; antagonist. *think Frances McDormand*

H: 1 duets, 2 cameos

35-year old pharmacist; very flamboyant; “Timon” to Amy’s “Pumba.” *think Dave Chappelle meets Chris Colfer*

AMY: 1 duet, 2 cameos

45-year old lead caretaker; dumb, overweight w/ glasses; “Pumba” to H’s “Timon.” *think Lyle from ‘...Dannemora’*

JACK: 1 solo, 2 cameos

55-year old; Daisy’s father & Larry’s former traditionalist pastor; dynamic. *think Mr. Simon from “That’s What I Am”*

DIRK: 1 duet, 2 cameos

28-year old; Daisy’s husband; alcoholic; wears flannels and chews tobacco; antagonist. *think Earl from ‘Waitress.’*

LARRY: 3 cameos

78-year old cranky patient at Franklin Mills; which he founded to help wife; dynamic character. *think Jerry Stiller*

SUPPORTING ROLES: 6f, 5m

DENISE & ALICE: 3 cameos

35-year old custodians who are natural complainers and, therefore, gravitate towards comprising Nancy’s posse.

DOCTOR, FRANK, MARYJANE, SOPHIA, & WEMBLEY: 4 chorus songs

Doctor & prominent patients: Wembley-blind; MJ-high hippie, Frank & Ruth-blunt grandpa/Hispanic grandma

SAM’S DOUBLE (#2/15), DAISY’S DOUBLE (#8/15), & HOT SHIRTLESS NEIGHBOR (#13): quick cameos

Also referenced, but never seen (even though we hear some of them on the other side of the telephone):

ELIZABETH, DAISY’S MOM/JACK’S WIFE, SAM’S parents, DONNIE MILLS, CARLY, INGRID, HELEN, & EARL

BOEP WORKSHOP

Musical Theatre Workshop for Advanced High School Performers
(all current high school students are eligible)

PURPOSE

This show was copyrighted in 2016, world-premiered in 2017, was a finalist for the AMTF and NYMF musical theatre festivals in 2018. The show has undergone significant revisions in 2019 and is currently being re-orchestrated by a musical theatre professional. This workshop will help prepare it for re-submission to upwards of a dozen college theatre programs & festivals in 2020.

WORKSHOP DATES

Saturday, May 11 9am-3pm @ Edison Middle School
Sunday, May 12 3pm-9pm @ Edison Middle School
Meals will be included both days!

Visit thebookofemptypages.com for the latest script.

(There, you can also listen to the original soundtrack or watch a video of the original production, even though it's changed quite a bit)

AUDITIONS

Anyone interested in participating in the workshop simply needs to email Mr. Rockstroh at thebookofemptypages@gmail.com to reserve their spot. Students who email but don't submit audition videos will participate as chorus members (no lines, but will be in all the group songs and will give Mr. R feedback on what's working/not working ...plus the free food and camaraderie ☺)

If you are interested in being cast as one of the 8 leads, you are asked to email three things: (1) a video of you singing :30 or more of a musical theatre song, (2) a video of you reading for one of the characters in the attached scenes (you may submit as many acting recordings as you want-even of all 6 scenes!) You could either have a friend read for the other characters in your video, or you read for all the characters. And (3) please answer the following questions in your email:

1. Are you willing to do individual rehearsals before the workshop at Southwest?
2. Are you 100% available for both days of the workshop (AKA: zero unforeseen conflicts)
3. Would you still participate if you had no lines?

The audition window will be open from April 1-15.

The cast list will be emailed & posted on thebookofemptypages.com on April 18.

WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE WORLD PREMIERE?

- The moral of the story is now “long after life’s gone, love lives on” instead of “live and live on.”
- Franklin Mills is no longer a Long-Term Recovery Unit, but a Rehabilitation & Recovery Center, allowing for patients of all ages, a wide array of diagnoses, and humor based on their need for medication (new #5).
 - The show was originally cast for 55. It now calls for about 20.
 - The revised script is over 8% shorter than the original.
 - DAISY now has pink hair, which becomes part of the plot.
 - The plot no longer begins at a college fraternity, but instead at Sam’s gig as a singer/songwriter.
 - Several main characters have been eliminated, including VIVIAN, CHARLOTTE, NURSE, DR. EDWARDS, GUNDERSON, PAULA, OSWALD, THOMAS, GENO, TANNER, & BOBBY.
 - New characters were added, such as AMY, FRANK, MARY JANE, SOPHIA, & WEMBLEY.
- AMY, H, DENISE/ALICE, LARRY, DIRK, MARY JANE, & NANCY are now distorted stereotypes.
- Several songs changed: #2 Anything & Everything, #5 The Other Side, & #13 Custodial School Crush were replaced by #2 The New Beginning and #5 One Stop Shop (*#13 Head Over Heels moved to Act 2*).
- The new show has much more humor and adult language than the original.
- PASTOR JACK now sets the tone with the first words of the entire show by preaching that scars only mask our happiness, if we let them. This becomes a main theme.
 - NANCY is now the Center Director. H is the pharmacist. AMY is the Lead Caretaker.
- DIRK and LARRY have much larger roles in the new rendition (including more singing). DIRK is responsible for SAM’s car crash (instead of ELIZABETH) & LARRY founded Franklin Mills.
 - LARRY also gets caught kissing NANCY, which becomes a significant part of the plot.
- There is no longer a fictional Miracle Treatment. Instead, Sam has a realistic bone infection in his left arm that is resistant to normal antibiotics, so they are forced to seek an expensive and recently-approved drug.
 - NANCY no longer wants to meddle in SAM and DAISY’s relationship after losing out on a job, but instead out of jealousy that they are getting the attention and adoration she believes she has earned.
 - The Franklin Mills patients no longer try to raise money for the treatment; but rather they fight for the freedom for all to love who they want to love.
 - Every existing song has revised lyrics and several songs (#3, 4, 6, 11, & 16) have brand-new sections.
 - The score is being entirely re-orchestrated by Thanksgiving; check website for a taste of this revision!
 - The changed ending from the premiere’s closing show of ending at DAISY’s funeral is now permanent.

SCENE #1: NANCY (from p. 29)

NANCY

(pours ALICE some new coffee)

Pfft. A couple board members are still p*ssed I got the job in the first place.

ALICE

(stirs coffee with the toothpick that was already in her mouth, until it drops in the cup; she reaches for it)

Buuuuncha Trump-lovin', country club, popped-collar, motherfu—ahhh, that's hot.

DENISE

What have *you* ever done wrong, anyways?

ALICE

You mean: what's she been *caught* for!

NANCY

(condescending impression of a previous boss with air quotes)

Sure, I said some things in the past. But who hasn't? Apparently, my "words didn't belong in the workplace," but c'mon, people. 'slike 10 years ago!

ALICE

Have ya' gotten written-up since then?

NANCY

(says it in a way that indicates she was wrongfully accused)

Yeah, but...always for petty little cr*p. Being late. Smokin'. Not being "presentable" to patients. The whole thing's a crock-a-shhh....

DENISE

(after pouring the coffee into her flask, to mix with the alcohol in there, she tries to drink it, but spits it in NANCY's face)

...Sheezus Chr*st, that *is* hot!

NANCY

D*mmit, Denise!!

SCENE #2: DAISY (from p. 34-35)

DAISY

(after a moment, she cocks her head and recollects a memory, pausing intermittently throughout)

My mother used to always tell me I was making a mistake by getting married so young. That was four years ago. I was 21. She'd say, "you usually have to wait for that which is worth waiting for." I had no idea what it meant at the time, so I obviously didn't listen. But, so much has changed since then. My mom has passed on and my marriage is...let's just say I should have listened more carefully to her advice.

SAM

Well. Don't give up on it, if it's worth fighting for.

DAISY

'ts very optimistic advice, coming from mister, "it's time to turn the page."

SAM

I just know that love can be taken away in an instant.

(DAISY almost asks something, but he cuts her off, not wanting to overshadow her heartache with his own)

Can I ask how your mom passed away?

DAISY

Breast cancer.

(almost in a daze, she stares off into the distance, visualizing her memory, she gets less and less articulate, as if sleepy)

She had been my dance teacher ever since I was 4, so when she got diagnosed, our entire dance troupe decided to dye our hair pink. During the chemo, we used to train with Carly, her assistant. But it was never the same. Mom would miss one week per month during her treatment; she wouldn't let herself miss any more than that. Til her final week.

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#3: Memories of Old

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(as the music begins, a dance silhouette of her past appears behind a screen; the silhouette raises her hand like

Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam" painting, and begins to slowly re-enact a sensitive dance routine, while explaining)

It was recital week. Dress rehearsal was at 5pm. Mom called at 4:40 and said she just didn't have the energy. I offered to come over, but she refused. As my coach, she was adamant that I rehearse my routine. Even telling me on the phone, "don't forget to lift your wings." "SUPPORT that rib cage!" "Fly, Daisy, fly!"

SCENE #3: JACK & DIRK (from p. 39-40)

JACK

Look. I think you two just need to get back into a routine. Daisy's new job, Dirk's pressure from work...you're both just a little overwhelmed. And what you're starting to see is that it's rearing its ugly head in your marriage now. Right?

(reaches back to retrieve a book from the loaded shelf behind him)

Here. This is a book I've recommended to nearly every couple I've ever counseled. Short, very easy read. It's kind of a reality check on your day-to-day lifestyles. *But* it puts in the perspective of how meeting your spouse's needs can actually give *you* fulfillment. Try it out. Let me know what you think.

DAISY

Thank you, Daddy.

DIRK

Yeah, thanks Jack. 'preciate it.

DAISY

I love you.

JACK

Love you too, sweetheart. Dirk. We outta...do some ice fishing again sometime.

DIRK

(hands in pockets, he nods, now doing the "I'm waiting for you, spouse" pose, angled out towards audience)

We should.

JACK

Well. I better be on my way. You two take care. Bye now.

(immediately once JACK closes the door, DIRK's "real" tone is revealed, as his volume escalates; the organ and choir in the background get louder, as they walk out, through the sanctuary...or theatrically, the house)

DIRK

Claaaaassic.

DAISY

What?

DIRK

(mocking whiny tone gives way to hyper-masculine bully tone; as they both start to shout, walking towards separate cars)

You bringing up the whole, "we don't even have real conversations anymore...all we do is bicker." That's a load 'a bullsh*t, and you know it.

SCENE #4: H & AMY (from p. 47-48)

H

Oh my effin G! Wanna know why I was being weird earlier?

AMY

Yeah, what happened?

H

You're never gonna believe what I saw. Larry. And. *Nancy*. K-I-S-S-I-N-G.

(NANCY appears from her office door at the sound of her name; she listens in to the next couple conversations)

AMY

WHAT?! Shut *up*!

H

I know, right? Dis-gusting.

AMY

(rightfully confused, for a change)

Wait, why is she so against Sam and Daisy then?!

H

Well, Daisy *is* married.

AMY

True. But how adorable are those two? Each one leaning on the other to help carry their enormous burden. It's both heartbreaking and...*heartwarming*.

(spots DAISY rolling SAM back from their walk, NANCY pulls out her phone to send a text before retreating to her office)

Ooo wait...here they come again. Let's hide back here and watch!

H

Girl, you *creepy*! I ain't doing that.

SCENE #5: LARRY (from p. 67-68)

LARRY

So, whadja hear?

AMY

I heard you moved here to be with her...what, a couple years ago?

LARRY

Four.

AMY

Right. And she died of cancer a couple months later, right?

LARRY

Three and a half months later.

AMY

What type of cancer?

LARRY

Liver. She never stood a chance.

AMY

Why'd you stay then?

LARRY

(suddenly not crabby, he even gets intentionally humorous; he looks out into the distance, while reminiscing)

Ingrid was...my home. We didn't have kids and we were both only children, so this place is the closest I got to be to her. And since I had chronic issues with my intestines and bladder, they let me stay.

AMY

Aw. That's honestly...adorable.

LARRY

(quick-witted and cranky)

My bladder problems?

AMY

(smiles and exhales to hold for laughter; walking on eggshells, she slowly works up to her main point)

Since you founded this place, couldn't you just...stay as long as you want?

LARRY

(as if he's annoyed with, but understands that there's 'red tape')

Nah, there's a...governing board that oversees the whole operation.

SCENE #6: SAM (from p. 87)

SAM

Well, as you know, this whole book thing has been....difficult for me, to say the least. The last thing I wanted to do was rehash the accident; and not having anybody close enough to dedicate it to just made me...sad. The truth is: had you not come along, these pages would have stayed empty. But instead, I filled them with our story.

(DIRK very slowly starts to walk towards the stage, with his anger brewing; he is dimly light with a follow spot)

You can read the entire thing when you get time, but here's the dedication page:

"My Carnation,

Water. No matter what surrounds it...no matter its past, present, or future...no matter who or what gets in its way...it always finds its own level. Although outside forces can do their best to prevent it, nature insists: it *will* happen. It has to.

Daisy, from the moment I met you, I have done everything in my power *not* to fall in love with you. You were a married woman who was assigned to be my caretaker. I was a broken man, who was assigned to die under your watch.

But as moments became memories, I soon realized that the idea of 'you and I' was impossible to ignore. We were like magnets, compelled to be together. I became convinced that no matter what troubles lay before us, nothing was going to stop the inevitable. We are *water*, destined to find our own level of happiness, which...ended up being each other. No matter what color paper these lab results are, our next reality...is just an opportunity waiting to happen.

(he looks up at her and says it himself, rather than reading it; they are both teary)

I *love* you, Daisy Belmont.