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Format: Hour-Long Serialized
Genre: Comedy / Drama / Music
Comps: *Freaks and Geeks* meets *Glee*

Logline: A fiercely talented but guarded musician reluctantly joins a raunchy high school garage band for a shot at a national title, but to stand a chance against ruthless rivals, she must learn to drop her walls, overcome differences, and find family in the chaos of rock and roll.

COMING OF AGE

Did you have a dream when you were in high school?
What you wanted to do? Where you wanted to go?
Who you wanted to be?

Graduation sneaks up. Kids have to make big decisions they think will affect how the rest of their lives play out. Maybe they're right.

For many, making music is so tied to their identity that they want to make something of themselves working at it for the rest of their lives, no matter what their parents say.

They have a song in their heart that's bursting to get out.

A BAND IS BORN

In seventh grade, Doug's parents took him and his best friends, Sheldon, Matt, and Charlie to a *Foo Fighters* concert in Indianapolis.

*They were so inspired that the next day they formed **Boneyard**.*

Flash forward to senior year and they've evolved into a strong musical unit. But their song concepts and lyrics have stalled at an immature stage. Others label their material as cringey and sexist at best—toxic and misogynistic at worst.

These are not men of the world but horny, inexperienced teenage boys vying for attention.



ENTER ALICIA

Alicia desperately wants to write and perform music she's proud of as part of a tight ensemble—not so easy when your father is in the military and you move cities every other year.

She's ready to move on from high school, but her cousin (and best friend) Mandy spurs her to make the most of her time in school and avoid regrets.

*When a spot opens for **Boneyard's** guitarist days before a Battle of the Bands, she's reluctant to try out. When she hears the lyrics, it's a hard pass.*

In Alicia's world, we can all do better without sacrificing what's important to us.

BIG BEATS

- Alicia joins *Boneyard* based on its solid music but only after revamping toxic song titles and lyrics in ways only she could.
- The new material helps them win round one, defeating death metal band *Homicide* and its front man, Marshall, who tries to sabotage them on tour across the Midwest.
- Alicia warms up to the band, namely Shaggy, *Boneyard's* bassist and leader.
- Singer Mutt's problematic aunt, Brie, drives the band on tour in her RV in the hopes of making *Boneyard* her meal ticket.
- Christian band *Testify*, with its charismatic leader, wins round two and becomes known as the band to beat.
- Alicia and Shaggy's romance turns rocky, pitting the band against itself.
- Marshall makes in-roads into *Testify*, making band members question not just their front man, but also their faith, as he leads them into a new, dark artistic chapter.
- Brie's management skills begin to prove valuable as *Boneyard* develops a following and momentum going into the finals.
- After in-fighting, trust issues, and losing the RV with all of its gear, the band limps hopelessly into the final round in New Orleans.
- Alicia stumbles into her long-lost hero, who, like Alicia, felt disenfranchised by rock 'n' roll.
- With new-found passion and reconciliation, *Boneyard* delivers a tour-defining performance.
- They lose to *Testify*, whose fans rally to support them despite misgivings about Marshall, but *Boneyard* scores a record deal.
- After a stormy summer tour, Alicia and Shaggy make it official.



THE BAND



Alicia Hernandez, 18
A loner on her third high school who dreams of performing music, Alicia stands firm on her principles, including no toxic, sexist material.



Sheldon (“Shaggy”) Marks, 18
Bassist and driving force behind the band, Shaggy wants to make a career in music against his father’s wishes, and falls in love with Alicia.



Matt (“Mutt”) Knight, 17
Front man and lyricist, Mutt initially is upset at Alicia’s reworking of their songs. He yearns for female attention but is oblivious to their advances.



Doug (“Dug”) Matheson, 18
Drummer for *Boneyard* and loyal friend who’s ready to fight for his bandmates no matter what. Rides his kid brother, Fang, pretty hard but looks out for him.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

Mandy Dupree, 18: Alicia’s cousin and best friend, who pushes her to find joy before high school ends. She helps the band succeed during their road tour and reluctantly reveals her bisexuality to Alicia.

Brie Knight, 34: Mutt’s unemployed and recently jilted aunt who drives the band on tour in her RV and evolves from a rough-around-the-edges comic foil into as an insightful manager and trusted advisor.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

BULLDOG BULLETIN

Our Very Own “Boneyard” Makes National News

By Mandy Dupree
Senior newspaper correspondent and assistant yearbook editor

Congratulations to the members of *Boneyard* for reaching the final round of this year’s “High Voltage High School Battle of the Bands!”

OK everyone, bear with me, I’m about to break some hardcore rules of Journalism because this has to be part news story, part editorial. *Why?* Because my own cousin, Alicia Hernandez, is a member of the band. All apologies to Mr. Simpson, our school paper and yearbook teacher!

We all know about the first incarnation of *Boneyard*: seniors (and raunchy buds) Sheldon (Shaggy) Marks, Matthew (Mutt) Knight, Doug (Dug) Matheson, and Charlie (Chewy) Krauss.

They formed *Boneyard* in seventh grade after going to a *Foo Fighters* concert that blew their minds. Their lyrics might be a little gross, but they’re world famous on the Rushville, Indiana family wedding reception and backyard barbecue circuit.

When Chewy had to quit two days before the first round of Battle of the Bands, they didn’t know what to do.

But they weren’t ready to give up their dreams of rock god stardom. Enter Alicia.

Alicia’s a misfit (*her word!*) military brat on her third high school. She always tells me she just wants to graduate and move on. I tell her she needs to put herself out there, get out of her comfort zone, make some memories, find some joy—and above all don’t leave high school with regrets. I know, I’m wise for my age, I get that a lot.

Here’s where I get sappy. You know how we all have dreams we want to pursue, but sometimes find it hard to ask for help? That’s Alicia. And you know how often the first thing we notice about others is our differences? That’s also Alicia. You know how it’s so easy to feel alone, especially in high school? OK, you get the idea. :-)

And she can totally shred on guitar. She loves everything about rock ‘n’ roll—the tight rhythms, the pounding beats, the blistering solos that can make a guitar cry. Everything *except* the toxic masculinity, demeaning lyrics, and female objectification.

Cue *Boneyard*! The boys realized if they wanted to make it, they needed their material to appeal to a broader audience.



Alicia Hernandez, the newest member of local band “Boneyard.”



I was there when Alicia told the band how they can make music that makes them proud and their fans feel like they belong.

When they first met, Alicia was surprised how talented the boys were, if it just wasn’t for those immature lyrics. She gave their material a much needed woman’s touch—and it worked!

You can read the May 24 edition of the *Bulldog Bulletin* for my full review of *Boneyard*’s first round victory over death metal group *Homicide* and its front man, senior Marshall Winter.

He was so angry about losing that he followed the band all summer long trying to sabotage them.

The only way the band could get to gigs was Mutt’s wild and easily incitable Aunt Brie, who chaperoned them—or *was it the other way around?*—in an RV rented for her honeymoon that got canceled after she was left at the altar. That was sad but it meant we gave Brie a lot of grace.

Everything was going pretty good until *Boneyard* faced its toughest competition: Christian rock band *Testify* and its charismatic lead singer, David Dubinoski. They were the band to beat.

Sure, *Boneyard* had a few fights and had to overcome their differences, but isn’t that what growing up is all about?

There were some ups, like experiencing blues bars, honky tonks, even a disco club that time forgot—and of course

Shaggy falling hard for Alicia. <3 And some downs, like losing to a K-Pop girl group until we exposed them for being in their 30s with HR jobs. *So rude!*

There was the time we lost the RV—with Brie inside—to a tow truck, and when we lost the RV for good after it rolled into a lake with all of the band’s stuff in it. :-(

But the toughest part was losing to *Testify* in the finals. No one realized until the applause-O-meter that they stacked the audience with their families and friends.

All was not lost, however. In our road adventures, Alicia stumbled upon her biggest influence, a real guitar legend who’d disappeared years ago. She sent her old A&R guy to the show, who made them a huge offer. Record deal, signing bonus, the works!

Thanks to Alicia, their music went to the next level. Thanks to Shaggy’s head for business, they played gigs across the country, getting better and better.

Thanks to Brie, they made cash selling merch, she helped *Boneyard* gain a real following on social, and she rescued them from more than a few jams (*most of which she caused!*). Thanks to Mutt and Dug for—well, we love Mutt and Dug!

Congratulations again to *Boneyard* on a summer full of amazing memories, friendships to last a lifetime, and its first album coming out next month, *Bona Fide!*

—Mandy Dupree

Marshall Winter, 18: Singer for death metal band *Homicide*, who harasses *Boneyard* all summer after suffering defeat, and ultimately joins—and takes over—Christian rock band (and mutual rival) *Testify*.

David Dubinoski, 17: *Testify*’s sincere front man, cast as villain by *Boneyard*, who is forced out before the final round when his band questions his leadership—and their own faith under Marshall’s rising influence.

Albert (“Fang”) Matheson, 11: Dug’s stowaway, blunt younger brother and *Boneyard*’s unofficial roadie who offers sound advice, crushes on David’s younger sister, and sits in competently for Dug on occasion.

The Bonewagon, 55: Brie’s rented and newly christened RV that she stops paying for halfway through the summer and loses when it rolls into a lake with all of the band’s instruments and equipment.