

## Act 1

Scene 1: A 4-year-old sits stiffly in her hospital bed hooked up to IV antibiotics, watching cartoons on TV while her parents speak quietly to the doctors outside. The girl is not scared; she has been here before and will be here again. But it doesn't mean that she is used to it. Her doctors and parents reassure her and she knows they will do everything they can to keep her healthy.

Scene 2: A mom, a 15-year-old brother, and a 10-year-old girl are standing on stage in front of hundreds of supporters who came to the beach early Saturday morning to raise money and walk for Cystic Fibrosis. The annual Great Strides event gathers people with CF, their families, friends, and others fundraising for a cure. The girl looks out at the crowd as she thanks the people attending and shares her CF story before the Walk starts. Music plays, someone honks a horn, and they're off. Like every year, despite her excitement for the walk, the girl's friends run and play and skip through the sand, accidentally leaving her behind because her lungs can't keep up.

Scene 3: On the day of her 12th birthday, the girl packed up her clothes and medications and school journals to prepare for being discharged from her stay in the hospital. With a PICC line still in her arm and her body still tired from sinus surgery, the girl was excited to return to her 6th-grade class, aware she would have a lot of work ahead of her to catch up on assignments.

Scene 4: A 16-year-old girl is in the window seat on a 6-hour flight to New York City. She has hours of movies and TV shows loaded onto her phone but she watches the clouds outside instead. It's still setting in that this is her Make-A-Wish trip, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do and go to wherever and whatever she wants. This experience of seeing so many sights she has never seen before will be one of the most impactful trips of her life.

## Act 2

Scene 1: The 18-year-old girl will leave home and step onto campus, ready for the next four years of her life. She has overcome many difficulties and has experienced the highs and lows of having cystic fibrosis and living a normal life. In every step of her journey, CF has been there; sometimes holding her back or pushing her along. Now it will be with her for her college years where it will continue to pull her back, but instead of slowing down, she will move forward through it all.

This girl about to go to college is me, Lola Ferguson. I have experienced all this and more. I am getting ready for a new experience that college will take me to, and even through the hardship and fear, I'm glad CF has been by my side. My fight has shown me that whatever comes my way, I can face it, and I won't be alone. CF has allowed me to prove that I am ready for anything, and college will be my next fight.