

# THAT JIM

By Michael Druce

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# THAT JIM

*A Comedic Play*

by **Michael Druce**

**SYNOPSIS:** Jim is the high school heartthrob all the girls want to date. But it turns out Jim is not quite the catch everyone believes. When best friends Melanie, Sue, and Ruth get together after to school to hear Sue's important news about Jim, the three friends begin to see Jim in a brand-new light. The themes of friendship and accepting others for who they are emerge from this lively comedy about friendship and discovery.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(3 females)*

SUE (f).....High school student who is currently dating Jim. *(40 lines)*

MELANIE (f).....High school cheerleader who has always had a crush on Jim. *(49 lines)*

RUTH (f).....High school student who may know more about Jim than her friends. *(42 lines)*

**SETTING:** After school.

**TIME:** The present.

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary teen clothing.

**PRODUCTION NOTE:** All references to eye and hair color should be adjusted to fit the actress playing Melanie.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

The only person who can make you feel bad about yourself is you. *That Jim* tackles the issues of control and body image. No one has the right to expect you to change just to please them. Three friends discover their friendship and accepting who they are is more important than what someone else thinks.

**AT RISE:** *MELANIE is on stage. RUTH enters.*

**RUTH:** Hi, Mel. Are you ready?

**MELANIE:** In a minute! We need to wait for Sue. She texted me to say she has something she needs to tell us.

**RUTH:** Oh, right. Bad news, huh?

**MELANIE:** I don't think so. She said it's something important.

**RUTH:** Is that what she said? Not bad news, but important news?

**MELANIE:** That's what she said. It was a three-emoji text. She seems pretty excited.

**RUTH:** Really? Hmm!

**MELANIE:** Do you know something I don't?

**RUTH:** No. (*A beat.*) Don't you have cheerleader practice in a few minutes?

**MELANIE:** That's why Sue needs to hurry. What do you think her news is?

**RUTH:** It could be a million things. Maybe she made an A on her math test.

**MELANIE:** Sue and math? I don't think so. If she had made an A, it would be on the six o'clock news.

*SUE enters excitedly and heads towards MELANIE and RUTH.*

**RUTH:** (*Noticing SUE headed their way.*) We're about to find out.

**SUE:** Hi guys!

**MELANIE:** Don't you look like the cat that swallowed the canary!

**SUE:** Do I?

**MELANIE:** Quit beating around the bush. What is your big news? We know you couldn't have gotten an A on your math test.

**SUE:** Oh, heck no! Way better than that.

**MELANIE:** Whatever it is, you need to tell us. I've got cheerleader practice in a few minutes.

**SUE:** Let's just say the only thing that could make my day better is if it were Valentine's Day.

**MELANIE:** Oh, it's something about Jim.

**SUE:** Not just something. It's a big something.

**MELANIE:** (*Figuring it out.*) No! Don't tell me.

**SUE:** Yes, yes, yes!

**MELANIE:** No! Say it's not true.

**SUE:** It is, it's true! It's going to happen.

**MELANIE:** The universe is against me.

**RUTH:** What are we talking about?

**MELANIE:** *(To SUE.)* Are you serious?

**SUE:** I'm as serious as a fever blister before prom pictures.

**MELANIE:** I can't believe this. I hate you! I really hate you.

**RUTH:** Hello! Would somebody tell me what we are talking about?

**MELANIE:** *(To RUTH.)* You really don't know? You can't figure this out?

**RUTH:** I thought maybe I knew, but now I'm not sure.

**SUE:** Jim wants to talk to me after basketball practice.

**RUTH:** *(Sarcastically.)* Wow, that's pretty earth shattering.

**SUE:** It is earth shattering. Jim said it's very important. It's personal. It's about us.

**RUTH:** He used those words? Important, personal, and about the two of you?

**MELANIE:** *(She cups her hands over her ears.)* I don't want to hear this!

**SUE:** Fine, if you don't want to hear my good news.

**MELANIE:** *(Uncovering her ears.)* Just say it and get it over with so I can slink back to my wasteland of datelessness.

**RUTH:** What do you think Jim is going to say to you?

**SUE:** I think he's going to ask me to go with him.

**RUTH:** Wow, that's a shock. I didn't see that coming.

**SUE:** Right out the blue. He's been so busy with basketball we've hardly seen each other. So, when he said that, I mean I'm like yes. And when he asks me, I'll be like yes!

**MELANIE:** For the record, you make me sick.

**SUE:** You're just saying that. I do not make you sick.

**MELANIE:** You do, really. I need an airsick bag the size of a garbage bag.

**RUTH:** Melanie that is a terrible thing so say. You two have been friends forever.

**MELANIE:** That's why I can say things like that.

**RUTH:** We've been friends forever. Friends are always there for each other.

**MELANIE:** Most of the time, yes. But when it comes to Jim, I am not here for Sue.

**SUE:** Melanie that hurts my feelings. Why can't you be happy for me?

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