

POOL PARTY

---

a short play

by

Patti Veconi

284 Park Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
Phone: (917) 620-4586  
E-mail: [patti@veconi.com](mailto:patti@veconi.com)

## CHARACTERS

NAOMI (NOMI): A young girl planning to host a party. Conflicted about the responsibilities she feels toward both her parents and friends.

ASHA: Nomi's best friend and an enthusiastic organizer and leader.

NOREEN: Free spirited and easy going. Noreen can be a little clueless or miss things that should be obvious, but in a charmingly unaffected way.

LENA: A serious student and very pragmatic. Lena is both mature and playful.

JENNA: Very confident and aware of all the boy/girl dynamics. Unfiltered to the point of unkind at times.

ZIAH: Slightly insecure, and maybe not fully aware of how cute and smart she is. Feels somewhat competitive with Jenna.

SARAH: A cheerful girl who gets along with everyone and wants to see everything work out.

## SYNOPSIS

Nomi finally has permission to host a pool party, but her excitement is tempered by the fact that she has been given a strict limit on the number of guests allowed. As her girlfriends take over the task of extending invitations without her knowledge, drama ensues and Nomi is left to decide whether the effort is worth it.

Scene 1

AT RISE: A bare stage. LIGHTS UP on NOMI as she addresses the audience.

NOMI: (*Addressing the Audience.*) It took *weeks* for my mom to finally agree to let me have a party – and the rules! You see, it’s a pool party and she’s totally paranoid someone will hit their head and die at the bottom of the pool and nobody will notice until it’s too late and all of our young lives will be ruined. It’s almost not worth it. But I’m pretty sure it *is* worth it, cuz I really want to have a party. I just hope – well – I hope there’s no drama, you know? But there probably will be. I mean, with my friends, anything can be turned into a crisis.

(*NOMI turns around to see ASHA enter.*)

ASHA: So?

NOMI: She said yes!

ASHA: Finally.

NOMI: I know.

ASHA: Are you texting or just telling people about it? Ooh, no I know; let’s do a Snapchat invitation!

NOMI: Too risky.

ASHA: How?

NOMI: I’m only allowed to have ten people.

ASHA: What? You can’t do that.

NOMI: It’s the only way my mom would agree. She thinks too many kids won’t be safe.

ASHA: But that’s stupid, it’ll never work. (*Ticking off her fingers as she counts.*) Sarah, Leah, Noreen – wait, do you and I count as part of the ten?

NOMI: I’m not sure...well, *you* do.

ASHA: How can I count as one of the ten? I’m your best friend and we’re having the party together.

NOMI: Yeah, but you don’t live in my house, so I’m pretty sure my mom’s going to make me count you.

ASHA: (*Shaking her head and ticking off her fingers again.*) OK then, *me*, Sarah, Leah, Noreen, Abigail, Jenna, Ziah, Lena, Dorret...and Jona. That’s ten. I think we can do it.

NOMI: Yeah, it’ll be great. We can even make it a skinny dipping party.

ASHA: (*Looking at NOMI like she’s nuts.*) Nooooo. What are you talking about?

NOMI: You only listed girls. I did not agree to a lifetime of chores and good grades for an all *girls* party.

ASHA: Dang.

NOMI: We have to cut at least four.

ASHA: Cut *four* of them? No way!

*(NOMI Turns to address the audience as ASHA freezes.)*

NOMI: See that? See my friend Asha's face? That is the face of early-onset drama. And she can put out some award-winning performances, let me tell you. I knew it couldn't possibly just be fun and easy to throw a party.

*(NOMI turns back to ASHA.)*

NOMI: Here's what we're going to do, let's start with our list of boys first and –

ASHA: Yes! Some of them are obviously persons of interest for certain girls, so that will make the girl list easier.

NOMI: Exactly. Start with Oliver.

ASHA: After what he said to Abigail? Are you kidding?

NOMI: He's my cousin. I have to invite him.

ASHA: Have to, like, as in your mom *said* you have to?

NOMI: As in, it's just understood. Believe me, I don't have a choice on that one.

ASHA: But Abigail is not one of the cut girls.

NOMI: There are no cut girls at all yet; we're starting with the boy list, remember?

ASHA: Yes, but whether we start with the boys or not, the girls list already exists on my fingers. *(Holding up her fingers to make the point.)* We can't pretend they don't. This already happened. *(She holds up one finger at a time, starting with her thumb.)* Sarah, Leah, *Abigail...**(She stops, waving her middle finger.)* See that? Abigail is my middle finger. It's a sign.

*(ASHA's phone beeps.)*

NOMI: And how, exactly, do you read that sign?

ASHA: No idea. *(Reading a text on her phone.)* That's Lena. I'm supposed to meet her and Noreen to work on our history presentation.

*(ASHA starts to leave.)*

NOMI: Just don't mention this to anyone, yet.

ASHA: Are you presenting Thursday or Friday?

NOMI: Friday, but it doesn't matter. My group's already done.

ASHA: Lucky! We haven't even started and it's going to take forever because Noreen doesn't do anything and Lena is never satisfied.

*(ASHA leaves. NOMI turns to the Audience.)*

NOMI: See how easily distracted she is? I'll just have to work on the guest list myself. But the question still remains whether or not it will be worth it. *(beat)* And you want to know the painful, honest, I'm-not-proud-I'm-telling-you-this truth? *(Looking off toward where ASHA left, then back to Audience.)* I wish Asha was one of the girls I could cut. Oh, yes, I see your judging grown-up faces and wagging fingers. You're thinking...actually, I don't care what you're thinking. I have my reasons and if you don't understand by the time we're done here, then you must've slept through your own adolescence.

*(NOMI exits. LIGHTS DIM.)*

## Scene 2

AT RISE: NOREEN and LENA sit on the floor with books, markers, and a large sheet of chart paper out in front of them. They are working as LIGHTS come UP.

LENA: Asha's going to start with arguments by the settlers and bring us up to our moment of character conflict.

NOREEN: Character conflict? We're not doing a book review. It's a history presentation.

LENA: Well when you retell something from history, isn't that telling a story?

NOREEN: I guess.

LENA: And who are the settlers and Quakers if not characters in a story?

NOREEN: Alright, whatever, just continue.

LENA: So Asha starts with the arguments by the settlers: we were here first, squatters rights, blah, blah, then I'll make a pivot to you, the representative of the Quakers, and –

NOREEN: Why would you pivot? That's just weird. So what, are you going to like – I mean – Asha is just talking along and then you *pivot* to me? Just in case my starting to talk isn't enough to get everyone's attention? *(Doing a couple of pivots to press her point.)* There is no other place in the whole presentation where we're doing any specific moves.

LENA: Not literally pivot, you idiot. I mean turn the subject to another point. I'm going to say, and what do the Quakers think of the petition by these new immigrants? That's your cue to start –

*(ASHA enters.)*

ASHA: Sorry I'm late.

NOREEN: Thank God. Lena's starting to add dance moves to our presentation.

ASHA: What?

LENA: No I'm not!

ASHA: Listen you guys, guess what? Nomi's parents are letting us have a pool party.

NOREEN: Ooh, Fun! When will it be? This weekend? I hope it's not this weekend. I have to go to my cousin's bar mitzvah on Saturday.

LENA: I don't care when it is – as long as it's after this presentation hope it's not this weekend because our presentation won't get done the way you two are –

ASHA: Actually, we haven't decided for sure when it will be. I just know her mom finally agreed to it.

NOREEN: *(Ignoring Lena.)* What about her dad?

ASHA: I don't think he cares. Anyway, their pool is super fun. *(Stepping on the poster as she speaks.)* Have you seen it? It has a slide and a swim-up bar.

NOREEN: Are you wearing a two-piece or a one-piece?

LENA: *(To ASHA)* Don't step on the poster!

ASHA: *(To LENA)* Sorry. *(Answering NOREEN)* Of course I'm wearing a bikini. My one-piece is from last year and it probably doesn't even fit anymore.

*(NOREEN takes out her phone and begins texting while ASHA and LENA talk.)*

LENA: I think your footprint is now a permanent part of our Venn diagram.

ASHA: Who cares? Could you stay on topic?

LENA: *(Laughing.)* I thought the topic was our history presentation.

ASHA: Come on, it's a pool party! Listen to this, last winter, when we stayed in Aruba, our hotel had a swim-up bar. It was really fun. I ordered every cocktail they made and just charged it all to our room.

NOREEN: *(Looking up from her phone.)* There's no drinking age in Aruba?

ASHA: *Virgin* cocktails!

NOREEN: Oh. *(Going back to what she was doing.)*

ASHA: Anyway, I'm already planning the punch for the swim-up bar at Nomi's pool party. We have to use plastic cups, of course, but you can get really cute ones in different colors and we'll make a frozen ice ring with fruit floating in it. You use a bundt pan to do it.

LENA: What's a bundt pan?

ASHA: You don't know what a bundt / pan is?

LENA: And why do you need to freeze it if the fruit's going to float anyway?

ASHA: The fruit is *frozen* into the ring. It's one of those cake pans that's like a giant donut.

LENA: So the fruit is *suspended* in the ice?

ASHA: Exactly, but you use juice instead of plain water. I was also thinking you might do some of those napkin origamis you make so well? We can have them in the same color theme as the punch to put around the table.

LENA: Origami is already a plural word – there's no s at the end.

ASHA: Whatever, the color theme is the important thing. (*Noticing NOREEN still on her phone.*) Noreen, what are you doing?

NOREEN: Telling people. I just group texted Mark, Sarah, Abigail, Chris, and Rachel.

ASHA: You can't do that! Rachel isn't even on the list!

NOREEN: I already sent it. What list?

ASHA: The invitation list. And Abigail is a maybe.

LENA: Abigail is a *maybe*?

ASHA: Nomi is going to kill you.

NOREEN: Me? You're the one telling everyone.

LENA: We're not everyone.

ASHA: It's not up to you to be doing the inviting.

NOREEN: But those are all obvious people that Nomi would automatically invite.

ASHA: You're right, she's going to kill *me*.

LENA: Just tell them all not to say anything.

*(NOREEN's phone beeps. She checks it.)*

NOREEN: Jack says he can come and he's bringing pool games.

ASHA: *Jack?* You didn't say anything about Jack. How does he know?

LENA: Probably Chris. They're always together.

*(NOREEN's phone beeps again.)*

NOREEN: Rachel is really excited. She wants to bring her cousin, too. See? It was nice to invite her. She doesn't always get included.

ASHA: Rachel wasn't even on the *original* list!

LENA: What original list?

ASHA: (*Holding up her hands.*) The *finger* list! I have to go talk to Nomi before she starts freaking out.

*(ASHA starts to leave.)*

NOREEN: *You're* freaking out.

LENA: What about our presentation? We've barely started working on it.

ASHA: Just figure it out. I have to go. I never should have told you.

*(ASHA leaves, visibly upset.)*

LENA: What was that about?

NOREEN: I don't know, but I hope it isn't this weekend; I can't get out of that bar mitzvah and I do not want to miss this party!

*(LIGHTS DIM. GIRLS exit.)*

END OF SELECTION