

MAKIN' IT by Cynthia Mercati

Makin' it is tough -- there's peer pressure, the fear of being considered a geek, a nerd, a grind, or a burnout; the fear of being unpopular. Cynthia Mercati has taken these elements of teen life and created an open and up-front play that takes a realistic look at surviving high school. In this monologue, BROOKE wants to be popular, and is willing to pay almost any price, up to a point.

BROOKE

You know those girls on the cover of *Seventeen*? That's what I always wanted to look like. Perfect bodies. Perfect hair. Perfect skin. Perfect clothes. Perfect. And they make it look so easy. But it's not. Always wearing the right thing -- always looking just right -- always saying the right thing -- You can't be too loud, then you're a geek. You can't be too quiet, then you're a nerd. You can't drag home a lot of books, because then you're a grind. But if you fail, you're a burnout! -- There's so much to remember, it makes my head ache. But it's worth it. Everyone knows me now! I party with the cool kids, sit with the cool kids, talk and walk and act just like one of them. And if I'm not ... one of them ... everybody thinks I am, and that's the important thing. Even my mom. I hear her on the phone now, bragging to her friends. "Oh. Marge, the way Brooke goes out these days! The phone is always ringing -- she's always out somewhere. She's one popular girl -- just like I was!" But I'm not like she was! It was easy for her ... Or maybe it wasn't. Sometimes I wish my mom knew about the clothes and the hair and the make-up, because then I could talk to her. And sometimes I don't think she'd care if she knew, because she'd think it was worth it, too. Because it is. It's got to be. I sit with the right kids at the right lunch table and I see everyone walk by and

look at us -- and pretend not to look -- and I know just what they're thinking. "Why can't I do that? Be like that? Why can't I bring it off? It looks so easy." But it's not. Changing yourself, turning yourself inside out and upside down -- trying to please a zillion people and make them like you it's hard. *Seventeen* lied. It's not that easy at all ...

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QUESTIONS ABOUT MAKIN' IT (Libby's Monologue)

- How does being "different" create a need for LIBBY to speak her mind?
- What action does LIBBY take to be herself, and how does this differ from her social self?
- What kind of external physical characteristics does LIBBY have? And how does this differ from her internal characteristics?
- What adjectives and active verbs describe LIBBY's passion? What does she want to do?

NOTES