

## Parent Guide – Ride the Cyclone

Rating: PG-14

### MAJOR SPOILERS CONTAINED

In this outlandish story by Jacob Richmond and Brooke Maxwell, the lives of six teenagers from a Canadian chamber choir are cut short in a freak accident aboard a roller coaster. When they awake in limbo, a mechanical fortune teller invites each to tell a story to win a prize like no other — the chance to return to life. Full of zany, vaudeville-style numbers, as each character pleads for their life, *Ride the Cyclone* is a gritty, screwed up comedy, both unsettling and thrilling.

#### Violence:

- One character acts out a few lines from *Waiting for Godot* and says “Shall we hang ourselves?”
- There is a slap, and a “punch in the boob”.
- See the first entry, below, in “Sexual content”.

#### Sexual content:

- One character is gay. His dream is to become a “heartless boozehound harlot in post-war France.” This song contains a lot of references to being a sex worker, using alcohol and drugs, violence, illness and self harm. He is in a slip and heels for this song. Two men kiss during the song. He wants to be “That fucked-up girl”.
- One character repeatedly grabs his privates, in a “rap” fashion.
- One character talks about a crude tattoo that reads “Born to bone” (with two skeletons – but we don’t see the tattoo).
- One character acts out a few lines from *Waiting for Godot* and says “I hear it gives you an erection.”
- The words virgin and virginity are used.
- In one song a character sings about saving a cat-people planet by spreading his “seed”. During the song the following phrases are used: Kinkomatic powers, Freaktastic seed, sexy cat women, making love. Also during the song the “lovemaking” happens behind a sheet.
- One character describes how she lost her virginity just hours before the accident in a port-a-potty with a carnie. And while technically consensual, the “carnie” was almost 20 years her senior, and the act was a product of her low self-esteem. The experience, and her death, leads to some closure and joy for her.

#### Language:

- Swear words include: dick, shit, hell, goddammit, Jesus Christ
- A song uses the phrase “Fucked up girl” many times.
- Bitch is used to describe the building.
- The phrase “Little Orphan A-hole” is used to describe one character.
- The word “fornication” is used.
- “Eurotrash bitches” is used in a rap song. Son-of-a-bitch is used to describe the evil Count Dogulous.

#### Substances:

- Two teen characters drink out of a vodka bottle. One teen is described as having provided alcohol to his cousin, a minor.
- One parent uses a bong. The words “chronic” and “ganga” are used.
- Cigarettes are used several times.
- A rap song mentions champagne and weed.
- Two characters act out an improv that talks about using and/or dealing recreational drugs.

**Other possible triggers:**

- One (non-human) character sees into the future and has a “magic-like” quality.
- All of the human characters in this show have died in a roller coaster accident. One was decapitated. That is indicated by the character carrying a headless doll, and her make-up and wig is a little creepy.
- One character is a bully, but has a journey towards understanding that.
- One character uses the phrase “culturally ingrained alcoholism” to describe a Ukrainian man.
- One brief character is dying of Uranium poisoning, so she puts her child up for adoption to save him. His adoptive parents don’t like him and he is neglected.
- Very briefly, there is a character miming speaking in tongues/snake-handling with a preacher. The preacher is bitten by a snake and dies. The son (one of the major characters) becomes non-verbal because of the trauma. Once dead, he decides to speak again.
- White people rap.