Drama: Wrong Number
by Frank Ramirez

Characters:
Violet
Ms. Peterson
Angel
Timothy
Student (One)

(Enter Violet into the school corridors. A student approaches from the other direction)

ONE

Violet!

VIOLET

(stops)
Oh hi! How are you?

ONE

Love your hair! Did you do something new?

VIOLET

Maybe.

ONE

Well, keep doing it. See you.

(Exit, as a second student passes her from behind.)

TWO

Hi Violet.

(stops)
Is there something different about you?

VIOLET

Not really.
Well, whatever it is, keep doing it. I like it.

(A teacher is crossing the stage)

Hi, Ms. Peterson.

MS. PETERSON

Hello Violet. Good to see you here in school.

(stops)

You're doing something new with your hair. Very nice.

VIOLET

Thank you, Ms. Peterson.

(Teacher exits. Her phone buzzes. She pulls it out)

PHONE

(There's a ping. On the screen we see printed, as per a text, the words which are "spoken" by the phone. )

Ping.

Did you see what Violet did with her hair? It's awful?

Ping.

I've seen better hair on a dog.

(Violet drops her backpack and books spill out)

Ping.

Hey, Violet, why don't you set your hair on fire? You'd look better.

Ping.

Hey Violet. You're ugly .

(Violet looks horrified. She drops the phone and steps backwards, but it keeps going.)

Ping.

Awful.

Ping.

Ugly.

Ping.

Violet.

Ping.

Ping.

Ping.

(Violet begins to mess up her hair. There is a sudden strum of a harp, heavenly music, and a bright light. A whoosh and a bright light and enter an angel, with Timothy a young man in a white robe carrying a bucket of water)

ANGEL
Whoah! Whoah!
(scoops up the phone and throws it in the bucket, which begins to bubble and sizzle)

TIMOTHY

Looks like we're just in time!
(They put down the bucket)

VIOLET

Who are you?

TIMOTHY

Timothy! The companion of Paul. You know, from the Bible.

VIOLET

Timothy? From the Bible? How did you get here?

TIMOTHY

I took an Angel.

ANGEL

Hi!

TIMOTHY

It's the fastest way to travel.

ANGEL

Across Space and Time!
No Reason! No Rhyme.
Only it really rhymes. It's not a great slogan, but it's the one we're stuck with.

VIOLET

What's happening here?

TIMOTHY

What's happening here is that you're listening to the cowardly trolls who hide inside phones and tear down people with the most potent weapon every invented!
VIOLET

What weapon is that?

ANGEL

Words!

VIOLET

Trolls are terrible!

ANGEL

They sure are.

TIMOTHY

But they're nothing new. When I lived two thousand years ago there were people on Crete who said bad things about me because my friend Paul the Apostle was in prison. They said I was too young to be any good. They wrote things about me on ostraka making fun of me.

VIOLET

What are those?

TIMOTHY

An ostrokan is a piece of broken pottery that people wrote notes on. People could send them really fast from one person to another with a hurtful message.

VIOLET

How did people send them?

TIMOTHY

The same way you do. By Messenger.

ANGEL

I had to fly down from heaven to tell Timothy not to listen to the haters. And then I brought him to you to show him this is a problem in all space and time. I thought maybe the two of you could help each other.
VIOLET

What good can you really do? I thought it was going to be a great day but now I feel awful. People say the most horrible things.

TIMOTHY

I was feeling pretty bad myself when my friend Paul wrote to me from prison to remind me of the things that matter -- like the grace from Jesus. He reminded me I'd learned about good things in the Bible from my mother Eunice and my grandmother Lois. He told me God didn't give me a Spirit that is timid, but one that is powerful, loving, and in control. I could decide who I am going to listen to, and how I am going to ignore.

ANGEL

Think about it, Violet. At home your little brother, who never says anything nice, said he liked your hair. And so did the bus driver, and that girl from the high school. Everybody said that, except some trolls on your phone.

VIOLET

But it's hard to ignore the haters.

TIMOTHY

It's is very hard. That's why you have to be --

VIOLET

Strong and courageous?

TIMOTHY

Yes! How did you know that?

VIOLET

Uh -- I learned it at National Junior High Conference.

TIMOTHY

Really? I wish we'd had National Junior High Conference back in Bible Times. (Suddenly realizes)
Hey, we need to get back. I have to write a letter back to the Apostle Paul. I can get somebody on the Cretan express boat to take it to him in prison. It'll get there fast as lightning!

VIOLET

How fast is lightning?

ANGEL

In the case of this letter, I'd say only two to three months.

(Another bright flash, and the two of them are gone. Violet looks around. She sees no one. Her phone is still lying on the ground. Carefully she puts everything back in her backpack, and is straightening up when her phone sends a message alert.)

VIOLET

(\textit{she jumps back a step, hand over mouth, then bends over phone})

Oh!

(\textit{She starts to put phone to her ear, stops, pauses, shrugs, and puts it in her pocket.})

Be strong \textit{and} courageous!

(\textit{She exits, a smile on her face.})