

## Extraordinary Lives Script

### STORYTELLER

How am I supposed to tell you kids any stories if you won't hold still?

### KID 1

Stories are BORING! Where's the action? Can't I just watch a movie?

### KID 2

Yeah what's the point of stories anyway?

### KID 1

They're not even real! Who cares about a bunch of fake lives?!

### STORYTELLER

Well if you don't want to hear about a bunch of fake lives, why don't I tell you some stories about some real ones?

### KID 2

I don't know... do you know any good ones?

### STORYTELLER

I know a few.

### KID 1

I don't believe it. I'd definitely rather watch a movie. I still don't see the point.

### STORYTELLER

Well if you sit down, I'll tell you the point. And if you listen real close, it will be better than a movie, I promise.

*(Kids begrudgingly sit down)*

### STORYTELLER

I used to be just like you. My grandpa would try to tell me all of his stories and I rarely listened. One day at school my teacher said:

### MIRANDA

There is something extra or remarkable about every single person's story.

**STORYTELLER**

And I thought, I don't think that's true for my grandpa. Then later that week at church, my preacher's wife said:

**BRIANNE**

Someone can be changed from any story. We may think that our lives and stories are ordinary, but we are all extraordinary.

**STORYTELLER**

So I went home and told my dad and asked him, do you think that's true for grandpa? Cause he seems just plain ordinary to me. And he said:

**DAD**

I don't know, some amazing things can happen in what seems to be an ordinary life.

**STORYTELLER**

So the next time I was at my grandpa's house I decided to give it a shot. I said grandpa, tell me a story. He asked:

**GRANDPA**

What about, sport?

**STORYTELLER**

And I said, I don't know, you, I guess! And he told me one of the most beautiful stories I have ever heard.

*(Long pause)*

**KID 1**

Well... what was it?

**KID 2**

Yeah! Tell us!

**STORYTELLER**

I thought you didn't want to hear any stories. Stories are boring.

**KID 1**

That's true... but just this once probably won't hurt...

**STORYTELLER**

Tell you what, I'll tell you two. When my grandpa was a young boy, he LOVED to look at the stars..

*(Hollis opens a card board package and retrieves binoculars and a letter, soldier on one side of the stage writes the letter as Hollis reads.)*

**SOLDIER**

"Dear Hollis, picked these up off a German soldier who didn't need them anymore. Thought you could use them."

*(Picks up the binoculars and walks towards his cherry tree. He climbs the tree and fastens the binocular strap on a branch. He looks through them with excitement.)*

**HOLLIS**

Nobody I know has ever seen this; it's incredible how huge Jupiter is: so far away and yet I can still see it. And the moons! So small in comparison! This is the thing that Galileo discovered—the thing that changed the perspective of the entire world. I wonder what else could be out there. What else have they found? And what *haven't* they found? I have to learn more—I have to keep looking. This is a search that will never end for me.

*(Jill's mom is out on the front porch as a car pulls up just off stage.)*

**MOM**

Jill! Richard's here!

*(Jill comes bouncing out)*

**MOM**

Did he just lock the car door?

**JILL**

That's weird... he never locks the car door!

**MOM**

He's proposing to you tonight.

**JILL**

Mom! What?!

**MOM**

Wouldn't you lock the door if you had diamond ring in the car?

**JILL**

Do you think? I don't know if I'm ready for that.

**MOM**

Well here he comes, good luck!

**RICHARD**

Hey Jill! You ready?

**JILL**

Yeah let's go.

*(JILL AND RICHARD get into the car, and Richard mimes driving in awkward silence and then mimes putting the car into park.)*

**RICHARD**

Jill, you should look in the glovebox.

**JILL**

No thanks.

**RICHARD**

*(taken by surprise)*

What? No really, you should.

**JILL**

Nah I'm good.

**RICHARD**

Uh, please?

**JILL**

*(gives in)*

Ok fine.

*(Jill opens the glovebox and pulls out a ring box and opens it)*

**RICHARD**

What do you say? Want to get married?

**JILL**

I'll think about it.

**RICHARD**

Oh. Ok.

*(Awkward silence)*

Well, I guess I'll take you home now.

**JILL**

Okay

*(Richard mimes starting the car back up as the lights fade)*

*(Hollis rushes on the stage to a desk setting down his backpacks and pulling out 4 books, a notebook, and a writing utensil. He sits looking at his notebook for a moment.)*

**MOM**

Hollis!! Supper's ready!!

**HOLLIS**

Mom I'll be down in a minute I've gotta get this done!

*(Hollis takes a "Whoo" deep breath and moves his pencil back and forth. He puts his pencil to the book.)*

**HOLLIS**

How... can I write a book report... on three chemistry books? Starts writing. There are 94 elements currently known to man. Plutonium is synthesized by current scientists by bombarding Uranium-238 with deuterons. This is turning into a science report... It's a good start! *(Continues writing)*

**MOM**

Hollis!!!!

*(Hollis doesn't come, so mom comes to him. Hollis begins cutting out a newspaper clipping)*

**MOM**

Hollis! What are you doing?

**HOLLIS**

Look at this! They've found the capsule of the U.S. Discoverer 13 Corona mission in the Pacific Ocean. This is the first time any man-made object has been recovered successfully from orbit.

**MOM**

But why are you cutting it out of the paper?

*(Hollis pulls out a binder and shows her several other clippings, along with a few handwritten pages.)*

**HOLLIS**

Just organizing my thoughts.

**MOM**

*(takes it and reads a little)* Well, I approve. Seems like as good a way to spend your free time as any. *(Hollis goes back to cutting)*

**RICHARD**

She said she'll think about it? That means no. She's going to say no. I knew I shouldn't have put it in the glovebox. I should've listened to all my friends and done something big to guilt her into saying yes. I'm an idiot. I spent almost my life savings on that ring and I shove it in the glovebox?! She knew it was there. Even when I pulled up to her house and locked the car she was suspicious. I never lock the car. But on account of having a diamond ring in the glovebox of course I'm going to lock it! Then when I told her to check the glovebox so she'd find the ring, she said, "no thanks,"? She knew it was there and she didn't want to find it because she didn't want to say no so she just said she'd think about it. That's it. It's over. I'm never going to see her again. Oh shoot she's coming for our family party tomorrow! I doubt she'll come. Why would she want to marry me anyway? She's lived a life where everything is handed to her. A life with me would be work. I don't have a ton of money to offer her, or a ton of land. She would have to give up so much. She wouldn't be able to ride horses ever again probably. And who is Jill if she can't have her horses? Yeah, I wouldn't want to marry me either.

*(Hollis is onstage surrounded by journalists)*

**HOLLIS**

Stars obtain the energy for their light and heat by fusing light elements into heavier ones. The atoms in matter from which we are formed may have been part of many stars before becoming human life. The remains of a supernova can weigh over 1 million tons per teaspoonful. The biggest stars end up as black holes, where gravity becomes so great that not even light can escape. This leads to other phenomena. Time would come to a standstill, and perhaps one could slip through them and out into other

universes, or even out into our own universe to other places and periods. Does all this confusion have a purpose, and is the purpose us?

**REPORTER 1**

Hollis, you have a pretty incredible biography to date. Your contributions to science are unparalleled. You've written 13 books, speak 3 languages, have traveled to many countries, married a beautiful girl and raised a fantastic family. Do you have any regrets?

**HOLLIS**

I guess, I just wish I would've done more.

**REPORTER 2**

Done more?! How could you possibly have done more?! Hollis you're a legend!

**HOLLIS**

Hey, I'm just a farm boy from Garland.

*(Richard and his family are all around at a family party)*

**LAVENNA**

Hey Richard, there's a letter for you. It's from Jill.

*(she hands her son the neat envelope, with beautiful calligraphy spelling out his name on the front.)*

**RICHARD**

Thanks mom

*(He takes the letter into his room.)*

**RICHARD**

This is a rejection letter. I asked her to marry me, she said she'd think about it, and she sends a letter. If her answer was yes she would have told me in person. She couldn't tell me no in person, she's too nice. I don't even want to read this right now.

*(He leaves the letter in his room and goes back to his family party. He sees Jill who has joined the party.)*

**RICHARD**

Jill! What are you doing here?

**JILL**

Did you get my letter?

**RICHARD**

I did.. But I haven't read it yet.

**JILL**

GO READ IT!

*(Richard leaves Jill with his family and goes to his room and reads the letter, a big smile on his face. He comes back to Jill and takes her into a different room, away from everyone.)*

**RICHARD**

Are you sure? You didn't seem too sure when I asked you yesterday.

**JILL**

I'm sure. I want to marry you.

**RICHARD**

Your life is going to change forever. I don't have much money, I don't have a house just ready for us to move into. You'd be giving up the life you've known.

**JILL**

I know. But I'm willing to give it all up to be with you.  
*(They lean in to kiss but are interrupted by the following exchange)*

**KID 1**

Ew gross!

**KID 2**

That's not gross stupid, that's romantic! They're in love.

**KID 1**

It's still gross...

**STORYTELLER**

Well what did you think of Hollis?

**KID 1**



He was awesome! I can't believe he found planets when he was my age!

**STORYTELLER**

So you still think stories are boring?

**KID 1**

Well I guess not... but he is old! He has had a whole lifetime to make his story cool.

**STORYTELLER**

You don't think kids have good stories?

**KID 2**

Probably not. We're too young.

**KID 1**

Way too young.

**STORYTELLER**

Have your parents told you any stories from when they were kids?

**KID 1**

Our parents were kids?!

**KID 2**

Of course they were kids genius. Everyone's a kid to start.

**KID 1**

I guess I knew that but that just seems weird! Can you picture mom and dad at our age?!

**KID 2**

Do you know any stories from our parents as kids?

**STORYTELLER**

I think I can scrounge up a couple. Do you have the patience for two more?

**KID 1**

If they're good ones!

**STORYTELLER**

When you're dad and his brothers were young, they caused a bit of trouble...

**JANZEN**

Hurry up guys! But. Be. Quiet!  
The boys climbed one by one into the tree that sat in the  
backyard right outside of the woodshop.

**TYSON**

Can you see anything?

**BRENTON**

No, Landon's fat head is in the way!

**JANZEN**

Shut up! You're so loud!

**LANDON**

I see something! Dad is making a bow and arrow it looks like?  
That is so mine.

**JANZEN**

Yeah right loser. It's probably for me.

**TYSON**

Janzen, you can't even make it when you throw trash into the  
garbage from 2 feet away. That bow and arrow are obviously for  
me.

*(The kids start fighting and fall out of the tree)*

**SISTER**

What do you want to do Sally?

**SALLY**

I'm not sure, I'm soooooo bored!

*(they both sit there for a moment pondering, then Sister gets an  
idea)*

**SISTER**

I know what to do!

**SALLY**

What?

**SISTER**

We should get our laundry bags and wear them as clothes! It would be so much fun!

**SALLY**

We would look so weird!

**SISTER**

That's the point...

**SALLY**

Well ok.

*(They both go to their rooms and get out their laundry bags and start to cut out holes)*

**RICHARD**

Jill I found the boys spying on me while I was making their Christmas presents. They were up in the tree outside the window! I'll just have to close the blinds when I work.

**LANDON**

I can't believe dad started closing the blinds. How are we supposed to figure out our Christmas gifts?!

**JANZEN**

Are mom and dad gone?

**TYSON**

They just left. You said you know where all the presents are?

**JANZEN**

Yeah, up in the attic.

*(They all climb up into the attic to find their presents.  
Brenton breaks one of the presents on accident.)*

*(Lights come up on Sally and her sister wearing the laundry bags as they prance around doing model poses)*

**SISTER**

I'm a magical princess waiting for charming prince!

*(she walks around pretending like she is floating)*

**SALLY**

*(talks in a muscular voice)*

My little princess! I have found you!

*(Sister runs over to Sally then she stops and looks up)*

**SISTER**

Oh no! The fire breathing dragon! Help me!

**SALLY**

I'll save you!

*(Sally pretends to fight then she takes out a "sword" and "kills" the dragon)*

**SISTER**

My hero! *(she runs over to sally)* let me kiss you!

**SALLY**

*(stops her)* Stop, I don't love you that much.

**RICHARD**

BOYS!

**BOYS**

Yeah dad?

**RICHARD**

WHO WAS IN THE ATTIC?!?

**BOYS**

Uhhhh...

**BRENTON**

He found it.

**BOYS**

BRENTON!!!

**KID 1**

Those little sneaks broke the brothers code! I can't believe they ratted Brenton out.

**KID 2**

There is no such thing as the brothers code you made that up.  
Besides he is the one that broke it! Mom would have used a  
timeout for sure.

**STORYTELLER**

Speaking of timeouts...

**SARAH**

I'm the mother of six children, five boys and one girl. They all got along fairly well and had a respectable age gap between them, except for the two oldest. Both are boys named, Dale and Reed. They were only a year apart, so obviously they would butt heads more often than not. Dale, being the oldest, would always end up dealing with his little brother Reed. Reed would follow Dale whenever he went out with his friends, and frankly Dale didn't appreciate it too much. They'd come home fighting and yelling at each other, saying

**BOY 1**

Mom Tommy hit me!

**BOY 2**

He hit me first!

**BOY 1**

I did not! You're so grounded, mom tell him!

It'd get to the point that I would have to punish them. So I came up with the wonderful idea of having them sit in the corner and hug each other for ten minutes. But the funny thing about it, is that back then we didn't have "timeouts" that wasn't a thing. I come up with that all on my own.

**KID 1**

Yeah I'd definitely rather be on regular time out then hug you for 10 minutes...

**KID 2**

*(Kid 2 sticks her tongue out at Kid 1)*

Can you believe Aunt Lucy tried to kiss mom?! We have got to get her for that one.

**KID 1**

Yeah what's up with all the kissing in these stories. Gross.

**KID 2**

I like the romantic ones! Do you know any more love and marriage stories Grandpa?!

**KID 1**

No! I don't want any of those. They're all the same.

**STORYTELLER**

You'd be surprised. Sometimes stories don't turn out like you'd think. Take this one for example, Ruth was getting ready for her big day...

*(Ruth enters chaotic house with Janet and Mom on wedding day)*

**CATERER 1**

Where do you want these plates, Ruth?

**CATERER 2**

And how about all these flowers?

**CATERER 3**

Where should this table go?

**RUTH**

Woah, woah, woah, one at a time, hold your horses! I know you're all a couple of eager beavers, but I can only handle so much! I mean for crying out loud It's my wedding day for pete's sake! And where's Richie at? Whats a bride to do without her groom? Susan have you seen Richard?

**SUSAN**

I hate to tell ya Ruthy, but last I saw him he was down at the ice-cream parlor with that sharecrop, Nancy and a couple of friends.

*(Richard casually strolls into the house)*

**RUTH**

Richie! Where have you been It's our wedding day, and you were supposed to be helping me get everything in order! And I hear you're just down at the parlor with Nancy, again! Is that true?

**RICHARD**

Now, you hold on just a second, baby doll. Where did you hear that from?

**RUTH**

Susan! She told me you and that dumb dora, were havin' a real gas over at the ice cream shop earlier! Don't you lie to me  
Richie, I know you've carried a torch for her before. Do you...love her?

**RICHARD**

Ruth.... I....

*(Ruth cuts him off in tears)*

**RUTH**

That's enough, Richie. I've heard enough. The wedding is off, Richard, I'm sorry I can't go through with this, or be with someone who doesn't care about how I feel. I guess it just wasn't meant to be...

*(storms off in tears as Richard, Mom, Susan, and Janet, all chase after her)*

**KID 2**

They broke it off on her wedding day! How sad!

**STORYTELLER**

Not all stories are happy.

*(KID 2 looks really upset)*

But some are! And they're all beautiful. Here, listen to these two. There was once a beautiful young girl named Anita...

*(middle of the night, several kids +mom and Anita lay on the front porch giggling, trying to sleep)*

**CHILD 1**

I love the moon, it shines so big and yellow.

**CHILD 2**

Look! There's two more moons!

**CHILD 3**

Those aren't moons, silly, those are headlights!

**MOM**

I wonder who that could be...? *(Stands, holding baby)*

**UNCLE**

*(grimly)* How you are you doing?

**MOM**

*(confused)* Pretty good.

**UNCLE**

Curtis's been shot.

**MOM**

*(gasps and hands baby to Anita)* Well, how bad is it?"

**UNCLE**

He's dead.

*(Mother screams and faints, falling to the floor, Anita holds baby and other children begin to cry)*

**ANITA**

I was 15 when my father died...and well, it nearly killed me. My father was a police officer in Las Vegas. He worked the night shift. He was shot and murdered by a drunk man on June 15th, 1934. He was the first one ever in history to be killed on the police force in Las Vegas. He was the first one. The first one to fall. It was a big shocker for my whole family, for the whole town. My mother had eight kids counting me- we didn't have any money, so I quit school and got a job washing dishes at a local diner. I made 25 cents an hour- that was a lot of money for us then! My sister, who was just 13 months younger than me was real sick, so she had to quit school too. ...it was hard for me to quit school. It was a big sacrifice. *(laughs)* My whole life was a sacrifice. There's not a day I don't think about my dad.

**PRESTON**

I just received my draft papers *(gestures papers in hand)* Me and a couple of the other teammates went down to the old courthouse, last week to get registered for the War. I had no idea they'd get back to me so fast. There's been a lot of buzz about the war these days... That it's our duty, as Americans, as men, to fight off the commies in Korea. I'm pretty excited to serve my country! Looks like I will have a lot of my friends by my side, too *(smiles and fold papers into his back pocket)* I'll be graduating soon; this June in fact. Then, I'll be heading over



to Washington for basic training, which is neat. My pops will be proud of me, momma will probably snap her cap about the whole thing. But, after I serve I can go to college! I'm thinking about being a teacher for elementary; I like kids. My sister Anne is gonna be pretty sad to see me leave, too, I suppose... and Donna. I won't see her for a long time, neither... She's so beautiful with her brown hair, and pretty blue eyes. She's got a good sense of humor, too, laughs at all my jokes! I think I love her. Maybe I could ask her to be my wife before I go to serve?  
Donna Keller... Yeah.

*(Virgil approaches doorstep, while Anita's brother sits in the garden)*

**VIRGIL**

Hey, ... how's that garden coming? You a regular greenthumb yet?

**JOEY**

Are you here for my sister?

**VIRGIL**

Uh...Yes, actually, I am.

**JOEY**

I don't like you.

**VIRGIL**

Excuse me?

**JOEY**

I want you to stay away from my sister.

**VIRGIL**

Well, your sister and I are very fond of each other and I think-

**JOEY**

I said, I don't like you. *(picks up tomato)*

**VIRGIL**

Okay- put the tomato down ... we can talk about this.

**JOEY**

I said- STAY AWAY FROM MY SISTER!

*(Begins throwing tomatoes in rapid succession at Virgil. Anita enters with a rag and dish still in her hand from doing dishes)*

**ANITA**

Joey! Knock it off!  
*(Joey sticks his tongue out at Virgil and runs offstage)*

**ANITA**

I am so sorry.

**VIRGIL**

Don't sweat it. How you doin'?

**ANITA**

My feet are a little sore.

**VIRGIL**

I have a cure for that.

**ANITA**

A foot massage?

**VIRGIL**

*(embarrassed)*  
No, ice cream!

**ANITA**

*(a little breathless)*  
Ice cream?

**VIRGIL**

And a movie!

**ANITA**

*(trying to hide her excitement)*  
A movie?

**VIRGIL**

Yes! What do ya say?

**ANITA**

Let me just grab my bag and- *(sudden realization)* Oh, I promised Mother I'd take care of Daisy today. Maybe some other-*(starts to leave)*

**VIRGIL**

No, wait, Anita! Daisy can come too.

**ANITA**

Oh, Virgil, I couldn't impose on you like that!

**VIRGIL**

It's no imposition- Look! I have a whole 50 cents saved, just for this occasion! That's plenty enough for three.

*(Both look at each other for a moment)*

**ANITA**

*(trying to think of an argument before giving in)*

I-I-I've never had ice cream.

**VIRGIL**

*(smiling as he takes Anita's hand)*

Come on, let's go get Daisy.

**ANITA**

*(suddenly)* Thank you.

**VIRGIL**

For ice cream? It's nothing.

**ANITA**

No, for- for everything.

**VIRGIL**

I haven't done anything... yet.

*(leans down and kisses Anita)*

**PRESTON**

So... I got my draft, today.

**DONNA**

*(looking down)* I know... I heard everyone talking about it. Are you happy? About the draft I mean.

**PRESTON**

I suppose... It's kinda scary leaving and all. I'm gonna miss Mantua, my family... You.

**DONNA**

*(smiling)* Yeah?

**PRESTON**

Yeah *(smiling back)*...Hey, Donna I have a question.

**DONNA**

What is it?

**PRESTON**

*(nervous)* Do you love me?

**DONNA**

What? What do you mean?

**PRESTON**

Do you love me? Because, I love you and I wanna know if you feel the same 'cause... I want to marry you, before I leave for the war. *(on knee with ring)* Will you marry me, Donna?

**DONNA**

Of course I love you, Preston. Yes!!  
*(hugs Preston they kiss and he puts ring on her. Exit holding hands and smiling at one another)*

**ANITA**

I hate it, Virgil. I miss my dad. I miss school. I miss my life.  
Virgil: I know, Anita. Listen, I've been saving up my money from the CCC-

**ANITA**

I don't know how much longer I can do this, I think about him every single day and I just need someone to make it stop-

**VIRGIL**

Let's get married

**ANITA**

What...? *(suddenly flustered)* Virgil, I- I- I can't, we're too young, I mean I don't know enough and-

**VIRGIL**

But I love you.

**ANITA**

Okay.

**PRESTON**

Dear Donna, I'm sorry that I wasn't able to write you, yesterday. Two days ago our base was attacked, we have a lot wounded, killed. I've never seen so much red in my life... I'm in good health, though; don't worry. I miss you, so much. I miss home; Mantua. I miss the fresh air, the breeze, and my dad's farm. Over here the air is thick with the scent of gunfire, you don't feel a breeze often, and any inkling of a farm...well, aren't farms, anymore. How're you, though? How're my parents doing? Your's? I can't wait to come and visit, to be with you. Maybe, we can start a family when I get back? Like we always talked about. *(smiling)* That would be grand. Korea's not home, but it has some good things, too, I suppose. The Southern Koreans are helpful, and loyal. The trees are nice. It rains a lot... I got your picture, of you and Ann! You're so beautiful, Donna, and Ann, too. Tell her I miss her, and love her; tell my family I miss them, too, please. I love you, Donna. I will write, again, as soon as possible.

Yours, Preston

**DONNA**

I miss him. Oh my gosh I miss him. Right after we get married, he gets sent to the war. That's my luck. No, come on Donna stay positive. At least we're married, at least we're both safe, at least we still have each other. This is not how I wanted this marriage to go, this isn't what I wanted. I wanted to get married, be a housewife, iron his shirts, make him dinner...have kids. That'll all just have to wait. He told me that my life would be completely different, which I knew, but I didn't expect this to happen. Agh, I miss him. Okay, Donna think positively. At least you're married, at least he's safe, at least you get to see him soon... I hate this. I miss him and I hate this.

**ANITA**

We met at a party- Virgil and I. I almost didn't go, but my cousin dragged me along. I remember meeting him and not really thinking anything of it. I didn't think I'd ever see him again... but the next day he was knocking on my door. I hadn't been out with many boys, I didn't know how to act even. My little brother didn't like him. He used to throw tomatoes at him every time he came by...I think he was afraid I was trying to

replace my Father with Virgil. He didn't know any better. I was 16 when he asked me to marry him. I didn't finally say yes until I was 17. I was scared to death to marry him and everything was happening so quickly. I didn't know hardly anything. I was so young. But I loved him. He was the only thing that made life easier to bear. He bought me this simple wedding band, but it was the most beautiful thing I'd ever owned. Virgil died years ago. But I've still never taken it off.

**STORYTELLER**

What? No Commentary?

**KID 1**

No, those were beautiful.

**KID 2**

Keep going! We won't interrupt.

**KID 1**

We promise.

**STORYTELLER**

Alright, meet Hazel and Pete...

*(after class at the beauty parlor bell rings)*

**HAZEL**

OK folks, see ya, Don't forget your payment is due Monday!

**PETE**

Hey um.. Hazel, can I talk to you for a minute?

**HAZEL**

Sure. What do you need?

**PETE**

Well i kinda got transferred to a different base a week ago anyway that doesn't matter and well me and the boys were planning on celebrating maybe going to the movies tomorrow night I wasn't really sure what to do or who to take cause I don't know nobody. Then Travis said why not Hazel and I just stopped cause well I don't know, cause i was nervous So then I put it off for a couple days but now it's too late

So anyway do you wanna--

**HAZEL**

Of course, well I'll see you soon I get to my friends they're waitin on me.

**JEAN**

You say you want to go to mexico to live and farm? There is no way i'm going to a foreign country where I don't even.. (cut off by carl)

**CARL**

Jean listen I think it's what we need to do. My dad has a huge piece of land, he can help put us on our feet.

**JEAN**

that isnt what im worried about I know you can farm, but what about me? What am I supposed to do?

**CARL**

Help me, that's what you are supposed to do we have two little girls that will occupy most of your time anyway.

**JEAN**

Carl I don't know anyone there. I can't speak spanish. You will always be working so i'll have to raise the kids by myself. And what about my horse?

**CARL**

My parents will be there to help you... We will have to live with them for 6 or so months until we get on our feet...but (cut off by jean)

**JEAN**

6 or so months!?! You have a great family but I can't deal with your parents for that long, I do things different then them. I need my own house if we are moving there.

**CARL**

We can look at a little pioneer home to buy and fix up they are pretty cheap and will make a good home, but that will still take time. Honey please just work with me on this.

**JEAN**

I will get homesick. How often will I be able to come to the states and see my family? And my Horses?

**CARL**

I don't know, but it will make me extremely happy to be back there doing what I love. Jean this is what we need to do I just know it.

**JEAN**

I... I don't know.

**CARL**

I promise you that in Mexico you will always have a horse, I will make sure of it. And if I don't keep my word we can move back to the states.

**JEAN**

Okay, I guess we are moving to Mexico.

**HAZEL**

I usually made Pete a lunch every day, you know the little brown paper bag ones? I threw in some slices of apples, Bananas, and sometimes a sandwich. But one day I went to visit Pete for lunch, it went kinda like this.

**HAZEL**

(enters office) Pete? Look at this office, men are such messy creatures. And what is that smell? (Walk to a pile of brown paper bags, opens a bag) is that what I think it is? (Cleans up office) Pete!

**SECRETARY**

Hazel.. Is everything ok in here?

**HAZEL**

Yes, Pete left a mess behind him. Let me get a waste basket.

**SECRETARY**

I'll grab one for you, I'll be right back. (Exits)

**PETE**

Hazel, hi honey.. Why- what are you doing here? I wasn't expecting you.



**HAZEL**

Pete, are these the lunches I made you?

**PETE**

Of course not, I'm experimenting- I um- I'm studying the decay- of uh- the um the decay in hair products. These are just my left overs.

**HAZEL**

These don't look like left overs Pete. (Grabs a bag) this one has a whole banana and a sandwich that hasn't been touched. Except by mold...

**PETE**

I'm just not very hungry

**HAZEL**

you have to be hungry. what have you been eating?

**PETE**

sometimes a cola, a bite of the banana you packed me. I just never have time to eat and when I do, I'm not really that hungry.

**HAZEL**

Do you not like my cooking?

**PETE**

no-no, I'm just so busy with clients or paperwork. It's hard to run a business. (Enter secretary with trash can)

**HAZEL**

Not so hard that you couldn't get a soda. (Hazel starts throwing paper bags in trash)

**PETE**

Cmon Hazel. Let me help you out.

**HAZEL**

so much wasted groceries, I want to know how much money is laying here to rot.

**PETE**

I'll make it up to you, I promise. Just calm down now. I'll make it up to you I swear.

**HAZEL**

how would you do that?

**PETE**

I'll take you out to that fancy restaurant you like.

**HAZEL**

so what you can order your frog legs again? You're so odd Pete.

**PETE**

it was water chicken Hazel

**HAZEL**

you and your frog legs

**PETE**

come here, Hazel.

(Hugs)

**KID 1**

I wonder what it would be like to be married like Pete and Hazel.

**KID 2**

I wonder what it will be like to get my first kiss!

**STORYTELLER**

I have some ideas..

**MARLENE**

I don't know Lucy, no one would even think to ask me to the dance. You're so lucky to be going steady with Billy. You KNOW you have a date to the dance.

**LUCY**

Just come with me and Billy. I promise we won't kiss or nothing in front of you, it will be fun.

*(awkward boy with suspenders and glasses is loitering near, listening in on conversation.)*

**MARLENE**

I don't wanna go without a date, Lucy. That's not fun.

*(awkward boy coughs very suddenly, causing Marlene and Lucy to look over)*

**LUCY**

Oo I know him. That's Melvin. He's in the eighth grade.  
*(Marlene looks at him more curiously)*

**LUCY**

He's comin' over Mar he's comin' over!

*(Melvin basically stumbles over to the two girls)*

**MELVIN**

*(Looking at floor, overall a very nervous demeanor)*  
So I uh.. Couldn't help but overhear your predicament and I uh.. Well, I have a similar one. I mean predicament, not that I need a BOY to go to the dance with, but just like you I want, a uh.. Person. So I was thinking since you need a person, and I need a person, and we're both uhm, well, persons that uh, maybe I could go to the dance with you? Or you with me. I'm the boy so you with me.

*(Lucy is making excited faces to Marlene over Melvin's shoulder. They communicate with facials and sign language over Melvin while Melvin basically observes all of it. Marlene points out his awkwardness while Lucy is pointing out she's kind of out of options.)*

**MELVIN**

You know I can like, go somewhere else if you two girls wanna talk it out or, if it's a no that's fine my mama says we got a cousin down in midway that could maybe come down so..

*(Marlene holds a finger to his mouth, causing him to be quiet immediately and maybe some slight excitement/ shock that a girl is touching him. Marlene and Lucy come to some sort of decision, maybe not the same one.)*

**LUCY**

*(turns Melvin around)* Alright Melvin, she'll go to the dance with you.

*(Marlene gets upset behind Melvin's back, Melvin turns around and she twirls her hair nonchalantly)*

**MELVIN**

Alright, great! I mean fantastic! Or.. good. Yes. Good. Great. I uh, will stop by your house and we can walk over to the dance together. See you then.

*(Melvin walks until he thinks he is out of their sight and does a victory dance. Marlene and Lucy watch. Melvin realizes he is not out of sight and stops immediately and "coolly" walks offstage. Lucy snorts and Marlene hits her.)*

**NANCY**

We were both in provo, studying at different schools My roommate invited Gerhard over for sunday dinner and to bring some friends. He was from Col. Dublan, Mexico and brought all his friends from there over for sunday dinner. I met Carl for the first time that night I hadn't seen Carl for a couple of weeks, until one day I invited gerhard and his Mexican friends to come ride horses. Gerhard brought Carl with him along with some others to cottonwood for the horse ride and a cookout. I went to the field to catch the horses and Carl offered to go with me I didn't need any help. After all most boys don't know the first thing about a horse. But Carl went with me. He caught that horse AND put the bridle on. THEN he swung on bareback to ride it home. Man was I impressed that he could do that. We became friends and started to date. But you know how he kissed me the first time? He asked me if i knew how to whistle. Of course I said yes and puckered up to whistle. When he kissed me and ran off I couldn't believe him but nonetheless. I was in the stars that night and ALMOST every night since.

**MELVIN**

I had a great time tonight Marlene. Like really great. Like super awesome great. Or just great, you know just good. Tonight was good.

**MARLENE**

Thanks for taking me Melvin, I had a good enough time.  
*(Melvin awkwardly hovers on doorstep)*

**MARLENE**

Well, goodnight!

*(Marlene leans in for what she clearly thinks is a hug, Melvin clearly has other ideas. He gives an awkward fast kiss on the lips and pulls away very quickly. There's a beat of awkward silence then he turns and runs away from doorstep, possibly pulls out inhaler)*

**MARLENE**

*(to herself) Well that wasn't anything like the films. (Wipes lips and goes inside)*

**KID 2**

Hey that Melvin kids sounds a lot like you!

**KID 1**

No Way! I'm way cooler than that. *(Tries to look cool and then trips or something)*

*(KID 2 laughs)*

**KID 1**

Hurry up to the next story.

**STORYTELLER**

*(Chuckling)*

Well it seems like we're in the mood to laugh...

**EUGENE**

This darn tooth will just not leave me alone, Margie!

**MARGIE**

Well what do you expect Eugene if you won't go over to the dentist and have him fix it up for you?

**EUGENE**

I don't like dentists. Or doctors for that matter.

**MARGIE**

Well sometimes I don't like you dear but I still wake up by your side every day. *(smiles, kisses him on the cheek)* Why don't you walk on over to the dentist and see if he can fit you in?

**EUGENE**

Alright if you say so, but if something goes wrong, you owe me an apple pie.

**MARGIE**

Of course, dear.

**DOCTOR**

*(on the phone, with a dead body on a table next to him)* Yeah I know we need to do something about this but we haven't found any records on him and I don't even know who he is. Hasn't anyone come to claim his body? No, well hmm I mean you know I own this cafe a few blocks down not anything nice and all but just something small, it's a hobby I like doing it. I have run it for a few years now so most of the people that come there know me pretty well and a lot of people stop by there a lot. Also it's in a pretty good location so we have a lot of people walk by all the time. We could just get the body ready and we can put him up in my old chair in the window sill and there has gotta be somebody that knows him and if they do they can claim him and then we will go from there. *(Doctor hangs up the phone)*

*(Eugene walks into dentist office. There's a smiling receptionist.)*

**RECEPTIONIST**

Well you're quite lucky! He just had a canceled appointment so head right on back.

*(Dentist is sitting in chair, looking quite unkempt and disheartened.)*

**DENTIST**

*(mumbling to himself)* Those darn yankees. If the red sox would just hit a ball out of the infield for once maybe I wouldn't have to drink away my sorrows every time they lose to those sons of..

*(Eugene clears throat to interrupt him)*

*(looks up)* well hello there! What can I do for you today?

**EUGENE**

Well I uh, I've got this sore tooth that just won't leave me alone and my wife says I oughta have it checked out.

**DENTIST**

Ah yes of course! Go ahead and lay down and let me take a look.

*(Eugene lays down. Dentist proceeds to look in his mouth poking around with some tools. There's a lot of "ows!" And "sorrys!". Finally, the dentist stops looking and talks to Eugene.)*

Well it looks like it's gonna have to come out! *(yawns)* You may wanna come back next week, I had quite the late night and I..

**EUGENE**

Please! It's really hurting.

**DENTIST**

Well alright. Let me grab you something for the pain.

*(Comes back with some sort of alcoholic beverage)*

**DENTIST**

Drink this. It will help.

*(Eugene drinks a few swallows and hands it back to the Dentist.)*

**DENTIST**

Mind if I help myself?

*(Eugene begins to protest, but it's already too late. The dentist is already guzzling it.)*

**DENTIST**

Alright! Let's get started!

*(Eugene looks severely apprehensive. Operation starts and the dentist roughly pulls a tooth out, causing Eugene to squeal girly in pain.)*

**DENTIST**

Excellent! *(hands Eugene tissue for blood.)* You should be on your way now. And since you are wearing that lovely red sox shirt, I will let you go for free today as my condolences.

*(Eugene practically runs out of office and back to his house)*

**DOCTOR**

*(puts body up in window sill)*

Alright now that that's taken care of we just have to wait, oh look here comes someone already. Hello sir are you here about the body in the window?

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
Yes actually, I am.

**DOCTOR**  
Well that's just wonderful we were hoping that someone would be able to recognize him and tell us who he is.

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
Actually sir, I'm here from the health department. It's actually against code to put dead bodies in cafe windows. I'm afraid I am going to have to revoke your license.

**DOCTOR**  
What do you mean you're taking my license away, you can't do that I worked way to hard for this and it was just one small mistake it's not even that bad it's just like a see through coffin that's above ground, and on the side of a building, in a cafe, but it's fine I followed all procedures perfectly!

*(Inspector puts his hand out, Doctor drops his head pulls out his license and hands it to him)*

**MARGIE**  
(As Eugene bursts in) What happened?!

**EUGENE**  
Darn dentist pulled the wrong tooth.

**MARGIE**  
(pause) I'll get started on that apple pie.

**KID 1**  
That's hilarious!

**KID 2**  
I don't think it's so funny... that dentist was being dangerous and unprofessional.

**KID 1**  
I want to be friends with the werewolf guy!

**STORYTELLER**  
I thought you two were done interrupting..



**KID 1**  
Sorry!

**KID 2**  
Go on!

*(two girls playing with each other, maybe a hand clapping game or just running around with some version of tag or something)*

**BETH**  
You know, my mama gave me a nickel the other day.

**CINDY**  
A nickel!? What'd you get that for?

**BETH**  
I helped mama with my little brother for a whole hour. I think we oughta go over to the candy store and get something. And if you beat me in a race there, I might share with you.

**CINDY**  
You don't stand a chance. We gotta stop at our houses though and change into our skirts, my mama says I gotta look respectable when I'm not playin'.

**BETH**  
Ah come on! We'll just go really fast. No one will even know!

**CINDY**  
Eh I'm not so sure...

*(Beth takes off running before Cindy can finish her sentence)*

**CINDY**  
HEY! Not fair!

*(Cindy takes off after Beth. Girls are running when Beth slows down a little bit. Mom comes on stage and stops when she sees the girls.)*

**BETH**  
Uh oh.. We're passing my house, we gotta go quieter so my mama don't see.

**MAMA**

So mama don't see what?

*(girls simultaneously stiffen or scream/ jump and turn around.)*

**BETH**

So mama don't see... don't see... *(looks to Cindy helplessly)*

**CINDY**

So you don't see how good we are by goin' to change into our skirts before going over to the candy store, Miss.

**MAMA**

That's what I thought. Go on inside and change girls.

**BETH**

Mama how come I gotta wear a skirt but daddy don't?

**MAMA**

Well sweetheart if you saw your daddy in a skirt you would be really happy he gets to wear pants.

**BETH**

Maybe one day we will all get to wear pants and it will just be normal.

**CINDY**

*(Laughs loudly)* Wouldn't that be the day? You're funny Beth.

*(On the phone with his girlfriend.)*

**PAT**

So what are your plans tonight?

**VELDA**

Well nothing really. I was thinking about maybe going out and getting shakes with the girls but if you'd have something in mind.

**PAT**

You stay right there.

*(In Dorm Room after the dance sitting on the bed)*

**MARGARET**

Soo who was the big hunk you were dancing with Beth?

**BETH**

Which one???

**JANE**

don't you remember? I introduced him to you, right after you help me get with Paul for the third dance! Apparently they are roommates over at Miami College!

**BETH**

Oh how could I forget, Joe! He had the dreamiest eyes in the tri state area! He almost made me reconsider my whole decision to come to an all girls college!

**MARGARET**

Wait, hold up! It was your decision to come here???

**JANE**

*(looking off into the distance.)* I remember my first day here, I was crying as hard as a Hungry Newborn Baby! And my father said, "you will become a lady, even if i have to keep ya here your whole darn life!" And that was that.

**BETH**

Well! I came here because I wanted a good, upstanding education, without all of these men stepping in my way! Boys in my home town, always got to do the best and most exciting stuff! But not here! I'm here to shine, excel and be the best.

**MARGARET**

But, what about Joe?

**BETH**

I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

*(Pat goes to Velda's house with a ring in his pocket. He knocks on the door.)*

**VELDA**

Pat what are you doin here?

**PAT**

*(pulls out ring)* What do ya say we go to Wendover?

**VELDA**

Right now?!

**PAT**

Right now.

**VELDA**

Well I mean.. Oh my... Well yes!

**PAT**

Then let's get a move on!

*(Velda giggles as she pulls the door shut. Her and Pat get in the car and leave for Wendover.)*

**BETH**

When I was growing, my life as a women was planned out for me. I didn't have much of a choice. But I wanted to do something with my life, so I branched out with my initiative and acceptance that I can do this, even when someone else said I can't. And I went from the lowest point of work to one of the most highest. And my advice to you is this, do not ever accept anybody saying to you, that you cannot do anything. That you are limited in any way. Because you are anything, do not accept anything limited, into your thinking. And apply it to yourself. Open up your thoughts that it is out there, say to yourself, I can do it, if I want to do it, and I'll find out how to do it, and then I'll see to it that I will do it.

*(Mom of kids enters)*

**MOM**

Alright kids, it's time to go!

**KID 1**

Aw mom no way! We're just getting to the good stuff.

**KID 2**

Please let us stay!

**MOM**

I don't know, it's getting late.

**KID 1**

If you let us stay, we won't tell Dad about you almost kissing Aunt Lucy.

*(kid 2 and storyteller snicker)*

**MOM**

*(glares at the storyteller)* Kids don't get to blackmail their mother... But ok fine. 10 more minutes.

**STORYTELLER**

Only 10 more minutes. Here they come kids, rapid fire.

**FAY**

I love to swim and dance, I lead a pretty normal life except for one thing I'm adopted, but not in the way you think. When my Mother was pregnant with me, oh but first I should get something straight. I refer to my birth parents as Mother and Father, and the people that raised me, I call Ma and Pa. So anyways Mother was pregnant with me I was her 5th baby, and her last. Mother had something wrong with her lymph nodes. You know those things in your throat? Any way, they were swollen, but they couldn't operate on her because she was pregnant with me. By the time I was born and they could operate on my mother, her lymph nodes were so swollen that she couldn't talk and could barely breathe. She went in the operation room, and she never left the operation table. Father tried to raise all five of us by himself, but I guess it was one child too many. Ma and Pa came to Father and said that they could adopt me and raise me, at first Father refused. He wanted to raise all of his children, but he knew if he wanted to give me my best life Ma & Pa were my best chance. So Ma and Pa adopted me, I love them more than I could tell you, but there will always be a special place in my heart for Mother and Father.

**JANE**

I love the Japanese people. I love the elements of their rich and cultivating culture, and after the camps many of them came to Utah, specifically Kirin, where I grew up. This love of their culture started when I was small. The Japanese would leave

cookies on grave sites to pay respect to the spirits, and when they would do this, i being very small at the time, would go around behind them, and eat the cookies! I thought it was funny how the little Japanese children would look behind them while I was hiding behind a headstone, and point to the empty plate of cookies, thinking the spirits had eaten them, when it was just me.

#### **GRACE**

Mont got sick. He Liked Tang, he liked it hot. That's what he drank in the hospital. Those people in that hospital tried to keep him there, but he wasn't staying, he was coming home. So I got home. And got him some tang, I got a stand for him. So he had something for him to put his drink on. And I was sittin there and he was beside me and he turned around, He Looked at me and said you know i've loved all your life? And all of the Sudden I went cold. as cold as cold. I was sittin and I thought. DO IT. I turned fast and stuck my legs out like this

*(stick legs straight out in front of you.)*

And I hit the Floor, Laying out straight. He come down on top of me. I had to Protect him, from getting hurt. For me it didn't matter. I called the ambulance, they took him to the hospital. And He was Dead.

*(Inside Classroom)*

#### **GLADE**

(calling roll) Charlie T? Jack J? You have got to be kidding me, they have been late to this class every single day.

*(Slams roll book down in frustration. He starts walking outside, gets outside and hears a car coming. He hides behind a column. A car arrives and a tall handsome athlete gets out of the front seat and opens the back door, then he falls to his knees as the boy climbs into his arms he lifts him up and walks him to the front door of the building, as they reach the threshold of the door he gently sets the boy down. The athlete then opens the door and let the disabled boy walk through. Glade with tears in*

*his eyes follows them. Jack is moving very slow, only able to shuffle fifteen feet every 5-6 min.)*

**CHARLIE**

Jack, this has gone on long enough, at least let me walk you too the classroom you will be able to get there ten minutes faster. No one will see I promise.

**JACK**

No.

*(Charlie moves ahead of Jack, walking much faster now and moves out of sight.)*

**GLADE**

It was then that I decided that I needed to stop focusing on just teaching the material I was given and really see and know who I was actually teaching too. After that day, I then started memorizing name after name in my classes. So that by the time my class started I knew all of their names. As their teacher I then could connect with my students on a more personal level, names have power. It was a small act, but it changed my career. Each act and choice we make has power-- whether it's good or bad, whether it has an audience of hundreds or an audience of one.

*(Mom of kids enters toward the end of Glade's monologues and watches as her kids are watching and listening mesmerized. She is touched by the effect the stories are having on her kids. Storyteller glances up and sees their mom waiting causing the kids to turn and see her.)*

**KID 1**

Time to go?

*(Mom nods)*

**KID 2**

*(to storyteller)* Can we come back tomorrow?

**STORYTELLER**

Of course you can.

*(Kids get up and leave talking excitedly on their way out about the kinds of stories they are going to ask for tomorrow and what stories they might have someday.)*

**MOM**

Where did you find those stories? I have never seen them so entranced.

**STORYTELLER**

Oh they are just ordinary stories about ordinary lives.

**MOM**

Well they sure had an extraordinary impact on my kids.

**STORYTELLER**

*(smiling)* That tends to be the case.