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Cast of Characters

EVA: the snow angel, a total enigma

FRIDA JENSEN: the angry, sometimes sad, outcast

JILL: a nice girl, the voice of reason

TINA-LOUISE: a popular girl who just got a license

HELEN SPITZER: the weird girl with the glass eye

ETHEL: a hyperactive, fast-talking, chatty girl

BETTY: a twin

FRAN: Betty's fraternal twin sister

DAN: a popular boy who sometimes seems sad

CLIFFORD: Dan's dim-witted, but kind-hearted friend

CRANK: the juvenile delinquent

BENNY: a sweet, shy boy with many allergies

GUS: an awkward, sometimes obnoxious boy

DOOFUS: the class clown

VINCENT: a bit of a whiz kid, owns a chameleon

ARLO: a wimpy kid just trying to get by

Plus:

The voice of RADIO GUY

SNOW ANGEL

by David Lindsay-Abaire

Scene 1: The Radio

(In the darkness we hear the static and whirring of someone scanning a radio. We get pieces of songs, commercials, and newscasts until we finally land on the soothing tones of RADIO GUY reciting school closings.)

RADIO GUY. Leicester, Mendon, Benson Landing, Florence...

(Lights slowly come up on a blizzard. Sixteen teenagers listen expectantly to various radios throughout the town.)

Middlebury, East Middlebury, Ripton, South Lincoln. Good morning, Vermont. In case you're just tuning in, this is Bill Billings, on W-A-C-K radio, and I'm reciting school closings in no particular order, just to make you all a little uncomfortable.

DAN. Why aren't they alphabetical?

TINA-LOUISE. I hate this station.

RADIO GUY. Lincoln, Rutland, Florence, Cornwall...

CLIFFORD. This is confusing!

RADIO GUY. Shoreham, Salisbury, Forest Dale, Orwell...

HELEN. Mom, call the radio station and have this moron fired!

RADIO GUY. Hubbardton, Goshen, Brandon...

ARLO. Deerpoint!

RADIO GUY. Bread Loaf, Fish Cakes, Garbage Bags. Hey, that's my shopping list. How'd that get in there?

JILL. This guy is not funny.

RADIO GUY. Vergennes, Hortonia, West Haven...

CRANK. Deerpoint!

RADIO GUY. Whiting...

VINCENT. Deerpoint!

RADIO GUY. Sudbury...

GUS. Deerpoint!

RADIO GUY. Waybridge...

FRAN / BETTY. Deerpoint!

RADIO GUY. Ferrisburg...

EVERYONE. Deerpoint!

RADIO GUY. Deerpoint.

(Suddenly there's an explosion of happy music. The teenagers all dance joyfully, until RADIO GUY interrupts their celebration.)

RADIO GUY. A special announcement to class 301 at Deerpoint High. Mrs. Samson says blizzard or no blizzard, she expects you to be writing in your class journals every day. She will be checking when you all get back.

DOOFUS. What?

ETHEL. Homework?

BENNY. On a snow day?!

VINCENT. I love assignments.

RADIO GUY. Enjoy the weather kids. This has been Bill Billings on W-A-C-K. And remember to bundle up!

(The radio cuts off. We hear the deafening sound of wind howling.)

Scene 2: The Blizzard

(The blizzard rages on. The teens are trudging through mountains of snow on their way somewhere. Many have sleds. FRIDA stands by her bedroom window with her journal. She writes in it as the other teens continue to trudge and struggle in the snow.)

FRIDA. Idiots. I hate them. This is private property. I could tell my mother to call the police. They trudge through my backyard to get to the golf course because that's where the best sledding hills are. And I live right next to the golf course. Sometimes, in the summer, we'll be having a barbecue, and a golf ball will come flying into our back yard and land in the grill. Or the fruit salad. My cat was hit in the head once. It got a concussion. I hate golf. And I hate idiots who walk through my yard. And I hate writing in this journal. I don't think it's fair that we have to write when it's a snow day.

(Blast of wind and snow. The teens are all sledding. Many take brief breaks to read from their journals.)

FRAN. On my way to sledding I saw Frida Jensen looking out her window. She's weird.

GUS. Frida Jensen sits in the back row every day.

VINCENT. Frida Jensen never speaks unless she has to.

ETHEL. Frida Jensen wears funny hats.

HELEN. Frida Jensen thinks she's a genius.

CRANK. Frida Jensen's conceited.

TINA-LOUISE. Frida Jensen has no friends.

CLIFFORD. Sledding is awesome. I like to sled. Crashing into people is cool. I'm a jock.

ARLO. I went grocery shopping with my mother last week, and she put a box of tampons in the cart. They were right there for everyone to see, right on top of the Pop Tarts. I pretended I didn't notice, but when we got to the checkout line, Dan Sherman was bagging. He's in my English class. He saw the tampons right away and smiled at me, real big, like they were *my* tampons. I pretended I didn't see him. The next day, he stopped me in front of the lockers and said

“Hey, how’d those tampons work out for your old lady?” And I pretended I didn’t hear him. So he said it again real loud, so everyone could hear. “Hey, how’d those tampons work out for your old lady?!” And I said “Menstruation is a natural part of a woman’s life cycle. I’m sure your mother menstruates too.” And he turned red and said I shouldn’t talk about his mother and I should shut my mouth. And then he beat the hell out of me, but I pretended it didn’t hurt.

DAN. My mother’s in the hospital right now, so I don’t like when people talk about her. It makes me mad.

JILL. I went sledding today. My legs were cold. There’s an equipment shed on the eighth hole, so I went in there to get warm.

Scene 3: The Shed

(Lights up in the equipment shed. There are boxes of golf balls and golf bags filled with clubs. BENNY is writing in his journal. The shed door opens and the wind howls. JILL enters and closes the door.)

JILL. Oh, hey.

BENNY. Hey.

JILL. I didn’t know there was anyone in here.

BENNY. Just me.

JILL. I wanted to warm off.

BENNY. Me too.

JILL. That your journal?

BENNY. Yeah?

JILL. What are ya writing?

BENNY. Just stuff.

JILL. It’s cold.

BENNY. Yeah.

JILL. I wish every day was a snow day.

(Lights change. BENNY reads from his journal.)

BENNY. Jill's hair smells like cupcakes. Her mother owns a bakery, so she must hang around and watch her mom bake stuff, and I bet her hair absorbs the aromas. One day she smelled like cinnamon buns. I sit behind her in class every chance I can, because I love the way she smells. Jill is the best-smelling person I've ever met.

(Lights go back to shed.)

JILL. Your name's Lenny, right?

BENNY. Benny.

JILL. Right. Benny. I'm Jill.

BENNY. I know. I sometimes sit behind you in class.

JILL. Oh. You do? Do you get allergies?

BENNY. No. Why?

JILL. Because I hear you sniffing all the time.

(The shed door swings open. Sound of blizzard. CLIFFORD, DAN, CRANK, and TINA-LOUISE enter and close the door.)

TINA-LOUISE. Hey, looks like it's a party.

DAN. Hope we're not interrupting anything.

CLIFFORD. *(Chuckles:)* Heh-heh. Interrupting.

TINA-LOUISE. I'm freezing.

CRANK. Hi, Jill.

JILL. Hi, Crank.

CRANK. We're going to the Pretzel Knot later. Wanna come?

JILL. Maybe.

DAN. Crank's trying to be smooth with the ladies.

CLIFFORD. King of the Smoothies.

CRANK. Shut up.

TINA-LOUISE. I just got my license. I can drive us.

JILL. Okay.

DAN. Whassup, Lenny?

BENNY. Benny. My name is Benny.

JILL. How's the sledding?

CLIFFORD. Awesome! I love sledding!

JILL. How's your mom, Dan?

DAN. Okay.

TINA-LOUISE. Dan doesn't like to talk about his mom.

(The door opens again. More blizzard sounds. BETTY and FRAN enter.)

CRANK. Hey, close the door!

TINA-LOUISE. You're letting a draft in!

BETTY / FRAN. Sorry.

CLIFFORD. It's the twins.

EVERYONE. Hello, twins.

BETTY / FRAN. Hello.

FRAN. Wow, it's crowded in here.

TINA-LOUISE. If you're twins, how come you don't look alike?

BETTY. We're fraternal.

EVERYONE. Ahh.

CLIFFORD. What's fraternal mean?

DAN. Why do you still dress alike?

BETTY. Our mother's crazy.

FRAN. She has obsessive-compulsive disorder.

BETTY. She makes us dress like this.

FRAN. Also she cleans her ears sixty-eight times a day.

BETTY / FRAN. We don't like to talk about it.

DOOFUS. Fraternal twins. That means attached, right?

(Again the door opens. Sounds of blizzard. ETHEL, ARLO, and VINCENT squeeze in. Adlibbed squeezing squishing noises. VINCENT has a chameleon in a small cage.)

VINCENT. Excuse us. Pardon us.

FRAN. Ow.

ARLO. Sorry.

TINA-LOUISE. Quit pushing me.

ETHEL. *(A fast talker:)* Oh-my-gosh-it's-so-crowded-in-here! Isn't-it-crowded? I-think-it's-soooo-crowded.

BETTY. Eww! Vincent brought his frog in here!

VINCENT. It's not a frog, it's a chameleon.

CRANK. Anybody mind if I smoke?

BENNY. I have asthma.

DAN. You're a juvenile delinquent, Crank.

CLIFFORD. Big words are awesome!

(There's a knock on the door.)

ARLO. Nobody in here but us chickens! Bock-bock!

(Again, door opens, blizzard sounds.)

ETHEL. Oh-gosh-there's-no-room-and-people-keep-squeezing-in! I'm-totally-getting-claustrophobic.

(They all groan and squeeze as DOOFUS, GUS, and HELEN squish their way into the shed.)

DOOFUS. Hello, my royal subjects.

EVERYONE. Hello, King Doofus.

DOOFUS. At ease.

GUS. It's cold out there.

HELEN. I just beamed Frida Jensen with a snowball.

ARLO. Why'd you do that?

HELEN. Because she's a freak.

CRANK. I think you're a freak.

HELEN. Well, I think you're a freak, freak!

CRANK. You're the one with the glass eye, freak!

HELEN. Leave my glass eye alone!

TINA-LOUISE. I think you're both freaks.

BETTY. Ew! That lizard is staring at me!

VINCENT. His name is Jorge.

BENNY. I can't breathe.

TINA-LOUISE. Does anyone think Frida Jensen's a recluse?

CLIFFORD. What's a recluse?

VINCENT. Emily Dickinson was a recluse.

ETHEL. Recluse-means-poet?

DOOFUS. Perhaps Frida is the reincarnation of Emily Dickinson.

FRAN. Someone's stepping on my foot!

VINCENT. Did you know that almost all of Emily Dickinson's poems could be sung to the tune of Yellow Rose of Texas?

BETTY. (*Sung to Yellow Rose of Texas:*)

Because I could not stop for Death—

He kindly stopped for me—

EVERYONE. (*Joining in:*) The carriage held but just Ourselves—
And Immortality.

DAN. Hey, that's cool.

CLIFFORD. Poetry is awesome.

(They all stand in silence. Someone sniffs.)

HELEN. Awww, no.

ETHEL. Oh-gosh-someone-let-one-go!

TINA-LOUISE. Ewwwwwwww.

(Assorted sounds of disgust.)

DAN. Was that you, Lenny?

BENNY. My name is Benny!

DOOFUS. Sorry, folks. Breakfast burritos.

GUS. I'm outta here.

(The door flies open. Sound of blizzard as they all exit quickly and the lights fade.)

Scene 4: The Woods

(FRIDA in her bedroom, writing in her journal.)

FRIDA. This is weird, so I'll write it down. I was bored, so I went for a walk in the woods next to the golf course. Helen Spitzer threw a snowball at my head.

HELEN. *(Far off:)* Hey Frida, you suck!

FRIDA. I just kept walking. I was all alone, and I noticed something moving in a snowdrift. I thought maybe it was an animal.

(Lights cross-fade to the woods. FRIDA is walking, just as she described. There's a huge snow drift that seems to be moving a little bit. FRIDA stops and watches it. Perhaps we hear music.)

Hello? Who's there? Hey! Hey, shoo!

(The moving continues.)

Are you hurt? 'Cause I'll go call an ambulance if you need one.

(Some of the snow starts to clear and we can make out a figure of a teenage girl, lying in the snow, making a snow angel. There's something ghostly about her appearance.)

What are you doing?

(The girl, EVA, rises from the snowdrift. She stares at FRIDA.)

Are you alright?

EVA. What?

FRIDA. Are you alright?

EVA. I think so.

FRIDA. What are you doing?

EVA. I was... I was...

FRIDA. Making a snow angel?

EVA. Yes.

FRIDA. Why?

EVA. I don't know. My head hurts.

FRIDA. Should I call a doctor?

EVA. Have you seen Whitestone?

FRIDA. What?

EVA. Whitestone. Have you seen it?

FRIDA. No.

EVA. I've been looking for it, but I'm having some trouble.

FRIDA. Whitestone?

EVA. My head hurts.

FRIDA. You shouldn't lie in the snow like that. You'll get sick.

EVA. It's important I find Whitestone. Otherwise, I don't know what'll happen to me.

FRIDA. I've never heard of it.

EVA. Is this Deerpoint?

FRIDA. Yes.

EVA. Well Whitestone must be around here somewhere.

FRIDA. What's your name?

EVA. Eva.

FRIDA. Are you cold?

EVA. No.

FRIDA. You live around here?

EVA. I need to go.

FRIDA. Why?

EVA. Because I need to find Whitestone.

(Runs off.)

FRIDA. Where are you going? Eva?!

(Lights go back to FRIDA reading her journal.)

FRIDA. She ran off, and I had to go to work. I man the counter at the Pretzel Knot. I hate that place.

Scene 5: The Ride

(Lights up in TINA-LOUISE's car. She's driving erratically. DAN and BENNY are in the front seat with her. JILL, CLIFFORD, and CRANK are in the backseat. Loud music blares.)

JILL. Turn down the music!

DAN. What?!

JILL. Turn down the music!

CLIFFORD. This song is awesome!

BENNY. I get migraines!

TINA-LOUISE. *(Turns down the music:)* Better?

BENNY. Thanks.

CLIFFORD. That bites. That song needs to be cranked.

DAN. Shut up, ass-wipe.

CLIFFORD. You shut up.

TINA-LOUISE. Hey Crank, is it true you got mad at Jeff Slavin, and set his go-kart on fire?

CRANK. No. Who told you that?

TINA-LOUISE. Jeff Slavin.

DAN. I heard the same thing. He said he wouldn't let you ride it, so you set it on fire when he went in for dinner.

CRANK. That kid's a weasel. I didn't set anything on fire.

JILL. How long have you had your license, Tina-Louise?

TINA-LOUISE. Three days.

CRANK. And your parents let you drive in a blizzard?

TINA-LOUISE. My parents were snowed in at my grandmother's last night. They're in Connecticut.

JILL. So, is that a yes, they *do* let you drive in a blizzard?

(The car swerves. They all scream.)

TINA-LOUISE. Boy, these roads are slippery, huh? Good thing I have four-wheel drive.

CLIFFORD. Four-wheel drive is awesome.

BENNY. I want to get out. Can you pull over?

TINA-LOUISE. No, we're going to the Pretzel Knot.

DAN. Don't ya like hot pretzels, Lenny?

JILL. His name is Benny.

CLIFFORD. I love pretzels! I'm gonna eat me a giant cinnamon pretzel with chocolate sprinkles on top!

BENNY. I feel car sick.

TINA-LOUISE. You guys are my first official passengers.

CRANK. Yikes.

JILL. Is it true you were named after Tina Louise the television actress?

TINA-LOUISE. You mean the star of TV's Gilligan's Island who portrayed movie star Ginger Grant so brilliantly for three consecutive seasons? Yes, I am her proud namesake.

BENNY. Hey, look out for that Volkswagen!

(They scream and swerve.)

TINA-LOUISE. VWs are so cute. I didn't even see it.

CRANK. Hey, Jill. Your mother owns that bakery, right?

JILL. Yeah.

CRANK. You think you could give me a tour some time?

JILL. I guess.

CRANK. Cool. I'm thinking about becoming a baker.

JILL. Really?

CRANK. Yeah, I like the hat.

(Lights change suddenly. BENNY reads from his journal.)

BENNY. I hate Crank. He doesn't wanna be a baker. He's a liar. I heard him tell Clifford just last week that he wanted to drive big rigs and see the country and deliver stuff. I hate him.

(Lights back to them in the car.)

CLIFFORD. When I grow up, I wanna own a jukebox factory. 'Cause juke boxes are awesome.

DAN. Dude, you're scarin' me.

JILL. Hey there's the Pretzel Knot!

DAN. Slow down!

(She makes a sharp turn. They all scream. Blackout.)

Scene 6: The Pretzel Knot

(Lights up on the Pretzel Knot. GUS and FRIDA are behind the counter in Pretzel Knot uniforms. The other teens are seated at tables. DOOFUS approaches the counter.)

GUS. Welcome to the Pretzel Knot, my name is Gus. Can I take your order?

DOOFUS. I know your name, bonehead.

GUS. I know you do, but I have to say that anyway.

DOOFUS. That's stupid.

GUS. You're gonna get me fired. Do you want a pretzel or not?

DOOFUS. I'm here aren't I?

GUS. Well then order.

DOOFUS. I wanna chocolate-covered pretzel.

GUS. *(Calls to FRIDA:)* Chocolate-covered pretzel!

FRIDA. *(Calls back:)* Chocolate-covered pretzel!

(She gets it.)

GUS. Chocolate-covered pretzel. Anything else?

DOOFUS. A large orange fizzy.

GUS. *(Calls to FRIDA:)* Large orange fizzy!

FRIDA. *(Calls back:)* Large orange fizzy!

GUS. Large orange fizzy. Anything else?

DOOFUS. Yeah, Gus loves Frida Jensen.

GUS. *(Calls without thinking:)* Gus loves Frida Jensen!

FRIDA. *(Calls back without thinking:)* Gus loves Frida Jensen!

GUS / FRIDA. What?!

EVERYONE. Ooooooooooooooooooooo.

(Light change. GUS reads from his journal.)

GUS. Total humiliation at the Pretzel Knot. I don't love Frida Jensen. She's butt ugly. She was almost nice in seventh grade, and I could've liked her, but now she's a total pee-on and has no friends and I'd rather stick nails in my eyes than admit to liking her and that's what I said.

(Lights back to Pretzel Knot.)

GUS. Frida's a total pee-on and has no friends and I'd rather stick nails in my eyes than admit to liking her! *(To FRIDA:)* No offense.

FRIDA. None taken. One chocolate-covered pretzel and a large orange fizzy. Three fifty-two.

DOOFUS. *(Pays her:)* Keep the change, Frida.

(FRIDA grabs her backpack and exits, angry.)

GUS. Where are you going?

FRIDA. I'm taking my break!

GUS. I can't man the counter alone!

(Lights change. ARLO reads from his journal.)

ARLO. I would never tell anyone, but I think Frida's kind of pretty.

(Lights back to the Pretzel Knot. We hear screeching tires.)

FRAN. What's that?

VINCENT. Look out the window.

ETHEL. Oh-my-gosh-it's-Tina-Louise's-car!

HELEN. Should it be coming right at us like that?

(They all scream. Tires screeching to a stop. Sound of car doors slamming.)

BETTY. Wow. Close.

VINCENT. Should she be driving?

(TINA-LOUISE enters happily.)

TINA-LOUISE. Hi guys!

ETHEL. Really-nice-driving!

TINA-LOUISE. Thanks!

(DAN, CRANK, CLIFFORD, JILL, and BENNY enter, obviously very shaken by the drive.)

GUS. Welcome to the Pretzel Knot, my name is Gus, how can I take your order?

CLIFFORD. *(Still paralyzed with fear:)* One...giant...cinnamon pretzel...with chocolate sprinkles.

GUS. Are you okay?

CLIFFORD. Just get me the pretzel!

(Blackout.)

Scene 7: The Break

(Lights up out back. FRIDA writes in her journal.)

FRIDA. I'm gonna sprinkle rat poison on their pretzels and tell them it's powdered sugar. I can't wait to move away and mail a giant bomb back and level this stupid town.

(EVA appears. She's been listening.)

FRIDA. What are you looking at?

EVA. You're very angry.

FRIDA. Mind your own business, weirdo. Why aren't you making angels somewhere?

EVA. I'm finished with that.

FRIDA. Where'd you come from anyway?

EVA. I don't know. You shouldn't let those kids make you mad. They just think they're being funny.

FRIDA. Well they're not.

EVA. So tell them they hurt your feelings and maybe they'll quit.

FRIDA. They didn't hurt my feelings.

EVA. Alright.

FRIDA. And they wouldn't quit anyway. You don't even know them. Go away.

EVA. I like your name.

FRIDA. What?

EVA. Frida. It's a nice name.

FRIDA. You're nuts.

(Pause.)

I was named after Frida Kahlo. You know her?

EVA. No.

FRIDA. Of course not. She's a famous artist with one giant eyebrow across her forehead. Later in life she became a paraplegic. I relate to her.

EVA. Have you seen Whitestone?

FRIDA. Quit asking me that.

EVA. Sorry.

FRIDA. You're so annoying. What is it, a gas station or something?

EVA. No.

FRIDA. Maybe you're confusing it with the White Castle. The burger place?

EVA. It's a farm.

FRIDA. A farm?

EVA. The Whitestone Farm. It's where I live.

FRIDA. Oh. Not a lot of farms around here. Wait, you forget where you live?

EVA. No, I was looking for my little sister in the woods, but I couldn't find her, so I decided to go back home because maybe she was there, but now I don't know where it is. My home, I mean.

FRIDA. Do you have amnesia?

EVA. I don't know.

FRIDA. It happened during the blizzard?

EVA. The snow was up to my waist, but I saw something gray in the woods. I thought it was my sister's dress, but maybe it was just a rabbit. And I ran towards it, and the snow was getting deeper, but I kept running, and then a hole opened up under me. And there was snow all around me, and I was falling, but I was sleeping at the same time. And when I woke up, I was back in the woods, and it was quiet. And I made a snow angel, and then I saw you.

FRIDA. That's screwy. Are you on any kind of medication?

EVA. So you don't have any friends?

FRIDA. What?

EVA. There's nothing wrong with that. I didn't really have any either. I was at the farm all the time, so it was just me and the butter churn.

FRIDA. Whatever.

EVA. I'll be your friend if you help me find Whitestone.

FRIDA. I don't even know what you're talking about.

EVA. I need to go.

FRIDA. Hold on. I'm gonna call the police for you.

EVA. No, I have to go.

(EVA exits. FRIDA looks after her, perplexed. She writes some more in her journal as the lights cross-fade back to the Pretzel Knot.)

Scene 8: The Journal

(Everyone is seated and eating pretzels. GUS is still behind the counter.)

TINA-LOUISE. In 1975, she appeared in the much-maligned, cult-favorite, *The Stepford Wives*, as well as *God's Little Acre*, a 1958 drama which co-starred Jack Lord and Buddy Hackett. So, it wasn't just *Gilligan's Island*. She did some fine work on the silver screen as well.

(FRIDA enters with her backpack, crosses.)

GUS. It's about time. We have customers here. Where are you going?

FRIDA. To the bathroom, you mind?

(Puts down her backpack and exits.)

GUS. Wait'll Mark comes back! I'm gonna tell him you took a long break!

BETTY. Who's Mark?

GUS. He's the manager. He's at the mall getting his tongue pierced.

JILL. Eww, that's sick.

CLIFFORD. I think it's awesome.

VINCENT. Hey, where's my ten dollars?

ARLO. What?

VINCENT. I had ten dollars in my coat pocket.

HELEN. Crank, give him his ten bucks.

CRANK. Why do you automatically accuse me?

HELEN. Because you steal stuff.

CRANK. Shut up, Glass Eye.

HELEN. Hey, I'm not the one who got caught shoplifting a Michael Bolton CD at the Wal-Mart.

CRANK. That was never proven!

(Lights change. ARLO reads from his journal.)

ARLO. I would never admit it, but I kind of like Michael Bolton.

(Lights back to normal.)

VINCENT. Just gimme my money, butt munch.

CRANK. I didn't take it.

VINCENT. I need that money to buy a Star Trek video!

CRANK. I saw Frida hanging out around your coat. Maybe she took it.

ETHEL. Frida-didn't-take-his-money.

CRANK. You don't know, so shut up. Check her bag.

BETTY. Wait until she comes back.

CRANK. No, everybody's accusing me. Check her bag.

GUS. I'll check it.

(He does.)

CRANK. Thank you. Everybody's so quick to blame me just because I live in the trailer park.

HELEN. You don't live in a trailer park.

CRANK. Well I used to!

GUS. No money. Here's her journal though.

(Silence. They all look at each other.)

FRAN. Should we read it?

CRANK. Yeah!

BENNY. I don't think we should.

CLIFFORD. Read it, Gus.

JILL. How'd you like it if someone read your journal?

CLIFFORD. I wouldn't care. It doesn't say anything.

(CLIFFORD pulls out journal. Lights change.)

CLIFFORD. Mrs. Samson says these journals are private so she'll just flip through to make sure we wrote something, but she won't read what it is. Blaaaaah. Eckey-micker-dddooop-peeper. Xzeerrre-reerly. I hate homework. Blah. Blah. Cats suck. Meeeoww-ech! I'm just writing anything, to fill up pages. Fla-fla-bla-bla-blooeey. Crackymacky! Twix. I love Twix bars. Twix bars taste good. Cookie crunch. Twix twix twix. Gotta get me some candy. Twix Rule! Twix make ya fat! Gimme some Twix, fat-boy! Writing is fun. The end.

(Lights back to Pretzel Knot.)

CLIFFORD. See? No big deal. I read mine. It doesn't say anything.

BETTY. That's because you're an idiot.

CLIFFORD. Hey.

HELEN. Gimme her journal. I'll read it.

(GUS hands HELEN the journal.)

FRAN. Hurry up, she's gonna come back.

BETTY. Don't encourage them, Fran.

VINCENT. When do I get my money back?

CRANK. Shut up about the money. This is more important.

HELEN. *(Reading from Frida's journal:)* "I was alone and I noticed something moving in a snowdrift. I thought maybe it was an animal. But it was a girl, about my age, and I asked her what she was doing. She said her head hurt and she was looking for something called Whitestone and her name was Eva.

(Lights change. Kids take turns reading from their own journals.)

JILL. We shouldn't have been reading it out-loud like that. It was totally private and nobody's business.

TINA-LOUISE. I should've said something, but it was kind of interesting so I just sat and listened like everyone else.

BETTY. I think Frida was making the girl up for fun.

ETHEL. I-think-it's-like-an-imaginary-friend-because-she-doesn't-have-any-real-ones.

DOOFUS. Maybe it was one of those shows where they hide video cameras and play tricks on people, and that snow angel girl is really an actress and Frida is gonna be on TV and be all embarrassed.

(Lights back to the Pretzel Knot. HELEN is reading from Frida's journal.)

HELEN. “And Eva ran off again. I think she might need help.”

(FRIDA enters unnoticed.)

HELEN. “I have to go back into that pretzel store and face those morons now. Break’s over. I hate this job.”

FRIDA. What are you doing?

HELEN. Oh, I was just—

FRAN. Someone stole ten bucks from Vincent—

BETTY. And everyone kept blaming Crank—

GUS. But Crank said he didn’t take the money—

FRIDA. Why are you reading my journal?

HELEN. Clifford made me read it.

CLIFFORD. No, I didn’t.

FRIDA. Give it to me.

(HELEN hands her the journal.)

CLIFFORD. I didn’t make her read it.

DAN. Who’s that girl you were writing about?

FRIDA. None of your business.

ARLO. Is it a story?

FRIDA. No.

BENNY. You really saw her?

FRIDA. Gus, I’m going home.

GUS. You can’t go home. You work to six.

FRIDA. Tell Mark I left. He can fire me if he wants to.

GUS. But Frida...

FRIDA. Bye.

(Exits.)

JILL. I told you we shouldn't have read it. She's gonna tell Mrs. Samson.

CRANK. So what?

DAN. This place blows.

TINA-LOUISE. I'm taking off.

ETHEL. Me too.

DOOFUS. See ya.

(They all exit, saying goodbye.)

GUS. I'm always left alone.

(Lights out on the Pretzel Knot.)

Scene 9: The Sightings

(FRIDA reads from her journal.)

FRIDA. I don't care what they thought. They could all go to hell. Eva was real. I wasn't crazy. And she kept popping up, which really bugged me. The second day of the blizzard, she showed up in my garage, wanting to know if I had found Whitestone yet. She wouldn't shut up about it. The third day, she was up in a tree, seeing if she could get a better view. And the fourth day... The fourth day I was walking to the library when:

(TINA-LOUISE appears with her journal.)

TINA-LOUISE. Hey! Frida! Frida Jensen!

FRIDA. Are you talking to me?

TINA-LOUISE. Guess what?

FRIDA. You never talk to me.

TINA-LOUISE. Yeah, don't tell anyone about this. But guess what?

FRIDA. What?

TINA-LOUISE. I saw Eva!

(Long pause.)

FRIDA. No, you didn't.

TINA-LOUISE. I did. I wrote about it in my journal. Listen. "Dear journal, guess who was standing in my driveway?"

(Lights change. We're in TINA-LOUISE's driveway. She and EVA are here.)

EVA. Hello. I like your coat.

TINA-LOUISE. Thank you. What are you doing in my driveway?

EVA. Just standing. You're very pretty.

TINA-LOUISE. Yes, I've been told that.

EVA. Have you seen a farm, or a little girl named Katherine?

TINA-LOUISE. No.

EVA. I didn't think so. Nobody has.

TINA-LOUISE. Aren't you cold?

EVA. Yes, I've been outside for four days now.

TINA-LOUISE. Are you homeless?

EVA. In a way.

TINA-LOUISE. Well that's no good. Would you like to come inside?

EVA. Your house?

TINA-LOUISE. My parents are still down in Connecticut, snowed in. Or so they say. I think maybe they've abandoned me. Isn't that hysterical?!

EVA. Are you being funny?

TINA-LOUISE. I don't know. Am I?

EVA. Do you have hot chocolate?

TINA-LOUISE. Sure I do. And I've got an Xbox too. Do you wanna play Xbox?

EVA. I guess.

TINA-LOUISE. Come on.

(Lights out on them and back up on FRIDA.)

TINA-LOUISE. See, I wrote it all down in my journal, so it must be true.

FRIDA. Just because you wrote it down, doesn't mean—

TINA-LOUISE. Bye, Frida!

(TINA-LOUISE exits as HELEN enters.)

FRIDA. *(Calls after TINA-LOUISE:)* I think you saw somebody else! A different girl!

HELEN. Hey, guess who I saw, Frida?

FRIDA. Don't talk to me. My head still hurts from that snowball.

HELEN. Eva was standing in the middle of my street this morning.

FRIDA. No, she wasn't. She was with me.

HELEN. Mrs. Samson says to write down everything we see. So I did. Look at my journal. It says right here. "Eva, what are you doing in the middle of the street?"

(Suddenly we're in the scene.)

HELEN. Eva, what are you doing in the middle of the street?

EVA. Just standing here, looking up. How do you know my name?

HELEN. Frida told me all about you.

EVA. Don't you think Frida's sort of freaky?

FRIDA. She didn't say that!

HELEN. Yes she did. I wrote it down.

FRIDA. She doesn't even talk like that!

HELEN. Don't interrupt my journal entry.

EVA. Hey, why do you have a glass eye?

HELEN. My brother shot me with a bee-bee gun when I was six.

EVA. Did he get in trouble?

HELEN. Yeah. It was an accident though, so I forgave him. But if we get in a fight, I bring it up again, and it usually shuts him up.

EVA. Do you think it'll ever stop snowing?

HELEN. My father says Sammy Davis Jr. had a glass eye, and he was one of the most talented men in America.

EVA. Do people make fun of it?

HELEN. Sometimes. But if they do, I take my eye out and hold it up and say "I'm lookin' at you! This is my evil eye! I curse your family and all of its descendants!"

EVA. Wow.

HELEN. And then I pop it back in and run away. My father says that's weird and I should stop it, but sometimes I can't help it. Do you wanna see it?

EVA. No thanks.

(Beat.)

My little sister's blind. Her name's Catherine.

HELEN. Really?

EVA. Yeah. She was born that way. That's why I was worried when I couldn't find her. I thought she ran out into the blizzard and got lost, but maybe she didn't. I was the one who got lost, and now I can't find my way back to Whitestone.

HELEN. Maybe I can help you.

(EVA disappears. We're back with FRIDA and HELEN.)

FRIDA. Everyone knows you're a big liar. She would never call me freaky. She would never tell you all that stuff. You never saw Eva.

HELEN. I did. And so did Doofus. He just told me she was cracking jokes at the 7-11.

FRIDA. 7-11?

(Suddenly EVA is at the 7-11 with DOOFUS.)

EVA. Okay, so this guy walks into a bar, right?

DOOFUS. *(Laughing hysterically:)* Oh please, no more. You're killing me!

EVA. And he orders a drink. He's sitting there and suddenly he hears this whisper "Psst, nice tie."

DOOFUS. *(Still laughing:)* Nice tie!

EVA. He looks, doesn't see anything. Another minute goes by, he hears another whisper "I like your shoes."

DOOFUS. Shoes! Woo-hoo!

EVA. Then another whisper "That's a snazzy jacket." He finally asks the bartender what's going on.

DOOFUS. What the bartender say?!

EVA. "Didn't you see the sign? The peanuts are complimentary."

(DOOFUS screams with laughter. Lights out on them and up on CRANK reading from his journal.)

CRANK. I saw her too. She wasn't at all like other people described her. She broke into my house and stole a carton of smokes from under my old man's bed. I caught her rummaging through my cupboard for food.

(EVA is suddenly rummaging through his cupboard.)

CRANK. Can I help you?

EVA. Yeah. Scrounge me up some peanut butter. I'm starving.

CRANK. We don't have any peanut butter.

EVA. That's alright. These crackers should do me for awhile.

(Eats crackers ravenously.)

CRANK. A little hungry?

EVA. I've been livin' on twigs and berries for four freakin' days. 'Course I'm hungry,

(Eats some more.)

Crank, right? Your name's Crank?

CRANK. Yeah.

EVA. I saw you steal that ten bucks.

CRANK. What?

EVA. From Vincent at the Pretzel Knot. He got up to get a napkin and you swiped his dough.

CRANK. No I didn't.

EVA. You're going to hell.

CRANK. Who are you?

EVA. I'm Eva. I live in the woods, in a hollowed-out tree and I can see into the future.

CRANK. Oh yeah?

EVA. Yeah. And you're going to hell, Crank.

CRANK. No I'm not.

EVA. The money you stole. The CDs from the Wal-Mart. Your dad's bomber jacket. That's no good.

(She shoves him.)

CRANK. Hey, don't push me.

EVA. I'll push you if I want to.

(She pushes him again.)

CRANK. Ow.

EVA. And what about that birdhouse you set on fire? And Mr. Kent's mailbox? You're a bit of a pyro, Crank.

(Shoves him again.)

You better stop being bad, or I'm gonna tell everyone.

CRANK. No one would believe you.

EVA. I'll make sure you never set anything on fire again, Crank, or steal.

CRANK. How?

EVA. I'll cut off your hands.

CRANK. What?

EVA. I'll sneak into your bedroom late at night and pull back the blankets and lift up my ax...

CRANK. Mom!

EVA. You better be good, Crank. 'Cause I'm watching.

(She disappears. Lights suddenly shift to the Pretzel Knot. FRIDA and GUS are behind the counter. VINCENT, BETTY, and FRAN are here with CRANK, who's just told his story.)

FRIDA. She didn't say that!

CRANK. Yes she did.

VINCENT. You're the one who set Mr. Kent's mailbox on fire?

CRANK. No, Eva just *said* I did. I think she did it herself.

FRIDA. Eva didn't set *anything* on fire!

BETTY. Eva told me she liked my hair.

FRIDA. No she didn't.

FRAN. We went bowling together.

GUS. She said I have a nice smile. We have a date on Thursday.

VINCENT. She told me, she was just like Jorge. A chameleon. Many things to many people.

FRIDA. She's not a chameleon! She's one way! She's my way! You're all liars. I'm the only one who's seen her.

BETTY. How do you know, Frida?

FRIDA. She would never threaten Crank like that.

CRANK. Well, she did. What do you know about her anyway? She's a stranger. She's capable of anything.

VINCENT. You think she's dangerous?

CRANK. I'm not going near her again.

FRIDA. Good. Stay away from her. All of you.

(Lights cross-fade to the shed. EVA's with BENNY.)

EVA. You like her, Benny?

BENNY. Who?

EVA. Jill. The girl who smells like cupcakes.

BENNY. I guess so.

EVA. Why don't you tell her then?

BENNY. 'Cause I don't want to.

EVA. Why don't you invite her ice skating?

BENNY. My skates are busted.

EVA. Why are you so shy?

BENNY. I don't know.

EVA. If you help me find my way home, I'll put in a good word for you.

BENNY. You will?

EVA. Sure.

(The shed door flies opens and somehow EVA disappears, maybe behind the door, just as FRIDA enters.)

FRIDA. Who are you talking to in here?

BENNY. Eva. She was just here.

FRIDA. Where? I don't see her.

BENNY. She must've slipped outside.

FRIDA. Liars! You're all liars!

(Lights cross-fade to ARLO, VINCENT, and ETHEL.)

VINCENT. I bet we'd get an award.

ETHEL. For-what?

VINCENT. If we found her and brought her in.

ARLO. To who?

VINCENT. The authorities. I bet she's a runaway.

ETHEL. I-think-she's-an-ever-elusive-leprechaun.

VINCENT. If we started an all-out search, spread the word, and saved this girl, we'd be heroes.

ARLO. But maybe she doesn't want to be saved.

VINCENT. Arlo, you start your computer. I'll call the radio station. Ethel, take your hyperactivity pill.

ETHEL. Oh-my-gosh-I-almost-forgot-to-take-my-pill. My-mother-would-be-so-mad-and-I'd-be-acting-totally-crazy-all-the-time. Thanks-Vincent!

(Lights out on them and up on the shed. EVA's here with JILL.)

EVA. And Benny helped me look up in the hills, and we found an old hammer, which looks just like my dad's old hammer, so I think I must be getting close.

JILL. Did you try City Hall? I bet we can find some info at City Hall.

EVA. I think Benny likes you.

JILL. What?

EVA. I'm pretty sure he does.

JILL. Why, what'd he say?

EVA. Just some stuff.

JILL. What stuff? Really? He said something? When? He's sweet.

EVA. That's what he said about you.

JILL. Why's he always sniffing me?

EVA. He likes you. You should ask him to ice skate.

JILL. He should ask me.

EVA. He's too shy.

JILL. I'll think about it. That's all.

(The shed door flies open and FRIDA leaps in, but EVA's already disappeared. JILL looks around suspiciously.)

FRIDA. Liars! All liars!

(Lights cross-fade to several kids reading from their journals.)

BETTY. I found an old photo of a school house, and Eva said it was her school.

GUS. My Dad said the Olson house was built on old farmland, but Eva said it couldn't be the same land.

CLIFFORD. I went walking in the woods, but I couldn't find anything. Eva was disappointed.

TINA-LOUISE. I found an old hinge that was maybe part of a barn door.

FRAN. I found a spike.

DOOFUS. I found a rusty bucket.

DAN. I think I'm the only person who hasn't seen Eva. I've spent a lot of time visiting my mom though, so maybe that's why. Maybe Eva doesn't like hospitals. I know *I* don't.

(Lights cross-fade to FRIDA's bedroom. She's flipping through an old atlas. EVA is nearby.)

FRIDA. You're making a lot of friends I hear.

EVA. Yeah. The kids are really nice around here. I'm surprised you don't get along with any of them.

FRIDA. You don't know them as well as I do.

EVA. What's that book?

FRIDA. An atlas of Vermont. It's a 100 years old. I got it at the library. I thought it might help you.

EVA. Yeah?

FRIDA. Maybe. Here's the Deerpoint section.

EVA. Look for Whitestone Farm. It's down the road from Dunbar Farm.

(Cross fade to ARLO's computer. VINCENT and ETHEL sit on either side of him. Jorge's cage is nearby.)

VINCENT. Type in Deerpoint Public Library archives.

ARLO. Okay.

ETHEL. Oh-look-the-Deerpoint-Gazette. Go-there.

VINCENT. They have back issues online. Search headlines.

ETHEL. Type-in-Whitestone-Farm!

ARLO. *(Typing:)* Alright. Whitestone...Farm.

VINCENT. Now hit search.

ETHEL. I-love-computers.

ARLO. It's doing something.

(Back to FRIDA and EVA with atlas.)

FRIDA. Your dad's a farmer?

EVA. Yeah, a lettuce farmer. He gets up before the sun. My mom brings him lunch. I don't ever see him until he comes home at night. You see anything yet?

FRIDA. No, the print's so little.

EVA. And then he goes straight to bed. My dad's getting old and he needs help with the crops, so I think he wishes I had been a boy. Maybe that's why he doesn't talk to me. Does your dad say anything to you?

FRIDA. He lives in California.

EVA. How come?

FRIDA. My parents are divorced.

(Back to computer.)

VINCENT. Two items. “Whitestone Farm Foreclosure” or “Davidson Girl Disappears.”

ETHEL. Hit-the-disappearing-girl.

ARLO. “February third, 1891.”

ETHEL. Old.

ARLO. “Among the many unsolved mysteries of Deerpoint, Vermont involves the fifteen-year-old daughter of Jake and Nancy Davidson.”

VINCENT. “The girl went into the woods in the middle of a blizzard to find her little sister, not aware that Catherine was playing in the family attic.”

ETHEL. “It-was-the-biggest-blizzard-in-the-history-of-the-town-and-the-teenager-disappeared-without-a-trace. Her name was Eva.”

(Back to FRIDA and EVA.)

EVA. What’s divorced mean?

FRIDA. It means they don’t like each other anymore.

EVA. Oh. Why isn’t your mom here then?

FRIDA. She works two jobs. She answers phones at a hospital during the day. And three nights a week she teaches a ceramics class.

EVA. So you’re alone most of the time?

FRIDA. Not since you showed up.

EVA. Oh yeah.

FRIDA. *(Nose in the atlas:)* Oh, here’s something! Whitestone Road! It crosses Orchard Street. There’s still an Orchard Street. They must’ve renamed Whitestone Road! Is this your farm here? This patch of green?

EVA. Yes.

FRIDA. Well I know where Orchard Street is. We can go find it.

EVA. I already did.

FRIDA. What?

(Back to the computer.)

VINCENT. Hey look down at the bottom. There's a posting to the librarian.

ARLO. "Did they ever find her?" signed FridaJ@aol.com.

ETHEL. What'd-the-librarian-say?

ARLO. "We have no other articles about the lost girl."

VINCENT. It's dated last week, before the blizzard even hit.

ETHEL. Weird.

ARLO. I think Frida stole this story.

VINCENT. What?

ARLO. She saw this and then made Eva up.

ETHEL. But-Vincent-said-he-saw-Eva.

VINCENT. Uhhh...everyone said they saw her. Not just me!

ARLO. And the radio guy said he'd announce a search for her tonight.

ETHEL. But-if-there-is-no-Eva, then-why-are-we-searching?

(Back to EVA and FRIDA.)

EVA. I found it. I recognized the hill. And I recognized a tree I used to climb. It's much bigger, but I can tell it's the same tree. And there are houses everywhere, but I know it's the same hill. Maybe they moved the farm. Can they do that? Can people move buildings?

FRIDA. I guess so.

EVA. Well maybe that's what they did then.

FRIDA. Maybe.

EVA. What time is it?

FRIDA. Noon.

EVA. Shoot. I gotta go.

FRIDA. Where?

EVA. To see a couple people. I'll talk to you later though, okay?

FRIDA. Okay.

(EVA turns to go.)

FRIDA. I'm still your favorite, right?

EVA. What?

FRIDA. Nothing. Go hang out with your friends. I'll be here.

EVA. Are you okay?

FRIDA. Yeah. Fine.

EVA. Alright. Bye.

(EVA exits. FRIDA picks up her journal and writes in it as the lights fade.)

Scene 10: The Search

(In the darkness we hear the voice of the RADIO GUY again.)

RADIO GUY. This just in. Several reports are coming out of the town of Deerpoint about a 15-year-old girl by the name of Eva, who may be delusional and wandering through the woods, possibly with an ax. Reports are sketchy but local authorities are organizing a search party in hopes of finding the girl and bringing her into custody, where they'll give her the medical attention she needs. A reward has been posted by the town selectmen. All volunteers are welcome to join in the search for this girl. She needs our help.

(Sounds of sirens. Bloodhounds barking. Flashlights everywhere. It's sundown and the town is combing the woods for any sign of Eva. Everywhere people are calling out her name.)

GUS. Eeeeeevvvvvaaaaa...

ARLO. Eeeeeevvvvaaaa...

DOOFUS. I have another joke for you.

HELEN. We'll get you help, Eva.

TINA-LOUISE. We'll find you a home.

FRAN. You won't have to sleep in the snow anymore.

ETHEL. Eeeeeevvvvaaaa...

FRIDA. Eva, don't be scared! I don't know why they're doing this! Just follow my voice, Eva, and I'll get you out of here!

(Lights cross-fade to CLIFFORD and DAN, ice fishing in the middle of the pond. It's dusk. We hear the search going on in the woods.)

CLIFFORD. You get anything?

DAN. Not yet.

CLIFFORD. Ice fishing sucks. You wanna go?

DAN. Not yet.

CLIFFORD. It's getting dark. Don't you wanna help with the search?

DAN. Not really.

CLIFFORD. Crank said she has an ax.

DAN. Crank's a pin-head.

(They fish in silence for a couple beats. We hear "Eeeeeevvvvaaaa" in the background.)

DAN. I don't think there is an Eva. I've never see her.

CLIFFORD. That's because you've been so busy with your mom.

DAN. Maybe.

CLIFFORD. Is she feeling any better?

DAN. Not really.

CLIFFORD. When does she come home?

DAN. I don't know.

CLIFFORD. They giving her more tests?

DAN. Nope.

(Pause.)

CLIFFORD. I'm freezing. You wanna go?

DAN. Not until I get something.

(They sit in silence. Far in the distance, EVA runs by silently with an ax.)

CLIFFORD. Did you see that?

DAN. No, what?

CLIFFORD. The cold is making me hallucinate.

DAN. You wanna play Skee-Ball tomorrow?

CLIFFORD. I guess.

(Pause.)

DAN. My mom said to say hi, by the way.

CLIFFORD. Oh. Tell her I say hi too. And I hope she feels better.

DAN. Okay. I'll tell her.

(Beat.)

You know, if you need to get home for dinner, you can go.

CLIFFORD. Nah, I'm good.

DAN. You sure?

CLIFFORD. Yeah, they won't even miss me.

(They fish in silence as the lights fade back to the search.)

BETTY. Eeeeeevvvvaaaa...

TINA-LOUISE. I got a new Xbox game. And my parents still haven't come home!

ARLO. Eeeeeevvvvaaaa...

GUS. I'll give you free pretzels.

HELEN. Eeeeeevvvvaaaa...

FRIDA. Eva, I know I'm the only one you can really hear, so meet me at the clearing! Eva?! Meet me at the clearing!

(The voices continue on as the lights cross-fade to the shed. BENNY's inside. The door opens, the wind howls. JILL enters.)

JILL. Oh, sorry. I didn't know anyone was in here.

BENNY. That's okay.

JILL. It's cold, so I was just taking a break from the search.

BENNY. Me too.

JILL. You see her?

BENNY. Not tonight.

JILL. Me either.

BENNY. So...

JILL. So.

BENNY. You...uh...

JILL. What?

BENNY. Nothing.

JILL. Okay.

(He sniffs her hair but is caught.)

BENNY. Allergies.

(The door opens again. Wind howls. We hear people calling "Eeevaaa." CRANK enters.)

CRANK. Oh...hey guys.

JILL. Hi.

CRANK. Joining in the search?

JILL. Yeah.

CRANK. Me too.

JILL. Cool.

CRANK. Whassup, Benny?

BENNY. Nothin'.

CRANK. Hey Jill, I've been meaning to ask you, do you wanna go snow-tubing tomorrow?

JILL. Snow tubing?

CRANK. Yeah, I just got a new inner-tube and wanna try it out.

JILL. That's weird because Gus was saying that someone stole his inner tube from the garage.

CRANK. Oh yeah?

JILL. Aren't you neighbors?

CRANK. Do you wanna go or not?

JILL. Well...I promised Benny I'd go ice skating with him tomorrow.

CRANK. Oh.

JILL. Sorry.

CRANK. What about the next day?

BENNY. We're going ice skating then too, right?

JILL. Uhh...right.

CRANK. Oh, I see. It's like that.

JILL. I remember Helen saying she wanted to try snow-tubing. Maybe you could call her.

CRANK. Yeah, whatever.

JILL. We just made plans.

CRANK. How about you both drop dead, okay?

JILL. Crank...

CRANK. (*Laughing:*) Kidding! I'm gonna go back to the search. I'll catch you guys later.

(Exits shed.)

BENNY. Weird.

JILL. Yeah, very weird.

BENNY. So...

JILL. So.

BENNY. You...uh...

JILL. What?

BENNY. Guess we're going ice skating tomorrow?

JILL. I guess so.

BENNY. Great. We'll meet on the pond at noon?

JILL. Yeah.

BENNY. Okay. Bye.

(BENNY exits. JILL's alone. She sniffs her hair. The light cross-fades to the woods. People are calling out "Eeeeevvvaa." EVA is running. She's out of breath and has to stop. FRIDA finds her.)

FRIDA. Eva?

EVA. Why are they chasing me?

FRIDA. You shouldn't have talked to all those kids. I told you they were jerks.

EVA. I need to catch my breath.

FRIDA. You should've been my secret.

EVA. Well, if you hadn't written about me—

FRIDA. They weren't supposed to read my journal.

EVA. Well they did!

(In the distance we see CRANK run by with a gasoline can.)

FRIDA. You have to get out of the woods.

EVA. I wanna go home now.

FRIDA. You can stay in my basement. There's a pullout couch.

EVA. No, to my real home. Helen said she's almost found it.

FRIDA. What?

EVA. And I can stay with her until she does. She has an extra bed, right in her room. It's much nicer than your musty basement.

FRIDA. Well, I'll sleep in the basement. You can sleep in my bed.

EVA. Helen said she's very close to finding Whitestone.

FRIDA. Where is it then?

EVA. She didn't say yet but she's very close.

FRIDA. And where's your blind little sister?

EVA. What?

FRIDA. Go to Helen! If she knows so much! I don't care!

EVA. Why are you talking like that?

FRIDA. She's not gonna find your family any faster than me! She can't see a farm any better! She's only got one eye!

EVA. Helen's much nicer than you!

FRIDA. You'll never find your sister!

EVA. You're just a mean lonely girl! You shut everyone out! No wonder everyone hates you, Frida Jensen!

FRIDA. Your house is gone, Eva! So's your farm!

EVA. No, it isn't!

FRIDA. The bank foreclosed in 1894. It was all torn down.

EVA. Shut up!

FRIDA. Your father died two years later and then your mother in 1902. Catherine was put in a home for the blind where she contracted pneumonia and passed away when she was sixteen.

EVA. You're a liar!

FRIDA. It's in the newspapers in the library. I can show you.

EVA. I don't wanna see it!

FRIDA. You're a ghost, Eva. Or something else. I don't know what you are. But you're not gonna find anything around here because there's nothing left!

(EVA runs off.)

FRIDA. Eva! Come back! I'm sorry! Eva!

VOICES. Eeeeevvvvaaaaa... Eeeeevvvvaaaaa... Eeeeeeevvvvaaaa...

FRIDA. Eva!

(The wind howls.)

Scene 11: The Fire

(Lights come up on JILL inside the shed. She's about to leave, but the door seems to be locked. We hear the voices calling outside.)

JILL. Hey, you guys! Open the door! Someone locked me in! Guys?!

(She's banging on the door to get out. Smoke starts to appear. She sniffs and realizes that maybe the shed's on fire.)

Help! You guys?! There's smoke in here. Someone let me out! I think the shed's on fire! Open the door! Someone help! Fire! Fire!

(The shed door is yanked open. The wind howls more. CRANK has freed JILL.)

CRANK. Come on!

JILL. Someone locked me in!

(JILL and CRANK run into the open air. The shed burns. All the kids come running.)

DOOFUS. What happened?

JILL. Someone locked me in the shed and set it on fire.

CRANK. I heard her screaming so I came to help her.

TINA-LOUISE. Why would someone do that?

HELEN. I think it was Crank!

CRANK. I saved her, freak!

BENNY. He's jealous that I'm ice skating with Jill.

CRANK. I could care less.

BETTY. You're ice skating with Jill?

CLIFFORD. I dub Benny King of the Smoothies!

BENNY. I'm not a smoothie.

CRANK. I didn't set the shed on fire.

VINCENT. Sure you didn't. Just like you didn't take my ten dollars.

CRANK. Eva set the shed on fire.

(Pause.)

FRIDA. What did you say?

CRANK. It was Eva. I saw her running with a can of gasoline.

GUS. When?

CRANK. Just a little while ago. I was chasing her and she was yelling "Jill is bad! Jill is bad!"

JILL. Why would she say that?

CRANK. I don't know but she ran out onto the pond, and there's a hole out there.

CLIFFORD. We were just ice fishing there.

CRANK. And Eva fell in the hole in the ice because she didn't see it. She fell in.

VINCENT. She fell in the hole?

CRANK. Yeah, and I tried to help her, but she kept slipping underwater, and I couldn't get a grip of her and she just...disappeared. She drowned. She died.

(Pause.)

FRIDA. That's a lie.

CRANK. We should get the police over here. Maybe they can find the body.

FRIDA. He's lying!

CRANK. You're upset because she was your friend.

FRIDA. *You* locked Jill in the shed.

CRANK. Eva admitted it when she was splashing around in the ice!

FRIDA. *You* set the shed on fire. *You* did that, not Eva!

CRANK. She felt bad and she told me to go help Jill.

FRIDA. You let Jill out so you would look like the hero, but you're not!

CRANK. Eva did it, and she fell through the ice! And she's dead!

FRIDA. No, she isn't! You can't do that!

CRANK. Don't blame me.

FRIDA. You're not allowed to kill her off like that!

CRANK. What are you talking about?

FRIDA. You can't kill her off!

CRANK. I'm sorry. She's dead.

(They all take this in. Silence.)

ARLO. She's not dead. She's... She's not dead because she never existed. Frida made her up. I wouldn't normally say anything but—

ETHEL. ~~We-were-searching-on-the-computer-and-we-found-these-old-newspaper-articles-and-Frida-stole-the-story.~~

FRIDA. I didn't steal the story! Vincent, you said you saw her yourself.

VINCENT. I lied. I mean...everyone else was saying they saw her so...

FRIDA. Tina-Louise played Xbox with her!

TINA-LOUISE. I just needed something to write in my journal. I thought that's what we were doing. Isn't that what we were doing?

FRIDA. What about the jokes she cracked at the 7-11?!

DOOFUS. Yeah, I just...needed something for my journal too.

FRIDA. See?! I told you that you were all liars! I knew it! But I saw her! I saw her!

JILL. Who set the shed on fire if it wasn't Eva?

CRANK. It *was* Eva! I saw her too. And she fell in the ice and she's dead!

FRIDA. She's not dead. Because I saw her fall in, but I ran to her and when I got to the hole she popped up again.

CRANK. Come on...

FRIDA. And she was shivering and wet and *almost* dead, but not quite. And I pulled her out of the pond and helped her off the ice and I made it to the woods.

CRANK. Do you believe this crap?

DAN. No, she's right.

CLIFFORD. She is?

DAN. Yeah. I saw Frida and Eva in the woods, and Eva was wet. You remember, Frida? And we put our coats on her, to keep her warm?

FRIDA. Yeah...right. We did.

DAN. And we rubbed her hands and her face, and we kept talking to her, and she started to warm up.

FRIDA. Right. And I apologized to Eva for a fight we had. And she said she forgave me.

CLIFFORD. And that's when I showed up with a thermos of soup.

TINA-LOUISE. And I had a blanket that had been in my car.

HELEN. And I let her borrow my gloves.

THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!

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