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The Middle School Scene Book**

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# THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCENE BOOK

EDITED BY  
*Lindsay Price*



*The Middle School Scene Book*  
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# Scenes for Two Girls



## Ramona and Jenny

PLAY: The Snow Show

GENRE: Comedy

TIME: 4:30



### DESCRIPTION

Two friends perform a ritual to make their wishes come true. Though they've been doing it for years, only one of the girls truly believes in the ritual anymore.

### ACTING HINTS

Ramona is obsessed with catching the first snowflake. She won't listen to reason. She is so rigid, she comes off as a little crazy. How would this reflect how she talks? Or stands?

Jenny is trying to find a happy medium. She wants to support Ramona, yet have nothing to do with the ritual. Her mind is in a tug-of-war. Show that tug-of-war physically.

There is a big twist in the middle of the scene where suddenly Ramona doesn't seem so crazy and Jenny becomes supportive. Be clear with the change. Both girls behave differently before and after the twist.



*RAMONA and JENNY are doing tongue exercises, sticking their tongue far out and then bringing it back in.*

RAMONA: Tongue out. Tongue in. Tongue out. Tongue in. Tongue out.

JENNY: *(with her tongue out)* This is stupid.

RAMONA: *(with her tongue out)* No talking! Tongue in. Tongue out, hold, hold, hold... tongue in. Ok. Shake it out. *(she shakes her tongue out.)*

JENNY: Ramona...

**Ramona and Jenny**

RAMONA: No talking! Now, we scan the skies. (*she looks up*)

JENNY: Ramona.

RAMONA: If you're talking, you'll miss it and everything will be ruined.

JENNY: (*looking at RAMONA*) You're exaggerating.

RAMONA: Don't look at me. Look up.

JENNY: But -

RAMONA: Up, up, up!

JENNY: Ok.

*They both look up. There is a pause.*

JENNY: Ramona. We're sixteen. We're not kids. Drew didn't come today. Or Natalie. Or Madoka. Or Lynn. (*Pause. JENNY unleashes.*) I could have had a date today Mona. Sam Stevens asked me to go to the movies and I really wanted to go and I'm a terrible liar and he was smiling when I told him about this but it was a thin sickly smile like the smile you give your grandmother when she pinches your cheeks after the seven hundredth time. (*she takes a breath*) And Sam had a look in his eye, a "she's crazy" look and boy am I glad she said she couldn't go 'cause now I can ask Patti Palatino instead and I'll fall in love with her and take her to prom and we'll backpack across Europe and I'll propose to her under the Eiffel tower and we'll live happily ever after. Ramona look at me!

*RAMONA turns slowly to JENNY.*

RAMONA: (*slowly, firmly*) Remember the burrito.

*She turns back and continues scanning the sky.*

*JENNY sighs.*

**Ramona and Jenny**

JENNY: I know. I know. I know about the burrito.

RAMONA: (*still looking up*) Drew does not remember the burrito.  
Natalie does not remember the burrito.

JENNY: I remember! I'm here, aren't I?

RAMONA: Madoka and Lynn do not remember the burrito.

JENNY: We're not kids anymore.

RAMONA: We were though. We were seven years old. (*she poses*)  
It was the first day of winter.

JENNY: (*looking at RAMONA*) Ramona, I know the story. I was there.

RAMONA: Eyes up! I am telling the tale.

JENNY: (*looking up*) What if Sam Stevens really does marry Patti  
Palatino? Where will I be then?

RAMONA: It was the first day of winter. We were seven years old.

JENNY: (*she's heard this many times before*) It was Natalie's birthday  
sleepover party.

RAMONA: And we ran outside to catch the first snowflake of the  
first snowfall on the first day of winter.

JENNY: And when you catch the first snowflake of the first snowfall,  
on the first day of winter...

RAMONA: ...any wish you make will come true.

JENNY: And we stood in Natalie's backyard.

RAMONA: Ramona, Jenny, Drew, Madoka, Lynn, and Natalie.

JENNY: Best friends till the end.



**Ramona and Jenny**

RAMONA: Our heads thrown back, our arms open wide, tongues out.

JENNY: And we all made the same wish on the first snowflake.

RAMONA: And what did we wish for?

JENNY: *(with a sigh)* Burritos.

RAMONA: And what did we have for dinner?

JENNY: Burritos.

RAMONA: And did we know we were having burritos?

JENNY: It could have been a coincidence, it -

RAMONA: And did we know we were having burritos?

JENNY: No.

RAMONA: And did we not make a pact, a double-spit high-hand shoulder-slap double-hip pact to come together during the first snowfall on the first day of winter to catch the first snowflake?

JENNY: Mona, I don't spit anymore. It's gross.

*RAMONA shoves JENNY.*

RAMONA: Non believers!!! All of you! We caught the first snowflake and that wish came true and we wished for burritos! Burritos. We could have had money, fame, guys, health, happiness! It happened once, it has to happen again. But you, you needers of your instant gratification, you drowning in your lack of faith, you dropping out one by one by one,

JENNY: Did you just add guys to the list?

**Ramona and Jenny**

RAMONA: (*carrying on*) You couldn't wait. I know it wasn't a burrito coincidence. It was worlds colliding to create a magical wish euphoria! The first day of winter, the first snowfall, the first snowflake; it can't be a one time thing. It can't, it just -

JENNY: Do you want a boyfriend, Ramona?

RAMONA: (*stopped in her tracks*) What?

JENNY: Well, I've been hearing this first snowflake wish euphoria speech for years now: money, fame, health, happiness, and now... guys?

RAMONA: So? Maybe I'm changing things up. I am human, you know. I'm not a robot. What do you want?

JENNY: (*amazed*) Ramona St. Pierre.

RAMONA: Oh shut up.

JENNY: You're looking for a date.

RAMONA: What? So. So what? It's nothing. Don't be ridiculous.  
(*pause*) I was looking at prom dresses.

JENNY: (*gleeful*) Ramona St. Pierre!

RAMONA: Shut up!

JENNY: You're a girl! You want to go to prom!

RAMONA: (*staring up*) Don't be ridiculous. Of course I'm a girl.

JENNY: This is a happy day.

RAMONA: I'm not talking about this anymore. We'll miss the first snowflake and it'll be all your fault.

JENNY: Do you like mermaid or A-line?

**Ramona and Jenny**

RAMONA: Eyes up, eyes up!

JENNY: Do you know what colour?

RAMONA: No talking!

JENNY: I think Taylor Levine likes you.

RAMONA: Remember the burrito or go away. I can do this on my own if I have to.

JENNY: I'm not going anywhere. (*pumping a fist into the air*) Burrito forever! Viva Burrito!

RAMONA: Well. That's excessive.

*There's a pause. They're both looking up. RAMONA has a fierce look of concentration. JENNY is grinning like an idiot. RAMONA does not look at JENNY and speaks very quickly.*

RAMONA: Silver satin empire with a beaded bodice and a bow on the back. If you're asking. And Taylor Levine is very cute.

JENNY: I didn't say anything.

RAMONA: Good.

JENNY: Silver would look good on you.

RAMONA: I thought you weren't saying anything.

JENNY: I can talk to Taylor in English if you want. (*she sees something in the sky*)

RAMONA: Burrito Jenny, Burrito!

JENNY: Ramona, look!

RAMONA: No talking!

**Ramona and Jenny**

JENNY: Look at the sky. At the clouds. That's a snow sky.

RAMONA: What?

JENNY: That's a snow sky. It's going to snow. The first snowflake of the first snowfall on the first day of winter. This is it!

RAMONA: Holy cow.

JENNY: (*grabbing RAMONA's hand*) I'm wishing for you Ramona.

RAMONA: I need all the help I can get. Head back. Tongue out.

JENNY & RAMONA: (*with tongues out*) Burrito, Burrito, Burrito!





# **Scenes for One Girl and One Guy**



## Beatrice & Benedick

PLAY: Much Ado High School

GENRE: Comedy

TIME: 2:00



### DESCRIPTION

Beatrice wants revenge on the boy who has embarrassed her cousin. Benedick wants to prove he's her knight in shining armour.

### ACTING HINTS

This scene is not 100% realistic. Both characters are a little exaggerated. They are both intense with their wants: Beatrice wants someone to hurt Claudio, Benedick wants to date Beatrice and will do anything she wants – almost.

Be careful about taking the exaggerated tone of the dialogue too far. The scene won't work if everything is joky. The characters are serious about what they want and should be played completely straight. Let the goofiness of the dialogue speak for itself.



*BEATRICE pushes up her sleeves, cracks her knuckles and turns to go after CLAUDIO.*

**BENEDICK:** Beatrice, wait. Where are you going?

**BEATRICE:** I have a score to settle with your little friend.

**BENEDICK:** Just wait a second. Don't go off in a huff.

**BEATRICE:** If you start quoting Dickens I'll dislocate your kneecaps.

**BENEDICK:** Please! Even I know this is not a time for Dickens. Just wait a sec.

**BEATRICE:** Your jerk friend humiliated my cousin! I mean, sure she's not my favourite person in the world. She's incredibly annoying. That voice of hers makes me want to drive my

**Beatrice & Benedick**

head through a wall sometimes and the boy-crazy thing is so stupid... Why am I going after Claudio again?

BENEDICK: He told Hero she was a liar, liar, pants on fire.

BEATRICE: Wait till I get my hands on him!

BENEDICK: You can't do anything to Claudio.

BEATRICE: Why not?

BENEDICK: You're a girl.

BEATRICE: I'm a girl?

BENEDICK: You're a girl.

BEATRICE: I can't do anything because I'm a girl?

BENEDICK: Exactly.

BEATRICE: Who died and made you king of the world? If I want to pummel that little weasel into pudding I can and I will.

*BEATRICE starts to exit and BENEDICK stops her.*

BENEDICK: Let me do it.

BEATRICE: You? You? Why would you do it?

BENEDICK: Well, because, I'm rather, fond. Of you.

BEATRICE: Of me.

BENEDICK: Of you.

BEATRICE: Of me.

BENEDICK: Of you.

BEATRICE: Of me.

**Beatrice & Benedick**

**BENEDICK:** Are you going to make me say it again? Aren't you fond of me too? A little bit? Beebee-weebee?

**BEATRICE:** Have you ever heard of the phrase "wrong place, wrong time?"

**BENEDICK:** Well we're not going to get married right here on the dance floor for crying out loud. Give me a break. I haven't even mentioned cooties for a whole minute.

**BEATRICE:** True...

**BENEDICK:** All I'm asking if you are fond of me a little bit. That's all.

**BEATRICE:** I... I... am. I am. Whew, I thought algebra was hard.

**BENEDICK:** Now we're fond of each other, let me do this for you.  
Let me go talk to Claudio about what he's done and why he's done it.

**BEATRICE:** Oh no, I don't want you to talk to him.

**BENEDICK:** What do you want me to do?

**BEATRICE:** I want you to kill Claudio.

**BENEDICK:** Are you crazy? Do you know what would happen to me in jail? I'm not going to kill him.

**BEATRICE:** Will you maim Claudio?

**BENEDICK:** No.

**BEATRICE:** Disfigure Claudio?

**BENEDICK:** No.

**BEATRICE:** Cripple Claudio?

**BENEDICK:** No.



**Beatrice & Benedick**

BEATRICE: Scar him?

BENEDICK: No.

BEATRICE: Slap him?

BENEDICK: No.

BEATRICE: Kick him?

BENEDICK: No.

BEATRICE: Tease his family?

BENEDICK: No! I'm not going to do any of those things.

BEATRICE: Would you give him a wedgie?

BENEDICK: That I can do.

BEATRICE: (*flinging her arms around him*) My knight!





# Scenes for Two Guys



## Johan and Hans

PLAY: Deck the Stage!

GENRE: Comedy

TIME: 2:50



### DESCRIPTION

Two brothers, Johan and Hans, talk about their Christmas Tree traditions.

### ACTING HINTS

This scene is all about pace and timing. The lines should flow from one character to another seamlessly. Lines continued with a '...' should sound like one continuous sentence.

From an emotional standpoint, focus on the competition between the boys. Why does each feel that they must come out on top?

Are the brothers twins, or is one older than the other? How does that affect the piece?



*JOHAN and HANS come downstage. They match each other step for step, as if they don't want the other to get ahead.*

JOHAN & HANS: Every year my brother and I...

JOHAN: Partake in a competition...

HANS: To choose the family Christmas tree.

JOHAN: It's been our job...

JOHAN & HANS: Since we were seven years old.

HANS: We go with our Papa to the tree farm.

JOHAN: We each pick out a tree and he chooses the winner.

HANS: It used to be...

**Johan and Hans**

JOHAN & HANS: In the beginning...

HANS: That we would decide on a tree together.

JOHAN & HANS: But that was impossible. (*each referring to the other*) He's so competitive.

JOHAN: It's horrible.

JOHAN & HANS: He always has to have his way.

HANS: So now we get Papa to choose.

JOHAN: I have five wins and Hans only has four.

HANS: Johan always says he has five and I only have four.

JOHAN: He is such a sore loser.

HANS: The year that we were twelve I had double pneumonia and Mama would not let me go to the tree farm, even though I said I could go.

JOHAN: I picked the tree, Papa cut it down. It counts.

HANS: It does not count.

JOHAN: It counts!

JOHAN & HANS: He always gets like this. He always has to have his way. He's impossible.

HANS: The morning of the trip is always bright and crisp and clean.

JOHAN: I arise extra early to make sure I have all of my equipment at hand.

HANS: Sturdy boots!

JOHAN: Strong gloves!

**Johan and Hans**

HANS: Binoculars for the scouting!

JOHAN: Tags to mark the trees.

JOHAN & HANS: One year, he tried to claim a tree that I had clearly sighted first!

HANS: Now a tree cannot be claimed until it has a tag on it.

JOHAN: It's all his fault.

JOHAN & HANS: He's so competitive.

*They both take a deep breath in.*

JOHAN: We stand at the entrance to the tree farm...

HANS: Breathing in the cool, crisp, morning air.

*They both breathe in.*

JOHAN & HANS: Our breath makes tiny clouds of mist which fogs up our glasses. *(They both wipe their glasses)*

JOHAN: Papa must set us off at exactly the same time.

JOHAN & HANS: He always tries to cheat.

HANS: Johan's foot is over the line!

JOHAN: Hans' body is too far forward!

HANS: Inevitably Papa tells us to settle down or...

JOHAN & HANS: He will pick the first scrawny broke bristle spruce he can find and leave us for the dogs!

JOHAN: That Papa.

JOHAN & HANS: What a sense of humour.

**Johan and Hans**

*They both chuckle for a moment. Then they both breathe in again.*

JOHAN: We prepare.

HANS: We wait for the hand to go down.

JOHAN: The air is silent.

HANS: There is nothing but Papa's hand...

JOHAN: And the trees.

JOHAN & HANS: WE'RE OFF!

*The two start running in place. They are frantically searching for the best tree.*

JOHAN: Trees to the left!

HANS: Trees to the right!

JOHAN: Faster!

HANS: Faster!

JOHAN: Ah ha!

HANS: Bah!

JOHAN: Too small!

HANS: Too tall!

JOHAN: Too fat!

HANS: Too puny!

JOHAN: Too old!

HANS: Too new!

**Johan and Hans**

JOHAN: Too much like the one we had last year.

JOHAN & HANS: I must find the perfect tree! I can't let him beat me!

HANS: Beautiful pines.

JOHAN: Lush foliage.

HANS: Green as emeralds.

JOHAN: Ah ha!

HANS: Ah ha!

JOHAN: AH HA!

HANS: AH AH!

*They take in a deep breath and jump up and down for joy.*

JOHAN & HANS: Every year it is so exhilarating! I can hardly wait!

JOHAN: And I know...

HANS: Without a shadow of a doubt...

JOHAN: That...

HANS: The winner...

JOHAN & HANS: Will be me!

HANS: Me.

JOHAN: Me.

HANS: Me!

JOHAN: ME!

## Johan and Hans

JOHAN & HANS: He is so impossible! He always has to have his way!

*The two cross their arms in frustration and stand with their backs to each other.*







# **Group Scenes**



## Catherine, Cosette, Julian

PLAY: Beauty and the Bee

GENRE: Drama

TIME: 4:15



### DESCRIPTION

Cosette, Catherine and Julian are siblings. Cosette, a home-schooled national spelling bee champion has been preparing to attending high school, much to the dismay of Catherine, her older sister. Cosette has asked Catherine for help fitting in, but Catherine hasn't been exactly honest with her...

### ACTING HINTS

This is a high-conflict, high-emotion scene. Cosette and Catherine are in a cutthroat battle with each other. There should be a lot of movement between the two girls and their dialogue at the beginning should be quick. Keep them physically on the move as they interact.

On the other hand, Julian is completely calm. He moves and speaks slowly. He is in his own world, totally focused on his corn dog. Don't let Julian get caught up in his sisters' energy. He should move in slow motion, which will bring a nice contrast to the scene.



**COSETTE:** (*offstage*) Don't you walk away from me!

*CATHERINE storms in with COSETTE close behind.  
During all of this, JULIAN is oblivious.*

*NOTE: don't yell too much here or the scene will  
have nowhere to go! Note too that there is some  
overlapping of lines here.*

**CATHERINE:** Can we not have a scene in the food court? (*hissing*) I work in this mall.

**COSETTE:** Oh poor Catherine. Afraid you'll stand out?

**CATHERINE:** (*start right after 'Catherine'*) This was such a mistake.

Catherine, Cosette, Julian

COSETTE: Why did you do that to me?

CATHERINE: You're so smart, figure it out.

COSETTE: You're embarrassed of me.

CATHERINE: (*start right after 'embarrassed'*) Ding, ding, ding! Smarty wins a prize.

COSETTE: (*start right after 'Smarty'*) I'd rather be smart than stupid.

*JULIAN takes a bite of his corn dog and gives a long loud groan, completely derailing the fight.*

JULIAN: I LOVE the Buggy Buggy corn dog. It's the extra Buggy that's the trick. And the fake cheese... nothing in this whole wide world beats fake cheese. Fake cheese oozing through the dough. That's the best. The ultimate. That chemical rush, whoosh, right through the veins. Amazing. Totally. Dude.

*CATHERINE and COSETTE stare at JULIAN. He looks up.*

JULIAN: What? You guys want some? You better dig in. I save corn dog for no one.

CATHERINE: Do you really not have any idea what's happening here?

JULIAN: Why? (*he looks at both of them*) Is something up? I'm pretty focused on the dog. Ever since M & D said we had to come together and I was nacho denied yesterday... (*staring at the corn dog*) Fake cheese. (*breaking out of the trance again*) Sorry. What?

CATHERINE: (*sitting*) She called me stupid.

COSETTE: (*sitting*) She completely ignored me! You're going to ignore me at school too aren't you. You're one of those, icy

## Catherine, Cosette, Julian

spine lookers! (to JULIAN) She ignored me in the store. She was talking to one of her pretty perfect types and I came up and she ignored me.

CATHERINE: You were blathering.

COSETTE: She said she didn't know me.

CATHERINE: You said Capris are named after an Italian island.

COSETTE: It's an interesting fact.

CATHERINE: No one cares! No one cares about you Cosette!

COSETTE: (*explodes into a spell out start after 'No one cares'*)

Amanuensis: A-M-A-N-U-E-N-S-I-S. Take that Cathy!

Amaranth: A-M-A-R-A-N-T-H. I'm causing a scene in the mall!

CATHERINE: (*start after 'Take that Cathy'*) Don't call me Cathy! How did you get the pretty name! It is so wasted on you! AGH! (*finally it all comes out*) High school is going to hit you like a ton of bricks and the fall out is going to end up on me. I hate that you're going to my school. The only place I have! I hate everyone's going to know you're my sister. Everyone pays so much attention to you just because you're smart and nobody could give a crap about anything that I do. (*frustrated*) Nobody cares about what I want!

COSETTE: (*fast*) Then why did you even bother to help me?

JULIAN: (*fast, almost unconsciously*) Cause Mom's paying her.

*Silence. CATHERINE drops her head into her hands,  
COSETTE stares at JULIAN.*

JULIAN: (*disbelief*) Did I say that out loud? (*quiet*) Damn. (*pause*) I've been keeping that a secret. (*pause*) I didn't want to. But I did. Looks like the fake cheese got the best of me. Fake cheese makes you say strange things. Makes you speak the truth

Catherine, Cosette, Julian

when you don't want to or you do want to. This cheese is messing with my brain waves. (*starting to panic*) The chemicals are changing me, man. Making me say things, making me do things... they're changing me! (*standing*) I gotta find some fruit leather.

*JULIAN runs off. There is a long pause.*

COSETTE: (*she sits in a daze*) Whoa.

CATHERINE: You weren't supposed to find out.

COSETTE: I thought you and Mom didn't get along.

CATHERINE: We don't. She... She doesn't talk to me.

COSETTE: You figured all this out through hand signals? How Helen Keller of you.

CATHERINE: I... (*she tries to explain and fails*) When she came to me, she never does that. (*vulnerable*) She's never done that. She doesn't even talk to me, not since I quit... (*spilling out*) And I need the money for school, and when she came to me... She's never done that. I don't... (*she exhales*) There are a lot of things going on, Cosette.

COSETTE: (*pause*) I think Catherine's a pretty name.

CATHERINE: (*she rolls her eyes*) Everyone shortens it to Cathy.

COSETTE: She doesn't talk to you?

CATHERINE: You're the winner.

COSETTE: (*she wrinkles her nose*) I just like to spell. What time is Dad coming to pick us up?

CATHERINE: I don't know. (*she pulls out her phone*) Now.

COSETTE: Ok... (*she stands*) We should go.

**Catherine, Cosette, Julian**

CATHERINE: So... what?

COSETTE: So what what?

CATHERINE: What now? Do you still want help? Fitting in?

COSETTE: I think... No. I... I'm going to go it alone.

CATHERINE: But what if you -

COSETTE: You're right, everybody's right, I live in a sweater vest bubble. So what? Should I stay put? Stay where it's warm and comfortable in my sweaters bubble just so I don't get a little wind burn? To make everybody else happy? I got all caught up. Discombobulated. You know?

CATHERINE: Not a clue.

*JULIAN enters.*

JULIAN: (*satisfied sigh*) Who knew soy nuts could taste so good? Ok, are we out of here?

COSETTE: I want to get some pizza before we go. Two slices. With artichoke and anchovies.

JULIAN: Artichoke and anchovies? Whoa.

COSETTE: (*with a smile*) I know.





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