



Sample Pages from Underneath

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SOMEWHERE, NOWHERE

Frying Pan to Frying Pan

The Tower of Tyler

Underneath

The Egg Carton And Shaving Cream Solution

A SMALL TOWN CYCLE BY
Lindsay Price



One Full Length or Four One Acts

Somewhere, Nowhere is both a full-length play, and four independent competition-length one acts. Each one-act is a snapshot of teenage life in the small town of Brayton. The full-length takes place over the course of four seasons. The characters re-appear, change and grow with each subsequent story.

Act One	Act Two
<p>1) Frying Pan to Frying Pan</p> <p><i>3M+4W</i></p> <p>Echo Moss (17) Brittney Poole (16) Ms. Valerie Bright (25) Trina Tews (15) Shane Lynch (20) Pete Quinn (17) Jim Hill (17)</p>	<p>3) Underneath</p> <p><i>5W</i></p> <p>Fee (Fiona) Glass (30) Echo Moss (18) Brittney Poole (16) Trina Tews (15) Josie McDaniel (15)</p>
<p>2) The Tower of Tyler</p> <p><i>3M+8W+7 Either</i></p> <p>Trina Tews (15) Becks Steinberg-Espinosa (25) Brittney Poole (16) Ms. Valerie Bright (25) Jane Rose (16) Caitlin (16) Courtney (16) Crystal (16) Tyler Tews (17) Pete Quinn (17) Jim Hill (17) Reporter 1, 2, 3 Community Group A, B, C Photographer</p> <p>Becks, Photographer, and all Reporters & Community Group members can be either gender. Community A, B and C can be doubled by Jim, Pete and Brittney.</p>	<p>4) The Egg Carton and Shaving Cream Solution</p> <p><i>4M+11W</i></p> <p>Josie McDaniel (15) Brittney Poole (16) Jane Rose (16) Mrs. Smith (40) Ms. Valerie Bright (25) Caitlin (16) Courtney (16) Crystal (16) Marley (14) Gemma (15) Dawn (14) Pete Quinn (17) Jim Hill (17) Tyler Tews (17) Sam (15)</p>

Full Length Casting

The minimum cast size for the full length is 3M+13W. It is possible to expand to 15W+5M+7 Either (using no doubling) or you can offer multiple roles to actors with smaller significant parts (e.g. Shane and Fee).

Doubling

Shane also plays Reporter One (*The Tower of Tyler*) and Sam (*Egg Carton*)

Fee also plays Reporter Two (*The Tower of Tyler*)

Josie also plays Community A (*The Tower of Tyler*)

Becks also plays Gemma (*Egg Carton*)

Marley also plays Photographer (*The Tower of Tyler*)

Dawn also plays Community C (*The Tower of Tyler*)

Mrs. Smith also plays Reporter Three (*The Tower of Tyler*)

Ms. Bright also plays Community B (*The Tower of Tyler*)

If you're doing the whole play, you'll notice some characters (Trina, Echo and Shane) don't return to the story in *The Egg Carton and Shaving Cream Solution*. There just wasn't an organic way to weave them in as their stories conclude earlier in the play. I would strongly suggest that the actor playing Shane is also given a part in *The Tower of Tyler* or the part of Sam in *Egg Carton* so he isn't sitting around waiting for the play to be over.

I would also suggest that those who aren't in *Egg Carton* be used as extra crowd characters who enter with Jim, keeping in mind to change their wardrobe so they look like different characters.

Set

The plays can be set with risers and cubes, or with something more elaborate. If you're doing the whole play, the scene changes between *Frying Pan to Frying Pan* and *The Tower of Tyler* and between *Underneath* and *The Egg Carton and Shaving Cream Solution* must be very short. Keep the flow of action continuous.

Regardless, there should be a set of risers stage left that lead offstage for all plays. They lead to Shane's office in *Frying Pan*, to the Tews house in *Tower*, to Fee's front door in *Underneath*, and they act as the doorway onto the roof in *Egg Carton*.

Setting

Frying Pan to Frying Pan: The Super Speedy Lube. There needs to be at least one chair/cube for Pete to sit on, and a waist-high counter (two stacked cubes) for Echo to do her nails on.

The Tower of Tyler: The front yard of Tyler Tews's House.

Underneath: The living room of Fee's house. There needs to be a couch, chair, and something for the girls to stand on when their dresses are being hemmed. Again, this could be covered by three cubes for the couch, one for the chair and one to stand on.

The Egg Carton and Shaving Cream Solution: The Brayton High School roof. There should be two cubes stage left for Pete and Josie to use.

Somewhere, Nowhere was first presented by Lakewood Ranch High School in December, 2010 with the following cast:

Echo Moss	Kayla Taylor
Pete Quinn.....	Rasheed Waliagha
Jim Hill.....	Zachary Zimmer
Shane Lynch.....	Kyle James
Brittney Poole	Julia Barrow
Trina Tews	Brandi Wanecski
Ms. Valerie Bright.....	Megan Dehn
Tyler Tews	Nico Cianfarino
Caitlin	Casey Henshaw
Courtney.....	Jordan O'Donnell
Crystal.....	Renee Rogers
Reporters.....	Juan Martinez, Anna Hickey
Photographer.....	Sean Darcy
Jane Rose.....	Jillian Smith
Becks Steinberg-Espinosa.....	Madison McDonald
Fee (Fiona) Glass.....	Melina Cuffaro
Josie McDaniel.....	Tali Cohen
Mrs. Smith	Cassie Rankin
Sam.....	Joseph Grosso
Marley	Megan Nauman
Dawn	Kelli Bagwell
Community Members.....	Casey Blanco, Carlotta Murri
Director	Roxane Caravan
Stage Manager.....	Dani Duguay
Paint Charge.....	Katy Knowles, Rachel Knowles
Set Design / Construction.....	Christopher Parrish
Property Master	Sean Darcy
Sound Design	Sean Knowles
Costume Mistress.....	Kayla Taylor
Hair/Makeup.....	Rachel Knowles
Stagehand.....	Jonathon Signaigo

Underneath and *The Egg Carton and Shaving Cream Solution* were subsequently featured at the 2011 Missouri State Thespian Festival by the following:

Underneath (Parkway South High School)

Echo Moss Marisa Badamo
 Brittney Poole Kelsey Smugala
 Trina Tews Mady Finn
 Fee (Fiona) Glass Victoria Zepp
 Josie McDaniel Margo Leitschuh

Director Abbie Shull

The Egg Carton and Shaving Cream Solution (Branson High School)

Pete Quinn Jared Campbell
 Jim Hill Dakota Callaway
 Brittney Poole Ashley Herrera
 Ms. Valerie Bright Hannah Stark
 Tyler Tews Josh Farley
 Caitlin Lucy Givens
 Courtney Brenna Stone
 Crystal Lindy Monaco
 Jane Rose Andie Gerbel
 Josie McDaniel Jenna Sarni
 Mrs. Smith Julie Drayer
 Gemma Nez Abbey
 Sam Luke Elfrink
 Marley Haleigh Mackey

Somewhere, Nowhere was subsequently presented in its entirety by St. Cloud High School in February, 2011 with the following cast:

Echo Moss	Yesenia Avila
Pete Quinn.....	Nick Simmons
Jim Hill.....	Jacob Spigle
Shane Lynch.....	Austin Courtney
Brittney Poole	Moriah Yex
Trina Tews	Margaret Toner
Ms. Valerie Bright.....	Shannon Esford
Tyler Tews	Cory Dunn
Caitlin	Brandie Troxell
Courtney.....	Tatianna Ross
Crystal.....	Lauren Strecker
Reporters.....	Max Gomer, Stephanie Pagan, Jon Noah
Photographer.....	Erica Dukes
Jane Rose.....	Ashely Marsdale
Becks Steinberg-Espinosa.....	Aaron Collado
Fee (Fiona) Glass.....	Shari Riascos
Josie McDaniel.....	Katy Williams
Mrs. Smith	Megan Lubick
Gemma	Sierra Welch
Sam.....	Eduardo Rivera
Marley	Megan Caudill
Dawn	Jessie Suarez
Community Members.....	Alison Harper, Stephano Brizzio, Devon Griffis Liz Simmons, Rachel Jones, Daniel Richards, Addison Shipley
Director	Karen Loftus
Stage Manager.....	Melissa Moss
Run Crew Chief.....	Matt Cole
Run Crew.....	Addison Shipley, Stephano Brizzio, Eduardo Rivera Nicole Castro, Austin Courtney
Set Crew	Austin Courtney, Matt Cole, Eduardo Rivera, Nicole Castro Ashley Marsdale, Alison Harper, Tatianna Ross, Katy Williams Bekah Rivera, Casandra Wilcox, Megan Lubick, Cory Dunn
Scenic Charge.....	Melissa Moss

Underneath

Winter.

The living room of FEE (Fiona) GLASS. ECHO stands on a cube being fitted for a bridesmaid dress. She is wearing thick winter socks with the dress. BRITTNEY also wears a bridesmaid dress, but she's wrapped in a blanket. She's staring off into space, not paying attention to the fitting. ECHO wiggles about.

FEE: Stand still...

ECHO: I can't help it. I don't want to get stuck.

FEE: I haven't stuck anyone yet. (*ECHO wiggles again*) Stop moving...

ECHO: Sorry. That was a shiver. (*she wraps her arms around her body*) I feel weird in a summer dress when there's been so much snow.

FEE: Almost done.

ECHO: I think the socks make the outfit. We should tell Stephanie, huh Brit?

BRITTNEY: (*turning*) What?

ECHO: Socks. We should all wear these socks with our dresses. Don't you think? (*she wiggles her feet*)

BRITTNEY: Sure. You make a lot of wedding stuff?

FEE: Some clothes. No wedding stuff. This'll be the first. (*to ECHO*) Have you seen the dress?

ECHO: Uh uh. She won't show anybody. She wants to make a grand entrance. (*ECHO giggles*) What's it like? Is it white? Is it lacy? Stephanie always said she'd never have a lacy wedding dress. Is it close to the bridesmaid dresses?

FEE: I'm not telling if she's not telling.

ECHO: (*giggling*) She almost burst a blood vessel when she found out you lived here. (*imitating*) "Echo, she's in Vogue! She's in Vogue!"

FEE: Well, my jewelry was in Vogue.

ECHO: (*giggling, still imitating*) “I get to tell everyone my wedding dress was made by someone in Vogue!” I bet she’s going to print it in the programs, just to see who gets jealous. “Dress made by someone in Vogue. Suck it!” (*she giggles*) I think Stephanie and I were switched at birth. She’s my mom’s daughter and I’m my aunt’s. (*gasping*) Brit, do you think that happened? (*she giggles*) Except she’s three years older. That’d be a big baby...

BRITTNEY: (*now seeing how ECHO is acting*) What’s up with you?

ECHO: (*giggling*) What? (*she coughs and loses the giggle*) What am I doing?

BRITTNEY: (*giving up*) Nothing.

FEE: (*she sits back*) That’s it, you’re done.

ECHO: (*jumping off the cube*) Sweater time!

FEE: Gently! Take it off, gently.

ECHO: I can’t wait till it’s finished. We’re going to look so pretty! (*she exits right*)

FEE: (*to BRITTNEY*) Your turn. Stand up here.

BRITTNEY: Sure.

BRITTNEY shrugs off the blanket and stands on the cube.

NOTE: BRITTNEY is depressed. But if all her lines ‘sound’ depressed, if they all go down, the presentation will become one note. Find variety of tone in the delivery.

FEE: This is fitting nicely, very nice. Do you like the dress?

BRITTNEY: (*not really paying attention*) It’s nice.

FEE: (*smiling, not offended at all*) You don’t sound so sure.

BRITTNEY: Sorry. I was just thinking about... never mind. So. You’re a designer? You make a lot of wedding stuff?

FEE: (*gently, not at all thrown*) No wedding stuff. This’ll be my first.

BRITTNEY: Echo says you take old scarves and make broaches out of them.

FEE: (*focusing on pinning the dress*) Uh huh...

BRITTNEY: And people pay you for that?

FEE: They do.

BRITTNEY: (*without thinking*) That's so weird. (*she shakes her head*)
Sorry. Not weird. Different.

FEE: It's okay. It is weird. That's why I love it. Best job in the world. For me, anyway.

BRITTNEY: My dad says people shouldn't love their jobs. There's no room for happiness in the workplace.

FEE: That's... one way of looking at it. So, what do you want to do? After school.

BRITTNEY: I don't know. (*this hits her*) I don't know. I haven't even thought... Is that bad?

FEE: No.

BRITTNEY: It's too late now.

FEE: Of course it's not!

BRITTNEY: I'm not going to college.

FEE: Do you want to? (*BRITTNEY shrugs*) Do your parents want you to?

BRITTNEY: I don't know. They're not talking to me right now. (*she crosses her arms*) My mom didn't want me to... she didn't want you to make my dress.

FEE: Uncross your arms please. How come?

BRITTNEY: She think you're weird.

FEE: Ah.

BRITTNEY: So. You're a designer? You make a lot of wedding stuff?

FEE: (*gently, not at all thrown*) No wedding stuff. This'll be my first.

ECHO: (*entering from right*) That dress is so pretty! You're beautiful Brittney.

BRITTNEY: I guess.

ECHO: (*she's said this before – like a mantra*) You're better off without Tyler Tews...

BRITTNEY: I know.

ECHO: He's a horrible human being...

BRITTNEY: I know.

ECHO: You didn't want to be married to him anyway.

BRITTNEY: (*wistful*) It would have been a big wedding.

ECHO: Your mom still upset?

BRITTNEY: I'll like catch her staring at me? And when I do, she just shakes her head. Like I did something.

ECHO: I saw him at the community centre squealing around the parking lot with Caitlin Knox who was squealing like a pig.

BRITTNEY: He can date whoever he wants.

ECHO: She's still a pig. And so is he.

BRITTNEY: I know...

FEE: Okay, you're done. Take it off, gently.

BRITTNEY: It's a really pretty dress, Ms. Glass. We're going to look great. (*she exits right*)

ECHO: (*stamping her feet in frustration*) Oh that Tyler!

FEE: She's so sad.

ECHO: He's working his way through the cheerleading squad like it's a buffet. (*she sighs and looks offstage*) I hate seeing her like this.

FEE: Is that why you don't want to tell her you're engaged?

ECHO: (*spluttering*) What? I am not... How did you—? I'm not, we just, I mean... (*bursting out, losing all pretence of cool*) You can't say anything. I haven't told anybody. We're keeping it a secret till after Valentine's Day so everyone will think Shane proposed on Valentine's Day, which is normal instead of in the middle of January and it doesn't matter anyway because my mother keeps pushing me to date the Sloss brothers, which is really funny now because I know something she doesn't. How did you know? Is it on my face? It's all over my face. Oh, I've been trying so hard not

to show it on my face. (*she slaps her hands to her face*) I gotta work on that.

FEE: You want a tip?

ECHO: Anything.

FEE: It's the gushing. You've gone Niagara Falls at the mouth.

ECHO: (*slapping a hand over her mouth*) I know, I know, I never talk like this! I can't help it! (*she takes her hand away from her mouth*) I keep thinking about my own bridesmaid dresses and the flowers and... Niagara Falls! I'm getting married! (*she clamps a hand over her mouth again*) Shhhhhh.

FEE: When's the big day?

ECHO: Five years from next spring.

FEE: (*surprised*) Oh?

ECHO: Or whenever we raise the downpayment for a house, whichever comes first.

FEE: That's... practical.

ECHO: You mean, 'un-romantic.'

FEE: Romance is overrated.

ECHO: (*laughs then sighs*) Grandma Wills always said I could have my reception here.

FEE: You still can.

ECHO: (*loud*) Really?? Oh My— (*She claps a hand over her mouth and looks offstage. Confident BRITTNEY didn't hear, she removes her hand and sighs.*) I miss Grandma Wills.

FEE: Me too.

ECHO: I'm glad I met you, Ms. Glass. Met you, met you, not what people say—

There is the sound of a door opening, a person stumbling and a voice calls out.

JOSIE: (*offstage*) Hello?

FEE: Who's that?

JOSIE stumbles into the entryway. She looks worse for wear with a huge scarf wrapped around her head, and a heavy knapsack on her back.

NOTE: JOSIE is manic and on a huge sugar rush. REMEMBER! This is a play, not real life. JOSIE cannot rush every single solitary line. Pay attention to the pauses and the periods. They are purposefully there to slow JOSIE down.

JOSIE: I think I just ran away from home. But it's freezing and I can't feel my feet.

FEE: My goodness. Come in.

JOSIE: And I did. I hope you don't mind. The door was open and there isn't a doorbell and if I knocked my hand might shatter. I'd rather not go through life with one hand and one stump.

FEE: Take your boots off and get over by the fire.

During the following JOSIE un-gracefully pulls her boots off, unwraps her scarf, falls over because of the knapsack and eventually ends up on the couch. FEE stands in amazement at the chaos. ECHO tries to pick up after JOSIE.

JOSIE: Thank you, thank you, thank you! I didn't prepare. I should have planned. It was an impulse. Throw some things in a bag impulse. Bang! Just a thing, a moment, it came rushing at me like a tidal wave: Had it! Leave! Now! And I did. But maybe I would have gotten further with my "Had It! Leave! Now!" in the summer. Or the spring. Or even the late fall. Impulses in the wintertime don't carry the same weight when you're walking in snow up to your armpits. Okay. (pause) Not exactly my armpits. (pause) I'm not walking to school up hill in the snow both ways (pause) in my bare feet. But it's really, really, really, reallyreallyreally close. I swear. Hi. (she thrusts her hand out) Josie McDaniel.

FEE: (shaking hands) Hi. I'm—

JOSIE: Oh I know who you are, I know who you are. You. Are. Known. Fiona Glass. (she squeals a little) Fiona Glass. You are my idol. For a vat of reasons. First off, can I say what a wicked awesome freak show it is that you're here? In this crappy town? I love your jewelry! I've wanted to say something. I've seen you at the grocery store, or out walking, or at the diner... I've always wanted to but

couldn't ever get up the nerve. (*up close to FEE*) I mean, what am I? A stalker? (*moving away*) But here I am. It's fate you see, because there I was outside (*pause*) in the dead of winter (*pause*) up to my armpits, not barefoot but not knowing what to do, where to go, in grave danger of having my feet fall off and I turn and... (*she throws her arms out*) Ta da! This. House. Right in front of me. I must have subconsciously been heading for you all along and you and I were destined to meet. As soon as I found out you were here? And what you had done? Destiny! (*she makes a "This is destiny" bowing-to-the-gods kind of noise*) Oh ah! You're here to help me. You have to be. You're here to give me all the tips, hints, clues, ins, outs, ups, downs, rights, wrongs – Teach me! (*beat*) I have to pee.

FEE: Ah, down the hall, first door on the left.

JOSIE: Thanks.

JOSIE runs off. FEE and ECHO look at each other.

FEE: What was that?

ECHO: I feel like I've been hit by a word tornado.

FEE: Do you know her?

ECHO: Josie McDaniel.

FEE: I got that.

BRITTNEY: (*entering*) What's going on?

ECHO: Word tornado.

BRITTNEY: (*looking around*) For real?

FEE: Very.

BRITTNEY: Where?

ECHO: Do you know Josie McDaniel?

BRITTNEY: The new girl. She's here?

FEE: In the bathroom.

BRITTNEY: (*confused, looking off*) Did she get hurt by the tornado?

FEE: Not a real tornado, Brittney. A girl.

ECHO: Josie McDaniel.

BRITTNEY & ECHO: Parents in jail.

FEE: So what's she doing here? In my house?

JOSIE enters like a whirlwind and holds at the door.

JOSIE: My idol!

FEE, BRITTNEY, ECHO: (startled) Ah!

JOSIE runs in and kneels at FEE's feet. She takes up right where she left off.

JOSIE: Teach me! Teach me what you know. You have to. You've been there. You've done it.

FEE: Josie, Josie! Slow down. And get off the floor. Sit and take a big breath, you're making my head spin.

ECHO: A word tornado will do that to you.

JOSIE: Sorry. (she gets up and sits on the couch) Sorry. That was not my intention. At all. I'm spinning myself. My head. (she makes a spinning gesture with her hand) Whooh!

FEE: Are you on something?

During this, every time JOSIE tries to get up, FEE gently pushes her back down.

JOSIE: Me? No. Not really. Sort of. I'll explain. It's my brain.

Fastfastfastfastfast! My brain is going a million miles a minute. I can't catch up! I've done this thing and I'm not sure at all what to do about it. I'm excited. (pause) And terrified. (pause) And excited and terrified, back and forth, back and forth. I don't know which side to land. I don't know what to feel or what to do and there's the lack of sugar. In general. Not now. Now I am on a boatload of sugar. I am on a sugar rush like you would not believe! But in general, my grandmother doesn't allow sweets in the house. You never know how much you miss sugar until someone takes it away. And when I left the house (pause) I emptied out the change jar and spent the whole thing on chocolate bars. So I am on a sugar rush like you would not believe! Sorry, sorry, I said that, but it's true cause I ate them all which would be way less pathetic if this were Willy Wonka and there was the potential of a golden ticket but there's no ticket, nothing but a stomachache and a sugar rush like you would—

FEE: Josie!

JOSIE: Sorry! Sorry. Sugar. Whooooooo.

FEE: Let's be quiet for a moment. Can you do that?

JOSIE: Quiet. Very quiet.

FEE: There's no need for anyone to get overexcited. Right?

JOSIE: Quiet. Very quiet.

FEE: Great. Can you please tell me, quietly and without excitement: why are you here?

JOSIE: It's obvious.

FEE: Not to me.

JOSIE: Today was the day. The end. The straw that broke that camel's back. Who knew camels had such weak backs? Today, today, I left school. I drove out to 3rd line. I sat in my car. I may have had a cigarette. It's not a crime. Not really. *(she thrusts out four fingers)* FOUR people called my grandmother on me. FOUR tattletales felt it necessary to inform my grandmother about my activities. The Nelson sisters called her separately, except their calls were like three seconds apart so you know they were sitting side by side, cackling with glee over it all. *(she imitates someone cackling with glee)* Can't a person skip school and have a smoke without the whole world knowing?

FEE: Well you shouldn't skip... or smoke.

JOSIE: It's like everyone here is waiting for me to do something bad. Or get involved with insider trading, which, as poetic as that would be, daughter falls down same well as parents, is practically impossible since I don't even know what that is. So if I'm not doing anything near as bad as that, why am I being spied on? Why, why, why??? I thought I could stick it out. How bad could it be in the middle of nowhere? It. Sucks. Bad. I hate everything and everyone in this stupid crap-ass town. I've had it. I am out.

FEE: And what do you want me to do?

There is a knock knock on the door followed by the sound of a door opening and a person stumbling inside.

TRINA: *(offstage)* Hello?

FEE: Again?

They all get up as TRINA crashes into the entryway. When BRITTNEY sees who it is, she turns away.

ECHO: Trina?

TRINA: I think I just ran away from home. But it's freezing and I can't feel my feet.

JOSIE: Join the club!

JOSIE sits. She is über-focused on TRINA, staring at her, not moving. DO NOT fidget, even though it may feel natural. It'll take the focus away from TRINA and her story.

FEE: Come in, come in.

TRINA: Your door was open. I'm sorry I didn't knock. This is an emergency and— *(she turns to see BRITTNEY)* Brittney?

BRITTNEY: *(moving)* I gotta go.

TRINA: Wait! Don't you move! *(she takes a breath)* My brother is a scumbag. Ha! Tyler Tews is a scumbag!

There is a pause. This is a big thing for TRINA to say out loud. BRITTNEY and ECHO stare at her.

ECHO: You didn't just...

BRITTNEY: *(wide eyed)* Trina...

TRINA: I've wanted to say that. Out loud. Especially to you. Those are my feelings and I want them known. I will no longer keep my true feelings inside. Tyler is a scumbag! *(she does a little spin of joy)* Tyler is a scumbag! Ha, ha! It gets easier every time.

ECHO: Who else knows Tyler is a scumbag?

TRINA: My mother.

BRITTNEY and ECHO gasp.

BRITTNEY: You did not.

ECHO: Trina!

TRINA: I couldn't take it anymore, I couldn't hold it in, it was the straw that broke the camel's back!

JOSIE: Again with the camel!

TRINA: (to FEE) I have to run away. If I go back, my mom's gonna rip my out my tongue.

FEE: You spoke hastily, that's all. She'll understand. There's no need to run; just apologize.

TRINA: That's going to be hard without a tongue.

FEE: Do it before the tongue comes out. Hopefully you'll keep your tongue. Of course you will. Your mother wouldn't actually rip out... You're exaggerating.

BRITTNEY: You don't know Mrs. Tews, do you?

ECHO: Didn't you hear what happened at the fall fair?

FEE: I don't listen to gossip.

TRINA: It's not gossip. When she didn't win, several judges saw their lives flash before their eyes when they narrowly escaped having a spatula shoved in a place spatulas should not go. My mother is very quick. One second she's smiling and nodding, the next you've got a spatula up your nose. The hard way.

ECHO: Mrs. Tews doesn't like to lose.

TRINA: She's very focused. It's better when she's not focused on you. Right now, she's very, very, focused on me.

BRITTNEY: How did you get out of the house?

TRINA: The unexpected shock of the moment. "Tyler is a scumbag!" By the final 'ag' I was out the door. I'm not even wearing boots. It's pure luck there were mitts in my pocket. (to FEE) I ran outside and you're the first person I thought of.

JOSIE: (*leaping up*) Ah ha! Ah ha! I'm not the only one.

FEE: What are you talking about?

JOSIE: (*running to TRINA*) Sister, I feel your pain.

TRINA: You're the new girl...

JOSIE: You're the second fiddle sister, Trina Tews.

TRINA: And I'm sick of it!

JOSIE: You're sick of this town.

TRINA: Yes!

JOSIE: Sick of what people think of you.

TRINA: Yes!

JOSIE: Say about you.

TRINA: Yes!

JOSIE: You feel trapped.

TRINA: Yes!

JOSIE: You want out like nobody's business.

TRINA: Yes! Yes!

BRITTNEY: (*standing*) I want out like nobody's business!

ECHO: Brittney?

BRITTNEY: I want out! (*runs over to JOSIE and TRINA*) I feel trapped.

TRINA: Frozen?

JOSIE: Like you can't breathe?

TRINA & BRITTNEY: Yes!

BRITTNEY: I hate it here. I hate being talked about.

JOSIE: People talk about you a lot.

BRITTNEY: I know!

TRINA: No one breaks up with Tyler Tews.

BRITTNEY: I hate that people whisper about me behind my back and look away when I walk by.

JOSIE: It's worse when they whisper.

BRITTNEY: I hate that everyone stayed friends with Tyler and nobody stayed friends with me.

TRINA: I hate being a second fiddle. Do you know what I've done for that stupid scumbag? Do you know how much I've missed out on?

BRITTNEY: People I've known since kindergarten.

TRINA: Nobody ever asks how I am or what I'm doing.

JOSIE: I hate being the new girl. I'm not even that new.

TRINA: How's Tyler? Did you see what Tyler did today? How come you're not like Tyler?

JOSIE: And it's not my fault my parents went to jail!

BRITTNEY: I hate being sad all the time. I used to be a really happy person. It is so not fair someone made me unhappy and I can't shake it. This town won't let me shake it!

JOSIE: I hate this town.

TRINA: This town sucks!

JOSIE: It's time to go.

TRINA: Vamoose!

JOSIE: Outta here!

BRITTNEY: Where do we go?

JOSIE: She'll tell us.

BRITTNEY: She?

JOSIE: (*grandly gesturing to FEE*) She'll tell us what to do.

All three stare at FEE.

TRINA: You think so?

JOSIE: I know so. It's fate don't you see? Fate has delivered us to her doorstep on this very night, all at the same time. Fate has conspired to bring three lost souls together to learn from the master. (*turning to FEE*) How did you do it? What did you do when the straw broke that camel's back and you ran? Teach us how to run away. We are in your hands.

There is a pause. No one moves.

JOSIE: Fiona? You are going to help us. Aren't you?

FEE: (*in a daze*) Um, you should call me Fee. Nobody calls me Fiona. Except my grandmother. She did. Cause it was her name. I guess.

And not anymore. Cause she's dead. I need to go make... some... tea...

FEE turns and exits. In a daze. The rest move to sit on the couch.

TRINA: She didn't look interested in helping.

JOSIE: She's overwhelmed.

BRITTNEY: That was overwhelming.

JOSIE: She just needs a few minutes. Time to digest. Whoa. *(her head rolls back)*

TRINA: Are you all right?

JOSIE: *(straightening up)* I'm fine. Does anyone have any chocolate?

ECHO: Don't you think you've had enough?

JOSIE: I might be crashing. *(her head rolls back)* Yep. Definitely crashing. *(straightening up)* This isn't going to be pretty.

BRITTNEY: *(looking in her purse)* I've got Life Savers.

JOSIE: I'll take 'em. *(BRITTNEY hands over the candy)* Thanks. *(she throws one in her mouth)*

ECHO: *(standing)* I want to say something. I love Brayton.

The other girls groan.

ECHO: I do.

JOSIE: How?

ECHO: What do you mean, "How?" It's my home. I like living here, I want to raise a family here.

BRITTNEY: *(groaning)* Echo, you don't have a say in this.

ECHO: Why not?

BRITTNEY: You moved to the other side of the highway.

ECHO: It's a ten minute drive!

BRITTNEY: It's not the same as being in town.

ECHO: I get talked about just as much as any of you. My mother talks about me to anyone who'll listen.

BRITTNEY: (to JOSIE) AND she had a scholarship. A scholarship.

JOSIE: That would have taken her away?

BRITTNEY: Uh huh.

TRINA: She turned it down.

JOSIE: (*moving to ECHO*) You turned down a scholarship? To stay here? To STAY?

ECHO: I did, I did, so what?

JOSIE: What are you, a crackhead?

ECHO: People belong where they belong. It doesn't make me a crackhead if I want to stay.

TRINA: I don't know, Echo. Sounds pretty stupid to me.

JOSIE: I know what I want. Out of here.

BRITTNEY: You said it.

TRINA: Out of here!

BRITTNEY: We don't belong.

TRINA: We know exactly what we want.

ECHO: Maybe I do too. And it doesn't make me a crackhead. (*moving to BRITTNEY*) And for the record, Ms. Brittney, I stayed your friend.

ECHO storms out to the kitchen.

JOSIE: Did she?

BRITTNEY: She did.

JOSIE: Ouch.

BRITTNEY: She doesn't understand. She lives on the other side of the highway. She has a nice boyfriend. (*she puts her face in her hands*) I'm losing my mind.

JOSIE: Sister, I feel your pain.

TRINA: You can't win against Tyler.

BRITTNEY: I'm not trying to win. I'm trying not be reminded of him.
Constantly.

JOSIE: Running away is the only option.

TRINA: A fresh start.

BRITTNEY: Yeah.

They sit side by side on the couch and stare off toward the kitchen.

TRINA: (*pause, pause, pause*) What do we do now?

JOSIE: Wait for her to come out.

BRITTNEY: (*pause, pause, pause*) What if she doesn't?

JOSIE: She will.

TRINA: You think so?

JOSIE: I know so.

TRINA: (*pause, pause, pause*) There's a back door in the kitchen.

JOSIE: Listen, if you don't want to be here...

TRINA: I do, I do.

JOSIE: If you don't really want to run away...

TRINA: I do!

JOSIE: Then you'd know that she will come out and she will help us. We are kindred spirits. We have all been down the same road. She knows what we've been through. She's on our side.

TRINA: (*pause, pause*) I should take notes.

BRITTNEY: (*getting up*) I have extra paper. (*she goes to her knapsack*)

TRINA: Awesome. (*she cringes*) Tyler word. Tyler word!

BRITTNEY: I hate that word. (*pulling out a binder full of blank paper*) I haven't been taking many notes this year. Here. (*she hands out paper*)

JOSIE: This was meant to be. Do you have a pen?

BRITTNEY: Sure.

JOSIE: See? Fate. Kismet.

TRINA: (*taking a pen*) Thanks.

JOSIE: Here she comes! Shhh!

FEE enters very, very slowly. No one says a word.

FEE: Stop staring at me.

They all look quickly away.

FEE: Apparently, all of you have an impression of me. A very specific impression of who I am. One I'm not aware of and before we proceed any further I would like to know what that impression is.

JOSIE: But... everybody knows the story.

FEE: I don't.

TRINA: Mrs. Best tells it at Duke's every Sunday.

FEE: I don't listen to Mrs. Best.

BRITTNEY: But she talks so loud...

FEE: What's the story?

During the following ECHO enters with a cup of tea and listens.

JOSIE: You ran away at fifteen.

TRINA: You left town and never looked back.

BRITTNEY: You wore a lot of black in high school.

JOSIE: You stole a lot of money from Grandma Wills.

TRINA: You went to New York.

BRITTNEY: Lived on the streets.

JOSIE: You had to live on the streets for years.

TRINA: Then you were discovered.

JOSIE: And became a famous designer.

BRITTNEY: And you never mentioned Brayton.

TRINA: Turned your back on everything and everyone here.

JOSIE: And you're a drug addict.

BRITTNEY: Used to be a drug addict.

TRINA: My mom thinks she's a drug addict.

BRITTNEY: My mom didn't want me to come here.

TRINA: Says she's just like her brother.

BRITTNEY: They both stole money from Grandma Wills.

TRINA: Broke into the school and trashed the library.

BRITTNEY: She ran away and never looked back.

JOSIE: You ran away and got out.

TRINA: You made it on your own.

JOSIE: You were all alone and you made it.

There is a pause. FEE is shocked by what she's heard.

FEE: Wow. Wow. *(she sits)* Wow.

TRINA: That's it.

FEE: That's it? What else could there be? That is some... *(she giggles a little)* that is some story.

JOSIE: That's what they say.

FEE: Really? Really. That's what people are saying about me? Here?

BRITTNEY: You've never heard?

FEE: I guess I've been busy, it's been a busy year. That's what they're saying? Really? All those things?

JOSIE: It's not true?

FEE: Not true? *(she gives a short laugh)* I've never heard such a... If that were my story, I could have made a lot more money. I would own that story. I'd tell everyone and their dog that story. I'd be on 60 Minutes and TMZ. That story, that's the story you're clinging to? Don't you think it makes you a little wacko? Stealing, drugs, trashing school property, really? That's what you think of me?

TRINA: It was the running away part. I think.

JOSIE: Wait a minute. What are you saying?

BRITTNEY: Is any of it true?

FEE: (*she laughs a bit more*) No.

TRINA: No?

BRITTNEY: None of it?

JOSIE: Wait a minute.

FEE: I mean, sure there are connections, there are a lot of connect the dots. But that's just... (*she really falls to laughing*) That takes the cake and the whole donut buffet.

JOSIE: Hey, hey! Stop laughing!

ECHO: Josie, don't be rude.

FEE: That's what people think? I'm surprised my ears aren't on fire twenty-four seven.

TRINA: So what happened?

FEE: I, ah, unbelievable, well, (*she clears her throat*) I did hate Brayton. I did leave when Scott died. (*she sighs*) It was supposed to be safe here. It wasn't. He was so smart, in his own way. We all wanted Scott to... get better. He didn't. And then he died. That's it.

JOSIE: That's it? What do you mean that's it? That's it? That's all? No running? No stealing? No fist to the sky? No middle finger to Brayton?

ECHO: Grandma Wills never told anybody.

BRITTNEY: She never said anything. Not like that.

FEE: Unlike Mrs. Best, some people know how to keep their mouths shut.

JOSIE: That's a horrible story!

ECHO: Josie.

JOSIE: Don't Josie me. This is a crisis. We are in a crisis red level situation here. I have with great fanfare left my home with a toothbrush and seven pairs of underwear. I need clarification. I need – you've been in town how long?

FEE: Since the summer.

JOSIE: And you're telling me you've never once heard any of this? Not one aspect of any of these stories? You had no idea? Seriously? That's what we're supposed to believe?

FEE: I don't listen to gossip.

BRITTNEY: How? How do you do that? How do you block it out? I can't, it just seeps into my brain. I wake up and I think I can handle things, then I hear people whispering and I'm back where I started. Every day someone or something reminds me of Tyler, over and over again. I can't handle it anymore. I'm failing, I'm so tired all the time...

ECHO sits beside BRITTNEY and gives her a hug.

JOSIE: Hey, hey, hey! Who cares about Tyler? Back to me, back to me! (to FEE) You ran away.

FEE: I didn't.

JOSIE: I'm telling you, you ran away. That's the story! You ran away at fifteen. I'm fifteen, running away. You have to have the same story. You have to help me or else I'm stuck.

FEE: I think you're stuck here anyway.

JOSIE: (*pacing*) I don't accept this. I don't. I don't accept this at all. I do not accept. I had a plan. I was going to follow in your footsteps and everything was going to work out. You have to have footsteps. You have to!

ECHO: Calm down Josie.

JOSIE: I won't!

FEE: Sit down.

JOSIE: (*dancing out of her grasp*) I won't, I won't!

ECHO: There's no story.

BRITTNEY: Deal with it.

JOSIE: If you don't help me I'm going to do something drastic.

TRINA: Like what?

ECHO: You're acting like a baby.

JOSIE: I mean it. Really drastic!

BRITTNEY: There's nothing you can do.

JOSIE: I can too! I'm gonna... I'm gonna... (*an idea hits her*) I'm gonna gossip about Grandma Wills.

TRINA: Josie!

ECHO: (*moving toward JOSIE*) You wouldn't dare.

JOSIE: (*dancing out of the way, she keeps moving about the space*) I so would. I'm gonna tell everyone and their dog I was in her house and I saw a whole bunch of horrible things. Grandma Wills practised taxidermy on house cats! Grandma Wills grew weed in her basement! Grandma Wills was running a money laundering scheme! I'll tell Mrs. Best and everyone at the diner Grandma Wills had— (*she stops short*) Uh oh. (*she drops to the ground*) Uuuuuuuuuugh.

JOSIE is on the floor. Pause. Everyone stares at her. Eventually they snap out of it and move over to her.

ECHO: Josie? Josie!

TRINA: What was that?

FEE: Sugar crash.

BRITTNEY: But I gave her... (*realizing*) sugar-free Life Savers.

JOSIE: Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuugh.

FEE: Well. That was exciting.

ECHO: Is she going to be all right?

FEE: I've had interns pull all-nighters with me before Fashion Week. I see it all the time.

BRITTNEY: Do you think she's going to do what she said? Gossip?

FEE: Don't worry about it. I think, it's time to call it a night.

ECHO: (*folding her arms*) I'm not going anywhere till she promises not to say anything bad about Grandma Wills.

FEE: I'll make sure. Okay? I'll take care of it.

TRINA: Does this mean I have to go home and lose my tongue?

ECHO: Come on. I'll drive you and talk to your mom.

TRINA: Really? You're not scared of her?

ECHO: Of course I am. I was at the fair. I'm going to try and distract her by saying you're going to start work at the garage. But you have to pretend it's a punishment.

TRINA: She may buy that. (*realizing what she heard*) What?

ECHO: I'll teach you how to do an oil change. I'm faster than all the boys.

TRINA: You want to give me a job? At your place? Me? Why?

ECHO: I thought you might like to work at a place where everyone hates Tyler Tews. Well, hate is a strong word. We all have an active dislike. Just don't tell anyone.

TRINA: When do I start? Tomorrow? I can start tomorrow.

ECHO: Practice your sad face.

TRINA: (*exaggerated sad face*) Mom, do I have to work at the Super Speedy Lube?

ECHO: Keep at it. Night, all. (*to BRITTNEY*) You need a ride?

BRITTNEY: Thanks, I'll pass. (*as an explanation*) The Tews.

ECHO: Right. (*she turns away*)

BRITTNEY: (*blurting out*) Hey Echo? Want to do coffee?

ECHO: Saturday? By the garage?

BRITTNEY: Yeah.

ECHO: (*smiling*) Yeah.

TRINA and ECHO exit. BRITTNEY shoulders her purse and her knapsack.

BRITTNEY: I'll just call my mom outside. I need some air.

FEE: Brittney, do you want a job?

BRITTNEY: Huh?

FEE: It's not exactly a job, I'm going to need an intern this summer. In New York. If you want.



help@theatrefolk.com www.theatrefolk.com

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