

# ADIRA'S SECRET

*Memoir, Fantasy, Allegory, Play.*

## ***Stage, Setting, Furniture, Prop***

1960s Suburban American Ranch Style Home Living, Dining, Kitchen Room Areas

- Hidden Kitchen—Stage Left
- Dining Area—Downstage Left with Dining Table, Chair, side table with 18” feather duster prop
- Living Room—Stage Center-Downstage Center-Stage Right-Downstage Right with black couch

## ***Ingress-Egress***

- Front Door Entrance—Center Farthest Stage Right Entrance-Exit to BOS right side
- Downstage Right, Downstage left at Proscenium Line, Upstage Center Back Entrance-Exit to BOS

## ***Acts & Scenes***

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# ADIRA'S SECRET

## Act One

### Scene 1

Saturday evening

(Stage fully lit and empty of actors.)

(Black couch center of back of Stage Center.)

(Music clip commences:)

<https://secondhandsongs.com/performance/97695> 0:00—1:41

(ADIRA walks from Hidden Kitchen to Dining Room area, her right hand, grabs 18” long hand feather duster at end of its wooden base handle, feather splay facing out opposite end.)

(At :07 of clip, commences her ritual dance around living room— Stage Right and Center and Down Stage right and center.)

(Intense, determined, ADIRA dances with frontal, vertical skips and runs along forward lines across, up, back stage, juxtaposed with starts

and stops, brief walks, hard turns and head bobs, down and back to forward eyesight level only, with eyes open when looking down and forward, bouncing steps and stops with head bounces briefly, lips pressed, or talking to herself when walking, her head briefly reverberates after these stops in reaction to her stops.)

(Continues dance ritual without awareness of audience for around 1:30". Feather duster remains in right hand, bounces forward and back at her side in response to her forward skipping and walking steps. Does not wave feather duster in the air, raise it above waist or dust with it.)

(Looking down, mouthing phrases to self, turns, faces, walks to center of Downstage Center at Proscenium edge, stops, turns, faces audience.)

(Raises her head up and down briefly in inner conversation, steps forward slightly with right foot, looks at, then snaps her feather duster out at audience, head shaking 'no,' exclaims and concludes.)

#### ADIRA

TOWER never had any friends!

(Extends, arcs duster out, a rainbow over audience and exclaims.)

She was im-pos-si-ble!

(Brief pause.)

(Less loud, enthusiastic, asks audience.)

Remember those dances?

(Clarifies.)

Junior High!

(Snaps duster at right side of audience, exclaims, voice lilt down-up.)

You know?!

Boys on one side.

(Explains, dabs, itemizes with duster.)

Pants, or jeans, cuffed at bottom.

Tee- or collared shirts.

Tight sweaters.

Cardigans—

Or short jackets.

White socks.

Black shoes.

(More animated, points duster at left side of audience, continues.)

Girls on the other side.

(With duster as pointer, itemizes.)

Dresses or skirts?

Below the knee.

Pen-cil skirts!

Poo-dle skirts!

(Elaborates with pride.)

With gingham or polka dots.

Cropped sweaters and cardigans.

(Fondly, voice lilts down, then up.)

You know?

The exaggerated.

(Brief pause.)

(Thinks, remembers, dabs duster, announces.)

The hourglass look!

(Hopeful, shares.)

You remember.

Don't you?

(Brief pause.)

(Duster at right side, summarizes.)

Two groups.

Girls on one side.

(Brief pause.)

We gossip.

Glance over at the boys.

(Recalls, dabs on ‘Sift-ing.’.)

Sif-ting.

(Brief pause.)

(Thinks, surmises.)

More like..., ‘cul-ling.’

(Explains.)

We sifted boys throughout the school week.

(Smiles, chuckles, shares.)

That was our homework.

(Smiles, asks audience.)

That’s what school was for, wasn’t it?

(Summarizes.)

It was us girls.

Learning...

(Thinks, realizes, dabs duster on, declares.)

So-cial skills!

(Surmises.)

What they ‘don’t’ teach you in class.

(Brief pause.)

(Thinks, smiles, jabs duster out, exclaims.)

Because they can’t!

(Amused, surmises.)

Guess there was something to what teachers taught, too.

(Brief pause.)

(Thinks, points duster to imagined boys’ side of seating, continues.)

Boys made the first move.

Discussed strategy.

(Crisply.)

Tactics.

(Brief pause.)

(Says.)

Like a team.

(Thinks, concludes.)

Each boy.

On cue.

Mus-ters—

Cou-rage.

We call it.

(Brief pause.)

(Walks briefly toward stage right, stops, faces audience, concludes.)

Walk the plank.

(Brief pause.)

(Realizes, exclaims.)

That's it.

Boys walk the plank.

To a...

Des-ti-na-tion!

(Brief pause.)

(Shares, voice lilts up.)

Us girls?

Actually.

One girl.

The-e- girl.

Waits.

(Commiserates.)

Girls always have to wait, don't they?

(Brief pause.)

(Shares.)

Hope-ful.

(Says quickly.)

Or, dread-ful.

(Brief pause.)  
(Thinks, explains.)

With—that.

(Thinks, describes.)

That would be...  
The poo-dle!

(Excited, shares.)

Yes!  
The poo-dle!

(Exclaims, voice lilt down-up.)

You know?

(Looks out as if looking in mirror, pats, shapes hair.)

The poo-dle!

(Shakes head, 'No,' explains.)

Not a dance.  
No!  
The poodle is a hairstyle.  
T-h-e-e hair style.

(Holds feather duster out from head, feather end away, instructs as if looking in a mirror.)

Perm hair.  
Tight curls.

(Instructs.)

H-o-o-o-l-l-l-d.

(Stops, hand in imagined curls, exclaims.)

Straight up!

(Grabs imagined bobby pins from mouth, inserts same into hair, struggles to talk when bobby pins inserted, clearly when removed).

Insert bobby pin.  
Yes.  
That's it.

(Shares insight.)

Notice the tight curls?

That's important, you know!

(Brief pause.)

Next?

Spray.

(Points bottom of feather duster handle at base, plume extended away, as hair spray cannister.)

(Starts to pretend-spray, stops, removes cannister to side, reprimands.)

No!

(Brief pause.)

First, shake it.

The can!

(Shakes feather duster handle as spray can, tongue-clicks metal ball sound, looks again at spray can, looks above audience at pretend mirror, sprays with handle end of feather duster, making spray sound, moves duster handle around her head, dabs hair with other hand, head angling to receive hair spray.)

S-s-s-s-s-s-s-s-s-s-

(Looks at can, shakes it again with marble ball sound, sprays more on top and around back of head.)

S-s-s-s-s-

(Brief pause.)

(Shakes spray can again, restarts.)

S-s-s-s-s-s-s-s-s-s-

(Lowers feather duster to right side, looks out, dabs her hair with left hand, concludes.)

There.

That's it.

(Offers tip, voice lilts up.)

That curling?

(Lilt up, then down on 'time.')

Takes 'time.'

(Looks out at imagined mirror, hands carefully pat head.)

(Says while adjusting hair at imagined mirror.)

Balanced.

Just so.

(Brief pause.)

(Stops, looks back audience, asks.)

What if?

After all that.

No boys came over?

Not one boy asked you to dance.

Or worse?

(Brief pause.)

(With emphasis.)

The wrong one!

(Brief pause.)

(Shares.)

Keep your back turned?

Pretend surprise?

(Shares a tip.)

Let your friends give you.

(Whispers to audience.)

A sig-nal.

(Whispers to audience.)

He's coming.

(Brief pause.)

(With satisfaction, shares.)

That's what we did.

Smile, hope, or look disappointed when a boy 'walks the plank.'

(Brief pause.)

(Makes key point.)

Depends on.

How kind you are.

Kindness.

No dance?



One dance?

(Brief pause.)  
(Excited, exclaims.)

Or—many!

(Brief pause.)  
(Continues.)

Or,

Just sit with your friends.

On those bleachers.

Hands folded on lap.

Legs crossed, turned sideways.

(Brief pause.)  
(In humor, shares.)

Make comments.

(Laughs briefly, shares.)

Excuses.

(Brief pause.)  
(Advises with finality.)

Know what's coming.

That's the key.

(Brief pause.)  
(Shares in aside.)

Some of us don't like surprises.

(Says with pride.)

Some of us have goals.

(Emphasizes.)

Some of us want some-thing from life.

(Brief pause.)  
(Thinks, changes subject.)

The dance steps?

There was.

(Walks short distance stage right, faces audience, holding feather duster handle end in right hand, dabs feather duster on dance steps.)

(Announce, do not demonstrate dance steps.)

The Lindy Hop.

The Bop.

Stroll.

Pony.

(Brief pause.)

(Excited, recollects.)

The Bunny Hop!

(Drops feather duster to side, then surmises.)

The Twist and Mashed potato?

(Explains.)

They came later.

(Brief pause.)

(Leans forward, sly-smiles, shares.)

Learned those, too.

(Exclaims.)

All of 'em!

(Concludes.)

Everyone knew.

I could dance.

Still can!

(Pause.)

(Looks down, then at audience, shares.)

Then.

There was TOWER.

My sister.

(Frustrated, explains.)

Yes.

TOWER dressed nice for those dances.

Did her homework.

Tried to.

(Recalls.)

Sift.

Cull.

(Brief pause.)

(Duster at side, continues.)

Remember?

I said.

Two groups.

Boys on one side.

Girls on the other.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, back up, shares).

TOWER was—the third group.

(Brief pause.)

(Clarifies.)

A group of one.

(TOWER enters Stage Right, walks slowly, quietly toward, focused on ADIRA, at distance from.)

(ADIRA doesn't notice TOWER.)

(TOWER, curious, listens.)

(ADIRA continues.)

You see.

(ADIRA recounts.)

We grew up—'re-li-gious.

That was Tante's way.'

(Brief pause.)

(Clarifies.)

Tante.

Grandma.

(Brief pause.)

Our home?

(Brief pause.)  
(With mock pride, surmises.)

It was state sponsored.

(Brief pause.)

The projects.

(Brief pause.)  
(Explains.)

Mom died when I was ten

(Brief pause.)

And.

(Hesitates, confesses.)

Something was wrong with dad.

Couldn't function.

Couldn't hold a job.

(Pause.)  
(Continues.)

That was our home.

Tante, dad and us kids.

(Pause.)  
(TOWER nods agreement at ADIRA.)  
(ADIRA thinks for a moment, asks audience.)

Remember the story?

Moses?

Parts the red sea?

(TOWER becomes suspicious.)  
(ADIRA says, voice lilt.)

You know?

(ADIRA clasps duster in right hand at midpoint, plume up, thrusts it out and up as a staff, with other arm extended out to part imagined waters and proclaims.)

Moses str-etched out his hand?

And the waters divided.

(Brief pause.)

(Thinks for a moment, then clarifies.)

Parted.

(Continues oration.)

Allowing his followers safe passage.

(TOWER, dismayed, looks at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA continues.)

The Egyptians followed them.

But God again commanded Moses.

(TOWER looks at ADIRA in disbelief.)

(ADIRA extends duster out at audience, proclaims.)

Stretch. Out. Thy. Hand!

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER, incredulous, looks at audience, then back at sister.)

(ADIRA, looks down, brings duster front of her, asks.)

And the sea?

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA shakes her head no and feather duster at audience, exclaims.)

Engulfed the army!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, anguished, in soft-voice, laments.)

So.

While we did.

(Voice lilts up for each step.)

The Stroll?

(Brief pause.)

Pony?

(Brief pause.)

Bunny Hop?

(Brief pause.)

Lindy hop?

(Brief pause.)

(Says slowly.)

She.

(Brief pause.)  
(Surmises softly.)

My sister.

(Softly, hurt, voice lilting up, shares.)

TOWER.

(Brief pause.)

Makes her entrance.

(TOWER, incensed, glances at audience, walks closer to ADIRA.)  
(ADIRA continues, unaware of TOWER.)  
(TOWER stops at a distance, glares at ADIRA.)  
(ADIRA, arms parting, feather duster up and out, shares.)

Parts.

Parts the sea of dancers.

(Brief pause.)  
(Looks out, asks, rhetorical, lilt of voice.)

Those two groups?

(Lilt up.)

Girls and boys?

(Conclusively.)

Part from TOWER.

(TOWER, open-mouthed, shakes head in disbelief.)  
(ADIRA, frustrated, continues.)

TOWER sat a-lone.

(Brief pause.)  
(TOWER, hurt, looks down.)  
(ADIRA, with lilt.)

Our classmates?

Allowed safe passage.

(TOWER, incensed, looks up, glares at ADIRA.)  
(ADIRA, shakes her head, concludes.)

Wasn't God.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA thinks briefly, confides.)

That swallowed my sister.

No-o-o-o-o-o-o-o.

(Shares.)

A sea swallowed her.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER glares, shakes head slowly at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, frustrated, shares.)

A sea of hurt.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA laments.)

And—

(Brief pause.)

(Says with hurt.)

Swallowed me, too.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER looks at ADIRA, open mouthed, surprised.)

(ADIRA surmises.)

That sea of shame?

Of guilt?

Engulfed me.

(Brief pause)

(TOWER, hurt, looks down.)

(ADIRA, emotional, explains.)

You see.

I'm her older sister.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, thinking, becomes aware of, looks over at TOWER Stage Right, both with sides to audience.)

(They study each other.)

(TOWER walks slowly, deliberately toward ADIRA, closer, yet not next to ADIRA, then stops.)

(TOWER, same voice and manner as ADIRA, yet hurt, accuses.)

TOWER

You should have...

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER struggles to find words, then exclaims at ADIRA.)

Stood up for me!

(ADIRA, diagonal to audience and TOWER, open hands at sides, with hurt, looks at TOWER.)

(TOWER continues.)

Stood by me!

(Voice lilts up.)

At those dances?

(ADIRA, hurt, looks at TOWER, then looks down.)

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER continues.)

During recess.

And lunch!

(ADIRA looks down, shakes head, slightly, slowly.)

(TOWER exclaims.)

At home.

(Pause.)

Wasn't right!

(Exclaims.)

Wasn't fair!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA looks up, turns to audience, surmises.)

ADIRA

I was young.

(Shrugs, admits.)

Couldn't help TOWER.

(Brief pause.)



(ADIRA turns to, says softly to TOWER.)

ADIRA

TOWER.

We had fun?

As kids?

Didn't we?

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA commences childhood story.)

Remember the creek.

(TOWER perks up, nods to ADIRA.)

(ADIRA reminisces to recover TOWER's trust.)

ADIRA

That winter.

(TOWER smiles wanly, nods to ADIRA.)

(ADIRA moves closer to TOWER, with softer tone, continues.)

Remember, TOWER?

(TOWER nods acknowledgement, closed mouthed smiles, listens.)

(ADIRA turns to, tells audience the story.)

Each of us took a jar.

A glass jar.

(TOWER nods agreement while ADIRA shares.)

A mayonnaise jar.

(TOWER smiles more, nods to ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, looks over at TOWER, sees TOWER approve, smiles wanly, looks back to audience, recalls.)

Under the sink.

(Looks at TOWER, says as hope for both sisters.)

Those jars.

Remember TOWER?

(TOWER looks at ADIRA with more hope, nods agreement.)

(ADIRA turns to audience, continues.)

The lids?

In the drawer.

Near the sink.

(ADIRA turns back to TOWER.)

(TOWER projects more hope as the story unfolds.)

(ADIRA says gently.)

Remember?

(ADIRA and TOWER grow more excited together.)

(ADIRA continues, explains to audience.)

Each of us took.

(TOWER steps closer to ADIRA, now projects more hope.)

(ADIRA doesn't notice TOWER's movement, continues.)

Maybe a pickle jar.

(Brief pause.)

(Concludes.)

No—mayonnaise.

(TOWER nods agreement, approval.)

From the cupboard.

Above the sink.

(Brief pause.)

Grabbed the lids.

From that drawer.

The one with rubber bands, tape, scissors.

(With excitement.)

All sorts of stuff!

(Thinks briefly, finds the word, exclaims as if a kid.)

A bram-bull!

That's what it was.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER chuckles briefly.)

(ADIRA continues.)

They were.

(ADIRA shows in both hands, as if holding imaginary glass mayonnaise jar.)

Just the right size.

(ADIRA turns to, says to TOWER, voice lilts voice up.)

You took one.

(Voice downward.)

I took another.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER, hopeful, nods agreement.)

(ADIRA, more excited, says.)

Same size!

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER close-mouth smiles, agrees.)

(TOWER jumps in, hopeful, insecure.)

TOWER

Yes!

(TOWER steps towards ADIRA.)

(ADIRA turns to, looks with hope to TOWER.)

(TOWER, excited, says to ADIRA.)

Put on those rain boots!

Galoshes!

Yours were blue.

Mine red.

(ADIRA closed mouth smiles, nods in agreement.)

(TOWER attempts to joke.)

I liked yours!

Your color.

(ADIRA frustrated, yet not surprised.)

(TOWER notices, attempts to recover.)

Had those.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER, excited, exclaims.)

Matching rain coats!

(ADIRA relieved, again hopeful.)  
(TOWER continues.)

Salvation Army.  
Remember?

(ADIRA, excited, nods to TOWER.)  
(TOWER, excited, anxious, steps toward ADIRA, says.)

That store.

(Brief pause.)

Shopping!  
For school!

(ADIRA jumps in, exclaims to TOWER.)

ADIRA

We loved that place!

(TOWER, excited, steps toward ADIRA, nods agreement.)  
(ADIRA thinks, remembers, shares.)

You were—third grade!  
I was fifth!

(ADIRA concludes.)

That place was fun!

(Pause.)  
(ADIRA thinks, then asks TOWER.)

Was it Goodwill?  
Saint Vincent de Paul?  
I forget.

(ADIRA remembers.)

That's right!

(ADIRA and TOWER laugh together.)  
(TOWER and ADIRA walk closer to each other, now not far apart.)  
(They look at each other with excitement, then simultaneously, both thrust hands closest to audience, index fingers pointing up.)

(TOWER points right index finger up and out to ADIRA.)  
(ADIRA points left hand index finger up and out to TOWER.)  
(With index fingers up, they simultaneously exclaim.)

#### ADIRA AND TOWER

Good Will!!

(Brief pause.)  
(ADIRA and TOWER laugh briefly together.)  
(ADIRA, left index finger again shoots out, upward, exclaims.)

#### ADIRA

Don't forget Woolworth's!

(ADIRA, TOWER leans toward each other, laugh together briefly.)  
(The two now close together, ADIRA proclaims.)

The o-ri-gi-nal!

Second. Street. Woolworth's!

Remember?

(TOWER smiles, nods agreement.)  
(ADIRA lists.)

Allan hot lips.

Fun dips.

Candy cigarettes.

(Rain sound starts quietly on speakers above audience and stage.)

<https://www.pond5.com/sound-effects/item/8875497-rain>

(ADIRA shares with TOWER)

Remember the rain that day?

(ADIRA, TOWER don't notice rain.)  
(ADIRA, excited, exclaims.)

Remember TOWER?

(Brief pause.)  
(TOWER, hopeful, nods agreement.)  
(ADIRA recounts.)

Put those rain outfits on.

Yours red.

Mine blue.

(ADIRA compliments TOWER.)

Red looked fine.

(Hurriedly.)

That was your color!

(TOWER, embarrassed, flattered, looks down, then up at ADIRA.)  
(ADIRA continues.)

Those rain hats?

(Sound of rain on roof, played at louder volume.)

<https://www.pond5.com/sound-effects/item/8875497-rain>

(ADIRA, TOWER don't notice rain.)

(ADIRA, feather duster in right, shakes both hands out toward TOWER, in good humor, exclaims.)

Those matching rain hats.

With ties!

(ADIRA laughs at the childhood memory.)  
(TOWER, relieved, not liberated, laughs to connect with ADIRA.)  
(ADIRA continues.)

Those ties?

Wrap them.

Under our chin.

(ADIRA demonstrates—fastens rain bonnet ties under chin into bow.)  
(Attempts to joke with TOWER.)

(ADIRA next pretends to tie rain bonnet atop TOWER's head as TOWER leans forward to accept assistance.)

Tied yours—for you.

(Brief pause.)  
(TOWER appears hurt.)  
(ADIRA turns to audience, explains.)

ADIRA

Indoors?

Enough of that!

(Rain volume increases, yet not pouring.)

(TOWER tries to sound positive, yet is anxious, says to ADIRA.)

TOWER

My red outfit?

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER continues.)

Liked your blue.

(Surmises.)

Didn't have blue that fit me.

(ADIRA turns to audience, says.)

ADIRA

After all.

ADIRA shoots feather duster in right hand up and out on Goodwill, says, then laughs.)

This was Goodwill!

(Pause.)

(TOWER keeps looking at ADIRA, follows with insecure laughter.)

(ADIRA turns back to TOWER, remarks.)

Red was nice.

(Hopeful.)

Could've been—twins!

(TOWER smiles to self for compliment.)

(Rain from same clip now coming down louder.)

(ADIRA excited, looks up above, exclaims.)

Rain!

(ADIRA, excited, looks back at TOWER, says hurriedly.)

Let's!

(Brief pause.)

(Suggests.)

Just outside.

That swing set.

Just outside.

Remember?

(Announces with rapid instruction to TOWER.)

Let's go!

(Reminds TOWER.)

Your jar, TOWER.

(ADIRA takes jar from imaginary cupboard, hands it to TOWER, opens imagined kitchen drawer, takes lid out.)

(TOWER takes both, jar in right, lid in left, then screws lid on.)

(ADIRA, with left hand, takes own jar from cupboard, holds with left hand, takes jar lid from drawer, puts in right pants pocket.)

(ADIRA exclaims to TOWER.)

Don't drop it.

(Louder.)

Come on!

(ADIRA, holding feather duster at bottom of handle in right hand, invisible jar in left hand, TOWER holding invisible jar in left hand, run together to the front door, Stage Right.)

(New loud rain sound effect:)

<https://www.pond5.com/sound-effects/item/75546103-tropical-rain-storm-rainforest-central-america-hd-24bits96kh>

(ADIRA opens door with right hand, looks out, up BOS at imagined rain, extends feather duster out, brings it back inside, shakes off rain.)

(TOWER just behind, looks outside over ADIRA's left shoulder, then backs up a step, watches ADIRA shake duster out of imagined rain.)

(They look at each other, then laugh together.)

(They bolt together out the door offstage, leaving front door open.)

(Rain sound rises to loud volume level.)

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA reaches in, grabs door handle, shuts door from outside.)



(Stage lighting diminish to darkness.)

(They run BOS to front Right Stage entrance near Proscenium, wait, then bolt onto the stage along the Proscenium to Center Front Stage, laughing, catching their breaths.)

(ADIRA stands just Stage Left of TOWER, near Proscenium edge.)

(Spotlights on ADIRA and TOWER rise.)

(TOWER catches her breath, watches, appreciates ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, excited, catching her breath, turns to, faces, exclaims to audience.)

ADIRA

We e-scaped!  
Fast as we could.  
To the creek!

(TOWER, just left of ADIRA, near Center Stage Proscenium looks at, admires ADIRA, leans forward, laughs.)

(ADIRA, laughs, concludes.)

The rain outfits?  
Kept us wet.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER, turns, looks at audience, tries to laugh, anxious, recalls.)

TOWER

There was.  
A bank.

(TOWER turns to, faces ADIRA.)

(TOWER, anxious, confides.)

It was.

(Brief pause.)

(Anxious, recalls.)

Steep.

(ADIRA faces audience, steps laterally across stage Proscenium toward Stage Right, then faces TOWER to instruct.)

(TOWER, equidistant, backs up a step, watches ADIRA.)

### ADIRA

Turn TOWER.

Don't face down.

Turn.

Like this.

(ADIRA, stage left near Proscenium edge, turns to, faces audience, crouches, with right hand on right knee, feather duster at side, feather plume down).

(ADIRA instructs TOWER.)

Step slowly.

(TOWER turns toward ADIRA, watches while stepping backward toward Stage Right, maintains space between self and ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, across stage right—not upstage, not away from audience—slowly demonstrates, instructs TOWER, calls out each step while laterally stepping across stage right.)

(Speaking to audience, as TOWER watches intently, backs up naturally, not to ADIRA's cadence, maintains spacing.)

(ADIRA takes first lateral step, shoulder width step toward TOWER, on 'Slow,' while instructing her.)

Slow.

Down.

Shoulder wide.

(ADIRA stops, rises up, faces, observes to see whether TOWER catches on to instruction.)

(TOWER turns to, faces audience, to step laterally, stage right.)

(ADIRA, facing TOWER, walks just right of, behind TOWER's left shoulder, observes TOWER's side steps toward Stage Right.)

(TOWER takes first, shoulder width lateral step.)

(ADIRA observes, walks along, next to, just behind TOWER, maintains spacing.)

(ADIRA cautions TOWER.)

Care-ful.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA instructs TOWER for next step.)

(TOWER, facing audience, anxious, takes cautious lateral step, shoulder width with ADIRA's command, 'Shoulder wide:')

Shoulder wide.

(Rain sound clearly coming down.)

(TOWER and ADIRA speak over it.)

(TOWER, afraid to make a mistake, takes third lateral step beyond shoulder width.)

(ADIRA observes, does not step forward.)

(ADIRA, frustrated, quickly interjects next instruction after TOWER's overly long sidestep.)

Not wider.

(Brief pause.)

(Continues.)

Keep your balance.

(TOWER, still facing forward, rises upright, turns her head to ADIRA with look of frustration.)

(ADIRA, attempts patience, gives next instruction.)

Front of you.

(TOWER turns to, looks out above audience.)

(ADIRA barks at TOWER.)

Not out!

(Speaks more softly to not rattle TOWER.)

Don't look out.

(Brief pause.)

(Barks rapidly at TOWER.)

The creek!

The creek!

Not the creek!

(TOWER turns entire body, surprised, hurt, faces stage left, places hands on hips, looks open-mouthed at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA shakes her head 'no,' crisply instructs TOWER.)

Not. Toes. First.

(TOWER glances forward, down at audience.)

(ADIRA, exasperated, rapidly barks at TOWER.)

Don't look down!

Below!

The water!

The water!

Not the water!

(Brief pause.)

(Pouring rain sound loud.)

(TOWER, hurt, turns, looks at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA barks louder at TOWER.)

Ignore the rain!!

(TOWER, frustrated, upset, looks down, then back at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, frustrated, steps, zig zag steps around, cuts in front of TOWER, faces audience, instructs and demonstrates, punching feather duster down each step.)

(TOWER, surprised, jumps back, just Stage Right, behind, and glowers at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA ignores TOWER, takes two shoulder width lateral steps Downstage Right—parallel to Proscenium line, firmly plants front foot, then back in quarter note cadence.)

(ADIRA, pleased with self, feet planted, rotates torso to TOWER, turns back forward, talks down to TOWER, while stepping.)

Front. First.

(TOWER turns to face forward, wants to follow ADIRA's instruction, yet frustrated, stops.)

(ADIRA, frustrated with TOWER, bellows.)

Plant the front!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, in disbelief, shakes head slowly, says rhetorically to self.)

The front.

The front.

Then the back.

(ADIRA, exasperated, moves laterally away from TOWER along front stage edge, Stage Left, stands upright, faces TOWER.)

(TOWER, anxious, fearful looks forward over audience, grimaces, looks down, turns to, faces ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, chagrined, recounts to TOWER.)

Showed you.

How to do it.

Made it all the way down, TOWER.

Just. For You.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA continues, exasperated, flicks feather duster feathers at TOWER on each word.)

Your. Turn.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER, chagrined, still facing audience, tilts head and torso, palms on knees, to ADIRA).

(ADIRA, annoyed, recalls.)

I watched.

Patiently.

(Turns to audience, exclaims rhetorically.)

Aren't I pa-tient?

(TOWER, frustrated, hurt, rises, faces ADIRA and scowls.)

(ADIRA, turns back to TOWER, punctuates with feather duster at TOWER, recalls.)

You practiced.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER listens, glowers.)

(ADIRA exasperated, rapidly peppers TOWER.)

The ledge!

The ledge!

Side-to-side!

Front foot!

Back!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA turns to face audience, takes a few lateral steps toward TOWER, as TOWER, equidistant, exasperated, backs away, stops when ADIRA does.)

(ADIRA turns to face TOWER, speaks softly to TOWER.)

Down.

Side step.

Don't look back.

Where you came from.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, TOWER stand up right, bewildered, look at each other.)

(ADIRA says softly to TOWER.)

Not from where you were.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER, freezes, looks at ADIRA, then down.)

(ADIRA, shrugs, close-mouth smiles at TOWER, shares.)

TOWER, you faced the creek.

(ADIRA turns to, faces stage right, toward TOWER, left side to audience, looks down imagined, steep embankment, toward TOWER's feet, then takes small steps toward TOWER, recalling.)

Looked right at it.

See where you're going.

(ADIRA raises head, looks at TOWER, says.)

Had to see.

(Recalls, exclaims.)

I called out, 'No.'

Then.

(Brief pause.)

(Recalls.)

Tumbled.

Rolled.

Down.

The whole way.

Drenched.

Caked in mud.

(Brief pause.)

(Rain at less volume.)

(TOWER, hurt, ashamed, looks at ADIRA, then down.)

(ADIRA laughs briefly, exclaims to TOWER.)

TOWER!

Your jar.

Your jar.

You held on!

By the lid.

(TOWER, looks up, smiles awkwardly.)

(ADIRA continues, ironic, voice lilts up, says.)

The glass?

(ADIRA, chagrined, quickly summarizes.)

Landed.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA recalls, voice lilts up.)

The jar?

Hit this river rock.

Triangular.

A wedge.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, extends out hands and feather duster, bellows.)

T-S-S-H-H-H-H!

(TOWER, exasperated, shakes head back and forth hearing this.)

(ADIRA laughs, spreads arms wide, shakes extended feather duster out from right hand on each word through 'Every-where,' and proclaims.

Shards!

Shards!

Every-where.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, amused, nonchalant concludes.)

Held on the lid.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA laughs.)

(TOWER looks down, grimaces, glowers.)

(ADIRA gently asks.)

Remember?

(TOWER, angry, stands upright, looks at, leans forward, points at, exclaims at ADIRA.)

TOWER

Shouldn't have gone!

(TOWER, anxious, defensive recounts.)

Watched.

Practiced.

Did the steps.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER looks down, grimaces, swallows, laments.)



But...I.

(Shakes her head, looking forward at nothing, mouth open, ready to say 'no.')

ADIRA laughs to dismiss memory.

(TOWER, with hurt, says to herself.)

Could-n't.

(TOWER, hurt, shakes head, says aloud to self.)

Just.

Can't.

(ADIRA looks at and, as if calling up to TOWER, exclaims.)

ADIRA

But you did, TOWER!

Made it down!

(Rain overhead dissipates to quiet level by 'The glass jar of hope. '), as indicated in dialogue instruction below.)

(TOWER looks up at ADIRA, listens.)

(ADIRA, laughs, steps toward, points feather duster at TOWER exclaims.)

Found the answer!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA joyous, exclaims.)

Shared mine.

The second jar!

(Brief pause.)

(Announces.)

ADIRA'S jar.

The glass jar of hope!

(Rain with creek running water sound commences, quiet, yet distinct.)

<https://www.pond5.com/sound-effects/item/238013517-gentle-forest-creek-rain-flowing-water-bubbling-stream-1>

(TOWER, hurt, surmises.)

TOWER

Couldn't do things.

Like you, ADIRA.

(ADIRA responds to redirect the conversation to the story.)

ADIRA

Bent down.

(Creek with rain sound rises again gradually through 'Made it, TOWER' as indicated in dialogue instruction below.)

Together.

Side-by-side.

Edge of the creek.

Remember, TOWER?

The cold?

Rain.

(Brief pause.)

The current?

(ADIRA turns to audience, looks out, notices sound.)

(TOWER looks toward ADIRA, captivated.)

(ADIRA says with excitement.)

Ran.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA surprised at, exclaims.)

So fast!

(ADIRA describes, hands and feather duster show.)

Leaves, sticks.

Turning, rolling.

(ADIRA, with shared sense of pride in accomplishment, turns back, says to TOWER.)

Made it, TOWER!

The creek!

Made it!

(TOWER looks on, more hopeful, grateful, nods agreement.)

(ADIRA turns to audience, explains).

Stepped in.

(Brief pause.)

Our galoshes.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA turns her back to TOWER, faces, then walks with large steps, parallel to Proscenium Edge to Downstage Center, as if wading through creek water, exclaims.)

Ka-poosh!

Ka-poosh!

Ka-poosh!

(TOWER, smiles, walks three steps toward ADIRA, Stage Center.)

(ADIRA turns, looks at audience, lilt in voice, shares.)

The final jar?

(ADIRA demonstrates, holds out imaginary mayonnaise jar with left hand, unscrews lid with right hand, feather duster out, and recalls.)

Removed the lid.

Put it.

In my coat.

(Pretends to unscrew, put invisible jar lid into invisible coat pocket.)

(ADIRA, turns, looks at TOWER.)

Gave it you, TOWER.

(TOWER interested, looks on.)

(ADIRA, with left hand, extends out imaginary jar between herself and TOWER, announces.)

Fellow dreamers.

I hereby present.

(Brief pause.)

TOWER's jar-r-r of se-crets!

(ADIRA, extends out pretend, prized mayonnaise jar front of her eyes, turns toward, holds it up higher to share.)

(Still holding it up, turns back to, faces TOWER.)

(As if offering priceless artifact, extends imaginary jar to TOWER.)

(TOWER, uncertain, fascinated, looks up at imaginary jar.)

(TOWER steps forward, both hands around, carefully accepts it.)

(TOWER waits for ADIRA's next instruction.)

(ADIRA slowly instructs TOWER.)

Place it down, TOWER.

Care-ful.

Down.

(Rain and creek sound stand out now.)

(ADIRA and TOWER speak over both.)

(ADIRA methodically instructs TOWER through 'Leaves too' in text instruction below.)

(TOWER follows, acts out instructions.)

The water.

(Brief pause.)

Tilt it.

(Brief pause.)

Flat.

(Brief pause.)

Mouth up.

(TOWER, holding imaginary jar, bends down, places it in the pretend creek, as if facing mouth of jar away the audience.)

(ADIRA, bends knees, peers down at TOWER holding jar, shakes head, 'No,' corrects TOWER.)

Not down.

(TOWER struggles to follow ADIRA's instructions and corrections through 'Leaves too.' in text instruction below).

Up.

Up stream.

The mouth.

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER turns around, faces imagined jar-into-river.)

Other way.

Part.

Part the river.

(Brief pause.)

Get the dirt.

(Brief pause.)

Leaves too.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA continues instruction, while watching TOWER's efforts.)

Fill it, TOWER.

To the brim.

(TOWER bends down with imaginary jar, scoops up imaginary water.)

(TOWER holds it up with two hands in front of ADIRA, and ADIRA leans forward, examines it.)

(ADIRA looks into it and exclaims to TOWER in quiet, slow-paced sarcastic voice, feigns excitement and awe.)

Yes-s-s, TOWER!

That's it.

(Carefully reviews imagined jar as a revelation, says slowly.)

G-o-o-o-d.

Many secrets.

(Brief pause.)  
(Says, voice lilts up.)

From many secrets?

Comes one.

(Pause.)

(ADIRA and TOWER get close to, on either side of imaginary jar.)  
(They face each other, at slight diagonal toward audience, ADIRA stage left of, faces TOWER, stage right.)

(They interlock hands, four-hand grasp imagined glass jar.)

(ADIRA holds feather duster handle in right hand, thumb against index finger, palm facing inward, feathers toward floor.)

(ADIRA and TOWER simultaneously lean back away from each other, letting interlocked hands provide balance, support.)

(They next simultaneously lean forward, peer into the imaginary jar at its contents, essentially peer deeply into each other's eyes through the imaginary jar.)

(TOWER, her hands woven into ADIRA's, looks into jar with fascination; suddenly, in shock, jolts her head back, turns away from imaginary jar, cringes at audience.)

(ADIRA, sees TOWER's reaction, straightens up, while continuing to hold TOWER's hands and imaginary jar.)

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA matter-of-fact, mildly frustrated says to TOWER.)

That's a tadpole, TOWER.

(ADIRA, amused, mundane tone, asks, voice lilting up.)

Ever seen one?

(TOWER, open-mouthed, cautiously returns her head and eyes as before and, in disbelief, peers into the imaginary jar, then shakes her head slowly back and forth to indicate 'no,' she's not seen one).

(ADIRA diplomatically explains.)

Hopes to become a frog.

(Brief pause)

(TOWER still holding jar and ADIRA's hands, looks above held imaginary jar, at ADIRA to listen and learn more.)

(ADIRA, drops her hands, lets TOWER hold jar, says.)

Some day.

(ADIRA laughs at TOWER's disgust, explains, voice lilts up.)

That tadpole?

Has goals.

(ADIRA exclaims, her voice lilts upward.)

Ambition?

Hard work?

(Brief pause.)

Becomes a frog!

(ADIRA laughs.)

(TOWER, concerned, then intrigued, peers again into imaginary jar.)

(ADIRA, in humor, elaborates.)

That is.

(Brief pause.)

(Laughs briefly, continues.)

Its lifelong ambition.

(Exclaims quickly.)

A calling!

(Brief pause.)

(Continues, explains.)

The tadpole.

(Pause.)

Cant't know.

(ADIRA surmises.)

Where ambition will take it.

What fortune holds.

(ADIRA laughs joyously.)

(TOWER, sensing ADIRA's tease, becomes vexed.)

TOWER looks up above from the imagined jar, glowers at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, with left hand, takes out imaginary jar lid from pants pocket, pocket closest to audience.)

(TOWER, still holding jar, looks down at, watches ADIRA's hand.)

(ADIRA tells TOWER.)

The lid, TOWER.

To your secret jar.

The lid.

Take it.

(Sound of rain grows to pouring.)

(ADIRA hands imaginary lid to TOWER, who, holding jar in left hand, carefully receives jar lid with right hand.)

(ADIRA slowly drops hands to side, feather duster in right hand facing down.)

(ADIRA stands to upright, feather duster at side, faces TOWER holding jar, observes TOWER, more so than jar between them.)

(Formally, methodically, instructs TOWER.)

Screw it, TOWER.

The lid.

So it can't escape.

(TOWER, concerned, carefully screws pretend lid onto pretend jar.)

(Pause.)

(TOWER says to next ask.)

TOWER

The tadpole, ADIRA.

(TOWER innocently asks ADIRA.)

What's it thinking?



(ADIRA chuckles, leans forward, pretends to speak as the tadpole into the imaginary glass jar, in mocking voice teases TOWER.)

ADIRA

Not moving.

Not going anywhere.

(Brief pause.)

(As if alarmed, asks through 'Is that you TOWER?' below.)

What happened?

(Brief pause.)

Where am I?

(Brief pause.)

(Surprised, voice lilts up, asks.)

Is that you, TOWER?!

(TOWER, unnerved by ADIRA's story, keeps hold of jar, with right hand brings it down slowly, stands upright.)

(TOWER shakes head back and forth slowly, scowls at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, upright, returns to own voice, surmises to TOWER.)

Did just that.

Just know it.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, with left hand, hand closest to audience, points at jar, says.)

Has dirt, leaves and silty water.

(ADIRA surmises.)

A residence.

(Exclaims joyously.)

A home!

(Rain pouring down loudly.)

(ADIRA laughs, then pivots a quarter turn to adjacently face audience and TOWER.)

(TOWER stands upright, holds up pretend jar with right hand, looks at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA, holding feather duster with right hand at its base, feather end facing down next to her right leg, exclaims.)

We're soaked!

(Brief pause.)

(Surmises.)

Getting dark.

(TOWER, holding jar up, displeased, looks at ADIRA.)

(ADIRA turns to face TOWER, says.)

Let's get back.

Up the bank.

Now!

(ADIRA instructs TOWER as over din of rain.)

Hold the jar.

Hold it up, TOWER.

Uphill hand.

(TOWER, earnest, passes jar from own right to left, hand farthest from audience, extends jar out, just above her head.)

(Spotlights continue focus on ADIRA and TOWER, as they move Upstage Center, away from audience.)

(ADIRA motions with feather duster for TOWER to put right hand to link own two hands around, hold up jar on her own, encourages.)

You can do it, TOWER.

Give that tadpole.

A new home.

(TOWER, excited, holds up imaginary jar.)

(ADIRA, holding feather duster in right hand facing down, watches.)

(TOWER and ADIRA, facing each other, sides to audience, step carefully, equidistantly shoulder to shoulder width in tandem toward Center Back stage.)

(TOWER reaches out with right to hold ADIRA's hand while holding imaginary sealed jar out and just above eyes while taking steps.)

(ADIRA reaches out own left hand and holds TOWER's right; they simultaneously turn to, look carefully at jar.)

(TOWER concerned, anxious, glances at ADIRA, then looks back at imaginary jar.)

(ADIRA softly, intently instructs TOWER for steps up embankment.)

That's it.

Jar up.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA encourages TOWER.)

You got it.

(Pause.)

(TOWER, fearful, nods back.)

(They move in small, tandem steps, together, toward couch in darkness backstage, while ADIRA says.)

Side by side.

With me.

Small steps.

(Brief pauses between each step, instructs.)

Top foot first.

That's it.

Back foot up.

Shoulder wide.

Jar up.

Don't.

(Pause.)

(TOWER, fearful, looks back to audience, as if a running creek.)

(ADIRA simultaneously looks same direction, to audience, exclaims.)

TOWER!

(Commands.)

Don't.

Look.

Back.

(Brief pause.)

(Instructs in cadence.)

Dig.

Front foot.

Then, back.

Shoulder wide.

Again.

(ADIRA stops, stands upright, prompting TOWER to do likewise.)

(TOWER, anxious, glances at ADIRA, then watches jar.)

(ADIRA exhorts.)

Stay with me.

(TOWER scowls at ADIRA.)

(They stand straight up, continue looking at each other.)

(ADIRA says to TOWER.)

The ledge.

(The two stop and stand near the hidden couch Upstage Center.)

(ADIRA narrates.)

Almost there.

(Pause.)

(TOWER glances Upstage CENTER to Proscenium ledge.)

(ADIRA, aghast, exclaims.)

No-o-o-o-!!!

(TOWER jumps back, flings both arms up, as if dropping jar.)

(They both look down Center Stage to Proscenium, as if the invisible jar tumbles down the slope of the bank.)

(Pause and silence.)

(ADIRA and TOWER, open mouthed, wide-eyed, turn to, look at each other.).

(ADIRA, exasperated, exclaims.)

I tried.

(TOWER, flustered, grimaces, looks down.)

(ADIRA recounts to TOWER.)

Pull you up.

Grabbed your other hand.

Told myself.

Don't let TOWER fall.

Don't let my sister fall—again.

(TOWER, hurt, looks down, back up at ADIRA, down again.)

(ADIRA shrugs, shakes her head, exhales, summarizes.)

The jar?

Flew right out.

All the way.

Down the creek.

(They both look down and out over front of audience, as if watching glass jar with lid float off.)

(ADIRA briefly laughs, turns back to, looks at TOWER, surmises.)

That tadpole?

Probably—

Looking.

Out the jar.

Confused.

Trapped.

Lost.

(TOWER, frustrated, upset, looks down.)

(ADIRA sees this, changes subject to encourage, exclaims.)

Made it, TOWER!

To the ledge!

(Brief pause)

(Exclaims, voice lilts up.)

Rain?

Mud?

TOWER, you did it!

(TOWER clenches fists, then places hands on own hips, leans forward, cross.)

(ADIRA, surprised, looks at TOWER, then resigned, looks down.)

(Rain sound to moderate level.)

(TOWER, emotional, exclaims at ADIRA.)

TOWER

We shouldn't have!

(Pause.)

(TOWER, more emphatic.)

You shouldn't have!!

(ADIRA, exasperated, slowly looks up at TOWER.)

(TOWER waits, watches ADIRA for a response, receives none.)

(Brief pause.)

(TOWER yells at ADIRA.)

Look what happened!!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, resigned, looks down, listens.)

(TOWER, excited, exclaims, voice lilts up.)

The tadpole?!

(TOWER jabs right index finger at ADIRA, accuses.)

Had am-bi-tion!

Goals!

Worked hard!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA turns toward audience, close mouth smile, looks at, then down, shakes head slowly back and forth.)

(TOWER briefly glowers at sister, turns around, walks off front of stage, Stage Right, near Proscenium, exits to BOS right.)

(ADIRA, facing to audience, slowly looks up at audience, close-mouth smiles.)

(Pause.)

(TOWER yells from BOS, Stage Right.)

TOWER

My own sister!!!

(Brief pause.)

That poor tad-pole!!!

(ADIRA, facing audience, looks down, covers mouth with right hand, feather duster extended out, starts snickering, shaking head, raises to upright, turns to Stage Left, holding feather duster with right hand at bottom of handle extended out toward audience, walks with hand covering mouth, trying to contain laughter, walks along Proscenium edge off Stage Left, exits BOS left.)

(Pause.)

(TOWER suddenly yells out slowly from BOS right.)

That creek!!

Shouldn't have gone, A-DI-RA!!

Shouldn't have gone!!

All your fault!!

ADIRA, from BOS left near Proscenium edge, bursts out with two extended joyous, peals of laughter.)

(Silence.)

(Stage lighting gradually fades out to darkness.)

(Rain sound heard one minute in darkness, then fades out.)

(Intermission.)

(Lights up.)

(Play music interlude. 0:01 - 2:11)

<https://www.pond5.com/royalty-free-music/item/37496470-django-be-groovy-jazz>

(Repeat interlude if necessary. If repeated, splice to repeat at 0:01.)

(For Act Two: Feather duster no longer on stage. Couch with chair just left of, moved to center of Stage Center.)

## Act Two

### Scene 1

(ADIRA, wearing 1960s, modest, chocolate brown pants, matching color sweater with mock-neck top and dark brown color women's flats, walks, head facing down, out from BOS entrance at intersection of Upstage Center and Upstage Left. to Down Stage Center, near Proscenium line, stops, looks up at audience.)

(ADIRA, exhales, surveys audience, says.)

### ADIRA

You may know my sister.

(Brief pause.)

(Exhales, grimaces, looks down, back at audience, states.)

TOWER.

(Brief pause.)

(Continues.)

We were close.

(Brief pause.)

(Pained, looks out, above, then back at audience, shares).

You know.

(Recollects fondly.)

We'd go to the stores.



Goodwill, St. Anthony's.

(Close-mouth smiles, looks down, back at audience, continues.)

Didn't have much.

(Surmises.)

But it didn't matter.

(Brief pause.)

(Remembers, excited, recalls.)

We loved Woolworth's!

Woolworth's Five and Dime.

(Chuckles, fondly reminisces.)

We'd buy Allan hot lips, fun dips, candy cigarettes.

You know.

(Brief pause.)

We'd have fun.

(Pause.)

(Looks down, looks back up at audience, shares.)

Rained a lot.

(Brief pause.)

(Reflects, voice lilts up.)

TOWER and I?

(Shares.)

Wore those galoshes.

(Quickly adds.)

With matching rain coats.

(Pretends to put on rain hat and hat tie string while describing.)

And those rain hats.

(Brief pause.)

(Says—Sou'westers pronounced sow-westers).

Sou'westers.

That's what they're called.

We'd fold them up.  
Fronts and backs.  
  
Then.  
Run out!  
  
One Sunday.  
It was raining.  
  
Pouring!  
  
TOWER and I?  
Had to get out.  
  
We ran!  
Down to this creek.  
  
You see.  
  
TOWER?  
Had no friends.  
  
She was.  
Awkward.

(Brief pause.)  
(Laughs briefly, recounts.)  
  
(Exclaims.)  
  
(Pause.)  
(Looks down briefly, back up at audience, continues story.)  
  
(Throws right hand out, exclaims.)  
  
(Brief pause.)  
(Concludes.)  
  
(Brief pause.)  
(Excited, recounts.)  
  
(Brief pause.)  
(Serious, looks down, back at audience, explains.)  
  
(Surmises, voice lilts up.)  
  
(Brief pause.)  
(Confesses.)  
  
(Brief pause.)  
(Emotional, defensive, exclaims.)

This-was- a-friend!

(Exclaims.)

TOWER's first friend!

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, then up at audience, pleads.)

How could an older sister not encourage that?

(Brief pause.)

(Continues, voice lilts up.)

This friend?

(Brief pause.)

(Says.)

Met us.

At the creek.

(Brief pause.)

(Shares.)

It was pouring.

(Quickly concludes.)

Really coming down!

(Brief pause.)

(Continues, voice lilts up.)

The creek?

(Looks away over audience, shakes her head, back at audience, says.)

Wasn't a creek.

(In disbelief, looks out above then back audience, exclaims.)

It roared!

(Brief pause.)

(Walks a few steps Stage Right along Proscenium edge, looks down, then back at audience, says.)

This friend?

Was down there.

The bottom.

The edge.

(Shakes her head no, says softly.)

Not a creek.

(Brief pause.)

(Exhales, looks down, then out above audience, concludes.)

A flood.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks at audience, says softly, voice lilts up.)

TOWER. Please.

(Brief pause.)

(Disbelieving, looks down, then up, says softly.)

It was steep.

The embankment.

(Describes quickly.)

Everywhere.

Mud.

Water.

Sliding.

Down!

(Brief pause.)

(Says, voice lilts up.)

TOWER?

(Brief pause.)

When she saw this friend?

(States firmly.)

Waved.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, then at audience, shakes head in disbelief, shares.)

I watched.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, then at audience, in disbelief, exclaims.)

Couldn't believe.

(Brief pause.)  
(Looks out in disbelief, surmises.)

Determined.

(Hurt, says.)

My TOWER.

(Looks out, as if calling to TOWER, exclaims.)

Wait!

(Brief pause.)  
(Says softly.)

Don't.

(Looks down, shakes head back and forth once, says softly.)

Not this time.

(Brief pause.)  
(Looks back at audience, resigned, shares.)

TOWER.

(Brief pause.)  
(Confides.)

Never seen her like that.

(Explains.)

Reach out, I thought.

Stop her.

(Brief pause.)

Started.

(Pause.)  
(Confides, voice lilts up.)

TOWER?

(Describes.)

Lacked sense.

(Brief pause.)

Went off.

(Looks down, then out, softly. distantly says.)

Tangents.

One thing to the next.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks out, shakes head, emphatic, exclaims.)

Any-thing!

(Brief pause.)

(Looks out, says softly.)

A friend.

(Speaks softly above audience to TOWER, voice lilts up.)

TOWER?

(Calls out to TOWER.)

Please!

(Brief pause.)

(Looks at audience, says.)

Reach out.

(Extends right hand out, explains.)

I thought.

Grab her elbow.

(Brief pause.)

(Continues.)

TOWER stepped.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, resigned, as if watching TOWER go down the bank.)

Down.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks up at audience, fans arm across her body, exclaims.)

Water, mud, pouring!

(Throws right hand out, says.)

Over her galoshes.

(Emotional, defensive, pleads).

Couldn't stop her!

(Pleads.)

Ignored me.

(Describes.)

These small steps.

(Looks down in front of her, turns to, takes small steps at diagonal, away from audience, toward Center Front stage just Stage Right of, next to couch, stops, turns, looks at audience., then down.)

(Brief pause.)

(Says softly.)

Not like that, TOWER.

(Looks up at audience, shakes her head back and forth says quietly.)

(Says softly.)

The moment.

Not the future.

Not your past.

(Brief pause.)

(Rueful, confides.)

TOWER wouldn't.

(Brief pause.)

(Shrugs, shares.)

Reflect.

Consider.

(Brief pause.)

(Recalls to self.)

Could-n't.

(Pause.)

(Turns to audience, in disbelief, asks, voice lilts up.)

This friend?

(Brief pause.)

(Disbelieving, describes.)

Called.

Waved.

(Quickly, derisively, waves right hand out.)

Like this.

(Brief pause.)

(Bitter, disbelieving, voice lilts up.)

TOWER's friend?

(Shrugs, shakes head in disbelief, with finality, says.)

Laughing.

(Waves to show imagined friend calling TOWER, calls out.)

Come on!

Come on!

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA looks out away from audience.)

(Looks back at audience, emotional, defensive, pleads.)

Had to make a choice!

(Brief pause.)

(Says crisply, firmly.)

Follow.

Grab her arm.

Pull her up.

Or.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks out above dining room table, says softly.)

(Looks down, then back at audience, admits.)

That's what I.

(Brief pause.)

(Says softly.)

Wouldn't listen.

(Wistful, says.)

Wouldn't hear.

(Brief pause.)



(Looks up at audience, exclaims.)

Happened!

(Brief pause.)  
(Intent, says voice lilts up.)

TOWER?  
Fell.

(Throws right arm out in dismay, says.)

Collapsed.

(Brief pause.)  
(Extends right hand out toward audience and exclaims.)

It roared!

(ADIRA rapidly describes.)

Down.  
Down.

(ADIRA turns to, points forward, as if to ‘the friend,’ asks, with disdain, voice lilts up.)

This friend?

(Brief pause.)  
(ADIRA, looking at audience, in contempt, exclaims.)

Side-stepped.

(States conclusively.)

Out of TOWER’s way.

(Disdainful, shares aside.)

Not get.  
Pulled in.

(Looks out, softly laments.)

Too busy.

(Brief pause.)  
(Shaking head slowly, incredulous, observes.)

Laughing.

(Brief pause.)  
(Asks.)

TOWER?

(Brief pause.)

(Says.)

Terrified.

(Brief pause.)

(Shrugs, looks above audience, flings right hand and arm out, says.)

Screams.

(Brief pause.)

(Says.)

Flails.

(Resigned, recollects.)

Into the.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, then up at audience, confides.)

TOWER couldn't swim.

(Brief pause.)

(Shares.)

We weren't taught.

(Brief pause.)

(Explains.)

We didn't have the money.

And the Y?

When we were kids.

The YMCA?

Didn't offer lessons.

To girls.

(Brief pause.)

(Angry with self, exclaims.)

Should have followed!

Grab her.

(Brief pause.)

Yelled.

(Frustrated, wistful, says.)

Help her.

My sister.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks back at audience, bitter, says.)

That friend?

Looked up at me.

Back at TOWER.

Watched.

Did nothing.

(Brief pause.)

(Says softly, voice lilts up.)

TOWER?

(Brief pause.)

(Resigned, throws open right hand out once, quickly, says.)

Twisted.

Rolled.

Over and over.

Crying out.

(Pause.)

(Determined, says.)

Took off.

Along the ledge.

Find.

Help my sister.

(Brief pause.)

(Asks.)

TOWER?

(Says quietly.)

Silence.

(Brief pause.)

Just rain.

(Brief pause.)

Pouring.

(Brief pause.)

Creek—

(ADIRA corrects herself, says.)

Ri-ver.

Roars!

(Pause.)

(ADIRA, hopeful, says.)

Spotted her.

(Pause.)

(Thinks for a moment, describes.)

There was a...

(Brief pause.)

They call it.

(ADIRA struggles with word, explains.)

‘Bi-fur-ca-tion.’

(ADIRA articulates with hands while explaining).

A river runs.

Down.

Then.

(ADIRA now excited, hopeful, continues.)

It bi-fur-cates.

In two.

Parts!

(Brief pause.)

(Finds, then sounds out word.)

Dis-tri-bu-taries.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks out, then back at audience, exclaims as revelation.)

That’s it!

Distributaries!

(Explains, shows with hands.)

A triangle.

(Short 'i' on dimensions.)

Three di-men-sional.

(Brief pause.)

(Continues, thinks aloud, describes.)

Tall.

Cement.

(Remembers, clarifies and shows with hands.)

A wedge.

Yes.

That's it!

(Extends hands out to show two sides of three-dimensional wedge triangle expanding outward, to audience, describes and illustrates, voice lilts up.)

This wedge?

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, hands by sides, continues, explains.)

The tip.

(States crisply.)

Parts.

(Brief pause.)

(Continues.)

The river.

(Relishes, shares.)

(Brief pause.)

(Recounts.)

Caught her.

(Excited, places hands together as in V-shape triangle, point of wedge toward audience and explains.)

Point of the wedge?

(Exclaims, voice lilts up.)

This wedge?

(Brief pause.)

(Excited, hopeful, exclaims.)

Held!

(Looks out just in front of herself, hands open, palms facing each other, shows triangle path directly out from mid-chest level from narrow to wide, describes and shows with pauses and growing excitement.)

Legs, feet one way.

Arms, torso.

The other.

(Brief pause.)

(With hope, exclaims.)

She held.

Where it parts.

TOWER.

(Brief pause.)

(Struggles with word, explains, voice lilting up.)

This dis-tri-bu-tary?

Had a bridge.

(Clarifies.)

An overpass.

(Confirms.)

They all do.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA, excited, exclaims.)

A path!

(Excited, hopeful, retells.)

Ran down.

This path.

Over the bridge.

Other side.

(Brief pause.)  
(Asks, voice lilts up.)

Where the water breaks?

(Brief pause.)  
(Clarifies.)

There's this slope.

A bank.

Diverts.

Parts.

Away from the river.

(Brief pause.)  
(Finds word, says.)

Stills.

(Brief pause.)  
(Realizes.)

A cove.

(Brief pause.)

Waded.

(Brief pause.)  
(Quickly runs right hand across the front of her stomach to show, dismayed, says.)

Above my waist.

(Brief pause.)  
(Continues to retell.)

Forty feet or so out.

Then.

Grabbed TOWER's arms.

Pulled her.

Back.

Onto the bank.

(Says, voice lilts up.)

TOWER?

(Brief pause.)  
(Dismayed, recollects.)

Gasps.  
Cries.

(Concludes.)

Hysterical.

(Brief pause.)  
(Recounts.)

Bent down.  
Helped her.

(Brief pause.)  
(Says.)

Up.

(As if talking next and down to TOWER, exclaims.)

Sit up!

(Looks down at couch.)  
(Hits couch arm twice loudly with flat of her palm.)

Like this.  
Her back.

(Looks at audience, exclaims.)

Stand up!

(Yells at audience).

Stand up, TOWER!!

(Pause.)  
(ADIRA looks down, thinks, turns to audience, recalls.)

Walked.  
Together.

(Describes.)

Arm.



Round her waist.

(Brief pause.)

(Exclaims.)

Held her up.

(Hurt, says softly, voice lilts up.)

TOWER?

Crying.

(Brief pause.)

(Says, voice lilts up.)

Rain?

(Concludes.)

Pouring.

(Brief pause.)

(Recalls, says softly as if speaking into TOWER's ear.)

Let's go, TOWER.

The path.

Back.

(Brief pause.)

(As if looking next to, consoles TOWER.)

It's alright.

Going back.

(Brief pause.)

Home.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks at audience, recounts.)

Reached the ledge.

(Brief pause.)

(Clarifies.)

Where TOWER fell.

(Brief pause.)

Looked down.

(Pause.)

(Angry, exclaims.)

Where is she?!

(Brief pause.)

(Sarcastic, rhetorical, asks, voice lilts up.)

This friend?

(Turns back to audience, angry, dismayed, exclaims.)

TOWER's friend!

(Brief pause.)

(Bitter, recounts.)

Gone.

(Brief pause.)

(Exclaims.)

Vanished!

(Pause.)

(Shakes head in disbelief, then asks audience.)

Want to know?

Who it was?

(Pause.)

(Looks down, then up at audience, and surmises.)

No.

Not a friend.

(Pause.)

(Reflective, says softly.)

TOWER was.

(Brief pause.)

(Rueful, shrugs, says.)

You see.

TOWER never had any friends.

(Brief pause.)

Because her friends. (Shrugs, looks down, then up at audience, explains.)

(Brief pause.)  
(Tries to rein in emotion.)

Had to be. (Brief pause.)

Her parents. (Brief pause.)

The mom and dad. (Brief pause.)

She never had. (Pause.)  
(ADIRA looks down, away, then turns to audience, recalls.)

When I was young?  
Things weren't.  
Discussed. (Looks down, then over audience, throws right hand out, dismissive, concludes.)

Secrets. (Pause.)  
(Walks forward to Proscenium edge.)  
(Looks out, above audience, says.)

Took her back.  
To our place.  
Got her.  
Cleaned up.  
Calm. (Pause.)  
(Looks down, turns back to audience, explains.)

Things are changing. (Believing, says.)

There's hope.

(Brief pause.)  
(Looks out, laments.)

Not when I.

(Brief pause.)  
(Asserts.)

Denial.

(Pause.)  
(Looks down, then back at audience, pleads).

She.

(Brief pause.)  
(Says, voice lilting up.)

After the river?

TOWER—finished high school.

(Brief pause.)  
(Shrugs, laments.)

Couldn't.

(Looks down, exhales, looks back up, says.)

Always down.

(Pleads.)

Couldn't help her.

(Brief pause.)  
(Exhales deeply, admits.)

Couldn't function.

(Brief pause.)  
(Says resignedly.)

A facility.

(Clarifies.)

A home.

(Brief pause.)  
(Recalls, voice lilts up.)

There are.

(Brief pause.)

Counselors, therapists.

Programs.

For people.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks out, says.)

Challenges.

(Brief pause.)

(Still looking out, shrugs, says.)

I don't know.

TOWER needed.

(Pause.)

(Grimaces, looks down, then up at, says quietly to audience.)

One time.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, looks at audience, retells.)

Visited my sister.

(Pause.)

(Recounts.)

It's a drive.

Outskirts of a town.

Off a dirt road.

A turn-off.

Leads to.

This grove.

(Brief pause.)

(Describes.)

There's this old building.

Wooden windows.

(Shrugs, recalls.)

You know.

Ivy covered brick.

(Brief pause.)

(Shares.)

Same as other residents.

(Shares, voice lilts up.)

Her room?

(Concludes.)

Was her home.

(Brief pause.)

(ADIRA looks down, then out above audience, continues.)

Rains a lot.

(Brief pause.)

Outside?

There's this grass area.

Benches, flowers, shrubs.

You know.

For residents, visitors.

(Brief pause.)

(Continues.)

It was fall.

A Sunday.

Visited my sister.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, then at audience, shares hope.)

Surprised her!

(Enjoying the memory, continues.)

My sister exclaimed.

A visitor!

(Brief pause.)  
(Says, voice lilts up.)

In her room?

Talked.

For hours.

(Pause.)  
(Continues, recounts.)

It was dusk.

Had to go.

Leave.

(Brief pause.)  
(Shares, voice lilts up.)

TOWER and I?

Walked.

(Brief pause.)  
(Voice lilts up, says.)

Just past the lawn?

There's a slope.

To this creek.

(Brief pause.)  
(Reflects.)

You can hear it.

Water runs—quick.

(Brief pause.)  
(Continues, describes.)

TOWER and I?

Walked.

Down.

To the edge.

(Brief pause.)  
(Recalls.)

There's this spot.

The water stills.

(Looks out, shakes head no, briefly, recounts.)

No current.

(Brief pause.)  
(Reflects, describes.)

Separates.

By.

This river rock.

(Brief pause.)  
(Looks down, then up at audience, says.)

A wedge.

Parts.

(Brief pause.)  
(Explains.)

The creek continues.

But there's.

A cove.

(Pause.)  
(Continues, recounts.)

Took off our shoes.

We thought.

What fun.

Barefoot.



In this pool.

(Pause.)  
(Continues, voice lifts up.)

TOWER and I?

(Concludes softly.)

Look down.

(Clarifies.)

At our feet.

(Brief pause.)  
(Continues.)

There's this tadpole.

Just one.

Swimming.

(Makes quick hand gesture to indicate and says.)

Around.

Back and forth.

(Brief pause.)  
(Voice lifts up, shares.)

TOWER and I?

Look at each other.

Move closer.

Face each other.

Lean over, together.

Close.

To see.

(Brief pause.)  
(Continues.)

Look down.

(Brief pause.)

(Surmises.)

Senses something.

Maybe our shadow?

(Brief pause.)

That's it.

The darkness.

(Brief pause.)

Hides.

Tries to.

In the silt.

Under that rock.

(Brief pause.)

(Recounts.)

Getting dark.

(Says, voice lilts up.)

Near the creek?

There's this.

(Brief pause.)

(Surprised, says.)

Bram-ble.

(Clarifies.)

Ivy.

(Says, voice lilts up.)

Vines.

Leaves.

(Brief pause.)

(Makes quick outward hand gesture, says.)

Tangled.

Confused.

(Pause.)

(Looks, down, then up, carefully at audience, shares.)

About dark now.

(Pause.)

(Looks out, observes.)

You hear them.

Frogs.

Croaking.

(Brief pause.)

(Looks down, then up at audience, surmises.)

Outside TOWER's room.

Her home.

(Brief pause.)

(Surmises.)

They're the ones.

(Pretends to interpret, speak for them, exclaims.)

Made it.

(Brief pause.)

(Quickly says.)

Out the creek.

Our place.

Our own home.

(Brief pause.)

(Joyous, proclaims.)

Tell everybody!

This is mine!

My place!

Arrived!

(Brief pause.)  
(ADIRA explains.)

Tell.

How we.

Escaped.

(Brief pause.)  
(Looks at audience, down, back at audience, grimaces, shares.)

Our childhood.

(Brief pause.)  
(Walks a few steps along the Proscenium edge, glances below, then up, looks at audience.)

Walk over.

TOWER and I.

To see.

(Brief pause.)  
(Asks softly, rhetorically.)

Where's that sound?

(Brief pause.)  
(Says as if spying it.)

There!

(Brief pause.)  
(As a discovery, revelation, says.)

We hear it.

The vines.

Leaves.

(Brief pause.)  
(Continues.)

Get close.

(Brief pause.)  
(Asks incredulously.)

Where is it?!

This spot.

Place.

(Brief pause.)  
(ADIRA continues.)

Stop.

Either side.

Face each other.

(Brief pause.)  
(Describes to understand.)

Goes quiet.

Don't hear a sound.

Together.

Look down.

(Quizzical, recalls.)

Can't see it.

(Says knowing.)

The ivy.

(Clarifies.)

A bramble.

(Looks down in front of her, desperate to know, says.)

Where's that sound?

(Brief pause.)  
(Looks up at audience, softly pleads.)

Hear the story.

Just one.

(Brief pause.)  
(With quiet excitement, continues quickly.)

Face each other.

Close.

Look down.

Watch.

Wait.

Just one story.

How it.

Arrived.

(Pause.)

(Looks down, then back at audience, shares.)

TOWER turns to me.

(Pause.)

(Looks down, hurt, swallows, looks up at audience, confides.)

Looks at me.

Something.

On her mind.

(Brief pause.)

(Recounts.)

TOWER asks.

(Softly, voice lilts up.)

ADIRA?

(Brief pause.)

(Recalls.)

Look.

Into each other's eyes.

(Brief pause.)

Below us.

(Voice lilts up, says.)

Hides.

That frog.

Watches.

Listens.

TOWER says to me.

(Brief pause.)

(Asks audience, as if TOWER asking herself, ADIRA.)

Maybe we can be together again?

Like before.

When we were kids.

(Pause.)

(ADIRA, hurt, upset, looks down, then at audience.)

(Looks down in front of herself again, then back at audience, incredulous, defensive, yells.)

Just set there!!

(Pause.)

Watched!

(Pause.)

Listened!

(Brief pause.)

(Pleads.)

It knew!

(Brief pause.)

(Emphatic, concludes.)

Didn't-say-a-thing.

(Pause.)

(Softer, emotional, intones.)

Every night.

Outside my TOWER's window.

(Brief pause.)  
(Says quietly.)

Her home.

(Brief pause.)  
(Powerless, laments.)

They remind her.

(Pause.)  
(Walks some steps across stage, bitter, sardonic, proclaims.)

Made it!!

Made it out!!

(Sarcastic, exclaims.)

We're. Free!!

(Pause.)  
(Looks down, then back at audience, pleads.)

Don't you see?

(Pause.)  
(Says.)

When you get too close.

(Says, voice lilts up.)

To the bramble?

(Brief pause.)  
(Concludes.)

They keep secrets.

(ADIRA, upset, studies audience, then looks down.)  
(Stage lights fade out slowly to darkness.)  
(Darkness for fifteen seconds.)

*End of play.*