

Charity  
Never Faileth

# *Sisters... Eternally*

**Celebrating our role as sisters  
in God's eternal plan**

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# Cast

- Cast 1:** Consists of the following group of sisters who, as close friends in the pre-existence, promise to find each other on earth so they can share the gospel with Sarah, Elizabeth, and Emily, who are to be born into non-member homes.
- Sarah Williams: Sarah is born to a non-member home and is the mother of Elizabeth. She is living with Elizabeth and her family, who are taking care of her after the death of her husband. She has pneumonia and is unable to care for herself.
- Elizabeth Garrett: Elizabeth has just moved to Georgia with her mother, who is ill, her daughter and husband. She was baptized into the church in her late teens, but fell away when she moved into RS because of lack of fellowship. She hasn't been to church in nearly 20 years and is now being contacted by very diligent visiting teachers.
- Emily Garrett: Emily is the daughter of Elizabeth, granddaughter of Sarah. She is a teen who is befriended by a Mormon girl at school, Kelly. She gets along well with her mother, and helps and comforts her during her time of need.
- Laura Davison: Laura is Elizabeth's best friend in the pre-existence. She has promised to find Elizabeth, and encourages her to have faith that they WILL find each other. She is a somewhat devoted Visiting Teacher, but finds that she needs to listen closer to the new sister she was just assigned to, Elizabeth. Her daughter is Kelly and they commit to stand as witnesses of Christ together, to help Elizabeth find her way back into the church.
- Kelly Davison: Kelly and Emily are best friends in the pre-existence. They are the first to make the promise to find each other. Kelly is strong in the gospel, and, although she makes an initial poor judgment about Emily, ends up inviting her to a YW activity.
- Marian Jones: In the pre-existence Marian hopes to be sent to an exotic location. After coming to earth, she tries to be the perfect Visiting Teacher by always bringing Elizabeth meals. Although she means well, she thinks that a meal can solve the problems of the world. As she progresses, she learns from her companion, Laura, that she needs to have compassion with her *heart*, not JUST her hands. Although she starts off a little airheadish, she develops into a caring sister who learns to heed the call of the spirit.
- Cast 2: Smaller parts that require no singing and very little memorization.**
- Angel: Should look like a temple worker, delivers "assignments" to sisters who are preparing to go to earth.
- RS Pres. 1: Caring RS President who took the time to get to know Elizabeth and her family.
- RS Pres. 2: Relief Society President
- Sister Smith: New to RS in the Ward.
- Sister Redd: Friendly RS sister
- Sister Ford: Friendly RS sister
- Child (Optional): Daughter (or son) for Marian. Should be about 4.
- Cast 3: Narration. Not part of the cast to appear on stage.**
- Narrator: Narrating as Elizabeth, she is her "thoughts" while she writes in her journal.

# *Sisters... Eternally*

## **Synopsis:**

In the pre-existence, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Emily find they are being sent to non-member homes. Laura, Marian and Kelly promise to find them and help lead them back to Heavenly Father.

On earth, Elizabeth finds herself caring for her widowed mother, Sarah, who has been struggling with pneumonia. They have just moved from California to Georgia, and her daughter, Emily, struggles with her first day of school. Emily is then befriended by a Mormon girl, who invites her to a YW activity. They become life-long friends.

Upon Elizabeth's arrival to Georgia, she has been assigned two diligent visiting teachers. Marian is the first to visit her, but instead of getting to know Elizabeth, she darts in and out quickly and feels a meal is the cure-all to everything. Laura, on the other hand, tries harder, but has no intention of trying to bring Elizabeth back into the church (thinking it would take a miracle), until she makes a promise with her daughter, Kelly, that they will adopt the YW theme and stand as witnesses of Jesus Christ. Kelly views the situation as an opportunity to bring her new best friend into the church, while her mother fellowships Elizabeth.

After realizing she needed to pay closer attention, Laura becomes close friends with Elizabeth, and teaches her companion, Marian, that listening is just as important as teaching. Marian, realizing she needs to care with heart, develops into a fine woman, who is able to heed the promptings of the spirit when she is moved by a thought that Elizabeth needs her. Elizabeth, although racked with grief, finds herself comforted by her visiting teachers, who are there for her during her hour of need.

As time passes, it is apparent they are all very close during their stay on earth, and upon death, Elizabeth is greeted with open arms from her two best friends who have passed before her.

## MUSIC

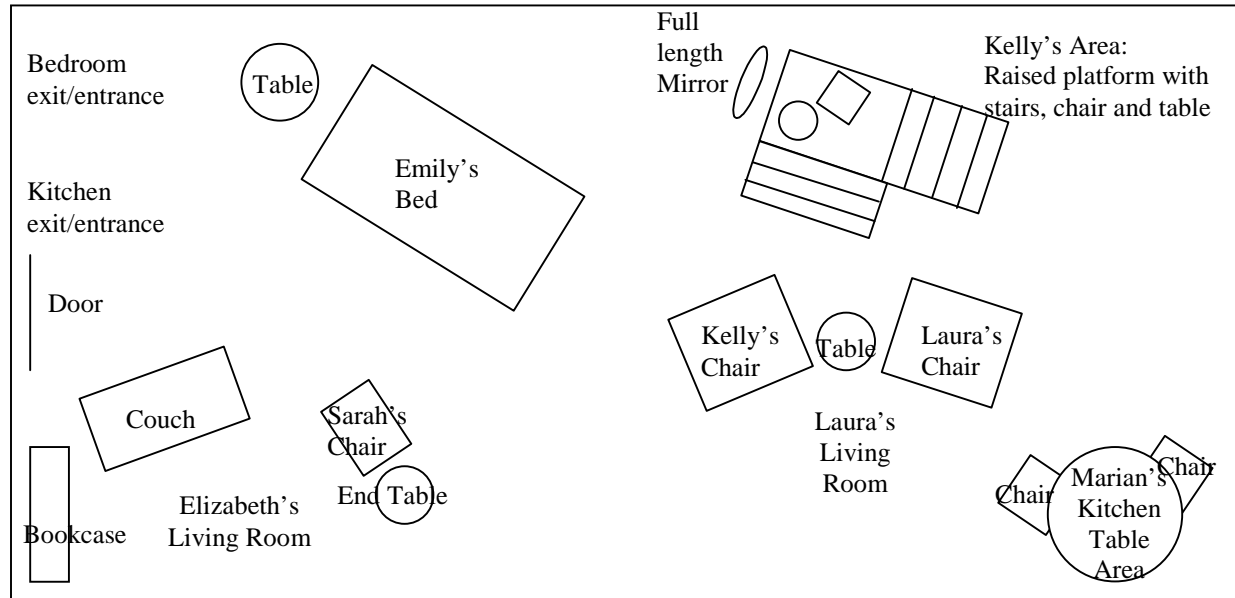
By Sally DeFord:

Lift Up Your Heart	Duet	Laura and Elizabeth
If the Savior Stood Beside Me	Solo	Kelly
I Will Stand As a Witness	Solo	Kelly
Miracles	Solo	Laura
Fill the Well Within	Duet	Laura and Marian
If I Have But a Moment	Duet	Laura and Marian
Oh, Strengthen Me	Solo	Elizabeth
Lift Up Your Heart	Duet	Laura and Marian

From the Hymn Book—no vocals:

As Sisters in Zion  
Scatter Sunshine

## STAGE SETTING



## STAGE RIGHT

**Elizabeth's Living room** should have a small couch (possibly one from a foyer, or wicker furniture works well), and living room style chair or rocking chair. There should be packing boxes around until specified. She should be putting things in the bookcase during scenes where she's unpacking.

**Emily's Bedroom** should look like a teen's room and have an end table to hold a phone, etc.

## STAGE LEFT

**Laura's Living Room** should have two comfy chairs (like ones from your building's foyer) and a small end table.

**Kelly's Area** is a raised platform (if you have portable stage steps with a platform in your building it's perfect). There should be steps going towards Stage Left and Stage Center to allow easy access to Laura's living room. She should have a mirror or vanity and pictures hanging (like a Mormon Ad or YW theme), and pictures or posters of guys. She should have a New Era magazine and Scriptures that she can easily access.

## DOWN STAGE LEFT

**Marian's Kitchen Table** should have a large bowl of spaghetti on it, and with foil pans, foil, etc. Later she should have toys or play dough to occupy the 4-year-old.

## FLOOR STAGE LEFT OR RIGHT

**RS Area:** This should be on the floor of the gym and have two or more RS chairs. It can be on either side of the stage, but should be easily accessed to give the appearance of entering for RS. It should also be where a spotlight can cleanly light it.

## Scene 1

*Heaven. This scene takes place in front of the closed curtain.*

Angel: *(Enter from Stage Right)* “Next.”

Cast 1: *(In a bustle of talking and restrained excitement, Cast 1 members enter from Stage Left in the following order: Marian, Sarah, Emily, Kelly, Laura, Elizabeth. The Angel passes envelopes one by one to Marian, who passes them down the line. Envelopes should be in reverse order so they are passed easily.)*

*(Angel exits Stage Right)*

Elizabeth: “Let’s open them one at a time.”

*(Cast concurs)*

Marian: “Okay, I get to go first. Your mission will begin on April 1, 1963 in Athens...” *(She pauses, and with a burst of excitement)* “I’M GOING TO ITALY?!!”

Sarah: “I thought Athens was in Greece. Marian, can I see that?” *(Look at Marian’s paper)* “That’s Athens, GEORGIA! See the ‘G’ ‘A?’ That means Georgia.”

Marian: *(Disappointed)* “Oh. Well...that’s still cool.” *(Continuing, scanning the paper)* “Ah, here...you will be born into a member family.” *(With a sigh of relief)* “Phew!”

Sarah: “I’ll go next.” *(Reading assignment)* “Your mission will begin on February 28, 1939 in Detroit,” *(Pause and face Marian, and with a fun, mocking tone clearly pronounce)* “MICHIGAN.”

Marian: “Like there’s any other city named ‘Detroit!’”

Sarah: *(Scanning the form, she points to the paper with despair)* “Oh, no. I won’t be born into a member home.”

CAST 1: *(The sisters gather around and comfort her.)*

Elizabeth: “Okay, it’s my turn.” *(Opens her envelope nervously)* “Your mission will begin on December 24, 1965 in San Jose...COSTA RICA!

Marian: *(Overly excited)* “REALLY?!!”

Elizabeth: “No. San Jose...California.”

Marian: *(Roll eyes)*

Elizabeth: *(Check paper and with despair)* “Oh, no! I won’t be born to a member family, either.”

Cast 1: *(They rally around, but are all anxious)*

Sarah: “At least so far we’re all on earth about the same time.”

Cast 1: *(All members nod and agree)*

Laura: “Looks like I’m next.” (*Opens her envelope*) “Your mission will begin on August 16, 1964 in Rome...”

Marian: (*Interrupting and disappointed*) “Oh, man, you get to go to Italy?”

Laura: “Georgia.”

Marian: “I knew that, I was just testing your geography skills.”

Laura: (*Continuing*) “To a member family.”

Cast 1: (*Everyone is happy for her*)

Kelly: (*Turning to Emily*) “Let’s open ours at the same time.” (*They open their envelopes. Kelly scans hers quickly, going directly to the bottom.*)

“Will begin September 24, 1985 in Rome...” (*Turn to Marian*) “Georgia.” (*Mumbles a bit, starting mid sentence*) “Phew! A member family” (*Cast members are excited for her*)

Emily: (*Looking over her form, disappointed*) “A non member family.”

Kelly: (*Comforting her*) “Oh, no. But when?”

Emily: “Um, let me see...May 17, 1985...”

Kelly and Emily: (*Together and excited they exclaim*) “The SAME YEAR!!”

Emily: (*Continuing to read*) “In San Jose, California.”

Emily and Elizabeth: (*Together and excited they exclaim*) “The SAME PLACE!!”

Angel: (*Enter Stage Right*) “Sisters, it’s time.” (*Wait*)

Emily: (*Turning to Kelly*) “You MUST promise to find me. Kelly, promise you’ll find me!”

Kelly: (*Eagerly*) “I’ll do whatever I can, I promise.”

Elizabeth: (*Turning to the rest of the cast*) “You MUST promise to find me, too.”

Cast 1: (*All members link hands and make a pact to find one another.*)

Angel “They’re waiting.”

Cast 1: (*They all exit Stage Right, except Elizabeth lags behind and Laura goes to get her.*)

Elizabeth: (*Worried*) “I can’t believe it’s already time. What if...”

Laura: “No ‘what ifs.’ I WILL find you, I promise. (*MUSIC: “Lift Up Your Heart” by Sally DeFord—begins playing quietly*) We knew this wouldn’t be easy. Oh, Elizabeth, you must believe me.” (*Comfort her*) “Remember what the Savior promised us.”

**SONG:**            **“Lift Up Your Heart” by Sally DeFord** *(Laura sings solo to measure 26. Elizabeth, at first unsure of her conviction, sings solo from the measure 26 pick-up to measure 36. Laura sings solo from measures 37 to 44. From measure 44, Elizabeth sings solo ‘Lift up your heart’ phrases, while Laura echoes the ‘for he’ parts and then solos to the end.)*

Laura and  
Elizabeth:           *(They hug, spot light goes out and they exit Stage Right)*

## SCENE 2

*(As curtain opens, spotlight is on Elizabeth. Boxes are strewn about and Elizabeth is writing in her journal)*

Narrator 1: "Dear Diary:

It was a tough move, but I knew it was for the best. Jack got a job transfer, and mom needed constant care since dad had passed away. We've already been here three days, but I still haven't had enough time to unpack everything."

*(Spotlight out)*

*(Lights on in Marian's area)*

Marian: *(A 4-year-old child can be sitting at the table)* "It's time to go, honey! We have a new member who moved in and we need to take her dinner."

*(Child throws a small pile of spaghetti at Marian. In a motherly tone she responds)* "How many times have I told you that we don't play with our food?!"

*(Lights out)*

*(Lights on in Elizabeth's Area)*

*(Elizabeth is bustling around and looking exhausted. Sarah comes in with a plate of food and walks over to sit in her chair.)*

Sarah: "Elizabeth, you need to eat. You're running yourself ragged." *(Sits down and Emily comes through the door)* "All of that unpacking can wait, and trust me, it will!"

Emily: *(Emily, with a loaded backpack on, walks in from her first day of school)* "Yeah, mom, I'll help after dinner."

Elizabeth: "Oh, Emily, how was your first day at school?"

Emily: "Don't ask!" *(She removes her backpack and slumps down on the couch)*

Elizabeth: "What happened?"

Emily: "Nothing! No one spoke to me. Not one person."

Elizabeth: "No one?"

Emily: "Okay, well, maybe one, but it was because their pencil rolled under my desk and they wanted it back."

Elizabeth: "I'm sorry you had such a rough first day. Maybe tomorrow will be better."

Emily: *(There's a knock at the door)* "It's not like it could be worse."

Elizabeth: *(Answering the door)* "Yes?"

Marian: *(Come thru door into view. In a very over-happy, over-exuberant, fast speaking manner—not letting Elizabeth get a word in edgewise—shove a large foil-covered foil pan dinner at Elizabeth)*

“Hi! My name’s Marian Jones, and I’m your visiting teacher. Welcome to the ward. I brought this dinner…” *(lean in toward the house and take a big whiff)*

“Ooow, smells like you’ve already got one cookin’! Well, this can be frozen and warmed up later. Tastes just like the day it was cooked. I’ve got the kids in the car, or I’d stay and chat a bit, but if you need anything, you just give me a call! Here’s my number.”

*(Fumble around in purse and pull out a wadded up piece of paper. Try to flatten it out, and hand it towards Elizabeth)*

“There ya go, just like new.” *(Still half holding onto it point to it)* “Now that’s a 1, not a 7.” *(Turning to leave)* “If you need anything just call… I’m always home!”

*(Elizabeth closes the door and just stands there hold thing dinner)*

Sarah: “What was all that about?”

Elizabeth: *(Just stand there, looking bewildered)* “I have NO idea!”

Emily: *(Walks over and looks it over)* “What’s under all that foil?”

Elizabeth: “Something heavy.”

Emily: *(Try to lift the foil up. Elizabeth prevents her by it moving away)* “Well, are you gonna open it?”

Elizabeth: “I’m afraid to. What if it’s alive? Or a bomb?”

Sarah: *(Go over to Elizabeth to take a closer look. Poke it with your finger.)* “Is it movin’?”

Elizabeth: *(Gently move the pan from side to side)* “Kinda.”

Emily: “In an alive sorta way?”

Elizabeth: “I don’t know.” *(Shoves it toward Emily)* “Put it in the freezer.”

Emily: *(Stepping back to avoid the pan)* “Without even knowing what it is?”

Elizabeth: “Yes. If it’s a bomb, maybe the cold will defuse it, and if it’s a critter…well, we’ll send it out to be stuffed later.”

Emily: *(Disgusted)* “Mom!! That’s gross!”

Elizabeth: *(Still trying to hand the pan to Emily)* “I’m kidding! It smells like it’s already been killed and cooked. There’s just A LOT of it!”

Emily: *(Take the pan and exit Stage Right to kitchen)* “You are SO gross!”

Sarah: “Now who did that lady say she was?”

Elizabeth: “Some teacher. Maybe she’s from the school. She was only here for a split second. I barely had time to blink.”

Sarah: “Well, now, what a friendly people they must be at that school of hers, bringin’ us dinner.”

Elizabeth: (*Looking confused*) “Yeah, friendly people, yeah…”

(*Lights out*)

(*Lights on Marian’s area*)

(*Phone rings in Marian’s area*).

Marian: (*Answer phone. Happy and exuberant*) “Hello? Oh, yes, Sister Highland, how can I help you?”

(*Pause*)

“You mean Elizabeth Garrett?”

(*Pause*)

“I SURE did! I brought them a dinner tonight. She seemed like a real nice lady, although she looked a bit tired from the move.”

(*Pause*)

“Well now, I wasn’t aware she had been less active. She didn’t SAY anything about being less active.”

(*Pause*)

“Oh, sure! No problem. You can count on me!” (*There’s a ruckus in the background--cover receiver and yell towards stage left*) “Jeffrey, how many times have I told you…we don’t put the cat in the toilet!”

(*Calmly return to the phone call*) “I’m sorry, are you still there?”

(*Pause*)

“Uh, huh. Yeah. Well it was nice talking to you. And remember,” (*Pointing with her thumb to her chest*) “you can count on me!” (*Hang up phone*) “Looks like we’re gonna need some more spaghetti and Jell-o!”

(*Lights out*)

(*Lights on in Laura’s home*)

(*Kelly is sitting on the floor in front of her chair with school books and papers strewn about. Laura enters from Stage Left with bags of groceries. She half puts/half drops on the floor, kicks Kelly’s things aside and drops into the chair exhausted. She picks up the mail sitting on the end table.*)

Kelly: *(Doing school work)* “Oh, hey, Mom. Sister Jones called. She was wondering if tomorrow you could bring dinner to a new family in the ward. She said she’d call you later with the address. I didn’t understand the rest of the message...something about,” *(jokingly)* “‘Jeffrey, how many times...’ and ‘Visiting Teaching appointments.’”

Laura: *(With exhaustion)* “Thanks.”

Kelly: *(Starts gathering books into backpack)* “Why are you so tired?”

Laura: “I just had a really long day.”

Kelly: “There’s a new girl at my school today.”

Laura: “Oh, yeah? Is she nice?”

Kelly: *(A little flippant)* “I don’t know. She doesn’t really seem like my type of person.”

Laura: “What’s that supposed to mean?”

Kelly: *(Trying to justify her answer)* “It means that she doesn’t seem like the kind of person I would hang around.”

Laura: “And what kind of person would that be?”

Kelly: *(Wanting to get out of the conversation)* “Oh, it’s just hard to explain.”

Laura: *(With a loving tone)* “That’s not a very ‘Christ-like’ attitude. I think you should talk to her. She could end up being the nicest person you ever met.”

Kelly: *(With a teen attitude)* “Oh, mom!” *(Kelly walks into her room, sits down, and looks a New Era, then at herself in the mirror.)*

*(Lights out in Laura’s area)*

*(Spotlight on Kelly.)*

*(Music intro)*

**SONG: If the Savior Stood Beside Me, by Sally DeFort--Verses 1 and 2**

*(Spotlight off Kelly)*

*(Lights on in Laura and Elizabeth’s areas)*

*(Laura picks up the phone and calls Elizabeth) (Phone rings)*

Sarah: *(Sarah, alone and in her chair, picks up the phone)* “Hello?”

Laura: “Yes, my name is Sister Davison. Is Elizabeth in?”

Sarah: “Yes, I believe she is. What was your name again, honey?”

Laura: “Sister Davison. I’m her visiting teacher.”

Sarah: *(With the sound of discovery)* “Oh, yes, one moment.” *(Put hand over the receiver and call towards kitchen)* “Lizzy, honey, it’s one of those Catholic teachers from the school.”

Elizabeth: *(Entering from Kitchen)* “Huh?” *(She takes the phone)* “Hello?”

Laura: “Yes, is this Elizabeth Garrett?”

Elizabeth: “Yes.”

Laura: “Hi, I’m your visiting teacher, Sister Davison.”

Elizabeth: *(Questioning)* “Visiting teacher?” *(Then remembering)* “Oh, yes! My visiting teacher!”

Laura: “I’m sorry to disturb you, but I was wondering if ... well ... I heard you just moved in, and I wanted to bring dinner over for you.”

Elizabeth: “Well, we don’t really need dinner, and you don’t need to go to all that trouble.”

Laura: “Oh, it’s no trouble at all, and it’s already prepared. Would 5:30 be okay?”

Elizabeth: *(Stammering, not knowing how to turn her down)* “Um...well...I...uh...Okay” *(Dropping off)* “I guess.”

Laura: “Great! I’ll see you at 5:30 then.”

Elizabeth: “Okay.”

*(They both hang up)*

Sarah: “Well now, those ARE nice people, checking up on you like that. I didn’t know they had Catholics at the public schools, but it seems to be a fine program.”

Elizabeth: *(Looking a little bewildered)* “It’s not Emily’s school, it’s the people from that church I used to go to.”

Sarah: “Church?”

Emily: *(Emily bursts through the front door with her backpack on and very excited)* “Mom, I made a new friend today.”

Elizabeth: *(Excited for her)* “Oh, Emily, that’s wonderful.”

Emily: “Oh, mom, she’s so nice. She invited me to something at her church tomorrow. Can I go?”

Elizabeth: “What kind of church thing, and what church does she belong to?”

Emily: *(Speaking a little fast, but very clear so she can be understood)* “Well, I didn’t quite catch it, but she said something about morons and LSD, but I don’t think she was talking about drugs. I might have gotten the letters mixed up. She doesn’t seem like the kind of person who would do drugs or anything.” *(Begging)* “Oh, mom, can I go...P L E A S E?”

Elizabeth: *(Gently)* “Calm down, Emily. Do you think she might have said ‘Mormons’ and ‘LDS’?”

Emily: “Yeah, that’s it! *(Begging)*.So can I go?”

Elizabeth: “Why don’t you find out more details and we’ll talk about it later.”

Emily: “Cool!” (*Exits Stage Right through kitchen*)

Elizabeth: (*In disbelief*) “Boy that’s odd.”

Sarah: “What’s odd?”

Elizabeth: “This whole Mormon thing.”

Sarah: “Is that who these people are?”

Elizabeth: “Yeah. I haven’t been to church in nearly...” (*pause reflectively*) “20 years, and all of a sudden I’m being INVADED by them.”

Sarah: “Well, now, they seem like a very nice people to me.”

Elizabeth: “I guess. I wonder how they found me.” (*Drifting away in thought*)

(*There’s a knock on the door. Elizabeth, startled, looks at her watch. She opens the door.*)

Elizabeth: (*Laura is carrying a basket of food and steps through the doorway onto the stage*) “Yes, can I help you?”

Laura: (*Offering her hand to Elizabeth*) “Hi. I’m your visiting teacher, Sister Davison? I called earlier about bringing dinner?”

Elizabeth: (*Stuttering and shaking Laura’s hand*) “Oh, yes, come in.”

Laura: “I won’t stay but a minute. I just wanted to meet you and see if there was anything I could do for you.”

(*Elizabeth takes the basket and motions towards the living room*)

Elizabeth: (*Hesitantly*) “Please come in. (*Motioning towards Sarah*) “This is my mother, Sarah. Mom, this is Sister Davison?”

Laura: “It’s a pleasure to meet you.” (*Offers her hand to Sarah*)

Sarah: (*Shaking Laura’s hand*) “Likewise. It’s mighty nice of you to do this for us. We’ve been awful tired from the move, especially with Jack being away so much on business.”

Elizabeth: (*Embarrassed, she tries to hush her mother, and utters under her breath*) “Mom!”

Laura: “Oh, it’s no problem at all. I’m glad I could help.” (*Laura looks at Elizabeth—as though she remembers seeing her before*) “You look really familiar to me. Have we met before?”

Elizabeth: “I don’t think so. We just moved here from the West Coast.”

Laura: “Oh, well the furthest away I’ve been is Rome...” (*Then quickly adding*) “Rome, Georgia, that is. Where are you from?”

Elizabeth: “San Jose...” (*Pause, and with eerie feel of deja vu*) “California, that is.”

Laura: *(Going towards the door)* “Well, I won’t take up any more of your time. Let me give you my number. If you need ANYTHING, please call me.” *(Hand a piece of paper to Elizabeth, Elizabeth opens the door)* *(Sarah exits to kitchen)*

Elizabeth “Well, thanks for the dinner.”

Laura: “No problem. Bye.”

*(Lights out)*

*(Elizabeth changes into a robe and is sitting on the couch writing in her journal)*

*(Spotlight on Elizabeth only)*

Narrator 1: “Dear Diary:

What a strange day. In two days I have had two visits from my visiting teachers, and Emily is now wanting to go to church with a friend. Why, after all this time, would they contact me now!?! I haven’t been to church in almost 20 years! I had forgotten all about them! How did they find out I moved here, and how did they find out so fast? I hope they’re not going to pester me. ” *Pause briefly and laugh.* “What am I thinking? If no one spoke to me back then, why would they bother now?”

“Sister Davison SEEMED nice. She at least stopped speaking long enough for me to respond. I wonder if Sister...Sister...Sister Fastspeaker is nice? I just didn’t have a chance to find out.”

*(Pause)*

“It brought back such a flood of feelings—oh the humiliation and loneliness I felt back then. If someone had spoken to me just ONCE.” *Pause.* “Just once. Well, I won’t make that mistake again! Church can stay at church, and I can stay at home.”

*(Pause)*

“Mother’s health seems to finally be on the mend. Her new doctor seemed hopeful that her pneumonia would clear up with the new medication. She’s still coughing, but not as bad.”

Emily: *(Entering from kitchen)* “Mom, I called my friend last night and that thing at her church is from 7:00 to 8:30. She said her mom could pick me up and drive me home.” *(Begging)* “So can I go?”

Elizabeth: *(Reluctantly)* “Okay. Just make sure you’re on your best behavior. And be ready to go when they come so they don’t have to come to the door and ring the bell. Grandma isn’t feeling well today and needs her rest.”

Emily: *(Starts to walk toward room, pause, then come back and reaching from behind the couch, hugs Elizabeth)* “Mom, you’re the best!” *(Exits through kitchen)*

*(Lights out)*

*(Spotlights on Emily and Kelly—if spotlights are unavailable, use either floor lamps or direct stage lighting)*

*(Emily dials phone)*

*(Phone rings)*

*(Kelly comes from Stage left to answer phone)*

Kelly: “Hello?”

Emily: *(Overly excited—go overboard here. Jumping lightly on the bed)* “Kelly! It’s me, Emily! I can go!”

Kelly: *(With same enthusiasm, and admiring herself in the mirror)* “Awesome! This is SO cool! We’re gonna have so much fun! Oh my gosh!”

Emily: “I know! I can’t wait! Oh, man! I can’t believe my mom said yes...oh, oh, oh,...before I forget...” *(somewhat subdued)* “when you pick me up you can’t come to the door. My grandma’s kinda sick right now and needs her rest I’ll watch for you from the front window.”

Kelly: *(Somewhat subdued)* “Is she okay?”

Emily: “I don’t know. She had pneumonia before we moved, and I think it came back.”

Kelly: “Oh, how sad. I hope she feels better soon. Well, we’ll be really quiet when we come, I promise.” *(Building with excitement, again)* “My mom said we could pick you up at about 6:45. Is that okay for you?”

Emily: *(Also getting excited again)* “Yeah, that’s perfect! Do you still have my address?”

Kelly: *(Tugging at her backpack)* “In my backpack, right where I put it!”

Emily: *(Overly excited)* “This is SO cool! I’ll see you at 6:45.”

Kelly: *(Also overly excited)* “Okay!”

*(They hang up)*

*(Spotlight off Emily and full lights on Laura and Kelly’s side. Kelly excitedly enters Laura’s area from stairs facing stage center. Laura should be dusting or reading, etc.)*

“Mom, I just talked to my friend, Emily. Her mom said she could come tonight. Isn’t that cool? *(pause only briefly, so that Laura can’t answer)* “Oh, oh, oh, before I forget, we can’t come to the door ‘cause her grandma’s sick and needs to rest. I told her we’d pick her up at 6:45. Here’s her address.” *(Sets a piece of paper on the end table)*

Laura: “Kelly, I’m really proud of you for doing this. I know you didn’t have to, but it will set a good example for the other kids in your class.”

Kelly: “Mom! I’m not doing it for you OR the other kids in the class. I really DO like her. I probably wouldn’t have spoken to her, except I started thinking about what you said the other night. *(Pause very briefly)* *(Contemplative)* I felt so bad that I couldn’t sleep. I prayed about it...and then I remembered our YW theme this year and the promise I made.”

Laura: “Oh? And what was that?”

Kelly: “That I will stand as a witness of Christ. I couldn’t very well stand as a witness of Christ with the way I judged her. I tried to put myself in her shoes—you know, being new at school and everything.”

Laura: “I’m glad you thought about it, Kelly, and I’m glad you prayed. It sounds to me like you received a very special answer to your prayers.”

Kelly: *(Thoughtfully)* “Yeah, I guess I did.”

*(Wanders into her room, sits down and begins to flip through her scriptures)*

*(Begin music intro) (Kelly stands, looks at herself in the mirror and begins to sing)*

**SONG: I Will Stand as a Witness of Christ** *(end at verse 36)*

Laura: *(As Kelly ends, Laura stops what she is doing and looks at the paper Kelly put on the table. Kelly stays in her room during this conversation and it should have the appearance and feel of them being in totally different rooms)*

“Kelly?”

Kelly: “Yeah?”

Laura: “Is your friend’s last name Garrett by chance?”

Kelly: *(Fidgeting with something and half listening)* “Yeah, why?”

Laura: *(Talking to herself)* “That’s interesting.” *(Pause)*

*(Calling out)* “Didn’t you say her grandmother was sick?”

Kelly: *(Still half listening)* “Yeah. why?”

Laura: “Because I was just there yesterday and I didn’t know she had a daughter and her mother looked fine to me. Are you sure she said her grandmother was SICK? Or was she just tired?”

Kelly: “Yeah, why? *(Laura gets a disgusted look on her face, sighs with despair, and Kelly, realizing her mother hasn’t answered back answers)*

“Just kidding! Um, I’m pretty sure she said she was sick.”

Laura: *(Talking more to herself than Kelly, and pondering the situation)* “Okay…thanks.”

Kelly: *(Kelly looks up startled, runs down the stairs, and with great body motion bursts in on Laura)*

“HOLD ON! Did you say you were at EMILY’S house yesterday?”

Laura: *(Startled and first, then with a lighthearted tone)* “Yes.”

Kelly: *(Not believing her)* “Emily Garretts?”

Laura: *(Still lighthearted matter of factly)* “I’m pretty sure, since the address on” *(point to paper)* “this piece of paper is the same house I was at yesterday.”

Kelly: “How do you know her?”

Laura: “I’m her mother’s visiting teacher.”

Kelly: *(In amazement and really overacting)* “She’s MORMON?!!”

Laura: *(At first a little surprised at Kelly’s behavior, then matter of fact)* “Well, I don’t think Emily is, but I DO know her mother is Mormon, although I understand she hasn’t been to church since she was in college.”

Kelly: *(Excited)* “Oh, my gosh! This is so totally cool! Mom, do you realize what this means?”

Laura: *(Answering rather honestly)* “From your perspective?...no.”

Kelly: *(With youthful zeal)* “It means that YOU can stand as a witness of Christ to her mom!”

Laura: *(Trying to bring her back to reality)* “Kelly, she hasn’t been to church in nearly 20 years. I doubt **I** would make that big of a difference in her life.”

Kelly: *(Stunned and accusatory)* “EXCUSE ME? HELLO!! *(like a mother would reprimand, arms folded in indignation)* “Are we forgetting our conversation from earlier?”

Laura: *(Realizing she’s being reprimanded about her own advice, with light tone)* “You’re right, Kelly. *(Not sounding too serious)* “I promise I’ll pray about this one. We’ll pray together...”

Kelly: *(Fold arms and put your nose in the air, with a tone of motherliness)* “That’s more like it!”  
*(Walks off stage)*

Laura: *(Sits down, and under her breath, but loud enough for Kelly to hear, with a teenage ‘sure-like-that’s-gonna-happen’ attitude)* “We’ll pray together because this is going to take a MIRACLE to get her to come back.”

Kelly: *(Calling from off stage)* “I heard that!”

Laura: *(Cringe)*  
*(Main lights go out)*  
*(Spotlight on Laura)*  
*(Music intro begins)*

**SONG**      **Miracles** (to measure 23 only)  
*(Lights out)*  
*(Lights in Elizabeth’s area)*  
*(Elizabeth and Emily bring boxes to front of the stage to unpack)*

Elizabeth: “I’m famished, Em. Check and see if we have anything we can just reheat.”  
*(Elizabeth kneels down to unpack)*

Emily: “Okay.” *(Exits through Kitchen. Moments later, enters stage from kitchen with a very high stack of foil-covered aluminum pans—stand just far enough on stage to be seen and heard. Teeter back and forth as though they are ready to fall through entire seen)*

“Which one do you want?”

Elizabeth: *(Turning and chuckling in amazement)* “Oh my goodness, I hadn’t realized Sister Fasttalker had brought so many meals for us.”

*(Emily loses her balance and ‘falls’ backwards off stage. There is a loud crashing sound and a few lettuce leaves are tossed on stage from kitchen area)*

*(Startled and moving toward the kitchen with a book in her hand, pause near stage center)*  
 “Em? Are you okay?”

Emily: *(Appears with lettuce on her head and shoulders)* “Yeah, but that salad’s not.”

Elizabeth: *(Pulling the food off of Emily and chuckling)* “Here, I’ll get this cleaned up and why don’t you put this on the bookshelf.” *(Hands her the book and cleans up the lettuce)*

*(While cleaning there’s a knock at the door. Elizabeth peers through the door’s peephole and gasps)*

“Quick, hide!” *(Falls to the floor on all fours and crawls to the front of the stage to hide in front of the couch)*

“It’s my visiting teachers...and they’re together!”

Emily: *(Trying to act mature)* “Oh, Mom, they’re only trying to be nice.” *(Emily walks toward the door, successfully avoiding Elizabeth’s attempt at trying to stop her by grabbing for her foot)*

Elizabeth: *(With an air of panic)* “Emily! Don’t answer that d...”

Emily: *(Opens the door. Marian, 4-year-old and Laura remain off stage until invited in)*

*(With an air of sarcasm)* “Oh...hello” *(face Elizabeth and smirk)* “Sister Davison and” *(look uncomfortably towards Marian and motion for them to come in)* “Sister...um...Sister. Mom! Look who’s here!”

*(Child, Marian, and Laura enter. Child is carrying a foil-covered aluminum pan. Elizabeth scrambles to her feet)*

Laura: “I hope we didn’t catch you at a bad time.”

Elizabeth: *(Stuttering nervously)* “Oh, no, I just dropped a...uh...my contact lens.” *(Hold finger out quickly as if you just found it, face audience and motion like you’re putting it in)* “There! That’s better.”

Laura: *(Child, Marian and Laura come downstage into living room)* “We just wanted to stop by to see how you were doing.”

4-year old *(Hand Elizabeth the pan)* “And to give you some spaghetti and Jell-o. Mommy says it’s your favorite!”

Elizabeth: *(Taking the pan)* “Really! Well isn’t that just so sweet of you.” *(Turning to Emily)* “Why don’t you put this in the kitchen and show her your room.” *(Emily takes the pan and exits through kitchen with child)*

*(Motioning for Marian and Laura to sit, Marian sits in the chair, Elizabeth sits on the left of the couch, and Laura on the right, closest to Marian)* “It’s so nice of you to drop by. Would you like to have a seat?”

Laura: “Thank you.”

Marian: *(Ignoring all pleasantries and with an air of getting down to business)* “Our message this month is about Compassionate Service...”

Laura: *(Interrupting)* “Yes it is! And how is your mother doing, Elizabeth?”

Elizabeth: “Well, she’s having a real rough time.”

Marian: *(Surprised and realizing she’s out of the loop)* “Mother? You never mentioned your mother! What’s wrong?”

Elizabeth: “Well...”

Marian: *(Interrupting)* “Does she need a meal?”

Laura: *(Calmly and trying to be patient with Marian)* “Marian, her mother **lives** with them has been ill for quite some time.”

Marian: *(Overly concerned in a sappy way)* “I just wish I had known! I could have helped you with something...a meal, or perhaps...”

Elizabeth: *(Interrupt and put hand up when Marian says meal, speaking with firmness at first, and then with gentleness)* “No, really...we’ve been managing just fine.”

Laura: *(Trying to bring the conversation around)* “Elizabeth, I just have to tell you what a sweet daughter you have. We have really enjoyed...”

Marian: *(Interrupting again, with discovery)* “Well now, I wasn’t aware that you had a daughter, too! How old is she? Perhaps we can get together and have a play day together sometime.”

*(Laura puts her head down and nods slightly with impatience)*

Elizabeth: “My daughter was the young girl who answered the door.”

Marian: *(Not getting it)* “My, my...she’s an awfully big 4-year-old!”

Laura: *(Matter-of-factly, a little frustrated)* “Actually, she’s 14.” *(Emphasize the ‘teen’ in ‘14’)*

Marian: *(Oblivious)* “Oh, well perhaps she can baby sit my little ones some time.”

Elizabeth: “How many children do you have?”

Marian: *(Bragging and proud)* “8, but 5 of them are quintts, so it’s like having one... since they’re all the same age.” *(Sit back in chair as if nothing happened, and appear uninterested in further conversation)*

Laura: *(Elizabeth's looks stunned and Laura immediately jumps in)* “Elizabeth, now that Emily's come to a couple of church activities with Kelly, I was hoping both of you might want to come to church with us this Sunday.”

Elizabeth: “Oh, I don't know. The last time I went to church was really...well...not a very good experience.”

Laura: “Would I be intruding if I asked what happened?” *(Marian perks up, sits forward and waits in great anticipation for Elizabeth to spill her guts)*

Elizabeth: *(Uncomfortable and reluctant)* “Well...I...”

Marian: *(Impatiently bursting in—very over dramatic)* “WELL??!! What happened??!!” *(Elizabeth startles)*

Laura: *(Embarrassed and trying to quiet Marian with gently urgency)* “Marian...” *(Marian regains composure and Laura turns to Elizabeth)* “I'm sorry.” *(Marian again turns her interest elsewhere)*

Elizabeth: *(Stuttering, but calm)* “That's okay. What I was going to say was...that...well...I just felt out of place.”

Laura: *(Concerned)* “I'm sorry to hear that. I don't want to pressure you, but I know Emily has been asking Kelly about coming on Sunday, and I thought it would be nice if we all went together.”

Elizabeth: “I don't know...”

Laura: *(Interrupting, Laura puts her hand on Elizabeth's arm and gently pleads)* “I promise I won't leave your side.”

Elizabeth: *(Hesitating)* “Well...okay, as long as no body asks me any questions.”

Laura: “Well I can't promise that...people might want to know your name.”

*(They both chuckle, and Marian, a bit startled, realizes the time)*

Marian: “And about that lesson on compassionate service...”

Laura: *(Interrupting, Laura stands first, and then Elizabeth. Laura walks towards Marian)* “Well, we really should be going.”

Marian: *(Stands, draws Laura close and whispers while pointing to the lesson)* “But we haven't...we didn't...THE LESSON.”

Laura: *(Whispering back)* “Listen to the Spirit.”

Marian: *(Whispering and appearing to finally catch on)* “Oh.”

Elizabeth: “Thank you for stopping by, and Laura, thank you for asking about my mother.”

Laura: “She's always in our prayers. I'll call you later to see how she's doing and make arrangement for Sunday.”

Elizabeth: “Thank you so much.” (*Calling off stage*) “Emily, it’s time for \*child’s name\* to go. (*Child comes out, and as they exit, Elizabeth gives Laura a hug, and then Marian—who is a little stiff and flustered*)

(*Laura and Marian exit through door*)

(*Lights out*)

(*Spotlight on Laura and Marian, who enter from downstage right curtain area as if walking home—Marian in deep thought*)

Marian: (*From this point on Laura is serious*) “Laura?”

Laura: “Yes?”

Marian: “How did you...I mean...when do you...?”

Laura: “Stop and listen.”

(*Music intro begins*)

“Let the spirit be your guide. Elizabeth doesn't just need food, she needs us to listen...with our hearts.”

(*Marian ponders her reply and walks back to her area. Laura goes to her ‘home’*)

**SONG: Fill the Well Within—Duet with Marian and Laura.** (Verse 1 only)

(*Laura sings ms: 5-8, Marian sings ms: 8-12, then together from m. 13 until end*)

(*Lights out*)

(*All packing boxes are cleared from stage*)

(*Spotlight on RS area*)

**“Prelude” Music playing (*As Sisters in Zion*)**

(*Sisters are gathered, talking quietly in RS area as Marian, Elizabeth and Laura enter*)

RS Pres. (*Approaches Elizabeth and with both of her hands, warmly takes Elizabeth’s hand*) “Hello, Elizabeth. It’s so good to see you again. I’m so glad you came today. How’s your mother doing?”

Elizabeth: “I’m afraid she’s still struggling. She had a little improvement the other day, but we still have a long road ahead.”

RS Pres. “Your family is in my prayers everyday, and remember, we are all here to help you.”

Elizabeth: “Thank you so much. Your concern means so much to me.”

RS. Pres. (*Motioning to Sister Redd*) “Elizabeth, have you met Sister Redd?”

Elizabeth: “No, I don’t believe we’ve met.”

Sister Redd: *(Shaking Elizabeth’s hand)* “Hello, Elizabeth. I’m happy to meet you. I understand you just moved here not too long ago.”

Elizabeth: “Yes, we moved here a couple of months ago.”

Sister Redd: “Well, I’m so happy to have finally met you. I understand your mother has been having some health problems. Is there anything I can do to help?”

Elizabeth: “That’s so kind of you to ask, but I think I have everything covered. Sister Davison and Sister Jones have already helped so much. THEY may actually need some help.” *(They both laugh)*

Sister Redd: “Say, Elizabeth, have you met Sister Ford yet?” *(Sister Redd motions towards Sister Ford, they shake hands and all the RS sisters encircle Elizabeth so that she can duck out)*

*(Spotlight off RS area)*

**Music plays again (As Sister’s in Zion) and fades when Elizabeth is back on stage**

*(Spotlight on Elizabeth sitting on couch, writing in her journal)*

Narrator: “Dear Diary:

I can’t believe it’s been a year since our move. Emily and Jack were baptized yesterday. The spirit was so strong. I have no words that can express my joy. I only wish mom had been well enough to be there. *(Pause)* I was called as a visiting teacher about nine months ago, and last week they asked if I would be the assistant to the Family, Home making *(Scratch out)*, Home, Personal and F *(Scratch out)*, Home, Family and Personal Enrichment. Ah, that’s it! The Home Family and Personal Enrichment leader. My life feels so different. *(Pause very briefly)* For the first time in my life I finished the Book of Mormon 3 days ago. I’m so grateful to Laura and Marian. If it hadn’t been for them, I would have never made it this far. Thank you Lord, for sending them to me. *(Pause)* Mother has been in critical condition for a week now. They don’t expect her to...”

*(Phone rings)*

Elizabeth: *(Elizabeth answers)* “Hello?...oh, hello Dr. Reynolds.” *(Trying to hold back tears)* “Thank you, doctor.”

*(Elizabeth hangs up phone, falls to her knees at the foot of the chair Sarah occupied and cries out in anguish. Emily enters from Kitchen)*

Emily: “Mom, what’s wrong?” *(She tries to comfort Elizabeth)* *(They both exit when lights go out)*

*(Lights out)*

Marian and Laura: *(Lights on in both Laura and Marian’s homes)*

*(Marian, now more mature, is gently helping the child color. She stops suddenly, as if something has just happened)*

*(Laura is helping Kelly do her homework and is nervous/fidgety)*

4-year-old: “Mommy? Mommy? Mommy? What’s wrong?”

Marian: “Mommy needs to make a phone call.” *(Reach for phone, lift handset, then set it back down again. Do this a couple of times, acting unsure whether you should make the call.)*

4-year-old: “Mommy? Are you gonna make a call or not?”

Marian: *(Resolutely)* “Yes, honey, I’m gonna make a call.” *(Dial phone)*

*(There is no answer. Elizabeth’s answering machine is heard. Marian leaves a message)*

“Elizabeth, it’s Marian. I hope everything is all right. I was just thinking about you. I’ll call later.” *(Fidgety, she continues to help her child)*

Kelly: “Mom, what is it?”

Laura: “I don’t know. I just have this odd feeling.” *(Pause briefly and stand)* “Oh, it’s probably nothing.”

Kelly: *(Closing her book)* “I think I get it now. Thanks, mom.” *(Exits stage left)*

Laura: *(Nervously trying to dust and put things away)*

*(Music intro begins)*

*(Stage lights dim)*

*(Spotlight on Marian and Laura)*

**SONG: If I Have but a Moment—DUET with Laura and Marian** (Verse 1 only)

Laura sings solo measures: 7-10, 13-15, 18-19  
Marian sings solo measures: 10-13, 15-17, 19 (on “or”)-21  
Unison/parts: Begin measure 22

*(Spotlight out as song ends)*

*(Stage lights back on Laura and Marian)*

Laura: *(Sits down and dials Marian)*

*(Phone rings)*

*(Marian answers)* “Marian. Elizabeth…”

Marian: “I know. Something’s not quite right. I’ll be there in a minute.”

*(Lights out)*

*(Spotlight on Elizabeth)*

Elizabeth: *(Enter from Kitchen, pause at Sarah's chair, reach down and run hand along armrest)*  
*(Music intro begins)*  
*(Begin crying, and fall to knees in anguish)*

**SONG: Oh, Strengthen Me** (To Measure 21 only)  
*(Sing with great anguish and pleading. At end of song, put head in hands and weep)*  
On verse 13, sing "though" instead of "if"

Elizabeth: *(Just as music ends there's knock at Elizabeth's door. Elizabeth wipes her tears away as she goes toward the door. She opens it and Laura and Marian enter. They embrace Elizabeth.)*  
*(Lights out, close curtain)*

***Prelude Music begins (Scatter Sunshine)***

*(Spotlight on RS area)*  
*(Elizabeth enters, sits down in a RS chair and begins writing in her journal)*

Narrator: *(With an elderly voice)* "Dear Diary:

Laura passed last week. Oh, how I miss her! Sometimes I just can't make it through the day. Marian's health declined rapidly this week. The doctor's don't expect her to make it through the night. I keep praying the Lord will take me, too, but He seems to be ignoring my request. I feel like I'm not much good to anybody this way. After all, there's only so much an old lady like me can do.

*(RS Sisters enter and talk quietly.)*

RS Pres: *(Seeing Elizabeth)* "Sister Garrett. It's so good to see you here. How are you holding up?"

Elizabeth: *(Standing to shake her hand)* "Well, I'm doin' about as well as can be expected."

RS Pres: "Elizabeth, I'm glad you're here today. I have a favor to ask of you."

Elizabeth: *(Looking at the audience)* "I hope it doesn't involve crocheting!" *(wink)*

RS Pres: *(Chuckling)* "No. Actually, there's a new sister in our area who needs fellowshipping..."

Elizabeth: *(Interrupting)* "Say no more. You can count on me."

RS Pres: "Elizabeth, you ARE remarkable." *(Pause)* "By the way, have you met Sister Smith, yet? She just moved into our ward this week." *(Motion to Sister Smith, who stands)*

Elizabeth: *(Offering her hand to Sister Smith)* "Sister Smith? I'm Elizabeth Garrett. I'm happy to make your acquaintance."

Sister Smith: "Likewise."

Elizabeth: “Say, I have a daughter about your age.” *(She motions Emily and Kelly to come forward)*  
“Emily, Kelly, I’d like you to meet, Sister Smith. She just moved into our ward this week.”

Emily and Kelly: *(Shaking Sister Smith’s hand)* “How wonderful! I’m so happy to meet you.”

*(All RS sisters encircle Sister Smith and talk quietly)*

*(Spotlight out)*

*(Music intro begins)*

*(Spotlight on Stage: Laura and Marian are standing in white on downstage right in front of curtain)*

**SONG: Lift up your Heart—Laura and Marian**

*(Play intro, then go to end of measure 26 and go to end.)*

Elizabeth and Sarah: *(Just before the word “life” is sung in measure 57, Elizabeth and Sarah enter from downstage left in front of curtain in white. Elizabeth and Sarah are young and Sarah points out Laura and Marian. They turn to see her and hold out their arms for her. Elizabeth runs into their arms.)*

“Thank you for finding me.”

*(Lights out immediately)*

THE END

