

**GARBIELA.** Twice. Also, there's a community theatre called the Splurge Players and when their lighting designer got a freelance accounting job out of town, I offered to step in. It was a production of the Scottish play, and their Fresnels didn't work with their antiquated light board so I had to figure out how to rewire it.

**STAUNCHER.** Good! Get up there and start fixing.

**GARBIELA.** I will.

**STAUNCHER.** Go!

**GARBIELA.** I have a migraine right now. I'll do it tomorrow.

**STAUNCHER.** PLACES!

*(BILLIAM stands on a pedestal, aggrieved.)*

**BILLIAM.** I hate my part.

**STAUNCHER.** Your part is important.

**BILLIAM.** No it's not. It's not even a talking statue. It's just a statue.

**STAUNCHER.** There are no small parts.

**BILLIAM.** Actually, if you don't talk and you don't move, that's a small part.

**STAUNCHER.** That's when you dig into research.

**BILLIAM.** I researched ghosts, *The Turn of the Screw*, and granite. I don't want to be just a statue; I want to be a statue that does a handstand.

**STAUNCHER.** There's no place in the play where that would fit.

**BILLIAM.** During the curtain call. Everybody would be like, "Hey, the statue is doing a handstand." It would be the highlight of the whole play. Ten years from now, people will be talking and someone will say, "Do you remember that play *The Turn of the Screw with Audience Participation?*" And they'll be like, "No. Wait, is that the one where the statue does the handstand? I love that play!"

**STAUNCHER.** Let me see it. Let's see the handstand.

**BILLIAM.** I can't do a handstand. That's why it's a good assignment.

**STAUNCHER.** If you can stand one hundred percent perfectly still for the whole play, I'll consider the handstand. Scene 21B! Enter the Butler.

*(MAUNDER enters as the Butler.)*

**MAUNDER.** "What will happen next in this house of terrifying spirits?"

**STAUNCHER.** Stop! You have to know your line.

**MAUNDER.** That is the line!

**STAUNCHER.** No. I changed "terrifying" to "terrifying and amazing." Do it again.

**MAUNDER.** "What will happen next in our house of amazing and terrifying spirits? And who's that knocking at the door!"

**STAUNCHER.** "DID YOU HEAR A KNOCK?" You have to know your lines! You have six of them.

**MAUNDER.** I do know the lines. I don't know the order of the lines.

**STAUNCHER.** Let's call it a day. I'll see you at three p.m. sharp tomorrow.

**VOICE (SFX).** You're burning up!

**GARBIELA.** *(To BILLIAM:)* Did you hear that?

**BILLIAM.** Hear what?

**GARBIELA.** You researched ghosts.

**BILLIAM.** Yeah.

**GARBIELA.** What did you learn?

**BILLIAM.** They're people with unfinished business. They need to get something done that they didn't do in life. Say goodbye, or get revenge.

**GARBIELA.** *(To the audience:)* I walked home, trying to figure things out. I was distracted, which is why I made the mistake.

*(She comes upon JACKSON deeply sad, unaware of her.)*

**GARBIELA.** I forgot to make noise when I entered, something I'd learned to do from an early age so I didn't find Dad in the midst of his occasional, secret despair.

*(She tiptoes back, makes a noise of some sort. This jolts JACKSON into convincing cheer.)*

**JACKSON.** Hey! How was the day?

**GARBIELA.** Strange.

**JACKSON.** Strange how?

**GARBIELA.** I don't want to talk about it.

**JACKSON.** Any potential friends?

**GARBIELA.** I've been there exactly seven hours.

**JACKSON.** You want to start early. I made Affinity.

**GARBIELA.** Thank you!

**JACKSON.** It's not exactly for you. I want you to share it.

**GARBIELA.** Share it.

**JACKSON.** Yeah.

**GARBIELA.** With who?

**JACKSON.** Anyone who seems nice.

**GARBIELA.** You want me to take it to school?

**JACKSON.** Yeah. Sometimes, in new situations, you can be a little contained.

**GARBIELA.** "Have a piece of candy and be my friend."

**JACKSON.** It's an icebreaker.

**GARBIELA.** That's not gonna happen.

**JACKSON.** OK. I'll give it to the neighbors.

**GARBIELA.** I actually have tons of friends. Two days ago, right after school, there was a big going-away party for me.

**JACKSON.** You didn't mention that.

**GARBIELA.** I don't tell you everything. I didn't even show you *this*.

*(She produces the card from somewhere.)*

**JACKSON.** Let's see. *(He sees through it instantly.)* Well that is awfully nice. The handwriting is a little bit similar.

**GARBIELA.** It's all Mogpin's. She had people dictate what they wanted to say and she transcribed it.

**JACKSON.** Garbiela. Take the candy.

*(She grudgingly takes the plate of Affinity.)*

**GARBIELA.** *(To the audience:)* Day two.

*(And suddenly we're in the school hallway. Students pass back and forth. RUTH stops.)*

**RUTH.** What have you got there?

**GARBIELA.** It's called Affinity. It's a family recipe. Have one!

**RUTH.** Thanks!

**GARBIELA.** A lot of people think it's the best thing they've ever tasted. Tell me what you think.

*(She hands him one. He hates it, but desperately covers.)*

**RUTH.** Wow!

**GARBIELA.** I knew I liked you.

**RUTH.** That's the best thing I've ever tasted. Colby come try this.

*(This leads to a quick improvisation as students passing by get pulled in, love it: yum!)*

*(Hanging back is the deeply calm RILEY, who we met briefly earlier.)*

**GARBIELA.** Last two pieces.

*(CARA gags, spits it into her hand.)*

**CARA.** This is candy?

**GARBIELA.** That happens sometimes.

**RILEY.** May I?

**GARBIELA.** Of course!

**RILEY.** My name's Riley, but my friends call me The Oasis. I'm the president of the yoga club. Come talk to me if you want to join.

**GARBIELA.** That certainly won't happen, but thank you. Last piece.

*(RILEY takes the piece. Takes a bite.)*

**RILEY.** That's the single best thing I've ever tasted.

**GARBIELA.** It's great, right?

**RILEY.** It makes my life better.

**CARA.** Take mine.

*(She does.)*

**RILEY.** Can I get the recipe?

**GARBIELA.** No, it's a family secret.

**RILEY.** Is that a joke?

**GARBIELA.** No. It's not my rule.

**RILEY.** I don't understand that, but I accept it. See you in rehearsal.

*(FANTINE runs in.)*

**FANTINE.** Hey Frienderifica! Is there more?

**GARBIELA.** No, I just gave away the last piece.

**FANTINE.** What was it?