

INNOCENT BEFORE PROVEN GUILTY

C A S T

MR. PENNY - THE PRINCIPAL (Cameron Andersen)

MISS CARNES - THE TEACHER (Vyanne Andersen)

SANDY } ACCUSERS (Josie McNeill)

KAREN } (Candy Andersen)

MATT } HONESTY (Herman Andersen)

CATHERINE } (Stephanie Ford)

LISA } BROTHER & SISTER (Jodie Strangemore)

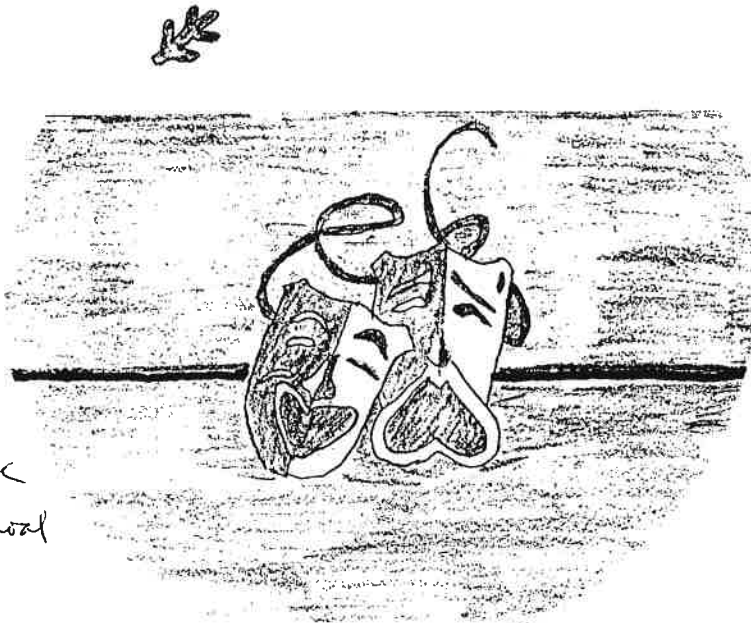
TONY } (Blaine Andersen)

SHEILA (Rhonda Ford)

*Eric Pottle
LAKE MELVILLE*



*Stanly Nochsok
Jens Haven School
Nain.*



SCENE ONE

SETTING: A classroom, five kids are being noisy and two are just sitting around being quiet.

(IN WALKS THE TEACHER WITH THE PRINCIPAL)

MISS CARNES: Settle down, class. Mr. Penny has something he'd like to talk to you about.

PRINCIPAL: Class, for the past two weeks, I have been getting reports that things have been missing from certain areas of the school. This is a serious matter - stealing is a serious matter - and if anyone in this class knows anything about what has been going on lately, I'd like you to tell me.

(THERE IS NO ANSWER FROM THE CLASS)

PRINCIPAL: Alright, if any of you would like to talk to me, I'll be in my office.

(PRINCIPAL LEAVES)

TEACHER: Okay class, take out your math books and continue working.

(LIGHTS GO DOWN)

SCENE TWO

SETTING: A playground. Everyone is standing around in a group except for Tony and Lisa.

SANDY: I'll bet you anything that it's Tony and Lisa who have been doing the stealing.

MATT: Why do you say that?

SANDY: Just look at them. They never talk. They just stand there not saying a word.

CATHERINE: That's no reason to call them thieves. They don't have to be a part of any group if they don't want to be.

KAREN: Sandy is right. They are probably just using the silent treatment so that nobody will suspect them.

MATT: They've always been quiet. They are not loud and saucy like a lot of other people I know and besides, I've never heard either of them speak

CATHERINE: Come on, you guys. Haven't you ever heard of the saying "Innocent before proven guilty?"

MATT: I agree with Catherine. You could get into a lot of trouble by saying things that aren't true.

SANDY: Yeah, well I still think that they are guilty and when it's proven, we'll see you gets the last laugh.

KAREN: That's right. Come on Sandy, let's go in.

(THEY GO IN)

CATHERINE: I get the feeling that they are going to cause a lot of trouble.

SHEILA: What do you care? It's not your problem, Besides, we're not accusing you.

MATT: Alright Sheila, how would you feel if we accused you? Wouldn't you feel betrayed knowing that you never did anything?

(MATT WALKS AWAY MAD)

SHEILA: What's eatin' him?

CATHERINE: He just doesn't want to see any body get hurt. Neither do I.

(CATHERINE WALKS AWAY. SHEILA IS LEFT ALONE ON THE STAGE)

SHEILA: What's the big deal? It was just two dollars and a hockey puck.

CATHERINE: (FROM OFFSTAGE) If Lisa and Tony are blamed for it, it will be a lot more than two dollars and a hockey puck. Come on, we'll be late.

SCENE THREE

SETTING: Lisa and Tony are at home doing their homework.

LISA: Tony, did you hear what they were saying about us today?

TONY: Yeah, Sis. Don't worry about it. Everything will be alright.

LISA: I thought they'd know us better than that!

TONY: Sis, they don't know! It's our own fault.

LISA: Tony, we can't let this happen again. The reason Mom and Dad brought us here in the first place was to get away from people like that.

TONY: I know. Being accused of stealing at our last school was the reason we moved, wasn't it?

LISA: Tony, then we were like them - loud. Now that we're quiet it's happening again. We can't win either way!

TONY: If push comes to shove, we will stick up for ourselves.

LISA: But we know who has been doing the stealing. Shouldn't we say anything?

TONY: No! We'll just leave it as it is - for now.

(THE LIGHTS GO DOWN ON THIS SIDE OF THE STAGE. THEY GO UP ON THE OTHER SIDE.)

PRINCIPAL: Sandy, Karen, what can I do for you?

SANDY: Sir, we know who has been doing the stealing.

PRINCIPAL: And who might that be?

KAREN: Lisa and Tony Jones.

PRINCIPAL: Oh, really? And do you have any proof that they have actually stolen anything?

SANDY: Yes - No - Well, they're always so quiet. You know the type.

PRINCIPAL: This is very serious - accusing somebody without any proof.

KAREN: But sir, we just know it's them.

PRINCIPAL: Okay, I'll talk to them. But how do you think they'll feel if it's not them?

(THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR)

PRINCIPAL: Come in.

(IT'S LISA AND TONY)

TONY: Sir, could we talk to you for a minute?

PRINCIPAL: Sure. Sandy, Karen, you are dismissed, and please tell Miss Carnes that I'd like to see her.

(SANDY AND KAREN LEAVE. TONY AND LISA SIT DOWN AND MISS CARNES COMES IN.)

MISS CARNES: Yes, Mr. Penny?

PRINCIPAL: Miss Carnes, two of your students just accused Tony and Lisa of stealing.

(TONY AND LISA LOOK AT EACH OTHER)

MISS CARNES: Tony, Lisa, do you have anything that you'd like to say?

LISA: Yes, Miss. Tony and I haven't been doing any stealing, but we know who has.

(THE LIGHTS GO DOWN. THEY COME UP ONCE AGAIN ON THE CLASSROOM)

(THE STUDENTS ARE AGAIN BEING ROWDY, AND IN WALKS TONY AND LISA, LOOKING VERY DEPRESSED.)

SANDY: See, I knew it was them.

CATHERINE: You don't know anything, Sandy!

(MISS CARNES ENTERS THE CLASSROOM, ALONG WITH MR. PENNY)

MISS CARNES: Alright class, settle down. Mr. Penny and myself would both like to talk to you. It has been brought to our attention that two people in this class have been stealing from other students in this school.

PRINCIPAL: We know now for a fact that this is not true, and we'd like to know why those two people were accused of this act.

SANDY: Sir, we honestly thought that they did it.

PRINCIPAL: I'd like to tell you a little story. When I was your age, two guys in the class stole the lunch money from a few people that were in my class. They accused me and I got blamed for it. After that, I never had any friends and when I said I never took it I was called a liar. I never got over that and I was really hurt by it.

TONY: We also got accused of doing the same thing at our last school, that's the reason why we moved here. Now, it is happening all over again.

(EVERYONE IS QUIET AND SHEILA MOVES UNEASILY IN HER SEAT)

SHEILA: Mr. Penny, I have a confession to make. I took the the money and the puck.

MR. PENNY: But, why?

SHEILA: I'm always left out of everything. It's just not fair that everyone is invited into everything when I'm not.

CATHERINE: Sheila, you are our friend. We care about you and we want to ignore you, but you just don't seem to want to get involved in anything.

MATT: That's right. Just try to get involved. We'll want to be with you.

SHEILA: You mean that's it? All I had to do was ask?

CATHERINE: That's it...

MR. PENNY: Well, I guess that's settled. And I hope that you two have learned a lesson.

(HE TURNS TO SANDY AND KAREN)

SANDY: We have, alright.

KAREN: We should never accuse anyone of doing anything without proof.

MISS CARNES: That's right. Remember, everyone is innocent until proven guilty.

LISA: I'm glad that's over with.

TONY: Yeah, me too.

SANDY: Did you hear that? They actually spoke.

MISS CARNES: Alright, class, everyone out for Phys. Ed.

AS THE CLASS WALKS OUT, TONY AND LISA LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND SMILE AND EVERYONE CROWDS AROUND THEM AS THEY WALK OUT HAPPILY.