

**Postville Players
B.L. Morrison, Postville
present**

“Remembering a Dear Friend”

Cast

Tasha/Dr. Hurly..... Amy Ford
Allison Sherry Jacque
Cassandra Raeann Manak
Jeff/Police Officer Graham Blake
Ryan Shaun Jacque
Dave Christopher Sheppard
Mary Crystal Sheppard
Charles Cordell Sheppard

Teacher/Advisor

Vanessa Cornect
Ruth Jacque

Music

“Dreaming of Angels”, “Ocean Renaissance”, “Dear Friend” by Ken Davis
“Smells Like Teen Spirit” by Nirvana
“Firestarter” by Prodigy
“Eye” by Smashing Pumpkins
“Machine Head” by Bush
“Tears in Heaven” Eric Clapton

“Swamps of Sadness”, “Saying the Rosary” - Various Instrumentals

“Remembering A Dear Friend”

(Spotlight at center stage. Allison walks into it.)

Allison: I still remember all the fun that Tasha, myself and Cassie would have together. The three Musketeers we called ourselves. Cassie and I were best friends, Tasha joined us around four years ago when she moved to town, but I had known Cassie all my life. She was like a sister to me. She was smart, funny, beautiful and outgoing....she had no enemies in the world. The three of us thought we were going to be friends forever, until the night of November 1, 1996 when it all changed. It started out as an ordinary Friday, but there was one thing that was different: my parents were out of town for the weekend on their second honeymoon, and the girls were spending the weekend at my place. What we thought was going to be a fun filled weekend turned into the most tragic and horrible night of all our lives.

(Lights dim. Tape over play of a school bell ringing, and children talking and laughing. Lights reappear on Tasha and Allison. The cast are on stage pretending to be at their lockers, etc.)

Tasha: Tonight is going to be great. No parents, what could be better? Girls night, movies, popcorn and make-overs.....

Allison: I can't believe my parents actually felt I was old enough to spend the weekend alone. Well, you and Cassie are spending the weekend with me, right?

Tasha: Well..... I'm not sure.....

Allison: You're kidding me? You just said it was going to be girls night. Please say you're going to spend the weekend. I do not want to spend the entire weekend alone in that big house, it's kinda creepy.

Tasha: Hello, I'm just kidding with ya. I wouldn't miss it for the world. We've been planning this weekend for a month. *(They begin to walk. Where's Cassie?*

Allison: She must be in detention. Her car broke down this morning so she was late, and she had to go to Mr. Vaters' office.

Tasha: Well, that's a great start to our wild weekend. You go on home and I'll wait to give Cass a ride.

Allison: Nah, I'll wait around with you. Nothing better to do anyway.

Tasha: *(notices Jeff and Ryan)* Al?

Allison: Yeah.

Tasha: Would you mind if we had some guys over tonight?

Allison: It all depends on who the guys are.

Tasha: Jeff and Ryan.

Allison: *(looks over)* Fine by me. Go ask them then.

Tasha: I'm too shy.

Allison: You? Too shy?

Tasha: Yeah.

Allison: First time for everything I guess.

(Cassandra enters)

Cassie: There you two are. I was looking everywhere for you.

Allison: Where were you?

Cassie: detention. So, what's the plan for tonight? Girls night out? Movies, popcorn, gossip. Which reminds me, did you hear that Katherine and Joey broke up?

Allison: Did they? Well, that's no big surprise. By the way, Cassie, change of plans for tonight Tasha wants to invite Jeff and Ryan over. Do you mind?

Cassie: Nah, there's always Saturday night for just girl talk. What did they say?

Allison: Tasha was too shy to ask them.

Cassie: Why?

Tasha: I don't know. They may say no, or worse yet, they could laugh in my face.

Cassie: I don't think they'll do that. I'll go ask them. *(Walks over to Jeff and Ryan.)* hey guys, how's it going?

Jeff: Pretty good I guess. Could be better.

Cassie: I guess. Do either of you have plans for this weekend?

Ryan: No, why? Got anything in mind?

Cassie: Actually I do. Allison has her house free for the weekend, and Tasha was wondering if you two would like to come over tonight?

Ryan: Tasha wants us to come over? Does Allison mind?

Cassie: If she did, would I be asking you to come over?

Jeff: (*Puts arm around Cassie*) Because you want me, that's why.

Cassie: Yeah, just as much as I want the flu.

Jeff: Face it baby, you want me.

Cassie: I'll just leave that up to your imagination.

Ryan: Oooohhhh, I like the sound of that.....

Cassie: Okay, you're weird. So, are you two coming over tonight or not?

Ryan: We'll think about it. (*Thinks*) There, I thought about it. We'll be there.

Cassie: Great, see you both tonight. (*Begins to walk away*) Around 8:00 okay?

Jeff: We'll bring food.

Cassie: No big surprise. (*Walks over to girls*)

Ryan: (*Hits Jeff on the back of the head.*) We'll bring food..... (*begins to exit*) you couldn't think of anything better.....

Allison: What did they say?

Cassie: They'll be over around 8:00.

Tasha: Thank you.

(*Girls begin to exit, guys come back on the stage*)

Allison: Which one do you like anyway?

Tasha: I don't know.

(Ryan and Jeff enter. Cassie and Allison laugh. Girls exit, guys on stage. Dave enters)

Ryan: Hello....we'll bring food?

Jeff: That's the first thing that came to mind.

Ryan: But food?

Jeff: SO!

Ryan: Promise me that you will never say the first thing that comes to your mind again.

(Dave enters)

Jeff: Hey, look, it's Dave. *(Yells)* Hey Dave.....

Dave: *(Looks over)* Hey.

Jeff: Guess what?

Dave: What?

Jeff: Your little sister invited us over to Allison's tonight.

Ryan: Yep! Looks like we'll be having some fun tonight.

Dave: Really? *(Walks towards Ryan)*

Ryan: Yeah, really.

Dave: *(Grabs Ryan)* If you ever think about touching my sister, I'll kill you.

Ryan: Alright, alright. Calm down Hercules.

(Lights dim, and reappear on Tasha, packing things into her bag, talking to her unseen father. This is a two-sided stage: One side Cassie, the other side Tasha)

Tasha: *(On stage yelling to her father)* Yeah dad, I'm spending the night at Allison's. *(Pause)* No, we're going to be in all night. *(Pause)* Yes daddy, I'll phone you. *(Begins to pack up an overnight bag, while listening to music.)* Jeans, t-shirt, socks, toothbrush, music, magazines, makeup, brush, I think I got everything.

Man, this is going to be one fun night. (*Freeze*)

(*Lights dim and reappear on Cassie and her mother*)

Cassie: Mom, I'm spending the weekend at Allison's, okay?

Mary: Sure hon. Don't be out too late that's all. Aren't her parents out of town?

Cassie: Yeah. She didn't want to stay home by herself, so Tasha and I are going to stay over there for the weekend.

Mary: I can't blame her. I wouldn't want to spend an hour alone in that big house. It's way too big. Where are her parents anyway?

Cassie: They're gone out of town for their second honeymoon.

Mary: Isn't that romantic?

Cassie: I know, he's always doing things like that for her. Too bad Daddy is never here to do anything like that for you. When was the last time you and Dad went out on a real date?

Mary: When you were around six.

Cassie: See, you're never together!

Mary: Now Cassie, you know your father tries his best. And speaking of your father, I have to go and pick him up from the airport. He's getting back from his business trip.

Cassie: Alright, tell Daddy I love him, and I'll see him on Sunday.

Mary: Alright. Have fun and for goodness sake..... behave yourself. (*Exit*)

Cassie: Okay, Mom, love you.

Mary: (*Backstage*) Love you too dear. Behave yourself.

Cassie: I'll try my best but I can't promise anything.

Mary: CASSIE!

Cassie: Just kidding, Mom.

Mary: Don't forget to call.....

Cassie: Alright already, go get Daddy now. (*Begins to pack an overnight bag*) There, that's everything.

Dave: (*Background*) CASSIE!!

Cassie: In my room.

Dave: (*Enters*) What are you doing inviting Ryan and Jeff over to Allison's tonight?

Cassie: It wasn't my idea! Tasha wanted them to drop over.

Dave: If I hear you've done anything, ANYTHING with either of them.....

Cassie: Don't worry big brother, I'm a big girl, I can take care of myself. And you should know me better than that. You actually think that I would do anything with either of them? That's gross.

Dave: I'm sure that you can take care of yourself, but in any case, I'm going to drop by tonight to check on you.

Cassie: Alright! When Daddy gets home, tell him to give me a call.

Dave: Sure! See ya later Sis. (*Exits. Background*) You better be good too.....you won't know when I'll be coming over so you better be good and if you're doing anything.....

Cassie: Alright, I get the point! (*Walks over to her bed, looks at a picture frame*) I hate it when daddy goes out of town for meetings. He's always gone for so long and I hardly ever get to see him. I'm not too sure if I should spend the weekend over at Allison's. Daddy's been out of town for two weeks, and he'll be gone again on Tuesday..... but on the other hand, I promised Allison that I'd sleep over at her place. And I guess I will. After all, I'll get to see daddy on Sunday.

(*Lights dim and reappear on Allison*)

Allison: Junk food, movies, blankets and popcorn, girls night! (*Knock*) Speaking of girls..... (*Tasha enters*) where's Cassie?

Tasha: I don't know. She hasn't got her car remember!

Allison: Oh yeah!

Tasha: She's probably walking or riding her bike over. She'll be here in a while. So, what's the plans?

Allison: Well, we've got movies, junk food make up!

Tasha: I know that look! You're up to something!

Allison: Tasha, do you care for a make over?

Tasha: Only if I can give you one.

Allison: Deal.

(Lights dim and reappear on Ryan and Jeff)

Ryan: What time is it?

Jeff: 7:30

Ryan: Okay, a few more drinks, then let's go up to Allison's. *(Opens drink)*

Jeff: I think you've had enough already.

Ryan: Don't be so stupid. You can never have enough to drink, fool.

Jeff: *(Grabs a drink)* You're right! What was I thinking?

Ryan: Beats me. What are we going to do over there anyway?

Jeff: I don't know. I hardly know Tasha.

Ryan: Since when did that ever stop you? Remember Beth?

Jeff: WHO?

Ryan: My point exactly.

Jeff: One thing for sure is you had better stay from Cassandra.

Ryan: Why, do you have your eye on her?

Jeff: I wouldn't mind but.....

Ryan: But what?

Jeff: Think about it you fool. Her brother is Dave.

Ryan: Oh yeah remember what he did to Eric Crawford?

Jeff: Man, he pulverized him.

Ryan: You know you're an overprotective brother WHEN....

Jeff: That's for sure.

(Lights dim and reappear on Allison and Tasha. Their hair and makeup are crazy)

Tasha: Girl, you look hard.

Allison: Hey, I resent that. *(Cassie enters with her head down)* Finally! What happened to you?

Cassie: *(Looks up surprised)* Girl, wha'd ya do to yourself?

Allison: It's my new look. Do you like it?

Cassie: Well, it's interesting, I'll give you that much.

(Phone rings. Tasha goes and answers it)

Tasha: Cassie, it's for you.....it's your father!

Cassie: Hello *(pause)* Hi Daddy *(pause)* Not much *(pause)* How was your trip? *(Pause)* Cool *(pause)* A teddy bear? *(Pause)* Thank you *(pause)* Can you get Dave to bring it over? *(Pause)* Alright *(pause)* Love you too *(pause)* See you on Sunday..

(All freeze. Light changes color. Allison walks to center stage)

Allison: The thing is that Cassie nor anyone here knows for her there will be no Sunday and that no one will ever see her again after tonight.

(Allison goes back to old position. Lights go back to normal)

Tasha: A teddy bear?

Cassie: So? I love teddy bears.

(Tasha and Allison look at one another)

Tasha: You need a make over.

Cassie: NO WAY!

Allison: *(Hauls out make up)* Oh yes you do.

Cassie: I don't think so..... *(begins to run)*

(Allison and Tasha begin to run after her, off the stage. Lights dim)

SCENE 2

(Music, lights reappear on Ryan and Jeff, drunk)

Jeff: Man, what time is it?

Ryan: Party time?

Jeff: Party time! Let's go!

Ryan: One problem!

Jeff: What?

Ryan: Where's the keys?

Jeff: Here! *(Hands him the keys)*

Ryan: Nope! Still something wrong!

Jeff: *(Really annoyed)* WHAT?

Ryan: I can't remember.....

Jeff: I know what's wrong!

Ryan: What?

Jeff: I forgot the food!

Ryan: FOOD!?!

Jeff: I said I was going to bring some!

Ryan: Awhforget itlet's go.

(Ryan and Jeff to the side and pretend to be in a car, then freeze. Lights on girls)

Tasha: *(video in her hand)* I love this movie!

Allison: Same here. *(Knock at door, Allison exits)* Cassie, it's Dave. *(Dave comes in with Allison)*

Cassie: Hey!

Dave: Look what Dad got you. *(Hands her the teddy bear)*

Cassie: Oh how cute!

Dave: How many is that now? A thousand? You're a big baby, you know that?

Cassie: So, I'm daddy's little girl. How is Dad? He doesn't look too dragged out does he?

Dave: Not as bad as the last time. He's got bad jetlag, and a new haircut, that's all. What are you watching?

Tasha: "Ghost"!

Dave: Cool, you don't mind if I join do you?

Girls: Nah.

(Dave jumps on the couch and grabs some popcorn. Lights reappear on Jeff and Ryan)

Ryan: Where do they live?

Jeff: That huge house at the top of the hill. Right around the corner of the store.

Ryan: Man, what a house!

Jeff: They're loaded eh' boy?

Ryan: Yep, but you know what?

Jeff: What?

Ryan: So are we! *(Both laughing)*

(The two exit. Lights reappear on Dave and the girls)

Cassie: Oh great.

Dave: What?

Cassie: I forgot my cleaner for my contacts.

Allison: There's a store around the corner where you can buy some.

Cassie: Okay.

Dave: Need a lift?

Cassie: No, but I need some money.

Dave: *(Hauls out five dollars)* Five enough?

Cassie: I need more like ten. *(Dave gives her another bill)*

Dave: Are you sure you don't want a ride?

Cassie: Nah, it's not far, plus I have my bike. *(Exits)*

Tasha: Man, I wish I had a brother like you!

Dave: What do you mean?

Tasha: Giving her money and rides. My brother Paul would never do anything like that for me.

Dave: She's my little sister. I have to take care of her. Besides, Paul's a jerk! No offence or anything.

Tasha: None taken!!

(Lights dim. Red light on an empty stage. Over voice of Ryan and Jeff.)

Jeff: Man, where's their house?

Ryan: I dunno.

Jeff: Slow down man.

Ryan: Don't worry...

Jeff: *Ryan look out.....!!*

Ryan: What???

(Loud thud and car hits a bump and stops.)

CASSIE SCREAMS

(Lights dim and reappear on Jeff and Ryan. Cassie is on the ground.)

Jeff: Oh God, no! Someone help us...,Please!!!

Ryan: What did I do?

Jeff: Don't just stand there. Go get some help.

Ryan: *(Mumbles)*

Jeff: NOW!!

(Ryan exits.)

Jeff: Oh God. Don't die, Cassie. Hold on!!

(Lights dim and reappear on Tasha, Allison and Dave. Ryan runs in.)

Ryan: I'm sorry. God, I'm sorry.

Allison: Ryan, what are you talking about? Were you drinking?

Ryan: Call an ambulance! NOW!!

Tasha: Ryan, what's going on?

Ryan: Cassie needs an ambulance. HURRY.

Dave: *(Angry)* WHAT??

Ryan: She rode out in front of our car. We couldn't stop.

Allison: I'll make the call. Dave, you go out to her. Where is she?

Ryan: Outside, not far from here. Down around the corner.

Dave: Allison, call my parents. Ryan, come on.

(They all exit. Lights dim and reappear on Jeff and Cassie. Dave and Ryan enter.)

Dave: No, oh my God. Please don't let her die. *(He goes over to her)* Cassie, hold on, you'll be fine. Oh God! How did this happen?

Cassie: *(barely able to talk)* Dave, is that you?

Dave: I'm here. Don't try to talk, save your strength.

Cassie: What happened?

Dave: Shhh.....

Cassie: Dave, I love you. Tell Mom and Dad that I love them, and tell Daddy thanks for the teddy bear.

Dave: They know you love them. You're going to make it. You'll be fine. I love you, Cassandra. Hang in there. An ambulance is on the way, just don't give up. *(He begins to rock her while crying)*

Allison: *(Enters to see Cassie on the ground. She goes over to Jeff, yelling)* Oh, my God. How could you do this?

Jeff: It wasn't my fault!

Allison: She's going to die on the way to the hospital. Jeff, it's Cassie. You've known her all your life. What are you thinking?

Jeff: It's not my fault, Allison. I wasn't driving.

Ryan: I was the one driving.

Allison: Ryan? Ryan, you were driving? You've been drinking. You know better! Or at least I thought you did.

Ryan: *(Frustrated and confused)* I couldn't stop. It was an accident! I didn't mean for it to happen.

(Allison goes over to Cassie and Dave.)

Ryan: *(Quietly)* I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

(Lights dim and reappear on Mary and Charles.)

Charles: Oh, it's great to be home.

Mary: It's good to have you back.

Charles: I wonder if Cassandra liked her teddy bear.

Mary: I'm sure she did. Dave sure loved that CD. How did you know he liked them?

Charles: Cassandra told me...the strangest thing is that they are so close. I find that REALLY puzzling. My sister and I always fought all of the time when we were growing up.

Mary: Don't remind me. I remember. Too bad the kids aren't home tonight. *(Knock at the door)* You never know, that may just be one of them now. They're always forgetting their keys.

(Mary goes and opens the door. There's a police officer there.)

Mary: Officer?

Officer: May I come in ma'am?

Mary: Of course.

Charles: *(walks over)* Is there a problem, officer?

Officer: Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Hoffman, I'm sorry but I have to inform you that your daughter has been in an accident. *(Mary begins to cry)* She's in the hospital right now.

Charles: How is she? Will she be alright?

Officer: She's in serious condition.

Charles: How did it happen?

Officer: Cassandra was hit a high speed by a drunk driver. I recommend that you go there

now, while there is still time.

SCENE 3

(They all exit. Lights dim and reappear on a waiting room with Dave, Allison and Ryan waiting. Dave has blood on his shirt. Mary and Charles enter.)

Mary: Dave, where is she?

Dave: In the O.R. Mom, I don't think....

Charles: How did this happen?

Ryan: *(Stands up)* It's my fault. I was driving and....

Dave: *(Jumps at him)* You? Wait 'til I get my hand on....

(Charles holds Dave back)

Charles: Dave, not here. We need to concentrate on Cassie.

Dave: *(Points at Ryan)* If she dies, it will be all your fault. Do you hear me? It will be all you fault.

(Mary, Charles and Dave sit down together. Allison walks over.)

Allison: Mrs. H, I'm sorry.

Mary: Thank you, dear.

Allison: *(crying)* I'm scared, I....

Mary: I know...*(hugs her)*

Charles: My little girl. What if she doesn't make it?

Dave: Dad, she's going to make it. She has to!!

Charles: Dave, we have to be prepared for anything. Anything can happen. Let's just pray that she'll be alright.

(Lights dull. Spotlight appears on Ryan and Jeff to the side.)

Jeff: *(Not knowing what to say)* Hey, how is it?

Ryan: How is it? Is that all you can say? Cassandra is in there fighting for her life, and it's all my fault. I can still hear it. Oh God, it's horrible. Her scream...it cuts through me like a knife...it's all that I hear. Every time I close my eyes, I see her there, on the ground, crumpled like a broken doll....barely alive...and it's all thanks to me.

Jeff: Ryan, you can't beat yourself up about this. It was an accident.

Ryan: Jeff..it is my fault. I shouldn't have been drinking, let alone driving. Dave is right....if she dies, it's all because of me...*(puts head in hands, sobbing.)*

(Lights reappear on the family and Allison.)

Allison: I phoned Mom and Dad. They're on their way back now. Is there anything on Cassie, yet?

Mary: No, Allison, not yet.

Allison: She has to be alright. She just has to!!

Charles: Cassie is a strong girl. She'll pull out of this. I know she will. Remember that time she was hiking and she twisted her ankle? She walked all the way home on it. She's a strong girl. I know that she'll be fine.

Allison: Yeah, I remember. She's like a sister to me. Dave, I can imagine what you must be going through. *(Walks over and hugs him)* If there is anything that you need, just tell me.

Dave: Thanks, Allison. Right now I just have to go clear my head. *(Goes to the side of the stage. Mary begins to follow)*

Charles: Let him go. He needs some time alone to think.

(Spotlight on Dave)

Dave: *(Looking upward)* God, *(pause)* please don't let Cassandra die. She's all I have. Mom is always at work, and Dad is always out of town. Cassie and I have come to depend on one another. I remember that time that I skipped school, Mom and Dad found out. Cassie covered for me and said that I was giving her a ride to volleyball practice. God, if she dies, I'll have no one. *(Paces around)*
(To the audience) Why? Why Cassie? Why her? What did she ever do wrong?

She can't die...she can't. I believed that I could always protect her...always be there for her. I felt that there was nothing that I couldn't do for her, but the way she looked tonight...seeing her there on the ground like that, I felt so helpless. There was nothing I could do....nothing, but stand there and stare. Watching was too painful. I'll never survive that pain of losing her if she dies. There is nothing that I wouldn't have done for her. But now that's all gone. *(Looking upward again)* Everything is in your hands now. Please don't let her die. She's my only sister.

(Lights dim and reappear on the family. Dr. Hurley enters.)

Charles: Doctor, is she alright?

Hurley: It's too early to tell, yet. She's in a coma right now. It's hard to say when, or if she'll come out of it.

Dave: So, what you're trying to say is...

Hurley: I'm not saying anything, yet. Cassandra suffered serious head injuries and internal bleeding. To be honest with you, I'm surprised that she is still alive.

Charles: Can we see her?

Hurley: Yes, but as I already told you, she is in a coma. She may not know you're there.

(Lights dim and reappear on Cassie in hospital bed. All go to bedside.)

Charles: Cassie, my baby. Daddy's here. So is Mom, Dave and Allison. You're going to be just fine.

Dave: She's going to be alright. I know she is.

Mary: *(Crying)* Cassie, we're all here. You're going to be fine. You can do it. I knew you can. You're a strong girl....just hang in there and fight.

Allison: *(crying)* I think I'd better be going. This should only be immediate family.

Dave: You are like family, Allison.

Charles: Dave is right. Cassie thought of you as a sister.

Dave: *(Angry)* What do you mean *thought*? You're acting as if she's dead. You were never there for her and she thinks the world of you. You don't even care. *(Exits)*

Charles: Dave....

Dave: *(Yells)* You don't care!

Mary: Let him go, he needs time.

Allison: I'll go talk to him.

Charles: This is just as hard on me as it is on him. My baby girl. Why God? Why my baby girl...why?

(Allison chases Dave. Spotlight on the two of them in front. Dave is holding the teddy bear.)

Allison: Dave! Dave, wait!

Dave: He doesn't think she'll make it.

Allison: He does. He's just really worried. You have to believe that. He does care....just as much as you do.

Dave: *(Holding Cassie's teddy bear)* I know he does. Look, she had this with her. She loves teddy bears. For her 16th birthday, I bought her a huge panda bear.

Allison: I know. She cried when she opened it. I mean, she loved it...it's her favorite one! Did you know that?

Dave: It is? I didn't know that. *(Pause)* Allison, I'm scared. If she doesn't make it, I'll be lost. She's all I have. She's my little sister. I'm just....I'll be lost.

Allison: *(Hugs him)* I know. Me too.

(Lights dim and reappear on Allison and Tasha.)

Tasha: *(crying)* Is she going to be alright?

Allison; I don't know. It's pretty bad.

Tasha: Oh God no. *(Family walks in)* I'm so sorry. I mean

Charles: We know Tasha.

Tasha: I gotta go..... *(exits, crying)*

Charles: Tasha.....is she going to be alright? She shouldn't be alone. Someone should go and see if she'll be alright.

Allison: No, she just needs to be alone. It's hard for her. It reminds her of her mother.....she died in childbirth having her. Now, whenever someone she cares about is in trouble, she wants to be alone.

Charles: But will she be alright?

Allison: Yeah.....

OVERVOICE: Doctor Hurley to Room 5, Doctor Hurley Room 5.

Allison: Isn't that Cassie's doctor?

Charles: yeah.

Allison: Oh no, what's wrong?

(Doctor Hurley runs across the stage)

Mary: What's going on?

Dave: Is it Cassie?

Hurley: I haven't got any time to talk.

Charles: Is it Cassie? Doctor, you have to tell me.

Hurley: Yes. *(Exits)*

Allison: Oh God no.

(Lights dim and reappear on family. Jeff and Allison are also with them. Ryan approaches)

Ryan: Mr. and Mrs. Hoffmann, I'm sorry. This was all my fault. I wish it were me in there instead of her.

Charles: Ryan, you have no place here. Please leave.

Ryan: *(Crying)* I'm sorry.....I.....

Dave: *(Sternly)* Leave now!

(Mary and Charles hug. Dave talks to Allison. Jeff and Ryan begin to leave,. Everyone freeze, lights out and tape over sound of a heartbeat flatline. Then lights come up again. Everyone unfreeze. Doctor Hurley enters)

Mary: Doctor, is she alright?

Hurley: I'm sorry, we did everything we could. We were unable to save her..... *(Mary and Allison begin to cry hysterically)* Her injuries were too serious We did everything possible. I'm sorry.

Dave: NO she can't be dead, she can't be. No please God. NO.

Hurley: *(Goes over to Dave)* I'm very sorry about your loss.

SCENE 4

(Lights dim. Colored spotlight on the cast dressed in black, at a headstone.)

Allison: Cassie, we all miss you. You shouldn't have died, you were too young. You were more than a friend, you were like a sister to me. There's nothing else I can say. I love you. *(Places flower)*

Tasha: *(Overwhelmed by tears)* No words can say*(Allison goes over and hugs her)* I can't say I just, I I miss her. *(Places flower)*

Allison: I know, me too.

Mary: Cassie, we're here. I think about you all the time. You're my baby girl, and II know you're in a better place. I miss you so much. I love you, Cassie. *(Places flower)*

Charles: Daddy's little girl. I'm sorry I wasn't around much. I tried my best. I hope that you're able to forgive me for not being there when you needed me. God, I miss you. This shouldn't have happened. I love you and miss you. I know I'll see you one day. And like your mother just said, we know that you're in a better place. *(Places flower)*

(Everyone exits except Dave)

Dave: Allison would you stay?

Allison: Sure.

Dave: I miss you, Sis. Things just aren't the same without you. I brought your teddy bear from dad. *(Places it on grave)* I've got all the others in a safe place. I wish you were here. You're in a better place. I'll see you one of these days, I hope. I just close my eyes and I see your face, and sometimes I feel like I hear your voice and that you're watching over us. I love you Cassandra, and I miss youso much. *(Allison goes over and hugs him)* Good-bye Sis.

(They all exit, Ryan enters dresses in black.)

Ryan: I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. Cassie, it was an accident. I didn't mean for it to happen. If I had time back now....if it could have been me instead. Oh.....I'm sorry *(places flower, falls on knees crying. Freezes)*

(Spotlight changes color. Music begins. Allison enters spotlight.)

Allison: That's what happened to my best friend, Cassandra. To this day I miss her, and I'm always thinking of her. Dave took her death the hardest. Cassie was a dear friend and I'll always remember her.

(Each cast member comes out individually into the spotlight to say his/her line.)

Tasha: The play that you have just seen entitled "Remembering A Dear Friend" was a tribute to our friend, the late Loretta Lane.

Jeff: Loretta was born in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on November 10, 1982 to Elizabeth and the late Irvn Lane. While she lived in Postville, she participated in the Creative Arts Festival in 1993. She later moved to Goose Bay with her mother and brother.

Charles: Loretta lived in Goose Bay until her tragic death on November 2, 1996. She had been a victim of a car accident, the same as Cassie in our play.

Dave: But there is one main difference.....

Mary: Cassie was just a character in a play, not a real person like Loretta.

Cassie: Loretta is gone from us, but our memory of her will live on.

(All cast put heads down. Music, lights fade. When lights come back up, cast bows.)