

**Nalijuk Players, Amos Comenius Memorial School
Hopedale
presents**

“Promises to Keep”

Cast

Charity.....	Jean Michelin
Amos.....	Bobby Watkins
Military Police.....	June Flowers, Franciska Mitsuk
Hope.....	Charlotte Lucy
Friends.....	Franciska Mitsuk, Clara Flowers, Jillian Mitsuk
Grandmother (Anânsiak).....	June Flowers
Uncle.....	Damieon Lucy
Veronica.....	Jillian Mitsuk
Crystal.....	Clara Flowers
Dr. Collins.....	Franciska Mitsuk
Stretcher Bearers.....	Damieon Lucy, Bobby Watkins

Teacher Advisor

Marilyn Babineau

This play begins as a Halloween dance at the base and the local guys are there because they could get in without anyone knowing the difference. The local guys get found out and the Military Police are summoned.

“Promises to Keep”

Act 1, Scene 1

(There's a Halloween costume dance at the base and the local guys are there because they could get in without anyone knowing the difference. Amos is one of them. He sees Charity for the first time. He asks her to dance. They are perfect for each other. The Military Police discover Amos and chase him out.)

Act 1, Scene 2

(Outside Charity's window.)

Amos: Charity! Charity! Down here, it's me, Amos!

Charity: Amos? What are you doing here? It's two o'clock in the morning. I wasn't expecting to see you here. The base is out of bounds for you. Aren't you afraid of getting caught?

Amos: I couldn't help it. I had to see you. We didn't get a chance to say good-bye at the dance. I have a surprise for you. *(He takes out a flower)*

Charity: Ah Amos, that's so sweet but be quiet, my father might hear you. I don't want to get caught.

Amos: Well come out then. There's a special place I want to take you.

Charity: But Amos, it's so late! What if my father finds out I'm gone? You don't know the trouble I'll be in if I get caught.

Amos: I promise you I'll have you back before anyone knows!

Charity: Okay, I will. But it's a bit chilly out. Let me get my jacket. I'll be out in a moment. *(Leaves the window)*

Amos: YES!!

Charity: *(reappears at the window)* Did you say something?

Amos: No! Here, let me help you.....

(Lights fade)

Act 1, Scene 3

(Lights up. Amos and Charity are laughing. Charity gets serious and then Amos does.)

Charity: There's something I need to tell you.

Amos: You could tell me anything you want, Sweetheart.

Charity: It's hard to tell you this but..... I'm having a baby.

Amos: How can this be? We're too young to be parents! Are you sure?

Charity: I'm sure. There's something else I have to say that may upset you.

Amos: You don't mean you're going to have an abortion! Are you?

Charity: I could never do that. But I have to leave before my father finds out. I'm afraid of what he might do to you.....or even do to me.

Amos: What could he do?

Charity: You know what kind of temper he has!

Amos: Then we'll leave together. I have a boat! We can go up north and they'll never find us!

Charity: But I don't know how to live like that. I wouldn't know what to do.

Amos: I could show you.

Charity: I'm frightened.

Amos: I want to take care of you.

Charity: Amos you know I love you and would do anything for you but.....

Amos: Then don't leave me. *(pause)* All right then, I understand.....but promise me you'll write letters and send pictures. And sooner or later, I'll have enough money and I'll come and take care of both of you.

Charity: I promise. I'll do all those things. Remember, this is *our* baby, whether we're together or not. Promise me you won't forget us.

Amos: I promise! I love you. *(Lights fade)*

Act II, Scene 1

(Lights come up on a group of teenagers drinking and smoking. Hanging out.)

Friend: So Hope, are you still going out with Abe?

Hope: No.

Friend: Why?

Hope: I was just using him for his car.

Friend: Oh yeah, he has a very nice car.

Charity: *(Yells from off stage.)* Hope, honey, I'm home. *(Comes in to find Hope and her friends drinking.)* Who are all these people? What are they doing here?

Hope: They are just a few of my friends.

Charity: Have you been drinking?

Hope: No.

Charity: Don't lie to me, Hope. I know you were. Tell them to go home.

Hope: You have to go now. It's kind of late.

Charity: *(Mutters under her breath)* Go.....and don't come back again!!

(Hope sees her friends to the door.)

Hope: Mom, how could you be like that in front of my friends?

Charity: We'll talk about it in the morning.

Hope: How could you do that to me, Mom?

Charity: Just once, can't I trust you?

Hope: You just don't understand! *(Goes out, slamming the door. Charity glances through her mail and finds a letter from a law firm.)*

Voice over: It is my duty to inform you that Amos Snow of Hopedale, Labrador was killed in a snowmobile accident on January 22nd of this year. In his will he made provision for you and your daughter, Hope. However, before Hope can inherit, she must prove to your satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of her uncle, Robert Snow, that she is mature enough to handle the money wisely. He requires also that she spend one year in Hopedale, and acquaint herself with her father's culture, before receiving the inheritance.

Act 11, Scene 2

(Hope holds the letter her mother held in the last scene.)

Hope: What does this mean?

Charity: I talked to your uncle in Hopedale and he knows all about what your father wanted. He wanted you to meet his family and know where he was from, where you are from. He wanted you to know his culture. He promised me before you were born that he would find a way to take care of us. He was never able to do it while he was alive, but he never forgot you.

Hope: But I don't want to go to Hopedale. You can't make me!

Charity: No I can't make you, but I can't help you either. That money will help you make something of your life. Think of it! When you come back you can go to school, meet new friends, travel, everything you ever wanted. It's a lot of money.

Hope: But Mom, just think what it's like up there!

Charity: I had a good time in Hopedale. I met your father there. I never met anyone else like him - he was kind, strong, smart, funny, and so handsome! You are a lot like him. *(Pause)* I have a good feeling about this.

Hope: But Mom.....

(Lights fade)

Act 11, Scene 3

(The airport in Hopedale)

G. Mother: There she is! There's Hope on that plane!

Uncle: Mother, calm down. She may be nothing but trouble, but for Amos's sake we have to give her a chance.

(Hope gets off the plane)

G. Mother: You like just like father!

Uncle: Oh Mother. *(Turns to Hope.)* You must be Hope.

Hope: What's it to you?

G. Mother: *(Under her breath)* Look what the devil brought to Hopedale.

Uncle: I'm your Uncle Robert. This is your Grandma and this is Amos's daughter Veronica.

Veronica: I guess that makes us sisters.

Hope: Yeah. *(Puts her head down.)*

G. Mother: I pictured you like your mother but you're just like Amos. *(Mutter)*..... in more ways than one.

Veronica: Hey Hope, you'll be working with me at the Rec Center.

Uncle: I think you'll enjoy that.

Hope: Yeah, right!

(Lights fade.)

Act 11, Scene 4

(The Rec Center, full of teenagers. Some are playing pool, some are playing air hockey and others are dancing. Hope is running the canteen. We can see that she fits in now. Grandmother enters.)

G. Mother: I've brought you some dinner.

Hope: You did? Thank you Anansiak.

G. Mother: *(To one of the dancers)* That looks like so much fun!

Veronica: It is. Come and join us Anânsiak.

Crystal: Yes come on. You can do it!

G. Mother: Well maybe I could give it a try.

(Grandmother dances with the girls and is thoroughly enjoying herself. All of a sudden she stops and clutches her heart. She falls to the floor. Everyone but Hope panics. She runs to her grandmother and starts CPR).

Hope: She's not breathing! Veronica, call for help! Now!

Veronica: *(On the phone)* The Line is busy! What else can I do?

Crystal: You keep trying the phone and I'll run to the hospital.

Hope: Anânsiak, wake up! Don't leave me, I need you!

(Grandmother starts to come around as two people arrive with a stretcher. Lights fade.)

Act 11, Scene 5

(The hospital waiting room. Family and friends are sitting, waiting for news.)

Hope: What's taking them so long?

Uncle: It shouldn't be too long now.

Hope: I hope she's all right.

(Pause. Then the doctor enters.)

Dr. Collins: Hello, my name is Dr. Collins.

Uncle: How is my mother?

Dr. Collins: Your mother is stabilized. We are going to keep her in a couple of days to run some tests.

Hope: But how is she? What does that mean?

Dr. Collins: It means she's going to be just fine. She just needs a lot of care.

Uncle: Don't worry doctor. I'll hire a nurse to look after her. Thank you.

Dr. Collins: You're welcome, but don't thank me. Without this young woman's quick thinking the outcome might have been quite different. *(Exit)*

Uncle: Hope, you've done a good job. *(Pause)* While we were sitting here the past few hours I've been thinking. You have proved to your family that you are a very mature young woman. You have earned our trust and respect. *(Pause)* You have earned the right to leave if you wish.

Hope: I don't want to leave. I want to take care of Anânsiak. Besides, this is home now.

(Hope turns and hugs her family as lights fade.)