

**B L Morrison School
Postville
presents**

“Strong Enough”

Cast

Kate.....	Jody Colbourne
Janice.....	Amy Ford
Amber.....	Rebecca Jacque
Adam.....	Christopher Sheppard
Sarah/Ms Butt.....	Crystal Sheppard
Claire.....	Ashley Edmunds
Matt/Rob/Teacher.....	Cordell Sheppard

Teacher Advisors

Vanessa Cornect
Curtis Sheppard

Kate has been in an abusive marriage for many years. When she finally gets out, she decides to move away with her two daughters, Janice and Amber. They move to Ontario. There, her oldest daughter, Janice, gets involved with Adam, a guy rumored to get abusive with girlfriends. Will she follow in her mother’s footsteps and find the strength to leave?

“Strong Enough”

Scene 1

(Lights appear on Kate, she is on the phone with her ex-husband, Rob)

Kate: Hi Rob. How are you? I am fine I guess. Yeah, the girls are fine too. Remember when I told you that the fish plant closed down? No, I haven't been able to find another job. The girls and I have been thinking...we've decided that we're going to move to Ontario. Yes, I said Ontario. I can get a job, and the girls will get used to a big town before leaving for university. Rob, you can't stop us from moving, we're divorced and I have sole custody, remember? Rob, you were the one beating me and Amber remember? I can't continue this conversation. Good bye.

(Amber enters and joins her mother at the table.)

Amber: Mom, was that Dad?

Kate: Yes Amber, that was your father. I just told him about our moving.

Amber: How did he take it?

Kate: Not good. He got really upset with me and began talking about the “L” word. He also said that he didn't mean to hurt us, and that he has gotten help.

Amber: Mom, why did you let him hit us for so long?

Kate: I was scared. Besides, he was very caring when we first got married. But then, something happened..... he changed. He'd blow up about the least little thing. He wasn't the man I fell in love with. But I thought if I loved him enough, everything would be okay. But that didn't happen. It only got worse, you know that. I just couldn't take it any more. We have to leave. I have to leave now!

(Lights dim. Reappear on Kate, Amber and Janice packing. Amber and Janice are together; Kate is in another room)

Amber: I don't know what Mom saw in him. All he did was cause us problems and give Mom and me cuts and bruises that we had to lie about.

Janice: She loves him! It wasn't always this way. I can remember when Dad would take us to the movies and we had lots of fun. I love Dad. Even if he did beat you and Mom.

Amber: I still don't think that anyone around this place knows what love is. I don't want to leave. This is our home. All my friends and family live here. *(Amber begins to cry)*

Janice: There's more to the world than this ol' place. Hey, maybe in Ontario you'll find yourself a boyfriend. I hear that the town we're moving to has some great looking guys. Cheer up Sis! All will be forgotten when we leave here. *(Janice hugs Amber. Rob enters)* Dad! I'm so glad that you came to see us before we leave.

Rob: I'm sure going to miss all of you. *(Hugs Janice. Walks over to give Amber a hug, she turns away.)*

Amber: Don't even bother, Da...Rob! You've done nothing but hurt me all of my life. I HATE YOU!! *(she runs off)*

Rob: *(Yells after her)* Amber wait! I'm sorry! *(Sighs)* Janice, is your mother around?

Janice: Yeah, she's in the kitchen.

(Kate is packing a box. Rob walks over to her)

Rob: *(Puts arm around Kate. Kate backs away)* Kate, honey, you know that I never meant to hurt you. I love you so much. Take me back! I'll never hit you or Amber again. I promise. Kate, look at all the good things that happened between us. You can't leave me now, you can't!

Kate: Rob, I have to leave. I can't take it anymore. I will not let you hurt me again. I have nothing left to say to you. *(She turns to leave. Rob grabs her arm)*

Rob: No Kate! I can't live without you! You can't leave me now! You can't! I'll change!

Kate: Rob, you're hurting me again. *(Rob lets her go)* Good bye Rob.

Rob: But Kate, I love you.....

(Lights dim)

Scene 2

(Lights appear on family in Ontario, moving into a new house)

Janice: This house is great! It has everything, and Amber, did you see the guy next door?

Amber: I think I could live here. As long as we are away from Rob!

Kate: Amber! Don't talk about your father like that. And please don't call him Rob. He's still your father.

Amber: I can't believe you still have feelings for him. I can't believe that you're still protecting him. I'm going to my room.

(Lights dim on Kate and Janice. Reappear on Amber alone in her room)

Amber: Why does she still love him? Why, after all he's done to us. Not to Janice though, she was his favourite. Why didn't he ever hit Janice? Was it because she was born first and he wanted me to be a boy? God, if you don't help me in any other way, please help Mom to get over him.

(Lights dim, reappear on Janice and Amber at school)

Janice: *(Walks around with school bag)* This place is so big! It's way better than our last school.

Amber: I'm glad that we're at the same school. I can't believe that you are graduating.

Janice: To be honest with you, I can't believe that I am either. I'm glad though. I can't wait to be on my own.

Amber: I know how you feel. Well, I guess we should get to class! Don't want to be late on the first day!

Janice: Yeah! See you later, Sis!

(Lights dim. Girls go off in opposite directions. Lights reappear on Janice in her class)

Teacher: Good morning class! Today we have a new student! Her name is Janice Wells and she's from Labrador.

Adam: Well, HELLO Miss Wells!

Teacher: Adam, behave yourself.

Sarah: Hi, I'm Sarah and that's Adam. Just ignore him.

Janice: It's nice to meet you, Sarah. *(Looks back at Adam)* You too Adam.

Adam: Do you have plans for lunch? You could join Sarah and me, if you'd like?

Janice: Sure! That sounds great, thanks.

Teacher: Well, Miss Wells, welcome to our school. If I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to ask. Class, it's time for Math. Page 243 - synthetic division.

(Lights dim, reappear on Amber entering her class)

Amber: Excuse me? Is this Grade 10 home room?

Claire: Yep, this is the place. You're new here, aren't you?

Amber: Yeah, I just transferred in.

Claire: Cool. So where are you from?

Amber: Labrador.

Claire: Labrador? Isn't that a dog?

Amber: Ha ha. Very funny.

Claire: No seriously. I have no idea where Labrador is.

Amber: It's on the east coast. Well, I actually lived on the north coast of Labrador.

Claire: Up north! Cool! Did you guys have running water, electricity, stuff like that?

Amber: Of course. What do you think we live in igloos?

Claire: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you. I've never met anyone from Labrador before. By the way, my name is Claire Fields.

Amber: Hi Claire, I'm Amber Wells.

Claire: Would you like to have lunch with me?

Amber: Sure, sounds great. I'll fill you in about Labrador then.

Claire: Great. Oh, I hear Mr. Daniel's coming. We'll talk at lunch.

(Lights dim. Reappear on Adam and Janice at lunch)

Janice: Where's Sarah? Wasn't she going to join us?

Adam: She had to get something from her locker. She'll be here soon. So, how do you like living here?

Janice: It's okay I guess. It's a little lonely being in a new place and not knowing anyone.

Adam: Yeah, I can imagine. You must miss your boyfriend back in Labrador?

Janice: I don't have one. We broke up months ago. Why do you ask?

Adam: I don't know. Just figured a pretty girl like you would belong to someone.

Janice: Oh Adam. You're too much.

(Sarah arrives)

Sarah: Hey guys! Sorry I'm late. Adam, Mrs. Spracklin is looking for you. Something about a late paper.

Adam: Oh-oh! Gotta go! See you later. *(Exits)*

Janice: Adam seems like a very nice guy. Does he have a girlfriend?

Sarah: No, not at the moment. He dated a girl last year.....Claire I believe.

Janice: Oh really? What happened?

Sarah: Well Janice, I'll be honest with you. After they broke up, Claire accused him of hitting her. There was quite a fuss.

Janice: I find that hard to believe! He doesn't seem to be that kinda guy to me. If he was an abuser, I'd be the person to see it. Believe me!

Sarah: Well, hey, I've never been his girlfriend. I don't know for sure.

(Adam returns)

Adam: *(looking at Janice)* There's my favourite princess!

Sarah: Cool it Adam. You just met her today!

Adam: That just shows how amazing she is. So, Janice, about this Math assignment? Need a study buddy? We could meet at my place.

Janice: Well, I don't know this town yet. How about you drop by my place? How about you Sarah?

Sarah: Sorry, I can't. I have a dentist appointment after school.

Adam: Your father might not like that idea of just me dropping by.

Janice: My parents are divorced. I live with my mother.

Adam: Oh I'm sorry. Well, if she doesn't mind, I'll be over at 7:00, okay?

Janice: Sounds great. See you then.

(Lights dim, reappear on Amber and Janice at home)

Amber: So Sis, how was your day? Janice?

Janice: *(Daydreaming)* Oh, my day was perfect! I have a study date tonight! He's so nice, and he's so handsome!

Amber: What! Are you crazy? He's coming here? You just met him. You don't even know him.

Janice: Yeah, but my friend Sarah has known him all her life and she says it's okay.

Amber: Well, I don't know if that's a good idea. Me and Mom are going to the movie. Are you sure it's a good idea?

Janice: Don't be such a wuss, Amber! Live a little!

(Lights dim, reappear on Janice getting her books together. A knock is heard)

Janice: Oh, that must be Adam. *(Goes to door)* Hi Adam. Come in, my mom and sister are gone to a movie. We got the house to ourselves.

Adam: Great! I brought you something. *(Hands her a rose)* I can't believe my luck! Only yesterday I was thinking about moving, and today I see you and my whole life has changed.

Janice: Oh Adam, you're so sweet!

Adam: Janice, I know this is extremely early, but would you like to be my girl, my princess?

Janice: Well Adam, I don't know.

Adam: C'mon, I won't disappoint you.

Janice: Okay, I'll be your princess.

Adam: great!

Janice: Now, let's get to that Math assignment!

(Lights dim, reappear on Janice, Kate and Amber. It's morning)

Kate: So, how do you girls like living here?

Janice: I love it!

Amber: Yeah, I like it here too. So, Janice, how did your date go?

Kate: Date? What date?

Janice: Well, actually it was a study date. Yesterday, I met this really great guy. Mom, he even brought me a rose.

Kate: You're in school one day and you already had a date! Janice, I hope you don't rush into anything! You're only 17.

Janice: Mom, slow down! If you want to meet him, maybe I can invite him for supper tomorrow night?

Kate: I guess, but Janice, please be careful.

(Lights dim. All exit. Lights reappear on Claire and Amber)

Amber: So Claire? Do you have a boyfriend?

Claire: No, I did last year. His name is Adam. He's a senior now. He was really nice at first but then he changed. He started getting violent. He hit me, so I left him.

Amber: I understand completely what you're talking about. I'll never understand why people stay with people who hurt them.

Claire: Love is hard to get away from. I stayed with Adam months after the abuse started. But I'm really happy now, without him and his kind of love.

Amber: I really don't understand love, and I probably never will.

Claire: Okay, enough about that stuff. Let's listen to some music.

(Lights dim, reappear on Janice, Kate, Amber and Adam)

Adam: Thanks for inviting me to dinner, Mrs. Wells. It was really kind of you.

Kate: Oh it's nothing. I just wanted to meet the guy Janice keeps talking about.

Janice: Mom, Adam gets straight A's, and he is president of the student council!

Amber: Adam, do you know Claire Fields?

Adam: *(Pauses)* Nope, I don't. Why do you ask?

Amber: Oh, she may drop by later. I met her a few days ago. She's my new best friend actually. I thought she mentioned you. Must be a different Adam!

Adam: Oh great! Janice, do you want to go for a walk?

Janice: Sure!

(Lights dim on people in house, reappear on Janice and Adam outside)

Janice: Adam, you're such a great guy! My mom thinks so too! I can tell.

Adam: I think you're great too princess. Ah..ah by the way. that girl that Amber was talking about, Claire Fields. I dated her last year. I broke up with her after a few months. She got all crazy and started accusing me of hitting her. I'd be worried about Amber hanging out with her, if I were you.

Janice: So that's who started those rumours about you! I knew they weren't true.

Adam: No they're not! I'd never hit my princess. Oh, it's 8:00, maybe I should be a gentleman and walk you to the door now.

Janice: It's only early, stay.

Adam: Can't! Tomorrow's a school day. You should go in and get some homework done.

Janice: Okay, see you tomorrow!

Adam: See you princess! *(Begins to walk away, turns around)* Oh, and Janice?

Janice: Yeah?

Adam: Always remember that you're my girl!

Janice: You bet!

(Lights appear on Amber. Janice rushes in)

Janice: Amber, I don't want you hanging out with that girl Claire any more! Last year she spread terrible rumours about Adam!

Amber: I thought he didn't know her. Besides, Claire wouldn't lie about that sort of thing.

Janice: I can't believe that you would believe some weird girl over your own sister!

Amber: She's not weird! She's my friend. I'm not talking to you! Good night! *(Lights dim)*

Scene 3

(Weeks later)

Janice: *(Walks over to a guy from school)* Hi Matt! I haven't seen you in Chemistry class lately. Where have you been hiding yourself?

Matt: I've been really sick. I was out for two whole weeks.

Janice: Well, I'm glad you're back! I was wondering, have you seen Adam around?

Matt: Who cares about Adam?

Janice: I do! I love him very much!

Matt: I'm surprised he hasn't hit you yet!

Janice: Hit me? Don't believe everything you hear, Matt. He's wonderful to me!

Matt: Oh sure! For now. *(Adam walks in)*

Adam: Janice, let's go. I've got to talk to you.

Janice: But I'm talking to Matt.

Adam: Now!

Janice: Well, Matt, it's been nice talking to you.

Matt: You too. Gotta head to class. See you around, Janice. *(Exits)*

Adam: What was that all about?

Janice: What do you mean?

Adam: I know that you're cheating on me. Is it with him?

Janice: What! This is the first time that I've spoken to Matt in weeks, let alone be cheating on you with him!

Adam: I'm sorry, I just worry! I'm sorry. Let's go for a walk.

Janice: Adam, you know that I have a test tomorrow! I gotta head home.

Adam: So you care more about some stupid test than you do about me?

Janice: Adam, that's not what I said.

Adam: That's what it sure sounds like!

Janice: I have to study tonight!

Adam: You're my girl and you will do what I say.

Janice: What does it take to make you understand? I have to....

Adam: You're my girl and you will listen to me. *(Hits her)*

Janice: *(Crying)* Okay Adam, I'm sorry. I should have listened to you. Let's go for that walk okay?

Adam: I didn't mean to hurt you. You should have listened in the first place, and then nothing would have happened. *(He hugs her)*

(Lights dim, reappear on Sarah and Janice)

Janice: Hey Sarah! Wait up. *(Pauses)* Sarah, Adam got really strange yesterday.

Sarah: Strange? How?

Janice: he saw me talking to Matt and he got really mad.

Sarah: He was probably jealous. You know how guys are. Gee, what happened to your face? Adam didn't do that, did he?

Janice: Of course not. I bumped it on the cupboard door. I'm so clumsy! Do you have any foundation?

Sarah: Yeah. Let's go and fix your face.

(Lights dim, reappear on Amber and Janice at home)

Amber: Hey Janice! I haven't seen you all day.....*(notices bruise)* Janice, what happened to your face?

Janice: Oh nothing, just a little accident in Phys. Ed. Nothing major, just a ball in the face.

Amber: Adam hit you didn't he?

Janice: Not likely. You've been around Claire too much.

Amber: Don't lie to me! I'm your sister!

Janice: Nothing is happening, just go away.

(Lights dim, reappear on Sarah. Amber enters)

Sarah: Hey, Amber. Where's Janice. I've been waiting for her.

Amber: She's running a little late this morning. Sarah, did you see Janice's face yesterday?

Sarah: Yeah, that must have hurt, hitting it on the cupboard like that.

Amber: Cupboard door! She told me that a ball hit her in the face!

Sarah: Oh, I must have misunderstood her.

Amber: No! She's lying to protect him. I can't believe she's letting him do this to her!

(Lights dim, reappear on Janice and Matt)

Matt: What happened to your face?

Janice: Oh nothing! Just an accident at home, nothing serious.

Matt: How are you and Adam getting along? No possibility of a break up soon?

Janice: Not even close. Adam gave me a promise ring. He said when we graduate, we'll get married.

Matt: Okay, you guys have been dating for a few months, and you're talking about marriage! Kinda soon, don't you think?

Janice: We're in love!

Matt: I'm just afraid that you will get hurt.

Janice: Thanks, but I'm 17 and I can look after myself.

(Lights dim, reappear on Sarah, Claire, Amber and Janice)

Sarah: Janice, we were wondering.....would you like to go camping with us?

Janice: Yeah, I would love to.

Claire: it's going to be great!

Janice: She's not coming is she? *(Motioning to Claire)*

Amber: Yes, Janice. Claire is my friend and she's coming with us, so cool it.

Janice: Okay, sorry, just don't let Adam know she's coming. Oh, here he comes. I'll let him know now. *(Sarah, Amber and Claire leave. Adam arrives but doesn't see them.)*

Adam: Hey princess! How was your day?

Janice: Okay I guess, but it's been hard keeping the bruise covered.

Adam: Sorry about that. Oh, I bought tickets for the concert this weekend.

Janice: I have other plans for the weekend. I'm going on a family camping trip.

Adam: I thought you were going to check with me first before making plans! Besides, don't you think that you're too old for camping? Wouldn't you rather go to a concert than camping with your family?

Janice: Yes, but I have to! We're leaving on Friday afternoon!

Adam: Look, I spent \$50 on those tickets and you're going with me!

Janice: Sorry Adam. I promised Mom and my sister. Sarah's coming too. I can't disappoint them.

Adam: But you can disappoint me! *(Grabs her)* You're going to the concert with me! You love me, don't you?

Janice: Yes, but . . .

Adam: But what? Is your family more important than me?

Janice: Of course not, Adam. Camping was a silly idea. I'll tell them that I changed my mind. Okay?

Adam: Now that's the right thing to do. I've got something special planned for you this weekend.

Janice: Okay. I've got to find Sarah. See you later.

(Lights dim, reappear on girls getting ready for camp)

Kate: Okay girls, I got the car packed. Let's go.

Amber: This is going to be so much fun!

Claire: Imagine all the fun we'll have!

Sarah: Yeah, this will be great!

Janice: Yeah, I hope Adam doesn't see me leaving! Maybe I shouldn't go.

Sarah: Don't worry. He'll understand.

Claire: Adam? Understand? That'll be a first!

(Lights dim, reappear on Adam. Janice enters)

Janice: Hi Adam! I sure missed you this weekend!

Adam: *(Grabs her)* You promised me that you were going to the concert! *(Hits her)* Give me back that ring! *(Pulls ring off her finger)*

Janice: No! I love you! Let me explain!

Adam: *(pushes her)* You don't know what love is!

Janice: I'm sorry! I love you!

Adam: Here's what you get for not listening to me! *(Hits her, she falls. Matt runs in)*

Matt: Get away from her!

Adam: So, she has been cheating with you all along!

Matt: Adam, you're crazy! She worships the ground you walk on, and you beat her!

Adam: This is none of your business, Matt. Get lost.

Matt: I'm making it my business.

Janice: *(Getting up)* No, Matt, I just fell.

Matt: Janice, I saw everything! He hit you.

Janice: It's my fault, not Adam's. Just leave us alone, okay? I'm fine.

Matt: Janice, if you ever need me, I'm around, okay? *(He leaves reluctantly)*

Adam: I'm sorry princess. It's just that I don't want to lose you. *(Puts ring back on her finger)*

Janice: I don't want to lose you either. I'm sorry. I promise I won't make you angry again.

Lights dim. They exit. Light reappears on Sarah, Claire and Amber. Matt rushes in)

Matt: Amber, wait up! I just saw Adam hitting Janice!

Amber: Is she okay?

Matt: I guess, but she denies that he hit her! She says that it's her fault!

Claire: That's the way I felt! It was months before I saw what was really happening to me.

Sarah: Amber, what you said all along must be true. We've got to help her.

Matt: I don't know what good it will do. Amber, maybe you should tell your mom what's going on.

(Lights dim, reappear on Kate. Amber rushes in)

Amber: Mom, you'll never believe what I heard in school! Adam is hitting Janice!

Kate: What? What do you mean Adam is hitting Janice?

Amber: Yeah. He's been hitting her for a while now. Matt saw it, and Janice is saying that it's her fault.

Kate: How could she let this happen? She knows what we went through with your father. Are you sure?

Amber: Yes Mom. She's been lying about bruises and marks on her face.

Kate: It's happening all over again. I can't deal with this now.

Amber: Mom, what can we do? Where can we get help?

Kate: I know who can help. I'll just make a quick call. *(Dials number)* Hello. Ms Butt? It's Kate Wells. I have a problem. It concerns my daughter.

(Lights dim. Reappear on Kate. Janice enters)

Janice: Hi Mom! Can't talk now. I got a test to study for.

Kate: Janice, I need to speak to you right now.

Janice: What's wrong? You sound so serious.

Kate: I know Adam has been hitting you, and that you're lying about it - protecting him. I don't believe this. Why are you letting him do this to you?

Janice: Mom, it's not like that. Adam loves me!

Kate: Stop protecting him!

Janice: I'm not having this conversation with you.

Kate: You can't keep ignoring it. That's what I did...for way too long. *(Janice starts to cry. Kate hugs her)* Tomorrow you are coming with me to see Ms Bull. She's a counselor at the Abuse Center. She can help us get through this.

(Lights dim, reappear on Kate and Janice at Abuse Center. Kate knocks on office door)

Ms Butt: Come in, Kate. It's good to see you again. This must be Janice. Hi Janice. Welcome. Please take a seat. *(All sit)* Janice, your mom has informed me that you are having problems with your boyfriend. Is there anything you'd like to talk about?

Janice: Not really.

Kate: Your friends have seen Adam hitting you. Is that not a problem?

Ms Butt: Is this true, Janice? Is Adam being abusive towards you?

Janice: *(Shrugs shoulders)* It's not his fault. I make him angry.

Kate: Has what happened in our home taught you nothing? Your father hit me and your sister for years. I won't let the same thing happen to you. It has to stop.

Ms Butt: If what your mother is saying is true, Janice, you are not alone. There is help available. We have a lot of programs and support groups for abused women and children. We even have a 24-hour emergency hotline, if it is necessary.

Kate: Yeah, the support group here has helped me adjust and cope with all the changes I've had to face since finding the strength to leave your father.

Ms Butt: What are you feeling right now, Janice?

Janice: A little confused. He says he loves me.

Ms Butt: But do you feel loved? *(Pauses)* here at the center, we have a support group for

women your age. We meet every Wednesday evening. You're welcome to join us. Or if you'd prefer, we could arrange another private session, just the two of us. You should really talk to someone.

Janice: I'll think about it.

(All stand and walk out of office)

Ms Butt: Well Janice, you certainly have a lot to think about, don't you? I hope you decide to come by again. From what I can see, you have people who really care about you.

Kate: Good bye and thanks.

(Lights dim, reappear on Janice sitting alone, listening to music. Adam enters. Music is barely audible)

Adam: Oh, there's my princess.

Janice: Adam, I need to talk to you.

Adam: What's wrong princess? Your voice seems so different. Have you been worrying about something?

Janice: Adam, I think you need help.

Adam: Help? Help for what?

Janice: It's not right for you to hit me.

Adam: What do you mean? You were the one who won't listen. You got the problems!

Janice: I'm sorry Adam, but I can't date you any longer. Here's your ring!

Adam: You won't leave me. *(Goes towards Janice with hand raised. She turns to leave)*
But, princess, I love you.

Janice: Good bye Adam.

Adam: But I love you.....

(Janice turns and leaves as song begins to play again. Lights dim)