

**B L Morrison School  
Postville**

**Presents**

**OnStars and Northern Lights**

**Cast**

Amber

Kellie

Trent

Travis

Nurse

Great Grandma Silpa

Heather Edmunds

Samantha Freake

Shane Harris

*Bronson Jacque*

Vicki Robinson

Samantha Freake

Teacher Advisor

Hope Fraise

## Scene 1

*(The four teens are sitting in Amber's car. Amber is driving. Kellie sits beside her, Travis is behind Amber and Trent sits beside him.)*

- Kellie:** What a car? Hey Amber! We should go for a ride today!
- Trent:** Yeah Amber, *(pokes her in the ribs)* A ride to the mall.
- Amber:** Well, *(Thinks for a moment)* I don't know. I mean, it's kinda wet on the roads and I just got my license.
- Travis:** *(Puppy dog eyes)* Please? Please? Come on Amber, we know you are a good driver. You'll keep us safe.
- Amber:** If you say so. I'll call Mom. *(Other teens kind of whisper excitedly as Amber uses the cell. Puts away cell)* Let's go! *(All yell.)*
- Trent:** I can't get over this car! OnStar and everything!
- Amber:** A far cry from our Inuit ancestors' huskies and komatik.
- Kellie:** Forget that! A far cry from my dad's old clunker, I say. *(Everyone laughs)*
- Trent:** The other day when it was slippery, my friend's OnStar said "There is lack of friction between the car and road" *(uses robot-type voice quote.)* Why couldn't it just have said "It's slippery?" *(Everyone laughs. Trent persisting with OnStar)* And I read somewhere that OnStar can contact emergency services even if everyone in the car is non-responsive.
- Kellie:** That's sure not you now, Trent, is it? Being non-responsive, I mean. *(everyone laughs again. To dismiss Trent's train of thought)* Amber do you have any music or what?
- Amber:** I'm driving, Kellie. Can't you wait until I am able to pull over?
- Travis:** *(Peers over seat)* They're in your door. I'll try to reach them. I'll get them from behind. *(Puts his arm between the side of Amber's seat and the door.)* I'm stuck.
- Trent:** What do you mean, you're stuck?

**Travis:**       *(Sarcastically)* Well, my arm is caught between the seat and the door, so, I'm stuck.

*(Amber glances down and starts laughing)*

**Travis:**       What's wrong Amber? This really hurts.

*(Trent starts laughing along with Amber)*

**Kellie:**       No, seriously, guys! You're insane! What do you think Amber?

**Travis:**       I think I don't want to be stuck. My back is hurting and I'm starting not to feel my arm.

*(Trent and Amber stop laughing.)*

**Amber:**       Okay, I'm gonna pull over. *(She slams hard on the brakes, car skids on wet pavement and turns over to land in the ditch. Cries and groans, almost unintelligible screams, then police and ambulance sirens in background. Lights off)*

## Scene 2

*( Amber is lying in a hospital bed with eyes closed. She is connected to equipment and appears to be unconscious. Lights off. Sound of Inuit drum dancer which fades as lights on. The figure of an old Inuit woman approaches the bed. Amber opens her eyes)*

**G Grandma Silpa:**   Ai, Amber child.

**Amber:**       *(Weakly)* You, you look like my great grandmother Silpa. Nan showed me a black and white picture of you when everyone lived in Hebron. But she's dead, and so are you. What are you doing here? *(In a panic)* And where is here? Where am I? This is not my bed...

**G Grandma Silpa:**   *(Gently)* You are right, Amber. I am your great Grandmother Silpa. And yes, you are in the Mission Clinic, I mean, hospital, because you hurt yourself badly in an accident.

**Amber:**       But I don't understand. Why are you here? *(Panicky)* How can you be here? Is...is this all a bad dream?

**G Grandma Silpa:** *(Even more gently)* No, this is not a dream, it is a vision. But do not be afraid. I am here because I love you, as I loved your nan years ago. Did she ever tell you about the time her komatik fell through the ice and she almost froze to death? They have another word for it now...ah..

**Amber:** Hypothermia. Yes, I remember that she said she willed herself to live. She was pregnant with my mom at the time, and that gave her courage to keep going. But what does that have to do with me Great Grandma Silpa? Am I dying? *(Starts to cry)*

**G Grandma Silpa:** *(Speaking softly and comfortingly, yet firmly)* You are alive, Amber. What will happen is up to you. Besides broken bones, you are bleeding inside and the doctor will soon be talking to your parents. Your friends are fine, but you were hurt the most because the steering of your komatik thing...

**Amber:** *(Slightly amused despite the gravity of the situation, interrupts)* Car, Great Grandma Silpa, car.

**G Grandma Silpa:** Yes, the steering of your... ah...car hit you in the chest. Amber, dear, your mother loves you, as her nan loved her. And you have your friends and the future to live for.

**Amber:** *(Looking around wildly)* But, but, will I live?

**G Grandma Silpa:** Only you can answer that question. You can come with me *(beckons)* or you can walk out that door *(points)*. Cultures get modern and some traditions disappear, but there will always be life, laughter and love. *(Slyly)* I know more about that last one than you think?

**Amber:** Thank you great Grandma Silpa. You've reminded me of reasons to live for. I'm still afraid of what's ahead of me, but I'm prepared to fight. I love you Great Grandma Silpa.

**G Grandma Silpa:** I love you forever child. Every time you see the Northern Lights, remember I will always be there, how do you say it, yes, rooting for you. *(Turns to go, turns back again. As an afterthought)* Ah,,, do you know that your name, Amber means "preserved forever"? *(Pauses and waves)* Atsunai.

*(Lights off. Sound of Inuit drum dancer which fades as lights on.)*

**Amber:** *(Opening her eyes, blinking and looking around)* I love you Great Grandma Silpa. *(Lights off)*

### Scene 3

*Chairs facing audience lined up in a row like hospital waiting room. Kellie, Trent and Travis sitting down, staring blankly ahead. Hospital bed with Amber to side. Lights on, on chairs only. Nurse walks by.*

**Trent:** Is... is she okay?

*Nurse shrugs, then walks off.*

**Kellie:** She must have known who you were talking about.

**Trent:** *(Sighs)* I know.

*Nurse waves Trent over. Whispers something, then leaves. Trent walks back over.*

**Kellie:** What did she tell you?

**Trent:** She asked if I had a girlfriend?

**Kellie:** No! I mean...ah...

**Trent:** She said Amber will be okay, but she has a lot of therapy ahead of her. She became conscious this morning, and her parents just left. We can go in to see her. *(Everyone with exclamations like "Good!" "What a relief!" "Thank God!")*

**Travis:** You know, I remember in the ambulance, there were two nurses. They were trying to keep you two awake and stabilize Amber.

**Trent:** I don't remember nothing.

**Travis:** My arm was throbbing and I felt weird. I remember I kept thinking, if only you guys would stay awake, and wishing Amber would be okay.

**Kellie:** Thank God we're alright. Now, if only Amber... *(She cannot finish the*

sentence.)

*Lights on hospital bed. Amber is hooked up, but with eyes open. Trent, Travis and Kellie approach bed, Trent in front and Kellie and Travis behind. Kellie and Travis appear to be talking.*

**Trent:** Hey Amber!

**Amber:** *(Speaks weakly and haltingly throughout the scene)* Trent, how's it?

**Trent:** Are you okay? I mean... you were so... I don't know...you were just...

**Amber:** I know. I don't think I want to talk about it, but here goes nothing.

**Travis:** When you went to pull over, my arm loosened and scared you.

**Amber:** It's all starting to come back to me now. My foot jerked and it hit the brake pedal too hard. I tried to steer right, but it was raining too hard. The wheels slipped and the next thing, we were stopped upside-down somewhere. That's all I remember. Oh, there was screaming.

**Travis:** Someone did scream. I heard "If these are my last words, I love you." I remember because it was directed at me.

**Kellie:** *(Embarrassed)* That would be me. I remember the car talking to us about ambulances and fire trucks. I was like... no way!

**Amber:** *(Smiles weakly.)* OnStar...

**Trent:** *(Dreamily)* Yeah, On Star. *(Everyone laughs)* I don't remember nothing.

**Kellie:** I feel responsible for the accident because I was the one who asked for the music.

**Amber:** *(Smiling again)* Yes, you were, but I forgive you.

**Trent:** Thanks! From all of us! What did the doctor say?

**Amber:** He said I'll be out soon, but I'll be in a wheelchair until my broken bones heal. He said it could have been much worse, so I'm thankful, very thankful.

**Trent:** I can't believe it. We were laughing one minute, and screaming the next. It was insane. *(Pauses)* Well, the nurse said we could only stay a few minutes. *(Looks at watch.)*

**Kellie:** *(Interrupting, chuckling.)* That was the nurse who asked you if you had a girl.

**Trent:** *(Laughing along, forgetting Amber is in the room, conscious)* And I said Amber was my girlfriend. *(Remembering.)* oops! *(Looks at Amber, embarrassed.)*

**Amber:** You said I was your girlfriend?!

**Trent:** Well...um...sorta...yeah...maybe!

**Travis:** Well now, that's funny, cuz Amber's parents didn't know where *(raises hands in quotes)* "her boyfriend and his sister" *(raises hands in quotes)* went!

**Kellie:** Haha! So now I'm Trent's sister?!? *(All laugh)*

**Amber:** *(Putting hands to head.)* I think I'm having a relapse! *(Everyone laughs again.)*

**Trent:** Well, the nurse said we could only stay for a few minutes. We'll come to see you again tomorrow, Amber. *(Everyone leaves and chorus of good-byes.)*

#### Scene 4

*Outdoors. Amber, in wheelchair, being pushed by Trent, the other two walking alongside.*

**Amber:** It's so good to be finally out of the hospital. Thanks for visiting me this past month. You guys didn't miss a day, did you? *(Everyone walks in companionable silence.)* Remember in the hospital? The nurses kept trying to make us laugh. But the funny thing was, they were about fifty, and Travis kept making eyes at them! *(Travis looks down as the other two look at him.)*

**Kellie:** Is that so?

**Trent:** What was that?

**Travis:** You wouldn't know cuz you were busy watching Amber!

**Trent:** Yeah, well, um... never mind..ah..

**Amber:** What were you gonna say?

**Trent:** Ah... it's only early evening. I was gonna say that maybe we could go for a ride.

**Amber:** Well, okay, if someone can lift me into the car. *(Trent obliges)* Good thing you got your license now, Trent. *(Everyone gets into the car.)*

**Trent:** Thanks for letting me borrow your car. It was hardly damaged in the accident, except for a dented roof.

**Kellie:** Can we put some music on, before we start this time? Cause, you know, we don't want another accident. We really weren't thinking too good on our last ride together.

**Trent:** Yeah, and I think it's up to Amber this time to pick what she would like to listen to. *(Sadly)* I haven't heard OnStar, though, for a long time. *(Everyone groans.)*

**Amber:** How about the radio? *(Turns on radio.)*

**Kellie:** Are we hallucinating?

**Amber:** Why?

**Kellie:** I didn't think we would get you in the car for a while.

**Amber:** *(Laughs)* Speaking of that, let's stop and get out of the car. I want to look at the Northern Lights. Aren't they beautiful! When they show, it's really kinda chilly. Got your coats on?

*Trent stops car, he, Travis and Kellie step out. Trent lifts Amber into the wheelchair that Travis has set up. Trent and Amber are ahead, Travis and Kellie walking behind.*

**Travis:** So, you said you loved me?

**Kellie:** Yes, I wanted you to know just in case I died.



**Trent:** *(Overhears and looks back)* Aw-w-w. So sweet. But Kellie, you're fifteen. You don't need to love anyone yet.

**Kellie:** I know, it slipped out.

*(Everyone stops and sits around, looking at the Northern Lights, exclaiming over their beauty. Ad lib here)*

**Trent:** You know, Amber, we're so proud of you. Lots of people refuse to get in a car for years after an accident, if ever.

**Amber:** Thanks. With friends like you, how can I help but recover in record time? *(Kellie seems to be in her own world.)* Hey Kellie!

**Kellie:** *(Seems preoccupied, looks up.)* Ah...what? Oh yeah, you are very brave, Amber.

**Travis:** You don't seem like yourself all of a sudden.

**Trent:** If it's what I said a few minutes ago, I'm sorry.

**Kellie:** Naw. It wasn't you. It's just that...aw, never mind. *(Brightly)* All that matters is that we're together again.

*Trent raises eyebrows and pantomimes "She loves you" to Travis behind her back.*

**Travis:** *(smiles and pantomimes back "I love her". Quietly to Trent.)* Don't let on to her.

**Trent:** *(To Travis, comically)* I don't remember nothing. *(Noisily clears his throat.)* Ah-hem! Time to get take-out! First one back to the car is lucky duck!

**Amber:** I'll be along in a minute. *(Dreamily looks at Northern Lights.)* Thank you Great Grandma Silpa! *(Rolls wheelchair back to the car where friends are waiting.)* Does this make me unlucky duck?

**Trent:** Naw. You're sitting duck! *(Pretends to ward off blow from Amber.)*

*Everyone gets back in car, the boys helping Amber.*

**OnStar:** *(Robot voice)* You are positioned too close to shoulder of road.

**Trent:** Oh OnStar! You're okay! *(Everyone groans.)*

**Amber:** *(Looking through car window. Murmurs)* You definitely wouldn't understand this komatik thing, Great Grandma Silpa!