

“A New Beginning”

Cast of Characters:

Gina Alexis Coombs
Rosie Judy- Melissa Lucy
Father, Ticket Agent, Narrator Kendra Frieda
Sophie..... Brenda Flowers
Amber..... Angelica Vincent
Selma..... Veronica Flowers
Doris, Announcer..... Halle Lucy

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Scene 1

In Africa at the family home.

Narrator: Gina is an 18 year old girl who has recently decided to visit her maternal family in Hopedale, Labrador. Although she is nervous about her trip, she is very excited to finally experience the world that her mother and grandmother so lovingly talks about.

African music is playing in the background.

Rosie: Are you sure you have everything packed?

Gina: Yes mom.

Rosie: Do you have your tooth brush?

Gina: Yes mom.

Rosie: Where is your passport?

Gina: In my purse.

Rosie: How much Canadian money did you get transferred?

Gina: \$500, I'm going to be fine mom, stop worrying.

Rosie: I'm your mother, of course I'm going to worry. Who is picking you up when you get to Hopedale?

Gina: Mom, we've been through this... Anansiak is picking me up at the airport.

Rosie: Where is your sweater and warm clothes? You know that the weather is a lot different than here in Africa. There will be snow!

Gina: That's the white fluffy stuff, right? I'm sure Anansiak will have warm clothing for me when I get there.

Rosie: Yes, but you still have to fly on the Twin Otter... they are FREEZING! You can even see the frost forming next to the windows.

Gina: Twin Otter? Is that two animals?

Rosie: *[laughing]* No dear, that is a small airplane.

Gina: Come on mom, we have to leave. We're going to miss the plane.

Father: Hurry Gina before I change my mind on letting you travel half way around the world to a foreign country alone! Rosie, make sure she has everything.

Rosie: Well honey, that's how I met you, wasn't it? I travelled all the way from Labrador just to find you.

Father and Gina exit the house to go to the airport. The phone rings.

Rosie: Hi anansiak, yes... we are on our way out the door now. *[pause]* I know, she is excited too. *[pause]* Yes, she has her passport, I've already asked her. *[pause]* She will take 27 hours to get there. She will be there by 3PM tomorrow afternoon. *[pause]* Yes, it's a long plane ride... what an adventure she will have. *[pause]* I'm so excited that she decided to experience her Inuit heritage for the first time. I wish I could be there with you guys. *[pause]* I have to go; they're waiting in the car for me. Atsunai. Love you. Mmph.

Horn honks, mother runs out the door. Lights dim.

Scene 2

Narrator: After nearly 24 hours flying, Gina arrives in Goose Bay, Labrador. She is checking in at the ticket counter at PAL for her flight up the North Coast. She is nervous and excited to meet her grandmother for the first time.

Gina: Hi, I am travelling to Hopedale on Flight 901.

Ticket Agent: What is your name?

Gina: Gina Bello. Here is my ID.

Ticket Agent: You're traveling to the North Coast? You don't need a picture ID.

Gina: Really? Why don't I need a picture ID?

Ticket Agent: We don't require ID for flights to the North Coast. There is no security screening or checks either.

Gina: *[laughing]* That doesn't make me feel very safe. Would I be able to get a window seat? I would love to watch the Labrador scenery out the window.

Ticket Agent: You've never been on these flights before, have you? There are no stewardess, no bathrooms, and no assigned seating. You just get on the plane, find a place to sit and buckle up!

Gina: Oh? Ok... What time does the flight depart?

Ticket Agent: Actually, we've been just informed that we are on weather hold, there will be another update in an hour.

Gina: Weather hold? What does that mean?

Ticket Agent: On the North Coast, the pilots fly by sight. If the weather is bad and they are unable to see, they won't fly. We are waiting for the high winds and blizzard warning to end. We will get an update in about an hour if the pilots feel it is safe enough to fly.

Gina: *[looking worried]* Are you sure those planes are safe?

Ticket Agent: Yes dear, those pilots are the best in the world, they can fly through everything and land on a dime. There is no need to be afraid; they won't fly if the conditions are unsafe.

Gina: Thanks. I hope you're right.

Ticket Agent: How many bags do you have with you?

Gina: Two.

Ticket Agent: Put your bags on the scale, please. Those bags look heavy. You know you are only allowed to have a total of 40lbs, right?

Gina: 40 POUNDS? Are you serious? I definitely have more than that.

Gina places her bags on the scale. The agent weighs the bags.

Ticket Agent- Whoa, 75lbs. You're going to have to pay for the extra weight. That's going to be \$1.72 per pound. You're over weight charges are \$60.20. How would you like to pay?

Gina: I have Canadian money...

Gina hands her the money.

Ticket Agent: Thanks. Here is your receipt. Don't lose it in case you need to recheck your bags tomorrow. Why don't you get a snack at Robbins and take advantage of free WiFi in the TV room. You will hear an announcement over the intercom when we get our next weather update.

Gina: Thanks for all your help.

Gina takes her carry on and goes to the TV room. She sits down, takes her iPhone out and starts to browse the internet. Two girls (Sophie and Amber) come in and sit beside her, they start to chat.

Sophie: Ugghhhhhhhhhhh. I hate being on weather hold.

Amber: I know eh, this always happens when I travel. Always on weather hold, never fails. Are you on the flight to the North Coast too?

Gina: Yes, I'm travelling to Hopedale. My name is Gina, what's yours?

Sophie: My name is Sophie and this is my friend Amber. We're travelling to Hopedale too... that's where we're from. I don't know if we will make it there today though, I was talking to my mom and she said the weather is still flat down... no visibility. Oh well, more Mary Brown's for us!

Sophie holds up her Mary Brown's Box [smiling]. Amber giggles.

Gina: Mary Brown's? Are you bringing back take out? Why not just get it there... it will be fresh!

Amber: *[laughing]* Yeah, Mary Brown's is right next to Tim Horton's in the mall... nah boy! There's nothing like that in Hopedale... you're lucky to get a fresh apple. There's no mall, no take out, no fancy restaurants... you're in for a major shock!

Gina: Oh man, I'm really anxious to get there. I've never been there before. It's going to be a lot different than where I come from.

Sophie: Yeah, I haven't seen you before... are you from around here?

Gina: No, I'm from South Africa. I'm going to Hopedale to meet my grandmother for the first time.

Sophie: Wow! You've travelled all the way from Africa? How long did it take to get here?

Gina: Um... nearly 24 hours. It's been a long day! I just want the weather to clear and get there!

Amber: You said your grandmother lives there? What is her name? I bet I know her... Hopedale is a small place, everyone knows everyone there!

Gina: Her name is Selma Mitsuk. Do you know her?

Sophie: Selma Mitsuk? Cripes, that's my grandmother's sister!

Gina: Wow... that means we're... second cousins! What a small world. So, tell me more about Hopedale...

Announcer: This is an announcement for Innu Mikun Flight 901 to the North Coast. The flight will be departing in approximately 10 minutes. Please make your way to gate #2 with your boarding pass.

Amber: That's us! We're leaving. I really hope the weather is cleared. The flight could be bumpy... got any Graval?

Gina: Yes, I've already taken some. Mom warned me about these little planes.

Sophie: Let's go line up... we'll tell you all about Hopedale later.

Girls line up at the gate to board the plane. Ticket agent is waiting to take their boarding passes.

Scene 3

Narrator: After a rough ride, the girls have arrived in Hopedale. The flight was unable to land in Postville due to weather. The storm is moving south but the plane was just able to land. It was a bumpy landing. The weather is -35 with the wind chill and it is snowing. Gina's grandmother is anxious to see Gina for the first time.

Gina: When my mother warned me about Labrador's cold weather, I never thought it would be THIS COLD! It must be at least below 0!

Sophie: Gina... the wind chill is -35!

Amber: There's dad, it was nice meeting you; I'll probably see you later.

Sophie: Bye Amber!

Gina: It was nice meeting you too. Bye.

Amber exits.

Sophie: How are you feeling? You look like you're sick!

Gina: Uggggghhhh... I don't feel so good and I'm freezing. I really hope my grandmother brought me some warm clothes. Where do I dump this barf bag?

Selma: GINAAAAA! I'm so happy you made it. I didn't think the plane would land in this weather! Come give me a hug, my beautiful granddaughter.

Selma and Gina hug each other.

Selma: Are you ok? Were you sick on the plane?

Gina: Yes, what do I do with this bag? Can we go inside now and collect our bags... I'm FREEZING!

Selma: [*passes her warm clothing, Gina puts it on to stay warm*] Here darling, you need to bundle up in these temperatures, your skin can freeze in seconds. I don't want you catching a cold on your first day in Hopedale.

Sophie: *[laughing]* Gina, you have to wait for the pilot to get your bags from the back of the plane. They will throw them out to you.

Gina: You mean there is no carousel?

Sophie: Cripes, you've got a lot to learn, girl.

Selma: Sophie, I didn't realize you were coming back today. Did you girls meet in Goose Bay?

Gina: Yes, we met in the TV room at the airport. We were both on weather hold. Sophie was telling me all about Hopedale and what to expect when I got here. We even discovered that we're related! What a small world.

Selma: How lovely, I knew you girls would get along great! Now dear, get your bags and throw them in the komatik. Let's get home. I have supper cooked; you're in for a real treat.

Gina: Wait, what is a komatik?

Selma: That's a wooden box we tow behind our ski doo. See that yellow tundra over there? That's mine. Let's go. *[hugs Gina]* I'm so happy that you're here. I've waited 18 years to finally meet you.

Gina: *[hugs]* I can't wait to ride on ski doo! I've only seen pictures and heard stories from my mom!

Selma: What was your flight like? You must be tired.

Gina: I was a little sick on the plane, but I'm OK now. Let's go! Sophie, do you have a ride?

Sophie: My mom was supposed to be here, but I don't see her. I'll just jump in the box. Is that OK?

Selma: Yes Sophie, get in the box. I'm so happy that you have already met each other. Thank you for keeping Gina company.

Everyone gets on the ski doo and in the box. They leave the air strip.

Scene 4

Narrator: The girls are in the living room chatting while grandma is in the kitchen finishing supper.

Gina: That was so much fun! I can't wait to drive ski doo on my own.

Sophie: Doris and I are thinking about going for a boil up and hunting tomorrow. Do you want to come with us?

Gina: That would be awesome! What are you hunting for? And...[laughs] what is a boil up?

Sophie: I'm not sure, we'll take our guns and see what's out there. Hopefully we will see some partridges or maybe even an ukalik.

Gina: That's the Inuk word for rabbit, right? My mother taught me a few words over the years in Africa.

Sophie: A boil up is like a campfire in the woods. Usually people cook wieners and marshmallows and boil the kettle to make tea and hot chocolate. Sometimes we even cook things that we have killed that day... like fish! [*sigh*] There's nothing better than a fish roasted over the fire with a cup of tea!

Gina: Sounds very interesting. I can't wait!

Selma: Girls, supper is ready. I hope you're hungry.

Gina: I'm starving! What's on the menu?

Selma: Since this is a special occasion, I've cooked my last caribou roast just for you since we're not allowed to hunt them anymore. I've been waiting for this meal for a while!

Gina: I haven't tried it before, I'm excited to try it. Why are you not allowed to hunt caribou anymore?

Selma: Oh dear, that's a story for another time. It's a long story... basically there is a shortage because of overhunting. We really miss it.

Judy (the neighbor) walks in from next door.

Judy: [*looks at Gina*] Oh Gina, you made it! Whoa, you look so much like your mother. How was your trip?

Gina: [*looks confused*] Thanks, a lot of people tell me that. My flight was really bumpy. I'm glad we made it. [*pause*] I'm sorry, what is your name?

Judy: Oh, sorry, my name is Judy. I'm your anansiak's neighbor. I saw you coming from the air strip. [*turns to grandmother*] Is that caribou I smell?

Selma: Yes, this is the roast I've been saving for Gina. I wanted her to taste the traditional food of the Inuit.

Judy: [*laughing*] How much ya got?

Selma: If I have any left, I'll send it over. I know how hard it is to come by a piece of caribou meat these days.

Judy: That'd be great. I miss it! By the way, got any tea bags? I just ran out and the government store don't got any.

Selma: Top cupboard, help yourself.

Sophie: We're going off tomorrow for the day. Do you want to come?

Judy: Where are you going?

Sophie: Up the bay. We're going to have a boil up and see if we can get any partridges and maybe go ice fishing up Udjatuk.

Selma: I'd like to go too!

Judy: Yuh, I'll run to the gas station and get five gallons. What time you leaving?

Sophie: 'round 9... we'll meet you outside the house.

Gina: Why don't we invite Amber? She seemed nice.

Sophie: Yeah, I'll message her later and ask her.

Judy: OK... Naku for the tea bags and don't forget about my caribou. See you all at 9.

Gina: It was nice meeting you Judy, see you tomorrow!

Judy exits. Gina and Sophie sit at the table. Grandmother brings out the food to the table. They put food on their plates.

Selma: Let's stand and say grace. Thank you Lord for getting my granddaughter to Hopedale safely. Lord, bless this food that we are about to eat and keep us safe tomorrow as we go off on the land.

Gina, Sophie, Selma: Amen.

Everyone sits and begins to eat.

Gina: This is delicious. My mom said I would love caribou because it tastes similar to zebra.

Sophie: What? You eat zebra?!

Gina: Yes, it is a very popular dish in Africa. People cook it just like you cooked this caribou. Oh, that reminds me. Anansiak, I brought you something from Africa.

Gina goes to get a gift. Grandmother opens it up.

Selma: Wow, is that hand-carved? That must have taken someone a long time to make.

Gina: Yes, a friend of mine made it for you. It is meant to take away evil spirits, something like what a dream catcher does. It is made from mahogany wood that was cut right next to our town.

Selma: Wow, that's beautiful. Thank you so much. I have something for you too. It is something you can only use while you visit Labrador.

Grandma goes to get a package and hands it to her. Gina opens the first gift.

Gina: Wow! *[she puts them on]* What are these made out of? Is it seal?

Selma: Yes. Your grandfather killed this seal the winter before he passed away. I made the mitts by hand, especially for you. I just finished them in the fall. Do they fit?

Gina: They fit perfectly. Thank you so much. I bet my mom will love them too.

Selma: Speaking of your mother, open the other gift.

Gina opens the gift.

Gina: What is this?

Sophie: It's a dicky. It is a traditional coat that people wear when they go off. You won't get cold in that! You can wear it tomorrow. But, you need to wear a warm coat or sweater underneath.

Selma: This was your mother's when she was your age, just before she left to go to Africa and never came back. I made this for her.

Sophie: Why did your mom go to Africa, anyway? And why didn't she ever come back?

Gina: She was a nursing student. She went there to volunteer in an orphanage. She met my father, who was a doctor there, and decided to stay.

Sophie: Eee, is it? Just like you sees in the movies. How cute.

Sophie's sister, Doris, comes in.

Doris: Soph, you have to go babysit. Mary Jane just called and she wants go play bingo a bit.

Sophie: Yeah, I'm coming. Oh, this is Gina, she came from Africa today to meet Aunt Selma. Cool eh?

Doris: Hi Gina, I'm Doris. How long you staying for?

Gina: About a month.

Doris: Cool. I'm sure I'll see ya around.

Sophie: Thanks for supper. You want me to drop off the left over caribou to Judy?

Selma: Yes, she'll be waiting for it. Thank you

Sophie: Bye.

Doris: See you tomorrow.

Sophie and Doris leave.

Gina: Do you mind if I call mom and let her know I made it?

Selma: Yes love, go right ahead. You go phone your mom and I will make up your bed. You must be tired. You need to rest up for your big day tomorrow.

Gina: Yeah, I'm going to bed soon. Thanks for everything, anansiak.

Gina leaves to use the phone. Lights dim.

Scene 5

Narrator: The girls are getting ready outside to go off for the day. The weather is beautiful and everyone is excited for Gina to go off on the land for the first time. Everyone is ready to leave, but is waiting on Amber to show up.

Sophie: Amber b'y, she's always late eh!

Gina: I'm so excited. I wonder where Amber is, she was supposed to be here ten minutes ago.

Selma: I'm sure she will be here soon.

Judy: Nice coat Gina, I think I recognize the embroidery on it. *[pause]* Was that your mother's coat when she was in Hopedale? It fits you perfectly.

Gina: Yes, anansiak made it for my mother years ago. And these are my brand new mitts. I'm definitely going to be warm today!

Judy: How special. Look at that blue sky, the weather is beautiful! The snow will be powdery after that big storm we had yesterday. Everyone better be careful not to get stuck!

Doris: Powder is best kind on the ice. Anyone going climb'n or wa?

Gina: Climbing? Yes! I go rock climbing all the time in Africa.

Doris: Rock climb'n? You better hope you don't hit a rock, you'll go fly'n. Nah boy, climbing on the ski doos up over steep ol' hills. That's what we call climb'n in Hopedale. I'll show ya when we get out there.

Gina: Anansiak, shouldn't we all have helmets on? Isn't driving on ski doo dangerous?

Selma: Yes, we should all wear them, but we don't. I always pray that we are kept safe when we go off.

Doris: Helmets? Nah... no one needs them 'round here. We're good drivers... you'll be alright. I'll keep an eye out for those belly catters.

Judy: Selma, thanks for the caribou meat last night. It was delicious, just as I remembered it.

Selma: You're welcome. I'm glad you enjoyed it.

Sophie looks out toward the ice and sees Amber coming.

Sophie: Hey, is that Amber coming?

Amber arrives on ski doo.

Doris: You're late! We've been waiting forever.

Amber: Yeah, sorry... I had to change the spark plugs and gas up.

Selma: Is everyone ready? Let's go and get this day started!

Everyone gets on the ski doos and goes off.

Narrator: After an hour driving and sight-seeing, they find the perfect spot to have a boil up. Along the way, the group stopped to take pictures and even hunt for partridges. Gina tried a gun for the first time and killed one partridge. They've also seen rabbits and foxes.

Selma: Welcome to Udjoktuk, the best fishing grounds around Hopedale. Let's get our hooks and start drilling the holes.

Gina: Wow! It's beautiful here! What kind of fish will we catch?

Selma: All kinds; smelts, trout, salmon and Arctic char.

Everyone gets off and take their gear from their ski doos.

Judy- There should already be holes drilled through. People were fishing here just before the storm. Anyone bring a shovel to dig them out?

Amber: Yeah, I got a shovel over in the box. I'll go get it now.

Amber goes to get the shovel and starts digging. Everyone else is walking around looking for the holes.

Sophie: Amb, come here a bit, I think I found a hole.

Gina: *[screams]* My foot fell through the ice! Help!

Amber: It didn't go through the ice, you found a fishing hole! Good job!

Selma: Gina, you're a natural!

Gina: Ah... call 911! I'm going to die of hypothermia!

Amber: *[laughing]* Call 911? Anyone bring a sat phone?

Gina: My cell phone is in my backpack, use that.

Doris: Gina, you haven't had cell phone service since you left Goose Bay.

Gina: Really? I've been so busy, I didn't even notice. I can't believe there is no cell phone service.

Selma: Not to worry, Gina. There is no need to call 911. You only got your foot wet. I have extra socks in my bag and I'll go light a fire to dry your boot. The rest of you girls can go ice fishing. Here Gina, take these extra socks and change into dry ones.

Gina changes her sock.

Judy: I'll help you a bit, Selm.

Judy and Selma go to light a fire. Doris, Gina, Amber and Sophie go ice fishing.

Doris: I'm so glad we missed school yesterday because of the storm. Now it's a beautiful Saturday for us to enjoy out here! I love Labrador! Hey Gina, how did you get so much time off school to come here?

Gina: I've already graduated high school. I'm starting nursing in the spring semester. What grade is everyone in?

Doris: Grade 9.

Amber: Me and Sophie graduated in June. I stayed home for a year, but I plan to go to Goose Bay and do social work.

Sophie: Yeah, I just got a job in Voisey's Bay. I was in Goose Bay to get my medical done.

Gina: Voisey's Bay? Where is that?

Sophie: It's a nickel mine north of Hopedale. A lot of people from here work there. Good money and even better food!

Gina: So, this might be a strange question, but how do I catch these fish?

Sophie: *[smiles]* Here's some bait, put this on your hook and put your line through that hole in the ice. It's pretty simple. When you feel a tug on your hook, pull it out.

Doris: Move your hand up and down like this. *[demonstrates how it's done]* You'll catch 'em faster!

Amber: So Gina, what are your plans while you're in Hopedale?

Gina: I want to spend a lot of time with my anansiak and meet the rest of the family in Hopedale. I'd like to do some hunting too. Catching that partridge was awesome! I didn't think I'd like killing animals but I seem to be a natural *[smiles]*.

Amber: A natural? Cripes, you missed the first three we saw and you didn't even see the ukalik that crossed in front of us.

Gina: I find it hard to see them in the snow. I don't know how you all have such a good eye for it. I wonder how long I'll be here trying to catch a fish. My foot is freezing. I hope my boot is almost dry.

Lights dim on stage right, lights up on stage left.

Selma: Look at Gina over there fishing away, she fits in with the girls like she's known them all her life. I was a little worried when she decided to come to Labrador. This is such a big adventure for her and I am so proud she wanted to come back to see where her mother's side of the family came from. Imagine how different everything must be for her.

Judy: Yes, I see a lot of her mother in her. It's no wonder she is fitting in so well. I can't believe she left all those years ago and never came back. She should have come with Gina.

Selma: I wanted her to come too, but I guess medical professionals in Africa are busy. She couldn't get the time off work. I haven't seen Rosie since before Gina was born. I certainly miss her.

Judy: It's funny how one little trip can change a life completely. I would have never pictured Rosie to meet a man in Africa, marry and decide to spend the rest of her life there.

Selma: As long as she is happy, I'm happy. I do wish it was closer though.

Judy: Where's the lunch box... let's start getting some grub ready. The girls must be starving, I am!

Selma: *[gets the kettle and puts snow in it]* Over in the box. I'll get the kettle ready for some tea.

Judy and Selma hears Gina scream with excitement. Lights up.

Gina: I THINK I HAVE A FISH!

Amber: PULL THE LINE UP! Hurry! It's going to get away!

Gina: Someone help me! I don't know what to do! What do I do?!

Sophie: Pull Gina! Haul the line up. You need to hurry!

Gina pulls the fish out.

Gina: What kind of fish is this? It's huge! No wonder it was hard to pull up.

Doris: That's a char! Holy mac, you caught a char!

Judy and Selma come to see what happened.

Gina: It's right slimy! What do I do now? How do I get it off this hook?

Selma: Grab the fish by the gills and...

Gina: Ew, I don't want to do that! It's slimy.

Selma: Here, I'll help. Watch me though because the next one you catch you have to do it by yourself.

Selma takes the fish off the hook.

Gina: You make it look so easy!

Judy: Just in time, Gina. We'll cook that one over the fire!

Gina: I can't wait to taste it. How are you going to cook it?

Judy: We'll wrap it in tin foil and put it on the fire. It shouldn't take long.

Gina: Is my boot dried yet?

Sophie: Let's go over and have a boil up now. I'm starved!

Everyone leaves the fishing holes and goes over to the fire.

Doris: Here Gina, your boot is nice and toasty warm. Put it on.

Gina puts her boot on.

Gina: Thanks.

Amber: Gina, are you homesick yet?

Gina: No, I'm always so busy back at home that I am really enjoying the freedom and relaxation here in Hopedale.

Sophie: What are you so busy at? Where do you work?

Gina: I help my mom and dad out a lot at the hospital. They also run an orphanage outside town that help kids who have no parents. I spend a lot of time there with the children. You should see them; they are the sweetest kids you'd ever meet.

Doris: What happened to their parents?

Gina: Their parents are either very sick with AIDS or have died and they are left as orphans. A lot of people die because they can't afford proper health care and medication.

Doris: How sad.

Gina: Yeah, it happens a lot in Africa. I'm kind of used to it.

Doris: I'd love to go there and help the kids too. I would be scared though. It must be so different.

Gina: Yeah. It's very different from Labrador.

Sophie: Tell us more about Africa. I find this so interesting. How is it different?

Gina: Well, the seasons are the opposite of those in the Northern Hemisphere. It's summer in Africa right now.

Doris: Really?

Sophie: How cool.

Amber: Is it hot there?

Gina: Yeah, in the summer. But our winters are definitely not as cold as here.

Doris: Did you ever see an elephant? I rode one before in Goose Bay when the circus was there. They told me it was from Africa.

Gina: Yes, there are wild elephants but not near the city. You would have to drive into the country to see them.

Doris: How about the pyramids?

Gina: *[laughing]* That's northern Africa... in Egypt. That's nowhere near where I live.

Amber: How about lions? Are they dangerous?

Gina: You usually see them far off in the distance. They stay away from you if you don't bother them.

Doris: How scary!

Selma: The fish is ready. Who wants tea?

Sophie: I do.

Gina: Yes, please.

Amber: Sure.

Judy: The fish smells delicious.

Everyone eats the fish. Gina makes a funny face.

Selma: What's wrong Gina, you don't like it?

Gina: It's not what I expected.

Selma: That's OK, you don't have to eat it.

Judy: *[looks around]* Well, we should soon start to pack up and go home. The sun is starting to set, it won't be long before it's dark.

Selma: Yes, the days are short this time of year.

Gina: This has been one of the best days of my life! Thank you all for bringing me here. I love Labrador!

Sophie: This is a typical Labrador day for us. I'm sure we'll do this again while you're here.

Lights dim.

Scene 6

Narrator: Three weeks have passed since Gina arrived in Hopedale. She has spent most of her time on the land with her new friends and family. She drove a ski doo for the first time, rode a dog team, and even learned how to make slippers from her anansiak. She has fallen in love with the Labrador lifestyle and everything about Hopedale.

Selma: I can't believe you've been here for three weeks already. Time flies when you're having fun.

Gina: I know and I feel like there is so more I need to experience here. Actually, over the last couple days, I've been thinking about how much I love Labrador. Do you think it would be possible for me to stay here, finish school and find a job?

Selma: Oh my gosh, how wonderful! That would be great. What do you think your mother would say?

Gina: I think my mother would approve of my decision, especially if I decide to go to school in Goose Bay. *[pause]* I would miss Africa and the children, though.

Selma: Goose Bay has wonderful programs that you can complete there. I'm not sure about nursing, but there are a lot of trades you can look into if you're interested in working somewhere in Labrador. There's always job opportunities at Voisey's Bay, Muskrat Falls and other mines in Western Labrador.

Gina: I really love nursing, but I'm willing to try something different if it means staying in Labrador. I can't believe my mother would ever leave this place.

Selma: Your mother had her reasons for leaving, she wanted to explore the world and help children in Africa.

Gina: I guess I am adventurous like my mother.

Selma: I've always dreamed that one day I would get to spend time with you. I am so happy that you have decided to make Hopedale your new home.

Lights dim. End of play.