

## Change Minds, Not The Climate

*Downstage right is a basic living room set with a couch, chair and coffee table. Downstage center are two easy to move chairs. Downstage left is a basic bedroom set with a bed and desk or nightstand.*

*NOTE: The basic living room set should experience a simple set design switch before Scene 5.*

### Scene 1

*Downstage center*

News reporter - Are you comfortable with me recording our conversation for this interview?

Aurora - Yeah no problem.

News reporter - How did you come up with your famous slogan?

Aurora - It actually came to me in a dream one night.

News reporter - Okay what brings you to this rally today?

Aurora - I feel really strongly about the climate crisis and how it is affecting my community and our traditional lifestyle and culture.

News reporter - Interesting, can you explain that more?

Aurora - Our cultural practices such as hunting and fishing are forced to change and adapt to the change in climate.

News reporter - Can you give me an example?

Aurora - The warmer waters are causing the animals' migration patterns to change, and they are no longer near the traditional migratory path. My uncle has been fishing in the same place for years, and now he notices that they aren't as plentiful as they were.

News reporter - Fascinating, have you noticed any other changes around your community?

Aurora - One big change I noticed is the change in ice conditions. The ice freezing up later in the year and melting sooner than previous years. This affects the travel and hunting we do during that time of year.

News reporter - Are changes like these what inspired you to become an activist?

Aurora - That's a big part of it but...*[Aurora looks up as if she is remembering. Cue flashback sound]. The two chairs downstage center are removed.*

## Scene 2

*Downstage left*

Aurora - I can't believe my parents made me get this job it's the worst, all I do is go talk to old people.

Emma - At least you can go outside, I'm stuck inside with kids all day.

Aurora - I'd much rather deal with kids, have you ever tried talking to an old person all day? All they do is ramble on about the olden days.

Emma - Isn't that what you're supposed to do? I thought your job was to collect stories from the elders to create a digital archive.

Aurora - Yea I guess you're right, but it doesn't make it any more fun.

Emma - But the money is fun.

Aurora - I guess you're right I'll just think about all the money I will have when I'm done with this job.

*Looks at her phone.*

Emma - Anyways lunch is almost over we better get going.

Aurora - Ughhh fine I'll see you after work.

## Scene 3

*Downstage right*

*Aurora knocks on the door.*

Pearl - Hold on dear, gotta put the cats away. Don't want them getting outside, go on whiskers mom got company.

Aurora - Uhhh no rush?

*Opens door*

Pearl - Sorry for the wait, come in come in. Have a seat on the couch don't mind the fur.

Aurora - I'm working for the DHSD and we are putting together a digital archive of what life was like in the past. Are there any stories you want to share?

Pearl - Well back in the spring of 62' I was on my little 12 when I saw a little kitty running across the road and I instantly fell in love. I remember like it was yesterday, of course Wilbur didn't want me to keep the cat but ya knows I was gonna keep er'. I named her Minnie. Turns out she was a boy, I never found out until she, well he started spraying around the house and let me tell you that made Wilbur want him even less. But I always gets my way. So Minnie became Minard and we kept him till the very end.

Aurora - That's a wholesome story, but uhhh we are looking for stories based on the land and traditional practices.

Pearl - Ohhhh I have a few of those too, this one time me and Wilbur were off fishing when we came across this huge polar bear, don't see many of those as close to town anymore. Anyway, Wilbur got out his rifle and shot him right between the eyes. We dragged him onto the Kamutik and took him home to be cleaned. Wilbur gathered the bhys and cleaned the sucker up and what a skin come off of that. We kept it in the living room and oh how the cats loved it. Our third cat, KaKuktak loved our rug slept on it everyday. Sadly one day when I was runnin to the door when I stomped on her cause she was blended into the rug, she was all white don't ya know. Poor girl had a broken leg, never walked the same since.

Aurora - Well that's still not really what we are looking for but thanks anyways.

Pearl - I got some old pictures if you think that would help.

Aurora - That would be perfect.

Pearl - This one is a picture of my 7th cat Patches, now he ran away shortly after we got him. But this one God rest her soul, her name was Muffin, she was Whiskers' mom, was blessed with 30 kittens in her life. Unfortunately Wilbur and I were never blessed with our own litter, but we had our cats.

Aurora - I think that's all for today, thank you for your uhhh stories.

Pearl - Glad I could help dear, sure you don't want a cup of tea before you goes?

Aurora - No that's okay, thanks.

*She leaves*

Pearl - Oh mommy's coming now darlings.

#### Scene 4

*Downstage left*

Aurora - Oh my god today was such a drag, this woman wouldn't stop talking about her cats.

Emma - Oh you musta been at Mrs. Wilkins house. She's always trying to drop her cats off at the youth centre, I swear to god she thinks they are humans.

Aurora - You should have heard the way she talked about them, referring to them as her children and calling herself their mother.

Emma - It could be worse a kid wanted to give me a present and so I opened my hand and this kid had the audacity to give me a piece of poop.

Aurora - That's disgusting! I'd quit right then and there.

Emma - I thought about it but the money's good.

Aurora - Okay you win, your day was worse than mine.

Emma - I know.

*Emma starts having a sneezing fit.*

Aurora - What's on the go with you?

Emma - Not even a bless you?

Aurora - Sorry bless you.

Emma - Wait you were at Mrs. Wilkins right?

Aurora - Yea and wa?

Emma - You know I'm allergic to cats. You're basically a ball of fur. I gotta go.

Aurora - True. It's late I gotta go to bed, I got another long day with Mrs. Wilkins again tomorrow.

*Sneezes as she leaves.*

## Scene 5

*Aurora wakes up, checks the time and jumps out of bed*

Aurora - Oh no! I'm late again.

*Grabs her books and rushes out of the bedroom towards center stage.*

Aurora - Gotta go mom!

Mom [voice] - Are you at least going to get breakfast?

Aurora - Mom, I'm already late, I gotta go bhy!

*Aurora is on her way towards stage right when she hears a cat scream/hiss and startled she drops her books.*

Aurora - That darn Mrs. Wilkins and her stupid cats.

Agnes - Would you like help with that?

Aurora - Yes please.

Agnes - Why are you in such a rush with all these books?

Aurora - Im late for work.

Agnes - Where do you work?

Aurora - I have a student job with the DHSD to collect stories from elders.

Agnes - Ohh, your the one doing the interviews?

Aurora - Yeah, I'm actually on my way to see Mrs. Wilkins right now.

Agnes - Would you like to come in here instead? I know Mrs. Wilkins can be a handful with her cats.

Aurora - Uhh, I'm sure they wouldn't mind if I interviewed you instead, I can always go back to Mrs. Wilkin's tomorrow I guess.

Agnes - It's settled then, come on in.

*They walk into her house downstage right.*

Aurora - You have a nice house Mrs...

Agnes - Just call me Agnes.

Aurora - I'm here to collect your stories to create a digital archive, would you mind sharing some stories of what life was life back when you were young, and would you mind if I recorded you?

*Aurora turns on the record function on her iPhone. Agnes seems very interested in it.*

Agnes - Not at all, well back in 1853, I mean 1953, I was 13 when my Ataatak decided to take me hunting, and back then not many fathers would take their daughters hunting. However, I loved being on the land, and helping out with things my older brothers used to do. Anaana already had 8 other girls to help her out. I had no interest in helping make the clothes and light the Kudlik, I mean stove. Anyways, I was out with my Ataatak and I couldn't help but notice the beauty of the land, the ice covering the ocean like a big blanket, the ice capped mountains glistening in the sunlight that soaked into our skin and gave us a good brown palik. Gosh I miss those days.

Aurora - That sounds beautiful Agnes.

Agnes - Would you like a cup of tea before I finish my story.

Aurora - Sure, thanks.

*Agnes exits stage right and brings back a cup of tea.*

Agnes - So what do you youngsters be up to these days?

Aurora - Not much, everyone is glued to their phones nowadays.

Agnes - There was no such contraptions in my days. Our eyes were glued to the beauty of the land. Oh how much the land has changed.

Aurora - So how has the land changed since when you were younger?

Agnes - Well for starters, the ice was more predictable and reliable for traveling in the winters and springs. Also the migration patterns of the animals have been changing and the hunters are having a harder time locating the most bountiful spots.

Aurora - This information is all really helpful Agnes.

Agnes - Happy to help.

Aurora - It looks like its almost dinner time is it okay if I come back after lunch?

Agnes - I'm always here if you need to find me.

Aurora - I'll just clean this mug for you.

*When Aurora is gone Agnes slips a book into Aurora's bag.*

Agnes - Don't forget your books dear.

*Aurora leaves.*

### Scene 6

*Downstage left*

*Aurora is on the phone with Emma.*

Aurora - Give me a sec Emma I have to get my lunch out of my bag. Hold on I'll put you on speaker.

*Aurora reaches into her bag and pulls out her books and notices a book that isn't hers (The one that Agnes slipped into her pile).*

Aurora - Hmm I must have taken this from Agnes' house.

*Aurora opens the book and it starts to glow as the lights go down.*

Emma - Ari? ARI? AURORA?

### Scene 7

*Downstage center*

*Actors dressed in black show the following images with white props that are illuminated with a blacklight.*

[Music mixed with nature sounds] Fat polar bears and large iceberg.

[Ice cracking sounds] Iceberg cracks and a tree emerges from behind [bird's chirping then tree crashing sound]. The tree dies.

Skinny polar bears crawl across the stage and die tragically.

[Fire sounds] Earth on fire.

## Scene 8

*Downstage left*

Emma - AURORAAAAA?

Aurora - [Dazed and confused] Woah sorry, I zoned out for a bit there.  
Uhhhh I gotta go, I'll call you back after.

Emma - Are you serious?

Aurora - Yeah I uhhhhh gotta go.

## Scene 9

*Downstage right*

*Aurora frantically knocks on Agnes' door with no luck.*

Aurora - Hello? Agnes?

Pearl - Aurora what are you doing?

Aurora - I'm looking for Agnes, this is her house right?

Pearl - Yeah it was like 100 years ago. Well at least that's what my mom told me.

Aurora - What do you mean? I was here with her this morning.

Pearl - I was told that she was killed by the Spanish Flu in 1918. Are you sure it was this house?

Aurora - Yes I'm sure, I accidentally took a book from her this morning.  
Look I'll show you.

*Aurora looks into her book bag trying to find the book but it isn't there anymore.*

Aurora - I swear it was here a minute ago.

Pearl - Are you sure you're okay? Would you like to come in for a glass of water?

Aurora - I'm fine, it's just I was umm and she was, and the book.

Pearl - Okay sweetie lets gets you home.



## Scene 10

*Downstage left*

*Aurora goes to her room.*

Aurora - Okay. Nothing happened, I'm not going crazy. Everything is gonna be okay.

*Aurora turns on her tv, and tries changing the channel but it keeps going back to a news report about climate change.*

Aurora - What is going on?

*Keeps trying with no luck.*

Aurora - What is this channel anyway?

*Aurora starts watching the climate rally news report.*

Aurora - Forget this I'm going to sleep.

*Falls asleep. Agnes visits while she is asleep and puts a sign on her desk.*

Agnes - Change their minds, not the climate. I believe in you Aurora.

*Agnes leaves.*

## Scene 11

Aurora - Emma, I think I'm going insane, I can't stop thinking about the climate strikes. And this one phrase keeps replaying in my mind. My T.V. was messed up yesterday and I couldn't watch anything but the climate strikes. I went to sleep and that woman I interviewed was in my dream talking to me, she was telling me to change the climate. I don't know what it all means.

Emma - Calm down, do you hear yourself right now? You sound like a madman. Please explain to me what you're trying to say to me.

Aurora - Well yesterday I interviewed a woman named Agnes, and I accidentally took a book from her house and when I got home I opened it and it glowed and I saw all this stuff. So I went back to her house and she wasn't there and Mrs. Wilkens came and told me she died about 100 years ago of the spanish flu and I don't know what to think.

Emma - What house did you go to?

Aurora - You know the one across from Mrs. Wilkens?

Emma - Yeah, nobody has lived in the house for ages.

Aurora - What do you mean?

Emma - I mean that house has been deserted for years, my nan told me that when Agnes died, no one ever went back in there.

Aurora - But I was in the house yesterday! I was talking to Agnes! I'm not mad, I know what happened.

Emma - Okay calm down. Let's just say that you're right and that you were talking to a ghost. What do you think she wanted?

Aurora - I think it has something to do with how the world has changed and it needs our help. It got me thinking about how the climate crisis is very important. I can't explain it, I just feel like I have to do something about it.

Emma - Well, tomorrow there is a climate strike here in town, if you are still feeling the way you are you should go and join them.

Aurora - Yeah actually I think I will.

## Scene 12

*Downstage center*

*The two chairs are back.*

News reporter - So? What inspired you to become an activist?

Aurora - You wouldn't believe me if I told you...