

# **Pull Your Stitches Tight**

**Written by:** HGA students for the Labrador Creative Arts Festival

**Synopsis:** As a young person Julia would hunt, fish, spend countless hours outside, and go to the cabin. As Julia got older they began to forget about their roots and ended up going down the wrong trail. After years of living through hardships, and tough times Julia decides it's time to move back to their home, Labrador and they begin to "find their way again". They meet and lose many friends throughout their journey, but their true ones help them find their way back home.

**Trigger warning: Heavy content, viewers discretion is advised, includes substance abuse.**

## **Cast**

**Gracie Driscoll** - Mom, Party person

**Tia Morris** - Julia

**Emma Williams** - Billie

**Danielle Ward** - Chad, Riley's Mom

**Noah Martin** - Dad, Party person

**Tye Acreman** - Principal, Terry, Party person

**Coby Morris** - Riley, Party person

**James Holwell** - Professor, Student, Party person

**Grad students:** Everyone

## **Scene 1**

\*Two chidlets playing at a boil-up\*

\*Parents in the back\*

Riley: Look at this Julia!

\*shows julia cigarette\*

Julia: What is it?

Riley: I dunno looks cool,, Mooom what's this?

Riley's Mom: ewww put that garbage down my son.

Riley: sorry mom

Julia: I'm bored, What do you wanna do now?

Riley: I don't know we could go fishing!

Julia: Okay.

\*grabs fishing hooks\*

\*goes to fishing hole\*

\*fishing\*

\*Julia gets one\*

\*Julia runs to her father\*

Julia: Dad, Dad look! Look at the fish I just caught.

Dad: Wow honey, great job.

Julia: Dad, can we keep him?

Dad: No my darling, we can't take it home as a pet. But we will take it home to feed our family.

Julia: Ok, sounds good. Dad, I love living here.

Dad: Me too my child, it's so peaceful. We are very lucky to live and grow in such a beautiful place.

Julia: I am never going to leave.

Dad: Oh yes my girl, you will leave, and you will get educated and you will come back and roam our beautiful land.

Julia: Aww Dad.

Dad: Yes my love, let's just enjoy this time, the peace and the tranquility of this day. I will always be here for you.

## **Scene 2**

\*Terry showing Julia how to make sealskin mitts\*

Julia: So where do I go from here, am I doing this right?

Terry: You have a real knack for sewing my dear , you're very determined and hardworking, you're going to do great things in the future.

Julia: Thanks, I really enjoy it. I hope one day I will be as good as you!

Terry: Takes lots of practice and discipline, but you already got that, just be patient and always remember to pull your stitches tight.

## **Scene 3** (as a teenager/graduation)

Principal : We are gathered here today to celebrate the graduation of the class of 2024.

\*grad students walk across stage\*

Principal: It has been a wonderful journey through the chapters of our school years. These young people have worked hard to get where they are and are about to embark into a new adventure.

\*Crowd claps\*

Principal: It is my pleasure to introduce you to this year's valedictorian Julia Barnes.

Julia: First of all I would like to thank everyone who's helped this class get so far, we would not be able to be here today without the help of the school and our community.

Thank you all for supporting us and cheering us on. I hope that eventually we will be able to come back and support this community like it has done for us.

\*Crowd cheers\*

Principal : Congratulations to the class of 2024! We wish you all the best.

\*At home\*

\*Mother, father and Julia on stage\*

Julia: I can't believe I got accepted into university!

Mom: I know my baby, we're so proud of you for everything you've done and accomplished.

Dad: This is a big day for you, we wanted to give you this.

\*gives her a present\*

Julia: Wow this is so beautiful, thank you, I'm just not sure if I am ready to leave home yet. There's so much that could go wrong, and what if I never come back?

Dad: Well, whenever you feel stressed, or you're in a tough situation just look at this and you will be reminded of where you came from. Home will always be here, we're not going anywhere.

Mom: Yes we will always be here no matter what.

**Scene 4** (moves to city for school/work ends up "falling down the wrong path")

\*Sign reads "Welcome to the city of Toronto"\*

\*Julia walking into her apartment\*

Billie: Is your name Julia?

Julia: Yes, are you Billie?

Billie : That's me, the one and only. I guess we are stuck with each other for the next little while. I hope you're not too stuck up are ya?

Julia: hahhahaha, nice to meet you. Ummm... I don't think I am stuck up. At least I hope I am not. By the way, who's he?

Billie: Oh, this is my boyfriend Chad, you're gonna see him around here quite a bit when I'm not sleeping with other guys.

Chad: Hey, sup? I'm Chad, my dude.

Julia: Nice to meet you Chad.

Chad: The pleasures all mine, hot stuff \*kissy lips\*

Julia: Yeahaha sure.

Billie: That's enough Chad, don't creep her out too much already, it's only her first night.

Chad: Fine, Fine, I'll save it for later.

Billie: mmm\*violently stares Chad down\* (to julia) Well where did ya come from?

Julia: From a little town up in Labrador. It's just a small place.

Billie: Oh no... small town usually means little fun. You better not hold me back from the parties. Let's set some ground rules here now for our little apartment.

Julia: emmmm.... Ok ... what kind of rules?

Billie: Well if you see this. ( Picks up a sock) around the door knob then that means do not, I mean do NOT enter. Cause if you do what you are going to see ain't going to be pretty.

Chad: heh heh, yeah, what she said.

Julia: Ok... so where am I supposed to go?

Billie: I don't care... just don't come in here. (Awkward Pause) So what do you do for fun???

Chad: She probably sits at home and knits, or reads like a boring grandma.

Julia: \*snarly glances at Chad\* My friends and I used to ride around on ski doo, go smelting, have a boil up, you know the fun stuff.

Billie: (snarls) oh ok ... so do you party?

Julia: Well, sometimes?... My dad did buy me a bottle of wine for my grad party. I drank so much I started to feel a little dizzy.

Chad: Dannnggg girl, how boring.

Billie: So you don't drink much???? What about weed? Do you like to get a little stoned?

Julia: No, goodness no. I've never tried any type of drugs.

Chad: la hoo za her \*L\*

Billie: Shush Chad.... we have lots of catching up to do.

## **Scene 5**

Billie: I am so glad you borrowed some of my clothes. That dress looks so Hot on you. We are going to have so much FUNNNNN tonight. We got drinks, We got weed, We are surrounded by hotness. Let's go!!!!

Julia ( looks nervous): uhhh ok... Yup .... So much fun. (looks at her phone) I don't think I can stay up too late.

Chad: Come on shawty, have some fun with us, I'm sure you'll love the jell-o shots.

Billie: Don't be silly. You need to stay up and have the time of your life!

Julia: No, I really need to finish up my homework...I have a lot to work on.

Billie: Oh come on. Lighten up, it's going to be so much fun. Here take one of these. (Gives her a pill).

Julia (swallows it before she really knows what is going on) What was that? What did I take?

Chad: Hey! Give me one of those \*Billie gives him pill while saying the next line\*

Billie: Oh just a little party enhancer. You'll be fine. Let's get a drink.

**\*Party continues** Drinks, Dancing, Stumbling, more drinks/drugs\*

Julia: Oh my... I have to get home... (stumbles out the door)\* Stage goes black. \*

### **Scene 6 Class**

Professor: Anyone see Julia... Julia Barnes.... She missed her midterm this week.

\*Julia partying hard on other side of stage\*

### **Scene 7 \*End of semester at the apartment\***

\*Chilling all cozy on the couch on their phones scrolling through social media\*

Julia: Wow, that party last week was crazy,, best one I've been to since I've been here I think...

Billie: yes ey, me and Chad had a real fun time, didn't we Chad?

Chad: Um, I suppose? I can't remember anything from last week, I think the weed is getting to me man, messing with my head.

Billie: oh..well I had fun anyways, \*says to Julia:\* Me and Chad left to go up stairs and watch a movie.

\*email dings\*

\*short pause\*

Billie: Did you check your marks Julia?

Julia: What? Is that today? Oh no... I never looked.

Billie: Well look, I managed to pass all except one... yay take that.... Back in Res next term.... Whoohhhhhoo can't wait to party.

Chad: Good job baby girl.



Julia ( looking at her phone) : oh no... oh no... oh no no no no no..... Not good..... I failed it all ... every course.... Flunked.....

Billie: Oh no I am so sorry.

Chad: Maybe next year hahahahah.

Julia: Oh no ... oh nooo nooooo.... I just got an email from housing too... I'm not allowed back in res next term.

Chad: Good riddance. I'll be glad to get rid of your annoying arse.

Billie: CHAD! THAT'S ENOUGH! \*goes over to julia and puts arm around her while walking around\* Don't worry I bet Chad can take you in. You could live with him. Just tell your dad you're still in school, get a job, and then get back into school next term.

Julia: Really?..... I don't know about that they call me like every single night, I don't want to lie to them.

Chad: \*to Billy\* And when were you planning on asking me about this?

Billie: HAHAHAHA you're funny Chad. I'm sure every single person has lied to their parents before, Julia, you definitely won't be the first or the last.

Julia: Ok I guess you're right, thanks.

### **Scene 8**

\*Back at a party\*

Billie: It's been so long since I saw you Julia. How are you? You look like ....  
HmMMM.... You know I've seen you look better before.

Julia: Yeah it's been rough. I had a job and we were having fun, then I got fired, partied a little too hard, you know. Haven't been able to get another job. Chad and the bhy's keeps me fed and a place to live. You know, but it sucks. I don't know what I am going to do.

Billie: Oh my I'm so sorry Julia.

Julia: It's alright, tough luck I guess.

Billie: I guess so.

Julia: Well, how are things with you?

Billie: Not too bad ya know, been getting pretty good grades, partying hard, fun stuff.

Julia: That sounds really great.

Billie: It is, thank you.

Julia: Not a problem, but that's enough of that mushy gushy stuff, let's go to the party.

Billie: Yesss let's go!, I'm so excited to party with you again!

(They go Party everyone dancing)\* Julia finds Billie passed out in the hallway. \*

Julia: Billie, Billie... wake up!!! Someone call 911.

**\*Billie in hospital bed\***

Julia: Please don't leave me Billie, I need you \*cries\*

Bille: \*cough cough\*

Chad: Come on Billie, I'm never gonna find somebody like you.

(beep, beep, beep, flatline)

## **Scene 9**

\*Julia calls father\*

Dad: Hello?

Julia: Hi...Dad... I-I need to come home.

## **Scene 10**

\*Julia walks into airport\*

\*sees parents, parents don't recognize her\*

Mom: Julia is that you?

\*Julia runs into her parents arms and breaks down into tears apologizing\*

Julia: I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to, I don't know what happened, I didn't mean to take this so far, she's dead, she's dead!"

Dad: It's okay, you're home now my sweetheart, we've got you.

\*cries and screams emotionally\*

### **Scene 11**

\*Julia laying on a couch sewing\*

\*Riley walks in\*

Julia: Riley?! What are you doing here? I thought you were in St. John's?!

Riley: I heard you were coming home, I hopped on the quickest plane I could, it's been so long since I've seen you! I missed you so much!

Julia: I'm sorry, I'm so bad at keeping in touch. I've been having a hard time for the last little while, I think I'm home to stay now, I'm done with city life.

Riley: Your parents told me all about it. I was almost flying out there to drag your butt back home, it's okay now, your home you're safe and we're all here for you.

Julia: Riley you're my dearest friend, I'm so grateful for you I've missed you so much.

\*Riley and Julia embrace each other\*

Riley: Hey, did you make those?

Julia: I'm working on them now, I'm rusty though it's been years since I've made these.

Riley: Did you ever think about teaching lessons here?

Julia: No, actually maybe I will.

### **Scene 12**

\*All sitting around\*

Julia: It is so good to finally be home. I missed you all so much.

Dad: It is so good to have you home. I am glad you came around and realized that you needed help, I'm sorry we couldn't be out there to help you.

Julia: It was a hard time in my life. It took a long time to get back to where I am today. I am so thankful for you guys, my family, who were here to support me once I got back and remind me of the things that I love.

Mom: Take some time now my doll. To resurge into a better person. Use what we learned and how we live to get you through this rough spot in your life. When you are ready you can head back to school. In the meantime, enjoy this time with us, recover, with the land around you.

Julia: Thanks, not sure what I would do without you guys. I can't wait to spend next week hunting with dad. I think that's going to really clear my mind.

**Scene 13** \*Julia and student\*

Julia: You got it, just like that, you're a really fast learner I'm impressed!

Student: I learned from the best, thank you for teaching me.

Julia: You're a pleasure to teach.

Student: I want to be good at it just like you when I'm older.

Julia: It takes a lot of time, practice and discipline, just remember to pull your stitches tight.

**THE END**