

THE BOAT IN THE WOODS

By Jacek Zuzanski and Laura Opie

Excerpt of the play

Cast of Characters

1. ANNA – attentive, usually quiet. Likes to read, but is more of a daydreamer. Randy’s sister.
2. RANDY – Anna’s older brother/sister. Outspoken. A leader. Sometimes reverts into a less mature boisterous joker. Kind to everyone but his sister, but she couldn’t care less.
3. MEERA – One of Anna’s two best friends, along with Susi.
4. MAX (MAX/MAXINE) – Meera’s brother or sister. They are very close in age.
5. SUSI - One of Anna’s best friends, along with Meera. Sam’s sister.
6. SAM (SAM/SAMANTHA) - Suzy’s brother/sister. A real observer. Spends more time with a teddy bear named Froggy than the other kids.
7. CHRIS - Friends with everybody, but particularly likes Anna, Susi, Sam, and Meera.
8. PAT (PATTI/PATRICK) –Vies for attention and leadership with Lilian
9. LILIAN – A ‘girly-girl.’ Loves fashion, brand names, telling people what to do. Is organizing a team for a group fashion show.
10. GINA – A good friend of Sam’s, but wants to be popular, too. Easily swayed.

SCENE 1

The Secret

Meera, Anna, and Susi are on their way back from an early morning hike and climbing a tall tree they call Grandfather Pine.

SUSI

Are you sure it was a boat? Maybe it was just a dead tree that looked like a mast?

MEERA

No. From Grandfather Pine I could see the outline of the hull. It's huge. Like a pirate's ship.

SUSI

I just don't get why there would be a pirate's ship in the middle of the woods. Can we get to it?

MEERA

There's a path. We can go this afternoon,

ANNA

Should we tell anyone else?

MEERA

I'd rather keep it a secret.

SUSI

I agree. What if it's not a boat? They'd make fun of us.

MEERA

Look, I have to get going. Let's meet here a little before one. And it's our secret.

SUSI & ANNA

OK. *(Exit.)*

SCENE 2

Children

(Susi's sibling Sam enters with a little knapsack, talking to a small teddy bear named Froggy.)

SAM

No, Froggy. I don't want to be in Lilian's group theme fashion show, either. What if it's a Western theme? I don't like cowboy boots. And you wouldn't look good in a cowboy hat. *(Gina enters.)*

GINA

Hi Sam!

(Sam, startled, starts to put the bear away, but stops because it's Gina.)

Oh...Hi, Gina.

SAM

Umm...Look who's coming...

GINA

Ups... Froggy, you better take a nap now. *(Sam stuffs Froggy into the backpack.)*

SAM

(Pat enters in the middle of a conversation) Well... You just parade down the runway, but I'm not sure about letting Lilian dress me.

PAT

Hi Guys.

CHRIS

Were you talking about Lilian's group theme fashion show thing?

SAM

What fashion show thing?

GINA

It's part of the National Dance Competition. Lilian wants to be the Stylist, and if her group wins she gets to go to some big fashion show in New York. But she needs at least six models to enter.

PAT

I'd rather go hiking. *(Lilian enters with Max.)*

MEERA

Hi everyone. I'm ordering pizza for anyone who comes to my house. Your choice of toppings if you come! But you have to promise to be one of my models a week from Saturday for my group theme fashion show.

LILIAN

Are you doing the fashion show, Max?

MEERA

Yeah, Lilian said I could have her brother's old I-pod. I'm getting my pizza with extra cheese!

MAX

Well, if Max gets an I-pod and extra cheese, what do I get with my Pepperoni?

PAT

Tom has lots of neat stuff in the garage he doesn't want. Take your pick.

LILIAN

MAX

You didn't give me a pick!

PAT

Like what?

LILIAN

A Zero skateboard, a Gamecube, an Abecrombi jacket, an I-pad mini, X-Box, K-2 Inline Skates, a Haro BMX Bike, and more.

GINA

Can I get something, too?

LILIAN

Sure. But you might like some of my designer clothes instead. So that's me, Pat, Max, Meera and Gina so far. That's five. How about you guys: Sam? Chris?

MEERA

I didn't say 'yes.' *(Lilian stares at her. Meera meets her gaze evenly. Randy enters.)*

RANDY

Geeze. Look at this. Everybody in the world but my stupid sister. This is ridiculous.

MEERA

What do you mean?

RANDY

I'm in charge while our folks are away, and Anna skipped our morning chores. Now I can't find her.

MEERA

She took a hike with me and Susi this morning, really early. *(Chris enters during Randy's next speech.)*

RANDY

Well, maybe she should stay where she is because I'm likely to kill her when I find her.

CHRIS

Whom are you going to kill?

RANDY

Anna. She didn't show up for chores, and now I can't find her.

CHRIS

I hope she's alright.

RANDY

I've checked just about everywhere but the playground.

CHRIS

I'll go to the playground if you want.

LILIAN

I'm sure she's fine. Why don't you guys come to my house for a pizza party for the group theme fashion show I'm organizing. So far it's me, Pat, Max, and Gina.

RANDY

So, Max, you're in this for the pizza, right?

MAX

Yeah... And I get Tom's old I-pod.

RANDY

No way! That's sick.

PAT

And I might take his old skateboard...

RANDY

You mean his Zero. No way!

LILIAN

I have a garage full of Tom's stuff that he has no use for in college. Anyone who comes over for the Pizza Planning Party gets to go through it.

RANDY

I'm in.

MEERA

What about Anna?

RANDY

Well, if Chris will check the playground...

CHRIS

Sure. I'm not a big pizza fan. See you later.

SAM

Wait, I'll come with you.

LILIAN

Well, that's five of us, so let's head to my house for our first meeting and some pizza.
(All exit but Meera, who looks after them.)

SCENE 3

Anna is missing

(Susi enters.)

SUSI

I am done.

MEERA

Anna is missing.

SUSI

What do you mean missing?

MEERA

Randy says Anna never went home to help with the chores.

SUSI

You don't think...

MEERA

I do. But she still should have been back by now. *(Chris enters with Sam.)*

CHRIS

You two look like you know something.

MEERA

Can you two keep a secret?

CHRIS & SAM

Sure! Of course!

SUSI

We think we know where Anna is.

MEERA

Come to Grandfather Pine. We'll show you. *(Exit.)*

SCENE 4

The meeting before the Pizza Party

MAX

I want the X-Box.

RANDY

What if I want the X-box, too.

LILIAN

You said you wanted the skateboard. It's a Zero.

RANDY

Well I have a decent skateboard, but I don't have an X-box.

MAX

I kinda liked the Rollerblades...

LILIAN

Actually, Max, you could have those right now...

GINA

That's not fair!

RANDY

Why do we have to wait until after the fashion show?

LILIAN

Hold on. No one will get anything if we don't have one more person, and MAX can get somebody.

MAX

What do you mean?

LILIAN

Well, find Chris, Sam, Meera, Susi, or Anna, and get one of them to do the fashion show, and the rollerblades are yours.

MAX

How am I going to convince any of them to do a fashion show. You can tell none of them care about fashion just by looking at them. (*General mean laughter.*)

LILIAN

Alright. You just get someone to come here, and I'll do the convincing.

MAX

For the in-line skates and I-pod, I'll get someone.

LILIAN

Deal (*Max Exits.*) Let's go look at what I have in my closet for Gina. (*Exit.*)