

# **The Voice from the Boat**

An original play by  
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*Excerpt of the play*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

ANNA – attentive, usually quiet, hears the voice from under the boat. Likes to read, but is more of a daydreamer. Visits summers with her brother, Randy. They stay at their Grandfather's, near the beach.

RANDY – Anna's older brother. Outspoken. A leader. Kind to everyone but his sister, but she couldn't care less.

MEERA – One of Anna's two best friends, along with Suzy. Meera is a year-round resident. Max's sister.

MAX (MAX/MAXINE) – Meera's brother or sister. They are very close in age.

SUZY - One of Anna's best friends, along with Meera. Sam's sister. Another year-round resident. Works at the village store, which her parents own. Sam's sister.

SAM (SAM/SAMANTHA) - Suzy's brother/sister. Agreeable, with a wild imagination and love of talking like a pirate.

HELEN - Loves to read, doesn't take sides. Intellectual, reads everything she can get her hands on. An authority everybody respects. Good natured, but doesn't laugh (or grimace) at stupid jokes.

TATA – Helen's cousin. New to the group, staying the summer with Helen. A bit of a tom-boy. Knows a lot about witches, wizards, psychics, and magic, since her sister investigates and studies these things.

CHRIS (CHRISTOPHER/CHRISTINE) – One of the gang. Comes for the summer. Tends to side with Randy.

PAT (PATTI/PATRICK) – A real observer. Is often quiet, assessing the situation, letting others do the talking, but jumps in when something needs to be said. Pat's parents are both doctors in the local hospital.

KODA – Aside from this group, a bit of a loner. Has natural leadership qualities he doesn't often use. He is a little morbid, at times, for good reason.

LILIAN – A 'girly-girl.' Just little stuck-up, would like to always be the center of attention.

ELANA TORRINGTON – A homeless woman found outside the Old Boatyard.

**SCENE 1**  
**THE BOAT**

*(Randy enters. As he speaks, Anna, Chris, Sam, Pat, Koda, and Suzy take positions near an upside down, partially buried boat.)*

RANDY

*(To the audience.)* It was a great summer, an unbelievable summer. And it all started with my sister Anna, and the boat. I don't usually like to give Anna credit for anything, but without her, I guess it would have been an ordinary summer. Did I mention the boat? It's on my grandfather's beach where a bunch of us always play almost every day.

PAT

I'm so glad this boat didn't get washed away. How long has it been here?

SUZY

Max jumped off it two summers ago and twisted his ankle.

CHRIS

It wasn't here three summers ago.

ANNA

Yes it was. It was buried deeper for a long time.

RANDY

Like you'd remember.

ANNA

Ask Grandpa. It's been here forever.

RANDY

Yup. The dinosaurs used it as a breakfast bowl.

SAM

Who cares how long it's been here. I wonder if it traveled through strange, foreign lands.

KODA

Maybe some infamous villain escaped in it and landed here, on this beach.

*(Enter Helen with Lilian, Max, Meera, and Tata.)*

HELEN

Hi, guys. This is my cousin Tata. She's spending the summer with me. Tata, this is Koda, Randy, Chris, Anna, Suzy, Sam, and Pat. Now you've met the whole gang. *(Kids on beach greet them casually.)*

TATA

Wow, that's a cool boat.

PAT

I think it was a pirate's boat.

SAM

Arr, shiver me timbers.

KODA

Maybe it came from an uncharted island with cannibals on it.

SAM

Maybe from a magic island! Maybe one with dragons, gnomes and witches.

MAX

And giants. Ho ho ho, hwa, hwa, hweeee!

KODA

Not "Ho ho, ho." "Fee, fie, fo, fum..."

MAX, SAM & PAT

...I'll grind your bones to make my bread!

CHRIS

Guys, do you remember that poor homeless woman they found unconscious by the old boatyard last month? Have you heard anything about her, Pat?

HELEN

*(To Tata)* Pat's parents are both doctors at the hospital.

PAT

Last I heard she was still in a coma. The specialist said to keep her alive and wait.

CHRIS

Think you could ask your Mom more about her?

PAT

I can't ask, but she'll be home from work soon, and if we're playing board games in the den we can hear something when she talks to my dad.

SAM

I guess most of us have to be home for dinner. *(Others nod.)*

MAX

Meera and I can come. Mum and Dad are eating out.

KODA

I can, too.

PAT

Great. Let's go. *(Exits with Max, Meera, and Koda. Others except Lilian exit. Susy, Helen, Meera, and Tata re-enter.)*

**SCENE 2**  
**A DOG FOR SUZY**

LILIAN

*(To the audience.)* A couple of days after Tata joined our gang, we found out there was another visitor in our neighborhood.

SUZY

My Aunt Holly found a dog.

HELEN

I know you are nuts about dogs.

MEERA

I think you've wanted one since you could say "dog."

LILIAN

So where did she find it?

SUZY

It came right into her yard. I wish it had come into mine.

HELEN

Did she call the Animal Control Officer?

SUZY

Just to report it, not to turn it in. They haven't found an owner yet.

TATA

What kind of dog is it?

SUZY

I don't know.

MEERA

I've always wanted a Pug -- they are soooo cute!

LILIAN

We love our Bichons. I wouldn't want any other kind. *(Sam runs in.)*

SAM

Suzy!!! Mom & Dad are thinking about letting you keep the dog Aunt Holly found!

SUZY

They said that!?!?

SAM

They are just worried what to do when we go away.

MEERA

I'll take care of it, and I bet Anna would help.

SUZY

Oh, Meera! That would be great!!! Come help me convince them! (*Exit Suzy & Meera together. Exit Helen, Tata, and Lilian.*)

### SCENE 3 THE VOICE

SAM

(*To audience.*) So the dog jumped straight into the story and a few hours later Suzy brought the happy news to Anna. (*Exit Sam.*)

(*ANNA enters, she walks, listens, looks around, sits down facing the boat. Suzy enters.*)

SUZY

Guess what, Anna! I am going to have a dog. My Aunt Holly found it. A stray. She travels too much to keep it, but she said it's a great dog, and she spoke with my mom, and my mom spoke with my dad. Oh I am so happy! I am going to have a dog! Hey, Anna -- are you listening?

ANNA

It speaks.

SUZY

What do you mean 'it speaks'? My dog? No, of course not.

ANNA

No, not the dog.

SUZY

Then what are you talking about? Is this some kind of game?

ANNA

No, but, but.... Promise you won't tell anyone?

SUZY

I promise.

ANNA

I heard a voice.

SUZY

So what. Everybody hears voices. Sometimes I think I hear growls and snarls.

ANNA

But I heard a voice from under the boat.

SUZY

From under the boat?

ANNA

It said: "You must be strong for the next full moon, or they will catch you."

SUZY

We better tell your mom.

ANNA

No, you promised you wouldn't tell anybody.

SUZY

Ok, ok. Are you going with me to take my new dog to the vet?

ANNA

No, I'm supposed to be back home now. (*Exit Anna.*)

SUZY

See you later. (*To audience.*) So Anna went home, and I went to see my Aunt Holly, and take the dog to the vet. On the way I met Randy. I'm usually good at keeping secrets, but I guess I was preoccupied. (*Suzy remains for next scene.*)