

MORE THAN ALL THE SKY

book and lyrics by
Lori Ada Jaroslow

music & additional lyrics by
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Character Breakdown

1. LENNA HARRIS: Female identifying, white, 27, Mezzo/Belt F3-E5.
2. YOUNG LENNA/TEEN LENNA: Female identifying, white, 18+ to play 12-17, Mezzo/Belt A3-F5.
3. MAE HARRIS: Female, white, 48-68, Alto/Mezzo F3-E5.
4. CHIRPY/OCEAN: A bird portrayed by a strong dancer, female identifying or non-binary, non-white (preferably Latina), 18-35, Soprano C4-B5.
5. JORDAN CHEN: Female identifying or non-binary, non-white (preferably Asian or Middle Eastern), 28, Alto/Mezzo G3-D5. Sober.
6. ALEX HARRIS: Male identifying or non-binary, Black or Latino, 23, 2nd Tenor C3-G4.

Ensemble: various characters, sometimes abstract.

7. TEEN JORDAN: Female identifying or non-binary, non-white (preferably Asian or Middle Eastern, same ethnicity as the actor playing JORDAN CHEN), 18+ to play 13-18, Mezzo A3-E5, strong dancer.
8. YOUNG ALEX/LOUIE: Male identifying or non-binary, Black or Latino, 18+ to play 9 and 20-38, Tenor C3-A4, strong dancer.
9. VIRGINIA: Female identifying or non-binary, race non-specific, 35-45, Mezzo/Soprano A3-E5, strong dancer.
10. VANESSA/BLUE: Female identifying or non-binary, race-non-specific, 18+, Mezzo, strong dancer.
11. NORMA/DOCTOR FEINSTEIN: Female identifying or non-binary, race non-specific, 40-60, Alto/Mezzo, strong dancer.

Location

Modern day, a suburb of Chicago. Most of the action takes place in Harte Park and in the Harris' family home. The house has three areas and an exterior: Lenna's bedroom, a living/dining room, a screened in porch and a backyard.

Song ListAct 1

1. Break-In.....Chirpy, Ensemble
2. Flashback #1/Mae's Lullaby.....Young Lenna, Mae, Chirpy
3. Interlude.....Mae, Ensemble
4. Fragments.....Lenna, Ensemble
5. Ghost.....Jordan
6. Family.....Mae, Teen Lenna, Young Alex, Chirpy
7. Will I Know Her.....Alex
8. Bugs.....Lenna
9. When You Love Someone.....Jordan
10. Without You.....Teen Lenna, Teen Jordan, Chirpy
11. Trust.....Teen Lenna, Mae, Teen Jordan
12. Best That I Could Do.....Mae, Teen Lenna
13. With Birds.....Jordan, Alex, Chirpy, Ensemble
14. A Million Forms Of Fear.....Norma, Vanessa, Ensemble
15. Water.....Lenna, Teen Lenna, Ensemble

Act 2

16. Snow.....Mae, Ensemble
17. Mae & Ocean.....Ocean, Ensemble
18. Recovery Montage.....Alex, Jordan, Lenna, Teen Lenna, Ens.
19. Secrets.....Virginia
20. Hey, Ugly Secret.....Lenna, Chirpy, Ensemble
21. Mae's Delusion.....Mae
22. Chirpy's Death.....Teen Lenna, Teen Jordan, Chirpy, Mae
23. Promise.....Lenna, Teen Lenna
24. My Daughter.....Lenna, Mae, Ensemble
25. Finale.....Ensemble

FROM THE AUTHORS

If there are discrepancies between the libretto and the demos, the written word takes precedence.

FLASHBACKS are used throughout the show and are italicized. **The flashbacks have a home movie feel.**

PRESENT DAY scenes are not italicized.

ACT IScene 1**(1. Break-In)**

A bird, CHIRPY, played by a female dancer, dances alone gracefully and hypnotically. The bird falls and is hurt. LENNA HARRIS, 27 unkempt and dirty, comes to the bird and helps the bird so he can dance again. This may be in the form of an abstract dance. THE ENSEMBLE joins the bird. Lenna leaves them and breaks into a house. LENNA walks into the living room. SHE pulls a wallet out of a purse that sits on a table and takes money out of it. SHE removes a compact from the purse, opens it and looks into the mirror.

LENNA

Hey, beautiful!

(SHE throws the compact back in the purse, grabs a pill bottle from a side table, and runs onto the patio where there is a birdcage with a plant in it. SHE kicks the cage hard and the pot falls, breaking into pieces. THE ENSEMBLE initiates a flashback through singing and movement. LENNA observes the flashback.)

(2. Flashback #1)

(**FLASHBACK.** MAE HARRIS, 48 and her daughter YOUNG LENNA, 7, are playing with their bird, CHIRPY. YOUNG LENNA is building a Jenga tower.)

YOUNG LENNA

WHEN I GET MUCH MORE BIGGER
I'LL BUILD A BIG HUGE HOUSE
WITH CEILINGS THAT GO UP TO THE SKY
AND I'LL NEVER BE ALONE

THE ROOMS WILL BE GIGANTIC
SO CHIRPY CAN FLY AROUND ALL DAY
AND WHEN HE GETS TIRED HE COULD HAVE A SNACK AND TAKE A NAP
THEN GO THE OTHER WAY

THERE CAN BE ROOMS FOR DOGS AND ROOMS FOR PLANTS AND
ROOMS FOR LOTS OF KIDS
AND THERE CAN ALSO BE A ROOM THAT'S JUST FOR YOU MOM
IN CASE YOU WANNA HAVE A SLEEP OVER

Mommy, I love Chirpy so much. He's so pretty. Mommy, can a boy be pretty?

MAE

Sure, Lenna.

CHIRPY IS SO BEAUTIFUL
I LOVE HIS TURQUOISE SHEEN
I ALSO LOVE HIS YELLOW FEATHERS

YOUNG LENNA

My favorite's the green. Chirpy is my brother.

MAE

Um, honey, Chirpy is a bird.

YOUNG LENNA

Duh, he's not a turtle.

MAE

Would you like another? A brother you can talk to and play games with and read books with?

YOUNG LENNA

I just like Chirpy. He's my really best friend.

MAE

But honey...

*A BOY TO BE YOUR WITNESS
SHARE YOUR SECRETS AND YOUR DREAMS
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YOUR STORY
YOU COULD PLAY AND SHARE YOUR SCHEMES*

YOUNG LENNA

Wait, Mommy are you pregnant with another girl or boy?

MAE

It's a little late for that, pumpkin.

BUT A BABY WOULD BRING JOY

There are a lot of kids of all ages who don't have homes. Their parents can't take care of them.

YOUNG LENNA

That is sad.

MAE

It is. But, sometimes other parents take those children into their families. I've been thinking about adopting a child.

YOUNG LENNA

Oh, like get another kid that's already borned? Um... okay. Hey Chirpy, come here.

(CHIRPY flies to the top of the Jenga Tower. MAE and YOUNG LENNA sing a round, teaching Chirpy to sing.)

MAE

*(to CHIRPY)
I LOVE YOU*

YOUNG LENNA

*(to CHIRPY)
I LOVE YOU*

CHIRPY

I LOVE YOU

MAE

I LOVE YOU

I LOVE YOU

YOUNG LENNA

I LOVE YOU

CHIRPY

HEY, CHIRPY

MAE

HEY, CHIRPY

YOUNG LENNA

HEY, CHIRPY

CHIRPY

I LOVE YOU

MAE

I LOVE YOU

YOUNG LENNA

I LOVE YOU

CHIRPY

LOO LOO LOO LOO LOO

MAE

LOO LOO LOO LOO LOO

YOUNG LENNA

AH AH AH AH AH AH

CHIRPY

No.

MAE

LOO LOO LOO LOO LOO

YOUNG LENNA

LOO LOO LOO LOO LOO

CHIRPY

LOO LOO LOO LOO LOO

LOO LOO LOO LOO LOO
AH AH AH AH AH AHHH

MAE, YOUNG LENNA, & CHIRPY

YOUNG LENNA

Could Chirpy sleep in my room?

MAE

I'm afraid he'd keep you awake.

(MAE tucks Chirpy into his cage.)

YOUNG LENNA

Okay, see you tomorrow Chirpy, sweet dreams. Mommy, is Daddy safe in heaven?

MAE

I think he is. There are angels taking care of him.

YOUNG LENNA

I miss him.

MAE

Of course you do, bunny. We both do.

(MAE puts YOUNG LENNA into bed.)

YOUNG LENNA

Will you sing the noodle song?

MAE

Of course.

(2A. Mae's Lullaby)

MAE

*CLOSE YOUR EYES MY NOODLE
TOMORROW WILL COME SOON
I LOVE YOU SO MY DOODLE
FROM HERE UP TO THE MOON
YOU'RE SWEETER THAN THE SWEETEST COOKIE
I COULD BAKE OR BUY
SO, GO TO SLEEP
AND THAT'S MY LULLABY*

YOUNG LENNA

I love you, Mommy. And I love Daddy and Chirpy.

MAE

I love you more than all the sky. I'll be back to turn off your light and music.

(THE ENSEMBLE brings us back to **PRESENT DAY**. MAE transforms to a slightly frailer, MAE, 68. LENNA, 27, sees her mom and runs out of the house. MAE screams.)

MAE

Lenna!

(ALEX, 21, rushes into the room.)

ALEX

What's wrong?

MAE

Lenna just ran out, over there.

ALEX

Mom, that's impossible.

MAE

I know my daughter. She was right there on the patio and she ran away quickly.

(MAE points to the bird cage.)

How did that happen?

ALEX

Whoa, it's windy but that's too heavy to tip over. I'll clean it up.

(ALEX goes to the table where Mae's purse is open. HE picks up her open wallet.)

MAE

I'm sure it was her. She said she'd come home.

ALEX

That was nine years ago.

MAE

True. Maybe she got lost.

ALEX

Oh, she definitely got lost. I'll open the blinds and let some light in here, okay?

MAE

Thanks, Cam.

ALEX

Alex, Mom. I'm Alex.

MAE

Oh God, of course... sorry.

(3. Interlude)

MAE

HELP ME I'M EMBARRASSED
WHY DOES NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE
COULD I BE GOING CRAZY?
IS MY BRAIN TRAPPED IN A FENCE?

I KNOW WHAT I AM THINKING
BUT IT DOESN'T COME OUT RIGHT
I JUMBLE WORDS AND MUMBLE
BUT THIS MORNING IN THE LIGHT

I'M SO SURE I SAW MY DAUGHTER
SHE WAS OVER THERE
AND I WANTED SO TO HOLD HER
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS RACING
TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY
I WISH I HADN'T LET HER

(THE ENSEMBLE brings us into the next scene.)

ACT 1Scene 2**(4. Fragments)**

LENNA arrives at Harte Park. She looks around at the Jungle Gym and a tree with a swing. She unpacks a garbage bag that holds some clothing and cigarettes.

LENNA

LOOK AT THIS PLACE
IT'S SORT OF THE SAME
THE JUNGLE GYM'S STANDING
BUT THERE'S RUST ON ITS FRAME

THE LEAVES ARE STILL FALLING
AND FINDING THEIR WAY
FLOATING DOWN TO THE EARTH
BUT THEIR COLOR WON'T STAY

LOOK AT THIS PLACE
MY FAVORITE PARK
WITH ITS FADED RED SWING
MOM WOULD PUSH ME TILL DARK

I'D HOLD TIGHT TO THE CHAINS,
SHE WOULD SWING ME SO HIGH
WHAT A RUSH IT WAS FLYING
UP INTO THE SKY

DOES MOM KNOW THAT I DIDN'T MEAN TO GO
BUT THE GUILT GOT TOO BIG AND IT WOULDN'T LET GO
THEN THE GAP GOT TOO WIDE AND I COULDN'T TURN BACK
AND THEN LITTLE BY LITTLE THE WHOLE WORLD WENT BLACK

FRAGMENTS FINDING A FRAME
TRACES OF SKETCHES IN SPACES
COULD I TAKE DOWN MY BLAME
WHERE ONCE THERE WERE KISSES ON FACES
COULD I COME BACK
COULD I EVER COME BACK
COULD I EVER COME BACK
TO THESE PLACES

ENSEMBLE

WELCOME HOME, GUESS THIS IS IT NOW
SOMEWHERE YOU CAN PUT YOUR SHIT NOW

LENNA

LOOK AT THIS PLACE
WINTER'S READY TO APPEAR
I LOOK AROUND FOR ALEX
MY VISION ISN'T CLEAR

WE'D PLAY PRINCES AND QUEENS
FOR HOURS AND HOURS
MY BROTHER AND I
IN OUR FAKE IVORY TOWERS

DOES HE KNOW THAT I DIDN'T MEAN TO GO
AND WHEN DID THE BLOOD IN MY HEART OVERFLOW?
NOTHING'S THE SAME AND EVERYTHING'S WRONG
I'VE BEEN DISCONNECTED FOR SO DAMN LONG

LENNA

FRAGMENTS FINDING A FRAME
TRACES OF SKETCHES IN SPACES
COULD I TAKE DOWN MY BLAME
WHERE ONCE THERE WERE KISSES ON
FACES

COULD I COME BACK
COULD I EVER COME BACK
COULD I EVER COME BACK
TO THESE PLACES

ENSEMBLE

FRAGMENTS. TRACES.
WELCOME HOME, GUESS THIS IS IT
NOW
SKETCHES. FACES.
SOMEWHERE YOU CAN PUT YOUR SHIT
NOW
FRAGMENTS. TRACES.
WELCOME HOME, GUESS THIS IS IT
NOW
SKETCHES. OH, OH...

ENSEMBLE

WELCOME HOME, GUESS THIS IS IT NOW
SOMEWHERE YOU CAN PUT YOUR SHIT NOW

LENNA

I GUESS THIS IS IT NOW
WE'LL MAKE A BRAND NEW HOUSE
WE'LL HAVE BRANCHES FOR A ROOF
AND MAYBE ONE PET MOUSE

WE DON'T HAVE A MORTGAGE
HERE'S A KITCHEN, THERE'S A CHAIR
WE'VE GOT FLOWERS IN THE LAWN
AND BATHROOMS EVERYWHERE

LENNA
 WE NEED CURTAINS FOR THE
 KITCHEN
 WE NEED LINENS FOR THE BEDS
 WE'LL MAKE THIS PLACE COZY
 A PLACE TO LAY OUR HEADS

 LOOK AT THIS TREE
 I REMEMBER THIS TREE
 DOES ANYTHING HERE REMEMBER ME?

ENSEMBLE
 OUT HERE WE HAVE A VISION

 HERE WHERE WE CAN RUN FROM OUR
 MISERY

 OUT HERE THERE'S SO MUCH
 SERENITY

 HIDING HERE BEYOND THE
 PERIPHERY

LENNA
 IF THE BIRDS CAN STILL SING AND THE TREES WILL SURVIVE
 I'LL GET THROUGH THIS WINTER WORN OUT BUT ALIVE
 ONE DAY AT A TIME, JUST REMEMBER THE SKY
 AND ALEX AND JORDAN, MY MOTHER AND I

LENNA
 FRAGMENTS FINDING A FRAME
 TRACES OF SKETCHES IN SPACES
 COULD I TAKE DOWN MY BLAME
 WHERE ONCE THERE WERE KISSES ON
 FACES

 COULD I COME BACK
 COULD I EVER COME BACK
 COULD I EVER COME BACK

 TO THESE PLACES
 OH, THESE PLACES, OH...

ENSEMBLE
 FRAGMENTS. TRACES.
 WELCOME HOME, GUESS THIS IS IT
 NOW
 SKETCHES. FACES.
 SOMEWHERE YOU CAN PUT YOUR SHIT
 NOW
 FRAGMENTS. TRACES.
 WELCOME HOME, GUESS THIS IS IT
 NOW
 SKETCHES. OH, OH...

 FRAGMENTS. TRACES.
 SKETCHES. FACES.

SHE sits on a swing, smoking a cigarette, talking to
 herself, drinking out of a bottle. JORDAN CHEN, 28,
 enters the park. They see each other from afar.)

Jordan?

LENNA

Lenna.

JORDAN

*(THE ENSEMBLE brings us into a **FLASHBACK**. TEEN LENNA
 and TEEN JORDAN hang out on the jungle gym.)*

TEEN JORDAN

Here it is, Lenny, I took it from their liquor cabinet.

(TEEN JORDAN pulls out a SpongeBob thermos and pours.)

The brandy, not the thermos.

TEEN LENNA

Yay. I don't get why my dad drank so much. Well, maybe I'll find out. Here goes!

TEEN JORDAN

We're breaking our drinking virginity.

BOTH

Cheers! Whoohoo.

(THEY toast, then drink, then sit quietly for a minute.)

TEEN LENNA

Yum. It tastes like candy. More please.

(THEY drink more.)

Could it work this fast? Cause I feel good.

TEEN JORDAN

Right? My throat is on fire, and I love this. Come on, let's open it, the suspense is killing me.

TEEN LENNA

Okay, ready for the big reveal? Here goes.

(Lenna takes out a box. On the outside of the box it says "PRIVATE, DO NOT OPEN".)

I hope she doesn't find out we snooped.

TEEN JORDAN

If she really didn't want anyone to see, she should have hid it better.

(THEY continue to drink, TEEN LENNA in the lead.)

TEEN LENNA

I hope it's love letters from my Dad.

TEEN JORDAN

He died from a heart thing... heart attack?

TEEN LENNA

Well, his heart stopped. Sudden cardiac arrest. It's a little different but same idea. The heart is like nope, I'm done. He was about to start a class and boom, he went down. I kissed him good-bye, went to first grade and that was it.

TEEN JORDAN

Weird, I'm so sorry.

TEEN LENNA

Holy fuckballs, this is from a lawyer, but it's his death certificate. Ewwww, I've never seen one.

TEEN JORDAN

Me neither.

TEEN LENNA

"Cameron William Harris - time of death, approximately 10.00 a.m. parents names, Jessica and Ronald, occupation, Professor, spouses maiden name, Mae Jarrett, place and location of birth blah blah, and place and location of death... 165 Suvito Ave. front yard."

What do they mean our front yard? I thought he was teaching.

"Cause of death: suffocation. Underlying causes. Mr. Harris had a BAC of .40% which can be fatal." The fuck's that?

TEEN JORDAN

That's a blood alcohol level. You want to stop reading?

TEEN LENNA

No... I don't want to stop drinking either.

"Mr. Harris appeared to be walking toward his car. He was found unresponsive with keys in his hands, upside down in a snowbank in the front yard and a neighbor, Marian Edwards found him."

What the ever-loving fuck Jordan? Upside down in a snowbank? I wonder how long he was in the snow before they found him. I mean and why couldn't he just stand up and walk out of the snow?

TEEN JORDAN

With that much booze in his body, he couldn't have been conscious.

TEEN LENNA

Wouldn't it be painful to freeze to death? I wonder how long he was in the snow, before they found him. The Edwards moved a long time ago and Mom didn't stay in touch with them, otherwise I'd ask.

(TEEN JORDAN takes out her phone.)

TEEN JORDAN

Hey Google, how many hours could you live if you were unconscious in a snowdrift?

GOOGLE (V.O.)

This is what I found.

(TEEN JORDAN reads on her phone as TEEN LENNA rifles around in THE BOX.)

TEEN JORDAN

I'm not reading this to you.

TEEN LENNA

I can't unsee him, head in the snow with his legs sticking up.

TEEN JORDAN

Here, keep drinking, you'll forget everything.

TEEN LENNA

I can't, I can't stop seeing it.

(TEEN LENNA starts hitting her own head.)

Why did my mother lie to me?

TEEN JORDAN

Stop it Lenna, you'll hurt yourself. Stop it.

TEEN LENNA

Why didn't she tell me the truth?

TEEN JORDAN

Tell a seven-year-old that her father died, drunk, doing a handstand in the snow?

TEEN LENNA

I'm not seven now. I had a right to know. She could have told me for like the past eight years.

TEEN JORDAN

She would have told you at some point.

TEEN LENNA

Whose side are you on?

TEEN JORDAN

There are no sides. I'm trying to help you understand what happened. I'm sure she meant to protect you. Keep breathing, Len. I got you.

TEEN LENNA

I fucking hate her for not telling me.

(TEEN LENNA is pretty much sobbing now, collapses in TEEN JORDAN's arms. She reaches for the bottle.)

TEEN JORDAN

Easy, Lenna, easy!

TEEN LENNA

Give me the bottle! Damnit, it's empty.

*(THE ENSEMBLE brings us back to **PRESENT DAY.**)*

(JORDAN and LENNA turn away from each other, and JORDAN starts walking out of the park.)

(5. Ghost)

JORDAN

OH MY GOD, LENNA'S REALLY HERE
EVERYDAY I'VE PRAYED THAT SHE WOULD SOMEDAY REAPPEAR
NOW SHE'S NEAR, IT'S WHAT I FEARED THE MOST
HER EYES STILL HAVE SOME SHIMMER, SUCH A PRETTY KIND OF GHOST

IS THIS ALL BECAUSE OF ME
THAT SHE'S BARELY WHO SHE USED TO BE
IS THIS ALL BECAUSE OF ME

I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THE WAY SHE IS NOW
WAS NEVER MY FAULT I SHOULD LET GO SOMEHOW
THIS FUCKING DISEASE TURNS YOUR LIFE ON IT'S HEAD
SOME LIVES BEGIN, OTHERS FIND THEMSELVES DEAD
I CAN'T LET THIS BE LENNA'S END

DOES SHE STILL REMEMBER ME?
HOW WE'D KISS BENEATH THE MAPLE TREE
DOES SHE STILL REMEMBER ME?

I CANNOT OBSESS ABOUT LENNA THIS WAY
AFTER MY CLASS I'LL TELL ALEX AND MAE
WHATEVER HAPPENS SHE CAN'T RUN AWAY
PERSON OR GHOST, I JUST WANT HER TO BE OKAY

ACT I

Scene 3

NU BREW - A hipster coffee shop in the center of town. ALEX, pours himself a cup of coffee while giving BLUE, an employee, instructions at the espresso machine.

ALEX

(to Blue)
Make sure to pack it tightly.

BLUE

Got it, Alex.

(LENNA ambles out of the coffee shop bathroom, grabbing a scrap of a sandwich from a table. SHE sneaks out as JORDAN enters the coffee shop. Neither Alex, nor Jordan see her.)

ALEX

Can I get you a coffee?

JORDAN

A red-eye.

ALEX

Blue, can you get that?

(Blue nods and gets coffee.)

Hey, you okay?

JORDAN

Sort of, not really.

ALEX

Rough day at school?

JORDAN

I'll be in grad school for the rest of my life. It's not that. I'm a little shaken up, guess who's here?

ALEX

No way.

JORDAN

Way, she's in the park. On a swing, smoking a cigarette, talking to herself.

ALEX

Shit... that's not a good sign. You talk to her?

JORDAN

All I've wanted desperately, for ten freaking years is to talk to her. And now she is in front of me and I'm like bluh bluh... nothing, I froze.

ALEX

My mom thought she saw her run out of the house this morning and the plant in Chirpy's old cage was knocked over. But, I didn't believe her.

JORDAN

Why?

ALEX

After ten years she's going to run into the house, then run out? And mom's purse and wallet were open. Uh, yah, of course she would.

JORDAN

I can't believe this. When was the last time you saw her?

ALEX

Three years ago for a day.

JORDAN

Oh, right, I remember that.

ALEX

We bought her a toothbrush and toothpaste, dragged her to an NA meeting, gave her dinner which she didn't eat, she shot up in the bathroom and left.

JORDAN

What are we going to do?

ALEX

We both know, sadly, there's nothing we can do.

JORDAN

Will you go to the park?

ALEX

Eventually, you?

JORDAN

I guess so, I mean, of course. Should we go together?

ALEX

Nah, probably not.

JORDAN

Might be overwhelming.

ALEX

For her or us?

BOTH

Both.

JORDAN

I have another class now, let me know what happens.

ALEX

Hey look.

(JORDAN looks at Alex's painting hanging on the wall
of the Harris family.)

JORDAN

That is stunning.

ALEX

Thanks, if it wasn't for her, I probably wouldn't still be painting. She was always supportive of that.

JORDAN

Still... I just miss her.

ALEX

Me too. Looks like we manifested her.

JORDAN

Should we tell Mae?

ALEX

Not yet let's see what happens first.

JORDAN

Keep me posted?

ALEX

Yup.

(JORDAN leaves the coffee shop. ALEX stares at the Painting, staring into space.)

Fuck!

(HE grabs his bag and jacket and heads out of the shop. The ENSEMBLE brings us into another **FLASHBACK.**)

(6. Family (Part 1))

(YOUNG ALEX, 9 has arrived at the Harris's home. MAE brings him inside.)

MAE

ALEX, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU TODAY.

(YOUNG ALEX stares at his feet with his head down.)

YOU MUST BE TIRED, YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY.

(HE continues to stare at his feet.)

HOW ARE YOU DOING? WOULD YOU LIKE A SNACK?
YOUR SISTER WILL SHOW YOU AROUND.
THEN WE'LL UNPACK.

(HE picks up his head and shrugs.)

HEY ALEX, ARE YOU OKAY?
DO YOU WANT TO GO OUTSIDE WITH LENNA TO PLAY?

(MAE calls upstairs to Teen Lenna.)

LENNA COME DOWN HERE, YOUR BROTHER IS HERE
ALEX, I PROMISE, THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR

WE'RE SO HAPPY THAT YOU'VE JOINED OUR FAMILY
YOU'LL HAVE A BIRD A BIKE AND BACKYARD TOO
ON YOUR BEDROOM CEILING IS A SKY WITH SILVER STARS
NOW YOU'VE BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR CREW

(TEEN LENNA enters, looking on icily.)

WE'RE SO HAPPY THAT YOU'VE JOINED OUR FAMILY
NOW YOU HAVE A MOM AND SISTER TOO
WE HOPE THAT YOU'LL FEEL COMFORTABLE
AND COZY IN YOUR HOME
WE'RE SO GLAD THAT THE MISSING PIECE WAS YOU

TEEN LENNA

What?

MAE

You remember Alex...

TEEN LENNA

Duh. Hi.

YOUNG ALEX

Hi.

MAE

Why don't you remind Alex where everything is? He hasn't met Chirpy yet, and you can take him to his room.

(MAE pulls TEEN LENNA aside.)

What's with the attitude? This must be hard for him.

TEEN LENNA

Whatever.

MAE

What's wrong with you?

TEEN LENNA

Nothing. I'll show him around.

(to YOUNG ALEX)

Come on, let's go.

(6A. Family (Part 2))

(TEEN LENNA shows Young Alex the house.)

WHERE'S ALL YOUR STUFF?

YOUNG ALEX

IN THIS BAG.

TEEN LENNA

THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE?

YOUNG ALEX

YUP.

TEEN LENNA

FOR REAL? WHAT A DRAG.

DON'T YOU HAVE TOYS, OR LIKE BOOKS, OR SOME GAMES?

YOUNG ALEX

NO, BUT I HAVE SOME COOL PICTURE FRAMES.

TEEN LENNA

Why do you have picture frames?

YOUNG ALEX

I collect them. I like to draw. Then I put the pictures in the frames.

TEEN LENNA

I like to build shit, stuff I mean.

YOUNG ALEX

I've heard the S word before.

TEEN LENNA

HOW MANY HOMES HAVE YOU HAD?

YOUNG ALEX

I GUESS THERE WERE FIVE

TEEN LENNA

Yikes.

YOUNG ALEX

IT WASN'T SO BAD

TEEN LENNA

DO YOU HAVE LIKE A MOM OR A DAD OR AN AUNT

YOUNG ALEX

WELL I DIDN'T COME OUT OF AN EGG OR A PLANT

Yeah, I have a mom. Doesn't everybody? She couldn't take care of me so I went in foster care. Do you have a Dad?

TEEN LENNA

He drank too much, then he died. Where's your Dad?

YOUNG ALEX

He took drugs and killed someone.

TEEN LENNA

Should I be scared of you?

YOUNG ALEX

I didn't kill someone.

TEEN LENNA

Mom says we're going to be your forever family and that we'll always be brother and sister. Weird.

YOUNG ALEX

EVERY HOUSE I LIVE IN THAT'S WHAT ALL THE PEOPLE SAY
ALEX YOU'RE A GREAT KID AND WE HOPE YOU'LL ALWAYS STAY
THEN ALL THESE STUPID THINGS KEEP HAPPENING THAT AREN'T RIGHT
THEN SUDDENLY I'M DRAGGED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

SO I AM NOT YOUR BROTHER, AND THAT LADY'S NOT MY MOM
CAUSE EVERY TIME WHEN I MOVE IN THEN THERE'S ANOTHER BOMB
I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU AND YOU SEEM LIKE KIND OF MEAN
I'VE LIVED IN TONS OF PLACES THERE'S SOME REAL BAD STUFF I'VE SEEN

TEEN LENNA

Um... sorry. (beat) Okay, I won't call you my brother.

(6B. Family (Part 3))

We could pretend like, this is a Motel Six and you're just here
for a few days ...or something? Do you want to see the bird?

YOUNG ALEX

I don't care.

(HE reaches to touch Teen Lenna's vintage record player.)

TEEN LENNA

Don't touch that. Please.

YOUNG ALEX

Sorry.

(HE continues to fight back tears.)

TEEN LENNA

AFTER YOU MEET CHIRPY, MAYBE WE COULD PLAY SOME GAMES
OR PAINT AND SKETCH AND YOU COULD SHOW ME ALL YOUR PICTURE
FRAMES
I'LL TAKE HIM FROM HIS CAGE NOW SO YOU CAN FINALLY MEET
I THINK YOU'RE GONNA LIKE HIM, CHIRPY'S LOVING AND SO SWEET

CHIRPY

I LOVE YOU

(TEEN LENNA opens Chirpy's cage. CHIRPY flies to YOUNG
ALEX and flaps HIS wing in YOUNG ALEX'S face. YOUNG ALEX
starts crying. MAE enters. TEEN LENNA puts CHIRPY back
in his cage.)

MAE

Now, what did you do?

TEEN LENNA

I let Chirpy out to see Alex.

MAE

Lenna, what happened?

TEEN LENNA

Chirpy flapped his wing in his face and he freaked out. I didn't do anything.

MAE

Alex, come here, sit down. May I hug you?

YOUNG ALEX

No, sorry. I mean, it's not like you're my Mom or anything.

MAE

I'm sorry... I um... oh, and I'm sorry Chirpy scared you. He won't hurt you. I think he's just excited that you're here. We are too.

*WE'RE SO HAPPY THAT YOU'VE JOINED OUR FAMILY
WE WERE A TWO BUT NOW WE ARE A THREE*

CHIRPY

I LOVE YOU

TEEN LENNA

SORRY IF SCARED YOU

MAE

*WE HOPE THAT YOU'LL BE COMFORTABLE AND HAPPY IN OUR HOME
WE'RE SO GLAD THAT OUR FAMILY'S COMPLETE*

(THE ENSEMBLE brings us back to **PRESENT DAY.**)

ACT 1Scene 5**(7. Will I Know Her)**

The park. LENNA puts finishing touches on her structure with twigs, leaves, garbage, then lies on a bench and nods out. ALEX enters the park and surveys it. As Alex sings, TEEN LENNA and YOUNG ALEX dance. The dance reflects their relationships and happy, but complex childhood.

ALEX

WILL I KNOW HER WHEN I SEE HER?
DOES SHE STILL HAVE ALL THAT WAVY HAIR?
WHERE'S THAT TREE THAT WE WOULD CLIMB ON
TRYING TO CATCH THE CLOUDS WITHOUT A CARE?

WILL I KNOW HER WHEN I SEE HER?
WITH HER ARMY BOOTS AND RUFFLED DRESS?
LENNA ALWAYS WAS THE COOLEST
SMART AND FUNNIER THAN ALL THE REST

THIS IS COMPLETELY SURREAL
I STILL WON'T GIVE UP PRAYING SOMEDAY SHE'LL HEAL
I'LL LOVE HER AND HATE HER AS LONG AS I FEEL
I TRY TO PRETEND THAT MY HEART'S MADE OF STEEL
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS STORY IS REAL

IF SHE'S HERE, WHAT WILL I SAY?

ON THAT BENCH THERE'S SOMEONE SLEEPING
BUT HER SKIN IS GREY, SHE ISN'T WELL
COULD THAT WOMAN BE MY SISTER?
OH MY GOD SHE MUST BE COLD AS HELL

(HE turns away, too afraid to look.)

SOMETIMES I WISH SHE WOULD DIE
THE GUILT AND THE SHAME MAKE ME SCREAM AT THE SKY
BUT LENNA'S MY FAMILY, I STILL WANT TO TRY
IMAGINING SOMEDAY SHE'LL BREAK FREE AND FLY
DEEP DOWN I THINK THAT IT'S PROBABLY A LIE

BUT SHE IS THE ONE WHO'LL DECIDE

(ALEX realizes that the woman on the bench is Lenna.
HE moves slowly toward her.)

YEAH... I KNOW HER AND I SEE HER
THAT'S MY SISTER, SHE'S NOT SMILING NOW
MAYBE SHE WON'T WANT TO SEE ME
STILL I WONDER, CAN I HELP SOMEHOW

MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL LISTEN YOU'RE HERE YOU COULD STAY
IF YOU ONLY BELIEVED THINGS COULD TURN OUT OKAY
LIFE IS HARD BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IT THIS WAY

SO I'LL KEEP PRAYING ONE DAY
WE'LL SIT UNDER THAT TREE
LOOKING UP AT THE BIG SKY
FINDING PICTURES IN CLOUDS
LAUGHING SO HARD WE'LL CRY
LIVING IN A NEW WORLD
OUR PAST NOT FAR BEHIND
LIVING IN A NEW WORLD
MY SISTER AND I