

## JULIE - ELIZABETH'S BEST FRIEND

### CHARACTER STUDY

Julie is a mild mannered child coming from an A-typical home in middle class America. She is an average intelligence, not quickly witted, and quite the subordinate type. She is best friend to Elizabeth and would avoid seeing her best friend from getting into trouble, but that said, is still a typical child who if her friend got in trouble over something, it would be better the friend than her.

Her parents are average folks, spend a moderate amount of time with her and on occasion argue like Elizabeth's parents and therein Julie can identify with Elizabeth's parents issues.

A specific issue with Julie is she fears most all parts of the make up of society. She is an indoors kind of girl and would rather read a book than go sleigh riding and would never step outside the rules that are set for her by her parents, school, and society. She is a compulsive follower of rules and regulations.

### SCENE READ STUDY

In the scene below, Julie and Elizabeth are walking home from school, school has let out early because of a water main break, the school's automated call out system calls parents and notifies them when children are missing or being dismissed early via a computerized message where the recipient has to press 1 on their respective phones keypad to indicate they have received the message. In this read scene the SAS (School Announcement System) has notified Charlotte (Elizabeth's mother) that school is out so she can pick up her daughter, and be it Charlotte made a mistake or the system error'd, the SAS recorded that the receiver of call pressed 1 that they received the message and thus Elizabeth waited for her mom outside the building and with no arriving mom, Julie accompanies her on their respective paths home.

As the scene opens, Julie and Elizabeth are seen talking in front of the school, Julie nods her head in agreement with Elizabeth having said they should head on home and the two begin walking down the front sidewalk of the school toward the sidewalk that parallels the street in front of the school. At the end of the walk in front of the school, they turn to the street side sidewalk as the conversation begins.

SCRIPT FOLLOWS.....

Elizabeth and JULIE, a red haired eight year old, are walking on the side walk in the middle of conversation.

ELIZABETH

I just don't understand.

JULIE

You sure the school called your mom?

ELIZABETH

Yeah they said that SAS thing showed that my mom received the call at her office *and* cell and pressed the one key to confirm she got the message.

JULIE

My mom said that thing doesn't always work.

ELIZABETH

Well then why did it show she answered the phone and pressed the key?

JULIE

I don't know. But I think I would stay at school till your mom came.

ELIZABETH

Yeah well your mom isn't on the warpath like mine and I left my cereal bowl on the table and she'll go ballistic if she sees it.

JULIE

Yikes. You get in trouble for things like that?

ELIZABETH

Not always but right now anything sets her off. Besides, I can call my dad cuz I'll be home alone.

JULIE

That's cool. I wished my parents were divorced. They argue all the time.

ELIZABETH

No you don't. It's horrible.

JULIE

Really?

ELIZABETH

Yeah. They are always playing me against the other and you're in the middle. Sometimes I would just like to run away cuz they make me cry.

JULIE

Well, I cry when mine argue and throw things at each other and make a lot of noise.

ELIZABETH

Yeah. Mine did that too.

JULIE

I swear, I'm never getting married.

ELIZABETH

Me either.

#### JULIE ADDITIONAL SCRIPT

Charlotte stands in the doorway of Julie's house and Julie's mom, JEAN stands behind her daughter. They are already engaged in conversation.

CHARLOTTE

...so then let me get this straight Julie. You and Elizabeth split right over there...

Charlotte points to the spot where Elizabeth and Julie were last together.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

And then you came to your house and Elizabeth continued on the walk toward the park. Does she walk through the park when she walks home?

JULIE

Yes ma'am.

CHARLOTTE

Even when it snows like this?

JULIE

Yes ma'am. She likes playing . .

well, walking in the snow.

Charlotte looks across the street then back at Julie who waits.

CHARLOTTE

So tell me Julie do you know why she didn't wait for me at the school?

Julie turns to her mother.

JULIE

Do I have to?  
Julie's mom frowns and nods her head.

JEAN

Julie? You need to answer the question.

Julie turns to Charlotte.

JULIE

Is she in trouble?

CHARLOTTE

I don't know Julie. You tell me?

JULIE

Is she going to get grounded?

CHARLOTTE

Julie just tell me.  
Julie's mother turns her daughter toward her.

JEAN

Julie, stop wasting time and tell Elizabeth's mother anything you know and stop stalling.

Julie frowns, turns to Charlotte and explains.

JULIE

Well ok. Well, she waited for a while, then went to the office and they said that you had gotten the message, and I waited with her for a while more after I called my mom and my mom told me to walk home since I have a key.

Julie turns to her mom and again receives a nod and frown.

JULIE

So, Elizabeth was telling me how her dad isn't allowed to visit for Christmas and all and how you were upset with her over it and so she said she was just going to walk home since you were probably busy at work and because she left her bowl and cup out.

CHARLOTTE

Bowl and cup?

JULIE

Yeah. She said she forgot to put them in the sink and so she was glad she got to go home early and put them in the sink before you got home and got mad at her.

Charlotte shakes her head, pulls out her cell and calls home again and while doing so continues conversing with Julie.

CHARLOTTE

So, you're saying that the two of you stood there talking for a little bit then she went on home?

JULIE

Yup. That's what happened.

CHARLOTTE

So then where is she?  
Charlotte stands looking down at Julie.

JEAN

Julie are you telling us everything?

Julie turns to her mother with assurance.

JULIE

Yes mom. I swear.

CHARLOTTE

Look Julie. Elizabeth isn't at home, nor with my mother, nor my Ex. If you know where she is you have to tell me. She won't be in any trouble.

JULIE

I swear. That's what happened and I don't know any more, I swear. Julie's mom squats down, Charlotte leans in to listen attentively.

JULIE'S MOM

Honey. If there is anything else that happened or anything else you know you have to tell us. It's important. It's cold out there and Julie isn't home.

Julie nods her head.

JULIE

I swear that's all that happened and I don't know anymore.

Charlotte stands, looks across the street, back at Julie and Jean and pushes the door open and speaks behind her.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you for your help. Sorry to bother you.