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The Snow Globe

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The Snow Globe

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
University of New Orleans
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts
In
Film, Theatre, and Communication Arts
Creative Writing

By

Sara Crawford

BA Kennesaw State University, 2008

December 2012

The Snow Globe
A play by Sara Crawford

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CHARACTERS

TABATHA – an 11-year-old girl

LAVETTA / VERONICA – an evil witch and toymaker / Tabatha's mother

ETHAN – a 12-year-old boy

TARA – A doll

CLARA – A doll

THE CAT

THE CROW / THE TEDDY BEAR

ACT ONE

Prologue

(TARA and CLARA, two porcelain dolls enter. They talk in a sort of sing song tone, and there is something about them that is slightly creepy.)

TARA

Some people say there are no more witches.

CLARA

Some people don't believe in them at all.

TARA

Why don't they believe?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA/CLARA

Who can say for sure?

(They giggle.)

TARA

Once there was a witch they called Lavetta.

CLARA

Before she found us, we were normal dolls!

TARA

We couldn't walk or talk or dance or sing!

TARA/CLARA

Talk or dance or sing!

(They giggle.)

TARA

She often made us forget all we knew—

CLARA

But now we remember! Let us tell you!

(The following should be acted out with the use of shadows, a projection of silhouettes, or actors whose faces are obscured.)

CLARA

When Lavetta was just a little girl—

TARA

She loved her toys more than the whole wide world—

CLARA

She noticed, though, that she could take her toys—

TARA

And make them walk and talk and dance and sing!

TARA/CLARA

Walk and dance and sing!

CLARA

She was thrilled that she could talk to toys.

TARA

And they would answer her and love her back!

CLARA

But it only ever lasted one night—

TARA

Come morning time, her toys had no magic.

CLARA

On her 8th birthday, her father gave her—

TARA

A snow globe that was very magical!

CLARA

He explained to her, time stood still inside—

TARA

And anything that was inside would live—

TARA/CLARA

FOREVER!

So she decided to make her own world—

TARA

Inside the snow globe with all of her toys!

CLARA

But her father got ill and passed away—

TARA

And there was no one to show her the way.

CLARA

(CLARA and TARA look at each other. They start hysterically crying.)

Why is life so sad?

TARA

Who can say for sure?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA/CLARA

(The dolls snap out of it.)

(LAVETTA, an eccentric witch, enters a forest area and points a finger at the ground. A small campfire starts. She carries a bag. She pulls a snow globe out of the bag.)

When she was a grownup—

CLARA

She finally discovered a way—

TARA

To place some of the magical toys—

CLARA

Into the snow globe!

TARA

Like us!

TARA/CLARA

(They giggle.)

CLARA

She was so happy with herself that she—

TARA

Decided to put animals inside!

CLARA

She thought that she should start out with her cat.

(LAVETTA pulls her cat out of her bag. It meows once in a nonchalant way. She holds up the snow globe and whispers to herself. The cat goes inside of the snow globe.)

CLARA

Next, there was a crow she found in the woods!

(LAVETTA pulls a crow out of her bag. She holds up the snow globe and whispers to herself. The crow goes inside of the snow globe.)

TARA

Inside the snow globe, animals could talk!

CLARA

Talk and dance and sing!

CLARA/TARA

Talk and dance and sing!

TARA

Next, she wanted people in the snow globe.

CLARA

So she could turn them into plastic toys!

TARA

You see, toys will always understand you.

CLARA

Toys always listen!

TARA/CLARA

Toys will understand! Toys will always listen!

(ETHAN, a 12-year-old boy, enters, listening to music with headphones.)

TARA

One day, a boy stumbled upon her campfire.

(LAVETTA holds up the snow globe.)

CLARA

She put a spell on him to go inside—

(ETHAN drops his headphones. He disappears.)

TARA

Lavetta was so pleased that she wanted—

CLARA

To go into the snow globe for a while!

TARA

Even though it wasn't finished quite yet—

CLARA

And there was still some work she had to do—

(LAVETTA holds up the snow globe. She disappears. The snow globe falls to the ground.)

TARA

Lavetta should not have left the snow globe—

CLARA

Inside the woods where anyone could pass—

CLARA

A girl soon came across Lavetta's fire—

(TABATHA, an 11-year-old girl, enters. She picks up ETHAN's headphones and looks at them. She stuffs them in her bag.)

CLARA

She found the snow globe—

(TABATHA picks up the snow globe on the ground, looking at it, completely enchanted.)

(She puts it in her bag.)

TARA

And she took it home—

What will happen now?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA/CLARA

Toys Will Always Listen

(Inside the snow globe—a traditional old-fashioned town with little houses, trees, benches, and a church—ETHAN stands in front of the church. Hugging his arms, he is cold. He looks around.)

(The CAT slinks by in the background.)

(LAVETTA enters. Throughout the scene, she has a sense of joy—like a scientist about to engage in an experiment.)

(They stare at each other.)

ETHAN
Where are we? And who are you?

LAVETTA
I'm Lavetta, a witch.

ETHAN
A what?

LAVETTA
According to Webster, a witch is one who is credited with supernatural—

ETHAN
Um, I *know* what a witch is. I didn't think there were any...real ones.

LAVETTA
I'm as real as they come, boy.

ETHAN
Is that *glass*? Look, I really need to go home.

LAVETTA
Why would you want to go back to that boring, stupid place? This will be your new home!

ETHAN
What are you even talking about?

LAVETTA
This place is a lot better than the *real* world.

ETHAN

How would *you* know?

LAVETTA

(Looking intently at him)

You remind me of someone I once knew...another boy...(She snaps out of it.) Well, that was a long time ago.

(TARA and CLARA enter. They are playing together and giggling.)

ETHAN

Are they...dolls?

LAVETTA

Yes! Aren't they cool? I can make animals talk, I can make toys talk...but I've never turned a person into a toy.

ETHAN

You want to—

LAVETTA

(looking at TARA and CLARA)

I've been working on some new spells, some new potions. And I *think* I'm on the verge of a breakthrough. If I perfect this, I'll be able to turn you into an actual doll. Isn't that amazing?

ETHAN

I don't want to be a doll!

LAVETTA

Being a doll will be fun! Besides, you'll still be alive as long as you're inside of my snow globe.

ETHAN

And if I'm outside of the snow globe?

LAVETTA

Oh, you'll just be plastic like the rest of them, but—

ETHAN

Plastic!?

LAVETTA

Listen, that's not going to happen. My spells and potions always turn out well! You'll be perfect, just like Tara and Clara over there.

ETHAN

Look, lady, that's cool and all, but I really need to go home...Anyway, I wouldn't be a very good doll. Um...look at me! Do I look dollish at all?

LAVETTA

Of course you do...you look *just* like...well, that's not important.

ETHAN

What if you don't even like me? I'm mean. And...annoying! Do you really want someone stuck in your snow globe that is going to bug you all the time? (He starts to walk away, looking up at the glass.) If you let me go, I can get you someone else to—

LAVETTA

Oh, that's ridiculous. You'll do fine. And if you get *too* annoying, I can just make you act a different way. See Tara and Clara over there? I make them forget things all of the time.

(ETHAN reaches the edge of the glass. He puts his hands up on it and can go no further.)

(LAVETTA laughs.)

LAVETTA

Don't you think I understand the physics of my own world, boy? *You* can't get out like that. (She pulls out her knife and walks towards him.) Oh, I almost forgot.

ETHAN

What are you doing!?! (ETHAN tries to run away from LAVETTA.)

LAVETTA

Calm down, boy! I'm not going to hurt you!

ETHAN

Then why do you have a *knife*?

(ETHAN and LAVETTA struggle.)

LAVETTA

I just need to collect some of your blood for my potion.

ETHAN

You can't! (He tries to hit her. She holds out her arm and paralyzes him.)

(She is suddenly serious.)

LAVETTA

You're going to *have* to shut up and be still, boy.

(She grabs his hand and cuts it.)

ETHAN

Oww!

LAVETTA

Sorry, boy. It was just a little snip. I need it to finish the spell. (She collects his blood in a vial.)
What is your name anyway?

ETHAN

Ethan.

LAVETTA

(Smiling at him)
I think you're going to be the best creation I've ever made!

Into The Snow Globe

(TABATHA, an 11-year-old girl, has two teddy bears and a Barbie doll on her bed. She's playing with them.)

TABATHA

(with the 1st teddy bear)

"I swear I didn't kill anyone, Your Honor! I'm a vegetarian!"

(with the 2nd teddy bear)

"We have witnesses. And the murder weapon was found just outside of your house."

(with the 1st teddy bear)

"Witnesses? What witnesses?"

(with the 2nd teddy bear)

"This young woman."

(with the Barbie)

"Yeah, like, totally."

(with the 1st teddy bear)

"She's your girlfriend, Your Honor! You can't listen to her!"

(VERONICA, TABATHA's mother, knocks on her door and enters her room.)

(TABATHA, embarrassed, throws the toys off the bed.)

VERONICA

Tabatha...dinner's ready. What were you doing?

TABATHA

Nothing.

VERONICA

(laughing)

Nothing? So was the teddy bear guilty or not?

TABATHA

(shyly)

I don't know.

VERONICA

(laughing)
Of course he's not guilty. He's your favorite teddy bear!

TABATHA

Mom...

VERONICA

(picking up the teddy bear)
I remember when you used to carry this one around with you everywhere you went. No wonder it looks so beat up.

TABATHA

Mom, really...

VERONICA

There's nothing to be embarrassed about...But I *do* think you should get out of your room. Don't you want to talk to your friends?

TABATHA

I don't have any.

VERONICA

Oh, that's not true.

TABATHA

Yes, it is. Everyone thinks I'm a loser, you know.

VERONICA

A loser? Why would anyone think that? You're talented and creative and kind and smart.

TABATHA

(Embarrassed)
Mom...

VERONICA

If you put that kind of energy out into the universe—that you're a loser or you don't deserve friends—*that's* what you're going to manifest.

TABATHA

...What?

VERONICA

You need to think positive! Put out positive vibrations!

TABATHA

I don't get how to do that.

VERONICA

You could start by trying to give the other kids a chance. Be nice to them. Be friendly! We haven't even lived here for that long.

TABATHA

I like books more than people.

VERONICA

Why?

TABATHA

Books have more...*magic*...in them. And they aren't mean.

VERONICA

...I see. (Pause.) Well, dinner is ready when you are. And then you should really get to bed early so you can get up for school tomorrow. You want to be well rested and *centered*.

TABATHA

Middle school does start a whole *hour* later than elementary did, you know.

VERONICA

So?

TABATHA

So I should be able to stay up an hour later!

VERONICA

Well maybe as you get adjusted, but tomorrow is the first day. You want to start out fresh with lots of rest! (She starts to exit the room when she notices the snow globe on a shelf. She picks it up.) Where did you get this?

TABATHA

I found it. In the woods.

VERONICA

It looks just like... (She stops herself.) In the woods? What were you doing in the woods by yourself?

TABATHA

Going for a walk.

VERONICA

Going for a walk? You know you're not supposed to just wander around by yourself anymore, especially not in the woods.

TABATHA

Other people walk around by themselves. There's a boy from our neighborhood who's always walking that trail over there and listening to music and... Well, anyway, this snow globe was just lying in the woods next to this campfire that had gone out.

VERONICA

It probably belonged to someone.

TABATHA

No, it didn't. I found it on the ground next to Ethan's headphones. I thought you'd say it was "meant to be."

(VERONICA looks at the snow globe for a moment.)

VERONICA

Well, it *is* lovely. It reminds me of... (Her voice trails off. She puts the snow globe back on the shelf.) Come down for dinner, please. We're having your favorite! Vegetarian lasagna!

(VERONICA smiles at TABATHA and exits. TABATHA starts to walk out of the room but gets distracted by the snow globe. She picks it up. She looks at it.)

(We can see the world of the snow globe behind her as she sees it. There is a church, some benches, and buildings. ETHAN looks up, as if at her. He waves his arms, trying to get her attention.)

ETHAN

Hey!!!

(The CAT slinks by.)

TABATHA

That's weird...I could have sworn I saw...Ethan...*inside*?

(TABATHA shakes the snow globe, which makes it snow. She is transported into the world within the snow globe.)

(When TABATHA is inside of the world of the snow globe, the lights dim on her bedroom.)

(She falls down beside ETHAN who is already on the ground.)

Are you okay? ETHAN

(ETHAN stands.)

Where...*am* I? This looks like... TABATHA

We're inside. ETHAN

(ETHAN offers TABATHA a hand. He helps her up.)

Inside? TABATHA

Of the snow globe. (Pause.) The witch. She put me here. ETHAN

The witch? TABATHA

She's inside the church. (Pause.) You look cold. Um...do you want my jacket? (He takes off his coat and offers it to her.) ETHAN

Thank you...(She looks at him) You *are* the boy from my neighborhood. I always see you walking with your headphones, you know. TABATHA

Oh, right... um...I think I've seen you before. You live in the house with the big cedar tree behind it. I used to climb it...before you and your family moved in, I mean. ETHAN

Yes, that's us! TABATHA

My name's Ethan. ETHAN

I know. (Pause.) I'm Tabatha. TABATHA

ETHAN

Tabatha, right.

(They share a moment.)

TABATHA

Why does she have you in here?

(The CAT slinks by again. ETHAN and TABATHA do not notice her.)

ETHAN

She wants to turn me into a *doll*.

TABATHA

Really? Why?

ETHAN

She wants to make her own world inside this snow globe.

TABATHA

You know, that's kind of cool.

ETHAN

Um, it's not "cool." You haven't seen the dolls that are already in here. They're super creepy.

TABATHA

There are talking dolls in here?! I think that's kind of neat.

ETHAN

Neat? I can't be a doll! I'm a *boy*. I have a life! And I have to get home to... (His voice trails off. He holds up his hand.) Anyway, she already cut me. She's not afraid to hurt people.

(Beat.)

TABATHA

She *cut* you? Are you sure she meant to?

ETHAN

Yeah!

TABATHA

Are you okay?

ETHAN

Yeah, I'm fine. It was just a scratch... Um...how did you...get in?

I don't...know...

TABATHA

Can you get us out??

ETHAN

I'm not sure how.

TABATHA

I need to get home. I *can't* be a *toy*. Anyway...I have to...school. I mean, the first day of school is tomorrow!

ETHAN

I know. I'm starting middle school.

TABATHA

Will you help me try to get out?

ETHAN

How?

TABATHA

I don't know. If you can figure out how you got in...maybe you can get us out.

(Beat.)

ETHAN

Why do you want to get out so bad? I mean, we could just stay in here and never have to go to middle school.

TABATHA

Um...*she's going to turn me into a doll!*

ETHAN

I think that maybe the people in here could be nicer than the people out there.

TABATHA

There are only three people in here. Me, you, and the witch.

ETHAN

What about the dolls?

TABATHA

They're *plastic*.

ETHAN

But they talk!

TABATHA

She wants to turn *me* into plastic!

ETHAN

(Beat.)

Does she know that I'm here?

TABATHA

I don't know...that's a good point. I mean, if she knows that you got in somehow, she might think that you can get me out, too. We should hide.

ETHAN

Where?

TABATHA

(He stands close to her and points in the distance.)

There's a little house over there. See? (She is looking at him as opposed to where he is pointing. She gets distracted. He points again.) Over there?

ETHAN

Oh...yes, I see it.

TABATHA

(The CROW enters.)

(To TABATHA)

Do you come from the woods?

CROW

You're a...talking crow?

TABATHA

Yes. Forgive me, I'm being rude. Your name is?

CROW

Tabatha.

TABATHA

(Shaking her hand)

Nice to meet you.

CROW

TABATHA

You're so polite!

CROW

Thank you. I've never been able to talk before. I hope I'm saying the right words.

(TABATHA giggles.)

ETHAN

We were gonna go over to the little house, Crow.

CROW

I see you've met young Ethan. He's a nice fellow, isn't he?

(TABATHA blushes.)

ETHAN

You wanna come with us?

CROW

Oh, actually, I just wanted to know if you saw any crows in the woods.

TABATHA

No. I don't think so. Do you have friends there?

CROW

My Love is in the woods. And our new babies. Our eggs just hatched.

TABATHA

Oh, really!?

CROW

Yes. I'm have to get back.

ETHAN

See? No one likes it here.

CROW

I wouldn't mind it if my Love were here. And our babies.

(TABATHA looks over at ETHAN.)

LAVETTA

(from offstage)

Ethan! Ethan, come here, would you? I need to get your measurements for your new doll outfit...

ETHAN

(To TABATHA)

Come on! We have to hide!

(The two of them rush off and the CROW flies away just before LAVETTA enters, holding measuring tape.)

LAVETTA

(Looking around)

Ethan? Ethan?

(The CAT, who has been sitting in the background, slinks out.)

CAT

(Yawning)

He rushed off so he could hide.

LAVETTA

Why would he do that?

(The CAT gives her a look.)

CAT

Why *wouldn't* he? You're the smart one who told him you wanted to turn him into a doll so....

LAVETTA

I don't have time for this. I have an outfit to make and then a potion to perfect and so much to do! Where did he go?

CAT

So snippy, aren't you? He ran into the little house. (LAVETTA starts to walk that way.) He's not alone.

(LAVETTA turns back to the CAT.)

LAVETTA

He's not alone?

CAT

There's a girl with him.

LAVETTA

A girl? How did *she* get in?

CAT

(Yawning)
Do you think I know *everything*?

LAVETTA

Tell me how she got in!

CAT

How did any of us get in? It's simply a mystery.

LAVETTA

It's *not* a mystery. It's a combination of magic and science and you wouldn't understand it all if I explained it to you! But the important thing to know is that I created this world, and I am the only one who decides what goes in and what comes out because I am the only one who knows the physical properties of—

CAT

Well, that's apparently not so...

LAVETTA

This is ridiculous. I'm going to go outside again. I'll get her out that way.

(She closes her eyes and starts to whisper to herself.)

(Her attempt to get out of the snow globe isn't working.)

CAT

Something wrong?

LAVETTA

(Irritated)
I can't leave! Why isn't this working?? (LAVETTA looks up.) Remarkable! We're not in the forest anymore. It appears, we've been moved!

CAT

You're just now seeing this? Didn't you wonder why we were shaken? Or why it just went totally black there for a while?

LAVETTA

How did you let this happen!?

CAT

(Sarcastically)

Oh, yes, I have *so much* control over what happens to us when I'm stuck in here.

LAVETTA

(Angrily)

Well, *someone* must have done *something* to alter my rules in here, and it *wasn't me* so...(Her anger subsides as she gets distracted.) Where are we?

CAT

You see that huge thing over there? That looks like a bed. So I'd say it appears to be some kind of bedroom that belongs to a young girl so—

LAVETTA

I *know* what it looks like. I was once a little girl, too.

CAT

Were you? That's a shock. I so thought you were born an old, ugly witch.

LAVETTA

I am not old! Or ugly.

CAT

Lady. You're twice as old as I'm ever going to be. So, you're somewhere around 185 in cat years.

LAVETTA

Can we focus please? We have a problem. Now, if my calculations are correct, there's only *one* thing than can keep me out of this snow globe...

CAT

What's that?

LAVETTA

The spell of another witch. (Pause.) What else do you know about this girl?

CAT

Well, I would assume the girl is the one who shook the snow globe. So, I'd say when it went black she put us in some kind of bag or something. Then she shook the snow globe, and somehow ended up in here with us. Now, she's trying to help Ethan find a way out, so—

LAVETTA

That stupid little girl!!

CAT

She's not so stupid. I'd be worried if I were you. If she finds out how to get out, she could break the snow globe. Boom. Snap. Fizzz. That's *so* the end of all of us.

LAVETTA

Do you honestly think I haven't thought about that?

CAT

Well, I'm *so* much smarter than you are.

LAVETTA

Okay, Cat, how many degrees do *you* have?

CAT

I'm a cat.

(LAVETTA is thinking.)

(TARA and CLARA enter, unseen by CAT and LAVETTA. They are playing.)

CAT

So, what are you going to do, Lavetta? How are you going to protect us if you can't even get out of here?

LAVETTA

I'll just have to kill the girl before she can get out.

CAT

That won't work. If you kill her, you still won't be able to get out. And then we'll just be stuck in her room until someone finds us and sells us at a garage sale and then who knows where we'll get stuck.

LAVETTA

Yes, I did think about that. (She thinks.) I'll have to get her to leave the snow globe and take it back to my house. I *know* I can get out there.

CAT

That's a start. Although, she might break it if she gets out. So you'll need to give her some Tractus potion so she'll do exactly what you want her to do.

LAVETTA

Stop telling me what to do! I'm the one who knows magic! I'm the one who has *three* degrees in the sciences and—

CAT

Look, Lady. I don't care about your stupid degrees or your stupid spells. So *you* need to fix this! I'm on life number nine, so... Out there, I'm not too far from the end. Time stands still in here. I just want to...(The CAT yawns)...So...

LAVETTA

This is just perfect! You work years and years and years on something and then some stupid girl is trying to ruin it! How did she even find us in the woods?

CAT

I think she followed the boy, so...

LAVETTA

Perfect.

(Beat.)

CAT

Well, I think you *so* need to get going with this Tractus potion. (Pause.) Let me guess, you don't have what you need to make it.

LAVETTA

Oh, no, I have everything except for one ingredient.

CAT

What's that?

(She pulls out a knife.)

LAVETTA

The blood of an animal.

CAT

(Slowly backing away.)
You wouldn't.

LAVETTA

Oh, come now. Just a little snip.

CAT

Isn't there a crow in here somewhere?

LAVETTA

A cat is easier to catch than a crow. Especially a cat who has been my loyal pet for so many years.

CAT

I don't know about *loyal* exactly—

LAVETTA

Do you want to get out of here or not?

CAT

What if I can catch the crow? I haven't even *touched* him since he's been here.

LAVETTA

I don't have time for this! Now, I have *two* potions to make and—

CAT

Alright...fine...I'll let you cut me a little...but you'll have to catch me first!

(The CAT rushes off.)

LAVETTA

CAT!

(LAVETTA chases the CAT.)

Maybe She Has The Right Idea

(TABATHA and ETHAN are sitting in a little house.)

TABATHA

Why isn't there any furniture in here?

ETHAN

Um...I don't know.

TABATHA

How is she going to live in here if there's no furniture?

ETHAN

I don't think we need furniture or food or anything here. Time stands still in here.

TABATHA

If time stands still, why are you worried? We have all the time in the world.

ETHAN

What don't you understand about "she wants to turn me into a doll"?? I don't have much time before that happens. And then, I'll never be able to get back to my life. I'll be trapped in here forever...*as a plastic doll*. (Pause.) Anyway, don't you just want to get back to your life? I mean, don't you want to go to school?

TABATHA

You know, I'm not really that happy about it.

ETHAN

Why not?

TABATHA

I've heard 6th grade is really bad. You know...I've heard you get picked on a lot.

ETHAN

Not if you know the right people.

TABATHA

I don't know any people.

ETHAN

You know me.

TABATHA

You know...you've never even said hi to me before. I've lived in your neighborhood for two months almost.

ETHAN

Sorry about that.

(Awkward pause.)

TABATHA

Did you get picked on? When you were in 6th grade last year?

ETHAN

No.

(Beat.)

TABATHA

Everyone picked on me at my old school. I'm really worried about 6th grade because there are some boys who pick on me in the neighborhood.

ETHAN

Who?

TABATHA

Charlie and his friends. You know.

ETHAN

(Awkwardly)

What do they do?

TABATHA

They call me names, mostly, when I'm riding my bike or walking. Or they'll say things like "hey, nerdy girl, why are you so ugly?" They call me "four eyes" and make fun of me whenever they see me reading a book. Even when I'm just sitting on my porch, you know, minding my own business, they'll come by and say things like "if I had your face, I'd jump out of a window to make it look better." (ETHAN is silent.) One time, I was riding my bike, and I saw them up in Charlie's room. I think they were all playing video games or something. But on my next time around the block, they were all of the sudden outside. I was looking at them, and I didn't see the huge tree branch they had put in front of my bike. When I hit it with my bike, I fell off and I fell down the hill. They all thought that was very funny. "We did you a favor," Charlie said. "Now your face will look better."

(ETHAN is quiet.)

ETHAN

Were you...okay?

TABATHA

I sprained my wrist, and I got some cuts and bruises. Oh, and my glasses broke. I had to get new ones. But I was okay. (Pause.) I thought you were with them that day...

ETHAN

I didn't want to—

TABATHA

(Quietly)

It's okay. (Pause.) My mom says I need to have stronger energy so I won't get picked on. (She fumbles with her necklace.) She gave me this crystal. It's supposed to help, she said. But I don't think it is. Especially not with those boys...

(Beat.)

ETHAN

Charlie wants me to join his baseball team. He says I'd help them win.

TABATHA

Are you going to?

ETHAN

I don't know.

(Beat.)

TABATHA

All I'm saying is that maybe this witch isn't so bad. You know, maybe she has the right idea.

ETHAN

The right idea? She wants to turn me into a fake plastic doll.

TABATHA

I'm sure you could still talk. Like the crow.

ETHAN

He only talks because she lets him. I want to be *me*. I want to live my life. I want to go home and be with my friends. I want to get *out* of that stupid neighborhood and live with my dad, and I'll never be able to—

TABATHA

You want to move?... I thought your parents were still married.

ETHAN

Forget I said anything.

TABATHA

Is everything...okay?

(He looks at her.)

ETHAN

You promise you won't say anything to anyone? (She nods.) My dad moved out a few months ago. He found out about my mom's boyfriend.

TABATHA

Your mom has a boyfriend?

ETHAN

Something like that. He's rude, and he won't let me play my piano. Says only girls play piano. Anyway, my dad said I could move in with him in a few weeks. But I can't do that if I'm in here, can I?

(Beat.)

TABATHA

You play piano?

ETHAN

Yes. (Pause.) Don't tell Charlie. About the piano, I mean.

TABATHA

Do you think he'd make fun of you?

ETHAN

I know he would. (Pause.) Listen, I'm really sorry...I mean, about Charlie. And his...friends. Trust me, I understand how he can be. (Pause.) I never thought you were nerdy. Or ugly.

(TABATHA smiles.)

TABATHA

So, what do we do now?

ETHAN

Um...maybe you can just help *me* get out? I mean, *you* can stay in here if you want to. But I need your help.

TABATHA

I don't think I can. I don't know how I got in here in the first place.

ETHAN

Well, just think about it. What were you doing?

TABATHA

I took the snow globe in my hand, and then I thought I saw you *inside* of the snow globe. I thought that was impossible, though, so I shook it. And then I was here. (Pause.) My mom would probably say my “energy” put me in here or something. Or I “manifested” it.

ETHAN

What does that mean?

TABATHA

Like when you’re thinking about something or feeling a certain way...and then that makes things happen based on how you feel.

ETHAN

Well, did you think about something or feel a certain way before it happened?

TABATHA

(Blushing)
No.

ETHAN

Are you sure?

TABATHA

No. Nothing. (Pause.) Maybe if I walked over to the edge of the glass, I could figure out how to get out.

ETHAN

Really?!

TABATHA

I could try.

(ETHAN is ecstatic.)

ETHAN

Thank you! (He gives her a hug. She blushes.) I just *know* you can do it! You’re the smartest girl around. I mean, if anyone can figure it out, you can.

(She smiles.)

TABATHA

Come on.

(They exit.)

(TARA and CLARA enter.)

TARA

What do you think will happen to them now?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

CLARA/TARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA

Is the cat going to hurt the crow now?

CLARA

He's always been so nice to us, you know.

TARA

I know! Maybe we should go and warn him!

(Beat.)

TARA

What will happen if we get out of here?

CLARA

We'll never walk or talk or dance or sing!

CLARA/TARA

Talk or dance or sing! Talk or dance or sing!

TARA

But we might belong to a girl again!

CLARA

Oh, I would love that!

TARA

We can be *real dolls!*

Real dolls! CLARA

Like long ago with sweet Veronica... TARA

Oh, I do remember Veronica! CLARA

She is the one who gave us both our names! TARA

My name is Clara! CLARA

No, *I* am Clara! TARA

No, *you* are Tara! CLARA

I think I would know. TARA

Who can say for sure? CLARA

Who can say for sure? TARA/CLARA

(They start laughing.)

(The CROW flies by.)

Clara, it's the crow! TARA

Hello, Mr. Crow! CLARA

Hello, Clara. Or Tara. CROW

My name is Tara. CLARA

TARA

No, *she is* Clara.

(They giggle.)

CROW

Have you seen this new girl? Tabatha? I think she might be able to get us out of here.

CLARA

But this place is fun!

TARA

Do you want to leave?

CROW

Why wouldn't I?

CLARA

But if you get out...

TARA

You won't talk or sing!

CROW

No, but I can fly.

TARA

You can fly in here.

CROW

A bird can still fly in a cage. That doesn't mean he's not in a cage.

TARA/CLARA

Oooooooh.

CROW

I can't stay in here any longer. I have to get back to my Love.

TARA

Your love? That sounds sweet!

CLARA

Tell us the story!

CROW

Oh, I don't know...

TARA/CLARA

PLEAAASSSEEEEEEE?

TARA

Oh, it has been so long since we have heard—

CLARA

A bird love story!

(The CROW sighs.)

CROW

I met my Love up in my favorite tree. She was just passing through one day, looking for food. She landed on one of my branches. We looked at each other. I had a big piece of bread that I was eating. I offered to share it with her. She sat next to me, and we shared bread. That's when I knew that I wanted to fly by her side for the rest of my days.

CLARA

Awwwww.

CROW

I have to get back to her. She probably thinks I'm dead.

TARA

But if you go back, you won't talk or sing—

CLARA

You cannot tell your Love that you love her!

TARA

You should get Lavetta to bring her here!

CROW

Crows don't need to talk. We say it all with our eyes. They say if you look into the eyes of a crow, you'll see your future.

CLARA

They do? Who says that?

CROW

The witches.

TARA

I hope you do get out. And find your love.

(TARA and CLARA start crying hysterically.)

CROW

Our eggs just hatched a few weeks ago. I was down on the ground looking for food for the babies when Lavetta found me and...

TARA

(Sniffling)
Oh, do not tell us anymore, sweet Crow!

CLARA

We cannot take it!

TARA

Why is life so sad?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA/CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA

The sweet Crow cannot be with his Love and—

CLARA

Lavetta is going to kill the girl—

CROW

What?

CLARA

She's going to give her Tractus potion—

CROW

Tractus potion?!

TARA

Oh, do you know exactly what that is?

CLARA

You do not know what Tractus potion is?
Actually, I do not know either!

(They giggle.)

CROW

Tractus potion will make someone do whatever the witch wants them to do. I've got to warn Tabatha about it! Do you know where they are?

TARA

They are by the edge.

CROW

Alright, I'll be going now.

(The CROW starts to exit.)

TARA

Wait, weren't we supposed to tell him something?

CLARA

Crow! Watch out for Lavetta and her cat!

CROW

...Thank you, dolls. I'll be careful.

CLARA

I really hope you find your Love, sweet Crow! (CLARA looks at TARA. They start bawling again.)

(TARA and CLARA exit and we stay with the CROW as he flies to the gardens.)

(The CAT enters.)

(The following scene with the CAT and CROW should be a dance of sorts.)

CAT

Hello, Crow.

CROW

What do you want?

CAT

Why so defensive? I've been so nice to you.

CROW

Yes, I appreciate that. I'll just be on my way now.

CAT

Where are you going?

CROW

I have to warn Tabatha and Ethan.

CAT

Warn them? About what?

CROW

The witch is going to kill Tabatha. And then I'll never get out of here. Tabatha's the only chance for any of us to leave this place.

CAT

Why do you want to leave so bad? There's no time in here. We can do whatever we want, so—

CROW

I have to get back to my Love.

CAT

Gross. Birds are *so* into that whole monogamy thing. Besides, you won't be able to talk out there.

CROW

I don't want to talk. I just want to be a crow.

(CROW tries to pass the CAT.)

(CAT doesn't let him by.)

CAT

I'm going back to the witch. She needs some animal blood.

CROW

Does she?

CAT

Yes. She does.

(CROW starts to fly off. CAT corners him.)

CROW

Don't.

CAT

Oh, tough it up. It'll only be a snip.

CROW

I have to get out of here.

CAT

If the witch finds out you want out, she'll probably kill you. My way, you just have to bleed a little.

CROW

I'm warning you, cat. Let me go.

CAT

Or you'll what? Peck my eyes out? I'm *so* scared.

(The CAT inches closer to the CROW. She pounces on him. She overtakes him.)

CROW

Let me go!

CAT

Just as soon as the witch gets some blood from you. She's certainly not getting it from *me*. I bleed for no one.

CROW

Your witch isn't your Love?

CAT

(Laughing)

No one is my love, Crow.

(The CAT exits with the CROW.)

The Edge

(TABATHA and ETHAN have just reached the edge of the snow globe.)

ETHAN

Well, this is the edge. The glass is here.

TABATHA

Oh okay. (TABATHA holds her hands up to the glass. She closes her eyes.)

ETHAN

(whispering)
What are you doing?

TABATHA

I don't exactly know. (Pause.) I guess I'm trying to "manifest" being outside. Like my mom would say.

(Beat.)

ETHAN

(whispering)
Is it working?

TABATHA

Shh! (She tries to concentrate. She eventually gives up.) Oh, I don't know what to do. I give up.

ETHAN

You're just going to *give up*?

TABATHA

I don't know how I—

ETHAN

She's going to turn me into *plastic!!* Why don't you understand that?

TABATHA

Why is that such a bad thing?

ETHAN

My life as I know it will be over!

TABATHA

You don't seem that happy. Maybe being a doll would be better.

ETHAN

Why do you say that?

TABATHA

I don't know. I always see you walking around, listening to your headphones. It's like you're trying to get away from something.

ETHAN

So?

TABATHA

So, now, you have an opportunity to *really* get away and—

ETHAN

Look, I'm not gonna lie. My house is not fun right now. Anytime my dad comes around, all he does is yell at my mom. And I can't *stand* Mark—my mom's boyfriend. All he does is yell at me and drink beer and sit around and get my mom to take care of him. One day, I was playing my piano. And I'm sitting there, and I'm writing these great songs, saying things with my fingers that I could never...actually *say*. And Mark comes in and hits me in the back of the head...in the middle of my song. And he says, "Why don't you go play baseball or something, kid? Your mom has enough problems without havin' to worry about raisin' a queer."

(Beat.)

TABATHA

Why do you want to go back? Life out there is mean and sad and—

ETHAN

Because. I don't want to be plastic. I want to go back and live with my dad and keep playing my piano and keep writing songs. I want to grow up and show Mark that he's *wrong* and that just because I like music more than baseball doesn't mean I'm not...worth anything. I want to *live*. (Pause.) Will I even *be* living if I'm a doll?

(Beat.)

TABATHA

Sometimes I wish all of my dolls were real.

ETHAN

You play with dolls?

TABATHA

(looking embarrassed)
No...

(ETHAN smiles.)

ETHAN

I mean, I think that's cute.

(LAVETTA enters, unseen by TABATHA and ETHAN. She looks at TABATHA.)

LAVETTA

(To herself)

No...she looks just like...That can't...

(The CAT enters.)

CAT

Lavetta...I've brought the Crow. You can *so* make your potion.

LAVETTA

Cat. What's the girl's name?

CAT

Tabatha. Why?

LAVETTA

Are you positive?

CAT

Would I just make something up? ... Okay, so yeah, I probably would. But this is the truth.

LAVETTA

What's her mother's name?

CAT

How should I know *that*?

(LAVETTA pulls out her knife.)

LAVETTA

Find out. I need more information.

CAT

You *so* don't need my blood, Lavetta. I told you I have the crow!

LAVETTA

Just find out the name of her mother!

(CAT slinks out where they can see her.)

CAT

Hello, young simple students.

(They both gasp.)

TABATHA

You're...a cat...

CAT

Yeah, last time I checked...so—

TABATHA

And you can talk?

CAT

(Sarcastically)

Oh, can I? OH, HAPPY DAY! Of course I can talk. Stupid silly girl.

ETHAN

She's not stupid.

CAT

She's not? Hmm. I would have thought otherwise.

ETHAN

Um...what do you want, cat?

CAT

I can help you get out of here, you know.

ETHAN

Really?

CAT

Oh, yes. I *so* can. (He looks at TABATHA.) But you have to do it.

TABATHA

What do I have to do?

CAT

Well, you have to close your eyes and think of someone you're close to. Someone you'd so like to return to. Your mother, perhaps?

TABATHA

Alright. Then what?

CAT

Well, you have to say her name twice. And you have to think really hard about her. And you have to *really feel* the desire to go home. To be back with your mother.

ETHAN

Can I do that?

CAT

No, just her.

ETHAN

Can she take me with her?

CAT

Sure, why not?

ETHAN

How?

CAT

She has to be...holding your hand.

(ETHAN holds out his hand. TABATHA looks at him. She grabs his hand and smiles.)

ETHAN

Alright...can you try?

TABATHA

Oh...okay. (She closes her eyes.) Veronica. Veronica...

(Nothing happens.)

(LAVETTA, who has been listening has a noticeable reaction to VERONICA's name.)

(The CAT slinks back to LAVETTA.)

ETHAN

That's okay. Maybe try again.

TABATHA

Veronica. Veronica.

(Nothing happens.)

ETHAN

(Getting upset)

Tabatha! You're not trying hard enough!

TABATHA

I am too trying!

ETHAN

I mean, were you even thinking about home or your mother?

TABATHA

...Yes, I was...

ETHAN

You don't want to get out of here *at all*, do you?

(TABATHA looks at him.)

TABATHA

I don't know...

ETHAN

Maybe you'd feel differently if the witch was going to turn you *into a doll!* Look, Tabatha. My time is running out. I have to get out of this snow globe *now*, and you are the only way I can see getting out!

TABATHA

I like being in here...with you...you don't talk to me back home.

ETHAN

Well, maybe if you knew how to stand up for yourself, jerks like Charlie wouldn't call you so many names and wouldn't knock you off of your bike!

TABATHA

Oh, I guess I should just bury my head in the sand and wander around aimlessly listening to music all day like *you* do!

ETHAN

At least I'm trying!

TABATHA

You don't think *I'm* trying? How can you talk to me about standing up for myself? You don't stand up to Charlie. You don't stand up to Mark. You don't do anything except try to run away.

ETHAN

Well, at least I'm not a *loser*.

(TABATHA looks like she's about to cry.)

TABATHA

You know...you're just like them, aren't you?

(TABATHA runs away from ETHAN.)

ETHAN

Tabatha...Tabatha wait!

(He runs after her.)

(The CAT slinks back to LAVETTA.)

CAT

Are you going to tell me what the deal was with her mother's name? (Pause.) Didn't you like the way I got it out of her? I thought that was very sly, myself. She's *so* gullible. (Pause.) Lavetta? What's wrong?

LAVETTA

Veronica. She's my twin sister.

(Beat.)

CAT

So?

LAVETTA

That means this girl...Tabatha. She must be a witch, too. That explains how she got in here...She... is my niece.

CAT

Well, isn't that sweet? You two can have a nice little family reunion.

LAVETTA

Never. I will definitely have to kill her now.

CAT

(Raising an eyebrow, doubtful)
You want to kill your own niece?

LAVETTA

Bring me the crow! I have to make that potion.

(CAT exits, stifling a yawn.)

(TARA and CLARA skip onstage. LAVETTA sees them.)

LAVETTA

How long have you two been listening to me?

TARA

We're not listening!

CLARA

Toys always listen!

(CLARA hits TARA lightly to shut her up.)

CLARA

(Quietly)

Ooops.

LAVETTA

I'll have to make you forget everything. (She holds out her arms and casts a spell on the dolls.)
You'll only know what I want you to know!

(CLARA and TARA close their eyes. When they open them, they have blank expressions on their faces.)

(TARA looks at CLARA. They giggle.)

TARA

What is so funny?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA

Who can say for sure?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

(They giggle.)

Never Too Old For Dolls

(TABATHA sits on a bench, crying. TARA and CLARA enter.)

CLARA

Aww, what's wrong with you?

(TABATHA looks at them.)

TABATHA

You're the talking dolls?

TARA/CLARA

Indeed! We can walk and talk and dance and sing!

(They giggle.)

TABATHA

(Sniffing)

That's nice.

CLARA

Why are you so sad?

TARA

Do you need some dolls!?

TABATHA

No. I'm too old for dolls.

CLARA

You are never too old to play with dolls!

TARA

Yeah!

TABATHA

You know, I don't feel like playing.

CLARA

Oh, come on. We can tell that you're a girl—

TARA

Who really likes to play with dolls! We know!

I like to make up stories.

TABATHA

You can make up a story about us!

TARA

(They giggle.)

I'm not in the mood. Only losers make up stories.

TABATHA

What is a loser?

CLARA

A weird girl who no one wants to be around.

TABATHA

(ETHAN enters.)

Tabatha...I'm sorry...I mean, I just—

ETHAN

Go away.

TABATHA

Won't you just let me explain? Um...I didn't mean any of that.

ETHAN

Yes, you did.

TABATHA

What'd he say to you?

TARA

He called me a loser.

TABATHA

Ooooooh. That is not nice.

CLARA

Go home, little boy!

TARA

Little boys are dumb!

CLARA

ETHAN

Um, I'm 12 years old. I'm not a little boy. Anyway, you two know my name is Ethan.

TARA

Ethan? I have never met you before.

CLARA

Nope. I do not know any little boys.

TARA

Who can say for sure?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

ETHAN

You've both met me! (He thinks for a moment.) (To TABATHA) Tabatha, see? Lavetta must be casting spells to make them forget! She told me she did that sometimes! When we first met. That's what she'll do to me! We have to get out!

TABATHA

You don't care about me. You just want to leave. You know, you're just as mean as all the other boys.

ETHAN

No, I'm not.

TABATHA

Yes, you are! Maybe you never said any of those mean things that Charlie and those guys always say to me, but you never did anything to stop them. You stood right there that day I was on my bike and I got hurt. You didn't say anything. I should have known better than to talk to you in the first place. You know, if I hadn't been following you, none of this would have happened.

ETHAN

You were following me?

(TABATHA is embarrassed. This upsets her even more.)

TABATHA

I mean...no. I wasn't *following* you. I was just...go away, Ethan! Just leave me alone!

ETHAN

I'm not going away until you forgive me.

CLARA

She said go away.

TARA

Yeah! No boys aloud!

CLARA/TARA

(Chanting)

Go away! Go away! Go away! Go away!

(They push him off stage.)

Getting Back to His Love

(LAVETTA has a cauldron. She is making a potion.)

LAVETTA

(To the CAT, off stage)
Cat, bring me the crow.

(The CAT comes on stage, holding the CROW.)

CROW

(To LAVETTA)
Why are you doing this?

CAT

She needs to make the potion.

CROW

No, why are you doing any of this? The snow globe? What is the point? You aren't creating another world, you're creating a prison.

(LAVETTA delivers the following monologue as she is making the potion.)

(The following should be acted out with the use of shadows, a projection of silhouettes, or actors whose faces are obscured, similar to the Prologue.)

LAVETTA

Let me tell you a story, Crow. Once upon a time, there were two twin girls. One of the girls was popular and had a lot of friends. The other girl was obsessed with books and science experiments, and everyone made fun of her. One day, though, the bookworm made a friend. A little boy from the neighborhood. She was getting picked on by a bunch of older kids at the park one day. They had thrown her into a large dumpster in the back of the restaurant down the street, and she had gotten egg salad all in her hair. She sat in the dumpster for three hours, crying. No one noticed she was there. Until the little boy, her new friend, passed by. He helped her out of the dumpster. The two of them were inseparable from that day on, and she was no longer an outcast. One day, they were playing outside when her popular twin sister came by. Her sister said some words, threw her hands in the air, and the little boy fell down dead. (Pause.) The popular sister swore it was an accident, that she thought she was using a different spell. But the outcast sister always knew she did it on purpose to take her only friend away from her. (Pause.) Toys, though, they are always there for you. They will always listen to you. They will never be mean to you or leave you or die. And they'll let you experiment! And create new things! I'm creating a wonderful world of toys and animals! Inside of a snow globe that can never be broken. (Pause.) There's only one problem. I was going to put the spell on the snow globe to make it unbreakable, but I hadn't gotten around to that yet... And then who finds her way into my snow globe?

Tabatha. The daughter of my sister. Now, this presents a problem because Tabatha could potentially ruin everything I have worked so hard to create. But it also gives me an opportunity to show my sister exactly how it feels to lose someone you care about. (She pulls out her knife.) I'm going to make this potion. Tabatha is going to leave the snow globe and take us all back to the forest. Then, I will get out myself and kill her. (She approaches the CROW.)

CROW

But Tabatha had nothing to do with your friend dying. She's innocent. And your sister...what if it *was* an accident?

LAVETTA

It was *not* an accident! She always loved that she had a lot of friends and I had none. She couldn't *stand* that I had a friend. No one out there understands me, Crow. A girl who's obsessed with science...*and* magic? There's no place for me out there. I'm creating my own world!

CROW

What good is that if everyone wants to leave as soon as you put them in here?

LAVETTA

Do you want to leave, Crow?

CROW

Yes. More than anything.

(LAVETTA gets angry. She raises her knife.)

LAVETTA

I need your blood. For the potion.

CROW

No one is ever going to love you if you keep them caged.

(LAVETTA gets angrier. She stabs the CROW. He falls to the ground.)

(She continues to stir the potion with her knife.)

(The CROW looks at the CAT.)

CROW

(Weakly, to the CAT)

If you ever get out of here, tell my Love that I never forgot about her. All you have to do is look in her eyes. She'll know.

(The CROW dies.)

LAVETTA

The potion is done!

CAT

I didn't think you were going to kill him... You didn't *have* to.

LAVETTA

He made me angry. (Pause.) Where is the girl?

(She pours some of the potion into a bottle.)

CAT

Over there. Just by the edge.

Tractus Potion

(LAVETTA approaches TABATHA, who is still sad.)

Why are you crying?
LAVETTA

(Sniffing)
I'm not.
TABATHA

I can *see* your tears.
LAVETTA

(TABATHA looks at her. She gasps.)

You look just like my mother.
TABATHA

Do I?
LAVETTA

You *aren't* my mother...are you?
TABATHA

No.
LAVETTA

Why are boys so mean?
TABATHA

That's something I still haven't been able to figure out. But I have a theory. It's not *just* boys. It's everyone.
LAVETTA

It doesn't get better?
TABATHA

Sometimes you *will* find people who are decent to you.
LAVETTA

You will?
TABATHA

LAVETTA

Oh, yes. But you have to keep them close when you find them. You can't *ever* let them go.

TABATHA

What happens if you let them go?

LAVETTA

You could lose them forever.

TABATHA

Really?

LAVETTA

(Quietly)

I've lost everyone.

TABATHA

Is that why you're making this snow globe?

LAVETTA

Yes.

TABATHA

I like it in here.

LAVETTA

Do you?

TABATHA

Yes. I like the cat and the crow who talk and the dolls. I think they're lovely. (Pause.) I wish I were a witch.

LAVETTA

And what would you do if you were?

TABATHA

I don't know. I think I would make the boys in my neighborhood be nicer to me, you know.

LAVETTA

You can't really do that with magic...

TABATHA

You can't?

LAVETTA

Not out *there*.

(Beat.)

TABATHA

Ethan thinks I'm a loser.

LAVETTA

He won't be thinking anything I don't want him to think when I turn him into a doll.
(TABATHA is cautious for the first time.) Are you thirsty? I have some tonic with me.

(She presents the potion to TABATHA.)

TABATHA

You do?

LAVETTA

Yes, would you like some?

TABATHA

I'm not really thirsty. Ethan said no one needs to eat or drink in here. You know. Time stands still.

LAVETTA

What would he know? I am the one who made the snow globe. I can do a lot of things in here, but I can't completely change biological needs...(She offers her the potion.) It tastes like strawberries. (She takes a sip.) See?

TABATHA

Well...alright.

(TABATHA reluctantly takes the potion from her and drinks it.)

TABATHA

Ethan thinks you're mean.

LAVETTA

And what do you think?

TABATHA

I don't think you should turn people into dolls. Unless they *want* to be dolls, you know. But I think you're a lot like me. I think you just want to have some friends.

(LAVETTA looks pensive.)

LAVETTA

Really? That's a shame.

(The potion is starting to take effect on TABATHA.)

TABATHA

You know...I feel really weird.

(TABATHA falls to the ground.)

(It starts snowing as if the snow globe has been shaken.)

(ETHAN runs up to the glass and pounds on it.)

ETHAN

Tabatha! Can you hear me? Tabatha? Tabatha?? Where did you go?

(Inside TABATHA's bedroom, TABATHA is lying on the ground. The snow globe is in her hand. She wakes up and looks at it.)

ETHAN

Tabatha! I'm sorry. The truth is, I think you're the bravest girl I know. I wish I could be more like you. I wish I could stand up to Charlie. I wish I could stand up to Mark. (Pause.) And I'm sorry...about the bike. You're right. I mean, I just sat there. I watched Charlie and those guys be mean to you, and I didn't say anything. I would take it all back now if I could. You *have* to help me get out of here. You're the only one who can! I just know it. (Pause.) I haven't seen the crow around...I'm worried about him. One day, he was flying by, and he stopped and looked at me. I looked deep into his eyes. I couldn't believe he was just staying that still. I saw something, Tabatha. I saw...you. You're the only way for me to get out of here. Please help me? I'm really scared.

(TABATHA looks brainwashed. She puts the snow globe in her pocket.)

(VERONICA enters TABATHA's bedroom.)

VERONICA

Tabatha? Are you coming down to dinner? (TABATHA doesn't say anything. She looks brainwashed.) Sweetie? (TABATHA walks to her window. She starts to climb out of it.) What are you doing!?

TABATHA

I have to go to Lavetta's house.

VERONICA

Lavetta?! What's wrong with your eyes, Sweetie?

TABATHA

I have to go to Lavetta's house.

VERONICA

Come inside...

(VERONICA grabs TABATHA's wrists and pulls her inside of the room. TABATHA pulls out the snow globe from her pocket and looks into it.)

TABATHA

I have to go to the woods...

VERONICA

Into the woods? What are you talking about?

TABATHA

I have to go...

VERONICA

(Looking at the snow globe)
What are you doing with this? (She tries to grab it from her.) It's almost like...you've been given...a potion...

TABATHA

The woods...

(VERONICA grabs TABATHA and looks in her eyes.)

VERONICA

Tractus potion!?

(TABATHA tries to walk to the window.)

(VERONICA lifts up her hands and whispers some words. TABATHA passes out on the ground, dropping the snow globe.)

(VERONICA picks up TABATHA and puts her on the bed. She notices the snow globe and picks it up.)

(VERONICA looks into the snow globe.)

(TARA and CLARA enter. They are apart from the world of the snow globe and also TABATHA's bedroom.)

CLARA

You will probably wonder what happens—

TARA

If the mean witch didn't make us forget—

CLARA

Oh, we would have been wondering that too—

TARA/CLARA

We would have wondered—

TARA

Will sweet Ethan get out of the snow globe?

CLARA

Oh! Or will *we* get out of the snow globe?

TARA

Oh! Do you think Tabatha will wake up?

CLARA

Or will Lavetta turn people to toys?

TARA

Oh! Will the cat scratch Lavetta's eyes out?

CLARA

Maybe Tabatha will come save Ethan.

TARA/CLARA

Awwwww.

TARA

Maybe Tabatha will break the snow globe!

CLARA

Or maybe Lavetta will kill Ethan!

TARA/CLARA

Oh no!

TARA

Oh, what will happen?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA/CLARA

Who can say for sure? Who can say for sure?

(They look at each other and giggle.)

(Black out.)

ACT TWO

(TARA and CLARA enter.)

Inside the snow globe—	TARA
Lavetta finished—	CLARA
The Tractus potion—	TARA
So Ethan could become a doll like us!	CLARA
I wonder if he will still be able—	TARA
To walk and talk and dance and sing like us!	CLARA
Talk and dance and sing! Talk and dance and sing!	CLARA/TARA
Lavetta wanted to give him potion—	CLARA
While she waited for Tabatha to bring—	TARA
The snow globe to her house where it'd be safe!	CLARA
Meanwhile, Veronica gave Tabatha—	TARA
An antidote for Lavetta's potion—	CLARA
And now she's waiting for her to wake up—	TARA

Magic Is Dangerous

(In TABATHA's bedroom, TABATHA is lying on the bed. VERONICA is pacing around the room. She has placed a wash cloth on TABATHA's head.)

TABATHA

(Groggily)
Mom?

VERONICA

Tabatha, Sweetie. Are you okay?

TABATHA

My head hurts. What happened?

VERONICA

Lavetta. The witch...She gave you Tractus potion. (She gives TABATHA a bottle.) Here, you need to drink more of this. It's an antidote to all of Lavetta's potions.

TABATHA

How do you know about the witch? (VERONICA is silent.) Mom?

VERONICA

She's my sister. We're twins.

TABATHA

I...have an aunt...who's an evil *witch*?

VERONICA

I'm afraid so.

TABATHA

Are you a witch? (VERONICA is silent.) Mom??

VERONICA

Yes. I'm a witch. I haven't practiced magic, though, since I was a little girl. At least, nothing besides protective spells.

TABATHA

You never thought it was important to tell me that you were a *witch*? Or that you had a twin sister? (Pause) Am I a witch, too? (Pause.) Am I!?

VERONICA

Yes.

(Beat.)

TABATHA

Why didn't you ever tell me? If I had known I was a witch, I could have done something when Charlie and those guys were picking on me. I could have—

VERONICA

I didn't want you to know. Magic is dangerous! I thought if you never found out, you might not ever—

TABATHA

That's how I got into the snow globe, isn't it? I used magic somehow.

VERONICA

Yes. I imagine so.

TABATHA

(Getting up)

I have to go back. I have to save Ethan.

VERONICA

No, you can't do that! Lavetta will kill you if you go back.

TABATHA

Why didn't she kill me when I was in there? Why did she give me that potion? She needed me to do something.

VERONICA

I think she gave you the Tractus potion to move her snow globe. I put a protective spell on this house when we moved in so that she could never be inside the house. So if she tried to leave the snow globe while it was here, it wouldn't have worked.

TABATHA

Why did you do that?

VERONICA

I do that to every house we live in. I've been hiding from Lavetta ever since we were children. Our father gave her that snow globe. She always said she was going to...(her voice trails off.)

TABATHA

What else do you know about this snow globe? (VERONICA is silent.) Mom, you need to tell me what you know so I can save Ethan.

VERONICA

Tabatha, you simply *cannot* go back in there. We have to break the snow globe. That's the only way I can think of to stop her. And as long as the snow globe is in the house, she can't leave.

TABATHA

Wouldn't that kill her?

VERONICA

She's out of control. She's going to kidnap a lot of innocent people, trap them in that snow globe, kill them, turn them into toys, whatever she wants to do. She knows magic, but she has no power in the real world. So she made a world where she has *all* of the power. She got you involved. I know she would kill you, especially if she found out who you were. She has to be stopped. There's no other way.

TABATHA

Why don't you use magic? You could go in there and—

VERONICA

I only do protective spells.

TABATHA

Can you put a protective spell on me?

VERONICA

I'm afraid not. That doesn't work on people.

TABATHA

Why don't you come with me?

VERONICA

I don't think I'm even strong enough to get in there. And even if I got in there, I'd be powerless against her.

TABATHA

(Angrily)

Why can't you just "manifest" what you want? Why can't you make your "energy" stronger?

VERONICA

Tabatha, this is no time to get smart.

TABATHA

Well, you're always saying that I get bullied so much because my "energy" isn't strong...because I'm putting out "weak vibrations" or something. And this whole time, you've been a *witch*? You've given me crystals and told me to "meditate" and "be positive." Why didn't you teach me something *useful* like magic?

VERONICA

I don't practice that kind of magic anymore! I never wanted that for you.

TABATHA

Anymore? You used to? (VERONICA is quiet.) What happened?

(Beat.)

VERONICA

There was an accident.

TABATHA

What kind of accident?

VERONICA

When we were younger. Father was a wizard, and he had just told us we had magic, too. We were just learning how to use it. Lavetta had this friend, this really cute boy who lived down the street. I guess I was jealous that he wanted to hang out with her and not with me. So one day, I thought it would be funny if I made him fall asleep. But I did the spell wrong ... he ... well ... Lavetta thought that it was on purpose. She thought I meant to...She never forgave me for that. She was never the same after that. Father gave her the snow globe, and she became *obsessed* with the idea of turning it into a magical world. She liked to make her dolls do magic. She even stole my dolls...my *favorite* dolls...I named them Tara and Clara...God knows what she did with them. (TABATHA is quiet.) She's not my sister anymore, Tabatha. I've tried to stay as far away from her as possible. I never wanted her to know about you because she threatened every person I've ever loved. I've always managed to get away from her, though, and nothing bad has ever happened...(VERONICA picks up the snow globe.) I just can't risk having you go back in there, Tabatha. (She starts to throw it on the ground.)

TABATHA

No! (TABATHA stretches out her arm. VERONICA is suddenly paralyzed, unable to throw the snow globe.)

VERONICA

What are you doing? (VERONICA unfreezes herself. TABATHA grabs the snow globe from her.)

TABATHA

I can't let you break the snow globe. Listen, I'm sorry about you and Lavetta. I really am. But Ethan can't die just because we have to stop Lavetta. I know he stood by and didn't say anything when Charlie picked on me...but he's not really like that. He's sweet and kind. And he needs to get back so he can go live with his dad and play the piano and... Lavetta wants to turn him into a *doll*. His life will be *over*.

(Beat.)

VERONICA

Just think about it Tabatha. Maybe you can get Ethan out without having to go back in! Have you tried that?

TABATHA

No...

VERONICA

Look into the snow globe. See what you can see.

TABATHA

Time stands still in there. I can't see anything. They're all frozen.

VERONICA

Look again. You *can* see.

(TABATHA looks into the snow globe.)

(We can see into the snow globe.)

(ETHAN sits on the ground, looking miserable.)

(TARA and CLARA enter.)

TARA

Lavetta finished the tractus potion!

CLARA

So you will be a plastic doll like us!

(TARA and CLARA giggle.)

ETHAN

(Almost defeated)

Can't I just be a boy inside of the snow globe?

CLARA

Lavetta tells us if you are a doll—

TARA

You will never, ever want to leave here!

ETHAN

Um...don't *you* ever want to leave?

TARA

In here, we walk and talk and dance and sing!

CLARA

Talk and dance and sing!

ETHAN

Don't you just want to be *dolls* sometimes? I mean, because that's what you *are*. I want to be a boy.

TARA

Who can say for sure?

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA

Talk and dance and sing!

CLARA

Talk and dance and sing!

ETHAN

Don't you get it? She doesn't want me to be a doll. She wants me to be a puppet. She wants all of us to be puppets!

CLARA

Who can say for sure?

TARA

Who can say for sure?

ETHAN

You're not even listening to me.

(They each grab his arms.)

TARA

You have to come on!

CLARA

Come with us! With us!

(TARA and CLARA drag ETHAN off stage.)

TABATHA

She's about to turn Ethan into a doll...and I have to go in there and save him!

VERONICA

Wait!

TABATHA

I could only see into the snow globe. I couldn't do anything! The only way I can get him out is to go back in again. So you can stay silent, or you can give me advice to help me get in and out safely, but either way, I'm *going back*.

(Beat.)

VERONICA

Give me your crystal.

(TABATHA takes off the necklace and hands it to VERONICA. VERONICA holds it her hands and closes her eyes.)

TABATHA

Mom, what are you doing?

(VERONICA doesn't respond. She is whispering to herself.)

VERONICA

Here. (She hands the crystal back to TABATHA.) I enchanted the crystal. If it worked, it should magnify your power.

TABATHA

(Looking at the crystal)

Thank you...(She puts the necklace back on.)

VERONICA

When you got in the first time, what were you thinking about?

(Beat.)

TABATHA

I saw Ethan in there. I was thinking about him and how I wanted to help him. I shook the snow globe, and then I was inside.

VERONICA

Okay. You should be able to get in if you do that. Getting out will be tricky. (VERONICA picks up TABATHA's teddy bear. She closes her eyes and holds it, whispering to herself.)

TABATHA

Mom, what are you doing with Teddy? This is no time to—

VERONICA

Just take it! (VERONICA hands the teddy bear to TABATHA.) I put a spell on the teddy bear to connect an object with your room. If you hold onto him, he should be able to take you back. Anything else you hold onto will travel with you. Grab Ethan's hand.

TABATHA

How do you know?

VERONICA

(Unsure)

Well, I don't *know*. But hopefully it will work.

(Beat.)

TABATHA

It *will* work. I will make it work.

VERONICA

You're right. It *will*.

TABATHA

I've never really understood before. All of that stuff you always say about manifesting. But I think I get it now. You know...if I *really believe* I can do it...

VERONICA

(Smiling)

You *can*.

(TABATHA gives VERONICA a smile. She holds the teddy bear and turns to look at the snow globe. She closes her eyes. She shakes the snow globe.)

Time Does Stand Still

(TABATHA is inside of the snow globe. TEDDY BEAR is next to her. It is still snowing from when she shook it.)

Where is everyone?
TABATHA

WOWIE. I can talk!
TEDDY

You can!
TABATHA

This is great! Yippee! (He dances around.)
TEDDY

Teddy, I need you to help me. Can you do that?
TABATHA

Righty-roo, Tabatha! But first you have to tell me something!
TEDDY

What?
TABATHA

In the story...the one you were playing earlier...was I really guilty?
TEDDY

(Smiling)
TABATHA
Oh, no. It was a conspiracy. The judge and his girlfriend framed you, you know.

(TEDDY starts laughing.)

HOLY MOLY, that's good! I always love your stories!
TEDDY

(Smiling)
TABATHA
Thank you.

(ETHAN's scream can be heard from off stage.)

TABATHA

Ethan! We have to find him!

TEDDY

I think that was coming from over there! Inside that church!

TABATHA

That means the witch must be in there...

(TARA and CLARA come running by.)

TABATHA

Tara! Clara!

(They notice her.)

TARA

It's the little girl!

CLARA

Hello, little girl!

TABATHA

Is Ethan in the church?

CLARA

Who on earth is he?

TARA

Who can say for sure?

TABATHA

The boy.

TARA

He's being turned into a plastic doll!

CLARA

Yeah! We were supposed to go and see it!

TARA

Who's the teddy bear?

CLARA

He sure looks cuddly!

I'm Teddy! It's nice to meet you!

TEDDY

Why are you in here?

TARA

I'm helping Tabatha! She's my best friend!

TEDDY

Awww.

TARA/CLARA

You two sure are pretty!

TEDDY

(The dolls giggle.)

Tara, Clara, can you help me?

TABATHA

Oh, help you?

TARA

With what?

CLARA

I'm trying to get Ethan out before he becomes a doll.

TABATHA

Oooooohh.

CLARA/TARA

(They look at each other.)

We'll surely help you!

TARA

Can we go with you?

CLARA

Wowie! Yay!

TEDDY

You won't be able to talk—

TABATHA

TARA

Talk or dance or sing—

CLARA

Oh, but we really want to be real dolls—

TARA

So happy little girls can play with us!

TEDDY

I like to make people happy!

(They all laugh and dance around.)

TABATHA

Hey!

(They all stop and look at TABATHA.)

TABATHA

I promise I will take you with me, but you have to help me. (She looks at TEDDY.) Teddy, this will involve you, too. (She whispers the plan to them.) Okay, you got it?

TEDDY

Righty-roo!

(The dolls giggle.)

TABATHA

Okay. I'm going to hide.

(TABATHA hides.)

(Inside the church, ETHAN is tied up and obviously in pain. LAVETTA is standing in front of him. The CAT is by her side.)

CAT

How long is this going to take?

LAVETTA

It takes half an hour to complete the process. At least, that's how it would work out there. I don't know how long it will take in here.

CAT

Time *does* stand still.

LAVETTA

What is your problem?

CAT

I don't see why you had to kill the crow.

LAVETTA

If we were outside, *you* would have killed him. The food chain.

CAT

I'm a cat. He's a bird. That's *so* different.

LAVETTA

Why do you care?

CAT

So I don't understand why you would go through all of the trouble of putting him in here if you're just going to kill him.

LAVETTA

He wanted to leave.

CAT

So you're just going to kill everyone who wants to leave? What about the boy?

LAVETTA

Once he's a doll, he won't want to leave.

CAT

How do you know that?

LAVETTA

Do you want to leave?

CAT

No, Lavetta, I *don't* want to leave. Actually, I just want to take a little snooze. But I *can't* because you keep thinking of ways to get us all killed. So, I'm saying that girl is dangerous. She'll break the snow globe just to kill you if she can...not that I blame her for that. You're getting a little out of hand. You *so* need to get this snow globe under control.

LAVETTA

I *am*. I gave her the Tractus potion. She'll be taking us back to my house in no time. Then I can kill her, and everything will go back to normal. As long as no other witches or wizards ever find the snow globe, we'll be okay.

CAT

You said you had everything under control before, but you obviously didn't. So how do you even know?

(TARA and CLARA enter the church.)

TARA

Lavetta! Come quick!

CLARA

There's a teddy bear!

TARA

No one knows exactly how he got in!

(CAT looks pointedly at LAVETTA.)

CAT

This is *so* what I'm talking about.

TARA

He's very nice, though!

CLARA

Please do not hurt him!

LAVETTA

(to CAT)

Did you know about this?

CAT

How would *I* have known about this? Honestly, Lavetta.

LAVETTA

I bet Tabatha had something to do with it.

CAT

I bet she did, too. I told you that one was smart.

LAVETTA

Enough! Come on!

(LAVETTA exits the church with TARA and CLARA. CAT follows her.)

(TABATHA sneaks in the church.)

TABATHA

(Whispering)
Ethan!?

ETHAN

(Weakly)
Tabatha? You came back?

TABATHA

Of course I did. I couldn't let her turn you into a doll.

ETHAN

I'm sorry...about before...I...

TABATHA

Shhh. It's alright.

(TABATHA tries to untie ETHAN.)

TABATHA

These ropes! She put a spell on them!

(TABATHA raises her hands.)

ETHAN

What are you doing?

TABATHA

I'm a witch.

ETHAN

You're a...*what*?

TABATHA

Shh! I need to concentrate to get these ropes off.

(She moves her hands. The ropes get tighter.)

ETHAN

OWW!

TABATHA

Sorry! I accidentally made them tighter! This magic stuff is new. I just...

(She tries again. Nothing happens.)

ETHAN

You're...a *witch*?

TABATHA

Shh. I can *do this*. I just have to *see it*.

(TABATHA closes her eyes. She raises her hands. The ropes come off of his hands.)

ETHAN

It worked!

TABATHA

Come on! We have to get you out of here!

(TABATHA grabs ETHAN and helps him out. ETHAN stops and looks at her.)

ETHAN

She killed the crow.

TABATHA

What?

ETHAN

She killed him. Before you left.

(ETHAN coughs and winces in pain.)

TABATHA

My mom has an antidote to her potion! You just have stay with me, alright? I just have to get us all out of here. Tara and Clara and my teddy bear.

ETHAN

Your...what?

TABATHA

Shhh.

(TABATHA helps ETHAN up. He leans on her shoulder as she walks slowly with him out of the church. As they walk, the following dialogue takes place outside of the church.)

LAVETTA

Where is this bear you were talking about? I do not see anyone.

TARA

Oh... (loudly) I swear there was just a teddy bear out here...

TEDDY

(From behind a tree)
Oh yeah! That's me!

(TEDDY pops out from behind the tree and starts dancing.)

TEDDY

Hello!

LAVETTA

How did you get in here?

TEDDY

Tabatha put me in here from her room! (He laughs.)

(LAVETTA looks up.)

LAVETTA

(To CAT)
Why are we still in her bedroom? She should have taken us to my house by now!

CAT

Maybe your potion didn't work.

LAVETTA

Nonsense! That potion was perfect! I even tasted it myself!

CAT

Well, fine, do you want to *explain* to me how *Tabatha's teddy bear* is in our snow globe right now if the potion was so "perfect"?

LAVETTA

(to TEDDY, threateningly)
Now, you tell me how you got in here *right this moment* or I will—

TARA

No, Lavetta, don't!

CLARA

Please do not hurt him!

LAVETTA

Shut up! (She strikes the dolls. They fall down. She pulls her knife out and holds it to TEDDY.) You tell me how you got in here right now or I'll...pull all of the stuffing out of you!

TEDDY

Well...your Honorable Witchiness...(TEDDY is obviously lying as he creates this story.) I'm one of Tabatha's...magical toys. I picked up the snow globe when she was inside of it, and she saw me. And then she helped me get in here! But now, I haven't seen her...I think she's outside. Do you know where she is?

(LAVETTA looks up.)

LAVETTA

I don't see her *anywhere*. We appear to still be in her room and...(she sees something.) What is....

CAT

It looks like a giant version of you.

LAVETTA

Veronica...(She looks around.) Tabatha *has* to be in here somewhere. Otherwise, my twin sister would have shattered the snow globe by now. I bet she was the one who put the protective spell on the house. She has been hiding from me ever since she killed my best friend.

CAT

What are you going to do?

LAVETTA

I don't... (She thinks.) I've got it. I'll simply turn Tabatha into a doll, too. If *she's* stuck in here, Veronica will never break the snow globe.

CAT

Because giving Tabatha potion worked *so well* the last time. They obviously have some kind of antidote.

LAVETTA

Veronica...Father taught us how to make an antidote that would work against any magical potion...that must be how Tabatha could fight the Tractus potion. (LAVETTA gets angry.) We have to find Tabatha and turn her into a doll *now*. You go back into the church and check on Ethan.

CAT

Why are you telling me what to do? *You're* the one who knows magic.

LAVETTA

Are you going to help me or not?

(The CAT looks at LAVETTA.)

CAT

Fine. (CAT goes back inside church.) Oh, Lavetta...

LAVETTA

WHAT?

(CAT exits church.)

CAT

Ethan. He's not there.

LAVETTA

What do you mean, he's not there?

CAT

Someone's untied him.

TARA/CLARA

Ooooooooooh.

TEDDY

What do you think will happen?

CLARA

Oh, I do not know!

TARA

But it's exciting!

CAT

It seems Tabatha is more in control of this place than you are.

LAVETTA

Nonsense! *I'm* the witch!

(TABATHA enters. She carries ETHAN, who is almost passed out from the pain.)

TABATHA

Not the only witch!

LAVETTA

I've had enough of this.

(LAVETTA pulls out her knife.)

TABATHA
You would kill your own niece?

LAVETTA
You would kill your own aunt?

TABATHA
I don't want to kill you, you know. I just want you to let us all go.

LAVETTA
Never! This is *my* world. Why can you not just leave us all alone?

TABATHA
Your world where you turn people into dolls against their will and kill innocent crows.

TARA
The witch killed a crow?

CLARA
Oh, that is so mean!

(TARA and CLARA start crying.)

(TEDDY consoles them.)

LAVETTA
That crow had it coming.

TABATHA
He just wanted to get back to his Love.

(LAVETTA tries to stab TABATHA. She quickly moves out of the way.)

TABATHA
You don't have to do this, you know. Any of it. Leave the snow globe. Destroy it.

LAVETTA
Destroy the work of my life? You're such a naïve, stupid girl.

TABATHA
No, I'm not.

(LAVETTA tries to stab her again. TABATHA stretches out her arm and tries to paralyze her. Nothing happens.)

LAVETTA

Really?? You think you have any power over me?

(LAVETTA goes to stab TABATHA. TABATHA blocks with her arm, and her arm gets cut.)

(TABATHA doesn't wince.)

TABATHA

I don't understand...why didn't it work?

LAVETTA

What kind of witch do you think you are? *I* have spent years and years on this snow globe.

TABATHA

If you create a world to escape all of the mean people, and then you're even meaner, what good will that do? Don't you think you've been meaner to me than anyone's been to you? How about Ethan? Or the crow?

LAVETTA

You shouldn't talk about things you don't understand, little girl.

TABATHA

I understand more than you think I do.

(LAVETTA goes to stab TABATHA again. She spins out of the way. LAVETTA changes tactics, running to ETHAN. She holds the knife up to his throat.)

LAVETTA

One more word, and I will cut his throat. (TABATHA backs off.) Leave the snow globe now. Take us back to my house. Or I will kill Ethan.

CAT

What's to stop her from breaking the snow globe and killing us all?

LAVETTA

She would never kill poor Ethan.

(TEDDY sneaks up on LAVETTA.)

LAVETTA

What are you waiting for? Leave the snow globe now or he dies!

(TEDDY knocks the knife out of LAVETTA's hands.)

TEDDY

No one hurts my best friend!

(LAVETTA struggles, picks up the knife, and cuts off TEDDY's arm. Stuffing goes everywhere.)

TEDDY

(picking up his arm)

Ouchie! That hurt!

(TABATHA runs to ETHAN while LAVETTA is distracted. She touches him.)

TABATHA

Tara, Clara! Teddy! Come on!

(TARA, CLARA, and TEDDY rush over to TABATHA and ETHAN. They all touch.)

(TABATHA closes her eyes, trying to leave the snow globe.)

(LAVETTA rushes up to them with her knife. TABATHA has her eyes closed and doesn't see.)

CAT

Tabatha, look out!

(TABATHA opens her eyes just in time. She holds up an arm, knocking the knife out of LAVETTA's hand.)

(Both TABATHA and LAVETTA reach for the knife. LAVETTA gets the knife and moves to stab TABATHA. TABATHA holds out her hands and uses magic to paralyze her again. She stands up, putting more power behind her spell.)

(LAVETTA is slowly yielding.)

LAVETTA

I just wanted to create a better place to live.

TABATHA

I'm sorry...

(TABATHA moves her arms once more. LAVETTA is frozen.)

CAT

What...did you do to her?

TABATHA

She's plastic. She's just a piece in the snow globe now.

CAT

Will she stay like that forever?

TABATHA

I think so. (TABATHA looks at the CAT.) It was the only way to stop her and protect my friends. I can't believe I was able to...

CAT

You're a more powerful witch than she is, in the end.

(Beat.)

TABATHA

We're all leaving. Do you want to come?

CAT

Can you keep the snow globe safe? So I can stay in here?

TABATHA

Yes. Won't you be bored?

CAT

I'm a cat. I *so* don't get bored.

TABATHA

I'm sorry. About Lavetta. I didn't know what else to...

CAT

It's alright.

TABATHA

Thank you. For earlier, you know. Saving me.

CAT

It's no problem. (Pause.) Will you do something? (TABATHA nods.) I promised Crow that I'd find his Love and look into her eyes. Will you do that? For him?

TABATHA

Yes. (Pause.) Goodbye, Cat.

(CAT smiles.)

(TABATHA touches ETHAN. TEDDY, TARA, and CLARA all crowd in and touch TABATHA.)

(She closes her eyes. They all leave the snow globe.)

Back Home

(TABATHA is on her bedroom floor holding ETHAN, two dolls, and her teddy bear. The snow globe sits beside them.)

(VERONICA is sitting on TABATHA's bed. She stands when she sees them.)

VERONICA

Tabatha! Are you alright?

TABATHA

Yes...I...It all worked! The crystal helped! I was using my power in ways I never even thought I could...and the teddy bear! Mom...thank you.

(VERONICA looks at TABATHA. They share a moment.)

VERONICA

What happened to Lavetta?

TABATHA

She's...plastic now. (TABATHA holds out the snow globe so VERONICA can see.) I didn't want to kill anyone, you know. It was the only way. (VERONICA hugs TABATHA.) She was evil. But she was still my aunt...your sister...

VERONICA

I once had a sister named Lavetta. She became a different person when she became a witch.

TABATHA

Why? Is that how everyone is?

VERONICA

I used to think so. I used to think practicing magic would make you an evil person.

TABATHA

What do you think now?

VERONICA

I don't know. Maybe magic only takes who you already are and makes it stronger...

(TABATHA takes off her crystal and hands it to VERONICA.)

TABATHA

Here. I'll give this back to you. I won't practice magic...if you don't want me to.

(VERONICA holds the necklace for a moment and then hands it back to TABATHA.)

VERONICA

Keep it...Just in case.

(ETHAN is coughing, coming to.)

TABATHA

Ethan! Are you okay?

(VERONICA hands TABATHA a bottle.)

VERONICA

Here. Give him the antidote.

TABATHA

Thanks.

VERONICA

I'll give you two a minute.

(VERONICA exits.)

TABATHA

Ethan? Can you talk?

ETHAN

Tabatha...what happened? Are we still...inside...the snow globe, I mean?

TABATHA

No...I got you out. It's all over now.

ETHAN

(Sitting up)

Um...what happened?

TABATHA

The witch gave you potion to turn you into a doll. Here, drink this. It's the antidote. (She hands him the bottle. He drinks.)

ETHAN

I'm starting to feel better. (Pause.) Thank you. For saving me, I mean. For getting me out.

TABATHA

You're welcome. I just wanted you to be okay, you know.

ETHAN

I really am sorry. For everything. Calling you a loser before...and even before that with Charlie...(he coughs.)

TABATHA

Shhh. It's okay. Really.

ETHAN

You really are the bravest girl I know. And the smartest, too.

(TABATHA smiles.)

TABATHA

Do you want to go home?

ETHAN

Actually, can I sleep for a little bit? Here?

TABATHA

Yes.

(TABATHA helps ETHAN onto the bed. He starts to drift off. She sits down on the floor beside the bed. She picks up her teddy bear and starts to sew his arm back on. ETHAN sleepily reaches out a hand and takes hers. She sits next to him and holds his hand.)

Epilogue

(TARA and CLARA enter.)

TARA
The snow globe still sits on Tabatha's shelf—

CLARA
It is said that the cat is still inside.

(We can see the CAT inside of the snow globe sleeping lazily.)

TARA
The sweet cat spends most of her days sleeping.

CLARA
Sometimes she wakes up—

(The CAT wakes up.)

TARA
Stretches and then yawns—

(The CAT stretches and yawns.)

CLARA
And then she simply goes right back to sleep.

TARA
But we wouldn't *really* know about it.

CLARA/TARA
We're just plastic dolls!

(They giggle.)

(Lights dim on the CAT. TABATHA enters.)

CLARA
Tabatha went out to the woods one night.

TARA
She found a sweet crow sitting on a branch—

(TABATHA sees a crow.)

(Baby crows follow the older crow. TABATHA stretches out a hand. One of the baby crows lands on TABATHA's outstretched hand.)

(TABATHA looks at the crows.)

And somehow, she knew. CLARA

She just knew. TARA

She still visits the crows every weekend. CLARA

She tells them stories about their father. TARA

So they'll never forget how he loved them. CLARA

(Lights dim on TABATHA. ETHAN enters with his headphones.)

And Ethan and Tabatha were best friends— CLARA

(TABATHA enters with a book bag. ETHAN takes off his headphones. She stumbles and falls and books spill. We can hear laughter from off stage. ETHAN helps her up and helps her pick up the books. TABATHA waves her arms subtly, and we can hear the bully voice from off stage as he falls down. ETHAN smiles at TABATHA and high fives her.)

Tabatha was never picked on again. TARA

And the two friends were always together— CLARA

Sweet Ethan went to live with his father— TARA

Tabatha would come over after school! CLARA

He would play her a song on piano— TARA

CLARA

And she would read him her lovely stories!

TARA

And then they would go for walks after school together—

CLARA

But they'd never go to those woods again!

(TARA and CLARA giggle.)

(Lights dim on ETHAN and TABATHA.)

(VERONICA enters TABATHA's bedroom. The actual dolls sit on TABATHA's bed.)

TARA

Now we are just dolls—

CLARA

We cannot walk or talk or dance or sing—

(VERONICA sees the dolls. She sits on the bed and picks them up.)

TARA

But now we can make people so happy!

(VERONICA smiles at the dolls.)

(Lights dim on VERONICA.)

CLARA

We will always remember Lavetta.

TARA

Except for the parts she made us forget!

(They giggle.)

(TABATHA enters the bedroom.)

TARA

And Tabatha will keep the snow globe safe—

CLARA

Do you think one day she'll make it *her* world?

TARA

Who can say for sure?

(TABATHA picks up the snow globe and looks at it.)

TARA/CLARA

Who can say for sure?

(They giggle.)

(TABATHA smiles.)

(Lights out.)

(End of play.)

VITA

Sara Crawford is a playwright from Kennesaw, Georgia. She received her BA in English from Kennesaw State University in 2008. She participated in the Low Residency Creative Writing Workshop at the University of New Orleans from 2010 to 2012, including the programs in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico in 2010 and Edinburgh in Scotland in 2012.