

## CAROLINE AUDITION

The night before I left for college your father waited until everyone in my house had fallen asleep, and then he threw rocks at my bedroom window. He took me to this park we used to always go to, just a bunch of soccer fields and a little playground. He took me to the top of the twisty slide, and we just lay there, and because it was my last night, he told me everything he could think of that he ever wanted me to know. Things like the fact that he was very afraid of crickets--petrified of crickets, and if I ever saw one, I would have to hold his hand. And he told me that his favorite book was *A Little Princess*-- that his mom and him used to read it all the time. That one's a secret, so don't tell anyone. And oh he told me that he would have nightmares all the time-- nightmares that he'd be running. Different places, different ages. His whole life, running from something and he's never sure what, and eventually there's a voice and it asks him what he's running from, but he can't speak. There's a fist shoved down his throat. And all he wants to do is scream. And he said he'd look around to see where to go, and there would be all these women pointing in different directions, and he couldn't see their faces. They'd reach their hands out at him, they'd be drowning him with their outstretched arms, and he thought he was going to die. But then he would see that there was one finger with a freckle on it, a freckle like I've got right here. And he would know it was me, so he'd take my hand, and I'd pull him out, and he would wake up, and he'd be okay. He told me all these things. It's like he couldn't stop. He went on for hours. I could have listened to him for the rest of my life. He made a list of everything he wanted to say to me-- wrote it on a napkin. And when he got to the end of that list, he told me that he wanted to be with me forever. And just when he said that the whole sky split open, and it rained down with shooting stars. And he took my hand, and he wished it. He wished we'd be together forever. We stayed there all night.

(beat)

So I was sitting downstairs tonight, and I felt just like he did in that nightmare. I felt so incredibly sad and scared, and I didn't know why. I just sat there, afraid I might die, with someone's fist shoved down my throat, and just when I thought that my brain was going to split in half and burst out of my skull, the sky lit up and rained down with stars, just like that day. And I needed you to come see. Something that magical can't be seen all alone.