

DEENA. I gotta be up at the crack o' crack to open the salon: We're doin' Sandrine St. Pierre's wedding tomorrow, doin' the bride's hair and the bridesmaids' hair and the moms' hair and all the makeup and the nails, and I might // not be up for anything afterwards —

SHELLY. Well, // I'll come get ya whenever you're done, like we planned —

DEENA. Mmm ... prob'ly gonna be busy all day., We might have to do touch-ups for the wedding pictures — I don't know when we'll be // done, you know? >

SHELLY. Well, we could skip bowlin' and just do supper at the Snowmobile Club —

DEENA. And I'm gonna be really exhausted, so, I don't know — I don't know — I don't know — // so —

SHELLY. Well, I'll be ready whenever // you want me to come pick ya up —

DEENA. Hey, hey, Shell: Maybe we oughtta just give it a couple days and see when we both have the time and we'll make a plan, okay?

SHELLY. Well, the craft fair's only // this weekend, so —

DEENA. Yeah — you know what?, You know what?, You know what, Shell?: I'm gonna head. *(Beat.)* Okay?

SHELLY. Okay.

DEENA. Okay?

SHELLY. Okay.

DEENA. Okay!

SHELLY. Okay!

DEENA. *(Leaving.)* Bye!

SHELLY. Bye! *(Watches Deena go. Then:)* Hey, Deena—! *(Deena stops, turns to Shelly, and their eyes meet, and suddenly, Shelly falls down on the ground. This should be a crumple to the ground. Love is often described, after all, as making people weak in the knees. A slow crumple is best. Knees — shoulder — face. Note: Eye contact is what makes the women fall.)*

DEENA. *(Rushing back, taking a moment to process, seeing Shelly on the ground.)* Shell, hey! What [happened]—? You okay?

SHELLY. Yeah ...

DEENA. What the — ... Here ... *(Helps Shelly up.)*

SHELLY. Thanks. Umm ...

DEENA. What was that? You okay? What just happened there?

SHELLY. *(Trying to figure this out.)* Umm ... I just fell ...

DEENA. Well, I know, I saw ...

SHELLY. No — ... I just — . *(Beat.)* I think I just ... fell in love with you, there, Deena. *(Their eyes meet as she says this, and she crumples to the ground again.)*

DEENA. SHELLY.

Shelly! Oh, boy ...

SHELLY. *(On the ground, face-planted.)* Yup. *(Getting up.)* That's what that was. Me fallin' in love with you ... *(As she gets up, their eyes meet, and she crumples to the ground again.)*

DEENA. Shelly: What are you doin'? Come on, get up! *(Gets Shelly up.)*

SHELLY. No-no-no, Deena — *(As she rises, she meets Deena's eyes and immediately crumples to the ground again.)*

DEENA. Would you cut that out!?

SHELLY. Well, I can't help it!! It just kinda came over me!! I've fallen in love with you, Deena!

DEENA. (*Takes this in. Confused, scared. Long beat. Then:*) Shelly: I'm your best friend in the whole world ... and I don't quite know what you're doin' or what you're goin' on about ... but — (*Angry.*) what are you talkin' about?!? What are you *saying*? Shell: You're my best friend, >

SHELLY. Yeah —

DEENA. and that's — ... I love that! But — I don't — . I mean — yeah, it's true: You're about the only thing that feels really good and makes sense in this world to me, too: You keep me from feelin' like I'm gonna become that crazy cat lady — but now, what you've *done* [fallen down], and what you've *said* [that you've fallen in love with me], well, it makes me feel for sure like I'm gonna become that crazy cat lady 'cause me-and-my-best-friend-in-the-whole-wide-world doesn't make sense at all right now. And that doesn't feel good. And I think I'm really mad at you! 'Cause you can't go back! Once it's out there you can't take it back, something like that, and now it's just hangin' there, and what do you MEAN? We're *friends*! >

SHELLY. Yeah ...

DEENA. Best friends!, and there's a line when you're friends that you can't cross! And you crossed it! (*And then, Deena, who should be on the opposite side of the stage from Shelly, far away from her, meets Shelly's eyes and falls down, crumpling to the ground. Beat. Deena and Shelly look at each other from the ground. A moment of realization. This is about as scary — and wonderful — as it gets. Now — the women are far away from each other, and all they want to do is get TO each other, so they go to get up — in order to get to each other. When they are upright, they look to each other — but as soon as their eyes meet, they crumple to the ground again. This is weird. They scramble to get up again and look to each other — but as soon as their eyes meet, they crumple to the ground again. They desperately want to get to each other, so — in a bit of a frenzy, to try to "beat" the falls — they try to get up ... but as soon as their eyes meet, they fall down; they get up, eyes meet, fall down; they get up, eyes meet, fall down; they get up, eyes meet, fall down; they get up, eyes meet, fall down. Finally, the falling frenzy settles ... and Deena and Shelly are no closer to each other than they were when they started. They just look at each other. It's all scary and thrilling and unknown. Music. Transition into Scene 6 ...*)