

## NOTES

On April 16, 2014, The Sewol, a ferry, carrying mostly high school students on a field trip to Jeju, an island off South Korea's southern coast, sank, killing 304 people onboard. In her fictitious one-act play based on actual events, Sujin Jeong introduces us to Sora, a high school student, who, after losing her best friend, Minji, in The Sewol ferry disaster, experiences Post-Traumatic Syndrome, causing her to believe her best friend is still alive. This psychological drama should be performed by a female and be entered in Dramatic Interpretation; however, two females may choose to perform and enter this play in Duo Interpretation or Duet Acting. There are several key components to consider when performing this play: First, there are considerable physical and vocal dynamics involved. Next, during the actual sinking of the ferry, the actor(s) should create a true sense of urgency, as the boat is filling up with water. Finally, it is important that the performer(s) not play the tragic ending at the beginning. In other words, don't give away the ending too soon. This is a powerful play that serves as a tribute to all of those young people who lost their lives that day. It also serves as a reminder of the pain and enduring loss felt by those who survived the disaster and by those who lost their loved ones.

### **Characters:**

**Sora**, a 17-year-old Korean girl

**Minji**, a 17-year-old Korean girl

**Intercom**, a voice-over announcement

**Janitor**, a custodian at their school

**Sora:** *(Picking up a crystal glass and filling it with water, she moves her finger around the rim of the glass to make that crystal ring sound)* You hear that? That's the sound that only comes from real crystal glasses. My friend, Minji, always insists I use these when she comes over. *(Grabbing a clean towel)* So, just give me a moment to clean these off. *(Finishes wiping the glasses)* There. These glasses are my parents', so I don't use them very often. Just on Fridays. See, Fridays are the days set aside for just Minji and me. We meet up at my place and hang out for a little while.

*(Pause, concerned)* I tried to call her earlier to see where she was. But, of course, she must've lost her phone—AGAIN. But it's impossible for me stay mad at Minji.



**Sora:** Okay, I haven't heard from Minji all day, so she's either coming back from the gym, coaching at the pool, or she's gone to one of her singing lessons. She wants to be a Korean pop star. I told her, "Minji, if you want to be a Korean pop star, then you're going to really upset your fans by being late all the time." Do you know what she said? I kid you not, the girl literally tells me that she's not late. Everyone else is just early. *(Laughs)* But...that's Minji for you. I actually think Minji was born knowing she was going to be famous—which is weird, because, when I first met her, she was not a people person at all.

*(Flashback)*

**Sora:** Hi! I'm Sora. Can we play together?

**Minji:** *(Playing with and singing to a doll)* No.

**Sora:** If we play together, then I'll pledge loyalty to you for my entire life—and pay my highest respects every week. Plus, I'll give you a chocolate bar.

**Minji:** *(She stops singing and hands Sora the doll)* Okay.

*(End of flashback)*

**Sora:** And that's how we became friends. *(Pause)* Can I tell you something? *(Hesitant)* I am deathly afraid of being disliked. I'm the type of person to cry for years over spilled milk, but Minji—Minji's like this unbreakable force. She has this unbounding energy that just goes and goes without ever stopping. I'll give you an example: We were about to leave for our class trip, right? *(Begins setting the dinner table with place settings)* And everyone's already onboard. The ship is about to leave, and I'm freaking out; because, I can't find Minji, who's late, as always. And right before we're about to set sail, Minji comes flopping down the dock. And she falls. But she's got this energy—this pure energy. So she jumps up, poses, as if in front of a camera, and *(Pretending to strut)* STRUTS—like some supermodel onto the ship. *(Pause)* Man, I wish I could do that.