

Audition Cuttings
Darling, a New Play (with Music) by Taryn Verley

Young Women (Annie, Julia, ensemble)
Ages 16-30ish – Please pick ONE

ANNIE

This is the story of how I died. Or rather, how I *might* have died. You don't really know. You might think you do, but you don't. You've heard my story from your parents, who heard it from their parents, who knew me or knew of me. Long before fingerprints and DNA, all anyone knew was that I had been murdered and it must have been a stranger. You see, the people you're about to meet, I knew them. I went to church with them. We gossiped in the street. We stole kisses, and loved, and argued, and prayed.

So you see, it had to have been someone else. An outsider. A drifter. A godless individual that can't be trusted.

You might have heard that in the stories about me. You might have heard it was someone closer to home. But you don't know. The only one who knows, who will *ever* know, is me.

JULIA

We never really got along, Annie and me. We're just too different. The silly little sister, always running off, running ahead, never sitting still... I just wanted her to be good, I wanted... I certainly never had any problem being good. I was happy to help Ma with tending the house and caring for the children. I love the special sisterhood of being a woman, I really do. The gossip we share when it's just us, passing down shared secrets and tricks for making the best potato salad, the warmest quilt, or how to settle a colicky child. The joy of creating a home and a family, that's all I've ever wanted.

I wanted her to stay longer with me and Frank, I shouldn't have sent her home. If she'd stayed...

Annie once told me she never wanted to be like me. I...

I wonder if everyone who loses someone they love regrets their final words.