



Colin (or Colleen) sits on a bench as his/her father is in a bank. Tania sits on the same bench while her mother is in a family assistance bureau. The two get to talking and discover many interesting things about each other, and about themselves.

1 boy / 1 girl / 1 ice cream man; offstage voices

“Hopscotch Park”



A Play in One-Act

Written by

**Kevin T. Baldwin
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Cast of Characters:

Colin* – A young boy, from wealthy family.
Wears black shorts with white button-down shirt
and black tie. Hair is immaculately groomed.

* If being performed with two girls, Colin may easily be made into Colleen.

Tania – A young girl from poor economic
circumstances. Wears jeans and a grey T-shirt.
Her hair is messy and she wears a brightly colored
bandana on her head.

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF COLIN’S FATHER
OFFSTAGE VOICE OF TANIA’S MOTHER
ICE CREAM COUNTER PERSON (Non-speaking)

Setting: A playground at a park, late in the
afternoon. There is a bench downstage center.
There is an ice cream counter located upstage
right. There is a “Hopscotch” game pattern grid
front downstage center on the floor in front of the
bench, but it is not imperative that the audience
sees the grid. It’s only important for the actors to
work with it. The remainder of the playground set
may be as elaborate or as simple as the director or
set designer wishes.

“HOPSCOTCH PARK”

(At the start of the show, the stage is black. A follow spot comes up on COLIN, who enters stage right and proceeds to center. As he approaches the bench we hear the aristocratic sounding OFFSTAGE VOICE OF COLIN’S FATHER calling to him)

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF COLIN’S FATHER – Now Colin, you sit over on that bench while I go into the bank to talk with my advisor. I shouldn’t be more than ten minutes. Remember, you have that five dollar bill I gave you. In case you get hungry and want something to eat, there’s an ice cream vendor over there. (COLIN looks over his shoulder towards the ice cream counter) Try not to spend it all. We may need some for the tolls on the drive home. I can see you from inside, and for heaven’s sake, don’t talk to any strangers. Okay? (COLIN nods. As COLIN sits, follow spot out as lights up full on bench center)

Colin – Yes, Father.

(TANIA enters sl. She also approaches the other side of the same bench. We hear the OFFSTAGE VOICE OF TANIA’S MOTHER speak)

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF TANIA’S MOTHER – Tania, you just sit yourself down on that bench over there and don’t you go causin’ no trouble. I gotta go in to collect and I’ll be out in a few. You just sit there and be quiet. Don’t talk to no strangers.

Tania – Yes, Momma. (TANIA sits as far over on her side of the bench from COLIN as possible. COLIN does the same. A solid minute passes as the two sit uncomfortably at opposing sides, each trying very hard not to look at the other. Finally, COLIN tries to break the ice)

Colin – Excuse me, but

Tania – I ain’t supposed to talk to strangers.

Colin – (Nervously) Me either. I’m sorry. (Ten seconds pass as COLIN looks around the park, then back at TANIA) Forget I said anything. I didn’t mean to intrude. (TANIA nods pleasantly. COLIN goes back to looking around again. He moves himself too far over to the right and falls off the side of the bench right onto his backside) Ow!

Tania – (Concerned) Is you all right?

Colin – (Standing up, wiping himself off) Yes, I’m afraid I moved a little too far over to the...

Tania – (Remembering) Oh, I’m sorry. I forgot - I ain’t supposed to talk to strangers.

Colin – (Pause) I see. Well, sorry. I won’t say another word. (COLIN quickly sits down but abruptly gets back up again as his backside hurts. He then slowly sits back down. TANIA is amused by this)

Tania – My name is Tania.

Colin – Colin.

Tania – (Nervously laughs) I guess that means we ain’t strangers no more, huh?

Colin – (Smiling) I guess not. (Stands up)

Tania – So you okay?

Colin – (Adjusting himself on the bench) I think so. (Looks at TANIA for a minute). Tanya, eh? (Thinks a moment) “Tanya”. T-A-N-Y-A. “Tanya”.

Tania – Huh?

Colin – (Proudly) Oh, I like to spell. I recently came in second place in a state-wide spelling bee. T-A-N-Y-A. “Tanya”.

Tania – “I”.

Colin – Beg your pardon?

Tania – “I”. My name is spelled T-A-N-I-A. Not T-A-N-Y-A.

Colin – You’re kidding.

Tania – Nope.

Colin – But, that’s not right.

Tania – (A little bit annoyed) ‘Scuse me?

Colin – That’s not how you spell it.

Tania – (Indignant) I think I know how to spell my own name. ‘Sides, there’s lot’sa ways to spell it.

Colin – But it’s supposed to be spelled “T-A-N-Y-A”. Not “T-A-N-I-A”.

Tania – Its how my Momma wanted the name spelled. (Proudly) Said it comes from some beautiful queen in Africa.

Colin – In Africa? (Thinking) Interesting. (Thinks some more, then starts laughing)

Tania – What you laughin’ at?

Colin – I just remembered. There IS a spelling T-A-N-I-A. It comes from some fairy queen of Tatiana. But it’s Slavic, not African.

Tania – What?

Colin – (Smiling, holds one hand up) I swear.

Tania – I think there’s also a T-O-N-Y-A. (Pause) Where’s Slavia?

Colin – Oh there’s a few Slavic countries. Bulgaria, Serbia. There’s lots of them.

Tania – You’re smart. You go to school around here? I ain’t never seen you before.

Colin – No. I’m home-schooled.

Tania – (Curious) “Home-schooled”? What’s that?

Colin – It means I get taught by my parents at home.

Tania – You mean you don’t go to no school?

Colin – Nope.

Tania – (Long pause) Dang. That’s pretty cool. I go to JFK over on thirty-fourth street.

Colin – JFK? (Thinks) Oh, I think I’ve seen it. Big building, right?

Tania – Biggest school in the city. Over 3,000 kids.

Colin – Are you serious?

Tania – Oh, yeah. You sure you ain’t never been there? You look so familiar to me.

Colin – (Confirming) You know, I was just thinking the same thing. Do you go to church around here?

Tania – Yeah, Second Baptist over on West Haywood.

Colin – Well, that can’t be it, then.

Tania – Why? Where do you go?

Colin - Saint Barnabas Episcopalian Church over on East Paisley.

Tania – Ah. You an “East Side Kid”, then?

Colin – What’s that mean?

Tania – You rich?

Colin – (Cautious) My Mother says it's not polite to ask somebody how much they make.

Tania – You make the money in your family?

Colin – No.

Tania – Then it's okay. You rich?

Colin – I don't know. Maybe. (Holds up his five dollar bill) I've got this five dollar bill my Father gave me.

Tania – (Amazed) You got five dollars? (COLIN nods) Can I look at it?

Colin – (Suspicious, COLIN pulls and holds the five dollar bill close to his chest) No. I don't think so. I mean, I hardly know you. (Long Pause) Why?

Tania – Come on. Please? I ain't never seen one before.

Colin – (Incredulously) What? You mean you've never seen a five dollar bill?

Tania – I ain't even seen a one dollar bill. (Pausing) I mean, I seen 'em, those folks with money on TV and everythin'? And I seen kids sometimes in school with money, but I ain't never seen no money up close. Held it in my hands.

Colin – Why not?

Tania – (Pause) We just don't get a lot of fives floatin' around on the west side. Specially not at my house.

Colin – (Pulling out a dollar from his pants) My Father gave me this five dollars to buy ice cream in case I got hungry.

Tania – (Astounded) Five dollars for ice cream? (Thinks) Hey! We could get two.

Colin – What do you mean “we”? This is my five dollars. I’ve barely known you five minutes and you’re already telling me how to spend my money.

Tania – Yeah, you’re right. I didn’t mean to be buggin’ you. Sorry.

Colin – (Reconsidering) You’re not “buggin’” me. It’s just that I don’t know you all that well and I’m sure my Father wouldn’t be too keen on my spending money on both of us.

Tania – How do you know? Why don’t you go ask him?

Colin – (Nervous) No. He’s busy inside that bank over there. I better not interrupt him. He wouldn’t like it. He doesn’t like it when I bother him when he’s busy.

Tania – He always busy?

Colin – (Staring off into the direction of “the bank”) Yeah. He’s busy a lot. (Sits down, looking at the five dollar bill in his hand)

Tania – My Momma, too.

Colin – Does a lot of banking, does she?

Tania – (Laughs) Banks? We ain’t even got a account nowhere. She works a lot, though. I don’t see her much.

Colin – That’s awful.

Tania – Well, (Adjusting her bandana) we got a lot of bills. It’s great when we are together, though. I mean we always have a good time, and all. (Recalling a pleasant memory) Last month? She took me out to McDonald’s and we spent the whole day there.

Colin – Why would you want to spend the whole day at McDonalds?

Tania – They got a huge playground there. Momma bought us a couple of drinks and we spent the whole afternoon there. It's lots of fun.

Colin – That's great. (Thinking) It's been a while since my Father and I have had a day together like that.

Tania – When was the last time?

Colin – (Pauses) I can't remember.

Tania – Well, he brought you to the park today, didn't he?

Colin – First time. We're only here for a few minutes, actually. (Looking at his watch) He should be out any minute. (Looks ahead) There he is now. (Stands)

Tania – (Stands up, looking ahead, but doesn't see anything) Where?

Colin – (Points ahead) In the window of the bank. (Pause) He's waving at me.

Tania – (Staring off) What's that he's doing?

Colin – (Showing TANIA his watch) He's pointing to his watch. (Realizing the message) He's telling me he's going to be tied up longer than he expected. (Pause) Again.

Tania – Oh. (Pointing out to the audience in an opposite direction from where COLIN had been pointing) My Momma's always tied up in that place over there.

Colin – (Stares off) "Family Assistance Bureau"? What's that?

Tania – Dang! You ARE an "East Side Kid", aint'cha?

Colin – What's that supposed to mean?

Tania – Nothing. (Changing the subject) Wanna go get that ice cream now?

Colin – Again with the ice cream?

Tania – Well, I’m hungry.

Colin – I can’t. I have to wait for my Father.

Tania – I can’t believe you ain’t never been to “Hopscotch Park”.

Colin – “Hopscotch Park”?

Tania – Yeah.

Colin – Where’s “Hopscotch Park”? Is it near here?

Tania – What are you talkin’ about? You there now.

Colin – (Looking around) I thought this was called “Millborough Park”?

Tania – (Shakes her head) That’s what the city calls it. Us kids? We call it “Hopscotch Park”.

Colin – Why’s that?

Tania – Look at the ground. (COLIN does so as TANIA points along the ground) Twenty three hopscotch grids. Goin’ out as far as the eye can see. Wanna play?

Colin – (Nervous) Um, not now. Maybe later. (Sits down)

Tania – (Comes around to the other side of the bench) You HAVE played hopscotch before, aint’cha?

Colin – What? Me? Hopscotch? (Pause) “Hopscotch”. H-O-P-S-C-O-T-C-H. “Hopscotch”. Of course I’ve played it before. Don’t be ridiculous.

Tania – Spellin’ it ain’t the same as playin’ it. Come on. I’ll show ya.

Colin – (More Nervous) No. That’s okay. Maybe later.

Tania – But I may not be here later.

Colin – Then we’ll do it next time.

Tania – What next time? (Sits down right next to COLIN) When you comin’ back?

Colin – (Frustrated) I don’t know. Someday, I’m sure I’ll be back.

Tania – But will I be here when you do?

Colin – What’s that supposed to mean? Why wouldn’t you be here?

Tania – Cause I got cancer.

Colin – (Pause) What? (Looks at her closer – another longer pause) What?

Tania – I got cancer.

Colin – Cancer?

Tania – That’s right. You know, I ain’t wearing this bandana because it looks good on me.

Colin – (Looking at the bandana, realizing) Chemotherapy?

Tania – (Nodding) “Chemotherapy”. C-H-E-M-O-T-H-E-R-A-P-Y. “Chemotherapy”. I may not know how to spell a lot of big words like you, but that one I know how to spell. Three times a week.

Colin – I’m sorry. I didn’t know.

Tania – Course you didn’t. How could you?

Colin – Is that why your Mother works so much?

Tania – (Nodding) Yeah. She works three jobs (points out towards the “Family Assistance Bureau”) but we still gotta collect over there ‘cause we got a lot of bills.

Colin – I don’t know what to say. (Pause) I’m so sorry. (Looks down again at his five dollar bill – this time COLIN slowly extends it out to TANIA) You, um, you want this?

Tania – (Sees the bill – starts getting angry) What?

Colin – My five dollars – You want it? You can have the whole thing. Really. It’s all right.

Tania – (Stands up, furious) I don’t need your charity! I don’t need your pity!

Colin – (Stands up) Wait a minute. I’m sorry! I just...

Tania – You think I want your money? You know, people like me get along just fine without handouts from rich folk like you!

Colin – (Nervous) But, I

Tania – My Momma works hard for everything we got and I don’t need charity from some chump who don’t even know how to hopscotch!

Colin – But I don’t understand. Just a moment ago you wanted me to buy you an ice cream!

Tania – That ain’t the same!

Colin – (Correcting her grammar) It isn’t?

Tania – No! It ain’t!

Colin – Why not?

Tania – ‘Cause I wanted YOU to buy US ice cream. Somethin’ WE could enjoy together as new friends. Now you just wanna give me money cause you feel sorry for me, and I don’t need no charity!

Colin – (Apologetic) I didn’t mean anything by it! I swear!

Tania – You know thousands, maybe even millions of people like me survive with cancer every day without the help of rich folk like you!

Colin – (Fearful) I believe you! I do! Would you still like some ice cream instead, then?

Tania – (Immediately going from agitated to pleasant) I thought you’d never ask. (COLIN is stunned. TANIA grabs his arm and the TWO go over to the ice cream counter upstage right. TANIA looks at all the ice cream choices listed) There’s so many. I can’t decide.

Colin – Want me to order for you?

Tania – (Nodding) Sure.

Colin – (To the ICE CREAM COUNTER PERSON, who has just entered) Two ice cream cups. Chocolate Vanilla swirl. (The ICE CREAM COUNTER PERSON takes the five dollar bill from COLIN and hands him back a one dollar bill, then proceeds to give the TWO each a pre-packaged “ice cream cup”. COLIN and TANIA take their ice creams and start walking back towards the bench.)

Colin – Hey! I got a dollar back.

Tania – (Excited – she grabs the dollar bill) Oooh! Lemme see!

Colin – Hey! (Grabs the dollar back) Quit it!

Tania – (Realizing her rudeness) Sorry! (Extends her hand more politely) May I?

Colin – (Smiles, handing her the bill) Sure! Here.

Tania – (Smiles, taking the bill in one hand) Thanks! (Looks it over. Flips the bill over to it's reverse side. She has a quizzical look on her face) What's that mean?

Colin – (Looking at the bill) What?

Tania – “In God We Trust”. Why's that on there?

Colin – Haven't you ever seen that before?

Tania – I told you I ain't never seen a dollar before.

Colin – But it's on ALL money.

Tania – Why?

Colin – Well, in my history class, they explained that there was this guy - some politician who felt that no nation, (BOTH sit back down on the bench) now let's see if I remember this right: “That we couldn't be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense”. So, they decided that the trust of our people in God should be declared on all our money.

Tania – Wow. You know so much.

Colin – Thank you.

Tania – So how come you know jack about hopscotch?

Colin – Guess we haven't gotten to that subject in home school, yet.

Tania – It's not a subject. It's a game. A game! Don't you have recess in home school?

Colin – (Nodding) Oh sure. Two hours.

Tania – (Shocked) Two hours? TWO?

Colin – Mmm-hmmm. Every day from noon until two we have family prayer followed by family chores and then we play family games like chess, checkers, stuff like that.

Tania – (Mild sarcasm) Sounds like a family blast.

Colin – We like it.

Tania – (Thinks about it) Hmmm. I suppose I would, too, if I had nothin' to compare it to. Just like all those different flavors of ice cream. Who's to say which one's best?

Colin - (Starting to eat his ice cream) These are MY favorites. Chocolate and Vanilla all swirled up into one yummy treat.

Tania – (Eating her ice cream cup very quickly) Mine, too.

Colin – I have one for lunch every day. I think I must have eaten a thousand of these in the last ten years. You?

Tania – First one.

Colin – (Continues eating) What?

Tania – I ain't never eaten this stuff before.

Colin – (Stops eating) Never eaten ice cream? Why not?

Tania – Momma says I'm not supposed to have ice cream.

Colin – Why? Because of...

Tania – (Nods) She says I have to watch what I eat. I don't know why. I know others who can eat it just fine. (Not thinking, TANIA places dollar in her pocket) Guess it depends on what kind you got.

Colin – So, what kind do you have? (Goes back to eating)

Tania – (Pauses, not wanting to answer) The kind that don't allow me to have ice cream, I guess.

Colin – (Nodding) Ah-hah. In other words I should mind my own business.

Tania – (Holds her head - leans over in pain) Oh. Ow. Ow!

Colin – (Concerned) What is it? Tania? Are you okay?

Tania – (Leans back up, laughing hysterically) Wow! So THAT's what an "ice cream headache" feels like! What a rush! (Both TANIA and COLIN laugh)

Colin – (Looks at TANIA's empty ice cream cup) Wow! You ate that whole thing in just under a minute. I'm impressed.

Tania – I always eat fast. Don't know why. Just always have. Always in a rush, I guess.

Colin – (Scooping out the last of the ice cream) I always eat slow. I want to enjoy each and every bite. Got any brothers or sisters?

Tania – Nah. Just me and Momma.

Colin – No father?

Tania – (Nods) Oh, yeah. I got a pop. He's in the service. Ain't seen him in over two years, though. He writes me a lot. Says he wants to be here by Christmas. (Pause) I hope he makes it.

Colin – I have two brothers, but they're both older and have moved out of the main house.

Tania – (Surprised) The "main" house? Dude, how much money your family got?

Colin – (Laughs, but doesn't answer the question) So, now it's just me, my Mother and Father.

Tania – And they're home all day with you?

Colin – Except on days like today when Father has to meet with one of his consultants. (Takes one last bite) Wonder what's keeping him? (Drops his spoon in the cup) There. Done. That was good. Want me to throw that cup away for you?

Tania – I can do it. You bought 'em. Here. Lemme have yours. (She takes COLIN's empty cup and disposes their trash in a trash barrel over by the ice cream counter. She comes back and stands in front of COLIN) Okay, now – get up.

Colin – What?

Tania – Get up. I'm gonna teach you how to hopscotch.

Colin – Do you think we should? I mean we just ate.

Tania – You gotta move before all that ice cream turns to fat.

Colin – That's not the only thing I'm worried about. I'm lactose intolerant.

Tania – What's that? Is that like being Episcopalian?

Colin – (Incredulously) Not quite.

Tania – Momma's always tellin' me "Everybody's got somethin', hon. Just gotta do the best with what you got while you got it." Come on. Get up, you. You're gonna get taught how to hopscotch by the best hopscotcher I know.

Colin – Who's that?

Tania – Me. (TANIA pulls COLIN up by the arms and brings him over to the hopscotch grid) Okay. Here’s how you play. (TANIA picks up a flat rock off the ground) You got a flat rock?

Colin – (Looks around on the ground and picks up a rock) Here.

Tania – Good. Now here’s how you play. See how the squares are numbered one through eight?

Colin – Yeah.

Tania - You take the rock and throw it into the first square. You have to get it right inside the square. If it lands on a line it don’t count.

Colin – (Correcting her grammar) It doesn’t count.

Tania – That’s right. It don’t count. If you don’t get one, I go. If I get it, I get to go to two next. Then three, and so on.

Colin – That’s it? Just throwing rocks into each square?

Tania – No. After you get the rock in the square, you gotta hop on one leg to that square, pick up the rock, turn around and hop back.

Colin – Why?

Tania – ‘Cause that’s the game, fool. First person to get to eight and back wins.

Colin – That’s all?

Tania – That’s all. Try it. (COLIN comes to the line and leans over, and places a rock into the one square) No-no-no! (TANIA picks the rock back up and steps three steps back to a “toss line” just before the grid) You can’t just lean over and place the rock into the square.

Colin – Why not?

Tania – Cause it’s against the rules. You gotta be three feet back here at the toss line, (demonstrating the toss) then gently toss the rock into the square. Now, come here and try it again. (COLIN goes back to where TANIA is standing and takes the rock from her. *DIRECTOR’S NOTE: The actions described for the game don’t have to be visibly performed by the actors. It can be pantomimed if necessary*** COLIN tosses the rock into the first square. He smiles) Don’t count.**

Colin – (Curious) What do you mean it doesn’t count? It’s in the square.

Tania – It landed on a line. It don’t count if it lands on a line.

Colin – It don’t?

Tania – (Correcting his grammar) It doesn’t. I go next. (She pushes COLIN out of the way and does her toss. It hits COLIN’s rock and lands inside the one square) Ha-ha! I’m in there.

Colin – Does it still count if the only reason your rock got in the square is because it bounced off mine?

Tania – Sure. (She hops into the one square) Sometimes I’ve won whole games that way. (She picks up the rock and hops back out on one leg) Ta-da!

Colin – (Speculating) You sure that’s legal?

Tania – It ain’t like there’s an official rule book for this game, East Side. It’s just the way we all play it down here. I don’t know about how they play it up your fancy part of town.

Colin – Don’t start that again.

Tania – Good. Then I go next.

Colin – Sure. Go ahead. (TANIA picks up her rock and throws again. It lands just outside the second square)

Tania – Rats! Landed outside. Okay. You go. (COLIN picks up his rock and heads back to the throw line) So you gotta try for one again.

Colin – Got it. (Throws the rock which lands inside the one square this time) I did it! Hey! I did it!

Tania – Yeah!

Colin – Now what?

Tania – Hop.

Colin – Oh yeah. (COLIN hops on one leg into the one square. He picks up his rock and hops back out).

Tania – Good. Now you go again.

Colin – Hey! This is fun.

Tania – I’ll bet it sure beats chess.

Colin – (Holds his toss) I like chess.

Tania – Never played it. Maybe you can teach me sometime.

Colin – Sure. Do your friends usually play here? (He tosses the rock) I’m in there. Second square. (He hops into the second square)

Tania – No! No! No!

Colin – What?

Tania – You can’t jump over the one into the second square. You have to hop one, two, three, and so on.

Colin – Oh. I didn’t know. I’ll try again. (He goes back and hops from one into two)

Tania – I miss my friends. I don’t get to see them much anymore.

Colin – (Leans over, picks up his rock) Because of the treatments and stuff? (Hops back to the starting line)

Tania – Yeah. It really stinks sometimes. Seems like I spend more and more time with the kids in the hospital than my friends at school.

Colin – (Back at the starting line) Well, at least you make friends there, right?

Tania – (Long pause) For awhile. You go again.

Colin – Thanks. (Realizing he better get off the subject) What about camp? You ever go to summer camp? (He throws his rock into the third square and misses) Darn.

Tania – (Coming up to the throw line) I'd usually go to city camp during summers. We'd play basketball and stuff. (She throws and the rock lands in two square) Got it! (She starts to hop) It's more like day-long recess than a regular "camp" like you probably mean. (She lands in the two square, turns, leans over, picks up her rock then hops back to the throw line) What about you?

Colin – Bible camp.

Tania – (Nodding, back at the throw line) Why am I not surprised? (She throws again and this time the rock lands in the three square) Got it!

Colin – Good! Say, you really ARE good at this, aren't you?

Tania – Told you, East Side – I'm the best! (She starts to hop)

Colin – (Chuckling) Modest, too, "Princess Tania". (Pause) How about music? Who do you like in music?

Tania – Mostly current stuff. (She lands in square three, turns, leans over, picks up her rock, and starts to hop back to the throw line) I like Usher. Brandy. Mase.

Colin – Whose he?

Tania – (Laughs hysterically) Hah-ha-ha! That’s three different people. (She loses her balance) Rats! I’m out! Darn!

Colin – You are?

Tania – Yeah. When you put both feet down, you lose. (Starts laughing again) Aw, man! I can’t believe you thought that was one guy’s name.

Colin – (Embarrassed) Well, excuse me! I thought it was one of those long names like John Philip Sousa, or something like that.

Tania – Who’s that?

Colin – (Shakes his head) Never mind.

Tania – (Still laughing) Oh, man. You’re more square than the squares in this hopscotch grid. (Looks towards the “Family Assistance Bureau” again) Momma should be comin’ out soon. How about we play another game, but this time we try only for the eight? Whoever makes it first wins.

Colin – (Shrugs his shoulders) I guess so.

Tania – You go first since you won the last game.

Colin – Okay. (COLIN picks up his rock and goes to stand at the throw line. He pauses for a moment)

Tania – What is it?

Colin – I don’t know. I feel like I’m forgetting something. Do you ever feel like that?

Tania – (Shakes her head) Uh-uh. Never. I remember everything.

Colin – Get out of here. Really?

Tania – Everything! I even remember where I seen you before.

Colin – Where’s that?

Tania – Right here. On that bench. About a month ago. I was driving with my Momma and saw you sitting on that same bench. We came driving back about an hour later and you were still here - just sitting.

Colin – Wow. (To himself) Hmmm. Wonder why I forgot that? (To TANIA) You do have a good memory. I’m impressed. (Throws the rock) But will you remember me AFTER today? (The rock lands in the seven) Seven. You throw next. (TANIA steps up to the throw line)

Tania – I’ll remember you. (Throws and the rock lands in the seven) Hmmm. I got seven, too. You throw. (COLIN picks up his rock and returns to the throw line) Will you remember me?

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF COLIN’S FATHER – Colin? Are you ready?

Colin – (Calling back) Coming, Father!

Tania – (Distraught) No! No! No! You can’t go yet! You gotta throw!

Colin – But my Father? I can’t keep him waiting.

Tania – Just throw quick. You’ll make it this time. I know it.

Colin – Don’t worry. I’ll come back sometime and, if I see you, we can finish then.

Tania – No. Finish now. (Pause) Please?

Colin – (Long pause) All right. (Calling to his FATHER) I’ll just be a minute, Father. I just need to finish this game. (Nods as if returning an accepting nod from his FATHER) Okay. (To TANIA) Here goes. (COLIN tosses the rock. It lands in the eight square) Hey! I did it! You were right! I got the eight. (TANIA smiles proudly at COLIN who proceeds to hop to the eight, turns, leans over to pick up his rock, then hops back to the throw line) I won.

Tania – (Comes over and hugs COLIN’s shoulders quickly) You did it, East Side. You are now officially a hopscotch master! Congratulations!

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF TANIA'S MOTHER – Tania! Get your behind over here! I thought I told you not to talk to no strangers!

Tania – (Calling back) Sorry, Momma! Coming! (To COLIN) Gotta go. You be good. Don't forget me. At least next time you find yourself here you can play some hopscotch. (Starts to go, then turns back) And I'm gonna beat you next time I see you.

Colin – (Smiling) We'll see about that. Bye, Tania. Take care of yourself. (TANIA gives COLIN one last look and then quickly exits off left) Good luck.

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF COLIN'S FATHER – Let's go, Colin! We have to get home before your Mother throws away our dinner. Do you still have that five dollars I gave you?

Colin – I bought some ice cream, Father, for me and my friend. (Reaches into his pocket) But I still have a dollar left...Uh-oh. (Realizes he gave the dollar to TANIA and now she's left) Oh, no! The dollar! (Smacks his forehead) That's what I was forgetting! (Rushes to stage left) Tania! Wait! Come back! My (Stops himself. Takes a momentary pause to allow all that has taken place this afternoon to seep in)

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF TANIA - Momma's always tellin' me "Everybody's got somethin', hon. Just gotta do the best with what you got while you got it."

Colin - Huh. (Looks at the rock still in his hand then off left) "In God We Trust". (Puts the rock in his pocket) So long, "Princess Tania".

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF COLIN'S FATHER – Colin!

Colin - (Off towards his FATHER) Coming. (He runs off stage as lights go black)

THE END