

Joel?

RUTH-ANNE

JOEL  
 (looking up, relieved)  
 He's got the flu.  
 (almost ecstatic)  
 Stomach flu!

RUTH-ANNE  
 Well, of course he does. He's always  
 the first one to get it.

JOEL  
 (ecstatic)  
 Forty-eight hours of vomiting,  
 diarrhea, body ache...That's a hell of a  
 flu!

ED  
 Excuse me, Dr. Fleischman.

Ed goes back into the bathroom. Joel sinks in a chair,  
 relieved, as we hear Ed vomiting O.S.

41 EXT. WINTER FESTIVAL - LATE AFTERNOON

A LARGE PILE of Christmas trees sits in the middle of the  
 field. Games and activity go on all around. Snowshoe  
 soccer. Tables with food and hot drinks. MUSIC PLAYS. A  
 celebratory atmosphere.

42 ANGLE - SHELLY

walking dejectedly along in her snowshoes, uninspired by the  
 sights around her. Iris approaches, also wearing snowshoes,  
 carrying a soccer ball.

IRIS  
 Hey, aren't you going to play the  
 second half?

SHELLY  
 Nah. I don't really feel like it.

IRIS  
 Come on, Shell. You came all the way  
 up here to do Winterfest, and now  
 you're like totally hangdog, eh?

SHELLY  
 I know.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Outside a small house on a plain street. Shelly gets out of a cab with a suitcase and a bundle of baby. She takes a deep breath.

SHELLY

Here we are, babe. Home turf.

*Iris*  
She goes to the door and knocks. She looks around, taking in the sights...which are remarkably like Cicely. A new Jeep Wrangler sits in the drive. After a beat IRIS comes to the door. Shelly's age, maybe a little older, she dresses a lot like Shelly.

SHELLY

Iris!

IRIS

Shell! Wow, you look great, eh? Let me at that baby.

She goes for the bundle.

SHELLY

Iris, I am so psyched to be here. It's like, finally! The hood.

(then)

Is that your Wrangler? It's tough.

IRIS

Wrangler? Oh, you mean the YJ.

(off Shelly's look)

That's what it's called over here.

SHELLY

(overly interested)

YJ? That is so cool. What's it stand for?

IRIS

(couldn't care less)

I don't know.

(then)

Come on inside. It's freezing.

21 INT. IRIS'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

21

They come into the foyer. Shelly looks around.

SHELLY

Where's Robbie?

(CONTINUED)

IRIS  
At Mum's. She'll keep Miranda while  
we go out to Winterfest tomorrow.

SHELLY  
Oh...I thought I'd take her with me.

IRIS  
Too rowdy out there. You know how  
Winterfest is. Leave her in the  
house. Besides, girl, we need you on  
the team, eh? The other side's got a  
kick-ass goalie.

SHELLY  
Right. Snowshoe soccer.

IRIS  
So, you need to use the washroom?

SHELLY  
The washroom. It is so great to hear  
that again. In America it's bathroom  
this, bathroom that. Even a  
porta-john. What bathroom? There's  
no bathtub in there.

Iris stares at her uncertainly.

SHELLY  
I'm cool for now.

INT. IRIS' LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

22

move into the living room.

IRIS  
Well, just flake out, turn on MTV.  
You can prop the babe up on the  
couch. I'll get us some pop.

SHELLY  
(light)  
(sigh)  
(her head)  
Boy, there's no place like Canada.

Iris looks at her, then goes into the kitchen. On Shelly--