

2-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at **yourstagepartners.com**.

<u>A Wrinkle in Time</u> adapted by Morgan Gould from the novel by Madeleine L'Engle

1M, 1F Drama

(MEG and CALVIN arrive in front of a large decrepit house.)

CALVIN: Are you sure Charles Wallace went in here?

MEG: He must've. He's been talking about this old house for days.

CALVIN: Is he all right by himself in there?

MEG: I bet he's fine. He's hard-headed. Likes to run off sometimes. Somehow, I always bring him back. Let's go in.

CALVIN: (*Hesitating:*) Do you think it's really haunted? (*Off MEG's look:*) Not that I'm afraid but... I should probably get going. I have a bunch of homework to finish up.

MEG: Homework, huh?

CALVIN: I'm not lying. It's Math. The one thing I have a hard time keeping up in. Words I'm fine but numbers. Ugh.

MEG: Give it to me, then. I'll help you.

CALVIN: I don't think so. I'm several grades above you, Meg.

MEG: Hand it over. Trust me.

CALVIN: If you say so. But it's pretty complicated. Here.

(He hands her a notebook from his bookbag. She scans it quickly.)

MEG: Do they care how you do it? Can you work it out your own way?

CALVIN: Sure if I get the answers right. But we don't have to do this now.

MEG: Well, you said you wouldn't go in 'til your "homework" was done.

CALVIN: Okay, fine.

MEG: Now look, Calvin. Dimensions are easy. A simple line squared is a flat square, squared is the third dimension: a box. For the fourth dimension you'd square the square, technically. You can't draw that, exactly, but it'd be something to do with Einstein and time...

CALVIN: I suppose I should stop being surprised by now, but you're supposed to be dumb in school.

MEG: My father taught me some shortcuts, that's all. The teachers don't like it because they want me to do the problems the long way around. But who has time for that?

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(CALVIN takes the notebook back, looks at the answers, amazed.)

CALVIN: Jeez, are there any more morons like you and Charles around? If so, I should meet them!

MEG: Um. Thanks?

CALVIN: *(Enthusiastic gesture.)* I know I just met you but for the first time in my life I feel like I'm not alone anymore! Do you realize what that means to me? There hasn't been anybody, anybody in the WORLD I could talk to! Sure I can function on the same level as everybody else, I can hold myself down, but it isn't me. How did all this happen? Isn't it wonderful? I don't understand it but I feel as though I were just being born!

(MEG shyly turns away.)

CALVIN: What's wrong? Sorry, was that too much?

MEG: Do you think all this stuff with you and Charles and Mrs Whatsit and the tesseract all has something to do with my father?

CALVIN: I'm not sure. But I think it must.

MEG: Do you think things always have an explanation?

CALVIN: Yes, I believe they do.

MEG: My mother says we're limited as humans in that we're not always able to understand the explanation, even if there is one. But just because we don't understand doesn't mean that the explanation doesn't exist.

CALVIN: Charles Wallace understands more than the rest of us, doesn't he?

MEG: Yes.

CALVIN: He's not like anybody else I've ever met.

MEG: And I wouldn't want him to be. I guess I have to accept Charles Wallace without understanding him. My father would...

CALVIN: What happened to him?

MEG: I don't know. What he did was. Well. It was what they call classified.

CALVIN: You haven't heard anything from him at all?

(MEG looks down/away.)

CALVIN: Do you think he could be...?

MEG: No! I mean they'd have told us. Mother's tried and tried to find out. She's been down to Washington and everything. ...All they say is that he's on a secret and dangerous mission and she can be very proud of him, but he won't be able to... To communicate with us for awhile.

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CALVIN: Meg, don't get mad, but do you think maybe they don't know?

MEG: (*Tearing up:*) That's what I'm afraid of. (*She takes her glasses off, wipes her tears.*)

CALVIN: We'll find your father, Meg. Trust me.

CALVIN: This is the first time I've seen you without your glasses.

MEG: I'm blind as a bat without them. I'm nearsighted like Father.

CALVIN: Listen, you go right on wearing your glasses. I like 'em.

(MEG puts back on her glasses. CALVIN takes her hand.)

(Just then Charles Wallace runs out of the house and MEG quickly takes her hand back from CALVIN.)

End of Scene.

<u>A WRINKLE IN TIME</u> adapted by Morgan Gould from the novel by Madeleine L'Engle

Length: 45-50 minutes. (A 35-minute version and a full-length version are also available.)

Cast Size: 7-30 actors (suggested casting: 7F, 4M, 6 any)

Genre: Drama

Synopsis: One of literature's most enduring young heroines, Meg Murry, is back—braces, stubbornness and all. Once again, she's joining forces with Mrs Whatsit, Charles Wallace, Calvin O'Keefe and more to battle the forces of evil so she can rescue her father, save humanity and find herself. In the end, we know two things for sure: 1. Love CAN overcome evil and 2. There IS such a thing as a tesseract. Perfect for schools and touring groups, this one-act adaptation of the beloved novel masterfully retells the story in a fresh and enduring way.

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