The New Margo

by

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The Characters

Delta
Margo
Danalynn
Sayre
Iris

All the characters are four days away from starting their freshman year of college.
Let’s start with what these young women are on a normal day: they’re smart and kind and funny. One of the things that bonds them is that they amuse each other, loudly and quietly. They’re ambitious for themselves and each other.

On a normal day, Delta is the person you want to greet you in a new place. She hunts for the good in you, finds it and relaxes you by enjoying you.

Margo’s not herself today, but Margo is the star. She’s the kind of person who seems to make time move differently, expand and slow down, so that her list of accomplishments seems endless: piano, soccer, fiction writer, honor roll and on and on.

Danalynn’s a jock. It shows in her walk, allows her to be physically intimidating if need be.

Sayre: alpha but effortlessly so. On a normal day she leads the group so calmly and thoughtfully that it’s impossible to resent.

Iris’s sense of humor is both ironic and dark. It’s not easy to get to know her, but you’d be glad you did.

This isn’t a normal day.
SCENE ONE

(A CLAP OF THUNDER as lights bang up on Delta, in her bedroom, mid-panic attack. She’s never had a panic attack before, which makes it much worse since she’s not exactly sure what’s happening to her. She’s trying to control her out-of-control, shallow breaths.

She doubles over, goes almost to the floor.

Delta’s got a largish bandage on her forehead.

We’re in the living room and one bedroom of a three-bedroom dormitory suite. Exits lead out to the hallway and to the other two bedrooms.

Though we’re not yet aware of it, the living room fourth wall contains a large window. The seating -- a couch and chair or two -- is arranged to allow the occupants to see out the window.

The five new occupants of the suite arrived yesterday, so while some unpacking and decorating has been accomplished, there are still boxes and packing detritus lying around. A pennant or some memorabilia shows us that at least one of these young women is a baseball fan.

The bedroom we can see belongs to Delta and a roommate who hasn’t arrived yet.

Delta struggles to calm herself as the outer door opens and Sayre enters, uses a cane to guide herself to the couch. Sayre is blind.)

SAYRE

(Yells.) Hey, anyone here? HELLO?

(Delta, still fighting her panic, doesn’t answer. Iris emerges from her bedroom.

IRIS

Hey. You beat the storm.
SAYRE
Barely. You the only one here?

IRIS
I think so.

SAYRE
No word from Margo?

IRIS
Nothing. I called her about a hundred and eighty times.

SAYRE
Me too. And I had Dani email her.

IRIS
You did?

SAYRE
Yeah.

IRIS
Let me see if she checked it.

(Iris enters Delta’s room.)

IRIS
(Startled.) Jesus!

DELTA
Sorry.

IRIS
I didn’t think you were here.

(But then she sees the state Delta’s in.)

IRIS
Are you OK?

(Delta nods.)

SAYRE
Is that Delta?
DELTA

Yeah.

SAYRE

What are you doing in there?

DELTA

Worrying.

SAYRE

Come in here.

(Delta enters the living room. Meanwhile, Iris finds the iPad and a flashlight in a desk drawer.)

DELTA

Hey.

SAYRE

Hi. One to ten. How worried are you?

Eight.

SAYRE

Let’s give her another hour.

DELTA

Why not just call her house?

SAYRE

Because. If I don’t come home one night, I don’t want any of you calling my parents.

(Another rumble of thunder makes them pause. We hear thunder occasionally throughout the scene as the storm approaches.)

DELTA

Does it seem like her not to come home?

SAYRE

College is different rules. You don’t have to come home if you don’t want to.

DELTA

Yeah but her whole personality wouldn’t just change overnight.
SAYRE
You don’t know that. New place, new person.

(Iris emerges from Delta’s bedroom holding Delta’s iPad and a flashlight.)

IRIS
She could have come home last night and left while we were still asleep.

DELTA
She didn’t. I was out here waiting for her.

IRIS
All night?

DELTA
Yeah. I wanted to apologize.

SAYRE
You didn’t sleep at all?

DELTA
No.

SAYRE
Let me feel your head.

Delta goes to her, leans over, guides Sayre’s hand to the bandage on her head. The bump is big.

SAYRE
Oh!

DELTA
Yeah.

SAYRE
You have to go to a doctor.

DELTA
It’s fine.

SAYRE
You don’t know that for sure.
IRIS
(The flashlight.) Can I borrow this if I go out later?

DELTA
It’s not mine.

IRIS
It was in your drawer.

DELTA
No it wasn’t.

IRIS
Yeah it was. Someone must’ve left it.

(Iris is typing into Delta’s iPad.)

DELTA
Is that my iPad?

IRIS
Yeah.

DELTA
How’d you know my password?

IRIS
Same way I know Margo’s email password. I watched you type it in.

DELTA
Really?

IRIS
Yeah.

DELTA
You’re scary sometimes..

IRIS
She hasn’t checked email.

(Danalynn enters, dressed for running, breathing hard.)

DANALYNN
Hi.
Hey there.

Are you all right?

Yeah, I took the stairs.

You walked up 17 flights?

I ran up 17 flights. (To Delta.) Where’s the body?

What do you mean?

You look like you’re at a funeral.

I’m worried.

No word from her?

No.

Should we call the police?

Let’s give her a little more time.

(Sharp.) Why?

I told you why. Call if you want.

But you think we should just wait.
SAYRE
Yeah. A little longer.

IRIS
We should play the murder game.

DELTA
I’m too on edge.

SAYRE
Me too.

DANALYNN
(Still warm from her run.) I have to open a window.

(She opens the window.)

DANALYNN
(Reacting to the lack of a screen, which all of them notice instantly.) Whoa!

DELTA
What happened to the screen?

DANALYNN
Must’ve fallen.

IRIS
How? Look, it was attached. Someone unscrewed it.

SAYRE
Are you sure?

IRIS
(She indicates the inside perimeter of the frame.) Yeah. Even if it had fallen, it would’ve fallen in, not out. That’s so weird...

DANALYNN
(Looking out.) There is still no one on this campus.

IRIS
No kidding.

SAYRE
I met an R.A. who was moving in on the second floor.
DANALYNN
And there’s a light on in that dorm.

(Danalynn leans out too far, looking at it.)

DELTA
Careful!

IRIS
(low-key amusement) You know someone jumped once.

No.

IRIS
Or maybe didn’t jump. As it turned out, she wasn’t getting along with her roommates.

DELTA
They think they pushed her out?

IRIS
Threw her out. But they couldn’t prove it.

(Sayre’s phone rings.)

SAYRE
Hello? HEY!!!! (To the others, who are enormously relieved:) It’s Margo. (Back to Margo.) Where have you been? We’ve been worried sick. (beat) You did what? Well how fun! I can’t wait. No, OK. I won’t tell. But why didn’t you at least call? (A long pause.) Yeah, Delta’s here. Do you want to talk to her? (Though Sayre doesn’t make a big deal of it, the answer is apparently no.) All right. Well, hurry. We’ll see you soon. (She hangs up.) She’s practically here.

IRIS
Perfect! Time for a quick murder game.

DANALYNN
Where’s she been?

SAYRE
She said not to tell you but I’m gonna just tell you. She got a makeover.

IRIS
(To Delta) What was that look?
Makeovers are creepy.

You’re still mad at her.

No, they’re creepy.

Why?

Change yourself from the outside in.

So?

So that’s not gonna work.

How do you change yourself?

You don’t.

You don’t think people change?

Not on purpose.

Murder game.

All right. What are we playing to?

First one to get two right wins. You start.

OK. “Do you really believe in the perfect murder?”
(The point is to answer as quickly as possible and all of them say or almost say it, but Sayre gets it out the fastest.)

SAYRE

*Dial M for Murder*

IRIS

(The winner:) Sayre. One point. Too easy.

DANALYNN

I thought it was so easy it would be hard. Delta?

(She thinks a moment.)

DELTA

“No! Please! Please, I’ll ... I’ll give you anything! Aaaah!”

(This is so generic that it amuses all of them.)

SAYRE

That could be in anything.

I know.

DELTA

IRIS

*Sorry, Wrong Number.* The movie, not the play.

DELTA

Still scary.

IRIS

Thank you.

Your turn.

IRIS

“In this room, there’s pain.”

(It’s hard to tell if the slight chill that settles over the room is only the fact that no one knows the answer.)
In this room, there’s pain.

Yeah. Nobody?

(Suddenly, there’s a slow, ominous banging on the outside door.)

(A little theatrical.) I think we have a guest! WHO IS IT?

You tell me.

Ladies and ladies. Please help me welcome... the new Margo Rodgers!

(After a long moment, the door opens. No one’s there. Margo slides from the side, where she was waiting.

She is, apparently, transformed from the last time they saw her. Virtually unrecognizable in a good way: stylish clothes, stylish glasses, struttin attitude and hair that’s both a different color and cut from the last time they saw her.

Danalynn and Iris exclaim over her, how fantastic she looks, as she thanks them etc.

Sayre remains seated. Delta hangs back.

What are the main differences?

Hair is brunette. And straightened. Glasses way funkier: narrow and this dark green that’s great with her coloring.

Where’d you get all that done?

This woman my mom knows. I just walked in and said transform me.

(Margo and Delta stare at each other for a long moment.)
Where’s the body?

(Sayre, Dani and Iris react, amused, which Margo doesn’t understand.)

What?

Dani said the same thing three minutes ago.

You look like somebody died. I’m taking it as disapproval.

It’s not.

So. What do you think?

Wow.

Yeah?

You look like a whole different person.

That was the point.

So different.

It seems like that means bad.

It doesn’t. Just ... wow you could walk right by me in and I wouldn’t know it was you.

Do I get a hug?

(Delta goes to Margo, hesitantly. They hug. Delta starts to have trouble breathing.)
What’s wrong?

DANALYNN

Are you OK?

IRIS

(Delta’s breathing problems increase, a repeat of what we saw at the top of the play.)

SAYRE

Give me your hand.

(She does.)

DANALYNN

Is she all right?

SAYRE

No.

DANALYNN

Should we call 911?

(Delta shakes her head.)

DELTA

I’m just ...

SAYRE

To me it seems like a panic attack. Sit down. Relax, if you can. (beat.) Has this ever happened before?

DELTA

Yes.

IRIS

When?

(Delta gets her breathing under control.)

DELTA

A long time ago.

(Margo hasn’t shown concern for Delta.)
MARGO
This answers my question. (to Delta.) If you don’t tell them I will. (beat.)
Delta’s having a panic attack because she forgot to tell you something.

SAYRE
What?

MARGO
This.

(Margo pulls up her sleeve. She has bruises on her arm.)

IRIS
Oh.

DANALYNN
What happened?

SAYRE
What is it?

DANALYNN
Bruises.

MARGO
Delta hit me.

DANALYNN
What? SAYRE
You did?

DELTA
No I didn’t.

IRIS
Out of the blue?

DELTA
Margo, what are you talking about?

SAYRE
Where did she hit you?

MARGO
The arm and the shoulder.

DELTA
That’s ridiculous!
Hit you with her fists.

SAYRE

No. With the flashlight.

MARGO

We didn’t even have a flashlight.

DELTA

(Iris has set the flashlight down somewhere.)

IRIS

That one?

MARGO

Yeah.

DELTA

I’d never seen that until ten minutes ago.

IRIS

It was in your drawer.

DANALYNN

She hit you with that?

MARGO

Yes.

DELTA

No!

SAYRE

Margo, come here. Give me your arm.

(She feels the bruises.)

SAYRE

Any others?

MARGO

No.

DELTA

I didn’t make those.
SAYRE
You’re saying you didn’t hit her at all.

DELTA
I didn’t touch her!

SAYRE
When was this?

MARGO
Last night after we left. I couldn’t get her to calm down.

DELTA
Why are you saying this?!

MARGO
I saw a bench near the river. I thought we could sit for a bit, settle down, but when I turned she just -- bam! Again and again and again--

DELTA
That’s crazy!

MARGO
Cause you’ve never hit me before.

DELTA
We were fourteen.

MARGO
You say that like it was ten years ago. (re: Delta’s bandage.) Looks like I got in one good one.

DELTA
I fell off my bike.

MARGO
Really.

DELTA
Yes really.

MARGO
Is your bike damaged?

DELTA
Yes.
But you’re not scraped.

(Delta rolls up her sleeves to reveal scrapes.)

That’s it?

Thanks to my clothes.

Those are some good clothes. Can I see ‘em?

No.

Still in perfect condition.

Of course not.

But so damaged you had to throw them away.

Yes.

Wow. How did I know that?

Because it makes sense.

Which makes more sense? You hit me with a flashlight and I bang your head? Or I make up that you gave me these marks, and you injure yourself while riding a bike in a suit of armor which is so badly dented that you have to throw it away.

You think it’s crazy that I’d throw away a ripped pair of jeans and a top.

Just not what I’d do.
DELTA
What would you do?

MARGO
I’d maybe try to see if there was any way to salvage them.

DELTA
I probably would too.

MARGO
But you didn’t. And I bet you took out the trash right away.

DELTA
I bet I didn’t.

(Delta marches into her room, picks up a trash bag, brings it back into the living room, sets it in front of Margo.)

Margo reaches down and pulls clothes from the trash bag. The top is muddy and ripped. The pants, also muddy, have a hole in one knee.

MARGO

IRIS
You think she did this to her clothes.

MARGO
I know she did this to her clothes.

DELTA
And I know you had someone hit you.

MARGO
Who?

DELTA
How should I know. You were gone for a day.

MARGO
During which I got a makeover and faked a beating.
Yes!

That’s bizarre.

You were furious.

So mad that I’d make up an assault.

I wish I had hit you.

You got your wish!

It wouldn’t have been on the arm, and I wouldn’t have needed a flashlight!

(Delta has probably gotten a little too close. It’s plausible that she might be about to hit Margo.

Everyone including Delta realizes this.)

Delta!

Margo, Delta go to your rooms.

No.

Delta.

No.

We’re all going to figure this out in the morning.

Or what?
SAYRE
Or I call the police. Domestic disturbance. You have thirty seconds.

MARGO
See you in the morning.

(They start to disperse. Delta can’t find her iPad.)

DELTA
Who’s got my iPad? Did somebody pick it up?

DANALYNN
Are you sure you had it?

DELTA
Yes.

IRIS
I set it over there.

DELTA
I don’t see it.

IRIS
It couldn’t have gone anywhere.

DELTA
It’s not here.

SAYRE
We’ll find it in the morning.

DELTA
(a little too intense) No. Who’s got it?

SAYRE
Delta.

DELTA
I’m serious. Somebody took it!

(A long moment. Delta’s definitely the outsider now.)

IRIS
We’ll find it. (beat.) We will.
(Margo and Danalynn head to their rooms. Iris follows Delta to her room, leaving Sayre on the couch.)

DANALYNN

Sayre, are you coming?

SAYRE

In a minute. I need to think.

(Margo and Danalynn exit. In Delta’s room:)

IRIS

Are you all right?

DELTA

Yeah.

IRIS

No, actually, the correct answer is no.

DELTA

I’m fine.

IRIS

You almost hit her because she said you hit her.

DELTA

Do you believe her? (beat) Do you think I hit her?

IRIS

No.

DELTA

Thank you.

IRIS

But I’m not sure why; it’s just a gut thing. You’re losing.

DELTA

Losing what?

IRIS

Whatever game she’s playing.

DELTA

Why would she say I hit her?
IRIS
That’s why you’re losing. She has no motive. *Does* she?

DELTA
No.

IRIS
Are you sure?

DELTA
Yes.

IRIS
What were you fighting about the other night?

DELTA
Oh it was so stupid. I wanted her to stop moping.

IRIS
Moping about what?

DELTA
She comes here instead of Dartmouth so she can be with us, and then when she gets here and is so obviously miserable. The campus is too small. The departments aren’t interdisciplinary.

IRIS
You can’t tell someone not to be sad.

DELTA
No, but you can ask them to *pretend* not to be, which is what I wanted. Maybe this isn’t the right place for you, but don’t drag down this experience for all of us. (beat.) Where was that flashlight?

IRIS
In there. What about that bench she talked about?

DELTA
Complete fiction. We went the other way, past the student union.

IRIS
Towards that Holiday Inn up on 55.

DELTA
Yeah.
IRIS
Did anyone see you?

DELTA
There’s no one on the whole campus.

(After a moment.)

IRIS
I lied.

DELTA
About what?

IRIS
I believe you. But it’s not a gut thing. I just wanted to sound like that kind of person. I believe you cause I saw you.

DELTA
When?

IRIS
After you left. I was jogging up on 55 and I got caught in the rain. I stood under the eaves of that Holiday Inn and when I looked in, you two had done the same. You were sitting there shaking the rain out of your hair. Or not. It was dark. I couldn’t tell for sure it was you.

DELTA
It was us.

IRIS
So the fight was over.

DELTA
Yeah.

IRIS
Why is she still mad at you?

DELTA
I have no idea.

IRIS
She’s not just mad at you. She hates you.

DELTA
Enough to hurt me.
IRIS
Enough to hurt herself. (She starts to go.) When’s Brianna supposed to get here?

DELTA
Brianne. Tuesday afternoon.

IRIS
That’ll be good.

DELTA
Yeah.

IRIS
It’s good to have a roommate. It keeps you from thinking too much. Goodnight.

DELTA
Goodnight.

(We realize, maybe for the first time, that Delta is the one of the five who isn’t rooming with a friend.

Iris leaves the door open, which allows Delta to hear this exchange as Dani crosses the room.)

SAYRE
Iris.

IRIS
Yeah.

SAYRE
“There’s pain in this room.”

IRIS
True.

SAYRE
What’s it from?

IRIS
It’s easy.

SAYRE
Tell me.
IRIS

_Deathtrap._

(Blackout)

SCENE TWO

(In the darkness, we hear female crying. First one person, then more than one. It’s indistinct, as if they were trying to stay quiet.

Delta, in her bedroom, turns on a light.

She hears the crying.

She goes into the common room, crosses and listens for a long moment.)

DELTA

Hello?

(The crying stops.)

DELTA

Is everything OK?

(Nothing. She starts back towards her room as Margo emerges from her room.)

MARGO

What are you doing?

DELTA

I heard crying.

MARGO

I didn’t.

DELTA

I wanted to apologize to you.

MARGO

For...

DELTA

For whatever happened. Whatever part of it was my fault.
Yeah that’s a crappy apology.

(They look at each other for a long moment, then Delta softens.)

How did we get here? I’ve been in my room thinking and ... remembering everything we’ve been through together for eight years. I tried to think of the best memory of us in the last year and it was ... The one I settled on was my 19th birthday, the five of us in my mom’s living room watching Barbara Stanwyck in *The Killing Mound*. You remember?

Of course.

And you kept falling asleep and insisting you weren’t. And Sayre would quiz you about the plot and you’d make stuff up and then fall back asleep. Do you remember the last plot point you made up?

I don’t.

That Barbara Stanwyck wasn’t even in *The Killing Mound*.

(Margo shrugs, doesn’t understand.)

Cause actually, *The Killing Mound* isn’t even a real movie.

We’re all worried about you cause you hit your head.

And we couldn’t have watched it for my nineteenth birthday, cause I’m only eighteen.

Delta, you’re not making a lot of sense.

(Delta approaches Margo, takes off her glasses.)

I need those.
You’re not Margo.

What are you talking about?

Sayre! Danalynn! Iris!

(Danalynn and Sayre and Iris come out of their rooms.)

What’s going on?

This isn’t Margo.

What?

Yes it is.

Who else would it be?

I don’t know. (To Margo.) Who are you?

Is this a joke?

Who are you?

That’s Margo.

No it isn’t.

It’s the hair.

No, it’s not the hair. It’s not the girl!
IRIS
(to Delta) Are you being serious?

DELTA
What are you not seeing? This isn’t Margo!

SAYRE
Delta.

DELTA
What?

SAYRE
Calm down.

DELTA
Calm down? This is some freaky imposter.

SAYRE
Her voice is the same.

DELTA
Her voice is similar.

SAYRE
No, it’s pretty exact.

DELTA
Say something.

MARGO
You think these guys saw us leave in the middle of a fight. But that’s not what they saw. They saw me trying to get out of a stupid argument and you not letting it go. They saw you getting madder and louder and crazier --

DELTA
--shut up --

MARGO
-- Sayre needs to hear my voice-- while I tried to change the subject and finally I left and you followed me.

DELTA
Who are you?

MARGO
Did you get a full night’s sleep?
DELTA
What’s my phone number?
MARGO
413-433-2121.
DELTA
What was Mickey Mantle’s jersey number?
MARGO
You’re quizzing me.
DELTA
Yes. What was his number?
MARGO
We should call her parents.
DELTA
What was Mickey Mantle’s number?
MARGO
No. I won’t do it.
DANALYNN
Margo, just say the number.
MARGO
Jesus, Dani.
(Danalynn seems to realize something.)
DANALYNN
What’s the plot of Night Watch?
MARGO
Seriously?
DANALYNN
Just the basic idea.
MARGO
No. Not gonna happen.
SAYRE
Margo, come here.
Margo puts Sayre’s hand to her face. Sayre feels Margo’s face carefully, considering.)

SAYRE

This is Margo.

DELTA

You’re a hundred percent sure?

SAYRE

No, of course not. The other night, when you hit your head, did you black out?

DELTA

No.

SAYRE

Even for one tiny--

DELTA

No.

SAYRE

You remember the entire incident perfectly.

DELTA

I do.

MARGO

(To Delta) Can I talk to you alone?

DELTA

No.

MARGO

You have absolutely no doubt that I’m not me.

DELTA

None. (To Dani) Look at her.

MARGO

Can we please go discuss this like adults?

DELTA

We’re not adults. What happens in Night Watch?
MARGO
Just come sit with me.

DELTA
No.

MARGO
Please.

DELTA
No! Tell me the story. Just tell me what happens in *Night Watch*.

MARGO
Seriously.

DELTA
Yes. What’s the plot?!

(This stops the room. It was a little too intense, a little too much.)

MARGO
Poor weak Elaine Wheeler. Ever since that tragic accident, she’s been so fragile. Now she’s hallucinating, seeing horribly murdered people in the apartment across the way. The police can’t find anything, and even her husband and best friend don’t believe her. And the more she screams that she’s right, the crazier she sounds.

(This hits Delta like a punch.)

MARGO
This way please.

(Sargo goes into Delta’s room. Delta follows. Margo closes the door, leaving Danalynn, Iris and Sayre in the common room.)

SAYRE
(re: leaving Margo and Delta alone.) Is this a good idea?

IRIS
Probably not.

DANALYNN
No.
(Danalynn moves close to the door, trying to hear through it.)

DELTA

Who are you?

MARGO

My name is Margo. I’m a friend of yours.

DELTA

You’re not my friend.

MARGO

Cause of our fight?

DELTA

You don’t even know what our fight was about.

MARGO

You were mad I wasn’t your roommate.

DELTA

Wrong.

MARGO

That wasn’t the topic. But it was the reason.

DELTA

Did you do something to her?

MARGO

Everything’ll be so much easier if you just tell the truth.

(Margo has moved a little close to Delta.)

DELTA

Stay away from me.

MARGO

I might have to call a doctor. You’re paranoid, not making sense, to where I’m getting really worried.

(Delta’s reaction to this statement is physical -- she probably has goosebumps -- because she’s figured something out.)
DELTA
Oh my god. You’re Lucy. Lucy says “to where.” It makes you sound stupid and you are stupid. We make fun of you because you do Word Search puzzles.

(This was loud enough that Danalynn hears it.)

Hey I’m coming in.

DANALYNN

(Danalynn enters.)

Is everything OK?

DANALYNN

No. This is Lucy.

DELTA

Lucy Margo’s cousin?

DANALYNN

Yes!

(Danalynn looks at Margo for a long moment.)

MARGO

What?

DANALYNN

What’s your favorite movie?

MARGO

I’m not going to prove I’m me.

DANALYNN

What’s your favorite movie?

MARGO

I have a lot of favorites.

DELTA

False. You have one clear favorite movie.
DANALYNN

She’s right. You do. Go like this.

(Danalynn pulls down her eye, exposing the lower white part.

After a moment, Margo pulls down her eye. Danalynn stares for a moment.)

DANALYNN

Margo has a little black spot right there. You’re not her. Where’s Margo, really?

I told you!

DELTA

MARGO

You’re both crazy.

DANALYNN

If you did something to her, I’m gonna hurt you bad.

MARGO

I have a sad little secret for both of you. Take a long look at me. Squint, so you can see me like you did an hour ago. Pretend you’re looking at Margo, cause that’s the closest you’re ever gonna get again. Cause Margo ain’t here anymore.

(Danalynn hits Margo hard in the face, knocking her back.

As Margo recovers, she’s bleeding from the mouth. )

DANALYNN

Watch her.

DELTA

Oh yeah.

(Sayre and Iris have heard the commotion.

Danalynn passes through the room.)

SAYRE

What’s going on?

DANALYNN

I’ll be right back.
(And she exits to the bathroom. Delta enters the common room, followed by Margo.)

IRIS
What’s happening?

DELTA
What’s happening is, we figured out that this isn’t Margo. It’s Lucy.

SAYRE
Why is Lucy here?

DELTA
I don’t know. But they look alike. You can’t even tell their baby pictures apart. Change the hair, change the glasses ... Even their voices are the same.

MARGO
That’s ridiculous.

DELTA
Let me see your ID.

MARGO
It’s in the car.

DELTA
Get it.

MARGO
Are you drunk?

(Danalynn enters with a wet washcloth that she gives to Margo to hold to her mouth.)

DELTA
(To Danalynn) Tell Sayre about the eye.

DANALYNN
The what?

DELTA
The little black spot Margo has in her eye.

MARGO
I don’t have a spot.
Tell her.

Tell her what?

Why you punched Margo.

**DANALYNN**

Who did?

**MARGO**

Whoa! Slow down.

Wait. Dani what happened?

**MARGO**

Dani didn’t hit me.

You’re bleeding.

**MARGO**

(to Delta) Yeah. I’m bleeding. Cause you hit me.

No. Danalynn hit you.

**DANALYNN**

Delta, what are you talking about?

(It probably takes a moment for Delta to realize that Danalynn and Margo are working together.)

**DELTA**

What are you doing?

**DANALYNN**

You’re just ... pretending it didn’t happen?

**DELTA**

I was here, and they pretended that Danalynn had discovered that Margo was fake and so they fought.
I’m lost.

Me too.

You’re saying that Danalynn and Margo ... that Danalynn knows this isn’t really Margo.

Yes.

Danalynn what happened?

She flipped out.

Why? What made Delta flip out?

We agreed that Margo would answer ten questions, and that if Margo could answer them, Delta would just drop the whole subject--

That’s not what happened--

When Margo had answered a couple of questions, it seemed like Delta was gonna crawl out of her skin--

No, they set me up--

Stop! Danalynn, give me your hand and swear you’re telling the truth.

(They clasp hands.)

Of course I’m telling the truth.

I can tell when Delta is lying. She’s not lying.
Meaning we are?

SAYRE
She came to me and said that you’d hit Margo, knowing that I’d be able to ask you thirty seconds later.

DANALYNN
She told us something and then wished she hadn’t.

That’s not true!

DELTA
You’ll get a chance.

DANALYNN
And I said I couldn’t keep it secret.

What was it.

SAYRE
She asked me not to tell.

DANALYNN
You have to.

MARGO
What are you talking about?

DELTA
What did she ask you not to tell?

SAYRE
Delta said she wanted to kill herself.

DANALYNN
(The loudest possible thunderclap takes us to darkness.
More sounds of rain take us to:)

SCENE THREE
(In the darkness--
SAYRE
(Frightened.) Hello? HELLO? WHO’S THERE? HELLO?!

(Delta, in bed, turns on her light.)

She hustles to the living room, turns on a light, finds Sayre on the couch.)

DELTA

Hey! It’s me.

SAYRE

(Relieved.) Hi.

DELTA

You all right?

SAYRE

Yeah. I just -- I got scared.

DELTA

What are you doing out here?

SAYRE

I couldn’t sleep and my book was here. Are the lights on?

DELTA

I turned one on.

SAYRE

There was someone in here.

DELTA

Just now?

SAYRE

Yeah.

DELTA

Are you sure?

SAYRE

Oh yeah. Are you sure we’re alone?

DELTA

Positive.
SAYRE
Someone was in here, so I said “hi.” But nobody answered. After a minute, I said “I know someone’s here. Who is it?” But they wouldn’t answer. (beat) She wouldn’t answer.

DELTA
Where was she?

SAYRE
Back there. Really, really quiet but -- I’m not imagining this -- she kept getting closer.

Oh.

SAYRE
Every minute or so a little closer. (Right behind the couch) She was right there when I yelled.

DELTA
You should have yelled sooner.

(A moment while they realize how quiet it is.)

SAYRE
Why are you the only one who heard me?

I don’t know.

SAYRE
Delta ... you know you can trust me, right?

Of course.

SAYRE
You can tell me anything.

I don’t have anything to tell you.

SAYRE
I wouldn’t judge you, I wouldn’t--

DELTA
I didn’t hit Margo, I have no intention of killing myself. (beat.) I figured out how Lucy --
SAYRE
You’ve got to let that go.

DELTA
No, listen, I figured it out. It was Dani’s question. She’s the one who asked about Night Watch.

SAYRE
I don’t know who to believe.

(And this might anger Delta a bit.)

DELTA
Believe me. Seven years. Six grades. Two hundred and eight thousand talks about what we want to do with our lives. If you think I hit her or I’m crazy then you don’t deserve to know me. Goodnight.

SAYRE
Wait. Let me have your hand.

(Sayre runs her hand over Delta’s knuckles.)

SAYRE
Dani had scrapes on her knuckles. You don’t. She’s the one who punched Margo.

Yes.

DELTA

SAYRE
Maybe that is Lucy’s voice.

DELTA
It is.

SAYRE
But if Lucy’s pretending to be Margo... where’s Margo?

(A long moment.)

DELTA
Margo’s dead.

SAYRE
What?

DELTA
Lucy practically admitted it where we were in there.
They’re silent for a long moment as emotions wash over them.

DELTA

You OK?

SAYRE

No. You?

DELTA

No.

SAYRE

Why would they kill her?

DELTA

I have no idea.

SAYRE

They’re trying to pin it on you.

DELTA

I know.

SAYRE

It won’t be hard. Everyone saw you yelling at her. Then you’re gone for three hours. And you come back with a giant bruise.

(Sayre gets up.)

SAYRE

I’m gonna go downstairs. Have that R.A. call security or the police or both.

DELTA

I’ll go with you.

SAYRE

No.

DELTA

Of course I will.

SAYRE

No chance. You’re not yourself. Everyone who talks to you right now thinks you’re guilty.
DELTA

I’m fine.

SAYRE

You don’t sound fine. I need you to stay here, make sure Iris is OK, make sure whoever that is in there doesn’t go anywhere.

DELTA

OK.

SAYRE

I’ll be right back. You’ve got your cell.

DELTA

Yeah.

SAYRE

Don’t let it out of your hands. If something’s wrong you call me, if something’s really wrong you hit 911.

DELTA

OK.

(Sayre goes to the front door.)

SAYRE

Hey.

DELTA

Yeah?

SAYRE

We’ll get through this.

DELTA

I know.

(They hug. Sayre leaves.

Delta turns and sees something behind the couch.

We can’t see it but it scares her. She goes to it. Picks it up.

It’s the window screen.)
She moves to the window, making sure it’s the right screen. It is.

This scares her enough that she dials the phone. But her phone’s not working. She dials again, getting frantic.

Danalynn is behind her.)

Your phone’s dead.

(Delta tries to move to the front door but Danalynn blocks her.)

Where are you going?

DANALYNN

Out.

DANALYNN

It’s three in the morning.

DELTA

Get out of my way.

(But she doesn’t.)

DELTA

GET OUT OF MY WAY!

(Margo enters, holding Delta’s iPad.)

Look what I found.

MARGO

Give me that.

DELTA

I can’t do that.

MARGO

Hand it over, Lucy.
MARGO

Who?

DELTA

IRIS! IRISSS! Sayre’s downstairs getting help.

Really?

DELTA

Yes really.

(She makes another attempt to push past them but they push her back.)

MARGO

We can’t let you leave in your frame of mind. We found this on your iPad.

(She shows Delta the iPad without letting her touch it. What’s written on it scares her.)

DELTA

I didn’t write that.

DANALYNN

The time stamp is from two hours ago.

DELTA

No one’s gonna believe it.

DANALYNN

It’s on your device. It’s password protected.

DELTA

IRISSS!

(Iris enters, confused, wary.)

IRIS

What’s going on?

DANALYNN

Iris, thank god.
IRIS

What?

DANALYNN

Delta’s acting so strange we weren’t sure what to do.

DELTA

That’s not true.

MARGO

This was on the table.

(She hands Iris the iPad.)

IRIS

(reads) “I’m so sorry for what I did. Please tell Margo’s family to forgive me. Mom and Dad, I love you very much, but I just couldn’t go on. “ What did you do?

Nothing!

“ I couldn’t go on”?

DELTA

I didn’t write that. Danalynn did!

IRIS

No, she didn’t.

DELTA

I swear she did.

IRIS

She didn’t write it. I wrote it.

DELTA

What?

IRIS

I told you I saw you and Margo in that hotel.

Yes!
IRIS
But there is no hotel. I offered you an alibi and you took it.

(Iris opens the giant window.)

IRIS
And your fingerprints are on the window screen.

(And now all three of them have her, start to grapple her toward the open window.)

DELTA
HELP! Stop it! Please! STOOP! I’ll tell you what you want.

(They stop for just a moment. Delta goes slack. Iris relaxes just enough that --

Bam! She clocks Iris, sending her reeling.

Danalynn attends to Iris.

Delta darts back, grabs the flashlight as a weapon.)

DELTA
Stay away from me!

(She turns to the door, just as Sayre enters)

SAYRE
What’s going on?

DELTA
Sayre!

SAYRE
Are you all right?

DELTA
No! Iris is in on it.

SAYRE
In on what?

DELTA
On whatever they did to Margo. Did you get the police?
They’re on the way.

They were gonna throw me out the window.

No.

Yes.

Oh my god! Come here.

(She puts out her arms and Delta goes to her.)

(To the others.) What did you do to her?

We didn’t do anything.

Why is the window open?

Delta opened it.

Why?

I was afraid she was gonna jump.

Iris, how did you get involved this?

I’m not involved cause there is no this.

(To Delta.) You’re shaking.

(She walks Delta to the couch, gets her seated.)
I told the police everything.

The police.

Yes.

What do the police have to do with this?

I told them Margo was dead and we had an imposter here, and they didn’t believe me at first but I made them. (To Delta.) Why didn’t you call me?

They did something to my phone.

Dropped it in water probably.

(There might be something about the tone of that that unsettles Delta.)

Maybe.

That was my idea. WHERE’S THE BODY?

What?!

(Now it’s four against one. Delta really has no chance, as the four of them drag her towards the window.)

Did you trick her into the woods?

No!

Did you get her to look away somehow?
IRIS
What did you hit her with?

DELTA
Sayre please.

SAYRE
We’re pinning a murder on you. But it’s a murder you committed!

DELTA
Stop!

SAYRE
Out you go!

(Delta’s right up against the window opening.)

DELTA
The body’s in the river!

(This freezes everyone.

They let her go. She crumples to the floor.

DELTA
At that fork in the river below the dining hall. I put rocks in her clothes, tied up the sleeves so she’d sink, and I pushed her into her into the river. It just -- I have no idea how it happened. We were on a bridge. And we were still fighting and she hit me first I swear, and I hit her. And we were both -- we both fell down. My hand landed on this big rock. And I just -- I hit her and I hit her and I hit her. I’m so sorry.

SAYRE
You came home that night, said you’d hit your head and I just knew. I knew the moment we couldn’t reach her. We brought in Lucy to test you. Anyone could tell that Lucy wasn’t Margo. All you had to do was say ....”why are you guys joking around,” but you went along with it.

DELTA
It was over so fast.

DANALYNN
Close the window.
IRIS
(into a phone) Yes, I need the police.

DANALYNN
(to Margo/Lucy) Close the window.

(Iris toward the exit as she gives directions.)

IRIS
We’re on the seventeenth floor of the Baxter building on Coe College.

DELTA
Can I ask you something?

SAYRE
Yes.

DELTA
Would you --would you mind holding my hand?

(After a moment, Sayre goes to her, reaches out her hand and Delta reaches up to clasp it.

DELTA
Thank you. And I don’t blame you. (re: the window) I know you wouldn’t have gone through with it.

SAYRE
People change.

(Blackout)