By Candlelight follows a group of teens in NYC and MN in the days following 9/11. Interwoven in their stories is a tale of a friendship between a young Jewish girl (Lanie) and a Catholic girl (Dorrie) which finds it’s ending in the terror attacks.

In this scene Lanie has just come home from sleepaway camp and visits with Dorrie. They are 13-14. It is August, 1963. They have gifts for each other.

LANIE
You look older, Dorrie. Do you think I do?

DORRIE
Your new haircut’s neat.

LANIE
No more ponytails! Well – open it! You’re going to love it. We danced to it all summer.

DORRIE
This is so perfect – a real rock ‘n roll album. Lesley Gore! Thank you! I adore her! Every time I play it, I’ll think of you. Your turn. Open!

LANIE
It’s – interesting –

DORRIE
It’s an album of Shakespeare’s music. They used it in the production at Williamstown. I have one also. The play was Happy Birthday, Shakespeare and it had scenes from Romeo and Juliet and As You Like It –

LANIE
It’s just so “you,” Dorrie. Thanks. It’s perfect.

DORRIE
It’s so quiet today. Where is everyone?

LANIE
They’re all next door at some end-of-season barbecue. I sort of planned this. I need to tell you things. Show you things.

DORRIE
Okay.

(LANIE brings out a picture.)
LANIE
This is my family – or some of it. My father’s family. Some distant cousin from Hungary sent this to my Dad after the war. There are no pictures of my mother’s family.

DORRIE
So you do have tons of family – like I do.

LANIE
No, I don’t. No grandmother or grandfather. No aunts, no uncles. My parents are all that’s left of their families.

DORRIE
What happened?

LANIE
World War II. You read The Diary, right?

DORRIE
Omigosh. OMIGOSH! Hitler?

(For Lanie, saying “Hitler” is a desecration of her home.)

LANIE
Dorrie! I told you the “H” word was never, ever to be said in this house.

DORRIE
I’m sorry, Lanie. I thought the “H” words was … hell.

LANIE
Hell? No – I can say “hell.” Don’t Catholics believe in hell? How can you believe in something that no one will say?

DORRIE
I don’t know. Maybe I’m not a good Catholic.

LANIE
Well, I’m a good Jewish girl. You need to know that. You know how you’re going to be an actress when you grow up? Well, I know I’m going to marry a Jewish boy and have lots of Jewish children. To make up for all my relatives that can never have families.

DORRIE
Geez.
LANIE
I wanted you to read The Diary – because my mother was in one of those places – you know – the camps. And my father. And because – my parents say it isn’t enough to know that six million Jewish people were killed. My father says each one had a name. A family. A dream. Those dreams were murdered, too.

DORRIE
Lanie? How did your parents survive?

LANIE
That we don’t talk about. We talk about how they met and came to America. You know – mainly happy things. But sometimes, when my father talks about the past – he says that that stuff can happen here.

DORRIE
In America? I don’t think so, Lanie. Things like that don’t happen here. We are “the land of the free and the brave.”