

Just in Case Texts

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CAST:

Ellie (13) female: a bit of an obsessive worrier

Joy (13) female; Ellie's best friend, as curious as a cat

PLACE: Outside, a bench, a park, a garden

TIME: Today

AT RISE ELLIE and JOY are sitting together. JOY has ELLIE'S phone.

JOY

Where does he say that?

ELLIE

"All gussied up!" He actually sent me a text asking me why I am "all gussied up."

JOY

What's that mean?

ELLIE

I think it means "all dressed up." It's kind of an olden-days saying.

JOY

But you're not.

ELLIE

I did my hair!

JOY

And it's looking good! So why'd you give Jay your phone number? Do you like him?

ELLIE

No! He just – asked and I couldn't think what else to do.

JOY

My Mom says I can never give my phone number to a boy. They ask for naked pictures!

ELLIE

Euuuuh! Who would send naked pictures?

JOY

Naked people? (Beat.) You sure have a lot of draft messages. Did you forget to send them ?

(ELLIE grabs her phone back.)

ELLIE

No! They're – "just in case" drafts.

JOY

What's that mean?

ELLIE

You know – in case stuff happens. I have one for my Mom, my Dad – even for my bratty brother Robert – and don't tell Robert because he thinks I hate him and I want it to stay that way. I even have one for you.

JOY

What's it say?

ELLIE

They all say the same thing. "I love you."

JOY

Are you saving them for Valentine's Day?

ELLIE

No! I *told* you. They're "just in case."

JOY

Case what?

ELLIE

In case – I got killed. (Beat.) In school.

JOY

You should delete the one to me. If you get killed in school, that means I will, too.

ELLIE

Maybe you'll be absent or something. I'm keeping them.

JOY

Good thinking.

ELLIE

I know.

END OF PLAY