

FREAKS ON ICE

Written by
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Based on a true story



"FREAKS ON ICE"

FADE IN:

ON A QUOTE: "If all politicians were like Pierre Trudeau there would be world peace." John Lennon

EXT. SKY

A SNOWFLAKE flutters downward.

TEENAGE GIRL (V.O.)

If heaven really is your happiest earthly days lived over and over, then I'll be spending eternity in a 1978 Canadian winter.

The snowflake falls towards a MAP of Canada.

TEENAGE GIRL (V.O.)

Back then I was popular and talented, and Pierre Trudeau was Prime Minister.

The snowflake trembles down to ONTARIO.

TEENAGE GIRL (V.O.)

Of course, instead of 1978 I guess there's a chance I could end up in hell too...

The snowflake pierces cloud, falls towards a FOREST.

TEENAGE GIRL (V.O.)

... or as I like to call it, 1979.

The snowflake settles to the ground, immediately to be CRUSHED by a BOOT.

EXT. REMOTE WOODS - 1979 - CONTINUOUS

BOOTS, LEGS, HANDS tear through unfamiliar forest. Branches whip. Stumps trip. Deep snow swallows. The sound of ANXIOUS BREATHING accompanies.

DOLLY BLOODHAUR (14) tall, gawky, terrified hurries through the forest, then suddenly STOPS.

We see why. A DESOLATE CABIN sits in a clearing.

After a moment of internal debate Dolly approaches the cabin.

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

P.O.V. of a HUGE HUMAN CURIOSITY who looks out, through heavy plastic covering the windows, at Dolly who approaches.

EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Dolly KNOCKS hesitantly on the front door.

DOLLY

Hello?

No response.

Dolly looks around. Everything is scary: a wood pile, an AXE in a stump, a DEER SKULL wears a snowy hat.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

P.O.V. the Huge Human Curiosity reaches out its gnarled hand to pull back heavy plastic covering the front door.

EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Behind Dolly, CLICK! A bolt unlocks. Dolly freezes.

The front door CREEEAKS open. Dolly turns, looks up, WAY UP.

Dolly's eyes grow big with fear.

She SCREEEEEEAMS! and FAINTS.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPER: One year earlier. December, 1978.

FADE IN:

INT. SUBURBAN SKATING ARENA - NIGHT

ON THE ICE

DOLLY (13) now petite and cute, SKATES in a spotlight in her Figure Skating Club's annual Ice Carnival.

This year's "Carnival" (a community-theatre version of the Ice Capades) is "Fiddler on the Roof". Dolly skates and lip syncs, as TZEITEL, to pre-recorded music.

DOLLY AS TZEITEL
 Hodel, oh Hodel have I got a man
 for you. He's handsome, he's smart,
 alright he's sixty-two..."

Dolly lands a double lutz. The CROWD applauds.

LISA LADNER (14) queen bee of the club, sways with TEVYE'S
 OTHER DAUGHTERS and SEETHES as Dolly solos.

Dolly's final SPIN. She nails it. The crowd CHEERS.

Dolly beams.

Lisa HARUMPHS.

Dolly joins the other daughters and they skate in unison.

Lisa is dramatic, overacting the light faire.

SUSAN W. (14) muscles the choreography.

SUSAN P. (13) unsure, copies other skaters.

The LITTLEST DAUGHTER (6) tries to stay out of Lisa's way.

They skate to the music's final "Ba-da-dum" and FREEZE in
 their final position. The crowd CHEERS!

Dolly and "The Susans" BOW but the littlest daughter WOBBLER,
 grabs Lisa and PULLS her down! Lisa PLOPS to the ice, LIVID!

CUT TO:

INT. SKATING ARENA - SNACK BAR - LATER

Lisa STORMS through the after-party followed by her Mother,
 HELEN LADNER, Skating Club President.

LISA
 I told you I couldn't skate in a
 group again. I'm too used to
 soloing!

HELEN LADNER
 There weren't any female solos this
 year --

LISA
 Dolly got one!

HELEN LADNER

Dolly got a "comic step out". You don't want that. Take a breath Lisa Jane, this year had to be Jason's. We'd never had a male lead.

ANGLE ON: JASON (14) effeminate, speaks to a LOCAL REPORTER.

JASON

I loved playing Tevye, we're so alike. He wants to be rich and so do I. Biddy biddy bump!

Lisa and Helen Ladner stop for a whispered exchange.

HELEN LADNER

Next year Mummy promises you'll solo.

LISA

You know what I want, Mother.

They SHOVE past a GROUP where Dolly signs an autograph for an excited KID AND PARENT. Dolly's tiny mother, FRAN, looks on, beaming.

KID

(reading autograph) See you in class, Dolly Bloodhaur.

DOLLY

I didn't know what else to put.

PARENT

How about "See you in the Ice Capades"?!

Dolly's smile widens - she can't hide her hope. Neither can her mother, Fran.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

A big boat of a CAR drives through a snow storm.

FRAN (O.S.)

I can't believe you both missed Dolly's solo. She was fabulous!

INT. CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Dolly's dad, BILL, drives. He's a giant man whose bent head touches the roof. Fran, in the passenger seat, glares at him.

BILL

I didn't want to miss it, Fran. I was looking for a place where I wouldn't be in the way.

Dolly's brother, ROBBIE (15) petite and angry, chimes in from the back seat where he sits with Dolly.

ROBBIE

I have no excuse Mother, other than I just did not care.

FRAN

Well you will, Robert. You'll both care next year when Dolly has the lead. The Board is talking about doing Cinderella. You'll both be bragging then.

ROBBIE

Oh yeah, I'll tell all my friend.

BILL

I'm sorry I missed it, Doll.

DOLLY

It doesn't matter. Tonight was perfect just the way it was. I felt so... (can't find the right word) I just want to skate forever.

ROBBIE

And I want to puke forever.

JOLT! The car hits ice and SWERVES suddenly. Bill concentrates hard.

BILL

Got some black ice here, Rob. You're in charge. What do I do?

Robbie glances at Bill scornfully. The car begins to SPIN.

FRAN

(panicked) Robbie!

ROBBIE

Steering. You steer.

BILL

Where?

Robbie doesn't answer. The car SPINS.

FRAN

Answer your father, Robert!

ROBBIE

In the direction you want to go!

Bill does but the car still SLIDES towards the ditch.

BILL

And am I braking?

No answer.

FRAN

Please, Robbie!

ROBBIE

No!

BILL

Well, what am I doing?

The car JUMPS the shoulder.

FRAN

Oh god!

ROBBIE

Pumping! You're pumping the GODDAMN BRAKES!

Bill does. The car rights itself. Bill drives, calmly. Silence.

FRAN

(to Robbie) Your father is just trying to help you learn, hun.

ROBBIE

Why? I'm never going to drive! How can I drive if I can't reach the goddamn pedals?!

Silence. Dolly looks at Robbie's feet, dangling pathetically over the edge of the seat.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

He just likes to rub it in.

Dolly ignores Robbie, and looks out the window dreamily.

INT. DOLLY'S HOUSE - LATER

In the foyer the family STOMPS snow from their boots and takes off an absurd amount of winter clothing: mitts, hats, coats, ear-muffs, boots, vests, etc.

FRAN

Robbie, do your mitts belong on the floor?

ROBBIE

Yes.

Bill hangs up his coat, VERY relieved.

BILL

Good to be home.

Fran, with a look, cues Dolly to talk to her Dad.

DOLLY

Thanks for going out tonight, Dad.

BILL

Sure. Once a year, whether I need it or not, eh?

Bill hugs Dolly and immediately notices something is DIFFERENT about her. Robbie sees the look on Bill's face.

Robbie sizes up Dolly.

ROBBIE

What? Has she grown?

Bill realizes, that's it! A tense moment.

DOLLY

Who cares?

ROBBIE

I do! I CARE!!

BILL

Rob, relax.

Robbie doesn't. Dolly ignores him.

DOLLY

Mum, do you really think I'm good enough to be in the Ice Capades?

FRAN

From what I saw tonight, I can't think of one reason you couldn't be in the Ice Capades.

Fran SQUEALS, hugs Dolly!

Robbie can't stand all this happiness.

ROBBIE

I can think of a reason. (mimicking a side show barker) Ladies and Gentlemen, step right up...

Bill CUFFS Robbie in the back of the head.

BILL

Robert!

A very tense beat. (Note: This moment hints at a family secret that we, and Dolly, will learn later. But for now...)

Robbie SMILES EERILY, moves to the stairs. The tension hangs in the air but Fran quickly changes the subject.

FRAN

Dolly, if you're serious about getting into the Ice Capades you could ask Coach Sorbie.

DOLLY

What?! You said never ask her about it.

Fran realizes she's misspoken but can't take it back.

FRAN

Well, if you're serious.

Dolly pulls off her boots.

DOLLY

God, these boots kill my feet.

FRAN

We just bought them so it's not the boots -- it's probably your socks --

Fran and Dolly exit bickering about the boots.

Bill watches them go. He's concerned, and we soon learn he has every right to be.

CUT TO:

THE CBC NIGHTLY NEWS - ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE - DECEMBER 29, 1978

CBC ANCHOR/KNOWLTON NASH

In a year-end interview last night, Prime Minister Trudeau said Canada is living through a very threatened period, citing the rise to power of the separatist government in Quebec. He vowed to remain as Liberal party leader until that threat is defeated and said he will stay on as Prime Minister through next year's general election.

EXT. SKATING ARENA - EARLY EVENING

A new state-of-the-art Ice Complex. The centre of this Canadian Universe. The parking lot is full, PARENTS and SKATERS come and go.

A LIGHTED SIGN reads *Brampton Memorial Ice Complex. Happy New Year! Public Skating. Every Thursday. 7 PM*

INT. SKATING ARENA - CONTINUOUS

IN THE SNACK BAR

PUBLIC SKATERS, mostly teens, socialize. Some wait by GLASS DOORS that lead to the ice. On the doors, a sign reads *NO PUBLIC SKATERS BEFORE 7 PM.*

Beyond the sign, we see FIGURE SKATERS jump and spin.

ON THE RINK

QUIET except for the SOUND of skate blades: CARVE, PICK, SPIN.

COACH SORBIE, once a beautiful ICECAPET, very stern, shouts instructions at a group of FOURTEEN SKATERS, including Dolly.

She punctuates her words with a WALKING STICK.

COACH SORBIE

Lisa, hands! You're not doing semaphore.

Lisa doesn't like being corrected.

Jason spins, then flops to the ice (a la Toller Cranston).

COACH SORBIE (CONT'D)
Properly, Jason.

JASON
(lying on the ice) But I'm an
artist.

Dolly, serious, sets for a jump - leaps, rotates, rota... she loses it and falls. THUD!

Coach Sorbie slides to Dolly. We see now her walking stick isn't just for emphasis but for balance.

COACH SORBIE
What's happened to your double?

DOLLY
I think I need new skates.

Coach Sorbie blows her WHISTLE. TOOT! Skaters stop.

COACH SORBIE
Partner up for the Viennese waltz!

All thirteen girls skate towards Jason, the only boy. He SCREAMS.

COACH SORBIE (CONT'D)
Ladies! Whose turn is it to partner
with Jason?

Susan P. raises her hand timidly.

COACH SORBIE (CONT'D)
Susan P., speak up! The rest of you
decide who is going to be the male.
Quietly.

Dolly and Lisa do ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS. Lisa loses, pouts.

Coach Sorbie presses a button, speaks into an INTERCOM BOX.

COACH SORBIE (CONT'D)
Viennese Waltz please.

A teenage ENGLISH-ACCENTED voice comes back.

TEENAGE VOICE (O.S.)
'ello, Coach Sorbie. 'id you say,
"Suffragette City"?

COACH SORBIE
(into intercom) No. And don't make
me get your father.

IN THE SOUND BOOTH HIGH ABOVE THE RINK

SPIDER (16) a ZIGGY STARDUST WANNA-BE, wears a BRIGHT RED SHAG, white face and red LIPSTICKED LIPS.

SPIDER
 (into microphone) No need for tha'
 but I do think if you let me play
 it just once --

WHAM! A snowball CRASHES into the booth window.

ANGLE ON: THE THROWER

MR. WEAVER, Head rink-rat and Spider's dad, stands beside the Zamboni. He threatens Spider with a look.

IN THE SOUND BOOTH

Spider laughs off the threat and broadcasts the following:

SPIDER (CONT'D)
 (into microphone) Good shot. Better
 gi' the people what they want, eh
 Dolly?

ON THE ICE

Dolly is mortified. Lisa's lip curls, disapprovingly.

LISA
 How can you talk to him?

The Viennese waltz plays. The skaters waltz.

DOLLY
 I don't. He talks to me.

LISA
 My mother says his mother is in an
 insane asylum.

DOLLY
 No she's not. She's in Vancouver.
 You know that.

Lisa turns her ire to the Public Skaters, seen through the BIG WINDOW above the ice. A PUBLIC SKATER waves at Lisa.

LISA
 What a moron. She thinks we're
 friends because we let public
 skaters in the carnival now. We
 only do it to sell tickets.

DOLLY

Some of them are pretty good. Like the ones on the Inner Circle.

LISA

Are you kidding? It's like letting monkeys skate in the Ice Capades.

DOLLY

There is a monkey in the Ice Capades. And he wears this jacket --

LISA

Shut up, Dolly. God, sometimes I swear you're from the townhouses.

The couples waltz, the "ladies" TURN.

Dolly hesitates, dizzy. She STUMBLES and... FALLS.

Lisa lets go of her, mortified!

LISA (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

The Public Skaters at the big window LAUGH and POUND on the glass as if to applaud her fall. BAM, BAM, BAM, BAM...

Dolly touches her dizzy head.

DOLLY

(a lie) I must have caught an edge.

LISA

If you can show off at the carnival you should be able to keep your feet under you for the Viennese bloody waltz.

A buzzer BUZZZZZZZZZZES!

The CLOCK reads 7 PM.

The doors BURST open. Public skaters FLOOD IN!

Jason SCREAMS!

Figure skaters HURRY off the ice to "safety", behind a door marked, "BRAMPTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB. MEMBERS ONLY".

INT. SKATE CLUB CHANGE ROOM

Figure skaters take off skates, wipe blades, change. A FEW MOTHERS, including Helen Ladner, help.

Dolly enters and approaches Coach Sorbie.

DOLLY
Coach? Coach Sorbie!

Coach Sorbie stops. The room quiets, most eyes on Dolly.

DOLLY (CONT'D)
Uh, I just wanted to ask you about
the -- Ice Capades. How I would
become an Icecapet?

Onlookers GASP!, whisper, stand open-mouthed.

Coach Sorbie regards Dolly for a long moment.

COACH SORBIE
Let me guess, the carnival gave you
"the fever", right?

DOLLY
I guess.

COACH SORBIE
It'll pass. But if it doesn't, then
come see me.

Coach Sorbie walks through a door marked COACHES ONLY. The door starts to close. A beat, then Dolly goes through it.

INT. COACHES CHANGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dolly enters.

DOLLY
Wait! No. It won't pass.

Dolly stops. Her eyes explore the room. Like the Teachers Lounge at school, this is where Coaches become real people with family photos, street clothes, secrets...

Is that a LEG in Coach Sorbie's locker?!

Coach Sorbie edges her locker door closed and waits.

DOLLY (CONT'D)

It's not going to pass. I, I belong
on the ice. (searches for more)
It's -- where I belong.

Coach Sorbie's face reveals nothing.

COACH SORBIE

You have to be 16 to audition.

DOLLY

That's three years. (a beat) Do you
think I'm good enough?

COACH SORBIE

A lot of skaters have the skill but
The Capades aren't about that.

DOLLY

What are they about?

COACH SORBIE

Why do you skate?

DOLLY

I don't know. It's hard to explain.

COACH SORBIE

Try.

DOLLY

I -- love it. I have to skate. It's
the first thing I think about when
I wake up. It's the last thing I
think about at night. When I skate
I'm free. When I'm on the ice, I'm,
home. God, that is so spazzy.

COACH SORBIE

No. That's what the Ice Capades are
about.

Dolly smiles. Wow, I've got it!

DOLLY

So be 16? Is that it?

COACH SORBIE

You could start building your
skating resume. Getting the lead in
next year's carnival wouldn't hurt.
But yes, that's it: be 16 and be
5'8 or under.

DOLLY

Well that's not a problem. I've got
my mother's bones.

COACH SORBIE

I know, she's told me.

Coach Sorbie sits -- her left leg is unnaturally straight --
wooden! Dolly tries not to look at THE LEG!!!

COACH SORBIE (CONT'D)

It's a great life. I miss it
everyday.

DOLLY

I'm sorry.

COACH SORBIE

So am I.

Dolly waits for more. But nothing. Coach glares. Dolly exits
awkwardly.

INT. SKATING ARENA - MOMENTS LATER

ON THE ICE

Public skating is in full swing. Lights SWIRL. Bowie BLARES.

Hundreds of skaters go round and round.

On the OUTER CIRCLE, BEGINNERS shuffle, ANKLE BITERS drop,
GROUPS OF TWEEN GIRLS giggle as BOYS play chase around them.

A TEENAGE "REF" in a TOP HAT approaches 2 TEENS who stand by
the boards.

TOP HAT REF

No stopping on the outside. Get
inside if you wanna stand 'n watch.

The teens cut into the crowd and take us to...

MID ICE where a ring of SKATERS stand watching THE INNER
CIRCLE: a group of the best public skaters who perform a
street version of an ICE SHOW.

HOTDOGGERS on hockey skates, STONERS, SLUTS, PREPS, NERDS
dance, flip, show off their signature moves.

TWO GIRLS skate a routine of EXTREME PAT-A-CAKE and FOOTWORK.

A MIDDLE AGED HIPPIE does back flips.

Everyone rocks to the music.

IN THE SOUND BOOTH ABOVE THE ICE, Spider sings along as if he's in concert.

RINKSIDE, Dolly exits the change room, excited. Even though it's public skating, she NEEDS to skate!

ON THE ICE - SECONDS LATER, Dolly skates fast to the center.

The inner circle is on fire tonight:

Hips shake.

Stoners flip.

Nerds spin on their knees.

Dolly watches and then, WITHOUT PERMISSION, joins them.

The music builds.

Dolly singles.

In her skating outfit, Dolly sticks out amongst the FLARED CORDS and JEAN JACKETS. A few Inner Circle Members SCOWL at Dolly - it's clear she's broken some rule.

IN THE SNACK BAR

Lisa, Susan W. and Jason watch the public skaters through the big window.

LISA

God. They're like cattle on skates.

SUSAN W.

Isn't that Dolly?

LISA

No, Susan W., why would (sees Dolly) Oh my god! It's Dolly! (to the room) Dolly's public skating!

JASON

And she's on the inside!

MOTHERS, SKATERS gather at the window. Helen Ladner shoots Fran a disapproving look.

ON THE ICE

The frenzy builds, the inner circle rocks.

Dolly spread eagles.

Someone says, "Watch it".

A STONER talks to the Top Hat Ref about Dolly.

Lisa sneers.

Dolly spins -- she loves this.

She crouches to a sit spin, then stands up tall and --

BLACK OUT!

FADE IN:

DOLLY'S P.O.V.: HER EYES BLINK OPEN TO SEE

Blurred FACES look down at her disapprovingly.

No music. Florescent lights. The magic is gone.

Spider comes into focus: his ZIGGY STARDUST HAIR and MAKE UP contrast his serious look. He works to stop the BLEEDING on the side of Dolly's head.

ANOTHER ANGLE: ON THE ICE

Mr. Weaver carries a FIRST AID KIT, pushes through the CROWD gathered around Dolly.

MR. WEAVER

Out of the way! First aid! Get
back.

People part. He sees Spider -- tension between them.

MR. WEAVER (CONT'D)

What happened?

SPIDER

(British accent) She fainted. Hit
'er 'ead.

Mr. Weaver crouches.

MR. WEAVER
 (whispered threat to Spider) Normal
 voice. (to Dolly) What's your name?

DOLLY
 It's me, Mr. Weaver. Dolly, from
 next door.

MR. WEAVER
 I know that. I'm asking if you do.
 What year is it?

DOLLY
 1979.

MR. WEAVER
 Who scored the winning goal in the
 Canada-Russian hockey series?

Dolly pauses. A clock ticks. Looks of concern from ONLOOKERS,
 everyone knows this!

ONLOOKERS
 Oh my god!/It's brain damage.

Finally.

DOLLY
 Paul Henderson.

MR. WEAVER
 She's fine. Let her up.

Spider and Mr. Weaver help Dolly up and off the ice. Top Hat
 Ref and ANGRY INNER CIRCLE MEMBERS scold her.

TOP HAT REF
 Hey! It's invitation only on the
 inside.

ANGRY INNER CIRCLE MEMBERS
 Yeah! And it's original moves only!

IN THE SNACK BAR - SAME TIME

Lisa, Jason, Helen Ladner, Coach Sorbie look down on the ice.

HELEN LADNER
 Was she hit?

COACH SORBIE
 It looked like she fainted.

LISA
 Maybe God struck her down for
 showing off too much.

Helen Ladner nods - probably.

Jason GASPS as he looks down on the ice.

JASON
 Blood. There's blood on the ice!

Helen Ladner crosses herself.

HELEN LADNER
 It's no better than hockey.

RINKSIDE

Spider helps Dolly into Fran's waiting arms.

FRAN
 Thank you, Paul.

SPIDER
 It's Spider now, Missus Blood'aur --

Fran doesn't hear him.

FRAN
 (to Dolly) What were you doing out
 there?!

SPIDER
 -- it's Spider.

A JOCK passes Spider and FLICKS him in the head.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA -- DAYS LATER

Lunchtime for a thousand high school students. Cliques sit together at THEIR tables: JOCKS, STONERS, DRAMA KIDS, NERDS, CHEERLEADERS, etc.

Spider, Robbie and PIZZA FACE MAYHU (16) tall kid, bad acne, sit at the LOSER table. They're the only table not talking, they simply watch for ATTACKS from other kids.

A few TEACHERS observe on "Caf duty".

Dolly, Lisa and Susan W. walk to their table.

LISA
 (to Dolly) Did you get your hair
 cut?

DOLLY
 No.

Jason and Susan P. are already seated at the skate table.

LISA
 Susan P., move!

Susan P. moves from Dolly's seat.

LISA (CONT'D)
 (to Dolly) Is that a new shirt?

DOLLY
 No.

LISA
 Well something is different.

DOLLY
 I think I grew a bit, an inch or
 so.

Lisa and Jason GASP! The Susans missed it.

THE SUSANS
 What? What happened?

JASON
 Dolly grew.

The Susans GASP.

DOLLY
 It's nothing. It's just an inch.

LISA
 You better hope so.

DOLLY
 I've got my Mother's bones.

SUSAN P.
 (discouraged by her size) Me too.

LISA
 You better hope it's just an inch,
 Dolly or you could end up like
 Karen Yurkin.

For the first time Dolly takes this seriously as...

CUT TO:

INT. SKATING ARENA - FANTASY FLASHBACK

KAREN YURKIN (13) petite and cute does a perfect camel glide. Suddenly an odd look comes over her face, her BOOBS GROW HUGE and she falls out of frame.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA

The skate table, as before.

DOLLY
But that was boobs.

LISA
It doesn't matter. Figure skaters are just like gymnasts or jockeys, one inch too much anywhere and you could end up like Karen -- just another slutty public skater.

Dolly and the entire skate table turn to see...

KAREN YURKIN

She wears slutty clothes, lots of make-up and NECKS with a GREASY LOOKING POT HEAD at the SMOKER table.

At the skate table, Dolly shrugs, trying to hide her worry.

INT. DOLLY'S BEDROOM -- LATER

PHOTOS of Dolly in ten years worth of skating carnivals.

DOLLY (O.S.)
I don't want to end up like Karen. One day she couldn't spin anymore, the next day she couldn't jump. She was washed up at 13.

We see skating MEDALS, BADGES. A poster of PIERRE TRUDEAU.

DOLLY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It could be happening already. I haven't done a double since the carnival.

We find Dolly standing against the wall, and Bill measuring her height with a tape measure.

BILL
You're just 5'3".

DOLLY
5'3"?! I was 5 feet when Mum
measured for my carnival costume.
That's three inches in two months.

Bill flinches. You're kidding?! But returns to his task.

CLOSE ON THE WALL: Bill makes careful marks: 5'3", 5'4",
5'5", ...

DOLLY (CONT'D)
Mum'll have something to say about
us drawing on the walls, huh?

BILL
(distracted) Uh huh.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THROUGH THE CRACK IN THE DOOR.

In the shadows, ROBBIE SPIES on them. What's going on?

IN DOLLY'S BEDROOM

Dolly stops Bill.

DOLLY
You can stop at 5'8". I'm not
growing past 5'8".

Bill faces her. Is she ready for the truth?

BILL
But, well, three inches in two
months. (a beat) Wait here.

Bill leaves.

Dolly, anxious, reaches for her favourite SKATING SWEATER.
She tries it on. Still fits -- phew!

RAISED VOICES grab Dolly's attention. She follows the sound
of the argument.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Dolly crouches to spy through the stair rails. Below, Fran and Bill argue in their bedroom.

ANGLE ON: FRAN AND BILL THROUGH HALF-CLOSED BEDROOM DOOR

BILL
...can't keep her in the dark.

FRAN
She doesn't have to know.

BILL
I think she does, Fran.

FRAN
Bill, stop. You're over-reacting --

Fran closes the bedroom door. The argument continues, muted.

Dolly is FROZEN -- what the eff?

A VOICE FROM THE DARK (O.S.)
You're in trouble.

Dolly GASPS as Robbie seems to appear out of nowhere.

DOLLY
Geez! What are you doing?!

ROBBIE
Want to know what that's about?

DOLLY
Yes.

ROBBIE
I bet you do.

Robbie laughs and (because he does everything he can to freak Dolly out) seems to FLOAT back into his shadowy room.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
I bet you do.

Dolly rolls her eyes but when she looks back, Robbie is GONE!
Dolly is uneasy.

CUT TO:

THE CBC NIGHTLY NEWS - ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE - FEBRUARY 1979

CBC ANCHOR/KNOWLTON NASH
 ...Prime Minister Trudeau responded
 only with his trademark shrug
 today, when asked when he'd call
 the general election. A popularity
 poll released today suggests it
 won't be any time soon as numbers
 for Mr. Trudeau and his liberal
 party continue their decline.

INT. SKATING ARENA

ON THE ICE

KA-THUNK! Dolly FALLS out of a jump. She sits on the ice,
 tired. Coach Sorbie stands over Dolly.

COACH SORBIE
 What's happening to your single?

Dolly shrugs -- she doesn't know.

SNACK BAR - SAME TIME

A BOARD MEETING in progress. Fran, Helen Ladner and OTHER
 BOARD MEMBERS sit at a table.

HELEN LADNER
 Okay, so we've narrowed it down to
 three possible themes for next
 year's carnival. We have "A tribute
 to Immigrants" "Undersea adventure"
 or "Cinderella". Motion to choose
 one of these. All in favour?

BOARD MEMBERS
 Aye.

HELEN LADNER
 All opposed.

Silence. Fran and Helen share a smile and the same thought,
 "My daughter is going to be Cinderella".

INT. SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE - DAYS LATER

Dolly moans, hunched and rocking as the SCHOOL NURSE, white
 sweater over printed dress, speaks on the phone.

NURSE

As far as I can tell, Mrs.
Bloodhaur, it's just growing pains.
(a beat) Mrs. Bloodhaur? Hello?

INT. CAR - LATER

Fran drives fast, angry. Dolly is worried.

FRAN

What does she know? She's a school
nurse! I mean, is that even a real
nurse? I bet she's just the only
office lady who owns a white
sweater.

DOLLY

I don't want to grow anymore.

FRAN

This is just the normal inch or two
-- to stretch out the baby fat. I
named you Dolly for a reason.

Dolly moans.

FRAN (CONT'D)

Because when you were born you were
as tiny as a doll. And I knew right
then and there you had my bones.
You've got Anderson bones. Period.

They pull into the driveway.

DOLLY

(moans) Everything hurts.

FRAN

Pea soup and the Vicks Vapo-rub,
that's what you need.

EXT. DOLLY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Fran gets out of the car as Spider's car, a rusted out
GREMLIN, pulls up. Robbie STORMS out of it.

ROBBIE

Where's Dad?!

FRAN

Hello to you too.

Robbie strides to the house, livid. Fran, concerned, follows.

FRAN (CONT'D)
Robert?! What's happening?

They're gone.

Spider BOUNDS to meet Dolly in the driveway. Dolly is pale.

SPIDER
'ello, what's wrong with you?

DOLLY
None of your beeswax. What's wrong with you?

SPIDER
Nothing. It's just other people's fear and ignorance that makes me seem wrong.

A beat. YELLING is heard from inside the house.

SPIDER (CONT'D)
Rememb'r the first time we kissed?

DOLLY
Oh god. It was a dare. I was five. Let it go.

SPIDER
We're going t' do it again.

DOLLY
In your dreams.

SPIDER
No. Really. Our lips will lock and so will our 'earts. It's our destiny.

Dolly walks away. Spider happily follows.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A MOMENT LATER

Dolly enters to find Robbie, Bill and Fran arguing.

ROBBIE
Because it wasn't your place to sign me up for Drivers Ed!

Bill has work clothes on, a sharpened chisel in his hand.

BILL

You'll be sixteen soon. It's time.

ROBBIE

I tried to fake I was sick but the instructor said it was nerves. It was a full size car! I moved the seat up and up and up! I pointed my toes. I still couldn't reach. The other kids laughed. Karen Yurkin laughed at me.

A beat. How horrible.

BILL

I assumed they taught in a compact car.

FRAN

Robbie. Your dad didn't know --

ROBBIE

Don't defend him! He uses every excuse in the book to avoid going out in public but then he'll put me in a car, just to be laughed at by Karen Yurkin.

Dolly flops on the couch - tired from growing AND Robbie.

DOLLY

It's not like you'd stand a chance with her anyway, Robbie. She's easy, not retarded.

Robbie SEETHES, then FLIES at Dolly, so fast it's almost SUPERHUMAN!

Robbie pummels. Dolly defends! Bill lumbers in.

ROBBIE AND DOLLY

Shut up!/You don't know anything!/He's hurting me!

BILL

Stop it! Stop it!

Bill PLUCKS Robbie off Dolly.

ROBBIE

Fine. It doesn't matter. Anything I could do to you now isn't half the pain you're gonna feel when they show you the box.

Fran GASPS!

BILL

Robert!

Bill sees Spider for the first time.

SPIDER

'ello.

DOLLY

(re: Robbie) What's he talking about?

BILL

Upstairs, Robert. Now!

Robbie leaves, smiling.

DOLLY

What box?

FRAN

Nothing. You know Robbie.

BILL

Fran --

FRAN

It's nothing, Bill!

Fran whisks Dolly upstairs.

Bill sees Spider again.

BILL

Paul, you should go son.

SPIDER

It's Spid'r now Mr. Bloodhaur, I changed me name to Spid'r.

BILL

Well, you should both go.

Bill exits, leaving Spider wanting to explain.

INT. SKATING ARENA -- DAYS LATER

ON THE ICE

Dolly WOBBLES as she skates in her group lesson.

Coach Sorbie's eyes follow Dolly, concerned. She blows her whistle - TOOT!

COACH SORBIE
Everyone partner up for Traveling
Triple Step.

All thirteen girls hurry towards Jason -- he SCREAMS!

Coach Sorbie glides to the intercom.

COACH SORBIE (CONT'D)
(pushes button) Triple step please.

SPIDER (O.S.)
"Moonage daydream" comin' righ' up!

IN THE SOUND BOOTH

Spider is enjoying himself until - BAM! A snowball hits the glass.

ON THE ICE

Dolly, in the "ladies" position, partners with Susan W.

The music starts.

Couples skate in a tight circle. Three steps, the "lady" turns and changes partners.

Three steps, Dolly turns, new partner. Three steps, Dolly turns, new partner. Etc.

Faces blur. Dolly squints.

The couples are close.

Dolly WOBBLER. Susan P. steadies her.

Music swells.

Dolly staggers. Jason reaches. Dolly PULLS Jason DOWN!

THUD! Dolly and Jason fall.

Lisa turns and BAM, PILES ON!

Other couples COLLIDE, fall to the ice. Some skaters try to avoid piling on ONLY to be hit from behind by others.

OOMP! THUD! PLOP! The entire senior class is down!

LISA
I'm gonna kill you, Dolly!

BAM, BAM, BAM! Public skaters pound the window, loving it.
Coach Sorbie shakes her head.

IN THE STANDS

Fran gets dirty looks from other Mothers.

ON THE ICE

At the bottom of the pile, Lisa SHOVES at people.

LISA (CONT'D)
Get off of me! Get off!

In the tumult, Lisa shoves at Dolly. Dolly recoils and her TOE PICK meets Lisa's leg.

Lisa looks down, she's CUT! It's TINY but she HOWLS!

LISA (CONT'D)
I've been slashed!

SLOW MOTION -- ONE DROP of blood lands on the ice.

JASON
Blood on the ice!

Skaters scramble.

A MOTHER faints.

Lisa howls.

CLOSE ON DOLLY in the chaos - she's filled with foreboding.

INT. COACHES CHANGE ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Dolly and Fran are in shock. Helen Ladner, OTHER BOARD MEMBERS and Coach Sorbie stand over them.

FRAN
Helen, this isn't necessary!

HELEN LADNER
Lisa has been cut Fran! You saw what happened.

FRAN

But it was an accident. This is just temporary. Dolly's grown a few inches yes but she'll get her feet back under her.

HELEN LADNER

If that happens and Dolly can meet club requirements, I'm sure she'll be reinstated -- but for now, right now, Dolly is a danger to others.

Silence.

COACH SORBIE

(a last attempt) Maybe we could put Dolly back, to novice?

HELEN LADNER

I'm sure Dolly doesn't want to hurt anyone else -- even a novice.

FRAN

Helen, the club is our family, since Robbie was five. I brought you onto the board --

This isn't just Dolly's loss. Fran is teary eyed.

HELEN LADNER

And now I'm President. It's my job to make tough decisions. This is no different than the Karen Yurkin situation. I'll need your change room key, Dolly.

INT. FIGURE SKATING CHANGE ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Skaters and Mothers are silent, shocked, as Dolly and Fran, holding a lockers-worth of skating stuff, take the long SHAMEFUL WALK towards the exit.

Dolly's key sits in Helen Ladner's sausage-like fingers.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. CABIN IN THE REMOTE WOODS

This is a continuation of film's first scene. Only a few seconds have passed since Dolly screamed and fainted.

Dolly is sprawled, out cold, in front of the cabin. The Huge Human Curiosity stands over her, shrouded in fog and shadow.

After a moment the Huge Human bends down, picks up Dolly's leg and drags her into the cabin.

FADE OUT.

Contact Wendy to read the rest of
"Freaks on Ice"