

# Just Like That

*Audition notes:* This portion of the book is the emotional hook for one of the major characters in the book, told from the standpoint of her friend. He stumbles upon a frozen dead body of a girl close to his age. This is a serious, loss of innocence moment for him and a traumatizing experience all together. You should communicate the desperate nature of this moment clearly, but not too fast.

It was so cold that no one else was running, not at 6 a.m. It was still more light than dark at that time of day. What light there was played tricks on the eye.

*That looked like a body.*

*Couldn't be.*

*Go back.*

*Couldn't be.*

Some distance later he stopped, jogged in place, turned, and ran back. He walked the final few yards, slowing down with each step as he approached the silver mound on the snow. He leaned over, looking. Kneeled down, reaching. Fell back, gasping. The depths of his lungs filled with sharp frigid air as he dug into a pocket for the cell phone, the cries for help already rising in his throat.

A torn candy wrapper flapped against the toe of a frozen shoe.

A gust of wind cleared drifted snow, revealing a stiff curled hand.

Dark eyes stared blankly from behind a thick cocoon of ice.