**Role Play Overview:**

You work as an interfaith chaplain at a large university in Toronto. Your personal faith is Christian, and you attend a church affiliated with the United Church of Canada. This morning you received an email from a student which was as follows:

Dear Chaplain,

My name is April and I am an undergrad student studying biology here at the university. I live in campus in a co-ed residence with my friends Tina, Shaheed and Justin. I was wondering if the four of us could come and see you today, as we are very worried for our friend Tina. Last night when we came back to residence from a party we found Tina in the bathroom on our residence floor, cutting herself on her arms with a razor blade. We are very scared, and don’t know what to do! We told our floor advisor Bonnie this morning, and she wanted us to take Tina to the emergency room, but Tina didn’t want to go. We checked out Tina’s cuts and they aren’t too deep, but we are still worried about her. Can we see you today? Bonnie will come too. Tina says she will come and see you because she knows you from her church.

Please let me know,

April

After reviewing your schedule, you email April back and confirm an appointment with the four students and the residence advisor for later on today.

**Characters:**

**Tina** – **main character**. You are seventeen years old. You feel very alone since you came out as queer on Facebook over the summer. Since you decided to leave home in Oakville and move into residence in Toronto, you have been feeling very anxious. You have been cutting yourself more often since school started because it’s so stressful. Your father Matthew has raised you on his own since you were a toddler as your parents are divorced. Lately, you are finding your father is emotionally unavailable and is always working. You feel you can’t tell him you are feeling stressed out about his expectations for you at school, always wanting you to get A’s. You don’t see you mom Ruth very much as she has a job that requires her to travel overseas six months of the year, but you text with her almost every day. You grew up going to church with your father and want to pray and ask God for help but you can’t seem to find any words. Maybe the chaplain, who you know from your church, can help you.

**April – Tina’s roommate**. You have known Tina since you were in elementary school together in Oakville and you both decided to move into residence together in Toronto for university.You were not raised in a religious family but consider yourself to be respectful of spirituality and understand that Tina’s Christian faith is important to her. You are open to meeting with the interfaith chaplain and want to be a part of Tina’s healing journey. You try to cheer her up all the time but you think she is just really stressed out about her grades and the unrealistic academic expectations her father places on her. You have supported her 100% since she came out as queer on Facebook over the summer.

**Shaheed – Tina’s friend, lives in her residence on the same floor -** You are very concerned for your friend and do not understand why she would be hurting herself like this. You have tried to talk with Tina about her cutting many times throughout your friendship over the past six months since you have been living in the same residence but she refuses to discuss it with you, giving you the “silent treatment” or telling you that it’s not a big deal and she just does it when she’s really stressed. You are Muslim, attend mosque weekly and your faith means a lot to you. You pray for Tina multiple times daily. You are desperate for help and hope that meeting with the counsellor will bring you some spiritual guidance as you are scared that Tina may be suicidal.

**Justin – Tina’s friend, lives in her residence on the same floor –** You have known Tina for six months, ever since you were assigned to live in the same residence as her, April and Shaheed. You used to cut too when you were younger, but you didn’t tell anyone about it, and Tina doesn’t know. Your parents never found out because you wear long sleeves all the time. Last night when you came home from the party and heard about Tina being in the women’s washroom with the razor blades, all of the feelings started coming back from when you used to hurt yourself and you felt panicky. You are Anglican but you don’t attend church anymore. Your faith is not as important to you as it once was.

**Bonnie – Residence Advisor –** You are in your mid-forties and doing graduate work at the university. Recently you moved into residence to be an advisor because the job pays pretty well and you need the financial help while you study. This morning when the students came to tell you what happened last night with Tina cutting herself, you were shocked. Why do young girls do this to themselves? Tina is so beautiful, she doesn’t need to be taking self-hatred out on her own body. You noticed before that she is always wearing black and seems to be depressed and now here is the proof. You have let your supervisor in the residence know about last night’s incident and have filled out the proper paperwork. You wanted Tina to go to the emergency room, but she declined. You also gave her some pamphlets with campus resources such as the Health and Wellness Center and Counselling. You agree to go with the four students to see the chaplain as it is important to them. You are interested in Buddhism as you have Buddhist friends and want to learn more about it.

**Matthew** **– Tina’s father**. You are an oncologist who works at Princess Margaret hospital in Toronto and you live in Oakville. You are the one who discovered Tina’s cutting behaviour when she was 12 years old. You feel very guilty as you didn’t even know your daughter had been hurting herself and are upset with yourself because you didn’t see the warning signs. That said, you feel that Tina is depressed and don’t understand why she always wants to wear black. You are worried that she is becoming “Emo” and may even end up failing out of school. You want to help her but are finding it hard to share your emotions with your daughter, especially now that she said she is queer on Facebook and your entire extended family now knows. Tina’s mother Ruth, your ex-partner, isn’t involved in parenting Tina as she is constantly overseas due to work, and you think it’s better this way. You haven’t talked to any of your professional peers about her behaviours as you do not want her to be stigmatized and consequently denied the opportunity to work in the medical field. You simply don’t have time for the United Church faith community as you have too many responsibilities at the hospital.