

# The Family Webb

## Audition Sample Scenes

Auditions should be recorded as audio files and submitted through email. Please include one take of each sample scene for the character you'd like to audition for. Your demographic does not need to match that of the character's, so long as it sounds believable. Please ask a friend or family member to read the parts of the other characters in the scene. You may audition for as many roles as you like.

Email auditions to [ArcLensMedia@gmail.com](mailto:ArcLensMedia@gmail.com) with subject line: Family Webb Audition. Include your name, contact information, the role(s) you are auditioning for, and your recorded audio file(s).

**Auditions due by 3/30/2024.**

## Roles

[ALLEN WEBB \(60s\)](#)

[MOLLY WEBB \(60s\)](#)

[TERRENCE WEBB \(30s\)](#)

[WALTER WEBB \(30s\)](#)

[VALERIE WEBB \(30s\)](#)

[SOPHIA WEBB TAYLOR \(20s\)](#)

[PEMA CHETSANG WEBB \(30s\)](#)

[BRIAN TAYLOR \(30s\)](#)

## Allen Webb (60s)

The patriarch. Timid and soft-spoken.

### Sample Scene 1

Direction: Allen is busily getting the house ready for Thanksgiving as family is starting to arrive. He's soft spoken, a tinker-er, a fixer, not always a great listener, and has lots of projects to try and complete before dinner.

MOLLY

Can you fix my oven timer?

**ALLEN**

What's wrong with it?

MOLLY

It doesn't work! That's what.

**ALLEN**

Ok, ok, let me see.

Allen looks at it, trying all the same things Molly tried.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

(to Sophia)

Anyway, I just never know when somebody's plans are going to change.

SOPHIA

It's Thanksgiving. Who's plans are going to change?

**ALLEN**

It won't even come on.

MOLLY

I know it won't. That's why I want you to fix it.

**ALLEN**

Well, I'd have to take the whole face off. It might need a new control board, which I'd have to get from the store - I don't even know if they're open today. And I'm still trying to fix those chairs before dinner.

SOPHIA

Mom, it's fine, I'll just set a timer on my phone.

## **Sample Scene 2**

Direction: Allen has been gone for most of Thanksgiving evening, fixing appliances for tenants. He has gone to check in on Walter, who has been struggling throughout the day. Walter has a history of depression and substance addiction. Allen has tried many times to help Walter, but never knows the right way to do it, and Walter seldom accepts. At this point, Allen has mostly given up trying, but in a moment of worry and guilt, he offers a rare insight to his feelings.

**ALLEN**

I'm uh... I'm sorry I was gone all evening. I really should know better by now that nothing's ever a quick fix. I was really looking forward to spending time with all the family... I know that's not the first time I've said that...

Walter STIRS, but doesn't speak. Allen thinks a moment.

**ALLEN (CONT'D)**

You remember the old Thanksgivings? When you were a kid? I was in and out of work, so the meals were pretty skimpy, but you kids didn't care about that. What I remember is, we'd just... play and have fun. All day.

(choking up)

Sometimes I miss it so bad... The simplicity and the innocence of it all... Life hasn't been kind to you... but I just... I want you to know... you make us happy.

# MOLLY WEBB (60s)

The matriarch. Animated and outspoken.

## Sample Scene 1

Direction: It's Thanksgiving morning, there's a lot to do to get ready. Molly is worried if all of her children will show up, but is trying to pawn off contacting them to her daughter Sophia. At the same time, she is frustrated that her oven timer won't work and tries to get her husband, Allen to fix it for her.

Molly and Sophia are in the kitchen. Molly fiddles with the oven timer.

**MOLLY**

Have you heard from anyone else today? Sophia?

SOPHIA

No.

**MOLLY**

Hmm, darn it, my timer isn't working.

SOPHIA

Has it ever worked?

**MOLLY**

Your dad fixes everyone else's stuff, but he can't fix my timer.

(calling out)

Allen!

(to Sophia)

Do you know if everyone else is still planning on coming?

SOPHIA

(Slightly annoyed)

I don't know... Didn't everyone say they were coming?

Allen comes running into the kitchen.

**MOLLY**

Well, yes, when I first invited them.

ALLEN

What happened?

**MOLLY**

Can you fix my oven timer?

ALLEN

What's wrong with it?

**MOLLY**

It doesn't work! That's what.

ALLEN

Ok, ok, let me see.

Allen looks at it, trying all the same things Molly tried.

**MOLLY (CONT'D)**

(to Sophia)

Anyway, I just never know when somebody's plans are going to change.

SOPHIA

It's Thanksgiving. Who's plans are going to change?

ALLEN

It won't even come on.

**MOLLY**

I know it won't. That's why I want you to fix it!

## **Sample Scene 2**

Direction: Molly has been in bed with a migraine. She knows that Walter has been having a hard day, but hasn't really been able to help him. She can sense that something is very wrong and is making a last ditch attempt to keep him from leaving in the hope that she or somebody might be able to help him feel better.

**MOLLY**

(Groggily)

What was that?... Walter? What's wrong?

WALTER

Could I borrow your car to get home?

**MOLLY**

Oh... sure. What time is it?

WALTER

Like 7:30.

**MOLLY**

Is that it? Why don't you stay a little longer?

Walter shrugs.

WALTER

(almost crying)

What's the point?

**MOLLY**

Brian and Terrence are still here aren't they?

WALTER

Brian's putting the girls to bed. Terrence is doing something with his book.

**MOLLY**

Oh, he told me. It's so sad.

WALTER

Yeah... Anyway...

**MOLLY**

Your dad should be home soon.

WALTER

That's ok.

He walks toward the door.

**MOLLY**

Walter.

He stops. Molly is close to tears.

**MOLLY (CONT'D)**

I'm sorry... I just wish I could make everything better.

WALTER

So do I. Then you could stop worrying about me... I'm sorry for all the headaches I've caused you.

**MOLLY**

No, Walter...

He takes two more steps.

**MOLLY (CONT'D)**

You know our other tradition, right?

He pauses once more.

**MOLLY (CONT'D)**

Listening to you play the piano.

**WALTER**

I think we're gonna have to let some traditions go.

# TERRENCE WEBB (30s)

The oldest son. A bit of a snob.

## Sample Scene 1

Direction: Family members are giving life updates at Thanksgiving dinner. Terrence has perhaps the most exiting news to share. He intends to share the news humbly, but his excitement and the praise goes to his head a bit.

MOLLY

Ok, well I *know* Terrence has some big news to share with us.

**TERRENCE**

My book's getting published.

His announcement is met with "Wow"s and "Congratulation"s from around the table. Molly smiles, proudly. Walter seems a little less excited than everyone else.

WALTER

That's great...

**TERRENCE**

It should be on shelves this summer.

ALLEN

Not til summer?

**TERRENCE**

It's a long process.

MOLLY

(to Allen)

But isn't it wonderful?

SOPHIA

Will you get to do like a book tour, and signings and stuff?

**TERRENCE**

Yeah.

PEMA



(To Terrence)

Well, that hasn't really been negotiated yet, has it?

**TERRENCE**

Well, not yet.

PEMA

(To Sophia)

But it's possible.

SOPHIA

That's so cool.

VAL

So do we finally get to read it now?

**TERRENCE**

Well, it's still in the drafting process, but I promise, you'll all get signed copies once it's done!

## **Sample Scene 2**

Direction: Terrence knows that Walter has been struggling in all aspects of his life. Still riding the high of his book publication, he thinks that he could potentially help Walter's financial struggles when his book goes on sale (expecting that he will be making good money, and that Walter will still be struggling). He feels he's being generous and expects Walter to meet his offer with gratitude, so he's taken aback by Walter's response.

**TERRENCE**

(Lively)

What's going on down *here*?

WALTER

Just playin' "toys".

**TERRENCE**

Heh. Hey so... I just wanted to... Well, ok, so when I start getting paid from book sales, it's going to be like extra income to us, which is nice of course, but uh, I was thinking, you know, well, I couldn't have written this book without you - without your influence. And with current situations the way they are... basically I'd like to split some of the money with you.

WALTER

Oh.

**TERRENCE**

At least, you know, til you get back on your feet.

Walter nods and thinks it over.

WALTER

The book goes on sale next year?

TERRENCE

Next summer.

WALTER

That's alright. It's your book. You did the work. It's your money.

TERRENCE

But you need it more than I do, that's what I'm saying.

WALTER

I don't need it.

TERRENCE

You- Are you sure? It kind of seems like... I mean, it couldn't hurt.

Walter SIGHS.

WALTER

You remember when we were little, and mom and dad were always so worried about money?...

TERRENCE

Sure.

WALTER

Well, I used to get really scared, cuz I thought... if you ran out of money... you died.

Terrence LAUGHS slightly.

WALTER

Now I know you keep living. Other people just have to take care of you.

TERRENCE

...So what's your point? I'm offering to help.

WALTER

I don't know which is worse.

## WALTER WEBB (30s)

The middle child. Struggling with depression and alcoholism. Quiet and brooding.

### Sample Scene 1

Direction: Walter is being picked up by his sister Val to go to Thanksgiving at his parent's house. He was unable to drive himself because his car isn't running, but he doesn't have the money to pay for the repairs. He's been left out of the loop about bringing a side dish for Thanksgiving, he suspects because his mother thinks it would be too much to ask of him.

WALTER

Hey.

VAL

(pointing)

Isn't that your car?

WALTER

Uh...

VAL (CONT'D)

Sophia said it was in the shop.

WALTER

Oh... it uh, needs to go to the shop... I haven't taken it yet.

Val SIGHS and SHIFTS the car into drive. Walter CLICKS in his seat belt.

VAL

Did you make anything?

WALTER

What do you mean?

VAL

To bring.

WALTER

Were we supposed to?

VAL  
(shrugging)  
Mom said to.

WALTER  
(frustrated)  
Well, she didn't tell *me*. What are you bringing?

VAL  
A stupid jello salad.

WALTER  
Maybe if we run by the store-?

Val puts the car in gear.

VAL  
No, let's just go. We're already like an hour late.

## Sample Scene 2

Direction: Walter's brother Terrence has a book that's getting published - it has been celebrated all day - and now he is offering to help Walter financially when the book starts selling. The offer makes Walter feel even more overshadowed by his brother. He doesn't want his family to pity him, he wants to be equals, but he also knows they're not wrong to pity him.

WALTER  
That's alright. It's your book. You did the work. It's your money.

TERRENCE  
But you need it more than I do, that's what I'm saying.

WALTER  
I don't need it.

TERRENCE  
You- Are you sure? It kind of seems like... I mean, it couldn't hurt.

Walter SIGHS.

WALTER  
You remember when we were little, and mom and dad were always so worried about money?...

TERRENCE

Sure.

**WALTER**

Well, I used to get really scared, cuz I thought... if you ran out of money... you died.

Terrence LAUGHS slightly.

**WALTER**

Now I know you keep living. Other people just have to take care of you.

TERRENCE

...So what's your point? I'm offering to help.

**WALTER**

I don't know which is worse.

### **Sample 3**

Direction: After Thanksgiving dinner Walter wants to watch It's A Wonderful Life - an old family tradition - but everyone else has something that keeps them from joining, so Walter watches it on his own. Throughout the evening, he gets mad at his family and says things to hurt them. He realizes he is no better than his family, and only making things worse for everyone. Read as if narrating a letter that he's written.

**WALTER**

I realized something today. When George Bailey wished to have never been born, he discovered that the world would have been much worse without him. What I discovered for myself today, and what I've known for some time now, is that... that's not true for me. I don't know who I am anymore. It's like I don't remember how to love. I'm sorry about the mirror. It made me sick even just to look at myself. And that's when... I knew it was time.

# VALERIE WEBB (30s)

Oldest daughter. Hard-headed and defensive.

## Sample Scene 1

Direction: Val was already running late to meet her family for Thanksgiving, and now she's been assigned to pick up her brother Walter, making her even later. What's more is he was not ready when she got to his apartment, and his car is sitting in the parking lot when she was told she needed to pick him up because his was in the shop. She's stressed but not angry, and her stress and anxiety is really more about what's to come at Thanksgiving than about Walter making her late.

Val sits in her IDLING CAR. The passenger DOOR OPENS and Walter gets in.

WALTER  
Hey.

VAL  
(pointing)  
Isn't that your car?

WALTER  
Uh...

VAL  
Sophia said it was in the shop.

WALTER  
Oh... it uh, needs to go to the shop... I haven't taken it yet.

Val SIGHS and SHIFTS the car into drive. Walter CLICKS in his seat belt.

VAL  
Did you make anything?

WALTER  
What do you mean?

VAL  
To bring.

WALTER

Were we supposed to?

VAL

(shrugging)

Mom said to.

WALTER

(frustrated)

Well, she didn't tell \*me\*. What are you bringing?

VAL

A stupid jello salad.

WALTER

Maybe if we run by the store-?

Val puts the car in gear.

VAL

No, let's just go. We're already like an hour late.

## **Sample Scene 2**

Direction: The family is going around the table at Thanksgiving and giving updates about their lives. For one of the first times in her life, Val is feeling accomplished and proud, and attempts to share her updates, but keeps getting cut off by her mom who is preemptively excited for her son Terrence to share his big news. Her update doesn't get the reaction she hoped for and she settles back into the background.

VAL

Umm, well I guess for me... I've been loving my job.

MOLLY

Oh, that's wonderful.

VAL

Social work is definitely not the most glamorous career...

(she gets some chuckles from the family)

It's probably the hardest work I've ever done. But It's been really fulfilling. I-

MOLLY

(Interrupting)

I'm so glad.

VAL

(slightly annoyed)

Uh... anyway, you should see the living conditions of some of the people I've worked with...

WALTER

Yeah?

VAL

You know, just- empty, dirty homes- no furniture, no food. It's heartbreaking. But it feels good when I'm able to help someone get their life back on track.

MOLLY

That's so good, Val. Who else has an update?

VAL

Well, I wasn't quite done yet...

MOLLY

Oh, sorry, of course. What else?

VAL

Umm, I've got a girlfriend.

A few "Oh"s and "Hmm"s, but no strong reply.

VAL (CONT'D)

We're fairly serious. Been dating about 3 months.

PEMA

That's great, Val.

TERRENCE

Yeah.

MOLLY

Well... when will we get to meet her?

VAL

Not sure. Eventually. If things keep going well. She's in New York for Thanksgiving with her family right now.

MOLLY

New York. Wow.



VAL

Mhmm...

MOLLY

Ok, well I \*know\* Terrence has some big news to share with us.

Val gives up with an audible SIGH.

# SOPHIA WEBB TAYLOR (20s)

Youngest daughter. People-pleaser, but stretched thin.

## Sample Scene 1

Direction: Sophia and her family have just arrived at her parents' house for Thanksgiving. Sophia is preparing pies in the kitchen as her mother (Molly) talks to her. Sophia is Molly's go-to child when she needs help, especially in connecting with her other children. Sophia is internally fed up with this, but usually goes along out of a desire to avoid conflict as well as a deeper belief that she really is the one holding the family together.

MOLLY

Have you heard from anyone else today? Sophia?

SOPHIA

No.

MOLLY

Hmm, darn it, my timer isn't working.

SOPHIA

Has it ever worked?

MOLLY

Your dad fixes everyone else's stuff, but he can't fix my timer.

(calling out)

Allen!

(to Sophia)

Do you know if everyone else is still planning on coming?

SOPHIA

(Slightly annoyed)

I don't know... Didn't everyone say they were coming?

MOLLY

Well, yes, when I first invited them. I just never know when somebody's plans are going to change.

SOPHIA

It's Thanksgiving. Who's plans are going to change?

## Sample Scene 2

Direction: Sophia, Val, and Pema have a yearly tradition of Black Friday shopping together. Sophia is the leader of the event and puts a lot of time into planning it, knowing specifically what items she wants from which stores. As Thanksgiving dinner is wrapping up, Sophia breaks the news that Black Friday is starting earlier this year. The majority of the family doesn't see the value in the tradition and starts getting on her case about it.

MOLLY

I was thinking it would be fun later to break out some of the old family photo albums and look through them together.

SOPHIA

Um, well, we have Black Friday shopping.

MOLLY

Well, not until midnight, right?

PEMA

They moved it up. It starts at 6 now.

MOLLY

What?

SOPHIA

And you have to get there early to be at the front of the line.

The non-female family members and Molly are scoffing and shaking their heads.

MOLLY

That's ridiculous.

ALLEN

So Black Friday is on Thursday now?

SOPHIA

Hey, I don't decide when the stores open. And this is just as much a family tradition!

In the background, Sophia's daughters, Claire and Daisy start FIGHTING over a toy.

BRIAN

To leave your family and go shopping?

SOPHIA

I'm going *with* family! - Girls, stop it! - It's like the one time a year we get to spend time together as sisters - Girls!

MOLLY  
(to Claire and Daisy)  
Remember, no fighting at Nammy's!

SOPHIA  
Mom, I've got it.  
...

WALTER  
Well, what about our other Thanksgiving tradition?

SOPHIA  
(coming back to the table)  
Which one?

Nobody is sure what he's talking about.

WALTER  
You know... we always watch \*It's a Wonderful Life\* on Thanksgiving night.

VAL  
Oh...

SOPHIA  
Is that a tradition?

Walter shrugs.

WALTER  
We usually do it.

The family MUMBLES in agreement.

SOPHIA  
Well you can still watch the movie without us... There'll only be three of us missing.

VAL  
What if we start the movie right after dinner? Couldn't we-

SOPHIA  
Uhh, I don't think-

WALTER

There won't be time if Black Friday starts at 6.

BRIAN

It's a long movie.

MOLLY

Do you have to-

SOPHIA

(cutting her off)

We already put a lot of planning into this year's trip, and we have to be there at 6 to get the doorbusters or they'll run out. Maybe... next year?...

(she looks to the girls for approval)

...we can leave later so we have more family time.

PEMA

Sure.

VAL

Yeah.

BRIAN

Except we're not going to be here next year.

MOLLY

You're not?

SOPHIA

What?

BRIAN

We're going to be at *my* family's. Remember?

SOPHIA

I remember you suggesting it.

(to the family)

We haven't actually discussed it yet.

Claire and Daisy start FIGHTING again.

BRIAN

Well, doesn't it seem fair?

SOPHIA

Ok, that's not- we're not discussing it now - Girls!

## PEMA CHETSANG WEBB (30s)

Terrence's wife. Calming presence. Speaks with an accent.  
(Preferably an Asian, African, or European accent. Name can change based on the accent.)

### Sample Scene 1

Direction: Pema was raised in another country, but came to the US for school, where she met and married Terrence. She is normally sweet and soft-spoken, but can speak up for herself or others if she needs to.

Every year Pema goes Black Friday shopping with her sisters' in law, Sophia and Val. They have been planning on this for some time, but the family is surprised to hear that the stores are opening earlier now. Pema feels like she has to help defend their position.

SOPHIA

Um, well, we have Black Friday shopping.

MOLLY

Well, not until midnight, right?

PEMA

They moved it up. It starts at 6 now.

ALLEN

So Black Friday is on Thursday now?

TERRENCE

Isn't it just kind of ironic how we have this day to give thanks for what we have and then immediately turn around and buy more stuff?

PEMA

We're buying *Christmas presents*. For *other* people. Not stuff for ourselves.

TERRENCE

Ok, ok.

### Sample Scene 2

Direction: Pema's husband Terrence has just received news that his book is no longer being published. She feels bad for him, but at the same time, is supposed to be leaving with the

sisters to go Black Friday shopping. She tries to show her support to her husband, and can tell he'd probably like her to stay, but isn't able to call off the shopping trip.

Pema steps out back just as Terrence is hanging up.

TERRENCE

Yeah... Ok... Goodbye.

PEMA

What'd she say?

TERRENCE

(choked up)

Basically, there's nothing we can do.

She gives him a hug.

PEMA

I'm sorry.

Terrence SNIFFS.

TERRENCE

I know it's just a book...

PEMA

It's not *just* a book.

TERRENCE

I've just lived and breathed it for so long- it feels like... like losing a family member... or something.

Pema rubs his back.

PEMA

I'm sorry, Terr.

She holds him a moment, but eventually loosens her hug and looks at the door.

PEMA (CONT'D)

Do you... want me to stay?

TERRENCE

Umm... I don't know. Do you want to go?



PEMA

Well, it's... it's not that I *want* to go, but I have been prepping for this for like a week, and sadly it's not something I can just postpone and do later... But uh... well, I *could* stay. If you really want me to.

TERRENCE

No, it's fine, go ahead.

PEMA

Ok...

# BRIAN TAYLOR (30s)

Sophia's husband. Dry and abrasive.

## Sample Scene 1

Direction: Brian has never really fit in with the Webb family, nor has he really tried. He keeps mostly to himself unless he is challenged or asked to do something he doesn't want to, in which case he can be abrasive.

In this scene, Brian's wife Sophia is trying to compromise with her family on plans for next year, when Brian would rather go to *his* family's house for Thanksgiving next year.

**BRIAN**

Except we're not going to be here next year.

MOLLY

You're not?

SOPHIA

What?

**BRIAN**

We're going to be at *my* family's. Remember?

SOPHIA

I remember you suggesting it.

(to the family)

We haven't actually discussed it yet.

Claire and Daisy start FIGHTING again.

**BRIAN**

Well, doesn't it seem fair?

SOPHIA

Ok, that's not- we're not discussing it now - Girls!

## Sample Scene 2

Direction: Brian has been watching football on his phone while his daughters have been playing in the room behind him. They knock over a shelf and make a mess. Meanwhile, Walter has been trying to watch a movie and is annoyed with Brian. When he makes a snide remark, Brian jabs back, reminding Walter of his much worse mistakes as a parent.

CRASH! Claire and Daisy have pulled the entire shelf down with their lasso, spilling everything off it. Brian spins around.

**BRIAN**

Claire!

CLAIRE

It was Daisy's idea!

He gets up, taking in the damage. Walter PAUSES the movie.

**BRIAN**

You guys! Oh my- Can't we ever come to Grandma and Grandpa's without destroying something?

The girls BLABBER on about who's fault it was, trying to blame each other.

WALTER

If you'd look up once in a while you could have stopped it.

Brian looks back at Walter, somewhat stunned at his bluntness. His look quickly turns to anger

**BRIAN**

They were behind me!

He turns back to the girls, ushering them to their room, leaving the mess behind.

**BRIAN (CONT'D)**

K, it's bedtime, girls. Let's go.

The girls start CRYING. Brian turns back to Walter-

**BRIAN (CONT'D)**

You're one to be giving out parenting advice.