

NOTES

According to statistics, approximately five million children witness domestic violence each year in the United States. In his hauntingly beautiful tale of the undeniable bonds that can exist between siblings, Mathew Yasuoka introduces us to a brother and sister who would do anything to protect each other. This selection would be best suited for a male and female and may be entered in either Duo Interpretation or Duet Acting; however, because the two siblings use their imaginations to escape the domestic dangers in their lives, the performers should decide who portrays the extra characters of the Wizard, Raccoon, T-Rex, Faerie Rogue, Grizzled Knight, Pegasus, Watch Captain and the Old Witch. The loving banter between the two siblings should make it crystal clear to the audience that this brother and sister love each other dearly.

Sadie: Big Brother, where did you get those owies?

Dylan: I can't tell you—

Sadie: Come on, please?! Why not?

Dylan: Because it's a secret—

Sadie: I'm really good at keeping secrets! Please! Tell me, tell me!

Dylan: Alright, but you have to promise not to tell anyone. Okay?

Sadie: I pinky swear! Cross my heart and hope to die!

Dylan: Okay. Well, at night, you know how sometimes I tell you to lock the door to our room and not come out no matter what?

Sadie: Uhh-huh.

Dylan: That's because—*[pulling her in close]* at night our house is transported to a magical—but dangerous—land, where I am one of the kingdom's knights.

Sadie: No way!

Dylan: Way!

Sadie: I'm not gulpable.

Dylan: Don't you mean "gullible"?

Sadie: Nope! I am not gulpable.

Dylan: If I wasn't a knight who had to fight monsters, how would I have gotten this? *[He points to his bruise]*

Sadie: *(Considers the "battle scar")* Monsters sure are mean. *[Beat]* If you're really a knight and you really go on adventures, why don't you tell me some of your stories?

Dylan: If I tell you, will you believe me?

Sadie: Uh-huh.

Dylan: Then, I guess I have no choice. Once upon a time...in a kingdom very, very near, there was a king, who was married to a beautiful, kindly queen.

Sadie: Boring.

Dylan: But you love stories about princesses!

Sadie: No, I don't! I want a story about a T-Rex!

Dylan: Okay—Once upon a time there was a T-Rex—

Sadie: And a raccoon.

Dylan: Seriously?!

Sadie: They wash their paws before they eat!

Dylan: Fine. Once upon a time there was a T-Rex, who was married to a kindly Raccoon. The two were quite happy indeed. But one day an evil curse befell the Raccoon. So the T-Rex and Raccoon set off to see the greatest wizard in all the land.

Wizard: Ah, yes. I've seen this curse before. Tis' beyond my abilities, but perhaps if I try these new experimental spells—

Dylan: The wizard used all manner of potions, but the Raccoon's curse only worsened. Soon, all of her beautiful fur had fallen out.

T-Rex: I love you, even if you don't have your fur anymore! RAWR!

Dylan: The T-Rex longed to save his beloved. So he paid all manner of gypsies and thieves who appeared at his doorstep. But day by day, his one true love grew weaker and weaker.

Raccoon: Oh darling, I am not long for this world.

Dylan: Before long the Raccoon's curse took away her strength, and she could no longer stand. Then it took away her appetite, and she could no longer eat. And cruelest of all, the curse took away her sight, and she could no longer see her beautiful husband, the T-Rex.

T-Rex: Jr. has grown quite big. I wish you could see him.

Raccoon: Describe him to me.

T-Rex: Well, he has your eyes and my teeth. And his scales are just the slightest bit fuzzy.

Dylan: Fortunately, Death is kind and took the Raccoon in her arms before too long.

Sadie: I don't like Death...

Dylan: But without Death, Raccoon would have suffered even more.

Sadie: But why do people have to die?

Dylan: That's a good question...

Sadie: And why do curses have to exist?

Dylan: I don't know—

Sadie: Is that the end?

Dylan: No—

Sadie: So what happened?

Dylan: The T-Rex mourned at his wife's death, and then he sought out the strange menagerie of characters who had promised to save her. Only this time, he sought a cure of a different kind—

Faerie Rogue: Don't worry if the drink isn't working. I have the perfect fix. A bit of this here powder will make you forget everything.

Dylan: And so, night after night, the old T-Rex sniffs a bit of powder to forget his wife.

Sadie: What happened to his kids?

Dylan: They had to stick together to keep each other safe!

Sadie: Just like us?

Dylan: That's right. Two is better than one—

Sadie: Siblings have all the fun—

Dylan: Super-secret sibling handshake.

Sadie: *[Serious]* You won't leave me, right?

Dylan: Of course not, I couldn't do that!

Sadie: But how do you know that?

Dylan: Because you know that secret handshake we do?

Sadie: Yeah!

Dylan: I learned it from an old witch on my journey. She said it's an ancient spell of binding that ties two people's fates together.

Sadie: REALLY?!

Dylan: Pinky swear.

Sadie: Wow! Did you learn any other spells?

Dylan: Nah, once I learned that spell I didn't need any others.

Sadie: You don't want to be able to throw fireballs?

Dylan: Nah.

Sadie: Shoot lightning from your eyes?

Dylan: Meh.

Sadie: You don't want to fly?

Dylan: As long as I have my sister, I know I don't need any of those things.

Sadie: You could've learned them to teach me!

Dylan: *[Laughs]*

Sadie: 'Cuz, no offense, but you're not better than flying. *[There's a loud knocking in the distance]*

Dylan: Uhhh?!

Sadie: What is it?

Dylan: I wasn't keeping track of the time! But it's already night, and the house has been transported to the other world.

Sadie: What do we do?

Dylan: Stay in here, and lock the door. Don't come out—ever.

Sadie: But I can help you fight monsters!

Dylan: I don't need help. Just stay here.

Sadie: Okay.

Dylan: I'll be okay. *[Exit Dylan. Sadie locks the door and presses her ear to it. She hears bellowing and crashing. A glass shatters. The wall shakes, as if something, maybe a body, hit it.]*

Sadie: Once upon a time there was a brave knight who loved his sister very much. The two were cursed by Death to live in a castle that by day was a very happy place. *[In the background, she can hear yelling and crashing and maybe make out a few muffled words like "why do you haunt me?"]* By night, however, their castle would transform into the home of a monster. But this monster had a weakness. It liked to play hide and seek. So the knight challenged it to play hide and seek every night. *[She covers her ears, so she can't hear the ruckus in the background. She closes her eyes, as she wraps her arms around her knees]* This would distract the monster all night long, so that his little sister could hide from it. *[In the background the clashing of swords and whooping of a brave*