

HONORABLE MENTION

A Play in Three Scenes
by
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Just an average high school student, Medley has to pedal fast to keep up with her older sister, Monica, a cheerleader who not only gets straight A's but any guy she wants - including, Kevin, a football star and class officer. Even Medley's honorable mention award in an essay contest seems small potatoes to Monica's latest and greatest achievements. But everything changes when an extremely depressed and suicidal Kevin phones and Medley is the only one home. She talks him into calling a crisis hot line, a number she knows intimately as it is scrawled in red lipstick on her bedroom mirror.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 m, 4 w, 3 extras)

MEDLEY WILLIAMS: A typical teenage girl.

KEVIN KINGMAN: A popular high school athlete and Medley's love interest.

JENNIFER WALLS: Medley's best friend.

MONICA WILLIAMS: Medley's almost perfect sister.

MRS. WILLIAMS: A well-meaning but not-so-perfect mother.

HAROLD JAMES: Director of a crisis hot line.

3 TEENS: Three anonymous teens. *(Can be doubled by Kevin, Monica and Jennifer.)*

Time: The present.

Setting: Medley's bedroom includes a bed, vanity and mirror, phone and TV. In Scene 2, Kevin's room is represented by a desk on a raised platform at USR. In Scene 3 it serves as the office of Harold James.

Props: In Medley's bedroom: homework, a TV guide listing, large bottle of pain killers, certificate in vanity drawer. At USR: a handgun and a phone. Carried on: Pompons, large certificate, cash, cellular phone.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: MEDLEY is seated on the bed, her legs crossed, surrounded by school books and notebook paper. She is trying to study but is distracted by JENNY who is seated on a stool at the vanity, primping.)

JENNY: *(Looks closely at mirror.)* What's this? *(Beat.)* Are you holding out on me, Med?

MEDLEY: Oh. *(Beat.)* It's nothing, Jenny.

JENNY: Nothing. I wouldn't call a phone number in red lipstick nothing! He must be pretty hot. *(Beat.)* What's his name?

MEDLEY: It's nobody you'd know.

JENNY: Okay. Be that way. *(MEDLEY returns her concentration to her studies. After a moment, she heaves a sigh of frustration.)* Why do you push yourself so hard? Just because your sister makes straight A's doesn't mean you have to be a brain.

MEDLEY: Try telling that to my mom on report card day. *(Imitate mother's voice)* Medley, why can't you be more like your sister? What's wrong with you? *(Beat. Own voice.)* Straight-A-Monica. Head-cheerleader-Monica. Guys-up-to-her-eyelashes Monica. She makes me sick.

JENNY: Yeah. How does she do it?

MEDLEY: Traitor!

JENNY: Oops. *(Beat.)* Sure you can't go to the mall with me? I heard they've got Stranger Than Fiction's newest album on sale. Kristi Farr says it's totally awesome. *(MEDLEY glares at JENNY.)* Okay, but ...

MEDLEY: But what?

JENNY: I just wanted to surprise you, but ...

MEDLEY: But what?

JENNY: I better not tell you if you can't go.

MEDLEY: You better tell me, Jennifer Diane Walls.

JENNY: Okay, okay. I heard Kevin Kingman is working part-time at the movies up there.

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MEDLEY: Oh, God. Oh, my God. *(Beat.)* You mean, Kevin Kingman, as in junior class V.P.?

JENNY: Uh-huh.

MEDLEY: Kevin Kingman, as in starting quarterback of the varsity football team?

JENNY: Yeah.

MEDLEY: Oh, God. *(Jumps out of bed, moves to JENNY'S side.)* Jenny, he's so fine.

JENNY: I know.

MEDLEY: *(Sits down and scoots JENNY off stool.)* Did I tell you he smiled at me at the pep rally Friday?

JENNY: Get real. *(Moves to bed, sits down.)*

MEDLEY: *(Looks in mirror, brushes hair, turns to JENNY.)* He did. He smiled at me, looked me right in the eyes and said, "Hi." I nearly died.

JENNY: Awesome.

MEDLEY: And there was something else. I had this feeling that we really connected, you know. That we share something. I don't know what it is, but -

JENNY: L - U - S - T.

MEDLEY: Not that. *(Beat.)* Well, besides that. Anyway, I remember wishing at that moment that time would stop. Then, she ruined it. She ...

(LIGHTS FADE. MONICA and KEVIN enter SR and SL and converge DSC. Sounds of a pep rally begin as Monica and Kevin are SPOTLIGHTED in a cold blue, ethereal light. Kevin stares at a point somewhere in the audience. Monica parades around him, shakes pompons and her self in his face. Kevin loses concentration and smiles at Monica. Blackout. Monica and Kevin exit. LIGHTS come up on MEDLEY'S room.)

JENNY: Oh, Med.

MEDLEY: *(Leaves vanity, returns to bed.)* I guess I better finish my homework.

JENNY: Okay, Miss Bookworm. *(Leaves bed, returns to vanity, primps.)*

MEDLEY: I'm going to make an A. Sooner or later.

JENNY: If you insist. *(Beat.)* But there is an easier way.

MEDLEY: You know how I feel about that.

JENNY: But, Med. What harm could it do, just once?

MEDLEY: What harm? I thought about that, too. *(Beat.)*

One day, I left a note on his locker.

JENNY: *(Stops primping, looks at MEDLEY.)* You left a note on Nicholas Page's locker?

MEDLEY: I didn't sign it or anything. I just told him to be in the auditorium after school. That he had a customer. He showed up, with a stack of folders and told me, any subject, guaranteed A. What harm could it do? That's what I was thinking. I pulled the money out of my purse. I already felt like a big zero. So what harm could it do? Then it hit me. If I do this, if I cheat, I'll be worth less than nothing. I put the money back in my purse and ran.

JENNY: Oh, Med. *(Gets up, moves to TV, turns it on. MEDLEY sighs.)* If you can't go to the mall with me, at least take a break. It'll do you good. Look. Clint Eastwood. Dirty Harry. *(Beat.)* Do you think he's sexy?

MEDLEY: Get real.

JENNY: Ooh. I do.

MEDLEY: I know. Him and every other man that walks this earth. *(JENNY is unsure if this is a joke or an insult. MEDLEY closes book.)* What else is on?

JENNY: *(Smiles, picks up a TV guide.)* Reruns of "Hunter." "NFL Football." On the public station, "World at War," and *(Smiles wider.)* "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre." *(MEDLEY cringes.)* God, I know my mom's not watching TV right now. She can't stand violence. She gets sick. Literally. *(Beat.)* Well, what will it be?

MEDLEY: "Dirty Harry."

JENNY: Yes!

(SHE returns to vanity, sits down, primps, watches TV, primps. MEDLEY, meanwhile, stealthily reopens book and begins to study.)

End of Freeview

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