



BILL AND ME

A FAMILY MUSICAL FANTASY

BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY
MICHAEL LANCY

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“BILL AND ME”

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CHARACTERS

ROBBY: A fun-loving boy of about twelve whose only problem seems to be that his best friend Bill doesn't really exist.

MOTHER: Robby's Mom, a sympathetic person who tries to understand, but very confused over her son's problem.

CAROL: Robby's sister and a teenager. She is amazingly patient considering what a social embarrassment Robby can be to her.

MR. STONE: The school Principal and arch-enemy of Robby (and Bill); a staunch supporter of “reality” but rarely pays the place a visit himself. He has a moustache and wears glasses.

MR. JENNINGS: Robby's closest ally, Mr. Jennings understands Robby's friendship with the imaginary Bill, having been there himself.

JOHN SCHMIDLAP: The stuck-up upper classman in high school, dwells in a world of Polo shirts, Porsches and status.

Sidney Clutchnavel, the **PSYCHOLOGIST:** (can be male or female) is a suspicious klutz of a shrink who looks for hidden motives for anything and everything.

MRS. BRANNIGAN: Mr. Stone's personal secretary. A bit of a snoop with a massive crush on her boss.

BERTHA: The official head of the PTA's Executive Council, Bertha likes to think of everything as part of a conspiracy, and if not that, then simply un-American.

Mrs. Tidy, **THE SOCIAL WORKER:** a quiet and mealy-mouthed member of “the system” who will basically agree with any superior.

OLDER ROBBY: He is dressed just like Robby and, even though he is obviously in his teens, he acts just like the younger Robby.

THE HEAD GYPSY(played by Robby's Mother): She is flamboyant and, in a strange way, threatening.

ALBAGONIA: The loud-mouthed gypsy, played by Bertha Control.

CAPTAIN BLAH (played by Principal Stone): He’s a bumbling, cowardly, and non-handicapped Captain Hook.

BLIMEY (played by Mrs. Tidy): A pirate and Captain Blah’s right-hand “man.”

MR. JENNING’S CLASS: Mary, Brian, Wayne, Joe, Al, Chuck, Stephanie, Tracy, Kevin

HIGH SCHOOL KIDS: Karen, Christy, Lulu, Terri and others

HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB: A half-dozen high school kids

GYPSIES: Played by PTA & others

PTA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: Matilda, Mildred, Agnes, Abby, Maud, Alberta, Martha

PIRATES:

The Camel: Carries all the supplies

Tong: An Asian

Bonnie & Clyde

Plus about a half a dozen others who could be the high school kids

PRODUCTION NOTE:

BILL AND ME was originally produced on a stationary semi-circle of platforms, with only those props and set decorations absolutely necessary for the story utilized. The costuming was kept extremely simple until the dream sequence, when both the pirates and the gypsies were bedecked in every color imaginable. Lighting during the dream sequence was also very colorful and a dry-ice fog was used to flood the stage.

SCENES AND SONGS

PROLOGUE	SPLIT-STAGE: ROBBY’S HOUSE / MR. STONE’S OFFICE “I’ve Got A Friend Named Bill”	... Robby
SCENE I	PLAYGROUND	
SCENE II	THE KITCHEN OF ROBBY’S HOME “Give My Phone A Little Ring”	... Carol
SCENE III	HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS “Boys”	... Lulu, Christy, Carol & The Girls
SCENE IV	MR. JENNINGS’ 6TH GRADE CLASSROOM “I’ve Got A Friend” “We’re Just The Same”	... The Whole Class ... Jennings, Robby
SCENE V	MR. STONE’S OFFICE	
SCENE VI	THE PTA MEETING “If Only He Were Mine”	... Bertha & PTA
SCENE VII	ROBBY’S HOUSE / ROBBY’S BEDROOM “Lullaby”	... Carol, Mother
SCENE VIII	ROBBY’S DREAM “I’ve Got A Friend Named Bill” (<i>Reprise</i>) “The Gypsy Life” “We’re A Naughty Bunch of Runaways”	... Older Robby ... The Gypsies ...Capt. Blah & The Pirates
SCENE IX	ROBBY’S BEDROOM / KITCHEN “I’ve Got A Friend Named Bill” (<i>Reprise</i>)	... Cast

PROLOGUE

AS THE HOUSE LIGHTS FADE, WE HEAR THE BILL AND ME THEME MUSIC PLAY UP. THE TWO FOLLOWING VIGNETTES ARE PROLOGUE TO THE PLAY. THE LIGHTS COME UP ON A SPECIFIC AREA OF THE STAGE AND WE SEE ROBBY'S MOTHER AND SISTER, CAROL, SETTING THE TABLE FOR LUNCH.

MOTHER: (BUSY WITH FIXINS, LOOKS OUT WINDOW) Hmm, I wonder where Robby is?... It's not like him to be late for lunch.

CAROL: Oh mom, you know Rob. He'll be here as soon as his stomach alarm goes off. He probably stopped to talk to some of his school friends.

MOTHER: What friends? Most of the kids make fun of him... It seems to be a class project.

CAROL: Well, that's probably because they're too immature to understand the relationship between Robby and Bill. (VERY ADULT) You see Robby is going through a period of adjustment. (THINKS) I think that's right... Anyway... he feels he needs a close friend, so he pretends to have Bill. It's a phase, that's all.

MOTHER: Well, Dr. Freud, he's been going through this phase since he was six. I think Bill has become more than just a passing fancy.

CAROL: (SETTING PLATES ON THE TABLE) I still say Bill is just a phase.

MOTHER: Okay, okay. Only don't forget to set an extra place for ol' "just a phase."
(SHE SMILES)

CAROL: (LAUGHS) Okay.

BLACKOUT. THE LIGHTS CROSSFADE TO ANOTHER AREA OF THE STAGE AND WE ARE NOW IN ROBBY'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. THE PRINCIPAL IS PACING BACK AND FORTH, METHODICALLY, AS JENNINGS ENTERS.

JENNINGS: (WATCHES HIM PACE FOR A MOMENT) Uh, excuse me Mr. Stone.
(STONE STOPS PACING AND STARES) You wanted to see me?

STONE: (CROSSING BEHIND HIS DESK) Right. Sit down, Jennings, I have something important to discuss with you.

JENNINGS: (SITTING) I think I know what it is. It's about Robby Austin isn't it?

STONE: Yes, it is.

JENNINGS: Well, I think I can explain that sir. You see...

STONE: No explanations needed Jennings. As your principal I understand.

JENNINGS: (RELIEVED) Thank you.

STONE: But, it has been a whole month since I asked you to do something about Austin and his imaginary friend.

JENNINGS: I know sir, but...

STONE: And in that time has he gotten any better?

JENNINGS: Well

STONE: No, he hasn't. In fact, the confusion he's causing is getting worse. (PULLS A LIST FROM HIS DESK) Just look at this list. "Two trays in the lunch line, two milk tokens, two library cards," and on and on. Now, in the Navy, Jennings, we'd call this kind of action 'insubordination'.

JENNINGS: Yes, but this isn't the Navy, sir.

STONE: I know that Jennings.

JENNINGS: Good.

STONE: But, something has got to be done about that kid and fast: So I'm scheduling a special meeting of the P.T.A. Executive Council to discuss the matter.

JENNINGS: What?

STONE: And, I asked the District Psychologist to stop by later this afternoon and examine the boy.

JENNINGS: (FED UP, STANDS AND CROSSES TOWARD STONE) Oh, that's ridiculous. There's nothing mentally wrong with Robby. Look, Mr. Stone, these things take a little time. Now, I've been trying to get closer to him and find out why he needs Bill, and...

STONE: (POUNDS ON DESK) That's just the point. He doesn't need Bill. Normal people do not need imaginary friends. That kid is a weirdo. And, there is no place for weirdos in my ship—err... school. (HE PUNCHES THE INTERCOM ON HIS DESK) Mrs. Brannigan, has my mother shown up yet with my peanut butter and tuna fish sandwich?

JENNINGS TAKES.

BLACKOUT. THE “BILL AND ME” THEME PLAYS UP AGAIN AND ROBBY APPEARS IN A SPOTLIGHT. HE’S PLAYING FOLLOW THE LEADER WITH BILL.

BOBBY: (RUNNING ON) C’mon Bill. (HE CROSSES DOWN CENTER)

SONG: “BILL AND ME”

ROBBY: I’ve got a friend named Bill
We’ll be together ‘til
the stars grow dim.
Just me and him.
We laugh and play each day.
We don’t care what others say,
‘cause Bill and me
are friends you see.
We can climb the highest mountain.
We can fly beyond the sun.
Our friendship’s wider than the sea.
We can slay a million dragons.
We can have all kinds of fun,
‘cause I’ve got Bill... and Bill has me.
I’ve got a friend named Bill.
We’ll be together ‘til
the stars grow dim.
Just me and him.
Just me and him.

ROBBY: (SPOKEN) C mon Bill, follow the leader!

“THEY” PLAY FOLLOW THE LEADER.

We can fly beyond the sun.
Our friendship’s wider than the sea.
We can slay a million dragons.
We can have all kinds of fun,
‘cause I’ve got Bill... and Bill has me.
I’ve got a friend named Bill.

We’ll be together ‘til
the stars grow dim.
Just me and him.
Just me and him.

BLACKOUT

SCENE I

THE LIGHTS COME UP ON THE PLAYGROUND. MARY, BRIAN, AND WAYNE, KIDS WHO ARE ROBBY'S AGE, ENTER LAUGHING. THEY'RE TOSSING A BALL BACK AND FORTH.

MARY: Did you see what Robby was doing during the test in Mrs. Byron's class? He was talking to thin air, his fake-o friend.

BRIAN: Yeah, and when old lady Byron saw him she thought he was cheating and so she tore up his test.

THEY ALL LAUGH

WAYNE: You're kidding?

MARY: No, she really did.

JOE ENTERS FROM UPSTAGE AND WATCHES.

WAYNE: Well, it serves him right anyway. He thinks we're not good enough for him.

BRIAN: Yeah, what a jerk.

JOE: (CROSSING DOWN TO THEM) Hey, come on. What's the matter with you guys? What has Robby ever done to you? You act like he's an alien or something.

BRIAN: Well, what do you know? And, why are you always stickin' up for him?

WAYNE: Yeah, Joe.

MARY: Do you believe his fairy friend is real, too?

JOE: (MAD, STARTS TO LEAVE) I don't know what to believe, cause I don't know everything.

BRIAN: No kidding.

JOE: (STOPS) But, neither do you! (HE EXITS)

THEY ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT AND THEN CRACK UP LAUGHING.

ALL THREE: What a jerk... nerd... creep... loser, etc.

WAYNE: (SPOTS SOMETHING) Hey look. Here he comes. (HE POINTS OFF STAGE)

THEY GIGGLE AND WHISPER SOMETHING TO EACH OTHER AS ROBBY ENTERS TALKING TO BILL.

ROBBY: (LAUGHING) Okay, okay, I know. You won at follow the leader (THINKS) How about a quick game of marbles? Alright! (HE KNEELS DOWN AND DRAWS A CIRCLE ON THE GROUND WITH HIS FINGER AND GETS OUT HIS MARBLES) Here, you sit there. Now then, since you won at follow the leader, I get to shoot first. Okay?

MARY: (CROSSING DOWN WITH THE OTHERS TO ROBBY) Hi Robby... whatcha doin'?

ROBBY: What's it look like I'm doing? I'm playing marbles.

WAYNE: By yourself?

ROBBY: (TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ON A SHOT.) No, not by myself.

BRIAN: (SNICKERING) Well, then who are you playing with?

WAYNE: Yeah, we don't see anyone.

ROBBY: Don't pay any attention to them Bill.

MARY: Oh, it's Bill. I should have known. (BEGINS TALKING TO THE AIR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION) How've ya been Bill? Bill? Why doesn't he answer, Robby?

ROBBY: Kiss off, Mary.

THE THREE KIDS PRETEND TO BE SEARCHING FOR BILL.

BRIAN: Oh, no. Maybe he's lost.

WAYNE: Or even... disappeared? (THEY LAUGH)

BRIAN: (CALLING BILL, LIKE HE WOULD HIS DOG) Here Bill. Here boy. (HE WHISTLES)

MARY: (LOOKING ALL AROUND ROBBY) Wait a minute... (LIFTS UP A MARBLE AND POINTS AT THE GROUND) Is that him?

WAYNE: Nah that's an ant. (THE THREE YUK IT UP)

ROBBY: (STANDS UP, MAD) Hey, why don't you morons just get lost! Go on. Leave us alone!

THE THREE KIDS ARE TAKEN BACK AND SHUT UP.

MARY: There isn't anyone there Robby. You're just pretending.

BRIAN: C'mon, let's go. He's a space case.

THEY LAUGH AT ROBBY, AND BEGIN TO EXIT.

MARY: Good bye, Robby.

BRIAN AND WAYNE: (LIKE MORONS) Good-bye, Bill.

THEY ALL LAUGH AND EXIT.

ROBBY: (GETTING BACK TO HIS GAME) What a buncha jerks. (TO BILL) Go ahead, it's your shot. Okay, I'll shoot for ya. (HE DOES) Ha, you missed.

JOE AND HIS OLDER SISTER KAREN ENTER AND CROSS DOWN TO ROBBY.

JOE: Hi, Robby.

ROBBY: Oh, Hi Joe. (TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS SHOT)

JOE: You remember my older sister, Karen?

ROBBY: Sure. Hi Karen.

KAREN: Hi, whatcha doin'?

JOE: He's playing marbles.

KAREN: Oh, that's cool. Can we play, too? (SHE STARTS TO SIT RIGHT ON BILL)

ROBBY: Hey, look out! You almost sat on him.

KAREN: (SHOCKED) Who?

JOE: (TRYING TO REMIND HER) Bill.

KAREN: Bill? (JOE GLARES AT HER) Oh, yeah Bill.

JOE: Hey, Robby. We wanted to know if you... I mean if you and Bill wanted to come over to our house for lunch?

KAREN: Yeah, our mom said it was okay.

ROBBY: Well, I don't think I— (REMEMBERS) Lunch!!!! Oh, my gosh!!! I'm late! (HE

HURRIEDLY STARTS TO PICK UP HIS THINGS. JOE AND KAREN HELP) I forgot. I'm supposed to go home for lunch. Thanks, gotta run. (HE STARTS TO RUN OFF THEN STOPS AND TURNS) Oh, um, maybe some other time. Okay?

JOE: Sure. (ROBBY DASHES OFF) Well, at least we tried. Come on, I'll beat ya home! (HE RUNS OFF)

KAREN: Who cares? (SHE THINKS, THEN DASHES OFF) Hey, wait up!

BLACKOUT.

SCENE II

LIGHTS COME BACK UP IN THE KITCHEN OF ROBBY'S HOME. HIS MOTHER IS SITTING AT THE TABLE DRUMMING HER FINGERS IMPATIENTLY.

CAROL: (ENTERS BRUSHING HER HAIR) Any sign of him yet, mom?

MOTHER: No, not yet. (SHE POURS SOME ICED TEA)

THE PHONE RINGS. CAROL SPRINGS FOR IT.

CAROL: I'll get it! John was supposed to call at lunch.

MOTHER: Ohhhhh?

CAROL: (ANSWERING THE PHONE IN A DIGNIFIED TONE) Hello. (LISTENS) No, we don't need RotoRooter Service. (LISTENS) Yes, I'm positive... Good bye. (HANGS UP DISAPPOINTED) It wasn't him.

MOTHER: So I guessed. (PAUSE) Who's John?

CAROL: (SECRETIVE) Oh, he's just a friend.

MOTHER: Well, I hope he's visible. (GETS UP FOR SOMETHING)

CAROL: Oh, he is. You don't have to worry about me. John is very real.

MOTHER: Sounds like you might have a crush on him.

CAROL: (OFFENDED) Mother. I do not get crushes anymore.

MOTHER: Whatever you say, Carol. (SHE TURNS HER BACK TO FINISH PREPARING LUNCH)

CAROL SITS BY THE PHONE, WAITING FOR JOHN TO CALL. THE LIGHTS FADE TO A SPOT ON HER.

CAROL: C'mon John ... this could be the most important call you'll ever make...

SONG: “GIVE MY PHONE A LITTLE RING”

CAROL: Just sittin' by the phone,
hoping he will call:
I'm waitin' all alone,
Feelin' kinda small.
Please hear the words I sing,
and give my phone a little ring.

You said you'd call today,
hope you didn't lose my number—
dial it right away,
so I'll stop feeling dumber
than a ping-pong ball.
Come on you ding-dong place that call.
Two-nine-six—four-oh-oh-three.
That's the hotline straight to me.
I hope my number's in your book;
Ring my thing right off the hook.
Just sittin' by the phone,
hoping he will call:
I'm waitin' all alone
feelin' kinda small.
Please, hear the words I sing,
and give my phone a little ring.
And give my phone a little ring.

AFTER THE SONG THE LIGHTS COME BACK UP AND THE TELEPHONE RINGS, STARTLING CAROL. SHE ANSWERS IT QUICKLY.

CAROL: I'll get it. (IN HER DIGNIFIED TONE) Hello. Yes, this is her... uh, she. (HER FACE LIGHTS UP) Oh, John what a pleasant surprise. We we're just about to have lunch and... Oh, no you're not interrupting.

ROBBY FINALLY COMES BOUNDING IN LIKE HE'S CROSSING A FINISH LINE.

ROBBY: (LOUD AND OUT OF BREATH) Hi, Mom! Sorry I'm late. (HE GIVES HER A KISS ON THE CHEEK)

MOTHER: Where have you been?

ROBBY: Oh, Bill and me stopped to—

CAROL: (SHE HAS BEEN TRYING TO KEEP THE NOISE FROM GETTING INTO THE PHONE) SssssssHHHHHHH!!!!

ROBBY: (WHISPERS) Bill and me stopped to play marbles.

HE STARTS TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE, BUT MOTHER STOPS HIM AND POINTS TOWARD THE BATHROOM.

MOTHER: (WHISPERS) Hands.

ROBBY: Okay. (LOUDLY AS HE PASSES CAROL) C'mon Bill.

CAROL: (SWATS ROBBY ON THE SEAT AS HE EXITS) Oh, why I'd love to go Friday night. (MOTHER GIVES HER A STARE) Of course, I'll have to ask permission... Oh, it's just a silly custom we have. What?... Oh, I'm sure she'd love to meet you. Why don't you stop by on your way back to school. Oh, super! I mean, that's fine. See you then. (DREAMILY) Good-bye.

ROBBY: (HE HAS ENTERED ON HER LAST LINE AND MIMICS HER) Good bye. (HE LAUGHS)

CAROL GRABS HIM, BUT IT TURNS INTO A HUG.

CAROL: Why, you little... Where were you anyway?

MOTHER: (SIMPLY) He was playing marbles.

ROBBY: Yeah, with Bill.

THEY ALL SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE AND START LUNCH. ROBBY MOTIONS TO BILL TO SIT IN HIS USUAL SEAT.

CAROL: Oh, that reminds me Rob. I have a favor to ask.

ROBBY: Okay, shoot.

CAROL: You know John Schmidlap?

ROBBY: No!

MOTHER: (ROUTINELY) Robby...

ROBBY: Well, I don't.

CAROL: Anyway, he's going to come over for a little while before we go back to school and...

ROBBY: Why? (TAKES A BIG BITE OF HIS SANDWICH)

CAROL: Huh?

ROBBY: (WITH HIS MOUTH FULL) Why's he coming over?

MOTHER: Don't talk with your mouth full.

ROBBY: (WITH MOUTH FULL) Okay.

CAROL: Oh, no reason. Just to talk.

ROBBY: Can't he talk at his house?

CAROL: Mom...

MOTHER: Robby...

ROBBY: Sorry.

CAROL: (SIGH) Anyway, I was wondering if...

ROBBY: C'mon get to the point.

CAROL: (BLURTS IT OUT) I was wondering if you and Bill could get lost.

ROBBY: Mom...

MOTHER: Carol...

CAROL: Sorry. Just for a little while, okay?

ROBBY: (LOOKING AT BILL FOR APPROVAL) Sure.

CAROL: (EXCITED) Oh, you're beautiful. (KISSES HIM ON CHEEK)

ROBBY: Oooo, gross! (WIPES HIS FACE)

MOTHER: (TRYING TO GET SERIOUS) Robby?

ROBBY: Yeah, Mom.

MOTHER: About Bill...

ROBBY: Oh, he's really good.

MOTHER: What?

ROBBY: At marbles, I mean.

MOTHER: Oh, that's nice. Listen, I wanted to talk to you about—

ROBBY: He's good at follow the leader, too. In fact, he's real good. Today I almost—

MOTHER: Rob, I think that... well, now how should I put this? You see Bill is just...

ROBBY: (WITH HIS MOUTH FULL) Just great. He's the best friend I ever had.

MOTHER: (GIVING UP) Don't talk with your mouth full. (SIGHS)

ROBBY: (WITH MOUTH FULL) Okay.

CAROL: I think what mom is trying to say Robby, is that you should try to find other friends... besides Bill.

ROBBY: Why?

CAROL: Um, well, you see it's because, because (PASSING THE BALL)... Why mom?

MOTHER: Well, for one thing, because there's a lot to learn by having different friends.

ROBBY: I'd say Bill is different.

CAROL: (SARCASTIC) Me too.

MOTHER: That's not what I meant. I meant other friends.

ROBBY: I've tried having other friends.

CAROL: And?

ROBBY: And, it never works out, that's all.

MOTHER: Why not?

ROBBY: Because as soon as they find out about Bill, they're not my friends anymore.

MOTHER: Well now, don't you think that says something?

ROBBY: Yeah, it says they can go suck an egg.

CAROL: (LAUGHING) Oh, brother.

MOTHER: (GIVES UP AND TAKES SOME DISHES TO THE SINK) Oh, well.

THE DOOR BELL RINGS AND CAROL INSTANTLY LEAPS INTO ACTION: STRAIGHTENING UP, CLEARING THE TABLE, FINISHING HER MILK, RIPPING OFF MOM’S APRON, ETC.

CAROL: That must be John!

MOTHER: (AMUSED) Must be.

CAROL: (BENDS DOWN TO ROBBY WHO IS FINISHING A CUPCAKE. SMILING) Get lost.

ROBBY: Okay. I have to go brush my teeth anyway. (TO BILL IN THE CHAIR) Wait here for me, Bill.

ROBBY EXITS AROUND THE CORNER AND HIDES, PEEKING IN ON THE FOLLOWING CONVERSATION.

JOHN: (FROM OFFSTAGE WITH PREPPIE MANNERISM) Ding-dong. Ding-dong. Anybody home?

CAROL: (CALLING OUT) Coming. (TO MOTHER) Oh, mother you’re just going to love him.

MOTHER: I hope so.

CAROL: (SWINGING OPEN THE DOOR LIKE LORETTA YOUNG) Why John, come right in. We’ve been expecting you.

JOHN: (WEARING A PREPPIE SWEATER AND A TURTLENECK. HE IS OVERLY POLITE) Thank you, Carol Sue. (HE SEES MOTHER AND REACTS AS IF SPOTTING MECCA) Ahhh! (SHE JUMPS) Mrs. Austin. You... look... lovely.

MOTHER: (NOT KNOWING WHAT TO SAY) Well, uh... thank you.

ROBBY STIFLES A LAUGH.

JOHN: (CROSSING TO HER) That’s a very stunning outfit you’re wearing. Is it new?

MOTHER: (CHECKING HER HOUSE DRESS) Oh, no. I’ve had it for awhile. (SHE CROSSES DOWN TO THE TABLE)

JOHN: (FOLLOWING HER, SNIFFING THE AIR LIKE A BLOOD HOUND) What is that lovely fragrance? (COYLY TEASING HER) Ah, Mrs.Austin, are you wearing French perfume?

MOTHER: (GETTING FED UP) Sure, Eau de Lysol... four-fifty a gallon.

JOHN: Oh. (A RATHER STIFF HONKING LAUGH) Ha, ha, ha. (PAUSE) Welllll...

CAROL: (PAUSE) Yesss...

CAROL AND JOHN BOTH START TO SPEAK AT THE SAME TIME.

CAROL: John is the president of...

JOHN: Carol has told me...

THEY BOTH LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND GIVE ANOTHER AWKWARD LAUGH.

JOHN: (TO CAROL) You go first, Carol Sue.

CAROL: John is the President of the Thespian Society.

JOHN: Yes, this is my second year as President.

MOTHER: The Thespian Society? (LEANING OVER TO CAROL) Is that good?

JOHN: (PAUSE. THEN ANOTHER HONKING LAUGH) Ha ha ha, Mrs. Austin, you're such a card.

MOTHER: Yes, so are you.

JOHN: (TO CAROL) She really is a crack-up. (CAROL REMINDS HIM TO BE COOL) Ahem, what I was going to say before was that Carol Sue has told me so much about you... well, I almost feel like one of the family.

ROBBY CAN TAKE NO MORE. HE HOLDS HIS HANDS OVER HIS MOUTH AS IF TRYING TO KEEP HIS LUNCH DOWN AND EXITS.

MOTHER: (ABOUT READY TO PUT JOHN IN HIS CAGE) Tell me John...

JOHN: Yeeessss?

MOTHER: (NOTICES CAROL'S FONDNESS FOR HIM AND DECIDES NOT TO LEVEL HIM) Do you have time for a glass of iced tea before you leave?

CAROL: Well, not really.

JOHN: Oh, sure we do.

CAROL: We do?

JOHN: Sure. We won't be late. I've got the car.

MOTHER: You have a car?

JOHN: Well, it's really not mine. It's my dad's old one.

CAROL: What kind is it?

JOHN: It's a '67 Porsche. They're rare, you know.

CAROL: I didn't know.

MOM BEGINS TO SERVE THE ICED TEA AND JOHN UNWITTINGLY SITS IN BILL'S CHAIR AND PUTS HIS SWEATER ON THE CHAIR BACK.

CAROL: (HINTING TO JOHN) You know mom, there's a dance this Friday night after the game.

MOTHER: Uh-huh.

JOHN: Yes, and I was wondering if it was alright with you if I took Carol Sue.

DURING THIS LAST LINE ROBBY HAS ENTERED. HE SPOTS JOHN IN BILL'S CHAIR, THINKS A SECOND, AND THEN LETS OUT A BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM. MOTHER FLINCHES AT THE NOISE AND POURS ICED TEA RIGHT INTO JOHN'S LAP.

ROBBY: (SCREAMING) Aaaaaahhhhhh!!! Bill, what has he done to you? (HE STARES AT JOHN'S BOTTOM IN BILL'S CHAIR) Who told you you could sit in Bill's chair??!! (HE GRABS JOHN BY THE SHIRT) Aaaaaahhhhhh!!!! Where is he? (JOHN LEAPS UP IN SHOCK) Bill? Bill? Where are you, Bill? (HE CHECKS UNDER THE TABLE) Well, what are you doing under here? (HE COMES OUT FROM UNDER THE TABLE) You really scared me. C'mon, we're gonna be late for school. (GIVES A KNOWING SMILE TO MOM AND GIVES HER A KISS ON THE CHEEK) Bye mom. See ya after school. (HE STARTS TO EXIT THEN TURNS AND SMILES AT CAROL) Bye, Sis. (HE EXITS)

CAROL: (TO JOHN, DESPERATELY) We don't know him. (THEN STARTS TO WHIMPER) Ohhhhh.

JOHN: (COMING OUT OF SHOCK) Uh... I have to be going. Gotta rush, rush, rush. (HE GINGERLY PICKS UP HIS SWEATER FROM BILL'S CHAIR LIKE IT MIGHT BE CONTAGIOUS). We'll see you later.

CAROL: Ohhh, John.

JOHN: (HURRYING AS FAST AS HE CAN) And, uh, Carol. About Friday? I just remembered that I'm going out of town. Yeah, way out of town and so, uh... we won't be able to go to the dance. So, anyway, good-bye. (HE'S HALFWAY OUT THE DOOR

AND THEN REMEMBERS HIS MANNERS AND TURNS) Nice to meet you Mrs. Austin.
(HE EXITS AS IF ESCAPING FROM A LOONY FARM)

CAROL: (OUT DOOR) Oohhh! (TO MOM) Ooohhhh!! (TOWARD BILL'S
CHAIR)Oooooohhhhhh!!!! (SHE RUNS OUT)

MOTHER: (WHO HASN'T SAID ANYTHING DURING THE PREVIOUS ACTION.
STIRS HER ICE CUBES AND SITS BACK IN HER CHAIR) Ahhh, there's nothing like a
nice relaxing meal with the children. (SHE SIPPS HER TEA)

BLACKOUT.

<end of excerpt>