

from  
MILLICENT SCOWLWORTHY

(GIRL 5 takes on the role of SASS TENDRIL.)

SASS

My mom wanted me to ask if I could get a ride to rehearsal with you and your dad, and she'll pick me up after.

KELLY

Jesus. Look, Sass, I am really stressed out today.

SASS

Just say it's OK, otherwise I'll have to call my mom and get her out of a meeting and she'll be pissed. Is it that big a deal? We're probably going to get out early because of the special assembly.

KELLY

All we do is have special assemblies. They're not even special anymore.

SASS

You didn't hear about Jake?

KELLY

Jake, the strange kid?

SASS

He had to write a story for English and he got called on to read it because the teacher figured he hadn't done the assignment. But he'd written like this whole novel all about Millicent.

KELLY

Great.

SASS

He's going to get expelled.

KELLY

For writing a novel?

SASS

It was like a fairy tale about these people living in a house on top of a mountain. There's a little girl and her older brother and they have a big secret. One night the parents are out shining the mountain and the little girl

goes to the brother and goes like, I can't go on holding the big secret inside, I'm going to tell. And he's like, you better not, and they're fighting, and he like grabs her and is going, you better not, you better not, and she like stops moving, and he lets go but she's dead.

KELLY

Will you shut up? I don't want to hear about Jake's sick crap.

(BOY 6, taking on the role of JAKE THE STRANGE KID, brings over a piece of pie he has been served and joins them at their booth.)

JAKE

But you haven't heard the best part.

(The two girls look up at him.)

The parents come home and they decide to protect the brother by making it look like a lion came into the house and chewed up the little girl.

SASS

I thought you'd be in the principal's office.

JAKE

They can't keep me there forever.

KELLY

How does the story end?

JAKE

Justice is done. It's like a story from the Bible.

KELLY

In the Bible the person killed by the lion turned out to not really be dead.

JAKE

In this case I'm pretty sure she's dead.

BOY 4

(from another booth)

Ring ring.

(JAKE answers his cell.)

JAKE

What?... Huh?... Yeah, tell him yes. I'll be home as soon as I can get out of here... No, tell him I won't talk to anyone else. OK.

(puts away phone, smiles, leans back)

Fox News Channel wants to talk to me.

KELLY

They must be really bored.

SASS

I talked to them last Christmas.

KELLY

Everyone talked to them last Christmas. Everyone talked to everyone last Christmas.

JAKE

I dare this school to expel me after I read my story on Fox.

(BOY 1 [PORTER] approaches the booth and stands holding a piece of pie.)

PORTER

Hey Jake.

JAKE

Hey Porter.

PORTER

I hear you've gone into creative writing.

JAKE

Yeah, right.

PORTER

What are you working on?

JAKE

Getting out of here.

(JAKE and SASS take their pie and go.)

KELLY

He's going to get his ass kicked one of these days.

PORTER

He's going to get his ass kicked at three-fifteen.

KELLY

Don't. Everyone knows Jake is crazy. He just loves attention. That's the only reason he listens to that sick music. If you beat him up, you'll just make him think he's getting to you.

(She sees that PORTER is not persuaded.)

His story is already on TV. Somebody must have called their favorite reporter right after English. If you beat him up that'll be on TV too.

PORTER

I'm not going to beat him up. I'm going to kill him. I thought I'd make it look like a lion did it.

(Pause.)

Anyway, we're on TV every night. It won't make any difference.

KELLY

I can't believe you still go to school here. I mean, I really admire that.

PORTER

It's not very crowded, the Porter Scowlworthy fan club.

KELLY

I don't care.

(Pause.)

PORTER

Time for assembly. Time to talk about healing. We're all trying to heal.

(He barks like a dog.)

Heel, boy. Heel.