

DEMON CHILD

By Deborah Karczewski

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CAST: HEIDI and LORNA

(HEIDI and LORNA are sitting in back-to-back chairs as though they are tied up. They are subtly holding the sides or the legs of their chairs to facilitate movement later in the scene. This scene should be visual, physical, and big – much in the style of “Lucy and Ethel.” They are yelling and struggling to be free of the “invisible” ropes.)

HEIDI: Eddie, get back in here!

LORNA: Don't leave us here!

HEIDI: I mean it, Eddie! You are going to be in such a pile of trouble!

LORNA: Do you really think you're gonna get away with this?

HEIDI: Look, if you untie us, we promise not to tell anybody.

LORNA: But if you don't untie us, you'll be caught for sure. They're due back in a few hours.

HEIDI: Untie us, or I'll scream at the top of my lungs!

LORNA: You heard her, Eddie!

(The girls wait for Eddie a few seconds and then start screaming at the top of their lungs. They keep it up for a while until they become quite exhausted, and the screaming dissipates into pathetic squeaks.)

HEIDI: I cannot believe this.

LORNA: YOU can't? What about ME? When Eddie's parents get home, I'm going to be SO fired.

HEIDI: This is the last time I'll ever keep YOU company on one of your babysitting jobs.

LORNA: No problem there. When the Johnsons finish telling all of their friends about how miserable a babysitter I am, there won't BE any other babysitting jobs.

HEIDI: Well, that's good because I am never doing you another favor of any kind. Period!

LORNA: Favor? Favor? YOU'RE the one who needed help in biology. I TOLD you I was babysitting! You practically got on your hands and knees to beg me to tutor you after Eddie fell asleep.

HEIDI: How was I to know that the demon child never sleeps?

LORNA: Where do you think he went, anyway?

HEIDI: Probably to get a camera. Then he can show all of his friends how he outwitted not one, but two babysitters.

LORNA: I don't hear anything. Do you think he's all right?

HEIDI: Of course he's all right. He's probably eating a bowl of victory ice cream.

LORNA: He could get sick if he eats too much.

HEIDI: Only if we're lucky.

LORNA: Heidi!

HEIDI: Oh come on, Lorna, you know what I mean. I don't want the little monster to die; I just want him to get in a whole bunch of very, deep trouble.

LORNA: He's only six years old!

HEIDI: I bet Dracula was six years old once.

LORNA: Heidi!

HEIDI: Listen to you! The little monster ties us up and leaves us, and you're defending him!

LORNA: Well, if you hadn't suggested that we play "Good Guy – Bad Guy," none of this would have happened.

HEIDI: Oh yeah? Who's the brilliant person who said, "Eddie, be sure not to tie the knots too tight. You practically TOLD him what to do!

LORNA: **(jiggling in her chair to get loose)** How was I supposed to predict that a six year old could tie knots this tight?

HEIDI: Lorna, would you cut it out? The more you jiggle, the tighter the knots will get!

LORNA: **(still jiggling)** How do YOU know, Miss Science Wizard? The more we jiggle, the more we loosen the ropes!

HEIDI: And I came to YOU for help in biology?

LORNA: Jiggling is not biology, Heidi. It's physics!

HEIDI: Jiggling is not physics, Heidi. It's stupid!

LORNA: If I'm so stupid, how come I'm getting an A in science, and you're getting a C?

HEIDI: All I know is that I can't be that much dumber than you because we're BOTH tied together to these chairs!

LORNA: **(stops jiggling and listens)** Omigosh, what was that?

HEIDI: What was what?

LORNA: That huge crash!

HEIDI: It's demon child. He's probably ransacking the kitchen looking for blood for a bedtime snack.

LORNA: **(yelling)** Eddie! Eddie, you get out of the kitchen right now! Do you hear me, young man?

HEIDI: Would you quit yelling in my ear?

LORNA: I can't help it. The door is on your side of the room. If I don't yell toward the door, how is Eddie going to hear me?

HEIDI: Well, let's switch sides.

LORNA: Earth to Heidi! We're tied to these chairs.

HEIDI: Don't be cute. Just listen to me. If we push our backs together and lift up at the exactly the same time, we could stand up enough to rotate our chairs.

LORNA: You know, you might just have an idea there.

HEIDI: When I say, "go," push and lift.

LORNA: OK.

HEIDI: Ready. Get set -

LORNA: - Lift!

HEIDI: No, no, no! Your cue is "go."

LORNA: You don't have to get all huffy about it!

HEIDI: Just shut up and listen. Get ready...get set...and lift!

(By grabbing the seats or legs of the chairs, the girls lift up, keeping the chair backs together, and rotate positions.)

HEIDI: ***(with a yelp of approval)*** Wah-hoo! Not bad! What a team!

LORNA: ***(thrilled)*** That was great! Let's do it again!

HEIDI: ***(getting carried away)*** OK! Ready! Set! GO!

(They lift and rotate)

LORNA: Yes! We are so good, girl!

HEIDI: ***(looking confused)*** Lorna?

LORNA: We are the best!

HEIDI: Uh - Lorna?

LORNA: We are a team! We are - -

HEIDI: - We are back where we started!

LORNA: Oh, that little stinker. I bet he planned that whole maneuver!

When I get my hands on that little - -

HEIDI: - Lorna, what if I try to slide out UNDER the ropes?

LORNA: Under?

HEIDI: Yeah. What if I squiggle myself down toward the floor and see if I can squirm my shoulders and head out BELOW the ropes?

LORNA: Well, OK...I guess it's worth a try.

(HEIDI starts to walk her legs out away from the chair, lowering her torso, but keeping her shoulders and head touching the back of her chair. After much grunting and groaning, SHE should appear stuck.)

HEIDI: Oh boy.

LORNA: What happened?

HEIDI: I'm stuck.

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