

GREIF STRUCK

By JJ Jonas

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ISBN 1-930961-96-0

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GRIEF-STRUCK

by
J.J. Jonas

CAST: one male

(JAMES is rocking back and forth, singing a song to himself)

I used to sing this to my little brother. He would always say,

“James, sing it to me again, sing it to me again, I’ll feel better if you just sing to me!”

(pause)

Do you feel better now, Billy?

(Mimes looking down at child in hospital bed, who is in a coma. If desired, a bed and 12-year old boy can be used, but this drama is written to be performed solo, without any props.)

Do you feel better now?

They say I have a decision to make. Really the decision is already made. I just have to say the words. I just have to let go and say the words, and they will do the rest. Just say the words...but I can’t. They just won’t come. Maybe if I could sing it, then it would be easier.

(singing to the tune of “Goodnight, Ladies”)

Goodbye, Billy, goodbye Billy, goodbye Billy, it’s time to say...

(stands) That’s the last thing I remember, you know, Billy asking me to sing...and to ride with me and Gracie over to Grandma and Grandpa’s on Christmas Eve.

“Can I go with you? Huh?”

*Come on James, let me ride with you and Gracie.
Come on, please?”*

“No, Billy, Gracie and I need to go by her folks’ house to pick up presents. Her parents don’t need another kid at their house screaming and running around. Besides, Gracie and I haven’t been alone all day. Bug off. Go ride with Mom and Dad and Mimi and Pops. We’ll be over there in a little bit.”

“Awww...James, come on! I want to hear you sing that new song you’ve been working on. I won’t be any bother. And besides, you promised to give me a ride in the new truck.”

“I’ll give you a ride later. Now go on and leave us alone. Mom?”

His little face was fallen. Twelve years of pride pushed aside as he offered to let me take first crack at the dirt bike he was hoping for on Christmas morning.

“I’ll let you go first. You can ride it as long as you want. All day if you want to. Just let me go. I don’t wanna ride with Mom and Dad. Mimi and Pops smell like old farts. And I want to hear you sing the new song.”

“You want to hear a new song? Here’s one for you...”

(to the tune of Old MacDonald)

Billy is a moron butt. E-I-E-I-O. His brain is smaller than a nut. E-I-E-I-O”

“Shut up, James. I’m gonna tell Mom.”

“Go ahead, peanut. She won’t believe you. I’ll tell her you were singing it—some crap you picked up at that low-life school of yours, probably from Jimmy Putnam, and she knows all about him and how you guys put the wieners in the boys toilet and Janitor Jackson had to fish them out. Who do you think she’s gonna believe? Huh? Wienie boy or responsible James who just earned a brand-new truck? Huh? Huh?”

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