

# MARSHMALLOW'S REAL FRIEND

by Eugenie Carabatsos

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# MARSHMALLOW'S REAL FRIEND

*A Dark Comedy Trio*

by **Eugenie Carabatsos**

**SYNOPSIS:** Steve and Marshmallow have been sent by the League of Imaginary Friends to intervene with a runaway teen. Will they be able to help the grieving youth?

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(3 either; gender flexible)*

ALAN / ALANA (m/f) ..... Runaway teenager. *(46 lines)*  
 STEVE (m/f) ..... Alan's childhood imaginary friend. *(40 lines)*  
 MARSHMALLOW (m/f) ..... Imaginary friend; angsty, maybe a little Goth. *(42 lines)*

**CAST NOTE:** Feel free to use gender blind casting for any of these roles and change the pronouns as needed.

**SETTING:** A park

**TIME:** Present day

**SET:** Bare stage

## PROPS

- Photograph
- Park Bench (optional)

## COSTUMES

MARSHMALLOW – All black attire, could also wear a leather jacket.

STEVE – Preppy attire.

ALAN – Teen attire.

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Though this play deals with difficult themes of grief and the pains of growing up, it also embraces the power of the imagination and the security that only a childhood friend can provide. Highlighting the more humorous and silly interactions (the secret handshake, for example), while also letting the play have its moments of silence and stillness, especially at the end, is a great way to strike a balance between the grounded themes and more magical moments.

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**AT START:** ALAN sits on a park bench. He takes out a photograph and looks at it for moment. He puts it away. MARSHMALLOW and STEVE watch him. ALAN does not see them.

**MARSHMALLOW:** That's your real friend?

**STEVE:** Yes.

**MARSHMALLOW:** He's nothing like her. You said he was like her.

**STEVE:** He's her brother.

**MARSHMALLOW:** I don't see the resemblance.

*MARSHMALLOW tries to leave. STEVE stops him.*

**STEVE:** He needs our help. Look at him. He's a runaway.

**MARSHMALLOW:** That's not our problem.

**STEVE:** We need to get him back home.

**MARSHMALLOW:** You can't help him. We shouldn't intervene anyway. He's too old.

**STEVE:** The League gave us permission.

**MARSHMALLOW:** I don't care about the League of Imaginary Friends! They're a bunch of jerks.

**STEVE:** That's the kind of behavior that's been getting you in trouble! You can't speak like that. We have to set a good example for our real friends.

**MARSHMALLOW:** My real friend is dead.

**STEVE:** That's why we're here. So you can talk to someone... someone who understands what you're going through... I put a lot of effort into getting this approved. You can't even imagine the paperwork—

**MARSHMALLOW:** It's really messed up, you know. How they're letting you do this even though they didn't let me intervene at all.

**STEVE:** They made a mistake, but they're trying to not make the same one with Alan... do it for Kate. She would want you to help her little brother.

*Pause.*

**MARSHMALLOW:** Fine.

**STEVE:** Thank you.

*STEVE and MARSHMALLOW make themselves visible to ALAN. They can do a dance or a secret handshake, something silly, but also magical.*

**STEVE:** Alan. Alan, it's me.

**ALAN:** How do you know my name?

**STEVE:** It's Steve!

*ALAN stares at them blankly.*

**MARSHMALLOW:** He doesn't even remember you. Perfect.

**ALAN:** Are you looking to start something? Because I can take you.  
Both of you. I'm warning you!

**STEVE:** Calm down, calm down. We just want to talk to you.

**MARSHMALLOW:** He does. I don't care about you.

**ALAN:** *(To MARSHMALLOW.)* Who are you?

**MARSHMALLOW:** Marshmallow.

**ALAN:** Excuse me?

**MARSHMALLOW:** *(Louder.)* Marshmallow. M-A-R-S-H—

**ALAN:** I know how to spell it.

**MARSHMALLOW:** Really? Because your face got all scrunchy like  
your brain was working really hard.

**STEVE:** We're imaginary friends.

**MARSHMALLOW:** Steve is your friend. I hate you.

**STEVE:** We just want to talk to you.

**ALAN:** I don't want to talk to you!

**MARSHMALLOW:** Well that settles it then. Let's go Steve.

**STEVE:** You miss Kate.

**ALAN:** How do you know about Kate?

**STEVE:** That's our job. We watch over you.

**ALAN:** What are you talking about?

**STEVE:** All imaginary friends. We're your friends for the rest of your  
life. You just don't know we're there.

**ALAN:** Look, I don't want to fight you, but I will. I will... you know...  
beat you up if you come closer!

**MARSHMALLOW:** Ohhhhhh I'm so scared. You can't hurt us, you  
dumbass. We're imaginary.

*ALAN moves towards MARSHMALLOW.*

**STEVE:** Open Poppy Seed!

*ALAN and MARSHMALLOW stop in their tracks.*

**STEVE:** Open Poppy Seed. That's what you used to say to me when you wanted me to come out and play with you.

**ALAN:** Steve... it is you.

**STEVE:** Yes.

**ALAN:** What are you doing here?

**STEVE:** I've been trying to tell you. We're here to help you. You're lost.

**ALAN:** I moved out.

**STEVE:** You ran away.

**ALAN:** Whatever.

**STEVE:** Your family is worried about you.

**ALAN:** Whatever.

**STEVE:** I know you're sad, but grief follows you no matter where you go.

**MARSHMALLOW:** Like us.

**ALAN:** And why's he here, Steve?

**STEVE:** He wants to talk to you.

**MARSHMALLOW:** No I don't.

**STEVE:** Yes you do.

**MARSHMALLOW:** Steve wants me to talk to you.

**ALAN:** Why?

**MARSHMALLOW:** So we can talk about our feelings.

**ALAN:** Definitely not.

**MARSHMALLOW:** Exactly. Steve follows all of the rules... I used to follow the rules too.

**ALAN:** So did I.

**MARSHMALLOW:** But I don't anymore. Because they're stupid.

**STEVE:** Alan... I think we need to talk about—

**ALAN:** *(To MARSHMALLOW.)* What rule did you break?

**MARSHMALLOW:** Most of them. First of all, we're not supposed to look like this. We're supposed to look unoffending and happy.

**ALAN:** But you're not happy?

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