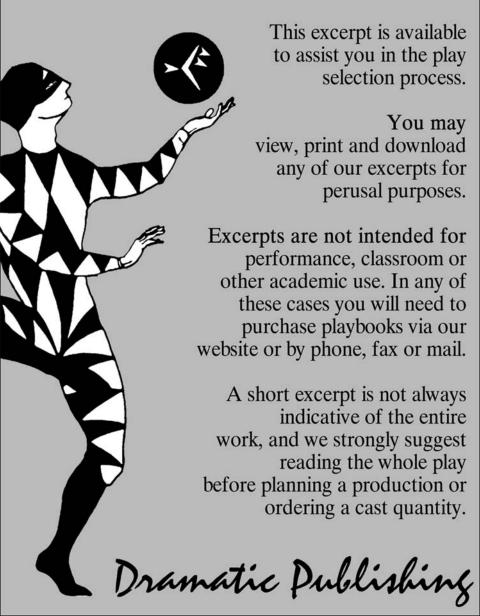
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THE BULLY PLAYS

24 Short Plays by

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A Bully There Be

By Lisa Dillman

CHARACTERS

SERVING WENCH JESTER PRINCE

SETTING: A royal palace in a land very far away.

TIME: Once upon a...

(Enter SERVING WENCH. She carries a large hunk of raw meat.)

WENCH (confidentially to the audience).

There be a bully in this palace. A bully, full of stink and malice. Big he's not, nor strong at all, But he's a bully still, withal.

(Enter JESTER on the run. He wears a cap and bells, a suit of motley, the works. He has a black eye. He skids to a stop as SERVING WENCH steps into his path and holds out the raw meat.)

WENCH.

Here, fool, do take this cut of beef And to thine eye bring sweet relief.

JESTER.

Good serving wench, how kind thou art. (*Aside.*) As well as lovely, sweet and smart...

(JESTER moons at her, one hand over his heart, the other pressing the steak to his eye. SERVING WENCH blushes prettily, sweetly, smartly.)

WENCH.

How came thee by this massive shiner?

JESTER (whiney).

I'd tell thee, but I'm not a whiner.

WENCH.

No need to tell for yea in truth I know it was the prince, forsooth.

JESTER (ashamed).

Aye. 'Twas he.

He did but catch me unawares

Else I'd've kicked him down the stairs.

(SERVING WENCH nods sympathetically, doubtfully, and adjusts the steak on JESTER's eye.)

JESTER.

A blinding blow he dealt mine face Else I'd've clocked him with mine mace.

WENCH.

Of course thou wouldst've! (SOUND of drums.)
But hark, I hear the drums!