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THE BULLY PLAYS

24 Short Plays by

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(THE BULLY PLAYS)

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Blu

By Gloria Bond Clunie

CHARACTERS

BLU PETERSON	an eighth-grader
SCOTT	Blu's brother, high-school junior
MORGAN	Scott's friend, high-school junior
JUSTIN	Scott's friend, high-school junior
DEE	Scott's friend, high-school junior
MRS. PETERSON	mother of Blu and Scott

SETTING AND TIME: Blu's bedroom—his world—or a dark space with bright colors. Now.

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MORGAN (*looking at another painting*). God, how old was he when he did this one?

BLU. Nine!

DEE (reading title under painting). "Lupicious Lion, Mom and Me." The colors are so bright!

BLU. That day the zoo was mine! All mine. It was right after... Well. We spent the whole day there. Mom and me. And we had popcorn. Smelled so good. We had popcorn and hotdogs and... And we gave all the animals names. Crazy names. Like Lupicious Delgado Lion. And Effie the Effervescent Elephant. You should have seen Gregory the Gorgeous Giraffe! You missed it, Scott. You were in school, or somewhere with Dad. And it was just me and Mom. We sat by the swan lake and watched them sail, sail away, like white-feathered ships out to sea. And Mom. Sitting there, the sun on her face, she was so pretty, sun so pretty in her hair. That night—couldn't get the animals out of my head. Angling their necks, staring into my eyes, like they were trying to tell me something. Like, maybe, they wanted me to set them free, but I didn't know how. The sun, and Mom and Lupicious Delgado Lion! I wanted to hold on to that day forever.

SCOTT. Mom caught him. Three o'clock in the morning, painting away. He was weird like that. An idea would pop into his head, and he'd be up all hours of the night, painting, or writing, or singing. He would wake up singing at the top of his lungs in the middle of the night! Said a song just came to him.

BLU. My head was so full. It would just start racing. So much to think about.

JUSTIN (reading the title under the picture). What kind of kid comes up with a name like Lupicious? Lupicious Lion. I always thought he was a weird kind of little kid. I

mean no offense, but... He sure could draw. Your mom, she looks—happy there.

SCOTT. Yeah.

DEE. Is that—Blu?

SCOTT. He painted it, last month, I think. Called it...

BLU. "My Picasso Me."

MORGAN. The colors seem—well, not as intense. (Studying pictures and poems on the wall.)

JUSTIN. Who knew? I mean, he always seemed like this geeky little kid. No offense, but Katrina was always talking about how weird he was in class.

MORGAN. Like your sister knows from weird.

JUSTIN. But he wore those crazy clothes.

SCOTT. He liked color.

BLU. Like a rainbow! I'll share my colors. If you let me, I can show you how to strut them!

JUSTIN. I get it, now. I mean, (looks around room) I get it now! But when the whole class is in blue jeans and a T-shirt, and you're...

(JUSTIN holds up a colorful shirt. BLU snatches up another one.)

BLU. Fearless!

MORGAN. Brave enough to be different!

JUSTIN. Or stupid enough.

MORGAN. Justin!

JUSTIN. Sorry.

SCOTT. I know. We all are.

MOM (offstage). Scott? Scott? Have you found it?

SCOTT (shouting to his mom offstage). Still looking!

MOM. You want help?

SCOTT (shouting to his mom offstage). We got it! (To MORGAN, JUSTIN and DEE.) Come on. We have to find

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it before she comes up here. All she does is cry when she comes up here.

JUSTIN. So it looks like...?

SCOTT. It's blue.

MORGAN. Of course.

SCOTT. About this big. He carried it around, all the time. Wouldn't go anyplace without it. Always writing in it. Big rubber band, holding it together.

DEE. Any idea where it is?

SCOTT. My brother is a pack rat. A neat pat rat, but a pack rat. Why don't you take those drawers over there? Morgan, give me a hand with the closet.