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Dramatic Publishing



THE BULLY PLAYS

24 Short Plays by

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(THE BULLY PLAYS)

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The Bully Pulpit

By Dwayne Hartford

CHARACTERS

BARBARA.....a very determined high-school senior
KATIE Barbara's best friend
BRIAN..... Katie's boyfriend
LEE..... a member of Barbara's campaign committee
JENNYa shy teenager (from her appearance, one
 assumes that she is a social outcast in high school)

SETTING AND TIME: The play takes place today. There are two locations: the stage of a high-school auditorium and the family room at Katie's house.

WORDS TO PONDER: *"I suppose my critics will call that preaching, but I have got such a bully pulpit!"*

– Theodore Roosevelt

Scene 1: The Stage

(BARBARA is standing at a podium.)

BARBARA. ...so if you are looking for someone to just organize bake sales and plan school dances, don't vote for me. But, if you want somebody who will make a difference, then I am the one. I want to make Theodore Roosevelt High School a safe environment where every-

body is free to learn and to be themselves. If you agree, vote for me, Barbara Kennedy, for senior class president. Thank you.

Scene 2: Katie's Family Room

(A sofa, a TV, a table with chairs. LEE sits at the table working on a laptop, KATIE sits on the sofa texting, BRIAN is operating a PlayStation controller.)

BRIAN. Yes! Did you see that?

KATIE. What?

BRIAN. I just won again.

KATIE. Good. Now can we talk about the campaign?

BRIAN. Who are you texting?

KATIE. I was tweeting about the rally tomorrow morning. We've got to build interest.

BRIAN. I'm hungry. Does your mom have any more of those cookies?

KATIE. You ate them all yesterday. Now, Barbara will be here in a minute, and she wanted us to start before she got here.

BRIAN. Doesn't make a lot of sense starting the campaign meeting without the candidate. What's Barb doing, anyway? School let out almost an hour ago.

KATIE. I don't know. She said she had something to do. I think she's nervous about tomorrow's rally.

BRIAN. I didn't think she ever got nervous. Barb is like a machine.

KATIE. She isn't a machine. And don't call her Barb. You know she hates that.

LEE. OK, I've done a new poster. What do you think? *(He shows the other two the laptop.)*

KATIE. "Koo-Koo for Kennedy." Cute.

LEE. You don't like it?

KATIE. I don't think it's what Barbara wants.

LEE. Oh.

KATIE. It's not very dignified.

LEE. I thought the campaign could use a little, I don't know, something...

KATIE. Something what?

LEE. Fun. I mean, don't get me wrong, I think the whole anti-bullying thing is great, but—don't you think we're being a little too serious all the time?

KATIE. But that's what Barbara is trying to say—that being class president is more than just about having fun. She wants to change things.

BRIAN. That's great, Katie, but Lee is right. Barb-ar-a needs to lighten up a little.

KATIE. You guys just don't get it. She's been my best friend since...

BRIAN. ...since kindergarten. I know.

KATIE. This is really important to her.

BRIAN. I know. We all know how badly she wants to be class president.

KATIE. It's because of what she wants to accomplish.

BRIAN. Sure it is.

KATIE. What's that supposed to mean?

BRIAN. Nothing. Nothing.

KATIE. You promised you wouldn't say anything to upset her.

BRIAN. She's not here.

KATIE. Brian!

BRIAN. I won't.

KATIE. I know she can be intense, but it's only because she cares.

BRIAN. I know.

KATIE. She has really, really been there for me.