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*Dramatic Publishing*

# THE BULLY PLAYS

## 24 Short Plays by

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(THE BULLY PLAYS)

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# Alex

## (a conversation about nothing)

By José Casas

CHARACTER(S)

ALEX .....an animated 13-year-old boy who likes talking with his hands and who is on the verge of becoming a freshman and hiding the pain of being a teenager

SETTING AND TIME: The setting is anyplace a son could have a conversation with his dad. A chair and television are located onstage. The time is sometime in the afternoon on the same day that Alex's school was locked down over an incident of violence.

WORDS TO PONDER: *“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me, but I know that expression doesn't work.”*

– Alex Guillen (my nephew)

(ALEX begins to mimic an MMA fighter move.)

ALEX (*cont'd*). I love Mayhem. He's the host... He's this professional MMA fighter, so you can tell he can be a bully if he wanted to, but he doesn't. He's nice and he's funny and he helps the people who can't defend themselves. (*Amused.*) The bullies try to act all hard like it's not a big deal. They talk and talk about what they're going to do against their opponents in the cage, but it only takes them a couple of seconds before they realize they're dead meat... I love seeing the bullies when they get beat up. I like how the bully gets what he deserves... And sometimes the bullies still stay bullies. They don't learn anything...even after getting their butts kicked. (*Beat; content.*) For me, though...the best part is when a bully shakes hands with his victims. You can see it on their faces. They know they were wrong... I like that it's not really revenge. It's just them being taught a lesson... That's all.

(*Extended beat. ALEX responds to a question.*)

ALEX (*cont'd*). I don't know.

(*Extended beat.*)

ALEX (*cont'd*). No... Not really... I don't see it getting any better. (*Beat; pessimistic.*) It's not right... Kids hurting other kids... Because it hurts them inside and it messes them up for the course of their lives... People forget that kids who get bullied become adults... Adults who never grow up from that... They still have that scar in their lives. I don't get it... Why bother messing with people who never did anything to you? Why bully someone else

when you can live a good life? (*Beat; pensive.*) You know...I always hear people say “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” (*Beat; defeated.*) But...I know that expression doesn’t work.

*(Extended beat. ALEX hears a question but doesn’t respond; beat. He looks down to the ground.)*

ALEX (*cont’d*). Me?

*(Extended beat.)*

ALEX (*cont’d, quietly*). I don’t want to talk about it, Dad.

*(Extended beat.)*

ALEX (*cont’d, sadly whispering*). It’s...nothing.

END OF PLAY