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*Dramatic Publishing*



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# Sneakers

**Book**

JUDITH WEINSTEIN

**&**

ARNOLD SOMERS

**Music**

ELISSA SCHREINER

**Lyrics**

SUNNIE MILLER



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

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ELISSA SCHREINER

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(SNEAKERS)

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**SNEAKERS**  
*A Children's Musical*  
For Eleven Men, Seven Women, Extras

**C H A R A C T E R S**

ELIZABETH MILLER . . . . . Edward's older sister, fourteen  
EDWARD MILLER . . . . . Elizabeth's younger brother, nine  
ALICE MILLER . . . . . Elizabeth and Edward's mother  
FRED MILLER . . . . . Elizabeth and Edward's father  
MR. FISH . . . . . school principal  
MIKE . . . . . captain of Little League, fifteen  
ELLENSUE . . . . . Mike's sister, fourteen  
MISS PAUL . . . . . Edward's teacher  
SHOE SALESMAN . . . . . seller of the sneakers  
JUDY, JERRY,  
STEPHEN, ARNOLD, LISA . . . . . Edward's school friends  
ROY . . . . . Little League player, fourteen  
MOVERS ONE and TWO  
GIRLS ONE and TWO, BOYS ONE, TWO, THREE,  
STUDENTS, LITTLE LEAGUERS . . . . . extras

Time: The Present  
Place: The Millers' New Hometown

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## ACT ONE

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Scene One: The lights come up on the Millers' living room. Cartons are scattered about. EDWARD, ELIZABETH, ALICE, and FRED are helping MOVERS with cartons and furniture. The MOVERS are carrying cartons piled high so that they seem not to be able to see over them. They narrowly avoid colliding with each other. MOVER ONE carries a large box boldly marked, "Glass, Fragile, Handle With Care." He trips and the box flies up into the air. MOVER TWO has just placed a box on the floor. He stands and extends his hands in front of him to dust them off, opens them palms up to inspect them, and in the process, catches the box that MOVER ONE has tossed into the air. The MOVERS carry large parcels, narrowly avoid tripping over the cartons, furniture, etc. MOVER ONE exits and returns with a ladder which he places in position just as MOVER TWO walks unknowingly toward the ladder carrying a large carton blocking his view. He walks up the rungs of the ladder.

(SONG: "BRAND NEW BEGINNING")

ALICE.

MOVE IT!

THAT'S RIGHT!

PUT THE COUCH  
OVER THERE.

(MOVER ONE and MOVER TWO hold each side of a sofa. They move rapidly in opposite directions and pull back as if by a spring.)

ALICE.  
UH-UH,  
NOT SURE.

MOVERS ONE and TWO.  
MAKE UP YOUR MIND.  
TELL US WHERE.

(MOVER ONE sets a chair down very hard and a leg gives way. FRED does not see this and MOVER ONE tries to reach the hammer on the floor just out of reach while holding the leg of the chair intact and smiling idiotically. He attempts to reach the hammer first with his hand and then with his leg.)

FRED.  
PERFECT!  
JUST RIGHT.  
THAT CORNER'S  
MADE FOR MY CHAIR.

ELIZABETH.  
SUPER!

EDWARD.  
OKAY.

ALICE.

BRAND NEW HOME FOR ME.

FRED.

BRAND NEW JOB FOR ME.

ELIZABETH.

BRAND NEW ROOM FOR ME.

EDWARD.

WHAT'S FOR ME?

ALL.

BRAND NEW BEGINNING,  
A SHINY NEW START.  
LOVELY NEW HOUSE,  
GREAT LOOKING STREET,  
PEOPLE TO MEET.

ALICE.

STOP SITTING AROUND,  
LET'S GIVE IT A CRACK.  
THERE'S A NEW LIFE  
THAT'S SIM-PL-Y GOTTA BE UNPACKED.

ALL.

BRAND NEW BEGINNING,  
A SMILING NEW DAY.  
SO SAY "GOOD-BYE" TO AN END,  
"HI" TO A FRIEND.

(MOVER ONE finally reaches the hammer and hammers the

chair leg and his thumb while looking at FRED. He smiles idiotically and drops the hammer.)

ALL.

DON'T ONLY NEED  
A HAMMER AND NAIL,  
A POSITIVE MOOD  
AND WE'LL NEVER FAIL.  
DON'T ONLY NEED  
A MOP AND A BROOM,  
YOUR UP ATTITUDE  
MUST FILL UP THE ROOM.

LET'S STOP THE SINGING  
'CAUSE THERE'S LOTS TO DO.  
FOR OUR BEGINNING,  
OUR NEW BEGINNING, A NEW BEGINNING,  
COMES FROM YOU!

(MOVERS ONE and TWO exit.)

FRED. In order to pay for this brand new beginning, I better check in with my brand new job. Are the phones working?

ALICE. We can only hope! (FRED and ALICE exit. ELIZABETH and EDWARD unpack books from a carton and put them in a bookcase.)

ELIZABETH (primly). Let's put these in alphabetical order by author.

EDWARD (dryly, in mock disbelief). You *must* be kidding! Go on, tell me that you're kidding. Ple-ee-ee-ze tell me!

ELIZABETH (defensively). I'm not kidding! It's much neater that way.



EDWARD. Oh-h-h-h-h! That explains everything! Who cares about being neat.

ELIZABETH. I care. And Mother! And Father! That's who! (She continues unpacking the books and putting them in various piles.)

EDWARD. Oh, all *right*! (He sits back and thumbs listlessly through a book.)

ELIZABETH (noticing EDWARD, stopping). Hey. I'm sorry. Don't be mad!

EDWARD. I'm not mad.

ELIZABETH (looking at EDWARD carefully). Hey! What's the matter anyhow?

EDWARD (shrugging). Nothin'.

ELIZABETH. Come on. You can tell me. What's with you?

EDWARD. I'm homesick. I'm just homesick.

ELIZABETH. But this is our home now.

EDWARD. I mean the other one. The one we left behind.

ELIZABETH. But we left for a perfectly good reason. Daddy got a much better job . . .

EDWARD (interrupting). I know! I know!

ELIZABETH. I heard Daddy tell Mother that it was so good, he couldn't refuse. Besides, they left a lot behind, too.

EDWARD (looking around at the cartons). It doesn't look like we left *anything* behind!

ELIZABETH. You know what I mean! All of their friends. And Grandma and Grandpa, and all that.

EDWARD. Well . . . I sure left plenty behind. The whole Little League, for one thing.

ELIZABETH (wistfully). I guess I did, too . . . left a lot behind, I mean.

EDWARD (dreamily). I wonder if I'll ever see the guys again?

(SONG: "THE THINGS I LEFT BEHIND")

EDWARD.

I DIDN'T WANT TO MOVE HERE,  
IT WASN'T MY IDEA.  
KNOW I'LL NEVER,  
NEVER FIND  
THE THINGS I LEFT BEHIND.

I FIND MYSELF DAYDREAMIN',  
'BOUT ALL THE THINGS I LEFT.  
WILL I EVER,  
EVER FIND  
THE THINGS I LEFT BEHIND?

ELIZABETH.

C'MON LOOK AROUND YOU, SILLY,  
TRY AND OPEN UP YOUR EYES.  
EVERYTHING'S SHINY,  
EVERYTHING'S NEW,  
WAITING JUST FOR YOU.

BIG, BRIGHT ROOM,  
YOUR VERY OWN SHOWER,  
SOLAR POWER ADDED, TOO.  
TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG,  
WHAT'S YOUR COMPLAINT,  
DON'T YOU LIKE THE PAINT?

EDWARD.

WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?  
JUST CAN'T BELIEVE

THAT YOU DON'T FEEL  
THE WAY I DO.  
I DON'T GIVE A DARN  
'BOUT PAINT,  
IF I HAVE OLD FRIENDS  
WHY DO I NEED NEW?

(EDWARD and ELIZABETH sing the remainder of the lyrics simultaneously.)

EDWARD.

I WONDER WHEN I'LL FEEL GOOD,  
I'M FEELIN' SO ALONE.  
I'VE GOT TO TRY  
TO SAY "GOOD-BYE"  
TO WHAT I LEFT BEHIND.

ELIZABETH.

I'M TRYIN' SO HARD  
TO MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.  
CANNOT DO IT ALL ALONE.  
YOU'VE GOT TO TRY  
TO SAY "GOOD-BYE"  
TO WHAT WE LEFT BEHIND.

EDWARD.

YOU JUST DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE  
EXACTLY HOW I FEEL,  
ABOUT THOSE THINGS  
I HAD TO LEAVE BEHIND,  
LEAVE BEHIND.

ELIZABETH.

I'M NOT SAYIN' THAT I DON'T REALIZE  
EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL,  
ABOUT THOSE THINGS  
WE HAD TO LEAVE BEHIND,  
LEAVE BEHIND.

ELIZABETH. You'll make new friends. They must have a Little League here. They're probably dying for a star pitcher. (Proudly.) *I* made a new friend already.

EDWARD. Who?

ELIZABETH. Ellensue!

EDWARD. Ellen who?

ELIZABETH (irritably). Ellensue! It's one word.

EDWARD. You mean that skinny kid I saw you talking to before?

ELIZABETH. She's not skinny . . . (Dreamily.) . . . she's slim! She lives next door. One of the moving men put one of our cartons on her lawn . . . and I saw her looking through the window . . . so I went up to her and asked her if she minded . . . and do you know what she said?

EDWARD (preoccupied). No, what did she say?

ELIZABETH. She said no, she didn't mind at all! Wasn't that nice?

EDWARD (sarcastically). Terrific! That's one of the best stories I've ever heard!

ALICE (calling from offstage). Edward!

EDWARD. Yeah! In here!

(ALICE enters.)

ALICE. I have a surprise for both of you!