

ADOPTED

by

Chris and Ryan Wilkins



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Phone: (407) 619-6435
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AUTHORS' NOTE

You may change any of the language you feel is too inappropriate.

BLAIRE and LAURA love each other in the way that sisters do.

MISS MACKENZIE does have the best intentions of the children at the orphanage at heart—even if the children think otherwise.

The lines read during the letters between BLAIRE and LAURA may be divided up between either characters depending on who you want to read what part of the letters.

Have fun!

CHARACTERS

LAURA. Turning sixteen.

BLAIRE. Turning sixteen.

MISS MACKENZIE.

SETTING

The play takes place in St. Jerome's Orphanage.

TIME

The play is set in the mid-twentieth century..

ADOPTED

SCENE ONE

(Lights are down. On stage we hear a scuffle! LAURA is at the center of a small gang of girls picking on her. Pulling her hair.)

LAURA: Stop it! You're hurting me! Let go!

(BLAIRE enters, seeing the fight, tries to break it up.)

BLAIRE: Hey! Why don't you go pick on someone your own size!

(Lights up.)

BLAIRE: *(Yelling directed off-stage)* That's what I thought! *(To LAURA)* Are you all right?

LAURA: No, I'm terrible.

BLAIRE: What happened?

LAURA: Nothing—I didn't do anything and they just started—

BLAIRE: Calling you names?

LAURA: *(Scoff)* Worse, they pulled my hair and—

BLAIRE: Hit you. Scratched you and pulled your hair, yeah, Stacey does that to all the new girls who show up here.

LAURA: What? Why?

BLAIRE: You must be new here.

LAURA: Why would somebody attack another person?

BLAIRE: To scare them. It let's them know not to mess with her—I dunno—it's Stacey. She's not a nice person.

LAURA: You're telling me.

BLAIRE: Stacey had a *(searching)* rough past. And she gets jealous of a lot of the girls here.

LAURA: Why?

BLAIRE: Because she knows she's not going to get adopted. She wants other people to feel as crummy here as she does.

LAURA: Well she's not going to get away with this. *(starts to exit)*

BLAIRE: What are you doing?

LAURA: I'm going to tell Miss Mackenzie what happened.

BLAIRE: I wouldn't.

LAURA: (*Pause*) Why not?

BLAIRE: Because Stacey and her friends will just lie and say they didn't do anything.

LAURA: I think Miss MacKenzie will believe me when she sees how scuffed up I am.

BLAIRE: Maybe. But telling on Stacey will only make her mad. And you don't want her mad the next time she sicks her gang on you.

LAURA: Well, if you come with me and tell she'll get in trouble for certain. Then she'll have to stop.

BLAIRE: You really are new here, aren't you?

LAURA: (*Pause*) Is it that obvious?

BLAIRE: I have been in and out of orphanages since I was ten, believe me, you don't want to tell on anyone. The last thing you want to do is make enemies.

LAURA: So I'm just supposed to sit here and get attacked?

BLAIRE: I never said that. You have to show them you're tough.

LAURA: How do I do that?

BLAIRE: It's not gonna be easy. Especially for you.

LAURA: You could teach me right?

BLAIRE: I don't know.

LAURA: Why not?

BLAIRE: I dunno. (*Hesitant*) I've never taught someone to be tough before.

LAURA: I'll take any help you can give me.

BLAIRE: No—I really shouldn't.

LAURA: Come on, you gotta help me.

BLAIRE: Stacey has been known to do some pretty extreme things to people who try to—

LAURA: Please. (*Beat*) I've never been in an orphanage before and—

BLAIRE: Hey! Everybody feels that way. Especially when they first get here.

LAURA: Did people pick on you?

BLAIRE: They used to. All the time.

LAURA: So you know what it's like?

BLAIRE: Yeah.

LAURA: Don't you wish you had someone to help you out when you

first came here?

BLAIRE: I mean, yeah.

LAURA: Please? I need your help.

BLAIRE: *(Pause)* Alright—

LAURA: Yes!

BLAIRE: —I guess I can show you a thing or two.

LAURA: Thank you so much.

BLAIRE: But if Stacey and her friends come after me, we don't know each other.

LAURA: Sure. Of course.

BLAIRE: Okay. Here's the first thing you need to know: how to throw a punch. *(Holds up both her fists)*

LAURA: Why do I need to know that?

BLAIRE: The next time Stacey's after you—you'll find out.. *(Pause)*
Come on. Like this. *(Again bringing her fists up)*

(LAURA hesitantly brings up her fists as lights fade down)

SCENE TWO

(Lights up. It is three weeks later. LAURA is covering her eye, and BLAIRE is trying to get a look at it.)

BLAIRE: Quit squirming.

LAURA: It hurts!

BLAIRE: Let me see it.

LAURA: She actually hit me!

BLAIRE: Just let me see it!

LAURA: *(Uncovering her eye, revealing a black eye)* It really hurt.

BLAIRE: That's... awesome.

LAURA: What?

BLAIRE: Seriously, that is the best black eye I've ever seen. What did you even say to make her hit you?

LAURA: She called me an orphan. So—I said “you're in this orphanage because nobody wants you” just like you told me, and then she punch me right in the eye!

BLAIRE: Did you hit her back?

LAURA: I didn't think she would hit me. She caught me off guard!

BLAIRE: Laura! You always need to be on guard!

LAURA: I didn't have a chance to punch her like you showed me.

BLAIRE: Well, the good news is you're finally acting tough. I mean, it's taken a few weeks, but you're making progress.

LAURA: Acting tough hurts.

BLAIRE: It's worth it though.

LAURA: Blaire, (*Hesitant*) Stacey said something to me right before she ran away...

BLAIRE: What'd she say?

LAURA: She said if I ever piss her off again, she'd kill me. (*Blair is speechless: beat*) Do you think she meant it?

BLAIRE: (*Avoiding the question*) Huh?

LAURA: Do you think she'd actually—

BLAIRE: Of course not! She was just trying to scare you. Besides, nobody is gonna want to mess with you while you have a black eye.

LAURA: Really?

BLAIRE: You look mean.

LAURA: (*Pause*) It really hurt.

BLAIRE: Be happy she just punched you. Stacey has done much worse.

LAURA: Like what?

(*MISS MACKENZIE enters. She is looking for LAURA.*)

MISS MACKENZIE: There you are! Blaire, go back to your room. Laura, come with me.

(*BLAIRE nods her head and walks off. LAURA follows MISS MACKENZIE. They both enter into MISS MACKENZIE's office.*)

LAURA: What's the matter, Miss Mackenzie?

MISS MACKENZIE: Have a seat, Laura.

LAURA: I'm sorry I made fun of Stacey. I didn't think she'd hit me—

MISS MACKENZIE: Please—Laura—sit. (*Pause*) You've grown up a bit since I've seen you last.

LAURA: What?

MISS MACKENZIE: Do you know why you were brought to *this* orphanage specifically?

LAURA: No.

MISS MACKENZIE: I requested you come here—I was friends with

your parents when you were younger.

LAURA: You knew my parents?

MISS MACKENZIE: Briefly. They thought the world of you, and if they knew you were getting in fights—

LAURA: I said I was sorry.

MISS MACKENZIE: Laura, Are you enjoying your stay here, so far?

LAURA: Excuse me?

MISS MACKENZIE: Normally girls lash out and get in trouble when they're having a tough time adjusting, so I asked if you like the orphanage?

LAURA: (*Pause, lying*) Yes, it's very nice.

MISS MACKENZIE: You don't have to lie to me, Laura, it's much easier when you tell the truth.

LAURA: Really it's quite nice...

MISS MACKENZIE: (*Stern*) Laura.

LAURA: Honestly Miss Mackenzie I think—

MISS MACKENZIE: Your stay here will be much nicer if you're honest with me Laura. Please.

LAURA: (*Hesitant*) I hate it. Everybody's mean and they keep picking on me.

MISS MACKENZIE: I'm sorry to hear that. If anyone calls you names, come tell me. I'll take care of it. (*Pause*) I know going from a home into an orphanage is tough.

LAURA: (*Interrupting*) It's a nightmare...

MISS MACKENZIE: Trust me—living in a new place always is. But in the mean time I'll do my best to make your stay here bearable. I can deal with these bullies, and any other problems you have as long as you're honest with me about them. I can't promise it'll be pleasant, but you won't hate it here. And if you behave well and look nice, you will be adopted before you know it.

LAURA: What if I don't get adopted?

MISS MACKENZIE: Then you'll have to wait until you're eighteen. Which is a few years away from now, isn't it?

LAURA: Yes, Miss Mackenzie. Two years from April.

MISS MACKENZIE: That's not as long as I thought. Well if you don't like it here, the best option for you would be to get adopted, wouldn't it?

LAURA: Yes—I guess so.

MISS MACKENZIE: I know so, Laura. You want to get adopted. When you first came in here, I knew you were going to get out quickly. Your

parents raised you very well.

LAURA: Thank you, Miss Mac—

MISS MACKENZIE: But, if you start acting like this, I don't know what will happen.

LAURA: Stacey is the one who hit me!

MISS MACKENZIE: Only after you said nobody wanted her.

LAURA: How did you know that—

MISS MACKENZIE: It's my job to know what goes on at this orphanage.

LAURA: I didn't think she'd get so mad. I didn't mean to—

MISS MACKENZIE: I'm sure you didn't, Laura, but the fact of the matter is you did start a fight.

LAURA: I didn't want to fight!

MISS MACKENZIE: It's more than just the fight. I've noticed that you've been dressing poorly. You've been—

LAURA: Blaire told me that if I dressed like this, people would leave me alone.

MISS MACKENZIE: (*Beat*) So you've been talking to Blaire.

LAURA: She's my only friend here. She's been helping me adjust.

MISS MACKENZIE: You shouldn't be spending so much time with Blaire.

LAURA: Excuse me?

MISS MACKENZIE: Blaire is trouble, Laura.

LAURA: Why?

MISS MACKENZIE: Has Blaire told you how long she's been here?

LAURA: No.

MISS MACKENZIE: I don't know the exact number, but it's been almost three years.

LAURA: So? Why does that matter?

MISS MACKENZIE: Laura, there are two types of girls at this orphanage: ones who get adopted—and ones who don't. Blaire is one of the ones who won't get adopted, just like Stacey is. And *you* if you choose to listen to Blaire. But if you do as I say—if you clean up and act proper—you can be one of the ones who *will* get adopted.

LAURA: What do you mean by that?

MISS MACKENZIE: I mean if you spend more time cleaning up and less starting fights it will be easier for you to get adopted. (*Pause*) You may go now, Laura.

LAURA: Thank you, Miss Mackenzie.

END OF FREE PREVIEW

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Among many others, Chris and Ryan Wilkins' plays include Gotta Get Brad Back, These Things Happen, and Thomas Brady's First Day of Kindergarten. These scripts have grown in popularity over the past two years and continue to deliver forensics students to multiple final round performance opportunities.

The Wilkins brothers competed in high school forensics at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where they were the 2011 National Champions in Duo Interpretation at the National Forensics League (NFL) Tournament. With a combined seven years of speech performance experience and two years of coaching, observing all ranges of performances and scripts, the Wilkins twins have now set their eyes on coaching students and writing scripts for forensics performance. Their hope is to continue to help anyone and everyone they can in the forensics realm.

ADOPTED

by Chris and Ryan Wilkins

GENRE: Drama (One Act)

CAST: 3 Female

SUMMARY:

LAURA and BLAIRE are stuck in St. Jerome's Orphanage with only the other for companionship. Constantly put down by bullies, the two join together to try and make life as an orphan more bearable. But will Laura's potential to be adopted come between their friendship?

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