

**Escape**  
from *Once Upon*  
a *Teenager*

Claudia I. Haas

**Comic**

**DOROTHY:** 7 to 8

**EDGAR:** 10, DOROTHY's older brother

*DOROTHY is determined to run away from home. She has a satchel that has 2 sticks, a bedsheet, a jar with cookies, a small soup pot and spoon, a penny, a teabag, a dress, and a doll.*

**DOROTHY:** Fare-thee-well, farmhouse! I am never stepping inside you again! They'll be sorry when I'm gone! I wish I could stay so I could hear how sorry they all are!

[EDGAR enters.]

**EDGAR:** Dorothy!

**DOROTHY:** Drat! Edgar's such a pest! Better scram!

**EDGAR:** I see you!

**DOROTHY:** If you come near me, I'll kick and I'll bite and you can't make me stay!

**EDGAR:** Oh, I'm not going to make you stay.

**DOROTHY:** You're not?

**EDGAR:** No. I just want to make sure you have everything you need for your journey.

**DOROTHY:** I do!

**EDGAR:** Can I see? So I can reassure Mom and Dad?

**DOROTHY:** I . . . guess.

**EDGAR:** [*Takes out a doll.*] Now, you need food and shelter but definitely not a doll!

**DOROTHY:** Esmeralda takes care of me! Especially when all of you pester me! And I have food, see? [*She takes out a small jar of cookies.*] And I have a tent.

**EDGAR:** That looks like a sheet.

**DOROTHY:** Well, Mr. Know-it-all, I have two sticks. I'll just stick them in the ground and put the sheet over it and I will have my own sheet-home. See, I thought of everything.

**EDGAR:** [*Taking out a penny.*] Oh! And you brought money. Good thinking!

**DOROTHY:** I'm not going to spend that! That's my lucky penny. I rubbed it every day that Dad was gone. And he came home safe. It's good luck.

**EDGAR:** Oh! You can't take Mom's soup pot! And her spoon!

**DOROTHY:** It's old and I need it to cook stuff.

**EDGAR:** What can you cook?

**DOROTHY:** Well, smarty-pants, I can cook dandelion soup. So there!

**EDGAR:** Who's going to pick the ants out of the dandelions?

**DOROTHY:** What?

**EDGAR:** Ants love dandelions. They get inside the buds and refuse to come out. You don't like ants.

**DOROTHY:** I know! I'll have to make grass soup then. Rain water and grass—delicious!

**EDGAR:** And when the snow comes and covers the grass?

**DOROTHY:** [*Taking out a tea bag.*] I'll melt the snow and make tea! Ice tea.

**EDGAR:** Well, you sure did think of everything. What do you want me tell Mom in case she cries or something?

**DOROTHY:** She won't cry. She hardly knows I'm around. She's so busy working.

**EDGAR:** And Dad?

**DOROTHY:** Dad's busy with college. He doesn't notice me anymore.

**EDGAR:** Dorothy! He has to go—it's free for all the soldiers.

**DOROTHY:** I know that. I hear that a thousand times every day! With Mom gone all day and Dad gone day at night, I'm stuck inside doing all the chores. You get to be in the fields and I'm never outside! The world is passing me by while I sit inside and sweep the floors. You treat me like Cinderella!

**EDGAR:** So . . . you're thinking if you run away—you'll find your prince?

**DOROTHY:** Don't need no stinking prince.

**EDGAR:** What about Socks? He's going to be so lonely without you. With Mom working, Dad at school, and all us boys in the fields, who's going to take of Socks? That was your job.

**DOROTHY:** I know.

**EDGAR:** So, you're just going to abandon your beloved kitty-cat. That's an awful thing to do!

**DOROTHY:** You'll take care of him, won't you?

**EDGAR:** I'll try. But after school and chores, well, I may just forget. But that's fine—run away. Leave Socks to meow at your door every night waiting for you to come home. Leave him to die of a broken heart. It's your choice. [*He exits.*]

**DOROTHY:** *Edgar!* [*She picks up her stuff.*] I was this close to making my escape. Now I'm stuck in the house being Cinderella to an ungrateful family! Socks? Ohhhh, Socks! [*She exits.*]