

# My Hero

by Lindsay Price

## Characters

MILO (18) Older brother. Used to being a big fish in a small pond and is now a very small fish in a huge pond.

KENZIE (16) Younger sister. Idolizes her big brother.

## Setting

Milo's old bedroom.

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*MILO is on stage. He's in his room, unpacking his suitcase. KENZIE runs in.*

KENZIE: Hey, hey, hey! *(she poses)* Guess who?

MILO: *(hugging KENZIE)* Kenzie!

KENZIE: Milooooooooo.

MILO: It's so good to see you.

KENZIE: When did you get home?

MILO: Round noon.

KENZIE: *(playfully pushing)* Why didn't you come pick me up?

MILO: I couldn't.

KENZIE: *(mock)* I'm hurt.

MILO: I was catching up with Mom. And Grannie. And Aunt Laura, and Aunt Karen, Uncle Matt, and everybody...

KENZIE: So?

MILO: Some might say I was forced into catching up with Mom, Grannie, and everybody.

KENZIE: *(getting it)* You were surrounded.

MILO: Totally. They had me in their sights. If I breathed wrong, they flinched.

KENZIE: You were in a Calvert scrum.

MILO: If I tried to get away, one of them might have bit my arm off. I went to the bathroom and I thought they might follow me.

KENZIE: It's your own fault. That's what happens when you don't keep in touch.

MILO: I was busy.

KENZIE: If you don't come home for holidays, people get a little antsy and want to bite your arm off when you go to the bathroom.

MILO: I was busy! There's a lot of work.

KENZIE: Is it hard?

MILO: Some.

KENZIE: (*bouncing up and down*) I can't wait. I so cannot wait. One more half year and then one more year and then I am out! I'm so getting all the 'you better shape up cause you don't know what's coming' lectures. 'Professors don't care if you show up or not cause if you don't do the work you're out and you're just a number, there's five hundred other kids in the class...' blah blah blah. Is it really like that or are they just messing with our heads?

MILO: Did you go to the Christmas Ball?

KENZIE: (*rolling her eyes*) Maybe.

MILO: With a real or a fictional date?

KENZIE: (*hitting him*) Milo!

MILO: So fictional.

KENZIE: (*falling into the trap*) I had a real date.

MILO: You had a date? My little sister had an actual date?

KENZIE: Me and my big mouth...

MILO: Is he your boyfriend?

KENZIE: Agh!

MILO: Is he a good kisser?

KENZIE: (*covering her ears*) Shut up!

MILO: (*makes exaggerated kissing noises*) Do you love him?

KENZIE: (*still covering her ears*) I can't hear you. La, la, la, la, la...

MILO: (*fake dabbing at his eyes*) How fast the kids grow up. Just yesterday you were wearing pigtails and eating sand underneath the jungle gym.

KENZIE: (*laughing*) Jerk.

MILO: What's he like? Does he speak in sentences or grunts? Does he have enough brainpower to tie his own shoelaces?

KENZIE: Don't be stupid.

MILO: Oh, I get it. Velcro.

KENZIE: Shut up...

MILO: One of those guys...

KENZIE: If you had answered even one of my emails, you'd know all about my love life.

MILO: I don't want to know about your gross love life. That's why I didn't answer.

KENZIE: I didn't write anything gross!

MILO: How's the school?

KENZIE: Same.

MILO: Any gossip?

KENZIE: It's the same old stuff. I can't wait to get out of there.

MILO: What's your hurry?

KENZIE: It's horrible and boring.

MILO: Boring is good for you.

KENZIE: It smells.

MILO: I was always comforted by the smell of Higley High.

KENZIE: I hate it.

MILO: You do not.

KENZIE: I hate every brick, every desk, every piece of chalk.

MILO: Every piece?

KENZIE: Every piece.

MILO: Isn't it a little extreme to hate chalk?

KENZIE: I just started looking at brochures. I am so excited! Dad's going to take me to a couple of schools over spring break.

MILO: (*totally derailing her*) Hey, when did Mr. Lou break out the boat pictures?

KENZIE: Uhhhhh, October.

MILO: That's way early.

KENZIE: I guess.

MILO: Is the basketball team still on the longest losing streak in the history of mankind?

KENZIE: Get this. Robyn has cheerleader fever.

MILO: Robyn? Our Robyn?

KENZIE: She's a total cheerleader robot girl.

MILO: Cousin Robyn who also ate sand under the jungle gym and not so long ago used to have a cricket collection?

KENZIE: Ooooh can you bring that up at Christmas dinner? I think she's bringing her boyfriend.

MILO: Our cousin Robyn has a boyfriend?

KENZIE: Some knob on the basketball team. Why isn't he spending Christmas dinner at his own house? I asked Mom and she thought maybe he wasn't getting along with his family, which is weird. Who doesn't bury the hatchet at Christmas? Either that or he's a complete mooch and trying to get TWO Christmas dinners. OR he could be Jewish, couldn't he! I never even thought of that. My bad. (*MILO has been staring into space*) Milo? Helloooooo?

MILO: (*in his own world*) Geez I turn around for two seconds...

KENZIE: You'd have known if you came home for Thanksgiving...

MILO: I can't believe it.

KENZIE: So out of the blue Robyn starts doing cheers and wearing her hair in that stupid curly ponytail with all the stupid flair hair ribbons and saying 'like' every second word. How do those ribbons stay in place? They have to be stapled on. And her head's covered in sparkles. Wait till you see her, you'll be finding sparkles in your clothes for days. You'll think it's radioactive dandruff. I totally fear for her brain. (*sees MILO is not paying attention to her*) Helloooooo...

MILO: Sorry.

KENZIE: I said something funny.

MILO: I was thinking about the good old days.

*KENZIE blows a raspberry.*

MILO: They were.

KENZIE: Milo, nothing good is going on here.

MILO: I'm not so sure.

KENZIE: It's all happening out there (*she flings her arms out*) The whole world is zooming faster, faster while we all sit on our thumbs in podunk backward nowhere-ville.

MILO: That's not at all what's –

KENZIE: (*interrupting*) So, tell me about school already. I'm dying for the details.

MILO: Later.

KENZIE: We have time now. Later you may get caught in another scrum and then you'll be gone again.

MILO: Not now.

KENZIE: Come on, I'm the only one of all my friends who has someone on the outside. Except for Alicia but her sister's a total cow and she's only learning how to be a hairdresser anyway.

MILO: I don't want to talk.

KENZIE: Spill Milo!

MILO: I said I didn't want to and I don't want to! I don't want to talk!

*There is a pause. KENZIE is stunned, MILO has never yelled at her before. MILO looks instantly weary. He rubs his face with his hands.*

KENZIE: Okaaaaaay.

MILO: I'm sorry.

KENZIE: Wow. That made my ears ring.

MILO: I'm sorry.

KENZIE: Wound a little tight there, huh?

MILO: It's not funny. This isn't – I'm not...

KENZIE: *(realizing this is serious)* Milo?

MILO: I didn't mean to yell. I didn't mean it. You just – I didn't mean it. I'm –

*There's a pause. MILO stares at his hands. KENZIE crosses her arms across her chest and gets serious.*

KENZIE: What's the matter?

MILO: Nothing.

KENZIE: Don't say that! Don't say "nothing" like I'm Mom or Grannie. You can fake them out if you want, but I won't have it.

MILO: I can't talk about this.

KENZIE: Tough. Spill. What's going on with you?

MILO: I don't want to bum you out. About school.

KENZIE: I won't get bummed out.

MILO: You won't understand.

KENZIE: So make me.

MILO: It's... hard. And it's different. Lonely. I'm all alone. Everything was so easy here. My roommate hates me. He made a million friends in the first week. He's always partying and I'm not invited. I don't have any friends. I can't do the work. The work, I can't get a grip on it, Kenzie. I can't get a grip on anything. The whole world is sliding around me. The world keeps moving. I don't know what

to hold on to. This was a big mistake. It was a mistake to go so far away, it was a mistake to go into engineering. I can't do it.

KENZIE: But... you're smart. You got a scholarship.

MILO: I can't do it.

KENZIE: You were valedictorian. Everyone loves you here. Do you know how many people asked about you today?

MILO: I'm all alone. I can't take it. I fell off the mountain and I'm broken.

KENZIE: What the hell does that mean?

MILO: I quit.

KENZIE: YOU WHAT?

MILO: Shh, shhh. I haven't told anybody yet.

KENZIE: You lied. You lied to Mom and Grannie and Aunt Laura and Aunt Karen, you said everything is going great. You told them your grades were fantastic, they couldn't wait to share that little tidbit with me.

MILO: I'm failing. Everything.

KENZIE: You lied.

MILO: I'm waiting until after Christmas. I don't want to ruin Christmas.

KENZIE: So, you're going to give up, just like that?

MILO: You have no idea. I can't do it Kenzie. I'm failing, I can't do it.

KENZIE: You can't quit.

MILO: I'm moving back home.

KENZIE: You can't do that.

MILO: I have to figure my life out.

KENZIE: You can't give up.

MILO: I need to get a grip on something. Anything.

KENZIE: Milo. Please don't do this. You have to try again. You have to go back there and give it another shot. Please.

MILO: I don't want to go back.

KENZIE: But you're my hero. You're everybody's hero around here.

MILO: I didn't ask for that.

KENZIE: You loved it! You loved being right in the centre, saying hi to all the teachers, patting the younger kids on the head. You loved being the best. You loved being the sun at the centre of the universe. You are my sun, you're the person I aspire to be. Everyone wants to be you. You got out! Milo got out of this rotten town. If Milo got out we can too. You're our hero. We need you.

MILO: I can't.

KENZIE: Promise me you won't quit.

MILO: I tried.

KENZIE: Promise.

MILO: I'm done.

KENZIE: So now what?

MILO: I don't know.

KENZIE: You gonna work at the mall? You gonna work at the fry truck on Jasper?

MILO: I don't want to do anything right now.

KENZIE: You were our hope, Milo. Now what do we do? What do we do?

*MILO stares at her, then turns away.*

— THE END —

## Weird

*by Lindsay Price*

### Characters

DAVE (twenties) A little insecure. But genuine and sincere. And has a secret.

POLLY (twenties) A little insecure. But sweet and open. And has a secret.

### Setting

A quiet street.

*DAVE and POLLY enter. They are on a first date and are having a good time.*

POLLY: I'm so glad we got to do this.

DAVE: Me too.

POLLY: I can't believe I, I mean – *(she shakes her head and laughs)*

DAVE: What?

POLLY: It's just – don't take this the wrong way, but I can't believe this worked out. *(she makes a face)* That came out wrong.

DAVE: Oh no. I totally know what you mean.

POLLY: Oh yeah?

DAVE: I don't think, I didn't think internet dating was for me.

POLLY: Me either. I never thought I'd do it at all.

DAVE: Me either.

POLLY: It's just so, you know? I always thought... I don't want to be mean.

DAVE: Go ahead, be mean.

POLLY: You know, those kind of people, the ones who need the internet to find a date.

DAVE: Those desperate people...

POLLY: And it gets you thinking, am I one of those people? Am I?