

Eleven and Eight

Ellen Koivisto

Dramatic

ELEVEN: a female

EIGHT: a male

Anytime, anyplace.

ELEVEN: Get down.

EIGHT: No.

ELEVEN: Get down.

EIGHT: No. [*ELEVEN pulls him down.*] No! [*EIGHT jumps back up.*] No!

ELEVEN: Shut up! [*Pulls EIGHT down again.*] Shut up! [*Puts her hand over his mouth.*]

EIGHT: [*Muffled.*] Stop it! Stop it! [*Kicking.*]

[*ELEVEN sits on EIGHT.*]

ELEVEN: [*Punching for punctuation.*] Shut up. Shut up. Shut up. Shut up. Shut up. Shut up. You better shut up. You better right now. Shut up. Right now. Stop it. Stop it. Just stop it. Be

quiet and I'll take my hand off. I will. [*Panting.*] I'll take my hand off if you stay down and stay quiet. Stay quiet. Or they'll hear you and kill you. And I'll let them. Will you be quiet? Will you?

[*EIGHT nods. ELEVEN takes hand off slowly, then slowly gets off EIGHT. EIGHT kicks her hard while rolling to get up. ELEVEN moans.*]

EIGHT: Don't make any noise. They'll hear you. [*Pause.*] You're not hurt. [*Pause.*] I'm hurt. [*Pause.*] I think you broke something punching me.

ELEVEN: I broke my knuckles.

EIGHT: No. I mean it. It hurts here, bad.

ELEVEN: I didn't break anything. I didn't, but they will when they get you. They'll break you up into little pieces. They'll put a knife through you, right there.

EIGHT: No, they won't.

ELEVEN: You make too much noise.

EIGHT: They do worse to girls.

ELEVEN: You know what they do to noisy boys? They cut off their ears, snik, snik, and then their noses, glush, and then their arms, one at a time, chuk, chuk, and then their legs, and then their—

EIGHT: I saw what they do to girls. I saw it.

ELEVEN: If the girls are noisy, it's just the same.

EIGHT: No, it isn't. It's worse. I know. I saw it.

ELEVEN: No, you didn't. You didn't see anything.

EIGHT: Yes, I did. I saw them . . . I saw it.

ELEVEN: No, you didn't. Liar.

EIGHT: I did.

ELEVEN: No! No, no, no. Liar. Liar!

EIGHT: You shut up. [*Punches ELEVEN.*] Shut up.

ELEVEN: Don't you lie like that again.

EIGHT: I'm not lying. I saw them with my sisters, I saw them.

ELEVEN: If you don't be quiet, I'll leave you.

EIGHT: I saw it.

ELEVEN: I'll go. I really will.

EIGHT: My sisters screamed.

ELEVEN: I won't stay if you talk. I'll go. I'm going.

EIGHT: My stomach hurts. Where you punched me. You broke something.

ELEVEN: They just kill, that's all, they kill everyone, girls and boys, the same.

EIGHT: It hurts. Owwww.

ELEVEN: They do. Shh . . .

EIGHT: It hurts.

ELEVEN: Shhhh!

EIGHT: What?

ELEVEN: Do you hear that?

EIGHT: Yes. Oh.

ELEVEN: Oh, God. Oh, God. Shut up!

[*She dives to cover him, and they huddle as small as they can.*]