

Escape
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Excerpt from *Once Upon a Teenager* – a series of vignettes about growing up.

Cast:

Dorothy (f) – age 10-11; determined to run away from her home on the farm

Edgar (m) – age 13-14; Dorothy's older brother

Time: late afternoon

Place: outside the farm home

Escape

DOROTHY enters. She has a satchel which has two sticks, a bed sheet, a jar with cookies, a small coup pot and spoon, a penny, a teabag, a dress and a doll.)

DOROTHY

Fare-thee-well, farm house! 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 (calling)

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

Esmerelda takes care of me! Especially when all of you pester me! And I have food, see?

(SHE takes out a small jar of cookies.)

DOROTHY (cont'd)

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 single 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.