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.