

# DRAGONZFIRE

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A short drama by  
Diana Burbano

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[www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)  
[info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com)  
424-703-5315

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

BAILEY, a teen girl. Smart. Intense. Creator of the video game *DragonzFire*. Any ethnicity.

WILLIAM, a teen boy. Shy. Kind. He gets teased a lot. Bailey's best friend since middle school. Any ethnicity.

KARA, an avatar. An anime of the perfect teenage girl. Big eyes, big hair, cat ears. Sparkles everywhere. Dressed in a Japanese school uniform. Any ethnicity.

MOOSHOO, an avatar. He is short, furry, excitable and karate chops everything. Has fox ears. Any ethnicity.

## SETTING

Inside the video game *DragonzFire*.

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*(In the dark, the sound of "wah-wah-wah" that signifies a player has died in a video game. Lights up on a simple video game set, possibly consisting of cubes and squares to give the idea that the world is pixelized. BAILEY enters, clearly upset, dragging KARA, who is unresponsive. Bailey drops Kara, starts typing furiously on her phone. In a moment Kara animates, takes a pose with her arms on her hips and her foot beveled.)*

**KARA:** That was not fun at all!

**BAILEY:** How did those creeps get so far into the game? Report, are you OK?

**KARA:** I no longer have my inventory, my potion level is back to one and — *(She pouts.)* They stole my magic hairbrush.

**BAILEY:** I'm going to upgrade your code. Then we are going back out to the public server and we are going to smash those creepers!

**KARA:** OK.

*(She waits. Bailey presses a button. Kara stops frozen. Shudders. Comes back to life, with a nasty expression on her face.)*

What did you do to your skin?

*(She gestures at Bailey's outfit. It is garish.)*

**BAILEY:** I changed it.

**KARA:** You look super stupid. No wonder those older girls were making fun of you.

*(Bailey nods, satisfied. Goes back to working on her phone. MOOSHOO and WILLIAM enter the game, William dragging MooShoo, who looks dead. William works his phone. MooShoo powers back up.)*

**MOOSHOO:** What's up? We're surrounded! Hiiiiyaaaa!!

*(MooShoo tries to attack Bailey.)*

**WILLIAM:** No, wait! It's an ally. Hey, Bailey, did you get Kara

powered all the way back up?

**BAILEY:** Sort of. She lost everything in the battle with those Wither Skells.

**WILLIAM:** Who were those guys?

**BAILEY:** I bet they were some of the guys from my English class. I think I recognized the Skins.

**WILLIAM:** How did they get past all your filters? That was freaky. I'm sorry they called you a—

**BAILEY:** They think they're anonymous. They can be as horrible as they want.

**MOOSHOO:** HHHIIIIYYYAAA!!

*(Does a ninja move to Kara. Kara stops him with a practiced counter-move and an eye-roll.)*

**KARA:** OmyGawd. Don't get too close, the ick will stick.

**MOOSHOO:** *(Slightly confused:)* Hahahaha? Ick. *(Glitches again.)* Ick. *(Again.)* Ick. *(Again.)* Ick. *(Again.)* Ick.

*(William pokes at his phone. MooShoo stops.)*

**WILLIAM:** He's so glitchy! He really got beat down.

**MOOSHOO:** The varlets called me skunk! I be not a skunk!!

**BAILEY:** I can fix him for you.

**WILLIAM:** Cool.

*(Bailey works her phone, presses a button. MooShoo goes blank, shudders and reanimates.)*

**MOOSHOO:** What ho! Time to whip some weasels!

**KARA:** *(To MooShoo:)* Geek.

**MOOSHOO:** *(Startled:)* What?

**KARA:** Ugh. You're so basic!

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*(Kara karate chops MooShoo, taking him down easily.)*

**WILLIAM:** She's developed a lot!

**KARA:** Ninjas suck!

**WILLIAM:** *(Indicating MooShoo, to Bailey:)* You got a lot further than I did.

**MOOSHOO:** *(Grinning:)* I like bacon.

**BAILEY:** I've been working on her during geometry.

**KARA:** I used to be so totally square.

**BAILEY:** You were cute when you were pixilated!

**KARA:** You're such a lezzy!

**WILLIAM:** She's amazing.

**KARA:** I know I am.

**BAILEY:** I wrote a new kind of code. She's programmed to conform to popularity models. She goes off social media trends.

**KARA:** Like today, you're either a slut or a lezzy!!

**WILLIAM:** Kind of like those old "choose your own adventure" books.

**BAILEY:** Yeah sort of. Then when defenses are down, she obliterates her enemy. I'll upgrade your avatar.

*(MooShoo goes blank, and then shudders.)*

**WILLIAM:** Wait!

*(MooShoo stands up straight and gets a mean look in his eye.)*

**MOOSHOO:** Get out of my way. Geek.

**WILLIAM:** *(Not pleased:)* Escalates fast.

**BAILEY:** Yeah. Like in life.

**KARA:** Is it true that you got hot and heavy with Misty

Brenner in biology?

**WILLIAM:** That's too fast!

**MOOSHOO:** I guess not!

**BAILEY:** No. It's accurate to how people behave online.

**WILLIAM:** Restart them both. No input.

**BAILEY:** OK. *(She messes with her phone. Kara and MooShoo go blank for a second.)* Go.

**KARA:** Hey.

**WILLIAM:** Hi.

**KARA:** I was talking to your friend. *(To MooShoo:)* Ohmygawd.

**MOOSHOO:** Dude. Sorry, he's like, my brother's friend, OK?

**KARA:** Really? Is he normal? He looks...um...confused.

**MOOSHOO:** He's kind of a 'tard.

**KARA:** Oh. *(To William:)* What are you looking at?

**WILLIAM:** Um—

**KARA:** Jeez. Creep. Are you staring at my body? Are you a total perv?

**MOOSHOO:** He thinks you're hot.

**WILLIAM:** No. I—

**KARA:** Gross. Wait, No? Are you— a fag?

**MOOSHOO:** Perv 'Tard Fag!

**WILLIAM:** OK, that's enough!

**MOOSHOO:** What? We're just joking.

**KARA:** Ohmygawd, TAKE a joke!

*(Bailey fusses with her phone again. MooShoo and Kara go blank.)*



**BAILEY:** *(Sighs.)* She used to be so cute. Oh, well.

**WILLIAM:** Bailey. What's the point of making our avatars this awful? If I want to hear stuff like that I can just go to gym class!

**BAILEY:** They're programmed to behave like real kids our age. The meaner they are, the better they do.

**WILLIAM:** Yeah, but, I dunno. This is— Even the Doctor wouldn't approve of this.

**KARA:** That is so geeky I can't even.

**WILLIAM:** Can you turn that off?

**BAILEY:** No.

**WILLIAM:** I don't want to be like that.

*(Gestures at MooShoo and Kara, who are giggling, whispering and pointing at Bailey and William.)*

**MOOSHOO:** You have to learn who's on top here. Jerk.

**WILLIAM:** Bailey. Quit it. Let's just go back to playing regular old *DragonzFire*.

**BAILEY:** I wish I never wrote that stupid paper about creating *DragonzFire*. Why did Mr. Soto make me read it out loud?

**WILLIAM:** 'Cause it's a great game!

**BAILEY:** But it cemented my rep as the world's biggest, saddest nerd! No one in my class will ever let me forget it.

**WILLIAM:** You're the best coder I've ever seen, your maps are great, all the mods you put into the game are really fun—

**BAILEY:** But who cares if everyone thinks we're stupid for playing it? They'll just destroy everything anyway.

**WILLIAM:** I know.

**BAILEY:** That's why I created this mod. With these avatars you can't tell that you aren't chatting to a real person. It's

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**KARA:** Hi! You're totally cute!

**MOOSHOO:** Hey. You're hot! No, wait, you're actually really ugly.

**WILLIAM:** Yuck. He's gross. I don't want to be like him.

**BAILEY:** Yes you do. You don't want to have zits, and bad hair and stupid clothes.

**WILLIAM:** I have bad hair??

**KARA:** Riiight?

**BAILEY:** You know how many times I've been asked to sit at someone's table in the cafeteria? Never. I'm a total pariah.

**MOOSHOO:** Because you use words like pariah. Loser.

**WILLIAM:** Can you put him back?

**BAILEY:** Really?

**WILLIAM:** Yes. I'd rather sit alone at lunch than turn into him.

**BAILEY:** Look how pretty she is. (*Indicates Kara:*) She's everything I'm not. She's thin.

**WILLIAM:** You're fine.

**BAILEY:** She has even teeth, perfect hair. Huge eyes.

**WILLIAM:** I think your eyes are nice how they are.

**BAILEY:** She's completely kawaii. Guys flip for her. No one looks at me twice.

**WILLIAM:** (*Rolls his eyes. He's done.*) Whatever, Bailey. Put MooShoo back to his previous mod, please.

**BAILEY:** You'll have to completely restart him. The code is, um, kind of a virus.

**MOOSHOO:** (*Very alarmed:*) Ohmygawd! I'm going to die!

**WILLIAM:** You on purpose gave me a virus!!!!??

**BAILEY:** It was the only way to make sure the code infiltrated the avatars completely!

**WILLIAM:** Gross! *DragonzFire* is supposed to be fun, Bailey!

**BAILEY:** I don't care.

**KARA:** That's kind of sad.

**MOOSHOO:** You're way not special anymore.

**BAILEY:** Wait, what? Glitch!

*(Bailey furiously works on her phone.)*

**MOOSHOO:** You're the one who clearly has a virus and needs to be wiped and upgraded.

**WILLIAM:** C'mon, MooShoo. Let's get back in the game.

**MOOSHOO:** *(Turning back into a ninja:)* Let's go find the castle of the Dragon King where we will seek the potion to slay this evil sorceress.

**BAILEY:** That is so babyish! I'm done playing these stupid, little games, William! You're such a –

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