

STEGOSAURUS WALKS ALONE

A short drama for young audiences by
Kemuel DeMoville

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

BILLY (or BILLIE), 5-8 years old. A shy, quiet kid.

MITCHELL (or MICHELE), 5-8 years old. A bully.

SHELDON (or SHELLY), 5-8 years old. A nice person.

KATIE (or KEVIN), 5-8 years old. A kind person.

MOM (or DAD), BILLY's mother (or second father).

DAD (or MOM), BILLY's father (or second mother).

CHORUS, a group of narrators. At least three members, but parts can be divided to accommodate more performers.

NOTES ON PERFORMANCE

The actors of the Chorus can play the part(s) of Mitchell, Sheldon, and Katie if needed. Billy should be a standalone performer. The Mom and Dad characters can also be played by the same actors who play Katie and Sheldon. Choral lines can be spoken individually or as a group or both. I have divided the Chorus parts into three distinct roles, but it is permissible for a director to alter the way in which lines are assigned should casting dictate the change.

The gender of the characters is a suggestion. Feel free to change any pronouns for any of the parts to suit the needs of the production. Billy can also have two Moms or two Dads.

There should be no effort to hide the theatricality of the piece. When the stegosaurus transformation happens, it should be in full view of the audience. The stegosaurus can be a toy held in front of the camera like a puppet, an actor in a mask, anything to form the general shape/look of a stegosaurus without looking like a literal physical representation of the dinosaur. I have tried to keep stage directions to a minimum to allow for greater directorial flexibility and accommodate numerous

staging/performance spaces – including video conferencing or live streaming.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The play was first produced by West Valley High School at the Stacey West-Bailey Theatre in Hemet, California in 2009.

BILLY.....Todd McNett
MITCHELL.....Shane Lewis-Davies
SHELDON.....Kingston "King" Davies
KATIE.....Penelope Perkins
MOM.....Dana Lambrose
DAD.....Kingston "King" Davies
CHORUS.....Kingston "King" Davies,
Dana Lambrose, Penelope Perkins, Shane Lewis-Davies

DEDICATION

The play is dedicated to my three little dinosaurs: Tennysaurus Rex, TriBarrettTops, and Finnlociraptor (or Finnkylosaurus – the jury is still out). I am always proud of you, and how each of you approach problems with empathy, intelligence and courage. There is nothing you little dinosaurs can't accomplish with your good humor and unyielding confidence. Love you boys!

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Stegosaurus Walks Alone was commissioned by the Children's Theatre Foundation of America and supported by the Aurand Harris Fellowship. Kemuel DeMoville is an Aurand Harris Fellow by designation of the Children's Theatre Foundation of America in 2009.

(The CHORUS appears.)

CHORUS ONE: Once, there was a boy named Billy Bo Blue,
Whose imagination was huge,
But of friends he had few.

CHORUS TWO: Most days after school he would quietly play
Alone in his yard, in worlds far away.

CHORUS THREE: Poor Billy Bo Blue,
So quiet and shy,

CHORUS ONE: Never knew what to do,

CHORUS TWO: How to act,

CHORUS THREE: What to say,

ALL CHORUS: To get other kids
To come over and play.

(MITCHELL arrives.)

MITCHELL: Hey, silly Billy Blue, what'cha doing?

BILLY: Playing.

MITCHELL: Really? I thought you were picking your nose.

BILLY: No. Playing Dinosaurs.

MITCHELL: What are you, a baby? Only babies play
Dinosaurs.

BILLY: No they don't.

MITCHELL: Yes they do. Babies and losers. And you're both.

BILLY: *(Quietly:)* I'm not.

MITCHELL: What? I didn't hear you, baby. Cry louder.
(Pause.) What did you say, loser?

BILLY: Nothing.

MITCHELL: Yeah. Have fun with your toys, Silly Billy Blue.

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(Mitchell leaves. Billy sits sadly for a few moments. SHELDON and KATIE arrive.)

KATIE: Hey. Mitchell is a jerk. We saw what he did.

SHELDON: Yeah. He said the same thing to me last week about my Hot Wheels cars.

KATIE: We'll play Dinosaurs with you, if you want.

BILLY: No.

SHELDON: Well... Maybe later, then?

BILLY: Go away.

KATIE: Okay. But I've got a triceratops at home. I could bring it over.

BILLY: Just go away.

SHELDON: Okay. Fine. Maybe tomorrow.

KATIE: Yeah. We'll come over tomorrow, if that's okay. Bye.

(Sheldon and Katie leave.)

BILLY: I'm not a baby.

CHORUS ONE: Poor Billy Bo Blue was feeling dejected,

CHORUS TWO: Lonely, depressed and resoundingly rejected.

CHORUS THREE: Katie and Sheldon, with their support and their pity,
Could never protect him from Mitchell the bully.

CHORUS ONE: At least that's what he thought as he sat on his bed,
Wishing he were some other creature instead.

CHORUS TWO: Some other creature with means of protection,
Which could shelter his body from pain and rejection.

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BILLY: A stegosaurus. I wish I were a stegosaurus. Bony plates lining my back. Spikes, long and sharp, swinging at the end of my great, muscular tail. A stegosaurus, walking alone through the harsh Jurassic landscape. The ground trembling each time my foot falls upon the earth. I am a stegosaurus! And I will walk alone!

(Billy transforms into a stegosaurus during the following dialogue.)

ALL CHORUS: Young Billy wished with all of his might,
Throughout the course of that dark night,

CHORUS ONE: For some kind of physical transformation

CHORUS TWO: To take him away from his bad situation.

CHORUS THREE: Billy thought he would never be rid of the
bully

CHORUS ONE: Without scales

CHORUS TWO: And plates

CHORUS THREE: And spikes

ALL CHORUS: To offer him safety.

CHORUS ONE: So, the next morning, to Billy's surprise and
delight,

CHORUS TWO: He looked in the mirror and startled from
fright

CHORUS THREE: At the sight of the creature now standing
before us:

ALL CHORUS: Billy Bo Blue – The Boy Stegosaurus!

(Billy is now a stegosaurus.)

BILLY: Mom! Dad! Come quick!

CHORUS ONE: Billy shouted in a voice like a roar.

(MOM and DAD arrive.)

MOM & DAD: What is it, sweetheart?

(Mom and Dad see Billy.)

Ahhhhhhh!!!

(Mom and Dad leave.)

CHORUS TWO: But when they saw Billy, they both ran from his door.

BILLY: Mom [Dad]?! Dad [Mom]?! Fine. I don't need a mother. I don't need a father. [I don't need mothers.] [I don't need fathers.] I don't need anyone. A stegosaurus walks alone.

CHORUS THREE: And so Billy went out in the bright sunny day,
Where Katie and Sheldon were waiting to play.

(Katie and Sheldon are playing.)

SHELDON: It's a...a...a...a...

KATIE: "A" what?

SHELDON: A...a...a...a...a...

(Katie sees Billy.)

KATIE: A monster!

BILLY: A stegosaurus!

KATIE & SHELDON: Ahhhhhhhh!!!

(Billy roars, and Katie and Sheldon leave.)

BILLY: I don't need friends either! A stegosaurus doesn't play with friends! A stegosaurus walks alone!

CHORUS ONE: Then, through the neighborhood,

CHORUS TWO: Stomping in fury,

CHORUS THREE: Billy went looking for Mitchell the bully.

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(Billy stomps and roars. The Chorus and other characters run in and out of their respective screens.)

BILLY: Mitch! Hey, Mitch! You want to come out and play Dinosaurs? Come on, Mitch! I've got a really cool stegosaurus you can play with. It's brand new.

MITCHELL: *(Offstage:)* Is that you, silly Billy? Because I don't play with babies or their baby dinosa—

(Mitchell enters, sees Billy and lets out a high-pitched scream! Billy roars!)

Please don't hurt me. Please.

BILLY: Who's the baby now? Huh, Mitch? I didn't hear you. I said: who is the baby now?

MITCHELL: *(Crying:)* Me.

BILLY: You're the baby. Go home and cry to your mama, baby.

(Mitchell leaves, crying.)

CHORUS ONE: Billy felt strong, enraged and empowered,

CHORUS TWO: He no longer felt like a meek, quiet coward.

CHORUS THREE: Even though Mitch wouldn't pick on him now,

CHORUS TWO: To go back to how he was before

CHORUS THREE: — Billy Bo Blue the weak little bore—

ALL CHORUS: He couldn't, he shouldn't, he wouldn't allow.

CHORUS ONE: Billy wanted to be feared and respected,

CHORUS TWO: Not forgotten, ignored,

CHORUS THREE: And left unprotected.

BILLY: I am a stegosaurus. It thunders when I walk. People scatter when I roar. I never want to be the way I was before. I want to be strong. Strength is better than friends. I enjoy all the benefits power extends. I don't need anyone. Nobody. Never again. I am a stegosaurus. I am out on my own. A stegosaurus needs no one. I walk alone!

CHORUS ONE: So all through that day,

CHORUS TWO: And the next,

CHORUS THREE: And the next,

CHORUS ONE: Billy terrorized children and neighborhood pets.

CHORUS TWO: Crushing their toys with his feet and his claws.

CHORUS THREE: Eating their lunches with his dinosaur jaws.

CHORUS ONE: Smashing up gardens and crashing through gates,
Behaving the way everyone hates.

CHORUS TWO: Finally, everyone felt something had to be done,
But short of complaining, of real ideas there were none.

CHORUS THREE: So they called the police, then the National Guard,
(The FBI even offered rewards),

CHORUS ONE: But after a while they could do nothing more:
No one knew how to subdue dinosaurs.

CHORUS TWO: Until it was decided, with much dissatisfaction,
That to ignore dinosaurs was the best course of action.

CHORUS THREE: So, everyone in the neighborhood would hope for a day
When Billy the stegosaurus would just go away.

(Katie and Sheldon are playing with toy cars.)

SHELDON: Hey! What are you doing?!

KATIE: My car can fly.

SHELDON: No it can't. No wings.

KATIE: Doesn't need them. It's a rocket car.

SHELDON: Where are the rockets then?

KATIE: Hidden in the trunk.

(Billy enters with a roar. Katie and Sheldon are startled, and the cars go flying.)

BILLY: Now your cars are really flying.

SHELDON: Oh, man! You're such a jerk, Billy. Come on, Katie—let's go.

KATIE: No, Sheldon. No. I'm tired of this. I'm tired of just trying to ignore him and hoping he'll go away. You're a bully, Billy Bo Blue. You're mean and you're hurtful—a big dinosaur jerk.

BILLY: *(Roars:)* I am a huge stegosaurus! I don't care what you think. I've got spikes on my tail and plates on my back. I don't need anything. I need nothing from you. I walk alone. All alone. And I like it like that.

KATIE: I don't think that you do. I think that you're lying. Lying to everyone. Including you.

BILLY: You don't know anything!

KATIE: No, I don't. I don't know why you're hurting. I don't know why you're sad. I don't know what has happened to

make you get this mad. But I'm sorry. I'm sorry you feel like this. I'm sorry you did everything you could to destroy who you are. I'm sorry, Billy, and I want to be your friend.

SHELDON: Me too, Billy. I want to be your friend, too.

BILLY: I... I... No. I...

(Billy transforms back into a boy during the following Chorus speech:)

CHORUS ONE: And then, without any fanfare or overt ovation,
Billy Bo Blue began a new transformation.

CHORUS TWO: Sheldon and Katie's kind words and affection
Made him less afraid of hurts and rejection,

CHORUS THREE: And because of this act of selfless compassion,
Something extraordinary started to happen.

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