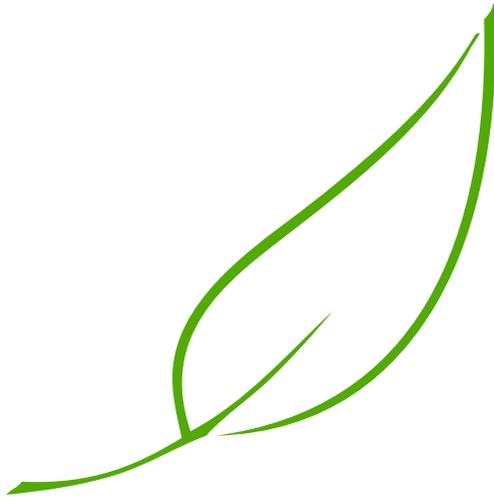


ACTING UP

by Ken Bradbury



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Maggie the talent agent and Sadie, the aspiring actress, are onstage. (Unless of course you call them Sam and Max, in which case two men might be playing the roles.)

SADIE: Please! Gimme a break! Just this one break and I won't bother you again. Ever!

MAGGIE: Look honey, we've been through this before. I just don't have any work for you. It's a tough economy right now. Everybody's cutting back on their advertising.

SADIE: But I'm good! I'm really good! Just give me a chance!

MAGGIE: They're all good, believe me. Look kid, I've got a one o'clock appointment. *(beginning to exit)* Just leave your number with my secretary.

SADIE: *(jumping in front of the door, blocking Maggie's exit, shouting dramatically)* The dragon must die!

MAGGIE: Huh?

SADIE: Oh thou most wretched of beasts! Doest thou not know that even now my sword lies claim to thy ugly heart!

MAGGIE: What sword? Are you crazy?

SADIE: And the world cheers as the noble Galahad slays the beast! *(makes a sword-ish lunge at Maggie)*

MAGGIE: I need help in here!

SADIE: How'd you like it?

MAGGIE: Am I dead? What was that?

SADIE: "Sir Galahad and the Green Dragon of Miller's Pond." I was in third grade and I played Sir Galahad. What'd you think?

MAGGIE: I think you're nuts.

SADIE: But you believed me! I'm an actor because you believed me! You were scared. I could see it in your eyes.

- MAGGIE:** I believed you'd lost your mind. Being crazy doesn't make you an actor. I thought you'd lost your mind.
- SADIE:** I can do that, too. Wanna see my "Claude the Crazy Little Gopher"?
- MAGGIE:** I wanna see your "Nutty Actor Who Walked Out the Door."
- SADIE:** I've never heard of that one. You got the script?
- MAGGIE:** Look, if I give you a quick audition will you leave me alone?
- SADIE:** Oh, yes! Yes! Yes! But I won't be leaving you alone, I promise. You'll be after me to make movies and plays and TV shows and ...
- MAGGIE:** Yeah ... whatever. Look, the only thing I've got right now is a commercial.
- SADIE:** (*jumping into an imaginary car*) "The open road! The wind in your hair! The power at your fingertips! Drive the new 2003 Lincoln Mercedes Toyota! You'll never drive that same old road again!" (*Sadie looks hopefully at Maggie who simply stares a moment*)
- MAGGIE:** (*finally*) Get out of the car.
- SADIE:** What?
- MAGGIE:** Get out of the car. It's not a car commercial.
- SADIE:** (*begins to get out, then*) Can I leave it parked here?
- MAGGIE:** Get out!
- SADIE:** Jewelry? (*hitting a pose*) "A girl's best friend ... Love comes and goes but diamonds are forever!"
- MAGGIE:** Dog food.
- SADIE:** (*a pause, then*) Say what?
- MAGGIE:** Dog food. It's a dog food commercial.
- SADIE:** That's all? Dog food?
- MAGGIE:** Honey, if you're a dog, it means a lot. (*taking a paper from her desk*) Here. Take a look at the script.
- SADIE:** Oh, I don't need a script. Just tell me what I'm supposed to feel.
- MAGGIE:** You're supposed to feel a burning desire to read the stupid script! Now here! (*shoves the script at Sadie*) It's

a thirty-second spot. We open with a wide shot of a nice little home with a nice little yard in a nice little town.

SADIE: With a nice little dog?

MAGGIE: You're one sharp cookie, you know that? Okay, the happy music comes in under ... (*Sadie begins to hum*) ... Not you! (*Sadie stops*) The music begins and the camera pans in on this dog in the front yard. He's sitting there ...

SADIE: How can you know it's a "he?"

MAGGIE: I saw his drivers license! Would you just read the script!?! The dog sits there bored to death then he sees this girl dog walk by ...

SADIE: It's a romance!

MAGGIE: It's a commercial! It's a dog food commercial! He sees the girl dog. The girl dog sees him ... his eyes light up! His tail begins to wag! He gets up and takes a step toward her ...!

SADIE: Can you show this on television?

MAGGIE: (*angrily*) THEN ... you step out of the front door with a bowl of Frisky-Wiskies ...

SADIE: I don't like the name.

MAGGIE: Too bad. They're paying the bill. You step out and say, "Here boy!" The dog looks at you, he looks at the girl dog, then he comes running to the dog food while a voiceover says, "Sometimes you just gotta decide."

SADIE: That's it?

MAGGIE: That's it.

SADIE: I say "Here boy?" and that's it?

MAGGIE: That's plenty. The dog does the rest.

SADIE: So how do I say it.

MAGGIE: You say it like you've got a stupid bowl of dog food in your hands! Whatta ya mean, "How do I say it?"! This is not the Gettysburg Address!

SADIE: I need motivation.

MAGGIE: You're fired.

SADIE: But I gotta have this job.



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