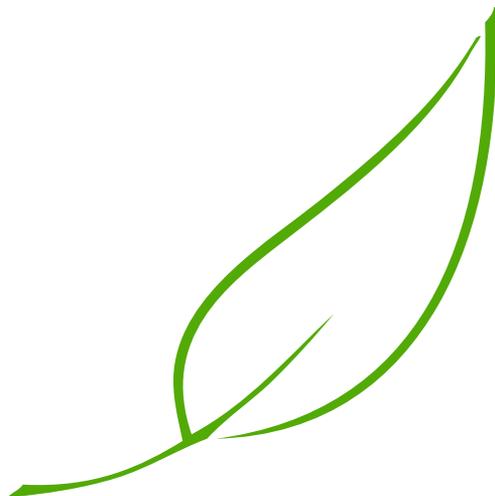


# THE BIG SWITCH

by Ken Bradbury



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# The Big Switch

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*(The two boys are in a house. They enter.)*

**JOEL:** This is it. This is the dumbest. I mean, you've talked me into some pretty stupid stuff before, but nothing ... Nothing beats this!

**RICK:** Hey, it's gonna be fun.

**JOEL:** It's gonna be stupid ... that's all! Just stupid!

**TRINA:** *(at another place in the acting area, sitting, "driving a car" beside Suzie.)* Tell me again.

**SUZIE:** Trina, I've explained it a hundred times.

**TRINA:** I know. And I still don't believe it. Tell me again. I couldn't possibly be doing something this insane. Make me feel better. Tell me I'm dreaming.

**SUZIE:** You're not dreaming, Trina. You're going to prom. With Joel. Just like you planned ... it's just that this time it'll be a little ... you know ... different.

**JOEL:** I feel like a real idiot.

**RICK:** Feel however you want, you look fine. You'll be fine. Joel, this is gonna be a prom you'll remember for the rest of your life.

**JOEL:** A root canal. I had a root canal when I was six. I'll remember that for the rest of my life, too.

**TRINA:** You started this, didn't you?

**SUZIE:** Sorta ... but it was really Rick's idea.

**TRINA:** That stupid argument. You had to get in that stupid argument about dating.

**RICK:** Look, I just told her that the guy has to do all the work on a date while the girl has all the fun. You know what Suzie's like. We argue all the time.

**JOEL:** So how'd I get roped into this?

**SUZIE:** Trina, you're my best friend! We always double date!  
I had to get you involved because we're buds!

**TRINA:** Tonight could be the end of our friendship, Suzie.  
(*stopping the car*) Well, here we are.

**RICK:** Oh great. There they are. Now you remember what to do? The girls are gonna play the guys' part tonight and we're gonna do the girls stuff.

**JOEL:** If somebody has a camera I'm goin' home.

**SUZIE:** (*getting out of the car*) Okay ... Rick thinks girls have it so easy, let's give it a shot. We've washed the car, we bought them flowers and we made the dinner reservations. All that's left is the date. (*she knocks on an imaginary door*)

**JOEL:** Oh no! They're here!

**TRINA:** I feel ridiculous standing here holding a flower for a boy.

**RICK:** Don't answer the door! Make 'em wait!

**JOEL:** Huh?

**RICK:** (*shouting out through the door*) Just a minute, girls!  
We're not quite ready! I spent two hours on this hair and I'm not going to be rushed!

**JOEL:** (*groans*)

**TRINA:** He's taking this serious, isn't he?

**SUZIE:** You know Rick.

**RICK:** Why don't you girls go out back and shoot baskets or something while Joel and I giggle a while?

**TRINA:** Real funny, Rick. You wanna open the door? People are driving by.

**RICK:** (*to Joel*) You look marvelous, Joel. (*shouting through the door*) Joel's been tanning all day! He looks great!

**JOEL:** Remind me to bust you in the nose when this is over.

**RICK:** He's just got to powder his nose!

**SUZIE:** Come on, Rick! The reservations are for six o'clock!

**RICK:** I'm hurrying! I'm hurrying! You just don't know what it's like, Suzie! First I had to get my nails done then Joel and I went shopping all afternoon and ...

**SUZIE:** Rick, open this door!

**RICK:** (*suddenly opening the door*) Well hello there!

**SUZIE:** Gosh, you guys look great!

**RICK:** Oh, this old thing? It's my brother's old confirmation suit. I just took it in a little.

**SUZIE:** So ... you ready? (*scratches her rear*)

**TRINA:** Suzie!

**SUZIE:** Remember, we're switching for tonight.

**RICK:** Very funny. Okay guys, let's go eat! (*they move to the car and Suzie, Trina, & Joel get in ... Trina and Joel in front with Trina driving. Rick stands there with his arms crossed.*) Excuse me! I said, "Excuse me!" Shouldn't somebody open the you-know-what for you-know-who?

**SUZIE:** I forgot. (*she quickly gets out and runs around to open the door for Rick*)

**RICK:** (*getting in*) Thanks.

**TRINA:** So ... we've got a few minutes to kill. Where you wanna go?

**JOEL and RICK:** (*look at each other a knowing moment, then in unison*) I-don't-care.

**TRINA:** Oh, brother. I mean whatta you wanna do?

**JOEL and RICK:** (*another glance, then*) I-don't-know.

**TRINA:** I can't tell you how much fun I'm having.

**SUZIE:** So ... uh ... How 'bout those Bulls? Think they got a chance this year, Trina? Whoa, look at that! A 357 hemi over and under turbo-charged GMC!

**TRINA:** Let's go to the restaurant early while I've still got an appetite. (*she pulls the car over and Joel, Trina and Suzie get out, moving toward the restaurant ... Rick sits there smiling, tapping his foot*)

**SUZIE:** Oops. Sorry, sweetheart. Forgot again.

**RICK:** (*getting out*) Girls. They're just so ... immature.

**TRINA:** (*talking to an unseen waiter*) Henley. A party of four.

**RICK:** (*to Joel*) I love parties, don't you? (*they are "led" to their table ... formerly the car. They arrange the chairs*)



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