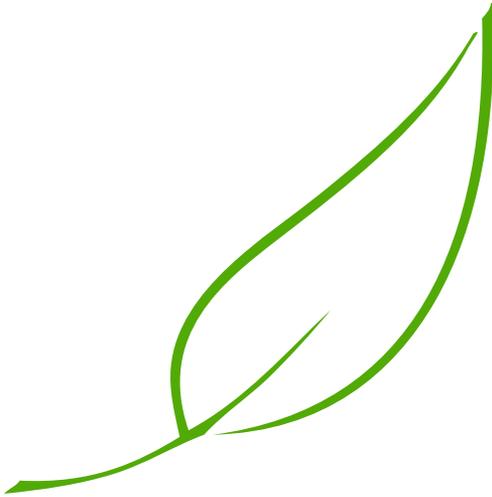


MISFITS

by Ken Bradbury



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Characters: Monique and Kitty on their first day of kindergarten.

Two chairs are side by side at center stage. The girls enter with their eyes closed.

MONIQUE: *(entering, holding Kitty's hand)* This it?

KITTY: They said, "all the way down the hall then turn at the water fountain."

MONIQUE: I didn't see the water fountain.

KITTY: Me either. But I had my eyes closed.

MONIQUE: Me, too.

KITTY: Wanna open 'em?

MONIQUE: I'm scared.

KITTY: Me too. Can you go through a whole year of kindergarten with your eyes closed?

MONIQUE: I don't think so.

KITTY: Why not?

MONIQUE: You bump into stuff.

KITTY: Okay ... on three let's open our eyes. One ... two ... three! *(Both girls open their eyes.)* Oh no!

MONIQUE: What?

KITTY: Other people. Mommy didn't say there'd be other people in kindergarten. I thought I had it all to myself.

MONIQUE: Maybe they're just visiting.

KITTY: They have backpacks ... just like us ... and gym shoes ... just like us.

MONIQUE: And they look stupid and confused.

KITTY: Just like us. Let's go home.

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- MONIQUE:** We can't. You can't quit kindergarten. It's like a law. You gotta go, Kitty.
- KITTY:** This isn't fair. Life was so good ... I got up, I ate breakfast, I played all day, then I went to bed. Life was so much fun.
- MONIQUE:** We gotta do this, Kitty, or we won't get into college and get a job and retire and start playing again.
- KITTY:** Can't we just skip the school part?
- MONIQUE:** (*surprised*) Oh, no.
- KITTY:** What?
- MONIQUE:** Boys. There are boys here.
- KITTY:** Which ones are they?
- MONIQUE:** The scary ones. The ones who are pushing each other.
- KITTY:** My dad's a boy.
- MONIQUE:** Does he push?
- KITTY:** He makes funny noises after he eats.
- MONIQUE:** (*hears something in the room*) What was that noise?
- KITTY:** That was a boy. So ... do we just stand here 'til it's time to go home? Who's she?
- MONIQUE:** The tall ones are teachers. They're the ones who smell good.
- KITTY:** Oh. Monique, I don't think I like kindergarten. It's too ... you know ... different. Where's the television? I've never been in a room without a television.
- MONIQUE:** Up there on the wall.
- KITTY:** It's too high. If I lie on my stomach I can't see it.
- MONIQUE:** I don't think we get to lie on our tummies, Kitty. They have desks. I wonder which ones are ours.
- KITTY:** Maybe it's the two empty ones.

- MONIQUE:** You're so smart, Kitty. You figure things out. I'm not smart enough to go to kindergarten.
- KITTY:** They're staring at us. We're the only ones still standing.
- MONIQUE:** So whatta we do?
- KITTY:** Sit down.
- MONIQUE:** See? You're so smart, Kitty. *(The two girls move to sit stiffly in the chairs, then)* This seat is hard. I want my couch. *(putting her hand in the air)* Miss Teacher lady, do you have a couch? *(a pause)* Why are the kids laughing?
- KITTY:** Because you said something really stupid.
- MONIQUE:** You're so ...
- KITTY:** I know. I know. I'm so smart. Just be quiet a minute, Monique. The teacher's talking.
- MONIQUE:** Our names? She wants us to stand up and say our names! She's pointing at you, Kitty.
- KITTY:** *(stands, still nervous, but handling it)* My name is ... what? Speak up? My name is Kitty. Like the cat.
- MONIQUE:** *(as Kitty sits)* They like you, Kitty. They're laughing.
- KITTY:** And they'll be calling me Cat Girl all year. Okay, she's pointing to you.
- MONIQUE:** Why?
- KITTY:** Stand up, Monique. *(She quickly jumps to her feet.)* Say your name.
- MONIQUE:** I can't.
- KITTY:** Why not?
- MONIQUE:** I don't remember.
- KITTY:** Monique.
- MONIQUE:** What?
- KITTY:** Monique!



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