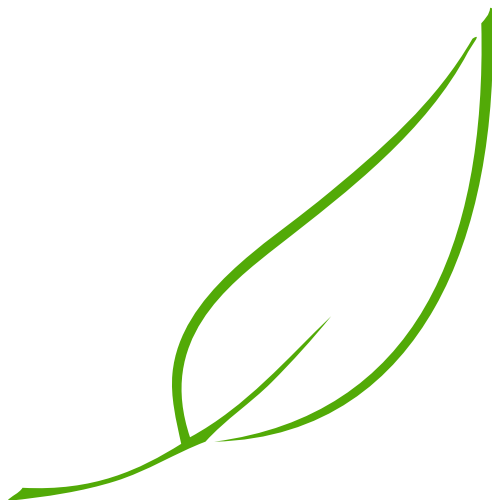


# STOWAWAYS

by Ken Bradbury



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**HANNAH:** (*peeking her head into the area, then whispering behind her*) This is it! Come on in, you chicken.

**SHERRY:** (*unseen*) We're gonna get in trouble.

**HANNAH:** Only if you tell! Get in here, Sherry! I gotta shut the door! (*she drags Sherry bodily into the room ... Sherry stares wide-eyed and frightened*)

**SHERRY:** Hannah, I'm scared. Let's go ride bikes or somethin'. We're gonna get in trouble.

**HANNAH:** Face it Sherry, you're a coward. Ridin' bikes is stupid when we could be doin' this.

**HANNAH:** Oh, my gosh. I've never been in one of these places before, Sherry.

**HANNAH:** I've seen it a couple of times but this is the first time I stepped inside. Mom always told me to stay out.

**SHERRY:** What about Bruce?

**HANNAH:** Nothin' much. He said he'd kill me.

**SHERRY:** Oh.

**HANNAH:** (*moving around the room*) Wow! Would you look at all this stuff! It's like a museum or somethin'.

**SHERRY:** (*suddenly grabbing Hannah's hand*) Let's go Hannah. I don't like snoopin' around your big brother's room.

**HANNAH:** Relax, Sherry. He's at ball practice. Besides, what's the big deal? You've seen bedrooms before.

**SHERRY:** Not a boy's!

**HANNAH:** It's the same as a girl's. Just ... weirder. (*seeing something on the wall*) Holy cow! I wonder if Mom knows he's got those pictures?

**SHERRY:** Who is it?

**HANNAH:** It sure ain't grandma. Man, whoever it is, I'll bet she's cold. You think she couldn't afford regular clothes?

**SHERRY:** And what a weird place for an earring. (*sees something else*) Look at this ... it's like a little mountain or something.

**HANNAH:** That's Bruce's socks and underwear. He's a slob.

**SHERRY:** Okay, I've seen enough, let's go.

**HANNAH:** Hey, it was you who wanted to see what a boy's room looks like. You chicken?

**SHERRY:** Heck yes! (*tugging on her*) Come on, Hannah. Please! I've seen enough. Bikinis, socks, and underwear. That's all there is to a boy's life, now I wanna get out of here before ... (*stops ...listens*) ... What was that?

**HANNAH:** My arm. You just ripped it out of the socket.

**SHERRY:** Somebody's comin', Hannah. Hannah, there's somebody comin' toward this room! Hannah, it's Bruce and he's gonna kill us!

**HANNAH:** Don't be ridiculous! (*she peeks out the door*)

**SHERRY:** Who is it?

**HANNAH:** It's Bruce and he's gonna kill us.

**SHERRY:** I knew it!

**HANNAH:** Sherry!

**SHERRY:** I knew it! I knew it! Dead at 13! My life is over! No drivers license, no prom, no mid-life crisis! Nothin'! I'm dead!

**HANNAH:** (*grabbing her*) You're not dead, Sherry! You're hiding!

**SHERRY:** No, I'm not!

**HANNAH:** Yes you are! Quick! Under the bed! (*begins pulling on Sherry*)

**SHERRY:** I can't!

**HANNAH:** You gotta!

**SHERRY:** I don't like what's under beds! I can't even look under beds! There's ... stuff under there!

**HANNAH:** I'm gonna stuff you under there if you don't move it ... Now! (*She grabs Sherry and the two of them duck "under the bed."*)

**SHERRY:** I can't breathe! I can't breathe!

**HANNAH:** Why not?

**SHERRY:** 'Cause I'm holdin' my breath!

**HANNAH:** (*suddenly Hannah puts a hand over Sherry's mouth, holding her in a sort of head lock*) Shhh! (*their conversation now diminishes to a whisper*) That's Bruce's

- feet! (*Sherry tries to speak, wide-eyed in horror, but Hannah's hand continues to stifle her.*) Holy cow! Bruce has four feet! Oh no! There's somebody with him! Sherry! (*Sherry mumbles*) Sherry!
- SHERRY:** (*finally pulling Hannah's hand loose from her mouth*) What!?
- HANNAH:** It's your big brother! (*and Sherry just gets the first squeal of a scream out of her mouth before Hannah muffles her again*) Don't scream! Listen! They're talkin' about basketball. Figures. Oh no! Bruce is takin' off his shoes! This is gonna be awful. His feet really stink!
- SHERRY:** (*pulling Hannah's hand away*) Would you let go of me?
- HANNAH:** Don't move! We gotta stay under here.
- SHERRY:** Well duh! Where would I go? (*reacts to something in her face*) Oh, yuck! (*moves to push it away*)
- HANNAH:** (*stopping her*) No! Don't push his shoe back out there! They'll know we're here!
- SHERRY:** It's gaggin' me!
- HANNAH:** Then suffer! (*reacts, sputters*) Ohh ... I got the other one.
- SHERRY:** He throws his socks under here and I'm gonna loose it. I swear I will. (*both girls are suddenly crushed from above and emit a painful "Umph!"*) (*barely able to get out the words*) They're ... sittin' ... on the ... bed!
- HANNAH:** Bruce is a lard butt.
- SHERRY:** I think he's cute.
- HANNAH:** He's still a lard butt. I can't breathe! Listen! He's pluggin' in his video game. Oh' no!
- SHERRY:** What's the matter?
- HANNAH:** Bruce gets excited when he plays.
- SHERRY:** So?
- HANNAH:** He ... (*and they both emit a huge "Umph!" and are jerked up and down violently*) ... bounces ... on ... the ... bed.
- SHERRY:** I can't stand this!



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