

THE PARTY GIRLS

by Ken Bradbury



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A scene for three girls: Marcie, Terri and Rickie

MARCIE: (*entering*) Hurry up! Hurry up! They're gonna be here any minute!

TERRI: (*entering with her arms full of "stuff"*) Where do I put the chips?

MARCIE: Anywhere! Everywhere! It's a party! Put them all around the room! Where's Rickie?

TERRI: Blowing up the balloons. I think she may have passed out.

MARCIE: I love parties! Dad said we could have the whole basement! This is gonna be so awesome! (*The two girls busy themselves decorating as they speak.*)

TERRI: You got the music ready?

MARCIE: The best. It's all loaded into the computer. Non-stop music all night long and the video games are all set. I'm not kidding, Terri. This party is going to put us on top at school. I invited everybody in our class and they've been talking about it all week. (*shouting off*) Rickie! Hurry up with the balloons!

TERRI: She can't talk. She ran out of air.

MARCIE: She worries me. I mean, Rickie's so shy. You know what she's like around boys.

TERRI: She's just quiet, that's all. She'll be okay ... if she can still breathe. (*calling off*) Hurry up, Rickie!

MARCIE: You remember Lori's party last spring?

TERRI: The ponies?

MARCIE: Her dad thought he'd throw the best party ever so he rented those ponies. That was ridiculous! Who rents party ponies?

- TERRI:** It was a good party.
- MARCIE:** Lori's just a show off. She actually hired a band.
- TERRI:** They were good.
- MARCIE:** The ponies didn't agree.
- TERRI:** Did they ever catch them?
- MARCIE:** Last I saw they were headed toward Wal-Mart with Lori's dad racing after them in his SUV.
- TERRI:** Maybe they had some last minute shopping to do.
(*calling off*) Rickie! We need those balloons!
- MARCIE:** Where is that girl? (*Rickie enters ... dazed ... a bit off balance.*) What's the matter with you?
- RICKIE:** I ran out of air. All my breath is gone. I think I deflated myself.
- MARCIE:** Where'd you put the balloons?
- RICKIE:** Laundry room ... couldn't carry them ... too heavy.
- TERRI:** (*guiding her to a chair*) Sit down, girl. Suck in some oxygen.
- RICKIE:** Is the room moving?
- MARCIE:** The balloons were too heavy?
- RICKIE:** Why is the floor floating?
- TERRI:** I think she hyper-vaccinated.
- RICKIE:** Are those my feet?
- MARCIE:** You take care of Super Woman. I'll get the balloons.
(*She exits.*)
- TERRI:** You gonna be okay?
- RICKIE:** I think so. Is the party still on?
- TERRI:** Of course. Look Rickie, I know that crowds make you nervous, but Marcie's our friend and she's making a really big deal out of this. She thinks that throwing the biggest party is going to make her popular, so just play along with it, okay?

- RICKIE:** Are the boys gonna be here?
- TERRI:** Girls, boys ... yeah. Both kinds of people.
- RICKIE:** Will I have to talk to them?
- TERRI:** Show them how to blow up balloons.
- MARCIE:** (*barging in with the imaginary balloons in her hands*) Here comes Miss Balloon! Come on, we've got to start hanging them.
- RICKIE:** (*tries to stand, then catches herself*) Whoa.
- TERRI:** Just sit down, Rickie. We'll hang the balloons while you make friends with the air. (*Terri and Marcie hang balloons as they speak.*)
- MARCIE:** Hurry up! Hurry up! We've only got a few minutes and I want this to be the best party our class has ever seen. Did you see this? A real-live chocolate fountain!
- RICKIE:** (*staring at it*) Then it's supposed to be moving?
- MARCIE:** Chocolate fountains move, Rickie.
- RICKIE:** Good. I thought a candy bar was coming at me.
- MARCIE:** And look at this! An ice cream mountain!
- TERRI:** You sure you should have put it out so early? What if it melts?
- MARCIE:** I timed it. I bought one last week and timed it so it'll just start getting soft when the kids arrive. I've thought of everything. Let's just see Lori Henry top this party!
- TERRI:** Don't worry about beating Lori. Let's just have a good time.
- MARCIE:** Wait'll I see her face. She'll just die of envy.
- RICKIE:** Would you not talk about dying? I think my nose just floated away.
- TERRI:** Your nose is still there, kid. Just take deep breaths.
- MARCIE:** I guess I should tell you guys about my surprise.



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