

HELP ME!

by Ken Bradbury



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(Ellie sits alone, reading.)

HANNAH: *(rushing in, grabbing her)* Ellie, you've got to help me.

ELLIE: Look out. My nails are wet.

HANNAH: I'm in big, big trouble, Ellie!

ELLIE: I know. You've got Midnight in Malibu all over the palm of your hand now.

HANNAH: This is serious!

ELLIE: You're tellin' me. That stuff is awful to get off.

HANNAH: Would you listen to me?

ELLIE: Talk fast. My Mom got me tickets for the concert tonight at the Convention Center. I've got to get dressed in a few minutes.

HANNAH: You can't go.

ELLIE: I what?

HANNAH: You cannot go, Ellie. Not if you're my friend.

ELLIE: What does going to hear Kenny Chesthair have to do with our friendship?

HANNAH: That's what I'm trying to tell you. I'm in big, big trouble and you've got to help me get out of it.

ELLIE: What trouble?

HANNAH: I can't talk about it.

ELLIE: *(a long pause as she stares at her ridiculous friend)* You're crazy, Hannah. You want me to get you out of trouble but you won't tell me what it is.

HANNAH: Okay. I'll tell. You know Alec Beard?

ELLIE: Everybody knows Alec Beard. He's captain of the football team and one hot ...

HANNAH: Yeh. That's him. He asked me out tonight.

ELLIE: Was he sick?

HANNAH: Funny. To the movies.

ELLIE: Oh. It'll be dark then. Nobody will notice.

HANNAH: Would you quit that! This is serious!

ELLIE: Hannah, any date with Alec Beard is serious. Way to go, girl! That's awesome!

HANNAH: It's not awesome.

ELLIE: You afraid of the dark?

HANNAH: I was already going out with Andy Anderson tonight.

ELLIE: *(a long stare, then)* You're crazy.

HANNAH: I know.

ELLIE: That's insane, Hannah! How could you do something like that?

HANNAH: Andy and I are just friends ... you know that. We've dated off and on for years ... like brother and sister. I think he's going to ask me to prom. He asked me if I wanted to do something tonight and said yes, then Alec called and ... I couldn't resist, Ellie! Alec Beard! Can you imagine that?

ELLIE: No. Not with Andy in the next seat. I can't imagine it at all, Hannah.

HANNAH: That's why you've got to help me.

ELLIE: I can't. I don't even own a gun.

HANNAH: You've got to go with Andy tonight!

ELLIE: I what?!

HANNAH: Come on, Ellie. Just this once. I'll owe you big time ... anything. Anything you want me to do, I'll do it. I'll clean your room! *(and Hannah begins moving about the room as she talks, quickly throwing things here and there)* I'll do your homework all year. I'll do your laundry. I'll buy you a new outfit ...

ELLIE: Hannah!

HANNAH: I'll babysit your kids, I'll ...

ELLIE: I don't have any kids!

HANNAH: Yet. Someday you'll be wanting a babysitter and all you'll have to do is call me and ...

ELLIE: Hannah! Stop cleaning my room! Just stand still! *(she does)* Watch this very closely. *(points to her own mouth)* No.

HANNAH: No, seriously. I need help.

ELLIE: Okay. Watch again. I---don't---care.

HANNAH: Ellie! You're my friend!

ELLIE: I know! And friends don't let friends make fools of themselves! Call Alec back and tell him you made a mistake!

HANNAH: I can't do that!

ELLIE: Of course you can!

HANNAH: He'll never ask me out again!

ELLIE: Who cares? Have you ever heard of honesty, Hannah? Ever heard of telling the truth?

HANNAH: Maybe later. When I can afford it. Right now I'll settle for a little lie.

ELLIE: A little lie! Why do you always get yourself into these things, Hannah? Always! You sign up for everything, you say yes to everybody, you try to do it all then it hits you ... Duh! I can't do it! You're never going to learn unless you have to suffer a little and honey, it's time to suffer.

HANNAH: Does that mean you won't help me?

ELLIE: Can you hear? That's exactly what that means! You can't do that to Andy! It'll break his heart!

HANNAH: You can't do this, Hannah!

ELLIE: Yes, I can, Ellie!

HANNAH: You don't have a choice!

ELLIE: Yes, I do!

HANNAH: No, you don't! I already called Andy!

ELLIE: (*a very long beat as Ellie is momentarily speechless, then finally*) You what?

HANNAH: I ... you know ... sort of called Andy.

ELLIE: You didn't.

HANNAH: I did.

ELLIE: And told him what?

HANNAH: I told him ... uh ... promise you won't hate me, Ellie.

ELLIE: Impossible! I hate you already! (*Hannah begins to scurry about the room, throwing things around*) What are you doing?

HANNAH: I'm getting rid of everything you can throw at me.

ELLIE: (*grabbing her*) Ellie, stop it! What did you tell Andy?



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