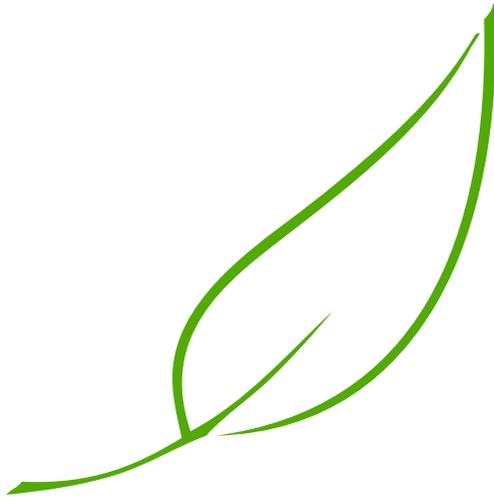


TEENAGE IDOL

by Ken Bradbury



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Brittany is onstage as Cydney enters.

CYDNEY: My life ... is over!

BRITTANY: What?

CYDNEY: I'm dead.

BRITTANY: You look fine.

CYDNEY: Don't play around with me, Brittany. This is serious. I'm done with. Sell the farm, put my puppy in the shelter, and wrap my locker in duct tape. I no longer exist!

BRITTANY: Bad grade on your math test?

CYDNEY: Oh, I wish it was something so little. No, this is the end of the world.

BRITTANY: Okay, what's the matter?

CYDNEY: What's the matter? What's the matter? Can't you tell what's the matter?

BRITTANY: Uh ... no. What's the matter?

CYDNEY: You didn't hear about the contest?

BRITTANY: What contest?

CYDNEY: Teenage Idol!

BRITTANY: Sure. It's tonight. Everybody's all excited. It's the biggest night of the school year.

CYDNEY: Go ahead. Just crush me.

BRITTANY: I crushed you?

CYDNEY: Rub it in. Make a big thing of it. Remind me of what a total loser I am!

BRITTANY: I didn't say a thing!

CYDNEY: You didn't have to. Isn't it obvious?

BRITTANY: But you're going to be in the contest! You're great!

CYDNEY: Was. *Was* going to be in the contest.

BRITTANY: You're dropping out?

CYDNEY: I have no choice.

BRITTANY: Why?

CYDNEY: Didn't you hear? Mackenzie Miller is going to be in the contest!

BRITTANY: Cool!

CYDNEY: What?

BRITTANY: She's like amazing! What a beautiful voice! And everybody likes her. When Mackenzie sings it's like time just stops. I can't wait to hear her perform tonight! Isn't it exciting? (*She looks at Cydney who's simply staring at her.*) Why do I have a feeling that I just totally said the wrong thing?

CYDNEY: Because you just totally said the wrong thing. There's no way I can beat Mackenzie Miller.

BRITTANY: But that's no reason to drop out, Cydney!

CYDNEY: Isn't it? I've practiced my dance for weeks. It's called "Dance! Dance! Dance!"

BRITTANY: Clever title.

CYDNEY: You should have seen it, Brit. It was awesome. The lights go down, the stage fills with fog, then this single spotlight hits me and I'm wearing this totally awesome outfit layered with diamonds ...

BRITTANY: Diamonds?

CYDNEY: Rhinestones, but they look like diamonds. Then the music starts and I run out twirling these two batons that are on fire and I jump through this big hoop and it explodes. Then the fake snow starts coming down from the ceiling and I start dancing. It's just the most beautiful thing you've ever seen!

BRITTANY: I can't wait!

CYDNEY: You'll have to wait. I'm not doing it. Nobody's got a chance in the contest as long as Mackenzie Miller is singing. She cheats.

BRITTANY: Mackenzie cheats?

CYDNEY: She's got this secret weapon.

BRITTANY: What's that?

CYDNEY: Talent. Can you believe that? Pulling a dirty trick like that.

BRITTANY: Cydney, being talented isn't cheating!

CYDNEY: Just because you've got it, that doesn't mean you've got to spread it all over the place.

BRITTANY: But Mackenzie's a sweet girl! She doesn't brag or anything. Everybody loves her.

CYDNEY: I know. That makes it worse. What am I going to do, Brittany? I can't perform now. What's the use?

BRITTANY: I can't believe you, girl! What a dumb attitude! It's not about winning; it's about showing your talent! You've got talent! Who cares if you can't sing like Mackenzie?

CYDNEY: Oh Brit, it's just like I get this close to something I want ... I almost make it ... then something steps right in to crush my dreams.

BRITTANY: You sound like a soap opera.

CYDNEY: I'm sorry. I just can't help it. Do you remember in 2nd grade, we did that play and I was going to be Snow White?

BRITTANY: I was a dwarf. I remember.

CYDNEY: Mom had made this really gorgeous dress.

BRITTANY: More fake diamonds.

CYDNEY: Yeah. More fake diamonds. But it was beautiful ... and I had my lines all memorized and on opening night ...

BRITTANY: Strep throat.



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