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PREVIEW

THE ADVENTURES OF AWESOME BOY



BY GEORGE
HALITZKA

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**The
Adventures of
Awesome Boy**

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PREVIEW

The Adventures of Awesome Boy

By George Halitzka

Cast of Characters

DANNY MITCHELL, *a sixth grader with an overactive imagination*

DR. HOOPER, *a sarcastic but caring emergency room physician*

KATHY MITCHELL, *Danny's longsuffering mother*

ROBIN, *a young female firefighter*

BRYNN, *Danny's best friend*

CHARLES, *the manager of Speedy Mart*

GINA, *who works for the City Mission*

A DRIVER *who almost runs over Awesome Boy*

OTHER DRIVERS *(at least one/ nonspeaking)*

MRS. AVERY, *an elderly school crossing guard*

SHELBY, *who owns two unpredictable dogs*

DOGS *(at least two / nonspeaking)*

Setting

Wednesday afternoon and evening in your town

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The Adventures of Awesome Boy

(A patient cubicle at the hospital emergency room. DANNY is sitting on the exam table. He looks rather worse for the wear with a bandage on one leg, large bruises on one arm, and – most incongruously – a horrible superhero costume over his school clothes. This consists of a Lone Ranger-style mask pushed up on the top of his head, underwear worn over his pants, and a ratty blanket crookedly safety-pinned to his shirt as a cape. DR. HOOPER, dressed in a white lab coat, is jotting notes on a clipboard.)

DANNY: Give it to me straight, Doc – I can take it. Am I a goner?

DR. HOOPER: I think you'll pull through.

DANNY: Does the leg hafta come off?

DR. HOOPER: Might hurt for a few days, but you'll fine.

DANNY: My arm – it's a compound fracture, right?

DR. HOOPER: A bruise. Kid, why are you so anxious to be injured?

DANNY: 'Cause if the wounds don't kill me, Mom will. And wounds are an easier way to go.

DR. HOOPER: Then I have bad news: You're gonna make it.

(DANNY groans aloud. Suddenly, KATHY rushes into the room.)

KATHY: Danny? Danny, are you all right?

DANNY: Mom, how much do you love me?

KATHY *(to DR. HOOPER):* Does he need stitches?

DR. HOOPER: Maybe an ice pack . . .

DANNY: You *do* love me, right, Mom?

KATHY: Why are you wearing underwear over your clothes? And why'd Speedy Mart call my voicemail?

DANNY: There are *very* good answers to those questions . . .

KATHY: Did you actually tackle the . . .? (*DANNY nods reluctantly.*)
And get chased by the . . .? (*DANNY nods again.*) What am I going to do
with you?

DR. HOOPER: I've only known him ten minutes, but I suggest a leash.

DANNY (*to DR. HOOPER*): You're supposed to be on *my* side! (*to
KATHY*) Look, it started at school . . . (*speaking to DR. HOOPER again*)
Don't you have patients or something?

DR. HOOPER: I've been wondering about the outfit since you got here.
Slow night.

DANNY: Fine . . . we had a fire safety assembly. This firefighter came
in, and she was *gorgeous*.

DR. HOOPER: Wasn't she a little old for you?

DANNY: I'm very mature for my age. You should've seen those baby
blues, and especially her . . . (*glancing at KATHY, who is giving him a
dangerous look*) . . . dimples. I'll tell you all about her.

*(ROBIN enters in full firefighter regalia and addresses the audience as though
she's speaking to an assembly at a school. DANNY, BRYNN, and their
CLASSMATES sit down to listen. For this scene only, DANNY should not be
wearing any of his superhero paraphernalia.)*

ROBIN: . . . Remember that, guys: Change your smoke detector
batteries twice a year. Find an exit to use in case of emergency. And if
your clothes catch on fire—stop, drop, and roll. Any questions?
(DANNY raises his hand. ROBIN points to him.) The young man in blue?

DANNY: I have two questions . . . Can you teach me to be a fireman,
and can I have your phone number?

(BRYNN does a facepalm. The CLASS laughs and catcalls.)

ROBIN: My number's 9-1-1, but only use it if something's burning.
Now, about firefighting . . . you're a little small to carry people out of
buildings.

DANNY (*he's obviously making this up as he goes*): I bench-press three
times my own weight.

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ROBIN: So you could carry a two-hundred pound man down a ladder wearing a full respirator?

DANNY: *Almost three times . . . All I do is I sit in school and learn adverbs. You're a hero!*

ROBIN (*holding up her hand*): I don't like it when people call me that. Anybody'll save a person who's dying. It's instinct: "He's in a burning house, I'll get him out."

DANNY: That's why I wanna be a fireman!

ROBIN: But I don't get the hero thing. Real heroes have courage every day.

DANNY: Like *you!*

ROBIN: No . . . like, teachers who work with tough students. Or a kid who stands up to bullies. Or –

DANNY: That's not hero-ing, it's *boring!*

ROBIN: Well . . . those are *my* heroes, okay? When I rescue people, I'm just doing my job. (*seeing someone signal to her from the back of the room*) Ms. Johnson says we're out of time. Be safe, everybody!

(*ROBIN exits as the bell rings. DANNY approaches BRYNN, but she ignores him and walks away.*)

DANNY: Hey! Aren't we gonna walk home?

BRYNN: Can somebody *else* be your best friend? Just for today?

DANNY: She was *cute!*

BRYNN: And she's a grown woman. (*in a mocking tone*) "Can I have your phone number?"

DANNY: Don't you ever wanna do something *important?*

BRYNN: Like convince people you're not a freak?

DANNY: No! Like, firemen *save* people. (*BRYNN shrugs.*) Remember when Ms. Abasi fell on the science museum field trip? She sprained her ankle, and nobody knew what to do.

BRYNN: That's why they called an ambulance.

DANNY: Or the time that guy stole your purse in McDonald's®. You were freaked out!

BRYNN: It wouldn't have been as scary if you didn't chase him!

DANNY: I was making a difference!

BRYNN: So be a fireman when you grow up. (*DANNY rolls his eyes.*) Danny, you're not Superman.

DANNY: No, but I . . . Brynn, that's brilliant!

BRYNN (*suddenly worried*): What did I say?

DANNY: You hafta wait to be a fireman, but there's no age limit on superheroes! I'll wear a mask, so nobody knows I'm a kid . . .

BRYNN: Not because you're four-eleven and wearing Crocs® . . .

DANNY: I'll swipe Buster's blanket out of his crate; that's the right size for a cape . . .

BRYNN: Danny, *think!* You can't fly, or do x-ray vision —

DANNY: Neither can Batman. Brynn, this is your most brilliant idea ever! Wanna be my sidekick?

BRYNN: I think I hear my mother calling . . .

(BRYNN exits. DANNY returns to the ER, where KATHY and DR. HOOPER appear to be somewhere between amused and appalled.)

DANNY: . . . And that's how Awesome Boy was born!

KATHY: Did people *see* you, Danny?

DANNY: Only the whole city!

DR. HOOPER: You're in middle school. Isn't your mom supposed to be embarrassing *you*?

DANNY (*glaring at DR. HOOPER*): Listen, Doc, I saved a lady from getting run over, rescued a dog, stopped a robbery —

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KATHY: That's not what my voicemail said.

DANNY: Well, I *meant* to –

KATHY: Can't you change the world some other way? Plant a tree? Take clothes to Goodwill®?

DANNY: Awesome Boy isn't *boring*!

KATHY: The manager at Speedy Mart says you're banned for life.

DANNY: *Anybody* would've thought that lady was a super-criminal! They better hope jewel thieves never invade their store.

KATHY: *Jewel thieves?*

DANNY: It's not as bad as you think. Probably.

(BRYNN reenters and meets DANNY onstage. On the other side of the stage, CHARLES enters and sets up his store counter at Speedy Mart.)

BRYNN: Danny . . . can we talk for a minute?

DANNY: Not right now; I hafta change the world.

BRYNN: It's *important*.

DANNY: If you're gonna be a superhero, you need a cooler name.

BRYNN: I'm not a superhero. And neither are you! *(DANNY glares. BRYNN rolls her eyes.)* I'll stick with "Normal Kid."

DANNY: And that's why you're boring. *(BRYNN walks towards the store.)* Why are we going to Speedy Mart? Are there supervillains inside?

BRYNN: *You're* staying here.

DANNY: You can't go alone! Innocent citizens aren't safe without a hero.

BRYNN: Danny . . . most people wear underwear *inside* their pants.

DANNY: Fine. If you don't wanna be seen with Awesome Boy, I'll guard the store.

(BRYNN nods and heads for the store, then thinks better of it.)

BRYNN: What's "guard the store" mean?

DANNY: Question the customers as they go in—make sure they're not supercriminals.

BRYNN *(grabbing DANNY by the cape and dragging him behind her):* Come on . . . you get in *way* less trouble when I'm there to stop you.

(CHARLES stops BRYNN and DANNY as they try to enter the store.)

CHARLES: Hey kid, it's not Halloween. Take off the mask if you're comin' in my store.

DANNY: I'm sorry, but Awesome Boy can't do that.

CHARLES *(escorting him out by the arm):* Then "Awesome Boy" can stay outside.

DANNY: Would you ask *Spiderman* to take off his mask? I'm calling my congressman!

BRYNN: Mister, I know you're worried about shoplifters. But trust me, he's too far gone to steal stuff.

CHARLES *(a sigh – deciding it's not worth the fight):* We don't want trouble, okay? I got my eye on both of you.

(BRYNN nods respectfully and walks further into the store. DANNY follows. Meanwhile, CHARLES exits. GINA enters and begins taking loaves of bread off a store shelf, piling them into a box.)

DANNY: Pretty suspicious that he tried to throw Awesome Boy out of the store, huh? I saw this in a movie once . . .

BRYNN *(picking up an apple from the counter):* If you don't do anything crazy in the next three minutes, I'll buy *you* a snack, too.

DANNY *(suddenly grabbing BRYNN'S arm and pointing at GINA):* Look at that lady. What's she doing?

BRYNN: Buying bread? Because people do that in stores?

DANNY: But she's dumping it in a box! *(BRYNN shrugs – "So what?")* She must be a thief, like in the movie!

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BRYNN: Shoplifters don't walk out with boxes of bread.

(GINA picks up her box and walks briskly towards the exit.)

DANNY: Except when they do. And that isn't just bread . . . *(loudly, as he charges towards GINA)* STOP, THIEF! *(GINA keeps walking. He grabs her arm.)* I said STOP!

GINA: What're you doing?

DANNY: Planning to sell your loot on the black market, eh? Not so fast.

GINA: Yeah, there's a lotta buyers for stale bread . . .

DANNY: I saw this in a movie. You criminal masterminds hide jewels inside the loaves!

GINA: Why don't you and your little friend play in traffic?

DANNY: Won't confess, eh? You've forced me to take drastic action!

(DANNY snatches the box and turns it upside down. Bread spills to the floor. CHARLES reenters just as he's doing this.)

GINA: Nice going. You just ruined a bunch of homeless people's dinner.

CHARLES: What do you think you're doing?

DANNY: Stopping a shoplifter! This super-criminal took your bread, and . . . watch this! *(tearing open a loaf with his hands)* Huh . . . no jewels in this one. *(tearing open another loaf)* No jewels again!

CHARLES *(grabbing DANNY by the arm):* What're you tryin' to pull? This "super-criminal's" from the City Mission. I donate day-old bread to feed homeless people . . . except when some genius dumps it on the floor!

DAN: The City Mission? My Mom volunteers there!

CHARLES: Then let's see who you *really* are.

(He takes off DANNY'S mask.)

GINA: It's Kathy Mitchell's kid! She always seemed so . . . *normal*.

CHARLES: I'm callin' the police.

DANNY: Please don't! Awesome Boy will mend his ways . . .

GINA: Chuck, the kid wasn't stealing, he's crazy or something . . . just call his Mom.

DANNY: No, call the police. *Please* call the police!

CHARLES: Both of you come to my office.

BRYNN: How about if we leave and never come back?

CHARLES: Oh, you'll be doing that too. Now *move*.

(Under the watchful eye of CHARLES, DANNY and BRYNN exit in disgrace with GINA trailing behind. We return to the ER, where KATHY has her head in her hands.)

KATHY: I can never show my face at the Mission again.

DANNY: I hope not; that bread lady's *mean*.

DR. HOOPER: But if you stopped being Awesome Boy after the store, how'd you get hurt?

DANNY: I didn't stop! Mom says failure is the first step to success.

KATHY: Of all the days for you to start listening . . .

DR. HOOPER: Where'd the bruises on your arm come from?

DANNY: With no thought for his own safety, Awesome Boy ran in front of speeding cars and saved an innocent woman from becoming road pizza!

KATHY: That's not what she said.

DANNY: It was an honest mistake. Even *Brynn* thought the lady needed help.

KATHY: How do you always get that poor girl in trouble with you?

DANNY: What are friends for? I'm telling you, Mrs. Avery *totally* looked like a damsel in distress. She was just . . . a cranky, scary damsel.

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(BRYNN enters and joins DANNY onstage. Meanwhile, in the background, several DRIVERS travel on an imaginary street, holding steering wheels in their hands. They pantomime talking on their cell phones, singing along with the radio, etc.)

BRYNN: Danny, I've never been kicked out of *anywhere* before!

DANNY: The manager didn't call *your* Mom.

BRYNN: Because I didn't look for jewels in bread!

DANNY: I might've . . . imagined too much. Sorry.

BRYNN: Kids already pick on me 'cause you're a boy. Do you have to make it *worse*?

DANNY: Best friends hafta be a girls?

BRYNN: Normally. That's why I wanna talk.

(DANNY steps into the street in front of a car. The DRIVER honks loudly.)

DRIVER: Watch where you're goin'! You almost got run over!

DANNY *(trying to adjust his mask)*: Sorry, lady, I can't see anything.

DRIVER: Then take off the stupid mask!

BRYNN *(pulling DANNY out of harm's way)*: You're gonna get killed! Come here.

(BRYNN adjusts DANNY'S mask as the DRIVER exits.)

DANNY: But my secret identity . . .

BRYNN: Can you see? Enough to not get run over? *(DANNY nods.)*
Let's go home.

DANNY *(shaking his head stubbornly)*: Awesome Boy has supervillains to find.

BRYNN: Like the one at Speedy Mart?

DANNY: I swear, I'll only face *real* villains. *(BRYNN rolls her eyes.)* I need to do something *important*!

BRYNN: If you keep playing Awesome Boy, I'm not speaking to you.

DANNY: "Playing?" You think this is *playing*?

(BRYNN walks ahead of him.)

BRYNN: Leave me alone.

DANNY: I thought you weren't speaking to me.

BRYNN: I'm sick of being friends with a *boy*.

DANNY: Then why're we walking together?

BRYNN: 'Cause we live on the same block, genius. *(BRYNN and DANNY continue to walk, studiously ignoring each other. Meanwhile, MRS. AVERY enters and steps out into the street as cars whiz by.)* I hope that lady's okay . . .

DANNY: I'm not speaking to you, either.

BRYNN: Don't be dumb. Look at her.

DANNY: Yeah, crossing the street's *sooo* dangerous.

BRYNN: She's *standing* there. Maybe she's old and senile . . . *(calling out)* Ma'am? Are you all right? *(to DANNY)* She didn't hear me. See if she's okay.

DANNY: You do it.

BRYNN: But you're . . . *(with a grimace)* Awesome Boy.

DANNY: Who doesn't want to "play" superheroes?

BRYNN: I'm serious! The stoplight's gonna change . . . *(calling to MRS. AVERY again)* Ma'am, you're in the street! *(DANNY crosses his arms stubbornly.)* Fine. I'll do it.

(BRYNN sets off towards MRS. AVERY, but DANNY extends an arm to stop her.)

DANNY: Awesome Boy's *always* ready to save the world.

BRYNN: Hurry, there's cars—

DANNY (*dashing into the street*): I'LL RESCUE YOU!

(*DRIVERS are bearing down on MRS. AVERY as DANNY tackles her to the ground. She screams, then moans aloud.*)

MRS. AVERY: I think I broke something . . .

DANNY: Don't bother to thank me, ma'am. It's all in a day's work.

MRS. AVERY: Who do you think you are?

DANNY: Awesome Boy!

(*BRYNN runs across the street to DANNY and MRS. AVERY.*)

MRS. AVERY: That's it—I'm calling the police!

BRYNN: But you were in the middle of the street!

MRS. AVERY: I'm Mrs. Avery! (*no recognition*) The CROSSING GUARD!

BRYNN (*weakly*): The . . . what?

MRS. AVERY: I stand on this corner seventeen years and you hooligans from the school don't know me?

DANNY: Aren't you old and senile?

MRS. AVERY: Forget the police. I'm calling my lawyer!

BRYNN (*trying to drag DANNY away by his cape*): Time for Awesome Boy to go; saving the world's hard work . . .

MRS. AVERY: I know you, young lady . . . what is it, Becky? Brooke?

BRYNN: We didn't mean to! I thought—

DANNY: RUN, Brynn!

MRS. AVERY: *Brynn!* Your parents will be hearing from me . . . get back here, you little delinquents!

(*DANNY and BRYNN hastily run offstage. MRS. AVERY exits in the other direction, trying to find a number in her phone. We return to the emergency room.*)

DANNY: We were *this close* to getting away. Of all the times for me to slip and use Brynn's secret identity . . .

KATHY: Are you telling the truth, Daniel? *Brynn* thought the lady needed help? (*DANNY nods. KATHY sounds a bit smug.*) And her mom thinks *you're* a bad influence.

DANNY: Brynn's the crazy one.

KATHY: But you can never run into traffic like that!

DANNY: The lady needed saving!

KATHY: *Never!* You could've been killed. Understood?

(*DANNY nods.*)

DR. HOOPER: So is the lady okay?

KATHY: Well, Mrs. Avery said not to tell Danny . . . once she realized what happened —

DANNY (*suddenly feigning weakness*): You'll tell the cops I'm too weak to do hard time, right, Doc?

KATHY: She said you and Brynn were . . . "misguided but brave."

DANNY: Then Awesome Boy *did* save somebody!

KATHY: She also said if her arthritis flares up, she'll sue me for every penny I have.

DR. HOOPER: Kid, you haven't finished the story. Where'd you get the cuts on your leg?

DANNY: I was disabling an evil villain's death ray when suddenly, he walked into his lab . . . (*KATHY gives him a warning glare.*) But the real story's *embarrassing!*

DR. HOOPER: I need to know if it's a dog bite. That can get infected.

DANNY (*extending his pinky*): Will you *pinky swear* not to tell that a mere canine defeated Awesome Boy?

(*DR. HOOPER rolls his eyes and pinky swears. His phone vibrates and he checks the message.*)

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DR. HOOPER: I finally have another patient. That bite doesn't look deep, but you need a tetanus shot.

DANNY: Needles are Awesome Boy's Kryptonite! Can't you amputate something?

DR. HOOPER: It'll barely hurt a hero like you. I'll be back.

(He exits.)

KATHY: All right, what happened with the dog?

DANNY: Do I *hafta* tell you?

KATHY: Stray dogs can carry rabies.

DANNY: No, it belonged to a lady . . . and it was my last chance of saving the world.

KATHY: Then why wasn't the dog on a leash?

DANNY: Technically, there were *two* dogs and they were tied up, but then . . . *(A pause and a sigh.)* When they make the Awesome Boy movie, I'm leaving this part out.

(BRYNN enters and calls to DANNY, who joins her for another flashback.)

BRYNN: Danny, *please* stop being Awesome Boy. At least for today?

DANNY *(trying to guilt-trip BRYNN):* Slow down, Awesome Boy's still sore from tackling the crossing guard.

BRYNN: Aren't friends supposed to *agree* on what they do? Instead of one person deciding everything?

DANNY: Is this because you're a girl?

BRYNN: No, because I'm not *crazy!* No more superheroes.

DANNY: Go ahead, leave Awesome Boy behind. You're the one who wants to talk about stuff.

BRYNN: Boys are *despicable*.

DANNY: And girls use big words!

BRYNN: That's what I wanna talk about. When people see us, since you're a boy . . . (*DANNY shakes his head; he doesn't have a clue what she's getting at.*) Sometimes boys and girls . . . And Evie Tompkins, she thinks you wanna . . .

DANNY: What? (*BRYNN motions to him; she thinks it should be obvious by now.*) This is why girls are annoying.

BRYNN: At least we don't think bread has jewels in it!

DANNY: At least I don't think crossing guards need rescuing.

BRYNN (*mocking*): "I'm Awesome Boy, and I believe in superheroes . . ."

DANNY: 'Cause it's so immature to make a difference.

BRYNN: The difference *you* make is messing everything up!

(*SHELBY enters, dragging PRINCESS, her whimpering canine, on a leash.*)

SHELBY: We'll go back home, girl. I promise.

BRYNN: Aww, what a pretty dog! Can I pet her?

SHELBY: If she'll let you . . . *sit*, Princess.

(*PRINCESS sits, but continues to whimper. BRYNN begins to pet her.*)

BRYNN: Why are you sad, Pretty Girl? Good doggie . . .

DANNY: Can I pet her, too?

SHELBY (*to BRYNN*): Is your friend . . . okay?

BRYNN: He just thinks he's a superhero.

DANNY: I don't "just think"!

BRYNN (*under her breath*): Which is the whole problem . . .

DANNY (*also petting the dog*): Tell Brynn she's not funny . . . is she, girl?

SHELBY: You sound like an old married couple.

BRYNN: We're fine . . . *aren't* we, Danny?

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DANNY: *Awesome Boy*, Brynn.

BRYNN (*changing the subject*): Why's Princess sad?

SHELBY: Oh, she misses her friend. I have another dog. (*pointing offstage*) See? That's Prince tied up at my house.

BRYNN: Poor guy. Can't you bring him, too?

SHELBY: Not at the same time — too strong.

DANNY: We can help!

SHELBY: I appreciate that —

DANNY: No problem, I'll untie Prince — Brynn, come on!

SHELBY: You don't wanna —

DANNY (*already dashing offstage*): *Awesome Boy* always helps a neighbor in need!

SHELBY: He's a rescue dog —

DANNY (*from offstage*): Hey, big fella! Hey, boy! You wanna go for a walk? (*PRINCE growls loudly.*) Stop it! Sit, boy . . .

SHELBY (*to BRYNN*): He was abused as a puppy —

(*PRINCE barks and growls more fiercely.*)

DANNY: Down, boy . . . HEEELP!

(*DANNY dashes onstage, followed by the barking, growling, ferocious PRINCE.*)

SHELBY (*to BRYNN*): It's the mask! Prince *hates* costumes, he went nuts at Halloween!

DANNY: Your dog's crazy!

(*PRINCE lunges at him. Meanwhile, PRINCESS yanks her leash out of SHELBY'S hand and joins PRINCE. Now, both of them are growling and lunging at DANNY. They back him into a corner like dogs treeing a cat. SHELBY makes a dive for a leash and misses.*)

SHELBY: *Princess!* When they get like this . . . I better call the police.

BRYNN: But they're your dogs!

SHELBY (*feeling inside her pockets*): I don't have my phone . . . distract them from your friend!

BRYNN: But then they'll eat *me!*

SHELBY: Well . . . they've had their shots.

(*SHELBY dashes offstage to find her phone. BRYNN looks helplessly after her.*)

DANNY (*hardly daring to move*): Brynn, help . . . please? (*DANNY kicks at PRINCE, who lunges and bites his leg.*) OWW!

BRYNN (*running desperately to her backpack*): Danny, do dogs like cookies?

DANNY: I don't think they like *anything!*

BRYNN: But Buster does, right?

DANNY: Buster doesn't try to eat me!

(*BRYNN takes a sandwich bag of cookies from her backpack.*)

BRYNN: Princess, I have cookies . . . do you like cookies, girl? (*PRINCESS turns around and looks at BRYNN.*) Delicious cookies . . . tell your evil friend! (*PRINCESS barks in PRINCE'S direction as she approaches BRYNN. PRINCE turns and looks.*) Come and get it!

(*BRYNN gingerly tosses the cookies onto the ground. PRINCE and PRINCESS hastily devour them.*)

DANNY: Brynn, you're *amazing!*

BRYNN: They wouldn't bite the hand that feeds them, would they?

SHELBY (*running onstage clutching her phone*): Are you guys okay? The police said . . . (*as she sees the cookies, she looks horrified*) Who gave them cookies? Now they'll *never* leave you alone!

BRYNN: What?

SHELBY: Cookies! They can't get enough of those things!

(PRINCE and PRINCESS begin to creep slowly towards DANNY and BRYNN, growling. DANNY and BRYNN back slowly away.)

DANNY: Brynn . . . do you have more cookies?

BRYNN *(shaking her head):* Do you have any cookies?

(DANNY shrugs helplessly.)

SHELBY: Nice Prince . . . good boy . . .

BRYNN: Cookies all gone . . . see? *(BRYNN sticks out her hand to pat PRINCESS' head. PRINCESS barks and snarls, almost biting BRYNN.)* Danny, HEELP!

(BRYNN runs offstage, chased by PRINCE and PRINCESS.)

DANNY: Never fear, Awesome Boy will save you! *(DANNY tries to run offstage, but when he puts his full weight on his leg with the dog bite, he suddenly grabs it in pain and collapses to the ground.)* OWW! Or maybe Awesome Boy will lie here and moan . . .

(We return to the ER. DANNY limps back to the exam table.)

KATHY: I can't believe that woman let her dogs . . . is your leg okay?

DANNY: It's fine. Wanna see my scar?

KATHY: Did they bite Brynn too? *(Suddenly, DANNY looks downcast.)* Is she in the hospital?

DANNY: I tried to save her, Mom—I swear! But when I started running, my leg hurt so bad from the bite . . .

KATHY: What happened?

DANNY: You know Mrs. Kenton, the old lady who yells at me?

KATHY: Only when you climb her fence.

DANNY: She's not *totally* evil. She sprayed the dogs with her hose and Brynn got away.

KATHY: So Brynn's okay? No bites? *(DANNY shrugs.)* Are you okay?

Should we ask the doctor for pain medicine? (*DANNY shakes his head, downcast.*) Danny?

DANNY: Mom . . . Awesome Boy didn't save *anybody*. I messed up dinner for homeless people, and tackled a crossing guard, and let dogs escape, and they chased my best friend –

KATHY: You made some mistakes –

DANNY: – And I didn't help one single person! I wanted to change the world, like a hero, and Brynn had to rescue *me*.

KATHY: Is that the only kind of hero? The kind that saves people from death and Dobermans? (*DANNY shrugs.*) I thought you said the firefighter was cute!

DANNY: *Gorgeous!*

KATHY: But you didn't listen to a word she said! *Her* heroes are people who do the right thing every day.

DANNY: That's what you tell people who're too lame to be *real* heroes.

KATHY: Okay, I'll stop washing your clothes and packing your lunch so I can save lives. I only got the Mom gig since I'm not good enough to be a hero.

DANNY (*rolling his eyes*): That stuff's *boring!*

KATHY: Which is why it takes a hero. (*DANNY looks dubious.*) Who else is gonna hug you every morning? When they find out you forget your deodorant . . .

DANNY (*sniffing his armpit*): I'm wearing it!

KATHY: I *must* be a hero; I love a smelly kid.

(*DANNY rolls his eyes. DR. HOOPER reenters.*)

DR. HOOPER: Hey, I thought you'd wanna know . . . (*He sees the disgruntled expression on DANNY'S face.*) Am I interrupting something?

KATHY: I just resigned from motherhood.

DR. HOOPER: Well, he's not coming home with *me*. Kid, there's somebody who wants to see you.

PREVIEW



END OF FREE PREVIEW

The ending of the play has been omitted from this preview. Purchase a full copy of the script and license performance rights at dramabygeorge.com/store.

PREVIEW