

DRAGON RIDER

"A Play in One Act"

By:

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Cast of Characters

Willy Huffman; Unintelligent, gets mad over small things. Used to be Siamese twins, when split, received smaller part of brain than Billy - feels inadequate. Willy is the overweight, less hygienic version of Billy. He still lives at home at the age of 23, and is working at Wal-Mart as a greeter. He dresses in mainly overalls and baggy shirts and has an imaginary dragon friend named NightRider who he "rides" whenever possible.

Billy Huffman; Intelligent, shows off that he's smart to Willy. Is a successful businessman - moved out of the house at 18 and started his own company. Very good looking; dresses classy (expensive leather shoes and dress shirt). Is also 23 years old.

Bernice Huffman; Is a whiny teenage girl. She should be very well groomed, dress well and be thin. She usually wears a skirt and the majority of her outfit should be pink. She should look between 15-18 years old.

Frank Huffman; Has a comb-over and is wearing a suit/sweater vest. He is very over-protective of his daughter and has a temper.

Gertrude Huffman; Tries to understand her daughter and be a very good mom. She is the typical housewife, and should be wearing a dress/apron.

SCENE

In the Huffman family's dining room. There is a grandfather clock in the corner. The walls should be painted pastel/boring colors and the windows have floral curtains. The overall look of the room should be lacking design and boring.

TIME

The early 1990s.

ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING: *In the Huffman family's dining room. Bernice and Willy are seated at the dining room table, looking bored. Gertrude brings meatloaf from the kitchen and places it on the table. She sits down.*

GERTRUDE: *Oh gosh! Where is your father! He's so unreliable. He better not be late for supper again; Billy's going to be here soon and the meatloaf is getting cold!*

BERNICE: *O-M-G Mom, relax. He's only two minutes late. Since he's not here I wanna ask you something.*

GERTRUDE: *Sweetie, I'm just so nervous since your big brother's coming home. He's so successful now; I just want to make sure everything's perfect-*

BERNICE: *Mom, I said I have something to ask you before Dad gets home.*

WILLY: *(To the empty chair next to him, interrupting Gertrude and Bernice's conversation) NightRider I know you is hungry. You have to wait, oh no, I can hear your tummy growling. (To Gertrude) Mom! NightRider wants meatloaf. Why do we have to wait for Billy!*

GERTRUDE: *Honey, NightRider can wait.*

BERNICE: *Mom! I have to ask you something!*

GERTRUDE: *(Looking calm, possibly having her hands folded over each other on the table) Now sweetie, no need to scream. What is it?*

BERNICE: *(quickly) Brett Carter finally asked me to go to the spring fling dance because Jessica got sick so I really wanna go and he'll come pick me up and everything and I just like*

him so much and if I don't go then I'll like, *(Takes a breathe in)* totally lose my reputation as the 2nd hottest girl in school!

GERTRUDE: Ok honey, well, is he a nice boy? *(To Willy)* Get your dirty hands out of that meatloaf right now or I'll throw NightRider out of this house, young man!

WILLY: But, Mom!

GERTRUDE: Willy! You're 23 years old; you should know your manners. Now tell NightRider you'll give him meatloaf later - we'll heat it up in our spanky new microwave and everything.

WILLY: Fine Mom, but it never tastes as good after.

GERTRUDE: *(Flushed)* Well, Willy, it's not all about you is it. Get your finger out of your nose! Go wash your hands and get yourself looking presentable.

BERNICE: *(Looking annoyed)* Yes, Mom. He's obviously a nice boy. Plus, he's super cute and nice and perfect.

GERTRUDE: What? Oh. Well, sweetie, you know your father won't approve, but I think it's fine. As long as you're home by midnight.

BERNICE: Midnight! The dance ends at 11 and I wanna go out after!

GERTRUDE: Ok, well. I don't know sweetie - ask your father about it.

BERNICE: But, Mom-

(The grandfather clock in the corner begins to chime, interrupting Bernice and signifying six o'clock. The family glances up as they hear the front door open.)

FRANK: *(Voice echoing from offstage, as if he is in a hallway)* Sorry I'm late, pumpkin! There was a big accident on 5th and 17th; a pigeon

flew right onto the car in front of mine's windshield and then it bounced onto the roof of the van. I swear there's a dent but I can't see clearly over the top... *(Walks into the dining room and sits down)* Hey, where's Billy?

GERTRUDE: I don't know! He's unreliable, just like you.

BERNICE: *(To Gertrude)* God, just call his car phone and ask him where he is and stop freaking out.

GERTRUDE: Good idea, pumpkin. Willy, can you please go grab me the phone?

WILLY: I'm not your slave, Mom!

GERTRUDE: *(Looks disappointed, whispers to herself)* I'll get it myself...

WILLY: *(says before Gertrude gets up from the table)* I don't even want meatloaf anymore and neither does NightRider. I'm just gonna go and make a pickle and cheese-whiz sandwich, I like it more than your dumb meatloaf anyways.

(Gertrude looks upset, her shoulders slump and she proceeds to get the phone from offstage.)

FRANK: Hey now, Willy. Don't you want to see your brother? You haven't seen him since he started that new car dealership; don't you miss him?

WILLY: No, I don't need to see Billy anyways; I can just look in the mirror, jeez Dad, obviously. We're twins, if you haven't noticed.

FRANK: Now son, of course I've noticed; have a little respect. Your mother worked hard all day to make this meatloaf and you better eat it and pretend to like it.

WILLY: I like NightRider better than meatloaf.

FRANK: NightRider isn't real, God damnit-

GERTRUDE: *(Interrupts as she's walking back into the dining room)* Now Honeycakes, be nice. Oh, and Billy says he's almost here.

FRANK: *(to Gertrude)* Well, he needs to smarten up! We thought it was just a phase, but he's been going on about this dumb dragon since Billy moved out! *(Counts to five on his fingers)* Five years! Billy got his life together when he was 18. He got a real job and moved out and Willy has just stayed here at home with his damn dragon. I just can't believe it. It's his only friend, it's not healthy.

WILLY: *(to Frank)* You don't even know him! NightRider treats me better than all of you guys put together! *(Abruptly pushes away from the table and runs offstage.)*

GERTRUDE: *(Raises her eyebrows at Frank and shakes her head.)*

FRANK: Well, he needs to realize that NightRider isn't real! We can't let him live this way.

BERNICE: *(to both parents)* God, he's so embarrassing. Why he can't just move out like Billy. He better not be home when Brett comes to pick me up on Friday.

FRANK: Brett? Who's Brett? You know I don't allow you to date.

(Doorbell rings, Bernice looks relieved)

GERTRUDE: Oh good! That must be Billy! *(Runs and answers the door [off stage]. Bernice and Frank follow to greet Billy.)*

Scene 2

SETTING: *In Willy's room. Willy is sitting on a bean bag chair in the corner and petting NightRider. His room should have posters of dragons and a mirror on the wall, along with a pair of homemade-looking reins constructed of leather and shiny buckles sitting on his dresser.*

WILLY: *NightRider, you look so good today. I had a dream about you last night, and I was just wondering if you wanted to re-enact it. (Willy gets down on his knees and looks excited) So, we were playing leap frog, but on clouds, but we can't really do that so we can play here on the carpet. Want to play leap frog NightRider? I'm really good at it and we can go really fast until we get out of breathe and then we can go and make lemonade! (Begins playing leapfrog with NightRider and screaming with joy) Wow, NightRider, you're so good! Can I ride you now? I love your new reins; (Pulls reins off dresser and admires them) I did such a good job making them. They look so good with your sparkly scales. Who knew what I could do with a few pieces of leather and some shiny buckles. I wish my parents were as proud of me for making this as you are... (Raises his eyebrows and pauses) Oh NightRider, you always know just what to say to make me feel better. (Blushes and pauses, listening) Ya, I can't believe my Dad doesn't like you, either. I love you more than all of my family; you're always there for me. And you're impressed with my job at Wal-Mart. Who cares if Billy has his car dealership, at least I like my job. Who would want to look at dumb cars all day, anyways? I don't, that's for sure. (Takes a big breathe in) Anyways, I'm thirsty. (Stands up) My Mom just bought some more lemons! Do you want to go make some lemonade, NightRider? (Pause) Ya? Ok! (Runs excitedly offstage)*

Scene 3

SETTING: *In the Huffman family's dining room. Billy, Bernice, Gertrude and Frank are all at the table.*

FRANK: I've heard of this Brett Carter boy, and I've seen him in his leather jacket, riding his big, metal, two wheeled vehicle around town. I am not letting you go out with him; you're much too young.

BERNICE: But, Dad! I'm 17. You don't let me do anything. Joanne goes out with boys all the time.

FRANK: And soon she's going to end up a teenage mom because of that!

BERNICE: Dad! I already bought a dress and everything.

FRANK: Does he have any piercings?

BERNICE: Well, not on his face...

FRANK: What do you mean not on his face? Where are these piercings?

BERNICE: I don't know, I've only heard stories about them!

FRANK: *(To Gertrude)* This guy sounds like trouble.
(To Bernice) Tattoos?

BERNICE: What about tattoos?

FRANK: *(Becoming irritated, he raises his voice between gritted teeth)* Does he have any?

BERNICE: *(Should have "stupid" body language, such as chewing gum with her mouth open or twirling her hair around her finger.)* Does he have any what?

FRANK: TATTOOS! God damnit Bernice.

BERNICE: Oh, I dunno.

FRANK: Are you being honest with me?

BERNICE: Well... he has a dragon on his chest... it's really cool, he drew it himself. That's why people call him "The Dragon"... God, Dad why, why else would they call him that?

FRANK: I am not letting you date a guy named "The Dragon"!

BERNICE: But, Dad, he's really nice! *(Her eyes get watery as if she's about to start crying.)*

FRANK: I don't care, young lady!

BERNICE: But I love him!

(Frank and Gertrude look shocked)

BILLY: *(To Bernice)* You know, the only reason he wants to go with you is because you got your braces off in the summer and lost all your baby fat.

BERNICE: Billy, shut up! *(Starts crying loudly and runs offstage)*

GERTRUDE: *(Makes eye contact with Bobby, her eyes widening as if waiting for an apology.)*

BILLY: *(Shrugs his shoulders.)* What? It's true.

FRANK: I refuse to have two dragon-lovers living in this household.

GERTRUDE: *(Yelling into the kitchen)* Willy, I can hear you in there! Get your tush in here and say hello to you brother.

WILLY: *(From kitchen)* Mom! Give me a second, jeez! I'm making lemonade for me and NightRider.

FRANK: *(to Gertrude, whispering)* See honey, we need to get rid of that damn dragon! It's taking

over his life; NightRider is all he talks about!

GERTRUDE: Sugarplum, don't be so judgmental. He's just figuring out who he really is.

FRANK: An immature 23-year-old whose only friend is an imaginary dragon?

GERTRUDE: Now, sweetie. *(Raises voice to Willy in the kitchen)* Now, Willy, come in here and say hello to your brother! He brought you a gift.

WILLY: Fine Mom. *(Avoids eye-contact with Billy)* Hi Billy. What did you bring me?

BILLY: I brought my old lucky briefs for you. I wore them during every test in university, so I thought they might help you become successful like me if you wear them. I don't know if they'll fit, though, I've noticed you've got a little extra meat around those hips...

WILLY: Shut up, Billy! No I don't! You're fat-

BILLY: Actually, I do 260 sit-ups and 130 push-ups everyday.

WILLY: Whatever... Just cause you have so much time on your hands. I'm always busy with NightRider. You're just jealous you don't have a best friend like I do! *(Runs out of dining room, parents look concerned while Billy has a sly smile on his face. Scene ends while there is an awkward silence as they listen and hear Bernice belting "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera from offstage.)*

Scene 4

SETTING: *Willy is alone in his bedroom, looking in his mirror.*

WILLY:

Fat? I'm not fat. He's fat. *(Pause, looks like he's deep in thought and walks over to his mirror)* NightRider, do you think I'm fat? *(Waits for response)* No? Are you lying? I know I could lose these love handles here... oh well. I'd rather just hang out with you than my stupid family, anyways. I hate Billy! Just because his brain is a little bigger than mine doesn't make him any better than me. I can't stand it here anymore, NightRider. I'm leaving... we're leaving. Wal-Mart will support us and then we can go buy our own apartment. *(Starts speaking faster and seems rushed in his movements. He grabs an old bag from his closet and begins throwing all of his underwear from his dresser in it.)* Lucky briefs? I don't need his lucky briefs. All of my briefs are lucky. *(Holds up underwear to NightRider)* These white ones here, and these Batman ones and Superman ones. Oh, and especially these dragon ones. Look, NightRider, it kinda looks like you! *(Holds up the underwear, smiling.)* Except your scales are much shinier, thanks to me waxing them daily, of course. Anyways, we have to hurry! We need to leave before Mom or Dad comes in here to check on us. I need to write a note to them first, just to let them know I'm OK. *(Grabs a used napkin off of his dresser and begins to write)* What should I say? *(Pause.)* I know! OK. *(Reads what he's writing aloud.)* Dear Mom and Dad, bracket, not Billy, end bracket. I'm sorry but I have realized that I'd rather hang out with NightRider than live here. I can't keep being compared to Billy and his dumb car dealership. From Willy. *(Turns head and listens as if NightRider is speaking)* P.S. NightRider says hi. *(Picks up his bag and rushes to open the window.)* Come on, NightRider, let's go! Let me ride on your back! I will miss this place, but I know I'll be happy with you forever. Fly, NightRider! Into the night! *(Willy looks as if he's jumping on*

NightRider's back and gallops awkwardly out the window and into the air.)

Scene 5

SETTING: *In the dining room. Billy, Frank and Gertrude are all seated at the table eating meatloaf.*

GERTRUDE: *(Points at the window) Oh my gosh! A dragon! Look, it's Willy! Quick, look outside!*

(Billy and Frank turn their heads to look out the window. Both of their jaws drop and they are left without words.)

BERNICE: *(Runs in from offstage) What? The Dragon's here?*

GERTRUDE: No! A dragon - NightRider!

(Billy, Bernice, Frank and Gertrude all stare outside, gasping as they watch Willy fly into the night.)

THE END