

ABOUT A BOY *by Tim Bass*

GENRE: Dramatic Monologue

SYNOPSIS: An anonymous note found in a locker reveals the secret pain resulting from school bullying.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Having the words read by someone other than the victimized author provides an interesting dramatic angle, and care should be taken to achieve the right tone.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M

THEME: Bullying

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 7:12

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Starter, Worship Service, Youth Service

CHARACTERS:
BOY

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: One wireless microphone

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Unspecified

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Lights up on a boy of 14 or 15. He holds a crumpled sheet of paper in his hand. He addresses the audience.

BOY: This is a letter that was found in an empty locker at school.

He reads.

To: Fellow Students and all teachers. Although you will never read this letter I really have to write it. I have to write down on paper what I am too afraid to say out loud. I do not know what writing this will do; it certainly will not change your behavior, but it may allow me to break some of the emotional chains that keep me from living up to my potential.

First let me address all of you kids who find it funny to bully me. I don't know why you enjoy tormenting other kids. Is your life so empty that you need to fill it with cruel jokes about body types and poor people and clothes that are different than yours? Do you have that much hate inside you? I will never understand why you do the things you do or say the things you say. You make fun of anyone who is different than you. You laugh at the kids who are overweight, you push and shove anyone smaller than you – does that make you feel strong and important? I don't think you will ever know the pain and tears that you have caused. Tears shed in empty school bathrooms and tears shed in darkened bedrooms every night. You have no idea the scars left by those tears.

And all you kids who stand by and watch the bullies. Why do you do that? What if it was your little brother or little sister that was being made fun of or laughed at or pushed around? What if it was them that was left crying and humiliated in the hall? Would you point and laugh also? Would you stand up for them? Would you be one of the silent people who do nothing while other kids like me are being treated like garbage? Why don't you do something? Why don't you say something? If you are afraid to tell a teacher, then do me a favor. Just be nice to us. Invite us to sit at your table at lunch. Ask us how we're doing. You cannot know how much even a smile can do for us.

And you teachers. Why don't you do more? Some of you act like I'm invisible. Me and others like me. We may not be the smartest in your class. We may not be the best in sports. We may seem awkward or clumsy or quiet. Or we may try and be loud and funny to hide the hurt. Please don't look through us. You are the grown-ups. Aren't you supposed to protect us?

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I don't know where I'll be when I'm 18 or 25 or 30. I hope I'm at a place where I have forgotten the pain and long forgiven all of you.

I don't know. I hope the pain is gone by then. I don't know. I do know the pain is here, now, today. And I do know it will be here tomorrow and the next day. Unless, of course, you hear my still, small voice crying and echoing through the halls. And that sound somehow, someway, lets you know that I...we, are hurting.

Signed, One of You.

..... *Lights down.*

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