

**Bleachers in the Sun**  
(aka The Ugly Ugly)  
by Y York

“God said to Abraham kill me a son, Abe said man you must be putting me on. God said no. Abe said what. God said you can do what you want to-but-the next time you see me coming you better run. Abe said where you want this killing done, God said out on Highway 61...

Now the frozen gambler he was very bored trying to create a next World War, he found a promoter who nearly fell off the floor, he said I never engaged in this kind of thing before, but yes, I think it can be very easily done. We’ll just put some bleachers out in the sun and have it on Highway 61.” —*Highway 61 Revisited*, Bob Dylan

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The characters are four eleven-year-old girls, the actors are adults:

Tilly, over-weight, wants to be loved anyway.

Zoe, claustrophobic, genius, hanging on to childhood.

Rose, newly rich, insecure, and suspicious of everything.

Judy, a cunning beauty with no money and little hope.

The time is a recent fall.

(Behind the bleachers of a school track, TILLY appears, looks around. She takes out a cigarette and fake smokes it, saunters around as if talking with other cool smokers. Unseen, ZOE comes around the bleachers.)

TILLY

“Hey, got a light? (Fake drags on cigarette) Oh, a couple of years...I tried to quit but I’m addicted too much-”

ZOE

What’s that supposed to be?

TILLY

Jeez, man, Jeez.

(TILLY stuffs the cigarette in her pants pocket.)

ZOE

Is that your mother’s?

TILLY

It’s mine.

ZOE

She’ll kill you if she catches you, Tilly.

TILLY

She isn’t going to catch me.

ZOE

Are you here to smoke? Is this where people smoke?

TILLY

Don’t you have to go meet your guy?

ZOE

I have fourteen minutes.

TILLY

Well, I have zero minutes.

ZOE

What’s that mean?

TILLY

It means I want you to leave.

ZOE

Why?!

TILLY

I told you I hadda do something.

ZOE

Yes, but you didn’t say I’d have to not be there.

TILLY

(adamant) You have to not be there.

ZOE  
...You know, Tilly, some day, Friday, probably, there's going to be another quiz, and somebody is going to want me to sit way back in my seat so that she can see my answers again.

TILLY  
I didn't look at your answers.

ZOE  
"Two ex plus ex plus four equals thirteen. Solve for X."

TILLY  
Five.

ZOE  
Three.

TILLY  
Okay, maybe you helped me out with an answer or two--

ZOE  
Twenty.

TILLY  
Sometimes you look at my paper, too.

ZOE  
Just to make sure you write it down right.

TILLY  
I know how to copy!

ZOE  
Yes, you get a lot of practice.

TILLY  
(Growing impatience) Okay...I'll make it up to you- but later.

ZOE  
Thirteen more minutes.

TILLY  
If you're staying, I'm leaving. (She fake stomps off. Zoe stays put.) What are you doing?

ZOE  
Staying. I like it. (Investigating) Quiet. Secret. (Re under the bleachers) Good cover. This is really good cover.

TILLY  
Oh, come on, Zoe, don't start-

ZOE  
Much better than the basement. The building can fall down on top of you in the basement, and you're trapped...Even if the bleachers collapsed, you could find your way out.

TILLY  
They don't bomb schools.

Not yet.  
ZOE

TILLY  
Not ever. They aren't going to attack anything else for a hundred years. We bombed them back to the stone age. We're perfectly safe.

ZOE  
You know what the worst part is?

TILLY  
You not going away.

ZOE  
The worst part is not if you get killed. The worst part is when you get trapped and stuck all alone in your room with a thousands pounds of rocks on top of it.

TILLY  
(same time) "with a thousand pounds of rocks on top of it!" But you know what, that doesn't sound so worst to me.

ZOE  
(starting to panic) Alive and trapped in the dark is terribly worst.

TILLY  
If I was stuck in my room with a thousand pounds of rocks on top of it, I'd eat my cookies which would make it not "terribly worst!"

ZOE  
No, no see, you can't eat your secret cookies-

TILLY  
For once, nobody tattling.

ZOE  
You can't eat them because you can't find them. Dark, like the darkest night. No light can get in. All the little children are trapped under the rubble-

TILLY  
They were office buildings- no children-

ZOE  
All in the dark, terrified of the darkness-

TILLY  
No- see- (lighting a match from her pocket) You don't have to be in the dark, Zoe. You can light a match.

ZOE  
Open their little eyes and, instead of light, see black nothingness-

TILLY  
Look, look at this! Matches, so I'm never in the dark. Here. Take them, and you'll never be in the dark. (Zoe takes them.) Keep them with you in your pocket forever. No darkness.

(The matches relieve Zoe of her fears.)

ZOE

Thanks. Hey, what are you doing with matches? You better not light that cigarette.

TILLY

I don't have matches- I just gave them to you!

ZOE

(Russian accent) "Tank you, Natasha. I so glad to get matches. Now, never in darkness!"

TILLY

Zoe, can't you please just go- (checks to see if anybody is coming.)

ZOE

(Russian accent continues until noted.) "I not Zoe. I Yelena from Russia."

TILLY

Nobody cares about the Russians anymore.

ZOE

"Yes, now say that, but soon Natasha will change tune, will care plenty about Russians, will want Yelena around for all time."

TILLY

Why? Why am I going to want "Yelena" around for all time?

ZOE

"Because soon Yelena get big big bucks. Buy many greasy fast food items for Natasha. Father of Yelena say we get great big house and pony and Yelena take all friends to Wonder World."

TILLY

Who is it this time? Who died and left you a million dollars this time?

ZOE

"Great Aunt die. She leave me bundle."

TILLY

(pointedly) Is your great aunt who died like your great uncle who died?

ZOE

"No. Aunt more rich. Yelena heiress."

TILLY

There was no uncle. You're not an heiress.

ZOE

"Not yet, but soon, soon, get big inheritance."

TILLY

(Testing) When is the funeral?

ZOE

"...Was last week."

TILLY

You didn't go to a funeral last week.

ZOE

“Was cremation. More environmental. Not take up so much ground with dead people.”

TILLY

Okay, Zoe. We can play this later, over the weekend-

ZOE

“Burn and scatter ashes, dead body dirt mingle with dirt dirt.”

TILLY

Tomorrow- you can tell me anything you want, and I’ll believe it-

ZOE

“Tomorrow we get up crack-of-dawn, still dark. Your Mother come into room and wake us up, she say ‘Get up girls, time to go Wonder World.’ Oh, we girls tired. We stay awake through whole night talking and laughing and having good time because we good good friends.”

TILLY

Jeez.

ZOE

“You wear surprise from box...”

TILLY

(mildly interested) What box?

ZOE

(senses Tilly’s interest) Box! ...Sent by your Father.”

TILLY

My dad?

ZOE

“Yes, sent box!”

TILLY

(intrigued)...What’s in it?

ZOE

(tantalizes) “Box shape so odd. Wrapping paper so splendid.”

TILLY

From what store?

ZOE

(knows she’s got her) “Ho! Box make us crazy. We wonder and shake box all night, but Mother say not allowed to open until dawn. We die waiting for first sign of day. Oh, will day never come?”

TILLY

Tell me what’s in it, already.

ZOE

“Must wait all night. In morning, your Mother call ‘Wake up girls, time to get up and open box from dad.’”

TILLY

Okay, let's get it open.

ZOE

"Open, open box."

TILLY

(playing along) "Oh, it's just what I wanted."

ZOE

"Oh, so beautiful!"

TILLY

"Yeah...it's gorgeous."

ZOE

"Color good."

TILLY

"It's a gorgeous-" ..what?! Tell me what it is?!

ZOE

"Bandeau!"

TILLY

What's that?

ZOE

"Bandeau. Very narrow shirt. Cover only across bosom. You hit of Wonder World in bandeau. Your Father one good shopper."

TILLY

No. My mother doesn't like my stomach rolls to show.

ZOE

"But bandeau gift from father so okay. We hurry into clothes and rush downstairs. Your Mother make pancakes and hash browns."

TILLY

Yeah, right. (Mocks her mother's voice) "Not for you, Miss Big. Not 'til you lose ten pounds."

(Brief pause. Zoe is shocked.)

ZOE

(no accent) Who's "Miss Big?"

TILLY

Me.

ZOE

...You really have to lose ten pounds?

TILLY

Really. I get an apple slice for dessert.

ZOE

What does Sam get?

TILLY  
Pie. "You don't want to be a plus-size all your life, do you?" I don't get any dessert.

ZOE  
I can bring you day-old from the bakery.

TILLY  
A cake?

ZOE  
Sure. Nobody buys day-old cake.

TILLY  
With frosting?

ZOE  
Okay.

TILLY  
Two layers?

ZOE  
Okay. And you can bring me your white umbrella.

TILLY  
No, I can't.

ZOE  
Why not?

TILLY  
Because I'm not allowed to take it out of the house.

ZOE  
If I'm bringing you a frosted cake!

TILLY  
Alright, already. (Hears something) Shh.

ZOE  
What-?

TILLY  
Oh, man-

JUDY (off)  
(Over) You said you'd bring them.

ROSE (off)  
But I couldn't get any- my Dad quit. I got this instead-

(Enter JUDY and ROSE with a pizza, which she sets down.)

JUDY  
I don't want it- ...Don't look now, creep invasion.

ROSE  
What are you doing here?

ZOE  
“Oh, look, Natasha. Rose come to invite us to Wonder World.”

TILLY (to Judy)  
We’re not here together, we’re here separately.

ZOE  
“We so silent in backseat of Rose’s big car. Parents of Rose not even know we there. Yelena going to ride water slide at Wonder World. Thank you so much, Rose, you so generous.”

ROSE  
I’m not taking you anywhere, ever- you’re nuts!

JUDY  
Are you speaking English, Zoe?

ZOE  
“Yelena speaking Russian.”

ROSE  
Completely insane.

ZOE  
“Yelena not insane. Yelena outsane.”

ROSE  
That’s not even your name-

JUDY  
A guy's looking for you, Zoe.

ZOE  
(to Tilly, disbelief) Are they connected to the thing you have to do-?

TILLY  
(pointedly) You really have to go, Zoe. Your guy’s here.

ROSE  
How come every day you get picked up by a different terrorist?

ZOE  
He’s a taxi driver.

ROSE  
He can be a taxi driver and still be a terrorist, you idiot.

ZOE  
Terrorists are not taxi drivers, they’re airplane pilots, you changeling.

ROSE  
Don’t call me names.

ZOE  
Okay, Rose. Rose Rose Rose-

ROSE  
Stop it.

ZOE  
Be careful, Tilly. Changelings have been known to bite. (Exit.)

JUDY  
...Aren't you going with her?

TILLY  
No.

ROSE  
Well, you can't stay here.

TILLY  
We weren't together.

JUDY  
You looked together.

TILLY  
We were here accidently at the same time. She tricks me. She's full of tricks. She's very advanced.

ROSE  
Her clothes come from Bargain Village.

TILLY  
So what?

ROSE  
I've seen her wearing my throw-away donations is what. And the tax payers have to pay for her taxi rides to the college.

TILLY  
Yeah, and you're really suffering, Rose, you're all starving to death over on "Mansion Row."  
(A little laugh escapes from Judy.)

ROSE  
I didn't say I was starving.

TILLY  
(encouraged by Judy's laugh) Have you seen me wearing your throw-away donations?

ROSE  
As if they'd fit you.

JUDY  
What are you doing here, Tilly? This is our spot.

TILLY  
Anybody can be here.

ROSE  
Judy and I have important things to talk about.

I won't listen.	TILLY
Fatty wants our pizza.	ROSE
That's pizza?	TILLY
In this pizza box? Yes, genius.	ROSE
Where did you get pizza?	TILLY
Delivery.	ROSE
To school?	TILLY
To anywhere. If you have money.	ROSE
Give it to her.	JUDY
(happy) Really?	TILLY
(same time) No.	ROSE
(to Rose) Why not?	JUDY
It's for us.	ROSE