

THE DARLING SIBLINGS

by

Ty DeMartino

(Scene 1)

Ty DeMartino
80 West Main street
Frosburg, MD 21532
301.707.5012
tydemartino@yahoo.com

THE DARLING SIBLINGS

CAST:

MATTHEW DARLING -- 17 years old. He'll take care of everything.

HOLLY DARLING -- Matthew's twin, older by one minute. Doesn't care if you think she's a bitch.

ALLIE DARLING -- 14, the Darling baby. Hates gym class.

MRS. SHUMAKER -- A kind-hearted school guidance counselor, wanna-be therapist.

RICK O'CONNOR -- 19, the once Golden Boy whose girlfriend was murdered.

THE MONSTER -- 20s, the killer. (Could double for actor playing Rick.)

SETTING:

What was once a safe suburb, somewhere in the North Eastern United States.

TIME:

Seems just like yesterday.

(AT RISE: A raw space. There are a few benches and chairs to represent seats, sofas, beds, etc. There is a coffee table and end table with a lamp. Above the raw space, suspended, is a large framed photo of a beautiful 17 year-old girl. This is Sally Darling in her last school picture. Sally's eyes are sparkling. She is fresh-faced and smiling.)

Scene 1.

(LIGHTS UP.)

(The Darling Living Room. Sally Darling's siblings, HOLLY, 17; MATTHEW, 17; and ALLIE, 14; enter. All are dressed in formal wear -- long-sleeved evening gowns for the girls, a tux for MATTHEW. They are exhausted -- emotionally and physically. MATTHEW turns on a lamp.)

MATTHEW

Right upstairs, she said.

HOLLY

Yeah, well, she's not here.

MATTHEW

Look, we all have school tomorrow. Let's go!

HOLLY

Seriously. Who gives a shit?

MATTHEW

I do. Come on.

ALLIE

I'm going to watch T.V.

(ALLIE picks up a remote.)

MATTHEW

No. To bed. Right now!

HOLLY

Oh, just shut up. Stop acting like you're the boss. Go ahead. Turn it on, Allie.

(ALLIE looks to MATTHEW.)

MATTHEW

(a beat)

Okay. For a little while. But turn on the news. Channel 13 was there tonight.

(ALLIE turns on the T.V. and plops down on the couch.
HOLLY struggles to unzip her dress.)

HOLLY

God! Why do we have to relive tonight again so soon?

MATTHEW

Because they interviewed Mom. We should record it. If we don't, she'll be upset.

HOLLY

And God forbid we piss her off.

(HOLLY offers the back of her dress to MATTHEW.)

HOLLY

Here, Matthew. Undo the back of my dress for me.

MATTHEW

I'm not undoing the back of your anything--

HOLLY

You're such an ass. Allie?

ALLIE

What?

HOLLY

Unzip.

(HOLLY offers her back to ALLIE.)

ALLIE

(sighing)

Fine.

(ALLIE reaches up and unzips HOLLY's dress. HOLLY lets it fall. She wears a slip underneath. She steps out of it, leaving the dress in a ball on the floor.)

ALLIE

Do we really have to watch the news?

MATTHEW

Yes.

(to HOLLY)

Do you have to walk around naked?

HOLLY

I'm not naked. I could get naked, if you want--

MATTHEW

Pick up your dress. Now!

(Holly picks up the dress.)

HOLLY

Here. Why don't you try it on?

(HOLLY playfully throws the dress at MATTHEW who doesn't attempt to catch it. It falls to the floor.)

HOLLY

You know you want to.

ALLIE

'Full House' is on. Can't we watch that?

MATTHEW

No. The news. And record it.

ALLIE

Fine.

(ALLIE sighs and points the remote at the TV.)

HOLLY

The dinner just ended. They're not going to have time to run back to the studio and put it on the air by tonight. Even I know that.

MATTHEW

You know nothing. Start recording it, Allie.

ALLIE

But the DVR is almost full.

MATTHEW

Delete something of yours.

ALLIE

No!

MATTHEW

Then I will.

(MATTHEW takes the remote from ALLIE and looks at the screen.)

MATTHEW

All these "Project Runways..."

ALLIE

I want to keep those! This is so not fair!

(As MATTHEW deletes the shows with the remote, ALLIE turns off the lamp and sits on the couch. MATTHEW and HOLLY join her. They sit in silence in the blueish glow of the TV. We hear the drone of a newscast.)

ALLIE

What time did they say they were coming home?

MATTHEW

In an hour.

HOLLY

Daddy'll be home. She won't.

MATTHEW

They'll both be home.

ALLIE

And they'll fight.

MATTHEW

No, they won't. Not tonight.

HOLLY

Of course not. She's in too good of a mood. God, did you see her? Going from person to person. Everyone wanted to talk to the poor, but courageous Linda Darling.

MATTHEW

Don't start--

HOLLY

(mocking)

Oh, how does she do it? A husband. A family. And now, all this activist work. She's a saint.

MATTHEW

Stop it. Let's just watch the news.

HOLLY

She was in her glory with all those strange people.

MATTHEW

It wasn't that bad.

ALLIE

No. Holly's right. There were like a million people there that wanted to shake my hand. And this one gross old lady wanted to hug me. She smelled like... like an old ACE bandage.

HOLLY

Oh my god! Yes! I smelled her too. Like a sweaty, old ACE bandage. So gross!

ALLIE

And they all look so sad when they talk to you. 'How are you, sweetie? How are you, honey?'

MATTHEW

That's just what people say. 'How are you?' It's a pleasantry.

HOLLY

A pleasantry? Who, other than you or some gay British dude, uses the word 'pleasantry?'

MATTHEW

It's what it is. It wouldn't hurt you to expand your vocabulary a little for the S.A.T.

HOLLY

Fuck the S.A.T.!

ALLIE

No! It was how they say it. How are you doing? With emphasis on the 'are.' Like they're really, really concerned about me.

HOLLY

People just want to see us cry. They get off on it.

MATTHEW

Nobody wants to see us cry...

HOLLY

Bullshit! They all do. 'Those poor Darling children. Just look at them. They are so lost. Oh, my heart breaks for them.' Like we're some sort of carnival freak show.

MATTHEW

You're wrong.

HOLLY

I'm right. We were on parade tonight. That was the only reason we were there. So she could show us off.

(imitating her mother)

'If it wasn't for my other children, I wouldn't have been able to go on.' More like if it wasn't for her Xanax--

MATTHEW

Stop it! Just stop it, okay? We went. It's over. There's no need to relive it now.

ALLIE

You're making us relive it right now on the news.

MATTHEW

People don't know what to say to us.

HOLLY

How about nothing? How about they just leave us alone? How about we're not put on display like sad little circus monkeys?

MATTHEW

Look -- we raised a lot of money for Sally tonight. That's all that matters. Right? ...
Right???

(HOLLY and ALLIE go silent in agreement. All three watch T.V. in silence. ALLIE starts singing:)

ALLIE

(low to herself)

OH, I WENT DOWN SOUTH FOR TO SEE MY SAL
SING POLLY WOLLY DOODLE ALL THE DAY--

MATTHEW

Shhh.

(ALLIE stops singing.)

HOLLY

Great. They'll be back. Just watch.

ALLIE

Who?

HOLLY

Those crazy old bitches from the Baptist church. They'll see the newscast and start putting candles on our driveway again. Every time Sally is in the news, they do.

MATTHEW

They do it for Sally.

HOLLY

They didn't know her. They're going by what they've read or by seeing her picture on the news. They look at it and create this whole story of who she is. It's a fairy tale and fake as hell.

MATTHEW

It's not fake.

HOLLY

I'm saying their feelings are fake.

MATTHEW

They're not!

HOLLY

Just forget it. You always side with them.

MATTHEW

Side with who?

HOLLY

Anyone, but me.

ALLIE

(singing)

SING POLLY WOLLY DOODLE ALL THE DAY.

MATTHEW

Everyone just shut up and watch the news.

HOLLY

It's not going to be on tonight, I'm telling you.

MATTHEW

It might be. Having Senator Hardy there was a big deal.

HOLLY

(chuckles)

Did you see how Linda was hanging all over him?

MATTHEW

Mom wasn't hanging on him.

HOLLY

Oh, yes she was. And Daddy saw it.

MATTHEW

Senator Hardy has been a good friend to Sally's Foundation.

HOLLY

And a good, good friend to Linda Darling.

(imitating her mother)

'Oh Senator. Thank you, Senator. You've been such a big, strong support, Senator. Do you want a hand job, Senator?'

MATTHEW

(exploding)

Jesus! Shut! Up!

HOLLY

You're freaking out because you know it's true!

ALLIE

What's a hand job again?

HOLLY

Matthew can tell you. He's been practicing a lot on himself lately.

MATTHEW

That's it!

(MATTHEW turns on the lamp.)

ALLIE

Awww. Don't turn on the light!

MATTHEW

I swear to God, Holly. You better shut up right now.

HOLLY

Or you'll what?

MATTHEW

Trust me. You don't want to do this tonight.

HOLLY

I'm not scared of you, Matthew. I'm older.

MATTHEW

Yeah. By a minute.

ALLIE

The guy on the TV just said the weather's coming up after the break. That means they're done with the news part. I'm going to turn it to "Full House."

MATTHEW

No!

HOLLY

Go ahead. Turn the channel, Allie.

(ALLIE turns the channel.)

MATTHEW

Turn it back!

ALLIE

But it's the one where Michelle thinks she's moving out with Uncle Jesse.

MATTHEW

Turn it back now, Allie.

ALLIE

But they're going to be talking about the weather. If it was going to happen, it would have already happened. And I can't remember the ending of this episode.

MATTHEW

Everything works out just fine on 'Full House.' It always does.

HOLLY

I say, 'Leave it there,' Allie.

MATTHEW

And I say, 'Turn it back.' Mom is going to ask us if she was on the news.

HOLLY

God! You are so afraid of her!

MATTHEW

I'm not afraid of anyone.

HOLLY

What a bunch of shit! You're so afraid of everything -- including yourself.

ALLIE

I don't understand what's the big deal. We're recording the news. Mom can watch it tomorrow. Why can't I watch 'Full House' now?

MATTHEW

She won't have time.

HOLLY

That's right. She's testifying tomorrow with Senator Hard-on!

MATTHEW

(to HOLLY)

Why are you such a little bitch?

HOLLY

Why are you such a mama's boy?

MATTHEW

You really don't care, do you--

HOLLY

Yep.

MATTHEW

--About anything. Or anyone.

HOLLY

Yep!

MATTHEW

You're pathetic.

HOLLY

And it must be so hard to be you. Perfect Saint Matthew. But I hear you in your room at night. The bed springs going up and down and up and down...

MATTHEW

(over second 'up')

I swear, Holly--

HOLLY

You swear what?

MATTHEW

Don't push me.

HOLLY

Oh, I'll push you.

(HOLLY shoves MATTHEW.)

MATTHEW

Stop it!

(HOLLY pushes MATTHEW again.)

ALLIE

Holly, don't! I'll turn it back to the news!

(ALLIE switches the TV.)

MATTHEW

Don't make me--

HOLLY

Don't make you what? Make you hit me? God! That would be stupendous -- there's a fucking S.A.T. word for you!

MATTHEW

You don't want to do this, Holly.

HOLLY

I'd love to tell Linda and Daddy that their sainted son hit me.

ALLIE

Stop it, Holly.

HOLLY

It'd be worth it to see the look on Linda's face. Come on, Matthew. Do it!

ALLIE

Both of you, cut it out.

HOLLY

Be a man and do it!

(ALLIE starts singing to herself to drown out the others.
NOTE: She sings while MATTHEW and HOLLY
continue to fight.)

ALLIE

OH, I WENT DOWN SOUTH FOR TO SEE MY SAL
SINGING POLLY WOLLY DOODLE ALL THE DAY
MY SAL, SHE IS A SPUNKY GAL
SING POLLY WOLLY DOODLE ALL THE DAY

OH, MY SAL, SHE IS A MAIDEN FAIR
SING POLLY WOLLY DOODLE ALL THE DAY
WITH CURLY EYES AND LAUGHING HAIR
SING POLLY WOLLY DOODLE ALL THE DAY
FARE THEE WELL, FARE THEE WELL
FARE THEE WELL MY FAIRY FAY
FOR I'M OFF TO LOU'SIANA FOR TO SEE MY SUSYANNA
SING POLLY WOLLY DOODLE ALL THE DAY

(As ALLIE sings:)

MATTHEW

Such... a little... bitch!

HOLLY

Hit me.

MATTHEW

You're not worth it.

HOLLY

You don't have the balls...

MATTHEW

I should--

HOLLY

Yes, you should.

MATTHEW

--shut you up -- once and for all.

HOLLY

Do it! It would be good for you. Release some of that frustration.

MATTHEW

I really should.

HOLLY

Yes! You really should. Seriously -- you really, really should.

(HOLLY is up in MATTHEW's face now.)

MATTHEW

Jesus! What the hell is wrong with you?

HOLLY

Nothing. And everything. Now, hit me! Hit me! I'm begging you, Matthew! Please! Hit me!!!

(MATTHEW and HOLLY lock eyes a moment. MATTHEW almost makes the first move, but before he can, HOLLY lunges towards him. He tries to hold her off. The two scuffle. In the brawl, they knock over the photo of Sally. ALLIE stops singing.)

ALLIE

Sally's picture!

(ALLIE turns off the T.V. MATTHEW picks up the picture and examines it.)

ALLIE

Did she break it?

MATTHEW

The frame's broken. The glass is still okay.

ALLIE

Can it be fixed?

MATTHEW

(examining the photo)

Yeah, I think. Maybe.

ALLIE

Great, Holly. Just, great. Now they're definitely going to fight. Thanks a lot!

MATTHEW

Don't worry. I don't think they'll notice it tonight.

HOLLY

It was an accident.

MATTHEW

You two go to bed so you won't get into any trouble. Go on.

ALLIE

But I didn't do anything. It was you two.

MATTHEW

I know. Now go upstairs.

ALLIE

They're going to fight.

(to HOLLY)

They're gonna fight!

(ALLIE exits. Silence. HOLLY watches MATTHEW reassemble the frame.)

HOLLY

There's glue in the end table--

MATTHEW

(not looking back)

I'll prop it up tonight and glue it tomorrow when no one's home. Just... Go to sleep.

(HOLLY starts and stops.)

HOLLY

What about the news?

MATTHEW

They're talking about the weather now. If it was going to happen, it would've already happened.

(HOLLY nods and starts out again.)

HOLLY

You can blame it on me. I don't care. She blames everything on me anyway.

MATTHEW

Holly...

(HOLLY stops.)

MATTHEW

Pick up your dress.

(HOLLY picks up her dress and exits. MATTHEW stands with the photo and stares at it.)

(LIGHTS OUT.)