

MOVING IN: MOVING ON

by Royce Wood

quite literally for Kim and Anna

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*(an empty dorm room, move-in day.
GINA enters, carrying several
duffel bags. HOLLY follows
carrying nothing.)*

GINA

This dorm room is definitely not as big as I thought it would be. *(she sets things down)* The car's still full of stuff. Why did I bring so much baggage to college?

HOLLY

(shrugs)

I wish I could help.

GINA

I wish you could too.

HOLLY

I'm glad you let me come with you.

GINA

Yeah.

HOLLY

What?

GINA

Nothing. It's just - nothing.

HOLLY

You can tell me. You tell me everything.

GINA

I know. Thank you for that.

(GINA embraces HOLLY.)

HOLLY

What was that for?

GINA

I need to talk to you.

HOLLY

Okay. Let's have a chat. (*she sits down*) Should I get the tea?

GINA

No, no. You don't have to do that. (*she sits down*) That's fine.

HOLLY

What's up?

GINA

This is really hard for me to say.

HOLLY

That's fine. Take your time.

GINA

Well, I'm in college now, right? I mean, here I am.

HOLLY

Right.

GINA

This is a big turning point for me. I'm eighteen. I'm an adult now.

HOLLY

Hey, that's true.

GINA

We've been friends for a long time.

HOLLY

Since preschool.

GINA

Exactly. And you've always been there for me. I really appreciate that.

HOLLY

Aw, thanks.

GINA

You mean a lot to me, but, I guess what I'm trying to say is that, well, I don't need an imaginary friend anymore.

HOLLY

Wha ... what?

GINA

I'm sorry. It's time for me to move on.

HOLLY

But—but I thought I was going to stay here with you.

GINA

I've been thinking about this day for years. I kept waiting for the right time, but I kept pushing it back. I never wanted to say goodbye. And the longer I waited, the harder it got. But this is the point where I'm going to draw the line.

(HOLLY shakes her head. GINA reaches out and touches her shoulder.)

HOLLY

Don't touch me!

GINA

I'm sorry.

HOLLY

I can't believe you're doing this to me.

GINA

I can't let this go on any longer. I need to grow up, Holly.

(HOLLY breathes heavily)

GINA

This happens to all imaginary friends, doesn't it? I mean, you were expecting it eventually, right?

HOLLY

When you're little, you don't understand those things.

GINA

We had a good friendship, and I'm grateful, but—

HOLLY

No. No stop it.

GINA

Holly, please understand.

HOLLY

No, I understand. It's not cool anymore. You're in college now, gotta be cool. So that means bye-bye Holly!

GINA

Holly, if I was worried about being cool, I wouldn't have brought you to elementary school with me.

HOLLY

But it wasn't so different then. In elementary school, almost everyone else had an imaginary friend too.

GINA

Yeah, you guys used to play together, remember? I would go play with my friends and you would go play with the imaginary friends. C'mon, you have to remember that.

HOLLY

Yeah, yeah, I remember that. Casper and Magic and Twinkles. They were great. Then, they disappeared. One by one. I didn't think about it much then. Where did they go?

GINA

I don't know. Why are you asking me?

HOLLY

I thought maybe you knew the details of the fate you're casting upon me.

(silence.)

GINA

What am I supposed to do?

HOLLY

Why can't I go to college too? How come I never heard back from Cornell?

GINA

Probably because you sent them an imaginary application.

HOLLY

You wouldn't let me fill out a real one.

GINA

Well, excuse me for not wanting to spend a fifty dollar application fee on someone who doesn't even exist.

HOLLY

That hurts, Gina. That really hurts.

GINA

Oh, no. Don't pull that puppy dog routine on me. It won't work. Not now.

(HOLLY gives GINA her sweetest puppy dog face.)

GINA

Dammit.

HOLLY

Please, Gina? Please let me stay?

GINA

Holly, I'm ready to move on. Why aren't you?

HOLLY

Our friendship isn't done. You're in college now!

GINA

That's right. I'm in college now. You're not.

HOLLY

That's beside the point. This opens up all sorts of new possibilities! We can go to parties together—

GINA

Somehow I don't think I'm going to get invited to parties if I still have an imaginary friend.

HOLLY

See? I told you that that was what you were worried about.

GINA

Stop it, just stop it.

HOLLY

You can keep me a secret! I can live in your closet!

GINA

What about my roommate? I can't keep you a secret from her.

HOLLY

Well, then only she will know. I understand, Gina. You want to be cool. And I want you to be cool too. I don't want to get in your way.

GINA: (*sighs*) I know how you feel, but—

HOLLY

You have no idea how I feel! Your existence isn't at stake!

GINA

You're imaginary! You don't exist!

HOLLY

I don't exist? What about that time your parents fought and you came to me and I held you? Or when you first kissed a boy? You came right home and told me. I was so excited for you. You shared your hopes and dreams and fears. Wasn't I real to you then?

GINA

That's different.

HOLLY

And do you know what the worst part was? Here you were, excited about all the things you were going to do in your life, and I was excited for you too. But I knew I could never do those things. Because I wasn't the same as you.

(*pause*)

GINA

Oh my god, Holly. I had no idea. I'm so sorry.

HOLLY

No, just forget it. Go live your life. You don't need me anymore. Go on. Grow up. Have a blast.

GINA

This isn't the end of everything.

HOLLY

Isn't it? Once I go away, I'm gone. It's not like dying where at least there's still a body there. I never had a

HOLLY (*con't*)

body to begin with. So when I'm gone I'm completely gone.

GINA

You're making this so much harder then it needs to be.

HOLLY

That's my right, isn't it? I get one last phone call. Too bad the person I was going to call is also my executioner.

GINA

You know, if you're going to be so bright and cheery all the time, why not keep you around? You'd be great company.

HOLLY

Our relationship was always about you. You made me up because you were lonely. Whenever you needed something I was always there for you. Well I'm sick of that. What about what I want?

(GINA laughs)

HOLLY

What's so funny?

GINA

This is absolutely ridiculous. What you want? You're imaginary. I made you up. And now you're asking things of me?

HOLLY

I don't see why that's so wrong. You invested so much time and emotion in me that I became more then I should have been. And now this baby's kicking back.

GINA

I don't want to fight you.

HOLLY

Good! Then let's be friends!

GINA

What? Just like that?

HOLLY

Sure! Why not?

GINA

You know, I've always suspected you were bipolar.

HOLLY

What would that make you?

GINA

I have no idea.

(silence.)

GINA

Wait a minute, why do you get to do all of the complaining?

HOLLY

What do you mean?

GINA

I've had to take a lot of crap because of you.

HOLLY

What are you talking about?

GINA

It was fine until about fourth grade. My mother still thought it was cute then.

HOLLY

I like your mom. She made good cookies.

GINA

Did you ever actually eat one?

HOLLY

... no. You ate then for me, remember?

GINA

But then it started to get a little out of hand. Do you know what its like to be the only one in middle school who still has an imaginary friend?

HOLLY

Why still? Such an ugly word.

GINA

Listen to me! Middle school kids are vicious.

HOLLY

I know, I know. I remember too, okay?

GINA

What could you possibly remember?

HOLLY

Vanessa.

GINA

I never told you about her.

HOLLY

Doesn't matter. I still know. She always called you the meanest things.

GINA

Don't remind me.

HOLLY

Like baby.

GINA

Yes, I remember.

HOLLY

'Baby want a bottle?' she would say. That was so funny!

GINA

How kind of you to open those gigantic emotional scars again.

HOLLY

'Baby want a bottle?'

GINA

Yes! Yes! I remember! Thank you Holly! That's quite enough.

HOLLY

I probably remember more than you do.

GINA

So you know all the crap I had to go through because of you?

HOLLY

You never complained before. Until now.

GINA

I didn't know how. How do you bring something like that up?
'My life sucks because you're in it'?

HOLLY

That's not such a bad start.

GINA

Leave me alone.

HOLLY

Where am I supposed to go? Oh, that's right, I can't go
anywhere because I'm inside your head! Silly me!

GINA

I want a clean slate, okay? I'll be meeting new people. I
can start all over again.

HOLLY

But I can help you meet new people! I'm really outgoing!

GINA

When have you ever helped me meet new people?

HOLLY

I set you up with Ryan junior year of high school.

GINA

Oh, yeah. That turned out really great.

HOLLY

What was wrong with it?

GINA

Why did you have to come along? You were such a chatterbox!
You practically talked his ears off.

HOLLY

Sorry, since your plan consisted of 'I'll sit and not say
anything so he dies of boredom'. If you weren't going to be
entertaining, I was going to do it for you.

GINA

And since he couldn't hear you, I had to tell him
everything you were saying. I can still see him rolling his
eyes and thinking "Oh. She's one of *those*."

HOLLY

Fine. Blame it on me, Miss Personality.

GINA

You don't have to get personal.

HOLLY

You don't want to fight because I always win. I've got more dirt on you than you even know you have.

GINA

Get out of my brain!

HOLLY

If I knew how, I would.

GINA

Who do you go to when you have problems with your imaginary friend? A relationship counselor or a psychologist?

HOLLY

Face it. You can't get rid of me. I'm here to stay.

GINA

What are you afraid of?

HOLLY

I'm not afraid.

GINA

You don't know what's going to happen. You don't know what the imaginary afterlife is like.

HOLLY

That's not what this is about at all.

GINA

I bet it's a million times better than the real afterlife. There'll be unicorns and stuff like that.

HOLLY

I'm not worried about dying!

GINA

Then what?

HOLLY

I'm worried ... that I'll be lonely without you.

GINA

What?

HOLLY

You've had other friends. But let's face it, you're the only real friend I've ever had. I don't know what it will be like without you.

GINA

You can't stay around forever. I wasn't planning on you being one of the bridesmaids at my wedding.

HOLLY

Why not?

GINA

Because they wouldn't have a dress that would fit you. Seriously, Holly, do you not get it? It's wrong for me to have an imaginary friend. I'm far too old.

HOLLY

If it's wrong why does it feel so right?

GINA

I don't eat with my hands anymore. I don't have to ask someone else to tie my shoes anymore. And I don't play with an imaginary friend anymore.

HOLLY

I feel so ... useless.

GINA

I'm sorry, Holly.

HOLLY

We can go back! We can play all the games we used to play!

GINA

No.

HOLLY

Tea party and princess and house. All the old games.

GINA

I don't want to play those games anymore.

HOLLY

Nonsense. Opera singer! That was your favorite game. LA LA
LA LA LAAAA!

GINA

Why couldn't I have made you something quiet? Like a
giraffe or something. I liked giraffes when I was little.
Why couldn't you have been a giraffe?

HOLLY

Because then I wouldn't be able to SING! LA LA LA LA LAAAA!

GINA

Shut up! Shut up!

HOLLY

LA LA LA LA LAAAA!

GINA

Stop it!

HOLLY

Why don't you love me anymore?

GINA

Because I don't need you anymore!

HOLLY

What if you don't make any new friends in college? Then
you'll need me!

GINA

No! You're nothing but a crutch! The reason I didn't have
friends when I was little was because I had you. Who needs
real people when you have imaginary ones? You don't have to
share, or argue about what games to play, or even feed
them! You were convenient, and nothing more! If I keep you
around, that's a guarantee that I won't meet any new
people. I don't want any more imaginary relationships. I
want real ones. Because I want to feel real joy and real
hurt.

HOLLY

Why do you want to be hurt?

GINA

Because that's the only way I know I'm not imaginary.

HOLLY

Aren't I hurting you right now?

GINA

Goddammit, Holly! I don't know what the hell is going on here, okay?

HOLLY

I can hurt you if you want me to! I can hurt you over and over until your insides bleed.

GINA

No!

HOLLY

I'm not the reason that you had no friends. The reason you have no friends is because everyone hates you.

GINA

Stop it stop it stop it!

HOLLY

I would have left earlier, but you wouldn't let me. You were too lonely.

GINA

I am so sick of you!

HOLLY

Baby baby baby!

GINA

You can't affect me anymore! I wish I could just snap my fingers and make you die or something!

HOLLY: What, like this?

(She snaps her fingers. GINA collapses. HOLLY stares in disbelief, breathing heavily. She goes over to GINA, shakes her.)

HOLLY

Come on. Wake up, Gina. It was just a bad dream. It wasn't real. We're still friends. Please, Gina.

(she continues to shake her. No response. HOLLY sits back, trying to comprehend what has just happened.)

HOLLY

Help! Help! Please help! Why can't you hear me? Help!

CURTAIN