

Meteor Girl
by Katy Hickman

(Denise's Interview from "Denise Takes a Spill")

This monologue is copyrighted
and is to be used for
classroom and audition purposes only.

For production rights, please contact the author.

Copyright ©2003
by Katy Hickman
hickmank@dogearplays.org

Denise's Interview

a monologue

from *Meteor Girl*

by Katy Hickman

[Denise is being asked about herself by someone who will decide if she will get a scholarship for college. Denise is a great student and confident she'll impress academically, but she is also desperate for cash. She has a crush on Mr. Granger and desperately wants to buy something pretty to wear for a piano recital she has invited him to. Her anxiety spills out as the interview plays out.

Originally written in 1995 at the time of the Rwandan genocide and the conflict in Serbia, some of the political references have been updated for 2005.

This is a long monolog, but can be cut after her description of the International Relations Club and before the "question" about the swim team.

Please let me know if you use this or if you have any questions about it.]

I would very much like to travel to the Gobi desert. - That's one of my dream locations. Yes, I know where that is. I'd also like to go to India, to see Mohenjodaro and Harapa; those are the first two cities in the whole, uh, world, you know. I did a report on that for Miss Becker's Social Studies class in 8th grade. Mostly I get A's. Sometimes I get B's, you know, because, you know, I'll get distracted with a project, or something, but usually in the course I always end up getting an A because I really, you know, I try to go the extra mile, I like my teachers. Ms. Foster, she teaches Latin American History, and she's really nice, most of the kids really like her a lot. She likes me cause I work hard. But she tells me, Denise, put your hand down, because, you know, I'm always raising my hand, I understand cause, you know in leadership, you can't just have one person raising their hand all the time, you have to distribute the participation, everybody needs to participate. It's frustrating sometimes because some people just sit there like, they're really quiet. They sit back and like "oh, i'm so bored" and they don't do anything and so okay, of course you're going to be bored because you don't participate! I think it will be different when I get to College. I'm going to have a triple major, history, government, and mixed art, including music. I'm hoping to work with countries that are having a strife, and help them have peace and not kill people.. The other major I would like to do is mental health.

Ms. Forbes, if I get this grant thing, will I get the money or will it go straight to the college? Cause the other scholarships I interviewed for, I think it's going straight to the college, and I was wondering if on this one maybe it could come directly to me? Yeah. Well, that's okay. I'll just wait, I guess.

I'm kind of testing out my ideas already in the LHIRC, The Lowell High School International Relations Club. Cause you have to use everything in International Relations! It was kind of dead, because of Bush; people had just given up, but when I came I started it up again. Cause I'm really interested in politics and struggle and stuff, The world is a mess! In this country too, don't get me wrong, I know there are a lot of problems here, but sometimes when you look at something outside, you have, like, a model to base this thing on, and you just feel connected. And people fight and stuff because they don't have treaties. Or they don't honor them- but forget it, we just help countries who honor treaties. That's why we started with the treaty committee, and we read the newspaper and we try to find a strife, and then we pretend that we are the people in the strife and we draw agreements and treaties to resolve the problems. Like in Thailand, everybody's worried about the rain forest, but you also have to take in to consideration the needs of the legitimate merchants who are selling the wood, they have to eat, they can't be left out of the negotiations for land use or else it just comes up as a destabilizing political factor later. Some day I hope we'll remember that in this country - we'll remember the Mayflower Compact! - and I'll be ready! I got really into it last spring and went to the library and the embassies, and stuff, and I drafted about five treaties, that's what they call them, drafting, and Mr. Granger, that's why I wanted.... he thought that was pretty neat, he's my English teacher but he likes politics, too, so he kept encouraging me. He helped me get my speech pathologist. It's kind of hard having a speech challenge. I see him once a week. It's gotten a lot better, but still you can notice it. Some people think it's weird but that's their business. Not people in the I.R. club so much, though. And we have speakers, and people bring things to eat, popcorn, kettle corn, brownies, potato chips, coke, juice. It's fun!

[POSSIBLE CUT]

(Are you involved in any sports?)

I'm on the swim team. I like it but sometimes I end up having to wait, like, my mom doesn't, like, swim team practice gets out at 4:30 and like, my mom is, doesn't get off work, or if she's sleeping, and then she stops at 7-11 or something, so sometimes I have to wait, kind of, wait around until, like, 6:00, and it's okay, you know, because it's still light out, I don't mind, you know, waiting on the corner and stuff, but you know, it's kind of hard to study..sometimes I study on the corner, but it's hard to write, you know, papers and stuff on the sidewalk.

My mom is a temp. She and my dad got divorced. But you know, that happens, that's okay, doesn't mean you're a bad person or anything, lot of people get divorced! Better than staying married if you don't love someone! Better if you can work out your problems, but sometimes you can't and it's better to just get out! I don't where my Dad is. I don't see him. I think he's in Florida. My Dad's name is Alvin, I mean Marvin, that's all I know. My brother's name is Dennis, it's like Dennis and Denise, he's three years younger than me. He's a good guy but he gets in trouble a lot. He's a tagger, he's not in to drugs, but, a graffiti guy, you know, his friends are bad, they rip off stuff, they ripped off a car, and my brother ALMOST got arrested....I try to talk to him, I make him stuff to eat, I wash his clothes, but it's like... he doesn't care. Sometimes I yell at him, I say, "Okay, just sit around on your fat butt and waste your life, you don't have to, you could be anything you want, dumbhead." And he'll say, "whatever, Denise." That's it, then he won't say anything. Then once he said "don't try so hard, quit trying to be Mom. Stop worrying about everything so much." I mean, he's only fourteen, I just was like, jeez - I was like, "where do you get off? There's a lot of shit going down and no one gives a crap!" I just went off, I was so mad, I was crying and he came over and hugged me, and I just....cried. He's very cute and sweet. It's funny, I'm like a foot taller than him. And after that I thought, maybe it'll be different and I can help him with school and he can get in clubs and sports.

I'm never going to get divorced because I'm never going to get married. Just have friends like Michael Farber and Dana.

And I don't want to go out with guys my age, because they're stupid, they're sex freaks, they want to drink, they're messing around with their hair constantly on a date, they don't have any money to pay for the date, I have to pay for like, 75%. Michael Farber and I have a date in 2006. I can wait.

Plus, I'm not gonna be the pursuer, because guys get turned off by that. No, I know, they talk about, like sometimes, you know one of my mom's boyfriends, like they were fighting one night and he was just like going, "Look, you come on too strong, just, you know, back off, I don't have any room to see, I don't even know what's going on, I can't even know if I want this or not cause you're just in my face." Then my mom gets all upset and starts crying, and I don't even think she is in his face that much, but for him, I don't know,....So... I'll just pass till 2006.

I guess I got a little carried away.

Ms. Forbes, I hate to, like, pester you, but if the John Gotti Foundation decides

upon me for this year's prize, could you just check - Getty I mean, could you just double check to see if I might be able to get an advance of, like \$60? Next week or so? Thanks, I really appreciate it.

(Do you think you have a hard time?)

Well, I don't think I have a hard time compared to people in, Sudan. Or Burundi, there's a lot of people have a lot worse time than me.