

I recommend this thesis for acceptance by the Honors Program of Ball State University for graduation with honors.

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HOW DO THEY PLAY IN RAHZAY?

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I have a friend from a place called Rahzay
And I write him letters--sometimes twice a day.
And he writes to me from his home in Rahzay
And answers my letters almost right away.

Rahzay is a place I never have been
But it sounds like a place I might like to be in.

My friend tells me stories of his land called Rahzay
Where there isn't much work and most people play.

The people who live in Rahzay are called Peds.
They have two tails on the top of their heads.

There's old Peds and young Peds in this land of Rahzay.
There's girl Peds and boy Peds who do nothing but play.

And what do they play all the day in Rahzay?

The boy Peds play front tail-on-the-ball.
The girl Peds play back tail-on-the-ball.
What is the difference? Why nothing at all!
Except for which tail you hit on the ball.

Except for which tail the Peds play the same.
The girl Peds and boy Peds play the same game.
They can play where they want--on the hills, in the heather
But one thing they can't do--that's play together.

So all over Rahzay you see tail-on-the-ball.
But playing together you don't see at all.

I said to my friend from Rahzay, "Say! Why is this true?"
He told me a tale and I'll tell it to you.

There once was a girl Ped whose name was Kadare.
The tails on her head had beautiful hair.
And she could play tail-on-the-ball with a flair.

She could beat all of the girl Peds around,
Both up in the air and down on the ground.
No girl Ped could beat her at tail-on-the-ball
No matter how skinny or fat, short or tall.

And there was a boy Ped whose name was Kadead
Who had beautiful hair on the tails on his head.
At tail-on-the-ball he was best, it was said.

He could beat all of the boy Peds around,
Both up in the air and down on the ground.
No boy Ped could beat him at tail-on-the-ball
No matter how skinny or fat, short or tall.

Kadare played back tail-on-the-ball every day
But she knew she would win before she would play.
and tail-on-the-ball was no fun that way.
So finally she stopped and said to herself "Say!
I think back tail-on-the-ball in a bore.
I'm not going to play this game any more!"
and having said that she walked right out the door.

Then a block down the street she saw him--Kadead
Playing tail-on-the-ball like any boy Ped.

Kadare ran right up. With the front tail on her head
She played tail-on-the-ball just like a boy Ped.

Then all of the Peds who were there simply stopped.
They didn't say a word, but their jaws dropped.
Then after that All their eyes popped.

And while the Peds watched, Kadare and Kadead
Played tail-on-the-ball with the front tail on their head.
They were having great fun--no doubt about it.
Kadare loved this game--she wanted to shout it!

As more Peds came up and saw this strange sight
Kadare started to think; "Maybe something's not right.
These Peds look like they're seeing a fight."

Kadare stopped playing and looked all around.
Not one single Ped was making a sound.
She didn't know what she would do!
The boy Peds stared and the girl Peds too.

Kadare looked around and her face was quite red
And the hair stuck straight out from the tails on her head.

Then she turned around and looked straight at Kadead.
"What have I done that's so awful?" she said.

Well that's all it took--every Ped shouted
"If you don't know what's so awful we'll tell you about it!
Who said that girls could play front tail-on-the-ball?
Why nobody said it--nobody at all.
A girl playing boys' games--you should feel pretty small.
A girl playing boys' games--you should feel two feet tall.

If we thought it would help, we'd punish--we would!
And don't think for a minute we couldn't--we could!
Go play back tail-on-the-ball like you should.
Go back to the girl Peds and stay there for good!"

Kadare slowly walked back and like a girl Ped
Played tail-on-the-ball with the back tail on her head.
That's all to the story of Kadare the girl Ped.

If you ever get to the land of Rahzay
I'll bet that you'll know that you're there right away.

You'll see tail-on the-ball on the hills, in the heather,
But you won't see the girl and the boy Peds together.

WHO SAID BABIES ARE FUN?

Barbara L. Porter

Scene 1

(A winter Saturday. Pregnant woman with coat on crosses to girl six years old.)

Mom: Kelly, your dad's taking me to the hospital now to get that beautiful new baby. You'll help Grandma take care of the boys, won't you.

Kel: Yeah. Hey Mom, since I have two brothers already will you bring me a sister this time?

Mom: Well I don't know. You just can't say ahead of time. Just wait and see. Now mind Grandma.

Kel: OK. But don't stay too long. You know I hate Grandma's cooking. Her tomato soup is all watery. It doesn't taste like yours.

Mom: I thought you liked Grandma to stay with you!

Kel: I do. I just don't like her to cook for me!

Mom: (Kissing children good-bye.) Now mind Grandma. I'll have the baby when I come home. Don't fight. (etc.)

(Mother and Father exit S.R.)

Grm: (Herding kids S.L.) Come on kids--time to eat.

Peter: What are we having?

Grm: Your favorite--toasted cheese sandwiches and tomato soup!

(Blackout)

Scene 2

(Kelly is reading to her two brothers, Peter, 5,
and Brian, 3.)

Kel: (Impersonating a wolf impersonating a grandmother)
"Why dearie, how nice of you to come visit your
poor ailing grandmother."

(Throughout the following Peter keeps pestering
Brian who's interested in the story.)

"Grandmother, what big eyes you have! The better
to see you, my dear." (Phone rings offstage.)

"And Grandmother, what big ears you have! The
better to hear you, my dear."

Brian: (Getting fed up with Peter) Pe. . .ter!!! (Peter
cringes)

Kel: (Looks menacingly at Peter who has left for an imagin-
ary world.) "And Grandmother, what big **teeth** you
have!"

Grm: (Enters S.L.) Your father just called kids and guess
what?! You have a new baby sister!

(Children react variously. Peter, still in his
dream world, exits S.L., guns in hand mumbling,

"I told you not to call me Peter. It's Pete!")

Kelly jumps up excitedly and Brian, disinterested
in a new baby, picks up the book.)

Kel: A sister, a sister! Oh boy! When will Mom bring
her home?

Grm: The doctor said they could come home this Sunday.
Do you want to make a welcome home card for your
Mom?

Kel: Yeah! I'll use my paint set. (She heads S.L.)
Oh, boy! Now I'll have a sister to play with!

Brian: (Pulls on Kelly's clothes while she pays no atten-
tion.) Kelly. Kelly! (Almost yelling) Kelly!
Finish it. Finish "The better to eat you, my dear."
(Kelly pulls away and exits S.L. He turns to Grand-
ma who has been searching for a recipe.)
Grandma, will you read "The better to eat you, my
dear?"

Grm: Not now, honey, I have to fix supper. (He looks
dejected so she tries to cheer him up.) See this?
(Showing him a picture in the magazine.) That's
what we're having for dessert. (Crosses S.L.)

Brian: (Delighted) Oh, boy! (Grandma and Brian start
to exit S.L. when Grandma adds. . .)

Grm: But first you have to clean up your plate! (Exits)

Brian: (Dejected again, turns back to sofa. Sits holding
the book, recites what he has memorized.) "The
better to eat you my dear!"
(Blackout.)

Scene 3

(Kelly is playing with her doll and doll furniture, along with Jeanne, a neighbor girl Kelly's age.)

Kel: And Mom'll be home anytime now. Jeanne, I've been wanting a sister for so long. It's no fun having brothers. Peter and Brian just fight all the time. And they never play dolls with me. Peter plays cowboys and Brian just wants me to read to him all the time.

Jean: I know what you mean. While you were getting your doll clothes he asked me to read "The better to eat you, my dear."

Kel: Think how much fun it will be to play with a real baby instead of this doll. (She holds up a dainty little doll dress.) Do you think this will fit the new baby?

Jean: Kelly! Are you going to put doll clothes on your sister?

Kel: (Matter of factly) Jn huh. That's why it's good to have a little sister. She should be just the right size for the doll bed. Do babies sleep with pillows? (Clock strikes 4:00)

Jean: I don't know but I have to go now. Mom said I shouldn't stay very long 'cause your Grandma's taking care of you. Bye, Kelly.

Kel: Bye Jeanne. (She exits S.R.)

(Kelly picks up her doll and talks to it.)

Kel: You're going to have a beautiful little sister to play with. Won't that be nice? You can help me take care of her. It'll be fun to have somebody to play with, won't it.

(Door opens and Mother enters S.R. carrying bundle, followed by Father.)

Dad: Hi Kelly. Hey everybody, come say "Hi" to Mom and meet Theresa!

(Kelly rushes over and jumps up and down. Boys and Grandma enter S.L. Children and Grandma all speak at once and crowd around to see the baby.

"Hi Mom. Let's see the baby. I'm glad it's a girl. We missed you!!" (etc.) Kelly sees the baby and is suddenly quiet. All the others are still talking and making quite a fuss. Boys tell what they did while Mom was gone. Mom notices after a while that Kelly is quiet.)

Mom: What's wrong, Kelly?

Kel: (Reluctant to say at first, but then pouring it out) You said you'd bring home a pretty baby. But she's all red and wrinkley. And she doesn't have any hair. I think she's ugly!!

Dad: (Very upset with this outburst) Kelly! That's no way to talk! You have a beautiful sister. Tell

Mom you're sorry. (Kelly reluctant.) Do you hear
me young lady?

Kel: (Complying, but not meaning it) I'm sorry.

Mom: Why don't you kids have a popsickle. Mom, will you
take the baby upstairs?

(All but Mom and Dad exit S.L.)

Jim, Kelly is pretty upset about Theresa.

Dad: Why did she say that?

Mom: Maybe we talked too much about a beautiful new baby.
Almost all new babies are red and wrinkley. The way
we talked, Kelly probably expected Theresa to look
like a baby in a magazine. And those babies are a
year or older.

Dad: I shouldn't have been so hard on her. Why don't we
talk to her now and explain a little better.

Mom: That's a good idea.

Dad: (Crossing S.L.) Kelly. Kelly, will you come here
for a minute? (Turns to Mom) I hope this works or
we're going to have a real problem. (Kelly enters
with half a popsickle.) Kelly, sit down over here
with us, will you? (They sit on sofa.) I'm sorry
about what happened here a while ago. I got angry
and I shouldn't have. You were right. Theresa is
red and wrinkley. But so are all new babies. Babies
take a while to get hair and lose that red color.

I know Mom and I told you that you'd have a beautiful new baby, but we love Theresa so much we forgot about her redness and wrinkles.

Mom: We love each of our children Kelly, and we want you to love each other too. I tell you what, the next time I go see Dr. Stanley you can go with me and I'll show you pictures of newborn babies. You'll see that they look a lot like Theresa. OK?

Kel: OK.

Dad: You know, even I was an ugly baby. (Kelly giggles) Hard to believe, isn't it? The first time Grandpa saw me he said, "Let's trade him in for a dog!" (More giggles) Even that boy on that show you watch, David Cassidy, he was an ugly baby!

Kel: (In disbelief) David Cassidy?!

Dad: (Really going now that he has her hooked) He had 3-inch freckles, a fat little tummy, and he cried offkey.

Kel: (Mock disgust but delighted) Oh, Daddy!

Dad: In fact, there were only 2 babies I ever heard about that weren't ugly.

Kel: Who?

Dad: You and your mother. (laps her nose, then bends down and says in a stage whisper. . .) Keep this under your hat, but your mother wasn't that much to brag about. (he winks at Mom.)

Kel: (Throwing her arms around his neck) I love you
Daddy. You too, mom.

Mom: You know, if you help me take good care of Theresa,
she may grow up to be as pretty as her big sister.

Dad: Now let's go see what your brothers are up to.

(They start to leave. Dad love spansks Kelly, and
she holds her hands over her bottom, runs off giggling.

Father puts arm around mother and they exit S.L.)

(Blackout)

Scene 4
(Kelly and Jeanne enter S.R.)

Kel: You can see Theresa. It's sure going to be fun to have a girl baby for a change. I'm going to play with her. I have a real, live doll.

Jean: I wish I had a little sister.

Kel: (as girls take off coats, etc.) Lots of friends have been bringing presents and Mom let's us open 'em 'cause Theresa's too little.

Mom: (Entering S.L.) Hello girls.

Girls: Hi!

Kel: Mom, Jeanne wants to see Theresa.

Mom: Sorry, but Theresa's asleep.

Kel: Well, we can see her when she wakes up. Hey Jeanne, want to play records?

Mom: Kelly, since Theresa's asleep, why don't you get out your PLA-DOUGH? Then when Theresa wakes up you two can give her her bottle.

Jean: I wish I had a little sister!

Scene 5

(Kelly enters with Brian)

Kel: Batman is on next.

Brian: I want to watch Engineer John!

Kel: You got to watch your show yesterday! Today is my turn. (Trying to get Brian interested.) Besides. Jeanne told me this is the finish of the story where Batman and Robin are walking up the side of a building trying to keep the Riddler from stealing the Gotham City jewel collection. (Brian, sucking thumb, nods, but he's really not interested. Kelly moves downstage left to turn on the TV when Mom enters, arms full of clothes to iron.)

Mom: Kelly, will you go check up on Theresa? And take all the clothes in her hamper to the basement so I can wash them. (Kelly stare in disbelief.) Oh, Brian, I think it's time for Engineer John.

Kel: But Mom, Batman's on and he got to watch Engineer John yesterday.

Mom: Kelly, remember when we talked about your helping take care of Theresa? Well I'm asking you to help now.

Kel: (After Mom leaves) And Jeanne thinks she wants a little sister.

(Blackout)

Scene 6

(Kelly is folding diapers. Jeanne enters S.R.)

Jean: Hi Kelly. Can you come out and play? I've got a piece of chalk for hopscotch.

Kel: I have to fold these clothes. Besides, Mom's working in the garden and I have to watch Theresa.

Jean: Want me to help?

Kel: Yeah, thanks. (Girls both fold) Little sisters cause too much work. And they're not much fun. I thought we could play together, but all Theresa wants to do is eat cigarette butts and crayons. (She stops folding and listens--silence.) I better see what she's doing. (She exits S.L. From offstage. . .) Oh no! Theresa you're a bad girl! (Kelly enters S.L. carrying a torn book. Mom enters S.R. Kelly crosses to her.) Mom, look what she did! She tore all the stickers out of my book. She always gets into my stuff! I can't keep anything safe. Make her stay out of my stuff!!

Jean: (Shaking her head slowly) I'm glad I don't have a little sister!

Mom: Kelly; listen.

Kel: (Still mad) What!

Mom; Now you know you love Theresa, don't you. (Pulls Kelly to her waist)

Kel: I guess so.

Mom: I know it's hard sometimes. Theresa doesn't mean to hurt you. She's just too young to understand how much these things mean to you. We'll have to be patient and help her learn. She loves you, you know that. She always runs to meet you when you come home from school and wants you to give her piggy-back rides. She just doesn't understand yet. We'll get you a new book, OK?

Kel: I don't want another book. I want that one! That's the one I got at Disneyland.

Mom: I'm sorry. I wish I could make you feel better. Why don't you and Jeanne bake a cake for supper. It's time for Theresa's nap so she won't bother you.

Girls: (Excited.) OK! (They exit S.L. Mom shakes head and looks at sticker book.)

(Blackout)

(Kelly and Mom ^{Scene 2} are decorating cookies)

Kel: This is more fun since Theresa's with Dad.

Mom: She really can get in the way sometimes.

Kel: Mom, was Aunt Joan much fun when she was Theresa's age?

Mom: As I remember, she was pretty much of a nuisance.

Kel: Yeah, that's how I feel about Theresa.

Mom: But you know, I really did care about her. I remember once she broke a milk bottle. There was glass all over. Your Grandpa was really mad at Joan. He was looking all over for her--he was going to spank her. He couldn't find her, though; I hid her under the bed.

Kel: (Laughing at the thought) I bet she was scared. Aunt Joan sure is a lot of fun. I hope she comes up this summer and takes us swimming again.

Mom: Yes, and just think. Maybe someday Theresa will come visit you and take your kids swimming.

Kel: Hey, yeah! I didn't think of that. She might turn out OK after all.

(Blackout)

Scene 8

(Theresa is playing, Kelly is watching TV. Jeanne enters S.R. with baseball glove on.)

Jean: Hey Kelly. Want to go to the park? Today is plaster paris day.

Kel: That's right. Hey Mom, can I go to the park?

Mom: Sure honey, but be sure to watch for cars when you cross the street.

Kel: What time does it start?

Jean: All I know is plaster paris is in the afternoon.

Kel: Well lets go right after lunch. Then maybe I'll have time to finish my lanyard. I hope that dumb Larry isn't there. He just makes me sick! (He doesn't make her sick at all, but girls aren't supposed to like boys, hence the feigned disgust.)

Mom: Oh Kelly. When you go to the park take Theresa along, will you? She loves to swing. (Girls look at each other and roll eyes.)

(Blackout)

Scene 9

(Kelly is putting Theresa's pajamas on in her bedroom.)

Kel: Come on, step in. That's it. Do you want me to read you a story? (Theresa nods.) OK. Lay down. (Covers Theresa and lays down beside her. Opens book and starts to read.) "Once there was a beautiful girl who had only dirty old clothes to wear. Her name was Cinderella. She had to work all the time, and she never had any fun. She lived with her stepmother and stepsister. . . (her voice fades as she begins to dream. Kelly, dressed as Cinderella enters followed by Mom, dressed as stepmother. stepmother is yelling.)

Stepmom: Now now fold these clothes! (Cinderella folds.) And when you're finished we'll have dinner. So hurry. Your stepsister and I are going to a party tonight and you must help us get ready. (Exits S.N.)

Cind: (stops folding) I wonder why I have to do more work than my stepsister. Maybe my stepmother likes her better.

Stepsis: (Theresa dressed in stepsister clothes enters S.R.) Aren't you supposed to be folding clothes?

Kel: (Starts folding again) Stepmother says you're going to a party.

Stepsis: Nursery school round-up. I've never been to school before. I'm thirsty. I want a glass of milk.

Cind: OK. I'll get it. (Exits S.R.)

(Stepsister folds clothes. Loud crash from offstage R. Cinderella comes running in from S.R. Stepmother yells from offstage R.)

Stepmom: Oh look at this mess!

Cind: I dropped the bottle and there's glass all over the floor.

Stepmom: (Still offstage) Cinderella, you are going to be sorry; wait till I get my hands on you!

Cind: What'll I do?

Stepsis: Why don't you hide under the bed? (Cinderella dives under. Stepmother enters S.R.)

Stepmom: Where is that naughty girl? (Stepsister points S.L. Stepmother runs off S.L. Cinderella pokes head out from under the bed and looks around. Crawls out, sits on bed and stares at Stepsister.)

Ther: Kelly, read more!

Kel; (Wakes up, jumps up and looks at Theresa.) I'll be right back. I've got something for you, (Heads toward S.L.)

Ther: What, Kelly?

Kel: (Stops, turns to Theresa.) My new sticker book.
(Blackout)