

## ACT I

### Everyone says so

*(In darkness a girl's voice hums "Ein Männlein steht im Walde" from Engelbert Humperdinck's Hänsel Und Gretel.)*

*(Lights rise on a barn with a rafter that intersects with a cross support firmly rooted in the dirt. There are a couple bales of hay and a haystack at its base.)*

*(EDITH sits on the rafter, 10-12 feet above the ground. She is 12 and wears a stained T-shirt, ratty shorts, and is barefoot. She holds a giant stuffed frog to which she is too old to be talking, but she does exactly that.)*

**EDITH.** I am very mature for my age. It's true, Fergie, I am. I look twelve, but I'm really much, much older. Everyone says so.

*(EDITH looks at the frog as though listening to her, pauses, and then punches her in the face.)*

Who cares what you believe? The truth is true. Our kind mature at a different speed than stupid, little human girls. On my planet, I'm a full-grown grown up, and I have my own apartment where I live without my twenty parents. Who needs them?

*(pause)*

Yeah! Twenty people to build one baby, and they all get together to help the baby grow. Feed her and make her clothes and paint her bedroom a different color every month no matter how expensive it is. There's always someone around, because everyone has twenty parents.

### EDITH CAN SHOOT THINGS AND HIT THEM

**EDITH.** *(cont.)* But that was when I was small. Now I'm stuck here, alone on this planet as a test. To see – well, I don't know, but it's a test. **THAT'S** the test: for me to figure out what the test is. And I've got to do it fast, before the evil shape-changing aliens from an enemy planet take over our world!

And Kenny waits to see if I complete the test, which is how he'll know I'm ready to fight in the war. And when I am, I'll sprout wings and fly away! My kind have wings when they grow up.

*(pause)*

Well, I mean, I'm grown up now, but when I grow up more, I'll fly away and return to my planet, shoot those aliens in their faces, save Kenny's life, and rescue my twenty parents, who are really, actually helpless without me. And I'm going to do it all by myself.

And when I do, Kenny will stay home because he'll be so proud of me. For being such a big girl. A big, grown up girl. With wings.

**End of Scene**