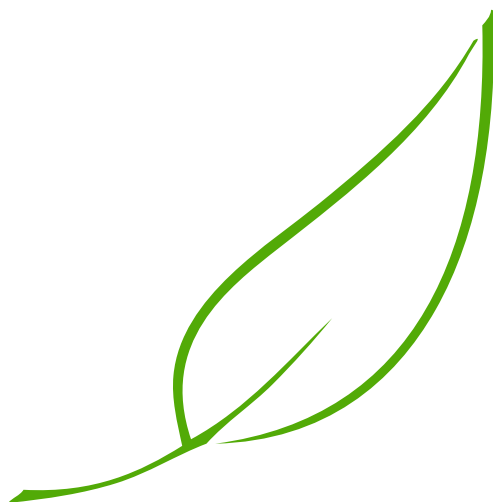


TAKE A NOTE

by Ken Bradbury



GREEN ROOM PRESS

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(Jeff enters, looks around a moment, then begins to write as he speaks.)

JEFF: Dear Jason, thanks for showing me around the school yesterday. I hate moving to a new school but you made it easier. Most of the kids seem pretty cool. What was the girl's name in math ... the one who kept looking at me?

JONI: *(enters, writes as she speaks)* Dear Jo-Ellyn. Did he say his name was Jeff? I was staring at him so hard I didn't even hear what he said. Is he going with anybody? Write back. I've got to know.

JEFF: Dear Mike. Sorry this is so sloppy but Mrs. Charlesworth keeps looking right at me. She thinks I'm taking notes. Ha. Ha. Jason said the girl's name is Joni. Is she going with anybody? I mean, not that I'd want to go with her, but I was just wondering. Dear Mike, this is the second note. Mrs. Charlesworth has the first one on her desk. Is Joni datin' anybody? I gotta know ... uh-oh. Charlesworth is comin' this way.

JONI: Dear Melinda, did you see Charlesworth take that note away from Jeff? I can't believe she did that! I mean, that's personal property, isn't it? And what if she reads it in class? And what if it's about me? Send flowers, 'cause I'll just die. Joni.

JEFF: Mike, I can't come over and shoot baskets tonight. Joni's gonna call. At least I think that's what she said. Sorry. Tomorrow? Jeff.

JONI: Dear Melinda, I'm writing this note at home because Jeff said he was going to call tonight and he hasn't called yet and I think he's just playing with my emotions and I

could just die! I mean, I feel so embarrassed. He said, "We'll talk tonight." I mean, that meant he was going to call, right? I mean, what else could he be talking about? I think I'll just die if he doesn't call. You may not see me at school tomorrow and I mean that. Joni.

JEFF: *(to himself)* She still hasn't called. Maybe I should call her. What if her dad answers? I'll hang up. Wrong number. I hate this stuff. Makes me a nervous wreck.

JONI: *(a small yelp as her imaginary phone rings)* The phone's ringing! *(calling off)* I got it, dad! *(a pause, yelling off again)* I know it's ringing. I gotta let it ring three times. *(to herself)* ... or he'll think I'm waiting for it to ring. I **am** waiting! I even took the stupid phone to the bathroom with me. *(picks up the receiver)* Hello?

JEFF: *(a pause, then)* Is Joni there?

JONI: This is Joni.

JEFF: *(a pause, then)* Oh.

JONI: *(a pause, then)* Yeh?

JEFF: So ... what chu doin'?

JONI: Nothin' really.

JEFF: Me neither.

JONI: Oh.

JEFF: See you tomorrow then?

JONI: Okay.

JEFF: *(a pause)* Bye.

JONI: Bye.

JEFF: *(to himself, hanging up)* Stupid!

JONI: *(a small lovesick swoon)*

JEFF: I'm an idiot!

JONI: I think he likes me!

JEFF: She thinks I'm an idiot!

JONI: *(speaking and writing quickly)* Dear Audrey, he called! He called me at home! Can you believe it? We talked for hours and hours! Really! It was just so cool! I think he likes me! Really! I mean, I could tell by the way he talked. I thought the guy would never shut up! I'm not kidding! And he's really smart, too. I can tell.

JEFF: An idiot. A complete idiot! She'll tell everybody I'm a fool!

JONI: Dear Julie, he called me last night and just went on and on! He's gotta have a fifty dollar phone bill!

JEFF: I'll bet I didn't say three words.

JONI: (*continuing the letter*) That means something, doesn't it? When a guy talks that long on the phone? And I heard he gave up playing ball at Mike's house just to call me! I may not be in school tomorrow. I'm too high off the ground. Love ya! Joni.

JEFF: Dear Bob. I think I really blew it last night. I mean, Joni smiled at me in the hall this morning but I think it was one of those, "You are an idiot" smiles. How can you tell the difference? I mean, she smiles all the time.

JONI: Melinda, this is the big day. I plan to talk to him in person ... no more of this Junior High phone stuff. I'm gonna walk right up to him! I mean it! I been workin' up the nerve all morning and I'm gonna just walk right up to him and say hello and act like we've been friends all our lives! I've even got it planned out ... when he sits down at lunch (*at this point, Jeff backs into her... this was not the encounter Joni had planned*) ... Hey! Watch where you're ... (*she turns to see Jeff*) ... Uh ... Oh-my-gosh!

JEFF: Uh ... hi.

JONI: Hi.

JEFF: Sorry, I didn't see you.

JONI: That's okay ... really. I didn't see you either.

JEFF: (*at a complete and total loss for intelligent conversation*)
I ...uh ... was just goin' to get drink.

JONI: Cool.

JEFF: Yeh. I do it all the time.

JONI: Uh ... that's nice.

JEFF: Gotta go. Okay?

JONI: Okay.

JEFF: (*writing, angrily*) Matt, I just did the stupidest thing in my whole life. I mean really ignorant. I don't even want to talk about it.



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