

MOLLY IS MY COUSIN

by Ken Bradbury



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Cast:(4f): Gina, Molly, Karen and Rene. Molly is a special needs child. Please play her honestly. To Molly, her world is every bit as real as ours.

GINA: *(entering)* Come on in, Molly. This is the school. Come on. It's okay. *(taking Molly's hand and bringing her into the area)* Come on, Molly. It's really okay. *(Molly, a special needs child, enters, timidly)* This is where I go to school ...

MOLLY: No.

GINA: Yes it is. This is where I go to school. It's not *your* school, Molly. This is Gina's school.

MOLLY: Not Molly's.

GINA: No ... yours is a different kind of school. This is where I go. It's just one day, Molly. You'll be okay.

KAREN: *(entering)* Gina!

GINA: Hi, Karen.

KAREN: Who's ...

GINA: My cousin Molly. She's ... you know ...

KAREN: Hi, Molly.

MOLLY: Not my school.

KAREN: Huh?

GINA: She's ... look, Molly's my cousin. Her folks came in for a family thing and Molly's just visiting our school.

KAREN: I didn't know you had a cousin Molly.

GINA: Yeah ... I do. She's my cousin.

MOLLY: Not my school.

KAREN: Why does she ...?

GINA: She's ... she's different. I mean, she's nice. But she goes to sort of a special school.

MOLLY: Not mine.

GINA: I know it's not your school, Molly. Come on. We gotta get to class.

KAREN: You still goin' to town with us tonight?

GINA: Oh, geesh. I can't. I've gotta ... (*indicates Molly*)
You know.

KAREN: Oh. Too bad. She could come along and ...

GINA: No. No, she couldn't. We gotta go.

RENE: (*as Karen exits*) Gina! Did you get my message?

GINA: I've been kinda busy.

RENE: Who's ...?

GINA: My cousin Molly.

RENE: Hi. (*Molly doesn't answer ... a long pause*) Oh.
Okay. (*begins to leave*)

GINA: No. Molly's ... I mean, it's okay. She's just ...

RENE: Your cousin? I didn't know you had a cousin
Molly.

GINA: I don't, uh ... you know ... I don't talk about her a
lot.

MOLLY: Go home.

RENE: Huh?

MOLLY: Go home.

GINA: We can't go home, Molly. This is my school.

MOLLY: Not my school.

GINA: Molly, I know it's not your school. It's my school
and ...

MOLLY: (*putting her hands over her ears, beginning to
break down a bit*) Not my school! Go home!

RENE: Whoa.

GINA: Molly, you've got to be ...

MOLLY: (*shouting*) Go home! Go home! Not my school!
Go home!

GINA: Oh, gosh ...

RENE: I gotta go ...

GINA: Don't ... (*grabbing Rene before she exits*) Look,
she's got problems, you know. She's just different.

RENE: Yeah. Very. I'm not making fun of her.

GINA: I didn't say you were.

RENE: Then why are you grabbing me?

GINA: I'm not grabbing you. I just wanted to tell you that.

KAREN: Hey guys, first hour's about to start.

MOLLY: Go home! Go home!

GINA: Molly, be quiet!

MOLLY: (*sitting on the floor, hands over her ears, shouting*) Not my school.

KAREN: You gotta do something.

GINA: What?

KAREN: I don't know. She's your cousin. This isn't gonna work. (*to Rene*) Gina's busy tonight. Wanna go to town?

RENE: Sure. Who else is goin'?

KAREN: Everybody. (*looks at Gina*) I mean ... you know. Maybe another time.

RENE: (*she and Karen exit*) Come on, we'll talk on the way to class.

GINA: (*Gina watches them go. She looks at Molly, still on the floor, hands over her ears, crying and rocking a bit. A long pause. What should she do? Finally ...*) (*quietly*) Molly? (*Molly continues in her own terrified world.*) (*a bit louder*) Molly? (*Gina carefully looks around to see if anyone's watching then she eases herself onto the floor to sit beside her cousin.*) Molly, you've got to get up. (*Molly continues.*) Molly, we can't sit out here on the middle of the hall. (*nothing*) I can't take you back home, Molly. Nobody's there today. Your mom and dad won't be back 'til ...

RENE: (*running in*) Sorry, I forget something. (*stops*) Oh. Something wrong? (*Gina just sighs and looks at her.*) Can I help?

GINA: (*looks at Rene a moment, looks at Molly, then*) I don't know. I don't think so.

RENE: You can't just sit out here.

GINA: I know. But what do I do?

RENE: Call somebody.

GINA: I can't. Her folks thought she could just spend a day around ... you know ...

RENE: Normal?

GINA: Don't say that.

RENE: Sorry.

GINA: They thought she'd be okay.

RENE: She's not okay.



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