

Lily-May's Trumpet

By Elizabeth Bigham

NAME: Elizabeth Bigham

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: New Providence, New Jersey

BIO: Elizabeth Bigham is 13 and loves acting. She has performed in many different shows in New York and New Jersey. She is a dog lover who can't wait to get back to Broadway and theater.

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What's keeping you positive? My family, my dog, and online theater and dance programs.

Yes, you can publish this.

Characters

Lily-May- 10-13 year old girl, plays the trumpet, passionate about anything she does and never gives up.

August- 11-14 year old boy ,lives near Lily-May, constantly trying to find more ways to earn money.

Susie- 10-13 year old girl, Lily-May's best friend, supports Lily-May in all of her crazy ideas, even when they don't go according to plan.

Trent- 7-9 year old boy, Lily-May's younger brother

Mr. Walters- one of Lily-May's neighbors, who commends her on her talent.

Man- One of the town residents who unfortunately has to listen to August's attempt at the trumpet

Time- July 2018, Takes place over a few days

Place- Lily-May's porch, Lily-May's house Doe's Park, August's room

It's the middle of Summer and Lily-May has an amazing idea. One of her neighbors complimented her on her trumpet playing and it sparked inspiration. She wants to raise money by playing the trumpet and donate it to different charities. She is so excited to start raising money, but one the boys on her street, August, throws a wrench in her plans

The lights come up on LILY-MAY who is sitting on a porch swing outside of her house with her trumpet in her lap, and SUSIE by her side.

LILY-MAY: It's such a nice day, the sky is clear and sunny.

SUSIE: Yeah. Since you brought your trumpet out, are you going to use it and play anything?

LILY-MAY: Maybe, but I wouldn't know what to play. I brought it out because I like the way it looks when the sun hits it.

SUSIE: Well if you're gonna play anything let me know.

SUSIE gets up and starts walking down the steps off of the porch.

LILY-MAY: Hey! Where are you going?

SUSIE: Home, because all we're doing is sitting outside of your house. If you wanna do anything just call me.

SUSIE exits stage left, leaving LILY-MAY alone on stage.

LILY-MAY: (calling after SUSIE) We could've done something you know! All you had to do was suggest something, or like start a conversation!

LILY-MAY looks down at her trumpet and places it next to her. She gets up and exits through the door to her house. The light stays on the trumpet and LILY-MAY comes back out, grabs the trumpet, and exits again.

The stage goes dark as we transition into LILY-MAY's house.

The lights go up as LILY-MAY sits down on a chair and looks at her trumpet. TRENT enters and sits next to LILY-MAY. He turns on the television and it immediately starts talking loudly.

LILY-MAY: Can you not Trent? I'm trying to think.

TRENT: This is the only room where I can watch T.V.. You can think anywhere.

LILY-MAY: Well you can watch T.V. any other time. If I stop thinking, I'll lose my train of thought.

TRENT: Touché, but I'm still not leaving.

LILY-MAY groans and walks downstage and talks to the audience.

LILY-MAY: Little brothers are the worst.

TRENT acknowledges her but doesn't take his gaze off the screen.

TRENT: I can still hear you.

LILY-MAY glares at TRENT before turning back to the audience.

LILY-MAY: See what I mean.

LILY-MAY goes back to the door and opens it, right before she leaves she turns back to TRENT.

LILY-MAY: I'm not leaving because you're right. I'm leaving because I want to think in peace.

LILY-MAY walks out just to come back in.

LILY-MAY: And possibly play my trumpet, I don't know yet!

LILY-MAY confidently walks out of the door as the lights dim and the scene changes once again to outside.

LILY-MAY sits back down on the porch swing and SUSIE comes on stage left.

SUSIE: Are you actually going to do something now or just sit here more.

LILY-MAY: I'm gonna play my trumpet. I need you to hold my trumpet music.

SUSIE: Don't you have a music stand.

LILY-MAY: Fine then you can just listen.

SUSIE opens the door and takes the music stand. She then places it in front of LILY-MAY, who puts music from a folder sitting beside the porch swing and places it on the stand. LILY-MAY picks up her trumpet and starts playing.

SUSIE: You're really good.

LILY-MAY, not taking her mouth off the trumpet, nods to show she heard and agrees. SUSIE checks her phone.

SUSIE: I've gotta go. See you tomorrow Lily.

LILY-MAY puts the trumpet down and waves to SUSIE who exits stage left.

LILY-MAY: Bye.

LILY-MAY sighs and goes back to playing trumpet. MR. WALTERS walks by and notices LILY-MAY.

MR. WALTERS: You're really good at that Lily-May.

LILY-MAY: Thanks Mr. Walters, I'm just playing a random old piece. I got it like 3 years ago.

MR. WALTERS: Well, it's good.

MR. WALTERS takes a folded \$5 bill out of his pocket.

MR. WALTERS: Here, an artist such as yourself should play for money.

MR. WALTERS walks off stage and we see LILY-MAY start to think as the lights fade out.

The lights come up with SUSIE sitting on the steps on the porch as LILY-MAY paces in front of her. It's the next day

LILY-MAY: It's a genius idea Susie! I'll play my trumpet and earn money and then we can donate it to different charities.

SUSIE: Where do I fit into the picture?

LILY-MAY: You can be the treasurer or something. Or be in charge of donations.

SUSIE: I guess I could do that. When do we start?

LILY-MAY: Today! Come on, let's go to Doe's Park. It's right in the middle of town, we're sure to get some people to help us.

The girls run off stage and the scene switches to the park, where we see many people walking, sitting, throwing frisbees, etc. LILY-MAY starts playing trumpet and SUSIE tries to get people to donate.

SUSIE: Please consider donating money! It's for a good cause!

AUGUST walks on stage and sees what the girls are doing.

AUGUST: They're getting money! For playing the trumpet and talking! Seriously!

August walks over to a bench and sits down center stage. The scene freezes and August talks to the audience.

AUGUST: Okay, that's totally unfair right? I mean all she's doing is like playing a song on an instrument. I can do that. Anyone can! And people are PAYING her to do that. So you know what I'm gonna do? Because I don't. So if anyone has any ideas please speak now. *Beat.* Alright. I get it. You're not gonna talk. Fine. But just saying, if you're not helping me because you think i'm the bad guy, I'M NOT! And I'm not jealous. It's just completely unfair. Good day!

AUGUST leaves stage right.

SUSIE: Please donate! We're trying to collect money for charities!

Over time people drop money into the box the girls left out.

LILY-MAY: The box is filled up! This is going amazing. There is absolutely no way this plan could fail!

The stage goes dark and is cleared. A table and stool are placed center stage. This is now AUGUST's room. AUGUST sits down and is lit by a spotlight. He has a pen in hand and paper on the table.

AUGUST: I need a plan. *Looks out to the audience.* Again. If you wanna help, you can. So just feel free to speak up. No idea is a bad idea. *Beat.* Except for when you say nothing. *Beat.* Fine! I'll come up with my own plan.

AUGUST scribbles on the paper as the lights go out. The lights go up on stage right where LILY-MAY is standing. AUGUST's props are brought off stage as LILY-MAY speaks to the audience.

LILY-MAY: After 3 days, we've only collected \$34.22. Which seemed like a lot when it was in the box, but counted out is like nothing. How are we supposed to donate if we have a little over \$30. *Beat.* Would you consider donating? Or you? No? Okay. You probably don't have your wallet with you, right? Oh, you do? Well umm, then why won't you donate? I mean it's for a super good cause. You would be helping people. I get it, but I mean you should really donate.

SUSIE comes on and waits for LILY-MAY to finish rambling to the audience.

SUSIE: Are you done advertising, because I want to go eat lunch.

LILY-MAY: Fine, I guess we'll never get enough money to donate.

SUSIE: What do you mean, we almost have \$40, that's a lot of money.

LILY-MAY: Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. Let's go get lunch now. After that, we should go back to the park and try to earn more money.

LILY-MAY grabs SUSIE's hand and runs offstage with her. The lights come up and the girls are sitting on a park bench with a bag of food and LILY-MAY's trumpet.

SUSIE: Can we at least finish lunch before you start playing.

LILY-MAY: I'll eat in between songs. And you can eat while advertising. I wanna put my trumpet skills to good use.

AUGUST comes on and stares at the girls with an evil smirk.

AUGUST: Hey, Lily-May! What're you doing?

LILY-MAY doesn't put the trumpet down and continues playing. SUSIE gets up and walks over to AUGUST. She takes him downstage left out of the scene.'

SUSIE: We're collecting money to donate to charities and stuff. We wanna help people.

AUGUST: LILY-May looks pretty short of breath. How long have you been doing this?

SUSIE: 3 days, 4 hours, 23 minutes, and 15 seconds. But hey, who's counting.

AUGUST: You two should take a break, I'd be happy to watch your spot for you.

SUSIE: Thanks, but no thanks, August. Lily doesn't trust anyone with her trumpet.

SUSIE walks back to LILY-MAY, leaving AUGUST. The stage darkens and everyone, except AUGUST, freezes. AUGUST pulls an easel on stage. We are back in his room. The first page of it reads, "My Plan"

AUGUST: Here's my plan. *Flips the easel page. The new page says "Make Lily-May and Susie leave". It depicts a badly drawn picture of two stick figures walking. I'm going to get Lily-May and Susie to leave. Flips easel page. This page shows a stick figure sitting on the bench with a yellow blob in hand. It reads, "Steal Trumpet". I will then steal the trumpet. I don't know how to really play a trumpet which is why I have watched many tutorials on how to play a trumpet. He flips the page and it reveals a stick figure holding green rectangles standing on and money signs are drawn all over the page in green. It reads, "Become a millionaire and buy cool things". Millionaire is underlined. I will then make lots of money and buy a hoverboard. He flips the page one last time and it shows a stick figure with an evil look on its face. It says, "The End!" in big letters at the top. The End!*

AUGUST pushes the easel offstage and then proceeds to take center stage as everyone else leaves. Music starts playing and he starts singing a "broadway" number.

AUGUST: I'VE GOT A PLAN

A VERY EVIL PLAN

THIS IS SOMETHING I THOUGHT OF

AND IT FITS, JUST LIKE A GLOVE

I NEVER THOUGHT OF ANYTHING

AS EVIL AND CLEVER AS THIS

BEING AN EVIL MASTERMIND,

OOH IT BRINGS ME BLISS

I THOUGHT OF THIS PLAN WITH NO ASSIST

THIS WHOLE PLAN, IS SO HARD TO RESIST

BECAUSE I'VE GOT A PLAN

YES, A VERY EVIL PLAN

IF WORDS CAN'T STOP THEM

THEN THIS SURELY CAN

THEY WILL NEVER, EVER, EVER,
SEE THROUGH MY DISGUISE
BECAUSE I AM THE MASTER AT GIVING MASTERFUL LIES

Dance break

The ensemble comes on wearing glittery costumes covered in sequins, they are wearing hats and canes are pre-set for them to pick up. They walk in a pinwheel formation while singing the background vocals for AUGUST.

I'VE GOT A PLAN (HE HAS A PLAN)
IT'S AN EVIL, EVIL PLAN (A REALLY EVIL PLAN)
IF WORDS CAN'T STOP THEM (WORDS CAN'T STOP 'EM)
THEN THIS WILL SURELY CAN (YES IT WILL)
THEY WILL NEVER, EVER, EVER,
SEE THROUGH MY DISGUISE (NO)
BECAUSE I AM THE MASTER AT GIVING MASTERFUL LIES (YES HE IS)

The ensemble holds their canes horizontally in both hands and kick to imitate a kick line.

AND NOW MY PLAN, MY EVIL EVIL PLAN (HIS EVIL PLAN)
WILL SURELY, TRULY STOP THEM (IT WILL STOP THEM)
AND I SWEAR THAT THIS BIG PLAN (BIG PLAN)
WILL STOP 'EM
SQUISH 'EM
SQUASH 'EM
STOMP 'EM
BECAUSE IT CAN!

The lights go out and the scene changes to LILY-MAY's house. LILY-MAY enters and sits on her porch swing with her trumpet and plays a soft tune. AUGUST enters and stands nonchalantly watching LILY-MAY. TRENT comes out of the door.

TRENT: Lily, mom wants you inside for something.

LILY-MAY: Tell her I'll be inside in a minute.

TRENT: She wanted me to tell you to come inside for it now.

LILY-MAY: Fine.

LILY-MAY exits inside the house with TRENT leaving the trumpet. AUGUST runs across the stage and onto the porch. He grabs the trumpet and runs offstage. LILY-MAY runs back onto the porch and starts panicking. She frantically looks around the porch for the trumpet.

LILY-MAY: Where is it. It was here a minute ago. *Beat.* No no no no no. It can't be gone.

LILY-MAY looks as though she is about to cry and runs through the door. The stage goes dark. Lights up on AUGUST sitting back at the table in his room from before, admiring the trumpet.

AUGUST: Finally, now I can earn some money.

AUGUST tries to play the trumpet but no sound comes out.

AUGUST: Why isn't this working! I watched like 1 tutorial on how to play this.

AUGUST tries again and a low moan comes out.

AUGUST: Perfect! I'll bring it to the park tomorrow. I'm sure I'll earn some money.

The lights go dim and the table and chair are brought offstage. AUGUST walks to the park bench and sits down. The lights come up on him trying desperately to blow into the trumpet and make sound. AUGUST sees someone walking by.

AUGUST: Please donate to help the umm... charity fund. Yeah, this is for charity. Definitely.

People stop to listen after his announcement, but soon walk away after he starts to "play".

AUGUST: Please, anyone? Please donate!

The lights fade out on AUGUST and come up on SUSIE and LILY-MAY sitting on the porch swing together.

LILY-MAY: Why would someone have stolen it.

SUSIE: I don't know Lily. But, your parents will buy you a new one.

AUGUST walks by with the trumpet in a tote bag. He is trying to not get noticed by the girls. But, he still hears their conversation.

LILY-MAY: I don't want a new one, Susie. I want that one.

SUSIE: Why?

LILY-MAY: Well, this is sort of my personal secret. I don't really tell people this but It was my grandfather's.

SUSIE: The one who died?

LILY-MAY: Yeah, he played the trumpet, so I wanted to. So I could use his. It's the only thing I have left from him, except for a few memories.

SUSIE: I'm so sorry, Lily.

LILY-MAY: Yeah, me too.

The girls exit the stage and AUGUST stops walking.

AUGUST: That's so sad. It almost makes me feel... *Beat.* bad. I've never felt this way before. I feel like I want to return the trumpet, I feel... bad. *Beat.* I...

AUGUST suddenly hits himself in the arm.

AUGUST: Snap out of it, August! You don't feel bad. You're gonna be a millionaire. You are going to go back to that park tomorrow and make even more money. After watching more videos on how to play the trumpet.

The stage goes dark and AUGUST exits. The lights come up on the park and AUGUST walks on. He takes the trumpet out of the bag and starts slowly playing a song. Sound does come out, but it is off pitch and sounds like a cry. A man walks by and approaches AUGUST.

MAN: Kid, I will pay you \$1 to stop playing.

AUGUST: Make it \$5 and sure.

MAN: Fine.

The man gives AUGUST a crumpled up bill and AUGUST happily takes it.

AUGUST: Yes! \$5 towards my ho... *He pauses seeing the man still there.* Towards my donation. Thanks for donating sir.

AUGUST gets up and quickly leaves with the trumpet and \$5 bill. He walks downstage towards the chair and table in his room. He sets down the trumpet and sits, staring at it.

AUGUST: i can't stop thinking about what Lily-May said. It's eating at my insides. Making me nauseous day and night. I feel... I feel... Guilty. Bleh, that word doesn't taste right. I don't feel guilty, like I made Lily-May upset. I don't feel bad about stealing this. I... I have to return this.

AUGUST runs offstage and the scene switches to LILY-MAY's porch. LILY-MAY is sitting on the steps with her head in her hands. AUGUST walks on stage with the tote bag.

AUGUST: Lily-May, I want to talk to you.

LILY-MAY: I'm not really in a talking mood, August.

AUGUST: Just hear me out. I want to give you something.

AUGUST hands the tote bag over to LILY-MAY who grabs it and puts it on the steps.

AUGUST: Aren't you going to open it?

LILY-MAY: Maybe later.

AUGUST: I think you should open it now.

LILY-MAY: August I already said-

AUGUST: Just open it!

LILY-MAY: Fine, chill.

LILY-MAY takes the tote bag and opens it. Her face lights up as she pulls out the trumpet.

LILY-MAY: My trumpet! Where did you find it?

AUGUST: That's not important.

LILY-MAY: But I want to know who stole it.

AUGUST: Lily, the important thing is that it's here now and... *Beat.* I stole it.

LILY-MAY: What?

AUGUST: I took it. But before you say anything, I want to make it up to you. So, I put all of the money I've collected over the years to buy a hoverboard in the bag. You can donate it.

LILY-MAY: August, I..

AUGUST: I hope you can forgive me. I know what I did was wrong. I even felt.. G..guil-

LILY-MAY: You don't have to say-

AUGUST: Guilty!

LILY-MAY: Thank you for returning it, August. I don't know if I can forgive you though.

AUGUST: I get it, but if there is anything I can do, I would be happy to help.

AUGUST starts to leave but LILY-MAY chases after him.

LILY-MAY: August, wait. I think I know how you can help. Come on.

AUGUST: Wha..?

LILY-MAY: Come on!

LILY-MAY grabs AUGUST's arm and runs offstage. The scene switches one more time to the park. LILY-MAY runs on with AUGUST not far behind.

AUGUST: What are we doing at the park?

LILY-MAY: You are going to help me raise money.

AUGUST: Whatever you want.

The stage goes dark with AUGUST and LILY-MAY laughing.