

Roof Kids

Characters:

ASHER- A young boy, around 10, who sees the world a little differently & wants nothing more than to have friends.

TEDDY- A boy Asher's age who is all about having fun. A Peter Pan sort of character.

FIONA- A girl the same age as the boys. Teddy's "side kick". She's rather quiet, but takes a particular liking to Asher. A guardian angel type of figure.

MOM- Asher's mother, late 30's. Deeply concerned about Asher's well being.

POLICE- Male, any age, with a booming voice.

Setting: On the roof of a suburban home.

Roof Kids

TEDDY

(Flying on to stage)

Ha Ha! You can't catch me!

(FIONA and ASHER shortly follow, ASHER running on frantically, climbing a ladder onto the roof where TEDDY has just landed, while FIONA flies on slowly, staying behind ASHER to watch him.)

FIONA

(Hesitant)

Are you sure we should be doing this?

TEDDY

Of course I am! Come on, it'll be fun. Look, the kid's having a good time, aren't you, Kid?

ASHER

(Looking over the edge)

I've never been up here before.

TEDDY

(walking to ASHER, grabbing his shoulders)

But doesn't the world look so much better?

FIONA

It's okay, Asher. Let's go back inside.

ASHER

(Insistent)

No, no, I'm having fun. I want to stay out here with Teddy.

TEDDY

Ha ha! See? He wants to stay with *me*!

FIONA

Teddy, I-

TEDDY

Oh Fiona, you'll learn to have fun someday. (Beat.) So, what should we play? Duck, duck, goose? Monkey in the middle? Red light, green light?

Roof Kids

ASHER
Let's play tag!

TEDDY
Ooo, I like that idea!
(tagging ASHER)
Tag! You're it!

(TEDDY flies around while ASHER runs back and forth on the roof trying to catch him. FIONA sits down on the edge of the roof with a sigh of frustration. ASHER, noticing that FIONA is now on the roof, runs over to her.)

ASHER
(Tagging FIONA)
Tag!

FIONA
(Like a little kid that didn't get their way)
I'm not playing.

ASHER
We're just trying to have fun, Fiona.

FIONA
(Looking at ASHER, giving in. She has a soft spot for him.)
Oh, alright.

(FIONA gets up and plays along with the boys. The game goes around fairly quickly with FIONA tagging TEDDY, TEDDY tagging ASHER, and ASHER tagging FIONA again. It goes around a couple times with them eventually just saying tag, tag, tag, tag, right after another. They all laugh about it, until eventually ASHER says:)

ASHER
Okay, okay. I give up.

(ASHER sits down on the roof. At this point, the sun is going down. FIONA sits beside him, while TEDDY sits criss-cross hovering a foot above the roof.)

Roof Kids

FIONA

Well, it's getting kinda late. Should we head back inside, Asher?

TEDDY

Always trying to rush the kid! The night is still young, there's so many things we could do!

FIONA

Things we could do *inside*.

TEDDY

I don't like it in there! It makes me feel like a circus animal trapped in a cage. Out here I can *fly* around!

(While saying "fly" he does a flip or spin in the air)

FIONA

But Asher *can't* fly. So maybe it's better for *him* if we go inside.

ASHER

(Snappy)

Why do you always try to speak for me, Fiona? We wouldn't be out here on the roof if *I* didn't want to be.

FIONA

(Instantly taken aback. She didn't know Asher could defend himself)

Sorry. I guess... you're right.

TEDDY

So then, what should we do?

ASHER

Let's play... truth or dare.

TEDDY

YES!!!! Okay, I pick dare.

ASHER

You have to wait for someone to ask you the question.

Roof Kids

TEDDY

Then hurry up and ask me!

ASHER

Okay, truth or dare, Teddy?

TEDDY

Hm... I choose... DARE!

ASHER

I dare you to...

(thinking)

Oh! Swing from that tree!

TEDDY

That's EASY! Give me something harder.

ASHER

Alright, then... swing from the tree and do three backflips.

(TEDDY yawns. He flies over to the tree, grabs the branch of it, swings a few times and then launches himself into three backflips while quite literally floating through the air. He then flies back over to his "seat" hovering above the roof again.)

ASHER

Wow. That was cool. I wish *I* could do that.

TEDDY

Well of course you can! You've just never *tried*.

FIONA

(Knowing TEDDY is trying to start something)

Flying honestly isn't that fun. It's just like walking, but in the air.

TEDDY

No it is not! Flying is so cool! You can go

(demonstrating)

up, down, sideways, fast, slow... anything!

ASHER

I want to try!

Roof Kids

FIONA

(Trying to distract ASHER.)

Oh my goodness, look at that cloud! It looks like a bunny rabbit!

ASHER

(Distracted by the cloud)

Ha ha, it does!

FIONA

(Pointing up)

And that one looks like a hair bow!

ASHER

Oh, and that one looks like a man with a silly face!

FIONA

You're right!

TEDDY

Come on, I want to get in on the fun!

FIONA

Okay, then what do you see, Teddy?

TEDDY

I see... uhm... a... uh... an elephant holding a pineapple! Yup. That's what I see.

ASHER

I don't see that.

TEDDY

Well, that's because only the coolest person around can see that cloud. It's called "the cool person cloud".

FIONA

(Knowing TEDDY is lying)

Ooooooh... Alright.

(ASHER and FIONA look at each other and burst out laughing.)

Roof Kids

TEDDY

Hey! It's not funny guys, I'm serious!

(ASHER and FIONA continue to laugh. They are practically rolling over.)

TEDDY

(Beginning to laugh)

Okay, I guess it's a little funny.

(All three are laughing together as the lighting changes, signifying the sun has gone down completely. The laughing eventually comes to a stop and they sit together with smiles on their faces.)

ASHER

(Breaking the silence)

So, what now?

FIONA

We'd better get going.

ASHER

But I don't want you to leave!

FIONA

It's okay, we'll be back tomorrow!

TEDDY

Or... you could come with us!

ASHER

Yes!

FIONA

(Quickly deflecting)

Or, we could stay here!

TEDDY

You could finally try out your flying skills! And I could teach you a thing or two!

Roof Kids

ASHER

Yes!

FIONA

No!

ASHER

Fiona!

FIONA

I'm not trying to tell you what to do, Asher, I just don't think this is the best idea.

ASHER

Why?

FIONA

(Matter of fact, ripping off the bandage)

Teddy and I can do things that you can't do.

ASHER

That doesn't make any sense.

TEDDY

Yeah, Fiona. The kid can do anything he wants to do.

FIONA

No, he *can't*. And you know that, Teddy.

ASHER

(Upset)

I don't understand.

TEDDY

Look, you went and got the kid upset!

FIONA

(Going to ASHER)

I'm sorry, Asher. /

Roof Kids

ASHER

(Pushing FIONA away)

/ No! This isn't fair!

FIONA

(Motherly)

Asher, come back to me.

ASHER

No! I don't like you anymore.

FIONA

(Distraught)

You don't mean that.

TEDDY

(Hovering above the roof with his hand out to ASHER)

Come on, Kid. Let's leave her. You'll have more fun where we're going anyway.

ASHER

(Nervous, still upset)

You really think I can fly?

TEDDY

I know you can.

ASHER

I'm scared. What if...

TEDDY

The clouds are gone now, Kid, and there's nothing left to do. Come on! *(Beat.)*

(Sharply, in a booming version of TEDDY's voice)

Come down from the roof.

(This line is haunting to everyone. There is a shift in ASHER's energy, although he isn't quite sure why. Slowly, police sirens begin to sound and flashing police lights gradually appear.)

ASHER

(Genuinely confused)

What?

Roof Kids

(MOM and POLICE enter; they are downstage of the house, looking up at ASHER on the roof. MOM is in a panic. FIONA looks panicked at ASHER, then, together MOM and FIONA say:)

FIONA / MOM

Asher, come back to me!

(Sounds of chatter are playing in the background, causing extra chaos to the scene.)

TEDDY / POLICE

Come down from the roof, Kid!

(ASHER, in a panic, ponders leaving, looking back and forth between TEDDY and FIONA. He still finds great comfort in FIONA despite “not liking her anymore”.)

FIONA

(Concerned)

Please don't do this.

TEDDY

(Back in his regular voice)

Come on, Kid!

(ASHER, despite his care for FIONA, looks back at her once more, then turns and takes TEDDY's hand. He is about to step off the roof and then— Blackout. The sirens and chatter slowly fade.)

END.