

# *Playing The Victim*

*by*

*Joseph Arnone*

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Cast of Characters

SALLY:

19

HELENA:

19

Place

Apartment

Time

Afternoon

Setting: Helena's apartment.

At Rise: Helena opens her front door to her tiny apartment and lets Sally inside.

**SALLY:** I have great news!

**HELENA:** Tell me.

**SALLY:** I just received a call from Godfrey & Sons and they offered me the internship!

**HELENA:** Wait, the one that there was 'no way' you were getting into?

**SALLY:** Yes!

**HELENA:** Wait, the one from that major, major, major financial institution you were telling me about?

**SALLY:** Yes!

**HELENA:** Really?

**SALLY:** Yes!

**HELENA:** (unenthusiastic) At least one of us is doing something good with their life.

**SALLY:** (bummed) Yeah, well, I can't believe it...are you...are you alright?

**HELENA:** I'm fine. That's great news. Hard work does pay off for some of us.

**SALLY:** What's up? Why are you so down? Aren't you happy for me?

**HELENA:** I knew you'd get in. Things always seem to flow in your direction. I'm the one where everything flows beyond my grasp.

**SALLY:** ...Did something happen?

**HELENA:** What could possibly happen, Sally? Everything happens all at once and no offense but listening to you being so excited and bubbly depresses me even more.

**SALLY:** Why should it depress you even---

**HELENA:** Because nothing ever works out for me. I'm still arguing with my boyfriend, I'm still struggling to pay my rent, I'm still working my crappy job, I'm still paying off my crappy school loans and I can't even get an interview for an internship. It's pathetic.

**SALLY:** Why are you such a buzz kill?

**HELENA:** You asked me, so---

**SALLY:** I'm trying to understand something. Why is it that when I talk to you about things that make me happy you always get down? Whenever I talk to you about things that upset me, you always get so involved.

Do you want me to be miserable in my life? I feel as though the only way for us to have any relationship is when things are bad. I don't want things to be bad. I want to talk about good things. I want to hear you tell me good things. Why is that so hard for you? Do you realize that every time I come over here you have nothing nice to say. You are always complaining and moaning about your work, your boyfriend, your family, your apartment...you never have anything happy going on it seems.

It's like the only way you can exist and communicate is by raging against something. Doesn't that exhaust you? It takes more energy to be miserable than be happy. Try being happy and stop playing the victim all the time.

**HELENA:** Victim? I can't make my rent, Sally? I'm two hundred short?

**SALLY:** Stop smoking so much weed.

**HELENA:** It's not weed, you idiot.

**SALLY:** What else can it be? You sit here and complain about every little thing going on in your life and you never take time to suck it up and be happy for me.

**HELENA:** That's not true.

**SALLY:** It so is true. I've been watching.

**HELENA:** Watching?

**SALLY:** I noticed it a while ago and whenever something good happens for me you push me aside and talk about your tragic life. I'm sick of it.

**HELENA:** I had to pay the vet for my sick ass cat who's gonna die and I had no choice but to have her checked because she's been losing weight and life sucks. So yeah, I'm happy as can be for you but you know, there are things going on in my life---

**SALLY:** I'm sorry about Princess.

**HELENA:** So am I.

**SALLY:** But what's it gonna be next time?

**HELENA:** Next time?

**SALLY:** Next time I have something positive to share with you? What's it gonna be next time?

**HELENA:** This is my life, what do you want me to say?

**SALLY:** I want you to stop being so damn selfish. All you think about is your own problems. You can't ever seem to exist outside of your own reality.

**HELENA:** Sorry but Princess is dying.

**SALLY:** I get that and it's horrible and I'm sorry but if it wasn't Princess it would have been something else. (beat) Maybe I should go.

**HELENA:** No, I wanted you to come.

**SALLY:** You were the first person I've told and I was hoping for, I don't know what I was hoping for...thought you'd be jumping up and down with me and we'd celebrate.

**HELENA:** Bad timing.

**SALLY:** It's always bad timing.

**HELENA:** Look, I'm sorry, alright? I didn't plan on Princess dying.

**SALLY:** When did you find out?

**HELENA:** Earlier this week.

**SALLY:** And you didn't call to tell me? You wait until now to tell me? Don't you see how messed up that is?

**HELENA:** That I didn't tell you sooner?

**SALLY:** That you could have told me sooner, or maybe later when we are out and the initial excitement of my good news had passed.

**HELENA:** Everything is easy for you, Sally. I don't have parents like yours...I can't stand my mother and my father always has no more than two nickels to rub together. I always feel like I'm behind the eight ball, trying to keep up with you and all the others and I'm on my own...working my stupid job, going to school, in debt, it's all on me and some days I feel buried alive. Some days I literally don't want to open my eyes in the morning...I'm like a zombie. I'm turned on but feel like I'm being dragged in every direction I go in and I can't stop, not for one second because as soon as I stop it will all come crashing down on me because I don't think I can keep going if I stop.

**HELENA:** (cont'd) I've always been trying to keep up and I'm losing. Everyone is getting too far ahead of me in this race and I can barely, just barely see you up ahead but any minute now, I won't and I'll be alone, completely alone and I won't even have my cat Princess here to lick my chin anymore cause she's leaving me, too...

**SALLY:** Hey...you aren't alone, Helena. I wouldn't be here with you if you were alone, right?

**HELENA:** Yeah but things are happening for you now and my life is the same...I fight tooth and nail. I can't even make my freaking rent this month. I'm two hundred short because of the vet.

**SALLY:** It's okay, don't stress. I can get you the money.

**HELENA:** I don't want your money.

**SALLY:** Stop. I can get it for you.

**HELENA:** How?

**SALLY:** My brother will give it to me.

**HELENA:** Oh, don't ask him, he hates me.

**SALLY:** No, he doesn't and I won't say it's for you, anyway.

**HELENA:** I don't want your brother's money.

**SALLY:** It's my money borrowed from my brother, who we will pay back together, so, it's our money on loan.

**HELENA:** I have enough loans.

**SALLY:** You need to pay your rent, don't you?

**HELENA:** Yep.

**SALLY:** So that's it...

**HELENA:** Sally, I am happy for you, so, so happy for you. I am beyond proud of you...I'm a horrible friend...I do always seem to have negative crap going on and because I do I get even more pissed off about it, so it's hard for me to act all bright and shiny. I'm sorry.

**SALLY:** You need to make a change. You have to stop playing the victim and start playing the winner because what you go through and what you do, the challenges you face, it will all be worth it in the end, I promise you, you will see and you will make it to the finish line, doesn't matter when but you will get there. (beat) You shouldn't say the things you said before about me. I bust my ass and nobody's life is as easy as you think. We all have headaches.

**HELENA:** I said I'm a terrible friend.

**SALLY:** You're my best friend.

**HELENA:** Thanks, Sally.

**SALLY:** I don't ever want the wrong way of thinking to come between us, okay?

**HELENA:** Okay. (beat) Let's break out, we have some celebrating to do.

**SALLY:** Not before I give some love to Princess, where is she hiding?

**END OF PLAY**