



AN ENERGY TALE

by Anthony J. Piccione

EXCERPT

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An Energy Tale

A fable by

Anthony J. Piccione

Cast of Characters

Sally:

A young child from the post-apocalyptic future.

Dr. Science:

A mysterious individual who aims to teach Sally -and the audience - about the likely impact of climate change on our future, and what can be done to stop it.

Ensemble:

Regular people in the park,
Fossil fuels (Oil Drill,
Coal and Gas Pump), Clean,
renewable energy sources
(Wind Turbine, Sun and Hydro
Dam), Nuclear Power Plants,
Environmental activists,
Business executives,
Politicians

Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

SALLY is standing up and tossing a rock. After a few moments of tossing, she drops the rock.

SALLY

Aw man! I never can get it right!

SALLY walks toward the rock and picks it up.

SALLY

If only for once, I could just keep on-

SALLY looks out toward the audience, and notices the audience staring at her.

SALLY

Oh, hi. How's it goin'? Didn't see you guys there. It's always nice to be able to see some more people around here. It's not every day that our colony sees some new people. All there is for to do around here is to just sit around all day and play with rocks. That's all we got left here in the world in the year 2184. It's not that fun, really. So I'm glad you're here. There's not really many other people to talk to around here.

Enter DR. SCIENCE.

DR. SCIENCE

Except for me, that is.

SALLY

Who are you?

DR. SCIENCE

I'm Dr. Science.

SALLY

Dr. Science?

DR. SCIENCE

That's right, and I'm here to teach you - and all of these people that are here with us - a very important lesson about science.

SALLY

But Dr. Science, what exactly is...science?

(CONTINUED)

DR. SCIENCE

(chuckles)

Why Sally, science is - according to Webster's dictionary - "knowledge about or study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation." Science surrounds us and penetrates us and binds the galaxy together.

SALLY

What do you mean?

DR. SCIENCE

Wait, how do you not get that reference? Am I really that-

(pauses)

...oh, never mind, Sally.

SALLY

So how exactly do you plan on teaching me more about "science"...Dr. Science?

DR. SCIENCE

Well, Sally...

(takes out small device)

I plan to use my special simulator machine to help take us back in time, back before things were the way they are now.

SALLY

Wow. I've never seen one of those things before.

DR. SCIENCE

Yes, I've managed to save one of them for myself before all the others were wiped out.

SALLY

Cool. So how far back are we going?

DR. SCIENCE

Sally, we're going way, WAY back...to a time well before you were born, when there was so much more to do than to sit around all day and play with rocks. A time when the Earth was so beautiful, and so tragically taken for granted.

SALLY

Wow, Dr. Science. Is this a...a happy story?

DR. SCIENCE

Well, not exactly, Sally. This science lesson that I'm about to give you is what we call a "fable". It's not just for the two of us to go back and learn something.

(points to audience)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DR. SCIENCE (cont'd)

It's for all of these kids here, too. You see, these kids over here are watching from even further back in the past than we are about to go. So maybe what they learn from this might actually be more important than what we learn.

SALLY

Wow. So they're all coming with us too?

DR. SCIENCE

You bet they are. That's why they're here. So what do you say, Sally? Are you ready?

SALLY

You bet I am, Dr. Science.

DR. SCIENCE

That's what I like to hear, Sally.

DR. SCIENCE looks out to the audience.

DR. SCIENCE

And what about the rest of you? Are you all read to come and join us on a journey back in time, to learn an important lesson about science?

Pause for audience reaction.

DR. SCIENCE

(chuckles)

Well, that's just excellent.

(holds out small device and turns to SALLY)

Alright, Sally. If you'll just grab on to this, our journey shall...begin.

SALLY grabs onto the small device, as static noise is heard in the background.

FLASH OF LIGHT

SALLY and DR. SCIENCE are gone.

Pause

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP

Several happy couples and children are walking around in a crowded town park.

Enter SALLY and DR. SCIENCE.

(CONTINUED)

DR. SCIENCE

Do you recognize where we are, Sally?

SALLY

No, Dr. Science. Can you please-

DR. SCIENCE

Of course you don't! You know why?

SALLY

I...can you please tell me?

DR. SCIENCE

Of course I will, Sally. You see, the place we are in now is called a "park".

SALLY

A park?

DR. SCIENCE

That's right.

DR. SCIENCE looks out toward the audience.

DR. SCIENCE

Ohh, poor Sally. Kids from the future like her don't even know what a park is.

DR. SCIENCE looks back toward SALLY.

DR. SCIENCE

You see, Sally, people used to come to these places all the time on days when the weather was nice, just to relax and enjoy themselves with all of their friends and family.

SALLY

(pointing)

What's all that green stuff over there?

DR. SCIENCE

That, Sally, is grass.

SALLY

Grass?

DR. SCIENCE

Yes, Earth used to have plenty of grass just a hundred years ago, before the Earth died out.

SALLY

(pointing)

And what about those things?

DR. SCIENCE

Those, Sally, would be trees. If only people like your ancestors hadn't taken them for granted.

SALLY

(pointing)

And that green stuff on the trees; that's grass, too?

DR. SCIENCE

(chuckles)

Why no, Sally. Those are called leaves. We don't see much of those anymore, do we?

SALLY

Wow, Dr. Science. I gotta say...I've never seen anything this beautiful before in my life.

DR. SCIENCE

I know, Sally, and that's quite sad. There's not much left of places such as this in the time where you come from.

SALLY

But Dr. Science, it looks like things used to be so much nicer back when they had places like this. How did things ever get to be the way they are now?

DR. SCIENCE

Well Sally, that's exactly why we are here today. We're here today to learn about a very specific kind of science that will explain everything to you. Today, we're going to learn a little lesson about the science of...energy.

SALLY

Energy?