

A Readers' Theater Adaptation of Lenore Look's *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things*

by Nicki Stohr

©*Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* by Lenore Look; Schwartz Ward Books, 2008.

Characters:

Narrator

Alvin 1

Alvin 2

Alvin 3

Alvin 4

Alvin 5

Calvin

Narrator: This script comes from the novel, *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things* by Lenore Look.

Alvin 4: The first thing you should know about me is that my name is Alvin Ho.

Alvin 2: I am afraid of many things. Elevators.

Alvin 5: Tunnels. Bridges.

Alvin 3: Airplanes. Thunder.

Alvin 1: Substitute teachers. Kimchi.

Alvin 5: Wasbai. The dark.

Alvin 2: Heights. Scary movies.

Alvin 4: Scary dreams. Shots. School.

Alvin 1: If there were no school, my troubles would blast away, just like that.

Alvin 3: I would dig holes all day. I would play catch with my Gungung.

Alvin 2: I would watch cooking shows. I would keep an eye on things.

Alvin 1: It would be fantastic!

Alvin 4: The second thing you should know about me that even though I am afraid of many things, I am not afraid of anything that explodes.

Alvin 5: I love explosions.

Alvin 2: I was practically born with gunpowder in my blood this in on account of I live in Concord, Massachusetts, which is hard to spell but where there were explosions all over the place, when the American Revolutionary War started way before I was born.

Alvin 3: The third thing you should know about me is that I have a dog named Lucy and a brother named Calvin and a sister named Anibelly, who messes with my sticks and toys, eats my food, drinks my chocolate milk and gets in my way.

Alvin 1: I am not as big as Calvin, but I am bigger than Anibelly, who isn't a baby anymore but doesn't go to school yet.

Alvin 4: I am sort of nearly almost medium ...when I stand on tiptoe and stretch at the same time, I am finally almost visible in my class picture!

Alvin 5: The fourth thing you should know about me is that I love Plastic Man, Wonder Woman, the Green Lantern, Concrete Man, Aquaman, King Henry V and all the superheroes in the world.

Alvin 2: I know them from reading with my dad every night while my mother runs on the treadmill like a hamster on a wheel.

Alvin 3: My dad is a great reader for his age, which could be forty or one hundred, it's hard to tell.

Alvin 5: He wears reading glasses and always put one arm me and there other arm around Anibelly and Calvin for support, on account of when you get to be that old it is hard to do anything by yourself.

Alvin 4: The fifth thing you would know about me is that once upon a time, before I went to school, I was a superhero.

Alvin 3: I was Firecracker Man!

Alvin 1: I run around our house, full speed ahead, screaming at the top of my lungs while beating on a garbage can lid.

Alvin 2: I was as noisy as a firecracker on Chinese New Year! My costume was great (my Gungung made it).

Alvin 5: But now I am Firecracker Man only on weekends and holidays.

Alvin 3: There's just no time for it.

Alvin 4: Being a superhero is hard work.

Alvin 2: You have to save the world.

Alvin 1: But going to school is even harder. You have to save yourself.

Alvin 3: Most days I can hardly even make it to the school bus.

Alvin 5: And when I arrive at school, I can't think.

Alvin 2: I can't read.

Alvin 4: I can't smile.

Alvin 3: I can't sing.

Alvin 1: I can't scream.

Alvin 2: I can't even talk.

Alvin 4: The sixth thing you should know about me is that I have never spoken a word in school.

Alvin 5: Even when I try with all my might, I always manage to say nothing at all.

Alvin 1: My voice works at home.

Alvin 4: It works in the car.

Alvin 2: It even works on the school bus.

Alvin 3: But as soon as I get to school ... I am as silent as a side of beef.

Calvin: You're like a piece of frozen sausage fallen off the truck.

Narrator: My brother, Calvin, likes to say.

Alvin 5: It is true. I am something like that.

Alvin 4: No one really knows why I lose my voice at school, since I came from a long line of farmer-warriors who haven't had a scaredy bone in their body since 714 AD.

Alvin 2: In China my ancient grandpas and grandmas and aunts and uncles fought off leopards and tigers in their gardens the way Calvin and Anibelly and I fought off mosquitoes when we were at Walden Pond.

Alvin 1: They weren't afraid of anything. I am afraid of everything.

Narrator: To find out how Alvin Ho manages to survive his freighting life read *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things*.