



The Invisible Me

Plays About Self-Image



By Catherine Gourley



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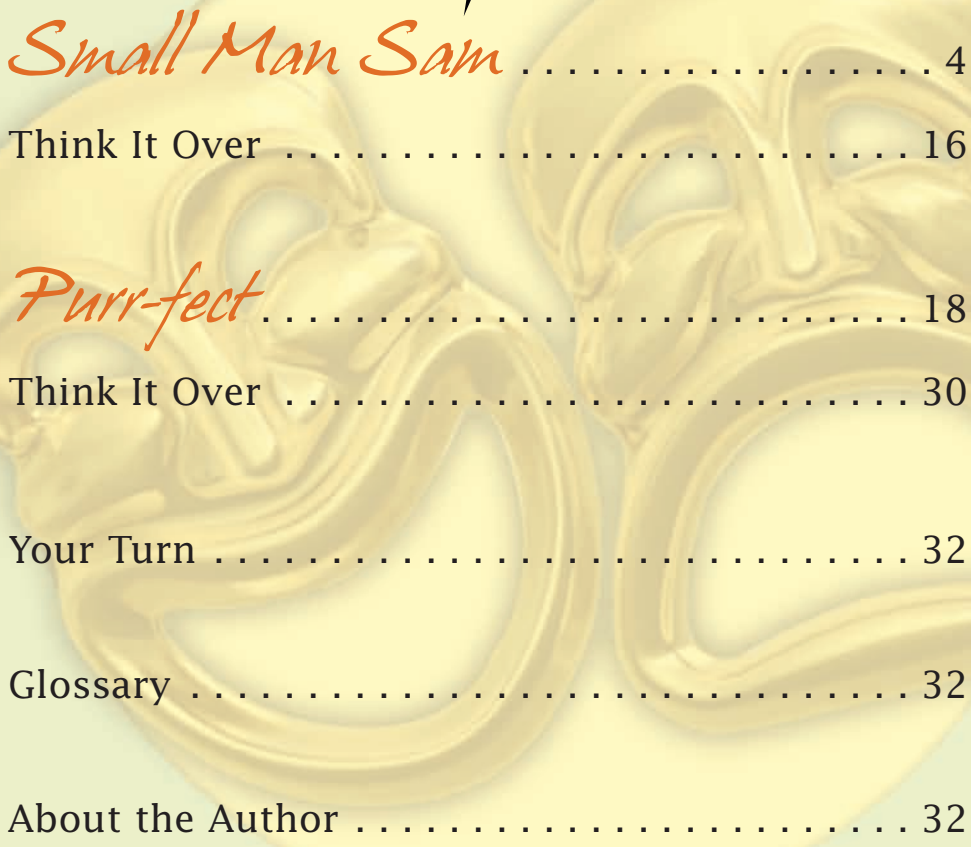
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Note to the reader: Be sure to look at the Glossary on page 32 to find definitions of words that might be unfamiliar.

Small Man Sam

Sports fanatic Sam is vertically challenged. He can't even make the weight class in which he wants to wrestle. But Sam has a fitness plan to add height and weight to his small frame. Although Sam's efforts don't produce the results he wants, he learns a valuable lesson: He can't change or hurry along his DNA, but he can change his perception of himself.

Characters:

Narrators 1, 2, 3

Sam Curtis, an eighth grader

Alexis Morris, a member of
Sam's group of friends

Ticket clerk

Dmitri, Sam's best friend

Ben Stone, an action-adventure movie star

TV Announcer

Wrestling coach

Mrs. Curtis, Sam's mother

Julie, Alexis's friend

Scene 1

Narrator 1: On Friday night, a group of friends gathers downtown to see *Double-Cross*, the latest action film starring Ben Stone.

Narrator 2: The movie poster shows two actors—the hero and an attractive woman standing just behind him.

Sam: (*reading the poster*) No one double-crosses Ben Stone!

Alexis: It's like he's threatening us! See my movie or else!

Narrator 3: The friends laugh. They purchase their tickets and wait for Sam, who is still in line. Sam slips his money to the ticket clerk behind the window.

Sam: One for *Double-Cross*, please.

Ticket clerk: It's a PG-13 film.

Sam: I know. I'm 13!

Ticket clerk: Are you sure? I need to see some ID.

Narrator 1: At four feet ten inches,* Sam is shorter than his friends. This isn't the first time someone older has questioned Sam's age. Sam sighs and opens his wallet to show his school ID.

Sam: Satisfied?

Dmitri: Hey, Small Man! What's the hold up?

Narrator 2: To his friends, Sam has always been "Small Man." He has learned to accept their teasing as just that—buddies joking around. But this evening is different. Alexis Morris has come along for movie night.

Dmitri: Next time, Small Man, give me your money and I'll buy your ticket.

Alexis: Don't pay attention to him, Sam. Nobody else does.

Narrator 3: Inside the darkened theater, Sam steps in front of Dmitri so he can sit next to Alexis. Sitting down, especially in a dark theater, the height difference between Sam and Alexis is not as noticeable.

* *four feet ten inches = 1.47 meters*

Narrator 1: The opening credits for *Double-Cross* begin to roll. Dmitri slouches in his seat. Sam, however, sits upright. This isn't a date—just four friends hanging out together. Still . . .

Narrator 2: Sam makes his move . . . sort of. He slowly and cautiously slips his arm around the back of Alexis's seat. Suddenly, the louder-than-life voice of Ben Stone booms through the theater's speakers.

Ben Stone: (*on screen*) You'd better back off, man.

Sam: (*says to himself*) Why are movie heroes all chiseled like the statues of Greek gods we studied in mythology?

Ben Stone: (*on screen*) You don't want to challenge me.

Narrator 3: Alexis is staring at the screen with great interest. Sam loses his confidence. He slides his arm off of the back of Alexis's seat and shifts away from her.

Scene 2

Narrator 1: A few days later at Sam's house . . .

Dmitri: Hey, Small Man. Check this out.

TV Announcer: (*on the TV*) Do you want to have a better body? You can—just by drinking delicious Muscle Magic!

Dmitri: This stuff might be worth a try.

Sam: You don't need any bodybuilding supplements.

Dmitri: Not for me. For *you*!

Sam: No protein powder can help me grow taller. Besides, that stuff doesn't work.

Dmitri: (*shrugs*) It can't hurt to try.

Narrator 2: A few days later at wrestling practice, Sam weighs in. He's hoping to move up a weight level.

Coach: (*reading the scale*) Eighty-four.* Sorry, Sam. I know you wanted to move up, but for this week, anyway, you'll wrestle in the 78-pound† weight class.

* 84 pounds = 38 kilograms

† 78 pounds = 35 kilograms