

# Booktalk!

## Lila and Hadley Script *For this Book Talk you will need*

- **2 actors** (Hadley, Beth)
- **Hadley:** pajamas, socks
- **Beth:** nice pants, sweater
- **Additional props:** 3 chairs with blanket draped over them (to simulate couch), small table in front of couch with copy of *Lila and Hadley* on it, chair off to side of couch

**Beth:** (*Hadley sitting with legs up on couch; Beth sitting on chair and speaking to Hadley*) Have you started reading any of the dog training books I left out for you?

**Hadley:** (*speaking flatly*) No.

**Beth:** Why not?

**Hadley:** I don't want to.

**Beth:** Why? Because you (*using air quotes*) "ain't a dog person"? (*pausing momentarily*) You keep saying that, but then I come home and find you on your bed (*gesturing offstage in the direction of Hadley's bedroom*), all cuddled up with Lila.

**Hadley:** She got on the bed. I told her not to.

**Beth:** (*half-laughingly*) Uh-huh.

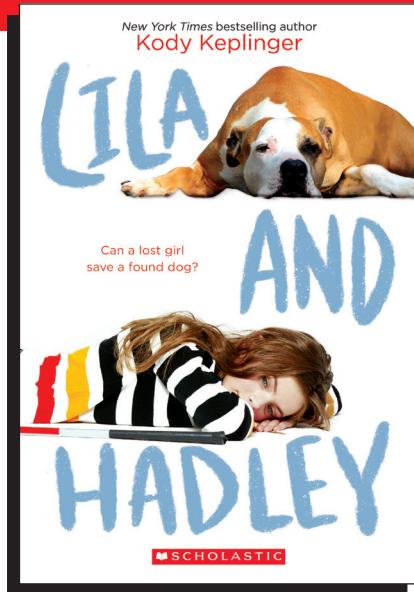
**Hadley:** I never said I wanted to train her.

**Beth:** I can't make you train her if you don't want to. But if you're not going to even try, I have to take her back to the rescue.

**Hadley:** (*shrugging quickly and crossing her arms*) Fine.

**Beth:** (*hesitating momentarily*) Is it? (*crossing over to the couch and sitting down beside Hadley*) Hadley... Lila can't stay at Right Choice forever... (*pausing*) There's only so much room there. If we can't adopt her out, then we'll have to find her somewhere else, so we can make room for dogs we can find homes for.

**Hadley:** Somewhere else?



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**Beth:** A shelter, probably. The way the rescue works, they take in dogs from shelters that they think they can work with, and adopt out. With Lila, she was at a shelter in another town. But Vanessa pulled her out of the shelter and brought her to Right Choice. Vanessa thought Lila would be easier to work with in our setting, where she'd get more time and attention, but unfortunately...well. Anyway. The rescue doesn't have a lot of space. And keeping Lila there, when they can't find her a home, means one less kennel they can give to a dog we can find a home for. Do you understand what I'm saying?

**Hadley:** What's so bad about a shelter?

**Beth:** Nothing, necessarily. Some animal shelters are no-kill shelters. Meaning dogs and cats can live there as long as they need. They're not that much different from the rescue Vanessa runs. But...those are often already overcrowded. I can't promise that's where Lila would end up, even though they'd try very hard to get her into one if they can't keep her...

**Beth:** (*Hadley slowly looking up at Beth as she realizes what Beth is saying; Beth continuing slowly*) That's why Vanessa was so excited when she saw Lila letting you pet her. We've been trying to train her since she came in. But she barely lets us touch her. No one is going to adopt her if they can't even pet her, especially if she isn't trained. You're the first real hope we've had for her. (*pausing*) Vanessa seems to think that between Lila's liking for you and my experience training dogs, we might make something work. (*hesitating*) I hope she's right. But if you don't want to do it, I can't force you. (*sighing loudly then standing up & starting to walk away*)

**Beth:** (*thinking quietly for another moment, watching Beth walk away then calling after her*) Beth?

**Beth:** (*turning and looking back*) Hm?

**Hadley:** (*sitting up on edge of couch*) About Lila... (*pausing for a few moments then adding quietly*) I'll... I'll think about. Training her, I mean. (*pausing*) I'll think about it...

**Beth:** (*nodding, smiling slightly then walking offstage*)

**Hadley:** (*grabbing copy of Lila and Hadley from off the table & staring at it for a moment, then speaking to audience*) Want to find out what I decide...and what happens to Lila? (*holding up the book*) Get your copy of *Lila and Hadley* – it's at your Scholastic Book Fair.