**ROMEO MUST DIE**

**Trish O'Day**

You know, once Colin and I did something we thought would really be funny. He hid out front, while I ran to tell my mom he'd been hurt, you know, hit by a car or something really bad like that.

And when she came running, he was supposed to jump out and surprise her, and we'd all fall out and have this great laugh.

Me and my mom always loved a good laugh. I was about 8 or 9. Colin was, like, 11. I don't even remember how we came up with it, but, sure enough, you know, I start screaming and yelling, and my mom comes running out of the house, and she's like 'Trish, what's wrong?'

And when I told her, I mean... the look on her face. I mean, even when Colin popped up to show it was just a joke, she just couldn't stop crying.

She just held him close...clutched him, you know. I was just a baby, I didn't get it then, but I get it now. Colin's dead. And no matter how hard I cry, he's not just gonna pop up, and show me it was just a joke.