

ABSTRACT

OUTS IN FREE

“All the, all the outs in free” is a phrase used in Hide and Go Seek to signal kids hiding that it’s safe to come out in the open. I chose this phrase as the title for this collection of essays because in each story I seem to be doing exactly that: calling those on the outside to come into the open. By junior high, I had already divided the world into two camps: those who were cool and those who were dorky. In these essays, I write about the people I had marginalized, the “outs” in my junior high world. Through these experiences, however, I was able to better understand the people I made fun of and also better understand myself. I now realize that the “out” I am writing about is me. I once hid behind conformity, peer pressure, and prejudice, but these stories have called me into the open.

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