

Cry: A Play in Two Acts®
VERSION C

Casey Bell

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Character Breakdown

Evelyn

Lesley: Evelyn's Sister

Jeffrey: Lesley's Husband

Vivian: Lesley's Daughter

Luke: Lesley's Son

Brian: Evelyn's Son

Heather: Lesley's Daughter

Derek: Heather's Fiancé

Brenda: Brian's Wife

Jacob: Vivian's Son

Tasha: Lesley: Lesley and Jeffrey's Daughter

ACT ONE SCENE ONE

This scene opens on the porch of Lesley and Jeffrey's house.

BRIAN

You're ready?

BRENDA

Yes. Go ahead and ring the doorbell. Wait, no, don't do it. I changed my mind.

BRIAN

What do you mean?

BRENDA

I'm leaving. I'm not going in there.

BRIAN

Why? What's wrong?

BRENDA

I really did try to pretend I was going to enjoy this, but I know I won't, and to be honest I'm not in the mood tonight.

BRIAN

What are you talking about?

BRENDA

I do not want to go in that house and have this dinner.

BRIAN

Why not? My aunt is expecting the both of us.

BRENDA

I'm sure she won't be upset if I don't show up to her dinner.

BRIAN

Well, how come you're not coming?

BRENDA

Well, how do I say this without hurting your feelings?

BRIAN

What's wrong?

BRENDA

Well, your family got issues.

BRIAN

Doesn't everybody's?

BRENDA

Yes, but not like yours. I mean every time we go over there they got drama rolling all around the floor. I'm just not in the mood today.

BRIAN

What am I supposed to tell everyone? You know everywhere I go they expect you to follow.

BRENDA

Well, I'm sorry Mary, but your little lamb is not following you this time.

BRIAN

What do I tell them though?

BRENDA

Just tell them I think they have issues and I don't feel like dealing with their drama.

BRIAN

Brenda, I cannot tell them that.

BRENDA

Well, make something up. You're a man, you're clever.

BRIAN

Yes men are clever, but men do not know how to lie. Especially not under pressure. I mean look at Adam. God calls him and he blames God, then his wife. And you won't even be there for me to blame.

BRENDA

Well, I don't know what you're going to do, but I know that I am not going in that house.

BRIAN

Are you sure?

BRENDA

Yes, I'm sure.

BRIAN

Well, what are you going to do?

BRENDA

I'm going home.

BRIAN

How?

BRENDA

I'll catch a cab. *(She takes a piece of paper out of her purse).* Take this.

BRIAN

What's this?

BRENDA

The shopping list, I need you to go to the store.

BRIAN

But, I'll be coming home late. Nothing will be open.

BRENDA

Oh, please, by the time the drama rolls around and breaks up the dinner it will only be eight-o'clock. That's why I brought it with me, because I know that this dinner will be over sooner than expected; do to your crazy Aunt Lesley. Now, please take the list I have to go. *(Brenda takes her cell phone out and calls a cab. She exits as she talks).*

SCENE TWO

The scene opens in the dining room of Jeffrey and Lesley Johnson. Jeffrey and Lesley enter the room with appetizers.

LESLEY

(She places the food on the table) I just don't understand. The boy is thirty years old. He has his life together, has a nice house and car, and a wonderful career. He should have settled down by now and have gotten married. It doesn't make sense to be that old and not have a wife.

JEFFREY

Honey, you can't rush him. If he's not ready to settle down and get married, you cannot make him. Besides not everyone gets married, some people stay single forever. Look at monks and priests.

LESLEY

Lucas is not catholic.

JEFFREY

Whatever he is, he's not ready.

LESLEY

I'm just not sure why he hasn't had a serious relationship by now. Was it something we did wrong in raising him?

JEFFREY

No, Lesley. You and your husband did a wonderful job in raising all three of your children. But once they are grown and out of the house, the decisions they make right or wrong have nothing to do with how you raised them. They have to make their own decisions and mistakes just like everyone else.

LESLEY

I just worry sometimes.

JEFFREY

Lesley, your mothering job is over for the three of them. You mustn't worry anymore. Besides you need to keep your mind on our daughter. You mustn't ignore your last child spending so much time on your grown children.

LESLEY

Maybe you're right. Where is she anyways? I thought I told her to set the table. Tasha, Tasha, where are you? Do you hear me calling you?

TASHA

(Enters) Yes, mother, how may I help?

LESLEY
Didn't I tell you to set the table?

TASHA
Yes, mother you did.

LESLEY
Then how come you're not setting the table?

TASHA
You never told me when, you just said set the table.

LESLEY
Well, can you set it now?

TASHA
No, problem, mother *(She exits)*

LESLEY
You know, Jeff. I was thinking about something.

JEFFREY
What's that?

LESLEY
You don't think he's gay, do you?

JEFFREY
Who?

LESLEY
Lucas. I mean maybe that's the reason why he's not married yet.

JEFFREY
Well, I don't know. *(The doorbell rings)*

LESLEY
Who can that be? The dinner doesn't start until 7PM. It's only 6:30.

JEFFREY
(Opens the door) Hi, how are you doing? *(Speaking to Lesley)* It's Brian.

LESLEY
Oh, Brian, you're early. Things aren't quite prepared yet.

BRIAN

(He greets Jeffrey with a shake and greets Lesley with a hug) Oh, did you want me to help Aunt Lesley?

LESLEY

No. Don't even think about. Just sit and make yourself at home. We'll be done soon. Where's Brenda?

BRIAN

Who?

LESLEY

Brenda, your wife.

BRIAN

Oh, of course Brenda. Well, you see, well, what had happened was that. You see Brenda had some other occasional things that had to be done. So like, you see she had previous engagements that she had to...other errands that she had to take care of. You see she had other plans and couldn't make it.

LESLEY

Oh, okay.

BRIAN

Okay? Okay, okay. *(Speaking to himself)* Well, that wasn't so hard. *(Jeffrey and Lesley exit to the kitchen as Tasha enters from the kitchen. Tasha has plates in her hand. She sets the table.)* Oh, my goodness, is that who I think it is?

TASHA

It depends on who you think I am.

BRIAN

Is that Tasha?

TASHA

And you are correct.

BRIAN

(He hugs her) Oh my goodness, it's so good to see you. Why is it that every time I see you, you get taller?

TASHA

It's called growth.

BRIAN

So, how are you doing?

TASHA

I'm doing fine, thanks for asking.

BRIAN

How is school going?

TASHA

It's going well.

BRIAN

So, what's your favorite subject?

TASHA

It's difficult to choose. I really enjoy calculating in math, but I find it fascinating learning about the past in History, and I like getting my grammar on in English.

BRIAN

That is so sweet. You know, when I was in school, I really had fun. You see when I was in school-

TASHA

Cousin Brian.

BRIAN

Yes, Tasha.

TASHA

Not now, I'm busy. *(She returns to the kitchen, Jeffrey and Lesley enter from the kitchen with more food.)*

BRIAN

(They place the food on the table and then walk towards the living room). Wow, this looks delicious.

LESLEY

If you want you can have some appetizers. *(She points to them)* They're over here. *(Brian eats while they talk).* All I am saying is he knows better. I took him to church everyday and he used to read his bible, so he knows that having sex with another man is a sin. So, why is he doing it?

JEFFREY

What if he is gay? There is nothing you can do. You have done your job as a mother already. Everything he does from now on is his own choice, and his business. Besides you don't even know if he is gay.

LESLEY

What other option is there. A man that old that is not interested in women has to be gay. Not only has he not had a girlfriend since he was twenty, he has never shown any interest in getting married or even having children.

JEFFREY

Since when did you become a mind reader?

LESLEY

(Tasha enters with silverware) I don't have to be a mind reader to read my own son. I know him better than he knows himself.

JEFFREY

I don't know about that.

LESLEY

Maybe I should ask him.

JEFFREY

Ask him what?

LESLEY

Ask him if he's gay. I'll ask him tonight.

JEFFREY

Not during dinner.

LESLEY

Why not? I have a right to know. I'm his mother.

JEFFREY

But we all don't need to know. You don't ask someone that in public, in front of everyone. That's private business.

LESLEY

There is nothing private about being gay.

JEFFREY

Who you have sex with is private, and it's no ones business.

BRIAN

(Walks over to them) Hi, you think you could talk about something else? There's a child in the room.

LESLEY

Please, that child isn't listening to us.

BRIAN

Oh, okay. Sorry for intruding. I'll be over there eating the appetizers.

JEFFREY

Lesley, please don't do this. If you want to have a private conversation with your son that's different, but to come right out and ask him something like that in front of everyone is not right.

LESLEY

He's my son, and I will do whatever I want. *(The door bell rings)* Get the door.

JEFFREY

(Answers the door) Hello, how are you? It's so good to see you again.

HEATHER

Hi, Jeffrey. This is Derek. Derek this is my step-father, Jeffrey.

LESLEY

Is that my Heather?

HEATHER

Hi, mommy.

LESLEY

Hi baby. Oh, this must be the celebrated Derek. She has told us so much about you. It's nice to finally meet you.

DEREK

It's nice to meet you too.

BRIAN

Hey cousin.

HEATHER

Hey, Bry-Bry.

BRIAN

(Talking to Derek). And you must be, no, don't tell me, Thomas.

DEREK

No.

BRIAN

No, don't tell me, Keith.

DEREK
No.

BRIAN
Ralph, Bobby, Ronnie, Ricky, Mike.

DEREK
No, it's Derek.

BRIAN
Oh, Derek, The other ones must be the guys I met last week.

HEATHER
(She hits Brian). Stop playing, boy.

BRIAN
(To Derek) I'm just messing with you. It's nice to meet you Dillon, I mean Derek.

HEATHER
Stop playing. *(She sees Tasha).* Hey, Tasha.

TASHA
(They hug) Hey, Heather.

HEATHER
This is Derek. Derek this is my sister Tasha.

DEREK
Hi, Tasha, it's nice meeting you.

TASHA
That's sweet, can't talk right now, I'm busy.

HEATHER
Did you need help Tasha?

TASHA
No thank you, I don't want to mess up your manicure.

HEATHER
(Tasha exits to the kitchen. Speaking to Derek) Don't mind her, she's always like that.

JEFFREY
(The doorbell rings. Jeffrey answers the door). Hey, how are you?

VIVIAN

Hello Jeffrey. I'm doing fine. How about you?

JEFFREY

I'm doing well. Hey, you're getting so tall, man. And is that a mustache I see?

VIVIAN

He's becoming mommy's little man.

JEFFREY

Hey, Jake. How are you?

JACOB

I'm doing fine Grandpa Jeff.

JEFFREY

That's good.

HEATHER

Vivie!

VIVIAN

Hey, girl, how are you?

HEATHER

I'm fine. Vivie, this is Derek, Derek this is my oldest sister Vivian. And that little man over there is my nephew, Jacob.

DEREK

It's nice to meet the both of you.

VIVIAN

Thank you. It's nice to meet you as well, Derek. *(Tasha enters with glasses)*. Hey, there's my baby sister. How are you?

TASHA

Hey Vivian, hello Jake. It's great to see you both once again, but I'm busy, so we'll talk later. *(After putting the glasses on the table she exits to get the rest of the glasses)*.

BRIAN

I don't believe this. Vivian, who is this strapping young man next to you? You didn't tell me you hired a bodyguard.

VIVIAN

Brian, you're so silly.

JACOB

Hi, Brian

BRIAN

Is that little Jake? When did you get so tall? And is that dirt (*referring to his mustache*)?

JACOB

No, it's a mustache.

BRIAN

Well, excuse me. These kids are getting so big. So, where's Kenneth?

VIVIAN

Oh, he couldn't make it. He had to work.

LESLEY

That man is forever at work. Does he ever go home?

VIVIAN

Yes, mom. Where's Brenda?

BRIAN

Who?

VIVIAN

Brenda, your wife?

BRIAN

Oh, of course. Well, you see, Brenda had some other things that had to be...previously done so the...the engagements that were already set-

LESLEY

She couldn't be here due to previous engagements.

BRIAN

Uh...yeah, what she said.

VIVIAN

Oh, okay.

JEFFREY

(The doorbell rings). Look at this, everyone is showing in good timing. *(He opens the door)*. Hey, man. It's good to see you again.

LUCAS

Hey, Jeff. What's cool?

JEFFREY
Everything, everything is fine. How are you doing?

LUCAS
Everything is great. Hey mom.

LESLEY
Hey, baby. Are you married yet?

JEFFREY
Lesley.

LUCAS
No, mother, not yet.

JEFFREY
(Talking to Lesley) See, he said yet.

LUCAS
(Calls him) Brian.

BRIAN
(Calls him) Lucas. *(They hug)*. Hey cuz, long time no see.

LUCAS
How you holding up?

BRIAN
I am holding up just well. How are you?

LUCAS
I'm doing fine. Hey, Vivian.

VIVIAN
Hi, Luke.

LUCAS
Hey, Jake. How's my little nephew doing?

JACOB
I'm fine.

BRIAN
He's not little anymore.

HEATHER

No, he's not.

LUCAS

Hey, Heather. How are you?

HEATHER

I'm doing fine. Luke, this is Derek. Derek this is my brother, Lucas.

LUCAS

Oh, this is Derek. She has told me so much about you. It's so nice to meet you.

DEREK

It's nice to meet you too.

LESLEY

(Speaking to Jeffrey) Did you see how Luke looked at him?

JEFFREY

Lesley, stop it.

LUCAS

(Tasha enters with the rest of the glasses. She finishes setting the table). Hey, there she is. What's up Tash?

TASHA

Hey, Luke. Everything is cool, just busy, that's all.

LESLEY

You still setting the table?

TASHA

Yes, mother.

LESLEY

Well, hurry up, we're about to eat.

HEATHER

Is your mother coming, Brian?

BRIAN

You know my mother; she'll be the last one to show. She has to make her grand entrance. *(The doorbell rings)* There's your majesty now.

JEFFREY

(Opens the door) Hi, Evelyn.

EVELYN

Hey Jeffrey, honey, how are you, dear?

JEFFREY

I'm doing fine. How about you?

EVELYN

Evelyn is doing just fine, baby. Is that my baby sister?

LESLEY

You know it is. *(They hug)* Hey girl. You are looking good.

EVELYN

It's so true. You looking pretty fine yourself. It seems like everyone is here. Hey son.

BRIAN

Hi, mom *(they hug)*.

EVELYN

Hello Vivian.

VIVIAN

Hello, Aunt Evelyn.

EVELYN

Is this your son, little Jacob?

VIVIAN

Yes it is. Momma's baby is growing up.

EVELYN

He sure is. And how are you Jacob?

JACOB

Good.

EVELYN

Beautiful. Hey, Heather.

HEATHER

Hi, Aunt Evelyn. Aunt Evelyn this is Derek. Derek this is my Aunt Evelyn.

EVELYN

Hey, Derek, it's nice to meet you.

DEREK
It's nice to meet you too.

EVELYN
Hello, Lucas.

LUCAS
Hey Auntie.

EVELYN
Is that Tasha over there?

TASHA
Yes it is. Hi, Aunt Evelyn.

EVELYN
How's my baby doing?

TASHA
She's doing.

EVELYN
Wonderful.

LESLEY
Well, since we're all here, I think we should start dinner.

EVELYN
Wow, who set this table? It looks wonderful.

LESLEY
Tasha set the table.

EVELYN
Tasha, you did a wonderful job.

TASHA
Thank you. I'm glad you like it.

LESLEY
Would someone like to say prayer?

JEFFREY
I'll pray. We thank you heavenly father for bringing family together once again. We thank you for this food that you have blessed us with. We ask you God to bless those who have prepared the food-

TASHA

And bless the one who prepared the table.

JEFFREY

...And bless the one who prepared the table. We ask you to bless and consecrate this table. We thank you and bless you, in Jesus' Name, Amen. *(All say Amen)*.

BRIAN

This food sure looks good.

EVELYN

So, Brian, where's Brenda?

BRIAN

Who?

EVELYN

Brenda, your wife?

BRIAN

Oh, of course. Well, you see...um...Brenda had some other things that she had to do. You see, she had some previous engagements that needed to be fulfilled, so, she won't be coming tonight, because she's not able to attend, because she had prior events and errands that she had to be apart of.

EVELYN

Oh, okay.

BRIAN

Okay. *(Speaking to himself)* I hope that's the last time I have to do that.

EVELYN

(Everyone prepares their plate and begins to eat. At this point it is quiet before Evelyn breaks the silence). Well, I have good news. Congratulate me, I just made senior partner with the firm.

BRIAN

Congratulations mommy.

LESLEY

(Everyone congratulates Evelyn). It's about time. You deserved that position five years ago.

EVELYN

I know, but patience is a virtue.

LESLEY

What the hell is a virtue?

EVELYN

Well, a virtue is a *(thinking)* well, I don't know, but the point is I am now senior partner.

LESLEY

You know the only reason why they waited so long to promote you is because you're a woman. If you were a man, you would have gotten it when you first deserved it.

EVELYN

Well, I'm not worried about that. I'm just happy that I got the position. Well, does anyone else have any good news? I feel like my good news turned into bad.

TASHA

Well, I got an A in my math class.

LESLEY

(Everyone congratulates her). She better had. She knows I don't except anything lower than a B.

BRIAN

(Referring to Lesley) Is she okay?

HEATHER

I have an announcement. Derek and I are getting married.

LESLEY

(Everyone congratulates them). Where's the ring?

HEATHER

(She takes it out of her purse and puts it on). I decided not to wear it in, because I wanted it to be a surprise.

VIVIAN

(Referring to the ring) That's nice.

EVELYN

It's beautiful.

LESLEY

Is it real?

HEATHER

Mother!

Derek, is it real?
LESLEY

Yes, ma'am, it's real.
DEREK

Aw, he's so polite, he said ma'am.
EVELYN

Well, it looks fake from over here.
LESLEY

Well, damn girl, you must have woken up on the hell side of bed today.
BRIAN

No, I'm sorry. *(She stares at Lucas)* I just have a lot on my mind.
LESLEY

Did I do something wrong?
LUCAS

No, no, not at all.
LESLEY

Then why were you looking at me, as if I am the reason why you're upset?
LUCAS

Oh, no, I'm not upset. Everything is fine.
LESLEY

Are you sure?
LUCAS

Yes, I'm fine.
LESLEY

(Everyone continues to eat in silence. After a couple of seconds Tasha speaks). Lucas, are you gay?
TASHA

(Brian chokes on his drink. He starts to cough). Baby, are you alright?
EVELYN

Put your hands up.
TASHA

BRIAN

(He puts his hands in the air. Tasha and Jacob pat him on the back. Jacob hits him real hard. He stops coughing). Boy, are you crazy? That hurts.

VIVIAN

Jake, apologize.

JACOB

Sorry Brian.

EVELYN

Brian, are you okay.

BRIAN

Yes, I'm fine. I just got caught off guard that's all.

LUCAS

Tasha, what made you think to ask me that?

TASHA

Well, mom and dad were arguing today over it and she said she was going to ask you. When she didn't ask, I decided to ask.

BRIAN

I told you to watch what you say around her.

LESLEY

Well are you?

LUCAS

Am I what?

LESLEY

Gay. Are you gay?

LUCAS

Why are you asking me that? Why are you asking me that now?

LESLEY

Because I want to know. You're thirty years old and still single. How come you're not married?

LUCAS

I told you already, I'm not ready. Now, can we talk about something else?

BRIAN

Sure. Did anyone see that football game on TV yesterday? It was awesome.

DEREK

Which one?

BRIAN

There was more than one?

DEREK

Well, yeah. There's the NFL, then there's minor league, you have college football and high school football as well.

BRIAN

Oh. Well, which one did you watch? We'll talk about that one.

LESLEY

I don't want to talk about football. When will you be ready?

LUCAS

Mother, I don't know. I haven't met the right one yet. Now would you please get off my back?

BRIAN

So, did anybody see any football games yesterday? *(No response)* Did anyone watch TV at all?

TASHA

I did. I watched *I Love Lucy*.

BRIAN

What do you know about *I Love Lucy*? That show was off the air before you born.

TASHA

It's called reruns. Besides, it was off the air before you were born too.

LESLEY

Who was that man who answered your phone when I called you the other day?

LUCAS

It was probably Robert.

LESLEY

What was he doing answering your phone? Are you sleeping with him?

LUCAS

No mother, and if I was that's none of your business. He simply answered the phone because I couldn't get to it.

LESLEY

Who is he?

LUCAS

A friend and that's all he is.

BRIAN

So, did anyone see the president's speech on the television last week? It was powerful!

TASHA

Really? What did he say?

BRIAN

I don't know I didn't watch it.

LESLEY

Would you shut up about the TV already?

EVELYN

Lesley, watch how you talk to my son.

LESLEY

Well, I'm trying to talk to my son and he's being disruptive.

EVELYN

Well, do you have to talk about this now; in front of all of us?

HEATHER

Yeah, mother, I don't want to hear this.

VIVIAN

It's definitely not the time to do this.

JEFFREY

I told you; now, is not the time to do this.

LESLEY

Why is everyone beating up on me?

EVELYN

No one is beating up on you.

BRIAN

(Everyone begins to talk all at once. They each get louder and soon become one big argument). Hey, hey, hey! (Everyone stops). Just for the record and for future reference, this is why Brenda's not here.

HEATHER

It's why I didn't want to be here. No matter what happens we always end up arguing.

LUCAS

Well, mother started this one.

LESLEY

How did I start this one?

LUCAS

Because you won't stay out of my business.

LESLEY

I'm just worried about you. I want what's best for you.

LUCAS

What makes you think getting married is what's best for me?

LESLEY

Because marriage is wonderful. It helps you know yourself better, it enhances who you are.

VIVIAN

It's also a great way to be with the one you love forever. See, when you're married you love him and you know he loves you.

JACOB

Daddy, loves you?

VIVIAN

Hush boy.

LESLEY

What did he mean by that?

HEATHER

Yeah, it's like rainbows, and stars, and candy, and other things wonderful.

LUCAS

Please, the only reason why you're getting married is because you're pregnant.

HEATHER

That is not true, the tests came back negative.

BRIAN

(There's a short hush across the room). Yeah, that was a stupid remark.

LESLEY

I thought you said you weren't having sex.

HEATHER

Mother, it was just one time.

LESLEY

That's one too many. I can't believe you fornicated. You know you're not supposed to have sex before marriage. Was it truly your first time?

HEATHER

Yes, mother.

LESLEY

How can I believe that?

HEATHER

Trust me mother, you can even ask Derek.

LESLEY

And how would he know?

DEREK

The same way anyone else would know. I mean there's only one way to know if a woman is a virgin at the time of.

LESLEY

Well, I don't believe this. My daughter is having sex before marriage; my son is having sex with men.

LUCAS

Mother would you stop.

LESLEY

What about you Vivian? Were you a virgin when you got married?

VIVIAN

Yes, mother. I knew how to keep myself, unlike others.

HEATHER

Oh, shut up Vivian. At least my man ain't beating me.

LESLEY

What?

VIVIAN

Kenneth does not beat me.

JACOB

(Mimicking his mother) No, he doesn't, he just pushed me a little, mommy's okay, don't worry Jake, just go back to sleep.

LESLEY

What is he saying?

VIVIAN

Nothing mom. Jacob, keep your mouth shut.

LESLEY

Well, what about you Luke, are you a virgin?

LUCAS

Mother, don't do this now.

LESLEY

Answer me.

JEFFREY

Lesley, this isn't the time.

LESLEY

Don't tell me how to raise my son. Lucas, answer me. Are you a virgin?

LUCAS

No.

LESLEY

Who was it?

LUCAS

What?

LESLEY

Who was it? Huh, who was she or he?

EVELYN

Lesley, please stop.

LESLEY

Shut up Evelyn. Lucas, answer me. Who did you defile your body with? Was it that tramp Jessica? Or maybe it was that ho you brought home, Kelly. Answer me Luke, who was it?

LUCAS

Do you really want to know?

LESLEY

Tell me.

LUCAS

Malcolm.

LESLEY

(She slaps him). Don't you dare talk about your late father like that. And I don't ever want to hear you call him by his name. You supposed to respect him better then that.

LUCAS

What for, he's dead.

LESLEY

Do you think this is funny? Are you making jokes or something?

LUCAS

Mother, I'm serious.

LESLEY

You can't be. You know your father would never do that to you. What's wrong with you, do you hate him or something?

LUCAS

I love my father, but that doesn't change what he did to me.

LESLEY

Then why didn't you say anything? How can I believe you? Right now it's your word against his, and he can't defend himself. And it's not like you have any witnesses.

LUCAS

I do have a witness and I'm not just talking about dad.

LESLEY

Get out of my house. I don't want you in here if you're going to be lying. I have a holy house and it can't be defiled by a spirit of lying.

BRIAN

Can we just eat without talking? Maybe turn some music on.

LUCAS

I'm not lying. I have proof. I wasn't alone.

LESLEY

What do you mean by that?

LUCAS

Brian knows. He was there on a couple of occasions. Everything daddy did to me he did to Brian.

EVELYN

What? Brian is that true? Brian is he telling the truth? Brian, answer me!

BRIAN

Yes. *(There's a silence in the room before Brian breaks it).* Well, I have to go now. Brenda gave me a list, and I need to get to the supermarket before it closes. *(He stands and leaves. As he leaves Lucas walks towards him).*

LUCAS

I'm sorry, Brian, but they had to find out sooner or later.

EVELYN

Brian you can't just leave like this.

BRIAN

(To Lucas) Not like this.

EVELYN

Brian, do you hear me talking to you? Brian, Brian! Talk to me this instant!

LUCAS

I'm sorry. *(Brian exits)*

EVELYN

Brian. Brian! I am talking to you. Don't walk out that door. *(She collects herself)* Well, I have to go. Bye everyone. Derek, it was nice meeting you and congratulations. *(She exits).*

DEREK

Thank you.

HEATHER

Well, we're going to be leaving now. Thanks mom for inviting us.

DEREK

Bye guys, it was a joy. *(Heather and Derek exit)*

JEFFREY

Tasha, go to your room, please.

TASHA

Yes daddy. *(She exits)*

VIVIAN

Well, I guess, we'll be leaving as well.

LUCAS

Wait a second, don't go anywhere. I might as well do this too.

VIVIAN

Do what?

LUCAS

Vivian, I am so sorry, you have to forgive me.

VIVIAN

Forgive you for what?

LUCAS

For what I did to Jake.

VIVIAN

(Pause) What did you do?

LUCAS

Everything daddy did to me. I knew I shouldn't have, but I couldn't control myself.

VIVIAN

(Stunned, she freezes. She looks at Jacob and he hangs his head) We have to go. Jacob, let's go, now. *(They exit)*

LUCAS

Don't leave.

LESLEY

How could you do that to Jake? I try to have a nice dinner and you ruined it. You ruined it for everyone.

LUCAS

I'm sorry. I didn't mean for anyone to get hurt.

LESLEY

Well, it's too late. Get out.

LUCAS

But mother-

LESLEY

Get out, now.

JEFFREY

(Lucas exits) That was wrong what you just said.

LESLEY

I don't want to talk about it.

JEFFREY

You had no right asking your children those questions.

LESLEY

I just said I don't want to talk about it. *(Black out)*

SCENE THREE

This scene takes place on the porch of Brian's house.

EVELYN

Brian, you stop this instant. How dare you walk away from me?

BRIAN

I'm sorry mom.

EVELYN

Do you mind if I talk to you?

BRIAN

No.

EVELYN

Brian. *(She hugs him)*. Why didn't you tell me?

BRIAN

I don't know. I was trying to, but I couldn't. I was scared, ashamed, and I felt guilty. I knew what we were doing was wrong, but I thought it was my fault, so I didn't say anything. I tried to tell you a couple of times, but I just wasn't strong enough.

EVELYN

What happened?

BRIAN

I don't know. It just happened. You know how you used to drop me off and you and Aunt Lesley would go shopping?

EVELYN

Yes.

BRIAN

Well, one time it just happened. I think I was about eight when it started. Luke told me that it was okay, so I trusted him. If I would have known the problems it would have caused I would have stopped myself.

EVELYN

It's not your fault. You were too young to know any better. Well, I'm just glad it's out and in the open. Now we can deal with it. I want us to go over to Lesley's house tomorrow and talk with her and Lucas. We need to settle this once and for all.

BRIAN

I don't want to. What's done is done. Besides he's dead, there's nothing anyone can do.

EVELYN

We need to talk about this as a family. Apparently Lesley is not completely convinced.

BRIAN

Does it matter?

EVELYN

Yes, you were hurt, and so was Lucas. You two need to talk about this or your lives will forever be some big cover up. Did you tell your father?

BRIAN

No.

EVELYN

If you're not comfortable talking about this you will always have problems chasing you.

BRIAN

I will get comfortable, just not now. I need some more time.

EVELYN

This is nothing, but fear, shame, and guilt. Time doesn't erase those things. You have to just face them. You will never be ready, but you have to do it. Well, I can't force you. Take care of yourself Brian. *(They hug and then she exits). (Blackout)*

SCENE FOUR

This scene takes place in the home of Jeffrey and Lesley Johnson. The scene begins with a blackout within seconds the sounds of knocking and the doorbell ringing is heard frantically. Jeffrey and Lesley enter putting on house coats. Jeffrey goes towards the door and turns the lights on).

LESLEY

Who the hell is banging on the door this late at night?

JEFFREY

(He opens the door) Vivian, what happened?

VIVIAN

Nothing, I'm okay, we just need somewhere to stay.

LESLEY

What do you mean nothing? You look terrible. Did Kenneth do that to you?

VIVIAN

Mom, I don't want to talk about it.

LESLEY

Hey Jake, honey. Go upstairs into the guest room. You can sleep in there, okay. *(Jacob exits)*. Did you call the cops?

VIVIAN

Mother, I'm not calling the police on my husband.

LESLEY

I don't care if he was your behind; you call the cops when someone beats you like that.

VIVIAN

Mother, he didn't beat me.

LESLEY

What the hell is wrong with you? I can tell that that's a black eye and not eye make-up.

VIVIAN

Mother, it's not a big deal, he just got a little upset, that's all.

LESLEY

Vivian, would you listen to yourself. If it wasn't a big deal, why did you come here?

VIVIAN

He said he needed us to leave. He said he needs his alone time so he could think.

LESLEY

You let your husband kick you and your son out of your house? This is incredible. Do you hear this Jeffrey?

JEFFREY

Do you want me to go back with you?

VIVIAN

No, I just want to go to bed.

JEFFREY

Let me take your stuff up to the room.

VIVIAN

Thank you Jeffrey. *(Vivian and Jeffrey exit. Lesley watches in disappointment as they leave). (Blackout).*

SCENE FIVE

This scene takes place a week later in the living room of Jeffrey and Lesley.

VIVIAN

(Enters the room) Jacob, come on. We're going to be late.

LESLEY

(Enters) Good morning. Is everything okay?

VIVIAN

Good morning mom. Everything is fine; Jacob is just making us late.

LESLEY

When are you moving back with Kenneth?

VIVIAN

I don't know mom. I called him two days ago and he said he wasn't ready for us to move back in.

LESLEY

What sense does that make? You're his wife. You don't need permission to move back into your own home.

VIVIAN

Mother, I am really not in the mood for this. Not today, please.

LESLEY

Then when, Vivian? Huh? You can't keep going on as if nothing is wrong.

VIVIAN

Jacob would you come on, you're going to be late for school.

LESLEY

Don't ignore me like that.

VIVIAN

Mother, please, not now.

JACOB

(Enters) Sorry mom.

VIVIAN

Jake, where were you?

JACOB

I'm sorry, I overslept.

VIVIAN

Come on.

LESLEY

We'll talk about this later, Vivian. (*Vivian exits*) You can't run forever.

JEFFREY

(*Enters*) What's wrong?

LESLEY

Nothing. Is Tasha up?

JEFFREY

Yes, she's getting ready. Luke called.

LESLEY

And your point?

JEFFREY

Lesley, you can't do this. You have to talk to him.

LESLEY

For what? He didn't talk to me ten, fifteen years ago when it mattered. Why talk now?

JEFFREY

Because he wants to talk. That's when you talk, when they want to. It's the best time.

LESLEY

Well, I don't want to talk to him, right now. He waited to tell me, so he can just wait some more. (*The door bell rings*) Who can that be?

JEFFREY

(*Answers the door*) Hello Lucas, how are you?

LUCAS

I'm fine. May I come in?

JEFFREY

Sure.

LESLEY

What are you doing here?

LUCAS

Mother we need to talk.

LESLEY

We should have talked ten years ago. How could you keep that from me?

JEFFREY

I'll be in the room.

LESLEY

No, don't leave. There is no reason for you to leave. If he wants to talk then he can talk.

LUCAS

Mother, I want to talk to you in private.

LESLEY

That's not happening.

LUCAS

Mother, please.

JEFFREY

Lesley, why are you doing this? What are you hiding from?

LESLEY

I'm not hiding from anything, and whose side are you on?

JEFFREY

This is not about sides, Lesley. I'll be in the room. Talk to your son. *(He exits)*

LESLEY

Well, you have me all to yourself. What is it that you want?

LUCAS

Mother; don't talk to me like that.

LESLEY

Like what, son? I'm here alone so that you can talk to me. What is it that you have to say?

LUCAS

I'm sorry. I am sorry for keeping it from you, but I was scared. I didn't know what else to do.

LESLEY

I'm just disappointed in you. I thought you could trust me. I thought I presented myself as a trustworthy mother. What did I ever do to you that made you think that you could not trust me?

LUCAS

There were many things.

LESLEY

You can't be serious. If I was so untrustworthy, why are you talking to me now?

LUCAS

Because, it's out in the open now, I have to talk. We have to talk. I can't keep this in me any longer.

LESLEY

Well, you should have thought of that before you decided to let me know that I was a horrible mother.

LUCAS

You're not a horrible mother. I don't think that. Why did you get so emotional so quickly?

LESLEY

What am I supposed to get? I did everything for you and your sisters and you never came to talk to me about your problems. How do you think I feel when I find out over dinner that my son is gay, my daughter is having sex before marriage, and my oldest is getting beat the hell out of her house by her husband? Secrets, just dirty secrets you all decided to keep to yourselves. At what point did I become impossible to talk to?

LUCAS

I don't think I ever felt comfortable talking to you.

LESLEY

Well, thanks a lot son. You've just ruined my day.

LUCAS

Mother, would you let me finish. I can explain.

LESLEY

I don't want to hear it. This conversation is over. Please leave.

LUCAS

Mother please let me finish.

LESLEY

You can show yourself out. I don't even want to see you anymore.

LUCAS

Mother, please. *(Lesley exits to bedroom)*

TASHA
(Enters) Hey, Luke, how are you doing?

LUCAS
Okay, I guess.

TASHA
Have you seen mom.

LUCAS
She just went into her room.

TASHA
Oh. So, what brings you here?

LUCA
I came to talk to mom.

TASHA
Oh. Are you done, or is she coming back out?

LUCAS
We're not done, but I don't think she is coming back out.

TASHA
Oh, is everything alright?

LUCAS
No. I'm sorry for everything.

TASHA
What did you do to me?

LUCAS
I ruined the dinner. I'm sorry you had to witness that. I'm sorry that you had to hear everything.

TASHA
Don't worry about that. Besides mother is the one who ruined dinner. She still thinks she's a mother to you.

LUCAS
Well, she's still my mother.

TASHA

Yes, but her mothering season with you is over. She's still trying to control your life.

LUCAS

I, guess. I just wish I could have controlled myself. I should not have come out like that. I think I embarrassed Brian.

TASHA

Well, maybe you did it the wrong way, but it had to come out sooner or later. There's too many generational curses plaguing this family and the first step to stop them is to expose them.

LUCAS

How do you know so much? You sound like a psychologist.

TASHA

The word I get at church is rich. The pastor teaches me so much. I feel so empowered by the word she shares.

LUCAS

You actually listen to the preacher?

TASHA

Yes, I do. I listen to every word.

LUCAS

That's amazing. Well, I guess, I should be leaving now.

TASHA

Stay.

LUCAS

What?

TASHA

Stay. Mom is not going to be able to run forever, if you're not finished talking then stay.

LUCAS

Mother is not going to listen to me. Besides she is going to be upset that I chose to stay, when she told me to leave.

TASHA

There's only so much she can do to you. Just stay. My dad leaves soon, and I'm sure he won't mind. You'll have the house to yourself. You and mom can yell all you want at each other until you get it all out. That's the only way the pain is going to leave you.

LUCAS

What pain?

TASHA

The inner pain you feel. I know you feel it. There's no other way to get it out other than to get it out. Stay.

LUCAS

You're really wise for your age.

TASHA

Thank you, I know. Now, I have to go to the school bus stop. I'll see you later. When you see mother, tell her I left it in the kitchen.

LUCAS

Left what?

TASHA

She'll know what you're talking about. Bye Luke.

LUCAS

Bye Tasha. *(She exits)*.

JEFFREY

(Enters) Hey, what are you still doing here?

LUCAS

I was talking to Tasha. She came in here as mom left.

JEFFREY

Oh, where is she now?

LUCAS

She just left for school.

JEFFREY

Oh, okay. Is everything okay?

LUCAS

Not really.

JEFFREY

What's wrong?

LUCAS

She won't talk to me.

JEFFREY

Oh. Well, she just needs some time.

LUCAS

Tasha told me to stay.

JEFFREY

What do you mean?

LUCAS

She said to stay. She told me to stay here and talk to her. Would that be okay with you?

JEFFREY

Not a problem, but you can't make someone talk.

LUCAS

I know. But I need to talk.

JEFFREY

You're welcome to stay.

LUCAS

Thank you.

JEFFREY

No problem. I'll see you later. *(He exits).*

LESLEY

(After Jeffrey exits, Lucas exits to the bathroom. Once he exits Lesley enters). Tasha, Tasha, are you still here? She must have left already. I told her to leave it with me. *(She exits to the kitchen).*

LUCAS

(Enters and stands near bedroom door). It's nothing to be afraid of. I'm simply going to go in there and ask her if we can talk. *(He opens the door and walks in the room).*

LESLEY

(Enters with paper in her hand). Why did she leave it in the kitchen? *(Lucas enters, she jumps).* Luke! You scared me half to death. What are you still doing here? And what were you doing in my room?

LUCAS

I went in there to talk to you.

LESLEY

I told you to leave.

LUCAS

I was going to, but Tasha came in and we started talking. By the way she said she left it in the kitchen. She didn't tell me what it was.

LESLEY

She was talking about her permission slip for a school trip she's going on next month. Why are you still here?

LUCAS

After Tasha left, then Jeffrey came back out and then I went to the bathroom.

LESLEY

Oh, well, you can leave now.

LUCAS

Mother, I'm not leaving until we talk.

LESLEY

You've said enough.

LUCAS

No, I didn't.

LESLEY

Well, I heard enough.

LUCAS

Mother, you never gave me a chance to explain myself.

LESLEY

You know, what, if you won't leave, then I will.

LUCAS

Mother, please, I really need to talk to you. *(Lesley exits to her bedroom)*. Mother, it won't take long, I promise. If you would just give me a chance to speak to you I can explain. I can explain everything, if you let me. *(She enters with coat and pocketbook)*. Mother, please don't leave.

LESLEY

Bye, son. *(She exits)*.

LUCAS

God, why is this happening to me? I need to talk to her. God, can you please let me talk to her. I can't keep this to myself any longer.

JEFFREY

(Enters) Hey, you're still here.

LUCAS

Yeah.

JEFFREY

Where is she? Is she still in the room?

LUCAS

No, she left. She doesn't want to hear me.

JEFFREY

I told you, she needs time. Are you going to stay?

LUCAS

I don't know.

JEFFREY

Well, you have the place to yourself. I just came back to get something. I'll be right back. *(He exits to the bedroom).*

HEATHER

(The door bell rings, Lucas answers it). Luke, what are you doing here?

LUCAS

It's nice to see you too.

HEATHER

Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like that. Is mother here?

LUCAS

No, she just left.

HEATHER

(She enters the room with Derek). You remember Derek, right?

LUCAS

Yes, how are you doing?

DEREK

I'm doing fine. How about yourself?

LUCAS

Don't ask.

HEATHER

Seriously, Luke, what are you doing here?

LUCAS

I came to speak with mother, but she doesn't want to speak to me.

JEFFREY

(Enters) Hey, Heather, what are you doing here? Hi, Derek.

HEATHER

Hi, Jeffrey. I came here to speak to my mother.

JEFFREY

Well, she's not here. If you want you can wait around with Lucas. She should be back soon. Make yourselves at home. I have to get to work. See you guys later *(He exits)*.

LUCAS

Bye, Jeff

HEATHER

Bye, Jeffrey. Well, you feel like waiting around, Derek?

DEREK

Sure, why not?

LUCAS

I'm going to go.

HEATHER

Why?

LUCAS

It's useless. I'll see you guys later.

HEATHER
Bye, Luke

DEREK
Bye, Lucas.

HEATHER

(Lucas exits) Well, it's just you and me. She should be back soon. She never goes far.

DEREK

Why is it so important that we talk to your mother?

HEATHER

Because, we have to get things straight with her. I don't want her thinking that I go around having sex with anybody.

DEREK

Why do you care what she thinks?

HEATHER

I don't even know. The only thing I know is that I hate it when she's upset with me.

DEREK

Well, I don't think she's going to want to see me. I think she's upset with me.

HEATHER

She's not upset, besides she's going to have to get used to you. You're about to be her son-in-law.

DEREK

If she wouldn't listen to Lucas, why do you think she'll listen to you?

HEATHER

That's different. Lucas probably wanted to talk about our father and what he did to him.

DEREK

And?

HEATHER

And mother hates it when people talk bad about her late husband. She thought he was the world. She treated him as if he was her God or something. We won't even have to bring him up.

DEREK

I hope you don't mind me asking this.

HEATHER

What?

DEREK

How did your father die?

HEATHER

Drinking.

DEREK

What do you mean?

HEATHER

He had a drinking problem, amongst other things.

DEREK

How did drinking kill him?

HEATHER

He was driving. It was terrible. It was one of his regular nights of drinking. I don't know why he died that night. He was used to driving under the influence. But he lost control and that was the end of him.

DEREK

Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

HEATHER

Don't be. I'm not sure that I'm sorry yet.

DEREK

What do you mean?

HEATHER

My father was a great man when he was sober, which was seldom. He was very abusive towards my mom, but she wouldn't admit at the time. When he would go on his rages, she would end up getting slapped, punched, pushed, or something. After all was said and done she would take her anger out on us. She would be so upset with us and I just didn't understand it. That's why I can't have her upset with me. It just brings back too many bad memories.

DEREK

How old were you when he died?

HEATHER

I was ten. It seems just like yesterday and at the same time it feels like a long time ago. I have confused feelings about my father. I loved him very much and I hated him as well. I can't explain that. After he died we moved. About four years later she met Jeffrey and two years later they married. Tasha was born three years after that. It was so weird knowing my mother was pregnant at fifty years old.

DEREK

Your mother looks young for her age.

HEATHER

Everyone says that.

DEREK

Is she really that upset with you?

HEATHER

Yes. She is very stern about not having sex before marriage. I probably broke her heart.

DEREK

What do you think she is going to say?

HEATHER

I don't know. I just want to talk to her. I need her to understand that I did not break her rules intentionally. I need her to not be upset with me; I need her to forgive me for what I've done.

DEREK

You already repented and God has forgiven you. Why is it so important that she forgives you?

HEATHER

Because she's my mother. She was everything to me and for me. My father was barely around. When ever I needed something she got it for me. Whenever I needed help she helped me, and most importantly whenever I needed her she was there. I cannot have her disappointed in me.

DEREK

Well, you know if you weren't so quick with the mouth we wouldn't be in this predicament.

HEATHER

I know. When Lucas mentioned we were only getting married because I was pregnant I just lost it. I was completely taken off guard. I thought he found out that I was pregnant.

DEREK

But, you're not. You said it was negative.

HEATHER

Yeah, about that.

DEREK

You can't be serious. You're pregnant?

HEATHER

No. I had an abortion.

DEREK

What?

HEATHER

Calm down, everything's alright.

DEREK

No, it's not alright. Why didn't you ask me about it?

HEATHER

Because it's my body and I do what I want.

DEREK

But the baby was mine just as much as it was yours. I had every right to make a decision.

HEATHER

Well, it's too late, there's no need in getting upset about it. Besides, if my mother found out that I was pregnant she would have killed me. There is no way I would have been able to see her again if she would have found out that I had gotten pregnant before marriage.

DEREK

You still should have talked to me about it.

HEATHER

It doesn't matter. Even if I did talk to you, I still would have done it.

DEREK

Why? Don't you want children?

HEATHER

I can't have children. I can't bring children into this family. It's not normal.

DEREK

No ones family is normal.

HEATHER

You don't understand Derek; this family has secrets that could kill a child. Look at little Jake. His innocence was taken away from him.

DEREK

Your dad molested him too?

HEATHER

No, my dad was dead by the time he was born. Lucas molested him.

DEREK

How do you know that?

HEATHER

Vivian called and told me about Luke and not to mention her crazy husband. She is so stupid. Can you believe that her husband threw her and her child out of their home? This family is crazy. That's why I want to leave it. I want to get out so quickly that I can't wait until we get married. That's why we have to move, we have to move far away from this place and we can't have children. If we have children they are bound to come out crazy. I'm cursed, Derek, my family is cursed and every child that comes into it is violated in some kind of way. I surprised nothing happened to Tasha yet.

DEREK

Heather, I don't think I know you.

HEATHER

What are you talking about?

DEREK

I just met a new side of you today, and I don't think I like it.

HEATHER

Derek, what are you saying?

DEREK

I think we should leave.

HEATHER

I can't leave until my mother is not upset with me anymore. I can't have her upset with me.

DEREK

How do you know she's still upset?

HEATHER

Because she gave me the same look she's been giving me since I was a child and we haven't hugged. After I say I'm sorry she'll hug me and everything will be okay.

DEREK

Are you sure you're okay?

HEATHER

Derek, you can't leave me. Please don't leave me. Do you love me?

DEREK

Heather, of course I love you.

HEATHER

Then stay here with me, please, stay, you can't go.

DEREK

I think we both should go. We'll call your mother later on today.

HEATHER

No, I can't leave until I see her.

DEREK

Well, I'm not staying here.

HEATHER

You can't leave Derek; you're supposed to love me.

DEREK

Love has nothing to do with this.

HEATHER

I thought you said you loved me.

DEREK

Heather, let's go.

HEATHER

Just go, go ahead and leave. Leave me just like all the others. You use me up and then just leave me.

DEREK

What others?

HEATHER

Oh, so now you're mocking me.

DEREK

Heather, you need help.

HEATHER

Laugh, go ahead and laugh. See if I care, I don't need you. Just get out, get out.

DEREK

(He tries to hold her) Heather, just calm down.

HEATHER

Get off of me. Don't touch me. I don't want you here anymore. Get out, just get out.

DEREK

Heather, let's leave together.

HEATHER

GET OUT! (*Derek exits. Heather breaks down and cries*). God help me, please.
(*Blackout*).

SCENE SIX

This scene takes place in the living room of Jeffrey and Lesley's house.

LESLEY

Vivian, this is not good. You can't stay here, you know.

LESLEY

Mother, I know. I have to go look for an apartment for me and Jacob. Once I find one that I can pay for I will be out of here in no time.

LESLEY

Vivian, you need to go back to your husband.

VIVIAN

Mother, it is over between us. He doesn't want us there.

LESLEY

That is your house; you have every right to be there. Besides you're married to him. You can easily go to court and settle this thing.

VIVIAN

We're not married.

LESLEY

What do you mean?

VIVIAN

Mom, I didn't tell you this because I know you would freak, but we're divorced.

LESLEY

When the hell did that happen?

VIVIAN

Last week. Two days after I came here I went over to his house and he had the papers already written out. I didn't want to fight so I just signed them.

LESLEY

Well, then that shouldn't be a problem. How much is he paying you?

VIVIAN

He's not.

LESLEY

Well, okay, how much is he paying on child support?

VIVIAN

He's not.

LESLEY

Are you stupid? You let that man divorce you and leave you with nothing.

VIVIAN

I didn't want anything from him. Besides he wouldn't have given it to me.

LESLEY

That's what court is for.

VIVIAN

I can't fight him.

LESLEY

Yes, you can. Don't you still have Pre-Paid Legal?

VIVIAN

Yes, but I didn't want to fight him. Mother, you just don't understand.

LESLEY

Then make me understand. How the hell do you let your husband, kick you and your son out of your house and then you get a divorce without any compromise. How crazy are you? You don't do that.

VIVIAN

I just wanted out. That's all I know. I was trying to find the quickest way out of his life without any trouble. If I would have gone to court I would have to spend weeks, maybe even months going back and forth with him and that is something I did not want to do.

LESLEY

You still should have asked for child support. It's his child too. Is there child visitation?

VIVIAN

No.

LESLEY

Vivian he has the right to see his son.

VIVIAN

He doesn't want to.

LESLEY

What do you mean, he doesn't want to. That's his son.

VIVIAN

Mother, would you please just leave it alone.

LESLEY

I will not leave it alone. Jacob is going to grow up a wreck if he knows his father has abandoned him.

VIVIAN

It's not his fault okay. Rita won't let him see his son.

LESLEY

Who the hell is Rita?

VIVIAN

Kenneth's wife.

LESLEY

What did you just say?

VIVIAN

He got married. I caught him in bed with her about two years ago. I told him to stop and he told me no. When I started to order him to stop having sex with her that's when he started getting physical with me. He told me he had every right to have sex with other women. Their relationship continued until he threw us out. She got pregnant so they married and now she lives with him along with their daughter.

LESLEY

(A long pause occurs). How could you let any man do that to you? After everything you saw me go through with your father. How could you let a man use you like that?

VIVIAN

Mother, I don't know what happened. It just all happened. I didn't know how to stop it. I'm sorry, momma, I truly am. But you don't have to worry about me; I'll be out of your house as soon as possible. *(She exits)*

LESLEY

I don't believe this. *(The doorbell rings, she answers the door)*. Hey, Heather what brings you here?

HEATHER

Mom, I need to talk to you.

LESLEY

Come in.

HEATHER

I've been doing some thinking and I realized that I need help. I originally wanted you to forgive me for fornicating, but I now realize that it's not important anymore. I know what I did was wrong and I've already repented and so did Derek and we both agree that we would wait until after we get married. What I am trying to say is I can't live my life for you anymore.

LESLEY

Heather, you never had to.

HEATHER

I always felt like I did. Every time I did something wrong you made it very clear how disappointed you were. You made me feel so low, so I would always do everything right to get on your good side. It took you so long just to smile at me again.

LESLEY

It was just in your mind. You never had to live for me. All I expected you to do was your best.

HEATHER

No, you pushed me to do my best; you pushed me to try to live a perfect life. Mother, I was never like you and yet you always pushed yourself onto me.

LESLEY

Do you really think that?

HEATHER

Did you even realize how mad you had gotten once you found out that I wasn't a virgin?

LESLEY

All I ever wanted for you and your siblings was for you to not make the same mistakes I made.

HEATHER

But you tried too hard to make sure it didn't happen. I never got any relief from you. You were always down my neck about what I should and shouldn't be doing.

LESLEY

Well, I'm sorry if I was a little too harsh on you, but I didn't want you guys having to go down the same ugly roads. But I guess it's too late for that.

HEATHER

There's one other thing that I need to tell you. As much as I might regret doing this, I can't keep this a secret.

LESLEY

What?

HEATHER

Lucas was right. I don't know how he found out, but I was pregnant. I aborted it. Before you say anything, I know what I did was wrong and I hated doing it, but I thought it was the only thing to do. I'm sorry mother for being such a disappointment.

LESLEY

Heather, you were never a disappointment to me. *(They hug. Blackout).*

SCENE SEVEN

This scene takes place in Tasha's room. She and Jacob are playing video games.

JACOB

Tasha, jump over him. Tasha jump over him! Tasha what are you doing? You're messing up the game.

TASHA

Jake, I'm trying something different, just calm down.

JACOB

Tasha, would you just jump over him. *(He slams the controller down)*. You jerk, you see what you did. I could just punch you. *(He punches the floor)*.

TASHA

Now, wait a minute. You better calm down.

JACOB

What were you doing? I told you to jump over him. You screwed up the game.

TASHA

Jacob, remember this, and never forget it, you're not your father. So stop acting like him.

JACOB

DON'T YOU DARE COMPARE ME TO MY FATHER!

TASHA

Calm down, son. Respect your elders.

JACOB

I am your elder.

TASHA

Well, I'm your aunt; can you at least respect that?

JACOB

Sorry. I didn't mean to do that.

TASHA

That's better. You better watch yourself now. You're not too old for a spanking.

JACOB

Oh, please, you're not going to spank me.

TASHA

Try me. Now, look Jake, I'm sorry for what my brother did to you and I'm sorry for what your dad is doing to you. But I didn't do anything to you, so don't take it out on me.

JACOB

I already said I was sorry, so get over it.

TASHA

You have two choices Jake. You can either sit there like a big macho man and hold it all in, or you can be a real man and just let it out. You'll never feel better until you let it out.

JACOB

Men don't cry.

TASHA

Do you realize the bible says, Jesus wept? I believe Jesus cried to show all men that it is okay to cry. Think about, Jesus was the most powerful man, and yet he was humble enough to shed some tears. So trust me it is okay to cry. *(They continue to play the video games. As they are playing Jacob is trying to keep from crying. As he does so Tasha notices).* Jake, it's okay. Just cry. *(He slowly lets out a hard cry. Tasha holds him. Blackout).*

ACT TWO SCENE ONE

This scene takes place in the Living room. Brenda is sitting on the couch. The doorbell rings.

BRENDA

Aunt Lesley the doorbell is ringing. *(No answer)*. Did you want me to get it? *(No answer)*. I'll get it. *(She answers the door)*. Hey, Heather.

HEATHER

Hey, Brenda. It's weird seeing you here.

BRENDA

I came to meet with your mother. I'm taking her shopping. You know, to kind of relax her a bit. She's in her room getting ready. Did you need her?

HEATHER

Yeah, but if she's leaving I don't want to bother her. May I talk to you about something?

BRENDA

Of course.

HEATHER

I feel so bad.

BRENDA

What's wrong?

HEATHER

I waited too long.

BRENDA

Too long for what?

HEATHER

To get help. I've always knew that I needed help. I was so dependent on my mother's approval that I scared myself sometimes. I was good at hiding it though. But not this time.

BRENDA

Is everything okay?

HEATHER

Not, really. I think I ran Derek away. And I truly believe he really was the one for me. I've been calling him, but he won't call me back.

BRENDA

Well, for starters if he is "the one" he will come back to you. Secondly, never run after a man. It doesn't work. The bible says a man who findeth a wife, findeth a good thing. Let him find you.

HEATHER

I don't know if I can wait that long.

BRENDA

The best thing you can do during that time is work on yourself. Get rid of anyone or anything that is in you that doesn't belong in you. Start shedding the unwanted baggage. By the time you do that, he'll be back. But you need to work on yourself first.

HEATHER

How do I start? I'm too afraid I might find someone I don't want to see. Looking at yourself is difficult to do. Especially when you know there's something wrong with you. I feel liking hiding is easier.

BRENDA

Hiding is never easier. Because the more you hide, the more people you have to lie to. You have to look deep within yourself and start getting rid of anything you do not like about you.

HEATHER

Where do I start?

BRENDA

You have to start with the old you. Whatever age that your life started to go downhill is where you need to start. I know for Brian he told me he had to start at the age of eight. That's when Malcolm first molested him. He had to start there and work his way up. It's different for everyone, some have to start younger and others older, but you have to start where it all began. And start asking God to show you things you didn't even know was still hurting you. And then ask Him to remove the pain. And the most important thing you mustn't forget is you cannot be afraid to cry. You need to let those tears flow, as hard and as long as they need to.

HEATHER

But that's the thing. I'm afraid to start because I know once I look back in my past its going to hurt. I'm sick of hurting.

BRENDA

When you put alcohol on a bruise it hurts. But, if you leave it untreated it will cause harm. Sometimes you have to go through pain to keep you from harm.

HEATHER

I never thought of it that way.

VIVIAN

(Vivian enters). Hey, Heather, Brenda; what are you guys doing here?

HEATHER

I came to see mother, but Brenda is taking her shopping, to relax her.

VIVIAN

She needs it. I feel so bad taking up her space. Brenda, do you mind if I talk to you about something?

BRENDA

What about?

VIVIAN

Everything. I just need to get a bunch of things off my chest. And being that you're the only perfect one in the family, I came to talk to you.

BRENDA

No one is perfect.

VIVIAN

I don't know what to do. I tried, I really tried to forget him, but I can't.

BRENDA

Who?

VIVIAN

Kenneth.

BRENDA

Oh. I heard what happened. You know gossip travels fast in this family.

VIVIAN

I know. What do you think about the whole situation?

BRENDA

If you were meant to be with him then that divorce would have never been so easy. Besides he cheated on you and punched you around a bit.

VIVIAN

He didn't punch me.

BRENDA

Punched you, pushed you, what's the difference? The whole point is you should not have any feelings for him.

VIVIAN

I know, but I've been with him for fourteen years. You can't just throw that away. I mean, he was my everything. I could do nothing without him, and now he's gone.

BRENDA

Well, that's your first problem. You made him your God.

VIVIAN

What do you mean?

BRENDA

No man or woman should ever be your everything. We were not designed to be anyone's everything.

VIVIAN

But I don't know how I am going to start over. I've always lived with someone. I lived with my mom, and then when I went to college I lived with a roommate and then I got married. I was never alone or independent. I don't know how to start a life.

BRENDA

Well, unfortunately you're going to have to learn the hard way. Cold turkey. You don't have much of a choice; you have a son. You have to make a new life with son.

VIVIAN

This is going to be a difficult task.

BRENDA

Yes, it's going to be hard at first, but God never promised sunshine everyday all day. IN order to grow you need some rain and manure as well.

VIVIAN

Thank you Brenda, you're making me feel a lot better.

BRENDA

No, problem. That's what family is for. Now, another thing. You can't make him, but at some point you and Jake are going to have to talk.

VIVIAN

About what?

BRENDA

Your brother. *(Slight pause)*. You may not even want to hear it, but Jake is going to need to know you are willing to listen. He's going to need to talk to you, now that he knows you know.

VIVIAN

What do I say to him?

BRENDA

Nothing. Let him do all the talking. Just make sure you hear him. The sooner the better. *(Blackout)*.

SCENE TWO

This scene takes place in three different rooms simultaneously. Lesley is in her living room; Vivian is in the guest room; and Evelyn is in her living room.

LESLEY

I don't want to talk about it anymore, okay. Just leave it alone.

JEFFREY

You can keep ignoring it, but it will continue to appear in your life. You can't run from this forever.

LESLEY

I'm not running I am just not ready yet. Okay, I am just finding out that my husband was molesting my son and neither of them felt safe enough to tell me about their problems. How do you think it makes me feel?

JEFFREY

But, it's not about you anymore. Maybe if you give Lucas a chance he can explain to you why he never told you.

LESLEY

I'm just not ready.

JEFFREY

Well, if you cried about it already, maybe you could be ready.

LESLEY

Cried about what?

JEFFREY

The fact that your husband was screwing your son. *(Lesley slaps him)*. Well, that's what he was doing. And you can't get over it. You want to pretend like it means nothing to you.

LESLEY

It means everything to me. I'm hurting just as much as my son, just from the knowledge of it.

JEFFREY

Then cry, Lesley. Are you that afraid to cry?

LESLEY

I don't need to cry.

JEFFREY

You do. And the only reason why you're hurting is because for the first time in your life you realize as a mother you weren't able to protect your child. All your life you thought you protected him from every bully, and sickness, and every unspeakable thing, but now you have the knowledge that mommy wasn't able to protect him from his own father. And that is what is hurting you. So, until you cry that anger out, you will never be ready. *(Jeffrey Exits, Lucas enters.)*

SPLIT 3 SCENES

LUCAS

Mother, can I speak to you.

LESLEY

I guess so. *(Vivian and Evelyn enter)*.

JACOB

(Enters) Mother, can I speak to you.

VIVIAN

(Takes a deep breath). Sure, honey.

BRIAN

(Enters) Mother, can I speak to you.

EVELYN

Yes, baby, go right ahead.

LUCAS

I am sorry, for how I reacted at the dinner. I should have controlled my anger better than I did.

JACOB

I'm nervous right now. I'm a little embarrassed, and afraid all at the same time.

VIVIAN

It's okay, take your time.

BRIAN

I don't know where to start, but I know that I have to talk to you. I wanted to talk to earlier, but I always found a reason not to. It's so difficult to do this, but I have to do this, I need to do this, and I want to do this.

LUCAS

I wanted to tell you, honest, but I never knew how.

JACOB

I always felt like I didn't matter, so I just kept it to myself.

BRIAN

I didn't know how to tell you or even what to tell you.

LUCAS

I was ten when it started.

BRIAN

I was around nine years old when Malcolm first touched me.

JACOB

Lucas told me when I was eight that I was ready to know what feeling like a man is all about.

LUCAS

He came home drunk. I was home alone. You were at a doctor's appointment with Heather; and Vivian was out with a friend. He called me in the room and asked me to massage him. I didn't know what to do so he showed me. After the massaging he took his pants off and he told me it was time for me to learn how to be a man. He told me that I was old enough.

BRIAN

Malcolm was babysitting me and Lucas. He called us in the room and asked Lucas to massage him. Malcolm told me to do everything Lucas was doing, so I did. I was afraid at first, but Luke told me that it was okay, so I trusted him. He told me that I would like how it feels. So I did it.

JACOB

Lucas was babysitting me and Tasha. Tasha was sleeping at the time. He called me in his room and told me to massage him. I didn't know what to do so he guided me. From there he took off his pants and told me it was time for me to learn what being a man is all about.

LUCAS

It was about a year later that he started doing it to Brian as well. Every time he would come over and there was no one home he would massage us. He called it having pure fun.

BRIAN

Luke and I started doing it to each other when we were alone. I had gotten so used to it that I thought it was normal.

JACOB

He called it pure fun, that's all it was, he said. He called it the massage game. We would play every time we were alone.

LESLEY, VIVIAN, EVELYN

Why didn't you tell me?

BRIAN

I was afraid. Malcolm told me that I could get into a lot of trouble if you and daddy found out what I allowed him to do to me. I thought it was my fault, I felt guilty. I didn't want to get into trouble. By the time I had enough sense I liked it too much to stop. By then I was too ashamed to tell.

JACOB

You and dad always seemed to be arguing. There was never a time when I could tell you. Dad barely noticed me in the room and you were too busy getting up from off the floor. You and dad had your own problems. I didn't want to trouble you with mine.

LUCAS

I was too ashamed. I thought for sure you would hate me.

EVELYN

It wasn't your fault. You should have told me, and there's nothing to be ashamed of, you were too young to understand.

VIVIAN

Jake, I do agree daddy and I had our off times, but I truly wish you would have said something.

LESLEY

I could never hate you. What made you think that?

LUCAS

Do you remember when our neighbor Sarah found out her husband was cheating on her with Gina the waitress from the diner?

LESLEY

Of course I do, but what does that have to do with anything?

LUCAS

Do you remember your reaction? Do you remember what you said?

LESLEY

No, not really. What does that have to do with anything?

LUCAS

You said, and I quote, “Gina, is a slut, and an abomination to this earth and should be persecuted by God in every way. She had no right sleeping with someone’s husband. If I ever caught someone having sex with my husband I would kill them. And I don’t think I could ever forgive them.”

LESLEY

I still don’t see what that has to do with anything.

LUCAS

I was that someone having sex with your husband.

LESLEY

But that is completely different. You weren’t having sex, you were being molested.

LUCAS

At first I was. Don’t get me wrong I knew what I was doing was wrong, but there were times when I enjoyed what I was doing. (*Begins to cry*). Do you know how much I’ve been hurting because of that? I enjoyed having sex not only with my father, but my cousin. I’m sick mother, I’m sick.

LESLEY

You didn’t know any better.

JACOB

By the time I had realized what Luke was doing to me was wrong I didn’t want it to stop. As much as it is wrong, I didn’t want it to stop. He made me feel things I never felt before.

VIVIAN

But you were too young to understand.

BRIAN

I wanted to tell you, I honestly did, but I didn’t want it to stop. Malcolm did some things to me that felt too good to be true. The feelings he invoked in me were indescribable. It kept me ashamed and embarrassed of myself.

EVELYN

Of course it felt good it was sex, but you were too young to understand what was going on.

LUCAS

I felt ashamed and guilty and afraid and good all at the same time, ma. The emotions I felt made me feel like a train wreck. I almost exploded with the emotions running rampant in me. You know I tried to kill myself...twice.

BRIAN

After the second time of failing, I decided it just wasn't my time.

JACOB

I thought that maybe if I killed myself daddy wouldn't hate you anymore and I wouldn't feel so bad.

LESLEY

I can't believe you held this in for so long. Was I never approachable to you? I mean even after your uncle died, you didn't feel comfortable enough to speak to me?

LUCAS

It wasn't you after he died, it was me. I was too ashamed of myself. I couldn't live with myself if you knew. I was afraid of what you would think of me.

JACOB

I wanted to tell you, I honestly did, but every time I tried I just heard a voice telling me that it was too shameful for you to know. I didn't want you to be disgusted with me.

VIVIAN

I could never be disgusted with you. Jake, listen to me, you need to know that this wasn't your fault. And it's normal for you to have enjoyed it; there is nothing to be ashamed of. You need to understand that.

LESLEY

I am so sorry for ignoring you this long. You have every right to feel ashamed, guilty, and even embarrassed, but you can't stay there forever. At some point you have to realize that this wasn't your fault. There was nothing you could do to stop it. Your father was the adult. He knew what he was doing was wrong. This is not your fault. Do you understand that?

LUCAS

Momma, it just hurts. It really hurts.

LESLEY

I know baby, I know, just let it out.

JACOB

Why can't I make this feeling go away?

VIVIAN

Jake, this is not your fault. You have no reason to be ashamed or guilty.

JACOB

But I can't stop this feeling.

VIVIAN

That's because you have to let it out. You have to just let it out.

EVELYN

You know this wasn't your fault, right?

BRIAN

Momma, I don't know. I want to think that, but I feel like I'm at fault here.

EVELYN

Stop this, just stop this right now. No more. You can't be ashamed forever. There's a season for guilt, but it can't last forever.

BRIAN

But I can't stop this pain I'm feeling.

EVELYN

That's because you have to cry it out. That's the only way it'll go away. You have to start crying again. Come on, cry it out.

*(At this moment Brian and Evelyn; Vivian and Jacob; and Lesley and Lucas hug all crying in each other arms. A spot comes up on Heather crying in Derek's arms).
Blackout.*

SCENE THREE

This scene takes place in the living room of Jeffrey and Lesley. The scene opens with no one in the scene. After a few seconds the doorbell is rung and Vivian answers the door.

VIVIAN

Hi, Luke. Mom's not here.

LUCAS

That's okay. Can I talk to you?

VIVIAN

I guess. What's wrong?

LUCAS

I don't know if this will mean anything to you, but I have to do this. I am sorry for what I did to your son *(Starts to cry)*. If I could take everything back I would in a second. I can give a list of reasons why I did what I did, but it won't change the damage I have already done to Jake. I don't know if you can forgive me or ever will, but I just want you to know that I am sorry for what I did. I want to say more, I feel like I need to say more to you, but I don't know what to say.

VIVIAN

Don't say anything else. *(She grabs him and they hug. They both are crying heavily. After a moment she lets go and calls Jake)*. Jake, get down here.

LUCAS

What are you doing?

VIVIAN

You have to talk to him.

LUCAS

No, I'm not ready to do that.

VIVIAN

If you're not ready now, you'll never be ready.

JACOB

(Enters) Yes, mom.

VIVIAN

Your uncle needs to speak to you. *(She exits)*.

LUCAS

Where are you going?

VIVIAN

I'll be in the guest room.

LUCAS

(He walks towards her and whispers) You can't leave me alone with him.

VIVIAN

I trust you.

LUCAS

Vivian, please do not do this.

VIVIAN

It'll be okay. *(She exits)*.

JACOB

So, what's up?

LUCAS

(He pauses before he speaks). Jake, I feel very scared to be here alone with you. Ashamed and afraid.

JACOB

Don't worry; I'm not going to let you do anything to me.

LUCAS

Do you forgive me?

JACOB

You never apologized.

LUCAS

I am so sorry, Jake. I'm sorry. I'm very sorry.

JACOB

I forgive you, Uncle Luke.

LUCAS

Thank you. You know everything I did to you, my father did to me.

JACOB

I know.

LUCAS

I hate myself for what I did to you. I messed you up.

JACOB
Don't hate yourself.

LUCAS
May I ask you a question?

JACOB
Sure.

LUCAS
Why didn't you stop me?

JACOB
(He pauses before he speaks). I trusted you.

LUCAS
I'm sorry.

JACOB
I know it sounds weird, but I looked forward to the time we had.

LUCAS
Why? I abused you.

JACOB
It was the only time I felt wanted. I considered you to be my father.

LUCAS
What about your dad?

JACOB
He was barely home, and when he was he was always too busy for me. I felt special being with you, because for the first time someone actually wanted to spend time with me. I just wish now we did something different.

LUCAS
I'm so sorry. I wish I didn't do that either. I can't understand why I couldn't control my urges.

JACOB
Probably the same reason why your dad couldn't fight his.

LUCAS
Jake. Jacob.

JACOB

What?

LUCAS

You have to promise me, you have to promise me something.

JACOB

What?

LUCAS

With all your power and with all your might, you have to fight your urges. You cannot repeat this cycle. It has to end with you. *(Pause)*. You haven't done this with anyone else have you?

JACOB

No. If anyone at school found out what I did I would have been bullied.

LUCAS

I know your mom is having some financial problems, but if I want to I can pay for you to get some help. You know professional help. You need it.

JACOB

Grandma and Grandpa Jeff already enrolled me. I meet with her every Wednesday.

LUCAS

Oh, that's great.

JACOB

Are you going to get help?

LUCAS

(Pause). Yeah, I need it. Jake I really am sorry for ruining your life.

JACOB

It's not ruined. It's a bit messed up, but it's not ruined.

LUCAS

(Both give a light hearted laugh). Jake, I'm sorry.

JACOB

You're forgiven. *(They hug. Black out)*.

SCENE FOUR

This scene takes place in Lesley's living room. Lesley, Jeffrey, and Tasha are in the room watching television. The door bell rings, Jeffrey answers the door).

JEFFREY

Hey, Brian and Brenda it's so great to see you.

BRENDA

Hello, Uncle Jeffrey. Thanks for inviting us.

JEFFREY

You're welcome. Thanks for coming.

BRENDA

Oh, no problem. Brian assured me that there would be no drama outbursts. So, just as long as that is true I will stay.

JEFFREY

Um...okay. *(He goes to shut the door).*

LUCAS

What are you doing? Trying to shut me out?

JEFFREY

Of course not. I'm sorry. I didn't see you. So, how are you?

LUCAS

I am well. Much better. Much better than before.

JEFFREY

Great. *(He shuts the door. Brian, Brenda, Lucas, Tasha, Jeffrey, and Lesley greet and commune with each other). (The doorbell rings, Jeffrey answers it). Hey, Heather, Derek, come right in.*

VIVIAN

(Rushing in behind Heather). Hold the door please.

JEFFREY

Hey, Vivian. Hey, Jacob. What's happening, man?

JACOB

Hello.

LESLEY

(They continue to commune). Well, I think that's everyone.

BRIAN

No. It's not.

LESLEY

Who's missing? *(The doorbell rings. They all look at each other and say in unison, "Evelyn").* I'll get it. *(She answers the door).* Hey, girl.

EVELYN

Hey, Evelyn has arrived.

LESLEY

(They all greet Evelyn and continue to commune before Lesley speaks). Tasha, turn the television off, please. Well, guys, Jeffrey invited you all here under my orders. I didn't think you would come here if I invited you. I simply wanted to take the time to apologize to you. My behavior has been childish and I am really sorry for what I did and said. I guess I never truly got over my husband's death. I didn't realize until I cried that I was masking my feelings by trying to control everyone else's life. I truly hope that each and every one of you will find it in your heart to forgive you.

EVELYN

Lesley, you know I forgive you. *(Each one begins to hug Lesley saying they forgive her.)*

LUKE

I just want to say out in the open that I forgive my father. It took me a long time to let go, but I finally did. And to Vivian, I am really sorry for what I did to Jacob. I know how much I hurt him and if you feel the need to press charges I will completely understand.

VIVIAN

Thank you Luke, but that would be up to Jacob.

JACOB

Luke, I forgive you. *(Jacob hugs Luke).* Don't worry I won't go to the cops.

BRIAN

Luke, I forgive you too. For the longest time I blamed you for what your dad did to me. What he did to us. And I forgive Uncle Malcolm as well. *(Brian hugs Luke).* And mom, I hope you can forgive me for not telling you. I really wanted to, but I didn't know how.

EVELYN

I forgive you, baby. *(Evelyn hugs Brian).* Oh, I forgive everyone. *(Everyone hugs each other in forgiveness).*

JEFFERY

Well, if we all truly forgive one another I think we can finally move forward. You know, leave the past in the past and not let it interfere with our present or future.

VIVIAN

I can agree to that.

LUKE

Me too. *(Everyone agrees with words).*

JEFFERY

Well, then I guess we can eat. *(Everyone agrees).*

LESLEY

(Everyone gathers around the table and sits. They continue to adlib with one another. Lesley interrupts). Okay quiet everyone, its time for prayer. Jeffery?

JEFFERY

Heavenly father we thank you for brining us together once again. We thank you for blessing each one of us and we thank you for this meal we are about to eat. We ask you to bless it in Jesus' name, Amen *(Everyone says amen).*

TASHA

(Everyone continues to talk (adlib) to each other once again before TASHA speaks). Luke.

LUKE

Yes, Tasha.

TASHA

So, are you gay? *(Everyone responds (adlibs) (examples: Oh, my gosh Tasha not now; Tasha leave him alone; Tasha only you; etc.))* **Fade to black.**

THE END