

The Playwright's Intention

My intention is to make the audience understand that as a single parent you are your child's only role model. It is based around your decisions as a single parent to make the right choice that will help your child's life and health. It is your actions that they see and take with them to act again as you showed. It is also your words they hear that stick with them forever, locked in their minds. The audience will understand how a child was done wrong by and not given the best life or any affection from the person they need most, witnessing as an adolescent many wrong turns. (1)

The Characters

CATHY: A beautiful, young and single mother of a 15 year old daughter however, she is 32 years and lost her job. She has an alcoholic problem which she can't admit. Cathy is also abusive toward people, physically and with her words
 ELLIE: A smart, intelligent and beautiful young girl at the age of 15. She is kind and caring but comes across shy because she is afraid to open up to people. She is passionate about learning and reading. Ellie is motivated to get an education so that her life is different from her mothers. She is a strong minded and strong hearted. But lacks in confidence, afraid of her mother.

The door opens and the mother stumbles in from stage right, knocking into chairs and dropping keys and falling over making a racket. Ellie is has gotten out of bed and is getting a drink from the kitchen ignoring her mum. Ellie come in from stage right.

Cathy *(Falling over, picking up her keys)* ah crap *(pause and sees Ellie)* what are you doing up?
(Ellie ignores her) huh, it's late.

Ellie *(pause walking out of the kitchen with her drink)* nothing, I'm just getting a drink

Cathy *(sitting down on the chair rubbing her head)* um excuse me, are you not gonna offer your mother a drink?

Ellie **Haven't you had enough?** *(mumbles under her breath walks back to the kitchen)*

Cathy **What did you say?** *(pause)* Ellie, don't worry about the frinkin drink I'll get it myself, like I have to do everything around this dump *(pause)* you know the lest you could have done, is these dishes *(pause)* look at it! *(she is still sitting down)*

Ellie ***(Takes a deep breath and calmly)*** sorry, I was busy today *(walks towards her mother)* I can do them now if you want.

Cathy ***(Signs)*** ohhhhh, I'm sorry Ellie, don't worry, we'll just do it tomorrow kay. *(Pause)* come sit down; tell me about your day at school.

Ellie Oh mum, I have school tomorrow and you've had way too much to drink *(Pause)* I'll tell you about it the morning... *(Pause)* when you've had a sleep. *(walking away)*

Cathy ***(her voice stern and heavy)*** Ellie. I'm fine. I've...I've just had a few drinks *(pause)* anyway I have this guy to tell you about *(Ellie walks slowly to her mother)* I think your like him, he's tall and handsome...sit down Ells..... and he has quite a lot of money.

Ellie ***(Sitting down)*** what's his name?

Cathy Oh... um..... Tim? No wait.... Tyson.... Oh heck Ellie who cares right? *(laughs and pulls out a cigarette out of her bag)*

Ellie Mum you don't even remember the guy's name! Your just gonna let him screw you then leave...mum don't....

Cathy ***(Cathy interrupts)*** don't what? *(Raises her voice)* don't let him have me and then let him leave... *(Puffs in her cigarette)* anyway *(pause)* what man is gonna marry a woman with a 15 year old daughter...huh... miss know-it-all. (2, 3)

Ellie *(waves the smoke away from her face and pauses)* I'm going to bed *(stands up)*

Cathy **NO!** *(Standing up in Ellie's way)* sit back down! *(Ellie doesn't sit down)* I said sit down! *(Ellie sits down)* what is your problem? Is it me? Is it school? What about boys? It has to be boys... *(Pause)* cause your acting all weird. *(puffing her smoke)*

Ellie ***(Coldly)*** its not boys or school.... *(pause)* And can you not smoke in my face!

Cathy ***(Laughs and turns to get bottle of whiskey)*** come on Ellie tell me what's wrong? *(Unable to stand or walk properly).* Let out your problems or I might as well ring up ma man.... *(Pause)* for a bit of fun.

Ellie ***(Disgusted)*** you're disgusting. *(Stands up about to walk away)* and you know what *(pause)* I. (2,3)

Cathy **What?**

Ellie (Walks towards her mother) that's right. You are not my mother! (Pause) sorry wasn't I clear. (pause) You are not my mother!

Cathy (shocked) Ellie.... You don't mean that. (takes a big gulp of whiskey)

Ellie I mean it with every bone in my body! I mean with every beat of my heart!

Cathy (interrupts) Shut up Ellie! I have done the best I could. I brought you into this world, I...I

Ellie (Sarcastic) oh wow I'm sorry mum. I'm sorry that your best is not even coming home some nights, and when you are, you have some guy feeling you up on the couch or....or maybe your best is coming home at night with a bottle of vodka or whiskey instead of paying for the power or food! (Mother rubs her head and accidently drops her whiskey) if this is your best I am afraid to see your worst!

Cathy (Mother drops to the floor) look what you did! You stupid girl! (Stumbling back up) that was my last bottle.... 20 bucks down the drain! Have some bloody respect!

Ellie (Angry) respect! Please don't talk to me about respect. (Pause) especially when you don't even know what the word means!

Cathy You have some real guts aye Ellie? And with all the respect you have... (pause) I think you're ready for some truth! You wana know why I drink so much (stumbling around, getting close to Ellie) it is because it makes me forget that you... Are... Here! You want to know why I lost my job..... (Pause) again it is because of you! Oh and Ellie.... You want to know why your father left....it was because he didn't want you! (Snickering) yes Ellie he didn't want you...

Ellie I hate you! Stop blaming me for you EVERYTHING you did! You can't be my mother.... (pause) You can't be a wife (pause) and you lost your job because you couldn't handle the pressure...and that is why you started drinking! (pause) Your drinking and abusive behaviour is what drove my father away!

Cathy And I have been the best mother to you! Don't you ever forget that ! (Cathy walking up to Ellie and pushing) okay! (Raising her voice each time) okay.....you got that!

Ellie A mother! (Pause) that feels so unnatural coming from you! (Slightly pushes her mother away) (4) when was the last time we had a mother daughter talk? (pause) NEVER! When was the last time you said something nice about me? (Pause) like oh Ellie your hair looks nice today..... NEVER! (Her voice softer and quieter) when was the last time you hugged me and said I love you.
There is total silence in the room the mother sits down on the chair. Her head is cupped in her hands. The mother knows Ellie is right but doesn't want to show it. Ellie is standing up. Her body kind of limp. Feeling sorry for her mum but doesn't want to show it.

Ellie It's all I want (pause walks towards her mother and sits down) Three simple words.

Cathy I (pause) I (stutters)

Ellie Please (pause) mum.
Cathy says nothing.

Ellie Right well (pause) you (pause) you made your feeling pretty clear about how everything's my fault (pause) so I'll be gone tomorrow morning (pause) I'm going to find my father despite what you say and I'm going to live with him (pause) I have watched you drink yourself to sleep (pause) I have watched you suffer losing your job (pause) I have heard you abuse me with your hurtful words and felt you shoving and hitting me because (pause) because of having me. You lost the love of your life. (Pause) but mum (twitches when she says mum) I'm going to school (pause) and I'm really good, in every subject I get an A plus. Mr) Terry my English teacher says that I have great potential and

Cathy (interrupts Quietly) Ellie.....

Ellie (Interrupts she hasn't finished) and I know you haven't been the best role model...

Cathy (interrupts more loudly) Ellie.... (pause).... leave

Ellie (Confused) what?

Cathy You heard... Ellie (pause) I want you to leave... (Pause) you said so yourself I am an unfit mother (pause) you don't know me.... (pause) and I don't know you.....(pause) I'm sorry but leave (Ellie doesn't move) Ellie get out! Get out now! (5)

Ellie I don't understand.... (getting up slowly)

Cathy Gets up and grabs Ellie pushing her toward the exit which is stage right) you will never understand Ellie (pause) I don't expect you to (pause) but I want you to leave and leave now!

Ellie Please...please (while exits stage right) (6)