

Jamie

Characters:

Jamie (1 & 2): Jamie is a 16 year old girl who has a job at the local supermarket. Her family is middle class and she's a shy girl, but all her friends love her. She's recently started to fight with her father.

Rob: He's just recently lost his job, and has become more aggressive towards his family members ever since.

Molly: Is a working mother and has recently started to fight with her husband Rob, and is scared of him.

Intention: To show how stress can pull a family apart. To show that domestic abuse is unacceptable and that people should not stay around to be abused. (1)

Jamie 1 is sitting in her room on the floor, opening up a brand new diary. She opens it and then stops what she is doing to hear her parents arguing (they're offstage)

Molly: I don't care Rob! We're not kicking her out!

Jamie 1 freezes and listen's very carefully, Rob and Molly are still offstage.

Rob: Why not? It's not like she's doing any good being here!

Molly: But she's our daughter!

Jamie 1 stops listening and starts to write in her diary.

Jamie 1: Those are my parents, Rob and Molly Baker. Yes I know, weird last name. My parents weren't always fighting, we use to be one big happy family.

Freezes on Jamie 1, then goes to a flashback. It's Jamie's birthday and her parents come onstage from middle stage left, and then stops to where Jamie 2 is and try to wake her up. (2)

Molly: Jamie, Jamie dear? Time to wake up.

Jamie 2 slowly wakes up and notices her parents standing there.

Rob and Molly: Happy Birthday sweetie!

Molly hands Jamie 2 a parcel, so Jamie opens it and finds a diary.

Jamie 2: Thanks mum! Thanks dad! I've always wanted a diary!

They freeze and then focus back on Jamie 1, Jamie 2, Molly and Rob go offstage left. Jamie 1 is still sitting on the floor writing in her diary.

Jamie 1: Yes, one big happy family. And then my dad lost his job, that's when it all started.

Flashback: Molly is in the kitchen baking cookies, when she slams shut and Rob comes out from middle stage left.

Molly: Hello dear, your home early.

Rob (sounding annoyed): I lost my job.

Molly: What do you mean you lost your job?

Rob (raised voice): It means I lost my job!

Molly: OK dear, you don't need to raise your voice

Molly goes over to him and comforts him.

Rob (raised voice): Don't tell me what I can and can't do!

They freeze and then they walk offstage left. Focuses on Jamie 1, still writing in her diary.

Flashback: Rob is in the lounge watching TV. Jamie 2 walks in and approaches him.
Jamie 2: Dad? I was wondering if you could please read my essay? To see if I'm on the right track.
Rob: No, I'm watching the Rugby match. Go ask your mother.
Jamie 2: But she's gone to the supermarket. Can't you just read it?
Rob starts to get annoyed and turns to look at Jamie 2.
Rob: I said I'm busy! Wait till your mother gets home!
Jamie 2: But your only watching the Rugby!
Rob: Go to your room! And don't argue back!
Jamie 2 walks offstage and Rob goes back to the T.V. When it focuses back on Jamie 1, Rob goes offstage. Jamie 1 is still sitting on the floor and writing in her diary.
Jamie 1: Things got more intense during that week. My father finally cracked. It was a rainy night and I was late coming home from school, and we both got into an argument... again.
Flashback: Rob is sitting on the lazy boy flipping through channels and Jamie 2 walks in soaking wet.
Rob: And where have you been? You don't normally get home this late!
Jamie 2 (tonelessly): We got let out late, what's the big deal?
Rob: The deal is that you should've been home half an hour ago! And why are you all wet?
Jamie 2: I told you, we got let out late and SOMEBODY forgot to pick me up from school, so I had to walk home, in the RAIN!
Rob (raising his voice): Don't you talk to me like that!
Jamie 2 (yelling back): Well maybe you shouldn't yell at...
Rob and Jamie freeze just as Rob raise's his hand. When it focuses back on Jamie 1, Jamie 2 and Rob go offstage.
Jamie 1: See what I mean? Things have gotten out of hand. Dad gets worked up over the littlest things these days. I really don't know what to do! He's got my mum all scared of him.
Freezes on Jamie 1 and focuses on Rob sitting in the lazy boy again watching TV and Molly walks in.
Molly: Rob dear, it's time to come to bed. You've been in front of the TV all day.
Rob (tonelessly): I'm not tired.
Molly walks over to him and puts a hand on his shoulder.
Molly: Dear, I've been thinking, maybe it's time to look for another job.
Rob brushes her hand off his shoulder.
Rob: I don't think I need to get another job. We're doing fine on just one job. Plus the girls got a job.
Molly: But we're starting to struggle as it is, we need that...
Rob stands up and turns to look at Molly.
Rob (sounding angry): I said we're doing fine! I don't need a job! Take up a second job if you need to!
Rob sits back down and starts to watch the TV again. Molly goes offstage, looking scared. It freezes and we see Jamie 1 back in her room, Rob goes offstage. Jamie 1 pauses to listen if her parents are still fighting, but it's silent.
Jamie 1: OK, now it's silent, but that doesn't mean anything. Now anything could happen.
Jamie 1 pulls out her iPod and puts the earphones in her ears and starts to listen to Concrete Angel, (In the background the first 30 seconds will be playing).

Jamie 1: Listening to music helps me think. It also blocks out the fighting.
Jamie 1 freezes and it focuses on Jamie 2 in her room, listening to Wannabe by the Spice Girls (that song will be playing in the background). *She's dancing around and jumping on her bed singing along. Rob is outside her door and is trying to get her attention but Jamie 2 isn't listening.*
Rob (yelling): Turn that rubbish down!
He keeps banging on the door until he gets fed up and opens the door.
Rob: Did you not hear me? I told you to turn that rubbish down!
Jamie 2: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.
Gets off her bed and walks over to her iPod/stereo and turns down the music.
Rob: Well obviously you couldn't hear me because your music was to LOUD!
Jamie 2: Well I said I was sorry! You don't have to have a mental at me!
Molly walks from upstage left, looking scared.
Molly: Why is everyone shouting?
Rob: This girl had her music up to loud!
Jamie 2: I said I was sorry and this girl has a name!
Molly: Rob, she said she was sorry, now come on. I'll make you some tea.
Molly and Rob walk offstage (Rob talking under his breath, saying something about respect). Focuses on Jamie 1 (Jamie 2 walks offstage), she's now lying on her bed in her room.
Jamie 1: I'm so over this place. I wish I could go away and never come back! I thought about running away and living with my Nana, but that didn't work out the way I hoped. I got caught in the act!
Jamie 1 freezes and it focuses on Rob in the lounge asleep on the lazy boy. Jamie 2 comes onstage trying to sneak out of the house. She steps on a creaky floorboard and Rob instantly wakes up.
Rob: Molly? Is that you?
Jamie 2 keeps walking, but then bumps into Rob.
Rob: What are you doing up at this time of night?
Rob spots her bag and glares at her.
Rob: And what do you think you're doing with that?
Jamie 2: I'm going to Nan's house! I'm sick of this house! I'm sick of YOU!
Rob: Don't talk to me like that! At least I've given you a roof over your head!
Jamie 2 ignores him and walks offstage. Jamie 1 is back in her room (Rob walks offstage), still writing in her diary. She can hear Rob yelling in the kitchen. Molly knocks on the door (on the wall) and walks in.
Molly: Come on Jamie, pack your things, we're leaving.
Jamie 1 notice's that Molly has a black eye.
Jamie 1: Where are we going?
Molly: To your Grandparents, now quickly!
Molly helps Jamie 1 pack her stuff and then there's a knock on the door/wall.
Rob: Where is my dinner!
When they've finished packing, they walk towards the other side of the stag, but then Molly stops.
Jamie 1: Mum? What are you doing? Molly: Goodbye Rob, we're leaving.
Rob walks onstage, and stares at the bags.
Rob: Where do you think you're going?
Molly: We, meaning Jamie and I, are going to my parents for awhile. While Jamie and I are gone, you better get yourselves sorted.
Rob: Get myself sorted? I don't NEED to get myself sorted!
Molly: Don't need to? Don't NEED to? Ever since you lost your job you've been abusive and violent!
Rob (raised voice): I have not! What have I done that's been abusive lately?
Molly: You've yelled at us and you've hit Jamie and me! Look I'm really sorry, but until you've sorted yourself out, we can't stay here any longer.
Molly and Jamie 1 walk offstage, leaving Rob standing in the middle of the stage.