## I take it back

## The intention

Through this play I wanted to explore the relationship between a mother and daughter when tension has been allowed to come between them. It can be common for children to not appreciate what parents do for them and how much they care for them. I would like the audience to be moved by this play knowing how important it is to let each other know how much they mean to them. Anything could happen to a family member and if it does you don't want your last words you said to them to be horrible. I want the audience to walk away feeling respect for their family members or most importantly their mothers and fathers, because too often parents aren't treated with the kindness that they should be treated with. (2)

## The Script

Lights up. The stage is completely bare; Susan is lying still on a hospital bed on centre stage. (1) Jenny is on her left holding her hand subhing quietly

her left holding her hand sobbing quietly.

Jenny This can't be happening. No! Mum! (Shakes Susan gently) Mum please, just wake up. For me? I'm sorry for

what I- I'm sorry for everything. I didn't mean those things I said to you, I was just angry! (Susan doesn't respond, Jenny starts to sob) you can't leave me now, you just can't (pause) I'm so sorry, can you please forgive me? You can't leave me by myself like this! (There is silence except the artificial breathing of

Susan).

Doctor enters from stage right with a clipboard and pen, checks the breathing of Susan

Jenny How is she? Will she wake up?

Doctor (hesitates) I Can't tell you exactly... Maybe. Maybe not... we're really holding onto hope right now.

doctor walks around the hospital bed and comforts Jenny

Jenny (she cries and grabs her mothers hand) Please don't let her die; I have so much I have to say to her.

Doctor I know. We'll do our best, Jenny.

Doctor puts her hand on Jenny's shoulder and exits stage right.

Jenny (looks at her mother lying still, wipes the tears from her eyes) I love you too, mum.

Blackout. (5) Flash back before accident. Lights up, on stage right there are two chairs facing each other,

Jenny slouching in one of them. Susan enters stage right with two plates of dinner. Puts one of them on the

table by Jenny. (stares blankly at Jenny) No it's ok, no need to say thank you. I only spent an hour and a half in the kitchen

cooking your favourite dinner, because I care about you. (says cheekily)

Jenny I'm not hungry.

Susan (Sits down awkwardly) uh...ok.

Jenny plays with her food as there is a long pause. (3)

Susan So...How's school honey?

Jenny Fine.

Susan

Susan Got any results back?

Jenny No.

What about Elizabeth? How is she? Spoken to her much? Susan

Uh...I guess. Jenny

(tries to lighten the mood by speaking in a more cheerful tone) How are the kids you've been hanging round Susan

with? Are they fun? Because I know you love to have fun!

(no expression) Their alright. Jenny

Pause (3)

Susan Um... Have you been spending time with anybody special lately... someone you maybe... like?

Mum, what are you talking about? You're kind of invading my personal space, I advise you back off a bit. Jenny

(looks down at her dinner and then back up at Susan).

Susan Well, it's just that I bumped into Jan the supermarket and we got talking about you. She mentioned

something about you and a boy hanging around outside of school together... quite often (pause) I don't know, I thought maybe you wanna talk to me about him? (Forces a half-hearted smile). Like old times?

(Looks down embarrassed) it's none of your business mum. Can you just leave it please? Jenny

(her face drops) I'm sorry honey, I- I'm just curious. When are you going to open up to me huh? (pause) Susan

Jenny, please answer me. I'm not sure what's going on in your life anymore.

Yeah, well, I like it so let's just keep that way so drop it alright. Jenny

Susan Just know I'm always here if you wanna talk. About anything ok?

Sure, whatever Jenny

Long silence. (3) Susan stands up slowly taking her plate and Jenny's plate full of untouched dinner.

Susan Well, I better go to work now. Call me if you have any problems, puddings in the fridge. (long pause) I love

you, Jen.

Jenny (without hesitation) Bye.

Sadly, Susan exits stage right and there is a sound of a door closing. Blackout. (5)

Flash forward back to the hospital room. (1) Lights up, the hospital bed sits on centre stage with Susan

lying

still on it. Jenny on her right, holding her hand.

(sobbing) His name's Joey. He's in my year. He's really nice. Tall, handsome, amazing smile. You would Jenny really like him (pause) He asked about you...when he would get to meet you (starts to tear up) I said... I

didn't want him to. (Jenny starts to raise her voice) But I do mum! I really do! Why can't you just wake up?

Wake up mum! Wake up! (squeezes hand) Doctor rushes in wondering what the racket is.

Hey! Hey, It's ok Jenny, its ok. Come on now...you'll be ok. (The doctor rocks Jenny and calms her down Doctor

while she cries on her shoulder) It's alright. You're alright, we'll look after her, and we'll look after you too. (begs) Don't let her die. I'm begging you! She's all I have. Just Don't let her die. She has to keep fighting!

She has to do it for me!

We're trying. There's nothing more we can do, you just have to pray for her Jenny, pray that she wakes up Doctor

(Pause) are you going to be ok in here by yourself?

I'll be fine. Thanks. Jenny

Push this button if you need anything. I'll be here in an instant. Get some sleep Jenny, we'll get you a Doctor

blanket and pillow.

Doctor exits stage right

Jenny (Stares at Susan) I've always loved you mum. I know haven't said it much but I have and I always will. This

> was all my fault, if I had treated you right, everything would be different, and you wouldn't be here in front of me lying still. I could have opened up, let you in, let you be my mother but I didn't. I pushed you away, I made you miserable. When you got up from the dinner table, it was because you were upset, you left because I upset you and you drove. You would have had tears in your eyes! That would have made you

swerve and loose control! I did this! I am so sorry mum! I did this to you! Stay with me! (4)

Blackout

Jenny