

*Mini Play Number Sixteen*

## THE RESTAURANT

Tom and Lisa have been friends for years. Their friendship began in a room above a restaurant. Sitting quietly, waiting for their abuser to come into the room and choose his victim, the two children build a bond of friendship and understanding that help them cope with their trauma. They silently carry their emotional scars hidden beneath a cloak of forgetfulness. Then one evening they are invited to a restaurant for a meal. It is that very same restaurant! Memories flood back to their minds. Lisa's heart almost explodes with anger. Her trembling hand clasps a knife as her abuser walks toward her. Is this Lisa's opportunity to exact justice?

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CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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## FOREWARD

### ***Zik-Zak Corolla's mini plays for pleasure and purpose.***

The accounts in the plays are drawn from real-life experiences but the characters are fictitious.

The plays will help raise awareness and promote useful discussion of social issues that now effect most families. The aim is to help safeguard our kids from the increasing dangers they face in this ever-changing world.

Interactive and fun, the plays and the following *Questions for Discussion*, help raise awareness of challenges that affect the younger generation. They have been designed to promote discussion and dialogue especially between kids and their parents or guardians, teachers and others who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of our society.

Because the plays address real issues the language used is at times direct but is unlikely to be offensive. Feel comfortable about playing.

### **Tips for playing**

Drop the directional notes and change the genders of the characters if it is more appropriate to your setting and cast; but be sure to follow the general thrust of the play. Short, the plays may be, but they are carefully researched, thoughtfully penned – and they pack a punch!

It is important to have fun acting out the plays and to get fully involved in the *Questions for Discussion*. Remember not to be judgemental but to listen, consider and learn.

### **Get Involved. Get Motivated. Play Safe.**

Invite your family and friends around for the evening. Make a night of playing and learning. Have some fun!

Speak to the teachers at your kids' school. Get competitions going – Best Production, Best Actor, Best Answer, Best Lesson Learned. \*

Contact local groups and clubs to put on a production of a selection of the plays. \*

Be expansive. Get on social media (if it is safe and sensible) and spread the word. \*

Go Big! Invite the local radio and TV station to come and see your very own special premiere. \*

*\* Performances are authorized for educational purposes only; not for commercial gain.*

**Enjoy! Hugs! – Zik-Zak Corolla**

## LIST OF PLAYS

No.	Subject	Title of Play
1	Alcohol/Driving	Bumpy Ride
2	Alcohol/Social Media	One More Shot
3	Peer Pressure	Movie Madness
4	Peer Pressure	The Breeze and the Wind
5	Bullying	I'm a Bully Are You?
6	Gun Crime	Mommy
7	Bullying	He Deserves Respect
8	Bullying	Gotta Change Wanna Change
9	Drugs	How Is Sally Getting On?
10	Drugs	A Fish on the Line
11	Drugs	Will You Be My Girl?
12	Drugs	You Gotta Show Love
13	Depression	The Phone Call
14	Depression	Black Dog
15	Child Sexual Abuse	No. 26
16	Child Sexual Abuse	The Restaurant
17	Knife Crime	1:30am
18	Knife Crime/Gangs	Trouble Brewing
19	Knife Crime/Gangs	23
20	Body Image	Carrots and Onions
21	Single Mom	That Night
22	Sex/Alcohol	Fast Car
23	Self-Harm/Sexual Abuse	Do You Think They'll Believe You?
24	Cutting/Self-Harm	Me and My Mom
25	Self-Harm	Brain Box
26	Gambling	The Monster
27	Binge Drinking	A Target to Kill
28	Binge Drinking	What a Party!
29	Gun Crime	Rap A Ta Tat Tat Tat
30	Gun Crime	Miss Isabella Lindeman
31	Cyberbullying	Drastic Action

**Characters**

Lisa Sprithe

Policewoman

Tom

***Teaser***

Lisa and Tom go to a restaurant for a meal and come face to face with one of their childhood abusers. Lisa's hand moved toward a knife on the table, but Tom had different ideas.

**Scene One**

(Seated: Lisa, Tom, Policewoman)

**Policewoman** You're very brave to talk to me about this Lisa.

**Lisa** Thank you. I only told you bits and bobs yesterday. I felt I needed to see if I could trust you.

**Policewoman** That was quick! I must come over very trustworthy.

**Lisa** I've got my contacts too. (Little laugh)

**Policewoman** (Looking at phone) Are you sure he was one of them?

**Tom** Definitely. I took this picture from the side. Everyone was taking pictures. He wouldn't have noticed.

**Policewoman** Why did you go there when you knew what it had been used for? I don't understand.

**Lisa** It was Jerry's birthday and they just decided 'let's go' and so we went. In the back of my mind – it's been so many years – I thought, well (Gesturing to Tom) we thought it probably would have changed.

**Policewoman** But it hadn't?

**Tom** No. And he was still there, and he came over to take our order.

**Lisa** I couldn't look up. I just kept staring with the knife in front of me, on the table. His voice soft, strong – it was the same sickly voice. I was so angry. I so much wanted to hurt him. I touched the knife . . .

**Tom** I grabbed hold of her hand and we got out. Fast! I don't know what the others must have thought.

**Lisa** But he knew. He knew who we were.

**Policewoman** So he would have cleared off by now?

**Lisa** No. Why should he?

**Tom** We are the silent kids. We don't talk. We daren't!

**Policewoman** But you have now. Tell me how it started.

## **Scene 2**

**Tom** Every Wednesday my social worker would take me out of school for the afternoon.

**Policewoman** I bet you enjoyed that Tom? A break from school.

**Tom** No. No, I didn't, because he, he . . .

**Lisa** (Interrupting) Was one of them.

**Tom** He'd take me to the rooms above the restaurant. The drive took about twenty minutes. He talked to me about everyday things. I never said a word. When we got there, we'd go around the back of the building so we wouldn't be seen.

**Policewoman** Was it just the two of you then?

**Tom** No. There were always other kids there. Three or four and some adults.

**Lisa** That's where I met Tom. We'd all sit in the same room. Quietly waiting. And then some man would come in and choose one of us.

**Tom** We all got a turn. Usually with different men.

**Policewoman** Did you resist?

**Tom** Oh! Yes! (Slight pause) Well at first. But they put their hands around your throat and strangle you until you couldn't breathe. You were gasping!

**Lisa** They did it in front of everyone. It was a lesson. Every now and again a different lesson. They'd threaten our families. They knew about our families. They killed one boy. He went all limp. Blue. We all saw it. It happened in the rooms above the restaurant.

**Tom** Jeffrey. He was called Jeffery.

**Lisa** And, they got rid of him. Just disappeared. Never found him. The local paper did a story on it. You can check it out. Tom and I did a couple of years ago.

**Policewoman** Why didn't you speak out? Why are you telling me now? What's changed?

**Lisa** Its simple. We were kids and we were frightened.

**Tom** And we were controlled.

**Lisa** And, (Slight Pause. Showing her phone to the Policewoman) because I received this.

**Policewoman** (Reads aloud) *Come to the restaurant at 10pm next Monday. You know you want to. You know you have to!* (Slight pause) How did he get your number? And why now you're not a child anymore.

**Lisa** I don't know how he got my number and why he wants to see me now – control? I don't know. But he's clever. They all are. They have a network. I didn't reply. I talked to Tom and we thought, ten years of fear. It's enough! And then we contacted you.

**Policewoman** (To Lisa) Are you thinking of going? To the restaurant?

**Lisa** I don't want to, but I could go with Tom. The guy knows both of us.

**Tom** Yeah! He sure does.

**Lisa** We thought we would go if we could trap him, catch him out – only for that reason.

**Policewoman** It'll need careful planning. I'll need to speak to my boss.

**Lisa** Can you trust him?

**Policewoman** He's a police inspector and I've known him for years.

**Tom** Can you trust him though?

**Policewoman** Absolutely!

**Lisa** Then I'll go if you want.

**Tom** We'll go together.

**THE END**



### ***Questions for Discussion for The Restaurant***

1. Did Lisa have a problem with trust? Why?
2. How difficult must it have been for Lisa and Tom to speak out?
3. Do you believe that child abuse and child exploitation really happen?
4. How can child sexual abuse affect a person?
5. Lisa and Tom went to the room above the restaurant, it seems, without putting up a fight, was it their fault as to what happened to them?
6. If you knew of someone who is suffering child abuse what could you do?
7. If someone attempts to exploit or abuse you what should you do?
8. How do feel about Lisa and Tom?
9. What did you learn from the play?
10. Throw open the discussion.

**THE END**