

Mini Play Number Twenty Six

THE MONSTER

Is gambling just harmless fun? Mark and his brother Aaron thought it was great fun – at first! Secret phone calls, theft of credit card details added to the excitement. Wins from betting over the internet followed but then came the losses. The boys quickly became embroiled in a web of deceit and despair. Meanwhile, Mark’s mom and dad, Bradley and Martha Dillinger were enjoying life. They had no money worries and had a great social life but spent little time with their sons. Then one day Bradley got a call from the bank. Suddenly Bradley was facing financial ruin. It changed everything. Find out why.

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GAMBLING

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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

Bradley Dillinger, father

Martha Dillinger, mother

Mark, son

Teaser

Mark is drawn out by his desire. He acts deceitfully and puts his family's happiness in jeopardy. Can he and his family recover?

Scene One

Bradley Hey! Martha, have you seen my wallet?

Martha Let me think (slight pause) This morning I saw you take it out of your jacket and put it on the side. When you came in from playing golf.

Bradley Well I haven't touched it since.

Martha So?

Bradley So, it must be still there.

Martha You got it Honey! Coz it ain't got any legs!

Bradley Well dear, it's not there. (Shouting) Mark, have you seen my wallet, son?

Mark No Dad. But you had it this morning.

Bradley Thanks (muttering) great help. (to mom) Johns picking me up any minute. Have you got any cash dear? I'll find my wallet when I get back?

Martha (Going in her purse) 50 enough?

Bradley Plenty. Thanks. See you later.

Martha Bye love. (shouting) Mark? Your dad's gone out with John. I'm going to fix dinner. It's just the two of us. 30 minutes.

Mark (shouting) Okay Mom.

Scene 2

(Mark, in bedroom on the phone to his brother Aaron)

Mark Hi Aaron. It's me, Mark. (slight pause) I've got his card and I'm going to take a shot of it and set up the account. (pause) Of course he won't notice. His company pulls in over 40K a month. There's always money going out (pause). Look Mom's cooking at the moment and Dad's just gone out. I've got about 30 minutes. Call you later dude.

(Mark gets up. Puts the card on the table and takes a picture with his phone. He puts the card back in the wallet)

Scene 3

(Mom and Mark sitting on the sofa as dad comes in)

Martha Had a good time Honey?

Mark Hi Dad.

Bradley Yeah! I did thanks. John's good company.

Martha Oh! Your wallet dear. It was at the side of the sofa. (gesturing)

Bradley That's great. Glad you found it.

Martha (holding out her hand and laughing) Any change for me please?

Bradley You can have it all back. John paid.

Mark I think I'm going to get an early night. Night all.

Bradley Night son.

Martha Oh! dear. You must be getting old. Good night.

Scene 4

(Later that night in his bedroom)

Mark (typing into his computer and talking to himself) Are you over 18? Well, I am tonight (pause then picks up the phone and calls Aaron) Hi Aaron it's me Mark. It's all set up. Are you online? (Pause) Good. What should we go for first? How much shall we bet? What do you think, dude?

Martha (voice from afar) You okay in there, Mark?

Mark (Whispering) Hang on it's Mom. (loudly) Sure Mom. Aaron just called (laughing) he's missing me.

Martha Brothers in arms eh! Give him my love.

Mark (loudly) Okay Mom. (to Aaron) Mom sends her love. She said we're brothers in arms (sniggers down the phone) She couldn't be more right. So, what do you reckon? (Pause) 10 on the last race at Newbury (slight pause) Golden Head to win. Ok dude. (taps into his computer) I love this reality stuff (long pause) Dude! Dude! It's a win!

Martha (voice from afar) Pipe down in there!

Mark (loudly) Sorry Mom. (into the phone) That's mom again Aaron. Dude let's up it and put a 100 on. We're on a winning streak!

Scene 5

(Mark, mom and dad in the lounge)

Bradley Mark, what is so fascinating about your bedroom these days?

Mark Just on some games with Aaron. Keeps us in touch.

Martha (To Bradley) We must get the Olivers over soon dear. We haven't seen them for ages.

Bradley Good idea. (To Mark) Your brother's got another couple of weeks on that course. So, make sure you top up your phone son. (To mom) And we're playing golf on Saturday with John and Mary.

Martha Already got it in my diary, Dear. (to Mark) Going up already Mark?

Bradley Hey Mark! Your mom says you've missed school a couple of times this week. You okay?

Mom (to Bradley) And the Saturday after that Honey, we've got the Ortones and the Hudsons over.

Mark (leaving the room) My stomach's been a bit queasy, that's all Dad.

Scene 6

Bradley (Answering the phone) Hello. Bradley Dillinger speaking. (slight pause) Oh! Hi there Mr Harry (pause) got it City Bank. We met in the summer yes, at the team conference. How can I help (laughing) I hope there's not a problem (pause, sitting down) Sixty thousand from my business account in one week? Are you sure Mr Harry? Surely there is an error (pause) My business card! Gambling site! Sixty thousand (pause) Thank you Mr Harry. I'll get back to you shortly. (very loudly) Mark! Mark! Get yourself in here right now!

Martha Honey, what's wrong? The Oliver's will be here in an hour dear.

Bradley (Fuming) Cancel the Olivers! (shouting) Mark!

Scene 7

Mark It's true Dad. I couldn't stop. I'm sorry. I'm genuinely sorry. It's like a monster in my head. I was winning – then I started losing. So, so I bet more and more. I was gripped. It's like a monster, I couldn't stop. Aaron said to tell you.

Bradley Aaron's involved to? My business is at the point of collapse by the hand of my two sons. The ones who are going to inherit it. How ironic. (thinking) Sixty thousand.

Martha Sixty thousand (Sitting down in shock head in hands. Slowly she raises her head) We need help Bradley (pointing to mark). The boys need help. It's an addiction.

Bradley (Slowly sitting down and looking at wife) We all need help darling. (Thinking. Pause) We've all been living our own lives' separate lives and the monster has got us all.

THE END

Questions for Discussion for The Monster

1. Is gambling wise?
2. What was the root problem that was affecting the family?
3. How easy is it to be caught up in gambling?
4. What is the best way to avoid falling into the same trap as Mark?
5. What other problems did Mark's addiction to gambling cause?
6. How do you feel about Mark taking his dad's wallet and using his card?
7. What did the family stand to lose? Why?
8. What did Bradley and Martha humbly admit?
9. How do you feel about each of the characters? Bradley? Martha? Mark? Aaron?
10. If you have a gambling problem what should you do?
11. What did you learn from the play?
12. Throw open the discussion.

THE END