

Mini Play Number Thirty One

DRASTIC ACTION

What is cyber bullying? Is it serious? Do you know anyone who has experienced bullying over social media? Jason is a nice guy but has some secret nasty acquaintances. He deals well with the vitriol that comes over the net but eventually it wears him down. His family is supportive but as things turn out Jason decides to take some drastic action. Who is involved? Will he succeed?

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CYBER BULLYING



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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

Jason

Bully 1

Bully 2

Jessica (Jason's sister)

Waiter

Jason's mom

Teaser

Jason is a decent kid with some good friends. He's being bullied so he decides to take some drastic action.

Scene One

(Jason, Bully 1 and Bully 2 sitting at their computers)

Jason (Thinking out loud) Thinking about it I really like my school. I've got some good friends. We have a good time. Even the teachers are human. (slight pause) Well most of them.

Bully 1 (Speaking out loud as he types) I hate you. Every time I see you I hate you.

Bully 2 (Speaking out loud as he types) You're pathetic and fat. Everyone hates you. You don't have any friends. Your 'friends' just pretend to be your friends. Really, they hate you just like I do.

Jason (To the audience) I try to ignore this rubbish. I don't believe what they are saying. But for some strange reason it has an effect on me. They both seem to know me. They know what I do. If they hate me that much why don't they just come out with it and tell me, face to face when they see me?

(Conversation between Jason and the bullies)

Bully 1 You don't expect me to *really* do that do you? I'm a bully. At the heart of it all bullies are cowards. And I am a nasty jealous coward. You will never know who I am. When you read my mail, you pathetic loser, then I'm the winner and you're the loser. People despise a loser. I despise you.

Bully 2 Yeah! I'm a coward too. But I really get a rush when I know I'm hurting you. I'll never speak to you face to face. Oh! No! This way's much more sinister. It's just the two of us. I know I'm getting to you. (slight pause) Yes, your starting to . . .

Jason Miss classes but, I've still got my friends, although I'm starting to get a bit . . .

Bully 1 Withdrawn. You've started to look at some of the kids in a ...

Jason Strange way. I'm thinking, perhaps he's the one or those two standing together, they've just looked at me. Perhaps it's them. They're working together. It's mad, but I'm starting to...

Bully 1 Look over your shoulder. Walking at a faster pace and then suddenly stopping.

Bully 2 I saw you crying on Wednesday. At the edge of the campus. You thought no one saw you. But I did. You're pathetic! You thick stupid idiot! No wonder no one likes you.

Bully 1 It makes me feel so good when I know your hurting. It makes me want to hurt you more and more. Your friends think you're ugly. They don't say it to your face, they're not really your friends. Who wants to be friends to an ugly, fat loser?

Jason (Turning his back on the bullies) Most of the time I won't read this stuff (slight pause) and then I do. I've changed my phone number, email address - the works but they still manage to find me. My family has even contacted the police.

Scene 2

Jessica (*looking at the waiter*) Thank you. (Pause as she takes a sip of the coffee) Oh! Mom. This coffee's lovely. You know Mom Jason's such a cutie. I love him lots and so do his friends. But the hate mail, you know, the bullying has had a real bad effect on him. In his mind he knows its rubbish, but they've got into his heart. Anyway Mom. What did the police say?

Mom The coffee is my treat, Honey. The police? Oh! They were very nice, but they said as things stand and with the difficulty in identifying the senders, there's not much they can do at the moment. But they're pretty confident. It'll just take a bit of time.

Jessica It's been going on far too long Mom. Sometimes, you've got to take a big step.

Mom What do you mean Honey?

Jessica I mean, one way or another, to get out of this trough of depression Jason will have to take some drastic action.

Mom I think you're probably right. Let's see how the police . . .

Jessica (Looking at her phone and interrupting) Hey Mom! I've just got a text from Jason.

Mom Well, what does it say? Has he got some good news Honey?

Jessica (Reading the text out loud) Hi! Jess. I just wanted to tell you I love you so much and I just wanted to say . . .

Mom (looking at the phone and reading the text) That I'm sorry but there's no other way.

Jessica Phone Dad. Mom, quick.

Mom He's out of town today Jessica. Let's get home right away.

Scene 3

(Mom and Jessica rush home and find Jason in his bedroom holding a gun to his head. They stop still)

Mom Jason, what, what are you doing love? Why are you holding Daddy's gun?

Jessica We've heard from the police Jason and they say . . .

Jason That they can't do anything. They phoned me about half an hour ago.

Mom Well, they said more than that Honey. They said they were confident. It'll just . . .

Jason (Lowers the gun) Take time. Well, I just can't take anymore Mom. I haven't got any more time. I hate myself. There's only one way out of this.

Jessica But you're my little brother. I love you.

Mom We can work together and get through this.

Jason I love you both too. But this is the only way. (raising the gun to his head) I'm sorry (Jason pulls the trigger. Bang! He falls to the ground.)

THE END

Questions for Discussion for Drastic Action

1. How do you feel about the bullies? Why?
2. What is bullying?
3. How deeply can bullying affect a person?
4. Have you ever been bullied?
5. If you are being bullied what should you do?
6. Why did the bullies in the play hide behind a computer screen?
7. Do bullies have any real friends? Why?
8. What type of person does a bully pick on?
9. Given time would things have changed for Jason?
10. What other measures could Jason have taken to protect himself?
11. What advice would you have given Jason?
12. If you are a bully what can you do?
13. What did you learn from the play?
14. Throw open the discussion?

THE END