

Mini Play Number Thirty Three

JOJO

Jojo recalls his life of racial abuse to his friends. Their response is not what he expected.

Can racism ever be beaten? What is the solution?

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RACISM

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FOREWORD

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

COMPLETE COLLECTION

1. **BUMPY RIDE** PLAY SUBJECT : ALCOHOL/DRIVING
2. **ONE MORE SHOT** PLAY SUBJECT : ALCOHOL/SOCIAL MEDIA
3. **MOVIE MADNESS** PLAY SUBJECT : PEER PRESSURE
4. **THE BREEZE AND THE WIND** PLAY SUBJECT : PEER PRESSURE
5. **I'M A BULLY ARE YOU?** PLAY SUBJECT : BULLYING/MENTAL HEALTH/SOCIAL MEDIA
6. **MOMMY** PLAY SUBJECT : GUN CRIME BULLYING/MENTAL HEALTH
7. **HE DESERVES RESPECT** PLAY SUBJECT : BULLYING/MENTAL HEALTH
8. **GOTTA CHANGE WANNA CHANGE** PLAY SUBJECT : BULLYING/MENTAL HEALTH
9. **HOW IS SALLY GETTING ON?** PLAY SUBJECT : DRUGS
10. **A FISH ON THE LINE** PLAY SUBJECT : DRUGS
11. **WILL YOU BE MY GIRL** PLAY SUBJECT : DRUGS/ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH
12. **YOU GOTTA SHOW LOVE** PLAY SUBJECT : DRUGS
13. **THE PHONE CALL** PLAY SUBJECT : DEPRESSION/MENTAL HEALTH
14. **BLACK DOG** PLAY SUBJECT : DEPRESSION/MENTAL HEALTH
15. **NO. 26** PLAY SUBJECT : CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
16. **THE RESTAURANT** PLAY SUBJECT : CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
17. **1:30AM** PLAY SUBJECT : KNIFE CRIME
18. **TROUBLE BREWING** PLAY SUBJECT : KNIFE CRIME/GANGS
19. **23** PLAY SUBJECT : KNIFE CRIME/GANGS
20. **CARROTS, ONIONS & CELERY** PLAY SUBJECT : BODY IMAGE
21. **THAT NIGHT** PLAY SUBJECT : SINGLE MOM/SEX EDUCATION
22. **FAST CAR** PLAY SUBJECT : SEX/ALCOHOL/DRIVING
23. **DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU** PLAY SUBJECT : SELF HARM/SEXUAL ABUSE
24. **ME AND MY MOM** PLAY SUBJECT : CUTTING/SELF HARM/MENTAL HEALTH
25. **BRAIN BOX** PLAY SUBJECT : SELF HARM/MENTAL HEALTH
26. **THE MONSTER** PLAY SUBJECT : GAMBLING
27. **A TARGET TO KILL** PLAY SUBJECT : BINGE DRINKING
28. **WHAT A PARTY!** PLAY SUBJECT : BINGE DRINKING
29. **RAP ATA TAT TAT TAT** PLAY SUBJECT : GUN CRIME
30. **MISS ISABELLA LINDEMAN** PLAY SUBJECT : GUN CRIME
31. **DRASTIC ACTION** PLAY SUBJECT : CYBER BULLYING
32. **VIRUS** PLAY SUBJECT : PREJUDICE
33. **JOJO** PLAY SUBJECT : RACISM

Characters

Jojo Warm hearted and kind.

Felicity Felicity is a bigot but does not know it.

Nina Nina is an openminded, non-judgemental person. She is a bookworm, informed.

Marcus He has an enquiring mind. A good friend.

Jesse A young man who speaks his mind.

Blade A violent racist.

SUMMARY

Jojo recalls his life of racial abuse to his friends. Their response is not what he expected. Can racism ever be beaten? What is the solution?

SCENE ONE

Jojo I was at the checkout the day, you know, buying my vitamins. Well, I like to keep myself healthy, keep my physique, look good, you know what I mean guys. Anyway, this young girl, - she was about ten or eleven she comes up to me, she comes right on up to me while I was at the checkout and she says (slight pause) she said, 'white power,' stared at me and, and just walked off back to her friends, in the queue.

Felicity And? She's entitled to her point of view.

Nina No! What did you do, Jojo? Did anyone say anything? Were you ok?

Jojo Nah! No one said anything. You know, playing football, I was kinda used to that sort of abuse, but from a kid, from a girl. I have to admit it took me aback a bit. It was like a deeper stab in my heart. If you know what I mean?

Nina Well I understand what you're saying but,

Jojo You don't feel it. You don't get my pain in your heart.

Felicity Oh! Will you two chillout! Get real. We're a different colour. (holding her hands to her chest) We have different values. Different thought patterns. We're just not the same stock. It's the way it is.

Jojo (Bowing his head a little, almost in resignation) You mean . . .

Nina (Constantly browsing on her tablet) What she is saying Jojo, is that she is a racist.

Felicity No I'm not! It's just my opinion. Everyone is entitled to their own views. All I'm saying is that we are different.

Nina That's right just like the Nazis. Their opinion was that there was a biological basis for beliefs concerning racial superiority. They could voice it so easily because it was in their heart.

Jojo But Jesse Owen put that one to bed, didn't he?

Felicity Who?

Nina (laughing) He was an athlete, a top – some would say the best - Olympic runner at time. And he was black.

Felicity That doesn't prove anything. There's always a fluke.

Jojo Take a look at football, basketball players, runners – blacks. They're in there with the rest.

Nina UNESCO . . .

Felicity What's that? Some kind of supermarket (laughing).

Nina To make it simple for you Felicity – The United Nations talking about racial prejudice.

Felicity Ooh! Get you! And what did they say?

Nina They said, 'all human beings are descended from a common stock.'

Felicity What does that mean?

Jojo It means humans are like flowers – all different shapes, sizes and colours. The differences they have - it doesn't mean that they're not flowers. They're all beautiful. Humans are beautiful – all different.

Felicity I'm going to have to think that one over (slight pause) Jojo.

Marcus But Jojo, that incident in the supermarket, It wasn't a one-off was it? You said you'd sort of got used to the abuse. I know you got bullets in your post.

Jojo That's true (shrugs) but it started long before that. It started when I was in the pram.

Felicity (laughing) In the pram! Wow! You've got a good memory.

Marcus That's what he said. Go on Jojo.

Jojo Mom said it used to happen when she was pushing me in the pram (he spits on the floor). You see mom was white and dad was black. People on our estate, they all knew. So, every now and again when mom takes me out (he spits on the floor) she gets spat at and me the black kid in the pram (he spits on the floor) they spat at me too.

Felicity I don't agree with that. But you were a kid. You wouldn't have known about it if your mom hadn't have told you.

Nina And, you wouldn't be a racist if you hadn't picked it up from somewhere or someone. How does your family view blacks, then?

Felicity If you must know, they believe that people of colour should be (hesitates a little) sort of respected but they have their own place in society (straightens up a little) just as we have. Don't forget they are a cursed race. (holding an authoritative posture) It says so in the Bible.

Jojo and Marcus (together) What! Are you for real!

Felicity I know for a fact! Canaan was cursed. It says so. I've read it.

Nina Okay. Your right. Canaan, Ham's son was cursed.

Jojo and Marcus (completely astounded, together) What! You gotta be kidding!

Nina (confidently) Noah cursed his grandson Canaan. But it was prophetic, and it was fulfilled years ago when his descendants came under the domination of the Japhetic world powers.

Jojo Hold your horses! Slow down there Nina. You're losing me. Are you saying that what Felicity is saying is right? There's gotta to be more to this.

Nina Of course there is. The descendants of Canaan were not of the black race. The black race descended from Cush and possibly Put, other sons of Ham – who were not involved in the curse.

Jojo and Marcus (together) Got it.

Felicity That's something else. I need to see that. If it's true, I've been duped.

Nina Fed a lie. But one you easily swallowed.

JoJo Okay. Fair enough. That's got rid of some rubbish. But stopping the hate and the pain – something is missing. There's got to be something else. Look what happened to my man Jesse and me in the Mall last year. How do you stop that?

SCENE TWO

Jesse We were walking in the Mall. It was Saturday afternoon. When someone shouted loudly, Oi there you . . .

Blade Well, I'm not sure why I don't like those people. You see, mom and dad got me to thinking . .

Jojo That you're better than me with a different skin colour? Or is it you're afraid of a cool looking brother?

Blade Well I can't be certain and my brain's hardwired. But I know I hate 'em their race and their culture

Jojo Not natural then, it's down to nurture. You're not born with hate, but a seed is sown, and you feed it further

Jesse So, what I'm getting is that you're a small-minded bigot. A non-thinking machine with a dangerous tone. You dig it?

Blade Well I can tell you now, I don't like your attitude. You arrogant, mouthy, slick black dude. You carry on with that tone, I'm gonna take you down to your long-lasting home.

Jojo Hey! Steady on there my fellow white brother. My man here, is hurt by your hatred. He's got the right to speak out – to defend his humanity. If we carry on like this it'll end in calamity.

Blade You shut up you peace-making slicker. Your man's gonna hurt, scream and cry as I drive my piece right through his liver (stabs Jesse in the side)

Jesse (gradually falls to the ground) And so it was on that fateful day, that this blind, crazy dude took my life away (He dies).

Nina Another crime, another stat, another trouble-making black? Or will we learn and see no colour, but just the beauty of each other?

Marcus Or, will this story be just in vain?

Felicity (shaking her head) No! Please no! Perhaps, we can learn to love again.

THE END

Questions for Discussion

- 1) How would you define racism?
- 2) What is a bigot?
- 3) Is racism immediately apparent?
- 4) Is racism wrong? Why?
- 5) What feeds racism?
- 6) What is nurture and what part does it play in racism?
- 7) What did Jojo mean when he said “you don’t feel it. You don’t get my pain in your heart”?
- 8) Do you feel racism is unjust?
- 9) If we have not experience racism how can we feel Jojo’s pain? (Likely, we all have experienced some injustice in our lives – it is using that injustice, that pain to “feel” another person’s pain, injustice)
- 10) Likely, what contributed to Felicity’s racism?
- 11) What make Felicity start to re-evaluate her thinking on race?
- 12) What do you think of Jojo’s experiences?
- 13) How should people like Blade be dealt with?
- 14) How would Jesse’s family and friends feel about his murder?
- 15) Are there any advantages to a non-racist society?
- 16) What qualities did Nina have?
- 17) What is the key to overturning racist thinking and actions?
- 18) What did you think of each character?
- 19) What did you think of the play?
- 20) What can we learn from the play?
- 21) What other comments or observations would you like to make?