



THE EASY WAY OUT

A One Act Play

by

Lillian Andersen

Rosie Barbour

Marqie Ford

Reuben Murphy

Duane Pilgrim

Lisa Webb

SCENE I: Stage is dark. Spotlight at center stage gets brighter; under it is Sharon kneeling on the floor.

Sharon: I'm all alone as a matter of fact, I've always been alone
(pause) You know I kind of like it ... I mean, it kind of grows on you ... when you've been ignored for so long ... (pause)

I'm stupid, I am, you know ... everyone tells me that ... On T.V. they tell parents that their children will become whatever they tell them they will be ... that's why I'm stupid..., a no good sone of a I hate them all, every one of them ... Oh God!! What have I ever done that was so bad?

I know I'm not perfect. Thinking about it ..., I do have some problems ..., personal, that is. John helped me ... John, what a friend. He was my only one ... I trusted him and I told him so... As a matter of fact, I loved him .. I think I still do ... Not the kind of love that most kids fall into, but real love.

It's hard without him. I lost the only thing that made my life worthwhile... Now I don't care. I sometimes think how nice it would be to start over... I wish I were small again. But, as my mother keeps telling me, I'm living in a dream world ...

some dream world.. it's my escape... from facing a grown-up life of no jobs, booze and boredom. I can't live like that

Lights fade

SCENE II: Sharon is sitting at a desk at Jens Haven Memorial. Frustration is written all over her face. Beside her is her best friend, John. Both are writing a test.

(Quiet writing for a while)

Sharon: (speaking to herself at first but then loud enough so John can hear)
I cannot do this, I can't do this exam.

John: What's wrong, Sharon?

Sharon: I can't do this exam! I couldn't study for it.

John: Why? I know that you know the work.

Sharon: There was a party at my house last night. Mom and Dad were drinking and I was afraid to come home.

John: Why didn't you forget about them and come over to my place?

Sharon: John, I was afraid. Dad is scary when he drinks too much. I was afraid that he would take his frustrations out on my mother. Besides, your parents don't think too much of me anyway.

(Enter teacher)

Teacher: (interrupting) Wasting time again Sharon? When are you going to learn?

Sharon: But, Miss

Teacher: Sharon, you were late again this morning. Now I want you to stay in this afternoon.

Sharon: But, Miss ... I can explain ...

Teacher: Sharon, I am sick of your excuses. Please pass in your quiz.

(Teacher stands there correcting)

Like I was saying, I don't want any excuses. You are old enough to know where your responsibilities lie. (looking at John) 65%, John, not too bad. You are improving.

John: Yes, Miss, thanks to Sharon.

Teacher: Really? Sharon, I don't think you did very well at all on this exam. I've told you before that you can't get through school without studying. Lately I think you've been wasting both your time and mine.. here, 35%, I hope you're satisfied...

(both teacher and John freeze ... Sharon stands up and moves to centre stage; lights fade on classroom scene ... spotlight gets brighter over centre stage)

Sharon: I'm a failure ... I can't even do well in school. John got 65% because I had been helping him... She wouldn't even listen to me, that teacher hates me... I hate me ...

(lights fade on Sharon; lights brighten on left of stage)
Here we find Sharon's mother and father engaged in a family argument.

Father: What do you mean you haven't got dinner cooked?

Mother: I didn't have time today ...

Father: Look, woman, when I come home to this house I expect a hot meal, not a drunken woman.

(enter Sharon)

Sharon: Mom, have you got the money yet to pay for my books at school?

Mother: ahhhhhhhhh....

Father: Well? Where is the money I gave you to pay for Sharon's books?

Mother: I spent it. Who cares about her old books, she won't be in school much longer anyway.

Father: (getting upset) Spent it on what in God's name? It certainly wasn't on food! There isn't a bite to eat in this house.

Mother: It was personal.....

Father: Personal my foot!!! You drank it, you drunk (moves forward and grabs mother) I've got a good mind(begins shaking her)

Sharon: (interrupting) Stop it! Stop it! Stop fighting both of you. All I ever hear is arguments and fighting. (starts to cry)

Father: Be quite, Sharon! Go to your room ... I'll deal with you later.
(father slaps mother)

Sharon: (still crying) Stop it! I won't leave till you do... Please ...
(lights fade on family scene; there is a pause in darkness, spotlight brightens at center stage .. Sharon creeps into the light)

Sharon: John, JohnAre you here?

John: (from the darkness) Yes, it's me. (walks into the light)
(both characters embrace)

Why did you want to see me? You know my parents don't want me to go with you anymore.

Sharon: John, you can't leave me alone... I need you ...You're all I have.

John: You'll find someone else to destroy ... I don't want to see you anymore. My parents blame you cause I got kicked out of school... I shouldn't be talking to you ... look I have to go ...

Sharon: Please wait, John. You have to help me ... I'm in trouble...

John: I don't want to know about it.

Sharon: You have to .. you're the only one I can turn to .. I need you I helped you before .. in school.

John: Yes, you certainly did.. and look what happened, I got kicked out.

Sharon: John, listen to me ...

John: I can't. Mom and Dad will wonder where I've gone.

Sharon: John ... I think I'm going to have a baby ... (John stands in amazement, then quickly)

John: So, what do you want me to do about it? Remember, I don't want anything to do with you
(Sharon tries to grab John but he pushes her away)

Sharon: John, you're the father ...

John: (quickly) Oh, no Sharon .. you're not ruining my life like you've ruined your own ... I'll deny it ... Sharon, my parents will kill me!

Sharon: But, you can't leave me alone ... I can't do it .. (in frustration)
If you don't help me ... I'll tell your parents ...

John: You wouldn't ... Sharon don't .. I can't handle it ... I got kicked out of school ... I can't get a job cause no one trusts me. Now you're pregnant ... (cries) Oh God!! Nooooo... Get out of my life...
(John runs off; Sharon cries)

(lights fade; there is a pause, then a gunshot; Sharon screams... lights illuminate centre stage dimly)

Sharon: He did it ... He left me for good .. I did it you know, it was my fault ... I never should have threatened him ... John was my friend, my only friend, and I have ruined both his life and mine ... How I loved him .. I want to be with him, cause no one wants me here ...

I'm all alone now all alone ...

(lights fade).

END

Many young adults are thrown into the responsibilities of adult life all too soon. Some teenagers find it difficult to face these new problems because of a loneliness they have grown up with. Such is the case of Sharon, the principle character in this play.

While watching the performance the case would appreciate it if you, the audience, would participate in the play. What we would like you to do is think!! Think about your frustrations, the times in your life when you have been rejected by your peers, and the times that you have been alone. Then, compare those events with Sharon.

It is hoped that by doing this you, too, can share in some of Sharon's problems.