

St. Mary's All-Grade School
Mary's Harbour

presents

"NOBODY'S CHILD"

CAST

Lorraine Richard
Carol Windifeld
Linda Windfield
Kathy Johnson
John Windfield
Mandy Blake

Tina Rumbolt
Jennifer Rumbolt
Juanita Rumbolt
Karen Rumbolt
Denise Roberts
Colleen Rumbolt

TEACHER

Danny Smith

Jody Edmunds
Grade 6
Peacock Elementary



St. Mary's All-Grade School
Mary's Harbour
Labrador

NOBODY'S CHILD

Cast

Carol Windfield	Jennifer Rumbolt
Linda Windfield	Juanita Rumbolt
John Windfield	Denise Roberts
Lorraine Richards	Tina Rumbolt
Mandy Blake	Colleen Rumbolt
Tom Johnson	Caryn Rumbolt

Teacher

Danny Smith

Scene I

Setting: A girl standing in the middle of the stage, lights shining on her.

Carol: Hi, my name is Carol. I'm going to tell you something that happened to me a couple of years ago. My parents, especially my father, treated me very badly. I still carry the scars from those recent years. It all began when I was 12 years old.

John: Where's your mother?

Carol: I don't know, she's gone out somewhere.

John: I know she's gone out somewhere, because she is not here.

(Carol still sweeping the floor.)

John: Are you listening to me?

Carol: (She is scared.) Yes, daddy.

John: I'm not your father, and don't ever call me dad again. I need another drink. (John goes over to get another drink. Pushes Carol out of the way.)

John: Get out of my way.

Carol: Don't hurt me, please.
(John points to Carol's bedroom door.)

John: Get out of my sight.
(Carol exits to bedroom. Meanwhile, John returns to table with his drink and Linda enters. Carol places broom on the floor.)

John: Where were you?

Linda: Out.

John: Out where?

Linda: It's none of your business.

John: You s---.

Linda: Shut up, John. I'm sick and tired of coming home and finding you drinking yourself to death. Where's Carol? (Hanging coat on chair.)

John: In her room, where she belongs.
(Linda sings out to Carol).

Linda: Carol, get out here.
What is she doing?
(Carol comes out.)

Linda: Did you sweep the floor?

Carol: Yes, Mom.

Linda: Did you scrub them afterwards?

Carol: No, Mom, I only mopped them yesterday.

Linda: Get out there and get the bucket and scrub the floor.

Carol: But...

John: No buts, you heard your mother. (Pushes her.)

Carol: (Leaves, returning with a bucket and a cloth. She gets down on her hands and knees and begins to scrub.)

(Meanwhile, John and Linda are having a drink. When all of a sudden, Carol accidentally tips over the bucket.)

John: You stupid thing - clean that up this instant. Can't you do anything right?

Carol: I'm sorry, it was an accident.

Linda: Accident my foot (points to door). Get out and don't come back until later, much later.

Carol: But, it's cold.

John; Who cares (goes over to her and pushes her out the door. John begins to walk back to table.) Don't be surprised if you come home one of those days and finds Carol with the living daylights beat out of her.

Linda: (Gets up.) I'm going to run over and see Jane, you coming?

John: No, you go on. I think I'm going to stay here and read the newspaper.

Linda: O.K. See you later. (Linda exits.)

(John opens the paper and begins reading aloud. After a few minutes he says:)

John: I got to use the bathroom again (looks at drink). What's in this stuff?

(Carol opens door and looks in. She don't see anyone.)
(She peeks in.)

Carol: Good, everyone's gone. I can come in for a while to get warm and dry and disappear before anyone knows I'm here.

(Just then her father comes back. He sees her.)

John: What are you doing in? You were sent out doors.

Carol: But it's cold out, Daddy.

John: Don't call me daddy.

Carol: I'm sorry.

(Carol comes on in and leans up against the wall. Everything is quiet. Carol begins to cough uncontrollably.)

John: Shut up, I said.

Carol: (Still coughing.) I can't. (Pause.)

John: Well, I'll just have to shut you up then, won't I?

Carol: No, please, don't.

(John walks over and begins hitting her.)

John: Shut up. (Slaps her.) Shut up, I said. (Hits her again and again.)

Carol: Please don't, you're hurting me. (Carol is crying.)

(John backs off.)

John: And if you tell anyone I did this to you, Lord only knows what I'll do to you next time. I won't be responsible for my actions. (Begins to laugh while leaving.) I'm going to bed, and I suggest that you do the same.

(Carol is lying on the floor. She starts pounding on the floor with her fist.)

Carol: I don't know why he hates me so much, or why he wants to hurt me so badly, I'm his daughter, although he won't admit it. I just want him to love me, is that too much to ask from your own father?

John: (Sings out.) Keep the noise down before I come out.

Carol: (Gets up, goes over to the table, sits down and begins to cry silently.)

Scene II

(Shine lights.) (The next day. Linda enters yawning and looks out the window.)

Linda: Well, I don't believe it, we finally got a nice day. (Sings out to Carol.)

John: Has Carol got breakfast ready yet?

Linda: I don't think Carol is even up.

John: Carol. (No answer.) Carol. (Still no answer. John gets up, goes over to door.) Carol, get out here right now and get breakfast.

(John goes back and sits to table, meanwhile Linda is sitting at the table, reading paper.)

(Carol enters, prepares breakfast. Envelopes on table.)

John: I'm going out to have a look around to see if I can find a job. (Pause.) Bills, bills, bills. Makes me sick.

Linda: Sick or not, they've got to be paid.

(John turns, walks to door, and turns around again.)

John: Oh, ya, don't wait up for me. I don't know when I'll be back. (John exits.)

(Linda doing something. Staring at Carol.)

Linda: My God, I forgot all about Lorraine coming over. What are you looking at?

Carol: Nothing.

Linda: Ya, and let's keep it that way, and get up and get the house cleaned up before Lorraine gets here.

(Just then a knock comes at the door.)

Linda: (Jumps.) My God, I got to get changed. Carol, open the door.

(Carol goes over to answer door.)

Lorraine: Hello, Carol.

Carol: Hi, Mom's dressing. She will be out in a minute.

Lorraine: How are you.

Carol: Fine, thank you.

Lorraine: Come over so I can have a look at you. I haven't seen you for a while. (Moves toward the table.)

(Carol gets up and goes over and sits in the chair next to her.)

Lorraine: My heavens, Carol, that's a big bruise you have there on your face. What happened?

Carol: It's nothing. (Looks at table.)

Lorraine: You know, Carol, if you need someone to talk to, you can come to me.

Carol: Thanks, but there's no need.

(Linda enters, looks at Carol.)

Linda: Carol, my love, go over and sit on the couch, will you my darling?

(Carol is bewildered.)

Carol: Oh, ok, sure Mom.

(Gets up and goes over, sits down. Lorraine looks at Linda.)

Lorraine: You're looking very nice today.

Linda: Why thank you, and so are you.

Lorraine: Linda, if you don't mind me asking, what happened to Carol's face?

Linda: What do you me, what happened to Carol's face? I suppose you're assuming I did it. Well, my dear, (Stands) I never asked you over to talk about Carol. If Carol's welfare is all you're interested in, you might as well leave.

Lorraine: Sure, and Carol, don't forget what I told you..

(Lorraine exits. Linda walks to door, closes it and turns to Carol.)

Linda: Carol, what was all of that about?

(Carol looks up from book.)

Carol: What do you mean? what was all of what about?

Linda: Don't play stupid with me, dear lady. Lorraine just then looked at you and said don't forget what I told you, Carol.

Carol: Oh, she saw the bruise on my face and told me that if I ever needed anyone to talk to I could talk to her. (Linda is starting to get mad.)

Linda: Where do she get off poking her nose into what's happening around here? (Turns to Carol.) And you were going to tell her, weren't you?

Carol: Tell her what?

Linda: You were going to tell her what's going on around here, weren't you. (Yells.) Weren't you?

(Linda walks over to her.)

Carol: No, Mom, no. I wasn't going to say anything, honestly.

Linda: I know damn well (slaps her, hits her, etc.). Just wait until I tell your father. He'll kill you. (Linda begins to laugh.

(Carol trying to talk through her sobbing.)

Carol: I wasn't going to tell her. I cross my heart and hope to die. I wasn't going to say anything. Please, you've got to believe me.

(Ignoring Carol, turns to leave, turns around.)

Linda: And don't you even dream of leaving this house until your father gets home.

(Linda turns and walks toward bedroom.)

Carol: I've got to get out of here before he comes home, but where will I go? (Thinking.) Lorraine said if I ever need her just come on over and I never needed anyone so much in my life as I do right now. (Carol practically runs to the door. As she is leaving, her father is coming in the door.)

(John enters.)

John: Where do you think you're going in such a rush?

(Carol, stuttering.)

Carol: No...no...where. Just out for a walk.

John: Well, if you want to go for a walk that bad, take this and walk yourself into the kitchen with it.

(Carol is reluctant, but does as she is told.)

(John sings out to Linda.)

John: Linda, where are you?

(When Carol hears this she makes an exit to her bedroom.)

(Linda enters.)

Linda: (Looks around) Where is Carol?

John: She's gone to her room?

Linda: John, sit down. I have to talk to you about something, but don't get too upset.

(Both go over and sit down.)

Linda: Lorraine was here today.

John: Lorraine who?

Linda: Lorraine Richards, anyway, I went to get us something to drink and when I came back I found her and Carol talking.

John: So what?

Linda: If you would shut up for a minute and let me finish, you won't say so what.

John: Well then, go on.

Linda: Well, as I was saying, I found them talking and I think little miss Carol told her what's been going on here.

John: So help me God, I'll kill her. Where is she? (John stomps around, Linda stands up.)

Linda: Well, it's entirely up to you what you do with Carol. I couldn't care less if you killed her. I'm going to Sandra's.

John: I'll meet you there, but not until I talk to Carol.
(Linda gets up, gets jacket and exits.)

John: Carol, get out here.
(Carol don't come out.)

John: You've got 15 seconds or I'm coming in.
(Carol still don't come out.)

John: You're going to get just what you deserve, child. or not. Well, you're not going to be when I'm finished with you.
(John unzippers pants and goes to Carol's room laughing.)
(Lights fade.)

Scene III

Setting: (The next day.) Carol is sitting down staring at a bottle of pills. After a few minutes she opens them and pours a handful. She puts them up to her mouth and nearly takes them but in turn throws them on the floor.)

Carol: Damn him, he's not worth killing myself over. I need to talk to someone. Lorraine, she's only next door.
(Carol gets up and goes over to phone and dials Lorraine.)
Is Lorraine there? Oh, hello. How are you? (Begins to cry.) Can you please come over? I need to talk to you. (Pause.) No, a couple of hours is too long, my parents will be home by then. (Still crying.) Come over now, please!

(Carol is pacing, a knock comes on the door. Carol goes over to answer it. Opens the door, wiping her eyes.)

(Lorraine walks in.)

Lorraine: My heavens, what's wrong, Carol? Why have you been crying? Did anyone hurt you?

(Carol and Lorraine go over to table and sit down. Carol looks up at Lorraine and begins to cry.)

Lorraine: Come on, Carol, my love, you know you can tell me what's wrong.

(Carol is very reluctant. Finally looks at Lorraine.)

Carol: Mom (begins sobbing) and Dad have been abusing me.

Lorraine: Carol, that's a very serious problem. I think Mandy Blake should be notified, the local services worker.

Carol: Do you think she can help me?

Lorraine: Yes, honey, I'm sure she can. I'll call her, ok?

Carol: Ok.

(Lorraine gets up and walks over to phone and dials the Social Services department.)

Lorraine: Hello, Mrs. Blake? This is Lorraine Richards. could you please come over to John and Linda Windfields house right away? It's of great importance.

(Lorraine hangs up phone and walks back to Carol.)

Lorraine: Mrs. Blake is coming over right away. She shouldn't be very long because she's only a few blocks away from here.

(Carol begins pacing.)

Carol: What is taking her so long? My parents will be home soon.

(Just then a knock comes on the door. Lorraine walks over and opens it. Lorraine holds out her hand to Mrs. Blake.)

Lorraine: Hello, I'm Lorraine, come on in and th anks for coming over so soon.

(Mandy and Lorraine walk to table.):

Mandy: Hi, my name is Mandy, and yours?

Carol: Carol Windfield.

Mandy: So, how may I help you?

(Mandy looks at Carol and Lorraine, settles her gaze on Lorraine.)

Lorraine: Well, Carol has been telling me that her parents have been abusing her.

(She looks at Carol.)

Mandy: Would you please tell me, Carol. What's been happening to you?

Carol: I don't know how to begin.

Lorraine: Just start from the beginning.

(Looks at Carol.):

Come on, Carol, honey. You can tell her. (Looks at Mandy and smiles.)

Carol: Okay, about two years ago it all started. Mom and Dad began hitting me. At the time I thought I deserved it for getting out of line or something, but as time went on the hitting turned into beating and so on. I thought it would all stop as I got older, but it got worse. To me it seemed that they enjoyed beating me and they got pleasure out of doing it.

(Carol begins to cry.)

(Lorraine and Mandy are listening to her story.)

Mandy: Carol! I may be wrong, if I am please tell me, but, I feel that you're holding something back and it's hurting you very much.

(Carol looks up through her tear stained eyes.)

Carol: How did you know?

Mandy: I could tell by looking into your eyes. Would you like to tell me, Carol? If you don't want to talk about it where Lorraine is she can leave.

Lorraine: Yes Carol, would you like me to leave?

Carol: No, that's ok. You can stay, but please don't think any less of me because of what I am going to say.

Lorraine: You know I won't honey.

(Carol still crying.)

Carol: Well, my mother only beat me and so did my father. (Crying) Until, until last night (turns to Lorraine). When my mother caught me talking to you yesterday she thought I told you what's been going on here, so when you left she started hitting me, and when my father came home she told him what she thought I did, Mom left the house and I took off to bed. (Carol, talking to herself) I still hear him sing out to me. (Carol comes back to reality.) I put the pillow over my head to drown out his voice and I succeeded for awhile, but when I looked up there he was, in my doorway, with fire raging in his eyes, he looked like a wild animal ready to kill his prey. For that very instant I thought he was going to kill me, but he did something much worse. He took away all my morals, made me feel cheap and stripped me of something that I held dear to me, my self-respect.

Lorraine: Don't cry, baby, everything's going to be ok. I'm here now, I'll help you.

(Carol looks at her, still crying, but calming down.)

Carol: Don't leave me, Lorraine.

Lorraine: I won't baby, I won't.

(Mandy stands up.)

Mandy: Well, this is a very serious matter and something has to be done about it.

(Lorraine looks at Mandy.)

Lorraine: You're right, something has to be done about it. The poor child has suffered enough under this roof. Lord only knows what else she's been through.

Mandy: First thing I have to do is find Carol a place to stay. (Touches Carol on the back.)

Lorraine: Carol can stay with me as long as she likes, permanently if that's what she wants. (Mandy turns to Carol.)

Mandy: Is that alright with you, Carol?

Carol: Yes, anything is fine with me, just get me out of this house.

Mandy: Well, Carol, go get some of your things together and I have a phone call to make.

Carol: Who are you going to call?

Mandy: I have to call the police.

Carol: No, no, don't do that. You said you wouldn't tell anyone.

Mandy: I have to, Carol, it's normal procedure in a case like this.

Carol: OK, but please don't tell anyone else.

Mandy: I won't, now hurry along and get your things together.

Lorraine: I'll go with you.

(Both Lorraine and Carol exit. Mandy goes over to call the police station. Picks up the phone and dials.)

Mandy: Hello, this is Mandy Blake calling from Social Services. Can you please send an officer over here right away at the Windfield's house at "15 Elm Street."

(Lorraine and Carol return, Carol is carrying an overnight bag with her.)

Mandy: That was fast (looks at Carol and Lorraine). A police officer will be here momentarily.

(Carol and Lorraine sits down. Mandy turns to Carol.)

Mandy: Where are your parents now, Carol?

Carol: I have no idea, they just said they were going out for a few hours.

(Carol, Lorraine and Mandy sit in silence for awhile. Lorraine speaks up.)

Lorraine: So, Mandy, what's going to happen now?

Mandy: Well, this matter will remain in the hands of the law, but it is not over yet.

Carol: What do you mean, it's not over yet? (Stresses yet.)

Mandy: What I mean is that your parents will pay one way or another.

Carol: They'll never be punished enough for what they have done to me.

(Lorraine holding onto Carol's hands. Knock comes on door.)

Mandy: That's the sargeant. (Gets up and goes over to answer door. Open's door.)

Police Officer: Good Day, mam, I'm sargeant Tom Johnsons. How may I help you?

Mandy: Come on in, Sargeant, this is Lorraine Richards, and this is Carol Windfield.

Police
Officer: (Nods). Good day.

Lorraine: Good day.

Carol: Hello.

Mandy: If you could please come over and sit down I will fill you in on what's going on.

(The police officer and Mandy sit away from Carol and Lorraine and talk privately. Carol and Lorraine are still carrying on with their conversation.)

Lorraine: Carol, you can sleep in Joanne's room, seeing she's gone to university.

Carol: Thanks, Lorraine, I don't know what I would do without you.

Lorraine: You should have come to me sooner.

Carol: I couldn't.

Lorraine: I know hone, I know. (Hugs Carol.)

(Just then Mandy and Sargeant Johnson return.)

Police
Officer: (Looks at Carol.) I'm sorry that you had to go through all of th is and I will see that justice is served. Meanwhile, you will be staying at Mrs. Richards' under her care.

Carol: Yes, I will.

Police
Officer: Okay, that's settled, but could you please come down to the station tomorrow and give us a statement?

Carol: Yes.

(Lorraine looks to Carol and smiles.)

Carol: And what about my parents?

Police
Officer: Well, after I'm finished with them they'll never touch you again. (Smiles.)

(Just then the door opens and Carol's parents return. John and Linda enter, John looks around.)

John: What the hell is going on here?

Linda: Yes, wh at is going on here, you have no business here, so get out.

(Police Officer walks to Linda and John.)

Police
Officer: I'm sorry, sir, mam, but both of you are under arrest.

(John runs for his daughter, but the police officer catches him by the arm. John looks at Carol.)

John: I'll kill you.

Linda: And so will I.

Police
Officer: (Cuffs them.) You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be held against you in a court of law. So I suggest that you both keep quiet. Let's go.

(Linda looks back.)

Linda: I'll get you.

(Police officer ushers Linda and John out the door.)
(They exit.)

(Lorraine and Carol stand forward, Lorraine puts her arm around Carol, both of them walk to the door, opens door about to leave. Carol looks back.)

Carol: Goodbye.

Lorraine: Come on, let's go home (looks at Carol and smiles, puts her arm around her, walks out and closes the door.)

Curtain falls.

(Shine lights. All characters are standing on stage.)

(Linda and John walk out to the front of the stage.)

John: There are children all over the world being abused.

Linda: And if you know any that are, please tell someone, so they can help y ou.

(John and Linda walk back to their positions. Lorraine walks out.)

Lorraine: You may feel at times you are alone and scared, but talk to someone, maybe your next door neighbour, there is always someone to talk to, someone to be your friend.

(Lorraine walks back.)

(Social Services worker and Police Officer walk out.)

Mandy: If you find that nobody wants to believe you, call your Social Services Department, that's what it's ~~there for, to help you and others like you.~~

Police
Officer:

There are a lot of people who will help you, for example, friends, neighbours, your local Social Services Department, and the local Police Department. Our doors are always open. Just pick up the phone and dial or come down to see us. So don't think for a minute that nobody will help, there's always someone there to lend a helping hand.

(Mandy and Tom Johnson returns to their original position. Carol walks forward.)

Carol: There are many cases of child abuse today, and it's about time that someone, anyone help put a stop to it. You're probably asking yourself "How can I stop it?" Well, there is a simple answer, and that is to talk about it with your children, and discuss it openly within your family. It can make a difference. If you think a child is being abused, tell someone, you may be sparing a child a great deal of hurt and pain. I hope now you have a better understanding of the importance of child abuse, and just how common it is. So let your voices be heard above the cries of the poor children.

(Steps back to position.)

(All characters stand in middle of the stage and hold hands.)

Characters - Lend a hand.

(Dim lights.)

T H E E N D