

**J. C. Erhardt Memorial
Makkovik
presents**

“I Should Have Known”

Cast of Characters

**Andrea Andersen..... Stephanie’s Mom
Gemma Andersen..... Hannah: Stephanie’s Mom
Marina Andersen..... Rose: A Bully
Tobey Andersen..... Kayla: Stephanie’s Best Friend
Chelsea Barrett..... A Teacher
Cassie Jararuse..... Philip: Stephanie’s Boyfriend
Lorraine Onalik..... Stephanie
Samantha Rice..... Stephanie’s Dad**

Written by: Kverna Players

Teacher Director: Tara Bourgeois

Stephanie is a young girl, who at the beginning of the play, we learn has committed suicide. The play deals with the various people in Stephanie’s life and their reactions to her death. Characters such as : her parents, her sister, her boyfriend, a teacher, a bully and her best friend look back on their final encounters with Stephanie. They then reflect on what they could have done to prevent the tragedy.

Scene One

Classroom:

(Students are coming in, talking to each other. Teacher walks in)

Teacher: Ok, everyone, settle down now. Good Morning.

Class: Good Morning Miss.

Teacher: Can everyone be quiet while I take attendance please? Marina?

Marina: Here

Teacher: Cassie?

Cassie: Present.

Teacher: Stephanie?... Stephanie? Has anyone seen Stephanie this morning?

Gemma: No, she's probably sick again, what else is new?

Tobey: Yeah, there's always something wrong with her.

Teacher: That's enough

(Knock on the door)

(Teacher goes to the door. The principal walks in and whispers to the teacher. Whatever she has been told has obviously shocked the teacher. The principal leaves and the teacher walks slowly back to the front of the class.)

Samantha: Miss, what's wrong?

Teacher: Guys I need you to be very quiet right now. I have something very sad to tell you.

Chelsea: Miss, what is it?

Teacher: Mrs. Walsh has just received a phone call from the police. They had been asked to inform us that your classmate Stephanie was found dead this morning by her parents.

Class is shocked.

Gemma: What!?! Miss you can't be serious! This has to be some kind of joke!

Teacher: I know its hard to believe. But unfortunately it is true.

Chelsea: Miss, did the principal say what happened? I mean its not everyday that a healthy 15 year old girl is found dead.

Teacher: The principal informed me that Stephanie's family do not want any rumors going around about their daughter's death. They want to tell the truth. It appears that Stephanie has taken her own life. That she has committed suicide.

Tobey: That's crazy Miss!! She couldn't have just killed herself!

Teacher: Class, try to calm down. I know this is very shocking to us all but we have to stay calm.

Marina: Calm down?? How can we calm down?? How did she do it Miss?

Teacher: I'm sorry guys. I don't have those details right now.

Cassie: Who cares how she did it!? WHY did she do it?

Teacher: I'm sorry, I don't have that answer for you. I just don't know.

(Lights fade)

Scene 2

Blank Stage:

(Everyone is on stage in a semi-circle. Holding White candles.)

Mom: How many times in our lives do we really pay attention to those around us.

Dad: The people we love and care for. Do we really know what they are feeling or thinking?

Philip: We are so wrapped up in our own lives that sometimes we don't realize the pain someone else is feeling.

Hannah: We can now only imagine the path that led Stephanie to making that fatal choice.

Rose: We can only look back at the choices we made that made her feel no one cared.

Teacher: What we could have done differently, we'll never know?

Kayla: The past will haunt us and tell us what if. What if we could have known.

Hannah: We were the people who could have made a difference.

Mom: A mother that should have noticed.

Dad: A father that should have listened.

Phillip: A boyfriend that should have loved.

Hannah: A sister that should have held her hand.

Rose: A bully that should have known better.

Teacher: A teacher that should have seen the signs.

Kayla: A best friend that should have seen her pain.

(Black out)

Scene Three

School Hallway:

(No one is around. Stephanie is standing by her locker putting books into her school bag. Kayla is with her)

Kayla: Hey Steph. Who's it going?

Stephanie: Okay I guess.

Kayla: What do you mean I guess?

Stephanie: Well.....never mind. I don't want to talk about it.

Kayla: Come on Steph. What's the matter with you lately?

Stephanie: What? Nothing's the matter.

Kayla: Right. I know something's wrong. You look like you've lost your best friend all the time. And I know that's not true. Cause I'm right here!

Stephanie: Nothing's wrong.

Kayla: If you don't want to talk about it fine, but I know you're lying.

Stephanie: Nothing is wrong. Drop it.

Kayla: Look here comes Phillip. How long have you guys been going out now?

Stephanie: Almost a year.

Kayla: Wow. Long old time. Things still good?

Stephanie: Yeah I guess.

Kayla: I'll leave so you two can be alone. Later.

Stephanie: See ya

(Mark walks past Stephanie, ignoring her)

Stephanie: *(smiling)* Hey Philip! *(She tries to hug him, but he turns away)* What's wrong?!

Philip: Nothing.

Stephanie: Philip, I know something is wrong. Tell me.

Philip: You really want to know what's wrong with me?

Stephanie: Of course I do!

Philip: Okay Steph. If you really want to know. You're what's wrong with me!

Stephanie: Philip, what are you talking about?

Philip: You! That's what I'm talking about. I can't take it anymore!

Alice: Take what?

Philip: I can't take you! You're so strange. One minute you're happy, the next you act like the world has fallen apart.

Alice: I'll change Philip, I promise.

Philip: You don't get it do you? I can't take it or you anymore. And I don't want to. I'm not going to let you bring me down anymore.

Stephanie: Are you breaking up with me?

Philip: Of course I'm breaking up with you.

Stephanie: You can't!

Philip: I have to. You're not the person I fell in love with. You're so depressed all the time.

Stephanie: I can't help it. My parents...

Philip: Yeah I know. Your parents fight. Big deal!! Mine do too. Everyone's does. Not everyone has to talk about it all the time. So, your parents fight... get over it!

Stephanie: I don't know why I'm like this. I just feel sad all the time.

Philip: I don't know and I really don't care anymore. I thought you were happy with me but now I know no one and nothing can make you happy.

Stephanie: You're wrong Philip. You do make me happy!

Philip: Not anymore.

Stephanie: You can't break up with me! I can't live without you!

Philip: You have to! *(starts walking away)*

Stephanie: *(crying)* No Philip! You can't do this! Don't leave me! I can't live without you! You're the only one that cared! *(Runs off crying)*

(Lights fade. Philip comes back on, head down to the centre of the stage. In the spotlight.)

Philip: I can't believe she's gone. I didn't know. I didn't know she would do this. I tried to help her, I really did. When she first became so depressed, I listened. Everyday it was something else. Always something wrong. It never stopped. I couldn't take it anymore. I needed to be happy again. How could I have been so stupid? How could I have been so selfish? I didn't realize that things were so bad for her. I was too caught up in my own life that I didn't see what was happening. I didn't know she was going to kill herself! I didn't know! But I should have known. I should have paid attention. I should have stopped her.

(Lights Fade)

Scene Four

School Hallway:

(Rose is standing by her locker. Stephanie runs down the hallway crying. Stephanie bumps into Rose, causing her books to go flying.)

Rose: Watch where you're going! Idiot!

Stephanie: I'm sorry Rose. It was my fault. I'm so sorry.

Rose: Of course it was your fault!... *(notices Stephanie crying)* What are you doing? Crying? *(starts laughing)* What a crybaby!

Stephanie: Stop it!

Rose: Stop what? Oh is the little baby upset? Are you going to cry again?

Stephanie: Just leave me alone! I can't take your crap today!

Rose: *(Sarcastic)* Oh are you having a bad day?

Stephanie: Why can't you just leave me alone? Give me a break! Philip just dumped me...

Rose: Oh he finally told you, did he?

Stephanie: Told me what?

Rose: About us?

Stephanie: What are you talking about?

Rose: Me and Philip. Oh you don't know, do you little crybaby? Philip got sick of your little crybaby routine and moved on. To me.

Stephanie: You're lying.

Rose: Believe what you want. But Philip and I have been together for over two weeks now.
(Laughs)

Stephanie: How can you be so mean?

Rose: Oh, it's so much fun. I must go find Philip now and let him know what a mess you are. We'll be laughing all night about it!

Stephanie: How could he do that to me?! I can't take this anymore.

(Runs offstage crying)

Lights fade to a spotlight on Rose.

Rose: Why was I so mean to Stephanie. I could see she was upset and all I wanted to do was make it worse. I overheard Philip tell his friends why he was breaking up with Stephanie and I used what I knew to make it worse. I don't even know why. I had had a bad day. My parents were so strict with me. I had gotten grounded again. I thought maybe if I made someone else feel like crap, I wouldn't feel so bad. What a bully I was. Philip doesn't even know me. How could I have pretended he was dating me? How could I have done that? I'm so sorry Stephanie. I didn't know what it would do to you. I didn't know.

Lights Fade

Scene Five

Stephanie's Home:

(Stephanie comes home from school very upset. Her parents are fighting.)

Mom: What do you mean you're going back to work!?

Dad: I have work to do.

Mom: You always have work to do. You have more of a marriage with your job than with me.

Dad: Well at least it's a marriage with some peace and quiet.

Mom: Leave then, go to your precious job. Maybe I won't be here when you get back!

Dad: Great! No more nagging all the time!

(Starts to get his stuff. Stephanie walks towards her mother)

Stephanie: Mom, can we talk?

Mom: Stephanie, not now! Henry, you have commitments here too you know!

Stephanie: Mom please, I really need to talk to you. I'm scared of what I'm thinking.

Mom: Stephanie! Stop being so foolish. Go to your room. I don't have time for this now!

(Stephanie turns to her father who is busy packing his stuff)

Stephanie: Dad?

Dad: What is it Stephanie. Can't you see I'm busy?

Stephanie: I had the worst day. I need to talk to someone.

Dad: I don't have time for this now.

Stephanie: But Dad, Phillip and I broke.....

Dad: Stephanie: I don't have time for this. I'm sure you and Phillip are fine. It's just puppy love.

Stephanie: Dad..I..

Dad: Stephanie. It will have to wait. I have to go. Before your mother starts again.

(Mother and Father continue fighting. Stephanie, head down walks off stage)

(As the lights fade, Stephanie's parents stop fighting and come to center stage.)

Mom: My baby tried to get help. She tried to watch out and we ignored her.

Dad: We put our own problems before our daughter. We didn't even pay attention to her that day.

Mom: I saw that she had been crying. I knew she was upset. I thought it was just her being a moody teenager.

Dad: We should have realized something was wrong. She used to be so happy, so full of life. She changed so fast. Always tired, always so sad.

Mom: We thought she'd snap out of it. We thought it was just a phase. We didn't even try to help her.

Dad: We were so selfish. She was our baby girl and we just ignored her. How could we have known she was suicidal?

We didn't know. We didn't know.

Mom: We should have helped her. We should have done something.

Dad: Our little girl. We should have known.

Lights go out, with them sobbing.

Scene Six

Stephanie's Room:

Stephanie comes in and flops down on the bed crying. Her sister storms in.

Hannah: Stephanie, I need your help.

Stephanie: Go away Hannah, I'm busy!

Hannah: I need your blue shirt for Danny's party on Friday. It's going to be amazing. I can't wait! I need your shirt. It's so hot. It looks so much better on me than you.

Stephanie: Hannah, I can't help you now. I said Go away!

Michelle: You're so mean. I need that shirt.

Stephanie: No. Can't you see I need to be alone. Go away!

Hannah: No, everything is always about you. You're so sad, everything's so bad in your life. Always You, you, you!

Stephanie: That's not true.

Hannah: Yes it is. You always have to be the center of attention.

Stephanie: You don't understand.

Hannah: Oh I understand perfectly. You need to be the focus of everything. Mom and Dad fight so much that you had to create all this drama, so they would pay attention to you.

Stephanie: No I don't.

Hannah: Well what about me? Don't I deserve some of their time. Between their fighting and their worrying about little Miss Drama, they wouldn't notice if I disappeared completely.

Stephanie: That's not true. It's not my fault, It's not my fault.

Hannah: It's all your fault. I wish you would just go away.

(Hannah slams the door, leaving Stephanie crying on the bed.)

Lights fade.

When the spotlight is lit, Michelle is standing center stage.

Hannah: How could I have done it? How could I have treated my sister like that? All I care about was that stupid party. Mom and Dad were always fighting, always yelling. I just wanted to go out, have fun, and not care about anything. What little time Mom and Dad didn't spend fighting, they spent worrying about Stephanie. She was always depressed. No one had anytime for me anymore. I can't believe I thought she was doing it on purpose. I didn't think she was really depressed. I'm so angry at her. How could she have done it? How could she have been so selfish? We should have talked. She should have told me. I should have listened. I should have known.

Lights out

Scene Seven

Classroom:

(Students are sitting in their desks. Teacher is in front.)

Teacher: Okay, everyone. I want questions 1-8 on page 144 done for tomorrow.

(Bell Rings)

Teacher: Have a good day everyone. Stephanie can I talk to you please?

(Stephanie goes up to the teacher)

Stephanie: Yes Miss?

Teacher: Stephanie, I'm concerned about your performance in English lately.

Stephanie: What's wrong?

Teacher: Well, you have missed seven out of the last ten classes and your last five assignments, when handed in, have certainly not been your best efforts.

(Hands Stephanie some papers)

Stephanie: I'm failing!

Teacher: Yes, I'm afraid you are. What's the problem Stephanie? How do you explain this? You used to get all A's.

Stephanie: I ... I don't know.

Teacher: I'm very concerned. If your attitude does not change you will fail this school year.

(Walks Offstage)

Lights Fade, then come back on the teacher at center stage.

Teacher: Everyday I noticed the change in Stephanie. Not coming to class, not doing her school work. Her grades dropped so rapidly. I blamed it on her attitude. I should have been more concerned. I should have tried to get her help. I saw her everyday and noticed her change. I thought it was just silly teenage problems. I should have known the difference. I should have known.

Lights Fade

Scene Eight

Stephanie's Bedroom:

(Stephanie is still on the bed crying. Her best friend, Kayla, comes in.)

Kayla: *(Knocks)* Stephanie are you in there? Steph, what's wrong?

Stephanie: I don't want to talk about it.

Kayla : Stephanie, I heard about you and Philip. It will be okay.

Stephanie: No it won't, nothing will ever be okay again!

Kayla: What do you mean? I know you think breaking up with Philip is the end of the world but believe me, there are other guys.

Stephanie: You don't understand. No one understands.

Kayla: What do you mean?

Stephanie: It's not just Philip, Kayla, it's everything. Everything I do is wrong, Everything in my life is wrong!

Kayla: Stephanie, come on. You're just upset about Philip. Things will get better.

Stephanie: No they won't. Don't you understand they're never going to get better.

Kayla: Yes they will!

Stephanie: Well I can't wait for things to get better anymore. I just can't live like this anymore!

Kayla: Steph, stop talking like this. You're my best friend and you're scaring me.

Stephanie: I just can't take it anymore!

Kayla: (*Crying*) Stephanie, please stop it!!

Stephanie: Kayla, don't cry...

Kayla: Steph, you're scaring me. Why are you always talking like that?

Stephanie: Kayla, I'm sorry. I don't know why I say these things.

Kayla: I'm worried about you Steph. I think you should get help. Maybe some counseling.

Stephanie: No, I'll be fine. I'll get over it.

Kayla: You sure?

Stephanie: Yeah. I just need to be alone right now. Thanks Sarah.

Kayla: For what?

Stephanie: For caring. Here, I want you to have this.

(Takes her necklace off her neck and hands it to Kayla)

Kayla: Your Grandmother's necklace? Why are you giving me this?

Stephanie: I want you to have it. You're my best friend.

Kayla: Thank you Stephanie! I'll take good care of it.

Stephanie: I know you will. Kayla I just want to be alone right now.

Kayla: Are you sure you're okay. I can stay as long as you need me to.

Stephanie: No Kayla, I'm sure. I just need time to myself.

Kayla: Okay. Call me later.

Stephanie: Sure, and Kayla....

Kayla: Yeah?

Stephanie: Thank You

Kayla: No problem, Good night.

Stephanie: Night.

(Lights Fade. When they come back on Kayla alone, center stage.)

Kayla: Stephanie committed suicide that very night. I guess she gave me her necklace as a way of saying good-bye. I never should have left her alone that night. I knew she was upset but I thought she would get over it. I didn't think things were bad enough that she would want to die, that she would kill herself. I should have stayed with her. I should have known what she was planning. I should have known.

Scene Nine

Everyone standing around in a circle. All are holding lit white candles.

One at a Time:

" I didn't know"

After they speak each blows out their candle.

Stephanie comes out and reads her suicide letter. She is holding a white candle. No other lights are on.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm so sorry but I just can't take it anymore. I don't know what has happened to me and my life but it's just not worth living anymore. I can't do anything right. I can't get along with anyone. Not you and Hannah, not Phillip, nobody. No one seems to understand. I'm sorry it had to come to this but I think it is for the best. Maybe now you can be a happy family without worrying about me. Maybe now Phillip can find someone who can make him happy. I just know things will be better without me around. This is my fault. Never feel guilty and tell Kayla I know she tried. I'm sorry for the pain I have caused you in the past and the pain this will cause you. Always remember I love you.

Stephanie

When she is finished she blows out the candle and leaves the stage.

(Philip comes on holding a lit candle)

Philip: The warning signs were there. I should have looked.

(Philip lights the teacher's candle)

Teacher: She changed so much. I should have noticed.

(Teacher lights Hannah's candle)

Hannah: She was so depressed all the time. I should have made her smile.

(Hannah lights Rose's candle)

Rose: I could have helped her, my hand should have been there to hold.

(Rose lights the father's candle)

Dad: Maybe we could have stopped her . Why were we always fighting.

(Dad lights the Mother's candle)

Mom: Pay attention to those around you. We should have given her time.

(Mom lights Kayla's candle)

Kayla: Show them you care. I tried to show I cared.

(When all the candles are lit. The cast is in a semi-circle formation.)

All: We should have known

Lorraine comes back on a reads the final message.

Closing Letter

It's sad to think that people, young and old,
Male, female, black or white, take their lives.
I mean, like, what's the point of suicide?
Is it to get their lives over and done with?
Is that how they see it?
It doesn't have to go to that extent.
To hurting yourself. Because there is always help.
But if you or someone you know has a problem.
There's the Kids Helpline.
Just give them a call.
People have to remember that there is always someone
To talk about everything.
It could be a family member, a teacher, or a friend.
So don't hesitate to reach out to someone who needs a helping hand.
You'll regret it if you don't, so please don't forget.
People need support to win their internal fights.
Thanks for listening and have a good night

Lights Fade.

When they come back on the song, "I Will Remember You" comes on as we come out and bow.