

JUSTIFIABLE BEATING

A Play in Two Acts

By Bernard Mersier

Logline

A haunting tale of friendship and vigilante justice, as a young woman takes matters into her own hands to avenge her friend, raising the question: what is truly a justifiable beating?

Synopsis

The play opens with two friends, Monica and Deena, on the cusp of graduation. Their conversation reveals a stark contrast: Monica is reserved and cautious, while Deena is bold, urging her friend to break free. As the story unfolds, a darker past is revealed. The play culminates in an intense confrontation where Deena seeks justice for a tragic act of domestic violence that led to her friend's death. The final act forces the audience to confront the moral complexities of revenge and the thin line between justice and vengeance.

Major Themes

- **Vigilante Justice:** The play explores the moral and ethical implications of taking the law into one's own hands when the system fails.
- **Domestic Violence:** It brings to light the devastating and long-lasting consequences of domestic abuse, not only for the victim but for those who loved them.
- **The Weight of Vengeance:** The play asks whether revenge can ever truly heal a broken soul or if it merely creates more pain.
- **Friendship and Loyalty:** At its heart, the play is a powerful story about loyalty, and how far one person will go to protect and avenge a friend.

Artistic Vision

- **Bold and Unflinching:** *JUSTIFIABLE BEATING* is an unflinching look at a difficult subject. The final scene, with its raw emotion and violent conclusion, is designed to leave a lasting impact on the audience.
- **Minimalist Set:** The play can be produced with a minimalist set, focusing on the powerful dialogue and the actors' performances. The setting (a bar) provides a natural backdrop for the tense final scene.
- **A Call to Conversation:** This play is a conversation starter. It is meant to challenge the audience and provoke a discussion about justice, morality, and the

line between right and wrong.

Target Audience

- The play will appeal to audiences interested in contemporary drama, psychological thrillers, and stories with strong social commentary.
- Ideal for university theater programs and small to mid-sized professional theaters.

Contact Information

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