

## **Title: Family Abuse**

**By Bernard Mersier**

### **Previously produced**

A raw, unflinching look at the devastating ripple effects of addiction and the complex bonds of family.

### **The Story**

#### **Logline**

A father's descent into addiction unravels his family, forcing his wife and young daughter to confront the devastating and violent truth of a cycle they can no longer escape.

#### **Synopsis**

In an intimate family home, Carl struggles with addiction and alcohol abuse becomes a tangible, terrifying presence. His wife, Nikki, desperately tries to shield their daughter, Tamara, from the chaos, but the lines between love, abuse, and despair become blurred. As Carl's world spirals further out of control, the play explores the impossible choices faced by those who love an addict and the painful search for an escape from a cycle that seems unbreakable.

### **Themes & Message**

**Family Abuse** is a psychological drama that delves into the hidden crises that exist behind closed doors. The play explores powerful and timely themes:

- **The Cycle of Addiction:** It portrays the brutal reality of how drug and alcohol abuse can destroy a family from the inside out, showing both the psychological and physical toll.
- **Domestic Violence:** The play handles the topic with a chilling intimacy, examining the fear, manipulation, and desperation that defines abusive relationships.
- **Hope vs. Despair:** It forces the audience to question whether redemption is possible, or if some patterns are simply too ingrained to be broken.

### **Key Characters**

- **CARL JOHNSON:** A father and husband whose addiction has consumed him. He is a deeply flawed and tragic figure, trapped in a self-destructive cycle he seemingly cannot escape.
- **NIKKI:** Carl's wife. She is both a victim and a protector, torn between her love for

the man she married and the need to save herself and her daughter from his destructive behavior.

- **TAMARA:** Carl and Nikki's young daughter. She is the innocent bystander, a symbol of the future that is threatened by the present chaos.

### **Production & Audience**

**Genre:** Psychological Drama, Domestic Tragedy

**Tone:** Visceral, intense, and emotionally honest.

**Setting:** A single, intimate setting of a family home. The play's power lies in its claustrophobic and personal nature.

**Target Audience:** Adults interested in intense, character-driven dramas and social issue plays. It will appeal to audiences who appreciate raw, emotional storytelling in the vein of contemporary playwrights.

### **Contact**

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