

# **MONSTERS &** **REDEMPTION**

A ONE-ACT PLAY

AGE GROUP 10-11

BY JOHNNY TRUE CRATER

## **CHARACTERS**

KATHY            A 45-YEAR OLD MOTHER AND WIFE  
RICHARD        A 45-YEAR OLD FATHER AND HUSBAND  
JOHNNY        THEIR 9-YEAR OLD SON  
ERIC            A 20-YEAR OLD DRUG ADDICT AND GANG MEMBER  
PASTOR        A PASTOR OF A LOCAL CHURCH  
SINGER        MUSIC PASTOR OF THE SAME LOCAL CHURCH

## **SCENES**

SCENE I        KITCHEN  
SCENE II       KITCHEN  
SCENE III      CHURCH  
SCENE IV      KITCHEN

## **DESCRIPTION OF LOCATIONS**

KITCHEN        A SIMPLE KITCHEN WITH A DINING TABLE IN  
MIDDLE OF KITCHEN, A DOOR WHICH LEADS FROM  
GUEST ROOM TO KITCHEN AREA, WITH A BED  
VISIBLE IN BACKGROUND IN A GUEST ROOM.

CHURCH        A COUPLE OF ROWS OF CHAIRS OR BENCHES,  
PLUS A CHURCH PULPIT.

# **MONSTERS & REDEMPTION**

## SCENE I

KITCHEN

FADE IN:

KATHY AND RICHARD ARE STANDING, GESTURING, AND TALKING LOUDLY. THEIR SON, JOHNNY, IS BEHIND DOOR EAVESDROPPING. A BED IS IN BACKGROUND IN A GUEST ROOM. A TABLE IS SET UP IN THE KITCHEN.

KATHY

No, I'm not. I've always been understanding...but not this. I told you when we got married I didn't want any drugs or alcohol in my life ever, ever again.

RICHARD

Look honey! I know! But this is Eric, our best friend's son.

KATHY

What about Johnny? What if Eric is a bad influence on him?

RICHARD

No. He won't be. Eric is desperate to be clean of drugs! Eric believes he'll finally get the drugs out of his life if he comes to stay with us, and is away from all the negative influences in his life. I promise if he slips once I will send him home.

RICHARD takes hold of KATHY and hugs her. KATHY nods her head okay, like in agreement.

JOHNNY

Mom. Dad. What are you doing? [Long pause] Uhhmm, What are drugs?

KATHY

(To Richard) Great! Already!!  
(Long Pause)  
(To Johnny) Johnny drugs are like,  
like, you know, aspirin.

JOHNNY

Oh. [another long pause] Aspirin is  
making Eric dirty?

KATHY and RICHARD look at each other not knowing what to  
say.

RICHARD

[Attempting to change subject]  
Johnny! Guess what? Eric is coming to  
stay with us for a few weeks!

JOHNNY

[Johnny jumps up and down]  
When? I can't wait! Can he sleep in my  
room? When is he coming? Wooo-hooo!

KATHY

(Loud & angry) No! He is sleeping in  
the guest room. He'll be here tomorrow.

TRANSITION TO NEXT SCENE

SCENE II

KITCHEN

KATHY and RICHARD are sitting at kitchen table reading  
newspaper and talking. Doorbell rings.

JOHNNY

[Enters running to door]  
Eric is here! Eric is here! [Opens  
door]

ERIC looks sloppy and skeleton looking.  
Very white face with dark circles around  
eyes. He is wearing a black leather  
jacket, sunglasses, and a guitar slung  
over his shoulder, carrying a duffle  
bag.

ERIC

Hey little man! How's it going?

RICHARD

Eric, how was your flight? Did you have any trouble renting the car?

KATHY

Would you like some dinner?

ERIC

Everything was fine. I'm not hungry. I'm just really tired.

KATHY

Well let me show you where you'll be sleeping.

JOHNNY

Eric! You want to play Mario.

ERIC

Sure buddy that sounds good. Let's go.

Smiling, RICHARD closes the door behind ERIC while JOHNNY and ERIC exit. KATHY looks concerned and angry at RICHARD.

TRANSITION TO NEXT SCENE

### SCENE III

CHURCH

SEVERAL BENCHES/CHAIRS ARE SET-UP AND A PULPIT

RICHARD, KATHY, JOHNNY and ERIC are sitting in the church listening and singing along to CHURCH SINGER singing, Switchfoot's song *Redemption*. ERIC looks like he doesn't fit in. ERIC is wearing black leather jacket, sunglasses, and not singing.

CHURCH SINGER

*Four A.M., two hours to go  
I'm wearing out a lonely glow  
I miss you more than I could know  
Here I am, here I am*

*I've got my hand in redemption's side  
These scars are bigger than these doubts  
of mine I'll fit all of these  
monstrosities inside and I'll come  
alive.*

*With my fist down at your feet I was  
running out of mysteries  
Insecure and incomplete,  
here I am, here I am, won't you get me?*

*My fears have worn me out  
My fears have worn me out  
My fears have worn me, worn me*

CHURCH PASTOR

Thank you everyone. That was beautiful. (More fervent) Let us not forget whose church this is. It is Jesus' church. Jesus who was friends with sinners, prostitutes, tax collectors; he went where sinners lived to save them, and to love them. Jesus did not hang-out with the upper crust, pillars of the community, but with the outcasts of society. He wanted to make them clean. Next week I want you to bring some of our communities' unloved, unclean, outcasts. Let us bring them here and not judge them, but bring them here to love them and help them like Jesus does all of us.

Church is over. KATHY, RICHARD, JOHNNY and ERIC stand, gather their Bibles. The PASTOR reaches towards ERIC with his

hand, smiles, and is glad to meet him. RICHARD introduces ERIC to PASTOR who puts his arm on ERIC. ERIC takes off his sunglasses. FADE OUT.

TRANSITION TO NEXT SCENE

#### SCENE IV

#### KITCHEN

KATHY and JOHNNY are in kitchen potting some flowers. In the background audience can see ERIC restlessly sleeping on guest bed. He is not restful, but tossing and turning, and in pain.

KATHY

Gerbera Daisies. My favorite flowers. I love this time of year when everything is blooming. These are going to look so pretty outside.

KATHY continues potting flowers. Audience can see that JOHNNY is thinking about something hard.

JOHNNY

Mom? What is addiction?

KATHY

(Stuttering. Not wanting to answer, but Johnny wants an answer.) Uhhm. Well, uhhm. Well, it's kinda like eating candy, but instead, it's like eating a baby monster.

JOHNNY

A monster? What do you mean mom?

KATHY

Well, the first time someone takes one of these drugs, they think it is going to be a really fun adventure, but really they're eating a little, tiny baby monster without realizing it.

JOHNNY

A baby monster? What happens to them?

KATHY

Pretty soon, the monster starts growing up, and the monster wants more. So the monster says, "FEED ME!!!" "FEED ME!!!!!!" So the person has to feed the monster that's living inside them more, and more.

JOHNNY

What does the person feed it?

KATHY

They have to feed the monster more of the drugs it wants.

JOHNNY

What happens if they don't feed it, and they try to starve it, Mom?

KATHY

The monster gets mad and hurts the person, so that the person will give the monster more of what it wants. The monster is really mean!

JOHNNY

What happens to the person?

KATHY

That's not good. Pretty soon the monster is so big that it takes over the person's whole body, and the person is not themselves anymore, but they have become the monster.

JOHNNY

That sounds really scary. Why would anyone eat a monster?

KATHY

They don't realize what they are doing. They do it without thinking of what will happen later on. Or they think they can keep the monster little, and under their control. But the monster is sneaky and pretends that he is fun and nice, and then BAM! It takes over the person's whole life and body.

JOHNNY

I won't ever eat a monster!

KATHY

You better not!

JOHNNY

It's so scary. Mom, I'm scared.

ERIC wanders out of bedroom to kitchen coffee pot looking really sick, but better. JOHNNY looks at ERIC frightened; like ERIC is a monster. Throughout the rest of this scene JOHNNY looks afraid of ERIC hiding behind things in the kitchen looking at ERIC frightened and curious.

ERIC

Hey! Is there any coffee?

KATHY

Honey! Here sit down. I'll get it for you. You've been in that bedroom for nearly two weeks. Do you feel better?

ERIC

No! But I'm finally licking this thing! It was so stupid to ever get involved with it.

RICHARD

RICHARD enters from work.

Eric, you look like death warmed over! How are you feeling?

ERIC

I've had my better days! But I'm definitely feeling better.

KATHY

Will you eat dinner with us?

ERIC

That sounds great.

KATHY busies herself with setting the table, she looks tired. JOHNNY helps her. ERIC drinking coffee, sits down with RICHARD to talk.

RICHARD

Are you ready to take the classes at 12 and 12; the drug classes?

ERIC

Yes! Let's dig a grave for this thing, and bury it. I'm ready to get my life back. Thank you for allowing me to stay here with you and get rid of this thing.

KATHY

Dinners ready.

Everyone comes to table and sits. KATHY looks at ERIC smiling and holds out her hand to him to pray. ERIC looks happily surprised and takes it. Everyone is holding hands to pray.

RICHARD

Dear heavenly father. Thank you for all you do for us, and for bringing Eric to us to help him come back to You. Help Eric to stay strong on his journey to stay clean of drugs. Please let him

know that You love him. Amen.

KATHY

I love you Eric. I remember when you were a little boy. You were so smart and funny. It's good to see that little boy again.

JOHNNY hugs ERIC's neck really tight after KATHY tells ERIC that.

JOHNNY

After dinner you want to go play some football?

ERIC

Sure buddy. That sounds great!

KATHY

Good. Richard, will you clean up the dishes? I'm not feeling good. I think I had too much sun today. I need to take a pill and lay down.

JOHNNY starts crying. No one understands why he is crying.

RICHARD

Sure honey. You go on. I can handle this.

ERIC

I'll help too.

RICHARD

Johnny what is wrong with you?

JOHNNY

Crying.

Mommy is going to eat a monster! Don't do it Mommy!

Everyone looks confused at each other.

KATHY

What? Ohhhh. No, no, no. Johnny, I would never eat a monster. That's only if you take certain kinds of drugs. It's hard to explain the difference. Oh, never mind. We'll talk more about this later. Don't worry. I just have a headache and need to take an aspirin.

JOHNNY

(Johnny looks relieved.)

Oh mommy. I love you. It would be so scary if you ever became a monster.

THE END