

HOLY NAME
ACT TWO

(Ron and VAN sit at the kitchen table)

RON

Just take a deep breath. There's no turning back now.

VAN

Maybe we should call a few more people to help us. She's not going to be easy.

RON

Uncle Henry's outside keeping the car warmed up. Mom thinks we're joining him and Aunt Judy at the tavern for a fish fry. Now all you have to do is forget where we are really going and just keep thinking about the fish fry.

VAN

I can't be thinking about food. I'll throw up. What are we going to do when she adds two and two?

RON

You and Uncle Henry will have to hold her down. They'll be waiting for us and as soon as we pull in, they'll take it from there. We just have to get her into that driveway. . It can't be more than ten minutes from the tavern to the hospital.

VAN

Do you know how long ten minutes can be? When she is mad she can make time stand still! When she yells at me I look at my watch and the hands don't even move.

RON

Dad, just keep remembering that we are trying to help her.

(MINDY enters, dressed up with makeup)

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MINDY

Is Henry here yet? I skipped lunch for this. I've got to give it to them. They make a great fish fry

RON

He's got the car all warmed up. We're ready whenever you are.

MINDY

Pocketbook, cigs, hanky....Van did you bring Henry that...wait a minute. Van, what did you do? You must have done something. You have that guilty look on your face.

RON

That's not a guilty look, that's a hungry look. Come on everybody let's go.

MINDY

Van, answer me.

VAN

I...I was just wishing....when I saw you all dolled up; I was wishing I could take you to a fancier place. I was sorry I couldn't get those extra overtime hours. I could have taken everyone to the Lakeview Hotel for the smorgasbord.

MINDY

So you're telling me you're disappointed in yourself?

VAN

Yeah, Mind. I'm a little disappointed. All I want to do is treat everybody good.

RON

Come on Ma, Uncle Henry's using up all his gas keeping the car warm for us and we have to get back before Mickey comes home from his friend's.

MINDY

You know I can smell guilt. I smell it right now in this kitchen. It's not coming from me.

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(The door from outside flings open. MICKEY enters)

MICKEY

Hi everybody. I came to get my monopoly game to play at Jackie's. He doesn't have one. Where's everyone going?

MINDY

Yeah, Ronnie. Where's everyone going?

RON

Well, at this rate we may get their too late and all the dinners will be sold out, but we were supposed to go with Uncle Henry to get fish fries at the tavern.

MINDY

Yeah, that's right. Fish fries at the tavern. I tell you what....Henry has that big car...Mickey, call your friend and tell him there's been a change in plans. You're coming with us. You can even get your shrimp dinner.

RON

But Jackie's Mom is expecting him back. It's not polite to change plans at the last minute.

MINDY

Not polite? Polite? That's a hot one. Is lying to your mother polite? Because you and Van...you and Van are being very polite too me. But that's about to change, isn't Ronnie?

(RON bends down and grasps MICKEY'S shoulders.)

RON

Mickey, run out to the car and tell your uncle we need him in here right now. Then, run back as fast as you can to Jackie's and don't leave until I come to get you. Understand?

MINDY

Mickey, stay right where you are. Don't you dare move an inch. Van; tell Mickey where we are really going. Goddamn it, tell him!

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VAN

Just for a fish fry. That's all.

MINDY

Then let's bring Mickey. You never want to leave out poor little Mickey. So why now? Mickey, I want you to see where they are really taking me. When you get a little older you can take me there too. Then everything will be perfect.

RON

Go get your uncle, now.

MINDY

You move one step and I'll wring your neck.

RON

Mickey, go!

(MICKEY starts to run to the door. MINDY lunges to catch him.

Ron pins MINDY'S arms behind her.)

MINDY

I wish you were all dead! Van, you son of a bitch, these two should never have been b...

(VAN tries to cover her mouth while turning to MICKEY)

VAN

Tell your uncle we need him right now. Then just go play. Please go play.

(End of scene)

(Second Scene- Ron is cooking and serving eggs for Mickey)

MICKEY

Ronnie, you're a better cook than Mom.

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RON

You mean I open a can better.

MICKEY

No I mean it. You make us eggs every morning and that spaghetti last night was great.

RON

Dad doesn't say one way or the other.

MICKEY

But he hasn't said much about anything since Mom's been gone. I can't tell how he feels. How many days has she been gone now?

RON

Eight.

MICKEY

It seems like forever.

RON

In a good way or a bad way?

Holy Name by Michael Eichler
eichlerplays.com

MICKEY

She's supposed to be here.

RON

Mickey, I'm doing everything I can to take good care of you. You see that don't you?
Your homework, your laundry, everything, right?

MICKEY

Sure Ronnie. I just meant when Mom isn't here I get worried.

END OF EXCERPT