

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE MUSICAL?

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Dialog and Lyrics  
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Music Composer  
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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

ABUSER - Male

ABUSED - Female

NARRATOR - Male or Female

CAST MEMBER 1 - Female

CAST MEMBER 2 - Male

CAST MEMBER 3 - Female

CAST MEMBER 4 - Male

## SETTING

NO SET... Unless necessary, ACTORS never leave the stage. Continually interact with audience throughout show.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

All entrances and exits can be made to and from the audience, so that like the ABUSED is trapped in the relationship, the audience is trapped in the abuser and Abused experience. The cast is encouraged to sit next to audience members.

Because the cast has no place to hide during the show. They and Director are going to have to come up with business that adds to, without distracting main action on stage.

SCENE 1

*DARK STAGE*

*MUSIC: INTENSE*

*IMPROV: ABUSER, and ABUSED having argument, enter.*

*ABUSER is threatening. The more they talk the angrier ABUSER gets. The more defensive and afraid ABUSED gets. ABUSER gets more threatening.*

*LIGHTS UP*

*Prop Box is seen upstage.*

*ABUSED is on her knees, cowering. ABUSER is standing over her, poised to hit her.*

*NARRATOR steps between them- addresses audience.*

*REMAINDER OF CAST - seated throughout audience.*

NARRATOR

(to audience)

We interrupt this beating to tell you how it could have been prevented.

ABUSED

I thought he was going to kill me.

NARRATOR

(to ABUSED)

Well, that could still happen.

*MUSIC: Main Title Theme*

SOLILOQUY (Spoken)

NARRATOR

(to audience)

Though you may not find our title,  
the least bit amusing. We welcome you to...

ENTIRE CAST

SING: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE MUSICAL.

*ENTER: CAST MEMBER from audience,  
snapping fingers to 4/4 beat. To form cast  
tableau around NARRATOR.*

CAST MEMBER 1

A downer subject?  
Of that there's no doubt.  
A subject nobody wants to hear and  
especially talk about.

*ENTER: OTHER CAST MEMBER from same, to  
do same.*

MUSIC: TWILIGHT ZONE original Theme

CAST MEMBER 2

You're about to take a journey that designed.,  
to rattle your cage,  
and mess with you mind.

MUSIC OUT

*ENTER: OTHER CAST MEMBER from same, to  
do same.*

CAST MEMBER 3

So don't be surprised, if at any given part of the show...

*ENTER: OTHER CAST MEMBER from same, to  
do same.*

CAST MEMBER 4

You get confused, and you don't know...

NARRATOR

Whether to clap...

*CAST : CLAPS, GLEEFULLY*

NARRATOR (CON'T)

Laugh...

*CAST: LAUGHS, HYSTERICALLY*

NARRATOR (CON'T)

Or cry.

*CAST CRIES MELODRAMATICALLY*

NARRATOR

No worries.

We won't be offended.

Those kinds of reactions,  
are exactly what's intended.

CAST MEMBER

So, buckle up, and hold on tight.  
Cause Y'all ain't seen nothin,  
like you're gonna see tonight.

ALTERNATE IF MATINEE

So buckle up.  
Listen to what I say.  
Cause Y'all ain't seen nothin,  
like you're gonna see today.

*LIGHTS OUT*

*CAST retakes seats in audience.*

END OF SCENE

SCENE 2

*LIGHTS UP*

NARRATOR

(to audience)

Alright. A show of hands... How many here know someone or of someone, who has been, or is being abused?

*IF... at first audience doesn't respond, CAST & NARRATOR encourage audience. As hands raise, NARRATOR takes on auctioneers' banter.*

NARRATOR

I got one, do I have two. Got two, do I see three - three, to the lady/gentleman in the ...

*Describe what audience member is wearing.*

NARRATOR (CON'T)

Got four sitting audience right/left...

*More audience response. Adlib banter. Don't be surprised if audience response is 20 to 30%.*

NARRATOR

Look at all the raised hands. Based on what you see, it should come as no surprise, that the number of those being victimized, by Domestic Violence, is on the rise.... especially after COVID. How and why? Well, everybody knows... answers of the most credible source... ALWAYS... come straight from the horse.

*SFX: BOXING MATCH BELL*

*MUSIC: OPEN TO ROCKY*

*FROM AUDIENCE, wearing Boxing robe, ABUSED TAKES STAGE.*



NARRATOR

(Ala WWE Annncr.)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

Taking the stage. In the black and blue body. Wearing anything long sleeved , with a high neck. To cover up the bruises.

*CAST MEMBERS 1-4 CROSS to Prop Box.  
Retrieve what appear to be signs.*

ABUSED

Who, contrary to popular belief, is of no specific age, ethnicity , religion, profession or income bracket -- Lives in no specific part of any city, or state.... Me !

*CAST MEMBERS 1-4 hold up signs that read  
APPLAUSE! Encourage audience to clap.*

*ABUSER ENTER from audience*

ABUSER

And now taking the stage...

A man, who also contrary to popular belief, is of no specific age, ethnicity, profession, and... what she said.

Exuding charm and a certain flair - Me, the Abuser, extraordinaire.

*CAST MEMBERS 1-4 now hold up signs that  
read BOO! Encourage audience to BOO!*

CAST MEMBER 1

Don't know about you,  
but ya know what I see?  
Abusers and victims,  
look no different,  
than you and me.

MUSIC INTRO: JUST PLAIN BULL (ala Gospel,  
Tent Revival music)

ABUSER

As we go through life, we hear things about people and things that are so shamefully untrue.

JUST PLAIN BULL con't

CAST MEMBER 2

And when it comes to domestic violence, there are more than just a few.

NARRATOR

So many myths and rumors...

CAST MEMBER 3

Enough to fill the ocean full.

CAST MEMBER 4

We're here to testify all that stuff is,

CAST MEMBERS 1-4

JUST PLAIN BULL

NARRATOR

Did ya hear this one,  
it's really lame - one that's always mentioned.

ABUSED

The ridiculous claim we purposely provoke,  
because we want the attention.  
Then someone asks, why don't you just leave.?  
Good advice, but it's a curse.

ABUSER

Cause when they do we hunt them down,  
and then we beat them worse.

ALL CAST (SING)

SO MANY MYTHS AND RUMORS.  
ENOUGH TO FILL THE OCEAN FULL.

WE'RE HERE TO TESTIFY THAT STUFF  
IS JUST PLAIN BULL.

JUST PLAIN BULL con't

NARRATOR

Then there's the one that claims,  
alcohol's the reason you abuse.

ABUSER

Yeah, well that's a load of crap,  
and here's some additional news  
A lot of us don't drink at all.  
So to that claim we say...

MUSIC (Goes Baroque)

*ABUSER, CAST strike Shakespearian pose*

ABUSER (CONT'D)

To drink, or not to drink... is not the question.  
Guy or gal. Straight or gay.  
We don't care - we're abusers.  
We'll beat you either way.

ALL CAST

SO MANY MYTHS AND RUMORS.  
ENOUGH TO FILL THE OCEAN FULL. WE'RE HERE TO  
TESTIFY THAT STUFF IS JUST PLAIN BULL.

MUSIC VAMP

CAST MEMBER 1

Okay, I got one. I got one.

NARRATOR

Yes, yes, yes. The hits - pun intended -- just keep on commin!

CAST MEMBER 1

This one's the promise they make, after every time they hit you.

JUST PLAIN BULL con't

ABUSER

We'll get on our knees. Swear up and down,  
we really didn't mean to.

CAST MEMBER 2

They'll beg you to forgive them.

ABUSER

We'll promise, we'll never do it again.  
But in all honesty, it's a lie.  
Piss me off, I'll hit you again.

ALL CAST

SO MANY MYTHS AND RUMORS.  
ENOUGH TO FILL THE OCEAN FULL. WE'RE HERE TO  
TESTIFY THAT STUFF IS JUST PLAIN BULL.

NARRATOR

Yes, the myths and misperceptions,  
exist in numbers by the score.  
But there are a few who will say,  
they're absolutely sure..  
That domestic violence is a problem,  
but with just a few of the population.

CAST MEMBER 3

Yeah, that just a few?  
Is one third of the nation.

ALL CAST

SO MANY MYTHS AND RUMORS.  
ENOUGH TO FILL THE OCEAN FULL.  
WE'RE HERE TO TESTIFY THAT STUFF  
IS JUST PLAIN BULL.

NARRATOR

Let me hear it...

JUST PLAIN BULL con't

*NARRATOR: if you think you can get audience to chant, JUST PLAIN BULL, extend the song.*

ALL CAST

JUST PLAIN BULL

NARRATOR

Say it again now...

ALL CAST

JUST PLAIN BULL.

NARRATOR

One more...

ALL CAST

JUST... PLAIN... BULL.

MUSIC TRANSITION VAMP TO: ABUSERS WALTZ

*CAST MEMBER 4 becomes FEMALE ABUSER.*

*Like her male counter part, she will flirt, charm and tease males in the audience.*

CAST MEMBER 4  
(becomes FEMALE ABUSER)

I MUST APOLOGIZE, FOR MY INTRUDING.  
THERE ARE A COUPLE OTHER MTHS,  
THAT WERE EXCLUDING.  
LET ME MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR,  
LEST NO ONE BE CONFUSED.

You don't have to get hit, to get abused.

ABUSERS WALTZ cont'd

*CAST MEMBER 4 goes looking.*

CAST MEMBER 4 (CON'T)

NOW MOVING ALONG, I FIND IT NECESSARY.  
TO CLEAR UP ANOTHER MYTH,  
THAT'S PURE, BOVINE SCATOLOGY.

*Finds Male audience member*

CAST MEMBER 4

DISPELLING THIS MYTH, IS  
USUALLY MET WITH SOME SURPRISE.  
News flash... not all abusers are guys.

MUSIC VAMP

*She teases, flirts, and Compliments him. She asks him to dance with her.*

*He can't win. If he accepts, she will dance a couple of steps, then ridicule him for being clumsy and push him away. If he says, no... she will ridicule his reluctance, and walk away from him, to sing to audience.*

CAST MEMBER 4

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING,  
BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? A MAN  
PUSHED AROUND BY A WOMAN?

ALL CAST

No way!!!!

ABUSERS WALTZ cont'd

CAST MEMBER 4

Now why would he take that?

GIVE MY ANSWER A TWIRL.

*Picks out another a man in audience - looks him  
in the eyes.*

CAST MEMBER 4

I dare ya.  
Tell the cops.  
You were pushed around by a girl?

*Motions to ABUSER*

CAST MEMBER 4

Darling...

ABUSER

Thought you'd never ask.

ABUSER & CAST MEMBER 4  
(duet)

YES SILENCE, SWEET SILENCE,  
IS WHY WE DO SO WELL,  
AT IN THE NAME OF LOVE,  
MAKING OTHERS LIVES HELL.

END OF SONG

*CAST MEMBER 4 drops abuser character,.  
Rejoins other cast members.*

*NARRATOR - sarcastic clap.*

NARRATOR

Very good.

ABUSER

You're being sarcastic.

NARRATOR

Absolutely.

ABUSER

You're trying to make me look bad--

NARRATOR

-- No --

MUSIC INTRO: ABUSERS TANGO

ABUSER

-- I've been doing this a long time. Nobody's stopped me yet. Ya know why?

SONG: ABUSERS TANGO

ABUSER

YOU CAN ESTABLISH ALL KINDS OF GROUPS.  
PROPOSE ALL KINDS OF LEGISLATION.  
WEAR THOSE STUPID, PURPLE RIBBONS,  
TO CREATE BUZZ,  
ACROSS THE NATION.  
HAVE POLITICIANS PROCLAMATE.  
GET PRO ATHLETES AND CELEBRITIES  
TO JOIN THE CRY .  
BUT WE ABUSERS SHAKE OUR HEADS AND LAUGH,  
AND DO YOU KNOW WHY?  
DESPITE ALL THAT HYPE AND DRAMA.  
DESPITE ALL THAT STINK AND STIR,  
SHE KEEPS COMING BACK,  
YOU LET ME OFF THE HOOK, THEN ASK,  
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH HER?

ABUSED

HE DIDN'T USE TO BE LIKE THIS.  
HE WAS SWEET AND SO SOLICITOUS.



ABUSERS TANGO con't

ABUSED CONT'D

ROMANTIC AND A LOT OF FUN.  
BUT VERY MUCH THE POSSESSIVE ONE.  
HE WANTED US TO BE, JUST HIM AND ME.  
I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY,  
BUT NOW I SEE.  
I'M TRAPPED,  
THERE'S NO WAY OUT.  
ITS JUST HIM AND ME.

ABUSER

YES, PEOPLE JUDGE HER MORE THAN ME,  
BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS.  
WE ABUSERS BEAT UP THE MIND,  
BEFORE WE EVER USE THE FIST.  
UNTIL ALL OF YOU UNDERSTAND,  
THE ART OF OUR MANIPULATION.

Or until it's one of yours, we're beating.  
There's really no obligation.  
For any of you in this room.  
To kick up any kind of fuss.  
And as long as all of you keep thinking that way,  
you'll never get rid of us.

ABUSED

YOU DIDN'T USE TO BE LIKE THIS.  
YOU WERE SWEET AND SO SOLICITOUS .  
So romantic and so much fun,  
but very much the possessive one.

IT ALWAYS HAD TO BE, JUST YOU AND ME,  
I didn't get it then, but now I see,

I'M TRAPPED, THERE'S NO WAY OUT.

ABUSERS TANGO con't

*ABUSER CROSSES TO HER, menacingly.*

ABUSER

It's just... you and me.

END OF SONG

ABUSER

(to audience)

All right class. Take notes. Abuser 101... It's all about CONTROL...

SONG: CONTROL

ABUSER

HOT DAMN, SHE'S BEING PLAYED,  
I GOT HET HOOKED.  
BUT SHE CAN'T SEE.

NARRATOR

THAT TALK OF SPENDING MORE TIME TOGETHER --

ABUSER

JUST HER AND ME.

CAST MEMBER 1

HE TELLS HER IT'S LOVE, BUT THE TRUTH TO TELL...

ABUSER

IT'S ALL ABOUT C-O-N-T-R-O-L

CAST MEMBER'S 1-4

THAT'S SPELLS CONTROL, BABY CONTROL.  
LEARN THE LESSON,  
IT'S WITH HER MIND HE'S MESSIN...

ABUSER

OWNSHER BODY AND SOUL.

CONTROL cont'd

CAST MEMBER 2

WHEN THEY SAY, THAT'S IT'S LOVE

ABUSER

WE'RE LYING LIKE HELL.

CAST MEMBER 3

IT AIN'T ABOUT LOVE,  
IT'S C-O-N-T-R-O-L.

ABUSED

IT WAS SWEET, WHEN HE SURPRISED ME,  
AND BOUGHT ME A NEW CELL PHONE.

ABUSER

NOTHIN SWEET ABOUT IT. IT'S A LEASH  
WITH A RING TONE.

ABUSED

HE LOVES ME, BUT 30 TEXTS A DAY,  
AND ALL THE VOICE MAIL?

CAST MEMBER 4

THAT'S NOT LOVE.  
IT'S C-O-N-T-R-O-L.

ABUSER

SHE'S STUPID., SHE'S A WHORE.  
YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD ANYMORE.

CONTROL cont'd

ABUSED

I hear that every day and night!

ABUSER

You're damn lucky, Cause no other man would have you!

ABUSED

HEAR THAT ENOUGH, YOU START BELIEVING HE'S  
RIGHT.

CAST MEMBER 1

THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN.  
HE'LL LOOK AT HER IN THAT SPECIAL WAY.

ABUSED

I'm his life. I'm his queen.

NARRATOR

NOT THE WORTHLESS BITCH,  
SHE WAS THE OTHER DAY.

ABUSER

BABE, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU.

NARRATOR

That's crap.

ABUSER

AND I SHOVEL IT WELL.

CAST MEMBERS 1-4

LOVE'S A 7- LETTER WORD, SPELLED., C-O-N-T-R-O-L

CONTROL cont'd

ALL CAST

THAT SPELLS CONTROL, BABY CONTROL.  
AIN'T NO GUESSIN.  
IT'S WITH HER MIND HE'S MESSIN.  
AND IT MURDERS THE SOUL.

ABUSED

It's a cruel and vicious game.

ABUSER

AND I PLAY IT WELL.

ALL CAST

IT' ALL ABOUT. C-O-N-T-R-O-L.  
IT' ALL ABOUT. C-O-N-T-R-O-L.  
YES, IT' ALL ABOUT....  
C-O-N-T-R-O-L.

END OF SONG

ABUSER

(proud, gloating)

Yeah, baby. Now, that's what I'm talking about.

NARRATOR

Yes... you are being you.

ABUSER

What is your problem?

CAST MEMBER 1

Your Narcissism

CAST MEMBER 2

Your Bullying..

CAST MEMBER 3

Other than that, you're really not a nice person at all.

MUSIC INTRO: IT'S NOT MY FAULT (Spoken)  
ala SOFT SHOE style music

ABUSER

Okay... Okay. See... you don't --

CAST MEMBER 4

(to audience)

-- You guys are gonna love this...

ABUSER

Okay, yeah. I'll admit. I get a little wound up,  
and let me tell you why.

The thing is, it's really not my fault.

*Wirth the exception of ABUSED, everybody has  
heard before. So many times, they do other  
things to pass the time, i.e. knitting, Solitaire,  
Crossword puzzle, and etc.*

CAST MEMBER 4

He really thinks he's a great guy.

ABUSER

I got all this stuff going on at work.

CAST MEMBER 3

They've cut his hours.

ABUSER

Yeah. How'd --?

*CAST MEMBER 2 mouths words as ABUSER  
says them.*

CAST MEMBER 3

Your boss is a jerk.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT con't

NARRATOR

(to audience)

He got a ticket, coming home.

ABUSER

And we're a couple of months,  
behind on the house loan.

I ride the bus.

Lost my pass - didn't have any change.

CAST MEMBER 1

Is there an excuse he hasn't used?

NARRATOR

Climate change.

ABUSED

By the time he gets home, he's in an agitated state.

ABUSER

Where the hell were you?

ABUSED

I had to work late.

I texted you. Left a message on the machine.

NARRATOR

She does everything she can, but that doesn't mean,  
it makes any difference - she knows the drill.

ABUSED

He's in rage mode now, which means he will,  
start yelling, ask me who I was with. Call he a whore.

ABUSER

(to audience)

I'll make anything up, because bottom line.

I'm the man, I'm the boss, and she's mine.



IT'S NOT MY FAULT con't

NARRATOR

(to audience)

There it is. The abusers thinking. How they justify assault.  
No matter what he says or does..

ABUSER

It's never...

ABUSED

Not ever?

ABUSER

Never, ever... my fault.

END OF SONG

*NARRATOR and ALL CAST draw audience's  
attention to ABUSED - she's thinking.*

NARRATOR

(to audience)

Now, this next thing won't make any sense to you.  
Don't judge. Understand it's what victims always do.

ABUSED

Okay, okay ... look.  
I don't like it when he gets like that, but..

CAST MEMBER 2

She's going to defend him.

ABUSED

Once he's calmed down. He always says he's sorry.

ABUSER

And I...

NARRATOR

Wait for it.

ABUSER

Promise I'll --

CAST MEMBER 1-4

... I'll never do it again.

ABUSER  
(to NARRATOR)

They did it again.

NARRATOR

Yeah.

ABUSER

They stole my line.

NARRATOR

Yeah, they've heard it before- a million times

*THREE CAST MEMBERS go O.S., Bring back  
prop - blow up of Instagram page.*

ABUSED

Come on, that's just not fair.

ABUSER

Not, it's not!

ABUSED

Because if I can just be a better wife, I know he'll change.

ABUSER  
(starts texting on cell)

And to show you just how really sorry I am...

*CELL BUZZES*

ABUSED

He posted me a singing Instagram.

MUSIC: INTRO INSTAGRAM

*THREE CAST MEMBERS get inside large  
Instagram page, the cross Stage Left and Right-  
SINGING.*

THREE CAST MEMBERS

(sing twice)

ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE.  
I'M SORRY FOR BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.

END OF SONG

*Even though she defends him. She's starting to  
question why.*

ABUSED

A true sign of his love. Can't all of you see.

*CAST MEMBER CROSS to ABUSED.*

MUSIC: INTRO GIFTS (Calypso)

ABUSED

It's his way of making up,  
for beating the crap out of me.

SONG: GIFTS

ABUSED

HE SENT ME FLOWERS AT WORK THE OTHER DAY.

CAST MEMBER 3

(to audience)

FOR THE BROKEN RIBS,  
THAT'S A CHEAP PRICE TO PAY.

GIFTS cont'd

ABUSER

I'VE GOT GREAT HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH  
WORK.

CAST MEMBER 2

TO PAY THE BILL,  
WHEN HE'S GOES BEZERK.

ABUSED

GAVE ME BEAUTIFUL EARRINGS,  
THE WEEK BEFORE THAT.

CAST MEMBER 1

For chasing after her, with a bat.

ABUSED

THEN, THERE WAS THE CANDY. MY FAVORITE,  
CHOCOLATE CHARMS.

CAST MEMBER 4

And that was for?

ABUSED

When he broke my arm.

MUSIC: VAMP

NARRATOR

Anyone starting to see a pattern.

CAST MEMBERS 1-4

WHY HE BUYS THOSE NICE EXPENSIVE THINGS.

GIFTS cont'd

CAST MEMBER 2

THE FLOWERS.

CAST MEMBER 3

THE CANDY.

ABUSED

DON'T FORGET THE EARRINGS.

ABUSER

She's worth it. That's why money is no regard.  
And since the gifts are for her,  
I pay for them with her credit card.

END OF SONG

*LIGHTS GO TO BLK.*

END OF SCENE

SCENE 3

*LIGHTS UP*

NARRATOR

(to ABUSED)

You're not a dummy... you know you need to --

ABUSED

-- Talk to somebody?

NARRATOR

Yes.

ABUSED

Talk to who?

There's nobody out there that I can talk to.

CAST MEMBER 1

(to audience)

She has no close friends.

ABUSED

He's chased them all away.

ABUSER

That's how we roll.

It's called Isolation. What can I say.

CAST MEMBER 2

Can't go to her parents.

ABUSED

Been there. Done that - doesn't work.

Mom just sits there and cries.

ABUSER

(amused)

Daddy? That guy is a piece of work.

*One CAST MEMBER takes on role of DAD*

DAD

I told ya he was a scumbag and a jerk  
For the life of me, I've never understood why...  
I told you not to marry that guy!

ABUSED

Yeah, you're right.  
But what you don't understand,  
my head is so messed up,  
what I hear, is that I'm really...  
(points to ABUSER)  
... as dumb as he keeps telling me I am.

ABUSER

(laughs - at everybody in the room)

Y'all just don't get it. You never understand  
Criticism guarantees she'll stand by her man.

CAST MEMBER 3

I'm guessing you sought spiritual help.

ABUSED

That was kind of a mixed bag.  
One listened, took my hand, then we prayed.  
The other asked what I did, to make him so mad.  
(beat)  
Before you ask yeah, I tried talking to my boss.

NARRATOR

In the name of covering the corporate ,  
I'm guessing that door got shut.

*CAST MEMBERS 1- 4, CROSS to Prop box,  
sitting on top of covered object. They retrieve  
hats and sunglasses ala Blues Brothers.*

*THEY CROSS to Enter Stage.*

CAST MEMBER 4

(to audience)

Are you starting to get an idea...

*CAST MEMBERS*

MUSIC. GUITAR BLUES LICK

CAST MEMBER 4

... what it's like to be in her shoes.

MUSIC: GUITAR BLUES LICK

NARRATOR

So in order to get you to understand...

CAST MEMBER 4

We gotta sing the Blues.

SONG: SHE DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE

CAST MEMBER ?

I KNOW IT' S HARD.... FOR ALL OF YOU TO BELIEVE.  
YES, IT'S GOT TO BE SO DAMN HARD  
FOR ALL OF YOU TO BELIEVE.  
SHE DON'T STAY CAUSE SHE WANTS TO.  
SHE STAYS CAUSE SHE DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE.

SHE'S A DEAD WOMAN WALKING.  
A HUMAN PUNCHING BAG.

ABUSED

YES, I'M A DEAD WOMAN WALKING.  
A HUMAN PUNCHING BAG.

CAST MEMBER ?

FEELS LIKE SHE'S GOT NO WHERE TO TURN.  
THAT'S WHY SHE'S FEELIN SO SAD.

ABUSER

I know what you're thinkin.



SHE DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE cont'd

ABUSER CONT'D

Her daddy should have a little talk with me.  
Sit me down, straighten me out,  
tell me how things should be.

ABUSED

(to all men in audience)

NO, NO DADDY, DON'T SAY NOTHIN,  
THAT ONLY MAKES IT WORSE, YOU SEE  
CAUSE WHEN HE GETS BACK HOME,  
HE'LL TAKE IT OUT ON ME.

CAST MEMBER?

THAT'S WHY WE'RE SAYIN,  
WE KNOW IT'S TO BELIEVE.  
Ain't no no way she wants to stay.

BUT SHE DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE.

ABUSED

I'M BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD SPOT.  
I'VE REALLY HIT THE SKIDS.  
If I leave or go to the police...

ABUSER

(to her)

Say goodbye to mom and dad, and the kids.

*TWO CAST MEMBERS CROSS to prop box. Lift  
it off covered object, to reveal gurney - body  
bag on gurney.*

ABUSER

(to audience)

Yeah, that's how I roll.

SHE DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE cont'd

*TWO CAST MEMBERS CROSS wheel gurney to ABUSED.*

CAST MEMBER ?

I bet now it's not so hard to believe.

THE GIRL DON'T STAY, CAUSE SHE WANTS TO.  
SHE STAYS, CAUSE SHE DON'T HOW TO LEAVE.

*One of the two cast members unfolds the body bag. CROSS TO ABUSED*

*Other cast member, lowers gurney.*

*As ABUSED sings, one of the two cast members will unzip the bag.*

*ABUSED will slink into the bag as if it's a sexy gown.*

ABUSED

I'VE KNOWN IT FOR SOME TIME,  
IT'S BEEN VERY CLEAR.  
A BODY BAG IS THE ONLY WAY,

*TWO CAST MEMBERS assist her lying on the gurney, and zipping up the body bag.*

ABUSED

I EVER GET OUT OF HERE.

ABUSED

YES, A BODY BAG, BABY  
IS THE ONLY WAY, I'LL...

SHE DON'T KNOW HOW TO LEAVE cont'd

*ABUSED suddenly realizes there's another option.*

*Unzipping body bag, she sits up.*

END OF SONG

ABUSED

(to everybody)

WAIT.... I don't have to do this. There's another way this can end.  
Instead of me waiting to get killed.

NARRATOR

Wait for it.

ABUSED

I'll kill him!!

MUSIC: INTRO, WHY CAN'T HE JUST DIE  
(50's Do-Wop style.

NARRATOR

Okay... just a little over the top? But there's an upside.  
It appears she hasn't totally lost her will to survive.

SONG: WHY CAN'T HE JUST DIE

ABUSED

IT'S REALLY NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA.

WHY SHOULDN'T I JUST TAKE HIM OUT?

Nah, can't do that. I've got my kids to think about.

WHY CAN'T HE JUST DIE cont'd

ABUSED CONT'D

IT WOULD BE SORT OF HARD TO EXPLAIN,  
THAT THE ONLY WAY,  
TO SEE MOMMY WAS TO GO TO THE JAIL,  
CAUSE SHE BLEW THEIR DAD AWAY.  
I GO TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY,  
AND SIT AND PONDER WHY ,  
DEAR LORD. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?  
WHY CAN'T HE JUST DIE?

I'D GIVE HIM A VERY NICE FUNERAL.  
I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.  
LIKE THE ONE THE ONE WE HAD FOR MAXWELL.  
THE KIDS PET CAT.  
WE'D BURY HIM RIGHT NEXT TO MAXWELL.  
THAT WOULDN'T BE HARD.  
MAXWELL AND HE, UNDER THE CRAB APPLE TREE,  
IN OUR BACK YARD.

CAST MEMBER 1-4 & NARRATOR

YES, SHE GOES TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY,  
PRAYING AND ASKING WHY...

ABUSED

Lord, I know. I'm a little slow,

BUT WHY CAN'T HE JUST DIE.

I KNOW I SOUND LIKE A WHACK JOB.  
THAT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO EXPLAIN.  
IF I SANG THIS SONG TO A JURY,  
NO DOUBT THEY'D FIND ME INSANE.  
A CAR ACCIDENT ?

Arsenic! No, that's so wrong. To do it right,  
it would have to be a little at a time - that would take too damn long

WHY CAN'T HE JUST DIE cont'd

ALL CAST

SHE SITS IN CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY

ABUSED

Can you blame for asking why?

God... give me a break...

(looks around)

Get it? Domestic violence? Give me a -- Tough room.

ABUSED CONT'D

WHY CAN HE JUST...

EVERYBODY

DIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

END OF SONG

*ABUSED feels renewed, excited - proud of her self.*

ABUSED CONT'D

Yeah, baby. That's what I'm talking about.

NARRATOR

Feeling better?

ABUSED

Mess with the Bull, you get the horn - ya know what I'm sayin!

(immediate attitude change)

Whoa, whoa, whoa... wait... what I just said... No, that's not the me I used to be... that me, I can't, I won't do. That me...

(points to ABUSER)

... sounds just like you.

NARRATOR

Game show music, please

MUSIC: GAME SHOW STYLE OPEN

CAST MEMBER 1

Tonight/Today...coming to you live from \_\_\_\_\_ it's time to play, Time  
To get the Heck out of Dodge.

*CAST MEMBERS bring up APPLAUSE signs to  
get audience wound up.*

CAST MEMBER 2

And here he/she is... you favorite, You Ain't Got Much Time Left host... Here's  
\_\_\_\_\_

*CAST MEMBERS bring up APPLAUSE signs to  
get audience wound up.*

CAST MEMBER/GAME SHOW HOST

Thank you - Thank you; and welcome to, IT'S TIME TO GET THE HECK OUT OF  
DODGE. The game where if you don't start running, or grab a cab, you can bet your  
gazzittza you'll end up on a slab.

*ABUSED ad lib confusion.*

CAST MEMBER/GAME SHOW HOST

(to CAST MEMBER 2- pointing to  
ABUSED)

Is this our contestant who's gambling with her life, tonight?

*ABUSED continues ad lib confusion.*

CAST MEMBER 2

Well, her name isn't on her gravestone yet, but she could be well on her way!

ABUSED

Hey, this isn't funny!

MUSIC: FAN FARE

CAST MEMBER/GAME SHOW HOST

Congratulations. You are correct!

*CAST MEMBERS bring up APPLAUSE signs to get audience wound up.*

ABUSED

This isn't a game!

CAST MEMBER/GAME SHOW HOST

Right again!

MUSIC: BIGGER FAN FARE

*CAST MEMBERS bring up APPLAUSE signs to get audience wound up.*

ABUSED

This is my life... or what's left of it. So, please... STOP!

MUSIC: GRAND FAN FARE

CAST MEMBER/GAME SHOW HOST

Correct, again!

*CAST MEMBERS bring up APPLAUSE signs to get audience wound up.*

CAST MEMBER/GAME SHOW HOST

Alright, alright. Now... one more correct answer, and you win the grand prize!

(to CAST MEMBER 3)

Tell her about that grand prize, \_\_\_\_\_.

CAST MEMBER 3

\_\_\_\_\_ your grand prize ... a chance to get your life back. But there's a catch.

NARRATOR

Despite all this craziness, roleplaying, the tongue in cheek persuasion. I You Really want out...stop being a part, of your own victimization.

*CAST MEMBER 4, carrying three giant playing cards; CROSS TO ABUSED.*

CAST MEMBER 4

Go ahead, pick a card - any card.

(to audience)

There's the Ace of Hearts - her life, her self respect.

Then there's the Ace of Spades... doesn't take a card shark  
to figure out what that represents.

ABUSER

Seriously?

Well, maybe the women are buying  
this pick a card stuff.

But the men? I'm betting they've heard enough.

NARRATOR

An opinion, a symptom of terminal Testosterone.

And from the looks on the men's faces, an opinion that's yours alone.

(to ABUSED)

The first step is really hard...

ABUSER

(to ABUSED)

You dumb Bitch... you can't make it without me

NARRATOR

You're out of time. Pick a card.

ABUSER

(laughs)

Good luck.

*CAST MEMBER TWO CROSS to ABUSED.*

CAST MEMBER 2

First thing? You are not alone. Nobody can do this on their own.

(refers to audience)

And if/when you need them. They're good people.

CAST MEMBER 2

(looks directly at audience)

They'll step up.



MUSIC: DARK, THREATENING

ABUSER

(to everybody in room.)

You will, huh?

We'll see.

*ABUSER EXITS*

NARRATOR

(to audience)

Stepping up ... doing the right thing... you guys can do that.

Some of you already are.

CAST MEMBER 1

(to specific audience member)

Some of you want to. You just don't how to start.

MUSIC: LISTEN, LISTEN

CAST MEMBER 2

That's the first and most important step... then follow with your heart.

ABUSED

If they decide to confide in you ,  
put all judgement aside.

It's not going to be easy, listening to what they say.

Remember, you criticize their abuser,  
they'll shut down, and walk away.

FEMALE CAST MEMBERS

LISTEN, LISTEN. BEFORE ANYTHING YOU SAY... AND  
WHEN YOU DO SAY SOMETHING, TELL THEM

ABUSED

You are a good person. I'm concerned for your safety.

You don't deserve to be treated that way.

Tell them that over and over again - every time you talk

Understand, they're convinced, they deserved every beating they got.

LISTEN, LISTEN cont'd

ABUSED

Mon and dad... Yeah, you tried to tell them,  
you knew where it was going - they didn't care.  
They need you now- more than ever.  
Tell them you'll be there.

FEMALE CAST MEMBERS

LISTEN, LISTEN.  
BEFORE ANYTHING YOU SAY.  
I TOLD YOU SO'S WON'T BRING THEM CLOSER,  
IT JUST PUSH THEM FARTHER AWAY.

NARRATOR

It's going to get worse, before it gets better.  
So, step back, take a breath, count to ten...  
sometimes you'll have to count to 100... do it.  
Then start again.

LISTEN. LISTEN. BEFORE ANYTHING YOU SAY.  
LISTEN.

END OF SONG

MUSIC: VAMP OPEN TO HALLELUJAH  
CHORUS

*ALL CAST adorn choir robes.*

*NARRATOR acts as conductor.*

NARRATOR

Lest we forget.  
Another point, has to be made,  
without further hesitation.

With an issue governed by He said, She said situations...  
Credibility of such, is often based on....

SONG: DOCUMENTATION

ALL CAST

DOC - U - MENTATION.  
DOC - U - MENTATION.

ALL CAST CONT'D

TABULATION. MAKE NOTATION ,  
OF EVERY BUMP AND BRUISE.  
DOCUMENTATION.  
DOCUMENTATION.  
9-1-1 CALLS, AND POLICE REPORTS.  
ANYTHING YOU CAN USE.  
TO SHOW A PATTERN OF  
A-BU-SIVE BE-HAVIOR.

MEN

9-1-1 CALLS.

WOMEN

BUMPS AND BRUISES.

MEN

SHOW A PATTERN.

WOMEN

IT'S EVIDENCE.

ALL CAST

EVIDENCE THAT WILL SUPPORT.  
EVIDENCE YOU CAN TAKE TO COURT.

NARRATOR

Didn't see that commin, did ya?

MUSIC VAMP

MUSIC VAMP cont'd

NARRATOR

(to audience)

Now, to underscore the importance of,  
the message of that song..

NARRATOR CONT'D

Guess what?  
Here comes the part where you get to sing along.  
Don't panic, you can do this - don't get stressed.  
You just have to sing one word...

(sing it)

DOC-U-MENTATION, we'll sing the rest.  
(run through it with them a couple times)

NARRATOR

Got it? Alright. Going to give you a four count, then here we go.  
(gives count- points to them to go)

MUSIC: DOCUMENTATION

AUDIENCE

DOCUMENTATION...

NARRATOR

(cheering them on)

Oh, yeah!

AUDIENCE

DOCUMENTATION.

NARRATOR

You got it!

(points to cast)

DOCUMENTATION cont'd

ALL CAST

TABULATION. ,  
MAKE NOTATION,  
OF EVERY BUMP AND BRUISE.

AUDIENCE

DOCUMENTATION.

NARRATOR

Yeah, baby!

AUDIENCE

DOCUMENTATION.

ALL CAST

9-1-1 CALLS.  
AND POLICE REPORTS.  
ANYTHING THAT CAN BE USED.  
TO SHOW A PATTERN OF,  
ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR.

FEMALE CAST MEMBERS

9-1-1 CALLS.

MALE CAST MEMBERS

BUMPS AND BRUISES.

FEMALE CAST MEMBERS

SHOW A PATTERN.

DOCUMENTATION cont'd

MALE CAST MEMBERS

IT'S EVIDENCE.

ALL CAST

EVIDENCE THAT WILL SUPPORT...

*NARRATOR calls for everybody to sing.*

NARRATOR

EVERYBODY!!!

CAST & AUDIENCE

EVIDENCE YOU CAN TAKE ... TO... COURT!

END OF SONG

*ROUSING APPLAUSE.*

*CAST APPLAUDS AUDIENCE.*

NARRATOR

(to audience)

Alright, alright... You guys are GREAT!!!

KEYBOARD PLAYER - MUSIC: First 6-8 Bars,  
I'M SO GLAD WE'VE HAD THIS TIME... (Carol  
Burnett Show)

NARRATOR

There it is... the music cue that ushers in,  
the ending of what has to be,  
the most... The most what?

*MUSIC FADES*

NARRATOR CONT'D

(ask audience member)

One word description of what you've just seen.

*Most likely, audience member, taken by surprise,  
will not know what to say.*

*If so...*

NARRATOR

(Gotcha laugh)

Didn't see that coming either, did ya?

(to all audience)

No worries...

Okay ..., parting shot time...

KEYBOARD MUSIC: Opening riff that started  
show

*ALL CAST CROSS from where they are in  
audience to, to reform opening tableau around  
NARRATOR*

*As at beginning of show. CAST starts snapping  
their fingers - same beat, as in opening of show.*

NARRATOR CONT'D

To those of you, of the mind...  
this stuff happens to other people,  
not me, not mine.  
Here's what I'd like you to do.  
Ask around.  
See if you can find,  
anybody who,  
before it happened to them...

didn't think just like you.

(beat)

That's it. We're out of here.

We hope you find our abrupt ending excusable.

Safe travels home, and good night, from the cast of

KEYBOARD MUSIC

ALL CAST

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE MUSICAL.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THE MUSICAL.

(repeat twice more)

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA-WHOA!

END OF SONG

END OF SHOW