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DEAD GIRL WALKING



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DEAD GIRL WALKING

written by

Dave Tippett

inspired by the book, “The Slave Across the Street”,
by Theresa Flores

Reader’s Theater

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Synopsis

Human Trafficking. In this Reader's Theater, the victim of human trafficking battles the 'well-meaning' but destructive judgements of those who question why she never tried to escape. She explains her descent into emotional detachment, and how their judgment hurts, and how empathy and true acceptance, heals.

NOTE: This is a mature script for mature actresses. If teen girls are utilized as suggested, make sure their parents are in full cooperation and have had a chance to review the script. Another alternative would be to use actresses that are over 18—i.e., college students.

Cast of Characters

Four READERS. All teen girls (OPTION: Consider giving TEEN 1-4 first names to readers)

TEEN 1 (T1) or JESSICA	teen girl
TEEN 2 (T2) or LINDSEY	teen girl
TEEN 3 (T3) or TAYLOR	teen girl
TEEN 4 (T4) or ABBY	teen girl

Director Notes

SET

Empty stage. Four teen girls standing SL (stage left), SR (stage right), USL (upstage left) and USR (upstage right).

MUSIC

Mood music playing softly underneath dialogue can be an effective touch.

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: The stage is empty.

At Rise: At curtain, READERS come out onto stage, take their places and pause. Then-

T1

People-

T2

Well-meaning people-

T3

Air quotes around "well-meaning"-

T4

Anyway-

T1

People always ask me-

T2

Why?

T3

Why?

T4

Why?

T1

Why didn't you stop it?

T2

Why didn’t you try to escape?

T3

Call the police?

T4

Tell your parents, your friends? Your pastor?

ALL IN UNISON

You had choices. What’s wrong with you?!

T1

But- what I really hear you asking is-

T2

How could you let this happen?

T3

Are you that stupid?

T4

Where was your faith?

T1

You did this to embarrass us, didn’t you?

T2

You must have liked it sometimes, right?

ALL IN UNISON

You didn’t choose to leave!

(pause)

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T3

You thought I was making it up to get attention.

T4

Or I was going through some weird rebellious phase.

T1

Or— it can't just can't happen-

T2

Here.

T3

In our town.

T4

In our school.

T1

In our church.

(pause)

T2

And every time you-

T3

-and others-

T4

-denied me my story-

T1

I ran.

T2

Ran away.

T3

Far away.

ALL IN UNISON

Inside myself.

(pause)

T4

So, you want to know why?

T1

Wrong question.

T2

Try-

T3

How can I help?

T4

Accept me without judgment.

T1

Allow me the simple gift of telling-

T2

-my story.

T3

My story.

T4

My story.

T1

With a compassionate heart-

T2

accepting and-

T3

listening ear.

ALL IN UNISON

It's all we ask.

T4

Do that-

T1

Do that-

T2

Do that-

T3

Do that…

(pause)

ALL IN UNISON

And the dead will rise again.

(READERS freeze, music comes up, and then out. Curtain.)



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