

FAMILY ABUSE

A play in two acts

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CHARACTERS

CARL	African-American, with a drug and alcohol addiction.
NIKKI	African-American, Carl's wife.
YOUNG TAMARA	Six-years-old, Carl and Nikki's house.
JACKIE	African-American, Nikki's friend.
TEENAGE TAMARA	Sixteen-years-old.
DOMINIC	African-American, smooth talking drug dealer.
DOCTOR	African-American, early thirties.
HENCHMEN	Two husky African-Americans.

SETTING

The story opens up in Carl and Nikki's house.

TIME

The story is based in the present time.

SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1	Carl and Nikki's house/The living room	Night
Scene 2	Carl and Nikki's house/The kitchen	Morning
Scene 3	Carl's car	Same day
Scene 4	Young Tamara's room/Carl and Nikki's bedroom	Night
Scene 5	Carl and Nikki's bedroom	Night
Scene 6	The bar	Same night
Scene 7	Carl and Nikki's bedroom	Same night
Scene 8	The hospital	Same night

ACT II

Scene 1	In front of Carl and Nikki's house	Afternoon
Scene 2	Carl and Nikki's bedroom	Night
Scene 3	Carl and Nikki's house/The kitchen	Afternoon
Scene 4	The hospital	Same day
Scene 5	Dominic's house	Same day
Scene 6	Carl and Nikki's house/The kitchen	Same day

ACT I

Scene 1

On this rainy night, the sound of rain can be heard hitting against the windows. CARL comes in dripping wet, drunk, wearing something casual. He closes the door laughing making his way towards the stairs.

Attempting to walk up the stairs, he slips falling on his face. Continuing laughing, he turns on his back ignoring the pain he'll feel in the morning when the drinks wear off.

NIKKI comes from the upstairs bedroom wearing her nightgown, walking down the stairs with attitude in each step she takes.

Reaching the bottom, she looks at him disgusted, folding her arms across her chest.

NIKKI

I should slap the hell outta you.

He stops laughing looking at her, and his expression says he's done nothing wrong.

CARL

Why would you...

The drinks catch up to him, turning his head to the side vomiting.

NIKKI

Look at you. This is sad.

YOUNG TAMARA comes from her bedroom wearing her pajamas making her way towards the steps rubbing her eyes, yawning, indicating she's been fighting sleep.

YOUNG TAMARA

Mommy, what's wrong with daddy?

Nikki sighs softly, looking up at her.

NIKKI

Daddy is sick.

Carl wipes the residue from his mouth, looking around trying to focus where his daughter voice is coming from.

CARL

That's my little girl. Where is she?

Nikki looks down at him shaking her head.

NIKKI

She's upstairs.

YOUNG TAMARA

Can I give daddy a hug?

Nikki looks up at her.

NIKKI

Not now. Mommy has to clean him up.

CARL

Come give daddy...

Nikki softly kicks his leg.

NIKKI

You don't say a word.

Nikki makes her way upstairs kneeling down caressing Young Tamara's face, before giving her a kiss on the forehead.

NIKKI

Go to bed.

YOUNG TAMARA

I want daddy to read me a story.

NIKKI

How about I read you a story tonight? And when daddy feels better, he'll read to you tomorrow.

Young Tamara looks at her smiling.

YOUNG TAMARA

Okay.

NIKKI

I love you.

YOUNG TAMARA

I love you too, mommy. I love you, daddy.

Young Tamara goes back into her room.

Nikki sighs deep, making her way back downstairs to Carl.

CARL

Daddy loves you, too.

She kicks him with a little more force, embarrassed he came home pissy drunk and his daughter seen him.

NIKKI

I don't know what you had, nor do I care. I care about the feelings of a six-year-old little girl, who wants nothing more than for her daddy to read her a story.

No further words for him, she makes her way back upstairs going into Young Tamara's room closing the door.

Carl realizes what just transpired ashamed of his self, looking to the side at the vomit.

He tries standing, but he's unable to get his balance, continuing to sit on the steps in self-pity.

CARL

I love my family. I love...

No more gas is in the tank dropping his head fast asleep.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT I

Scene 2

Nikki is standing over the sink washing dishes wearing some jogging pants and a T-shirt.

Young Tamara is sitting at the table eating her breakfast, wearing her school uniform.

Carl comes into the kitchen wearing a suit.

Young Tamara gets up from the table running over to him smiling, and he opens his arms embracing her in a hug picking her up.

CARL

You ready to go?

YOUNG TAMARA

Are you okay from last night?

Carl looks towards her clearing his throat.

CARL

Yeah.

Nikki pauses from washing the dishes looking at him.

NIKKI

I'm glad daddy cleaned up his mess.

He looks over at her with an innocent smile.

CARL

Why wouldn't I?

Knowing he's full of it, she goes back to the dishes, wishing he would hurry up and take his daughter to school.

YOUNG TAMARA

Can we have doughnuts?

CARL

Is that what you want?

YOUNG TAMARA

Yes. We have to share doughnuts.

CARL

We can do that.

YOUNG TAMARA

Thanks, daddy.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek, before putting her down.

She walks off stage.

Carl walks over to Nikki smiling trying to wrap his arms around her waist, and she turns looking at him pushing him back.

CARL

What's wrong?

NIKKI

Don't give me that. You know what's wrong?

CARL

What? I cleaned up the mess.

NIKKI

Do you realize she saw you last night?

CARL

I don't recall. But, I really did eat something bad.

NIKKI

Was it drugs or alcohol?

CARL

(Sighs)

Just drinks. I haven't used since counseling.

NIKKI

You needed a drink before you came home?

CARL

No. Last night---

YOUNG TAMARA

(Off stage)

Daddy, I'm ready to go.

NIKKI

Take her to school. We can talk when you get home.

CARL

You know I love you both, right?

NIKKI

Just take her to school. I'm having good vibes, and I don't want it disturbed with your lies.

Carl sighs lowering his head, making his way off stage.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT I

Scene 3

Carl and Young Tamara are sitting in his car laughing, eating doughnuts.

Finishing her doughnut, she takes a napkin from the bag wiping her mouth.

YOUNG TAMARA

These are my favorites.

CARL

I know they are.

YOUNG TAMARA

Why was mommy mad at you?

CARL

It's nothing to worry about.

YOUNG TAMARA

Mommy said you'll read to me tonight.

CARL

And I will.

YOUNG TAMARA

Any story I want?

CARL

Any story you want, big girl.

YOUNG TAMARA

Good. I have six books in mind.

CARL

Six books?

YOUNG TAMARA

Yes. I don't know what mood I'll be in.

He laughs.

CARL

What do you know about having a mood?

She looks at him with the biggest smile.

YOUNG TAMARA

I'm a daddy's girl. I learned from you.

Proud his daughter looks to him as a role model, he gives her kiss on the forehead.

CARL

Thank you for the compliment. I'll see you tonight.

YOUNG TAMARA

I love you, daddy.

CARL

I love you, too. Get in the building before you're late.

She gets out closing the door, walking off stage.

Carl sits smiling, when his phone starts ringing. Pulling his phone out answering, he places it to his ear.

CARL

Hello?

DOMINIC

(Off stage)

How's it going?

CARL

I'm good, and you?

DOMINIC

(Off stage)

You know me. I was calling to see if you want the special?

CARL

I have to read to Tamara tonight. I don't know if I'll be able to do that if I take my medicine.

DOMINIC

(Off stage)

It's something special, C. It'll have you so good you'll be able to read with your eyes closed.

The enticing words gets Carl interested rubbing his chin.

CARL

Adding the sugar on top, huh?

DOMINIC

(Off stage)

Since you're my friend, I'm letting you get first dibs.

CARL

Bag me some up, and I'll be over when I get off.

DOMINIC

(Off stage)

You're the man. I'll have it ready.

Carl hangs up delighted knowing he'll get his fix when he gets off work.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT I

Scene 4

Inside Young Tamara's room, Dolls are on her bed, and an adorable lamp is resting on the nightstand.

Young Tamara is in bed wearing her pajamas listening to Carl sitting next to her reading the last few lines from a story.

Closing the book, he places it on the nightstand, turning looking at her smiling.

CARL

This makes book number six.

YOUNG TAMARA

Are you tired of reading?

CARL

No princess, it's late. It's past your bedtime, and you need rest.

YOUNG TAMARA

I'll be okay, daddy. I can multitask, like you.

He looks at her laughing.

CARL

You can multitask, like me?

YOUNG TAMARA

I told you, I'm a daddy's girl.

CARL

Well, daddy's girl needs her rest, so she can multitask.

He gives her a kiss on the forehead, and then prepares to get out the bed.

She sits up grabbing his arm.

CARL

What's wrong?

YOUNG TAMARA

I don't want you to leave.

CARL

I'm not leaving. I'll be right down the hall with mommy.

YOUNG TAMARA

I don't want you to leave, ever.

CARL

What makes you think I'm going to leave?

YOUNG TAMARA

I don't know. I just don't want you to leave.

Carl reaches in his pocket pulling out his wallet opening it,
pulling out a gold engagement ring, extending it to her.

She takes the ring.

YOUNG TAMARA

This is beautiful.

CARL

Your mother gave me this ring. Do you know what she told me when she gave
it to me?

YOUNG TAMARA

What?

CARL

No matter where I'm at or what I'm doing, she'll always be with me.

YOUNG TAMARA

So, why are you giving it to me?

CARL

Because now, as long as you have it. I'll always be with you.

YOUNG TAMARA

Thanks, daddy.

CARL

Daddy is thankful he has you for a daughter.

YOUNG TAMARA

What will we tell mommy?

CARL

We won't tell her until you get older.

YOUNG TAMARA

Where will I put it?

CARL

Think of a safe place to put it.

YOUNG TAMARA

I love you, daddy.

CARL

Daddy loves you, too.

He gets up from the bed, walking out the room.

Standing outside her door, he pulls the Heroin from his pocket sighing deep.

Placing it back in his pocket, he walks down to their bedroom walking in. Nikki is in bed with her hair wrapped, reading a book.

Carl strips down to his boxers, and then gets in the bed trying to nestle underneath her, and she pushes him back.

NIKKI

What are you doing?

CARL

I'm getting up under you.

NIKKI

You're not out the doghouse. You're lucky I'm even allowing you in this bed.

CARL

Is this about last night?

She turns looking at him.

NIKKI

Do you know how embarrassing it was?

CARL

It couldn't have been that bad.

NIKKI

What do you remember about last night?

CARL

Very little.

NIKKI

Let me tell you about last night. I don't know how you made it home, but thank God you did. You came in the house throwing up in front of your daughter. And before it was said and done, you passed out in your vomit. That's what happened last night.

CARL

So, it wasn't that bad.

NIKKI

Are you serious?

CARL

Calm down baby, I'm playing.

NIKKI

Do you see a smile on my face? What did you have last night?

CARL

Only drinks.

NIKKI

That's your famous line.

CARL

I'm serious. I only had drinks. Last night I over did it with the guys watching the game.

NIKKI

Why do you feel you have to drink?

CARL

I don't.

NIKKI

So, what are you doing about the problem?

CARL

I have to discipline myself to know when enough is enough. I can't tell you here and now I quit, because that would be a lie.

NIKKI

The last time you were in that state...we ended up in the hospital.

She turns her back to him.

He nestles in closer wrapping his arm around her, leaning his face closer to hers.

CARL

I'm not going through that stage again. I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I put you two through that situation again.

NIKKI

I can't sit back and watch you destroy this family.

CARL

You don't have to worry about that. As long as I have the love from you two, nothing else matters.

NIKKI

(Sniffing)

I love you, Carl.

He gently grabs her by the chin, turning her head so he can kiss her.

CARL

I love you, too.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT I

Scene 5

Carl is sitting on the bed smiling wearing a T-Shirt and jeans, watching something on television.

Young Tamara comes into the room in her pajamas, taking a seat on the bed beside him.

YOUNG TAMARA

What are you doing, daddy?

CARL

Oh nothing. Waiting to see the outfit your mother bought.

YOUNG TAMARA

Where is she going?

CARL

I don't know.

YOUNG TAMARA

It's just me and you tonight?

CARL

That's right.

YOUNG TAMARA

Can we stay up all night, eat candy and watch movies?

CARL

We'll see.

Nikki's phone is on the bed beside Young Tamara ringing. She picks it up handing it to Carl.

YOUNG TAMARA

Here's your phone, daddy.

CARL

This is mommy's phone, but let me see.

He takes the phone looking at the text message from an unknown person.

CARL (CONT'D)

(Reads to his self)

I can't wait for you to get here. This is something I know you'll truly love.

He puts the phone down, and sadness etches his face.

Young Tamara looks at him.

YOUNG TAMARA

What's wrong, daddy?

CARL

Daddy...daddy has something on his mind.

Nikki comes into the room in a fitted black dress looking marvelous.

NIKKI

How do I look?

YOUNG TAMARA

Oh, mommy, you look so pretty.

NIKKI

Thank you. C, how do I look?

Carl sits with his head down, rubbing his chin.

CARL

You look beautiful, like she said.

NIKKI

What's wrong with you?

He looks up at her.

CARL

I'm just thinking about the movies we're watching tonight.

Nikki knows something is bothering him, but she doesn't have time for his games possibly ruining her night, so she goes with the flow.

NIKKI

Okay. Well, I'll be back later.

YOUNG TAMARA

Bye.

Nikki gets ready to walk out.

CARL

You're forgetting your phone.

He holds the phone out.

She walks to him taking the phone, giving him a kiss.

NIKKI

I love you. I'll see you later.

Nikki walks out the room.

YOUNG TAMARA

You ready to get the movies started?

CARL

Go pick what you wanna start with, and I'll be right there.

Young Tamara gets up walking out the room.

Carl sighs deep standing up walking over to the closet opening it. He kneels down fumbling around in the corner for a few seconds, and then he pulls out a fifth of vodka.

He stands up walking back over to the bed taking a seat, opening the bottle. Placing the bottle to his nose, he inhales the aroma shaking his head.

YOUNG TAMARA

(Off stage)

Daddy, I'm ready!

CARL

Here I come!

Closing his eyes, he places the bottle to his lips taking a deep swig.

CARL

You complain about my drinking, but you out here cheating? I got something for you.

He takes another deep swig, before placing the bottle down walking out the room.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT I

Scene 6

Some jazz music plays faintly in the sophisticated atmosphere of the bar.

Nikki and JACKIE are sitting at the bar laughing having drinks. Jackie is wearing a seductive outfit.

NIKKI

You got it?

JACKIE

You know I do. It took me a little time, but I got it.

She reaches in her purse pulling out a ring box handing it to Nikki.

Nikki takes the box smiling.

NIKKI

This is the perfect gift for our anniversary.

JACKIE

Putting up with what you go through is love on another level, girl.

NIKKI

That's what you do when you take a vow. No matter what, you stick through the hard times until they get better.

JACKIE

I couldn't do it. Take a look at the work.

Nikki opens the box and she's overwhelmed.

NIKKI

Perfection. The first rings he gave me, fused together forever like our love.

JACKIE

So, he wasn't always this way?

Nikki closes the box, placing it to the side.

NIKKI

No. I drove him to that point.

JACKIE

What happened?

NIKKI

When I was in high school, I dated the star player on the football team. He treated me like crap, and Carl came along showing me a better life.

JACKIE

What made him turn to drinking and drugs?

NIKKI

(Sighs)

Me. We were together for a few weeks, and I went back to the football player. Carl found out, and he resorted to drinks to deal with the pain.

JACKIE

Why did you go back, and he was treating you like crap?

NIKKI

Greed. Sexual desires. Not believing Carl could give me a better life.

JACKIE

That explains why you love him.

NIKKI

Yeah. Hopefully on our anniversary I can bury the hatch on our past.

JACKIE

I hope you can. I'll pray for you.

NIKKI

Thank you.

They pick up their glasses toasting taking a sip.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT I

Scene 7

Carl is sitting against the wall drunk with the empty bottle resting by his leg, along with a syringe. His eyes are glazed, mouth open, staring off into space.

Young Tamara walks into the room running over to him concerned, shaking his arm.

Carl slowly leans to the side falling to the floor closing his eyes.

YOUNG TAMARA

Mommy! Mommy, come help daddy, please!

Nikki rushes in over to him kneeling down shaking him, before slapping him across the face.

NIKKI

Carl?! Carl, wake up, you're scaring your daughter!

Carl doesn't respond.

Nikki pulls her phone out dialing 911.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT I

Scene 8

Carl is on the hospital bed slowly waking up.

Nikki is standing by his bedside looking down at him ashamed. Young Tamara is sitting in a chair looking at him, holding a picture she drew.

CARL

Where am I?

NIKKI

You're in the hospital. They had to flush your system.

CARL

I don't remember what happened.

NIKKI

This has to stop, C. What were you thinking?

He's silent, shaking his head.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Is it because I went out? You thought I was with someone else?

CARL

...Were you?

She pulls out the ring box opening it, showing him the ring.

NIKKI

I was out getting your anniversary gift.

She hands him the box, and he takes it with tears in his eyes.

CARL

...This is beautiful.

NIKKI

I love you, Carl. What happened in the past is meant to stay buried in the past. This can't continue.

Young Tamara gets up from the chair walking over to him, handing him the picture.

He takes the picture, and a tear falls from his eye.

YOUNG TAMARA

I made this for you, daddy.

CARL

(Sniffling)

Thank you, princess.

NIKKI

Go wait outside for mommy so we can go home.

Young Tamara gives him a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

YOUNG TAMARA

I love you, daddy.

CARL

I love you, too.

Young Tamara walks out the room.

NIKKI

You can't have your family and your addictions, expecting this to have a good outcome. Think about it.

Nikki walks out the room.

Carl holds the ring box and picture close to his heart, closing his eyes crying.

END OF THE SCENE

END OF ACT I

ACT II

Scene 1

After ten years of AA meetings and rehab, Carl is finally drug and alcohol free, starting a new life with Nikki and Teenage Tamara. The family is enjoying a picnic in front of the house, wearing wife beaters and shorts, on a cool summer day.

Carl picks up his can of soda taking a sip.

CARL

How are things in school?

TEENAGE TAMARA

I can't complain.

Nikki turns looking at her smiling.

NIKKI

What about this boy you told me about?

Teenage Tamara turns looking at her blushing.

TEENAGE TAMARA

Mama.

NIKKI

(Laughs)

Girl, don't be embarrassed. You should hear how I ended up dating your father.

Carl looks at her embarrassed.

CARL

What do I have to do with this?

TEENAGE TAMARA

I wanna hear this.

NIKKI

Let me tell you.

CARL

Nikki, come on, now.

TEENAGE TAMARA

Be quiet, dad. I wanna hear the story.

NIKKI

He came up to me with some flowers, candy and a card, with this goofball expression. The card said, I'm taking you out after school, and I'll say it for you. You're my girl.

Nikki and Teenage Tamara break out laughing.

Carl sits shaking his head taking a sip from his soda.

TEENAGE TAMARA

That was pretty lame, dad.

NIKKI

Girl, who you telling?

CARL

Laugh it up. It got you.

Nikki laughs.

NIKKI

I felt sorry for you. I figured, why not?

Teenage Tamara laughs.

TEENAGE TAMARA

Yeah, I probably would've done the same.

CARL

Yeah, yeah. Whatever.

Nikki leans over giving him a kiss.

NIKKI

Don't be so sensitive. You're still my favorite lame, honey bunny.

The three sit laughing.

Dominic comes on stage with a cool pimp walk wearing a suit, carrying a briefcase.

DOMINIC

C. How's everything going?

The laughter stops focusing their attention on Dominic.

Nikki instantly gets an attitude standing up making her way over to him, placing her hands on her hips.

NIKKI

What are you doing at my house?

DOMINIC

Nikki, calm down. I didn't come to cause trouble.

NIKKI

You are trouble. Whenever you come around, you bring grief.

Carl and Teenage Tamara stand up.

TEENAGE TAMARA

Who is that?

CARL

Nobody. Go in the house.

Teenage Tamara makes her way off stage.

Carl walks over to Nikki and Dominic, wrapping his arms around her waist.

CARL

What's the problem?

DOMINIC

No problems, C. I was just explaining to Nikki---

NIKKI

You're about to get your ass in gear, before I call the police.

CARL

Head on in the house. I got it covered.

NIKKI

Make sure you do.

Nikki makes her way off stage.

DOMINIC

She still has some fire in her.

CARL

What do you want?

DOMINIC

I haven't seen you in awhile.

CARL

When you go clean, you stay away from the thing that almost ruined your life.

DOMINIC

C, I moved on to bigger and better things. The new stuff I got---

CARL

You're wasting your time.

DOMINIC

C, hear me out. The stuff I mess with now has no side effects. I tried some myself, and I'm perfectly fine.

CARL

Even with you saying this, I want no parts of it.

DOMINIC

Just take a look at it.

Dominic opens the briefcase showing Carl the Heroin.

Carl looks at it rubbing his chin with an orgasmic look in his eyes.

CARL

As tempting as it looks...I can't get down with it. You can leave.

Dominic takes one of the bags out, and then closes the brief case.

DOMINIC

Since we're good friends, I'll let you get one me.

CARL

Dominic---

DOMINIC

If you decide to give it a try, cool. If you don't, that's cool, too.

Temptation gets the best of Carl extending his hand, and Dominic places the bag in his hand.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

Let me know if you try it. Oh, one more thing. You and Nikki did a good job with Tamara.

Dominic makes his way off stage.

Carl sighs deep, lowering his head.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT II

Scene 2

Nikki and Carl are in bed watching the television on low. Nikki turns looking at him grabbing his chin so he can look directly in her eyes.

NIKKI

What did that snake want?

CARL

He wanted me to buy something.

NIKKI

I'm glad you turned him down.

He gives her a kiss.

CARL

I changed my life for my family.

NIKKI

Good.

CARL

Who is this boy you two were talking about?

NIKKI

He's somebody from school.

CARL

Okay. What's special about him?

Nikki laughs.

NIKKI

Boy, calm your nerves. It's nothing serious.

CARL

Keep it that way.

NIKKI

Look at you, extra protective.

CARL

I don't play when it comes to my ladies.

She gives him a kiss.

NIKKI

We know. That's why we love you.

He looks at her smiling.

CARL

Well, since you know. Come a little closer, and show me some love.

NIKKI

You freak.

CARL

And we're one in the same. That's how we ended up with Tamara.

NIKKI

She'll be the only one.

CARL

It's only one way to find out.

The two laugh before embracing each other kissing.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT II

Scene 3

Teenage Tamara is sitting at the kitchen table wearing something casual looking over her homework. A bowl of cereal is beside her.

Carl comes into the kitchen wearing some jogging pants and a shirt, making his way over to the sink for a glass of water.

CARL

What's going on, princess?

She eats a spoon full of cereal.

TEENAGE TAMARA

I'm just looking over my homework.

CARL

It's always good to double check.

Eating another spoon full, she looks over at him smiling.

TEENAGE TAMARA

I learned from...

She begins having problems breathing, wide-eyed,
grabbing at her chest, falling out the chair.

Carl drops his glass rushing over to her kneeling down.

She begins shaking, foaming at the mouth.

CARL

Baby, what's wrong?! What's wrong baby, talk to daddy!

Nikki rushes on stage running over to the two.

NIKKI

What's wrong with her?!

CARL

Call 911!

End of the scene

ACT II

Scene 4

Teenage Tamara is asleep on the hospital bed
hooked up to a machine.

Carl and Nikki are standing by her bedside.

The DOCTOR comes in.

CARL

What's wrong with her?

DOCTOR

This isn't easy to say.

NIKKI

What's wrong with my little girl?

DOCTOR

Right now, she's fighting for her life. She ingested a massive amount of Heroin, and she's in a coma. We're doing our best---

NIKKI

A coma?!

DOCTOR

Ma'am, I know how you feel. Right now, I need you to calm down.

NIKKI

My daughter is in a coma, and you're telling me to calm down?! I'm far from calming down!

She tries to swing on the Doctor, and he steps back.

Carl grabs her holding her back.

CARL

Can you leave us alone?

Without having to ask him twice, the Doctor makes his way off stage.

Carl continues holding her until she realizes it's him, turning around shoving him.

NIKKI

Don't touch me, you bastard! You're the reason why my baby is in a coma!

CARL

Wait a minute. I didn't---

NIKKI

Don't give me that! You bought some junk from that snake, and now my baby is in a coma! I kept asking you, is it your family or these drugs! I see you made a decision!

CARL

Nikki, I can---

NIKKI

There's nothing you can explain that will get my baby out this coma! My baby is close to dying, because her father is weak!

Carl lowers his head in shame, sighing deep.

She grabs him by the chin, lifting his head.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Where did you have it?

CARL

...In the sugar canister.

NIKKI

Out of all the places, you put it there?! Did you use your brain?! Or were you busy trying to hide it from me?!

Carl gets ready to speak, and she places a finger to his lips.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

You know what makes this sad? All she wanted to do is be like her father. She'd always tell me how strong her father is, and he can do anything. Some role model you are.

CARL

I'm---

NIKKI

You're not sorry. You're a sorry ass. Please leave. I no longer know or want anything to do with you.

CARL

Nikki---

NIKKI

Leave us! Go back to your drugs and alcohol.

Disgraced as a man, empty as a father because he's the reason why his daughter is in a coma. He takes one last glance at Teenage Tamara before walking off stage.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT II

Scene 5

Dominic is sitting at a table filled with drugs and money smoking a cigarette, taking a sip from a glass filled with cognac. His two husky HENCHMEN are standing off to the side.

Carl walks in making his way towards the table.

DOMINIC

How did you like it?

CARL

Son of a bitch, I'm about to kill you!

The Henchmen get ready to attack, and Dominic calls them off.

DOMINIC

(Laughs)

What are you talking about?

CARL

My daughter is in a coma because of you!

DOMINIC

How can you blame that on me?

CARL

Because you darkened my doorstep!

DOMINIC

So, because you're clumsy, you wanna place blame on me?

Carl gets ready to jump over the table, and the Henchmen grab him.

Dominic takes one more pull from his cigarette, standing up smiling.

CARL

My wife was right about you. You're a monster.

DOMINIC

At least I'm not a sorry excuse of a man who would put his child in danger. And if I'm a monster, rest assure, you're the prey I can always feast on.

Carl lowers his head because what Dominic just spoke was the truth.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

(Sighs)

Pathetic. Unless you're buying something C, get your tired ass outta my place.

The Henchmen let him go, and Carl turns his back walking away.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

Hey, C. Since I know she doesn't want anything to do with you. Tell Nikki to give me a call.

Carl stops, placing his hand under his shirt.

CARL

There is one thing she'll be happy about.

DOMINIC

What's that?

Carl pulls a snub nose from under his shirt, quickly turning around shooting the two Henchmen dead, turning his aim on Dominic.

Dominic holds up his hands in fear.

CARL

She'll be happy I finally got this monkey off my back.

DOMINIC

C, you don't...

He shoots Dominic dead, and then walks to the table
grabbing a bag of Heroin before making his way off stage.

END OF THE SCENE

ACT II

Scene 6

Carl is sitting at the kitchen table smoking a
cigarette with a bottle of liquor, the snub nose and a
syringe filled with Heroin on the table.

Taking one last pull, he places the cigarette out, picking up
the bottle taking a swig.

CARL

Maybe everybody was right. Look at me. Only a weak-minded person would be
doing this, instead of accepting the situation he created.

He takes a sip shaking his head.

CARL (CONT'D)

There's only one thing I can do to end the pain I created.

He places the syringe in his arm injecting the Heroin.
Feeling the buzz about to kick in, he picks up the snub nose
cocking it, placing it to his temple.

CARL (CONT'D)

(Crying)

Daddy is so sorry. I'll always love you.

Nikki comes walking in.

NIKKI

Carl?!

He squeezes the trigger blowing his brains out, falling from
the chair dead.

Nikki rushes over to him kneeling down.

NIKKI

Carl, no!

END OF THE SCENE

END OF ACT II

THE END