

SPOILED

Ten Minute Dramatic Duet
by
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CHARACTERS

CARLA a young woman in her mid-late 30s
MRS. BARTHOLOMEW CARLA's mother, a woman in her mid-60s

SETTING

The bedroom of an upper-class home. Required props are a chair and a dresser with an imaginary mirror; its "empty" frame mirror facing the audience. Unseen by the audience, an assortment of fine jewelry lies on the dresser top. It is dusk; the room is not lit.

At Rise: In the shadows of the early evening in a darkened room, MRS. BARTHOLOMEW, an attractive woman, sits gazing silently into the mirror facing the audience. SHE appears to be lost in deep thought. Occasionally SHE brushes away a stray wisp of hair. SHE wears a simple short-sleeved, black dress with a square cut neckline and no jewelry. After a few seconds, the sound of a door creaking open is heard. A beam of soft light shadows a female figure in the doorway.

CARLA: Mom?

(A light flickers on, filling the room as CARLA, also dressed completely in black, walks to her MOTHER. SHE embraces her MOTHER's shoulders, one hand holding a wad of balled up tissues.)

CARLA: We need to go soon, Mother. ***(pause)*** You okay? ***(A heavy sigh is the response from MRS. BARTHOLOMEW.)*** I know this is hard, Mother, but it's going to be okay. You'll see. ***(glances down at dresser top)***
What's all that?

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: Jewelry.

CARLA: ***(reaches over and picks up a long strand of pearls)*** Father always did have great taste. I remember when he gave you these.

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: ***(to herself but out loud)*** Jacklyn Miller.

CARLA: You cried and didn't want to put them on. You wanted him to take them back. What did you say?

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: Jacklyn Miller.

CARLA: Who?

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: The first woman your father had an affair with. At least the first I knew of.

CARLA: What?! ***(CARLA is frozen in her spot. Neither woman speaks for a moment.)*** What are you saying? Surely you can't think Father would have... ***(MRS. BARTHOLOMEW simply continues to look at herself in the mirror.)***
Mother... Father...

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: ***(Doesn't answer. Instead SHE chooses another piece of jewelry, a brooch. It glitters brightly in the light.)*** Gretchen Hammerschmidt.

CARLA: Stevie Hammerschmidt's mom?!

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: ***(another piece of jewelry; another - one in each hand)*** Sharon Cooper. Frannie Holcomb. ***(another necklace)*** Belinda... or was it Melinda? Stanakovich. I never did like her much.

CARLA: You think Father cheated on you with those women?

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: Connie Newton.

CARLA: Aunt Connie??!! Your friend??!! She came to our house one Christmas. I remember she bought me an Easy Bake oven!

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW: The very one. She was one of the few I actually worried about; thought that your father might actually leave me for, but she was such a dimwit. She actually kept photos of their trip together in her photo album - until they disappeared into my purse one visit! And that was how... ***(fishes for a ring, holds it up)*** I got this nice piece of jewelry. After each affair, your father's penance was to buy me jewelry.

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