



WHAT I LEFT BEHIND
BY
ANTHONY J. PICCIONE

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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Cast of Characters

<u>Ghost of Teenager:</u>	The ghost of the central character, who tells the audience his/her story.
<u>Teenager:</u>	The living incarnation of the central character, shown during flashbacks.
<u>Mom:</u>	The teenager's mother.
<u>Dad:</u>	The teenager's father.
<u>Bully:</u>	One of the students, who expresses regret.
<u>Therapist:</u>	Tries not get the teenager to hurt himself/herself.
<u>Students:</u>	Various kids who bully or don't care for the teenager.

The ghost of a young TEENAGER - no older than 18 - is standing on stage.

All the other scenes occur at various corners of the stage throughout the duration of the play.

A dark, ambient overture plays, slowly building from playing very quietly to excessively loud, until it suddenly stops.

LIGHTS UP AT CENTER STAGE

TEENAGER

Well, here I am.

It's over.

Done.

I haven't gone away as quickly

as I thought I would. I thought it wouldn't be any different from the days before I was born.

Not that I remember much of what that was like, anyway.

Not gonna lie:

It feels...

weird.

Liberating, but painful at the same time. Didn't think it would be like this. Thought I'd just disappear, and I wouldn't be around to see what comes next.

THAT was what I was most afraid of.

Nothing compared to the way it is now, though.

Still here, even though

I know I'm really not.

You know the thing I hate most about this?

Having to see what happened after I made my decision.

FADE TO BLACK

LIGHTS UP ON DEAD BODY

The lifeless body of the TEENAGER is lying on the ground in his/her bedroom, next to an empty bottle of pills and a suicide note.

Pause

There is a knock on the door.

MOM

(v.o.)
Are you in there?

Pause

DAD

(v.o.)
Please answer your Mother.

Pause

There is a knock on the door.

MOM

(v.o.)
Open this door right this instant!

Pause

There is a knock on the door.

DAD

(v.o.)
You heard your Mother! Open the door right now, or
you're in big trouble!

*MOM and DAD keep knocking on the door heavily,
until eventually, they break down the door and
enter the room.*

*They quickly find the dead body of the TEENAGER
lying on the ground and move toward it. Both
parents sob uncontrollably, as they mourn the loss
of their child.*

FADE TO BLACK
LIGHTS UP AT CENTER STAGE

TEENAGER

What else was there to do?
Did they think
that I wasn't gonna do it?
That it was just an act?
Maybe they deserve it.
Living with any pain
or regret
they might feel.
If it weren't for them,
would it have not happened?
Maybe...
...if only they listened...

...instead of just yelling all the time.

FADE TO BLACK

LIGHTS UP ON PARENTS

MOM and DAD argue with the living incarnation of the TEENAGER.

DAD
Care to explain these latest grades to us?

MOM
You used to be doing so well!

DAD
Don't you care AT ALL about your future?

MOM
Why can't you just pay attention in class?

TEENAGER
Shut up!!

Pause

DAD
What did you say?!

TEENAGER
Just shut up! Both of you! I've tired of being yelled at over this shit.

MOM starts sobbing.

DAD
Go to your room!

TEENAGER
With pleasure-

DAD
I said GO TO YOUR ROOM!

Exit TEENAGER

FADE TO BLACK

LIGHTS UP AT CENTER STAGE

TEENAGER
Yelling, yelling yelling!
Nothing but yelling at me!
No listening.
Never.

(MORE)

TEENAGER (cont'd)

Just yelling.
 That's all they did.
 Whenever something bad happened,
 I was always blamed first.
 Didn't matter to them
 if it was my fault,
 or not.
 Nothing but assumptions
 that whatever it was that happened to me,
 or whatever it was that may
 have had ANYTHING to do with me,
 I was to blame.
 Could they not have just
 LISTENED...
 for once!
 If they did that, maybe
 they would have been able to hear
 my cries for help.
 They were there.
 They were there, because I know
 it wasn't MY fault. It was
 every other kid that I knew at school,
 who either said nothing to me at all,
 or
 said the worst things
 that you ever could say to a person.

FADE TO BLACK

LIGHTS UP ON PARENTS

Several young teenagers are on stage. Whenever a student speaks, the light goes up on that student in particular.

"Creep"

"Loser"

"Freak"

"Pussy"

"Faggot"

"Retard"

"Little bitch"

"Worthless"

"Weirdo"

(MORE)

(MORE)