

There Comes a Time

by

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1.

Cast of Characters

SHANNON: 37

CHRIS: Teens

Place
Kitchen

Time
3PM

2.

Setting: The play takes place in a low income neighbourhood, inside the kitchen of Shannon's home. It's a pleasantly humble nice looking kitchen, a lot of care has gone into it, making it the best it can be.

At Rise: The play opens up with Shannon standing behind the kitchen island when her son Chris enters the front door.

SHANNON: Sit down, I want to talk to you.

CHRIS: What now?

SHANNON: I want to ask you what you've been up to.

CHRIS: What?

SHANNON: What have you been doing with your friends when you go out at night?

CHRIS: Come on Mom, not in the mood for this right now...is it about drugs or something stupid?

SHANNON: No.

CHRIS: What then?

SHANNON places fireworks on the kitchen island.

SHANNON: What's this?

CHRIS: Fireworks.

SHANNON: It's the beginning of December. What are you doing with fireworks?

CHRIS: Nothing, we're just horsing around.

SHANNON: Horsing around? Do you know what happened to that little girl that was on the news a few weeks ago? Fireworks hit and killed her from a gang of boys in the local park.

CHRIS: What? We don't even hang in that park, I told you this several times!! What you tryna accuse me of?

SHANNON: Sit down and lower your voice. Whether or not you were in that park or not, you and your idiot friends have still committed a felony. Did you know that?

CHRIS: How?

SHANNON: Blowing up mailboxes! Half the neighborhood is looking for a group of hoodlums who are vandalizing their property. You've been reported to the authorities!

CHRIS: They know it's me?

SHANNON: I know! They are investigating and it won't surprise me if they find you.

CHRIS: There's no proof.

SHANNON: Oh, so that's how you want to be as a person? Huh? Who are you, Chris?! This isn't my son! I'm disgusted with you!

CHRIS: It's just fireworks! It's how we have fun in this shithole town...nothing else to do around here! Dad used to use them in the garden all the time...and we loved it! Don't you remember or have you forgotten that too?

SHANNON: Don't you try and get smart with me boy. I'll kick you out of here the sooner you know it! Then you'll know just how bad the neighbourhood is, you'll know what it feels like to have your feet rot and your hands blistering! Now I'm telling you, it's one thing to light them up and make noise and be a pain in the ass to the community, but it's another thing entirely when you want to be destructive and ruin people's homes...especially when they don't have much as it is, Christmas is coming and people don't wanna be spending that money on repairing their mailbox in replace of feeding their family!

CHRIS: I wasn't ruining anyone's homes or any part of anyone's homes, Mom.

SHANNON: Blowing up mailboxes is ruining people's homes! It's a crime, son. There could be some very important mail someone needs to receive, that you've destroyed. What's wrong with you?

CHRIS: I didn't think of that.

SHANNON: Now you know!! And now you've got time to think it over!

CHRIS: Can you stop screaming at me?

SHANNON: If I want to shout I will shout, this is my house and I can do whatever the hell I want. You're becoming like one of them.

CHRIS: Stop it, Mom.

SHANNON: Maybe it's cause I haven't done enough. Maybe it's cause your father couldn't leave us a dime!! Maybe it's cause this was the hand we were dealt...God, I tried, I tried everything to give you a better life, everything, I work my damn bones to the ground for you!! Everything you're becoming is everything I tried to avoid, I feared it in the worst of nightmares, you don't read, you don't cook, you don't pick up a damn thing around here, you're failing in school and you're killing me, Chris!

CHRIS: Is that what you think of me Mom? (pause)...Why do you always bring up Dad to make a point?

SHANNON: Cause I'm still in pain from it all.

CHRIS: It wasn't his fault that he got sick. How can you blame him? All he ever did was love us.

SHANNON: (crying) I'm sorry baby, I'm sorry. I hate myself for how I feel sometimes. It eats me up inside and I wish I only felt good things. I just wish he was able to give us more, I can't help but think he didn't fight hard enough for us...he could have survived, he could have pushed through, he just never listened to anyone, too damn stu--

CHRIS: ENOUGH!!! I don't wanna hear it, Mom. I can't hear any more of it. Are you listening?!

SHANNON: ...Get me some water honey, I just don't feel too good today...gotta take it easy.

Chris fetches his Mother some water from the fridge, there are a few awkward and silent moments between them.

CHRIS: I'm done with those guys, Mom. They're not gonna see my face again.

SHANNON: How can I be sure of that?

CHRIS: Because I gave you my word. I'm a man of my word.

SHANNON: I don't know how to ever get through to you...those gangs ain't ever good. They're gonna grow up failing school, Chris. Those poor kids don't even know what's in store for them. Gonna fail in their jobs too, some will learn the way but some too late and for most, it's always too late. (beat) How many mailboxes did you ruin?

CHRIS: I don't know...a few.

SHANNON: How many?

CHRIS: We did a few Mom. Maybe like ten.

SHANNON: I want you to make a list---

CHRIS: What list---

SHANNON: A list of every single one of the mailboxes you and those clowns blew up. I want every address to every mailbox written down.

CHRIS: Why? Come on, Mom, can we just drop it already. Let the past be the past...damn it.

SHANNON: Because we are going to fix what you did.

CHRIS: How?

SHANNON: After you make that list...we are going to each home together and we are going to pay for a new mailbox..each and every home.

CHRIS: No! WHY? They'll have me arrested? I'll have a record, Mom.

SHANNON: If that's the risk we're going to take, then so be it.

CHRIS: I'm not doing it. I already said that I've made up my mind, that I'm not doing it again! I'm not gonna hang out with any of em' again!!

SHANNON: Come back here and sit your ass down. Sit down! (beat) Damn you, boy. Words only mean so much in this life and they mean nothing without action! If your father knew what you did, he woulda been dissapointed in you. The only way to rectify this is to take some action. We are going to talk to the owners of each home, you are going to apologize and you are going to tell them that you will pay them for a new mailbox, we'll take the money from the savings we've got leftover. No son of mine is going to carry on and grow up to be a delinquent. No, you are going to go out there and take responsibility for your actions, you are going to apologize for what you did and you are going to pay each and every home whats rightfully theirs. We'll get it done this week, so they can receive their mail, right before Christmas. If your father was alive, he would have made you do the same thing! If you don't agree, I'll drive you down to the police station myself this instant.

CHRIS: Those savings were for Christmas, Mom. We were gonna go out and buy eachother a gift this year. Thought we had it all planned out.

SHANNON: Ain't no better gift for a Mother than to see her son do right.

CHRIS: I wish I never did those things...

SHANNON: I forgive you.

CHRIS: Don't hold it against me.

SHANNON: Not if you do what I'm asking.

CHRIS: You know, we were just having fun Mom, I didn't think it was such an issue...I didn't know those people would---

SHANNON: There is no lying to me. I see right through you, son. It was an issue, a big issue. You see, when you don't have much in life, the smallest thing can be the biggest thing. I hope you don't ever have to experience what it feels like to put enough dimes together to buy a bus ticket, or enough quarters together to put dinner on the table.

SHANNON (cont'd): Or the blood draining from you when your fridge breaks down and the cost to replace it. Your father and I knew what it was like, but we made a home here, together, so you didn't have to struggle as much as we did. I only wish he was around long enough to enjoy the little comforts, that we made happen together. But, looking into those big brown eyes of yours, I know you will at least, at least do the right thing in this life, it's the only thing that will make your daddy proud.

END OF PLAY