

The Crows of Blackthorn

by

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Cast of Characters

<u>WALT:</u>	40's
<u>OFFICER CONNORS:</u>	40's
<u>BECKY:</u>	Teens

Place
House

Time
Late evening

Setting: The play takes place inside a rundown suburban home. On the outside it's a faded green wooden house and on the inside the same earth toned colors also come off as old and faded. All the action of the play takes place within the living room, which is a large space. The front door to the house is stage right and upon entering into the home, leave you in a small hallway with a staircase leading upstairs. Going right past the small hallway to center stage is there the main sofa rests, with a two seater sofa at stage right and a single sofa stage left. Furthest stage left is a door leading into the kitchen which we do not see.

At Rise: The play opens Walt and Officer Connors standing in the small hallway at front entrance door.

WALT: Becky! *(beat)* Get your ass down here!

Becky comes down the stairs.

Walt looks his daughter over.

Officer Connors just told me he saw you and a few of your cronies throwing rocks at Mrs. Blackthorn's birds...that true?

BECKY: We wasn't throwin' no rocks at no crows.

WALT: Crows? I didn't say anything about crows.

OFFICER CONNORS: One of Mrs. Blackthorn's crows was found dead. Its skull appeared to have been pierced from a solid, foreign object.

WALT: *(to Becky)* Ya hear that?

BECKY: Yeah.

WALT: Why did you do that?! *(to Officer Connors)* am I gonna have to pay some sort of fine for this?

OFFICER CONNORS: Not this time. I'm a let this go on a warning, Walt, but if there's a next time, my hands will be tied and I'm gonna have to fine ya or maybe even have to bring up Becky here on charges..

WALT: Right, right, alright, well, appreciate you comin' over and letting this thing slide.

OFFICER CONNORS: Becky, you can't go trespassing on Mrs. Blackthorn's property ever again.

WALT: She won't.

OFFICER CONNORS: Mrs. Blackthorn is extremely upset about the incident to say the least. She has threatened to press charges. Took me three whole hours to convince her otherwise...there's no telling what she'll do if anything like this ever happens again.

WALT: Hear that in your thick head, Becky?

BECKY: Yes.

WALT: Thank you, Connors.

Walt and Officer Connors shake hands.

Officer Connors exits through the front door.

WALT: Say hi to Peggy for me, would ya?

OFFICER CONNORS: Will do.

*Walt gently closes front door, turns
to Becky who is making her way upstairs.*

WALT: Where you think you're going?

BECKY: What?

WALT: Whatch you mean what?

Walt sits down on the living room sofa.

Take a seat.

*Becky comes back down the stairs and
sits on the sofa opposite her father.*

What's all this business?

BECKY: Nothin'.

WALT: Killing crows ain't nothin'.

BECKY: You go hunting.

WALT: That what you think you was doin'..hunting?

BECKY: Something like that.

WALT: ...Well, I gave up hunting a long time ago...

(pause.)

WALT: Explain to me what you was doin' on Mrs. Blackthorn's property.

BECKY: We was just messin' around.

WALT: Throwin' rocks at crows?

BECKY: They...yeah.

WALT: I don't ever want you doin' that again!

BECKY: But dad!

WALT: Yeah?

BECKY: ..Nothin'.

WALT: You tell your cronies that I'll call their parents if they ever ask you to go in there again. Ya hear?

BECKY: Yes.

WALT: You already got me thinking about callin' 'em now.

BECKY: No, don't.

WALT: I might.

BECKY: I won't go back there again, okay?

WALT: ...I knew I should have..I couldn't cause my job, I tried though, I asked for a transfer, but...

BECKY: There you go again talkin' out loud to yourself.

WALT: I am aware of the fact that I do that.

BECKY: Why?

WALT: Helps me think.

BECKY: You sayin' you tried to move us away from here?

WALT: Years ago. Especially after you was born. Should have told you about it a long time ago instead.

BECKY: Tell me, what?

WALT: You know...about them crows.

BECKY: What about them crows?

WALT: Don't play the fool with me, I'm your father.

BECKY: You know about them crows?

WALT: (*nods*)

BECKY: Have you seen the -

WALT: Shh, shh, shh, shh...I have seen the very thing.

BECKY: Dragons??

WALT: Shh!!!

BECKY: What are you sayin'? Are they real? Please, tell me what you saw!

WALT: If I tell you this, y' have to swear this remains between the two of us...y' swear it? (*Becky nods*)...Alright, well I've seen 'em...up close. When I was 'bout your age. I was alone at the time. Decided to take a shortcut back home after football practice, was gettin' late and I was starvin'...was told by my dad not to ever go near Mrs. Blackthorn's property, but on this particular evening I figured I could cut through her property and save myself a good fifteen, maybe twenty minutes of walkin' 'round it instead. So, I hopped the iron gate.

'Bout halfway through her land I saw a crow. Then another and yet still another. More and more of 'em started landing on the branches to them big old oak trees I was walkin' under. They kept coming out of nowhere, swarmin' and gatherin' with all their attention placed directly on me, "CAW, CAAW, CAW, CAW!" and so I ran! I ran my face off, trying to escape the sound of 'em crows. And then I felt something really big chasin' behind me. I was too scared to turn 'round so I just kept runnin' hard as I could, but I could feel whatever it was gettin' closer.

When I reached the other side of the property I panicked 'cause of that big iron gate, but I was skinny 'nough to get through its bars and make it to the other side.

That's when I looked back behind me and saw everythin' that still feels like a dream...flying in the air above me...an enormous, white dragon..its emerald eyes starin' directly at me, lettin' me know how angry it was and then, then there was the sound of a horn coming from the distance and the dragon turned to acknowledge it, but not before shooting out fire into the sky from its mouth! It took one last look at me and flew off. (*beat*) I stood there, frozen. In shock. I was alive. I was safe. But I knew I was lucky. I knew I'd never see anything by the likes of it ever again. And since that day, I never have.

BECKY: ...don't believe a word you said.

MALT (*smiling*): It's true.

BECKY: You're just making this story up so I don't go trespassin'.

WALT: I wish it were that simple.

BECKY: So, you sayin' all them rumors are true?

WALT: What rumors?

BECKY: That them crows can turn into dragons and that Mrs. Blackthorn is an evil witch?

WALT: (*chuckles*)

BECKY: Why you laughing? See? You're only foolin'.

WALT (*smiling*): I'm not.

BECKY: How big was the dragon?

WALT: The size of a yellow school bus, cause it's wings spread out so far.

BECKY: What color was it?

WALT: It was..dark gray, had sharp fangs and horns out of its neck and head.

BECKY: And it was just one dragon?

WALT: The only one I ever saw.

BECKY: I heard that if you get a crow real angry, it can turn into a dragon.

WALT: There ya go.

BECKY: So, why didn't you ever tell me about this before?

WALT: Why would I tell anybody 'bout a thing like that? If word gets out, they'll lock me up in the nuthouse.

BECKY: I know you're only foolin'.

Becky gets up from couch.

WALT (*laughing*): Okay.

BECKY: You don't have to make up a whole story to keep me from goin' on Mrs. Blackthorn's property.

WALT: I know.

BECKY: I just won't go, happy?

WALT: Very.

Becky goes back upstairs.

Walt goes over to the front window and looks outside. He stares up at the sky.

Walt looks back up the stairs.

Lights slowly fade out.

END OF PLAY