

Dropped Call

A ten-minute play

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“Dropped Call”

Characters

Judith..... Survivor of the car crash that killed her mother.
Alive.

Sam..... Judith’s sister. Alive.

Mom.....Judith’s mother. Deceased.

Setting

The play takes place in Paul’s house, a week after the accident.

Synopsis

Judith, having survived a car crash that killed her mother, has kept herself in a holding pattern. Today, she gets a call on her new cellphone.

Other Notes

You don’t need a pre-recorded mother here. Live theater is best theater.

DROPPED CALL

JUDITH's phone is ringing. She silences it.

JUDITH

Fifteen missed calls.

SAM

You turned it on an hour ago.

JUDITH

Fifteen missed calls. From one guy.

SAM

Who is it?

JUDITH

I don't know.

SAM

You don't recognize the number?

JUDITH

This is a new phone. I don't know who anyone is anymore. No contacts.

SAM

Are you going to pick it up? It could be anyone.

JUDITH

There's no one I want to talk to.

SAM

I'm here.

JUDITH

I don't want to talk to you, either.

JUDITH's phone rings again. She silences it.

SAM

You have to talk to someone.

JUDITH

I'm not ready.

SAM
You need to be ready.

JUDITH
I know.

SAM
Soon.

JUDITH
I heard you.

SAM
You said you'd speak at the service.

JUDITH
I will.

SAM
You were the last one to be with her.

JUDITH
I heard you. And I'll be ready soon. But now isn't soon.

Phone rings again. She silences it.

SAM
A deer jumps out, Jude. No one-

JUDITH
I hear you.

SAM
No one blames you.

JUDITH
Then where's dad?

SAM
We all process differently-

JUDITH
So he's called you, then?

SAM
It was his wife-

JUDITH
And his daughter survived.

SAM
That's not fair to him.

JUDITH
And do you know how I process you being here?

SAM
Jude-

JUDITH
You're getting tired of me.

SAM
I am not.

JUDITH
You keep bringing me paper and pens.

SAM
Because I want-

JUDITH
Me to contribute.

SAM
I want you to do something. Write her eulogy. Move forward.

JUDITH
No, I think I'm okay.

SAM
It's a step forward.

JUDITH
I'm fine where I am.

Judith's phone rings. Judith silences it.

SAM

Well I guess I have some writing to do.

JUDITH

I guess so.

SAM

Pick up your damn phone.

JUDITH

Goodbye.

Judith's phone rings. Judith answers.

JUDITH

Who is this?

MOM

I don't think that you should have talked to your sister in that way.

JUDITH

Excuse me?

MOM

She's just trying to help.

JUDITH

Who are you?

MOM

Judith, it's your mother.

Judith hangs up. Judith's phone rings.

JUDITH

Is this a joke?

MOM

Excuse me?

JUDITH

I said-

MOM

I heard what you said. And if you think that I will let you drive me across town in this weather, you are the one who is joking.

JUDITH

What?

MOM

Don't 'what' me. You know exactly what I'm talking about. It is dark. It is below freezing. You have no emergency kit in the trunk, your car needs an oil change, and all-weather tires are *not* the same thing as snow tires.

JUDITH

Mom-

MOM

As far as I'm concerned, you're driving your coffin.

Judith hangs up. Judith's phone rings.

JUDITH

Mom...

MOM

Don't you 'mom' me. I have been outside in this kind of weather before, and I don't think you are responsible enough to drive.

JUDITH

I...

MOM

What? What?

JUDITH

I am.

MOM

What could you do to prevent an accident?

JUDITH

I put bags of salt in the trunk. With the first frost, I put bags of salt in the trunk.

MOM

That's just a start.

JUDITH

I always obey the rules of the road-

MOM

When I'm with you-

JUDITH

Which you will be. All of my registration and inspection is up to date. All of the lights on my car are working.

MOM

Dear, I know.

JUDITH

It wasn't my fault! I did everything right!

MOM

What wasn't your fault?

Judith hangs up the phone. Judith's phone rings.

MOM

Be careful on this stretch. This is where-

JUDITH

-deer can pop out. My car is as safe as I can make it.

MOM

It could be a cleaner. Remember if you see a deer and you have to hit it

JUDITH

I didn't see it-

MOM

If you have to hit it, brake first and then accelerate.

JUDITH

I broke-

MOM

That will cause the least amount of damage.

JUDITH

Mom, I broke. I didn't see the deer, but I broke.

Watch the road. MOM

I'm watching the road. JUDITH

Judith watch out. MOM

What? JUDITH

Watch out- MOM

I don't see anything- JUDITH

Watch out- honk your horn- now brake MOM

I'm hitting the brakes! JUDITH

Now put on the gas- MOM

I'm hitting the brakes! JUDITH

Speed up! MOM

I'm pumping the brakes, mom! I'm riding the god-damn brakes! JUDITH

Go forward! MOM

I can't! JUDITH

Hang up this phone and move forward! MOM

JUDITH

Stay with me, mom!

MOM

Hang up this phone and let-off the brakes! Go forward!

JUDITH

I don't want to lose you!

MOM

Do it, Judith!

JUDITH hangs-up the phone.

JUDITH

Sam! Sam! I'll do it. I'll write it.

END OF PLAY

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