

THE MOMMY MONOLOGUES

By Sharon Dunn

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PUBLISHED BY ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

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ABOUT THE MONOLOGUES

A droopy-eyed mom talks about staying up all night with her newborn. A young mother comes to terms with her son's learning disability. A foster mom decides to be a champion for an abused little girl. These twelve monologues cover all aspects and stages of motherhood from driving in a car with small children, to dealing with teenagers and the empty nest. Both poignant and humorous, these skits can be performed as separate pieces or as a whole play at women's retreats, luncheons or anytime. Easy staging and minimal props and costumes make the monologues ideal for sermon starters as well.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Except for the "In the Car" skit which involves positioning four chairs like the front and back seat of a car, a simple set consisting of a rocking chair can be used. The actresses each have carry-on props as a cooler, bassinet, pile of clothes, etc. The monologues are presented in the order they would be performed if doing them as a whole show. The arrangement is designed to facilitate the least amount of set moving, create a coherent picture and balance the poignant monologues with the more humorous ones. The final monologue "The Mommy Club" provides a nice sense of closure. Many of the scenes involve a woman holding a baby. While the idea of having a real infant for these scenes may sound appealing, using a doll would be more prudent. Let little Johnny make his stage debut when he's older and less likely to cry at inappropriate times.

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1. UP ALL NIGHT:

The Baby Will Change Your Whole Life

(AT RISE: A WOMAN sits in a rocking chair rocking a baby and singing to her, a bassinet sits beside her.)

Hush little one. Little one. Little one.
Sssssshhhhhush. *(Talking.)* It's all right. There you go.
There you go. *(Sets the baby gently in the bassinet. To the audience.)* She's asleep again, *(Sits back down.)* for now.
(Deep sigh.) The most she's slept at one time since she was born is two hours. So you know what that means. That's the most I've slept too. I'm really tired. I have to turn off the TV when mattress commercials come on. I see those people settling down for a long night's sleep on those big soft beds and I start to cry. I'm so tired, everything makes me cry. When I was pregnant with her, old grandma types would come up to me in the grocery store, pat my hand, and say with that knowing smile, "The baby will change your whole life." At the time, I thought sure, yeah right, the kid's got to sleep sometime. I'll get stuff done then. The baby book says newborns sleep up to sixteen hours a day. What they don't say is that sometimes sleep is a half hour of sleeping and a half hour of nursing and crying and then another half hour of sleep. All day and all night long. I'm sure it totals sixteen hours. You know, sometimes I wonder if the people who wrote the baby books ever actually had children.

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The grandmothers in the store know more than they do. At least the grandmas were honest about how hard it was going to be. She has changed my life. Even little things like eating and bathing. My husband and I eat in shifts so one of us can hold the baby. If I get a quick shower every three or four days, I'm lucky. I've greeted the mailman, who comes in the afternoon, in my pajamas and I've slept all night in my clothes because I was too tired to change. Sleep was more important. A full night's sleep, eight hours without interruption, what a luxury.

(Looks over at the baby.) We've been through a pretty long night. Sometimes I get angry when I hear her cry after it seems like my head just hit the pillow. I'm angry until I get to her crib and I see her face, the way she looks at me, the way my voice and my arms can make her stop crying. No one else can do that for her. The way she looks up at me with those big wide eyes while she's nursing. She's studying me, learning each feature of my face. I look down at her and I say, "Get to know this face. It's the face that will keep you safe and will love you no matter what." Even when I'm exhausted and she wakes me up, the anger goes away when I realize she's not my enemy. We're allies, on the same team. We're fighting the war to help her adjust to being outside of me. She's crying again. *(Picks up the baby.)* She and I are fighting together, to help her be the happiest, most secure little baby she can be. I have to

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remember that's what the goal is. (*To the baby.*) Yes, I do.
Mamma has to remember the goal. Yes, she does.

How about we watch some TV. (*Leans forward,
mimes turning on TV.*) Oh look, (*Teary-eyed.*) it's a
mattress commercial.

The End

End of Freeview

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