

The Mommy Club

*Selected from the collection
“The Mommy Monologues”*

By Sharon Dunn

Cast: 1 w

Length: 2 pages of dialogue (582 words)

Performance time: About 3 minutes

The Story

A mother recalls a recent dinner at a restaurant with her husband where their three children were amazingly well behaved, but a woman at a neighboring table wasn't so lucky with her little one. Rather than feel superior, she and her husband empathize and offer encouragement. She wants men and women alike to be members of the special Mommy Club, to support each other through the treacherous – and sometimes embarrassing! – times of parenthood.

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THE MOMMY CLUB

(AT RISE: A WOMAN is sitting in a chair, holding a purse, addressing the audience.)

I admit it. I'm a card-carrying member of the Mommy Club. *(Holds up HER wallet as though flashing her Mommy Club badge, but actually it's the section of her wallet that contains her children's pictures.)* It's easy to join. There're no meetings. Anyone who has had one or more children can be in the club. Before I was a member, I never understood what drove people to bring their infant to a movie. Now, I know exactly what makes people do that, because I've done it. I understand. You've been in the house with a small child for weeks and you just want to go somewhere. Of course, you can't find a sitter, so you take the baby with you. Before I had children, I used to be annoyed when a baby would start crying in the theater. Now, I have sympathy for that poor woman trying to watch a movie and eat some popcorn.

That's what the Mommy Club is all about. It's seeing a woman in a grocery store stuffing things back on the shelf as her child runs down the aisle pulling them off. And instead of raising your chin at her and thinking, "Why can't she teach her child to behave," you offer to help put the things back so she can catch her kid. Because your kid has behaved that way at one time or another.

The Mommy Club is about supporting each other. Not comparing our children to others. Not judging another woman's parenting choices. It's about sharing our birthing stories. I know you all have one of those. It's about being able to share my-toughest-day-ever-with-my-kid story. Let me give you another example. The other night, my husband and I were in a restaurant with our three children. They behaved unbelievably well. There were no fights, no spilled drinks, no refusing to eat what was put in front of them, no running around, no screaming. I'm not making this up. But as we ate our dinner, I was beginning to think that they had been abducted by aliens and had personality transplants.

End of Freeview

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