

There Is No Place Like Away From Home

*Selected from the collection
“The Mommy Monologues”*

By Sharon Dunn

Cast: 1 w

Length: 2 pages of dialogue (664 words)

Performance time: About 3 minutes

The Story

A mother craves just a moment of peace from the needs of her children. Forget Dorothy from “The Wizard of Oz” saying there’s no place like home. Once in a while it’s great to get away from home. Still, the mom knows what would happen if she were away—she’d just be thinking about the kids!

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THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE AWAY FROM HOME

(AT RISE: A WOMAN stomps onstage, mimes slamming a door.)

Mommy is not here. *(Hands over HER ears.)* The voices, the voices, I can't take it anymore. *(Imitating the voices.)* "Mommy, I need juice. Mommy, I pooped my pants. Mommy, she hit me. Mommy, she took my toy. Mommy, I spilled my juice." I can't do it anymore. I'm exhausted. La, la, la. *(Talking to the door.)* I can't hear you. I must shut the voices out. Still they continue. *(Imitating again.)* "Mommy, where's my blankie. Mommy, I fall down. Hold me, Mommy. Where's my juice, Mommy." If I have to pour one more cup of juice into one more sippy cup, only to have him sprinkle it on the floor like he was watering the linoleum *(Deep sigh.)*

I need a break. I need to get away. If I have to deal with one more day of those little faces inches from my own all talking at once, I'm going to go nuts, bonkers, batty. I haven't had a coherent or complete thought since my first child was born. I haven't finished a cup a coffee or a meal in one sitting since my first was born. Oh, I tried to do what the women's magazines said: "Create little mini-vacations for yourself. Take a soothing bath, read a book, go for a walk."

I tried the soothing bath thing, believe me, I tried. I ran the water, put in the bath salts, lit the candles and settled in. Oh, it was very soothing, for about a minute. Then I heard banging at the door. "Mommy, pee pee, go pee." He has never before initiated sitting on the potty. So I open the door for him, well, once you open the door the floodgates are open.

Just as I settle back into the water, the "soothing" water, my daughter shows up. She peers into the water, wrinkled forehead, perplexed look. Pops her finger out of her mouth and points to the water. "Why you have no toys?" she says. "Mommy doesn't want toys in her bath," I assure her.

End of Freeview

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