

SCARE WORDS

by Shawn Deal

Copyright © MMXXV by Shawn Deal, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-64479-295-7

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC

P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

SCARE WORDS*A Dramatic Monologue***by Shawn Deal**

SYNOPSIS: It's hard raising teenagers, as there are numerous frightening possibilities. So many scary words you never want to hear in connection to your child's name.

TIME: Present.

SETTING: Any location will do.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(1 either)*

NARRATOR (m/f) An adult old enough to have a teenager.

PRODUCTION NOTES: This can be done very simply: bare stage, no costuming and no props. However, you can place this character in any kind of home setting.

DEDICATION: For Patricia.

NARRATOR: It's tough being a parent. I'm not going to lie; it's the toughest job I've ever undertaken. Toughest job I'm ever going to have and without a doubt, the job I was most unqualified for when I began.

I really had to grow into this job, and it was a rough transition. I'll be honest... in the beginning, I would have given my two-day notice. You know, the one... I'm quitting today. You know that notice. I would have given that notice in the first couple of weeks just to get a full night of sleep again.

However, as we all know, it's the one job that you really can't quit, unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

There were none of those for me. As soon as I found my feet with this job, I was all in. And I've enjoyed it, with all its ups and downs. There have been way more ups than downs, until recently; until these dreaded teenage years.

Wow!

Riley is my oldest and like all first children, they are the ones you learn on.

You're the hardest on them. You're the most cautious with them. They're the ones you need the most.

Not that any of that is their fault; it's on us parents. I know that your children think you know everything; at least, until they become a teenager. But really, we barely know anything. It's not like there's a manual, or even a briefing. There's not even a good luck card.

You're kind of stuck figuring it out on your own, and you're stuck for the long haul. It's sink or swim from there. For the most part, I think I have done a good job up to now. Not a great job. I'm far from perfect, but overall, I would give myself a B plus; maybe even an A minus.

Yet I've come to the teenage years with Riley, and it's another set of new challenges.

I didn't realize the fear that the teenage years bring. Frankly, none of these fears had ever occurred to me until now that Riley is in high school.

Thirteen years old hit both Riley and I like running into a brick wall. Suddenly, it was all hormones, the discovery of boys, hanging with friends, fun prioritized over schoolwork, and so many other things. And thirteen was just the beginning; all the teenage years became hard.

I'm a mess.... I fear so many things about Riley and her future. I fear simple words these days.

There are words, sometimes certain phrases, that no parent wants to hear, at least not from a teenage daughter or son.

You all know what I'm talking about, right?

For example, let's tackle one of the big ones right off the bat.

Scare words or phrases you don't want your teenager to tell you:

I'm pregnant.

Or perhaps I got someone pregnant.

Those are both equally scary.

Another of those scary phrases: I'm addicted to... fill in the blank there with whatever the word is. And whatever that word is, it's scary. It's a big scare word. There are so many words that could end that statement, and they are all scary.

Some are much scarier than others.

You can't name an illicit substance that isn't scary. It doesn't necessarily have to be a drug to be scary. It can be something else; probably sex is involved. That's one that can be both scary and a little bit repulsive. Hard to think of our children involved in any of that.

Even if we take away drugs and sex, there are still scare words you don't want to hear as a parent. Words you really don't want to hear.

For example... here's another. There's been an accident.

A pretty ambiguous phrase as phrases go; but very scary.

Anytime the word "police" is involved, no matter what context, it is nearly never good. And I mean never.

Other scare words: Cancer, or any disease you've never heard of and is impossible to pronounce. Any time a doctor says: "This is unheard of or extremely rare". All scare words that get the heart racing, the blood pressure spiking, the anxiety going through the roof, and you're a heaping ball of worry.

If a word or phrase can do any of that, it's a scare word. Absolutely, without a doubt, guaranteed.

As a parent, you hope you raised your child right and have a certain amount of luck so you never have to hear any of these scare words.

I didn't have either go my way.

Let me introduce you to the scare words that jumped out from behind a door, in a pitch-black alley, to make me scream: Car crash.

Someone from St John's hospital called me; a nurse, an administrator, a secretary, just someone. I have no idea who it was, really.

All they said was Riley has been in a car accident, and I needed to come down to the hospital. No details were given. Oh, believe me, I asked for them. I practically screamed the questions out with worry and panic. The person on the phone told me they had no information and just to get there as soon as I could.

This is about the worst thing they could have done. I nearly got into three separate car collisions myself, getting to the hospital, because of the worry, anxiety and stress I was feeling because of the words.

I arrived at the hospital and amazingly enough, I got there safely. I said earlier that things couldn't get worse. I was wrong; things got worse, way worse. I understand now why they didn't tell me over the phone. Things were much worse. Life had changed for many people, and none in a good way.

***Thank you for reading this free excerpt from SCARE WORDS
by Shawn Deal. For performance rights and/or a complete
copy of the script, please contact us at:***

Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011

www.brookpub.com