

# **HER STORY**

A one-act play

By Michael Norman Mann

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

High school students Mike and Shelly are breaking up. Later, Shelly sees Mike at a party with his new girlfriend and between her depression and a few too many drinks, allows herself to be coaxed outside by an unscrupulous guy. Things go too far in the bushes and Shelly is date-raped. When she returns to school on Monday, she has a reputation and school officials want to get the bottom of the rumors they have heard.

With characters immediate and believable, this play is powerful, timely and significant. The open ending is sure to prompt discussion.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(5 M, 9 W, Extras, doubling possible)*

MICHAEL: Superficial guy, wants to break-up with Shelly.

BUBBA: Michael's friend.

MI LING: Shelly's friend. Instigates problems.

SHELLY: Michael's ex-girlfriend, has low self-esteem.

KERRYNN: Shelly's friend.

ROB: Dating Shannon, thinks people should listen more.

SHANNON: Dating Rob, is rather shallow.

DAVID: Friend of KerryNN, Murray's cousin.

KATHY: Person at party.

MICHELLE: Jetta's friend.

JETTA: Michael's new girlfriend.

MURRAY: Unscrupulous guy.

WO KAHN: Host of the infamous party.

MS. LEWIS: School counselor.

A GIRL: Lives in Texas.

EXTRA STUDENTS, LIZ, TWO ADULTS.

*Her Story*

-4-

**Setting:** A hall at school with lockers, the interior of a house, a backyard with bushes, a bedroom with practicable window and a phone, a school counselor's office. The house interior and hall at school are used twice.

**Costumes:** School clothes, party clothes. Shannon wears a red top. Jetta wears a man's 49er jacket. Kerry wears nightclothes.

**Props:** Books, notebooks, backpacks, cups, beer cans, party snacks. Murray has cigarettes. Rob and David have cash.

**Sound effects:** School bell, party music, whistles.

**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: School yard or hallway, just before the start of the school day. SHANNON, SHELLY, MI LING, ROB, DAVID and KERRYNN prepare for the day.)*

SHANNON: Hi, Shelly. *(No reaction.)* Shelly? What's wrong?

SHELLY: I hate him! I really hate him.

MI LING: Shelly?

*(SHELLY slams her locker, exits. MI LING follows.)*

ROB: Who?

SHANNON: I don't know. I guess something happened between her and Mike.

ROB: Must've been bad, too.

KERRYNN: I think he broke up with her. That's what I heard.

SHANNON: Oh, my God, what if they both come to Wo's party tonight?

ROB: What did you hear?

KERRYNN: Mi Ling thinks Mike started to like that new girl. The one in our chem class.

SHANNON: And she's invited, too.

ROB: This is going to be fun.

KERRYNN: I was wondering why Mike was acting so ... different lately. Then I guess things just got too weird for them to stay happy. It's really sad; I thought they made a cute couple. She really liked Mike a lot. But I guess he had a wondering eye.

SHANNON: Isn't that typical.

*(MICHAEL enters.)*

ROB: Hey, Mike.

*(Pause.)*

SHANNON: Shelly just came through here, Mike.

*Her Story*

-6-

MICHAEL: So?

SHANNON: She looked upset. Is there something wrong?

MICHAEL: How would I know?

SHANNON: You're her boyfriend.

MICHAEL: No, I am not.

*(Pause.)*

SHANNON: What did you do?

MICHAEL: What did I do? What did I-? Why is this my fault?

SHANNON: If guys like you would be happy with the one closest to you, instead of having wandering eyes, things would be a whole lot better.

MICHAEL: Hold it!

SHANNON: I know that you like that new girl, whatever her stupid name is.

MICHAEL: Her name is Jetta. And who are you to talk? You were with Greg until you saw Rob, looking real good at that homecoming game.

ROB: Hey. Hey!!

SHANNON: That was different.

MICHAEL: It's only different when you do it. That's the only time. And who are you to jump into or onto my life anyway?

SHANNON: Well ...

MICHAEL: Well, what? *(Pause.)* Boy, good news travels fast around here.

KERRY: She guessed.

MICHAEL: All this gossip really messes things up, you know. Just makes things a whole lot harder.

SHANNON: Gossip hasn't been sneaking around behind his girlfriend's back.

ROB: Let it alone, Shannon.

MICHAEL: I haven't done anything! Okay? I am guilty of thinking that Jetta is cute. And that's all.

*(DAVID and ROB exchange knowing looks.)*

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