

NOBODY WILL HEAR YOU SCREAM

By Sam Craig

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PUBLISHED BY

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Beverly Cain, daughter of the late, great film star Fiona Street, has secluded herself at her mother's island mansion to work through her grief and guilt. She had been driving the car involved in an accident that killed Fiona and bound Beverly to a wheelchair. Beverly's housekeeper, Mrs. Callahan, is the only person she sees on a regular basis.

But today is different. Everett Cain, Beverly's estranged lawyer-husband "drops by" for a visit, which, in fact, is a hoped-for reconciliation. But Everett's visit isn't the only one. Olive Ripley, an old friend of Fiona's has arrived to pay her respects. Olive remembers the good old days in Hollywood when Fiona and she were just starting their movie careers.

The most startling visitor of the day is Danny Trippet, Beverly's long-lost half-brother. In her grief and despair, Beverly hired a detective, Mr. Purdy, to locate her older brother whom her mother had given up for adoption before she became famous. Beverly wants to reconcile with Danny and share her mother's eleven million dollar fortune with him.

Unfortunately, Olive finds Mr. Purdy's body in a ravine while she's walking to Fiona's grave. Everett immediately suspects Danny, who returns the favor. Beverly doesn't know whom to suspect and becomes terrorized when left alone briefly by her knowledge that someone who doesn't belong in the house has gotten in. That terror becomes a reality when Olive is shot in front of the French window - while wearing Beverly's robe.

A vicious storm keeps the police from making the forty-five minute ferry boat ride to the island to investigate. Meanwhile the accusations fly between Danny and Everett, who each can show without a shadow of doubt that the other is guilty. Beverly is slowly drawn into the terrible danger of no knowing whom she can trust - if anyone at all.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 M, 3 W)

BEVERLY CAIN - Mid-20s, a wheelchair-bound book reviewer, the daughter of the famous actress Fiona Street. Beverly is intelligent, lively, but ridden with guilt after the death of her mother in a car Beverly was driving. She has become very cautious about her personal relationships, including with her estranged husband.

ANGELINA CALLAHAN - 50s, a strong-willed housekeeper bent on protecting the good name of Fiona Street and her family. She's lived on the island all her life and knows its ways.

EVERETT CAIN - Early 30s, Beverly's debt-ridden lawyer husband who wants to re-establish their marriage more than anything. He has tried to help Beverly through her recovery, but has grown frustrated with her constant guilt.

DANNY TRIPPET - Late 20s, a lively, energetic man who lights up any room he's in. He seems to have both feet on the ground and his ducks in a row, but we can't help get the feeling that it might be an act.

OLIVE RIPLEY - Late 50s, early 60s, a figure from the past, an old friend of Fiona Street's, who has an excellent memory born of an interesting life. Unfortunately, that life has been built on a number of very wrong decisions.

***NOTE:** The ages of Beverly, Danny, and Everett can be adjusted to suit the needs of the company presenting the show. There is no reason why they can't be in their 30s or 40s.

SETTING

The play is set at the Cain summer home located on Drake Island in northern Michigan. The house was once a hunting lodge as still seen in the whole log trim. A French window dominates at CS leading onto a deck that is visible. Wing entrance DSR leads to main entrance and stairway up to bedrooms (unseen). Wing entrance DSL leads to dining room and kitchen. A fireplace sets USR, complete with a wood mantel and possibly a trophy or two hung above. An old hunting rifle hangs below trophy. Two or three chairs set DSR, a table between two of the chairs. At SL is a small table set with a deck of cards. USL is a desk with drawers and a telephone. The room is dominated by a portrait of the glamorous Fiona Street.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

ACT I

Scene 1: 3:15 p.m., a spring afternoon.

Scene 2: 3:55 p.m.

Scene 3: 5:30 p.m.

ACT II

Scene 1: 7:00 p.m.

Scene 2: 9:30 p.m.

See back of script for Prop and Sound Effect notes.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: It is a spring day, around 3:15 p.m. ANGELINA stands at open French windows, looking through binoculars at some distant object. BEVERLY is at the desk, her wheelchair pulled up close. She slams shut the book she's reading.)

BEVERLY: Damn!

ANGELINA: What'd you say, Mrs. Cain?

BEVERLY: Damn!

ANGELINA: You must've finished your book.

BEVERLY: It's finished all right. The whole thing is a case for the unbonded child. The child with no conscience. Little Willy Farmer killed his entire family in cold blood and the author blames it on the social services department that took Willy from his mother right after he was born because she was into crack and everything else. But ultimately he knew what he was doing. We all do.

ANGELINA: But it does answer the question why he did it, doesn't it?

BEVERLY: Maybe we can't always answer that question.

ANGELINA: But don't you think there are bad seeds once in a while? Every child born can't be, well, I mean ... some must be bad. There's so much evil!

BEVERLY: I saw that movie too, and I still don't buy it. It's all environment. What are you doing out there, Mrs. Callahan?

ANGELINA: Two of 'em this morning, out in their boat, but I can see their cameras aimed right at the house.

BEVERLY: My God, when will it stop?

ANGELINA: I can take care of it for you!

(ANGELINA lowers binoculars, enters room and takes rifle from above fireplace.)

BEVERLY: What are you going to do? Mrs. Callahan, don't you dare take that gun!

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ANGELINA: I'll give 'em something WORTH writing about in their trashy newspapers. (*Shouting out window.*) Hear that! Here comes something that'll give you a headline! (*SHE stands in window and aims.*)

BEVERLY: (*Moving to HER.*) Mrs. Callahan, please, don't! You'll be arrested.

ANGELINA: By who? There's never been a cop on Drake Island and there never will! (*SHE moves out of sight.*)

BEVERLY: Mrs. Callahan! I forbid you to hurt anybody!

ANGELINA: (*Offstage.*) Don't worry, Mrs. Cain. (*SOUND of rifle being fired.*)

BEVERLY: Mrs. Callahan! Stop it! (*Another SHOT is fired. BEVERLY wheels back into the room.*) Oh, God!

(*ANGELINA appears in French window.*)

ANGELINA: They're heading back to the mainland. In one piece.

BEVERLY: You could have killed someone!

ANGELINA: Mrs. Cain, I've lived on this island my entire life. I can hit a tail feather on a duck without the poor animal comin' up to see what hit him! And you sure as hell don't need those damned reporters hanging around here. You've been through enough.

BEVERLY: I don't know what I'd do without you, Mrs. C.

ANGELINA: Your mother used to say the same thing.

BEVERLY: I miss her so much. (*SHE stares at portrait on wall.*)

ANGELINA: She had a good heart. A hard life, but a good heart. Even if things didn't always turn out right, she always wanted them to be right.

BEVERLY: I ... I remember the early years... when her career was just taking off ... and how she'd come home late at night ... but she'd always come into my room ... and I could smell the make-up on her as she'd bend down and kiss me goodnight. And sometimes, when I could manage it, I'd stay awake and then she'd ask me how my day was ... and no matter how tired she was, she'd listen ...

ANGELINA: Mrs. Cain ...

End of Freeview

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