

UNTOLD SECRET

By Renee Rebman

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Mandy James is harboring a dark secret that is affecting her relationships with her best friend, her boyfriend, and her soon-to-be remarried mother. Her frustration and fear is alienating her and pushing her to near breakdown. The plot twists and turns never quite reveal the truth until the conflict between Mandy and her mother's fiancé, Richard, causes Mandy to confess she was molested by a neighbor. Richard helps Mandy cope with the ordeal, giving hope for the future and starting the process of healing.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 M, 4 W)

MANDY JAMES - Teenager with a secret.

KAREN SMITH - Mandy's aunt.

MRS. JAMES - Mandy's mother. About to marry Richard.

NINA ELLIS - Mandy's best friend

RICHARD BARTLETT - Mandy tells her secret to him.

SETTING

The living room of the James house. A couch is DSC with an easy chair on either side. SR of the couch is an end table with a telephone on it. The front entrance is SL. SR is the exit to the kitchen, back door and bedrooms. It is not necessary to have a full set. The play is designed to be easily staged and appropriate for touring.

PROPS

SET PROPS-Telephone

MANDY-Bookbag with books, pretzels, two glasses of root
beer

RICHARD-Rag

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(AT RISE: It is late afternoon. MANDY arrives home from school. She hurries in the front door and drops her bookbag on the couch. She is visibly upset and nervous. She paces around the room a moment then sits and dials the telephone.)

MANDY: *(On phone)* Hello, Nina, it's me. Listen, how about you coming over here for a while? No, no one's home. OK, see you in a few minutes.

(SHE hangs up the phone and rummages through her bookbag. She takes out a book and tries to read but it's clear she can't concentrate. KAREN SMITH enters from SR.)

KAREN: Good afternoon! How's my favorite niece?

MANDY: I'm your only niece.

KAREN: Well, that works out easy enough then, doesn't it?

MANDY: How did you get in, Aunt Karen?

KAREN: The back door was open. You must've unlocked it when you got home from school.

MANDY: No, I just got home. I came in the front door. I haven't even been out to the kitchen.

KAREN: Then your mom must've left it unlocked when she went to work this morning.

MANDY: I can't believe she did that!

KAREN: It's all right, calm down. It's not like you were robbed or anything. It was just an oversight.

MANDY: An oversight! Anyone could've gotten in! They could still be here!

KAREN: Gosh, you're jumpy. Look, I'll go check the bedrooms for you.

(SHE exits SR. After a moment MRS. JAMES enters from SR unnoticed by MANDY.)

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MRS. JAMES: Hi, Honey.

MANDY: Mom! You nearly scared the life out of me!

MRS. JAMES: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to. Where's your Aunt Karen? I saw her car parked out front.

MANDY: Checking the bedrooms. You left the back door unlocked all day. I suppose you didn't mean to do that either.

MRS. JAMES: Of course not!

KAREN: *(Entering)* Everything is fine. Not a criminal in sight.

MANDY: That's not funny.

MRS. JAMES: I was in such a rush this morning, I must not have checked the latch when I left.

KAREN: You've had a lot on your mind lately.

MANDY: That's no excuse.

MRS. JAMES: Watch your tone, young lady.

MANDY: Am I the only one taking this seriously?

KAREN: Not at all. But nothing happened. Let's just talk about something else.

MANDY: *(SHE sits down.)* Like what—the wedding? That's the only thing we talk about anymore.

MRS. JAMES: *(To MANDY)* Actually, we are going to pick out the invitations and look for some dresses. Why don't you come with us?

KAREN: Yes, it'll be fun. I'll treat us to ice cream later and to heck with my diet.

MANDY: No thanks. I feel like staying home. Maybe Dad will call.

MRS. JAMES: Your father is on that business trip for a few more days. You know he won't be calling, Mandy.

MANDY: He might.

MRS. JAMES: Look, you've done everything possible to express your disapproval of my remarriage. I know you don't like it. But the fact is, I am going to marry Richard.

MANDY: The whole world knows you can't wait to become Mrs. Bartlett. Richard has all but moved in already.

KAREN: I'll wait outside for you, Linda.

MRS. JAMES: You don't have to do that.

MANDY: By all means, stick around. I'm not stupid. You'll be discussing me the whole evening anyway. You might as well hear us argue.

MRS. JAMES: I'm not the one with the problem. You're the one continually looking for a fight!

MANDY: You're not around here enough to notice.

MRS. JAMES: And you don't want to spend anytime with me when I am.

MANDY: Forget it. Go look for your invitations.

KAREN: I'll wait in the car.

MRS. JAMES: I've already said that isn't necessary.

KAREN: I heard you. That doesn't mean I'm going to listen to you. Talk to your mom, Mandy. She's not such a monster. I grew up with her and I survived. Goodnight.

(KAREN exits SR.)

MRS. JAMES: That's a fine way to act in front of your aunt.

MANDY: I didn't mean to spoil your evening.

MRS. JAMES: Really? Heaven help us if you'd been trying. What's the matter with you? Are you really that upset about Richard?

MANDY: No, it's not Richard.

MRS. JAMES: What is it?

MANDY: Nothing, Mom.

MRS. JAMES: I wish you'd talk to me. I can go tell Aunt Karen we'll have to postpone the shopping trip.

MANDY: No, don't do that.

MRS. JAMES: I hate to leave you here sulking by yourself. Why don't you call Jeff and go out for a while? It would be a nice change for you. I haven't seen him around here lately.

MANDY: I can't, Nina is coming over. We have homework to do.

MRS. JAMES: Well, if you're sure you don't want me around, I'll be going.

MANDY: OK, 'night, Mom.

MRS. JAMES: See you later, Mandy. *(SHE starts to exit.)*

I'll be home early, if you feel like talking.

(MRS. JAMES exits.)

MANDY: *(To HERSELF)* Come on, Nina. Where are you?
(SHE picks up the phone, pauses, hangs up, then quickly picks it up again and dials.) Hi, Dad, it's me...it sure isn't the same, talking to a machine. This will be your welcome home message, I guess...I miss you. Hope your trip went well. See you soon, right? Bye.

(SHE hangs up and NINA enters SL without knocking.)

NINA: Nina Ellis, at your service. *(SHE bows then flops down in a chair.)*

MANDY: *(She runs out to lock front door and returns.)* Hi, Nina.

NINA: What are you doing?

MANDY: Just locking the front door. Safety first.

NINA: What a good little girl scout you must've been. Who were you talking to?

MANDY: Oh, just left a message for my dad.

NINA: Must be nice. I actually have to speak to my dad in person. The downside of having parents that are still married, I guess.

MANDY: You're lucky.

NINA: If you say so. *(MANDY shoots HER a look.)* I'm only kidding! Is there anything to eat around here?

MANDY: I don't know.

NINA: You're never hungry.

MANDY: And you always are. I'll go get something.

(MANDY exits to kitchen and the conversation continues with the GIRLS yelling back and forth.)

End of Freeview

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