

(Name of Project)

by
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(Based on, If Any)

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(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

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Address
Phone Number

HOME FRONT

INT. COLLIER LIVING ROOM-DAY

KAREN

Mother is going to have a nervous breakdown. You know that, don't you?

JEREMY

I know she wants one.

KAREN

That's not funny.

JEREMY

And she won't be really happy until she has it.

KAREN

God-I just-I just can't understand what happened to you. I mean. What happened to you?

JEREMY

You know exactly what happened to me, Karen. You and everybody else here. You want to know what the trouble is? You all want to pretend that nothing happened. But because I'm here, you can't.

KAREN

Oh, like woooow, that is really deep. I shoulda figured that out ages ago. I mean, it's so real.

JEREMY

This is part of your trying to get along with everybody, I guess.

KAREN

No, it's a gut reaction to being told that you can't dress for dinner because you fought in Vietnam.

JEREMY

Ok, that's enough. It's time for you to leave me alone now.

(CONTINUED)

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KAREN

All right. I'll leave you alone.
And if it's any comfort to you,
while you sit here feeling sorry
for yourself, I'm feeling sorry
for you too. (She starts to exit.)

JEREMY

Karen?

KAREN

What?

JEREMY

Why don't you just go to hell.

KAREN

I may do that, Jeremy. Who knows?
But I'll tell you one thing. I'm
going to wait until I'm dead to do
it. I'm not going to spend my
whole life making hell for myself
here. And hell for everybody else.

JEREMY

Good for you.

KAREN

I'm going to care about people.

JEREMY

Good for you, little Miss Noble
Heart. And I'm going to care about
myself.

KAREN

You're so pathetic. Just to hell
with everybody, that's you, isn't
that right?

JEREMY

You got it.

KAREN

Because you don't care.

JEREMY

That's right.

KAREN

With the exception of you, there
is not a single person in the
entire universe that you care
about.

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JEREMY

That's right.

KAREN

You just don't give a damn.

JEREMY

I don't give a damn. I don't give a shit. I don't give a flying fortified fuck about any of it. And do you know why? Because for nineteen years I did. And I did because I thought it made a difference. Well, it doesn't make a difference. It doesn't even make sense.

KAREN

All right, if this is the way you're going to-

JEREMY

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Wait! You're so goddamn concerned.

KAREN

Don't you dare hit me Jeremy Collier.

JEREMY

I wouldn't hit you. I wouldn't give you the satisfaction. I listened to you, now you're going to listen to me. You have friends, don't you?

KAREN

Yes.

JEREMY

Good friends?

KAREN

Of course, i do.

JEREMY

Well, I have some too.

KAREN

You do?

JEREMY

Yes, I do. One of them was named Brady. Brady was my friend.

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JEREMY (CONT'D)

From Mobile, Alabama. We were a lot alike, Brady and me. He was drafted, just like I was. Came from the same kind of family, I think, nice people. We were both getting ready to come home about the same time. And a month before we were supposed to get out, Brady got wounded. And when he left the hospital, this was in California, when he got out of the hospital, he called his parents, you know, to say he was on his way and would they mind if he brought a friend home with him. He had met him in the hospital or something, I don't know. And his mother said fine. Then Brady, he said, this guy's gonna need a little help because he doesn't move around very well yet, and his mother asked what was wrong with him, and Brady said he's lost an arm and a leg, he's probably going to need a little help. Well. His mother just lost it. I mean, she couldn't handle that at all. So she put his father on the phone and his father really gave it to him. How could you do something like this to us? That's what he said. His father. Don't you know how much we've been looking forward to this? Why are you trying to ruin everything for us? Brady apologized and when he got off the phone, he went and checked into a Holiday Inn and hung himself in the bathroom. They shipped the body to Mobile. I've tried to picture the expression on his parents' faces when they went to pick up Brady at the airport. The expression on their faces when they saw their little soldier boy was missing an arm and a leg. So I don't go along. I don't care about any of it anymore. And you can take your social responsibility and your traditional values and shove them up your ass. I'm a survivor. And I got that way by not giving a shit over things that are not worth giving a shit over. And if that's too much for you to handle, then too fucking bad.

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KAREN

Do you know how you sound when you talk that way?

JEREMY

How?

KAREN

Bitter.

JEREMY

No shit?

KAREN

Very, very bitter.

JEREMY

Yeah, well.

KAREN

If that's the way you feel, I mean, I can't even understand why you came back home.

JEREMY

I had to go somewhere. Where else should I have gone?

KAREN

I don't know. Wherever it is people like you go. Russia or someplace. Or maybe some park bench. From the way you talk it's where you're headed, isn't it?

JEREMY

You'd just really like that, wouldn't you? Then, after I was all washed up, not just half-assed out of it like I am now, but a total bum, well, then you could go right back to being the only child you were while I was gone.

KAREN

What, only child? Me an only child? You are telling me that I want to be an only child?

JEREMY

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

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KAREN

I'm sorry, but that is the stupidest thing I have ever heard in my entire life. I cannot believe you have the nerve to say that to me. Where on earth do you think you get off saying that to me? (Suddenly furious.) No. No, I am not going to lose my temper. All right. If you think I got all the attention while you were gone, and I could see how that might bother you, me having all of Mother's affections lavished on me, I could see where that might really upset you, but if that's what you think happened you are wrong. Sorry.

JEREMY

Oh.

KAREN

Every other word that was spoken in this house was Jeremy. "I wonder where Jeremy is," "I wonder what the weather is like where Jeremy is?" "I wonder what Jeremy's doing right now?"

JEREMY

Oh, I'm moved.

KAREN

I just bet you are. Maybe you would have been moved more by watching Mother call up every relative we have and every friend we have so she could read your letters over the phone. And cry. Or maybe you would have found it moving to see Daddy passing around your pictures at work to all the cashiers and then having to go and sit in his office for an hour or so. Or maybe you would have been moved by hearing the cassette you sent home coming out of their bedroom at three o'clock in the morning, because they couldn't sleep. But, on the other hand, I suppose you suffered too much to have everything but contempt for what anybody else felt.

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KAREN (CONT'D)

We weren't there, right? So we're not affected.

JEREMY

You're so right.

KAREN

Oohhhhhhhhhhhh. You are such-
Oohhhhhhhhhhhh.

JEREMY

Go on. What am I?

KAREN

(Exiting.) I'm not going to subject myself to this.

JEREMY

All right. (A pause.)

KAREN

(Hurtling back on the stage.) You know what? Huh? You know what?

JEREMY

What?

KAREN

I'm sorry I prayed for you. I never thought it would be possible for someone to be sorry for something like that, but I am. I apologize to myself for all those times I got down on my hands and knees and begged God to bring you home safe. I've never been sorrier for anything in my life.

JEREMY

You're such a self-righteous little bitch.

KAREN

I'm not going to listen to this, not from you especially. You're disgusting and everybody knows it. You're a weirdo. You hear what I'm saying? Friends stop me on the street and ask me about my brother, the weirdo. You make me ashamed. You make everybody in this family ashamed. I hate you. Hate-hate-hate. I don't ever want to be connected to you in any way. Because you are nothing.

(MORE)

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CONTINUED: (7)

KAREN (CONT'D)

You're an absolute zero human
being. You're a weak, ungrateful
bastard, and you're not my brother
anymore.