

UNICORN

A Short Play
By Cecilia Copeland

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CAST

FATHER

Man over 40

DAUGHTER

Young woman between 7-14

MOTHER

Woman over 35

SCENE 1: The Car

FATHER and DAUGHTER are sitting in chairs facing the audience. The chairs are set up to indicate that FATHER is driving and DAUGHTER is in the back seat. When FATHER speaks to DAUGHTER he does so using the “rearview mirror”. DAUGHTER is staring out the window and biting her nails.

FATHER

Stop biting your nails.

DAUGHTER puts her hands in her lap and looks into the rearview mirror and then back out the window.

FATHER CONT.

I don't like Jenny.

DAUGHTER

I know dad.

FATHER

Jenny is a snotty little bitch. Yes, I said bitch. Jenny prances around and plays dress up all day. She doesn't think of anyone else's feelings. She isn't a nice person. She's selfish.

Jenny is stuck up, and she has an ugly face. She wears way too much make up and her face is always in a nasty scowl. She thinks she's better than everybody else. My daughter wouldn't act like that. Are you listening to me?...

Hello?...

God you're callus. You know what callus means? You what a callus is? It's a place that has been rubbed and rubbed until the skin is thick and it's numb. You're numb. Nothing gets in does it?...

You don't feel anything do you?...

What do you have to say for yourself? Say something...

You are no better than anyone else on this planet you understand me! No better...

Say something. What's the matter with you? SPEAK!

DAUGHTER looks into the rearview mirror.

DAUGHTER

(With uncertainty and fear.)

What do you want me to say Dad?

FATHER

Just acknowledge me.

Acknowledge that you even hear what I'm saying to you. It's like you just tune out. Earth to Jennifer. Earth to Jennifer. What do you have to say for yourself?

(Pause.)

You are going to answer me before you get out of this car.

You might be able to get away with murder at your mother's house, but not with me. Don't stonewall me. I can read your face like a book. I can see in your eyes exactly what you think. You're a terrible liar. You can't keep anything secret...

(Pause.)

You didn't want to write that letter just because you are lazy. Your grandmother is not gonna live forever, and you can't take five minutes and write her a goddamn letter? What the hell is wrong with you?...

I said, you are not leaving the table until you finish the letter and you scowled at me. I am not the bad guy here! I'm your father and when I tell you to do something, it's not so you can give me attitude. You flipped the page back on that notebook...

You flipped it like you were some kind of princess and I was making you do something loathsome by writing to your grandmother.

Jenny acts like that, not my daughter. Jenny can't take a few minutes to write a letter to her grandmother for her birthday. You are turning into your mother more and more by the minute.

FATHER stops the car and DAUGHTER goes to get her things together.

FATHER CONT.

Don't even think about it. You need to listen to me.

Jenny is not real.

Jenny is some stripper's name. Can you imagine a president Jenny? No, of course not. Jenny sits around with Brittany and Buffy and plays tennis all day.

Jenny is not my daughter, she doesn't look like my daughter, she doesn't speak like my daughter, and I don't like her.

Pause.

DAUGHTER

I'm sorry dad.

FATHER

Thank you Jennifer. I love you daughter.

I love you too dad.

DAUGHTER

DAUGHTER gets out of the car and crosses to MOTHER.
Lights dim on FATHER in the car and come up on
MOTHER.

Hey sweetheart!

MOTHER

Hi mom.

DAUGHTER

How was it?

MOTHER

DAUGHTER
(Pause.)

Great. Dad was great.

It was really fun. He took me horseback riding, and then um...
we...

we went to Barnes and Noble and he got me the new vampire novel in I wanted in the series in
hard back and everything,
but I have to leave it at his place...

He said he's coming to my dance recital next week, and he can't wait to see me dance,
and he's gonna bring flowers cuz he forgot last time...

And he took me out for pancakes this morning. And he listened to me. He laughed and he
thought I was really funny. And he said he was really proud of me. He said I'm turning into a
fine young woman. He said...

he said I'm the best daughter in the whole world, and I know it's true because I have the best dad
in the whole world.

MOTHER

I know he can be hard to deal with sometimes, but he does love you, in his own way. Nobody's
perfect, and those TV dads don't exist. They're made up. Nobody has one those magical fathers
who says all the right things and does all the right things.

I do. My dad's a unicorn.

DAUGHTER

The End.