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DON'T SAY It!

**Drama by
KATHY RAY**

Dramatic Publishing Company
Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

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(DON'T SAY IT)

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CAST

Mayor
Mayor's Advisor
Judge Randolph
Brock
Trina
Mark
Brita
Kyle
Ashley
Ben
Blake
Alayna
Maggie
Andy
Marcia
Peter
Police Officers #1 & #2
Teacher
Mark's Mom
Mark's Dad
Brock's Mom
Trina's Aunt
Trees #1, #2, #3, #4
Extras

The Time:

The Present

The Place:

Scene 1: Carver City Town Square

Scene 2: School hallway

Scene 3: Classroom

Scene 4: The Carver City Courtroom

Scene 5: The woods

About the Play

A continually moving picture of bullies and the people they single out to pick on. The bad apples in this play learn that when you are a bully all of your life, it may produce unwanted results in latter years. The bullying is so bad in this story that the townspeople pass a law against it. Soon those continuing to break the law by bullying are brought before a court of law. The bullies are sentenced to a learning camp in the woods. It is in the woods that the unruly youth are caught in a violent storm as they have a vision of their eventual death. While lying in a seemingly dead state, the youth are visited by their parents. The parents are visiting the woods to say one last good bye at the place where the youth lost their lives. The regret expressed by the bullying youth's parents, and the realization that at death few people had expressed concern about them, seems to shake the youth. They recognize that doing and saying nothing, is sometimes better than releasing their tongues and actions in harming others. The mantra "Don't Say It" slowly takes the place of verbal abuse and physical harm, as the youth realize their fate as bullies is the fate of disaster. The bullies are also amazed at one person in particular who extends them a hand of forgiveness and expresses his hope that they or anyone else can change their life for the better if they want to.

DON'T SAY IT

by Kathy Ray

SCENE ONE

[SCENE ONE: Carver City Town Square.

SETTING: The opening scene takes place at a protest rally. Protesters are carrying homemade signs: "No more hurting people," "Down with Teasers," etc. The Mayor, the Mayor's Advisor, and the Judge are at a table on a platform. Townspeople are gathered around chattering and mumbling. Brock, Trina, and Mark are among them with a cynical attitude. Someone starts the marching and protesting chants.]

ALL TOGETHER. No more bullies! No more teasing! No more calling names! No more fighting! No more pushing! No more mean games!

PROTESTER #1. Please don't call me stupid.

PROTESTER #2. Please don't call me weird.

PROTESTER #3. Please don't call me ugly, dumb, or fat.

PROTESTER #1. It makes me feel so sad.

PROTESTER #2. It hurts me really bad.

PROTESTER #3. It hurts every time you call me names like that.

ALL TOGETHER. No more bullies! No more teasing! No more calling names!

MAYOR. *[Pounding the table to get everyone's attention]* All right, everyone! Let's get started here. Welcome to the Carver City town meeting.

BRITA. You mean *protest rally*.

BROCK. *[Sarcastic]* *Protest rally*.

KYLE. *[KYLE enters]* What's going on, Brita?

BRITA. We're having a demonstration against all the teasing, name-calling, and bullying that's been going on around here.

KYLE. Good idea, because I've been bullied before, and it doesn't feel good.

TRINA. This is so stupid.

KYLE. No way.

TRINA. Why?

KYLE. Because there's too many people in this town who think they can bully us little guys around.

MAYOR. Well, as Mayor it's my job to listen to the people. I have my advisor here, Linda Blanchard, and Judge Randolph, another member of the city council. So tell us, what is it you want?

BRITA. We want to put a stop to namecalling.

BLAKE. Let's find these people that tease and bully and put them in jail.

EVERYONE. Yeah! Good idea! Let's do it!

ASHLEY. Let's put them in a learning camp.

EVERYONE. Yeah, that'll teach them! They deserve worse.

BEN. I say we put them in a big container and see which one can last the longest.

EVERYONE. What? Weird idea, but good thinking. Good thinking! I'd like to see that.

BEN. Well, we need to do something.

BLAKE. We need a change for the good.

BROCK. You stupid idiots. It's impossible to make people change.

TRINA. Yeah. There always has been, and there always will be people who treat each other like...

EVERYONE. Don't say it!

BRITA. Do you think we should all learn to stop and think before we say or do something mean?

BROCK. Yeah. That's right. That's what I mean.

ASHLEY. Well, how do we get started?

BEN. Everybody can band together and call for a stop to all teasing, namecalling, and bullying!

BROCK. What a bunch of retards. I'm telling you, you can't stop it.

BLAKE. And we're telling you, we can!

MAYOR. How?

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. I have an idea.

MAYOR. What?

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. We can make a law that anyone caught dissing or namecalling...

MAYOR. And bullying?

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. Yes. We can have them arrested.

MAYOR. And then what?

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. Tried.

MAYOR. And then what?

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. If they're found guilty of hurting anyone...

MAYOR. Just by what they say to them?

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. Yes. If they're found guilty, the judge will

sentence them to...

JUDGE. Excuse me! I'm the judge here. I will decide what the sentence will be for criminal namecalling.

MARK. But sometimes people call each other bad names just in fun. You know, between friends.

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. We're talking about the kind of verbal violence where it's obvious it hurts someone's feelings.

MARK. But you don't always know.

BRITA. You know.

MAYOR. Ok. So would it satisfy you if we passed a law instructing the town's chief of police to be on the lookout?

BLAKE. Where?

BEN. At school.

ASHLEY. On the playground.

KYLE. Downtown.

BEN. Everywhere bullies and namecallers hang out!

MAYOR. All right. So anyone caught treating someone mean by calling them things like...

JUDGE. Like what?

BRITA. Dork and dweeb!

BEN. Idiot! Psycho!

ASHLEY. Retard, fat, ugly, and stupid!

BLAKE. Someone called me Tinky Winky just because I cut a triangle in my hair.

MARK. *[To BLAKE]* That's what you get for trying to be different.

ASHLEY. Once this girl called me a dyke. I didn't even know what it meant, but I knew that she wanted to hurt my feelings.

TRINA. Ashley, you're just way too sensitive.

ASHLEY. Yeah, Trina, and I want to stay that way.

KYLE. Yesterday Brock called me a spastic freak, as if just being born was a sin.

MAYOR. I can't believe this kind of verbal abuse is going on with kids.

BRITA. You adults just don't have a clue.

MAYOR. Ok. You've convinced me. The feelings of the children in this town are too important to stand by and do nothing.

BLAKE. So we're going to see some change?

MAYOR'S ADVISOR. Yes.

BROCK, TRINA & MARK. No!

MAYOR. We'll see. Meeting adjourned.

SCENE TWO

[SETTING: Three bullies are walking through the hall at school]

BROCK. That new law is so stupid.

TRINA. Yeah, if we harass anybody, it's because we have good reasons.

MARK. I only beat up on people when I get mad at them.

BROCK. I say if the little pipsqueaks can't stand up for themselves, they should buy a weight set.

TRINA. Look, there's that stupid, fat kid. Let's have some fun.

MARK. Or there's that kid in the wheelchair.

TRINA. I say we go for the stupid, fat kid.

BROCK. Ok. Hey Peter Weter. why do you have to be so dumb all the time?

TRINA. Yeah. Why do you wear the same clothes every day?

MARK. Why do you stink?

PETER. Leave me alone.

BROCK. You are such a sorry moron.

TRINA. Let's beat him up.

MARK. What a retard.

[With stage blood capsules, the kid bleeds]

BROCK. Hey look, he's bleeding.

TRINA. We didn't even touch him. *[BRITA enters]*

BRITA. What's going on?

MARK. Like it's your business?

BRITA. C'mon. Let's solve this.

TRINA. Why are you sticking up for this dork?

PETER. Because she's my friend.

BROCK. Because *she's* a stupid idiot too.

[BRITA bleeds]

MARK. Look, man. What's happening?

TRINA. Blood on her too? But we didn't...

BRITA. *[to PETER]* Peter, are you ok?

PETER. Are you? *[Sound effects of siren]*

TRINA. What's that?

MARK. The police! *[Police enter building confronting BROCK,*

TRINA, & MARK]

POLICE OFFICER #1. All right, you three, you're coming with us.

BROCK. Why?

POLICE OFFICER #1. You are under arrest.

BROCK. What did we do?

POLICE OFFICER #2. You broke the law.

POLICE OFFICER #1. The law that prohibits people in this town from teasing and bullying.

BROCK. Big deal.

POLICE OFFICER #2. It is a big deal!

POLICE OFFICER #1. Come on.

[They resist and try to escape, but are hauled off to jail]

SCENE THREE

[SETTING: In the classroom]

TEACHER. All right now, students, settle down!

BEN. Mrs. Barker, did you hear what happened to those three kids?

TEACHER. Yes I did. The Carver City Chief of Police called me at home last night. He suggested that I ask you students if you'd like to be involved in the prosecution and defense of the three teasers and bullies who were picked up for breaking the new no-namecalling law.

MAGGIE. What do you mean?

TEACHER. Well, as a lesson in the judicial process, any of you can volunteer to prepare their defense.

MAGGIE. Or be the prosecutor?

TEACHER. Yes.

MAGGIE. I watch Law and Order. I can do that!

ALAYNA. You're too stupid to stand up there and...

BRITA. You better watch your mouth or she'll press charges.

TEACHER. Andy, why don't you be the one who stands up for Peter?

ANDY. No way. I don't want to get involved.

TEACHER. Why not?

ANDY. Because if you stick up for someone being teased, or bullied, or who's unpopular, then you're not cool.

ASHLEY. Mrs. Barker, don't you know being popular is everything?

TEACHER. Why?

PETER. Because to not be is dangerous.

BRITA. Everything has changed, Mrs. Barker. Back in kindergarten and first grade popularity didn't really matter. As long as you had crayons you were fine.

BEN. People didn't judge you all the time.

BLAKE. Now it feels like we are all on trial twenty-four hours a day.