

Confession - Monologue

Pages: 22

Format: pdf, epub

Language: English

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Â Â CONFESSION Monologue for performance by Leni Sands Smashwords Edition Copyright 2010 @ Leni Sands **Part One** *[Setting: - fade into a bare, grey squared room with one small, barred window high on the facing wall, one small table and two chairs. A dark haired, middle-aged slim built woman with a pale complexion and grey eyes is slouched in the chair on the left, elbows on the table, rubbing her hands together in a washing motion. She is not quite facing the camera. She is wearing a long black jersey dress and black pumps. In front of her is an open packet of cigarettes and a lighter. Opposite her, on the table are a folder, some loose paper, a pen, and a tape recorder, which is switched on. The chair on the right is turned away from the table. She is talking to someone off screen...]* ...I don't know why I did it. I suppose I just snapped. I mean it's been going on for so long now, since August last year...never ending. I begged, even pleaded with her, tried to appeal to her sense of compassion and consideration that apparently did not exist, then I complained to the authorities who had so much red tape it just seemed to go on forever. The whole thing was making me jumpy, I was irritable, and my nerves completely shot. I couldn't sleep or eat. I've lost so much weight if I turn sideways I'll disappear. My whole personality changed. I used to be a happy, go lucky, carefree person, smart and house-proud. Now look at me. I was doing a degree at university. I would have got it, too, but...well...you know... *[She shifts in her chair and rests her head on her right hand...she is using her left hand to fiddle with the cigarette packet]* We used to be friends, you know me, and my neighbour...it was just after the baby was born. She needed a bit of support and I was there to give it. I helped her out no end. She kept telling me how grateful she was and if there was ever anything she could for me, just to ask. I never asked for anything until she started with the music. The baby was just over a year old when she threw her boyfriend out. That's when it all started. She'd done it previously, on the odd occasion before the baby was born and once or twice, I'd asked him to tell her to turn it down, turn the music down. When we eventually became friends, I thought I might be able to sort it out on more adult terms. That could never be. She is so immature. Anyway, after he had gone, I asked her several times to turn the music down. At first, she apologised but moaned that now she was on her own, she only had the music for pleasure. I was completely taken in by her. I felt she was having difficulty coming to terms with single-parenthood, so I tolerated it. Then she got in with a new group of friends. Block heads the lot of them. Out nearly every night. That baby, that poor child, rarely spent two nights together in his own cot. He'd stay with her ex. her mother, or at one of her friends whilst she went to raves...and the music, when she was in, it was on and it became intolerable. One Wednesday I came home from uni, with a slitting headache. I hadn't had much sleep the night before because of that damned music but I went round to give her a birthday card and ask her if she could turn the music down because the bass from the speakers was making my headache worse. She turned it down for a short while but then turned it back up when her favourite song came on. I had to go round again. I suppose I could tell then that she didn't like it. She turned it off and went out.

Noise Pollution (loud music) can drive people mad, literally.

This monologue has been written for performance. As you read, you become embroiled in the anguish of the confessor. It is almost autobiographical in that the writer was experiencing a problem with her neighbour's loud music at the time. It was written as a sort of therapeutic piece to make sure that the ending did not actually happen. Or did it?

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