

# EXTRACT

## afterwards

a short play

by

**Alex Broun**

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**Cast**

MEG

SISSY

CAROLINE

KENDRA

JENNY

(Actors can be of any age.)

**Setting**

There is one red chair centre stage.

PLEASE NOTE: This play deals with strong issues of sexual violence so parental guidance is recommended. Survivors of sexual abuse should also be pre-warned of the plays contents before the performance.

*PROGRAMME NOTE: The stories contained in afterwards are real life accounts of sexual abuse victims taken from the website Escaping Hades: Pandora's Aquarium. Only the names have been changed. If you are a victim of sexual abuse don't stay silent. Please reach out to support groups in your local area, on the phone or on line. You do not have to suffer alone. You can even share your story anonymously but talking about what happened really does help.*

**afterwards**

KENDRA: I never thought I would do this.

CAROLINE: I don't like to talk about what happened.

SISSY: I have no-one to talk to.

MEG: I guess you might want to hear the story first.

ALL: Afterwards

JENNY: you'll know how come I feel this way.

SISSY: I remember the absolute shocking moment,

MEG: Where the world stops to move,

KENDRA: Everything is motionless

CAROLINE: and dead around you.

JENNY: You try to make your body "hard"

CAROLINE: As a stone,

SISSY: Trying not to feel what happens.

MEG: But you feel it anyway.

KENDRA: And your emotions totally change.

JENNY: Confusion

SISSY: Shock

KENDRA: Pain.

CAROLINE: Sadness.

MEG: The sadness goes in so deep –

JENNY: It never really leaves.

KENDRA: My name is Kendra.

MEG: Meg.

CAROLINE: Caroline.

SISSY: Sissy.

JENNY: Jenny.

KENDRA: I was sixteen.

SISSY: Forty seven.

JENNY: Twenty three

CAROLINE: Eight.

MEG: Fourteen.

**MEG'S STORY. THE CAST BECOME 14 YEARS OLD, EXCITED.**

MEG: It was late in January and I convinced my mom to let me go out with my friend, her boyfriend, and another guy. We promised my mom we would be at my friend's house the whole night, but after I called my mom from her house

JENNY: (*AS MEG'S FRIEND*) we took off to the other guy's house.

MEG: When we got there we started drinking and smoking weed.

JENNY: By one that morning –

MEG: I was gone.

**MEG SLUMPS IN TO THE RED CHAIR. SISSY STANDS NEARBY.**

SISSY: (*AS MEG'S INNER VOICE*) My friend told me that this guy was into me,

KENDRA: (*AS GUY*) and that he was 18,

MEG: Me being 14 I thought that was sooo cool. My friend and her boyfriend went in the other room

CAROLINE: (*AS BOYFRIEND*) to get some (*MAKES QUOTATION MARKS SIGN*) "sleep".

**CAROLINE AND JENNY MOVE TO THE BACK.**

MEG: Leaving me and this

SISSY: unfamiliar guy

MEG: alone. I was laying on his couch so he gave me a pillow and a blanket.

SISSY: I was on the verge of passing out

MEG: when I felt him crawling under the covers with me. I was like:

SISSY: "Fine whatever"

MEG: because he wasn't doing anything.

SISSY: (PACE QUICKENING) Then he started to kiss me,

MEG: I kissed him back

SISSY: not really thinking about it.

MEG: I couldn't think about anything, my head was spinning. He started to unbutton my pants and stick his hands .... Then he pulled down my pants ... I couldn't focus on anything and then it hit me what he was doing. He started to spread my legs and I told him I didn't want to. He told me it was fine and kept going.

SISSY: I tried to push him away

MEG: but I didn't have any strength. Then he pushed himself inside me so hard, that I wanted to cry. It hurt so bad.

JENNY: I tried telling him to stop –

SISSY: and pushing him away

CAROLINE: But that didn't work.

MEG: He had me pinned on the couch underneath him. I was crying for him to stop the whole time, but he didn't.

ALL: Afterwards

MEG: He got up and went to the bathroom. When he came back he just looked at me and goes:

KENDRA: (AS BOY) "I'm sorry."

MEG: Then I passed out, and when I woke up in the morning he was laying there looking at me like nothing had happened. I got up and went to the bathroom, I was bleeding bad and it hurt to pee. He drove me and my friend home and as I got out of the truck he goes:

KENDRA: "You know you wanted it."

MEG: I later found out that he told my friend's boyfriend that -

KENDRA: “She *started* it and *asked* for it.”

MEG: My grades starting falling and I started cutting worse.

SISSY: Finally I lost it.

MEG: I tried killing myself. I ended up in a hospital under suicide watch for five days.

SISSY: When I got out

MEG: I vowed I wasn’t going to do things like that anymore. But sometimes I feel so ...

**SISSY GOES TO MEG. MEG STANDS AND SISSY EMBRACES HER. SHE TAKES MEG’S PLACE IN THE CHAIR.**

### **SISSY’S STORY**

SISSY: I was raped by a stranger late at night. I have little recollection of the actual rape, but it was confirmed during an exam at a local hospital. It has been 4 years, but

ALL: bits

SISSY: and

ALL: pieces

SISSY: of the experience still

JENNY: linger.

SISSY: Lately, I have been feeling very powerless, unable to motivate myself. I am set to begin a new job in a month, and I am plagued by feelings of –

CAROLINE: Inadequacy.

JENNY: Fear.

KENDRA: Guilt.

ALL: Afterwards ...

SISSY: I don't know if this has any connection to the rape, but I don't ever remember being this

CAROLINE: anxious.