

Mother Carrie

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Character List

Carrie White, single mother of one daughter, sells flowers on streets for a living, speaks Chinglish.

Lily White, Carrie's daughter, has a genetic disorder which makes her head twitch all the time. A 7th grade student.

Mrs. Goodman, the teacher of Lily's class.

Ben, a classmate of Lily, a hooligan, bullies Lily all the time.

The principal, a very sly man, tries to please the powerful and hides the bad things in school.

Mrs. Hilton, Ben's mother, an arrogant person who always thinks that she is right.

We see three children's desks and chairs at the left of the stage. Behind these chairs and desk, there are an office desk, a chair and a telephone. At the right of the stage, we can see a children's bed at the edge, a door to the bed, a telephone, and a set of dirty plastic chair and desk. It's Carrie's home. It looks shabby. (At rise, only the spotlight focuses on Lily who sits in the middle chair and desk and does her homework. The other two students also do their things. She twitches her head several times. Then the bell rings)

Mrs. Goodman OK everyone, class dismissed. Remember to finish your homework.

(The other children who sit next to Lily leave, and Lily stands up and leaves. She walks slowly to the other side. The spotlight still follows her. She goes next to the desk and sits on the floor.)

Carrie Honey? You home?

(The stage lights are on. The spotlight is off.)

Carrie You're home. Why don't you turn on the light? Are you alright, honey? Why don't you say nothing?

Lily It's "anything"! Mom! *(Starts weeping)* I don't want to go to school anymore. Can I stay home forever?

Carrie What happened? Did someone hurt you in the school? Again? I know that boy will do that again.

Lily Please, Mom. Let's home school. It can be fun for you and me. Besides, I can help you to sell flowers on the streets. We can earn more money. I can lessen your burden. Let's do this, shall we?

Carrie Sweetheart, I love to have you help me, but you know the Bible. God say what? Love wisdom? Or something? I ain't remember.

Lily It's from Proverbs 1:7. God says "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Carrie Yes! Yes! That's right. You smart. That's why you go to school to be wiser. And God love we more.

Lily I think that God has abandoned us. We're poor, and everyone is bullying us. Why does He give me a head which I can't control? All my classmates laugh at me.

Carrie Honey. Be patient. You tired, huh? Let's pray and sleep. *(They walk to the bed and kneel down)* Dear Lord, we praise you for giving we daily bread. We very grateful for your generosity. Your love so enormous and holy. I know you want we to become better people, so you give our family so

many challenges. Please give we strength to overcome your challenges and give we more love to love someone who not nice to us. In Jesus name,

Carrie and Lily Amen. *(Lily goes to bed.)*

Carrie You know what? Tomorrow I call Mrs. Goodman about this, and I promise everything be okay. OK?

Lily *(sighs)* I wish. Good night mom.

Carrie Good night! Sleep tight. *(Carrie walks out, closes the door, and sits in the chair. The stage light is off, the spotlight is on.)* Oh! My Lord! My dear Lord, please, some mercy for we. We are poor people. You stand by the side of we, don't you? Please, let we pass through this. Lily, a nice girl, but she bullied for so long. The boy, Ben, who bullies her, please, be punished. We have nothing but your love. Please, help we. In Jesus name, amen.

(The spotlight is off. Then the stage light is on.)

Carrie Lily, it's morning! Now go to school.

Lily Do I really have to go?

Carrie Yes. Of course! I promise you, I take care of everything. No worry, child. Go.

(Lily goes to the desk and sits down. The other two classmates are also sitting next to her. The bell rings.

Carrie picks up the phone and dial. The telephone rings. The stage light is off. Three spot lights fall on Carrie, Lily, and Mrs. Goodman.)

Mrs. Goodman Hello? This is Mrs. Goodman. Who is it?

Ben Look who is coming. It's Lily! The shaking queen!

Carrie Hello, Mrs Goodman, I, Carrie White. My daughter bullied yesterday. Mrs. Goodman, you must help I, or I ain't know what to do.

Lily Go away!

Mrs. Goodman I guess it is Ben. I will talk to Ben. Besides, I will ask him to apologize to your daughter. I promise.

Ben Everybody look! The queen is speaking! What does she say? What? You want to shake the whole world? Wow! Easy your highness idiot.

Carrie I grateful for your deed, but I think this not enough. You know this is happen for many times. I think I should do something, like call the government or police?

Lily Don't make fun of me. I told you I would tell this to Mrs. Goodman.

Mrs. Goodman Lily's mother. Please relax. They are only children. They do make mistakes.

Ben Ha, ha, what did you say? Tattle on me? Wow, you little shit, you are the blabber. What a perfect match! A shaking head with a very big mouth. It's totally an auto blow job machine. *(Ben reaches his arm to hit Lily's head)*

Mrs. Goodman How about calling a meeting for both parents and students? I think that will help. According to an education research, having parents to school is a very effective disciplinary way. Mrs. White, if you can do this, I will be very grateful. Besides, I think it is good for both kids.

Ben Look guys, her head can't resist touching my hand! She is a natural slut, isn't she? Hahaha.

Carrie Thank you, Mrs. Goodman, but I think I should talk to the principal. You know, maybe he have a better way to deal it.

Lily (*she prepares to weep and breathes loudly.*) What? Is this the best you can do, loser?

Mrs. Goodman The principal is very busy now, but I will definitely inform the incident to him. You have my word.

Ben Wow, the slut idiot queen can say something. You know there is a reason why everybody hates you. We worship you in a different way. If Jesus is the God of love, you must be the goddess of hate. Hahaha, come everyone worship her.

Carrie Oh, Okay. So tomorrow when? Oh! 9:30a.m. OK!

(*The spotlights are off. Carrie is off the stage. The stage light is on. Lily starts to cry very loud. Then, Mrs. Goodman comes in. Ben and the other student go back to their seats.*)

Mrs. Goodman Knock it off. You again! Ben, you have a big trouble. I will call your parents to come to school tomorrow. Lily, don't cry. Teacher Goodman will deal everything.

Ben I didn't do anything. I just said something to Lily, and it's just a very normal conversation.

Mrs. Goodman Enough is enough. You smart mouth.

(*The stage light is off. Every student is off the stage. Then the spotlight is on and falls on the left of the stage, office desk, where the principal sits. Mrs. Goodman is standing besides the desk.*)

Mrs. Goodman But, sir, I think that I have conformed to the school's standard operating procedure. Calling a meeting for both students' parents is the right thing to do. Besides, I think this is not enough. We should have reported the bullying to the Education Bureau of the County.

Principal School's standard operating procedure? Education Bureau of the County? Pooh! Let me give you, (*a pause*) for an instance. If one monster is powerful, rich, and arrogant, the best way to deal with it is to let the monster sleep. So if you dare to poke the monster again, the door which you walk out is not just my office's door. It's a door to your unlimited happy stress-free-non-working holidays! And let the virginity of the queen be intact.

Mrs. Goodman Sorry, what was that?

Principal Don't try to mess around "the" parents, and my school's reputation. And "the" parents I mentioned definitely are not the poor, sad, strange ones. Anyway, every housewife has her dirty laundry, you know, right?

Mrs. Goodman But, sir, this kind of behavior is definitely bullying. I remember the school's policy is making the school a zero bullying place!

Principal Be clever! My dear Dr. Martin Luther King. If this is not a bullying, my school is still a zero bullying place.

Mrs. Goodman Sorry, how does it happen? There is bullying, right now.

Principal Use your head, Socrates. The definition is always a very mystical word. Nobody has to know the differences between bullying and kid's quarrel. So, maybe, Mrs. Goodman, you just have to deal the little tiny incident which might only happen one time. *(He smiles evilly.)*

Mrs. Goodman Anyway, I called the parents.

Principal It's okay. It's good. Mrs. White's complain won't hurt anyone or anything. But, Mrs. Goodman, you have to know your position. *(A pause)* Good.

(The spotlight is off. The stage light is on. Carrie and Lily sit on the bed, Carrie combs Lily's hair.)

Carrie You know, everything goanna be fine. Tomorrow be fine. Future be fine.

Lily You keep saying that. But how do you know?

Carrie I have a feeling these things end recently. I think God must hear our prayer.

Lily Wish you are right.

Carrie He always watch us! You know, today I will go to school and talk to Ben's parents. Then he never ever hurt you again. Come on, before we go to the school, let's pray again.

Lily Again? Fine. *(They kneel down.)*

Carrie Dear Lord, thank you for watching we and comforting we. You bring we peace, and you teach we interact with people and love people. How mighty you the only and true God in the world. You only give challenges that we can afford. Thank you! We know you just want we be better people. Thank you, thank you. Please bless the meeting today. In Jesus name,

Carrie and Lily Amen.

Carrie Now, go to school. Bye! *(Carrie kisses Lily's cheek. Then Lily is off from the left of the stage.)* Okay, let I be prepared.

(The stage light is off and on. Carrie, Mrs. Goodman, and the principal are standing in the center of the stage.)

Mrs. Goodman You're here a little early.

Carrie Early? It's about 10 o'clock. Our meeting begin at 9:30.

Mrs. Hilton *(comes in)* Oh, you must be Lily's mother. I am Ben's mother. You can call me Mrs. Hilton.

Carrie Hi, Mrs. Hilton. I, Carrie White. You call me White.

Mrs. Hilton Wow, you sound a little...demanding.

Principal Here's the thing, your children may have little quarrels, but it is a very normal thing. Children are not mature enough to handle their feelings. Sometimes, they get so excited that they may misbehave. So, Mrs. Hilton and White, maybe you can preach to your children at home.

Carrie Well, different thing, different thing. It's your son bully my daughter. A very long time.

Principal Don't exaggerate the situation.

Mrs. Hilton What? My son bullies your daughter? I think it's impossible. Well, first of all, we are a very well-educated family. We do everything, you know, elegantly. Not like, well, pardon me, some ignorant people. Second, my son and I are caring for the other people very much. We do volunteer

jobs every Sunday. There is no way he bullies your child. Third, instead of bullying yours, I am worried about my son being bullied.

Principal Mrs. White, I know it's a little hard for you to understand the teaching psychology, but you can trust the professional educator, me.

Mrs. Goodman I think we should focus on the children's incident.

Carrie No incident. I think your son is a bully.

Mrs. Hilton OH! MY! GOD! You are that kind of person, right? You know we are a rich family, so you try to make some unreal accusations that you can blackmail us. Oh God. I know you are...not so rich, but at least save yourself some dignity. I always admire you poor people. Despite being poor, you people still hang in there, and try to live a noble life. But not like you, you just try to get money that doesn't belong to you. Ugh.

Carrie It no true...

Principal Well, anyway, I have some suggestions. I think both of you talk to your children, teach them. And for both of your children's sake, I won't put this thing into the record. Because, if we let the higher bureau know about this, that will increase the difficulties to apply a good school.

Mrs. Hilton Right, right, right. We shouldn't let this thing interfere children's study.

Carrie So that mean?

Principal Nobody has to know about this tiny little incident.

Carrie How about my daughter?

Principal She will be fine. Mrs. Hilton, it's been a long time since you came to the school. Although the tiny incident brought you here, how about having some tea and cookies in my office?

Mrs. Hilton It's so nice of you. *(The principal and Mrs. Hilton get off the stage.)*

Mrs. Goodman Sorry, Mrs. White. But, I will keep my eye on Ben.

(The stage light is off and on. Carrie is standing by the table on the left side of the stage)

Carrie Maybe it is a good sign.

(Lily comes home crying.)

Carrie What happen?

Lily Really? Do you think that will help? Now, all of my classmates make fun of both of us. They said that it's an honor to meet the Queen and Princess Idiot. And do you know what's worse? Ben threatened me that if his mother comes to school again for this thing again, he will do something to me.

Carrie No. He wouldn't dare. I talk to the principal, the teacher, and her mother!

Lily That's the reason why. Don't you get it? They all are goanna laugh at us.

Carrie Honey, don't worry. I go to your school again. This time I make them make some promise, or I talk to Ben.

Lily No, don't go. They all are goanna laugh at us.

Carrie No, they won't. You have some sleep. (Go to the bed.) Let's pray. I have a feeling that everything be over soon.

(The stage light is off and on. Lily and the other student are sitting on their chairs. Carrie is home and ready to go to the school. The bell rings. Ben starts to bully Lily. Carrie walks in.)

Ben You think that funny? Let me tell you what is funny. *(Ben hits Lily's head.)*

Carrie What are you doing? Are you hitting my daughter? It's not right. You can't do this. I goanna tell this on your teacher.

Ben Mrs. White, you'd better not to waste your time. Because, you know, my mother and father are very powerful. They will settle this thing down. By the way, it is not our fault. When we look at a girl like Lily, we can't help ourselves to "make friends" with her.

Carrie What you say? *(Carrie raises her voice.)* What you say? Hum? *(Carrie pinches Ben's ear and drags him to the central stage.)*

Lily Mother, no!

Carrie You are why my daughter suffers. *(Carrie slaps Ben twice.)*

Mrs. Goodman Mrs. White, what are you doing?

Carrie They got power, I got what? Nothing! My daughter is right. You all goanna laugh at we. You all the bullies. If God no give me the justice, I make my own justice.

Mrs. Goodman Please, Mrs. White. Calm down, we can talk.

Carrie Talk? *(She throws down a chair into pieces, and picks up a stick.)* I talk you many times before. Did it help? Settle things down? Power? You just a phony. *(She throws the other chair)* Ahahahahahahahahah! *(She climbs on the desk of the office.)* Everyone in the school bully. No one wants to help we. And no one help we. *(She points the stick to everyone.)*

Principal What happens?

Carrie And you the liar. You pretended you goanna help I, but you never did. *(She hits the desk)*

Principal Call the security. Security! Security!

Carrie Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

(The stage light is off. The spotlight falls on the reporter who is standing on the central stage. Everything remains damaged and messy. And Lily is sitting on the floor near the chair in her home.)

Reporter As you can see, this is the school where the incident happened. *(He goes to the left of the stage.)* The mother, Carrie White, part of the social vulnerability, couldn't stand that her daughter has been bullied, so she went to school and damaged school public property. Now, she is arrested for Offenses against Public Safety. The school claimed that they did follow the protocol. They can understand the mother's feeling, but it's wrong to damage the property and the other pupils' right to learn. *(Goes to the right of the stage)* And this is the house of Carrie White, and you can see they are really poor. The mayor appeals to the citizen that they should follow the procedure, but how long does it take? Does the poor know? This is Jason, back to you, Lisa.

(The reporter leaves, and the spotlight falls on Lily who is weeping.)

Lily I want my mommy.

The End