



# It's Cold

WRITTEN BY JO DORRAS

**When Wan Smolbag Theatre present this play, they hang a backdrop - a curtain - behind and act in front of it. They can then go out, by disappearing behind the backdrop or through the audience. They can appear over the top of the backdrop too.**

**The play can be performed with 5 actors, but 6 or more is better.**



*[A young woman comes into the acting area. She seems very nervous and preoccupied. She looks round startled at the audience and then acts like she has been caught doing something wrong.]*

Sonia: Oh... Look at this rain! I just went out to... I just went down the road and now I'm so wet... *[She looks down at her clothes]* I didn't know it would rain. The sky was clear in the early morning. And the birds were pecking at the bags of rubbish. Nobody there, just the birds and me and... I had to hurry up. I couldn't stay. People go there to look for things... things other people throw away. So I had to be quick... But I found a place under a tree. There was long grass ... and it was sheltered from the wind. But now it's raining! He's wrapped up. A new blanket. The lady said it was the best quality. Soft and warm. But I didn't know it would rain. And now he must be cold. *[She starts to go out and then stops herself. She walks slowly back.]* He's cold. I could go back now. But someone might see me and then... I can't keep him! How can I keep him? I wish it would stop raining! He'll be so cold! *[She sinks down and buries her head in her hands. Slowly she lifts her head and sees the audience.]* Stop looking at me! I couldn't have done anything else! I know what they'll say in the papers... It's a crime! It's murder! How can a woman throw out her own baby? How can a woman do that? You want to blame me, don't you? I can see it in your eyes. Staring. Staring at me, saying I'm a murderer! You don't even think about him! You don't think he did anything wrong! *[A man walks in and jauntily crosses the stage]* There he is walking down the street without a care in the world. He hasn't done anything! No one's going to say he's evil! A murderer! No, he's a respectable man! *[She gets up and walks past him. She keeps looking at him until she exits. He tries to ignore her but once she's out he heaves a sigh of relief.]*

Mark: I know what she's been saying. It's all my fault eh? Okay, I know I didn't do very well. I lied and I cheated. I don't feel very good about that... I think about it. I think about how it might have been... I didn't want to end up like this... with her hating me and everything gone wrong! It's easy for her to put all the blame on me! But I don't know if anyone is to blame for something like this. You just get carried away by the feeling. You should have heard her... *[Putting on her voice]* I can't live without you, darling. I've got to see you...now, today. She doesn't want to remember that now! She doesn't want to think about how it all started!

SONG: How did it start?  
How did it come to this?  
You've come to the end  
And it's all gone wrong  
Where there was love  
There is now hate and pain  
Let's start the story over again

*[Mark joins the singers and Sonia comes back in to be the girl described in the song]*



She's a quiet young girl  
 From a family that says  
 Right is right, wrong is wrong  
 And there is no in between  
 Stay home at nights  
 And don't ever be seen  
 On the wrong side  
 On the wrong side of the tracks.  
 She stays home at nights  
 And she looks in the mirror  
 Right is right, wrong is wrong  
 But she still dreams  
 Dreams a young girl's dreams  
 About a young man  
 Dancing all night in her arms.

Dancing all night  
 Dancing all night  
 Dancing all night in her arms....

*[By the end of the song, Sonia is on stage on her own dancing round and round while all the other singers exit. Her father comes on. He watches Sonia for a moment.]*

Aaron: Such a happy girl my Sonia, and clever too. But you know what it's like with girls... you can't be too careful. Sonia! Sonia! *[Sonia stops dancing and runs towards the backdrop]* What do you think you're doing?

Sonia: I was listening to the radio... the music and..

Aaron: You don't listen to music on Sunday! And as for... you were dancing!

Sonia: I'm sorry, father. I forgot... I mean, I didn't mean to do anything. I was dreaming.

Aaron: The devil makes work for idle hands, Sonia! Find something useful to do!

Sonia: Yes Father.

Aaron: Go to the kitchen and light the fire. Help your mother with the cooking!

*[Sonia walks past him rather afraid, when she exits, he speaks to the audience]*

Aaron: I do my best! I do my best for my children! I've tried to bring them up in the Lord... *[His wife enters]*

Mama: You have always been a good husband and father, Aaron.

Aaron: And being a father today isn't easy.

Mama: It's not easy! Especially if you have girls.

Aaron: I have tried to teach my girls the difference between right and wrong!

Mama: Girls get into trouble. Before you know it they're 17 and pregnant.

Aaron: What's that you said, Margaret?

Mama: I was just saying about girls and how hard it is...

Aaron: None of our girls has got pregnant! And they are not going to get pregnant! I make sure they don't hear all the rubbish people are being told today! In this dirty world I try to keep their minds pure.

Mama: Yes, when the school wrote to us asking if we would like Sonia to go to the talk about life....

Aaron: Life! They wanted to talk about sex! *[Margaret is shocked to hear him say the word]* I'm sorry Margaret, but that's what they meant! They don't say it though. They call it life! Well, sex isn't life. Life is all the beautiful things we see around us. Life is a gift from God. But they want to tell the young ones that life is sex! My Sonia is going to grow up seeing there is more to life than sex. Young people today think sex is something you have to do. You have to experiment with different partners. Ah! What kind of world have we made? A world where young people are encouraged to go out and ... I don't want my children growing up like that! I am going to protect them!

Mama: You are a good father. A very good father Aaron, but sometimes...

Aaron: Sometimes what?!



Mama: You are a bit hard on the girls. You know when Jenny ran away....  
 Aaron: That boy is no good! He doesn't belong to our church!  
 Mama: Yes... But she's learned her lesson. She wants...  
 Aaron: She's not coming back! She's made her choice. I don't want to see her in this house again.  
 Mama: Aaron, she's our daughter.  
 Aaron: Sonia is our daughter. She understands the difference between right and wrong. Sonia will never hurt me like Jenny did! *[Aaron looks hard at the mother and then walks out angrily. The mother looks at the audience and then shakes her head and follows him out.]*

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*[Sonia enters. She is collecting her books as she talks.]*

Sonia: I must hurry up! I'm studying accounting and book keeping. I couldn't find a job after school and Daddy said I had to do another course. He didn't want me getting any old job. Being a waitress or something. I wanted to be a waitress... But anyway! There's my bus! Hey! *[She waves the bus down, pays her fare and gets in]*  
 Sonia: Same old journey every day. Same old smelly bus. But I'm out of the house. Out of the house!  
 Driver: Where are you going, darling?  
 Sonia: Into the city....

SONG: Riding to the city!  
 Riding to the city  
 At last you're free  
 And no one knows you!  
 People walking down the streets  
 A thousand lives  
 Being lived here  
 Girls and boys are holding hands  
 Laughing  
 Right there on the street.  
 Go outside, you're sure to meet  
 The man that's waiting for you!  
 Go outside, you're sure to meet  
 The man that's waiting for you!

Driver: Hey, see you tomorrow!  
*[The bus pulls up and Sonia jumps off and waves to the driver, who beeps and exits the stage. Sonia goes and sits down. Mark comes into the class and sits down near Sonia. He keeps looking at her while the teacher speaks. Sonia is concentrating on writing her notes.]*

Teacher: Good morning everyone. I've come to teach the new part of the course today. Book keeping. Book keeping is an essential requirement of every business. No business can work unless the books are in order. You have to know how much money you have coming in and how much you have going out of a business... Now I'll just write the basic book keeping system we are going to learn on the board.... *[He turns to start writing]*

Mark: Sorry... um... Sorry? Do you have a spare pen? Mine's not working...

Sonia: Oh, yes... *[Looking in her bag]* Yes I've got one. Here... *[She goes back to writing her notes]*

Mark: Thank you. That's nice of you to lend the pen...

Sonia: No... It's no problem. *[She smiles at him]*

Teacher: Before we do any more work, who has had experience in a business here? *[Mark puts up his hand]*

Teacher: Ah ... Mr?

Mark: Just call me Mark. I worked in my father's business. But I need to know more...

Teacher: What do you want from this course?

Mark: I want to learn the most simple and efficient accounting system for a small business. I want to build up a competitive business... to work for myself. I want to be a success!

Teacher: Thank you... Mark, and you Miss...



Sonia: Sonia..

Teacher: What do you want from this course, Sonia?

Sonia: I want to... earn enough money to pay my parents back for all they've done for me and...

Teacher: And what else do you want, Sonia?

Sonia: Um... well I'm not really sure.... I mean I want to get a good job *[Haltingly]* ...and get married and have children...

Teacher: That's nice, Sonia. And what about the rest of you? What do you want? *[Including the audience in his question]* Why are you here? *[The teacher walks out and Sonia starts to collect up her books. Mark looks at her.]*

Mark: You want to get married and have children?

Sonia: Yes! Isn't that what everybody wants?

Mark: Everybody?

Sonia: You want to have children, don't you?

Mark: They cry and throw up a lot, you know.

Sonia: Have you got children then?

Mark: No! Do I look that old?

Sonia: Well... old enough.

Mark: I haven't got any children and I don't want any. Okay?

Sonia: Can I have my pen back? I've got to go.

Mark: Um, here it is. *[She's obviously cross with him]* Look I'm sorry. I got a bit upset about the children thing. You see, my brother. He got married very young and now he's got three kids and he's really unhappy. He doesn't love his wife, but he can't leave because of the kids. You know the story...

Sonia: Oh... that's sad.

Mark: Yes. *[Sonia puts the last book away and starts to leave]* Do you want to have a drink somewhere? It's nice talking to you...

Sonia: Really? I mean you like talking to me?

Mark: *[Laughing]* Yes! You're sweet.

Sonia: You think I'm stupid!

Mark: I think I'd like to have a cup of coffee with you.

Sonia: Alright...

Mark: *[Leading her out]* Just a cup of coffee and you can tell me all about yourself. *[He leads Sonia out and then comes back and talks to the audience]*

Mark: She was easy to talk to. A sweet, simple girl. We must have talked for most of the afternoon. She made me tell her about my brother. Okay, so it wasn't my brother I was talking about. I was pretty unhappy then. Things at home... well, they'd got bad between me and Betty. We'd just had another baby. Number three. And Betty... She was always cross. Cross about every little thing.

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*[Mark's wife enters. She is pushing a pram and holding a baby in her arms. Mark is in the front and she stays behind.]*

Betty: She won't stop crying! Can't you look after the baby for a while?

Mark: Look darling, I've got work to do...

Betty: Darling?! Don't try and sweet talk me!

Mark: I can't say anything right, can I Betty?

Betty: You try looking after this one, while the other one is crying and whining for its dinner ....

Mark: Listen to yourself. All you do is complain. *[He turns away angrily]*

Betty: It's alright for you. You can get out. I have to stay at home with the kids all the time. Your mum's always talking...

Mark: My mum has done a lot for you!

Betty: I'm sorry Mark. I didn't mean... I just get tired. Having two babies so close together. The nurse said we should use something.  
Make sure there's a big gap before we have any more.



- Mark: Use something?
- Betty: You know... something to stop you having babies. *[She says this laughingly]* I told your mum about it and she said women shouldn't use things like that...
- Mark: She's right too. Means you're free to do what want and I'd never know.
- Betty: You're crazy! I wouldn't want to do anything! You're the one who goes out and has a good time! I just stay here with the kids and your mum!
- Mark: I have to work don't I?
- Betty: I wish I'd never married you! If I hadn't been pregnant... I could have had a good life instead of...
- Mark: Shut up will you? All you can do is nag, nag, nag! I'm getting out of here before I go mad! *[He moves in on her threateningly and then moves away and into the audience]*
- Betty: Mark! *[She moves to the side of the stage]*
- Mark: What can you do, when home is like that? What can you do? I didn't think it would be like this when I married Betty. I thought we'd be happy. I thought I was in love...
- SONG: The photo's over there  
 The perfect couple  
 You in white and me in black  
 We're about to cut the cake  
 The brand new wedding band  
 On your finger under my hand  
 And in our eyes  
 There's no hint of a mistake  
 No idea it could be a mistake we were about to make  
 At nineteen years of age  
 At nineteen years of age.  
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- [Mark walks out and Sonia rushes in]*
- Sonia: He was nice, so nice! I've got so much work to do, but I don't feel like doing it! I feel like... flying! I feel like... running down the street shouting at the top of my lungs! Mark! Oh! That's so stupid. He wouldn't really be interested in me. I'm not the kind of girl... *[She goes and peers in the mirror]* I'm not even pretty. I wonder if any man would think I was pretty?  
*[She is staring into the imaginary mirror when her mother comes in]*
- Mama: Sonia! *[Sonia looks round surprised]* Did you have a good day at school today?
- Sonia: Yes Mummy.
- Mama: I hope the teachers are good. Some of these business schools take your money and don't teach you anything... Daddy has put a lot of money into this school for you. You are learning things aren't you?
- Sonia: Yes! It's a good school. I like it and I like the... the other students are nice.
- Mama: What are the other students like?
- Sonia: They're nice..
- Mama: Nice?
- Sonia: A bit older than me.
- Mama: Older?
- Sonia: Only a bit older. They aren't really old.
- Mama: It's different from the secondary school you went to?
- Sonia: Yes... I feel grown up.
- Mama: But you're not grown up yet, Sonia. There are so many things you don't know.
- Sonia: I'm not a baby any more, Mummy. You always treated me like a baby, because I'm the youngest.
- Mama: You think you know everything now do you? Well you're wrong! It's a big world out there Sonia and young girls like you get hurt! Boys only want one thing from a girl and they lie...
- Sonia: You don't want me to have a life! You want me to stay at home with you and Dad!
- Mama: Sonia! Your father and I are paying for you to go to this school so you can have a good life! A much better



life than your friends! Young girls get into all sorts of trouble these days. You need to be careful! Don't you understand?

Sonia: Yes... yes, Mummy.

Mama: I don't understand why you're angry with us when we do so much for you!

*[Sonia exits guiltily and leaves the mother standing on stage]*

Mama: I try to talk to my daughter. To help her. You see, I do remember what it was like being young. I know there are temptations. I think if you try and talk to your children, that is the way to help them. But I don't understand why Sonia doesn't want to talk to me. It hurts me. And I know there are things she isn't telling me. I worry about her. I worry about her all the time. So many bad things can happen. So many bad things...  
*[Sonia walks past in a different dress. She stands at the side of the stage adjusting the dress]* Look at her. She wants to dress up. Look pretty. She wants boys to look at her. But they don't just look Sonia! You must be careful, my girl! You must be careful! *[Sonia runs up and kisses her mother. Margaret waves good-bye and watches Sonia go out.]* They think we were never young. They think we never knew what it was like to fall in love. Hmmm. I remember when I first met Aaron, my father didn't like him. I cried all night, because I thought my father would never let us marry. I thought about Aaron all the time. I wanted to be with him every moment of the day. I know what it's like... Yes... I know what it's like... *[Aaron's voice breaks in on her dreaming]*

Aaron: Margaret! Where's my supper? I have to be out in half an hour and nothing's ready!

Mama: Yes, I'm just coming!

*[Mama goes out quickly]*



*[Mark comes back in. He's very tired. He is walking down the street. A man is selling flowers in the audience.]*

Mark: Well at least I'm in good time for school this morning! I don't know how I'll get through today, though. The baby woke up at five o'clock and I had to get up and look after it. She doesn't think about me having to stay awake at school! And I was up till late drinking grog... *[The flower seller walks past. He is selling flowers to the audience]*

Flower: Pretty flowers! Come on buy one! Give it to your girl, to show her you like her. Buy a flower! Come on sir, only a dollar.

Mark: A dollar?

Flower: Three for a dollar. You don't want to miss this. Look at these flowers, sir. They're fresh and ... smell them... *[Mark tries to push them away]* They all like flowers, sir. Give her a flower and you never know what you might get in return! *[Mark laughs and the flower seller gets his dollar and goes out. Mark looks at the flowers and sniffs them and then Sonia enters. She doesn't see him]*

Mark: Madam! Madam! You dropped this!

*[Sonia turns to see who is calling her and Mark gives her the flowers]*

Sonia: Oh... Mark, for me? That's very sweet.

Mark: I saw this man selling flowers and ... the flowers were so beautiful, I thought about you.

Sonia: Mark! You don't mean that!

Mark: I do! Put one behind your ear. Go on...There, that looks very nice.

Sonia: I feel silly.

Mark: You don't look silly. You look like a beautiful girl on a sunny day. *[Sonia laughs and smiles]*

Sonia: We'd better hurry. We'll be late for class.

Mark: After class... Have you got time to come for a walk?

Sonia: A walk? Where?

Mark: Down by the river.

Sonia: I'll see... I mean yes. I mean let's go... After class!

*[They walk to the front of the stage and a chorus comes from behind. The teacher walks about in front miming speech and occasionally turning to talk.]*

Chorus: After class.

After class,



Such a long way away  
And the teacher talks and talks and talks  
What's he trying to say?

Teacher: Keeping a real check on petty cash can be very hard, but there are ways of keeping a check and here they are...

Chorus: You wish that he would go away  
You wish the time would pass  
So you could be  
In another world, another place

Teacher: And this is the most important part...

Chorus: But nothing's as important as this!

*[Sonia is looking at Mark, who is looking back at her. The chorus comes in and whispers in their ears.]*

As looking in his eyes  
As holding hands  
A kiss.....

Teacher: What do you think the answer is Sonia? *[Sonia looks up at the teacher and the chorus runs off. She is very confused.]*

Sonia: By the river... Oh!

Teacher: Sorry, Sonia? What did you say? *[Sonia looks at the teacher bewildered and then Mark laughs, the teacher looks cross and Mark and Sonia freeze and the teacher exits. Mark stands up and gives Sonia his hand. She takes it.]*

Mark: Come with me Sonia... *[They walk a short way up stage]* It's nice here by the river.

Sonia: It's so quiet.

Mark: See over there! The hawk!

Sonia: Yes! It's beautiful! I love the way it flies, without flapping its wings. It doesn't need to try to stay up in the sky!

Mark: It's riding on the currents of the air.

Sonia: So free. I wish I was free like that.

Mark: You're free! You're young and single...

Sonia: Free! My parents think they can make me do anything they want. If they knew I was here with you now... Alone with a man.

Mark: They wouldn't like it?

Sonia: They'd go mad! *[They walk on]* Oh... the river's so dirty. It's a shame..

Mark: You care about things, don't you Sonia? You're a very nice girl.

Sonia: You really think I'm nice?

Mark: I wouldn't be here with you now, if I didn't. *[He takes her hand]*

Sonia: Oh, Mark... *[He pulls her towards him and she pulls away]* Don't! People will see!

Mark: What's wrong?

Sonia: I don't want you touching me!

Mark: Okay! I won't touch you! *[He turns and starts to go back the way they came. Sonia hurries after him, afraid she has upset him.]*

Sonia: Mark! Mark! *[She takes his arm and he shakes her off and keeps walking away]*

Mark: It's alright Sonia! I thought you liked me. I was wrong!

Sonia: I do like you! I do! Mark, please..

Mark: If you like me, why get so upset when I want to kiss you? You're just playing with me Sonia.

Sonia: Mark, I ... I haven't had a boyfriend yet. I'm... I feel very shy. Please Mark, don't be cross!

Mark: You haven't had a boyfriend? You're joking!

Sonia: My father's very strict. He's never let us go out with boys.

Mark: A pretty girl like you and you've never had a boyfriend! *[He laughs]*



Sonia: It's not funny!  
 Mark: So I'll be your first boyfriend?  
 Sonia: You?!  
 Mark: Don't you want me to be your boyfriend?  
 Sonia: *[She looks at the ground]* Oh, Mark...  
 Mark: *[He takes her hands]* What do you think Sonia?  
 Sonia: I don't know... I've just met you. You don't know what I'm like.  
 Mark: Yes... *[He lets go of her hand]* You could be lying to me. You could be married with three kids!  
 Sonia: Mark! *[She hits him playfully and he grabs her hand and they walk a little further. Then he turns to her.]*  
 Mark: You look very pretty when you smile like that...  
*[Sonia looks at him and they smile and they slowly go behind the backdrop holding hands]*

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*[Aaron and Margaret enter. Sonia enters while they are talking.]*

Mama: I couldn't believe it!  
 Aaron: But she's only a child. How old is she?  
 Mama: Fourteen. Maybe not that old. It's a terrible thing!  
 Aaron: Fourteen! What is the world coming to?  
 Sonia: What's happened, Mummy?  
 Mama: Lisa. Thomas' daughter. She's just had a baby!  
 Sonia: It's not true! I saw her the other day...  
 Mama: It's true, Sonia! I've just seen her mother. The poor woman, I feel so sorry for her. She didn't know anything. Lisa said she had stomach pains so they took her to the hospital. Lucky they did, because she went into labour and had a baby.  
 Aaron: There are six other children in that girl's family. And she was the only one to go to secondary school... These girls don't care! They bring shame on their families. And the money! The money the family spends to educate them. It all goes down the drain.  
 Sonia: Oh. Daddy! Poor Lisa... I wonder what will happen to her?  
 Aaron: I don't know and I don't care!  
 Mama: She seemed a sweet little girl. You wouldn't believe she was like that. *[She starts to clear the table]* But you can't tell nowadays...  
 Sonia: She was a nice girl, Mummy.  
 Mama: Nice? How can a girl like that be nice?!  
 Sonia: But... how did she hide it? I mean, didn't her family know she was pregnant?  
 Mama: Some girls tie up their stomachs so the family doesn't see. They have the baby and no one knows they're even pregnant. You know Aaron, like that girl who threw her baby down the toilet...  
 Aaron: Yes... the one in the paper. A schoolgirl, her parents had no idea she was pregnant. She had the baby in the toilet and then threw it away. Girls who do that should go to prison for life!  
 Sonia: Yes... but... Lisa, I feel so sorry for Lisa.  
 Aaron: It's her parents you should feel sorry for!  
 Mama: And what kind of girl leaves her baby in a toilet to die? I just can't get it out of my head, Aaron, a dear little baby dead in a stinking toilet... Ahhh! *[She walks off with the plates. Aaron gets up and leaves. Sonia is left standing on stage.]*  
 Sonia: What kind of girl leaves their baby in a toilet to die?  
*[She walks off]*

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*[Sonia enters with Mark. They are laughing.]*

Mark: Sonia, I like you. You know that?  
 Sonia: You say you like me.  
 Mark: Do you think I'm bluffing? I only want to be with you. Can't you see that? Do you like me?



Sonia: Yes. Yes I do like you. *[She looks down and will not look at him. He takes her hand.]*

Mark: Sonia, you're the one.

Sonia: Are you sure?

Mark: I'm serious.

Sonia: I don't know what to say. I feel so stupid.

Mark: Say you want to be with me. Say you'll stay with me tonight..

Sonia: Tonight? I can't! Mark I ...

Mark: We're together. Why can't you stay?

Sonia: You don't know what you're asking! My parents... if anything happened..

Mark: What could happen?

Sonia: Girls get pregnant! If that happened to me, my father would kill me!

Mark: You don't need to worry. I'm here with you *[Sonia tries to speak, but Mark silences her]* ...And girls don't get pregnant the first time. You don't have to worry Sonia. You don't have to worry about anything. *[He is still holding both her hands. He takes her off holding her hands behind the backdrop. Mark comes back in.]*

Mark: I know what you're thinking! You think I'm a pig. *[Putting on a voice]* 'How could he do that to her? He was married and he didn't tell her!' Yeah! Alright! But I really liked her! I even thought about leaving Betty and the kids. Ah! You don't know what it's like when you meet a nice girl, who's crazy about you. The feeling's so strong. Every time I was near her, my hands shook and my heart beat like I'd been running. What could I do? I thought I was in love!

Sonia: *[Walks in the other side]* I **was** in love. I thought about him all the time. I wanted to see him every day. I was so happy! I didn't think anything bad could happen. I never thought he was lying to me! He was my whole world. I wanted to do everything to please him. Everything...  
*[Sonia and Mark exchange angry glances then he walks out.]*

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*[Sonia's mother comes in.]*

Mama: Here you are, Sonia. Eat up.

Sonia: ... It smells funny.

Mama: What do you mean? It's fine there's nothing wrong with it! You eat, Sonia.

Sonia: *[She takes a few bites.]* I'm not feeling very well... I... *[She holds her stomach and runs out. Margaret runs after her calling her name. Sonia walks back in wiping her mouth.]*

Sonia: Oh... I feel so sick. I... What if I'm... Father will kill me! But if it is... It'll be alright. I'll just tell Mark. *[She walks round the stage and Mark comes in. She rushes up and grabs his arm. He appears very happy to see her. She walks a few steps with him and then whispers in his ear. He stands stock still and then shakes her off. She stands still and confused watching him walk away towards the audience. Then she runs up to him and grabs his arm again.]*

Mark: I can't marry you Sonia!

Sonia: But why? We love one another and I'm pregnant!

Mark: I can't marry you, that's all!

Sonia: You promised..

Mark: Sonia... why did you have to go and get pregnant! *[He pushes her away and walks off. Sonia stays alone on the stage.]*

Sonia: Me? But... I didn't know. I didn't...  
*[A group of actors come into the acting area and surround Sonia. They represent the thoughts in her head. Each actor takes a different line.]*

Chorus: He said he'd look after you.  
Don't worry, it can't happen the first time.

Sonia: Mark! You can't do this to me!

Chorus: Why did you have to go and get pregnant?  
Why did you do it?

Sonia: I didn't mean to! I didn't want to!



- Chorus: What will your mother say?  
'That girl, she's no better than a prostitute.  
Not fit to be our daughter!  
Throw her out!  
Send her away!'  
*[The chorus goes out and Sonia is left on stage]*  
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- Sonia: I didn't know what to do! I thought it would be alright... I thought..
- Mama: Sonia! It's time to go! *[Margaret's voice comes from behind the backdrop. Sonia jumps as if she's been hit and then starts to pull her skirt tight and walks nervously towards the backdrop. Aaron walks in followed by Margaret.]*
- Sonia: I'll just find a better skirt. This one's not good enough.
- Aaron: What's the matter with the girl? We'll be late for church!
- Mama: Sonia, hurry up!
- Sonia: I'm just looking for a skirt! I won't be long!
- Aaron: I'm not waiting while you try on every skirt in your cupboard! Come on Margaret!
- Mama: We'll wait for you at the church! Don't forget to lock up!  
*[They exit and Sonia enters adjusting her skirt, she looks down at herself]*
- Sonia: Please don't let them see! Don't let them see!  
*[She pulls her t-shirt down over her dress. She picks up her bible and then she runs out and then comes back in to sing the hymn and then pray.]*
- SONG: Jesus is love  
He looks down on me  
Sees me in my weakness  
Gives his hand to me  
I beg you sweet Jesus  
Never desert me.  
*[The music can continue behind Sonia's speech]*
- Sonia: Please Lord, don't desert me ... Please. Say he was playing with me. Testing me. I can't do this on my own. I can't bear the shame!  
He's got to marry me. He's got to.  
Help me find the courage to speak to him. Help him  
to understand.  
*[She gets up and looks round]*  
\*\*\*  
*[Sonia starts to walk quickly and then gets to an imaginary door and knocks. Mark comes out from behind the backdrop.]*
- Mark: Sonia? What are you doing here?
- Sonia: Mark, you've got to help me. I can't tell my parents. They'll kill me. If you look after me, everything will be alright. You said you'd look after me. Mark, you said you loved me!
- Mark: I did love you Sonia. It's just...
- Sonia: If you marry me, everything will be alright. My father will be alright in the end. As long as we're married...
- Betty: Mark, where are you? The baby needs his bottle! Mark!  
*[Sonia looks at Mark and then puts out her hand but he walks away from her and she starts to sink down onto the stage.  
A group of actors appear over the backdrop]*
- Chorus: Fool!  
We told you!  
Doing those things



Touching!

Letting him...

You're disgusting!

You're filthy!

*[Sonia falls to the ground. The chorus then runs out and Margaret comes back in.]*

Mama: Sonia!

Sonia: Mummy! I had a terrible dream!

Mama: I heard you cry out. What's wrong? Is something worrying you?

Sonia: No... not really.

Mama: Are you working too hard, Sonia? You're not eating well either. Are you sure there's nothing...

Sonia: Well... I ... I ...

Mama: What is it Sonia?

Sonia: One of the boys at school, he keeps saying things to me...

Mama: A boy? Sonia, I hope you haven't done anything? What would your father say? You must be careful Sonia!

Sonia: How should I be careful Mummy?

Mama: You know what the church says Sonia. Don't go with a man until you are married. If you did anything, you'd break your father's heart, Sonia. You know that.

Sonia: Yes, Mummy I know that. I wouldn't do anything.

Mama: I know you wouldn't, Sonia.

Sonia: I feel a bit hot. Maybe I'll stay at home today. I can't face the journey...

Mama: You know how much it costs to send you to that school Sonia. You don't want to waste the money do you?

Sonia: No Mummy... *[Sonia starts to get up and get ready]*

Mama: There's a good girl Sonia.

*[Sonia walks upstage. Margaret goes behind the backdrop watching her as she goes]*

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*[Sonia walks a little way and then stops and looks at something. Voices come from behind the backdrop as Sonia reads an imaginary poster]*

Chorus: Condoms can save your life.

Don't take risks

Do you want to catch HIV/AIDS?

Have a baby you don't want?

Use a condom!

Sonia: Use a condom? What would have happened if he'd used a condom? I wouldn't be suffering like this. You know I never even thought about it... No one ever told me about things like that. What if they had... Ahh! What's the point of thinking. It's too late now. Too late.

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*[Sonia stands looking out at the audience and then she sighs and Mark and the teacher come in. Sonia looks at Mark and then sits down. Mark tries to avoid Sonia's eye. The teacher is handing back assignments.]*

Teacher: There you are. Sonia... Not as good as usual... You usually do so well. Mark, that's a very fine piece of work. I can see you're going to do very well in this course! Very well! *[The teacher turns away]*

Sonia: ...Easy for you to do well, isn't it Mark? You've got nothing to worry about.

*[Mark looks away and then continues to write. He says nothing. Sonia picks up her books and leaves.]*

Teacher: Sonia? What are you doing? The lesson isn't over. Sonia?

*[The teacher shakes his head and goes out. Mark gets up and follows Sonia out. He walks after her for a short time and then catches up to her.]*

Mark: Are you crazy? Do you want everyone to know what's going on?

Sonia: You don't want anyone to know do you? You want to pretend you never had anything to do with me!

Mark: What can I do? You know the truth now. I'm married. I can't leave my wife and kids..



Sonia: What am I going to do Mark? You've got to help me! My parents... My father will kill me!

Mark: He won't kill you. He loves you...

Sonia: You don't know what they're like. They won't be able to stand the shame. My father's used all his savings to send me to this school. I know how angry he'll be!

Mark: Look Sonia ...

Sonia: Mark, you've got to help me! Tell me what to do!

Mark: Maybe you could get rid of it.

Sonia: Get rid of it?

Mark: Have you told anyone?

Sonia: No... But...

Mark: Well then... no one knows.

Sonia: You want me to kill the baby? It's your baby Mark!

Mark: I didn't say kill it. Just get rid of it. Girls do it all the time Sonia.  
*[Sonia rushes past him and goes out. Mark suddenly sees the audience watching him.]*

Mark: Look, I didn't tell her to kill it! I said she should get rid of it. Give it to some relation... I don't know! I feel bad about it. I do. You know I even wish I'd used a condom. I don't want to see the poor girl going through this, but what can I do about it? *[He walks out]*

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*[Sonia walks back in. She's carrying her books on the way home.]*

Sonia: I'll tell them. I won't get rid of it. I can't. I'll tell them. They have to understand. *[A man sits begging. He comes towards her]*

Beggar: Give some money to a poor beggar. Give some money...

Sonia: I haven't got any money!

Beggar: You've got money! You've got a home, a job. *[She tries to push past]* You don't know what it's like to live on the streets without a cent. Please... give me a little something. *[She tries to move past him again]* What if it happened to you? If they threw you out on the street? In the rain. Come on, give me a little...  
*[Sonia throws her purse at him and rushes out through the audience]*

Beggar: Must be my lucky day! *[He goes out laughing to himself]*

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*[Margaret and Aaron come in. Margaret is cleaning and Aaron is reading the newspaper. Sonia walks in and they continue what they're doing. Sonia stands still a moment.]*

Mama: Hello, Sonia! Did you have a good day?

Sonia: Yes Mother. How are you Daddy?

Aaron: I'm fine. *[Sonia walks past him and goes behind the backdrop as he speaks]* And how was school? Did you get any work back today? *[Sonia doesn't answer]* What's the matter with the girl?

Mama: I think she's tired, Aaron. *[She starts to clean and he starts to read and they freeze. Sonia walks back out.]*

Sonia: I didn't tell them. I went to school every day. *[The parents come back to life and wave to Sonia and then go out]*

Mama: Bye Sonia!

Sonia: I was so frightened they'd see. I wore long skirts and baggy shirts. I prayed they wouldn't see. I didn't think about what would happen when the baby came. But then one night... *[She starts to walk up and down]*

Mama: Sonia, you should go to bed. It's late!

Sonia: I don't feel well, Mummy. My head... I think I've got a fever..

Mama: Are you really sick, Sonia ? Shall I take you to the hospital?

Sonia: No! I'll be alright. I want to go to school tomorrow. We've got a test.

Mama: You look terrible, Sonia! You must try and lie down.

Sonia: I'm cold. There's a new blanket in the cupboard. It's thick...

Mama: A new blanket? *[She goes and picks it up]* Where did you get this?

Sonia: A friend at school... Oh it's so warm. I'll be alright now, Mummy. You go to sleep. I'll be alright.



*[Margaret covers Sonia up and then goes]*

*[As soon as she leaves Sonia starts to turn from side to side as if in pain. A drum beats. She stands up and bends over and then goes down on her knees, thrusts the blanket into her mouth, turns her back to the audience and freezes. The drum stops. Sonia takes the blanket and wraps it into the shape of the baby, still with her back to the audience. She picks the blanket up and rocks it for a few seconds.]*

Sonia: And he will rock you, rock you, rock you..

*[She kisses the blanket and walks out. She goes behind the backdrop and we hear the sound of rubbish being moved and Sonia saying, 'Stay there, it will be alright. Someone will find you and take you home. You'll be alright.' She walks slowly out and talks to the audience.]*

What else can I do? What else?

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