

From The Audition

CARRIE, 16

CARRIE'S MOTHER, 40ish

Carrie has just landed the lead role in the upcoming musical. She returns home with the good news.

CARRIE

Mom!

(CARRIE'S MOTHER is sitting in the chair.)

CARRIE'S MOTHER

What?

CARRIE

I got the lead!

CARRIE'S MOTHER

In what?

CARRIE

In the musical.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

Oh. Good.

CARRIE

It's so cool, I have two songs, and then I get to...

CARRIE'S MOTHER

Wait a minute, when are you rehearsing this thing?

CARRIE

After school.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

Which days after school?

CARRIE

Every day after school. It's only about two hours a day, though.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

You're going to be at the school an extra two hours a day?

CARRIE

Yeah, but it won't be a problem.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

When are you going to do your homework?

CARRIE

At night.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

I thought you were going to get a job.

CARRIE

I never said I was getting a job.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

You were going to apply at the grocery store.

CARRIE

When was that going to happen?

CARRIE'S MOTHER

You need to get a job.

CARRIE

Why?

CARRIE'S MOTHER

I don't know, Carrie. For fun. Why do you think people have jobs?

CARRIE

But when was—?

CARRIE'S MOTHER

You need to help out around here. I pay for your food, I pay for your insurance. It's not cheap. Where do you think the money's gonna come from for you to go to college?

CARRIE

I can work at night—

CARRIE'S MOTHER

That's not enough.

CARRIE

I'll get a job after the show's over—

CARRIE'S MOTHER

I don't think so—

CARRIE

And then I'll get a job over the summer, I can work plenty—

CARRIE'S MOTHER

And what are we going to do for money until then?

CARRIE

What have we been doing for money before now?

CARRIE'S MOTHER

You want to see my credit card bill? You want to? I need you to work. I don't need you to waste your time with this thing.

CARRIE

I'm the lead role.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

They'll find somebody else. You weren't the only one who auditioned, right?

CARRIE

No there were lots of people who auditioned and I got the part—

CARRIE'S MOTHER

Then they'll put one of them in. End of discussion. Go in tomorrow and tell your teacher.
(she goes back to watching television. CARRIE waits there.)

CARRIE *(under her breath)*

You probably wouldn't of come anyway.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

What?

CARRIE

I want to do this.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

I know you do and I'm sorry about that but there's nothing I can do.

CARRIE

What do you mean there's—

CARRIE'S MOTHER

I'm tired of talking about it.

CARRIE

I'm sorry am I taking up too much of your laying around time?

CARRIE'S MOTHER

I'm tired.

CARRIE

You're always tired!

CARRIE'S MOTHER

Cause I work twelve hours a day, that's why! And if you don't want to be like me, you better work now so you can go to college.

CARRIE

Mom. I'll make the money somehow but I'm going to do this show.

(her MOTHER is about to say something)

Just listen to me for a minute, okay? I'm going to go to college and I'm not going to be like you. You understand that? I'm not like you. And you know what that means? That means when I have a child I'm going to love them and support them and I'm going to take an interest in their life. And when my kid is in a show I'm going to be there every single night cheering for them. Do you understand that? I've stopped waiting for you to appreciate me. I appreciate myself. And maybe that's not everything, but it's enough.

(Pause.)

CARRIE'S MOTHER *(getting up)*

Maybe you should live on your own then.

CARRIE

That's not what I want—

CARRIE'S MOTHER

Where'd you get those clothes? Where'd you get those shoes? What did you have to eat today? Do I charge you rent? I don't really have anyone helping me out here, kid. Your father isn't around to do it. And you got all that stuff from me. From me. So don't sit there and say I didn't give you anything. I gave you everything you own.

(CARRIE'S MOTHER leaves.)

CARRIE

Being a mother is about more than that.

To read the rest of this play, please visit www.playscripts.com