

24-418

MOTHER'S WISHES

A play

## CHARACTERS

KEVIN	M, 40s, doctor
MICHELE	F, 40s
TERESA	F, 30s, biochemist
MOM	F, 70s, mother of Kevin, Michele and Teresa
DAD*	M, 40s-50s, father of Keven, Michele and Teresa
MR. MADDOX*	M, 60s, lawyer

\*role doubling

## SETTING

Chicago.

## TIME

Present.

Teresa is concerned for her mother. Her siblings, Kevin, a doctor, and Michele, a neurotic, are not so concerned. Mom tends to drive Michele crazy, and Kevin just tries to avoid contact with her. One by one, Mom embarrasses, frustrates and enrages her children. She's always been eccentric, but now her memory is starting to fade and enhance her lunacy.

At the monthly dinner at Mom's, Michele and Kevin leave after Mom ruins dinner. Teresa discovers all the prescription drugs Mom has been taking, and calls a family meeting the next weekend. Teresa wants to get Mom off of all the drugs. Kevin argues that she is receiving the standard of care, and Michele wants Mom put on a lot more drugs so she won't irritate her so much. After Michele and Kevin leave, Teresa reveals that she and her boyfriend are thinking about having a baby, but worries she won't be a good parent.

At the next planned dinner, the siblings arrive to find that Mom has died. Teresa snaps, going after Kevin for doing nothing to get Mom off the drugs. She vows to sue the drug companies.

In Act II, the siblings return to Mom's house after the funeral. They drink heavily, and re-experience scenes from their past with Mom and Dad, and their extraordinary displays of bad parenting. For once, all three are getting along.

A few weeks later, the three sit in an estate lawyer's office and Michele and Kevin argue and insult each other over every last possession of their deceased mother. The day ends when Teresa claims the only thing of her mother's that she wants--her artificial hip, as a symbol of Mom's transformation from a stressed out bad mother to a relaxed, jovial friend.

Teresa, Michele and Kevin meet in Mom's now sold house for the last time before giving up possession. Teresa tells the others that she is pregnant. She makes one last plea for family harmony--for the sake of her baby and in memory of their mother.

Finally, Teresa forces Kevin and Michele to hug. The three take a last look around the house they grew up in, and say goodbye.