

## Like a Family

This is a play of indirect action set in the future. It follows a broken family through their journey to escape the war that takes place in their country.

The set consists of 4 chairs made to look vaguely like car seats, though this is not crucial. They should be placed centre stage.

Other props include 3 damp looking dishcloths and 3 red roses.

The following sound effects are also used: A car door, a rabble of concerned people, sirens, boat engines, waves, and a gun shot.

Dry ice should fill the stage, getting increasingly thicker as the play proceeds.

### Characters

**Father:** Middle aged, slightly depressed since the death of his wife

**Son:** 18 years old, very intelligent and practical. Level headed at difficult times.

**Daughter:** 10 years old, fairly intelligent for her age. Has never been that close with her father.

### Prologue

*The stage is clear apart from the four chairs set out like a car so that all seats are visible to the audience. The stage slopes upwards. **Father** speaks out to the audience as though addressing a congregation.*

**Father** Thank you all for coming today. It is so reassuring to see such a fine turnout. I feel that I am speaking for everyone when I say that Sandra will be missed. Since this unexpected incident, my two... sorry, our two wonderful children have prepared things they would like to read to you all. I hope you will join me now in singing the first hymn of the day chosen by dear Katy; 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' by John Rutter.

*The music of John Rutter's 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' is played, and fades out as the sirens begin.*

### Scene 1

*Loud sirens are heard through out the auditorium. Shouting is heard offstage in a rush of panic. The sound is coming from three people: **Father, Son and Daughter**. The sound of panic becomes louder briefly, then dies down to its original level as a door is opened and closed.*

***Father** runs out onto the stage and makes a motion to unlock the car. He has a dishcloth covering his mouth in order to help his breathing. A light from above illuminates the four chairs.*

**Father** Kids! Kids will you hurry up! ...I'm not kidding I don't think we have much time. *(He pauses to think for a minute, and then runs offstage through the opening from which he entered. The closing of doors sounds again)*

**Daughter** *kneels down, retrieves a rose from her dishcloth and lays it in front of her while bowing her head. The car lights up again.*

**Father** Katy? Katy please wake up. Oh Katy, my little Katy, my little Rose. My Rose...

*The car lights dim once more and a spotlight shines in front of the car where Father now stands. He speaks as though addressing a congregation.*

**Father** Thank you all once again for coming today. Your cards and flowers are much appreciated. I know that Sandra, my Rose would have been... so happy to see you all here today. It's difficult to say why things happen in life and the more they happen, the more unfair it becomes. Sandra was a mother to little Katy and Jason, she still is their mother but as this war goes on, more and more families are going to be torn apart. More and more things will seem unfair. Sandra, my Rose, I love you. I always will. As Katy said, we can't ask to bring you home, but we can wish, and all I wish right now is that we can become a family once more. All four of us - together. But for now - goodbye, my dear. My perfect Rose.

*He produces the third and final rose from his dishcloth and kneels down, placing it in front of him and bowing his head. 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' plays once more.*

**The End**