

## **Blackmail – Content Warning**

This sheet is for anyone who would like to have a greater understanding of the sensitive content prior to seeing the show, therefore please be aware that if you read on there will be significant spoilers.

The themes of the show include sexual assault, murder, suicide, death by hanging and blackmail throughout. It features some strong derogatory language and a gun is used, two gunshots can be heard at the end of the show.

## **PLOT SUMMARY**

Blackmail follows the story of a young girl (Alice) who has been sexually assaulted and murders her attacker. The story opens on Ada (Alice's mother) and Harold (Alice's fiancé) discussing Alice's whereabouts as she hasn't returned home following a dance she attended with Harold. Alice eventually returns home and recounts her attack and the murder to Harold, they are then blackmailed by Ian Tracy who saw Alice enter the home of the murdered artist on the night in question. As the investigation into the murder continues, Ian becomes a suspect and returns to Alice's home to hide from the police. Alice can't decide whether to hand herself in to the police, run away, or give Ian up to the police. Harold returns to Alice's and brandishes a gun, he shoots but because Alice intervenes it grazes Ian's shoulder. Harold then shoots again, killing Ian, he tries to convince Alice and Ada that Ian was resisting arrest and therefore he was right to kill him.

## **ACT ONE**

After Ada goes to look for Alice at the door, Ada fetches a newspaper and recounts a story of a young girl that was drugged, kidnapped and chained to a bed

Ada fetches a newspaper that has just been delivered, it features the headline "Murder!", Ada and Harold discuss the murder and the method of the killing, a wound to the neck.

After Alice returns to the house, Ada calls her a Whore of Babylon

After Alice and Ada have an altercation, Alice, Ada & Harold discuss the punishment for murder, hanging.

After Ada leaves, Harold and Alice discuss the murder and Harold reads from the paper and describes how it was carried out.

After Harold reveals he removed Alice's gloves from the crime scene, Alice recounts her assault, she described she was struck across the jaw and sexually assaulted, she then expresses suicidal thoughts and how she walked into the river to end her life.

After Ian Tracy enters and introduces himself, he blackmails Alice & Harold and threatens to go to the police unless they cooperate, this would likely mean the death penalty for Alice.

After Ian's threat Alice expresses that she wishes she'd have drowned

After Ada exits to the shop Harold turns on the radio and dances with Alice, as it ends Alice looks uncomfortable and they discuss that Ian could be hung for a crime he didn't commit.

## **ACT TWO**

After Ada looks through Alice's bag, Alice admits murdering Peter Hewitt and briefly recounts her assault and they both discuss the likely punishment, hanging.

Ian returns to the house and discusses that if he's caught he'll be hanged.

After Alice gets bread and cheese for Ian they both discuss their suicidal thoughts.

After Alice cuts bread for Ian they discuss Peter Hewitt and his history of violence and sexual assault towards women and Alice's talks of her rape.

After Ada calls downstairs, Ian picks up the knife as a weapon, and says he'll use it in self-defence if needed.

Whilst pinning Alice in her dress, Ada discusses what she would do if she was raped and describes her murderous thoughts. Alice mentions her concern that Ian would be hanged.

After Ada leaves, Ian expresses his worry that Harold would be happy for him to hang.

Harold arrives and Ian and Alice discuss their plan and their hope that neither of them will hang.

After Harold joins Alice and Ian in the shop, Ian blames Alice for her own assault.

After Alice returns to the parlour, Alice & Harold discusses the possible outcomes of her trial, including hanging and her assault.

After Alice threatens to hand herself over to the police, Harold pulls out a revolver, he threatens to murder Ian. Alice gets in the way and Harold and Alice have an altercation, Harold throws her off and advances on Ian, he shoots the gun and it grazes Ian's shoulder. Alice then gets possession of the gun from Harold. Alice raises the gun to Ian but lets him go, he leaves to go to the cellar and Harold manages to get the gun from Alice and shoots Ian in the back.

Harold tries to manipulate Alice and Ada to believe that Ian was resisting arrest and that's why he shot him.