

They Never Tell the Whole Story

A monologue by Dennis Bush

Selected from his collection,

“Life and Death, Laughter and Love”

Cast: 1 female

Length: 2 pages of dialogue (379 words)

Performance time: About 3 minutes

The Story

Young Melanie is carefully showing a friend the newspaper article. It was Take Your Daughter to Work Day and Melanie's father had taken her to his office. A man who had recently been fired—though not by her dad—returned waving a gun, pointing it at her. She recalls everything happened in slow motion as her dad jumped over his desk to shield her from the shot. The newspaper called him an innocent victim. She calls him a hero. (drama)

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THEY NEVER TELL THE WHOLE STORY

(Young teen, talking to a classmate she has invited home to play. Melanie doesn't make friends easily, and she is trying hard to share a part of herself with this potential new friend.

Wearing latex gloves, holding a newspaper clipping.)

I'd let you look at it, but the last time I did that it got a tear in the corner. I'm more protective of it now. I don't even hold it without wearing these gloves so I don't get oily fingerprints on it. I can read it to you, if you want.

It only tells a little bit about what happened. It doesn't tell the whole story. Newspapers never tell the whole story.

It says how my dad got killed by a man who used to work at the same place. The man got fired — not by my dad — and he came back and he was really, really mad. If he was just really mad it would have been OK. He could have yelled and cursed people out and gone home and people at my dad's office would have talked about it at dinner with their families, but it wouldn't have ended up in the newspaper ... But the man had a gun. And he was waving it around and screaming — screaming like an animal. He didn't sound human at all.

I know because I was there. It was "Take Your Daughter To Work Day," and my dad took me along to his job so I could see what he did and he could show me off to the people he

End of Freeview

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