



Written by
Cora Alley

“Where is Normal?”

Scripture: John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Dramatic Category: Monologue in a skit (*This is also a "Dream Skit."*)

Topic: The difficulty in finding the "normal" life.

Performance time: 4 minutes

Number of Players: 4 players

Objective:

To set up a discussion of what it means to be "normal" in the face of difficult situations like second marriages, blended families, technological distractions, over-work, and exhaustion.

Synopsis:

This skit portrays the tension and despair that can easily invade the modern family, especially the blended family. Patti returns home from work, exhausted. She finds her daughter and the son of her second husband arguing over the remote control. She sees that her husband is engrossed in his computer, and she feels alone in trying to establish a "normal" home for herself and her disjointed family. She "mutes" the TV, then "mutes" the kids as she delivers a monologue declaring her frustrations to God and begging Him to help her find "normal."

Cast:

Patty (<i>Mom</i>)	<i>Dressed in a business suit</i>
Kim (<i>Teen-aged daughter</i>)	<i>Dressed in teen garb.</i>
Adam (<i>Dad</i>)	<i>Dressed casually</i>
Shawn (<i>Teen-aged son</i>)	<i>Dressed in slovenly teen garb w/skateboard</i>

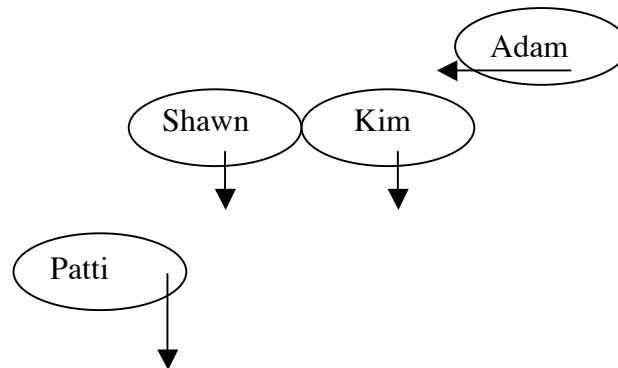
Props:

- A complicated computer with wires extending
- A remote control
- A brief case for Patti

Lights: General stage lighting

Sound: Two different musical theme songs for TV shows.

STAGING NOTE:



The Script:

Adam: *(bent over the computer)* This stupid thing is worthless.

Shawn: *(getting up from watching TV and walking over to Adam)* Here. *(He clicks the mouse and hits a few keys, then returns to the TV.)* You need more ram; Dad, your memory is inadequate.

Adam: My memory is fine, I just can't remember what key to push.

Shawn: The computer's memory; not yours.

Adam: *(continuing to work on the computer)*
How did you do that? What did you push?

Kim: *(Hiding the remote from Shawn)*
We're gonna' watch *(name a current TV show.)*!

SOUND: *(Up-beat music is broadcast.)*

Shawn: I was watching *(name of another current TV show)*!

SOUND: *(Shawn grabs the remote, and the music changes to some other theme.)*

Adam: *(remaining focused on his computer.)* Ram? We need more ram...That's the key.....

Kim: Adam, Shawn is....

Shawn: *(cutting her off)* What? Shawn is....what?
(He changes the channel)

SOUND: *(Kim pouts and turns away from Shawn, who turns up the TV.)*

Not everything goes your way anymore missie!

SOUND: *(Shawn grimaces then turns up the sound on the TV music escalates)*

Kim: Nothing goes my way anymore;
not since you and your Dad moved in on my life.

Shawn: Hey, my Dad married your Mom. You and I just came along for the ride;
live with it. *(He holds the remote up where Kim can't get it.)*

Kim: This isn't living; it's just breathing!

(Adam continues working on his computer connections, and both Shawn and Kim fly into a rage about what TV show to watch; the remote is snatched back and forth. Patti enters, carrying her briefcase. She has just come in from work.)

Patti: What's going on here?

Adam: *(looking up from his computer and gesturing to the teens.)* Rams.

(Shawn and Kim both complain at once. Patti grabs the remote and fumbles with it.)

Patti: This is what I work for all day? What is wrong with you people?
(Shawn & Kim escalate their fight.) Where's the "mute" on this thing?

SOUND: *(She hits the "mute" button, and the TV is silent.)*

Shawn: We were just watching TV

Kim: He was watching TV. I was watching him watch TV.

Patti: *(desperately, to Adam)* Are you just going to let this go on?

Adam: *(Raising his hand like a traffic cop)* I've almost got this connection working.

Patti: Yeah....well, that's the only connection that is working!

(Kim and Shawn start up another round of insults. This time, Patti grabs the remote, and in desperation, she points it at her feuding family. She hits the remote, and "mutes" the kids. They continue their insults, but this time, they mime the words. They make a silent (but active) back drop as Patti begins her monologue. Adam continues tinkering with his computer. Shawn wins the remote war, and Kim turns and freezes into a pouting position.)

Patti: *(Steps downstage and addresses the audience.)*

I feel like I'm wearing an octopus for a hat!
The ink sack is balanced squarely on my head
like one of those sadistic Dr. Seuss hats.
The tentacles wrap tighter and tighter around my body,
choking out whatever breath I have left,
then they tie knots at my ankles, so my next step is impossible.

I'd cut myself lose, If I had a dagger;
I'd step out and breathe real air
Air that wasn't heavy with expectation, and guilt, and exhaustion.

(She pauses to look back at Adam and the kids.)

I can't lose this one, too.
One divorce is tragic, but two?
That's not normal.

(She pauses)

Why does "normal" have to be so hard to find?
(She stares at the silent TV.)
Maybe it's because we haven't seen it in along time.

(She looks back at the audience.)

Or, maybe I need a second job, so I can buy "normal."
No... I don't have time to even notice life's moments as is...
It takes time to find "normal" once you've lost it.

(She pauses and looks around)

It's this house.
We'll never feel normal as long as we live here.
Or, maybe it's me...I'm not normal;
That's what my analyst tells me.

So, I'll just have to keep looking.
"Normal" has to be around somewhere?
I've tried to find it;
God knows, I've tried.

(She looks up to God, prayerfully.)

God, you really do know that I've tried.
I can't work any harder;
Show me where to find "normal."
Do you know where it is?

I'm so tired of wearing this straight-jacket,
made of suction cups.

(Patti freezes, lights out.)