

What's In the Cat by Linda Brogan



15 year-old Lauren is fifteen and heavily pregnant. She's returning to her family for Christmas, but can't wait to escape back out. Lauren's Jamaican father, Bogey, is on the verge of leaving Lauren's mother for a younger woman, Lauren's Irish mother is addicted to the bottle, and Lauren's lethargic brother spends all his time in front of the TV. What's more, they all have an opinion about Lauren's pregnancy. It's the arrival of Bogey's brother, Lee, however that really tips the balance . . .

What's In The Cat premiered in November 2005 at Contact, Manchester, before transferring to the Royal Court, London.

'A good example of the renaissance of new writing in theatres outside the metropolis. It's an emotionally powerful, hyper-realistic and very detailed account of familial tensions.' *Stage*

Genre:	Family drama	Fee:	£40 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m3 f2	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413775771 £8.99
Set:	various settings	Length:	2 acts
Contact:	permissions@acblack.com		

EXTRACT

Lauren I went to the spiritualist church yesterday.

Margaret You don't want to be messing with them things. How long have we been up here?

Lauren Mum.

Margaret It's over. The best thing for it.

Lauren It's different when it's you, though. When it's you the world has come to a fucking standstill. You and fucking him. It's not fucking over, you idiot. When this thing's born I'll have to look at it for the rest of me life.

Margaret D'you wanna end up like me? Is that what you want? Is this how you wanna end up? Listen to me now and listen good. He was a no-good fucker. Out for himself.

Lauren And the thing downstairs is any better?

Margaret He goes to work.

Lauren To pay the mortgage on his castle that you've no stake in. And when he's ready, which seems sooner than later, he'll sell up and live life like a king where he came from with his chimp as queen.

Margaret Once they've ridden the mule, Lauren, the mule goes back in the stable. They don't give a fuck any of 'em. You've had your brush with it, be glad it's over. It only burns so long for them, Lauren. Be thankful it ended in full flow.

Lauren Let him go then.

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *A Miracle* by Molly Davies (m2 f2)
 - *Losing Louis* by Simon Mendes da Costa (m3 f4)
 - *Little Sweet Thing* by Roy Williams (m4 f4)
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