by

LYNDON HOUSE

ISBN: 978-1-873130-957 The Playwrights Publishing Co.

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CAST

MENNA.....MIRIAM LUSK SARA.....DEBBIE EVANS WOMAN.....MERYL HERBERT

"SISTERHOOD" was first performed under the title of "NO MATTER WHAT" by the Ad Hoc Theatre Company at the Congress Theatre, Cwmbran, Wales on $23^{\rm rd}$ April 2010

(Scene: Outside on a riverbank.)

(Set: Minimum One bench/seat and one waste bin.)

(Opens. Sara sitting on seat. Looking at audience. Menna enters right. She is Sara's sister but there is something in their joint history that has created a wall of coldness between them. She approaches Sara. Their eyes meet and Sara looks away without comment)

Menna: (Hesitantly) It's beautiful by here isn't it?

Sara: Yes.

Menna: The river looks really cool and inviting. Are there any fish in there?

Sara: I don't know.

Menna: (Points to audience) Look at those ducklings... All stretched out behind their mother. I wonder how they work out the order? (Laughs) Perhaps they argue over it... Me first, no me, no me... Weather's glorious too isn't it?.. Not a cloud in the sky.

Sara: No.

Menna: It's supposed to be set in for the next week according to the forecast.

Sara: Is it?

Menna: Yes... Bit too warm for me, mind.

Sara: Yes.

Menna: Oh yes. It's a warm one today... Really... Warm..

(Silence)

Menna: I've never been to this spot before... It's beautiful... Really beautiful. Especially in the sunshine... Nice and peaceful... Quiet... Really... Beautiful. (Pause) Look Sara, what do you want from me?

Sara: Want?... I don't want anything.

Menna: Do you want me to say sorry? ... Alright I'm sorry, I'm sorry it was me.

Sara: I don't want you to say sorry.

Menna: Do you want me to beg for forgiveness?

Sara: I don't want you to do anything...

(Pause) We used to come here a lot, you know. He proposed to me here. We'd bring a picnic and sit and watch the ducks, and plan our future together.

Menna: He was a worthless bastard, Sara, if it hadn't been me it would have been someone else.

Sara: But it wasn't someone else, was it?

Menna: Is it over between you?

Sara: Oh yes. (Pause) I remember the day he proposed, just over by there. He said, 'this'll be our special place love. It'll always be magical. We'll be together for ever.' Then a duck attacked him, and chased him away. He must have got too close to her nest. Or perhaps that bloody duck knew something I didn't.

Menna: I'd do anything to put things right I'm so sorry,. I must have hurt you so much.

Sara: Hurt me? (To audience) Did you hear that ducks? She's so sorry for hurting me. That makes it alright, doesn't it? Just so long as she's sorry, eh?

Menna: We didn't sleep together.

Sara: Didn't sleep together?.. Didn't you get round to sleeping then?

Menna: No... I mean... It wasn't like an affair. It was only that once.

Sara: Only once? Well that makes me feel a lot better.

Menna: But I didn't love him.

Sara: Well you were certainly loving him when I saw you.

Menna: It didn't mean anything. Not to me, and certainly not to

him.

Sara: It meant something to me... You make it sound like some

sort of bodily function... Relieving yourselves were you?

Just like having a pee was it? My marital bed, the toilet

Menna: Don't say that.

Sara: I suppose you'll be telling me next that you didn't really

enjoy it.

Menna: Well I didn't... Not really... (Pause) Look Sara... I...

(Pause)

Sara: What's the matter? Can't think of anything to say?

Menna: We can't let it fester like this... Not us.

Sara: (Stands) Oh no... Not us... Not two as close as us...

Remember that song we used to sing when we were kids?

(Sings song from White Christmas) Sisters. Sisters, there