

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

Basically, 'Night, Mother is a play which tells a story about a woman who wants to commit suicide. The main character in the play is Jessie Cates. She was a desperate housewife. She had been abandoned by her husband and her son had left her too. Jessie, then decided to live with her mother, Thelma Cates. However, she found that her life became more miserable after she moved into her mother's house. The problems that she had before became more complicated and lead her into the idea of committing suicide. The problems reveal one by one through the conversation between Jessie and her mother one evening.

The story is started with Jessie's activity in preparing her mother to live alone after her suicide. She had made a list about the things that should be done in the evening like showing where kitchen supplies and detergent were stored, explaining how to have her favorite candies delivered and explaining how to manage the police, the wake and the food the neighbors would bring. Her mother was wondered because Jessie never looked so busy. She did not realize that her daughter was going to commit suicide until Jessie asked about her father's gun. She said that she needed the gun to shut herself. Jessie's mother was very shocked. She never thought that her daughter would have an idea to commit suicide. Along their conversation, her mother was trying to convince Jessie in order that she would not shoot herself. She cajoled, threatened, pleaded, offered compromised and even begged to Jessie. On the other hand, Jessie had decided that there was nobody could stop her. She said to her mother that she could not

survive anymore. All of her problems had made her become desperate. She could not find somebody who could help her to solve her problems or make her life better. She felt very lonely and worthless.

The story gets into climax when the time for Jessie to shut herself came. She had done the things she should do and said everything she had to say. She was ready to go and there was no doubt in her heart. For the last time, her mother was trying to stop Jessie by struggling in front of Jessie's room. Unfortunately, Thelma's efforts were useless. Jessie whispered 'Night, Mother' and then locked herself in her room. She ignored her mother's scream calling her at the door. A few minutes later, Thelma heard a single shot from the room and she knew that she had lost her beloved daughter forever.

The story ends with Thelma's regret. She collapsed and cried at the door. For a moment, she did not know what to do. Then, she remembered Jessie's advice before the death that the first thing she had to do was calling her son, Dawson. She did it and it was the end of the story.