

Monologue from "Nurse Cadden"

By Kate Mickere

MAMIE CADDEN (50s-60s) was an infamous backstreet abortionist who was the last woman in Ireland to be sentenced to death in 1956. In this monologue, she speaks to a nun who has come to visit her in her cell. (Irish accent optional!)

MAMIE

Molly O'Grady was painfully shy and possibly touched in the head. We all worried about what would become of her when her parents finally died. So, when I opened my Maternity Home, I offered her a job.

I was supposed to protect her... and instead, I got us sent to prison.

Sometimes, women paid me to place their unwanted children into foster care. I would take a cut, of course, but MOST of the money went to a Mrs. Kennedy who did the actual leg-work of finding families to take the bastards. But sometimes, I didn't FEEL like taking just a small cut. So, Molly and I would take the baby out to the countryside and conveniently FORGET it somewhere. Then, I'd buy us both a lovely drink and pocket the rest of the money.

They were FINE. They always had plenty of blankets and were well-fed before we dropped them somewhere. I still don't know WHAT the problem is.

The whole country has told me that I'm a monster. When I got arrested, there were angry mobs racing through Dublin screaming, HANG THE BITCH! But when Molly hardened her heart to me? That hurt me the most.