

# DIRTY LAUNDRY

A short play  
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## Synopsis

Be careful who you give your dirty laundry to; it might just end up being hang up for the whole town to see.

*Scene is set on a street with a stand pipe. Marlene at the stand pipe with a basket of clothes, washing and whistling quietly.*

### MARLENE

A...A! I didn't see you there nah. I was so concentrating on washing meh clothes. I have some dirty laundry here I need to get rid of.

*Marlene continues washing and whistling.*

### MARLENE

Wah is dat you say? Why I not washing my clothes in a washing machine? Nah, I like my clothes real clean and washing machine does still have yuh clothes dutty. That is why I does do it the old fashion way.

*She continues washing and whistling.*

### MARLENE

Yuh wanna know why I not in my house washing my clothes? Well, I like to keep my ear open, I like to keep abreast of current affairs, if yuh know what I mean. But yuh better be careful because around here, the walls and streets have ears and people quick to let yuh dirty laundry out in the open.

*Karen walks into the scene and sees Marlene.*

**KAREN**

A...A.....Marlene, that is you?

**MARLENE**

Me in the flesh.

**KAREN**

But, why you out in the open washing your clothes, you don't have a washing machine home?

**MARLENE**

Nah girl, dem washing machine does still have yuh laundry dirty, so I does come out here by the stand pipe to wash my clothes by hand.

**KAREN**

Or hor. Better I pay you to wash my dirty laundry for me, I does hardly have time these days to do nothing.

**MARLENE**

Well yea, anything you want. Girl yuh know I don't like to mind people business but where you now coming from and why you looking so sour?

**KAREN (sighing)**

Marlene girl, I just come from Justine house.

**MARLENE**

Wah you was doing across by she?

**KAREN**

Don't tell nobody this eh.

**MARLENE**

You know I won't.

**KAREN**

But Justine had borrowed some money from me about a month ago and I just went over to see if she could repay me yet.

**MARLENE**

And wah happen?

**KAREN**

She didn't have it.

**MARLENE**

Hmmm.....That Justine eh. That is why you must never lend money to 'those' kinda people.

**KAREN**

Well I was trying to be a good friend. Girl I wasn't even gonna ask back for the money eh. But I really need that money now because I owning Courts.

**MARLENE**

But how much money it is so that she can't pay you back yet?

**KAREN**

Just \$300.

**MARLENE**

\$300! Karen you brave to lend that girl so much money!

**KAREN (sucks her teeth)**

Yea I know, well hopefully I get it back before Courts come a take my TV.

**MARLENE**

Best of luck with that one yes.

**KAREN**

Anyway, girl I gone for now.

**MARLENE**

Ok later.

*Marlene continues washing and whistling. Denise comes running into the scene with a bag.*

**Denise**

Oh Gosh Marlene I happy you still here.

**MARLENE**

A...A Denise, what happen girl why you in such a rush.

**DENISE**

Marlene, yuh could wash this clothes quick for me please?

**MARLENE**

Of course, but yuh know washing don't come for free.

*Marlene puts out her hand to receive money.*

**DENISE**

Ye...yes Marlene yuh know I go pay yuh when I get pay.

**MARLENE**

MMhmmm. But why you always coming by me to wash your clothes these days, what happen to your washing machine.

**DENISE**

Girl, my washing machine down and I can't wash clothes clean like you. Plus, if my husband smell these clothes, he go know I was over by Mark.

**MARLENE**

Well, you know I don't like to mind people business, but what you doing over by Mark?

**DENISE**

Marlene, don't play stupid.

**MARLENE**

Hmmmm.....I hear yuh.

**DENISE**

Anyway girl, I gone. But I passing back for them clothes tonight eh.

**MARLENE**

Mmmhmmm.

**Denise exits the scene.**

**MARLENE**

People mad yes. She ain't want the husband to smell she dirty laundry, so she bring them by me. (laughs loudly)

***Justine enters the scene dressed in fancy clothes.***

**MARLENE**

Papa! Justine! That is you girl?

**JUSTINE**

Well who else it go be girl?

**MARLENE**

Hmmmm.....Like you going to a fashion show, the way how you dress up so.

**JUSTINE**

No girl, I just have a concert to go to so I buy a new outfit.

**MARLENE**

Really now? That is what you take Karen \$600 to do, go concert? I thought you was in debt?

**JUSTINE**

Wah? I never borrow \$600 from Karen.

**MARLENE**

Well girl, you know I don't like to mind people business but Karen just past by me all in a rage. She say that how you beg she for \$600 over 3 months now and she can't get it back yet!

**JUSTINE**

Marlene, it was less than a month ago I borrowed only \$300 from her and I already paid her back \$200.

**MARLENE**

Hmm....well girl! Yuh see why yuh mustn't borrow money from 'those' kinda people. Look she have your name dragging all over town in the mud and like she trying to hang your dirty laundry up like Denise for the whole world to see.

**JUSTINE**

I can't believe this.

**MARLENE**

Girl I even hear she telling Denise, not to even let you borrow her man, because yuh won't ever get him back.

**JUSTINE**

Wow, yuh see how yuh can't trust people.

**MARLENE**

Ah telling yuh.

*Justine exits the scene angrily.*

**MARLENE**

Aye Justine! Where yuh going?! Hmmm.....People mad yes, look she borrow money from the girl and she buy new dress and concert ticket with it. **(laughs loudly)**

**KAREN**

Marlene! You still here girl?

**MARLENE**

Yes girl, Denise give me a little work to wash she dirty laundry that she hug up she *horna* man in.

**KAREN**

Or hor! I just pass Denise, that is why she looking so?

**MARLENE**

Yeeeeesssss! Anyway, you wouldn't believe who just pass here.

**KAREN**

Who?

**MARLENE**

Justine. And she say that how you never getting back your money.

**KAREN**

What?! Why would she say that?

**MARLENE**

Well girl, yuh know I don't like to mind people business but like she went and buy fancy clothes and concert ticket with your money.

**KAREN**

But Justine didn't tell me she wanted the money for that.

**MARLENE**

Well girl, I don't know. Yuh can't trust people these days. I even hear she telling Denise that she just pretend to borrow the money from you and never intended to give you it back, because ah what happen between both ah alyuh last year.

**KAREN**

But Marlene, look how long we get over that.

**MARLENE**

Well like the girl was still harboring feelings. Don't end up like Denise with the dirty laundry in somebody's else's hands yuh know, because yuh know how that could go.

**KAREN (sucks her teeth)**

Wow.

*Justine enters the scene.*

**JUSTINE**

Karen!

**KAREN**

Hmmm.....Look who. Wah you calling my name in yuh mouth for Justine? And where you get money to buy all that fancy clothes from?

**JUSTINE**

Yuh must learn to mind yuh own flipping business!



KAREN

Well you better mind your business and give me back my money!

**JUSTINE**

Well maybe I won't give you it back, since yuh like to run yuh mouth on people business. Maybe I should run my fist through your face.

**KAREN**

Ah want yuh to come through, yuh good for nothing, no wonder Mark leave you for me!

***Justine races towards Karen and they begin to fight. Marlene picks up her basket and walks calmly down center stage.***

**MARLENE**

I tell alyuh, the streets have ears, yuh must be careful who yuh give to wash yuh dirty laundry, but alyuh know me I don't like to mind people business.