

A Sermon on "Mommie Dearest" a Book by Christina Crawford
Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for May 14th, 2023 (and beyond)

Happy Mother's Day! This week's sermon is in third-party monologue format. I believe "Mommie Dearest" is as fictional as "Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?" "Baby Jane" was a real child actress whose legal name was Juanita Quigley. Juanita Quigley had an older sister named Rita Quigley that was also a child star. Both worked in films. The book "Whatever Happened To Baby Jane" by Henry Farrell was billed as fiction and horror genre at that though written in 1960, decades after Jane and Rita's film debuts. The story is clearly fiction, but to some "Baby Jane" is a real child star with a sister in the same industry that may be mistakenly believed to have inspired the book that later became a film based on the title and similarities in names and early works. This is particularly true before the advent of the internet. The "Baby Jane" in Farrell's book and Heller's screenplay in no way represents the lives of Juanita and Rita Quigley nor their relationship. Coincidence or not, I believe it did inspire "Mommie Dearest".

MONOLOGUE

#TaoFu Joan Crawford says: "I wanted to leave this world with a bang and not a whimper. I was 71 years old when I died in 1977. I adopted my first child Christina Crawford who is clearly my own out of wedlock, just look at her, in 1939. She knew it. I adopted her when she was born. She has my sense of humor. We wrote "Mommie Dearest" together and the misspelling of "Mommy" as "Mommie" was my idea because that kid is as smart as a whip and we both thought the title was hilarious with the error. It hinted that the rest of the work might be a bit questionable as well. It was all in part in homage to "Whatever Happened To Baby Jane" to some extent. We agreed she wouldn't publish it until after my death for the shock effect and most press. Right on the heels of my departure, my eldest child releases "Mommie Dearest" in 1978 letting the world know about the evils she endured even though nearly 40 at time of public disclosure. Giving toys to orphans every Christmas was her idea. She had plenty. People were always sending them. We had to do something. We paid charity forward. The hanger thing is a mock of another female star of my era and she knows it. Christina may stay in character to keep the joke going, but if you ask around you'll know exactly who hated wire hangers and threw a real fit on-set. I'm notorious and the biopic of the satirical book written by my beloved daughter Christina Crawford has resulted in my living on in infamy forever. "Mommie Dearest" was a New York Times #1 Bestseller and Oscar Winner Faye Dunaway played me in the film/"biopic". I couldn't ask for a better tribute. If Christina hadn't gone forward with our plan, would you have still known my name in 1981? How about my work? Everyone loves drama. And, another Oscar Winning Actress, Jessica Lange, played me in a recent television biopic "Feud" released in 2017, 40 years after my death. I couldn't be more honored, truly. Thank you for remembering me on Mother's Day. My birthday was May 10th though. Either way, I consider your continued attention, appreciation, and passion a perpetual gift for all holidays."

END MONOLOGUE

I'm a survivor of child abuse and many other tragedies like rape and being hit by a semi-truck. I'm currently 49 years old, though will be 50 years old in October. A narcissist looking for attention by making up such stories would be horrified if all the attention went to the one they demonized. But, an admirer who has an inside joke with her beloved mother that only the two know the truth about where everyone else is the dupe/patsy/fool is a great gift because life can be too trying without a sense of humor. And, how awesome it is to be repeatedly immortalized by Oscar Winners for decades. If Joan Crawford was a malignant narcissist as described by her daughter, she's definitely getting the last laugh even if all compliments are somewhat backhanded. If not, maybe don't ask Christina about it and let it remain an inside joke between mother and daughter.

Happy Mother's Day Everyone!

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.