



**The Raven**  
**Hannah Lavery**

*Alex is alone in their room during the pandemic. Since starting secondary they have drifted from their friend Fran, and their Mum has become more and more unwell. In this speech, Alex describes their life at home.*

**ALEX:** Headphones on.

Music loud.

As loud as I can stand.

Lights out.

Door shut.

And still, I can hear her...

I can still hear her-

*Alex! Alex!*

Leave me alone

*Will you just leave me alone!*

I throw my phone at the door.

Make a dent.

Break the phone,

And now it's all her,

It's her, all the time...

*Alex! Alex!*

*Leave me alone, Mum!*

*Please just leave me alone!*

Truth is...

She's not always been like this...

I am not sure if I know how to describe it.

She's not herself, that's what my dad says, and that's true, she's not like herself-  
She's not how I like to think of her.

When Dad's out on shift, she says she's always been this way.

That's not true, I say.

That's not true, Mum.

It's just the lockdown, right?

She was fine before... Mostly things just got too much for her...

Fran's mum used to look after me, when Mum was working and when she got ill. But now, it's all about keeping Fran safe, no room for waifs and strays now, not with the virus- aye, right. Not since her precious wee child...I mean they shouldn't be prying-right? My mum, my business. I don't need them. We're fine.

My mum is very special, that's what Fran's mum said, but she has never been this ill, not for this long. She doesn't seem that special anymore and it's doing my head in.

*(A moment passes)*

I wish I hadn't broken my phone.

Act 1, Scene 2 'Alex'