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English

In Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun,* Lena, also called Mama, wants to move out of the all-black south side of Chicago. The play starts with the main lead Mama and her children who are waiting to get the insurance money of $1000 from their deceased father’s life insurance policy. Every member of the family has their plans on how to utilize the money. Mama wants to buy a house as it was her’s and her deceased husband’s dream. However, Walter the son of mama wants to invest in a liquor business which is against the religious values of Mama. Due to this reason, she is prohibiting her son not to invest in this business and instead buy a house to secure their future. However, this does not go well with Walter and he violently reacted and said “No! ‘Cause ain’t nobody with me! Not even my mother!” (Hansberry Act I) because he thought that no one understands his point of view. On the other hand, Mama’s daughter Beneatha desperately wants money to pay her medical school fee. Walter is not happy with Beneatha’s decision on which she sarcastically taunted her brother and ask him to forgive her for having a dream by saying that “Well – I do – all right? – thank everybody! And forgive me forever wanting to be anything at all! (Pursuing him on her knees across the floor) FORGIVE ME, FORGIVE ME, FORGIVE ME! (Hansberry Act II).

In the play, Mama is the only character who is thinking about her family while others are just thinking about themselves. The reason mama wants to buy a house in the all-white neighbourhood is due to the lower price of a house. However, she had to face lots of struggles. When people in the all-white neighbourhood find out that Mama and her family are moving in their neighbourhood they send Mr Linder from the society improvement association to offer money to the Youngers so that they can stay away. This racial prejudice Portrayed by Mr Linder does not stop Mama from buying a house. Hence, she refused the deal by standing firm on her decision. Surprisingly, Walter also agrees with Mama and tell Mr Linder that

We have decided to move into our house because my father—my father—he earned it for us brick by brick. We don’t want to make no trouble for nobody or fight no causes, and we will try to be good neighbours. And that’s all we got to say about that. We don’t want your money (Hansberry Act III).

The play ends with Mama and her family finally moving into a new house while preparing themselves to face all the struggles lying ahead together as a family.

**References**

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun: A Drama in Three Acts*. Random House, 1959.