

Amazing Love

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

Amazing Love by Cleveland O. McLeish

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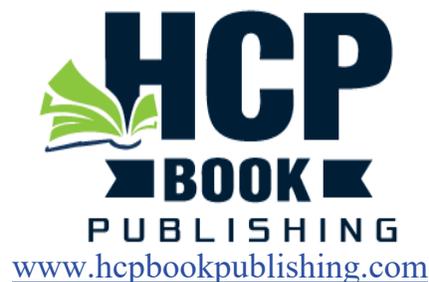


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Characters

Mary Walters	33-Year-Old Female, in love with a married man.
Dinah Walters	58-Year-Old Female. Mother to Mary, Devoted Christian.
Brian Watson	38-Year-Old Male. Married man having an affair with Mary.
Jesus	33-Year-Old Male. Young Teacher, Prophet, Son of God.
Judas	28-Year-Old Male. The Disciple who betrayed Jesus.
Martha	38-Year-Old Female. Mary and Lazarus's Older Sister.
Lazarus	35-Year-Old Male. Brother to Martha and Mary. Friend of Jesus.
Priest	
Caiaphas	
Simon	
Singer	
Extras (Non-speaking Roles)	

Setting

The stage is a living room setting with an area separated for kitchen/dining, which is later converted to a biblical setting by removing all the furniture.

The biblical setting will have an old couch upstage right in a corner. The rest of the stage will be used as an outdoor setting. There are stones scattered around the stage.

The Story

Mary Walters is a young single Christian woman caught up in an adulterous affair with a married man. She is experiencing high levels of guilt and condemnation. Like so many of us, she has yet to grasp the true significance of the cross.

Her mother is a devoted Christian woman who does not mince words when it comes to telling Mary the truth. Still, Mary feels trapped by her emotions for this man, but it is not love that keeps her bound but ignorance of what it means to be truly forgiven.

It is Easter, and Mary is on the verge of giving up on her faith, but it is God's will to grant her a profound experience. Mary is transported to the past to walk in the shoes/sandals of Mary Magdalene.

I absolutely love this play and believe the message is relevant to so many people today. We often think the Kingdom of God is a community of saints, but, on the contrary, it is a community of sinners. "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Let us be mindful of the expectations we place on each other. Our own righteousness is as "filthy rags." We need to acknowledge, like Mary Walters, that Jesus is our only salvation and righteousness.

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Play Details

Length: 40-70 Minutes

Cast: 7 Males, 5 Females, Plus Extras (Non-Speaking Roles).

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary and Biblical Drama

The Script



BRIAN

I don't go to church and this is me. You want to leave, I won't stop you. I will just replace you. Consider yourself lucky to have me.

MARY

When you say things like that, I get the feeling you don't care about me.

BRIAN

You're the one always talking about leaving and going on and on about your church and what God thinks and how much of a disappointment you are. Sometimes I wish you would just make up your mind or just shut up.

MARY

You're cheating on your wife, Brian. Don't you feel any remorse?

BRIAN

No.

Pause.

BRIAN

I know she's doing the same thing. I've seen the texts and emails that he sends her.

MARY

So this is about revenge?

BRIAN

This is about me getting what I want.

MARY

I just think you're the one who needs to make up his mind. I mean, you told me several times you would leave your wife for me.

BRIAN

Why do you always bring this up?

Because you don't. MARY

There's a reason for that. BRIAN

Okay, let's hear it. MARY

Hear what? BRIAN

Your reason for not bringing it up. MARY

You should probably go. BRIAN

We're at my place. MARY

Then I should probably go. BRIAN

Brian gets up and exits
the room.

MARY
God. What am I doing? What am I really doing?
(begins laughing to herself) Right. Why would you
even listen to someone like me?

LIGHTS FADE.

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP:

Mary is fast asleep on the couch.

Enter Dinah, coming from church. She looks at Mary sleeping on the couch. She puts her Bible down, goes into her bag and pulls out a whistle. She blows hard.

Mary jumps up from the couch hysterical. She sees Dinah laughing and breathes to calm herself.

MARY

Mom, why are you always doing that?

DINAH

Because it's fun.

MARY

You're too old to be having fun.

DINAH

You're too young to be sleeping on the couch. What's wrong with your bed?

No response.

DINAH

He was here, wasn't he?

MARY

Don't start.

DINAH

This is not how I raised you, Mary. You can't be so lost that you would entertain this man. This is wrong on all levels.

MARY

I'm not having this conversation with you, Mom.

DINAH

He's a married man.

MARY

You don't think I know that?

DINAH

There are plenty of single men down at the church.

MARY

They are not my type.

DINAH

Why? Because they are single?

MARY

It hurts to be around you these days, Mom.

DINAH

I'm not the one hurting you, baby. This mess you've gotten yourself into is hurting you. This man you're involved with is hurting you.

MARY

Please go, Mom. I can't face this right now.

DINAH

There was a woman like you in your father's life once. I hated her.

MARY

Mom, please.

DINAH

I learned to forgive her — and your father. But by then it was too late. Our marriage was damaged beyond repair. Up until the day he died, it was never the same. My own daughter is doing that to someone else.

MARY

(Almost in tears) Why do you come here and lay all this guilt on me?

DINAH

This time — this very season — many centuries ago, there was a man who took all your guilt and sin. Nailed them to a cross. You know that man.

MARY

I thought I did.

DINAH

God can forgive you. Set you free. Give you the strength to walk away from all this. You're better than this, Mary.

MARY

You talk about forgiveness like it's a simple gesture. You don't know some of the things I've done. I'm glad church is working for you, Mom, but it's not working for me, okay. There is no place in church for blatant sinners like me.

DINAH

If only that were true.

MARY

Change the subject, Mom, or get out.

DINAH

If God could give you anything this Easter season, Mary — what would you ask Him for?

MARY

God will have nothing to do with me. I'm a mess.

DINAH

(firmly) What would you ask Him for?

Pause.

MARY

Peace! I would ask Him for peace.

DINAH

I will pray that He gives you your peace.

MARY

Whatever makes you happy, Mom.

Pause.

LIGHTS FADE.

Scene 3

LIGHTS UP:

Setting Change: There is a couch upstage right in a corner. Mary, now dressed in Biblical clothing, is resting her head on Brian's knees, also dressed in biblical clothing. She appears to be sleeping.

The rest of the stage will be used as an outdoor setting. There are stones scattered around the stage.

Mary wakes up. Her eyes come into focus and she looks confused. She looks at a smiling Brian, then at her own choice of clothes.

MARY

Why am I dressed like this? Why are you dressed like that? Brian, why are you wearing a dress?

BRIAN

Why do you keep calling me Brian and talking such nonsense? Go back to sleep. I derive a certain measure of pleasure just watching you sleep.

MARY

What? Who are you?

Mary gets off the couch.
Walks away. Brian follows.

BRIAN

It is true then. My charm does affect a woman mentally.

MARY

This is not my house.

BRIAN

No beloved. This house belongs to me. Would you like me to buy you a house? I will do anything for you. Where would you like to live? Bethlehem? Judah? On the other side of Jordan?

MARY

What? Why would I leave the United States to go live in those places, and why are you talking so funny?

BRIAN

What is United States, and whatever do you mean by I'm talking funny? You're the one talking funny, beloved.

MARY

People don't talk like that anymore in the 21st century.

Mary is trying to figure things out as she talks.

BRIAN

21st century? We're but in the first century A.D. How much wine did you consume last night?

MARY

What do you mean the first century?

BRIAN

It is the year of our Lord 30 A.D.

Pause.

MARY

I'm dreaming. That makes sense. This is a dream.

BRIAN

Well, I am the man of your dreams.

MARY

Why does it feel so real?

BRIAN

Come back to bed, beloved. You're not yourself today.

MARY

Are you married?

BRIAN

You've never asked me that question before.

MARY

Just answer the question.

BRIAN

I have several wives, yes.

MARY

Several?

BRIAN

Not as many as my brothers, but I do okay. Come and rest.

Brian takes her hand and leads her back to the couch. He rests her head on his shoulders.

A Scribe and Pharisee comes on.

Brian sees them and quickly approaches them, leaving Mary even more confused.

BRIAN

Why are you in my house?

SCRIBE

You really think we would allow this opportunity to pass? You know better.

PHARISEE

You know what the law says about adulterers? This one in particular has been on our radar for a while. We can use her against him.

Brian looks over at Mary.

BRIAN

Don't do this. I'm not done with her yet.

SCRIBE

You're done. Find yourself another harlot. Step aside and let righteousness prevail.

They shove Brian aside and go for Mary. They take her by the elbow.

SCRIBE

Come with us.

MARY

Why?

SCRIBE

You've defiled yourself with this married man. According to the law, you must die.

MARY

No, wait. You're making a big mistake. I'm not the person you think I am.

Pharisee looks offstage and points.

PHARISEE

Here He comes. This is going to be fun. I bet He can't argue Himself out of this one.

Mary starts to struggle.
The Scribe tries
unsuccessfully to restrain
her. The Pharisee helps
him to hold her and stop
her from trying to get
away.

Jesus walks on.

A crowd begins to gather.
A few behind Jesus. The
rest go over to the Scribe
and Pharisee.

They push Mary and she
falls to the ground at
Jesus' feet. She looks to
the ground, unable to
meet Jesus' eyes.

SCRIBE

The man claiming to be the son of God. Your
followers increase, but you will never be elevated
above us.

PHARISEE

We were hoping you would help us resolve a little
predicament we've found ourselves in.

The Scribe and Pharisee
begin picking up stones.
Their followers do
likewise.

PHARISEE

This woman is a known adulterer. Finally caught in the
very act. According to the Law of Moses, she should
be stoned to death.

The Pharisee approaches
Jesus. He holds out a
stone for him to take.