

An Easter Story

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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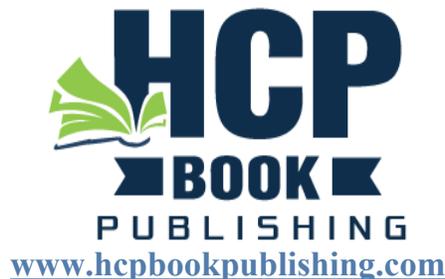


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Characters

Elijah Cole

Messenger/John (Can be played by female – in which case change John to Jane)

Miss Jones/Woman questioning Peter/Pilate's Wife/Mary – Mother of Jesus

Matt/Jesus

Judas Iscariot/Elder

Peter/Pilate

Mary Magdalene

Caiphas/Angel

High Priest

Crowd/Audience

Roman Soldier

(Messenger can be played by either Male or Female)

Setting

Office Setting, with appropriate furniture and amenities.

There should be enough space out front for additional scenes that take place in the dream state.

The Story

If you have been searching for a play that will highlight the biblical accounts of Jesus' last days in a new and fresh way....then there is no need for you to look any further.

The entire play takes place in one setting...but the re-enactments that Elijah, our Main Character, will witness may suggest a more historical tone that can be achieved through costume. It will not be necessary to add or remove anything to enhance the re-enactments of Christ's last days as it is the characters, the action and the dialogue that is important. I wanted Elijah to experience what really happened over two thousand years ago as if he was actually there....For example, in the scene where Jesus falls under the weight of the cross...Elijah will be the one the soldier forces to carry Jesus' cross.

I know in my heart that you will be blessed just by reading this play and I believe that every single person who witnesses or takes part in this production will relish every moment spent retracing the last steps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jesus paid a debt he didn't owe because we had a debt we couldn't pay.

Play Details

Length: 45 Minutes

Cast: 10 Males, 10 Females. Plus extras.

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

The Script



SCENE 1

BUSY OFFICE – (Two Days Before Good Friday)

This scene should run pretty quickly, with people coming in and out.

LIGHTS UP

The Boss, Elijah Cole, is seated at his desk. There are numerous files already on the desk and the phone rings occasionally.

Elijah picks up the phone and presses two numbers.

ELIJAH: Miss Jones, where is that pen I asked you for. *(hangs up)*

Miss Jones brings in a batch of papers for him to sign, with pens to choose from.

MISS JONES: Sir, one of the machines in Room 3 is down.

ELIJAH: Call it in.

MISS JONES: I don't know who to call, sir...

ELIJAH: Then find out. What do you think I'm paying you for?

John comes in.

JOHN: *(nervously)* Sir, can you give me an advance? I have a family emergency —

ELIJAH: Don't be so timid when talking to me, son. Have confidence. Chin up! Chest up! Confidence will get you anything you want in life.

John lifts his chest and chin, begins to exude confidence.

ELIJAH: Now what do you want?

JOHN: Can I get an advance, sir?

ELIJAH: No.

JOHN: *(deflated)* A raise?

ELIJAH: No.

JOHN: Some time off?

ELIJAH: Nope.

John exits.

Phone rings.

ELIJAH: Hello.....what....reschedule, I'm busy right now. (*hangs up*)

He finishes signing the last batch and hands them back to Miss Jones.

MISS JONES: Sir, may I have some time off tomorrow to...

ELIJAH: No.

Phone rings.

ELIJAH: Yeah...who, who...my wife. Tell her I'll call her right back. (*hangs up*)

John enters with a receipt in his hands.

JOHN: Sir, Malcolm Inc, is here for a pick-up.

ELIJAH: Take care of it.

JOHN: But sir...

ELIJAH: Can you handle it or not? There are hundreds of men waiting in line for your job, rookie.

JOHN: (*embarrassed*) Yes, sir.

ELIJAH: What did I tell you about confidence?

John lifts his chest, gives a fake smile, and exits.

Phone rings.

He takes the phone off the hook and lays it one side.

Peace at last...NOT.

Miss Jones enters and hands Elijah a cell phone.

MISS JONES: It's your wife...sir. She says it's urgent.

Elijah sighs.

ELIJAH: I bet it is (*takes phone*) Hello...no I didn't say that...what. I don't have time for that... Frances...take care of it will ya...I know he's my son too, but I have a business to run and you know this is the busiest time of the year...hello...oh my....(*starts to crush paper in the phone*) Honey, you're breaking up...hello...hello...(*he hangs up and gives the phone to Miss Jones*) Hold my calls for the next hour. I need a break.

MISS JONES: Sir...

ELIJAH: No.

MISS JONES: You don't even know what I was gonna ask.

ELIJAH: The answer is still no. Don't you have some paperwork to do?

Miss Jones sighs and exits.

John enters with two pieces of cheese in his hand...one is white the other yellow.

JOHN: Sir...

ELIJAH: Yellow cheese, definitely.

JOHN: But Miss Thomas says...

ELIJAH: Does Miss Thomas sign your check at the end of the month?

JOHN: No sir.

ELIJAH: Yellow cheese.

JOHN: Yes sir.

John exits.

Elijah breathes.

He starts to go through some files on his desk.

ENTER MATT.

MATT: Sir...may I speak with you a moment.

ELIJAH: No.

Matt takes a seat anyway.

MATT: There is word that we must work this entire weekend. Is that true?

ELIJAH: It's not only true but it is necessary.

MATT: Your father usually gives time off...so we can spend time with our families and go to church.

ELIJAH: Oh really...I hate to be the one to tell you this, but I'm not my father.

MATT: Well, that much is obvious. Though it would suit you to take a page from his book.

ELIJAH: It would suit you to get out of my office, now.

MATT: In any case...I can't work this weekend.

ELIJAH: Let me put it this way, Mr. Dillon....if you don't, you will have to find yourself another job.

MATT: I am entitled to fourteen days casual leave.

ELIJAH: Conditions apply. Read the fine print.

Elijah removes his glasses to make his point.

ELIJAH: I'm sure you will all agree that my father was a good man. He built this company....but the success of his empire was limited because of his many obligations to the church. That is not something I'm interested in understanding...but where he failed, I will succeed. Right now, we are the third leading manufacturers of Easter bun and cheese in the country, and I intend to be the first.

MATT: Easter is not about bun and cheese, sir.

ELIJAH: Your family survives because of bun and cheese. Where would you be without all this, eh?

MATT: My family survives because my God provides for us.

ELIJAH: God? What has God ever done for me? Everything I have, I worked hard for and you should do the same instead of waiting for handouts from an invisible idea. Why am I even having this conversation with you? It's obvious my father poisoned your minds with his...faith.

MATT: I pray that God will one day open your eyes.

ELIJAH: My eyes are wide open, for your information. As a matter of fact...*(produces a file from his top drawer)*...that land your precious church is located on appears to be on properties once owned by my father...now owned by me. I'm thinking of expanding this business to include that piece of land.

MATT: No....you can't do that.

ELIJAH: The paperwork is already done.

Matt stands to his feet, angry and tearful at the same time.

MATT: You're right about one thing....you're nothing like your father.

ELIJAH: I wouldn't have it any other way.

Matt exits.

Elijah smiles broadly, triumphantly, then returns to his filing as

LIGHTS FADE