

Babylon and the Bride

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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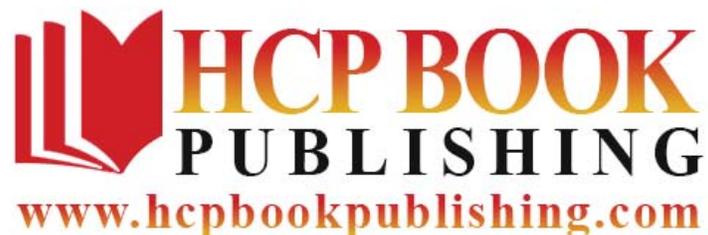


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Characters

Pastor Johnson

Male

Male Voice

Walter

Male

Sherrie

Female

Malcolm

Teenage Boy

Rasheda

Teenage Girl

Stephanie

Female

Nicole

Teenage Girl

Shawn

Male

Monica

Female

Setting

One general setting is used: Living/Dining room with exits leading out to the kitchen, upstairs and bedrooms.

The Story

Babylon and the Bride is a contemporary real-life story that refers to:

- Everyday choices as well as steps during critical moments;
- Challenges that make a person stronger;
- Family values;
- The relationship between husband and wife, parents and children;
- True Christian principals.

Shawn and Monica have been happy in their marriage for over 15 years. They have a teenage daughter, friends, nice house and good jobs. Everything is seemingly fine, just routine family issues. Christmas is coming, and they are planning to celebrate it in the right way, fully appreciating its true meaning, because they are Christians.

Suddenly the unexpected happens – Shawn’s ex-girlfriend Stephanie comes to see him. She tells him that she is losing her house and has no place to stay. Of course, it is right to help her. Moreover, it is the Christians’ duty to his neighbor. Shawn decides to let Stephanie stay with his family until she finds somewhere to live.

From this point on the family stability is going to be brought to the test as Stephanie is Babylon. This young woman invades the couple’s private life. She is going to explore if Shawn has a happy marriage life and try to steal him from Monica. In turn, Monica must find out if there is true Christian love, and if she can help Stephanie and trust Shawn inside her heart.

Fortunately, there are friends who can help – Monica’s friend Sherrie and Shawn’s friend Walter give support and advice all through the tight situations. Also, the family is strongly supported by Pastor Johnson.

The great storyline will not leave anyone untouched – kindness, lust, forgiveness, grace, patience, friendship will engage the audience from start to finish as they become engrossed in the story. **“Babylon And the Bride”** encourages, blesses and helps one appreciate the good things in life, things one may not even pay attention to, however, they build up a happy and meaningful life.

Play Details

Length: 70-90 Minutes

Cast: 4 Males, 5 Females

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Play Script | Comedy Drama

THE SCRIPT



Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

Monica (late 30's), Shawn (early 40's) and Nicole (Mid teens) gather at CS, sitting on the couch and holding hands. Their eyes are closed as Shawn prays.

Monica is overly conservative. She wears tall, loose clothing, no make-up and her hair is unkept.

SHAWN: Father, thank you for another vacation. We have lived to see yet another year, another opportunity to celebrate the birth of your Son. We thank for our jobs that affords us so many days off from those vile and evil ---

MONICA: Honey ---

SHAWN: --- lovely, angelic children we are privileged to teach. We ask only that throughout this season and in the midst of society's over-commercializing this holiday, that you teach us what it means to celebrate Christmas, in Jesus name.

MONICA & NICOLE: Amen.

They release hands. Nicole jumps to her feet.

NICOLE: Good prayer Dad. Awesome family moment. I will see you guys later.

SHAWN: Where do you think you're going?

NICOLE: Out.

SHAWN: We're having a family meeting.

NICOLE: Can't you do it without me? Rasheda & Malcolm are waiting for me at the mall.

SHAWN: They can wait a little more.

NICOLE: I'm sixteen. What can I contribute to this meeting?

SHAWN: Sit.

Nicole reluctantly sits and begin texting on her iPhone.

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SHAWN: We have six days to Christmas, and we haven't done anything in a while as a family. So I thought maybe we could paint the house together.

NICOLE: Or pay somebody to do it.

SHAWN: Or we could do it together and save some money.

NICOLE: Or not.

MONICA: I think it's a good idea ---

SHAWN: Exactly.

MONICA: --- to get somebody to do it.

SHAWN: What?

MONICA: I've had a rough year. I need to sleep. Painting would not be very compatible with my plans for this holiday.

SHAWN: Okay, so maybe that's too much. How about we do a little spring cleaning?

NICOLE: In the Winter? Dad, seriously.

SHAWN: It's just a term used for excessive cleaning.

MONICA: We could pay somebody to do that too.

NICOLE: I love my Mom. She thinks just like me. (*gets up*) I think you guys need some time alone, so I'm just gonna go.

SHAWN: Stay where you are Nicole.

NICOLE: But Dad ---

SHAWN: Can't you guys see what I'm trying to do? We need to work on a project together as a family. This is the best time to do it. Once school starts again, we won't be able to do what we can do now.

MONICA: I need to get some sleep.

NICOLE: I need to go.

SHAWN: I think we need to work on a project together. So what's it gonna be?

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Nicole's phone begins to ring. She answers it.

NICOLE: Hi Malcolm.

SHAWN: Did she answer the phone in the middle of our meeting?

MONICA: Give her some space Shawn. She's a teenager.

Nicole is listening to the voice on the other end and giggling like a school girl.

NICOLE: We were having a family meeting, but it's over now. So I'll be right there.

Nicole hangs up and heads for the door.

SHAWN: The meeting is not over.

NICOLE: Dad, you always told me not to keep people waiting. Just fill me in on what I missed later.

Nicole leaves.

Shawn sighs.

MONICA: Can you take me to the store? I need to get a few things.

SHAWN: You guys are killing me.

MONICA: Is that a yes or no?

Pause.

SHAWN: We need to talk, Mum.

MONICA: I could always drive myself.

SHAWN: I would prefer that, but I need to talk to you about something.

MONICA: I hope it's about getting another car.

SHAWN: We can barely afford one car.

MONICA: Yes, but sometimes one of us has to take the bus. Most times it's me. We need another car.

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SHAWN: I'm trying to tell you something.

MONICA: Can it wait?

SHAWN: Maybe not.

MONICA: Okay. What is it?

Pause.

SHAWN: Please promise me you won't over-react.

MONICA: What is it, Shawn?

SHAWN: I saw Stephanie the other day. She came by the school, and we had a talk.

MONICA: Wait. Slow down. You're going too fast. When you say the other day, do you mean like you should have told me this days ago but waited till now?

SHAWN: Something like that.

MONICA: When you say she came by the school, do you mean she came by to see you?

SHAWN: Something like that.

MONICA: And you talked. Like, hello, how you doing kind of thing?

SHAWN: More like, can I take you to lunch kind of talk.

MONICA: You allowed your ex-girlfriend to take you to lunch?

SHAWN: Not exactly. It was lunch period, and she was there, while I had my lunch.

MONICA: Why are you telling me this now?

SHAWN: I was waiting for the right time.

Pause.

MONICA: Okay.

SHAWN: So you're good with that?

MONICA: *(lying)* Yeah.

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SHAWN: Great. Because she needs our help.

MONICA: Is she dying?

There's a knock at the door. Shawn looks at his watch.

SHAWN: I should have talked to you before now.

MONICA: Who's at the door, Shawn?

Stephanie (Early 30's) lets herself in. She is wearing a tight-fitting dress with a split running a few inches from her knees up that appears higher than it actually is as she pulls in two large suitcases.

She closes the door and straightens herself.

STEPHANIE: Hi Shawn. Monique.

MONICA: It's Monica.

STEPHANIE: Right. This is a very nice house. Where's my room?

MONICA: What?

STEPHANIE: Oh, I guess I'm a little early. Sorry Shawn.

Monica folds her arms and stares at Shawn. He smiles embarrassingly and scratches his head.

LIGHTS FADE

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP

Nicole and Malcolm sit on the couch. Nicole has a little ghetto in her. Malcolm is a bit reserved.

NICOLE: Are you just going to sit there staring at me?

MALCOLM: I've never met a girl like you.

NICOLE: You're just saying what I want to hear.

MALCOLM: Is it working?

NICOLE: Yes.

Malcolm comes a little closer. Nicole blushes. They are coming in for a kiss.

Rasheda comes up from behind the couch holding up an earring.

RASHEDA: Found it!

Nicole pulls away from Malcolm. She looks a little embarrassed.

RASHEDA: You guys were about to kiss?

NICOLE: We came really close.

Rasheda drops her earrings.

RASHEDA: Oops. I think I lost my earring again.

She disappears behind the couch. Malcolm smiles. He comes close to Nicole again. They are about to kiss.

Shawn enters in his pajamas. He is holding a pillow and a blanket.

SHAWN: You guys know what time it is right?

Nicole pulls away again embarrassed.

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SHAWN: (*eyes narrow*) If I didn't know better, I would think you guys were about to kiss?

NICOLE: Eww, Dad, don't be silly. You know we're just friends.

SHAWN: I did say if I didn't know better.

NICOLE: Anyway, Dad.

SHAWN: Malcolm, you should go home. You too Rasheda.

Rasheda reappears from behind the couch.

RASHEDA: How'd you know I was here saar?

SHAWN: You three are like peas in a pod.

Shawn pulls Nicole and Malcolm out of the couch and puts down his pillow and sheet.

SHAWN: Now I'm going to need this couch tonight, so you two. Go home.

RASHEDA: Why are you sleeping on the couch saar?

SHAWN: Only people who live here are privy to ask me such questions.

Shawn forcibly grabs Rasheda and Malcolm and shoves them through the exit closing the door.

NICOLE: Dad, I don't mean to pry, but considering that I still live here...I thought maybe I should ask. Who is that lady in the guest room?

SHAWN: A friend.

NICOLE: Is she the reason why you're sleeping on the couch tonight?

SHAWN: No, I'm sleeping on the couch tonight because your mother locked me out of the bedroom.

NICOLE: Is the lady in the guest room the reason why mom locked you out of the bedroom?

Shawn sighs.

SHAWN: Yeah.

NICOLE: Smart dad.

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SHAWN: She lost her home and had nowhere else to go. I am just doing my Christian duty and helping a friend. Is that really so bad?

NICOLE: Depends on how close of a friend she is to you.

SHAWN: We used to date before I met your mother.

NICOLE: Dumb dad. Why would you do that?

SHAWN: My intentions are pure. I don't see this as a problem unless your mother doesn't trust me.

NICOLE: So this is a test.

SHAWN: No.

NICOLE: Is everything okay between you and Mom?

SHAWN: Yes, we are happy.

NICOLE: I have several friends at school whose happy parents are now divorced.

SHAWN: We're supposed to be our brother's keeper. How was I supposed to just leave her out on the streets?

Nicole gets up to leave.

NICOLE: Dad, this is way above my weekly allowance grade and intellectual maturity so if you don't mind, I would rather not get involved.

Nicole exits.

She quickly returns.

NICOLE: Unless you want to increase my weekly allowance.

SHAWN: Go to bed.

NICOLE: I will take that as a no. Goodnight, dad.

Nicole exits.

Shawn positions himself on the couch, placing the pillow, lying down and pulling the blanket over himself.

LIGHTS FADE

Scene 3

LIGHTS UP

Walter (Mid 40's) is seated opposite a sleeping Shawn eating some ice cream and a piece of chicken.

Shawn wakes up and is startled by Walter sitting close by.

WALTER: Amma gonna go out on a limb here and suggest that you either stop messing with your wife, or you buy a proper couch that is conducive for sleeping.

SHAWN: This is my first time sleeping on the couch.

WALTER: Ai, you're right. That was an epiphany of my own life. Okay. Why are you sleeping on the couch?

SHAWN: Have you been in my fridge?

WALTER: Duh. Nothing much there though. Just this piece of chicken and a spoon of ice cream.

SHAWN: That chicken has been in the fridge for over two weeks now.

Walter spits out the chicken. Puts it aside with the ice cream.

WALTER: Man, you should put a label on these things.

SHAWN: You don't live here, Walter. Before I see you, I should hear a series of knocks at the door first.

WALTER: I thought we have an open door friendship.

SHAWN: Not literally.

WALTER: Why are you sleeping on the couch, bro?

SHAWN: My wife accidentally locked me out of the bedroom.

WALTER: Where is she?

SHAWN: I think she is still in bed.

WALTER: Which bed?

SHAWN: The bed in the bedroom.

WALTER: So she accidentally locked you out of the bedroom, while she is still in the bedroom?

SHAWN: Something like that.

Pause.

WALTER: Did you forget to take out the garbage?

SHAWN: No.

WALTER: Forgot a birthday or anniversary?

SHAWN: Nope.

WALTER: Forgot to call her during your lunch break?

SHAWN: Stop wasting your time...

WALTER: Went on a date with one of your exes?

Pause.

WALTER: Really. That's really it?

SHAWN: How on earth would you guess that?

WALTER: My life again. Thinking of all the things that landed me on the couch. Who was it? Paula. Kay? Jasmine?

SHAWN: Stephanie.

WALTER: Hot mama.

SHAWN: That's just half the story.

WALTER: What's the other half?

Stephanie enters wearing yet another tight fitting dress. She is searching through her handbag.

WALTER: I'm fully mesmerized and utterly confused right now. Unless I'm dreaming, your ex-girlfriend is in your house man.

STEPHANIE: Shawn, can you take me to the store. I need to get a few things.

SHAWN: Sure. Just give me a minute to get ready.

WALTER: How you gonna do that? You remember your bedroom situation. Your clothes are also in the bedroom.

Shawn is visibly upset.

WALTER: No worries. I will take this beautiful damsel to the store. Maybe even get to know her a little better.

STEPHANIE: I'm not going anywhere with you, perv.

WALTER: I think she remembers me.

SHAWN: He has to take you Stef. I can't go to the store like this.

STEPHANIE: Did you sleep on the couch?

SHAWN: What kind of question is that? Why would I sleep on the couch when I have a queen sized ---

WALTER: He slept on the couch.

SHAWN: Yes, I did.

STEPHANIE: And you're the man of this house?

SHAWN: Are you questioning my authority?

STEPHANIE: Should I?

SHAWN: You're here aren't you. That was my decision.

WALTER: As much as I'm enjoying this back and forth between you guys...I would rather be on our way to the store. I need to get me some breakfast.

Stephanie whispers in Shawn's ear.

STEPHANIE: Is he safe to be around?

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SHAWN: *(obviously affected by her whisper)* Yes --- he is.

STEPHANIE: Okay. I will go with him, just because I trust you.

Stephanie leaves with Walter. Shawn beats himself up.

Monica enters. She goes to the fridge and gets some juice. She is about to leave. Shawn blocks her path.

SHAWN: Let's talk about this, Mum.

Monica tries to get around him. He blocks her every attempt. Eventually, the juice is spilled on him. They are both frustrated.

Shawn sits Monica down.

SHAWN: Talk about it.

MONICA: Fine. You have no respect for me.

SHAWN: You know that's not true.

MONICA: Can you imagine what the neighbors are thinking?

SHAWN: They should mind their own business.

MONICA: Imagine what our Church family will think.

SHAWN: You're too concerned with what people think.

MONICA: Shawn, you don't move an ex-girlfriend into your matrimonial home.

Pause.

MONICA: We've been married for fifteen years. It hasn't always been great, but we were happy, and you come and give me this to deal with.

SHAWN: You don't trust me?

MONICA: This is not about trust. This is about principle.

SHAWN: She needed help. I want to believe that our priority as Christians is to show concern for those who are not saved. How else will they know God's love?

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MONICA: So you think you can make a convert out of your ex-girlfriend? Show her some love, and she will come to Church?

SHAWN: I see this as an opportunity to try. Have I ever given you a reason not to trust me?

MONICA: Not before yesterday.

SHAWN: So, because we had a thing in the past, I should have just left her on the streets?

MONICA: I'm sure she had options.

SHAWN: Can you look beyond your own fears and jealousy to see that my only motivation for doing this, is the fact that it is what I think Christ would do?

MONICA: How would you feel if I started moving in my exes?

SHAWN: You're missing the point.

MONICA: I was looking forward to this holiday Shawn. I can always depend on you to make a mess of a good thing.

Monica leaves.

LIGHTS FADE

Scene 4

LIGHTS UP

Shawn is sitting up on the couch, unable to sleep and deep in thought.

VOICE: See I know these two women; Babylon and the Bride. And the Bride is in my heart; Babylon's in my eyes. One wants me to lay with her; the other keeps me in line. One hates she can't have me; the others already mine.

Stephanie comes on. She is wearing a nightgown that light can slightly pass through. She sits beside Shawn.

STEPHANIE: Did you sleep?

SHAWN: No.

STEPHANIE: You must be so tired.

SHAWN: From lack of sleep?

STEPHANIE: From running through my mind all night.

Pause.

SHAWN: If I didn't know better, I would think you're coming on to me.

STEPHANIE: I missed you, Shawn. A whole lot more than I thought I did. When I saw you the other day, I realized that nothing has changed.

SHAWN: I have changed. I'm married.

STEPHANIE: I was talking about me. I still love you.

Pause.

Shawn gets up from the couch and puts some distance between him and Stephanie.

SHAWN: I think you should go back to your room...and bolt the door.

STEPHANIE: Why?

SHAWN: Let's just say, my wife hasn't yet warmed up to the idea of you staying here. If she sees us like this, it's going to get worst.

STEPHANIE: She's not here. I checked. Your daughter too. She's out with her boyfriend.

SHAWN: Nicky doesn't have a boyfriend.

STEPHANIE: You're still as naive as ever. Still highly attracted to me too.

SHAWN: Why would you think I'm attracted to you?

STEPHANIE: You offered to help me.

Stephanie tries to get close to him, but he keeps slipping away from her.

STEPHANIE: I know you feel the same way Shawn and whatever happens between us can be our little secret.

SHAWN: Nothing is going to happen between us.

Pause.

STEPHANIE: So you've totally gotten over me?

SHAWN: *(lying)* Yeah. Pretty much.

STEPHANIE: So why did you agree to help me then?

SHAWN: It was the Christian thing to do. How could I be able to tell you about God's unconditional love, if I left you out there on the street?

Pause.

STEPHANIE: No man has ever loved me like you, Shawn. I don't need God's love when I can have yours.

SHAWN: There is no separating them, and my heart belongs to somebody else.

STEPHANIE: For now.

SHAWN: What!

STEPHANIE: Well, for what's it worth, I appreciate what you did. And I can see now that you think you love your wife. She's a lucky girl to have such a man.

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Pause.

SHAWN: So this was a test?

STEPHANIE: I think I'm just bored. What is there to do around here?

SHAWN: I was thinking of doing some painting.

STEPHANIE: Now that sounds like fun. I haven't done anything like that in a while. When do we start?

SHAWN: I haven't bought the paint yet.

STEPHANIE: Can I drive?

Shawn considers, then tosses Stephanie the keys.

SHAWN: Get dressed, then go warm up the car. I'll get my coat.

VOICE: See I know these two women; Babylon and the Bride. And the Bride is in my heart; Babylon's in my eyes. One wants me to lay with her; the other keeps me in line. One hates she can't have me; the others already mine.

Shawn exits visibly disturbed.

LIGHTS FADE