

The Flight Before Easter

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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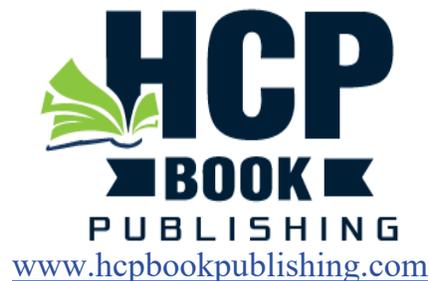


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Characters

- Greg - Elderly man suffering from Alzheimer's
Sandra - Greg's elderly wife.
Sam- Homeless guy with immeasurable wisdom and a seemingly prophetic gift
Tommy - Runaway teenager
Grace - Wealthy and single middle-aged woman.
Phil- Soft spoken husband
Amanda - Helpful and very feisty wife of Phil and mother to Stacy.
Stacy - Teenage daughter...easily bored, conveniently friendly.
Jay - No-nonsense Security Officer
Sheila - Flight attendant – Single mother of two
Attendant - Gum chewing, feisty and over-bearing young woman
Beverly - Tommy's mom
Extras

Setting

Airport terminal with accompanying signs and sounds. There should be two signs reading "Terminal 1" and "Terminal 2" as well as signs pointing to entrances, exist, restrooms, and cafeteria.

The Story

“The Flight before Easter” takes place in an airport terminal. It’s the day before Easter and an extreme weather event has hit. The event has forced a closure of the airport and has trapped a diverse group of people in the terminal.

As the evening progresses, everyone has their own cross to bear and by the end of the play, each person is brought to the realization of the real meaning of Easter. Characters include an elderly couple facing a health crisis, a homeless man who is sheltering there for the night, a hardnosed security officer, a runaway child, a rich woman, a family with financial issues, and a single mother.

Play Details

Length: 70-90 Minutes

Cast: 5 males, 6 females, plus extras.

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

The Script



SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

In the waiting area of an Airport terminal.

An elderly couple sits together with luggage at their feet. The husband, GREG, reads from the local newspaper. Her wife, SANDRA, fidgets on a cell phone.

There is a homeless man, SAM, who is crouched in a corner. A child, TOMMY, sits alone close to the elderly couple. A woman, GRACE, adorned in purple is by herself on her iPad.

A family of three walks in with their luggage and finds a seat. The husband, PHIL, allows his wife, AMANDA, to enter the row first followed by their teenage daughter, STACY.

STACY: Why is it so cold?

PHIL: The air condition is on. You know in this airport they assume everyone is a foreigner.

AMANDA: Why would they assume everyone is a foreigner?

Phil shrugs.

AMANDA: Hardly makes any sense.

They sit. Stacy gets on her iPhone.

AMANDA: Can you please give that phone a break?

STACY: It's my link to the outside world.

AMANDA: (to Phil) I told you not to buy her an iPhone.

PHIL: In this day and age, everybody has an iPhone.

STACY: Exactly.

AMANDA: I don't.

PHIL: Because you don't want one.

A hardnosed security officer, JAY, walks in with his baton in hand. He heads for SAM. SAM gets up and quickly dashes offstage with JAY hot on his heels.

GRACE: I need to get on my plane now. I can't take all this drama. Better yet, I need to buy a plane.

Greg looks up from his newspaper at Sandra sitting beside him.

GREG: Who are you?

SANDRA: Your wife.

GREG: I'm married?

SANDRA: Yep.

GREG: Cool.

Greg goes back to reading his paper.

Amanda looks across at Tommy.

AMANDA: Why is that little boy here sitting alone?

PHIL: Whoever he's with probably went to the bathroom.

AMANDA: They left him sitting there all by himself? Someone could kidnap him.

PHIL: Kidnapping is not a part of our culture.

AMANDA: Well, I think parents need to be more responsible.

GRACE: Does she ever stop talking?

Amanda whips around at Grace.

AMANDA: Who are you?

GRACE: Lady, I don't see you.

Phil turns Amanda around and gestures for her to be calm and quiet.

AMANDA: I hope we're not on the same flight.

GRACE: Even if we are, I'm sure we're not in the same section. I fly first class.

PHIL: *(still trying to keep Amanda's attention away from Grace)* I wish you would try a little harder to be like your mother. It's Easter. A time to be happy.

AMANDA: Ok. You are right. I will not lose sight of what is important. Why is it so cold in here?

STACY: Exactly.

AMANDA: If I didn't know any better, I would think it's snowing outside.

PHIL: Yeah right. Snow in Spring. The day that happens, Jesus must really be coming back soon.

AMANDA: Anything is possible in this day and age.

PHIL: Anything but snow in Spring. It never snows in the Spring time.

Greg looks up from his newspaper at Sandra sitting beside him.

GREG: Who are you?

SANDRA: Your wife.

GREG: I'm married.

SANDRA: Yep.

GREG: Cool.

Greg goes back to reading his paper.

An Attendant walks out with a clipboard in her hand, chewing gum violently.

ATTENDANT: Attention all passengers of Flight 555. We are experiencing a bit of delay and ask that you bear with us.

GRACE: How long will this delay be?

ATTENDANT: It's possible that the flight will not leave before tomorrow morning.

EVERYONE: What?

ATTENDANT: Uhm...well, I would have suggested we all go home, but that may not be possible either.

AMANDA: What are you saying?

ATTENDANT: Well, strange enough...it's kinda snowing.

Pause.

PHIL: Snowing?

ATTENDANT: A huge snowstorm just came out of nowhere, so we are snowed in.

PHIL: Lady, this is Spring. What are you talking about?

An air hostess, SHEILA, comes in covered in snow.

SHEILA: What on earth is going on? Snow? In Spring? This is weird.

PHIL: This is not real.

Stacy jumps with excitement.

STACY: Can we go see?

AMANDA: No.

ATTENDANT: I think it's best we all just stay right here until this strange phenomenon blows over.

A loud whooshing sound fills the room. Some cover in fear.

AMANDA: That's probably a good idea.

There's a loud crashing sound.

GREG: What was that?

SANDRA: I think it's a snow storm.

Pause.

GREG: When did we leave the airport? I don't remember getting on a plane.

SANDRA: Do you remember what you did last night?

GREG: Of course I do. We.... I....strange. I just drew a blank.

Sandra shakes her head.

Amanda turns to Phil.

AMANDA: I guess we should be looking to see Jesus make His appearance sometime soon.

Pause on Phil's expression.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

In the waiting area of the Airport terminal.

AMANDA: *(looks over at Tommy)* Sooo, you still think his parents went to the bathroom?

PHIL: They would be very sick to be gone this long.

AMANDA: I'm going over there to talk to him.

Amanda tries to get up but Phil holds on to her arm.

PHIL: I think we should mind our own business.

AMANDA: He probably needs help.

Amanda frees her arms and goes over to sit beside Tommy.

STACY: You know better Dad. When Mom decides to do something, there's no stopping her.

AMANDA: Hey.

Tommy looks up at her and then looks away.

AMANDA: What's your name?

TOMMY: Tommy.

AMANDA: Hi Tommy. I am Amanda.

No response.

AMANDA: Are you here with someone?

TOMMY: I'm waiting for someone.

AMANDA: I don't think anyone is coming here soon.

TOMMY: I am patient.

AMANDA: Ok. Well, if you need anything I'm just over there.

Pause. No response.

AMANDA: Alright. Nice talking to you.

TOMMY: Goodbye.

Amanda goes back to her seat.

AMANDA: He's a bundle of joy.

PHIL: Is he lost?

AMANDA: I don't know. I don't see any luggage or anything, but there must be a reason why he's here.

PHIL: Looks like we will be spending Easter here.

SHEILA: Did someone say Easter?

Phil is not sure if he should respond.

SHEILA: In your choice of words, I sure hope you are referring to the Easter bunny and not some religious rubbish about some Jewish Rabbi dying on a cross.

PHIL: I guess you don't go to church.

SHEILA: For what purpose? So someone can exploit my meager salary?

AMANDA: I think church is much more than that.

GRACE: Hello! Other people who would prefer not hear about church are sitting here.

PHIL: Listen. We're all stuck here. Best we make use of the time we have together, considering we will never exactly see each other again.

GRACE: I would rather this storm just pass so I can be on my way. I don't mix with the lower class.

AMANDA: How are you still alive with a mouth like that?

Grace stands up.

GRACE: What's wrong with my mouth?

Amanda stands to challenge her.

AMANDA: It's filthy, that's what.

Jay barges in.

JAY: There will be no fighting in this airport on my watch.

PHIL: No one here is fighting, Officer. We're just cold and a little bit frustrated.

JAY: I have eyes everywhere...so keep the peace.

Jay exits.

Sam peers in. Satisfied that Jay is gone, he walks in.

SAM: Anybody have some spare change to give. I would love to get me a nice hot French vanilla from the vending machine.

Grace turns her face away in disgust.

Amanda fishes for some coins from her bag.

PHIL: Don't give this man any money.

AMANDA: He looks like he needs it.

PHIL: He's going to use your money and buy drugs.

SAM: You do realize I can hear you right.

PHIL: So are you on drugs?

SAM: No. And I don't drink and smoke either. I am a Christian just like you.

GRACE: A Christian on the road begging?

SHEILA: Bah!

SAM: I don't have much, but I am happy.

GRACE: How can you find happiness in your pitiful state?

SANDRA: Leave him alone. I can relate to what he is saying. I learnt a long time ago that life is much more than just acquiring stuff.

GRACE: None of you know the value of life. We're here to make money. Lots of money. It's the only way to be happy.

SAM: You don't seem happy.

GRACE: Don't be fooled by my expression. I am very much happy, just very much annoyed right now.

SAM: And alone.

GRACE: Excuse me.

SAM: You are a lonely woman.

Pause.

Jay barges in. Sam sees him just in time. Jay chases him through the exit.

STACY: I knew trying to travel on the eve of Easter would have been a bad idea.

AMANDA: We planned this trip all year.

PHIL: We just had to wait to accumulate enough money to buy the tickets.

GRACE: There goes my point. I bet the both of you are working and can't make ends meet.

PHIL: I lost my job six months ago.

SANDRA: Ouch. That's terrible.

PHIL: Yep. It has been rough.

GRACE: I bet it put a strain on your marriage that your wife or girlfriend has to foot all the bills.

PHIL: She's my wife and we are doing ok.

GRACE: She wants you to believe that.

PHIL: We're ok, right honey.

AMANDA: We can talk about this when we get home.

Pause.

PHIL: So, we need to talk about this?

AMANDA: Maybe.

PHIL: You said you were fine paying all the bills and stuff until I can find a job.

AMANDA: I didn't think it would take so long. You haven't even sent out an application in two months.

PHIL: You have been carrying this for two months?

AMANDA: I'm just saying that I need some help, and you would rather be home watching television than out there looking for work.

PHIL: I don't believe this.

AMANDA: Sooo, let's talk about this at home.

PHIL: You have said enough. I need to use the bathroom.

Phil exits.

Grace is laughing.

Amanda jumps at her. Stacy and Sheila grab her and pulls her away from Grace.

Greg looks up from his newspaper at Sandra sitting beside him.

GREG: Who are you?

SANDRA: Your wife.

GREG: I'm married.

SANDRA: Yep.

GREG: You'd think I'd remember something like that.

Greg goes back to reading his paper.

LIGHTS FADE