

# THE PERFECT GIFT II

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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## Characters

### **MALES**

Josef  
Pastor Adolphus  
Robert  
Roger  
Paul  
Deacon Brown  
Jack  
Extras

### **FEMALES**

Carmen  
Jennifer  
Gene  
Marsha  
Extras

## Setting

The play takes place mostly in a church auditorium. It is a small church, and the Pastor's office is a makeshift cubicle Stage Right with a small desk, an office chair behind the desk, and two regular chairs in front.

## The Story

The Saga continues.

Gene and Jack and Carmen and Josef are still having trust issues. They make an appointment for counseling with Pastor Adolphus. The young people gather for rehearsals for their upcoming Easter Play.

Jen and Robert face off with their peers at church who think they should not be allowed to participate in any church ministry, because of their sin. The stakes are high, and the tension builds as presuppositions and personalities clash, but there is a wonderful lesson of true forgiveness mixed into the drama.

## Play Details

**Length:** 70-90 Minutes

**Cast:** 6 males, 4 females, plus extras (non-speaking roles).

**Audience:** Teens & Adults

**Genre:** Contemporary Drama

# The Script



## SCENE 1

### LIGHTS UP

Setting: Church Auditorium / Pastor's Office

*Pastor Adolphus sits in the office chair behind his desk. Jen and Robert sit arm's length apart in the other two chairs.*

**ADOLPHUS:** I hardly know where to start.

**ROBERT:** It was an accident, sir.

*Pause.*

**ADOLPHUS:** You got Jen pregnant by accident?

**ROBERT:** We didn't...we, uhm...it's...we messed up. We're sorry.

**ADOLPHUS:** You're the Deacon's son. He hasn't even been back to church since this went public. How do you propose we fix this?

**ROBERT:** I don't know.

**ADOLPHUS:** Jen.

**JEN:** My life is ruined as it is, but I don't want to be expelled from the church.

**ADOLPHUS:** We don't expel people.

**JEN:** Dis-fellowshipped....whatever it is you do to people who backslide.

**ADOLPHUS:** Are you backslidden?

**JEN:** I love the Lord, and I know He has forgiven me. He accepts me just as I am...weakness and all, right?

**ADOLPHUS:** So right you are. Unfortunately, and in most cases, the problem is not with the Lord.

**ROBERT:** We deserve to be punished.

**ADOLPHUS:** I am not going to punish you, Robert, but I will ask that you don't participate so much in the choir and drama ministry.

**JEN:** But we have a play coming up for Easter. I am playing Mary. I don't want to lose that privilege.

**ROBERT:** I am supposed to be playing Jesus. I was looking forward to that.

**ADOLPHUS:** Well, how does your fellow brothers and sisters feel about you being an active part of the drama ministry?

**JEN:** Practice is scheduled to start next week, so we don't really know.

**ADOLPHUS:** Some people know about your...condition.

**JEN:** I have seen the eyes and the faces...but if God has already forgiven us, it's their problem if they choose not to.

*Pause. Adolphus bites his finger.*

**ADOLPHUS:** Truth is, something needs to be said. I am having a meeting with the leaders later, and I would want to address this. Can you be at the meeting?

**JEN:** Yes.

**ROBERT:** No.

*Pause.*

**JEN:** No.

**ROBERT:** Yes.

*Pause.*

**JEN:** Do we need to be there?

**ADOLPHUS:** Maybe I should mention it outside of your presence first. To get some form of feedback. They might not want to speak the truth in your presence.

**JEN:** So we don't need to be there then?

**ADOLPHUS:** Not if you really don't want to.

*Pause.*

**JEN:** I will think about it.

**ADOLPHUS:** I do admire your courage about this whole thing.

**JEN:** We all fall sometimes, sir. It's what we do then that really matters.

**ADOLPHUS:** And I am sure your choice will be a testimony to others.

*Adolphus sighs.*

**ADOLPHUS:** Well, I think this session went well. Jen, I need a few moments with Robert.

**JEN:** Okay. I should be getting home anyway.

**ADOLPHUS:** Take care. Be safe.

*Jen leaves.*

**ADOLPHUS:** How's your father?

**ROBERT:** I don't know. He's not talking to me. I have never seen him act like this before.

**ADOLPHUS:** Oh Lord, he grew up kind of sheltered. This is all very new to him.

**ROBERT:** I know he's disappointed, but I would rather he just say it than treat me as if I don't exist.

**ADOLPHUS:** He will come around eventually. He's had a difficult time dealing with the passing of your mother...so this may feel a little too much.

**ROBERT:** I think the real problem is that he cares too much what people think.

**ADOLPHUS:** And you don't?

**ROBERT:** Jesus is a good example. They called him all kind of names, say all kind of stuff. He didn't care.

**ADOLPHUS:** So you are modeling your attitude from Christ?

**ROBERT:** That's what being a Christian is all about right.

**ADOLPHUS:** Robert, I have been here before. You have not yet had an incident, so it's easy to think you can handle what's coming.

**ROBERT:** I can handle it, sir.

**ADOLPHUS:** In the interim, I need you to keep your distance from Jennifer.

**ROBERT:** But why? She's still my friend.

**ADOLPHUS:** I think it's much more complicated than that now my boy. You might not care what people think, but we still have to maintain the image and reputation of the church. This is not a free for all.

*Pause.*

**ROBERT:** It's not fair.

**ADOLPHUS:** You may be forgiven, but sin has a price. Somebody has to pay it.

**ROBERT:** I thought the price was paid for on the cross.

**ADOLPHUS:** In a sense, it was...but I was talking in a different context.

**ROBERT:** I don't understand.

**ADOLPHUS:** Ok, let me just say it. It does matter what people think. Just be prepared for what is coming.

*Pause.*

**LIGHTS FADE**

## SCENE 2

### LIGHTS UP

Setting: Church Auditorium

*Young people file in one by one. Marsha stands as leader of the group holding a script in her hand that she scans through.*

**MARSHA:** This script is really good. Who wrote it?

**ROGER:** It was bought online.

**MARSHA:** We couldn't find someone in the church to write our Easter Play?

**ROGER:** Everyone is busy...and the person who normally writes it is...indisposed.

*Pause.*

**MARSHA:** Are you talking about Jennifer?

**PAUL:** Let's not talk about Jennifer.

**MARSHA:** You guys don't know, do you?

**ROGER:** Know what?

**MARSHA:** That is why you young people should come to church meetings.

**PAUL:** We get enough lectures at school.

**MARSHA:** But you miss vital information and announcements.

**PAUL:** Like what?

*Jennifer enters and sits with the others. The room falls silent, some stare, some try not to.*

*Robert enters and also finds a seat. Others stare, most look very uncomfortable.*

**MARSHA:** Welcome Jen and Robert. I guess now we can begin.

*Roger half lifts his hand.*

**MARSHA:** You have a question, Roger?

**ROGER:** Just a small one, and I guess others may have the same question as well...but will our sister and brother here be in the Easter Play?

*Pause.*

**MARSHA:** I assume it's the reason they are here at rehearsal.

**ROGER:** But they are no longer a part of the church.

**JEN:** You're talking about me as if I am not even here.

**MARSHA:** Hold it. Let's not get in an uproar ok. We are adults, so let's handle this like adults. Roger, why would you think they are not a part of the church?

**ROGER:** Well...because...they, uhm...you know....(*clasps and entwines his fingers*)...you know.

**MARSHA:** I don't know what all that means.

*Pause.*

**PAUL:** They sinned.

**MARSHA:** And we have never committed a sin?

**ROGER:** It's not going to show like their sin.

*Marsha sighs.*

**ROBERT:** A lot of you here are just as guilty as we are.

**ROGER:** Even if that was true, it's not going to show.

**MARSHA:** It was decided at the meeting last night that if they choose to participate they can.

**ROGER:** No one opposed?

**MARSHA:** Well it seems that those who would have were not at the meeting.

**ROGER:** When is the next meeting?

**MARSHA:** Three months from now. It's a quarterly meeting.

**ROGER:** I don't think I will feel comfortable in this play with them, knowing they have transgressed God's sacred laws.

**JEN:** God has forgiven us.

**ROGER:** You think forgiveness is an overnight thing?

**MARSHA:** It is.

*Pause.*

**ROGER:** So you are condoning what they did?

**MARSHA:** Not in the least, but I am not their judge. It's not like all the other cases like this that I have known. They openly confessed and ask to be forgiven of God and their church family.

**ROGER:** And we think we should just let them off so easy?

**PAUL:** What's to stop other young people from doing what they did, and just continue on in the church business as usual?

**ROGER:** They should be given a leave of absence from this church, and banned from all ministries.

**PAUL:** It will reflect badly on the church.

**MARSHA:** Sanballat and Tobias. Are you done?

*Pause.*

**ROGER:** What did you call us?

**MARSHA:** You heard me.

**PAUL:** Seriously Marsha. You of all people.

*Roger stands.*

**ROGER:** Well...I see some favoritism here with Robert being a Minister's son and all, so I will just leave it. But there is no way I am taking part in the drama ministry side by side with these sinners.

*Roger leaves.*

**PAUL:** I think he speaks for most of us.

*Paul leaves.*

*A few others leave...eventually only Marsha, Jennifer, and Robert remain.*

**ROBERT:** That went well.

*Jennifer breaks down in tears. Marsha hugs her.*

**MARSHA:** I imagine this must be very hard for the two of you, but you must stand your ground. In some sense, we still haven't learnt what forgiveness is.

**JENNIFER:** Yes, but we have always had an Easter Play here. It's not fair that because us, there will not be one.

**ROBERT:** Maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all.

**MARSHA:** Let's pray about it.

*They bow their heads...*

**LIGHTS FADE**