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BABYLON AND THE BRIDE

An Original Stage play

By

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LIST OF 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

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

LIVING/DINING ROOM SETTING WITH EXITS LEADING OUT TO KITCHEN, UPSTAIRS AND BEDROOMS

Monica (late 30's), Shawn (early 40's) and Nicole (Mid teens) gather at CS, sitting in 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 much days off from those vile and evil...

MONICA

Honey...

SHAWN

...lovely, angelic children we are privilege 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 really 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 blackberry.

SHAWN

We have six days to Christmas and we haven't done anything in a while as a family. So I was thinking 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.

SHAWN

Okay, so what can we do together as a family.

NICOLE

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 really need to get some sleep.

NICOLE

I really need to go.

SHAWN

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

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

NICOLE

Hi Malcolm.

SHAWN

Did she just 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 its 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 its me. We need another car.

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.

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

Its 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