



THE HEART OF A CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

Written by us, inspired by Jesus

Finding Love

A Modern-Day Retelling Based On The Book Of Ruth

Original Stage play

By

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CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

MAHLON	In his mid to late twenties. Naomi's son. Ruth's husband.
CHILION	In his late twenties. Naomi's son. Orpah's husband.
NAOMI	The matriarch of the family. An older woman, proud of her sons.
RUTH	Mahlon's widow. A young woman in her early to mid twenties. She's loyal and faithful to her husband's family.
ORPAH	Chilion's widow. In her mid to late twenties. She's close to Naomi and Ruth.
BOAZ	In his mid thirties. A successful business man. Naomi's nephew.
JOB	In his mid twenties. A friend of Boaz's. Likes to party and is fond of the ladies.
MARTHA	A friend of Naomi's.
VOICE OF GOD	The Lord. Speaks to Ruth when she needs it the most.
JUDITH	An old friend of Naomi's.
ELIZABETH	A family member of Naomi's.
UNCLE DAVID	Boaz's uncle.
SUSAN	A sassy receptionist who works at Boaz's office.

(5 Males | 7 Females | Plus Extras – 60-90 Minutes)

SETTING

The stage is split into two different scenes: Naomi's house and Boaz's office. Naomi's house switches to Naomi's apartment once they have moved to Bethlehem. Boaz's office stays the same and is split into a lobby area and the actual office itself.

TIME

The present.

ACT I

SCENE 1

(NAOMI's house. It is an elegant, stylish, and modern house featuring a large table that has been the setting of many family gatherings. The entrance to the kitchen is at stage left, the kitchen itself being offstage. At stage right, is a small family room area.)

(As the lights go up, we see NAOMI, MAHLON, RUTH, ORPAH, and CHILION seated at the table. NAOMI sits at the head of the table, dressed in an elegant black dress. Beside her is MAHLON. His wife, RUTH, sits beside him, at the center seat of the table. ORPAH sits beside RUTH. Next to ORPAH, at the opposite end of the table from his mother, is CHILION. They are all dressed in their Sunday best and are at the end of a delicious Sunday dinner.)

MAHLON

It's been a whole year since Dad passed.

CHILION

I still can't believe it. It seems like it was just yesterday.

NAOMI

He would have been so proud of both of you, Chilion and Mahlon. At how you've both stepped up to fill his shoes in his absence, leading our family.

CHILION

We're only following his example.

MAHLON

It's what he would have wanted.

NAOMI

I honestly don't know what I would do without all four of you. I don't think I'd have made it through the past year. I've been so incredibly blessed. Both of my sons are strong, accomplished men. And both of my daughters-in-law are loving and kind.

(To RUTH and ORPAH.)

Ruth and Orpah, whatever did I do to deserve having the two of you in my life?

RUTH

Oh Naomi, you've done everything for us. You gave birth to our husbands. You raised them to be the men that they are today. And then you welcomed both of us into your family, just as if we'd always been there.

ORPAH

Not every mother-in-law is like you, Naomi.

NAOMI

Well, you two are like the daughters I never had.

RUTH

You've been such a blessing to us.

ORPAH

And we love you, just as if you were our own mother.

NAOMI

Do you know what I would love? What would make me feel even more blessed than I already do?

RUTH

What's that?

NAOMI

If some grandchildren would come along.

(They all laugh.)

ORPAH

Hopefully sometime soon, Naomi.

NAOMI

Sometime soon? I feel like I've been waiting forever. You kids can get on that any day now.

(They laugh again. MAHLON and CHILION appear to be forcing themselves to laugh along with the women.)

RUTH

(Standing up.)

I'm going to go do these dishes now.

ORPAH

(Stands up and starts clearing dishes.)

I'll help.

(NAOMI rises. RUTH and ORPAH try to gesture for her to sit back down, but she ignores them.)

RUTH

We've got it, Naomi.

ORPAH

Yeah. Just sit down and relax. You were saying your back was hurting earlier.

RUTH

Plus, you did most of the cooking.

NAOMI

I can help, girls. You don't need to treat me like an invalid. I may be old, but I'm not that old.

(They all laugh. NAOMI, RUTH, and ORPAH clear off the table and go off to the kitchen. We can hear them laughing and chatting from offstage as they do the dishes. MAHLON and CHILION rise and move into the family room.)

MAHLON

Chilion, I've got something I feel I need to share with you. Something I need to ask you to do for me.

CHILION

What's that?

MAHLON

I've been having this dream lately. Well, I don't really think it's a dream either. More like a...

CHILION

A vision?

MAHLON

Yeah. Kind of like that. A vision of discernment.

CHILION

That's really weird, man. Because I've been having the same kind of dream or vision or whatever it is too.

MAHLON

Really?

CHILION

Yeah. But go on. We'll talk about mine in a minute. What happens in this vision?

MAHLON

It's like, I'm standing in a field. And Ruth and Mom are on one side. And Dad is on the other. And then there's this bright light with Dad. And I hear this voice. Only I can't make out the words. It's like I'm being called home.

(CHILION gets really quiet.)

CHILION

I've had that same dream. Except I'm there, in your place. And Orpah is there in Ruth's place.

MAHLON

What?

CHILION

It's like the Lord has laid it on my heart to get everything in order, because I'll be joining Dad soon.

MAHLON

That's what I was thinking. Which was why I wanted to talk to you. To ask you to make sure Mom and Ruth would be okay.

CHILION

And I was gonna ask you to make sure Mom and Orpah would be okay.

MAHLON

Only if we've both had this vision, this discernment, it means...

CHILION

That the girls will be left alone.

(They both fall quiet. Not really sure what to say.)

CHILION

I hope that they'll be okay.

MAHLON

They will, I think. With the Lord's help they will be okay.

ACT I

SCENE 2

(BOAZ's office. The office is divided into two portions. A door divides the two sections. At stage right is a lobby area, where his RECEPTIONIST sits next to the door. At center stage is an executive's desk that sits in the middle of the room. A perpetual stack of papers sits on top of the desk. A couple of large, leather chairs sit to one side of the desk, so that visitors have a place to sit.)

(It is late at night. The waiting room area is empty and dark. A dim light illuminates Boaz's private office area. BOAZ is hard at work, typing furiously away at his computer's keyboard. BOAZ wears a neatly tailored business suit. JOB enters the lobby, his necktie untied and draped around his neck. He carries his suit jacket in one hand. He crosses through the lobby and goes to BOAZ'S door. He knocks on the door.)

BOAZ

(He doesn't look up from his computer and continues working as he answers.)

Come in.

(JOB opens the door and comes in.)

JOB

I'm heading out for the night, Boaz. You coming?

BOAZ

(Sounding upset.)

I'm still working on this account.

JOB

What's wrong?

BOAZ

I just got bad news.

JOB

Bad news? I think you've had enough bad news lately. With your cousin Chilion dying last week and everything.

BOAZ
Well it's even worse.

JOB
How?

BOAZ
His brother, Mahlon passed away today.

JOB
That's terrible, man. Terrible.

BOAZ
It is. I feel so bad for my Aunt Naomi. In just a little over a year she's lost her husband and now her only sons.

JOB
I'm sorry for your losses, man.

BOAZ
Thanks.

JOB
(JOB sprawls out on one of the chairs.)
Hey. I just got an idea.

BOAZ
What?

JOB
Why don't you come out with me and take your mind off of stuff. Go to the club. Get a drink or two.

BOAZ
I think I'm just going to stay here and get some work done.

JOB
Working isn't going to solve all your problems.

BOAZ
No. But I like working.

JOB
That's all you've done since Miriam broke up with you. It's been two years. Time to move on and get a life. I can even call up a lady friend of mine. I think you'd like her. She's pretty fine.