

The Trial of the Saints

The Original Stageplay



La Tasha Shelton

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Publication of this play indicates its availability for performance.

ISBN-13: 978-1987432596

ISBN-10: 1987432592

Published by:



www.hcpbookpublishing.com

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Characters

THE SAINT

Name: Mercedes. She is dressed in conservative clothes and wears a hat to match. She is a Missionary, devoted church member, mother, wife, and a Christian who stands for what she believes in.

THE SINNER

Name: Angie. She dresses provocatively (as if she left a club to come to church). She takes the phrase, ‘*Come just as you are*’ out of context. She is a single mother of 2 boys, drinks occasionally, struggles with accepting Christ as her Lord and Saviour, attend church on Easter, Christmas and the New Year.

THE GOSSIPER

Name: Tiffany. She dresses semi-provocative and doesn’t believe she has any issues. She is a Choir member, but loves to spread other people’s business throughout the church while ignoring her own issues. She is secretly working as a call girl to pay off her debts.

THE LIAR *Name: Candace.* She dresses casually but uses the lies she tells to draw others into believing they are true. She sprays mint in her mouth to hide the smell of alcohol and weed. She is a pathological liar who barely attends church.

THE COMPLAINER *Name: Ashley.* The Pretender. She is blinded by her life's struggles. She dresses normally. She can't see what the Lord is doing in her life because she is blinded by what she encounters around her daily. She complains about the church, life, job, and church family. She hops from church to church.

THE WORRIER *Name: Lexus.* Big time Evangelist who dresses well and lives a perfect life before the eyes of others, but behind closed doors, her life is in turmoil. She prophesies over anyone who needs a word from God, and she is married to a Minister who is unfaithful to God and his wife. Pretends her life is perfect.

THE BUSYBODY *Name: Judy.* The Bragger. Dresses casually. Loves to brag about all her

accomplishments. Rejoices when she notices others becoming jealous. Attends church regularly just to brag. Has time for everything, but the God she is supposed to serve. She is an Usher at the church. Her life is based on how much she accomplishes in a 24-hour period. She is constantly on the go, has time for everything but God, does everything in a hurry.

THE ADULTERER

Name: Nicey. The Temptress. Dresses very provocative. Attends church regularly. She is in a relationship with the Pastor who is married. They have one child together that the wife knows nothing about. She wants to be married to the Pastor but knows that it is not going to happen. She has another child with another Pastor from another church. She attends church on a consistent basis in the hope of one day replacing the Pastor's current wife.

PASTOR

(Small Role) He can also play Jesus, Satan or Holy Spirit. He is

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husband to Lexus, but is having
an affair with Nicey.

JESUS

Judge.

HOLY SPIRIT

Witness.

SATAN

Accuser of the Brethren.

NARRATOR

(Small Role at the end)

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Setting

There will be two settings.

SCENE 1: Baptist Church – Southern Arkansas.

SCENE 2: A Courtroom

A Church setting is needed first. This is where all the issues present themselves. Several people appear at different times during the play.

A Courtroom setting will be used last. There will be a Judge (Jesus), Holy Spirit (witness) and the Accuser (Satan).

The Story

The Trial of the Saints begins at Church, for it is the church where the judgment of God begins. We are introduced to eight women, living messed up lives, while serving in their church.

Eventually, they find themselves in a courtroom, standing before the Judge. An accusation is made against them, and the Holy Spirit speaks as a witness to what they are accused of. The defendants will have to plead their case before the Judge. If found guilty, they will either go to hell or given another chance to make it right. *What will the final verdict be?*

About The Playwright

La Tasha Shelton is the Author of '*Relapsing: Remitting Multiple Sclerosis*' and '*Strength Through the Storm.*' She was born and raised in North Little Rock, Arkansas and Little Rock, Arkansas to Tommy Shelton and Lizzie Shelton. She is a graduate of Little Rock Central High School, Remington College (Medical Assisting Diploma) and Pulask Technical College (Associate of Science Degree). She is currently a Child Care Teacher at Sylvan Hills Methodist Church in Sherwood, Arkansas. She has three sons; Jaylin, Joshua and Justin, one sister; Renetta Shelton, one niece; Destiny and one nephew; Gerron. She resides in Jacksonville, Arkansas with her fiancée Phillip Jordan.

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Play Details

Length: 60-70 Minutes

Cast: 8 Females, 5 Males

Genre: Contemporary Courtroom Drama

The Script



SCENE 1

Setting: Church. The interior of the church is to the back of the stage with a podium and some chairs. This scene takes place outside the interior, though people are coming and going.

Mercedes, the Saint, is standing outside the church. She is adjusting her church attire.

There's a non-believer passing by, shaking his/her head at the Saint.

A HOMELESS MAN is sitting outside the Church. He begs from everyone who passes.

MERCEDES: *(while checking herself)* I have to make sure I am well put together before entering this Church. I have a lot of people to impress. I can't allow the members of this congregation to see me not together.

ANGIE, the SINNER, enters and walks over to Mercedes.

ANGIE: Hey. How yah doing? I thought you weren't coming back to church after that falling out between you and Tiffany.

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MERCEDES: Tiffany does not own this church, let alone the clothes on her back. This here church is my home, and I am not going to allow satan to run me up out of it.

ANGIE: Didn't mean to offend you, but I just wanted to make sure that you are okay. I will see you inside the church.

MERCEDES: Okay. I'll be inside in a minute, and sure, thanks for checking up on me.

Mercedes proceeds to adjust her attire.

ANGIE: *(hands on hips)* You need to stop checking your clothes. God don't want you to be proud. He wants your heart, not your mouth or your fist. Now come on in this church before I have a fit.

MERCEDES: *(smiling)* Okay, okay. I surrender. Lead the way, Angie.

Mercedes and Angie share a hug, as they enter the church.

TIFFANY, the GOSSIPPER, enters, watches as Mercedes and Angie go into the church. She has a displeased expression on her face.

TIFFANY: I can't believe Mercedes dares to show her face up in church after that altercation we had at the Pastor's

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Anniversary celebration. I didn't know why she was so eager to fight me in the first place.

Walks out to the edge of the stage, as if talking to the audience.

TIFFANY: Imagine that. It wasn't even her man, nor her place to get upset with me for spreading the business of another church member. Some people don't know how to mind their own business. Besides. I wasn't causing too many problems. I was only spreading what I heard in hopes that maybe someone would tell the person and keep who they got the information from a secret. That sounds like a good plan, right? *(points at an audience member)* You would have done the same thing. *(thinks)* Who knew that Mercedes would overhear me and react in such a way. I didn't know Angie was her friend. She shouldn't shoot the messenger but should have shot her friend for living an openly sinful life to begin with. Besides, I didn't tell the man's name. She had no right embarrassing me like that. *(pause to think)* I guess it's true, 'What is done in the dark, must come to light.' Maybe my gossipping ways have deceived me once again. Next time I have to be more careful.

CANDACE, the LIAR, enters.

Candace sees Tiffany and hurries past her and into the church.

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Tiffany deliberately follows behind her.

CANDACE: *(enters the interior of the church where others are sitting)* Good morning, good morning.

TIFFANY: Candace, I need to talk to you.

CANDACE: *(turns to face Tiffany)* Yes, Tiffany. What do you have to talk to me about?

TIFFANY: I wanted to let you know that I know your real life story.

Everyone turns to look in their direction. Tiffany shushes Candace and candidly shoves her outside the church.

CANDACE: Why are you so concerned about my life Tiffany? Don't you have some gossip to spread?

TIFFANY: I do, and it's all about you. I wanted to know why you have to lie about your life all the time. Why can't you be who you are? Why all the secrets and cover up? Don't you know that God loves you, no matter what?

CANDACE: I know God loves me. I just thought He would love me more if I was someone else. Anyways, why am I explaining myself to you? You are not as perfect as you pretend to be, Tiffany.

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TIFFANY: I know I am not perfect Candace. Anyone who knows me knows that. But what differs me from you is that I am willing to face up to my imperfections. Can you?

CANDACE: Whatever, Tiffany. I do not have to prove anything to you. You are not God, nor my friend. So, get out of face before it goes down in the house of God. Let's see who will deliver you from this beating.

TIFFANY: I'm not going to fight you, Candace. It's not the time nor the place. But in due time, all will be revealed. Then we will see who would deliver you.

CANDACE: Tiffany, this is a small church. Eight women and you'll pretend as if you are perfect. Yes, we are all faithful churchgoers, and have our different ministries to run, but there is mess in all our lives. Nobodies perfect.

TIFFANY: One day, you're gonna stand before God, the Judge, for all the crap you do.

CANDACE: After you!

Tiffany swiftly turns aside, and goes into the church, leaving Candace with a confused look on her face. She follows after Tiffany.

CANDACE: Now, just wait a minute...

ASHLEY enters.

ASHLEY: I cannot believe what I just heard. Tiffany and Candace should be ashamed of themselves coming into the house of God with all their drama. Some things you don't do in the presence of God.

NICEY enters.

NICEY: Good morning, Ashley! Hope all is well with you.

ASHLEY: All is well. How's everything going for you?

NICEY: Everything is on the up and up. The Pastor just bought me a condo and a Mercedes Benz as a gift for giving him a son.

ASHLEY: Don't you feel a little bit guilty for disgracing our church and our first lady?

NICEY: *(defensively)* Say what?

ASHLEY: I'm not judging you, just trying to get you to see the bigger picture.

NICEY: *(with an attitude)* No, I don't feel guilty. I did not approach him; he approached me --- talking about how he was not getting what he needs from his wife. I just made their

marriage better. Who would have thought that I would fall in love with him? Not only do we have a child together, but now I have to conceal my feelings for him. I don't know if I should tell the First Lady or go to my grave with this information.

ASHLEY: I feel guilty for allowing you to let me get involved in this mess. It's causing all kinds of problems in my relationship with God. I believe I'm missing out on blessings because I chose to keep your little secret.

NICEY: You're supposed to be my friend. How could you even consider telling my secret? If you do, you would have proved to me that you are not a real friend.

ASHLEY: Say whatever you want. It still doesn't change the fact that you have sinned badly. I know we all sin, but to convene with the First Lady like nothing happened is a disgrace before God. You will have to answer for what you have done to this family, as well as the Pastor who preaches every Sunday on the downfall of a sinful man but cheats on his wife in secret. You two should be ashamed.

Ashley shakes her head and exits.

Nicey watches her go, an incredulous look on her face.