

ACCUSED

An Original Skit

By

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

High Priest - Marky
 Servant One - Carly
 Servant Two - Baker
 Jesus - Marky
 Adulteress One
 Adulteress two
 Crowd - Cass (leader)
 Everyone else

PROP LIST

Crushed papers (stones)
 A rope
 A backpack

COSTUMES

Modern costumes can be used as well as biblical costumes,
 Depending on the director's preference.

SETTING

There's a doorway UPSTAGE-CENTRE representing
 the entrance to the sanctuary.

THE SCRIPT

*A High Priest enters and walks to CS with two
 servants following clumsily behind him. The priest
 carries a knap-sack bag. He stops and looks Up-stage
 with longing eyes. The servants appear very
 troubled.*

SERVANT 1: Why you master?

HIGH PRIEST: It is my turn. I must go.

SERVANT 2: Let me go instead, master. Let me take your
 place.

HIGH PRIEST: This is something I must do...alone. No one
 can arbitrate for me.

SERVANT 1: I'm willing to go master...even if...

HIGH PRIEST: ...Even if you die?

SERVANT 1: Yes!

HIGH PRIEST: No!

SERVANT 2: Please master...the church needs you, but we
 are expendable.

HIGH PRIEST: You don't understand.

The servants hang their heads.

HIGH PRIEST: But One day you will.

*He opens the bag and retrieves a length of rope.
 This he hands to one of the servants.*

HIGH PRIEST: You know what to do.

Servants tie the rope around the High Priest's ankle. They stand aside holding one end of the rope and watch their master as he disappears through the sanctuary entrance.

A couple enters from offstage. They hold hands laughing and talking as lovers do. They walk to Stage Left and, face to face, they continue their conversation oblivious to the servants not far away.

Suddenly, a crowd rushes in unexpectedly carrying stones. The couple separates in fear as a circle is formed around the woman as they prepare to stone her to death.

SERVANT 1: Wait...stop...hold on!

CROWD: What?!?

SERVANT 1: What are you doing?

LEADER: What does it look like we're doing. Mind your own business man.

SERVANT 2: You can't stone this woman.

CROWD: Why not?

LEADER: You know the law. All adulterers must die.

SERVANT 2: You have no proof she's an adulterer.

The crowd pushes the man forward. He appears extremely afraid.

LEADER: Talk up, boy. Is this woman an adulterer or not.

The scared man just nods and is quickly shoved aside. He bolts off-stage.

LEADER: Case closed. Now if you'll excuse us, we have work to do!

SERVANT 2: Wait...

CROWD: What?!?

SERVANT 2: The high priest went into the holy of holys as a mediator for our sins.

CROWD: Soooo?

SERVANT 2: So automatically this woman is cleansed from her sins.

LEADER: You fail to understand. Even if, by chance, your priest makes it out alive, there is still the law and the law says an adulterer must die.

MEMBER: So leave us so we can administer justice. And if you try to interfere again we stone the both of you for aiding and abetting a known criminal.

They push the servants to one side and laughingly stone the woman to death.

A cell phone rings.

LEADER: Hello!

He listens. His face brightens.

LEADER: Yes man!!

He hangs up.

LEADER: *(to crowd)* They caught another one further up the road.

The screaming crowd rush offstage. Servants weep at the death of yet another human being.

SERVANT 2: This doesn't make sense.

SERVANT 1: We need something more.

Servants look US. They pull on the rope. Nothing.

SERVANT 1: Do you think he's dead?

SERVANT 2: I hope not. Four died last week.

Jesus enters. He stands between the servants, a beautiful and radiating smile on his face.

JESUS: Hey?

Servants are startled. It takes a little while before they could speak.

SERVANT 2: Who are you?

JESUS: Jesus....of Nazareth!

SERVANT 1: What are you doing here?

JESUS: I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.

SERVANTS: What?!?

JESUS: I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

SERVANTS: Oh my God!!!!

SERVANT 2: You are the messiah.

JESUS: I am as you say.

Look at the woman lying motionless on stage.

SERVANT 1: Oh lord...if you had come sooner, this poor woman would not have died.

JESUS: *(smiles)* She's not dead...just sleeping.

Noise breaks through the atmosphere from offstage. The crowd re-enters dragging another woman screaming and begging for her life.

LEADER: Thought you'd still be here. (*Looks US*) Your priest don't come out yet?

Crowd laughs.

LEADER: We want you to see us administer justice on yet another sexual criminal.

SERVANT 1: Please...don't...please

LEADER: Ahh...makes it even sweeter watching you grovel like a sissy.

CROWD: Sissy, sissy, sissy...

MEMBER: Let me cast the first stone..! (*raises his hand*)

JESUS: Hold on!?!

Members hand stop in mid air.

LEADER: Who are you?

JESUS: I am!

MEMBER: No use begging for her life. She's already dead.

JESUS: You're going to stone this woman to death?

LEADER: Obviously.

JESUS: Why?

MEMBER: Because she has sinned. The wages of sin is...

CROWD: Death!

JESUS: Then let he who is without sin, cast the first stone.

The crowd considers. The smiles on their faces slowly fade as they examine their inner self. The stones fall from their hands one by one as they walk away from the scene until no member of the crowd remains.

Jesus walks over to the woman and takes her hand. She hugs him. The servants walk over, their mouth still wide open from what they just witnessed. They bow before their Lord. Jesus takes the rope from the servant's hand.

JESUS: No need for this anymore...I am here!!

He drops the rope and they exit.

BLACKOUT.