

Destiny by Cleveland McLeish

D E S T I N Y

Original Stage Play

By

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**LIGHTS UP...**

*Jenny gets out of bed and sits on the side of the bed...her eyes are still half shut.... She stands up and walks to a chair at a nearby table....she sits...she thinks....she realizes that her feelings are the same as the day before...God has done nothing to change the way she feels....she talks to him....*

**JENNY:** *(smiles at the thought)* Tell me, Lord...How hard is it for you, huh? Moses only asked you once and you let him see you....why are you hiding from me? You refuse to even show yourself in my dreams. *(pause, heavy sigh)* Oh, What's the use..!

*She gets up and exits, but re-enters quickly, realizing that the bible was sitting on the table before her.*

*She stops a little way from the table. She just stands there staring at it.*

*She goes to the table, picks it up and opens it.*

**JENNY:** *(reads)* Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name....*(Psalms 97: 12)*

*She slams the bible shut.*

**JENNY:** *(fake laugh)* You're funny, God. *(pause)* Don't you see my tears anymore Lord...don't you care? How can I possibly rejoice feeling like this? Why are you always so silent? Where is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...the God who used to answer when men called you by name? Where are you? I am sorry if my prayer is not the way you like it...but you...you still don't listen, even when it is. Ahh!

*She exits.*

*She re-enters.*

**JENNY:** Tell me Lord...if my life is like this now...today....where will I be tomorrow, huh? Care to share that little info with me so I can have something to look forward to. A future perhaps...maybe, my destiny even!

*Silence.*

**JENNY:** Uhm. The sweet sound of silence.

*She dons her robe...ties it at the front....reaches for her guitar...*

*She sings....*

*She exits....comes back with a cup of tea.*

*She listens to her voice messages (pre-recorded) as she sips from the cup.*

*(beep)*

**MOTHER'S VOICE:** Hi Jen...this is your mother...I'm sorry you had to be there last night when...you know, your father and I...well, it wasn't really an argument...it...

**JENNY:** *(rolls her eyes)* ...was an argument.

**MOTHER'S VOICE:** I admit it was a bit loud....and you may have been embarrassed...but it happens sometimes. (pause) I don't really want to talk about this over the phone...hopefully I won't have to work late tonight...so later...if you're still up when I get home. Bye. Love you.

*(click)*

*(beep)*

**MOTHER'S VOICE:** Me again. I don't want you to be worried too much...whatever is happening between me and your father....just don't worry about it....God knows best....and...well, later.

*(click)*

*Jenny retrieves some files and sit at the table rummaging through the Paperwork.*

*(beep)*

**MARIE'S VOICE:** Why won't you answer the phone girl? We need to talk. Call me back, okay.

*(click)*

*(beep)*

**PAUL'S VOICE:** Hey babe...I'm sorry I stood you up last night...but you know how it is. Anyway, I really wanted to make it up to you tonight. We have some things to talk about. But, I have to work...so...*(pause)*...call me. Oh, oh...by the way I left a letter in your precious bible. I hope you already found it. We'll talk about it later.

*(click)*

*(beep)*

*(beep)*

*(phone rings)*

*Jenny considers before answering it.*

**JENNY:** Hello.

*Pause.*

**JENNY:** Yes sir...I have the file before me right....sir....yes sir.....yes, I plan to have the contract ready today.....I'm....sir, ...I.....yes sir, twelve noon.....yes sir.....*(bites her lips and continues to listen)*.....

*(hangs up)*

*She almost throws the phone against the wall but decides against it.*

*Bows her head in exasperation.*

**JENNY:** I hate that man.

*Looks up to Heaven.*

**JENNY:** Is this your will for my life....this constant hell? Is this how you want me to live? *(pause)* An answer would be good.....oh the Bible! Okay. You speak to your children through the word. Alright.

*Goes for a bible.*

**JENNY:** Let's see what you have to say.

*Opens the bible and points her finger.*

*The words cut deep into her soul.*

**JENNY:** *(reads)* Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may be blameless and pure.....*(Philippians 2)*

*Tears come to her eyes as she considers these words.*

**JENNY** *(closes bible)* I guess I have been a little ungrateful.

*She falls to her knees in prayer.*

**JENNY:** I never meant to hurt you, Lord. All I want is your attention and it hurts not feeling you....not hearing you and yet you're there. How is it possible to believe something I can't see or touch? How do I fall in love with you? How do I interact with you? Teach me these things; Lord...I am willing to learn.

*She stays there for a beat.*

*A song comes to her heart and she sings.*

*At the end of the song, she resumes her work...but something Keeps drawing her eyes to the bible sitting at the end of the Table.*

*She reaches for it a few times, but decides against it.*

*(phone rings)*

**JENNY:** What? Oh, hi Grace.....no, I'm actually working.....not a good idea. I really wanted to go to Bible Study tonight.....what?....hello....I'm a Christian remember....what do you mean 'so.' Hey, I was having a bad enough day...this is just not the time. What?.....Did Paul tell you that....What? Listen.....What? No.....We are engaged to be married...he wouldn't do that.....I said.....aren't you engaged to James....? My God....

*Jenny throws down the phone.*

*She cannot sit still as the adrenaline pumps through her veins.*

*She paces back and forth.*

*Remembering something she goes to her bible and flips clumsily through the pages.*

*She finds a letter. She tears it open and reads.*

**JENNY:** My dearest Jen...I am sorry, but there are just some things I have been unable to say face to face. I do love you....but love is not enough sometimes....it seems, anyway...I've made some mistakes and I hope you'll be able to forgive me....someday...it's just that...I'm just not so sure we're.....right for each other.....*(Jenny breaks down again)*

*She tears the letter and throws it away.*

*She picks up the phone and dials and waits.*

**JENNY:** Don't 'hey babe me'.....why are you doing this to me....of course I wanted you to be honest....but.....What? No, no...I don't want to hear it....I gave you everything you bastard. I gave you my body....isn't that sacrifice enough....what? you little.....

*Removes the phone from her ears and try to regain control.*

**JENNY:** *(puts the phone to her ears)* I am a Christian, Paul. I put that on the line just to please you and you went and slept with Grace....she's

engaged for god's sake. You are engaged! What kind of man are you?...Don't....

*Jenny bites her lips and hangs up.*

*The phone starts ringing again.*

*Jenny goes to her desk and tries to work....but her mind is not  
At peace.*

*The phone continues to ring as*

**LIGHTS FADE....**

**LIGHTS UP....**

*Jenny is on the phone.*

**JENNY:** Yeah, I just sent it off by courier...no he hasn't called me back and I don't want him to call. Marie...I think I've shed enough tears in one lifetime....I just....I fear tomorrow...it's like, who is going to hurt me tomorrow....which close relative or friend of mine is going to die tomorrow...these things bother me, Marie.... I don't think I'm being paranoid.....okay, maybe a little....I do trust God....but I don't think we're on speaking terms right now.....because....conversation is defined as interaction between two or more people....yes I read the bible.....occasionally...

*Jenny looks across to the bible sitting on the table.*

**JENNY:** It's a scary little book....it just sits there and stares at me all day and says nothing....I'm not so sure that's a good substitute for the voice of the Lord.....girl are you training to be a preacher.....then stop preaching to me. I am already a Christian remember.....no, that's in the past....oh please..... I'm trying to embrace my destiny....only, I don't know what it is.....yes I can sing....dance....yes I can, well I think I can...but I hate teaching....yes....yes, sure, okay, later. Bye!

*Jenny hangs up.*

*She considers.*

*She puts on some music and does a dance.*

*At the end of the dance she considers even more. Sees the bible and Opens it.*

*She reads.*

**LIGHTS FADE....**

**LIGHTS UP....**

*Jenny enters from work.*

*She lays her suitcase down and goes to the fridge. She takes out a Soda. When she closes the door, her eyes catch a note taped to it.*

*Jenny pulls off the note and reads.*

**JENNY:** Sorry honey, have to work late again tonight, yadada, yadada...

*She's about to throw away the note when her eyes catch the last paragraph.*

*She reads it.*

**JENNY:** What..?

*The soda falls from her hands.*

*She remains inanimate and in shock.*

**JENNY:** A divorce?

*She finds the strength to go sit at the table.*

**JENNY:** This is not happening. They can't be getting a divorce. For what? A few arguments. *(pause)* I have to call Dad. I need to know what is happening.

*Jenny takes the phone and dials.*

**JENNY:** My perfect world is falling apart.

*She listens as the phone rings but no one answers.*

*She dials another number and listens. She is now very close to tears.*

*No answer.*

*She dials another number.*

**JENNY:** C'mon Marie...I need my best friend right now.

*Still no answer.*

*She throws the phone against the wall and it smashes.*

*Now Jenny totally breaks down.*

**JENNY:** Why? Is this my destiny, Lord....pain, heart break....does it ever stop?

*She cries uncontrollably.*

**LIGHTS OUT...**

**LIGHTS UP...**

*Jenny is alone. She stands at a window, with arms folded, staring outside.*

*There is now a bottle of pills next to the bible with a glass of water.*

*A choice.*

*The (new) phone is ringing off the hook, but Jenny has no intention of Answering it.*

*Her eyes are swollen from crying.*

*She goes to the table and sits.*

*She separates the bible from the bottle of pills.*

*She looks across the room at her guitar leaning against the wall.*

*She finds a notepad and pen. She writes...*

**JENNY:** Life is a choice. We all have our own decisions to make...but occasionally our choices may fall on common ground. I had a classmate once who committed suicide. No one understood why she did it as she seemed so very happy...but now I see through her eyes. Her parents had died in a car accident and she had very little friends...the few she had didn't care much about her when she was not in sight. I know. I was one of her friends.

*Pause. Deep reflection. Writes more.*

**JENNY:** I only loved her when I saw her. *(pause)* Fancy that! *(pause)* My mother was encouraged to have an abortion when I was conceived. Her parents wanted to protect their Christian reputation by covering the sins of their unmarried daughter. My mother ran away with me. *(smiles)* Funny how that worked out. She believes that I'm destined for greatness and yet, all I see in my future is loneliness and pain. *(pause)*

*Jenny looks at the bible, then at the pills.*

**JENNY:** I guess the only question that remains is...'is it worth it?'

*Pause.*

**JENNY:** Some how I think it would be better if I was dead...yet deep down....I can only think of one person who will smile at my death....and.... I'm not much into pleasing him today....

*She takes the note and crushes it up and throws it away....*

*She gets up and turns her eyes to Heaven with her hands open wide.*

**JENNY:** *(shouts)* GOD!!!!.....Are you watching me now?

*She takes the pills and dumps them in a waste basket close by.*

**JENNY:** *(falls to her knees in submission)* I don't know what you have planned for me Lord....and for that I am not able to embrace my destiny....but you Know... and I know you know, so I will embrace the man who knows my Destiny.....

*Sings: 'I will Worship You, Almighty God'*

*More Praise Songs.*

*At the end of the singing....*

*She takes the bible and opens it.*

**JENNY:** *(reads scripture)* Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow... *(Jeremiah 31:13)*

*In tears.*

*She remains animated as the sound of worship rises in the Background.*

*She takes the notepad and sits to write....*

**JENNY:** *(writes)* Dear Reader, I know that a majority of us experience pain throughout our days...and there are some who have gone to the extreme of ending their lives. We struggle with various things throughout our seasons and your cross may not be my cross and often we wish to switch places with people who always seem happy and well in control. I doubt that this exist outside of God's presence. In God's Presence there is peace and joy and fulfilment. Anything outside of that is a decaying illusion.

We hurt because we fail and people around us fail. The imperfections of man will never go away as long as we exist in this world. We can always

expect something completely different in the world to come...but this '*better world*' is prepared only for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, those who have learnt to love...even the one you can't see. Jesus is the only means to true freedom. I am alone as I write this letter and everyone close to me has abandoned me in one way or another....but I've never felt this peaceful in all my life. I am at peace because I realize that no matter what happens around me, no matter the storm...I am safe in the arms of my Lord and he has no imperfections, no inadequacies...so he'll always be perfect and safe. He will never fail, so I can trust him without reservations. He will always exist, so I can live forever. I am alone by human definition, but in the spirit.....I am alright.

*Smiles.*

**BLACKOUT**