



The Heart of a Christian Playwright

Cleveland O. McLeish
I DO!

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SYNOPSIS

Jules is getting married this weekend and her two older and already married sisters have come over to Momma's house to help with the preparations. Coming together may not have been such a good idea as the married couple bring along some baggage that may cause the unmarried to think twice before making this life changing decision.

THE CHARACTERS

Jules

Matt

Momma Terry

Sharon

Sandra

Douglas

John

SETTING

Living room setting with adjoining kitchen (with counter)

THE SCRIPT

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

Enter Grandmother Terry. She walks crooked and with the aid of a walking stick. There is a rocking chair specifically designed for her and placed Stage Left. She makes her way to the chair and sits.

TERRY: (to audience) Howdy! (Waits for a response) This generation has no manners or broughtupsy. When someone says howdy, it is quite in order to respond, so let us try this again. Howdy! (Audience responds) Some of you still don't say anything yet, but Rome was not built in a day. My name is Terry and this is my home. I was married for 50 years to a wonderful man. Notice I said wonderful and not perfect. There is a difference and for any marriage to work, you have to make the distinction. Sammy was his name. He died 3 months ago. We have 3 daughters, two are married and one is getting married this weekend and I have been unsuccessful in teaching them anything about marriage. Why? They see me as 85 five years old and not 85 years wise. My youngest daughter is 30 and you would think she would be smart enough to figure out that I am 55 years wiser than her...but young people these days don't listen to us old folks and so lessons have to be learnt the hard way.

Enter Jules, the younger of the three sisters.

JULES: Momma, I am a mess.

TERRY: What is it Jules?

JULES: Nothing is going right today. The flowers for the wedding came and they delivered the wrong colour. My dress is still at the cleaners, I can't get my hair dresser on her phone and the lady doing the cake is not responding to my calls.

TERRY: Have you stopped to pray.

JULES: I don't have the time to pray Momma. I need to get things in order.

TERRY: And maybe that is why things are going wrong. You should seek God's guidance...

JULES: Momma, with all due respect...I really don't have time for a sermon right now. And why is Sharon and Rose not here yet? This day can't possibly get any worst.

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There is a loud crash coming from the kitchen.

JULES: For crying out loud...

Jules exits.

Sharon and Douglas enters. Sharon drags in a large suitcase while Douglas walks with a Small carry-on.

SHARON: Hi Momma.

DOUGLAS: Momma.

TERRY: Doug, why aren't you being a gentleman and helping your wife with her luggage.

DOUGLAS: She insists that she can manage Momma and you know I do everything to avoid an argument.

SHARON: He always takes no for an answer.

DOUGLAS: Which is why we get along so well.

SHARON: Which is why I wonder which of us wears the pants in this marriage.

DOUGLAS: We both do. Equality...isn't that the message you women like to declare.

SHARON: The bible says the man is the head of the house.

DOUGLAS: I know what the bible says. I am a minister of the gospel.

SHARON: I know dear husband. You quote scriptures, but you don't live it.

DOUGLAS: What is that supposed to mean?

SHARON: You are always at church; always going somewhere to preach. You never say no when asked to preach but you always say no to me.

DOUGLAS: Hey. I did offer to help you carry the bag. You said you were ok.

SHARON: After 25 years of marriage you would think one would learn by now that not all no means no. How about you give me a little of what everybody else gets.

DOUGLAS: Is it that hard to just say what you mean instead of these mind games.

SHARON: It's the law of nature.

DOUGLAS: It's a law of women. A very stupid law.

SHARON: Are you calling me stupid?

DOUGLAS: What are we even arguing about?

Pause.

SHARON: Oh brother. I can't get through to this man Momma.

TERRY: Will you two ever change?

SHARON: Where's my baby sister?

TERRY: Somewhere, driving herself insane.

SHARON: I better go help her.

TERRY: She needs you and she refuses my advice to slow down.

SHARON: Momma, maybe you should try to give advice outside of the context of a sermon.

TERRY: Why is it that every time I talk people think I am preaching.

SHARON: The moment you say, the bible says...you are preaching. Sometimes we pay more attention to the bible than the people we live with. Right Douglas?

DOUGLAS: For a peaceful life....No comment.

TERRY: The bible is as relevant today as it was back in my days.

SHARON: Matter of opinion Momma. Times have changed.

Sharon exits.

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TERRY: You two have been married for 25 years.

DOUGLAS: 24 years, 6 months and 3 days.

TERRY: You must be doing something right to stay together that long when you argue so much.

DOUGLAS: I have learnt all the classy facial expression that says I am listening when in fact I am nowhere in the room. There is one like this (does an expression) with an occasional nod every now and again. Classic stuff. Someone actually wrote a book about it.

TERRY: How are things at home?

DOUGLAS: Good.

TERRY: Really!

Pause.

DOUGLAS: No.

TERRY: You wanna talk about it.

DOUGLAS: No.

Pause.

DOUGLAS: I think it is now a problem that I have a speaking engagement almost every week and the work of the church takes up most of my days.

TERRY: You must never neglect the wife of your youth, Doug. Family comes first. The Bible says so.

DOUGLAS: I am the Pastor of two local churches and we have an ongoing building project where I am also the contractor on that job. Sharon once liked the fact that I was so committed to church and now it's a problem.

TERRY: Have you and Sharon sit down and have a conversation about this?

DOUGLAS: I have tried.

TERRY: Nothing beats communication.

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DOUGLAS: Me and your daughter don't communicate. We just share conflicting thoughts.

Enter Sandra and John.

SANDRA: Hey (hugs Momma and kisses her on the cheek)

John and Douglas bounce fist.

JOHN: Hey Momma.

TERRY: Somebody's glowing.

JOHN: Yeah, it feels good to be on a different road.

DOUGLAS: Oh, I forgot to congratulate you on the big step. (shakes his hand) Welcome to the family of God.

JOHN: Thanks man.

SANDRA: Where are my sisters?

TERRY: Somewhere, going crazy.

SANDRA: I should go join them.

Sandra exits.

JOHN: Momma, who is the lucky man who got Jules eating out of the palm of his hand?

TERRY: Why do you say it like that?

JOHN: Don't be modest Momma. Jules is a tyrant. A gentleman has to come good to get her to agree to marriage.

DOUGLAS: I second that.

TERRY: He will be here later.

JOHN: Set up an appointment Momma. You know we got to screen him to make sure he pure.

TERRY: The idea of him alone in a room with you two is quite scary.

DOUGLAS: Hey, what's the worst that can happen?

TERRY: He might change his mind about getting married to Jules.

DOUGLAS: I said what's the worst that can happen.

JOHN: Somebody need to warn him about the reality of being married.

DOUGLAS: You don't worry Momma. Just set up the appointment. We got this.

JOHN: Yeah, the veterans are in the house.

John and Douglas high fives. Momma rolls her eyes.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Douglas enters with three glasses and a bottle of non-alcoholic wine. He pours into the three glasses.

Matt enters and Douglas gives him a glass.

John follows and takes a glass.

DOUGLAS: What's the verdict?

JOHN: Ladies are out shopping.

DOUGLAS: And Momma.

JOHN: She just took her meds. She is out like a light.

DOUGLAS: So it's just us guys.

JOHN: Yep.

DOUGLAS: Good.

Matt appears a little nervous.

DOUGLAS: So Matt. What is your secret?

MATT: My secret?

DOUGLAS: Yeah, how did you get Jules to agree to marriage? Did you put something in her drink?

MATT: No.

JOHN: Are you blackmailing her in some way? Does she have a nasty little secret that only you are privy to?

MATT: No.

DOUGLAS: What did you do?

MATT: I fasted and prayed that God would send someone suitable.

Long pause.

JOHN: And that worked?

MATT: I guess.

DOUGLAS: We aren't as stupid as we look Matt.

JOHN: Speak for yourself man.

MATT: I don't think you are stupid.

DOUGLAS: People don't fast and pray for love anymore.

MATT: And maybe that's why the divorce rate is so high.

DOUGLAS: So what's your exit strategy?

MATT: What do you mean?

DOUGLAS: You must know Jules is a tyrant. What you gonna do when she starts beating on you?

MATT: She's not going to beat on me.

JOHN: You sound pretty sure of yourself.

MATT: I have no insecurities whatsoever.

Pause.

JOHN: This one got little sense.

DOUGLAS: Sounds like it.

JOHN: Do you have any marriage experience Matt?

MATT: Nope. My first time.

JOHN: My deepest condolences man.

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DOUGLAS: Well we got lots of experience. 25 years under my belt.

JOHN: 10 years for me.

MATT: Happily married?

DOUGLAS: Sometimes...

MATT: Most of the time?

DOUGLAS: I wouldn't say most of the time.

JOHN: Marriage has its challenges.

MATT: I assume two individuals trying to make a life together would have a few hiccups.

DOUGLAS: Hiccups are tolerable. Try random, sporadic spasms.

JOHN: Doug is not very good at expressing his feelings.

MATT: Clearly.

DOUGLAS: So any question you got, we can provide the advice because when it comes to marriage...we are the professional and you are the rookie. Understand.

MATT: Ok. If a man is the head of the house, doesn't that mean the final decision belongs to him?

Pause.

DOUGLAS: Do you have a less complicated question?

MATT: The bible says that we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church and a wife should submit. Does that mean it's not necessary for the wife to love her husband as the husband loves her?

Pause. Douglas drinks and pours some more for himself.

MATT: Are you going to even attempt to answer any of my questions?

DOUGLAS: The bible teaches a lot of stuff that sounds easy in theory. In a more practical sense...it's really difficult and takes a lot of hard work.

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JOHN: Good response.

DOUGLAS: Yeah, I would give that a eight point five.

JOHN: Women have evolved. Equality is the order of the day.

DOUGLAS: The sooner you learn that the quicker you will find some peace. When a woman speaks you don't need to say anything. Just nod your head momentarily and give them the expression cause the moment you answer them...

MATT: We are all Christians here right?

DOUGLAS: Twenty Seven years and a minister of the gospel.

JOHN: Three weeks.

MATT: Do you preach gender equality?

DOUGLAS: I preach the word that a man should be the head.

MATT: And you let your wife rule you off the pulpit?

DOUGLAS: The bible says as far as it is possible live peaceably with all men. I do whatever it takes to be at peace with my wife and sometimes that involves me just shutting up.

MATT: Sometimes?

DOUGLAS: Maybe most of the time.

MATT: A woman should be our help-meet, not boss or servant. She is second to a man.

DOUGLAS: Let us see if you still believe that a few years from now. To see a woman and to live with her is two totally different things. Women and submit can no longer fit in the same sentence.

JOHN: Not even the same paragraph.

DOUGLAS: Women say one thing and mean something totally different. It's like they speak a different language and they expect us to spend all our brain power understanding that language.

MATT: Tell me what it is like being married.

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JOHN: I have been a non-christian for almost all of my marriage so far. It wasn't easy always feeling like we were pulling in two different directions and there were a few times I threw in the towel and went back for it...but I survived. Marriage is about survival. Now that I am a Christian, it's different. I am not making as much money due to some adjustments I had to make, but my wife is happy.

DOUGLAS: (bounces John's fist) Real testimony there bro.

MATT: What about you?

DOUGLAS: Trial and error. I learn by making many mistakes but adjust myself accordingly.

MATT: Constant adjustments are an absence of consistency.

DOUGLAS: I get a lot of nagging ok. I'm not home most of the time due to my responsibilities at church, but when I am home...I get nagging. Nagging feels like someone is driving pins into my brain bro and at my age, I can't deal with that so I just agree with everything she says.

MATT: And you are contented with that?

DOUGLAS: Of course. Let me teach you an expression (shows an expression) You do this with a momentary nod and Jules will have no clue you are not even in the room.

JOHN: Does it really work?

DOUGLAS: Hundred Percent Guarantee.

Matt and John practice the expression.

DOUGLAS: You gonna need that look.

MATT: What kind of adjustments did you have to make John?

JOHN: Had to let go of my secular job.

MATT: You are unemployed?

JOHN: In some sense. I do have a little business on the side but the money is weak. Now that Sandra has to be footing most of the bill, she thinks she can handle me however she feels sometimes...but I put my foot down as a man --- and sometimes have to take it back up.

DOUGLAS: Women by nature are hard to please. One minute they think something is cute and the next they think the same thing is preposterous.

JOHN: Can't live with them and you can't live without them.

MATT: How does it make you feel that she earns more than you?

JOHN: Incompetent.

MATT: And you have talked about it?

Pause.

JOHN: She talks. I just listen.

MATT: So she has no idea how you really feel.

JOHN: It's better that way...though sometimes I get the feeling she wants me to be a stay at home dad.

MATT: Why would she want that?

JOHN: If I should guess, I think in the back of her mind if I start making as much money as before, I'm gonna walk away from the church again.

MATT: Sounds like trust issues.

JOHN: Strange enough when I ask if she trusts me, she says yes.

DOUGLAS: They say one thing and mean something entirely different.

JOHN: Exactly.

MATT: This was a good talk.

DOUGLAS: Sure wish I had someone to give me this talk before I got married.

MATT: Would you have still made the same choice.

Pause.

DOUGLAS: You ask a lot of hard questions son.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP

Jules, Sandra and Sharon are in the kitchen making preparations.

SANDRA: Seriously Jules, I almost fainted when Momma told me you were gonna get married.

JULES: You both know it was bound to happen sooner or later.

SHARON: Not really. We actually believed you when you said you would join the convent.

JULES: Every woman says that after being seriously hurt by a man.

SHARON: I never said that.

SANDRA: So it was just a front.

JULES: I am sure I meant it at the time.

SHARON: So what is so special about Matt?

JULES: What do you mean?

SHARON: Why do you want to marry him?

JULES: Because he is the one.

SHARON: What makes him the one?

JULES: He completes me.

SHARON: You have any answers that are not clichés?

JULES: Do we have to do this now?

SHARON: Yeah. You are getting married tomorrow. Now would be good.

SANDRA: You have to be sure of these things.

JULES: Matt completes me, ok. End of story.

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SANDRA: What does that even mean?

SHARON: I think it's something engaged people say when they really don't know why they are getting married.

JULES: I love Matt, ok.

SANDRA: How do you know?

JULES: How did you know that you loved John?

SANDRA: It started as little butterflies...but those butterflies died after one year of marriage.

SHARON: Yours lasted that long?

JULES: Momma always said true love begins as a feeling and evolves into a choice.

SANDRA: Having experienced an unequally yoked marriage for over 9 years I almost have to admit that Momma was right.

JULES: What kept you going?

SANDRA: The vow I made before God and man. Until death do us part. Sometimes I wish I had written my own vows cause I would have said Until this man starts getting on my last nerves do us part.

JULES: Is it that bad?

SANDRA: Girl, I don't even know what to think. John is now a Christian, and I am happy but he is. But he is making far less money than when he was in the world. I make more money than him. But I really am afraid that if he starts making money he will walk away from the church.

JULES: You need to trust your husband.

SANDRA: It's hard. I took a call the other day from a big company that wants him to come in for an interview and I can't bring myself to tell him.

JULES: Are you crazy?

SANDRA: Is it too much to ask for my husband to be the one who is home with the kids instead of raising them in day care.

JULES: It is unfair to not involve him in making that decision.

SANDRA: It's a small sacrifice for wanting him to stay saved. I keep thinking if he starts making money, he is just going to go back to his old ways.

JULES: You don't think his conversion is genuine?

SANDRA: I think he is intimidated that I make more money than him. I think he hates being a stay-at-home dad. He had to sell his car and now him borrowing mine is a problem.

JULES: I am sure he is making the necessary adjustments. Maybe you should do the same.

SANDRA: And what if he backslides?

JULES: Why not expect the best?

SANDRA: Take it from us dear sister...if you are going to survive marriage, lower your expectation.

SHARON: The closer that bar is to the ground the better.

JULES: I like Momma's advice and I have all intention of being a Proverbs 31 kind of wife. I think you two should really take it into consideration.

SHARON: Let's see how closely you can stick to that when your husband takes church more seriously than his own wife, Walks pass the bag of garbage, leaves the toilet seat up...

SANDRA: Play angry birds when you want to talk.

SHARON: Watch tv from sun up to sun down, refuses to do any chores around the house.

JULES: You two do need counseling.

SHARON: Just handing you the facts and letting you know its not too late to run for your life.

JULES: Are you and Doug still having issues?

SHARON: The church just keeps piling on more responsibilities. I know he loves God and I am happy for that...and he is a very good speaker, but to have all these churches calling him to come preach at their church. It's too much and he refuses to say no.

JULES: You should seriously talk to him about it.

SHARON: You think I don't try.

JULES: And how does he respond.

SHARON: (Does the same expression Douglas was showing the guys with the occasional nod) He thinks I don't know that his stupid expression means his body is in the room and his mind is somewhere else.

Jules and Sandra laughs.

SHARON: And he does it all the time.

SANDRA: The last time John tried that expression crap on me, I smacked it clean off his face.

JULES: Why talk if you know he is not listening?

SHARON: Because that's just how women are. We have to talk.

JULES: Men hate the silent treatment and women hate to give it.

SANDRA: I have found it pretty handy in getting my own way.

JULES: Momma always said there is no 'my own way' in marriage.

SHARON: Momma is from the old school. We all know that. Her advice is a little over the top.

SANDRA: She believes that God can fix everything but I believe God helps those who help themselves.

SHARON: Amen. We women have to take charge. We are like a man's compass and without us they just keep going around and around in circles.

SANDRA: This is a big step you are taking little sis. I hope you are prepared for it.

JULES: I know that marriage is hard work, which is why I think I am going to stick with Momma's advice. I think the two of you should too.

SHARON: Things and times have changed. We women have to take charge of your marriage. If you don't, your husband will treat it like how men treat cars....

SHARON & SANDRA: ...Run it to a wreck.

High fives.

SHARON: Marriages, like cars, are in better condition if they are lady-driven.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP

Sandra and John are at Center Stage.

SANDRA: What did you guys talk about last night?

JOHN: Men stuff.

SANDRA: Like what?

JOHN: Like what men usually talk about.

SANDRA: Did I tell you how much fun it is talking to you?

JOHN: All the time. What did you women talk about?

SANDRA: Women stuff.

JOHN: Like what?

SANDRA: Like what women usually talk about.

JOHN: Peachy.

SANDRA: Why are men so vague?

JOHN: I can't answer for all men.

SANDRA: Why are you so vague?

JOHN: I am not vague. What does that word even mean?

SANDRA: Indistinct, unclear, indistinguishable, hazy, fuzzy, formless, blurred....so many definitions, take your pick.

JOHN: You always get so weird when you are around your sister.

SANDRA: Weird?

JOHN: Strange, odd, bizarre, peculiar, uncanny, eerie, creepy, unusual...so many definitions, take your pick.

SANDRA: Ok. I guess I deserved that.

Pause.

SANDRA: John, I need to tell you something.

JOHN: Ok.

SANDRA: Promise me you won't get upset.

JOHN: Just tell me what it is.

SANDRA: I got a call for you the other day. Some big shot company wanted you to come in for an interview Friday.

JOHN: This Friday.

SANDRA: No. Last week Friday.

JOHN: What?

SANDRA: I didn't tell you because I didn't want you to go.

JOHN: You didn't want me to...(bites his lip)...You are making decisions for me now? I can't make my own decisions.

SANDRA: I thought...

JOHN: This is not just about you Sandra. We are both in this together and a decision like that should have been made by us both.

SANDRA: I know you would have taken the job.

JOHN: And what if I did?

Sharon enters.

SHARON: What's going on?

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SANDRA: I just told John about the job interview.

SHARON: (turns to leave) Oh boy.

JOHN: She knows about it too?

Douglas enters.

DOUGLAS: Didn't know what?

SHARON: Sandra just told John about the job interview.

DOUGLAS: Oh boy.

JOHN: You knew about it too?

DOUGLAS: Yeah.

SANDRA: Is it wrong for me to want you to stay saved?

JOHN: This is not how you do it Sandra.

Jules and Matt enter.

JULES: What is going on?

DOUGLAS: Sandra told John about the job interview.

JULES: Oh boy.

John is beyond words.

SANDRA: I can't do this anymore, John. Haven't I put up with enough of your foolishness?

JOHN: And you are the only one who has had to put up with foolishness?

SANDRA: Yes.

JOHN: Why don't you just admit it Sandra. You think I am going to walk away from the church and go back to my old ways.

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SANDRA: I wouldn't be surprised if you did.

JOHN: Just because you miss having all that money to spend.

SANDRA: This is not about money.

JOHN: I am trying to be the kind of husband I believe God wants me to be Sandra. What are you doing?

SANDRA: You think three weeks can erase nine years?

JOHN: Jesus erased the sins of the whole world in one day. Think about that.

John exits.

Sandra is speechless.

JULES: Guys, I am getting married tomorrow and you bring all this baggage here with you. I don't believe this.

Jules exit.

Matt goes after her.

DOUGLAS: Now look what you'all did.

SHARON: Excuse me Mr. Big shot preacher for trying to get your attention this weekend but maybe if you spent more time at home with me, I wouldn't be trying so hard to make use of this time. (Douglas gives Sharon the look) Douglas!

DOUGLAS: What?

SHARON: You are giving me that stupid look.

DOUGLAS: What look?

Sharon mimics the look.

DOUGLAS: You know about that.

SANDRA: You men really don't have a clue about us women, do you?

DOUGLAS: Nope and I have never been afraid to admit that.

SANDRA: I don't appreciate getting that stupid look when I am trying to have a conversation with you.

DOUGLAS: You use to think it was cool that I take my calling so seriously.

SHARON: You use to find time for me.

DOUGLAS: I still find time for you.

SHARON: If you did I wouldn't feel so neglected.

DOUGLAS: You are blowing this thing way out of proportion. I make sure you have everything to your comfort.

SHARON: Except you.

DOUGLAS: I come home to you every night.

SHARON: I don't need just your body Douglas. I also need your mind.

DOUGLAS: I have responsibilities.

SHARON: And I am one of them.

DOUGLAS: This conversation is going nowhere.

SHARON: So let me make it clear so even you can understand. If you can't promise me right now that you will let go of some of your responsibilities and spend more time with me, I am not coming home. (folds her arms)

Pause.

DOUGLAS: Of course you are coming home.

SHARON: I will stay here with my Momma unless you make me that promise.

DOUGLAS: You are trying to blackmail me?

SHARON: If that's what I have to do.

DOUGLAS: (calling offstage) Momma!

Terry enters and walks to her chair.

TERRY: I overheard everything.

DOUGLAS: So you know your daughter is trying to blackmail me.

SHARON: Momma, he loves God and he loves the church. I am just not so sure he loves me as much.

TERRY: I expected more from you two as a married couple. What kind of example have you been setting for your younger sister?

SHARON: Momma, I already know the kind of wife I need to be.

TERRY: The bible speaks about a virtuous woman whose price is far more valuable than rubies and gold. A woman should be patient, understanding, kind and hard working.

SHARON: Here comes the sermon. I don't need this right now.

Sharon exits.

DOUGLAS: Sorry Momma.

Douglas exits after his wife.

TERRY: Oh Lord what a mess. Inspire me Jesus.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP

Jules and Matt sit at center stage.

Jules has a cell phone pressed to her ears. She removes it and throws it aside.

JULES: I still can't get the cake lady on the phone. Who recommended such an unreliable person?

MATT: You did.

JULES: Nothing is going right. The flowers haven't been delivered, my dress needs to be adjusted...(Stops talking and notices the look on Matt's face) Baby, you're giving me the look.

MATT: You know about the look?

JULES: Every woman knows the look.

MATT: Sorry. Just had to give it a try. I'm sure everything will work out.

JULES: I expected you to say that.

Terry enters.

TERRY: How you'all doing?

JULES: My life is falling apart Momma.

TERRY: Matt, do me a favour and get the others down here.

MATT: Yes Momma.

Matt exits.

TERRY: I know how frustrating this is for you.

JULES: No you don't know Momma.

TERRY: I have walked in your shoes Jules. All of us have. Some of us just don't remember.

Sharon, Douglas, John, Sandra and Matt enter.

Terry takes John and Sandra and sits them facing each other.

TERRY: Talk.

SANDRA: Momma...

TERRY: I will only say this once. This weekend was never about anybody but your sister Jules. You'all done make a big mess of things, and you 'all need to fix it right now, so talk.

Pause.

SANDRA: John....I'm sorry ok. I was just looking out for you.

JOHN: It's not your responsibility to look out for me. As priest in your life, I have a responsibility to you. You have to trust me.

SANDRA: I do.

They hug.

Terry puts Sharon's hand in Douglas.

TERRY: Dance.

DOUGLAS: Why not talk like you did with them?

TERRY: Hold your wife like you did twenty five years ago, look her in the eyes and Dance.

Douglas holds his wife. She falls into his embrace. They dance.

TERRY: When is the last time you'all prayed together as couples? You can't shut God out of your lives and expect your union to be blessed. Jules, nothing is going right, but did you pray about it?

JULES: No Momma.

TERRY: Me and Sammy we prayed every night. It was a simple formula for success. With God in the center of a marriage it has to work. Before we got married I had my way and he had his. When we came together as one unit it became our way. After ten and twenty five years of marriage what do you have to show? What do you have to give?

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Pause.

TERRY: I am not old fashioned. I am just smart enough to stick to what works. Men love your wives as Christ loved the church and women; you have a responsibility to submit to your husband's. Only real men can love like that and only a virtuous woman can submit. If you continue down this road, the enemy will eventually tear you apart. Make it up in your minds, beginning now, that you will pray together and....dance together.

John takes his wife and they join in the dance.

Matt takes the hand of his wife to be and they join in the dance.

Terry dances with her imaginary partner.

BLACKOUT