



---

**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

Cleveland O. McLeish



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.

BOAZ

No, Job. I'm not interested in partying. Or your lady friend. I mean, I'm sure she's very pretty, but I'm not ready. Besides, I think I'm getting too old for that scene anymore. It's not as fun as it used to be. I'd just bring you younger guys down.

JOB

Are you ever gonna get over that girl, man?

BOAZ

I don't think I'll ever find anyone like her again. Maybe I'm not supposed to have a woman. Maybe I'm just supposed to focus on my work.

JOB

At least let me set up a date with you and my friend.

BOAZ

No. I'm not ready.

JOB

If you say so, man. If you say so.

(JOB gets up and exits through the door, heading to the exit at the other end of the lobby. BOAZ continues working.)

## ACT I

## SCENE 3

(NAOMI's house. The table has been pushed back against the wall so that there is more room for visitors.)

(NAOMI, RUTH and ORPAH stand in the midst of the many visitors who are milling around the room, speaking in hushed tones. All three are dressed in black clothes and grab onto handkerchiefs. They are grief-stricken and stunned. Unable to believe the tragedy that has befallen their family.)

NAOMI

What have I done to have lost both of my sons within one week of each other? What have I done to deserve this?

(RUTH and ORPAH are unable to answer.)

NAOMI

Now I have no husband. No sons. Everything that I've worked for in my life is taken from me.

RUTH

You still have us, Naomi.

NAOMI

That's true. For now. But some day, you'll both move on.

(Both ORPAH and RUTH begin to protest this.

NAOMI stops them with a wave of her hand.)

You will. Both of you will. And I will be alone. Without my sons. And without grandchildren. And without my two daughters.

ORPAH

Never, Naomi. Never. We will always be here for you.

RUTH

No matter what.

(NAOMI begins to sob. RUTH helps her to sit down. ORPAH is distracted by a FAMILY MEMBER coming up to her and giving her a hug. ORPAH and the FAMILY MEMBER move over to the corner of the room to speak quietly with one another.)

NAOMI

Ruth, dear. Can you get me a glass of water?

RUTH

Of course.

(RUTH heads off to the kitchen. MARTHA, a funeral attendee, comes up to NAOMI and gives her a hug.)

MARTHA

I am so, so sorry for your losses, Naomi.

(NAOMI doesn't answer. She sits there, staring off into the distance.)

It's so tragic. Whatever will you do?

NAOMI

I don't know. I don't know.

MARTHA

The Lord will provide. I'm sure. Will you go back to Bethlehem now?

NAOMI

I don't know.

MARTHA

You know, I've heard that God is providing for all of his people in Bethlehem. Plenty of blessings and opportunities for those who love the Lord and seek to serve Him.

(RUTH returns with a glass of water for NAOMI.)

NAOMI

There are?

MARTHA

Oh yes.

NAOMI

Then maybe I will go back to Bethlehem. There is nothing for me here now. Being back in my hometown and with my family and old friends may help me in my grief. Besides. I can sure use all of the blessings that God sees fit to give me right now.

## ACT I

## SCENE 4

(NAOMI's house. A week later. Boxes are everywhere. Sheets are placed over the furniture as it waits to be moved.)

(NAOMI stands in the nearly empty house. She looks around. Wipes a few tears away from her eyes.)

NAOMI

My husband carried me over the threshold, right there. And he's been called to the Lord. I thought that I'd never be able to bear the grief, but I did. I raised my sons in this house. And now they are gone too. And the pain I'm carrying is even worse than when my husband died. No mother should have to bury her children.

(RUTH and ORPAH enter, both carrying suitcases. NAOMI is taken aback at their presence.)

NAOMI

What are you two doing here?

ORPAH

Why are you trying to sneak off without us, Naomi?

RUTH

We promised you that we would never leave you.

NAOMI

I'm going back home. To family. And you two should go back to your families. Back to your homes. They will help you in your grief.

RUTH

No, Naomi.

NAOMI

What is the point in staying with me? There is no point. My sons, your husbands, are gone. I have no husband. You two are young. You should move on. You have time to marry again. To have sons and daughters of your own. Me? I'm old. There will be no more sons. No more daughters. No more children. And no grandkids. Not for me.

ORPAH

But...

NAOMI

There is still time for you to have a life, Orpah. Time to love again. Time to have your own family. Do not stay with me. You'd be throwing your whole life away.

ORPAH

Then I will stay here. With my family.

NAOMI

God be with you, Orpah.

(ORPAH hugs RUTH and NAOMI goodbye.)

ORPAH

Stay in touch, please. I love you both.

(ORPAH leaves, tears streaming down her face.)

NAOMI

Why are you still here, Ruth?

RUTH

Don't ask me to leave you. Where you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. I'm going with you. And there's nothing you can do to stop me.

NAOMI

But why?

RUTH

You've always treated me as a daughter, Naomi. And I made a promise to take care of you. To be there for you. And now that your sons and husband are gone, you really need someone to help you. So, I will go to Bethlehem with you.

NAOMI

Ruth, you don't have to do this.

RUTH

I do, Naomi. This is what I'm being called to do.

NAOMI

God bless you, my dear daughter.

(NAOMI goes offstage, checking on the movers.  
RUTH stands alone at center stage. She looks up.)

RUTH

I've never lived anywhere but this town. Everything and everyone I've ever known is from here. And I guess, Lord, that I'm a little scared. Not a little scared. Really scared. But I vowed to leave behind my family and cleave to my husband. And now that he's gone, I have to take care of his mother, who is just like my own mother to me. God, please help me. Give me strength as I go to Bethlehem.

(A bright light shines down on her. RUTH shields her eyes.)

VOICE OF GOD

Ruth, my child.

(RUTH looks around. Stunned. Not sure if she's going crazy or not. She begins looking under furniture and in boxes to see where the voice could be coming from.)

VOICE OF GOD

What are you looking for, Ruth?

(RUTH stops. She looks up again.)

RUTH

God? Is that really you?

VOICE OF GOD

Your faithfulness to Naomi and her family will be rewarded. Go to Bethlehem. There you will be rewarded in ways that you could never imagine.

## ACT II

## SCENE 1

(BOAZ's office. Some of the furniture has been rearranged to accommodate for a party.)

(There are several people in the room to welcome NAOMI and RUTH to Bethlehem. NAOMI and RUTH stand with a group of women. JUDITH and ELIZABETH come up to NAOMI. They each give her a welcoming hug.)

JUDITH

Naomi! I can't believe it's really you. It's been so long.

NAOMI

Don't call me Naomi. You should call me Mara, Bitter.

ELIZABETH

Don't talk like that, Naomi.

NAOMI

God has given me a bitter hand to deal with. Once I had everything and now it's been taken away from me.

JUDITH

Oh, but you have your daughter-in-law.

(They are interrupted by two young men coming up to RUTH. One of them is JOB.)

JOB

Why, hello there. I'm Job. You must be?

RUTH

I'm Ruth. It's nice to meet you.

JOB

Well, I'm very glad you've come. You know, I was thinking that sometime we should meet up and I could maybe show you around town?

RUTH

I...

JOB

Because there are a lot of really cool things around Bethlehem. I'd like to show them to you.

RUTH

No thank you.

JOB

(Handing RUTH a business card.)

You can call me anytime.

RUTH

I don't think this is the right time.

JOB

Whatever you say.

(JOB walks away, dejected. RUTH stops him, feeling bad.)

RUTH

If we just go as friends, I don't think that would be so bad. Would it?

JOB

No. No. Not at all.

RUTH

Once I've gotten settled, maybe I'll give you that call?

JOB

Okay. That'd be great!

(JOB leaves. BOAZ enters from the other side of the stage. He is immediately greeted by his UNCLE DAVID. BOAZ and RUTH catch sight of each other from across the room. He keeps eyeing her throughout his conversation with UNCLE DAVID.)

UNCLE DAVID

It was good of you to throw this party for your Aunt.

BOAZ

Who is that, Uncle David? With Aunt Naomi?

UNCLE DAVID

That's Ruth. Mahlon's widow.

BOAZ

I had no idea she was so beautiful.

UNCLE DAVID

Would you like an introduction?

BOAZ

Yeah. If you don't mind.

(BOAZ and UNCLE DAVID start to make their way through the party-goers. NAOMI rubs her head. She looks tired.)

NAOMI

Ruth, I've got an awful headache.

RUTH

Would you like me to take you home, Naomi?

NAOMI

Yes. I think I would like that. I'm just not in the mood for partying right now.

(Just as BOAZ is about to reach RUTH and NAOMI, they walk offstage. BOAZ watches them go, a disappointed look passing over his face.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 2

(BOAZ's office. The next day.)

(SUSAN, the receptionist sits at her desk, reading a magazine. RUTH enters, carrying a folder full of copies of her resume. She is dressed in business-like clothing and looks exhausted. SUSAN looks up at her.)

SUSAN

Can I help you?

RUTH

Hi. I just moved here and I'm looking for work. I have my resume right here.

SUSAN

I'm sorry. But we don't have any job openings right now.

RUTH

(Visibly distraught at this news.)

No? Well, would you mind taking my resume anyway to give to your boss? Just in case?

(At this point, BOAZ enters. He sees RUTH and stops in his tracks. He can hardly believe his luck.)

SUSAN

I guess. But I don't think we're going to have any openings for a while.

(RUTH hands her a copy of her resume.)

RUTH

Do you happen to know of anywhere else I could drop these off? I've been just about everywhere I can think of.

SUSAN

No. I'm sorry.

(Disappointed, RUTH turns around to leave and runs straight into BOAZ. she drops her folder and copies of her resume fall all over the floor.)

RUTH

Oh my goodness, I'm so sorry.

(She bends down and begins gathering her papers.)

BOAZ

No. I'm sorry. Please. Let me help you.

(He joins her and together they pick up the resumes. He hands her the stack he has gathered just as she starts to rise. They bump heads.)

RUTH

(With BOAZ)

Ow!

BOAZ

(With RUTH)

Ouch!

BOAZ

Sorry. I'm really clumsy sometimes.

(They gaze at one another. There's awkward silence. Annoyed by the interruption, SUSAN chews a piece of gum loudly. SUSAN clears her throat. BOAZ glares at her. SUSAN pulls out her magazine again.)

You're Ruth, right?

RUTH

Yes. How did...

BOAZ

I was at the party last night. Actually, I threw the party. But I didn't get a chance to meet you. Or introduce myself. By the time I got there you and Naomi had left.

RUTH

Naomi had a headache. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to meet you and thank you for throwing the party...

BOAZ

Boaz. The name's Boaz.

RUTH

Well, thank you for the help, Boaz. I hope that I'll get to see you again sometime.

(Awkward silence. BOAZ looks down at his feet, unsure of what to say or do.)

I should really be going now. I'm trying--

BOAZ

(Eagerly. Almost too eagerly.)

To find a job?

RUTH

I've been all over town and there's just nothing. I don't know what to do. Naomi's on a tight budget and we could really use the extra money.

BOAZ

(Trying to be nonchalant, but failing miserably.)

You know. I think that Susan here was wrong about there being no job openings.

SUSAN

(Looking up from her magazine.)

What? No. I'm not.

BOAZ

I could really use a secretary for myself. I mean, Susan's so busy out front here.

(RUTH and BOAZ look over at SUSAN, who is still reading her magazine. BOAZ clears his throat. SUSAN looks up. Slowly puts her magazine away and pretends to look through a file.)

SUSAN

Yeah. I'm busy. Really busy. All the time.

BOAZ

Like I said. She's so busy out front here that I feel bad asking her to do secretarial things for me. I was thinking of putting an ad in the paper today, in fact.

RUTH

Oh. That's probably a good idea.

(RUTH has obviously missed the fact that he's flirting with her. More awkward silence.)

SUSAN

(Unable to take the awkwardness anymore.)

I think he's trying to offer you a job.

Really? RUTH

Really. BOAZ

Are you serious? RUTH

Yes. If you want to. BOAZ

Well, I'd love to! RUTH

Can you start tomorrow? BOAZ

Yes. Of course! RUTH

Great. I guess I'll see you tomorrow then? BOAZ

See you tomorrow. RUTH

(RUTH hurries out. BOAZ watches her go.)

You don't need a secretary. SUSAN

No. Not really. BOAZ

So-- SUSAN

Just let me help her out. Okay. BOAZ

Uh huh. Help her out. Okay. SUSAN  
(With a knowing look.)

(BOAZ sheepishly goes to walk through his office door, but is so distracted and excited about RUTH coming to work for him that he doesn't realize the

door is closed. He runs right into it. Embarrassed, he opens the door and goes inside.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 3

(NAOMI and RUTH's new apartment. It's a simple combined living and dining area. There are boxes piled up around the room. They are still unpacking.)

(NAOMI sits on the couch, flipping through an old photo album. RUTH enters, excited.)

RUTH

Naomi! I've got a job!

NAOMI

Oh that's good news, Ruth. I'm happy for you. Where at?

RUTH

I'll be working as a secretary for a man named Boaz. At the office we were at last night for the party.

NAOMI

Boaz? You mean my nephew?

RUTH

Nephew?

NAOMI

Why yes. I thought you knew. He's my nephew. Mahlon's cousin.

RUTH

Well, gee, Naomi. How many people in this town are we related to?

NAOMI

Probably half the town.

RUTH

Seriously?

NAOMI

Maybe not that much. But close. Boaz is a good man. I think that you'll like working for him.

(A thought occurs to her. She leans over, winks at RUTH.)

And he's single too, isn't he?

RUTH

How should I know? Why should I care?

(NAOMI gives her a knowing look.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 4

(BOAZ's office. A couple of weeks later.)

(RUTH sits at a little table near BOAZ's desk, hard at work. BOAZ is also working at his desk. BOAZ gets up, starts to walk over to her, but can't muster up the courage to talk to her. He tries again a couple of more times before finally striding to her desk. He tries to lean over onto her table, but almost misses and instead spills a cup of water all over her. RUTH jumps up, using some paper towels to dry herself off.)

BOAZ

(Mortified.)

Oh no! I'm so sorry, Ruth. Really, I am.

RUTH

Oh, it's okay. It was just an accident.

(Silence.)

Did you want something?

BOAZ

Why would you think that?

RUTH

Because you were at my desk.

BOAZ

Oh. Yeah. I. Um. Well. So how are you liking Bethlehem?

RUTH

I like it. It's smaller than what I'm used to. And I miss my family.

BOAZ

I'm sure you do.

(There is another awkward silence between the two of them. BOAZ finally decides to just go for it.)

BOAZ

So. Um. I was wondering. Do you like food?

RUTH

Well, sure. I like food.

BOAZ  
I...I...Dinner?

RUTH  
I usually like dinner. Yes.

BOAZ  
Gee, this really isn't working out like I thought it would.

RUTH  
What's wrong, Boaz?

BOAZ  
Maybe you'd like to do dinner something? With me? So we can get to know each other better. Outside of work.

RUTH  
(After another awkward pause.)  
I can't.

BOAZ  
(This isn't the answer he was expecting.)  
Oh?

RUTH  
I don't think I can. I just can't.

BOAZ  
(Extremely disappointed.)  
Oh. Well. No big deal.

RUTH  
(Looking down at her wrist like she's checking her watch. Only she doesn't have a watch.)  
Why look at the time. I really should be getting home to Naomi. Bye.  
(She leaves before he can say anything.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 5

(NAOMI and RUTH'S apartment.)

(NAOMI is seated in a chair. RUTH comes in, distraught. NAOMI takes one look at her and knows something is wrong. She goes to RUTH and puts her arm around her.)

NAOMI

How was work, honey?

RUTH

It was okay. Until just before I left.

NAOMI

What happened?

RUTH

Oh, Naomi. Boaz asked me out to dinner. He said he wanted to get to know me better.

NAOMI

(Her face brightens up.)

And?

RUTH

And what?

NAOMI

What did you tell him?

RUTH

I told him I wasn't interested.

NAOMI

What? What's wrong with you, girl?

RUTH

I can't. I just can't. It doesn't seem right. I promised to stay with you, to take care of you for Mahlon. And it's just...

NAOMI

Stop making excuses. You're young, Ruth. You can't hold back on love for an old woman's sake.

I don't want to be with anyone.

RUTH

Nonsense.

NAOMI

I don't.

NAOMI

And why not?

NAOMI

Because. I don't need a man.

RUTH

No. You don't want to because you're scared. That's why.

NAOMI

I'm not scared.

RUTH

Yes. You are. You don't want to love someone and then lose them again.

NAOMI

Naomi...

RUTH

Now you pick up the phone and call Boaz. Tell him you changed your mind or went momentarily insane or forgot how to speak English or something.

NAOMI

(In tears.)

RUTH

No. I can't.

NAOMI

Don't you remember before we moved here? What God put on your heart? That your faithfulness would be rewarded?

NAOMI

I don't see how that has anything to do with this.

RUTH

What if Boaz is part of that reward, Ruth? And you just walk away because you're scared? Do you really want to walk away from God's plan for you?

RUTH

I...

(NAOMI picks up the phone and dials BOAZ's number. RUTH tries to take the phone from her, but NAOMI won't let her. She waits for him to answer. Then talks into the phone.)

NAOMI

Hi, Boaz? This is your Aunt Naomi.

(Pause.)

Oh, I'm fine. Listen. I was just talking to Ruth and she has something to say to you.

(NAOMI hands the phone to RUTH. RUTH glares at NAOMI, but takes the phone anyway.)

RUTH

Hi. Um. Boaz. I'm really sorry for turning you down earlier. If you'd still like, maybe we could do dinner? It would do me good to get out of the house.

(Pause)

Okay. Great. I'll see you then. Bye.

(She hangs up the phone. She looks over at NAOMI who seems very pleased with herself.)

RUTH

Are you happy now?

NAOMI

Now, what are you going to wear?

## ACT II

## SCENE 6

(BOAZ's office. He has turned his desk into a table. Candles sit on an elegant tablecloth.)

(BOAZ paces the room. Nervous. SUSAN comes in, wearing an apron and carrying a tray. She isn't happy.)

SUSAN

Look, Boaz. This is ridiculous. I don't get paid to play waitress.

BOAZ

(Tosses her a twenty dollar bill.)

I'll give you more later. Please, just do this for me.

(SUSAN sighs dramatically and walks out as RUTH, wearing a beautiful dress, comes in. BOAZ stops. Look at her. Gulps. Wipes sweaty palms on his pants. Then he pulls out a chair for her and helps her sit down.)

(The lights dim and come back up to signify that time has passed. RUTH and BOAZ sit at the desk, eating dinner. They are in the middle of a deep conversation.)

RUTH

When Mahlon died I thought I'd never be able to move on. I mean, it's really hard. I can't even imagine what Naomi is going through.

(SUSAN enters with a pot of coffee. She smacks her gum loudly, obviously annoyed.)

SUSAN

Would you like a refill?

RUTH

No thank you.

BOAZ

I think you can go home now, Susan.

(SUSAN sighs loudly. Doesn't go anywhere. She glares at BOAZ. BOAZ rolls his eyes and pulls out

more money and hands it to her. SUSAN makes a big production out of counting the money.)

SUSAN

I think that covers my overtime. Bye.

(SUSAN leaves. There is some awkward silence.)

BOAZ

I'm glad you stayed with Naomi. I know she's having a hard time, but I think she keeps it together because of you.

RUTH

It was the least I could do. She's always been there for me. She's not like other mother-in-laws. Not from what I've heard from my girlfriends.

BOAZ

No. She treats you like you're her own child. That's special, Ruth.

RUTH

It is.

(More awkwardness. BOAZ picks up a spoon and twirls it in his fingers. He drops it. Bends down to pick it up. Bumps his head on the desk.)

RUTH

Are you okay?

BOAZ

Yeah. I'm fine. You know. I've been thinking. I never was someone who thought they'd ever really fall for someone. But...

(JOB comes in. He stops. Surprised to see BOAZ and RUTH and the spread on the table.)

JOB

Boaz! Ruth! What's up?

BOAZ

What are you doing here?

JOB

Uh, I forgot my briefcase.

(JOB picks up his briefcase from behind SUSAN's desk.)

Say, Ruth. When are we going to get together and paint the town? You said you'd get back to me, remember?

I...

RUTH

Oh. I didn't realize.

BOAZ

(BOAZ gets up. Hurt. Disappointed. But willing to step aside because he wants RUTH to be happy.)

BOAZ

You know, I've got a thing that I totally forgot all about.

RUTH

Boaz. Wait.

(JOB and RUTH go after BOAZ. They stop him before he goes completely out of the room.)

JOB

What's up, Boaz?

BOAZ

I didn't realize you were interested in her, Job. Had I known I never would have asked her out.

JOB

Well, of course I'm interested.

BOAZ

Okay, then. You could have told me, Ruth.

RUTH

Boaz, wait! I love...

(BOAZ exits. JOB tries to take her back to the table.)

RUTH

No, Job. Go away. I'm going home.

(JOB backs off, leaving her alone.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 1

(RUTH and NAOMI'S apartment.)

(NAOMI waits up for RUTH. RUTH comes in, crying.  
NAOMI rushes over to her.)

NAOMI

What is it, honey? What is it?

RUTH

He thinks I'm interested in Job. Job. Of all people.

NAOMI

I'm sorry, honey.

RUTH

And he stormed out and didn't even listen to me. Didn't let me explain that I was only trying to be nice. Oh, Naomi. I love him. I really love him. I don't know what to do.

NAOMI

Well, you've got to tell him, Ruth.

RUTH

How?

NAOMI

I'll tell you how.

(She leans in and whispers to RUTH.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 2

(BOAZ's office. The desk has been cleared off.  
No evidence of the dinner date remains.)

(BOAZ sits at his desk working. There is a knock at the door. He answers it. It is RUTH. He stands there for a moment, then she falls to the floor and throws herself at his feet. He looks at her like she's crazy.)

BOAZ

Ruth? What on earth are you doing?

RUTH

Boaz, I'm throwing myself at your feet.

BOAZ

Why would you do that?

RUTH

I don't know. Naomi thought it might work. I think she read it in a book somewhere.

BOAZ

Well. Get up off of the floor.

(He helps her up. They accidentally bump heads again. They laugh. Then stand there together awkwardly.)

BOAZ

So...

RUTH

Boaz, I came here to tell you that I love you. I want to be with you.

BOAZ

But Job is younger. Good looking. He's probably...

RUTH

I don't want Job. I want you.

BOAZ

Job is my friend. I can't be with you if he has feelings for you. It wouldn't be right.

RUTH

Then what are we going to do? Because I don't love him. I love you.

BOAZ

I'll talk to him.

(Silence. They look at one another.)

BOAZ

Do you really love me, Ruth? Are you sure you're ready for that again?

RUTH

Boaz, I've never been so sure of anything before in my entire life. I knew there was a reason why I came to Bethlehem with Naomi. And it was so that I could meet you and start a new life with you.

(The lights dim, signifying a passage of time. It is now dawn. Both RUTH and BOAZ sit together, talking quietly to each other. BOAZ looks at the clock.)

BOAZ

It's morning. You should go.

RUTH

I don't want to leave you.

BOAZ

Hopefully you won't have to after this.

RUTH

Do you think so?

BOAZ

I hope so. Now, you should go before anyone shows up at the office and gets the wrong idea about you being here. Take the day off and get some sleep. Okay?

RUTH

Okay.

(He helps her put on her coat and sneaks her out of the office.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 3

(BOAZ's office. Later that day.)

(BOAZ sits at his desk. JOB comes in. He sees BOAZ. Sits down.)

JOB

I got your text. You wanted to talk?

BOAZ

Yes. About Ruth.

(Silence.)

JOB

What about her?

BOAZ

How do you really feel about her, Job?

JOB

I think she's pretty. She's nice. But she doesn't seem all that interested in me.

BOAZ

Do you love her?

JOB

Love her? No. I was just hoping to take her out. Have a good time. You know? And that's that. Kind of like what I do with the other girls.

BOAZ

And that's it?

JOB

Yeah. That's it. She's not really my type, Boaz.

BOAZ

(Feeling hopeful.)

So you have no interest in her? At all? None whatsoever?

JOB

Nah.

BOAZ

And you'd be okay...

JOB  
If you were with her?

BOAZ  
Yeah.

JOB  
I think that'd be pretty awesome, Boaz. I wouldn't mind. At all.

BOAZ  
Really?

JOB  
Really.

BOAZ  
Well, then. If you'll excuse me.

(BOAZ gets up. Rushes to the door.)

JOB  
Where are you going?

BOAZ  
I've got to go and tell Ruth that I love her and that I want to marry her.

(He starts to go out the door, but runs into it again.  
Not caring, he flings the door open and rushes out.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 4

(RUTH and NAOMI'S apartment.)

(RUTH and NAOMI sit together. There is a knock at the door. NAOMI answers it. It is BOAZ. He comes inside.)

NAOMI

Boaz. I didn't expect to see you today.

BOAZ

Is Ruth here, Aunt Naomi?

NAOMI

Yes.

BOAZ

Ruth.

RUTH

(Stand up.)

Yes?

BOAZ

Ruth. I came here to tell you that I love you.

(He goes to her. Falls down to one knee. Takes a small box out of his pocket. Tries to open it, but is so excited that he drops the box. He picks up, gets it open and presents the ring to RUTH.)

Ruth. Will you marry me?

RUTH

(Crying happy tears.)

Yes, Boaz. Yes.

(They embrace. NAOMI jumps for joy.)

NAOMI

I knew it! I knew it! Do you remember the promise that God made you, Ruth? That your faithfulness would be rewarded? You've found love again. And so have you, Boaz.

BOAZ

Yes. True love is out there. And I've found it. I love you, Ruth.

RUTH

I love you, Boaz.

(He picks her up and swings her around.)

## ACT III

## SCENE 5

(NAOMI's apartment. One year later.)

(NAOMI nervously paces the room. A knock comes at the door. She opens it. BOAZ and RUTH enter. RUTH carries a carseat.)

NAOMI

Oh, I've been so excited I can't see straight.

(NAOMI hugs BOAZ and RUTH.)

RUTH

Shh! Careful not to wake him.

(NAOMI peers inside the carseat. She begins to cry.)

NAOMI

Oh! What a sweet baby boy! What a perfect one-year wedding anniversary gift you've been blessed with.

(She takes the baby out of the carseat and holds him close to her.)

He's beautiful, Boaz and Ruth. Just beautiful. God has blessed us both again. This son of yours, he is my grandson. Maybe not exactly by blood, but in my heart he is. Just like you are the daughter of my heart. Mahlon and Chilion live on in this son of yours. Our family lives on because of your faithfulness. Because of Boaz's faithfulness. Your faithfulness to our family and to God has been rewarded, Ruth.