

# THE BIG BAD MOVIE

BY JOHN COSPER

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Chick Little – A small town pastor  
Harry – A sleazy studio exec  
Clara – Owner of an old movie theater  
Lawrence – An overly zealous Christian  
Pearl & Maggie – Busybody church ladies  
Kip – A college kid  
Bud - The Mayor  
Taryn – A movie star  
Mary Sparks – An entertainment reporter  
Martha – A friend of Maggie and Pearl  
Turk – A Barber

## ABOUT THE PLAY

After a movie studio schedules its latest blockbuster, "What's a Meadow For?" to open in small town America, a tiny congregation learns the movie is anti-God and maybe even Satanic in nature. The Christians mobilize and begin spreading the word for people to boycott the movie, never realizing that their holy crusade a sham, concocted by greedy studio execs who are trying to keep their big budget investment from flopping at the box office.

The Big Bad Movie is a dark comedy about Hollywood and the church with an important message. Like it or not, Hollywood knows they can sell tickets by getting Christians to protest their movies. While it's important we as Christians make sure the truth is told, it's equally important we get our facts straight before we speak instead of running around like little kids parroting every little rumor we hear.

Due to its content and dark tone, this play is NOT for every audience. We are making it available for free so that you can decide for yourself if you have an audience and a place to share this important message.

## STAGING NOTE

This play can be performed in a traditional theatrical setting with a stage facing the audience, or it could be performed in a found space such as a movie theater lobby, a church foyer, or some other setting that allows the actors to be more interactive with the audience. Lighting cues and stage directions in the script are suggested; please adapt and adjust as needed depending on your performance space and its limitations.

## SCENE ONE: VIDEO

*A video screen is on stage with a pre-recorded video, a scene from the movie in the play. On screen is a disheveled, wreck of a woman played by actress Taryn. She is shot in close up, looking down on someone. Over the top melodramatic music plays.*

TARYN: Oh, Daddy, don't you see? I'm free. I'm free and I don't need you any more. I never needed you, all these long years. But you couldn't let me go. You had to keep me under your thumb. But not any more, Daddy. You are not gonna keep me down any more! You don't own me, Daddy! And I'll never bow before you again! Never! *(she starts stomping on the unseen object of her hatred)* Never, Daddy! Never! Never! *(loses all control of her emotions - terrible acting)* Never, Daddy! Never! Never!

*The words "The End" fade in as her tirade continues.*

TARYN: (cont'd) Never! Never! Never, Daddy! Never, Poppa! Never!

*Fade out.*

## SCENE TWO

*Harry is in front of the curtain beside the screen on his cell phone.*

HARRY: Well, J.B., I just finished the picture, and I gotta tell you, I think it's a winner. Yes, sir, this is gonna be the blockbuster of the year... No, of course not. The script is garbage. The acting was horrendous. Taryn's made some bad pictures, but she's never been this bad. It's like someone's been sending her to unacting classes... Look, J.B., I know you spent a bundle on this. You release it as is, it'll be the end of you. You'll never work in the movies again. BUT, you give me one month, do exactly as I say, I'll have the shareholders throwing money at you come bonus time... All right, first thing's first. Cancel all press screenings, and cancel the premiere at the Graumann... Oh no, J.B., we'll have a big premiere. Just not in LA. We have to do this right, and doing it right means taking it deep in the heart of America... How deep?

*Harry pulls a folded up newspaper out of his back pocket.*

HARRY: Grover's Mill, Iowa... It's not the middle of nowhere, J.B. It's the heartland, where God fearing people still pack the pews of their local churches every Sunday... Trust me, J.B. It's exactly the kind of place you want this movie to open... All right, J.B. I'll call you in the morning.

*Harry clicks a few buttons on his phone. He looks at the paper as he talks.*

HARRY: Grover's Mill, Iowa... I need the number for the Grand Theater, please.

*Blackout.*

### SCENE THREE

*The curtain opens on a movie theater lobby. A sales counter where tickets and snacks can be purchased is upstage facing the audience. Clara sits behind the counter. Pearl is stage left sitting behind a small keyboard. A podium is center. Chick sits at left, a hymnal under his seat. The other church goers are seated among the audience.*

PEARL: Good morning, and thank you for joining us at the First Church of Grover's Mill, now conveniently located here at the historic Grand Theater. Please turn to the back of your program and stand with us as we sing our morning hymn.

*Chick and the cast members in the audience pull out their programs and stand. Have them encourage the audience to do the same. Everyone signs the hymn.*

PEARL: Please be seated.

*Everyone sits. Chick walks to the podium.*

CHICK: The Lord says where two or more are gathered in my name, there I will be also. This is a comforting thought to me, as we begin a... a new life for this church. It's not easy for any church to survive the destruction of its building. To many in the community, that building was "the church." But I say unto you, that where ever we as a congregation assemble, the church exists in that place.

MAGGIE: Amen!

CHICK: It doesn't matter if it's in a building with a steeple. Or in the park. Or right here in this movie theater lobby.

*Bud enters stage left and walks to the counter.*

CHICK: When God's people come together to worship, his spirit will be among them.

BUD: One for *Bloodbath 2: Bleed Harder*, please.

*Chick pauses while Bud buys his ticket, frustrated.*

BUD: And some popcorn.

*Clara gets some popcorn.*

BUD: And a soda.

*Clara gets a soda.*

CLARA: Twelve-fifty.

*Bud pays. Clara gives him change. Bud takes his snacks and ticket.*

CLARA: Enjoy the show.

BUD: Thanks.

*Bud walks past Chick.*

BUD: Pastor.

CHICK: Mr. Mayor.

*Bud exits.*

CHICK: Folks, I know it's hard to think of this place as a sanctuary. I know a lot of our brothers and sisters have chosen to drive an extra thirty miles to go to a "real church" rather than meet here. But this is a real church.

*Lawrence walks up on stage to the snack counter.*

CHICK: We're going to show this community that a church doesn't need a church building to serve the people! We're still here, ready to change lives, and change the world.

LAWRENCE: Can I get a box of Raisinets?

PEARL: Lawrence? Not during the sermon!

LAWRENCE: I didn't have breakfast!

*Lawrence gives Clara money. She gives him Raisinets. He goes back to his seat.*

CHICK: My friends, let us remember Jesus himself never had a church home, but was always on the move. So let us not grow weary through this time of testing, but grow together. Will the congregation rise?

*Pearl plays the keyboard and leads the audience in singing the Doxology. The church goes – and hopefully the audience – all stand. They sit soon as the song is over.*

CHICK: Thanks again for being here, folks. We have one quick announcement before you go. Our community outreach committee will be meeting here tomorrow at 6 PM. We want to let the good folks of Grover's Mill know we're here to stay, so please come with your ideas as to ways we can reach out and make a difference in our town. Until next time, go in the peace of God, amen!

*Chick steps away from the podium toward the ticket counter, his shoulders sagging. Pearl approaches him. Kip comes up and starts unplugging the keyboard and microphone, putting everything away.*

PEARL: Great sermon, Pastor. Just what this congregation needed.

CHICK: Too bad none of them were here to hear it.

PEARL: We had twenty-one by my count. That's up from last week.

CHICK: We had a tornado last week.

PEARL: Pastor, the glass is either half full or half empty. Half empty is not becoming from the likes of you.

CHICK: I'm sorry, Pearl. I guess I need something to lift my spirits as well. We need a cause, something the community can rally around.

*Lawrence walks on stage, eating his Raisinets.*

LAWRENCE: I know what we can do.

CHICK: You do?

LAWRENCE: It's perfect. My old church in Alabama used to do it all the time. People came from hundreds of miles around.

CHICK: What is it?

LAWRENCE: A record burning.

PEARL: A what?

LAWRENCE: A record burning! We make a big bonfire and we burn rock albums.

CHICK: People still do that?

LAWRENCE: Oh yeah, they love it! You preach a fire and brimstone sermon on the devil's music, rock and roll. Then we get all the parents to drag their kids out with their rock and roll albums and throw them on a bonfire.

KIP: A bonfire? Sounds awesome?

LAWRENCE: You haven't seen evil until you gaze into the green glow of a bonfire filled with smoking, Satanic LPs.

KIP: LPs?

CHICK: Lawrence, kids today don't have records. They have MP3s.

LAWRENCE: No problem. We'll do a blow up your iPod event.

KIP: Awesome! I've still got a whole case of bottle rockets from the 4<sup>th</sup>!

LAWRENCE: Bottle rockets? That's kid stuff. Bring 'em over Saturday and we'll turn them into Cherry Bombs.

*Maggie walks up from the audience.*

MAGGIE: Pastor! Oh Pastor, I hope you don't think we're overstepping our bounds, but Pearl and I have already decided what the outreach group should do.

CHICK: Well, I think it's safe to say the committee hasn't made any decisions yet. What's your idea?

PEARL: We want to picket the abortion clinic in Eagle Rock.

LAWRENCE: Yess!

CHICK: You want us to go protest?

MAGGIE: We used to do that every Tuesday, but we haven't taken a group in years.

CHICK: That's because they issued an injunction against you.

MAGGIE: Persecuting us for our beliefs!

CHICK: No, Maggie, I believe it was because you hit a mounted policeman with your Oldsmobile.

MAGGIE: What are they going to do if we show up? Throw us in jail?

PEARL: If prison was good enough for the Apostle Paul, it's good enough for us.

CHICK: The last thing we need is more empty seats because our people are in jail. And the second to last thing we need is to go around blowing up iPods.

KIP: Aww.

CHICK: And Lawrence, I'm not exactly the fire and brimstone type.

LAWRENCE: Then let me do it! I'll preach such a storm on rock music, our children's grandchildren will avoid it!

KIP: If you hate rock so much, how come every time I'm by your shop, Frampton Comes Alive is on the stereo?

LAWRENCE: Peter Frampton is a gift handed down from the Lord God Himself to those whom he loves!

CHICK: Look, we'll discuss all your ideas tomorrow. Sound good?

LAWRENCE: Very well. Tomorrow evening?

MAGGIE: We'll be here. Come on, Pearl.

*Lawrence and Kip exit. Maggie and Pearl walk off together.*

PEARL: You wanna grab some brunch?

MAGGIE: I'll take a raincheck. Carl slept in this morning, so I have to go and deal out some righteous guilt on him.

*Chick turns to Clara.*

CLARA: Well, we survived week one. How do you feel?

CHICK: Exhausted. I think I might go home and sleep through 'til tomorrow night.

CLARA: Aww, my poor preacher man.

CHICK: Did you enjoy the service?

CLARA: The sermon was okay.

CHICK: Just okay?

CLARA: You were wonderful, hun. As always.

CHICK: I don't know. We had a lot of empty seats.

CLARA: Your church just had a major tragedy. Give it time. They'll see you're not going any place and come back.

CHICK: I hope so.

CLARA: Have faith, Pastor. Miracles do happen. Matter of fact, a little miracle's going to happen right here in this theater in a few weeks.

CHICK: What do you mean?

CLARA: You won't believe it. Last night, I got a call from Dark Forest Productions.

CHICK: Who's that?

CLARA: It's an independent production house. They've produced a few Oscar contenders the last couple of years. Remember the western version of *King Lear*? That was them.

CHICK: That was a great movie. Never thought I'd see Chevy Chase get an Oscar, though.

CLARA: He was the best Lear I've ever seen.

CHICK: No doubt.

CLARA: Anyway, they've got a new big budget blockbuster opening in three weeks, but before it opens they want to do a world premiere.

*Clara unfurls a poster for What's A Meadow For? starring Taryn. It should look artsy - and funny.*

CLARA: Right here at my theater.

CHICK: Are you serious?

CLARA: Yes! Taryn Marie's coming in for the big event and everything. Isn't that incredible?

CHICK: It's unbelievable. Why would they do a movie premiere here?

CLARA: They said they wanted to open this film in the heartland. And they're paying me enough I can finish the renovations my father started.

CHICK: Clara, that's wonderful. Your dad would have been proud.

CLARA: I just wish he was here to see it happen.

CHICK: If he was here, this church wouldn't be. He'd probably be furious if he knew you let us meet here.

CLARA: And whose fault is that? You know why Daddy hated the church. He was burned one too many times by your own congregation.

CHICK: You don't think he was over-reacting?

CLARA: Over-reacting? Your first week in town, you set up a picket line in front of his theater.

CHICK: People have a right to protest when something is offensive.

CLARA: It was *Aladdin*.

CHICK: Genies are not biblical.

CLARA: They tried to cast demons out of my Dad!

CHICK: A little prayer never hurt anyone.

CLARA: And the film projector!

CHICK: Okay, so we were a little overzealous. People make mistakes, we admit them, and then we make amends.

CLARA: Uh huh. Well do you think "amends" could include helping me staff up for this premiere?

CHICK: Really?

CLARA: Mmm hmm.

CHICK: I guess we could arrange that. That might be perfed for the outreach committee. I'll bring it up tomorrow night.

CLARA: Good. Just do me a favor: keep Lawrence away from Taryn Marie. I'm afraid.

CHICK: He can run the projector.

*Bud clears his throat hard off stage.*

CHICK: Sorry, Bud.

CLARA: I guess I better start his movie.

CHICK: You free for dinner tonight?

CLARA: Got a double feature for the sci-fi geeks. Tomorrow after your meeting?

CHICK: It's a date.

*Clara smiles and runs off.*

CLARA: I'm coming, Bud!

*Chick starts to put things away. Harry enters with a briefcase.*

HARRY: Pastor Little?

CHICK: That's me.

HARRY: Edward "Chick" Little?

CHICK: Yes, sir. How can I help you?

HARRY: Harry Maintree, Pastor. And I am here to help you.

CHICK: Oh yeah?

HARRY: Quite a place you have here. National Historic Register?

CHICK: They've applied for it, yes.

HARRY: It's nice. Not as nice as the old building.

CHICK: No, it's not.

HARRY: That's the risk living in a place like Iowa. It's lovely and tranquil, except when there's a tornado.

CHICK: Actually, we survived the tornado. A lot of the congregation came to us for shelter.

HARRY: But your building was destroyed anyway.

CHICK: Cigarette left burning in the restroom by the nursery. So far no one's claimed responsibility.

HARRY: Oh phooey on that, Pastor, we're all Christians here. Forgiveness is the magic word.

CHICK: I suppose that's so. Now what can you do for us?

HARRY: Pastor, I am here on behalf of the Southeastern Family Action Coalition. We're here on a matter of grave importance, and we need your help.

CHICK: Me?

HARRY: You, and your church.

CHICK: Well, I don't know what a tiny group like ours could do for a big coalition like yours.

HARRY: But I do know what we can do for you.

*Harry opens his briefcase and pulls out an envelope.*

HARRY: One hundred thousand dollars, a gift to build you a new place of worship.

CHICK: For us?

*Harry pulls the check back.*

HARRY: I need to speak with your congregation.

CHICK: How about tomorrow night? We have a community outreach meeting here at six.

HARRY: Tomorrow then. I'll see you soon.

*Harry exits. Blackout.*

## SCENE FOUR

*The movie theater, the next night. A few chairs are set up. Pearl, Maggie, and Lawrence are engaged in a silent battle rearranging chairs. Clara is at the counter when Chick walks in.*

CLARA: It's all yours. The movie in two will probably be over before you are, but I'll send them out the back exit.

CHICK: Thanks, Clara. Chinese sound good tonight?

CLARA: Sounds great.

*Clara exits.*

CHICK: Okay, is everybody here?

LAWRENCE: Present and accounted for.

*Kip runs on and slides into a seat.*

KIP: Sorry.

CHICK: Ladies and gentlemen, I know you all are eager to share your ideas to impact this community.

*Lawrence stands up, notebook in hand, to speak.*

CHICK: But before I open it up to you, we have a special guest.

*Lawrence sits back down. Harry walks in the back, coolly.*

CHICK: He's a representative from the Southeastern Family Action Committee. His name is Harry Maintree. Mr. Maintree?

*Everyone applauds. Harry walks to the front of the group.*

HARRY: Thank you very much, Pastor Little. Folks, I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to speak. I've spent the last two days looking getting to know your little town, the town Hollywood has chosen for it's latest world premiere, a movie called *What's a Meadow For?*

MAGGIE: Oh, are you here for the movie?

HARRY: In a manner of speaking, I am. You know Hollywood has released some great films for Christians as of late. *Passion of the Christ, The Nativity Story, Chronicles of Narnia.*

KIP: Narnia rocks!

HARRY: Haha, that it does, my friend. Hollywood knows when they want to draw an audience, all they need to do is make a good family film with Christian values.

PEARL: Are you saying this is a Christian movie?

HARRY: Sister, I've spent the last six months looking into this film. And I have to tell you, it's perfect.

*Everyone murmurs silent approval.*

HARRY: The perfect film to turn the people of Grover's Mill into atheists!

*Lawrence does a spit-take with his drink.*

LAWRENCE: I'm sorry, did you say, Atheists?

HARRY: I did, brother in Christ. This film is as anti-God as they get. It's not just another story of domestic woe and triumph. It's one woman's struggle to break free of the quote, oppressive bonds of her Judeo-Christian upbringing!

CHICK: Are you sure about this?

HARRY: Am I sure? Pastor, listen to this line from the film's climactic, final scene.

*(reads from a script)* "I never needed you, all these long years. But you couldn't let me go. You had to keep me under your thumb. But not any more, Daddy. You are not gonna keep me down any more! You don't own me, Daddy! And I'll never bow before you again! Never!"

*Everyone gasps as Harry reaches the climax.*

HARRY: Now if that's not anti-God, I don't know what is.

CHICK: Are you sure that's what she really means? I heard this film was about a woman with an abusive father.

HARRY: Movies are all about symbolism, Pastor. In this movie God is the abusive father, and the woman who turns on him will be your friends and family if you let this movie become a hit!

KIP: Sure sounds anti-God to me.

HARRY: It is, son. And there are 665 more lines of dialogue just like this one.

LAWRENCE: 665 plus one... that's 666!

PEARL: The mark of the beast!

HARRY: Oh yes. His mark is all over this film. It's a full on assault against everything we believe in.

MAGGIE: Did you know this, Pastor?

CHICK: No, I didn't know this!

HARRY: Don't give your Pastor a hard time, Sister. Hollywood was this close to slipping by all of us. Fortunately, watchdogs like me are on constant alert from the tricks of Satan's children in Hollywood.

PEARL: Satan's children?

HARRY: The filmmakers at Dark Forest who made this piece of blasphemy. People like J.D. Pruitt, producer, a man who has been divorced three times and last month raised fifty million dollars for the Democratic Party.

*Gasps.*

LAWRENCE: Oh my gosh.

HARRY: Ryan Nichols, writer-director, a practitioner of Scientology and a life-long member of the AC/DC fan club!

*More gasps.*

HARRY: And the star, Taryn Marie, a single woman with two children born out of wedlock.

*More gasps.*

HARRY: And though we don't have names, I have it on good authority there were people working on this movie who are practicing homosexuals!

*BIG gasp!*

HARRY: Yes, my friends. These are Satan's children.

CHICK: Now really, Mr. Maintree, Satan's children?

HARRY: How else do you explain Chevy Chase winning an Oscar for *King Lear*? That was no miracle. That was the result of a deal with the devil!

PEARL: I knew it!

HARRY: And if this one succeeds, do you want to know what's next?

MAGGIE: I shudder to think!

HARRY: A children's movie, aimed at converting your kids into atheists, based on this popular book from the New York City school libraries called *Heather Has No Morals*!

PEARL: No! We have to protect our children!

MAGGIE: You have to talk to Clara. Cancel the premiere!

LAWRENCE/PEARL: Yes!

HARRY: (*panics*) No! (*regains composure*) I mean, are you sure that's the best plan of action?

MAGGIE: Of course! We don't want this movie in our town!

KIP: Satan's children, go home!

PEARL/MAGGIE: Yeah!

HARRY: But if you cancel the premiere, they're going to move it some place else. We can't let them infect some other small town. We have to make a stand right here and now.

KIP: Dude, what can we do?

HARRY: I think you know what to do. Wasn't this the church that got *Green Eggs and Ham* banned from the school system?

MAGGIE: There's only one I am!

PEARL: And his name is NOT Sam!!

HARRY: Then I trust you will do the right thing this time.

*Pause, then Lawrence turns to Chick.*

LAWRENCE: Pastor! You want a community outreach? I think we've found it!

MAGGIE: We have to get the word out, tell people not to see this movie!

HARRY: Precisely! You get the word out that Hollywood has produced a movie this evil, no one will come. And nothing sends a stronger message to people like J.D. Pruitt than empty seats in a theater.

CHICK: I don't know. We're just a little church, and this is a big Hollywood movie. You think we can pull this off?

KIP: Dude, don't you remember David and Goliath? We'll kick their butts! Spiritually speaking.

PEARL: Pastor, we have to try.

LAWRENCE: The people have to know the truth!

MAGGIE: Pearl and I have the old phone chain. We can get that moving.

KIP: Dude, there's about a million blogs I can get on post about this.

HARRY: Yes! Great idea. Good man.

LAWRENCE: I still have a bullhorn from the summer I coached football.

MAGGIE: You talk to the mayor and city council, Pastor.

PEARL: When the people see you're behind this, they've gotta follow our lead.

HARRY: What do you say, Pastor? You want to take on the dragon in your home town?

*Chick stands to his feet.*

CHICK: All right, let's do this.

*Everyone cheers.*

LAWRENCE: Great call, Pastor.

KIP: We won't let you down.

CHICK: I know you won't.

PEARL: Come on, Maggie. We have a phone chain to start.

*Pearl, Maggie, Lawrence, and Kip exit.*

CHICK: Looks like we're all aboard.

HARRY: You're doing the right thing, Pastor.

*Clara enters, walks behind the counter.*

CHICK: I hope so.

*Harry pats Chick on the back, then exits.*

CLARA: Done already?

CHICK: Uh yeah.

CLARA: You guys usually spend a few hours fighting. What happened?

CHICK: Sometimes God's calling is loud and clear.

CLARA: I guess so. Shall we?

*They exit arm in arm. Blackout.*

## SCENE FIVE

*The setting is a park or sidewalk in town. Clara and Chick enter together, holding hands.*

CLARA: I got the funniest call this afternoon from Taryn Marie's agent. She wanted to know where the nearest four star hotel was.

CHICK: What did you tell them?

CLARA: Bring a fuel-efficient car and be prepared to drive.

CHICK: Probably for the best.

CLARA: You know those Hollywood types. They love being environmentally conscious as much as they love being pampered. She's staying some place in Iowa City.

CHICK: That's not too far of a drive.

CLARA: Martha Cooper's renting her place out to TMZ. Can you believe those swill merchants will be in town?

CHICK: It's scary what kind of scum this will bring in.

CLARA: That's one way to look at it. I think it's a wonderful chance to show off our little town.

CHICK: Clara, what do you know about this movie?

CLARA: Not a lot. I did some looking on the Net after the producer called, but there's not much info. A trailer, some pics.

CHICK: Nothing about the story?

CLARA: A woman struggling to break free. That's the blurb on IMDB.

CHICK: Not much to go on, is it?

CLARA: Sometimes that's better, Chick. It's no fun when some jerk posts the entire script online before the movie opens. I like to be surprised.

CHICK: Seems a little dangerous.

CLARA: True. Flying blind, you could be walking into a real stinker.

CHICK: Or worse.

CLARA: So how was the meeting?

CHICK: Fine. I think we're on to something big.

CLARA: Who was the suit?

CHICK: Harry Maintree. He's from the Southeastern Family Action Committee. He wanted to bring us in on a mission project.

CLARA: Good stuff?

CHICK: They offered us a donation. Enough to get another church building going.

CLARA: That's pretty generous.

CHICK: It's very generous. For what they want done... it almost seems too much.

CLARA: You're going to do it though, right?

CHICK: Are you that eager to get us out of your lobby?

CLARA: I want to see the ministry you had going get its fire back. This town is a poorer place without First Church.

CHICK: You think so?

CLARA: Are you kidding? We've lost the soup kitchen, the thrift store. It wouldn't be Christmas without the pageant, or the Fourth without the church bazaar.

CHICK: Ministry's about more than charity and pageants. Sometimes you have to take the hard stand, fight or what's right. We haven't always done that at First Church. But now... we've kinda been called to do just that.

CLARA: What was it you said last month? That sermon about changing the world, what did you say about pleasing others?

CHICK: You can't change the world being a people pleaser.

CLARA: Then don't.

CHICK: Don't change the world?

CLARA: Don't worry who you're going to offend. If you have something to say that's going to change lives, speak out.

CHICK: We're going to make people angry. People who won't understand. Is it worth getting a new building if there's no one left to fill it.

CLARA: If these people hadn't offered you this money, would you still feel called to share your message?

CHICK: Yes.

CLARA: Then do it.

*Blackout.*

## SCENE SIX

*Lawrence enters the audience with a bullhorn.*

LAWRENCE: Attention sinners! Attention sinners of Grover's Mill! Do not see the movie *What's a Meadow For?* Do not go to see this movie!

*Light on Pearl just left of centerstage, on the phone. Lawrence keeps walking, giving people in the audience a sinister stare.*

PEARL: That's right, Gladys, this man from the Southeastern Family thingy came and told us all about it. The movie is completely anti-God... Yes, I'm sure! He read us a line of dialogue from the movie, and... well, let's just say I'm surprised the good Lord didn't strike that pagan screenwriter dead just for putting it on paper.

LAWRENCE: If you see this movie, you will become an atheist! You will lose your salvation! You will be sent to Hell when you die! You will not pass go! You will not collect \$200!

*Maggie enters with Martha, stage right, and walk to just right of center.*

MAGGIE: These Hollywood types are all corrupt anyway. Did you know the producer of this movie has been divorced three times?

MARTHA: Three times?

MAGGIE: And he raises money for the democrats.

MARTHA: Did he give any to Clinton?

MAGGIE: I'm sure he did.

MARTHA: Those Hollywood jerks. Why do they love him so much?

LAWRENCE: Satan wants to possess you. If you see this movie, you will be possessed by demons. Do not let Satan steal your soul!

*Lights up stage left; Bud is in a barber chair. Turk is cutting his hair. Chick stands beside them.*

TURK: Hollywood makes bad movies all the time, Pastor. Let it go.

CHICK: This isn't like the others, Turk. This one's aimed at turning people away from the Lord.

BUD: Why do I care? I don't even go to church.

CHICK: Our society was founded on Christian morals, Bud. Imagine if everyone started doing whatever they wanted to do instead of following the Ten Commandments?

TURK: He's got a point there. It would be chaos.

BUD: Would I get re-elected?

TURK: There wouldn't be elections, Bud. Just anarchy.

*Bud whistles, frightened.*

LAWRENCE: Protect your loved ones! Do not let them see the movie! Take them to church or watch Veggie Tales instead. I personally recommend Josh and the Big Wall.

*Lights up on Kip stage right, typing on a laptop.*

KIP: The director is a scientologist. The star is an unwed mother. Gay people worked on the set, probably doing hair or makeup. And they came together to make this movie to try and make us all hate God. We should pray for them, but not be surprised when they all end up in Hell anyway. Meanwhile, please pass the word along and repost this warning where ever you can.

LAWRENCE: Stay away from the theater!

PEARL: Do not see this movie!

MAGGIE: It will turn you into an atheist.

CHICK: Our town has suffered enough.

KIP: And it's time we send these Hollywood creeps a lesson!

LAWRENCE: Protect your children! Stay in your homes! Seek shelter in basements!

Lawrence, Kip, Pearl, and Maggie all exit. Martha pulls out a cell phone to dial.

BUD: I appreciate you coming to me with this, Pastor. I will take it under advisement.

Heck, I might even pray over it. Seems like the right thing to do.

CHICK: It is, Mr. Mayor. Thank you for your time.

BUD: See ya Sunday.

*Chick exits. Martha pulls out her cell phone and dials.*

MARTHA: Hey, Sadie? It's Martha. You know that movie premiere they're having at the Grand? Guess what I just heard?

TURK: You really gonna pray about this?

BUD: The producers send me VIP tickets to the premiere, seats right next to Taryn Marie. I'm not gonna pray about this. I'm inviting all my friends.

TURK: You serious?

BUD: Yes I'm serious. If all that stuff is really true?

BUD/MARTHA: We gotta see this movie!

*Blackout.*

## SCENE SEVEN

*Mary Sparks is in front of the curtain with Clara.*

MARY: Mary Sparks here for Worldwide Entertainment News. I'm standing in front of the Grand Theater in Grover's Mill, Iowa, one of the few remaining classic movie houses in the country. In the past this theater played host to movies with Marilyn, Bogie, Bacall, and Hepburn. Next weekend it will play host to the world premiere of Taryn Marie's new film, *What's a Meadow For?* I'm standing here with the owner of the Grand, Clara Baxter. Clara, this must be a thrill for you.

CLARA: It is, Mary. We're expecting Taryn Marie herself to attend the premiere, and the public is invited to see the movie.

MARY: I imagine the tickets must be steep.

CLARA: Well, we're selling them for ten dollars at the box office, but I understand they're going for a lot more on eBay.

MARY: There certainly is a lot of buzz being generated by this movie, and it seems a good deal from your hometown.

CLARA: Well, it's not every day Hollywood comes to your place. Everyone's thrilled.

MARY: Everyone but the people from First Church.

CLARA: What?

MARY: The First Church of Grover's Mill. They've been calling for a boycott of the film, saying it has anti-religious undertones.

CLARA: What are you talking about? I haven't heard anything.

MARY: It's all over the Internet. Pastor Chick Little and his congregation have been talking with neighbors, emailing, and posting countless blogs against the movie. They say it promotes atheism and a Satanic agenda.

CLARA: Is this a joke? He wouldn't do this to me, I know it!

*Lawrence enters, carrying his megaphone.*

LAWRENCE: It's no joke, Clara. I've been up and down every street in the county with my little buddy here giving them the news. *(into the megaphone)* This movie is Satanic! Do not see this movie unless you love Satan!

CLARA: Does Chick really know you're doing this?

LAWRENCE: Who do you think sent us out to warn everyone?

*Clara shakes her head, heartbroken, and leaves.*

MARY: Well it seems I've been joined by one of the parishoners now.  
LAWRENCE: Whoa, whoa, parishoners? I'm a church member. Don't make me sound Catholic.  
MARY: Your name, sir?  
LAWRENCE: Hogan. Lawrence Hogan.  
MARY: Lawrence, what is it about this movie that disgusts you?  
LAWRENCE: What doesn't disgust me about it? The people who made it are filthy pagans. The story is anti-Christian, and the whole thing is part of the liberal left wing agenda to take God out of the pledge, the schools, our money, and our movie houses.  
MARY: Are you aware that all your protests have caused interest in the film to rise 1000 percent?  
LAWRENCE: No doubt people are getting the word that this is an evil movie, and telling their friends.  
MARY: Actually, people are buying advanced tickets online. The movie's made back half it's cost before even one showing.  
LAWRENCE: Blasphemer! Are you from the film company? You're with them, aren't you?  
MARY: No.  
LAWRENCE: If this is true, we'll just have to redouble our efforts. *(into megaphone)* People of the world, do not see this movie! This movie is from the devil!  
MARY: This is Mary Sparks--  
LAWRENCE: *(into megaphone)* Mary Sparks the TV newswoman liar.

*Mary exits, disgusted. Lawrence exits the opposite way. Chick enters with Martha.*

MARTHA: Yes, yes, Pastor, I've heard it all. The movie's evil, blah blah.  
CHICK: I'm urging you, don't buy a ticket.  
MARTHA: Hollywood doesn't come to town every day. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of us.

*Chick blocks her path.*

CHICK: But they're coming here to promote and anti-Christian agenda! Martha, please, don't see this movie!  
MARTHA: How do you know it's that bad? Have you seen it?

*Clara enters from behind Chick; Martha can see her but Chick cannot.*

CHICK: I heard from someone who knows.  
MARTHA: If it's so bad, why not tell Clara? Ask her to send them away?  
CHICK: Because they'll just go someplace else. Nothing speaks louder to those Hollywood types than empty seats.  
MARTHA: What about Clara? Aren't you worried about hurting her feelings?  
CHICK: Better that than offending God.  
CLARA: Good. I'd hate to think you'd have any remorse over this.

*Chick turns to see Clara.*

CHICK: Clara, I...

CLARA: I trusted you!

CHICK: I wanted to tell you. Really.

CLARA: How long has this been going on?

CHICK: Since Monday.

CLARA: So this is it? This is your big outreach project? I hope it's worth the money.

CHICK: It's not about the money! Clara, you don't know who these people are.

CLARA: Chick?

CHICK: Yes.

CLARA: You're an idiot.

*Clara turns and walks away.*

CLARA: And you and your church can find a new place to meet!

*Chick turns back to Martha.*

MARTHA: Guess I'll be driving to Eagle Rock from now on. Unless your movie turns me into an atheist.

*Martha laughs to herself and walks off. Blackout.*

## SCENE EIGHT

*Lawrence, Kip, Pearl, Maggie, and Chick all walk into the audience, carrying folding chairs. Have them spend a while ad libbing, in character, arguing over where the best place to set up and have church is. Once settled, the scripted dialogue begins.*

PEARL: Well, if you ask me, it was rather unreasonable of Clara to do this to us.

CHICK: No, she had every right to be mad.

LAWRENCE: I don't know, Pastor. Maybe those Holly-weirdos already converted her.

CHICK: Will you stop with that?

MAGGIE: Lawrence, please. The last thing we need is another division in our group.

KIP: You're right. It's been a rough week. You try to do the Lord's work and warn people about spiritual warfare in our town, and nobody wants to talk to you.

PEARL: It's persecution. We're under attack for taking a stand.

LAWRENCE: You're right. You wouldn't believe the reactions I've had. People called me crazy. Me!

MAGGIE: Have we had any impact at all? Did anyone get a chance to share the gospel?

KIP: No, but it seems they sold a lot of tickets. Yahoo Movies said it's sold out.

LAWRENCE: Well that's just great. The premiere's sold out. There's more press coming into town every day. It's like we sat back and did nothing!

PEARL: Maybe we need a new strategy.

LAWRENCE: Or maybe we're not working hard enough at the old one.

MAGGIE: We could get some billboards.

KIP: Dude, I could email some people to come in and help us canvas the area.

LAWRENCE: That's a great idea. Reinforcements!

PEARL: What if we threw an outdoor service the same night as the premiere? Pastor could get up and let the people know how evil this movie really is.

MAGGIE: Our church could end up on national TV! Think of how many people we could reach then!

LAWRENCE: We could be on Fox News. Do you think they'll send O'Reilly? Gosh, I'd love to meet him.

MAGGIE: I can get the mayor to give us the town square.

PEARL: I'll arrange the music.

KIP: We can use my band's old speakers.

PEARL: What do you say, Pastor?

*Chick looks up at them.*

CHICK: Is this what Jesus wanted? When he sent his disciples into the world, was it to put on a big protest?

LAWRENCE: Pastor, we're defending the faith. How could God not be pleased with that?

CHICK: I don't know, Lawrence. But it seems to me all we've done is promote this movie. No matter what we do, it backfires. Maybe if we'd kept our mouths shut, the theater would be empty.

KIP: Dude, it's a Taryn Marie movie.

LAWRENCE: Yeah, but her last three movies weren't the greatest. She needs this one to be a hit.

CHICK: I don't know, you guys. When I stand before God and give an account of my life, I don't want my greatest achievement to be sinking a Hollywood movie. I got in this to win souls. It doesn't seem like you can do that holding a picket sign.

PEARL: So you're giving up? You want to put down the picket sign?

LAWRENCE: What's next, Pastor? You gonna lay down the cross?

CHICK: Of course not.

LAWRENCE: Then snap out of it!

CHICK: It's people that matter, Lawrence. Not ticket receipts. And people I care about have been hurt this week. Even if we do stop the movie, I don't know if I could ever repair what I damaged.

*Chick gets up and leaves.*

KIP: Did Pastor just quit?

MAGGIE: It's that Clara girl. She's given in to the devil, and she's dragging him down with her.

PEARL: So what do we do? We can't just give up, can we?

*Lawrence stands.*

LAWRENCE: No, Pearl. We can't. And we won't.

KIP: You got a plan?

LAWRENCE: We're going to stop this movie, come Hell or high water. If these Hollyweird types think they can come into our town and corrupt our children, they have another think coming. We're going to stop this movie from happening. We're gonna do it for our children, for Pastor, for Grover's Mill, and for Jesus. Are you with me?

*Kip stands.*

KIP: Totally.

*Pearl and Maggie stand up.*

PEARL: Do you have a plan?

LAWRENCE: Shhh. *(looks over the audience)* Not here.

*They all grab their chairs and leave, being sure to take Chick's chair as well.*

## SCENE NINE

*The theater lobby. Clara is doing some last minute cleaning. She is dressed in a formal gown. The phone rings.*

CLARA: Hello?... Yes, Mr. Lime, everything is all set... Uh huh, full house. We've even opened a second auditorium and sold that one completely out... The red carpet is out and waiting for her...

*Chick enters.*

CLARA: Thank you, bye bye.

*Clara hangs up.*

CHICK: This place looks great, Clara.

CLARA: What are you doing here, Chick?

CHICK: I'm here to apologize. I should have told you about the movie the minute I heard about it.

CLARA: Is that it?

CHICK: What else do you want me to say?

CLARA: How about "I made a fool of myself over a stupid movie"?

CHICK: Clara, people need to know the truth. The Bible says do not be deceived--

CLARA: I know what the Bible says, same as you. You want to educate people about a movie's true meaning, that's fine. But next time you do...

*Clara hands Chick a press release.*

CLARA: Get all your facts straight.

CHICK: "A true story about a woman's struggle against her abusive father. Based on the best-selling book, as featured in Oprah's Book Club."

CLARA: There's nothing evil about this movie, Chick. And just because the people who made it aren't Christian, who are you to go around judging them? That's not the Jesus I know.

*Bud enters with Taryn. He is in a tux; she is in a fancy gown.*

BUD: Here we are, Miss Marie.

TARYN: Ooh, how old timey.

BUD: Pastor! Surprised to see you here. I thought you were boycotting.

CHICK: I just stopped by to say... *(looks at Clara)* Good luck.

BUD: Very kind of you. Taryn Marie, may I present Clara Baxter, theater owner.

CLARA: Nice to meet you.

TARYN: Tee hee, I know.

BUD And Chick Little, pastor of First Church of Grover's Mill.

TARYN: You're not going to watch my movie dressed like a farmer, are you?

CHICK: Me? Uh no. Not at all.

*Lawrence, Pearl, Maggie, and Kip enter in commando gear, all carrying waterguns.*

LAWRENCE: No one's going to be watching this movie! Not tonight, not ever!

CHICK: Lawrence, what are you doing here?

LAWRENCE: Finishing what you started!

CLARA: Chick, what's going on?

CHICK: Clara, I had nothing to do with this!

LAWRENCE: Don't listen to her, Pastor. We'll cast the demons out of her later.

Meantime, everyone back behind the snack counter.

TARYN: But only theater personnel go back there.

LAWRENCE: Move!

*Bud and Taryn run behind the counter.*

LAWRENCE: You too, Pastor.

CHICK: Lawrence, are those... waterguns?

LAWRENCE: Shhhh!

*Lawrence leans in, whispers:*

LAWRENCE: It was the best I could do. Apparently, there's a seven day waiting period for the real thing.

CHICK: I see.

LAWRENCE: Just play along, will you?

*The phone rings. Clara answers.*

CLARA: Hello?... No, now would not be a good time. It seems some religious nuts have decided to take Miss Marie and our esteemed mayor hostage...

*Lawrence disconnects the phone.*

LAWRENCE: Great! Now they know we're here!

KIP: The cops are coming?

MAGGIE: With real guns?

BUD: Give it up, people. You'll never get away with this. Besides, our cops don't shoot that well, and I don't want to get hit.

LAWRENCE: Quiet, all of you! I need to think!

KIP: Miss Marie, could I trouble you for an autograph.

TARYN: You could trouble me for anything, cutie.

LAWRENCE: No, Kip! Unwed mother! Bad!

TARYN: *(to Kip)* You're an unwed mother? I'm an unwed mother too!

POLICE: *(off stage)* This is the police. You have thirty seconds to lay down your weapons and surrender!

*Kip throws his gun down and puts his hands up.*

KIP: That's good enough for me.

PEARL: Get back here, you coward!

KIP: Look, I don't know about you, but I don't wanna go out in a blaze of glory!

PEARL: Oh ye of little faith! What would Jesus do?

CLARA: Well, for starters, he wouldn't take hostages.

PEARL: What do we do, Lawrence? Do we gun it out?

LAWRENCE: With what? These are water guns!

MAGGIE: I loaded mine with pepper sauce.

KIP: Dude, I wish I'd thought of that.

POLICE: Ten seconds, and we're coming in!

PEARL: Lawrence, this was your plan!

LAWRENCE: I know! I know!

MAGGIE: Did you plan a way out?

LAWRENCE: No.

MAGGIE: Well why not?

LAWRENCE: Well, to tell the truth, I didn't think we'd actually get this far.

TARYN: *(to Kip)* So how many kids do you have? Was it all the same father? Mine have two.

POLICE: All right, if that's how you want it, we're coming in!

*Sound of a window breaking. A smoke machine behind the counter starts billowing smoke.*

TARYN: What is that?  
MAGGIE: Poison gas!  
PEARL: This is it. I'm coming, Jesus!  
KIP: No! (*coughs*) It's tear gas!

*Everyone starts coughing. Fade lights out.*

POLICE: All right, boys. Let's drag 'em out!

*Sound of feet running, sirens. Fade to silence.*

#### SCENE TEN: VIDEO

*The same scene from the beginning of the play runs again.*

#### SCENE ELEVEN

*Spotlight on Mary Sparks.*

MARY: Four members of the First Church of Grover's Mill face were arrested following the siege, and police were able to rescue Taryn Marie in time for the big premiere. Advance ticket sales for the movie continue to set new records, but in spite of the record sales, the early reviews of the movie that have been less than spectacular.

#### SCENE TWELVE

*The movie theater lobby. Clara is behind the counter, looking despondent. The place is a wreck thanks to the cops. Turk, Bud, and Martha walk through together.*

TURK: Shoulda listened to the wackos. That was the worst movie ever.  
MARTHA: I can't believe how horrible it was. The acting was bad. The script was bad.  
BUD: Clara, who do I see about getting the last two hours of my life back?  
CLARA: Sorry, can't help you there.  
TURK: How about a refund?  
CLARA: Think of it as a donation to the theater restoration fund.  
TURK: Show more movies like that, and I'll burn this place down.

*Bud, Martha, and Turk exit. Chick enters.*

CHICK: How'd you do?  
CLARA: Not bad. I can finish renovating.  
CHICK: Good. Where you gonna start?  
CLARA: I don't know. I need to talk to my realtor. Find out what's going to up the value on this place the most.  
CHICK: What do you mean?  
CLARA: I can't stay here, Chick. Not after this.

CHICK: Where will you go?

CLARA: (*shrugs*) Away. Some place I can get a new life, a new career. Forget about what happened here.

CHICK: Clara, if there was any way to...

CLARA: You don't have to apologize again.

CHICK: I feel like I can't apologize enough.

CLARA: It's okay. There's only been one perfect man in all history. But I guess some folks are better at imitating him than others.

*Clara starts to exit.*

CLARA: You can have church here if you want. When your congregation makes bail.

CHICK: Can we have dinner some time?

CLARA: I don't think so, Pastor.

*Clara exits. Harry enters.*

CHICK: Mr. Maintree.

HARRY: Pastor.

CHICK: We failed.

HARRY: So I noticed. Biggest opening weekend in history. Not bad for a movie that... well, quite frankly, it's the worst thing I've ever seen.

CHICK: You saw it?

HARRY: Sure. A man has to know what he's selling in order to know how best to sell it.

CHICK: You're not from the Southeastern Family Action Coalition, are you?

HARRY: My name is Harry Lime. I'm with Dark Forest Productions.

*Harry hands Chick a card.*

CHICK: You work for the studio.

HARRY: 'Fraid so.

CHICK: Guess I shoulda seen the...

HARRY: Go ahead, say it. The forest for the Tree.

CHICK: I guess we won't be getting that building.

HARRY: On the contrary. My bosses were so impressed by you and yours, they sent you a check.

*Harry hands Chick a check.*

CHICK: Two million dollars?

HARRY: You earned it. Oh, and all charges against your congregants will be dropped.

CHICK: How?

HARRY: We have some good lawyers in LA. Movie stars never go to jail. It was the least we could do.

CHICK: I appreciate that. But I can't accept this money.

HARRY: Sure you can.

CHICK: It's not right. We failed in our calling as believers. We let some crazy crusade distract us from who we were supposed to be.

*Chick rips the check.*

HARRY: Pastor, that's a new building you're giving up.

CHICK: A church is more than a building. It's people gathered in His name. I don't know what you call us right now, but we've been anything but God's church

HARRY: If it's any consolation, I'm sure the Lord's a little more mad at me. I led you people like blind sheep off a cliff.

CHICK: We all, like sheep, have gone astray. But there's a reason Jesus is called the good shepherd. He came to seek all the lost sheep and bring them back into the fold.

HARRY: I'm no sheep, Pastor. Just a wolf in sheep's clothing.

*Harry exits. Blackout.*

# Bonus Script: The P.T. Barnum Code

By John Cospers

## CHARACTERS

Jason- A Christian

Rob- Jason's neighbor

Aimee- A teenager

An Actor Who Is Not Tom Hanks

*The scene takes place at the box office of a movie theater, which hasn't opened yet. Aimee is first in line. Rob is behind her. Jason enters.*

JASON- Hey, Rob.

ROB- Jason, hey, what's up?

JASON- Nothing much. Helen and I are catching a movie tonight, so I thought I'd get our tickets before the rush.

ROB- I hear ya, man. This place is crazy on Friday nights. What are you seeing?

JASON- "Apocalyton."

ROB- "Apocalyton"? Haven't heard of that one.

JASON- It's a new Christian movie about the end times, starring Sandy Patti and that guy from that 80's TV show "Riptide."

ROB- "Riptide"? I loved that show.

JASON- You and Mena should come with! It'll be great.

ROB- Not tonight. Mena's got her heart set on seeing Tom Hanks tonight.

JASON- Tom Hanks? You don't mean you're seeing...

ROB- Yup, "The P.T. Barnum Code."

JASON- Rob... you can't see that movie!

ROB- Why not?

JASON- Because it's terrible!

ROB- Terrible? Tom Hanks is in it, Ron Howard directed it. It got great reviews.

JASON- But it's a steaming pile of lies! Do you know what that movie is about?

ROB- Sure, I read the book.

JASON- You did??

ROB- Yeah. it's a great story about a cryptographer discovers a secret society of televangelists hiding a dark secret about Jesus.

JASON- Rob, that book claims Jesus was a circus clown!

ROB- I know, shocking, isn't it?

JASON- It's insane!

ROB- I know. If I hadn't read the book, I never would have dreamed Jesus wore grease paint and a clown nose and delighted children with his witty antics. Or that he married the bearded lady. Or that his son was Jo-Jo the dog face boy. Or that his greatest miracle was only--

JASON- A card trick, I know.

ROB- You read the book too?

JASON- No. I read about it in the church bulletin.

ROB- They printed that? What an enlightened church you attend.

AIMEE- Excuse me, what movie was that you were talking about?

ROB- "The P.T. Barnum Code."

AIMEE- That sounds so cool. I was gonna see Will Farrell's new movie, but maybe I should see that instead.

JASON- No!

AIMEE- No?

JASON- Absolutely not! You cannot see that movie!

AIMEE- What are you, trying to be my mother or something?

JASON- Just a man who loves Jesus and believes in the truth!

ROB- Jason, the story was based on facts from the author's research and interviews with people in the circus community.

JASON- But it's all wrong!

AIMEE- How do you know?

JASON- Because... it's in the Bible!

AIMEE- Can you prove the Bible's right?

JASON- (*getting angry*) I don't have to! The Bible's the Bible! And it's right. That book is wrong!

AIMEE- But how can I know that?

JASON- (*really angry*) BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS SO!!

ROB- Whoa, Jason, buddy, calm down. It's only a movie.

JASON- It's not just a movie, Rob. I can't calm down, and I can't stay silent when Tom Hanks and Ron Howard are desecrating the name of Jesus!

AIMEE- Whoa. Look, pal. My mother took me to church as a kid. The pastor was a crook and a liar. I don't know your church, and I don't know your Bible. But I know that Tom Hanks and the guy from Happy Days would never deceive me!

*Jason, Aimee, and Rob freeze. You can go to a blackout here, or go on with the optional ending, where the 3 main characters stay frozen and an actor who is Not Tom Hanks enters.*

NOT TOM HANKS- Hi. I'm not Tom Hanks. The dramatization you just saw was a work of fiction that could never happen in real life. Hollywood is a place of great moral fiber, and would never spew lies about Jesus. And even if they did, we all know Christians are well-educated, thoughtful people who not only know their Bible, but the over-whelming evidence to support our faith outside the Bible. And therefore, Christians would never, ever counter a silly, work-of-fiction movie by simply screaming and yelling "because the Bible says so." Thank you.

# Bonus Script: The Golden Compass

By John Cospers

## CHARACTERS

Dan- A salesman

Tom- A marketing genius

Nicole- A Christian

Shoppers

NOTE: This skit is dedicated to Phillip Pullman, whom I pray may come to know Jesus as his Savior.

*Dan is on stage behind a table covered with small boxes. He has a sign that says "Golden Compasses for Sale" and he holds a gold compass. Shoppers pass him by without even noticing.*

DAN: Golden compasses! Get your golden compasses right here. Golden compasses, only five bucks. Know where you are and where you're going with this golden compass. Only five dollars.

*Tom enters.*

TOM: Hey, Dan.

DAN: Hey, Tom.

TOM: Still in the golden compass business?

DAN: You want one? Only five bucks.

TOM: Let me see that.

DAN: Take a look! Isn't it shiny?

TOM: It's shiny... *(opens the compass)* Hmm, not a lot character to it though. And look at this. No structure.

DAN: I know.

TOM: Ha. It doesn't even point to true north.

DAN: What?

TOM: Here, see for yourself.

*Tom pulls a compass out of his pocket. Dan looks.*

DAN: Aww, man! They're all broken!

TOM: Don't be so hard on yourself. You're in a tough market. You're not only competing against other compasses, but GPS systems too.

DAN: What are you saying? You think I should give up?

TOM: Not at all. You just need a clever marketing gimmick.

DAN: Yeah? Like what?

*Nicole enters and walks past. Tom rushes over to her.*

TOM: Excuse me, ma'am. May I have a word?

*Tom pulls Nicole aside. They whisper. At one point she looks at Dan with a look of utter HORROR! She clasps her mouth. Tom tells her one more thing. She shakes her head yes and runs off, with one last look of disdain for Dan.*

DAN: Well?

TOM: Go home, pack up all the compasses you have in inventory, come back tomorrow, and double your price.

DAN: Double my price? What did you do? What did you tell her?

TOM: That woman's a Christian. I just told her your compasses cause demon possession in small children. You're welcome.

## **RIGHTEOUS INSANITY RECOMMENDS:**

### **DAVINCI CODE 2: ELECTRIC BOOGALOO**

DVC2:EB is a one act comedy for a cast of 12. It's the story of Kip Wilson, a cryptologist and writer who finds himself accused of murdering a museum curator and stealing Leonardo DaVinci's high school notebook, which contains a long lost note to Michaelangelo. ("Hey, what's up? Not much here.) Along with the dead man's niece Audrey (Not Amelie!!), Kip finds himself on the run from a gung-ho French cop in search of clues to decode the curator's final coded message: John 316. He finds help along the way from a number of oddballs, including an old man who looks a lot like that evil mutant guy that once waged war on mankind; a shifty informant named The Sphinx; a Fudge Round-obsessed albino named Whitey; and the play's director, the man called Opie. DVC2:EB spoofs the DaVinci Code (both the book and the novel) along with its cast, crew and writers; it also pokes particular fun at the panicky, alarmist protestors that have driven ticket sales for the movie. What's more, it delivers great messages about where to put your faith, and ignoring the obvious truth when it's staring you right in the face.

### **HELD BACK**

A dark one act comedy about Christians who proclaim Jesus with their words and deny him with their lives. The play follows the daily life of a minister bored with his congregation; a "church lady" set in her ways and her morals; the church lady's daughter, who is growing up to be just as uncaring toward others; and a business man afraid to share his faith. The minister blows off church members. The church lady lie to avoid a speeding ticket. The daughter passes on a chance to speak to a classmate in need. The business man is perpetually accompanied by Jesus, and every time a co-worker appears, Jesus gets shoved under the desk. Meanwhile, a hurting woman in desperate need of the love of Christ encounters each of these so-called believers in her day. Every time, she sends out signals that she needs help. Every time she is denied. The play ends with Jesus walking into her apartment, finding her body, and reading her suicide note. This won't be anyone's favorite play, but it will leave an unmistakable impression on people about the need to share Christ with others.

For these and other drama resources, please visit  
[www.righteousinsanity.com](http://www.righteousinsanity.com)

**RIGHTEOUS INSANITY**  
ROYALTY PAYMENT FORM

NAME OF PLAY: \_\_\_\_\_

PERFORMING GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PERFORMANCE DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ (See title page for royalty amount)

CONTACT INFO

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL PAYMENT TO:

RIGHTEOUS INSANITY  
2707 NAVAJO DR  
NEW ALBANY, IN 47150

If you have any questions, please contact John Cospers at 812-945-5650 or [john@righteousinsanity.com](mailto:john@righteousinsanity.com)