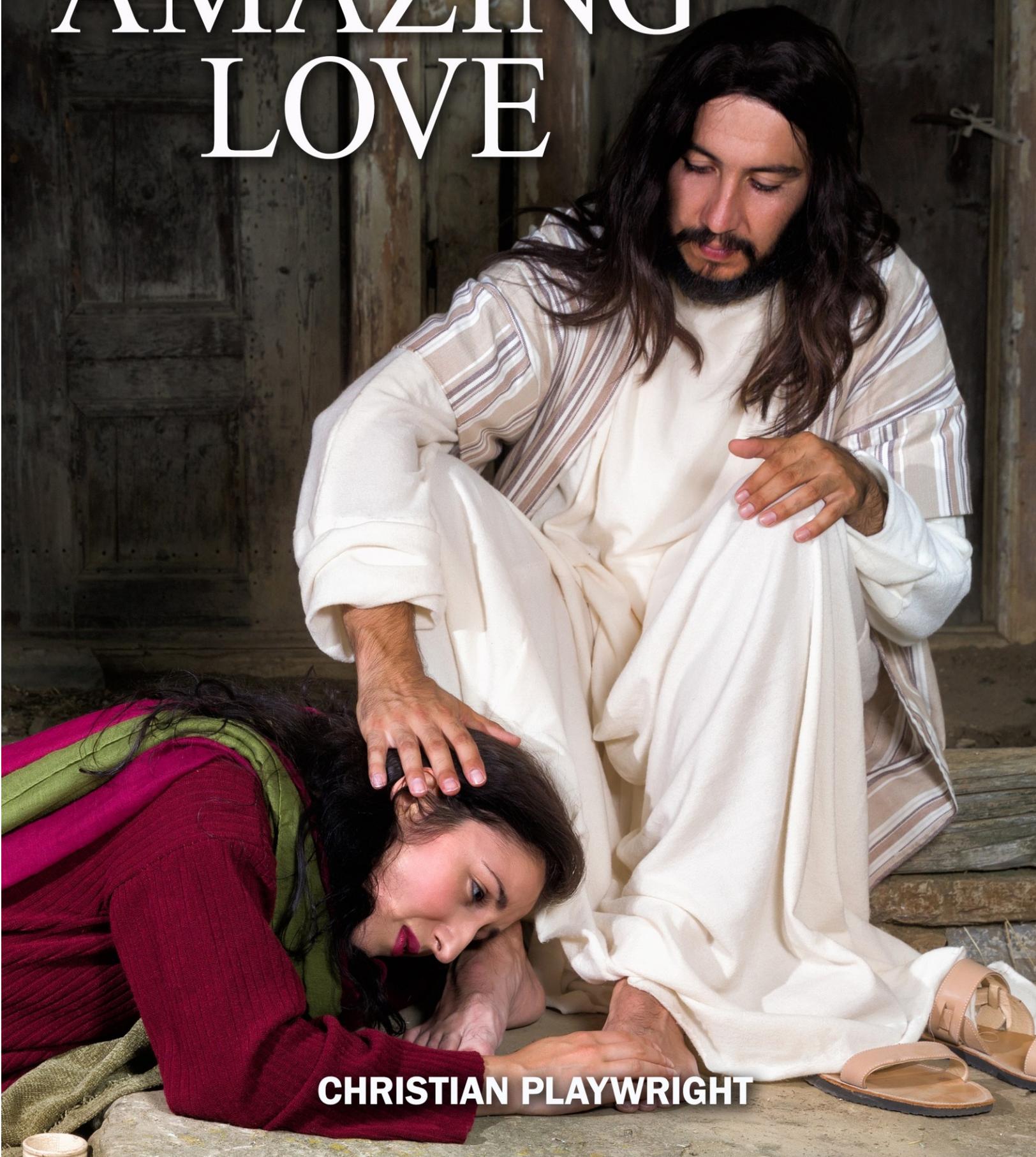


The Original Stageplay

# AMAZING LOVE



**CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT**

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## Sample Script



## Scene 1

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**LIGHTS UP:**

*Brian is seated on the couch wrapped in a bath robe.*

*Mary comes out also wrapped in a bathrobe and carrying a glass of juice. She gives the glass to Brian and sits beside him.*

**MARY:** You okay?

**BRIAN:** Why wouldn't I be?

*Brian drinks from the glass.*

**MARY:** When is your wife coming home?

**BRIAN:** I'm not sure.

*Brian drinks again.*

**MARY:** I don't know if I can do this, Brian.

**BRIAN:** Do what?

**MARY:** This. I'm an active member of a church. This is wrong. This is not me.

**BRIAN:** I don't go to church and this is me. You want to leave, I won't stop you. I will just replace you. Consider yourself lucky to have me.

**MARY:** When you say things like that, I get the feeling you don't care about me.

**BRIAN:** You're the one always talking about leaving and going on and on about your church and what God thinks and how much of a disappointment you are. Sometimes I wish you would just make up your mind or just shut up.

**MARY:** You're cheating on your wife, Brian. Don't you feel any remorse?

**BRIAN:** No.

*Pause.*

**BRIAN:** I know she's doing the same thing. I've seen the texts and emails that he sends her.

**MARY:** So this is about revenge?

**BRIAN:** This is about me getting what I want.

**MARY:** I just think you're the one who needs to make up his mind. I mean, you told me several times you would leave your wife for me.

**BRIAN:** Why do you always bring this up?

**MARY:** Because you don't.

**BRIAN:** There's a reason for that.

**MARY:** Okay, let's hear it.

**BRIAN:** Hear what?

**MARY:** Your reason for not bringing it up.

**BRIAN:** You should probably go.

**MARY:** We're at my place.

**BRIAN:** Then I should probably go.

*Brian gets up and exits the room.*

**MARY:** God. What am I doing? What am I really doing? (begins laughing to herself) Right. Why would you even listen to someone like me?

**LIGHTS FADE.**

## Scene 2

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**LIGHTS UP:**

*Mary is fast asleep on the couch.*

*Enter Dinah, coming from church. She looks at Mary sleeping on the couch. She puts her Bible down, goes into her bag and pulls out a whistle. She blows hard.*

*Mary jumps up from the couch hysterical. She sees Dinah laughing and breathes to calm herself.*

**MARY:** Mom, why are you always doing that?

**DINAH:** Because it's fun.

**MARY:** You're too old to be having fun.

**DINAH:** You're too young to be sleeping on the couch. What's wrong with your bed?

*No response.*

**DINAH:** He was here, wasn't he?

**MARY:** Don't start.

**DINAH:** This is not how I raised you, Mary. You can't be so lost that you would entertain this man. This is wrong on all levels.

**MARY:** I'm not having this conversation with you, Mom.

**DINAH:** He's a married man.

**MARY:** You don't think I know that?

**DINAH:** There are plenty of single men down at the church.

**MARY:** They are not my type.

**DINAH:** Why? Because they are single?

**MARY:** It hurts to be around you these days, Mom.

**DINAH:** I'm not the one hurting you, baby. This mess you've gotten yourself into is hurting you. This man you're involved with is hurting you.

**MARY:** Please go, Mom. I can't face this right now.

**DINAH:** There was a woman like you in your father's life once. I hated her.

**MARY:** Mom, please.

**DINAH:** I learned to forgive her — and your father. But by then it was too late. Our marriage was damaged beyond repair. Up until the day he died, it was never the same. My own daughter is doing that to someone else.

**MARY:** *(Almost in tears)* Why do you come here and lay all this guilt on me?

**DINAH:** This time — this very season — many centuries ago, there was a man who took all your guilt and sin. Nailed them to a cross. You know that man.

**MARY:** I thought I did.

**DINAH:** God can forgive you. Set you free. Give you the strength to walk away from all this. You're better than this, Mary.

**MARY:** You talk about forgiveness like it's a simple gesture. You don't know some of the things I've done. I'm glad church is working for you, Mom, but it's not working for me, okay. There is no place in church for blatant sinners like me.

**DINAH:** If only that were true.

**MARY:** Change the subject, Mom, or get out.

**DINAH:** If God could give you anything this Easter season, Mary — what would you ask Him for?

**MARY:** God will have nothing to do with me. I'm a mess.

**DINAH:** (*firmly*) What would you ask Him for?

*Pause.*

**MARY:** Peace! I would ask Him for peace.

**DINAH:** I will pray that He gives you your peace.

**MARY:** Whatever makes you happy, Mom.

*Pause.*

**LIGHTS FADE.**

### Scene 3

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**LIGHTS UP:**

*Setting Change: There is a couch upstage right in a corner. Mary, now dressed in Biblical clothing, is resting her head on Brian's knees, also dressed in biblical clothing. She appears to be sleeping.*

*The rest of the stage will be used as an outdoor setting. There are stones scattered around the stage.*

*Mary wakes up. Her eyes come into focus and she looks confused. She looks at a smiling Brian, then at her own choice of clothes.*

**MARY:** Why am I dressed like this? Why are you dressed like that? Brian, why are you wearing a dress?

**BRIAN:** Why do you keep calling me Brian and talking such nonsense? Go back to sleep. I derive a certain measure of pleasure just watching you sleep.

**MARY:** What? Who are you?

*Mary gets off the couch. Walks away. Brian follows.*

**BRIAN:** It is true then. My charm does affect a woman mentally.

**MARY:** This is not my house.

**BRIAN:** No beloved. This house belongs to me. Would you like me to buy you a house? I will do anything for you. Where would you like to live? Bethlehem? Judah? On the other side of Jordan?

**MARY:** What? Why would I leave the United States to go live in those places, and why are you talking so funny?

**BRIAN:** What is United States, and whatever do you mean by I'm talking funny? You're the one talking funny, beloved.

**MARY:** People don't talk like that anymore in the 21st century.

*Mary is trying to figure things out as she talks.*

**BRIAN:** 21st century? We're but in the first century A.D. How much wine did you consume last night?

**MARY:** What do you mean the first century?

**BRIAN:** It is the year of our Lord 30 A.D.

*Pause.*

**MARY:** I'm dreaming. That makes sense. This is a dream.

**BRIAN:** Well, I am the man of your dreams.

**MARY:** Why does it feel so real?

**BRIAN:** Come back to bed, beloved. You're not yourself today.

**MARY:** Are you married?

**BRIAN:** You've never asked me that question before.

**MARY:** Just answer the question.

**BRIAN:** I have several wives, yes.

**MARY:** Several?

**BRIAN:** Not as many as my brothers, but I do okay. Come and rest.

*Brian takes her hand and leads her back to the couch. He rests her head on his shoulders.*

*A Scribe and Pharisee comes on.*

*Brian sees them and quickly approaches them, leaving Mary even more confused.*

**BRIAN:** Why are you in my house?

**SCRIBE:** You really think we would allow this opportunity to pass? You know better.

**PHARISEE:** You know what the law says about adulterers? This one in particular has been on our radar for a while. We can use her against him.

*Brian looks over at Mary.*

**BRIAN:** Don't do this. I'm not done with her yet.

**SCRIBE:** You're done. Find yourself another harlot. Step aside and let righteousness prevail.

*They shove Brian aside and go for Mary. They take her by the elbow.*

**SCRIBE:** Come with us.

**MARY:** Why?

**SCRIBE:** You've defiled yourself with this married man. According to the law, you must die.

**MARY:** No, wait. You're making a big mistake. I'm not the person you think I am.

*Pharisee looks offstage and points.*

**PHARISEE:** Here He comes. This is going to be fun. I bet He can't argue Himself out of this one.

*Mary starts to struggle. The Scribe tries unsuccessfully to restrain her. The Pharisee helps him to hold her and stop her from trying to get away.*

*Jesus walks on.*

*A crowd begins to gather. A few behind Jesus. The rest go over to the Scribe and Pharisee.*

*They push Mary and she falls to the ground at Jesus' feet. She looks to the ground, unable to meet Jesus' eyes.*

**SCRIBE:** The man claiming to be the son of God. Your followers increase, but you will never be elevated above us.

**PHARISEE:** We were hoping you would help us resolve a little predicament we've found ourselves in.

*The Scribe and Pharisee begin picking up stones. Their followers do likewise.*

**PHARISEE:** This woman is a known adulterer. Finally caught in the very act. According to the Law of Moses, she should be stoned to death.

*The Pharisee approaches Jesus. He holds out a stone for him to take.*

**PHARISEE:** As a Prophet of God, you have a responsibility to uphold this law.

*Pause.*

*Jesus looks at the stone. Then at Mary sitting helplessly at his feet on the ground.*

**JESUS:** You want me to cast the first stone?

**PHARISEE:** You've already broken the Sabbath. Desecrated the house of God. Spoken blasphemous words in a public setting. Declared yourself equal to God. You have made yourself an enemy of the people, but here you can redeem yourself by submitting to the very laws given to us by God.

**SCRIBE:** You may never get another chance like this.

*Jesus shakes his head. Walks closer to the edge of the stage, turning his back to the Pharisee still holding out a stone.*

**JESUS:** The only difference between this woman and you is that her sins are known.

*Jesus stoops down with his finger to the ground.*

**JESUS:** But I have a better proposition for you all. Let the man or woman here who is without sin cast the first stone.

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