

CHAINS

The Original Stageplay



CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

COPYRIGHT & LICENSE

(STANDARD PERFORMANCE LICENSE – UP TO 3 PERFORMANCES)

Copyright © 2017. Cleveland O. McLeish/HCP Book Publishing. All rights reserved. This play script (the “Work”) is protected by copyright laws and international copyright treaties. Purchase of this Work does not transfer ownership of copyright. The author/publisher retains all rights not expressly granted below.

License Grant (Non-Exclusive; Non-Transferable)

Upon purchase from christianplaywright.org, and subject to full payment, the purchaser (“Licensee”) is granted a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the Work under the following terms:

1. Permitted Use

- Licensee may produce and present the Work in **up to three (3) live performances** during the license term.
- Performances are authorized only for the purchasing entity [**i.e. Organization/Church/School/Individual**].
- License term is 24 months from the date of purchase.
- Licensee is allowed to Record, film, livestream, broadcast, or distribute audio/video of performances (including online streaming and social media), **providing the playwright/publisher is notified**.

2. Rehearsal Copy Permission (Internal Use Only)

Licensee may reproduce and distribute copies of the Work **only as needed for internal production use** (e.g., cast, crew, director, stage manager). No copy may be sold, posted publicly, emailed beyond the production team, or uploaded to public/shared repositories.

3. Adaptation Permission (Limited)

Licensee may make reasonable cuts or minor adaptations **solely for the authorized production** (e.g., time, casting constraints, contextual references), provided that:

- The core storyline and message are not distorted in a way that harms the integrity of the Work; and
- Any adapted version may not be published, licensed to others, or performed beyond the scope of this license; and
- All derivative rights remain the sole property of the author/publisher.

4. Prohibited Uses (Without Written Permission)

Unless separately licensed in writing by HCP Book Publishing, Licensee may not:

- Post any portion of the Work online (including websites, Google Drive links, file-sharing platforms, or social media).
- Sell, sublicense, or distribute the script (or adapted script) to any third party.
- Use the Work (in whole or in part) to train AI systems, upload into public AI datasets, or publish substantial excerpts through automated tools in a way that enables reconstruction of the script.

5. Author Credit (Required)

All programs, posters, and publicity must include the credit line: **“Written by Cleveland O. McLeish. Used by permission of HCP Book Publishing.”** Website credit (optional but encouraged): christianplaywright.org

6. Performance Reporting

Within ten (10) days after the final performance, Licensee agrees to report performance dates and estimated attendance to info@hcpbookpublishing.com.

7. Breach & Termination

Any unauthorized reproduction, distribution, recording, posting, or performance constitutes infringement and immediately terminates this license. Upon termination, Licensee must cease all use and destroy/delete all copies not required to be retained by law.

For additional performances, additional venues, or large-scale/ticketed events, contact: HCP Book Publishing @ info@hcpbookpublishing.com or WhatsApp 876-352-2650.



Sample Script



VOICE: *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*
(John 8:32).

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

David is chained to a chair at CS.

Each chain carries a label and there are two Chains in all at this point labelled Pornography and Sexual Impurity.

Debra and Joseph enter.

DEBRA: See, Joseph...look at him.

DAVID: Mom...

DEBRA: I told you this would happen...I told you.

JOSEPH: Calm down, dear.

DEBRA: Our son has brought judgment down on this house. How can you tell me to be calm?

JOSEPH: He just needs a little help.

DAVID: I'm fine.

DEBRA: Fine...look at you, all wrapped up in those chains. Which part of you is fine?

DAVID: I'm not a child anymore. I can take care of myself.

DEBRA: Okay, okay. Fine.

Debra leaves.

Joseph looks at his son with a little more passion.

JOSEPH: When he gets here...just talk to him. Okay. Please.

DAVID: When who gets here?

JOSEPH: Just talk to him.

Joseph exits.

David starts to wrestle with the chains trying to get free...but he is unable to break them.

He continues to wrestle...pausing only to catch his breathe.

DAVID: If only I can free my hands...I know I will be able to get myself free. I know I can do this. *(continues to struggle)* I got my self into this mess, I can get myself out. God helps those who help themselves...*(continues to struggle)* I refuse to be bound by these chains....

Pastor James enters and stands a little way off watching David struggle with the chains.

David turns his head to see him standing there.

DAVID: What are you doing here?

PASTOR JAMES: I heard you needed a little...help.

DAVID: I'm fine, sir, and you shouldn't go chasing every rumour you hear.

PASTOR JAMES: Well, I have good reason to.

DAVID: You do?

PASTOR JAMES: Your attendance to church has dropped significantly over these past months. I'm worried about you.

DAVID: I have been a little...tied up.

PASTOR JAMES: I see what you mean.

DAVID: But I'm fine. This is my fight and I intend to win.

PASTOR JAMES: I see...you're strong enough to overcome those chains on your own?

DAVID: Yes, I am.

PASTOR JAMES: And you don't need any help.

DAVID: No, I don't.

PASTOR JAMES: I see.

DAVID: Save your sarcasm for the weak and feeble. I can take care of myself, and I sure don't need anyone's pity.

PASTOR JAMES: Alright...Okay. *(pause)* I'll be praying for you.

DAVID: You do that, sir.

Pastor remains for a beat, then exits.

CHAINMASTER appears offstage carrying a few more chains labelled 'PRIDE' 'LIAR' and 'INGRATITUDE'

He proceeds to wrap these chains around David.

David struggles against these chains, but he knows it is hopeless. He hangs his head.

DAVID: I'll never be free.

CHAINMASTER finds another chain 'DOUBT' and add this to the lot.

CHAINMASTER waits...David remains silent. Chainmaster exits.

Enter Marco. He has some CDs in his hand.

MARCO: I brought you some more juicy CDs, man. This ought to get your adrenaline pumping in the right direction, know what I mean.

He holds the CDs out to David, but soon realizes David is unable to reach for them.

MARCO: Okay...I'll put these over here for yah.

He puts the CDs among other CDs and magazines on a nearby table.

MARCO: You really should do something about those chains, man.

DAVID: You make it sound so easy.

MARCO: It is. I mean, look at me...I'm in control. I rule sin...I don't let sin rule me.

DAVID: Whatever you say.

MARCO: You need to stop hearing and listen man. I've been there, done that...know what I mean.

DAVID: I told you before, you cannot get rid of something by going deeper into it.

Copyright © 2017 Cleveland O. McLeish / HCP Book Publishing. All rights reserved.
This Work is protected by copyright. Purchase does not transfer ownership.

Licensed Use (if purchased with performance rights or via subscription): The Licensee is granted a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to produce this play under the selected license terms (including performance count and organization). Internal rehearsal copying is permitted for cast/crew only. Recording, livestreaming, broadcast, or public online distribution is allowed with proper notification.

Required credit: **“Written by Cleveland O. McLeish. Used by permission of HCP Book Publishing.”** Visit www.christianplaywright.org to purchase full script with/without performance rights.

Purchase / Licensing Options

Option 1 — Reading Script (Print on Amazon)

Reading Script (Print Book – Amazon)

- ✓ A print copy shipped by Amazon for reading and reference.
- ✓ Print book ordered and shipped through Amazon.
- ✓ Ideal for personal reading, study, or review.
- ✓ No performance rights included.

Performance, adaptation, reproduction, and distribution rights are not included with this option.

Option 2 — Digital Script (Reading Only)

Digital Script (PDF – Reading Only)

- ✓ A digital copy delivered by email for reading and reference.
- ✓ Delivered automatically by email after purchase.
- ✓ Ideal for personal reading, study, or review.
- ✓ No performance rights included.

No production, performance, adaptation, or distribution rights are included.

Option 3 — Digital Script + Standard Performance License (Up to 3 Performances)

Digital Script + Standard Performance License (Up to 3 Live Performances)

- ✓ Best for churches, schools, and theatre groups ready to produce the play.
- ✓ PDF script delivered by email
- ✓ Up to three (3) live performances for one organization
- ✓ Permission to share rehearsal copies internally with cast/crew.

- ✓ Limited adaptation permission for your production (cuts/edits as needed).
- ✓ Recording/streaming included.

Option 4 — All-Access Subscription (Monthly / Yearly)

- ✓ All-Access Subscription (Cancel Anytime). For organizations producing multiple plays per year.
- ✓ Access to the full script library while subscription is active.
- ✓ Performance, adaptation, and internal rehearsal distribution permitted during active subscription.
- ✓ Ongoing access to new releases added to the library.

Rights remain active only while the subscription is active; access and permissions end upon cancellation.

Option 5 — Performance Rights Upgrade (Already Own the Script)

- ✓ Performance Rights Upgrade (For Existing Script Owners). Upgrade if you already purchased a reading script and now want to stage the play.
- ✓ Up to three (3) live performances for one organization.
- ✓ Internal rehearsal copy permission included.
- ✓ Limited adaptation permission included.

Proof of script ownership may be requested (Amazon order receipt or purchase confirmation).

Need more than 3 performances, request a custom license @ info@hcpbookpublishing.com

FAQ

Licensing FAQ

- **Do reading scripts include performance rights?**

No. Reading scripts (print or digital) are for reading and reference only.

- **What does “Up to 3 performances” mean?**

You may stage the play up to three (3) times under one license for one producing organization.

- **Can we make rehearsal copies for cast and crew?**

Yes, licensed productions may share copies internally with cast/crew for rehearsal and production use only.

- **Can we edit the script for our context?**

Licensed productions may make reasonable cuts and minor adaptations for their specific production. Publishing or distributing an adapted script is not permitted.

- **Can we livestream or record the performance?**

Yes, but please notify the publisher/playwright first.

- **Can we perform the play at multiple venues or campuses?**

Multiple venues/campuses may require an expanded license. Contact us for a custom quote.

- **What if we want more than 3 performances?**

You can purchase additional performance blocks or request an expanded license.

- **How do we receive the script?**

Digital purchases are delivered automatically by email after checkout.