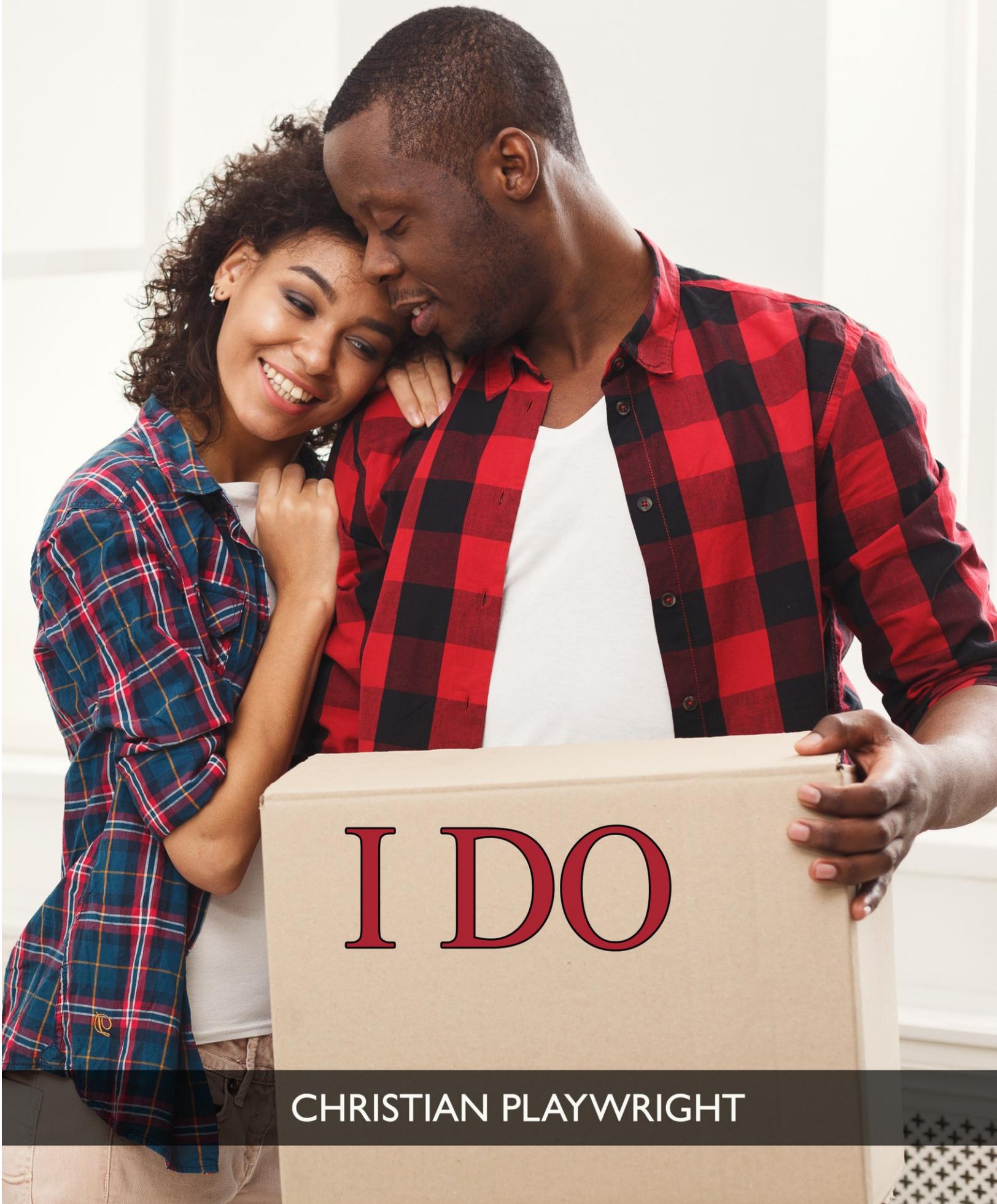


THE ORIGINAL STAGEPLAY



I DO

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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Sample Script



Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

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

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

Enter Jules, the younger of the three sisters.

JULES: Momma, I am a mess.

TERRY: What is it, Jules?

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

TERRY: Have you stopped to pray?

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

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

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

There is a loud crash coming from the kitchen.

JULES: For crying out loud...

Jules exits.

Sharon and Douglas enter. Sharon drags in a large suitcase while Douglas walks with a small carry-on.

SHARON: Hi, Momma.

DOUGLAS: Momma.

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

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

SHARON: He always takes no for an answer.

DOUGLAS: Which is why we get along so well.

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

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

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

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

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

DOUGLAS: What is that supposed to mean?

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

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

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

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

SHARON: It's the law of nature.

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

SHARON: Are you calling me stupid?

DOUGLAS: What are we even arguing about?

Pause.

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

TERRY: Will you two ever change?

SHARON: Where's my baby sister?

TERRY: Somewhere, driving herself insane.

SHARON: I better go help her.

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

SHARON: Momma, maybe you should try to give advice and not a sermon.

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

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

DOUGLAS: For a peaceful life....I plea the fifth.

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

SHARON: Matter of opinion, Momma. Times have changed.

Sharon exits.

TERRY: You two have been married for 25 years.

DOUGLAS: 24 years, 6 months and 3 days.

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

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

TERRY: How are things at home?

DOUGLAS: Good.

TERRY: Really!

Pause.

DOUGLAS: No.

TERRY: You wanna talk about it.

DOUGLAS: No.

Pause.

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

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

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

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

DOUGLAS: I have tried.

TERRY: Nothing beats communication.

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

Enter Sandra and John.

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

John and Douglas bounce fist.

JOHN: Hey, Momma.

TERRY: Somebody's glowing.

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

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

JOHN: Thanks, man.

SANDRA: Where are my sisters?

TERRY: Somewhere, going crazy.

SANDRA: I should go join them.

Sandra exits.

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

TERRY: Why do you say it like that?

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

DOUGLAS: I second that.

TERRY: He will be here later.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN: Yeah, the veterans are in the house.

John and Douglas high five. Momma rolls her eyes.

LIGHTS OUT

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP

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

Matt enters and Douglas gives him a glass.

John follows and takes a glass.

DOUGLAS: What's the verdict?

JOHN: Ladies are out shopping.

DOUGLAS: And Momma?

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

DOUGLAS: So, it's just us guys?

JOHN: Yep.

DOUGLAS: Good.

Matt appears a little nervous.

DOUGLAS: So, Matt. What is your secret?

MATT: My secret?

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

MATT: No.

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

MATT: No.

DOUGLAS: What did you do?

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

Long pause.

JOHN: And that worked?

MATT: I guess.

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

JOHN: Speak for yourself, man.

MATT: I don't think you are stupid.

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

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

DOUGLAS: So, what's your exit strategy?

MATT: What do you mean?

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

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

JOHN: You sound pretty sure of yourself.

MATT: I have no insecurities whatsoever.

Pause.

JOHN: This one got little sense.

DOUGLAS: Sounds like it.

JOHN: Do you have any marriage experience, Matt?

MATT: Nope. My first time.

JOHN: My deepest condolences man.

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

JOHN: 10 years for me.

MATT: Happily married?

DOUGLAS: Sometimes...

MATT: Most of the time?

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

JOHN: Marriage has its challenges.

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

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

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

MATT: Clearly.

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

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FAQ

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