

# CALEB'S APARTMENT

The Original Stageplay

**CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT**

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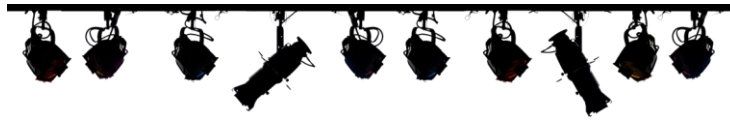
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## Sample Script



## Scene 1

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### LIGHTS UP

*Caleb is relaxing in a reclined chair as if in a psychiatrist's office.*

*Bishop James is nearby with a notepad and pen and his glasses halfway down in nose.*

**CALEB:** You look really stupid in those glasses.

**BISHOP:** Don't change the subject, Caleb.

**CALEB:** But I don't want to talk about this again.

**BISHOP:** Do you want me to leave?

*No response.*

**BISHOP:** I thought so. I have been in your position before, brother. I know what helps and what doesn't.

**CALEB:** Yeah. I know. But do I have to tell the whole story repeatedly.

**BISHOP:** Until you begin to accept what happened. Yes. Now, shall we continue?

**CALEB:** Only if you drop that stupid accent.

**BISHOP:** Alright. Boy you have no sense of professionalism.

**CALEB:** You're just acting the part remember.

**BISHOP:** Yes. Of course. So, tell me about that day.

*Short pause.*

**CALEB:** It was two years ago today. I remember it like it was yesterday.

*Pause.*

**BISHOP:** Go ahead.

**CALEB:** Alright...it went something like this....

**LIGHTS FADE OUT**

*(during the blackout remove the reclining chair)*

**LIGHTS COME BACK UP**

*Caleb and Tresha are pacing back and forth locked in a heated argument.*

**TRESHA:** You're being so unreasonable.

**CALEB:** But I can't understand why you would want to just sit home and do nothing.

**TRESHA:** I have hobbies, dear. I have obligations and besides, I'm very tired. I want to get out of bed when I want and do what I want for a change. If you loved me, why would you deny me this?

**CALEB:** It's irrational that's why. You have a good job. Why would you leave it because you think I can support us both?

**TRESHA:** I know you can support us. I don't have to go to work. You have a good job. I want to be home for a change.

**CALEB:** Doing what?

**TRESHA:** Whatever I want to do?

**CALEB:** Ya know what. I ain't having this conversation with you. I'm going to work.

*Caleb grabs his briefcase and jacket and prepares to exit.*

**TRESHA:** You're soooo predictable.

**CALEB:** What do you mean by that?

**TRESHA:** Always running. One of these days you won't have anything to run to.

**CALEB:** Right. You do whatever you wanna do. I'm outta here.

*Caleb exits.*

*Tresha rubs her head from frustration.*

*Tresha starts to pick up around the room, but eventually decides to just fall on the couch and do nothing.*

*The front door opens and Mark steps in.*

**MARK:** Hey.

**TRESHA:** Mark, not now.

**MARK:** What happened?

**TRESHA:** We had a fight.

**MARK:** Again. Man...that's really sad.

**TRESHA:** Yeah, well. He won't know what he had until it's gone.

*Mark goes around behind her and starts to massage her shoulders.*

**TRESHA:** Mark...

**MARK:** Shh!

*Tresha starts to relax under his massage.*

**TRESHA:** That feels really good.

**MARK:** There's a whole lot more where that came from...if you're up to it.

*Tresha considers, but only for a moment. She gets up, grabs Mark's hand and they both exit.*

*A beat.*

*Caleb enters leaving the front door open. Obviously, he has forgotten something.*

*He exits in the same direction as Tresha and Mark.*

**LIGHTS FADE OUT**

*(Replace the reclining chair)*

**LIGHTS COME BACK UP**

*Caleb is angry and breathing hard.*

**BISHOP:** It still makes you angry I see.

**CALEB:** What did you expect? My wife...cheating on me with the gardener. In all my years of marriage, I've never cheated even once.

**BISHOP:** Not even in your thoughts.

**CALEB:** No.

*Pause.*

*Long Pause.*

**CALEB:** Okay...maybe a few times. Everybody cheats in their thoughts.

**BISHOP:** What about forgiveness?

**CALEB:** What about it?

**BISHOP:** Will you ever forgive her for what she did?

**CALEB:** You talk as if there was any remorse. You think she regretted what she did?

**BISHOP:** She didn't?

**CALEB:** When I went to sign those divorce papers, she stepped into that room holding hands with that boy. You see any remorse in that?

**BISHOP:** Still, if she asked for your forgiveness, would you forgive her?

*Pause.*

**CALEB:** I don't think I could.

*Silence.*

## LIGHTS OUT

## Scene 2

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### LIGHTS UP

*Caleb is at centre stage reading his Bible.*

*Enter Joshua being ushered in by two women (one on each side).*

**JOSHUA:** Hey, man. Whatcha up to?

*Caleb just shoots him a look and continues reading.*

**JOSHUA:** Oh, you are reading your favorite story book I see. Well, I have an idea that might interest you.

*Caleb looks at Joshua who motions to one of his escorts.*

**JOSHUA:** She likes men like you.

*Caleb gets back to reading.*

**JOSHUA:** Man, don't be like that.

**CALEB:** Can't you see I'm trying to focus here. What do you want, Joshua?

**JOSHUA:** Man, I want you to come have some fun with us. You don't expect me alone to handle two women?

**CALEB:** It has never been a problem for you.

*The two ladies chuckle.*

**JOSHUA** *(to the ladies)* Wait for us in the car will ya. This may take a little while.

*The girls nod and exit as Joshua throws them a kiss.*

*Joshua goes to Caleb and grabs the Bible from him.*

**JOSHUA:** Ya know, in times like these, only the company of a good woman can really ease the pain.

**CALEB:** What do you know about pain? You've been a playa all your life.

**JOSHUA:** True that. But I've been hurt before. Not every woman plays games, man, and sometimes even a playa can fall in love.

**CALEB:** You've been in love?

**JOSHUA:** Absolutely. And more than once too. Been hurt every single time though so I find that the way to go is just to enjoy life as it is.

**CALEB:** What happens when the day of consequences comes?

**JOSHUA:** I live each day as if it's my last. I always anticipate the best. What consequences are you talking about, bro?

**CALEB:** There are consequences to sin.

**JOSHUA:** Man, sin as defined by who? I ain't sinning, I'm having fun.

**CALEB:** For me it's the same.

**JOSHUA:** You want me to believe that this conversation is pointless. But I ain't leaving you here to wallow in your self-pity, man. Tresha is gone...she's with another man. Life goes on. Get over it and move on. Is any of this getting to your brain?

**CALEB:** Any of what?

*Joshua sighs and sits.*

**JOSHUA:** How long will you segregate yourself from society like this?

**CALEB:** I've already had my shrink session. Besides, you're not qualified to counsel me.

**JOSHUA:** What...because I ain't a Christian?

**CALEB:** Exactly.

*Joshua gets up.*

**JOSHUA:** One a these days your gonna have to face up to reality, man. There is more to life than this apartment.

*Joshua hands the Bible back to Caleb, turns and exits slamming the door hard behind him.*

*Caleb tries to go back to reading...but he just cannot at this moment. He throws the Bible down.*

*The phone starts to ring, but he ignores it.*

*There's a knock at the door, but he ignores that too.*

*The door eventually opens and NIKI steps in.*

**NIKI:** Hi.

**CALEB:** Hi! Can I help you?

**NIKI:** I'm Niki. I'm looking for Joshua.

**CALEB:** He actually lives next door, and you just missed him.

**NIKI:** Please don't tell me that the man I saw down the road with two women clinging to him like a virus is Joshua?

**CALEB:** Yep, that's him. *(pause)* Who did you say you were again?

**NIKI:** Can I come in please?

**CALEB:** Yes, yes. I'm sorry.

*Niki comes in and closes the door.*

**NIKI:** I'm Niki. I work at the bank, or used to work there for that matter.

**CALEB:** You're Joshua's co-worker?

**NIKI:** Soon to be his child's mother.

*Pause.*

*Longer pause.*

**CALEB:** Come to think of it, I'm not so sure the man you saw was him.

**NIKI:** Don't do that. He is not worth it. Trust me.

*Caleb quickly offers her a seat.*

**NIKI:** Who are you?

**CALEB:** I live here. Joshua actually lives next door.

**NIKI:** Are you a playa too?

**CALEB:** I'm a Christian.

**NIKI:** That doesn't answer the question.

**CALEB:** It does for me.

**NIKI:** I've been around men who have claimed to be Christians.

**CALEB:** Let's not go there. I know where this is going. I am saved and that's something you can either believe or not. Doesn't make a difference to me.

**NIKI:** I see.

*Pause.*

**CALEB:** I assume there's a reason why you're sitting here talking to someone you don't know?

**NIKI:** Are you and Josh close?

**CALEB:** I don't really know how to answer that right now. We've been friends since second grade.

**NIKI:** Thing is, I want my child to have a father, but I don't want him to be exposed to the kind of lifestyle Josh lives.

**CALEB:** How do you know it's a boy?

**NIKI:** I did an ultrasound today.

**CALEB:** Then I think maybe Josh is the one who should be hearing this.

**NIKI:** I think so too. But he's not here. And considering the kind of person he is...he may never be here. But that's just the problem. I will not allow my child to be brought up by a father like that and unless Josh changes his ways...I'm never gonna let him see this child.

**CALEB:** Uhm (*thinks*) Josh has always wanted a son.

**NIKI:** I'm surprised that he doesn't have many sons. You know he models his life on Solomon...claiming he was the wisest man that ever lived, and he had many wives and girlfriends.

**CALEB:** Jesus was wiser, and he didn't get married.

**NIKI:** That's what you people say.

**CALEB:** Let me guess. You're not a Christian?

**NIKI:** It's not that obvious, is it?

**CALEB:** Is there a specific reason why?

**NIKI:** I have a problem committing myself to someone or something that doesn't exist.

**CALEB:** We are talking about God, right?

**NIKI:** Yeah. Have you ever seen Him?

**CALEB:** No. He's invisible. You know that.

**NIKI:** Then how do you know He's there.

**CALEB:** I hear His creation testify every single day. After a while, it's just too hard to ignore it.

**NIKI:** That's a very good answer.

**CALEB:** That baby in your stomach. He's gonna spend nine months in liquid, but he'll be breathing and he won't drown. Can you spend nine months under water and not drown?

**NIKI:** No, I can't.

**CALEB:** Can you explain how that baby does it.

**NIKI:** I think I better go.

*Niki gets up to leave.*

**CALEB:** Why do we run when faced with the hard questions in life? It's much easier than admitting that God exists, don't you think?

**NIKI:** It was nice meeting you.

*Niki turns and exits.*

*Caleb smiles to himself and can finally return to reading his favorite book.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

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