

A close-up photograph of a person sitting on a white plastic chair. Their hands are clasped together and secured by a thick, bright red rope. The person is wearing a white t-shirt and blue denim jeans. The background is dark, making the white chair and red rope stand out.

# THE COLOUR OF PERSEVERANCE

**The Original Stageplay**

**CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT**

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## Sample Script



## Scene 1

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### LIGHTS UP SL

*Laura is on her phone walking across the stage.*

*Taj appears before Laura and blocks her path.*

*She stops when she sees him. He pushes back his shirt to reveal a weapon in his waist.*

*She removes the phone from her ears and turns the other way, but Kevin appears. She stops and turns downstage, but Shane appears DS and Antwone also appears.*

*They surround Laura threateningly.*

**TAJ:** What have we here?

**KEVIN:** A sweet prize if you ask me.

**ANTWONE:** This is her, right?

**SHANE:** Yep. Take her.

### LIGHTS OUT SL

## Scene 2

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### LIGHTS UP SL

*Laura struggles as she is tied to a chair.*

**LAURA:** What do you want from me?

**TAJ:** Patience, little flower. You will know in time.

**SHANE:** I think I heard a car pull up.

**ATHWONE:** About time.

*A beat.*

*Derrick enters.*

**DERRICK:** You boys finally did something right.

**LAURA:** Who are you?

*Derrick looks at Laura for only a second.*

**DERRICK:** Aren't you afraid?

**LAURA:** I'm used to people like you.

**DERRICK:** Somebody please silence this woman.

*Shane tears a piece of cloth and ties her mouth.*

**DERRICK:** Space.

*Everyone heads for the exit. Derrick holds on to Antwone.*

**DERRICK:** Not you.

**ANTWONE:** C'mon, boss.

**DERRICK:** You're on watch. No arguments.

**ANTWONE:** This ain't fair.

**DERRICK:** The world ain't fair, son.

*Derrick leaves.*

*Antwone is stuck on watch duty.*

**LIGHTS FADE SL**

**LIGHTS UP SR**

*Laura's family is frantic.*

*Mrs. Anderson has her cell phone to her ears waiting.*

*She pulls it away and presses it hard.*

**MR. ANDERSON:** Any luck?

**MRS. ANDERSON:** She's still not answering her phone.

**MR. ANDERSON:** Have you called Trish?

**MRS. ANDERSON:** Yeah, and Monique, and Kelly... I practically called everyone.

**MR. ANDERSON:** This is not at all like Laura. She would have called by now.

**MRS. ANDERSON:** Something has happened. I know it. I just know it. We have to call the police.

**MR. ANDERSON:** We cannot file a missing person report till after 48 hours.

**MRS. ANDERSON:** Are we just gonna sit here and wait 48 hours? Do you know how much can happen in 48 hours?

**MR. ANDERSON:** What do you want me to do?

**MRS. ANDERSON:** You have the mayor's cell phone number in your wallet and you are asking me what I want you to do. You know what....

*Mrs. Anderson exits.*

*Mr. Anderson sighs and takes out his cell phone.*

**LIGHTS OUT SR**

### Scene 3

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#### LIGHTS UP SL

*Antwone is sitting quite agitated.*

*Laura tries to speak but it comes out indecipherably. She continues making sounds and annoying Antwone even more.*

**ANTWONE:** Lady, can't you shut up?

*She makes even more noise.*

*In frustration he grabs the gag off.*

**ANTWONE:** What?

**LAURA:** Why are you doing this?

**ANTWONE:** A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do.

**LAURA:** Oh, so you think doing this makes you a man? Have you got it twisted? This doesn't make you a man. This makes you a coward.

**ANTWONE:** Whatever.

*Pause.*

*Laura thinks for just a moment and just starts to shake her head.*

**LAURA:** When did we get here?

**ANTWONE:** Whatcha talking about, lady?

**LAURA:** We blacks used to fight together not against each other.

**ANTWONE:** What are you? Some kinda Historian?

**LAURA:** I'm a teacher...but more than that, I'm an activist.

**ANTWONE:** Oh great. I'm stuck here with a talker.

**LAURA:** You can gag me if you want.

**ANTWONE:** No...I think I'd rather hear what you are saying. It's less annoying.

**LAURA:** Let me tell you about real men.

### **LIGHTS UP SR**

*A black man is walking with some real heavy bags on his shoulders.*

*A slave master stands over him with a whip.*

**LAURA:** Real men persevered through hardships. They survived physical and verbal abuse as they patiently waited for their change to come. They fought long and hard so people like you and me could have our freedom. Many gave their lives for our freedom.

*The man onstage is whipped.*

**LAURA:** You want to talk about real men. Real men stood up for what is right in the face of adversity...they stood up for freedom.

*Some other slaves appear and grab the slave master...but more slave masters have come onboard to suppress the slaves.*

## LIGHTS OUT SR

**LAURA:** Real men would rather endure hardship than turn to a life of wrong.

**ANTWONE:** What do you know about life? My parents took me when I was two months old, placed me in a bag and dumped me like some trash. I grew up in the inner city. You were born with a gold spoon in your mouth.

**LAURA:** Are you kidding me?

**ANTWONE:** Am I lying?

**LAURA:** My great great grandfather worked in a cotton field. Do you know what that is like?

## LIGHTS UP SR

*Slaves are moving through the cotton field in chains.*

**LAURA:** Seven days a week they toiled in the scorching sun. No break. No rest. No food. Nothing to drink.

**ANTWONE:** What does any of that have to do with me?

**LAURA:** Real men work for what they want. You want to have an easy life. Take from those who worked hard for what they have.

## LIGHTS OUT SR

**ANTWONE:** You think it's easy to do that. We lay our lives on the line everyday just to survive.

**LAURA:** You don't know what it means to lay your life down everyday.

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