

A man with dark hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark jeans, is leaning over a wooden table. He is looking down at an open Bible that is lying flat on the table. His hands are resting on the table on either side of the Bible. He is wearing a black watch on his left wrist and a ring on his left hand. A white wristband is visible on his right wrist. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with wooden steps.

The Original Stageplay

THE POTTER'S HOUSE

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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Sample Script



Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

Enter PASTOR BLAKE.

He lays his briefcase down and hangs up his coat, then heads for the table. He stops. He goes back to the coat and takes out a folded newspaper. He goes to the table and sits.

Enter INA.

She stands a little way off with her hands folded before her. She watches as her husband opens the paper and starts to read. She waits, then sighs deeply.

INA: I'm fine. Thanks for asking.

Pastor Blake looks away from his newspaper for just a second.

BLAKE: I don't remember asking.

Ina again waits. Pastor Blake offers no other response. She walks over and rips the newspaper away from his face.

He jumps up in a rage.

BLAKE: Don't start!

INA: You need to talk to him. How long will you avoid your own son?

BLAKE: When he is ready to talk, he knows where to find me.

INA: He's not going to come to you. You know that. No one in their right mind would approach you with any attempt at a normal conversation.

BLAKE: What is that supposed to mean?

INA: You're not dumb. Figure it out.

Pause.

BLAKE: Look...depression is a choice...

INA: No! Depression is a sickness. It requires medication and counseling.

BLAKE: I'm neither a doctor nor a counselor.

INA: He needs you, John.

BLAKE: I have a church that needs me. I know how people act when they are in need and our son's actions says differently.

INA: You know that it's just a matter of time before...

The words get caught in her throat.

BLAKE: Before what?

INA: Before....before he starts thinking about death.

BLAKE: Everyone thinks about....

Ina slaps him with her hand.

INA: Before he starts thinking about taking his life.

BLAKE: What?

INA: It's one of the symptoms.

BLAKE: Paul is smarter than that.

INA: How would you know? You don't know your own son.

BLAKE: You talk as if his situation is my fault.

INA: Partially it is.

BLAKE: I don't think so.

INA: You never accept responsibility for anything.

BLAKE: Quit playing the blame game here. Paul is old enough and responsible enough to deal with his own decisions.

Ina is very close to tears.

INA: Paul needs his father...and I need my husband. The real man that I married.

Ina heads for the exit.

BLAKE: Foolish woman! I am a pastor. I was called, appointed and anointed by God Himself to father many...how dare you!

Ina disappears offstage.

BLAKE: Don't you walk away from me when I'm talking.

Pastor Blake waits to see her return. She does not.

He wants to say something but needs someone to say it to. He looks around and targets someone from the audience. He goes a little closer to that audience member.

BLAKE: Can a man judge me without condemning himself? Can he?

Audience member responds.

BLAKE: Then say my son chooses to be depressed; then chooses to take his own life. Am I responsible?

Audience member responds.

BLAKE: Why am I even talking to you?

Pastor Blake gathers himself to exit.

BLAKE: FYI, people...I will always be like this...unless God says differently. Yes, I'm willing to change, but I'll change for no one except my GOD.

He exits.

The LIGHTS DIM

Soft music rise in the background and continues over the rest of this scene.

Paul enters. *He has a bag in his hand.*

He empties them out on the table.

PAUL: I can't live like this anymore.

He picks up both pill bottles and empties them in his hand.

PAUL: You cared about Abraham enough to stop his hand from sinking that knife into his only son...

Pause.

PAUL: Do you care about me enough to stop my hand from doing...this?

Pause.

PAUL: I know I have a choice, but it's not that simple. Are you even there? Are you even listening to me? Are you just going to stand there and watch me die?

Paul waits.

He opens the bottle of water.

He wipes a few tears from his eyes.

He takes a deep breath.

LIGHTS FADE

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP

This is a party setting.

There is food, drinks and a little boom box set up playing worship songs.

NB.

You can use as many or as few extras as possible here to create a party atmosphere.

The characters onstage are in pairs and three-some (if you have enough extras).

They talk, laugh, drink, eat and occasionally rock to the slow beat music of the worship choruses.

This continues for a while; the music is rather beautiful but the overall atmosphere should be dull. This can be achieved by just playing the music very low and making sure the characters stay in one place.

ENTER SHARON, Paul is a little way behind her.

SHARON: This party is boring.

PAUL: You just got here.

SHARON: And I'm ready to leave. Duh!

They call to a few people. Paul is a little less enthused than Sharon as she waves to her friends and shares a few laughs with them.

SHARON: Paul, fetch me a drink, will ya.

Paul looks at her, but she is otherwise minded. He goes to get the drink.

Sharon calls to a few more people, and then goes over to Paul. By now he should have two glasses of drink.

SHARON: I only want one drink, Paul.

PAUL: The other one is for me, silly woman.

SHARON: Be careful. I might hold out on you tonight.

PAUL: *(under his breath)* That will be the day.

SHARON: Excuse me!

PAUL: I said, what a day.

SHARON: Whatever. Let's go over there.

They make their way to a secluded corner, closer to the audience.

SHARON: What are you buying for my birthday, baby?

Paul shrugs.

SHARON: C'mon, no surprises. I hate surprises.

PAUL: I haven't thought about it yet.

SHARON: I beg your pardon.

PAUL: Sharon, your birthday is not for another two months.

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