

THE TRIAL II

The Original Stageplay

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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Sample Script



Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

June and her fiancé, Michael, are standing before the church committee of four (Pastor James, Minister Lee, Senior Sister and Deacon Myers).

June and Michael remain animated, standing one or two feet apart as the committee sort through some papers on the desk before them.

Pastor James eventually stops looking at the notes and looks up at the couple.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you know why you're here?

JUNE & MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

PASTOR JAMES: Now, Michael...you are my son...but you know that as pastor of this church, there are rules that even I have to adhere to.

MICHAEL: Yes, sir....I know.

PASTOR JAMES: Good. I am somewhat...dismayed at the events that have led up to this moment...but I'm not here to pass any personal judgment on either you or....your fiancé, here...I love you both with the love of the Lord...However, in light of what is being said, I think it is necessary that we lay everything out on the table right now with all truth and integrity and then hopefully we can come to a conclusion that everyone will be satisfied with.

SENIOR SISTER: There is only one probable solution to this mess. (*gives June a stern look*) These two should not be wed.

MINISTER LEE: I agree...Hallelujah!

DEACON MYERS: None-the-less we should exercise some objectivity in this matter. These two are grown adults capable of making their own choice.

MINISTER LEE: They are still children, needful of advice and direction.

PASTOR JAMES: I am aware of the...tension... that exist regarding this matter, but is there really any viable reason why these two should not be married?

SENIOR SISTER: Oh...you don't want to get me started on that, pastor.

PASTOR JAMES: Oh...I think I do.

Pause.

SENIOR SISTER: First and foremost, I think it best we hear from our witnesses.

PASTOR JAMES: So, we have witnesses also? Interesting. I was not aware that my son was on trial.

DEACON MYERS: I think it is necessary at this point....

SENIOR SISTER: Amen. First level-headed thing you said all day.

Deacon Myers ignore Senior Sister's comment.

MINISTER LEE (*calling offstage*): Send in the first witness.

Pastor James motions for June and Michael to have a seat SL. They do.

ENTER well-dressed Brother KURT.

KURT: Howdy pastor, ministers, deacons, congregation and friends.

Kurt looks in the direction of June and Michael.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you know these two?

KURT: I know June. All I know about Michael is that he's your son, sir.

PASTOR JAMES: What do you know about this young lady?

KURT: I know where she has been.

PASTOR JAMES: Her past?

KURT: Well, I guess that all depends on where she is now.

PASTOR JAMES: Let me help you with that. *(pause...reads from a sheet of paper)* Sis. June has been saved now for over four years. Presently she is the worship and praise coordinator, assistant youth director and an evangelist.

KURT: Wow. She's all that?

PASTOR JAMES: I thought you said you knew her.

KURT: Well, to be honest with you, sir...I'm only a visitor to your church. When I visited last Sunday and saw her seated on the platform, I was a bit shocked...if you know what I'm saying.

PASTOR JAMES: Why were you shocked?

KURT: Hey...I'm really trying to avoid having to say it here, you know, in front of all these church folks.

PASTOR JAMES: You're trying to avoid saying what?

Pause.

SENIOR SISTER: Speak your mind, boy.

KURT: Well...(ahem)...I've had her in the past, know what I mean...I've bought her...merchandise.

June is in tears. Michael puts his arm around her.

PASTOR JAMES: Her merchandise?

KURT: She sold her body for money...you'll knew that right?

Senior Sister and Minister Lees expression changes to pure rage.

Senior Sister jumps to her feet and points at June as she speaks.

SENIOR SISTER: I told you all...I told you all....this girl is nothing but societies rejected trash...oh, glory.

PASTOR JAMES: Get a hold of yourself, sister. You will not be judge or jury in my church.

MINISTER LEE: Our church suffers because of people like (*gestures in June's direction*)... this. We keep giving them offices in the church and they do nothing but pass on their evil spirits to the congregation.

PASTOR JAMES: Where are you to fill these offices when they are available?

MINISTER LEE: Ah...I can't do everything.

PASTOR JAMES: The only thing you do is sit on this committee playing judge, jury and prosecutor.

MINISTER LEE: I knew it...I knew it...you're taking your son's side. You want him to marry....that...that....it's people like that...

PASTOR JAMES: It's people like that why we even have a church. You were a sinner once remember?

DEACON MYERS: We all were.

MINISTER LEE: But I'm not the one on trial here, remember. Do you really want someone like her as a daughter-in-law? Oh, imagine the shame...the disgrace....

PASTOR JAMES: I'm warning you both. If you don't contain yourselves, I will be forced to dismiss you from this meeting.

MINISTER LEE *(breathes hard to calm herself)*: I'm contained...I'm cool....

PASTOR JAMES: Good...

Pause...everyone catches their breathe and calm down.

KURT: Man...I didn't know you people had arguments.

PASTOR JAMES: Becoming a Christian don't make us super-human, son.

KURT: Whatever you say, man..sir. Anyway, I agree with the ladies, man. Someone with June's background should never be allowed on the platform or *(whispers)* to marry the son of a pastor.

DEACON MYERS: I know pastors who have had worse backgrounds than my sister June here.

KURT: Yeah, well...people who know where they are coming from will never allow themselves to be blessed by them, you know what I'm saying.

PASTOR JAMES: You may go, son.

KURT: Cool...I hope I helped.

Kurt glances at June before exiting.

PASTOR JAMES: Michael...

MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

PASTOR JAMES: You knew this before?

MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

Pastor James is impressed.

PASTOR JAMES: Before we proceed to the next 'witness,' I would like to hear from June.

DEACON MYERS: So would I.

Senior Sister and Minister Lee would oppose, but pastor's stern finger forces them to decide against it.

June stands...she wipes her tears. Michael holds her hand while he remains seated.

SENIOR SISTER: Does she have to hold his hand?

MINISTER LEE: My sentiments exactly.

PASTOR JAMES: Quiet!

June remains for a beat before speaking. She wipes another tear.

JUNE: I have had a rough past. It involved alcohol, drugs and, as you have already heard, prostitution...and there is more that has gone and will go unsaid...

MINISTER LEE: More...?

SENIOR SISTER: It's worse than I thought.

JUNE (*ignoring them... continues*): ...But it was never my intention to live my life like that. I guess I believed that I was victim to society's influence...so to speak...but Jesus taught me that there can be no good reason to live against Him. (*pause*) The very first time I set foot in this church, God pulled on my heart and I responded, and I have been living for Him ever since. Michael has been a tower of strength and God's gift to this unworthy soul, and I will not let him go because some people cannot see beyond my past to accept me as God's child.

Deacon Myers applauds cheerfully.

SENIOR SISTER: Is she talking about us?

MINISTER LEE: The nerve.

PASTOR JAMES: Well said, my child. In time you will learn, as I have, to ignore those kinds of people.

June takes her seat. She exchanges a smile with Michael.

SENIOR SISTER: You're not letting her get away with that?

MINISTER LEE: Oh, you better do something...pastor....I can't contain myself...I just can't.....

PASTOR JAMES: You two keep insisting that we go through with this meeting, so let's continue, shall we.

Senior Sister and Minister Lee is practically foaming at the mouth.

ENTER Mild Meika. She stands before the committee and just glances over at June and Michael.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you know these two?

MILD MEIKA: Yes, sir. I do.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you think they deserve to be married?

MILD MEIKA: I don't know about that, sir. I can speak only of their characters...not their relationship.

PASTOR JAMES: Well, seeing that all fingers are pointed at June, what can you tell us about her?

MILD MEIKA: We used to be friends...early on when she just got saved...but our relationship was ripped apart due to our lack of common interest.

Silence.

PASTOR JAMES: Would you care to elaborate?

MILD MEIKA: I don't know what that word means, sir.

DEACON MYERS: It means to go into details.

MILD MEIKA: Oh, okay...well...I'm not so sure I want to do that here, sir...with all these other church folks around.

PASTOR JAMES: Why not?

MILD MEIKA: There are things about me... it would just be better for everyone not to know.

PASTOR JAMES: Okay...I see. Things relating to your past.

MILD MEIKA: In some ways, yes. I used to think that you can never really get past your past...that it follows you wherever you go. But that was before I met June.

DEACON MYERS: Are you saying that your association with this girl has done you good?

MILD MEIKA: It would...if I allowed it...if I choose it. But I'm too stubborn to follow June's example...but there are many like myself who wish we could be as strong a Christian as she is.

SENIOR SISTER: Lies....all lies.

MINISTER LEE: Who is responsible for bringing this false witness into this meeting? *(waits for a response)* Who is responsible?

Deacon Myers stands.

DEACON MYERS: I am.

SENIOR SISTER: What?

PASTOR JAMES *(sighs)*: Here we go again!

DEACON MYERS: If we allowed this session to run by your rules alone, we would destroy a very good thing. Not just the future of this couple, but their very self worth.

MINISTER LEE: What do you know about self worth?

DEACON MYERS: Are you asking me that question...or yourself?

MINISTER LEE: Ah...the nerve!

PASTOR JAMES: I'm getting weary of this.

SENIOR SISTER: Good. Maybe you should step down and let a real man pastor this church.

Pastor James stands.

PASTOR JAMES: Excuse me.

SENIOR SISTER: You heard what I said.

Michael jumps to his feet.

MICHAEL: How dare you speak to God's servant like that!

SENIOR SISTER: Quiet, boy.

MINISTER LEE: Admit it, pastor. You know you're not man enough to run a church. You're weak...feeble....

SENIOR SISTER: A real pastor would never allow an alcoholic and a prostitute to come up in here leading our worship services...

MINISTER LEE: Or evangelising...

PASTOR JAMES: So, I'm the one on trial here now...huh?

SENIOR SISTER: You have been on trial since the day you set foot in this church.

They continue arguing....June starts crying again....

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