



VANITY

The Original Stageplay

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

COPYRIGHT & LICENSE

(STANDARD PERFORMANCE LICENSE – UP TO 3 PERFORMANCES)

Copyright © 2017. Cleveland O. McLeish/HCP Book Publishing. All rights reserved. This play script (the “Work”) is protected by copyright laws and international copyright treaties. Purchase of this Work does not transfer ownership of copyright. The author/publisher retains all rights not expressly granted below.

License Grant (Non-Exclusive; Non-Transferable)

Upon purchase from christianplaywright.org, and subject to full payment, the purchaser (“Licensee”) is granted a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the Work under the following terms:

1. Permitted Use

- Licensee may produce and present the Work in **up to three (3) live performances** during the license term.
- Performances are authorized only for the purchasing entity [**i.e. Organization/Church/School/Individual**].
- License term is 24 months from the date of purchase.
- Licensee is allowed to Record, film, livestream, broadcast, or distribute audio/video of performances (including online streaming and social media), **providing the playwright/publisher is notified.**

2. Rehearsal Copy Permission (Internal Use Only)

Licensee may reproduce and distribute copies of the Work **only as needed for internal production use** (e.g., cast, crew, director, stage manager). No copy may be sold, posted publicly, emailed beyond the production team, or uploaded to public/shared repositories.

3. Adaptation Permission (Limited)

Licensee may make reasonable cuts or minor adaptations **solely for the authorized production** (e.g., time, casting constraints, contextual references), provided that:

- The core storyline and message are not distorted in a way that harms the integrity of the Work; and
- Any adapted version may not be published, licensed to others, or performed beyond the scope of this license; and
- All derivative rights remain the sole property of the author/publisher.

4. Prohibited Uses (Without Written Permission)

Unless separately licensed in writing by HCP Book Publishing, Licensee may not:

- Post any portion of the Work online (including websites, Google Drive links, file-sharing platforms, or social media).
- Sell, sublicense, or distribute the script (or adapted script) to any third party.
- Use the Work (in whole or in part) to train AI systems, upload into public AI datasets, or publish substantial excerpts through automated tools in a way that enables reconstruction of the script.

5. Author Credit (Required)

All programs, posters, and publicity must include the credit line: **“Written by Cleveland O. McLeish. Used by permission of HCP Book Publishing.”** Website credit (optional but encouraged): christianplaywright.org

6. Performance Reporting

Within ten (10) days after the final performance, Licensee agrees to report performance dates and estimated attendance to info@hcpbookpublishing.com.

7. Breach & Termination

Any unauthorized reproduction, distribution, recording, posting, or performance constitutes infringement and immediately terminates this license. Upon termination, Licensee must cease all use and destroy/delete all copies not required to be retained by law.

For additional performances, additional venues, or large-scale/ticketed events, contact: HCP Book Publishing @ info@hcpbookpublishing.com or WhatsApp 876-352-2650.



Sample Script



Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

Old Man Martin enters, he walks to CS and stops. He looks out to the audience.

OLD MARTIN: REMEMBER now thy creator, in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when though shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

He pauses, wipes a tear.

OLD MARTIN: Vanity of vanities, says the preacher, all is vanity...but let us hear the conclusion of the matter. *(Pause)* Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.

He turns to leave, but stops...He faces the audience again.

OLD MARTIN: I have a story to tell, but you can only fully understand the new story if you are told the old story. *(pause)* Don't confuse the PAST with the PRESENT.

He turns and exits.

ADAM enters (Adam and EVE can wear a suit that is almost the same tone as their skin color. The lights should dim to allow the suit to blend with their tone to give the impression that they are naked).

Adam stoops and waters a few plants.

EVE enters, her hands are behind her.

EVE: Adam!

Adam rises and turns to Eve smiling.

ADAM: Eve...my love, where were you?

EVE: Never mind that. I have something for you.

ADAM: *(excited)*: Yes, what is it?

Eve produces the apple! Adam takes it in his hands and examines it.

ADAM: I haven't seen this fruit before. Where did you find it?

EVE: In the other part of the garden.

ADAM: But we have tasted all the fruits in the garden, Eve..., except...

With sudden realization, Adam drops the fruit.

ADAM: Eve...What have you done?

Eve picks up the fruit and brushes it off.

EVE: I cannot explain it to you, Adam...you will have to taste and see for yourself that it is goood.

ADAM: Eve...God forbade us to eat from that tree. He told us we could eat from all the other trees but not from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

EVE: Yes! He said that if we eat from it, we would surely die...Adam, look at me...am I not still alive?

ADAM: Yes, but God...

EVE: God knew that if we ate from the tree, we would be just like Him.

Adam looks suspiciously at EVE.

ADAM: Who told you that?

EVE: The serpent!

ADAM: Serpent? Eve, serpents don't speak.

EVE: This one did. That's how remarkable this fruit is. I can barely contain the power and knowledge now flowing through my bones.

ADAM: That was no ordinary serpent Eve...that was satan. He has tricked you!

EVE: *(defensive)* NO, NO, NO! Satan was away. The serpent is my friend.

ADAM: No, he's not. You have allowed yourself to be deceived by the father of lies. You have violated a direct command from God and now you stand to face the judgment of His wrath.

EVE: Adam...I know so much now...more than ever. How could this have been a trick?

ADAM: Eve, what is photosynthesis?

EVE: Photo – what?

ADAM: Photosynthesis!

EVE: I...*(Eve thinks hard)* I don't know.

ADAM: Shouldn't this be included in your 'increase of knowledge?'

Eve starts to shiver, suddenly realizing her predicament.

EVE: Adam, what have I done?

Adam hugs her.

EVE: What am I going to do, Adam? Am I really going to die?

ADAM: I don't know, my love.

After a beat, Eve pulls out of Adam's embrace. She holds the fruit up to him.

EVE: Do you love me, Adam?

ADAM: You know I do.

EVE: If I eat alone, God can point to you as proof that the test was easy.

ADAM: But it was! Remember how we laughed when he said He was making the tree a test?

EVE: But we could tell Him it was hard. He might believe us.

Adam considers as he stares into Eve's eyes. He reaches for the fruit but withdraws his hand. Eve brings it closer.

EVE: Please, Adam. Eat it. You're my only hope. Don't you love me?

Adam takes the fruit. He walks away.

ADAM: What do I do? Eve has eaten. She is dead while she lives, and Adam must live without her. He must see her come to dust and walk the paths of paradise having no one to share its wonders. What is life, if it has to be lived alone?

Adam closes his eyes and bites into the fruit.

They hear a short chorus announcing God's approach.

EVE: He's coming!

They run US and stop with their backs turned to the audience.

Jesus enters. He stands at CS and looks gently at His creation.

JESUS: Come to me, my children.

They turn towards God, their hands folded before them, their heads hanging in shame.

ADAM: We heard you coming, so we went to hide because we were afraid.

Jesus' eyes well with tears.

JESUS: Who taught you to fear? Have you eaten from the forbidden tree?

They both nod.

JESUS: Oh, my precious children. Was it not an easy test? Why did you eat?

ADAM: The woman you gave me made me eat.

JESUS: Eve...

EVE: The serpent you created made me eat.

JESUS: You both should learn to accept responsibility for your actions.

ADAM: Lord, are we really going to die?

JESUS: Yes!

ADAM: There is no other way?

JESUS: Yes, there is! I must go now.

Jesus turns to leave.

ADAM: Where are you going?

Jesus stops to address them.

JESUS: Outside the garden...to die in your place.

EVE: You can't...

JESUS: I must!

Jesus leaves. Adam and Eve start to weep as...

LIGHTS FADE

OLD MAN MARTIN (Voice Over): That was over two thousand years ago.
(Pause) I can't say anything has changed much since then.

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP

Enter Young Martin, Julian, Crystal and Mark.

MARTIN: That movie was good! *(Very Excited)* We could hang around and watch another one.

JULIAN: Hellooo! I live six blocks from here. I don't know about you guys, but I need to get home.

CRYSTAL: *(teasingly)* Mama's girl!

MARK: Let's put her in a taxi. Then we can decide what the rest of us free spirited people want to do.

JULIAN: Fair enough...*(to Crystal)*...and don't call me that!

Pastor REID enters just before they leave. Jesus is with him.

MARTIN: Pastor Reid! What a pleasant surprise.

CRYSTAL: What brings you to 'Sodom?'

They share a brief chuckle.

PASTOR: That's real funny, child. Anyway, I have a friend I would like you to meet. *(motions to Jesus who steps forward)* This is Jesus.

The friends take turn in shaking Jesus' hand. Mark is a little reluctant.

JULIAN: It's good to finally meet you.

MARTIN: You're all pastor talks about.

JESUS: He's a good man.

MARTIN: Yeah.

PASTOR: Jesus died for our sins. He paid the ultimate price that man could have life and have it more abundantly. We were all born in sin and under the sentence of death. *(pause)* Do you know what death is?

CRYSTAL: Everybody knows what death is, sir. It's when your breath leaves your body.

PASTOR: Death is a little more complicated than that. Death is separation from everyone and everything you love. If you die outside of Christ, death is eternal separation from God and everything good.

Mark has heard enough.

MARK: Pastor, listen...I know you are pretty excited about all this religious stuff and all, and we do appreciate you having us meet your friend here, but I am just not interested. I've seen what Christianity does to people and frankly...you're not exactly my favorite kind of people.

JESUS: You're talking about your parents, Mark. They didn't know me.

MARK: Yeah...Then how come they tried to shove you down my throat every single day.

JESUS: If your parents truly knew me, Mark, you would have met me long before now.

MARK: Yeah, whatever. I'm outta here. Anyone else coming?

No one else seems interested in leaving.

MARK: Oh, we're all feeling a little holy, holy today, huh?

No reply.

MARK: Fine! It's your choice.

Mark turns to leave; Jesus holds his arm.

JESUS: The spirit of God will not contend with man forever.

MARK: Right. Can you let go now, please.

Jesus releases his arm. Mark leaves. Jesus watches him go.

MARTIN: Tell us what to do.

JESUS: If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, with all your heart, thou shalt be saved.

PASTOR: Vanities of vanity. All else is vanity.

They all exit. Old Man Martin wobbles back to the stage.

OLD MAN MARTIN: That's where I wish the story would end. But life ain't always filled with happy endings, right. *(pause)* We never saw Mark again. I tried to find him once, but I gave up trying...but there were times when I wondered if we both had actually made different decisions that night...I wonder because to find God and take advantage of Him is worse than not finding Him at all.

LIGHTS OUT

Copyright © 2017 Cleveland O. McLeish / HCP Book Publishing. All rights reserved.
This Work is protected by copyright. Purchase does not transfer ownership.

Licensed Use (if purchased with performance rights or via subscription): The Licensee is granted a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to produce this play under the selected license terms (including performance count and organization). Internal rehearsal copying is permitted for cast/crew only. Recording, livestreaming, broadcast, or public online distribution is allowed with proper notification.

Required credit: **“Written by Cleveland O. McLeish. Used by permission of HCP Book Publishing.”** Visit www.christianplaywright.org to purchase full script with/without performance rights.

Purchase / Licensing Options

Option 1 — Reading Script (Print on Amazon)

Reading Script (Print Book – Amazon)

- ✓ A print copy shipped by Amazon for reading and reference.
- ✓ Print book ordered and shipped through Amazon.
- ✓ Ideal for personal reading, study, or review.
- ✓ No performance rights included.

Performance, adaptation, reproduction, and distribution rights are not included with this option.

Option 2 — Digital Script (Reading Only)

Digital Script (PDF – Reading Only)

- ✓ A digital copy delivered by email for reading and reference.
- ✓ Delivered automatically by email after purchase.
- ✓ Ideal for personal reading, study, or review.
- ✓ No performance rights included.

No production, performance, adaptation, or distribution rights are included.

Option 3 — Digital Script + Standard Performance License (Up to 3 Performances)

Digital Script + Standard Performance License (Up to 3 Live Performances)

- ✓ Best for churches, schools, and theatre groups ready to produce the play.
- ✓ PDF script delivered by email
- ✓ Up to three (3) live performances for one organization

- ✓ Permission to share rehearsal copies internally with cast/crew.
- ✓ Limited adaptation permission for your production (cuts/edits as needed).
- ✓ Recording/streaming included.

Option 4 — All-Access Subscription (Monthly / Yearly)

- ✓ All-Access Subscription (Cancel Anytime). For organizations producing multiple plays per year.
- ✓ Access to the full script library while subscription is active.
- ✓ Performance, adaptation, and internal rehearsal distribution permitted during active subscription.
- ✓ Ongoing access to new releases added to the library.

Rights remain active only while the subscription is active; access and permissions end upon cancellation.

Option 5 — Performance Rights Upgrade (Already Own the Script)

- ✓ Performance Rights Upgrade (For Existing Script Owners). Upgrade if you already purchased a reading script and now want to stage the play.
- ✓ Up to three (3) live performances for one organization.
- ✓ Internal rehearsal copy permission included.
- ✓ Limited adaptation permission included.

Proof of script ownership may be requested (Amazon order receipt or purchase confirmation).

Need more than 3 performances, request a custom license @ info@hcpbookpublishing.com

FAQ

Licensing FAQ

- **Do reading scripts include performance rights?**

No. Reading scripts (print or digital) are for reading and reference only.

- **What does “Up to 3 performances” mean?**

You may stage the play up to three (3) times under one license for one producing organization.

- **Can we make rehearsal copies for cast and crew?**

Yes, licensed productions may share copies internally with cast/crew for rehearsal and production use only.

- **Can we edit the script for our context?**

Licensed productions may make reasonable cuts and minor adaptations for their specific production. Publishing or distributing an adapted script is not permitted.

- **Can we livestream or record the performance?**

Yes, but please notify the publisher/playwright first.

- **Can we perform the play at multiple venues or campuses?**

Multiple venues/campuses may require an expanded license. Contact us for a custom quote.

- **What if we want more than 3 performances?**

You can purchase additional performance blocks or request an expanded license.

- **How do we receive the script?**

Digital purchases are delivered automatically by email after checkout.