



THE FOURTH CROSS

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- Any adapted version may not be published, licensed to others, or performed beyond the scope of this license; and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 I

LIGHTS UP

Miriam is setting the table. She places a bowl of bread and a cup of wine/juice on it.

She momentarily walks to a window and looks out with a concerned expression on her face. There is a loud and disturbing commotion outside.

There is a LOUD KNOCK at the door. Miriam is shaken initially, then quickly recovers. She quickly goes to the door.

MIRIAM: *(a little timid)* Who is it?

JOHN: *(O.S.)* It's me.

Miriam quickly opens the door.

John enters, shaken, concerned. He quickly closes and bolts the door behind him.

MIRIAM: John, what's going on?

JOHN: The world has gone crazy, that's what.

MIRIAM: There's a large crowd outside — causing quite a stir.

JOHN: It's that man from Galilee. The one claiming to be the Son of God. They arrested Him last night, and now they have sentenced Him to death.

MIRIAM: Is He one of the men I see carrying a cross up the hillside?

JOHN: Yes.

MIRIAM: Which one?

JOHN: The worst looking one.

MIRIAM: He looks terrible...covered in blood as if the skin has been stripped from his body.

JOHN: That's exactly how He looks. It was terrible. I'm glad you were not there to see all that. If not for His form, you would think He was a pile of dead flesh.

MIRIAM: Why are they doing this to Him?

JOHN: Nobody knows. It was a private trial, it seems, and then when they brought Him out to the people, the people wanted Him dead.

MIRIAM: Aren't these the people who welcomed Him into Jerusalem?

JOHN: The hypocrisy of it all is intolerable.

MIRIAM: But He did so much good.

JOHN: He did. But people forget very easily.

Miriam walks to the window and looks out. She covers her mouth, gasping.

MIRIAM: Oh my, He just fell.

John joins her at the window.

JOHN: I don't think He can go any further. I have no idea where He even found the strength to get this far.

MIRIAM: They are whipping Him. How cruel.

JOHN: He can't take much more of this.

Pause.

MIRIAM: Look. They are forcing that man to carry the cross.

JOHN: You know what, we shouldn't be watching this.

John pulls Miriam from the window, closes it.

JOHN: Let's have lunch.

They sit at the table.

John helps himself to some bread.

MIRIAM: I don't have much of an appetite. None of this feels right.

JOHN: It doesn't concern us.

MIRIAM: This has everything to do with us. You said it yourself. We are the ones who condemned this man to die. After all He did for this city. Do you remember my Aunt? She had that issue of blood for twelve years. We watched her suffer through that ordeal, and there was no help or relief for her, until this man Jesus came along. He was her only hope.

JOHN: I remember.

MIRIAM: Remember that mother who lost her only son? She was on her way to bury him when they ran into Jesus. Do you remember the unmeasurable joy on her face when she saw her son...alive?

JOHN: Yes, it was...incredible.

MIRIAM: The blind was able to see again. Can you imagine what that must feel like? To be born blind and to receive your sight? What would the world look like for someone seeing it for the first time?

JOHN: So why do they want Him dead? He has done nothing but good.

MIRIAM: The better question is, why would someone who has authority over death subject Himself to it?

Pause.

John eats more bread.

JOHN: None of this is making sense, but there must be a reason for it. Something we're not seeing...a purpose, somehow. A sinister plot to rid this world of all the good there is.

MIRIAM: I have heard stories from those close to His Disciples. He prophesied His death, but also claimed that He will rise again on the third day.

JOHN: That would be a divine miracle, but why go through all that?

MIRIAM: To establish His kingdom.

JOHN: I don't get all this kingdom stuff.

MIRIAM: It is connected to all the good that He did. It is a spiritual kingdom, one of faith, hope, and love.

JOHN: Yeah, exactly what is missing in today's society. Do you remember what the world was like before Jesus came?

MIRIAM: Chaotic...every other person was either sick or depressed. People would go to church and leave the same way they came. There was no help, no hope, and the Romans threatened to destroy the very fabric of what was left of our humanity.

JOHN: Jesus was like an antidote.

MIRIAM: Yes. He was the epiphany of divine love, and that is exactly what is getting Him killed. All He ever did was demonstrate faith in His Father, hope of a better world to come, and love for all men.

JOHN: Is all that worth dying for?

Miriam gets up and goes to the window. She opens it and looks out.

MIRIAM: Jesus thinks it is.

Pause.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

John, Miriam, Sam, Mary, Paul, and Sarah are gathered around the small table. The ladies seem a bit shaken up. The guys are trying to be macho, and calm.

JOHN: The world is changing.

PAUL: Time seems to stand still. These last three days have been the longest days of my life.

JOHN: But what of our future? What can we expect to happen now? It almost feels like the light has been turned off in the world.

SARAH: So sad.

SAM: Friday night was the worst. There was so much noise...so much confusion. Everyone feared for their lives. I have never seen such rage on people's faces...all for one man.

MARY: I heard it. I locked all my doors. I was so scared.

SARAH: I was in the kitchen. There was a tremendous earthquake. It almost threw me to the ground.

MARY: I felt it too. I have never felt an earthquake like that before.

MIRIAM: We watched the whole thing. The Romans were performing another crucifixion. Three crucifixions.

PAUL: Who was it?

JOHN: Jesus, from Nazareth. He was crucified between two thieves.

SAM: You mean the Messiah?

JOHN: Yep. It was Him.

MARY: I can't believe they killed Him.

PAUL: Who would think that would be possible...after all the good He did.

MIRIAM: These are strange times. We have seen a lot of not possible in the last few years.

Pause to reflect.

JOHN: We watched Him carry His cross. He was so badly beaten, you would not recognize Him as a man.

PAUL: I heard that they beat Him all night. There is no way He had the strength to carry a cross.

JOHN: We saw Him do it, with our own eyes.

SAM: They tried Him all night?

MARY: Isn't that illegal?

PAUL: Do you think they care? They do whatever pleases them.

JOHN: The law says there should be no trial during the night.

PAUL: Who made those laws, if not the very same people who have the responsibility to uphold them? Unfortunately, that means they also have the right to break those laws.

SARAH: I've heard Jesus say that those who do their deeds in the night have something to hide.

SAM: That must be true, if they had approval to murder an innocent man by the next day.

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.