

I NEVER LOST MY PRAISE

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- Any adapted version may not be published, licensed to others, or performed beyond the scope of this license; and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



ACT 1

Setting: Children's home. The stage is divided in two; Stage Right (SR) is the outside of a Children's Home. Stage Left (SL) is set up like a classroom.

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP – SR

John sneaks on stage. He looks around, checking to see if anyone is nearby. He finds a place to sit, and pull out a small, blue Bible and begins to read:

JOHN: *(reading)* Our Father, who art in heaven. Ha – hal – ha-ll-owed be thy name. Thy kin-ggg-dom come. Thy will be done---

Mr. Sam walks out, angry and disturbed.

MR. SAM: John, what are you doing?

JOHN: *(trying to hide the Bible)* Nothing, sir.

MR. SAM: I sent you to rake up leaves and I come and find you sitting down doing nothing? What were you doing? Don't lie to me.

JOHN: Reading, sir.

Mr. Sam searches him and finds the Bible. He takes it away.

MR. SAM: What is this?

JOHN: A Bible, sir.

MR. SAM: John, how many times do I need to repeat myself? I don't want none of this religious nonsense here.

JOHN: But, sir --- why?

MR. SAM: What has God ever done for me?

JOHN: You are alive.

Mr. Sam hisses his teeth.

JOHN: You don't want to be alive, sir?

MR. SAM: So, you believe in God?

JOHN: Yes, sir.

MR. SAM: So, why didn't God save your mother when she was sick? Why did He allow your father to abandon you when you were born?

JOHN: I don't know, sir.

MR. SAM: You need to be wise and have some common sense, if you are going to stay in this home. We will not put up with any foolishness. I don't see why you choose to follow all this nonsense.

JOHN: My mother grew me in church, sir.

MR. SAM: Your mother is not here. We are your family now, and we are not into church. Now, you need to get busy raking this yard.

JOHN: One day, sir, God is going to take me from this place.

MR. SAM: What did you say?

JOHN: One day, sir. I will be a part of a real family.

MR. SAM: *(laughs)* It's been ten years since anyone was adopted from this place. Good luck with that.

JOHN: God promised me.

MR. SAM: Listen, John. If God ever moves you from this place, mark my words, I will start going to church.

JOHN: Then you should get your Sunday best suit ready, sir.

Mr. Sam finds a piece of stick and picks it up.

MR. SAM: Talk back to me one more time.

John finds the rake and starts raking.

MR. SAM: This is your home now. So, get used to it.

Mr. Sam turns, and exits.

John checks to see that he is gone.

JOHN: *(using the rake as a mic, he starts singing)* Some sweet day, I'm going away ---

Mr. Sam rushes back out. John goes back to raking.

MR. SAM: I heard that.

Mr. Sam exits again.

John checks to see that he is gone. Puts the rake handle to his mouth again like a mic.

JOHN: *(singing)* I know where I'm going, I know --- I know, yes I know. I know where I am going, I kno ooo ooo w –

Mr. Sam rushes back out. John stops singing again and starts raking. This continues a couple more times.

Finally, Mr. Sam tries to grab after John, who dodges and races off the stage.

MR. SAM: I bet his mother dropped him on his head when he was a baby. Knocked all the sense out of that boy.

Mr. Sam shakes his head and exits.

LIGHTS OUT – SR

ACT 1

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP – SL

John, Sumo, Marc and Russel are seated in the classroom.

Mr. Sam wraps up his lesson.

MR. SAM: So, I need you guys to write down the homework on the board, and make sure you do them before Monday. And no ‘dog ate my homework’ excuse. Get it done.

Mr. Sam gathers his things and leaves.

Russel rolls up a piece of paper and throws it at John’s head. John takes the paper and makes a little microphone.

JOHN: *(Singing)* Jesus Name so sweet, Immanuel Name so sweet. Jesus Name so sweet

RUSSEL: What is wrong with him?

MARC: He’s always singing and happy. Every chance he gets, he raises a Jesus song.

Russel goes over to John and slaps him in the head.

JOHN: *(singing)* I command you satan in the name of the Lord, drop your weapons and flee...

RUSSEL: Boy, shut up.

JOHN: *(singing)* I feel like praising, praising Him.

MARC: Leave him alone. He’s just going to sing another song.

Russel hisses his teeth and takes his book and heads for the exit.

RUSSEL: New boy, always pretending like you are better than us.

Russel leaves.

Marc sits John down.

MARC: You know you are annoying everybody with all this singing.

SUMO: It's very annoying, bro.

MARC: You need to be careful. You don't want to make enemies around here.

JOHN: I don't want to be here.

SUMO: You have somewhere else you can go?

JOHN: No.

MARC: Exactly. This is home now.

JOHN: At least when I was on the streets, I could go to church on Sundays.

SUMO: *(rolls his eyes)* Here we go again.

MARC: The Church is full of hypocrites. Why'd you want to go there? All they do is pass judgment on people they don't know.

JOHN: My momma always said, no matter what, we should give God praise.

MARC: Look at our lives. What has God done for us to praise Him?

JOHN: He woke us up this morning.

SUMO: Mr. Sam's noisy rooster did that.

JOHN: He provides food.

SUMO: Mr. Sam does that too.

JOHN: And shelter.

MARC: *(laughs)* I guess that makes Mr. Sam God.

JOHN: Somebody provided for him so he can provide for us.

SUMO: Yeah, that somebody is called the Salvation Army, not God.

JOHN: So, you guys don't believe in God?

SUMO: I hear He's a miracle worker. Problem is, I ain't never seen a miracle. When I see one, I will believe.

JOHN: Blessed are those who don't see but believe.

MARC: Seeing is believing, bruh. You and your church talk are irrelevant to our reality. If you don't put a lid on it, Mr. Sam is going to put you out on the streets.

SUMO: Ditto.

JOHN: That's a price I am willing to pay to praise my God.

MARC: I hope your God can defend you against Russel when he decides to shut you up.

JOHN: *(Singing)* No weapons, formed against me – shall prosper --- no it won't hurt ---

Marc and Sumo roll their eyes and exit.

LIGHTS OUT – SL

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.