



GUILTY
AS CHARGED

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- Any adapted version may not be published, licensed to others, or performed beyond the scope of this license; and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

A Three Member council convene at CS.

CELESTE: The lack of unity has reached a spiralling level, and something needs to be done.

CAREB: We've tried just about everything. Nothing seems to push people in the direction of unity. Instead, we've only succeeded in causing more desertion.

ARAN: Indeed, but there has to be some solution. And we represent the Prime Minister as his council, so he's looking to us for answers.

They take their seat around a table.

CAREB: I think the route problem has always been our belief. After all, that is the centre of our values and concepts.

CELESTE: We have people who believe in Allah, those who have faith in one called Selasie...there are those who worship Buddha and I've even heard of a group who worships the cow as god.

ARAN: Yes, these are different races that have brought their own religion to our society.

CAREB: There are even some who worship a Jehovah God.

CELESTE: The invisible God.

CAREB: They say He's responsible for life. He created everything and made life itself possible.

CELESTE: But no one has ever seen this Jehovah.

CAREB: Some say He walked this earth before...as flesh and blood...as a man. They say He healed and delivered many...then gave Himself up to be crucified so He could rise again three days later to fulfil the law.

ARAN: I've heard these stories as well. But are they true?

CAREB: Some believe. They say it's a matter of faith as the evidence has long disappeared. Only the testimonies are left behind.

CELESTE: I say, if God cannot be seen...then He should not be worshipped.

ARAN: I have to agree with Celeste. If we're to achieve a unified state...we have to have common ground.

CELESTE: And if religion is the cause of the division among our people...then we should seek unity through one god.

CAREB: I believe one god would unify our nations at the expense of those who will not turn from their own religion.

ARAN: We have to be prepared to sacrifice unbelievers. We have to be prepared to cleanse our society at all cost. *AT ALL COST.*

CAREB: You do know we're talking about martyrdom?

CELESTE: In order to achieve much, much has to be sacrificed.

CAREB: But when is it okay for us to kill people for their beliefs?

ARAN: Let us not look at it in such a small box, Careb. If the law is set, then breaking that law would constitute death as the ultimate punishment. It has always been so.

CAREB: That, I would consider being the very small box. I am totally against the death penalty.

CELESTE: We know that. But in any case, the majority will rule and it's two to one as we stand.

CAREB: Fine.

ARAN: Let's not stray too far from the matter at hand. We need to agree on a common ground so we can present a proposal for the Prime Minister's approval.

CELESTE: I say we rule out the invisible God.

CAREB: On what grounds, may I ask?

CELESTE: Well ,for one...we need something more physical that everyone can see. An Invisible God would always be a matter of debate between those who believe and those who simply cannot. What proof could we afford those who would not believe?

ARAN: If we have a god who everyone could see, then that would be proof within itself because then everyone can look at this god. It wouldn't be hard to believe then.

CAREB: The wind is real...can we see it? No. But we believe it's there.

CELESTE: If I didn't know better...I would think you were defending this Jehovah.

CAREB: Someone needs to look at this more objectively. We simply cannot dismiss something because we can't see or touch it...and I think a majority of the population believe in Jehovah...you yourself said that majority rules.

ARAN: He does have a point.

CELESTE: Okay...let me say this another way. Of all religions, Christianity has been the only one to state that there is only one way to heaven and everyone else is going to hell. Do we honestly think this is a healthy belief for our people?

CAREB: If it was unhealthy...so many people would not be Christians.

ARAN: But, she does have a point.

CELESTE: Christians become Christians because of the fear that is driven into them of the possibility that they may go to hell.

CAREB: There are some who genuinely believe in God's Son. And His love.

CELESTE: We're not here to discuss history...Careb. I say we eliminate the invisible God.

ARAN: I also agree.

CAREB: Fine.

CELESTE: But, I think there is a solution that I'm sure everyone will be satisfied with. I think we should go more for a physical being. Maybe create something...an image...an image of the Prime Minister maybe.

CAREB: The Prime Minister?

CELESTE: Yes...he's our leader so it is only fair that he represents god...whoever that will be. Let's say...even for Christians, the image can represent the god we can't see, and everyone can continue to believe whatever they want as long as they pay homage to the image.

ARAN: That's a great idea.

CAREB: Idol worshipping is what it is called.

CELESTE: By whom?

Silence.

CELESTE: We cannot allow the values and beliefs of Christians to saturate our state. If we don't take a stand now...I'm afraid there will be little hope for our children. I am sure the Prime Minister would agree.

CAREB: Our children?!?

ARAN: They are the future, Careb.

CELESTE: I'll prepare a first draft for review tomorrow night when we meet. Then we'll take it to the Prime Minister for approval.

ARAN: Great. If there is no other business, I move that this meeting be adjourned. All in favour say...

ARAN & CELESTE: Aye.

Careb folds his arms and look away.

Celeste steals a glance at him and smiles.

LIGHTS OUT

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP

Pastor Rogers walks out to CS. He looks around, checks the time...and remains there for a beat.

Thomas comes out behind him. He holds a finger out.

THOMAS: Don't turn around. I have a weapon.

ROGERS: Take it easy. I'm not here to hurt anyone.

THOMAS: Hands up...all the way up.

Pastor Rogers raises his hands.

Thomas frisks him quickly.

THOMAS: What are you doing here?

ROGERS: Careb sent me.

Thomas starts to relax.

THOMAS: You can take your hands down.

Pastor Rogers is now face to face with Thomas.

ROGERS: You didn't really have a weapon, did you?

THOMAS: No. But with all that's going on right now...I can't be too careful. You could well be an undercover agent for the government.

ROGERS: Yes. I guess you're right.

THOMAS: These are very trying times, sir.

ROGERS: I agree. I didn't expect that I would experience such a time in my lifetime. But I guess as Jesus' coming draws nearer...we should expect the unexpected.

THOMAS: My thoughts exactly.

ROGERS: Is this area secure?

THOMAS: I'm not so sure we're safe here...

ROGERS: Then we should make this quick.

THOMAS: I must tell you, it's good to finally get a chance to talk to someone on the other side.

ROGERS: Well, I think this is an appropriate time for a formal introduction. *(extends hand)* I'm Pastor Rogers.

THOMAS: *(shakes his hand)* Thomas.

ROGERS: Thomas....Are you a Christian, Thomas?

THOMAS: Yes, I am...or was. I'm not so sure anymore.

ROGERS: Why do you say that?

THOMAS: As a man, I think I have failed my family and my God. I let them down terribly.

ROGERS: I think I know where you're going with this.

THOMAS: Then you will understand, won't you. They took my wife and my daughter. They were stronger than I was...they stood steadfast in their faith. When they were forced to bow before the image...they didn't. But I did. I did it so I

wouldn't have to die that day...but how foolish I was to think that life would have any meaning at all without my wife and daughter.

ROGERS: We all make mistakes, Thomas.

THOMAS: I know that. But some have greater consequences than others. I haven't slept in days and my prayer life...my walk with God... has been severely hampered. How could I go on like that?

ROGERS: You have to believe that God will forgive you if you ask...and sustain you if you'll allow him. You cannot give up hope.

A few policemen have entered the auditorium and is slowly making their way to the stage.

THOMAS: I do believe. But then I cannot live without my family, and I would do anything to save them. If they die...I will die also.

ROGERS: What do you want me to do, Thomas?

THOMAS: Tell me where Careb and the others are.

Pause...Pastor Rogers now realizes that he may have walked into a trap.

ROGERS: You know I can't do that.

THOMAS: Suppose it was your wife and daughter...wouldn't you do it for them?

ROGERS: They wouldn't want me to.

The policemen have reached the stage. Pastor Rogers doesn't even try to escape.

THOMAS: I am sorry, sir...I'm just not as strong as you are.

Thomas exits.

The policemen grab Pastor Rogers and put his hand behind his back and handcuff him as they drag him away.

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.