



CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

KATRINA

THE ORIGINAL STAGEPLAY

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Sample Script



SCENE I

LIGHTS UP

Enter Katrina. She's a middle age black woman dressed like a Nurse, but what would a nurse be doing in a place like this?

Katrina goes to an old radio and removes her overcoat. She flips a switch but is only greeted with silence. She hits the radio a few times until sounds start to come from it. She tunes the radio...

RADIO BROADCAST: ...The killer storm is inflicting catastrophic damage all along the coast as it slams into Louisiana with 140 mile per hour (224 kph) winds, and then it will sweep across Mississippi, Alabama and western Florida. It is leaving a trail of shattered buildings, broken boats, smashed cars, toppled trees and flooded cities. Risk analysts estimate the storm will cost \$26 billion, the most in U.S. history. In Mississippi, officials told newspapers at least 50 people were known dead in that state. In New Orleans, hundreds of citizens tread through waist-deep water in a bid to escape...

Katrina hits the radio again and it goes silent.

She exits the room.

After a beat, the front doors are forced open and a couple carrying a baby enters.

They are soaking wet, and we can still hear remnants of wind on the outside.

Katrina comes back onstage.

PAUL: Hi.

KATRINA: Who are you people and what are you doing in here?

SUSAN: Can we stay here for a while?

KATRINA: What? No.

PAUL: Please, we had to abandon our house because of the hurricane and, little Emily is not used to this kind of weather.

Katrina suddenly has a sense of compassion. She goes to them and looks at the baby all wrapped up in her mother's shivering arm.

KATRINA: Come with me. I'll get you a change of clothes and you can warm yourself by the fire.

SUSAN: Thank you. Thank you very much.

They exit behind Katrina.

No sooner had they left, two other women, also soaking wet and shivering burst in.

MATILDA: Thank goodness. Shelter at last.

The other women, Jess, breaks down and starts to cry.

MATILDA: Don't bother with the crying now, Jess...we might not lose everything.

JESS: How can you say that? Our house is under seven feet of water. What can survive that? And what about the brand-new SUV? You haven't even made the first payment on it yet...

More tears.

MATILDA: It could be worst.

JESS: How much worst could it possibly get?

MATILDA: Well, we could be under seven feet of water too.

Jess knows that her sister is right. She turns away quickly.

JESS: Just let me cry in peace, okay.

MATILDA: Suit yourself.

Katrina is startled when she walks out to find two more strangers in her house.

KATRINA: What do you people want?

MATILDA: Hey there.

KATRINA: You can't just barge in here like that.

JESS: Girl, what difference does it make? Nobody lives here and we needed to get out of the rain.

MATILDA: Don't be so selfish, eh.

KATRINA: This is my home.

MATILDA: Yeah, right.

They start to laugh, but when it becomes evident that Katrina is serious, they stop.

JESS: Ahem, so, you really live here?

KATRINA: Yes, now please leave.

MATILDA: You would send us back out in the rain.

Katrina takes a moment to consider.

KATRINA: Yes.

Matilda and Jess fall to their knees before Katrina.

JESS: Please, don't send us back out there.

MATILDA: We'll do anything.

KATRINA: This is not a fallout shelter.

JESS: Oh please...you don't know what it's like...out there...*(starts to cry again)*.

KATRINA: Okay...but you're both dripping water all over my floor.

Pause.

We hear the sound of a baby crying.

MATILDA: Is that a baby?

KATRINA: Yes. Follow me.

They exit with Katrina.

No sooner had they left... a woman enters all wet and dripping carrying a plastic bag.

Katrina comes out after hearing the sound of the plastic bag as the woman shakes water from it.

CASSANDRA: Hi.

Katrina grabs her and shoves her through the door slamming it shut and latching the locks.

KATRINA: Enough is enough.

Katrina waits for a beat in silence. Just as she's about to turn and exit, a knock sounds at the door.

Katrina does not respond.

The knock sounds again.

Katrina opens it.

Cassandra is standing on the other side.

KATRINA: May I help you?

CASSANDRA: I've been wading through this storm for hours now. I need to rest.

KATRINA: That's not my concern.

CASSANDRA: Just for a few minutes. Then I'll be on my way.

Katrina considers.

KATRINA: No.

Katrina slams the door.

*She waits. Her conscience gets the best of her. She opens the door.
Cassandra is still standing there.*

KATRINA: A few minutes.

Katrina steps aside and allows Cassandra to pass.

CASSANDRA: May I use your bathroom?

KATRINA: Through there...two doors to your left.

CASSANDRA: Thank you.

Cassandra removes her wet coat. Katrina takes it.

CASSANDRA: You seem very familiar. Have we met before?

KATRINA: Highly unlikely.

CASSANDRA: You haven't even looked at me.

Katrina looks up into Cassandra's eyes.

KATRINA: I don't know you.

Cassandra maintains eye contact, then turns away.

CASSANDRA: Thanks again for your hospitality.

*Katrina says nothing, but deep in her eyes we can tell that she is in
pain...hurting and very unhappy.*

Katrina folds Cassandra's coat and exits.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE II

LIGHTS UP

Two youths, one African American, the other Caucasian, peek inside the house.

GRUB: Looks clear.

MELVIN: Yep!

GRUB: Hurry, before the rain ruins the circuits.

MELVIN: Aye, Aye, Cap'n!

They pull away.

Within moments they start bringing in Television, Radio, Bed, Mattress, Bed side tables (and almost anything else your drama group can find).

Katrina comes out just as they put down the last piece of furniture/appliance.

Paul is close behind her with a piece of stick in his hands.

KATRINA: Just what do you think you're doing?

Grub and Melvin is startled. They spin around numb and dumb.

KATRINA: Where did all this stuff come from?

GRUB: Uh...we bought it.

KATRINA: You bought it?

Paul relaxes a little.

PAUL: You bought all this stuff... in a hurricane?

GRUB: Well, yeah...they were on sale.

KATRINA: You know what, I'm not even going to go there. Please take all your belongings and just leave.

MELVIN: Hey, it's raining outside, and the roads are flooded.

GRUB: We just want to wait out the storm then...

KATRINA & PAUL: Not here!

Grub pulls in his chest.

GRUB: Hey, you'll up and bad up in here and you don't even know if we got weapons.

Melvin pulls in his chest.

MELVIN: Yeah...lucky for you we don't.

Grub slaps him across his head.

MELVIN: What?

GRUB: Stupid.

Paul smiles. Katrina points to the door.

GRUB: Let's make a deal. You let us stay and we let you watch our television.

Katrina keeps pointing at the door.

GRUB: How about if we give this place a makeover. It's kinda crappy-looking you know...like some fallout shelter or something. We're pretty good with our hands.

Katrina's hand points even more steadily at the door.

MELVIN: We can't go back out there.

PAUL: You can't stay here either.

GRUB: Why not?

KATRINA: You're crooks, that's why.

GRUB: Okay, then arrest us. Citizen's arrest. Tie us to those chairs over there and call the cops or supp'n...anything's better than facing Katrina man.

MELVIN: Yep. I agrees. Tie us up, call the cops or supp'n...

Grub jabs Melvin in his side.

GRUB: I just said all that.

MELVIN: Right.

KATRINA: This is turning out to be a nightmare.

MELVIN: That's nothing compared to what we just went through with this loot...I mean goods..., merchandise.

KATRINA: No need to pretend.

MELVIN: So, you gonna tie us up or what?

Paul turns to Katrina.

PAUL: You have any rope?

KATRINA: There will be no tying up today.

PAUL: But, what if...

KATRINA: These boys will be on their best behaviour...*(turns to a smiling Grub and Melvin)*...or else. *(Their smile fades.)*

GRUB: *(salutes)* Yes, sir, maam...Grub and Melvin at your service.

MELVIN: *(salutes too)* Yep. At your servicio.

Pause.

GRUB: You got any food?

MELVIN *(rubs his stomach)* Yeah, we starving.

Katrina rolls her eyes and exits.

PAUL: You know you can't leave these things just lying around like this.

Grub looks around the room.

GRUB: You're right.

They start to rearrange the room adding all the pieces of new furniture and appliances.

Paul exits with the stuff that would go in a kitchen and bathroom.

Susan comes out bouncing her wrapped up baby in her arms.

SUSAN: Who are you guys?

GRUB: Who are you?

SUSAN: I asked you first.

GRUB: Well, I asked you second.

Susan rolls her eyes and exits to another room.

Matilda and Jess come out. Jess is crying, Matilda tries to console her.

Matilda is the first to see Grub and Melvin.

Grub turns to see her and falls in love instantly.

GRUB: Hey, cutie, where have you been all my life?

MATILDA: What?

Matilda allows Jess to sit down.

GRUB: I've been searching for you.

MATILDA: You have?

Matilda picks up his cue.

GRUB: How was heaven when you left it?

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