

ALLEGIANCE

By Bonnie Holbrook

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It is the future, a time when it is illegal to own a Bible or to proclaim any faith in Christ. The West family are true Christians and when their older friend Anna gives them a picture of Jesus, they are delighted, yet aware of the dangers of having it in their home. Even more distressing is the immediate threat of Anna's arrest. The government has ordered all those who refuse to deny their faith and refuse to pledge allegiance to the government to be put to death. After the soldiers take Anna away, the family knows they will probably be next. They wonder -- will their faith be strong enough?

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 m, 5 w)

JOHN WEST – Father of a Christian family.

MAGGIE WEST – Mother of family.

PETER – Son, about 18 years old, questions his faith in God.

AMY – Daughter, about 13 years old.

MARIANNE – Daughter, about 15 years old.

ANNA – An elderly woman, close friend to the family.

JULIE – Young woman Anna meets in the jail.

GENERAL

SERGEANT

PRIVATE

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PROPS

Needlepoint or sewing for Maggie; newspaper for John; coat or sweater for Anna; a small, worn Bible (small enough to be easily hidden); a picture of "The Good Shepherd" in a paper bag; a bag of groceries; papers for the Sergeant's desk; (starter) guns for the General, Sergeant and Private; dust cloth.

SETTING

The play is set in six scenes. Scenes One, Two, Three, and Six take place in the living room of the West home which is furnished with comfortable chairs and a sofa. Scene Four is in the Sergeant's office, which contains a desk and chair, and Scene Five takes place in a jail cell which holds a cot and worn blanket.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The living room of the West home. MAGGIE is sitting in a chair doing needlepoint and JOHN is sitting nearby reading the newspaper. As Maggie works, she begins softly singing "Amazing Grace." John closes his paper and listens. Maggie looks up and sees her husband watching her and stops singing.)

JOHN: Don't stop. That was beautiful. I have heard that song so many times in the past without really listening to the words, but now there's nothing I'd rather hear than you sing of His amazing grace.

MAGGIE: Oh, John, I have always loved that song, but now it seems more special than ever.

JOHN: *(Lays his paper aside.)* Yes, Maggie, it does. Even though the government has stopped our worship of the Lord in public, they can't stop what we feel in our hearts.

MAGGIE: I was just sitting here thinking about how I used to take our freedom to worship for granted. You always heard so much about people in other countries not being able to worship openly, but I never imagined that it could happen here.

JOHN: I know what you mean. When I used to hear about people being tortured and killed for their faith in God, I never thought what it would be like to be in their position. And now — it's hard to imagine a time when we didn't have to worship the Lord in secret.

MARY: *(Pauses for a moment then speaks with pain in her voice.)* I remember watching a program on TV, before the new laws were passed. It was about missionaries who had been arrested for witnessing about Jesus to people in Afghanistan. *(Pauses again, then speaks very emotionally.)* I remember thinking that they really had no business over there in the first place; and I got up and changed the channel.

JOHN: If we would have only stopped to appreciate what we had and guarded our freedoms more closely, then maybe they wouldn't have been taken away so easily.

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MAGGIE: It all happened so quickly it seems like a bad dream that I can't wake up from. When we were being warned that certain people were trying to pass laws that would make Christianity illegal, I thought that it was just a bunch of fanatics who were trying to get people stirred up for nothing.

JOHN: So did I. Even after the laws were passed, I thought there was nothing to worry about. But then with no warning, they burst in and took everything that had anything to do with Jesus.

MAGGIE: How could we have been so blind to what was going on? If only we could have known what would happen.

JOHN: Well, now we do know. But no matter what laws are passed or how they try to enforce them, I will never take my relationship with Jesus for granted again. I have a commitment and resolve in my heart that I have never had before.

MAGGIE: I feel the same way, John. When I think of everything He went through for me, all I want to do now is adore the Lord for coming to this world to die for my sins.

JOHN: Let us always keep in mind that He *did* die for us and realize that no matter what else happens He is with us.

MAGGIE: "Behold, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee, for I am with you always; even until the end of the world."

JOHN: Yes, and the *end* may be sooner than we think. More and more people are being taken before the Council each day.

MAGGIE: I know. Each time I close my eyes I think of the Johnsons. I still can't believe they're gone, but I'll never forget their peaceful expressions as the soldiers led them away.

JOHN: I just heard this morning that old Brother Williams had been taken in.

MAGGIE: Oh, John, not him. He has done more than anyone I know to spread the gospel.

End of Freeview

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