

A CHANGE OF HEART

By Cody Moree

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A Change of Heart

- 2 -

DEDICATION

To Crickett - my wife, partner and friend. Thank you for always encouraging me to follow God's direction for my life, no matter where it might take us.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Monica, a young lady, now faces a life or death situation as she learns she must have a heart transplant. What she doesn't know is that it is her spiritual heart that is in need of the most attention.

Chase, a premed student, and Katie, who just landed her first nursing job, add humor as Monica's best friend, Shannon, helps her deal with the most serious issue anyone will ever face - a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This one-act play is easily staged and produced. It is appropriate for all audiences and can be a very effective means of evangelism.

A Change of Heart

- 3 -

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 m, 4 w, 1 flex)

MONICA: A woman in her late twenties who's had a hard life. She was abandoned by her husband and is raising her young son alone. She has been ill most of her life, suffering from congestive heart failure.

SHANNON: Also in her late twenties. Monica's coworker and best friend. She is probably the only person that Monica really trusts.

CHASE: A man in his early twenties. He is a premed college student who supports himself by working as a hospital orderly. He is humorous and determined to brighten everyone's day.

KATIE: A young nurse who has just landed her first nursing job. She is quite clumsy and extremely nervous.

MR. STERBAN: An elderly man in a wheelchair. He is kind and wise, often sharing his wisdom whether you ask for it or not.

NURSE THOMAS: A woman in her mid-fifties who is strictly business. She is the charge nurse on Monica's floor.

DR. WADE: A cardiologist in his/her forties.

A Change of Heart

- 4 -

SETTING

Time: The present.

Place: A hospital room.

PROPS

Call button, overcoat, purse, sack lunch, watches, bed pan, water pitcher and glass, box of tissue, hospital chart, wheelchair, magazine, Gideon Bible, tray of breakfast food, pizza in a box, tongue depressor, pills, potted plant.

A Change of Heart

- 5 -

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The LIGHTS come up slowly on Monica's hospital room. SOUNDS of a hospital intercom system paging various medical personnel are heard. MONICA is trying to use the call button but it is not working.)

MONICA: *(Into call device.)* Nurse, nurse. Hello! *(Throws the call button.)* Stupid thing. *(SHE is coughing and short of breath.)* I love these places. I swear I could die right here and no one would know it for three days. Nurse!

(KATIE enters wearing an overcoat, carrying a purse and sack lunch.)

KATIE: Ma'am, do you need some help?

MONICA: No. *(Very tired - almost gasps as SHE talks.)* I just like to see how long I can scream before I pass out.

KATIE: I'm sorry.

MONICA: Who are you?

KATIE: I'm, uh, I'm Katie.

MONICA: Do you work here?

KATIE: *(Very nervous.)* Yes. I mean, no. Well, yes - not. No. Yes!

MONICA: Is this multiple choice?

KATIE: *(Takes a very deep breath and tries to collect HERSELF.)* What I mean to say is that I do work here but not for another ... *(Looks at watch.)* twelve minutes.

MONICA: I see. And what kind of work will you do here ... in another twelve minutes?

KATIE: Chief of surgery?

MONICA: *(Worried.)* Excuse me!

KATIE: No, actually I'm a nurse. But they told us at nursing school that humor was a good way to make the patients feel better.

MONICA: Nursing school, huh? So today is not just your first day at this hospital, it's your first day at any hospital.

A Change of Heart

- 6 -

KATIE: Well, yes, it is but *(Almost giving a speech.)* I graduated in the top ten per cent of my class and I have many field experiences and I come both prepared and dedicated to give you the best possible care.

MONICA: Are you trying to convince me or you?

KATIE: Both.

MONICA: Listen, Katie, when you do start to work, in another twelve minutes, do you think you could get someone to come and look at this call button. I'm really tired of screaming.

KATIE: Here, let me look at it. *(SHE sets her purse and lunch on the hospital serving table.)* Sometimes it's just a loose connection. You just have to tap it. *(SHE begins to beat the device very hard on the night stand.)* Hello. *(Continues to hit the button.)* Hello, hello!

(NURSE THOMAS enters. It is obvious that she is not happy with the situation. KATIE does not realize that she is in the room.)

NURSE THOMAS: I beg your pardon!

(KATIE is so startled that she throws the call button and it hits MONICA on the head. As she turns around she hits the hospital serving tray, knocking off her purse, lunch, a bed pan and anything else that might happen to be on it. She begins to pick up the mess as she speaks to NURSE THOMAS, but the more she tries, the worse it becomes.)

KATIE: Nurse Thomas. Hello, I'm Katie Statler. *(SHE attempts to shake hands with NURSE THOMAS but doesn't realize she is still holding the bed pan.)* I'm sorry. I'm the new LVN. Remember, I interviewed with you a couple of weeks ago.

NURSE THOMAS: I am well aware of who you are. What I do not understand is what you are doing in this patient's room.

KATIE: Well, you see - *(SHE tries to explain but NURSE THOMAS interrupts.)*

End of Freeview

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