

THE CRAZY MAN FROM NAZARETH

By Scott Crites

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SYNOPSIS

Here is a contemporary one-act play dealing with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. "Crucifixion XXVI," the year's biggest sporting event, is about to take place, and Jerusalem Broadcasting Company has the exclusive coverage of the gala affair. Through four reporters we visit Jesus' childhood home and witness the suffering on Calvary.

The play is seen through the eyes of non-Christians who make a mockery of the whole ordeal. Yet, the play reinforces the glorious acknowledgement that Christ, indeed, died for all of us.

PLAYING TIME: Approximately 20 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(7 speaking parts)**

ERIC GREEDMORE: Play by play announcer.

JIM CANSIN: Color commentator.

FAITH LESSE: Roving reporter at Calvary.

ALACKA TRUST: Correspondent at Nazareth.

BRYAN POWER: "Man in the street" reporter.

MAN IN CROWD: Thinks Jesus is a quack.

WOMAN IN CROWD: Believes in Jesus.

SMALL CROWD: Gets rowdy.

**(Parts can be played by either men or women with minor name and pronoun changes.)*

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SETTING

One SPOTLIGHT lightens a small table in the center of the stage. On the table are several notes and a clipboard. Behind the table seated on two chairs are announcers ERIC GREEDMORE and JIM CANSIN. All reporters wear matching blazers, clip-on microphones, and earphones.

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ERIC: Good afternoon and welcome to JBC's exclusive coverage of Crucifixion XXVI. I'm Eric Greedmore, your play-by-play announcer, along with Jim Cansin, who will be your color commentator today. *(Turning to JIM.)* Well, Jim, it's a beautiful day over Jerusalem. The temperature is a balmy 80 degrees.

JIM: Yes, Eric, they are calling for a possibility of rain later on this afternoon; but if it holds off, it will be an excellent day for a crucifixion.

ERIC: Fill me in on today's sacrifices, if I may so bold as to call them that, Jim?

JIM: We have two common thieves, Eric, and one blasphemer. *(Slight pause.)* Some say he claims to be the Son of God. *(Shaking head in disgust.)* I mean one of these clowns actually thinks he is the "Son of God"!

ERIC: *(Laughing.)* Ha ha, boy-oh-boy, Jim, we sure get some real doozies every so often, don't we? Puts me to mind of that Baptizer *(Pausing, trying to remember.)* John, I think they called him. Went around dunking people in the Jordan River. What's this world coming to, Jim?

JIM: *(Shaking HIS head.)* Eric, I wish I knew!

ERIC: Well, Jim, pre-game activities will continue with the Crucifixion Parade, scheduled to start in about 10 minutes. Let's switch to our roving reporter, Faith Lesse up on Calvary.

(A single SPOTLIGHT lights up FAITH LESSE positioned at DSR. Faith has one hand cupped over her ear and a hand held microphone in the other hand.)

FAITH: Good afternoon, Eric. It is fairly quiet up here on Calvary. Workers have been up here since early this morning building the crosses for today's festivities. A few scattered groups of spectators have already arrived, trying to get the best seats for today's game.

ERIC: Tell me, Faith, what is the public sentiment up there today?

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FAITH: Well, Eric, as I said, it really isn't that crowded up here yet. Most fans are in Jerusalem for the big Crucifixion Parade; but public sentiment of those that I have talked to appears to be decisively against the man they call Jesus. Occasionally, we come across the odd-man out, the radical, who chooses to support this Jesus; but to be honest with you, Eric, the crowd appears to be in the mood for a crucifixion. So, in general, it is still fairly quiet up here on Calvary, though, ironically we have a group of Roman Guards actually casting lots to see which of the three will live the longest. This is Faith Lesse at Calvary. Back to you, Eric. *(SPOTLIGHT down on FAITH.)*

ERIC: Thanks, Faith Lesse. We'll switch back to you throughout the day to get an update on the events at Calvary. *(Turning to JIM.)* Well, Jim, the parade route is really starting to fill up. We expect a turnout of a couple thousand people today.

JIM: Yes, Eric, the whole town is abuzz with today's game, especially with the radical they call Jesus. Officials have told me that tickets for today's game have been sold out for several hours.

ERIC: Jim, while we've got a few minutes, let's switch to our JBC affiliate in Nazareth. News Correspondent, Alacka Trust is on hand outside the childhood home of the rabble-rouser. Miss Trust, are you there? *(SPOTLIGHT on ALACKA TRUST, USL.)*

ALACKA: Hello, Eric. *(Cupping hand over earphone.)* It's a sleepy little town this Nazareth. I'm standing in front of a rather humble house where, I've been told, the boy Jesus grew up. His father was a carpenter, his mother a simple housewife. Where their boy, Jesus went wrong, nobody seems to know. Actually, nobody seems to care. I've been told by several neighbors that he spent more time in the temple making a pest of himself than he did in his father's carpentry shop. He just didn't seem to take an interest in woodworking like his father did. He was always daydreaming, almost like he was not a part of this world. *(Slight pause.)*

End of Freeview

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