

# **GUILTY AS CHARGED**

By Tambra Petrie

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## **DEDICATION**

*This play is dedicated to my parents, Reverend James and Helen McAllister. Without their constant encouragement, support and pride in my writing abilities, I wouldn't have continued pursuing a writing career. I love you both, and consider it a blessing to call you my parents and my friends.*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

The Montgomery brothers, Doug and Jeff, are heading to their parents' house for the Easter weekend, along with their wives, Laura and Susan. While visiting their parents' home church, Doug and Jeff will be performing a play for the annual Easter Sunrise Service.

As usual, Jeff and Doug forget to confirm late arrival reservations with Lucy's Lodge and are forced to stay at Pete's Place, a run-down mountain lodge. Their younger, college prep sister, Sara, is supposed to meet them after she completes her spring final exams. As luck would have it, a freak late winter storm hits, and Sara's car ends up in a snow-bank. She is rescued by Calvin Bruzenski, a not-too-bright "surfer dude," who sets his sights for her.

Calvin does not make a good impression with Jeff, and after everyone else goes to bed, he manages to lock Calvin outside for the entire night, protecting his younger sister's virtue. Becoming bored, Calvin decides to give the Montgomerys' car a tune-up. Calvin's lack of mechanical ability forces the Montgomerys to stay at the lodge while their vehicle is being repaired. While they are there, Jeff and Doug decide to rehearse their Easter skit. Calvin eavesdrops on the skit, believing it to be a real conversation between the brothers. Calvin, unfamiliar with the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, puts two and two together and accuses Jeff and Doug of murder.

You'll enjoy the hilarity of Calvin's accusations, and the realization of the miracle that occurred that Easter morning when Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**JEFF MONTGOMERY:** 28 years old, the oldest Montgomery child, and very bossy towards his younger sister, Sara. He is a Christian and a talented actor, as revealed during the Easter skit, but is quick tempered, and overreacts to stress. He dresses casually.

**LAURA MONTGOMERY:** 27 years old, Jeff's wife. She is very quick-witted and tends to complain a lot. She gets upset with his lack of organization, yet is also supportive of him. She tends to fly off the handle, as does her husband. She dresses casually.

**DOUG MONTGOMERY:** 25 years old, the middle child of the Montgomery family. He is jovial and is not protective of his younger sister, Sara, at all. He tends to laugh under pressure, and seems to enjoy Calvin's weirdness. He is not very mechanical. Very easy-going, dresses in jeans and sweatshirt.

**SUSAN MONTGOMERY:** 25 years old, Doug's wife. Very quick-witted and perky. She enjoys Doug's antics, and many of her insults and quick responses are followed up with laughter. She dresses very casually, matching Doug's taste in clothing.

**SARA MONTGOMERY:** 19 years old, the youngest Montgomery child, a college student. She's a real "daddy's girl," but tries to act grown up. She resents Jeff's bossing her around and stands up to her brothers whenever given the opportunity. She is perky and very friendly. Dresses like a typical college student.

**CALVIN BRUZENSKI:** 20 years old, a "beach dude" type character. He is very annoying to Jeff, yet, he has an innocence about him that makes the audience fall in love with him. He smiles a lot, thinks a lot, jerks a lot, and tries to act intelligent as much as is possible. He has very animated facial expressions. He wears jeans, oversized T-shirts with short vests, long straight hair which is parted in the middle. He speaks with a "surfer" lingo.

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**SYNOPSIS**

Scene 1 - Friday night, Easter weekend.

Scene 2 - Early the next morning.

Scene 3 - Early that afternoon.

Scene 4 - Late the same afternoon.

PLAYING TIME: 45 to 60 minutes.

PLACE: Present Day. Easter weekend, Oak Falls,  
California.

**SET**

The play takes place in a run down mountain lodge. Things should be dusty, old, tarnished, and falling apart. The set should have one SL door (to represent hallway) and one SR door (to represent entrance door). Remember to have the SL door loose, so Jeff can lean on it to make it fall apart.

Furnishings for lodge: Couch (preferably with holes in cushions); wing chair; wooden side chairs sitting around room; free-standing lamp which doesn't work; a coffee table; two end tables; a free-standing corner table; various old, yellowed signs and old, broken glassed pictures on walls; possibly a brochure rack (old with yellowed brochures); an old, beat up coat rack; a fake fireplace with log and fire; and an old mantle clock that doesn't work.

**PROPS**

Luggage for all six characters

Coats, hats and gloves

1 sleeping bag and pillow

4 pillows and 4 blankets

Fake snow

Car keys

Numerous car parts (small, medium and large)

1 small tape recorder with small microphone

1 clothes pin

**SCENE 1**

*(AT RISE: Friday night, Easter weekend. Scene opens in the lounge of a very run down mountain lodge. DOUG, SUSAN, JEFF and LAURA enter carrying luggage. They are dressed in winter coats, gloves and hats.)*

LAURA: *(Rushing for fireplace, followed by SUSAN)* Ohh!  
I'm frozen!

DOUG: You were only out there a couple of minutes. How could you be frozen?

SUSAN: A couple of minutes?

DOUG: Okay, maybe fifteen.

LAURA: Try, thirty.

JEFF: It didn't take us thirty minutes to walk here. You're exaggerating again.

LAURA: So, you're saying my inability to feel anything below my neck is my imagination?

JEFF: Yes.

*(LAURA turns away, mumbling to herself. SUSAN looks around room.)*

SUSAN: This is where we're staying?

LAURA: Please tell me you're joking.

JEFF: Come on, it's not that bad. *(HE leans on the door facing and part of it falls off.)* Okay, so maybe it could use a little work.

LAURA: A little?

DOUG: This was the only place that had vacancies.

SUSAN: *(Sarcastic)* I wonder why?

LAURA: Just lucky, I guess.

JEFF: *(Ignoring LADIES, speaks to DOUG)* We'd better hurry and check in.

SUSAN: Yeah, I'm sure the rooms are going fast.

*(DOUG and JEFF pick up luggage and exit SL doorway.)*

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LAURA: (*Waits until SHE thinks they're gone, then explodes*) "Don't worry, Laura, everything's taken care of."

That's what Jeff said! I can't believe this! I bet we end up missing the Easter sunrise service.

SUSAN: We'd better not. Doug and Jeff are supposed to do their skit. Their mom and dad'll kill them if they don't show.

LAURA: Did Doug call them?

SUSAN: Yeah. He told them we'd be there late tomorrow night.

LAURA: And did he tell them why?

SUSAN: He didn't have to. They figured it out. Jeff and Doug are famous for messing up travel plans.

LAURA: Ain't that the truth.

SUSAN: I am a little concerned about Sara. It's snowing pretty hard out there. What time was she supposed to meet us at the lodge?

LAURA: Around eight. But it's another hour and a half to this place.

SUSAN: I just hope they give her the message I left.

LAURA: Me, too. But, just in case, we'd better keep calling.

SUSAN: Good idea.

*(JEFF enters followed by DOUG.)*

JEFF: Well, we're all checked in.

SUSAN: That was fast.

DOUG: We're the only customers.

SUSAN: Imagine that.

JEFF: We got suites for the price of regular rooms. Isn't that great?

LAURA: Yippee.

SUSAN: So, how bad are they?

DOUG: I think you'll be surprised.

SUSAN: That's what I'm afraid of.

DOUG: Now, Susan, if you expect the worst, you'll get the worst.

*(SARA enters.)*

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