

HEAVEN HELP US

By Tambra Kay Petrie

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this play to my middle child, Jameson Cody Petrie, who never ceases to amaze me. He always has a smile on his face, a song in his heart, and a hug for his mom. Although he is not a “preacher’s kid,” like his mom, he is a leader in our local youth group, and is always willing to use his singing and acting talent for God. I love him and thank God every day for giving me my “sunshine boy.”

STORY OF THE PLAY

Alarm bells sound when Pastor Larry Bowman and his wife, Janet, find out the leader of their denomination, Rev. Grisham, wants to visit and use their three children as role models for his newest book. As loveable as they are, young Eric, Cherie and Cody are famous for their outrageous ideas and rambunctious behavior. Their antics especially seems to grate on the nerves of one of the church’s more conservative deacons. To impress Rev. Grisham, the kids build an altar to use the youngest child as their sacrifice — following the example of Abraham and Issac, of course! Hapless, hilarious and heartwarming, this play not only entertains but relays the message that kids are kids whether or not their father is the preacher.

CAST OF CHARACTERS/COSTUMES

(7 M, 6 W, 1 Boy)

LARRY BOWMAN: Pastor of small, rural church in Southern United States. He is approximately 40 years old. He is very patient with Charles, has a pleasant, kind demeanor. He dresses casually.

JANET BOWMAN: Pastor's wife. She is approximately 36 years old, very attractive. She is kind and considerate, but also becomes very outspoken when it comes to Charles speaking badly of her children. She dresses as would be appropriate a pastor's wife, very casual since it is a Friday night.

ERIC BOWMAN: Pastor's eldest son, 16 years old. He is very cocky and self-confident, nice looking. He dresses in extra large T-shirt, blue jeans, tennis shoes, and a ball cap, worn backwards.

CHERIE BOWMAN: Pastor's daughter, 13 years old. She is extremely emotional and insecure, able to cry a lot and make it believable. She wears blouse and blue jeans.

CODY BOWMAN: Pastor's youngest son, 8 years old. He is very active and loud, yet very cute and lovable. He must be able to draw the audience in with his cute, rowdy actions. He dresses very sloppy, with messy T-shirt, blue jeans, tennis shoes and messy hair.

REV. CLAUDE GRISHAM: The leader of the denomination. He is an older man, early fifties, with graying hair. He is very personable and friendly. He dresses in a suit and tie. In ACT II - Scene 2, he wears dress pants with leaves and grass remains, and a white shirt with torn, blackened sleeves, indicating they were on fire. His hair should be messed up, and he should have dirt on his face, with a spot on his forehead to show a big red welt/bump.

CHARLES PENWORTHY: Deacon. He is an older man, late fifties, very serious, slow-talking, southern accent. He is very disapproving of the pastor's children and of the joking that takes place in some of the deacons' meetings. However, at the end, he comes around and shows his acceptance of Cody with a hug. He dresses in a suit and tie, very conservative.

MILDRED PENWORTHY: Charles Penworthy's wife. She is in her late fifties, very serious, in agreement with her husband's disapproving attitude towards the pastor's children's behavior. She wears a very conservative looking dress to the meeting, with her hair styled very plainly. Southern accent.

JOHN BARRON: The Chairman of the Deacons. He is in his late fifties, soft-spoken and kind in manners, smiles a lot. He speaks with southern accent. He is well respected by the Pastor and the rest of the deacons, and is very supportive of the Pastor. He dresses casually.

GLORIA BARRON: John Barron's wife. She is in her early fifties, very quiet, smiles a lot, southern accent. She dresses very nice and casual. Very supportive of the Pastor.

PETE HALLBROOK: Deacon. He is overly excited and leans towards being hyper. He is in his late thirties. He speaks loudly and in southern accent, laughs a lot. He dresses slightly unkempt, but is very kind and considerate, well liked by everyone and very supportive of the Pastor.

NANCY HALLBROOK: Pete Hallbrook's wife. She is in mid-thirties, kind and considerate, smiles a lot, quiet in comparison to Pete. Very supportive of Pastor. She dresses casually, but nice.

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MARK NELSON: Deacon. He is in his early forties, very rambunctious, a jokester. He enjoys making sounds and acting silly. He is very good friends with the Pastor and supportive. He dresses casually, but nice.

PAM NELSON: Mark Nelson's wife. She is in her late thirties, attractive, kind and considerate, quick-witted, laughs a lot. She is very supportive of the Pastor and good friends with Janet Bowman. She dresses casually, but nice.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I:

Scene 1: Thursday, early evening in Bowman's living room.

Scene 2: Same evening, 30 minutes later.

Scene 3: Same evening. 30 minutes later.

ACT II: Friday, late afternoon.

ACT III: Saturday, afternoon.

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PROPS

Books, phone, dishes, food, clothing, magazines, socks, shoes, empty pop cans, snack wrappers, TV remote, large tennis shoe, napkins, Bible, coffee mugs.

Larry - watch, folding chairs.

Janet - dish, needle point, briefcase, ice pack.

Charles - plate.

Cody - rubber ball with notebook paper wrapped around it.

Claude - drinking glass.

Mildred - rag.

SFX

Phone

Doorbell

Doorbell

SET REQUIREMENTS: Living room interior.

PLAYING TIME: 60 minutes.

TIME: Present day.

LOCATION: The Bowman's living room.

End of Freeview

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