

SATAN'S ASSIGNMENT: CANCELED

By Juanita Weiss

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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to my husband, David; my son, Jonathan; and to my pastor, Michael J. Rogers, whose sermon by the same title became my inspiration.

*The Playwright
Juanita Weiss*

STORY OF THE PLAY

In the bowels of hell, Satan schemes with his computer-wielding intelligence officer, Abaddon and cohorts Sin, Death, Hell, and Grave. Their mission — to kill the Carpenter, the one who has been thwarting Satan's plans for the humans. Only Satan is aware of the Carpenter's true identity, for his unwary accomplices are simply pawns in his vengeful battle against Yahweh who kicked him out of heaven.

You will get the behind-the-scenes look at Jesus' battle with spiritual wickedness through His life and death and finally His defeat of the spirits of darkness at His resurrection. There He proclaims victory to His people.

SET

The supernatural realm of the powers of darkness. The realm resembles the inside of a cave: dark, dank and solemn. CS is Satan's throne. To the left of the throne is a mirror. In front of the mirror are a desk and chair. To the right of the throne is an elevated platform which represents Earth.

PROPS

Skeleton keys, stool, cloth, drink, remote control, cellular phone, knife, laptop computer, coins, golf clubs and balls, a sheet to cover Jesus, stage blood, cane.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10 M, 2 W, 5 Flex, 2 Teens, Extras. Doubling possible.)

SATAN: The ruler of the supernatural realm.
SIN: Seducer of evil. Can be male but preferably female.
ABADDON: Satan's right-hand man/woman.
DEATH: Male or female.
GRAVE: Another.
HELL: Another, preferably female.
JESUS: God's Son, the Carpenter.
SIMON THE ZEALOT: A follower of Jesus.
ROMAN SOLDIER: Almost killed by Simon.
ADULTEROUS WOMAN: Pharisee wants her stoned.
PHARISEE: Tries to stone Adulterous Woman.
MAN: He has the stone.
IMP 1: Shoeshine teen for Satan.
IMP 2: Errand teen to help Satan.
EXTRAS: Men to cast stones at Adulterous Woman.
FOUR DISCIPLES: Jesus' close friends and followers.
WOMAN: Washes Jesus' feet with her tears.
PSALMISTS: To sing the song: "The Love of God."
Dressed in white. Or you could have the song taped ahead of time to be played during Scene 5.

SCENE SYNOPSIS

Scene 1 - Sometime before the crucifixion.
Scene 2 - Still before the crucifixion.
Scene 3 - During the crucifixion.
Scene 4 - After the crucifixion.
Scene 5 - Jesus is in the grave.
Scene 6 - Minutes before the resurrection.

TIME: Before and after the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth.

PLACE: The supernatural realm.

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: SATAN proudly enters wearing a dark suit. He swaggers in confidence, tossing skeleton keys in his hands. He snaps his fingers and an IMP, dressed in black, who brings in a stool and a cloth to shine Satan's shoes. Satan inspects the work and motions for him to do it again. He snaps his fingers again and ANOTHER IMP enters with a drink. At another snap of his fingers the Imp brings him a remote control and cellular phone and waits to be assigned another duty. Satan dismisses him with the wave of his hand; he bows and disappears SL. The shoeshine Imp is also dismissed with a wave of the hand and he exits SL.)

SATAN: *(Confident, but with growing concern)* I have the Greeks. I have the Romans. The Jews are so lost in their own traditions they are no problem...but this Carpenter...he bothers me.

(SATAN aims his remote control SR to the platform and clicks it and immediately a LIGHT comes up on a ROMAN SOLDIER approaching. SIMON THE ZEALOT jumps from the shadows behind him, knocks him out, lifts his head and pulls out a knife to cut his throat. JESUS walks into the LIGHT.)

JESUS: Simon...of Canaan. Come, follow me. I will give you a new sword. *(SIMON drops the neck of the soldier and gives the sword to JESUS.)* And I will introduce you to the real enemy. Come...follow me...come. *(SIMON follows JESUS off SR. LIGHT fades. SOLDIER exits in darkness.)*

SATAN: *(Angrily)* This Jesus must die! He's changing the hearts of too many. And once I lose their hearts, I lose the people...and I will not lose.

(SATAN dials the cellular phone. A LIGHT comes up on SIN answering the phone SL. Sin's voice is raspy and a bit perturbed.)

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SIN: Yeah! What do you want?

SATAN: Sin, this is Satan. I need to see you right now.

SIN: Well, I'm in the midst of something.

SATAN: What are you doing?

SIN: *(With relish)* I've got this guy named Barabbas cooking up a plot to overthrow the Romans. Man, I love these zealots.

SATAN: Well, that'll keep. After you get them started they don't need much prodding. This is an emergency. I need you here.

SIN: But I'm having so much fun! You should see these guys. What is this about?

SATAN: The Carpenter - from Nazareth.

SIN: *(Realizing the urgency)* Be right there, boss.

SATAN: *(Hangs up, then paces the floor, muttering)* He must die! I can't endure this meddling any longer. Earth is mine! *(Looking up)* I won it from those stupid two that You created! It belongs to me! I will not share it with another!

(ABADDON, Satan's right-hand man, enters. He/She is very serious and studious looking, carrying a laptop computer.)

SATAN: Did you get it done?

ABADDON: Yes, all the information you will need is in here.

SATAN: What's his average life expectancy?

ABADDON: *(Computing on HIS laptop)* Well, he doesn't drink, gamble or go to wild parties, nor does he have wild friends and he doesn't sleep with women. I'd say he could live a very long life.

SATAN: That's no good. Can you imagine all the damage he would do if he lived a long time? Look what he's done in three years. I admit, some of these humans are better off to us alive than dead, but not this one.

SIN: *(Scurries in, sensually dressed)* What are you going to do about him, boss? He is more than annoying. He is making my job very difficult.

SATAN: Yeah, he just got one of those zealots that you delight in so much!

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SIN: I know he did. He even got some of the Romans, despite their idolatry. Just thinking about his meddling is infuriating me.

SATAN: What have you done? Have you tried to seduce him yet?

SIN: I've come face to face with this Carpenter and each time it's a losing battle. You know that woman that I thought I had totally consumed? She was wallowing in me and seven of your boys possessed her? You remember my telling you about her, boss?

SATAN: Yeah, yeah, I remember her and I know the story. You don't have to rehash it.

SIN: And what about that tax collector, Matthew?

SATAN: *(Fed up)* I said, I know the story.

SIN: And what about -

SATAN: *(Angry)* I said, shut up! Don't remind me of all those he has stolen from me! Just help me to get rid of him.

SIN: *(Reflectively)* You know, although he shuns me, I feel drawn to him in some way.

SATAN: *(Oblivious to SIN'S remark)* Did you try a woman yet?

SIN: When women meet him all they want to do is adore him. So no - the women didn't work.

SATAN: *(Walks over to the mirror and looks at HIS reflection, adjusts his clothing and rubs his chin)* And he's not even good looking like me. *(Turns away from the mirror)*

ABADDON: *(Trying to log that into HIS computer)* That does not compute, boss.

SATAN: Ah, shut up and do what I tell you! *(Angrily, more like an aside)* That worship belongs to me.

SIN: *(More to the audience)* What is it about him that makes it difficult for me to infect him?

SATAN: And what about money?

SIN: Didn't you offer him that? Didn't you offer him the kingdoms of the world? Didn't he reject you and didn't he -

SATAN: Okay! Dumb question. What about his family?

SIN: I've already started working there.

End of Freeview

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