

WHAT COLOR

Aaron Williams
Lisa Hicks, *Aaron's School Friend*
Brent Dean, *Aaron's Friend*

Rosalyn Williams, *Aaron's Mother*
Wesley Knight, *Lisa's Son*
Kenny Frederickson

Hazel Williams, *Aaron's Sister*
Rhonda Green, *Lisa's Mother*
Doctor/Reporter

ACT ONE SCENE ONE

The scene begins in the dark. It is quiet for about three minutes before Brent breaks the silence.

BRENT

How long do we have to hide?

LISA

Be quiet Brent, you're going to ruin everything.

BRENT

He's not even here yet. What's taking them so long just to get here?

LISA

Be quiet Brent. Be patient.

RHONDA

Please be quiet Brent, we don't want to ruin the surprise.

BRENT

I'm just tired of waiting.

RHONDA

Well, we all have been waiting, but you're the only one complaining.

WESLEY

We have been waiting here pretty long.

BRENT

Thank you Wesley.

LISA

They will be here any minute, now please shut up.

RHONDA

Please be quiet before you ruin the surprise.

BRENT

I'm just sick of waiting here.

Me too. WESLEY

Patience is a virtue. LISA

What's a virtue? BRENT

Quiet please. RHONDA

What is a virtue? WESLEY

ROSALYN
Would ya'll shut the hell up! *(Everyone is quiet. Soon a car door is heard)*. See, they're here.
Now everyone shut up.

No one was talking. BRENT

You're talking now. LISA

BRENT
But no one was talking when she said everyone shut up.

RHONDA
Quiet please.

BRENT
I was just saying-

ROSALYN
SHUT UP!

HAZEL
(Hazel and Aaron can be heard from off-stage. Hazel is purposely speaking loudly as to warn everyone inside the house). Aaron, we are here. We are finally here at *mother's* house.

AARON
Why are you talking like that?

HAZEL

Why, what do you mean, *Aaron*? How am I talking? All I said was that we are home now. We are getting out of the car and about to approach the door.

AARON

Thanks for telling me what we are doing, because otherwise I wouldn't have known.

HAZEL

Oh, *Aaron* you are such the comedian, *Aaron*.

AARON

Can we just go inside?

HAZEL

Of course, *Aaron*. We are about to enter mom's house. Do you remember living here? Do you miss it, *Aaron*?

AARON

Not really, could you just open the door already?

HAZEL

Okay, I am about to take the key and unlock the door, so that I can open it, so that we can enter the house.

AARON

Thanks for the instructions; you think you could just open it?

HAZEL

What is the rush, *Aaron*? I am opening the door now. I am putting the key in the door, and I am about to unlock the door. I am now unlocking the door. I just unlocked the door. I will now turn the doorknob and open the door.

AARON

Would you just open the damn door?

HAZEL

Aaron, what is with the potty mouth?

AARON

Why are you taking two years to open the door?

HAZEL

Patience is a virtue, *Aaron*. Okay, here I go. I am opening the door.

BRENT

Would she hurry the hell up?

HAZEL

Here I go. *(She opens the door and turns on the lights. Everyone jumps out and yells surprise).*

AARON

Oh, hell no. *(After seeing his reaction everyone hesitantly sings Happy Birthday. Once they are done they cheer).* Why did you do this? You know I hate parties.

HAZEL

I told you mother.

ROSALYN

Oh, please, it's not like we do this every year. Aaron, baby, I'm your mother and if I decide to throw you a party, I will do it and you will like it. *(She hugs Aaron).*

AARON

Thanks, mom. But please don't do this again.

LISA

Hey Birthday boy. Or as you say Birth Anniversary.

AARON

Lisa, you're supposed to be my friend. How come you didn't stop this party from happening?

LISA

I made many suggestions, but they were ignored. Wesley, come over here and say hi.

WESLEY

Happy Birthday, Aaron.

AARON

Thank you Wes-man. How old are you now?

WESLEY

Twelve.

AARON

Already; weren't you six years old last week?

LISA

It sure seems like it. They grow up so fast.

WESLEY

Mom, can I go back over there with Brent. He said he's going to teach me how to play spades.

LISA

Spades? You're too young for that.

WESLEY

Please mom.

LISA

Go ahead. (*He runs towards Brent*). I don't understand how you and Brent became friends. He is completely your opposite. And I don't like his attitude. He's a bad influence on Wesley, and yet Wesley admires him.

AARON

Wesley admires any man that cares to spend time with him. So, how's Ricky doing? Is he spending more time with him?

LISA

No. I think I'm going to have to get a DNA test just to prove to Ricky that Wesley is indeed his son.

AARON

I'm so sorry that you're in this situation.

LISA

Don't be; I got myself into this situation. I guess I'm going to have to get myself out of it. Enough about me. How are you feeling? Do you feel a year older?

AARON

No. But I am really annoyed about this party.

LISA

Aaron, what is wrong with you? Why do you hate celebrating your Birthday?

AARON

I do not mind celebrating my Birth Anniversary. I just don't like parties. I'm a simple man. Just mail me a card with money in it and I'm satisfied.

LISA

Well, you're mother went through a lot trouble just to put this party together. You should at least pretend to enjoy it.

AARON

A lot of trouble she didn't have to go through. She knows I don't like parties.

RHONDA

Hey, Birthday boy.

AARON

(*They hug*). Hey, mamma Green.

RHONDA
And how are you doing today?

AARON
I'm doing fine.

RHONDA
Just for the record, I reminded your mother how much you hate parties, but she ignored me. So please don't be upset with me.

AARON
Thanks, momma Green.

RHONDA
Lisa, baby, are you aware that Brent is teaching your son how to play spades?

LISA
Yes, mother.

RHONDA
And you're okay with that?

LISA
No, but Wesley needs a male figure in his life.

RHONDA
What's wrong with Aaron?

LISA
Wesley loves Aaron, but he admires Brent. For whatever reason I think he wants to be like him.

RHONDA
Well, I think Brent is a horrible influence on Wesley.

LISA
Mother, I really don't want to do this now.

RHONDA
Okay, we'll do it later. Well, Happy Birthday Aaron. And try to enjoy this party; your mother did a lot work just to have this party.

AARON
I'll try, momma Green.

HAZEL
Hey, can we get some music going here?

ROSALYN

(Turns on the stereo). Is this good enough for you?

HAZEL

Yeah, that's fine. *(She dances over to Aaron).* Happy Birthday brother.

AARON

Thank you, *sister*.

HAZEL

Not that it's important or anything, but I thought I let you know, I told mother not to do this.

AARON

Do what?

HAZEL

I told her not to have a party, but she was very persistent.

AARON

Thanks, Hazel.

HAZEL

No problem. But try your best to enjoy it. You know, be grateful, appreciate it, she went through a lot of work.

AARON

Okay. *(Hazel dances away from Aaron. Brent walks towards him).* Hey man, how are you?

BRENT

I'm good, yo. Happy Birthday, man.

AARON

Thank you.

BRENT

Just for the record, dog. I told your mother how much you hate parties, but she is very stubborn. I see where you get it from.

AARON

Not funny. So, how are you doing?

BRENT

I'm good man.

AARON

Seriously? (*Looking him in his eyes*) You've been good?

Yeah, man. I've been clean.

BRENT

How long?

AARON

Three months.

BRENT

That's good.

AARON

Yeah, the program has really helped me.

BRENT

Are you staying away from your old crew?

AARON

Yeah, man. I don't hang around them no more.

BRENT

That's good. Well, thanks for coming, despite of.

AARON

No problem, man. And try to enjoy it. Your mother went through a lot just to have this little shin-ding.

BRENT

I'll try.

AARON

Mom, do you want me to take the food out of the kitchen?

HAZEL

Not yet. I think it's time to open presents.

ROSALYN

(*Everyone cheers*). No, that's not necessary. I'll just bring them all home and then I'll send out thank you cards.

AARON

Aaron, you can't be serious. Stop fooling around; it's time to open your gifts. Now, sit on the couch and everyone gather 'round (*She turns off the music*).

ROSALYN

HAZEL

Here ya go. *(She hands him two cards)*. The other one is from daddy. He gave it to me before he left on his business trip.

AARON

Thank you. *(He opens the envelope)*. To a very special brother on a very special day, *(He opens the card)*. Ooh, money, *(He continues to read)*, Wishing you a wonderful day and hoping much happiness in the years to come. Happy Birthday. *(He closes the card)*. Thank you Hazel. It's beautiful, especially the stuff inside.

HAZEL

Well, you know what they say; it's not what's on the outside that counts, but what's on the inside.

AARON

Especially if there is a lot of counting.

ROSALYN

This is from me to you, baby.

AARON

Thank you mom. *(He goes to open the gift)*.

ROSALYN

Wait, read the card first.

AARON

Do I really have to read all these cards? There are six of you. I don't think the audience wants hear all this mess.

ROSALYN

Go ahead and just open the thing.

AARON

(He opens the gift). Oh, thank you. I'll start reading this tonight.

BRENT

What book is it?

AARON

T. D. Jakes Speaks to Men. Thanks again.

RHONDA

I'm next. Here you go, Aaron.

AARON

Thank you mamma Green, *(He opens the gift)*, Wow, these are very bright.

RHONDA

Do you like them? You're always wearing dry and gray colors. You never wear anything bright and lovely. So I thought I buy you some colorful attire.

AARON

They sure are colorful, maybe too colorful. Thank you. I will cherish them forever; *(aside)* but I'll never wear them.

BRENT

It's my turn man. Here ya go. *(He hands him a card)*.

AARON

Is there money in this thing?

BRENT

No man, something better than money.

AARON

(He opens the card). A gift card for a liquor store?

BRENT

Not just any liquor store, it's from Spirits, the best liquor store in this state.

AARON

But I don't drink alcohol.

BRENT

But I thought maybe you could try something different. You know go and experiment with different drinks.

AARON

No. You can have it. *(He hands it to him)*.

BRENT

No, man, I can't take it back. It's yours.

AARON

But I can't do anything with it. You should have gotten me something I could use, man.

ROSALYN

Aaron, why are you being so ungrateful? When someone gets you a gift you always thank them. It's not about the gift; it's the simple fact that they got you one. Remember, it's the thought that counts.

AARON

Well, there was no thought in it.

Aaron you're being rude.

HAZEL

AARON

This is all ya'll fault. You shouldn't have thrown this party to begin with.

LISA

Shut up, Aaron; open my gift. *(She hands him the gift).*

AARON

(He opens the gift), Wow, this is awesome.

WESLEY

Whoa, the new iPod touch 16GB which features the same multi-touch screen technology as iPhone. You can scroll through your songs and videos with a simple flick. It also has Cover Flow, which means you can flip through your library by album artwork. Plus you can surf the web with Wi-Fi and also browse the web using Safari and watch YouTube videos on the gorgeous 3.5-inch widescreen display.

AARON

Goodness, did you want it?

WESLEY

Yeah, can I have it?

LISA

Wesley, no. It's his birthday gift.

AARON

How about this, any time you come to visit, I will allow you to use it. How does that sound?

WESLEY

That's totally tubular dude.

AARON

Apparently you've been watching 80's movies. Well, I think that is all the gifts.

WESLEY

No, I have a gift for you.

AARON

Oh really?

WESLEY

Yes, here you go.

AARON

Wow, this is pretty big. What is it?

WESLEY

You have to open it to figure that out.

AARON

Okay. *(He opens it)*. Wow, it's pretty cool, *(Everyone stands around and looks at it)*, great work. What is it?

WESLEY

It's a portrait. I painted it in art class.

AARON

Well, yeah, I figured that part out. Who is it?

WESLEY

What do you mean who is it? You can't tell just by looking?

AARON

No, I'm sorry, I can't. It's not me is it?

WESLEY

No.

AARON

Good. Well, who is it?

WESLEY

It's Jesus.

AARON

Jesus who?

WESLEY

It's Jesus, the Son of God.

HAZEL

That's not Jesus. Jesus had an afro.

RHONDA

I always thought he had red curly hair.

BRENT

He wasn't Irish. Everyone knows Jesus was a white man with brown hair. Just like in the picture Wesley drew.

WESLEY

I painted it.

Whatever. BRENT
 Jesus was not white. He was black. HAZEL
 Wasn't He Jewish? LISA
 Was Jesus circumcised? BRENT
 Who cares? The whole point is that Wesley painted a beautiful picture for Aaron. I think it's lovely. ROSALYN
 I think so too. That's my grandbaby. RHONDA
 I think Aaron should hang it up in his home. ROSALYN
 I don't know. AARON
 Why not? It's a lovely picture. ROSALYN
 I don't have anywhere to hang it up. AARON
 Aaron, your apartment is not that small. I am sure you could find space for it. ROSALYN
 You know, mom, you maybe right. I know exactly where I am going to hang it up. I'm going to hang it up in the room most visited in my apartment. AARON
 Which room, your living room? ROSALYN
 No, the bathroom. AARON
ROSALYN

Don't be silly. You're going to hang it up in your living room.

AARON

I think it will be better in the bathroom. I'm going to hang it up over the toilet and hang up a mirror across from the toilet, that way people can see Jesus when they pee and poop.

ROSALYN

Goodness, Aaron. Do you think you could be civilized for one day in your life?

AARON

Mother, I'm just joking. I will gladly hang this picture up in my living room so everyone can see what a great artist Wesley is.

RHONDA

That is wonderful. I can't wait to come over and see it hanging up.

HAZEL

Well, I think it's time for food.

BRENT

I think so too.

HAZEL

Brent, come in the kitchen and help me carry this stuff out to the living room.

LISA

Wesley, go in with them and help. *(Rosalyrn turns the music up. Brent, Hazel, and Wesley bring the food and cake in the room. As this action continues the lights fade to black).*

ACT ONE SCENE TWO

The scene opens in Aaron's apartment's living room. Wesley's painted picture is hanging in the center of the wall.

AARON

(Enters the room and walks towards the door and opens it). Hey, what are you doing here?

HAZEL

Sorry for not calling ahead of time, but I wanted to talk to you.

AARON

What's that in your hand?

HAZEL

Oh, my goodness. You are not going to believe this, but I went to a garage sale near the house and I saw this picture and had to get it for you. I thought maybe you could hang it up next to Wesley's picture. *(She hands it to him).*

AARON

(He examines it) Well, who the hell is it?

HAZEL

It's Jesus.

AARON

This is not Jesus.

HAZEL

Yes, it is. It's the real portrait of Jesus. Everyone who knows Jesus knows that this is what he really looks like. Aren't you going to hang it up?

AARON

Sure, why not?

HAZEL

(He hangs up the picture. The picture depicts Jesus as a black man with an afro, a hair pick in his hair, a cross necklace, his hand in "black power" mode, and a halo over his head). See, now that's the real Jesus.

AARON

If you say so. Is that all you wanted to talk about, "the real Jesus?"

HAZEL

No. You weren't busy were you?

AARON

Actually, I was. I'm in the middle of finishing my fourth book.

HAZEL

Oh, that's great. I'm so proud of you Aaron. I can't believe you're a best-selling author.

AARON

So, what's wrong?

HAZEL

Oh, nothing, I'll come back later. You're busy.

AARON

What's wrong?

HAZEL

Nothing

AARON

What's wrong?

HAZEL

Aaron, there's nothing wrong. It can wait. I'll see you later.

AARON

What's wrong?

HAZEL

Aaron, stop it.

AARON

What's wrong?

HAZEL

It's not...don't worry about it. Go finish your book. (*Aaron stares at her*). Okay, okay. Before I tell you, you have to promise not to laugh at me like mother did.

AARON

What's wrong?

HAZEL

Well, there's this guy at my job. He started working there about six months ago. In the last month or two I noticed him coming into work really drunk. At first I thought maybe he was just sick or exhausted, but after awhile you could smell the liquor on him. It was horrible. Well, I went to the boss and reported him. They suspended him for three months and told him that he had to go through a help program or they would fire him.

AARON

Well what's wrong?

HAZEL

He was very pissed. He went into this crazy rage. They called the cops and had to arrest him and everything. Last I heard someone told him that I reported him.

AARON

I still don't see the problem.

HAZEL

If you would have seen how crazy he got you would have been scared for your life. And that's what I am. I am really afraid that if he comes back to work or if I see him on the streets somewhere, that he is going to try to kill me or something.

AARON

Oh, I am sure he is not going to do anything to you.

HAZEL

You don't understand that job meant the world to him and I am the reason why he lost it. He just might come after me or try to get me fired.

AARON

Have you called the cops for a restraining order?

HAZEL

He hasn't done anything yet. He would have to do something to me before I do anything.

AARON

Well, did you want me to do anything?

HAZEL

Yes. Do you think that maybe I could spend the night over here. I think he knows where I live.

AARON

What are you going to do, hide from him the rest of your life?

HAZEL

No, it's just until I get married. Then I'll have a man to protect me.

AARON

That can be years, even decades. You're only twenty years old.

HAZEL

Many people get married young.

AARON

Will that include you?

HAZEL

Aaron, do you know how to be sympathetic? I'm about to be attacked by some crazy man and all you can do is make jokes.

AARON

You don't even know if he's going to attack you. You don't even know for sure if he even knows you told on him. Don't you think you're taking this a little too far?

HAZEL

No. I'm just trying to protect myself. All I want to do is live here until I feel safe enough to move back in with mother.

AARON

What did mother say?

HAZEL

She thinks I'm crazy and that I'm being too dramatic, but she said if you're okay with it, then she's okay with it. Please, Aaron, we're talking about my life here.

AARON

This is ridiculous, but you can stay for a while.

HAZEL

Oh, thank you Aaron. *(She hugs him)*. I love you so much big brother.

AARON

I love you too.

HAZEL

Well, I'm going to go home and pack. You get back to work on your book. *(She takes out sunglasses a scarf and gloves out of her pocket book. She puts everything on and the scarf over her head. Aaron looks at her strangely)*. It's my disguise.

AARON

I thought you said he was in an alcohol program or in jail or something.

HAZEL

Yeah, but he might have hired someone to watch me until he gets out. See you later. Bye.

AARON

Bye. *(She exits)*. What a sister I have. *(Aaron exits to his room. In less than a minute the doorbell rings. Aaron enters)*. Who could that be? *(He opens the door)*. Hey, how are you doing? What brings you here?

RHONDA

I just came to say hello and see how you are doing? *(She notices the picture)*. Who is that supposed to be?

AARON

Jesus.

RHONDA

I'm not sure about that one. Was black power even around during the bible days?

AARON

I really don't care. So, is there anything I can do for you?

RHONDA

No, I just came to say hi and stuff. You weren't busy were you?

AARON

Just a little, I'm finishing another book.

RHONDA

Oh, how wonderful. I'm so proud of you Aaron. I remember when you and Lisa were just little kids, running around getting yourselves into trouble. You guys hung around each other so much. Especially in high school, I thought for sure you would end up married or something. It's a shame she got herself tangled up with Ricky. I can't believe he is still denying that child. He looks just like him.

AARON

Yeah, it's such a shame. You sure everything is okay? It's kind of hard to believe that you came over here just to say hello.

RHONDA

Yeah, well, I don't want to bother you now. I didn't realize you were busy. You really need to get finished with your work. I don't want to hinder you. I'll just be leaving now.

AARON

Well, you're already over here, you might as well just tell me what the problem is.

RHONDA

It's not like it's a problem, its just...well, maybe it is a problem, I just...its difficult for me to say this...I am uncomfortable right now, trying to say this. I have no one else to talk to. I didn't want to bother Lisa; because she has her own problems with Ricky...I just don't know how to say this.

AARON
What's wrong?

RHONDA
I haven't been feeling well lately.

AARON
Have you been sick?

RHONDA
Yes. I went to the doctor to get it checked out.

AARON
What's wrong?

RHONDA
I have cancer. Breast cancer.

AARON
Momma Green, are you serious?

RHONDA
As serious as a heart attack. Or should I say cancer?

AARON
What are you going to do?

RHONDA
I have another appointment. I'm going to get treatment and everything else.

AARON
Do you know what stage it's in?

RHONDA
The early stage, they said I came just in time. They think they can stop it from spreading.

AARON
Well, that's good.

RHONDA
Yeah. I just had to tell someone. I couldn't keep it to myself any longer. Please, don't tell anyone.

Like never.

AARON

No, just not now.

RHONDA

No problem. *(They embrace)*. You're going to be okay.

AARON

Yeah, I hope. I'm going to go now. You get back to work.

RHONDA

I love you.

AARON

I love you too. *(She exits)*.

RHONDA

(He exits to his room). Dear, God I pray for her healing. *(The stage is empty and silent for about a minute before a frantic knock and doorbell is heard. Aaron enters)*. I am coming, would you hold on. *(He opens the door)*.

AARON

Hey, can I come in?

BRENT

Sure, what's going on?

AARON

Nothing man. *(Brent enters and walks in the room, as Aaron shuts the door Brent looks outside to see if anyone is coming. He then goes towards the window and looks out)*.

BRENT

What are you looking at?

AARON

What? *(Looks at Aaron)*.

BRENT

What are you looking at?

AARON

I'm looking at you.

BRENT

AARON

What's outside?

BRENT

What? What do you mean?

AARON

You were looking out the window. What were you looking at?

BRENT

Nothing. Can I just look out the window? Do I need a reason? Why can't I look out the window? I mean, its beautiful outside, the suns shining and the birds are singing I'm just looking out the window. Why can't I look out the window?

AARON

Okay, I'm sorry for asking. You look like you were looking for something.

BRENT

No, no, no, no. I was just...I was just looking out the window.

AARON

Are you okay?

BRENT

Yes, I'm fine, I'm okay. Everything is okay, why do think there is something wrong? There's nothing wrong with me. I'm doing fine, I'm okay. (*He looks out the window*). Trust me there is nothing wrong. So how are you doing? (*Looks out the window*) Is everything okay with you?

AARON

What is up with you? There has to be something wrong?

BRENT

There is nothing wrong with me (*He paces the floor*). Tell me, right now. Why do you think there is something wrong with me? Is there a reason why you keep thinking there is something wrong? What's wrong? Why do you think there is something wrong? There's nothing wrong, there's nothing wrong, there's nothing wrong, there's nothing wrong. Why do you think there is something wrong?

AARON

Because you're a little jumpy.

BRENT

I'm not jumpy. Do I seem jumpy? I am not jumpy. I am non-jumpy, I am in-jumpy, I am un-jumpy. I am not jumpy. Who is jumpy? Is it me, no it's not me.

AARON

Brent, what's going on? I don't want to offend you, but you seem to be acting the way you used to when you got high.

BRENT

I don't believe you said that. I am a clean man. I told you I was clean. I am clean. Clean man, I am clean. Do you know how clean I am, I am clean. *(He looks out the window)*, I think he knows I am in here. If the doorbell rings, don't get it.

AARON

Who are you referring to?

BRENT

Big-Guns.

AARON

Brent, you told me that you don't hang around him anymore.

BRENT

I did, I don't, I don't, I did. He found me and he is looking for me.

AARON

Brent, I'm not stupid, the only time he goes after you is when you don't pay.

BRENT

No, man, I didn't get anything from him. He's just after me.

AARON

Brent, I thought you said the program was working.

BRENT

It is it is. I'm clean, man, I'm clean. *(He starts pacing)*.

AARON

Brent, you'll never be clean if you keep lying about it.

BRENT

What the hell, man, you're supposed to be my dog. What are you doing calling me a liar?

AARON

Brent, I can tell you're high. How quickly do you think I forget things? This is the same thing you did when you were on the streets. Pacing around my place afraid of Big-Guns. You keep messing with him he just might kill you. Do you even care about your life?

BRENT

Of course, man. What kind of question is that?

AARON

Brent, no one can help you until you help yourself.

BRENT

I'm fine man, I don't need any help.

AARON

Then leave my apartment.

BRENT

No, man, is you serious? I can't leave, he's gonna get me.

AARON

Brent, you can stay here, but I'm going to need you to admit that you still have problems.

BRENT

Aaron, can we just end this conversation?

AARON

(Pause) I'll be in my room (He exits. Brent sits on the couch. Black out).

ACT ONE SCENE THREE

This scene takes place at Aaron's apartment. It opens with an empty stage after a few seconds the doorbell is heard. Aaron enters.

LISA

(Aaron opens the door) Hey, how are you?

AARON

Hey, come in. What brings you by here?

LISA

(She enters) I need to talk to you.

AARON

What is that?

LISA

Oh, it's a gift from my mother. *(She hands him the gift)*. I mentioned to her that I was coming over here and she asked me to give it to you.

AARON

What is it?

LISA

I don't know. It was wrapped when she gave it to me. She said she found it at a flea market.

AARON

Oh, goodness. It's kind of big. What do you suppose it is?

LISA

It looks like a picture frame of some sort. Open it.

AARON

(He opens the gift) Oh, Lord, help me.

LISA

What's wrong?

AARON

I think it's another Jesus. I don't need another Jesus.

LISA

Let me see. *(He shows it to her)*. Oh, goodness.

AARON

I'm guessing she wants me to hang this up.

LISA

Probably. Who gave you the black Jesus?

AARON

Hazel.

LISA

Put it on the other side of Wesley's Jesus.

AARON

I so want to burn this picture. *(He hangs up the picture. The picture depicts Jesus with red curly hair, green eyes, a light green robe on a little 4-leaf clover in his hair and a halo over his head).* Unbelievable. Someone actually took the time to paint this picture.

LISA

I think it's pretty cute.

AARON

I think it's stupid. So what did you want to talk to me about?

LISA

I need your advice on something. I am not sure whether or not I should take Ricky to court.

AARON

For what?

LISA

Child support. I can't do this by myself. I am working two jobs and yet it's not enough.

AARON

Did you get DNA tests? You know that's what Ricky needs.

LISA

Ricky went with me to get the tests and the results. He finally accepted the fact that he is the father.

AARON

Thank God for DNA.

LISA

But he still wants nothing to do with me or Wesley. What have I gotten myself into?

AARON

So, if you need help, why are you contemplating? Just take him to court. You still have PPL, right?

LISA

Yes, but, I don't know if I want to go through all that mess. And I really don't want to have to drag Wesley through all of it either.

AARON

Well, Ricky needs to own up to his son. If he won't do it for himself, then that is what court is for. I think you should do it. If you need a babysitter to watch after Wesley while you go to court, I am here for you.

LISA

Really?

AARON

Yes.

LISA

So, you really think I should do this?

AARON

Yes, but it's your decision.

LISA

Thanks for listening to me.

AARON

No problem.

LISA

Well, I'll be leaving now. Thanks again. I love you.

AARON

(They embrace) I love you too. *(Lisa exits)*. God, I pray that each and every one of my family members and friends get the help they need from you. Thank you.

ACT ONE SCENE FOUR

The scene takes place three days later. There is another picture of Jesus added. This picture is another black Jesus (Long black hair and a black beard and mustache, pretty much a black version of the depiction of Jesus). Hazel is still staying with Aaron. The scene opens with Hazel on the couch watching television. The theme song for "The Jenkins" is heard. After the song the door bell rings. She goes to open the door.

LISA

Hey, how are you?

HAZEL

I'm doing fine. Hey Wesley, how are you?

WESLEY

I'm fine.

HAZEL

Good, good. Aaron's not here.

LISA

Oh, he's not?

HAZEL

No.

LISA

Do you mind if we stay here until he comes?

HAZEL

Not at all. Make yourself at home.

LISA

Thank you. *(She sits on the couch next to Hazel, Wesley sits in the chair next to the couch).*

HAZEL

(As they sit and watch television the doorbell rings). I wonder who that could be. (She answers the door).

RHONDA

Hello Hazel. How are you?

HAZEL

I'm doing fine.

RHONDA
Is Aaron here?

LISA
Mother, what are you doing here?

RHONDA
Hey, baby. I came to see Aaron.

HAZEL
He's not here, but Lisa came to see him too. She's waiting here until he returns. I'm sure he won't mind if you do the same. Come and watch TV with us.

RHONDA
Um, okay. *(She walks over to the couch).* Hey baby.

WESLEY
Hi Nana. *(He hugs her).* What's this?

RHONDA
Oh, it's another picture I found at a yard sale. I thought it would be great to add to Aaron's wall.

HAZEL
Ooh, let me see. *(Rhonda uncovers the picture).* Ooh, that's a Hollywood Jesus. *(This depicts Jesus with long blonde hair, blue eyes, a blue robe, and a halo. She hangs up the picture).*

RHONDA
So what are you watching?

HAZEL
The Jenkins.

RHONDA
Oh, I love that show, especially the theme song.

HAZEL
I know what you mean. Speaking of cake; did you guys want some? I brought this wonderful cream cheese cake from the supermarket.

RHONDA
Oh, no thank you, I'm fine.

LISA
Maybe later.

WESLEY

I want some.

HAZEL

Great, I'll go get both of us a piece. *(She exits. Rhonda, Lisa, and Wesley continue to watch TV).*

LISA

So, what did you want to see Aaron for?

RHONDA

Oh, nothing special. How are you and Wesley doing?

LISA

Everything is well.

RHONDA

Wonderful. *(The doorbell rings).* Should we get the door?

LISA

I don't know.

HAZEL

(Enters with two plates of cake in her hands). Lisa can you get the door for me?

LISA

Oh, sure.

HAZEL

Thank you.

LISA

(She opens the door). Oh, it's you.

BRENT

Well, hi to you too. Is Aaron here?

LISA

No.

HAZEL

Hey Brent.

BRENT

Hi Hazel. Is Aaron here?

HAZEL

No, but you can wait here until he returns. I don't know where he went, but I'm sure he'll have to return at some point today. So, what's that you got?

BRENT

It's this awesome picture I found. I thought of Aaron as soon as I saw it, being that he has all these Jesus pictures.

LISA

Not another Jesus picture.

BRENT

Yeah, it is so awesome, I'm telling you. *(He hangs up the picture. This depiction has a brown mullet with a diamond earring in his ear, a cross necklace, a green robe on and halo).* Isn't this just awesome.

LISA

A mullet?

RHONDA

Okay, the bible says he had to bare his cross, not wear it.

BRENT

I think it's a pretty cool picture.

LISA

Where did this other picture come from?

HAZEL

Both of the black Jesus' I got for Aaron. I still think Jesus was a brother.

RHONDA

I always envisioned him with red hair.

BRENT

You need to get over this Irish Jesus stuff.

LISA

Well, they did drink a lot of wine in the bible.

WESLEY

I never knew that everyone had their own idea of Jesus. I thought he looked exactly the way the artists depicted him.

LISA

Those artists have never seen Jesus. They just drew or painted him the way they thought he

looked.

HAZEL

The bible says he had hair of wool. Everyone knows that black people have hair of wool.

RHONDA

Well, maybe they weren't talking about his natural hair when they said that.

HAZEL

Well, what else could they be talking about?

RHONDA

Well, the bible says that he is the Lamb of God, and wool comes from lambs.

HAZEL

But the bible says that he had dark skin.

RHONDA

Maybe he was Indian or Mexican.

LISA

Maybe he was Mexican. According to the bible he did have a lot of jobs.

HAZEL

If that's the case then he could have been Jamaican.

BRENT

Jesus was not Jamaican. He was a white man.

HAZEL

Why are you so sure that he was a white man with a mullet?

BRENT

Everyone knows he was white. All the pictures from the 1800s even the 1700s show him as a white man.

LISA

But none of those artists knew for sure, because they never saw him.

WESLEY

Maybe he wasn't white or black. Maybe he was a race that doesn't exist anymore.

BRENT

That's impossible. Races just don't disappear.

WESLEY

How would you know?

BRENT

Because the scientists would have figured that out by now.

RHONDA

Oh please, scientists don't know anything. There the idiots that thought up evolution.

LISA

I don't understand why people just don't except the fact that he was a dark skinned Jewish man. Back in those days Jewish men were dark skinned, not white, not black, just Jewish.

RHONDA

And there are Jewish men with red hair. Red curly hair. Red curly hair of wool.

HAZEL

I still say he was a black man.

BRENT

Please. The bible says that He may not come when you want him, but he's right on time. Black people are never on time for anything.

HAZEL

First of all a man said that and the bible clearly states you cannot believe what man says. Second of all you never have to call Jesus to come to you, because he never leaves you. Thirdly, not all black people are late. Not only do I show up early to work, but to church, and to every meeting and function I decide to attend.

BRENT

I don't care what you say Jesus was a white man.

RHONDA

Maybe he was Italian. They were always eating in the bible.

BRENT

Jesus was a white man.

HAZEL

A black brother he was.

AARON

(After Hazel's last comment they all begin to voice their opinions (adlibbing) simultaneously. As they continue Aaron enters the room. He looks confused). HEY! (They freeze in silence, unaware that he even entered the room, he responds). What the hell are you all doing in my house? (He notices the wall). Oh, hell no, not more pictures.

HAZEL

They all came to see you. I told them that they could stay here until you got in.

AARON

Hazel, do you realize you are overstaying your welcome.

HAZEL

It's just until I know for sure that Kenny is not going to come after me.

AARON

Oh, please, Hazel. That boy ain't thinking about you. He's probably in rehab trying to get himself together. As for the rest of you, you'll have to come back later. I am tired.

BRENT

I really need to speak with you.

AARON

(He walks Brent over to the side). You need to go to rehab and stay there until you are completely clean and well.

BRENT

I know man, but I came-

AARON

But nothing. There is nothing more I can do for you. *(He walks over to Lisa).* You need to take you and your son home and spend more time with him. Stop worrying about bills and let God take care of that. *(He walks over to Rhonda).* Until you are able to talk to Lisa about what's going on with you, there is nothing more that I can do. She is a great friend to me and I cannot continue to hide and lie to her. Alright everyone, please show yourselves out. I really need a nap. If you need me call me, tomorrow. *(Blackout).*

ACT ONE SCENE FIVE

This scene opens in Aaron's apartment. The stage is empty. Within seconds knocking is heard. Aaron enters with pajamas on. He opens the door.

AARON

Lisa, what are you doing here so early in the morning?

LISA

It's not early, its 9:30.

AARON

Well, that's early for me. What's wrong?

LISA

Can Wesley stay here for a bit?

AARON

Sure, but why? Is everything okay?

LISA

Is Hazel here?

AARON

Yes.

LISA

Can you go get her?

AARON

Sure. *(He yells)* Hazel, get in here, now!

LISA

Thanks

AARON

Lisa, what is going on?

HAZEL

(She enters.) What the hell are you yelling for? Hey, Lisa, Wesley, what a surprise. You'll have to excuse my appearance. I just awoke. So, what's going on?

LISA

Hazel can you take Wesley in your room and keep him occupied for a little while? I need to talk to Aaron alone.

HAZEL

Well, sure. Come on, Wesley, I'll show you what it takes for me to get all prettied up.

AARON

That should give us enough time to talk.

HAZEL

Shut up, Aaron. *(Hazel and Wesley exit).*

AARON

So, what's going on?

LISA

I need to leave Wesley here for a while. I have to go to the hospital.

AARON

What's wrong with you?

LISA

Nothing. My mother is in the hospital. Can you believe she has cancer? She had it for six months now and never told a soul.

AARON

Six months? She didn't say anything about having it for six months. I thought she just got it.

LISA

How did you know she had cancer? She told me I was the first to know.

AARON

Oh, nothing, I...just said that because I...had a dream, yes, a dream, and I saw her and...well, she had a, well, you know, in the dream. She had like this um...

LISA

Aaron, how did you know?

AARON

I didn't. I'm telling you it was a guess, this dream that I had, had a dream, I had a dream, dream I had...had dream I...

LISA

Aaron, stop it.

AARON

She told me about a week ago. She told me not to tell you, because she didn't want to worry you. I'm sorry. *(Hazel enters, her hair is fixed and she has light make-up on).*

LISA

How could you not tell me?

HAZEL

Tell you what?

LISA

My mother has cancer.

HAZEL

Oh, my goodness, is she okay?

LISA

No! She's in the hospital. That's why Wesley is staying here; I don't want to bring him with me. But can you believe Aaron knew about it and didn't tell me.

HAZEL

Aaron that is horrible.

LISA

How can you do this to me? How many times have we promised and vowed to each other that we would never keep secrets from each other. How can you break your word?

HAZEL

Yeah, Aaron, how could you break your word like that?

AARON

I wanted to, but I promised your mother I wouldn't tell. If I told you, I would be breaking my word to her.

HAZEL

He does have a point, Lisa.

LISA

But you made the promises to me first. You should have mentioned that to my mother when she told you.

HAZEL

That is so true, Aaron.

AARON

I would have, but the only reason I didn't tell you is because I agreed with your mother's decision on why she didn't want to tell you.

HAZEL

And what reason was that?

AARON

She said she didn't want to worry you, being that you had your own problems with Ricky.

HAZEL

Well, that is a good reason. You and Ricky sure 'nough got some issues.

LISA

I don't care what reason she or you had. When someone's mother is dying you don't keep that from them.

HAZEL

You sure don't, Aaron. You know you should be ashamed of yourself.

AARON

I didn't know she was dying. She told me that it wasn't bad and that the doctors told her it would be fine. She never expressed any fatal signs to me. I figured she would be cured and it would all go away.

HAZEL

He has a point, Lisa. Maybe you shouldn't be so mad at him.

LISA

I don't care what you say; you should have never kept it a secret. We made a vow to each other.

HAZEL

She has a point too. It's not good to break vows. Especially with a friend.

AARON

I am sorry. I was wrong okay. Do you forgive me?

HAZEL

Girl, he apologized, forgive the man.

LISA

I just can't believe you kept this to yourself.

HAZEL

Lisa, we all make mistakes, sometimes you just have to-

LISA and AARON

SHUT UP, HAZEL!

LISA

I can't stay here and argue with you. I have to go. *(She exits)*.

HAZEL

This is just horrible. I do not believe this is happening.

AARON

Hazel, what are you doing out here? You're supposed to be entertaining Wesley.

HAZEL

He's in the bathroom. There's not much entertainment I can do in there with him.

AARON

(A noise is heard in the bathroom). What was that?

HAZEL

I don't know. Wesley probably fell or something.

AARON

Well, go check it out.

HAZEL

You go. You're a boy. Besides, it's your house.

AARON

Yes it is, and you need to remember that. *(He walks towards the door and knocks)*. Wesley, is everything okay? *(No response)*.

HAZEL

Go in there.

AARON

I'm going. *(He opens the door)*. Wesley, are you alright? *(He enters the bathroom, exiting the stage. We hear Aaron from offstage)*. Oh my gosh. Call 911.

HAZEL

(She enters the bathroom) What's going on? *(We hear her scream from offstage. She reenters)*. Oh my gosh! *(She picks up the phone and dials)*. Hello, are you there? Oh my gosh, hurry up, hurry up! *(Blackout)*

ACT TWO SCENE ONE

This scene opens in the hospital. Aaron and Hazel are in the waiting room.

HAZEL

I am in complete shock right now. I am in so much shock that I cannot even speak.

AARON

Then why are you speaking?

HAZEL

Shut up, Aaron. I just can't figure out why he would do that.

AARON

I'm just trying to figure out what to tell Lisa.

HAZEL

I'm surprised she hasn't come to the waiting room yet. It's not like she's far. We're in the same place.

AARON

She doesn't know that we're here.

HAZEL

Aaron! Are you crazy? How come you haven't called her yet? And who were you talking to, if you weren't talking to Lisa?

AARON

Mom.

HAZEL

Aaron, you have to call her. She's already upset that you didn't tell her about her mother. Are you going to keep quiet about her son as well?

AARON

I just don't know what to say.

HAZEL

Just call her and tell her that we are at the hospital, in the waiting room. She'll come down and then once she's here, I'll tell her about Wesley.

AARON

But, she's going to ask me why I am here. What do I tell her?

HAZEL

Just tell her we came to visit Rhonda or something. Just call her.

AARON

(He takes out his cellular phone and calls). Hi, Lisa. It's Aaron. *(Pause).* Nothing, um, I'm here in the waiting room. Can you come down? *(Pause).* We, uh, came to visit your mom. *(Pause).* I know, but I thought I come anyways. Can you please just come down the waiting room, please? I need to talk to you. *(Pause, Frustrated),* would you please just come down here? *(Pause).* Thank you.

HAZEL

See, that wasn't so bad. Now when she comes down, let me do all of the talking. *(Emergency noise is heard from offstage. Hazel looks on to see what's going on)* Oh, my goodness.

AARON

What's wrong?

HAZEL

They just rushed some man into an emergency room. He looked possessed. Can you believe something like that would happen?

AARON

Well, we are in a hospital.

HAZEL

It's crazy in here. I don't think I could ever work in this type of environment.

ROSALYN

(Enters) Oh my goodness, that was horrible. Did you guys see that? That man was out of control.

HAZEL

Barely, he sure was loud, though. Hi, mom. *(They hug).*

ROSALYN

Hey, baby. Hi Aaron. I came as soon as I could. I don't believe this, Rhonda has breast cancer.

HAZEL

I can't believe it either. And Wesley too.

ROSALYN

(Shocked) Wesley has breast cancer?

HAZEL

No, but I can't believe what happened with him.

What happened to Wesley?
ROSALYN

You didn't tell her either?
HAZEL

ROSALYN
(Aaron shakes his head no). What's wrong with Wesley?

LISA
(Enters). Aaron, what are you doing here?

HAZEL
Lisa, we have to talk.

ROSALYN
Lisa, I am so sorry to hear about your mother. I pray that she gets well soon.

LISA
Thank you Mrs. Williams.

ROSALYN
And your son too.

LISA
What's wrong with Wesley?

ROSALYN
Oh, I don't know, Hazel said there was something wrong. I thought you knew.

LISA
Hazel, where is Wesley.

HAZEL
Just calm down and I will explain.

DOCTOR
(Enters) Mr. Williams.

AARON
Yes.

DOCTOR
I just wanted to let you know that Wesley is doing okay. He's stable and will be released from the hospital within in a month.

LISA

A MONTH! What the hell is wrong with him?

DOCTOR

Mr. Williams, who is this?

AARON

This is Lisa Hicks, his mother.

DOCTOR

Did you not tell her what happened?

AARON

No, I didn't get a chance to.

LISA

He seems to be keeping secrets lately. Doctor, what the hell is wrong with my son?

DOCTOR

He just has some face injuries. Thankfully when he fell, he fell face down, so he doesn't have any head injuries or anything fatal.

LISA

How did he fall down?

DOCTOR

Well, we're not sure exactly, we can only guess according to the state he was in.

LISA

What do you mean, doctor?

DOCTOR

Well, according to Aaron and Hazel, when they found him in the bathroom he was on the floor. He had a towel wrapped around his neck. I think he tried to commit suicide.

LISA

What?!

DOCTOR

We don't know for sure. We haven't been able to talk to him. He hasn't awakened just yet. But he is in stable conditions. *(Lisa freezes)*. Ms. Hicks, Ms. Hicks; are you okay? *(She passes out, Aaron catches her. He carries her to a chair and sits her there. Rosalyn and Hazel fan her. Within minutes she comes to)*. Ms. Hicks, is everything okay?

LISA

What is going on?

HAZEL

(Yelling at her as if she is deaf) YOU PASSED OUT. YOU JUST PASSED OUT, GIRL. YOU'RE IN THE WAITING ROOM OF THE HOSPITAL. DID YOU WANT SOME WATER?

ROSALYN

Hazel, stop yelling. Lisa, baby, are you okay?

LISA

I don't know. *(She grabs Aaron)* What happened? What happened to my son?

AARON

I don't know. After you left to come here, we heard a noise in the bathroom. I went in and I saw him on the floor with a towel wrapped around his neck. I took it off and did CPR. Hazel called the ambulance. The only reason I think it was attempted suicide was because the shower rod was on the floor. My guess is that he tried to hang himself, but his weight was too much for the shower rod. I really don't know anything for sure. It's all guesses.

LISA

What am I going to tell my mom? She thinks you all came here to visit her. What am I going to tell her?

HAZEL

The truth. We'll all go up there and tell her the truth. No more secrets, no more hiding the truth. We had enough for one day.

AARON

(His phone rings) Hello. *(Slight pause)* Speaking. *(Pause)* Yeah, is everything alright with him? *(Long pause)*. Oh my gosh. Yeah, I'm actually already here. My godson is in the hospital and so is my friend's mother. I guess this makes three. I'll be there in a minute. What room is he in? Thank you. Bye.

HAZEL

Who was that?

AARON

A doctor. Brent has my name down as an emergency contact. He's here. I think that crazy man they brought in earlier was him.

HAZEL

Oh, my gosh what happened?

AARON

An overdose.

ROSALYN

Oh, goodness, no! Is he dead?

AARON

No, but he was close to it. I'm going to go to his room. *(Blackout)*.

SCENE TWO

This scene takes place in Brent's room. Brent is in the bed and Aaron is sitting next to him.

BRENT

(After some time Brent's eyes awaken. Aaron notices and just watches Brent slowly awake. Not sure if Brent will recognize him he doesn't say anything. He just watches. After some time Brent notices him they both smile at each other). What are you doing here?

AARON

No, what are you doing here?

BRENT

Please don't condemn me.

AARON

I didn't come in here to condemn you.

BRENT

I'm sorry. I thought I was in control.

AARON

You don't have to apologize to me.

BRENT

But I feel like I let you down.

AARON

This is your life you're playing with. Not mine. You need to apologize to God and then yourself. *(Slight pause)*. What happened to the program you were in?

BRENT

I don't know. I really don't know.

AARON

Do you believe in God?

BRENT

What kind of a question is that?

AARON

It's a yes or no question.

BRENT

Why are you asking me?

AARON

Why won't you answer?

BRENT

Yes. I believe in God.

AARON

Then why won't you let him deliver you?

BRENT

What do you mean?

AARON

The whole point for Jesus coming to earth and then dying and then resurrecting himself was so that people like you could be free from demons like the ones you are carrying. I don't know what made you pick them up, but with God's help you can put them down and leave them down.

BRENT

If that's true then why are there so many people like me?

AARON

Because all those people rather care about what Jesus looked like rather than what he can do. Most people don't even know what he came to do, and others don't even believe he can do it.

BRENT

Do you believe?

AARON

I know God can deliver you from this disease. If you truly want to be delivered, God will free you from this drug demon. You just have to cry out for it. You see that's what Jesus is, he's a deliverer. But he never forces himself on anyone. So, if you want deliverance you have to receive it, you have to want it, you have to accept it. *(Blackout)*.

SCENE THREE

This scene takes place in Wesley's room.

WESLEY

(Wesley slowly awakes once lights come up. Aaron just sits and looks at him). I'm sorry, Aaron.

AARON

Oh, you're awake.

WESLEY

Yeah. I'm sorry.

AARON

What are you apologizing for?

WESLEY

For what I did?

AARON

What did you do?

WESLEY

Are you playing dumb?

AARON

No. Tell me what you did.

WESLEY

I'm sorry for trying to kill myself. I'm sorry for making you have to take me to the hospital.

AARON

What did you do?

WESLEY

I tried to hang myself using one of your towels.

AARON

Did you know what was going on?

WESLEY

Yeah, pretty much.

AARON

Why did you do it?

WESLEY

(Pause). I thought it be best.

AARON

Why?

WESLEY

I felt unwanted.

AARON

Unwanted? How could you feel that? Your mother loves you, your grandmother loves you. You know I love you, right?

WESLEY

My father doesn't love me.

AARON

What makes you think that?

WESLEY

I know my mother doesn't think I know, but I hear the conversations she has with him. She tries her best to make him see me, but he doesn't want to have anything to do with me. It hurts to know your father doesn't acknowledge you.

AARON

Your father just needs help. I still don't understand though. Isn't the love you mother gives you enough?

WESLEY

It should be, but it never feels like it. My mother tries to do so much for me. And I have noticed that, but it just doesn't seem like enough. And it's not her fault. I just always felt like, if I could spend just one day with my dad everything would be okay.

AARON

May I ask you a question?

WESLEY

Sure.

AARON

Why did you paint that picture of Jesus?

WESLEY

The art teacher told us to paint something that we believed in.

AARON

Do you believe in Jesus?

Of course.

WESLEY

Well, apparently not enough.

AARON

What do you mean?

WESLEY

AARON

Jesus is more than a picture on the wall. You said you felt a lack of love. Do you realize the love your father is not showing you, you can get from Jesus?

What do you mean?

WESLEY

AARON

Jesus came to earth to show you that He is God and that he can be whatever you need him to be. Do you realize Jesus can be your father, only if you allow him? The love you can't get from your dad, Jesus can give you. He can father you like no other man. But you have to ask him to do so. You see that's what Jesus is, he's your father. Even if your dad did accept you, he still wouldn't be able to give you the love Jesus can give you. Wesley, I love you. I love you very much, but I can't even love you as well as Jesus can. If you really want that emptiness to be filled, don't expect your dad to do it. Ask Jesus to do it. And promise me one thing.

What?

WESLEY

You will never try to kill yourself again.

AARON

I promise. Just answer me one thing.

WESLEY

What's that?

AARON

WESLEY

How do I get Jesus to be my father? What do I do, what do I say?

AARON

Just cry out to him. Ask him, Jesus, my father please wrap me in your arms and father me like never before. And believe that he will do it, and then watch him love you like no other.

SCENE FOUR

This scene takes place in Rhonda's room.

RHONDA

(Slowly awakens. She notices Aaron and she slowly gets up). What are you doing in here?

AARON

I came to see you.

RHONDA

Thank you.

AARON

Six months?

RHONDA

I'm sorry. I just was too afraid to tell anyone. I didn't want anyone to worry about me.

AARON

Lisa is very upset with me for not telling her.

RHONDA

I am sorry for getting you mixed up in this mess.

AARON

Well, it's partially my fault for agreeing to not tell.

RHONDA

What am I going to do? The doctor's are saying it's not good. It's spreading and they don't think there is anything they can do.

AARON

Mamma Green, do you believe in that red-haired Jesus you gave me?

RHONDA

Of course. I'm a Christian.

AARON

Then where is your faith?

RHONDA

What do you mean?

AARON

You believed so hard that Jesus had red hair, but yet you have not convinced me that you believe that Jesus is the healer the bible says he is. Why haven't you called on the name of Jesus as of

yet? Don't you realize that's what Jesus came to earth to do? To show us that with His power we can be healed of all diseases, viruses, and sicknesses, I mean any ailment you can think of Jesus came to heal it. I mean that's what Jesus is, He's a healer, a curer, and he can heal and cure all illnesses.

RHONDA

You really think so?

AARON

I know so.

RHONDA

But the doctors said there's no chance.

AARON

The bible says to put your trust in God and not man. The best thing you can do is to accept and receive healing from God. That way you can prove that God is right and make a liar out of the doctor. But only you can do that. It all depends on how much you want the healing. Remember God is more than a painting on the wall. He's your healer. Use Him, use Him all up.

SCENE FIVE

This scene takes place in the waiting room. Aaron enters and sits. As he sits Lisa sits next to him.

LISA

Hey.

AARON

Hey.

LISA

How's Brent doing?

AARON

He's doing better.

LISA

That's good. How are you doing?

AARON

Very well.

LISA

Really? *(He nods his head yes)*. I'm sorry for getting upset with you. I realize I was a bit selfish.

AARON

No, you had every right to be upset. I should not have promised your mother that. I should have convinced her to tell you.

LISA

That's true, but I'm still sorry.

AARON

Apology accepted. So, how are you doing?

LISA

(Pause, she shakes her head no in disappointment). Okay, I guess.

AARON

You want to talk about it?

LISA

I just don't know what to do. I tried to reason with Ricky, but he just won't listen to me. I even asked him to at least spend time with Wesley. I told him he didn't have to worry about child support, all he had to do was spend time with him, but he won't. Either or, I just don't know

what I am going to do. I might have to get a third job. But if I do that I won't even have time to spend with Wesley. I'll just be too tired. But it's not like I'll have a choice.

AARON

You do have a choice.

LISA

What else can I do? I am not going on welfare.

AARON

Don't you believe in God?

LISA

You know I do, as many times as we went to church together.

AARON

Then why haven't you asked God for assistance. His welfare is much better than the government's. Didn't you realize that Jesus is a provider? Whatever Ricky is not providing for you Jesus can provide that and much more. The bible says God is a God of more than enough. Do you realize believing in God doesn't make a difference if you cannot use Him for what He came to earth to do. He wants you to know of everything He is, and a provider is one of them. If you ask, seek, knock, believe, and receive, Jesus can bless you with one job that can be sufficient. You won't even have to worry about child support; Jesus will support you and your child. But you just have to cry out to Him. Let him know that you need Him as a provider. You see, that's what Jesus is, a provider.

LISA

You really think He can help me?

AARON

No, I don't think, I know He can help you.

LISA

Thank you, Aaron, I really needed encouragement.

AARON

You're welcome. (*Hazel walks towards Aaron*). Hey Hazel.

LISA

Hi, Hazel.

HAZEL

Hi guys. Are you busy Aaron?

AARON
Not really ,why?

HAZEL
I need to talk to you for a minute.

LISA
I'm going to go check on Wesley (*She exits*).

AARON
What's on your mind?

HAZEL
I just wanted to thank you for allowing me to stay at your place. I also wanted to apologize for the other night. When everyone came over looking for you, I didn't think you would mind them staying at the house until you got there.

AARON
It's not a big deal.

HAZEL
I know, but I guess I should have told them to come back.

AARON
How long do you plan on staying at my place any way?

HAZEL
Until I know for sure he is not coming after me.

AARON
Hazel, you can't hide forever. Besides you don't even know whether or not he knows, or even if he cares. Besides why are you so fearful?

HAZEL
I don't know. I just feel like he might be upset with me. You ever have an uncertain fear that just won't go away?

AARON
Once, but I realized that God is not the author of fear or confusion, so I had to get over it quickly.

HAZEL
What do you mean?

AARON
You say you're staying at my place for protection, right?

HAZEL

Well, yeah.

AARON

Well, do you believe in that black Jesus on my wall?

HAZEL

Of course.

AARON

Then you need to activate the part of Him that protects. Jesus is supposed to be your protection from everything and everyone. No matter what the situation when you need protection you're supposed to look up to Jesus to protect you. If you truly believe in Jesus and are in right standing, then God is for you, and if God is for you, who can be against you? No one.

HAZEL

You believe Jesus can protect me from Kenny?

AARON

Who is Kenny?

HAZEL

The guy from my job. The drunkard.

AARON

If you need protection from Kenny, than yes, Jesus will protect you. You see, Jesus is a protector, but only when you ask Him to protect you.

HAZEL

So in other words you want me to move back in with mother?

AARON

You need to. You can't hide or run away forever. The fear you have will only go away once you face it. And while you are facing it, ask God to protect you.

HAZEL

Thanks, Aaron, I feel much better. As soon as we get home, I'll pack my things.

ROSALYN

Hey kids, how's mamma's babies?

HAZEL

Good.

AARON

Doing well.

ROSALYN

Hazel, do you mind if I speak to Aaron alone?

HAZEL

Not at all. I'm going to go visit Brent. Then Wesley, then Rhonda. Then I am going to see if I know anyone else in this hospital. *(She exits)*

AARON

So, what's on your mind mom?

ROSALYN

How are you holding up with all that is going on?

AARON

Pretty well, pretty well.

ROSALYN

Your father called from his business trip. He said hi and Happy Birthday.

AARON

Cool. When is he coming home?

ROSALYN

Next week. I just wanted to talk to you for a little. I just wanted to apologize for the birthday party.

AARON

Mother. That was so long ago. Forget about it.

ROSALYN

No, no...I know how much you hate parties and I should have respected your wishes. I just get so happy. I am so proud of you. You are a best-selling author. I just wanted to show you how proud I am of you. I just wanted to do a little something extra for you, you know?

AARON

Mother. You and dad did enough. You raised a successful author and, well, Hazel, who in her own way is a successful person. You did enough. You both did enough and neither of you need to give us anything to show us how much you love us. You showed it already. First by not aborting us, then by raising us and not just giving us things, but giving of yourself. You both spent a lot of time in our lives and I know I can speak for Hazel when I say we are both very grateful for parents like you and dad.

ROSALYN

Oh, Aaron, that is the sweetest thing I have ever heard you say. For now on absolutely no more birthday parties...well, except when you turn thirty. Oh, and we are going to have to have a

forty year old, and oh my gosh when you turn fifty we are going to throw you a huge, gigantic party. (*Aaron looks at Rosalyn*). Okay, maybe we'll skip the thirtieth birthday party, but we have to have a forty and fiftieth. (*Aaron continues to stare*). What? Okay, we'll skip the fortieth, but you have to have a fiftieth birthday bash. (*Aaron shakes his head no*). Aaron, but you'll be fifty.

AARON

Mother-

ROSALYN

Don't mother me. I agree I won't have any more parties until you are fifty, and you are going to enjoy it.

AARON

You just won't change.

ROSALYN

And neither will you. (*They both smile and hug. Blackout*).

SCENE SIX

AARON

This scene takes place in Aaron's apartment, three months later. All of the Jesus pictures have been taken down.) The scene opens with no one on the stage after a few seconds the doorbell is heard ringing frantically. Aaron runs in answering the door). Hazel, what is going on?

HAZEL

Please let me in. *(She rushes in).*

AARON

What is wrong?

HAZEL

There is someone following me. I was on my way home from work and I noticed a car following me. I came here instead. Please help me. Don't let them get me.

AARON

Hazel, is it really that serious? Do you want me to call the cops?

HAZEL

Yes, please. *(The doorbell rings).* Oh, gosh, it's them! Don't answer the door!

AARON

Who is it?

HAZEL

(The doorbell rings again. Aaron goes to answer it). No, don't answer it.

AARON

Hazel, we're protected. Remember.

HAZEL

Aaron, please don't answer it.

AARON

(Answers the door). Yes, may I help you?

KENNY

Hi, my name is Kenny Frederickson. Is Hazel here? I saw her come in here.

HAZEL

Kenny! What were you doing following me? I'm going to call the cops and get you arrested for stalking.

AARON
Hazel, calm down.

HAZEL
Whose side are you on?

KENNY
May, I talk with you for a moment?

HAZEL
What do you need to talk about? And I thought you were in rehab or something.

KENNY
How did you know that?

HAZEL
You know everyone gossips at work.

KENNY
Well, I heard that you were the one who reported me. Is that true?

HAZEL
Um...maybe.

KENNY
Please don't lie to me. Did you report me?

HAZEL
Yes, I'm sorry.

KENNY
(Grabs and hugs her). Thank you so much.

HAZEL
Um...what?

KENNY
(Still hugging her). Thank you. I am so grateful for you. You saved my life.

HAZEL
What do you mean?

KENNY
(Releases her). My life was over. Well, at least it felt like it. I didn't realize how much I was throwing my life away. It wasn't until I went to rehab that I realized that I was killing me. And I would have never have come to that revelation without rehab. And I would have never gone to

rehab without you reporting me. *(He hugs her again)*. So, thank you. You saved my life. I will forever be grateful to you. Thanks again. *(To Aaron)* It was nice meeting you. *(To Hazel)* Thank you. Bye. *(He exits)*.

AARON

See, I told you, you had nothing to worry about.

HAZEL

Well, isn't that bazaar? The whole time I was thinking he was upset with me and he was actually happy.

AARON

Well, that's what fear is, false evidence appearing real. *(The doorbell rings)*. Who is that? *(He answers the door)*. Hello, mother. What are you doing here?

ROSALYN

Lisa invited me. She said Wesley wanted to present something to you and wanted us all to be here.

AARON

Really? She sure failed to mention it to me.

HAZEL

Me too. What is he presenting?

ROSALYN

She didn't say.

AARON

(The doorbell rings). Maybe this is her. *(He answers the door)*. Hey man. What's going on?

BRENT

Nothing much. Is Lisa here?

AARON

No.

BRENT

Oh, she invited me over for the presentation.

AARON

She invited you too?

BRENT

Yeah. What's going on?

AARON

I don't know. She didn't even tell me. I just found out now, by my mother.

BRENT

Hello, Mrs. Williams.

ROSALYN

Hi Brent.

HAZEL

Hey, Brent.

BRENT

Hey, Hazel.

AARON

(The doorbell rings). I hope this is her. *(He answers the door)*. Hello.

RHONDA

Hello. Is Lisa here? I don't see her car out there.

AARON

No, not yet.

RHONDA

Hello everyone *(They greet each other)*. So what is this presentation she is talking about?

AARON

No one knows.

HAZEL

I'm so anxious now; I can't wait to see what it is. What do you think it can be?

BRENT

I don't know. She just said go to Aaron's place, we're coming over to present him something and we want everyone to see it.

ROSALYN

That's what she told me.

RHONDA

She told me the same thing.

HAZEL

She didn't tell me anything. You think maybe she doesn't want me to see it?

AARON

She probably thought you would be over here anyways.

HAZEL

Why would she think that?

AARON

Because you're always over here. *(The doorbell rings. He answers it).* Hello, Lisa.

LISA

Hello, Aaron. Hello everyone. I'm sorry I am late, but I had to pick up Wesley from Ricky's house.

AARON

Why was Wesley at Ricky's?

LISA

About a month ago Ricky called me and said he wanted to start being apart of Wesley's life. He said he did some thinking and said he needed to be apart of his life.

RHONDA

Wow, that is wonderful

ROSALYN

Wow, Wesley. You must be very happy.

WESLEY

Yes I am. It seems like as soon as I began to focus on God, that's when my dad called.

AARON

I told you. You see when you let Jesus be the true color you need him to be for your life, that's when the bad things turn into good things. *(Aaron notices the big gift Wesley has).* Oh my goodness, what is that?

HAZEL

It looks like a picture.

AARON

Oh, know, not another Jesus picture.

WESLEY

Yes, it's a Jesus picture, but it's the best one. I just painted it about a week ago and I wanted to give it to you. It's the real Jesus.

HAZEL

Is He black?

No. WESLEY

Is He white? BRENT

No. WESLEY

Does He have red hair? RHONDA

No. None of that. WESLEY

Well, come on, open it. ROSALYN

AARON
(Wesley hands it to Aaron. Aaron opens it and looks at it). Oh, this is lovely. Now this is the Jesus I know.

Let me see it, I want to see it. HAZEL

Me too. BRENT

Show it to all of us. RHONDA

AARON
Aaron, baby, hang it up. (Aaron hangs up the picture. The picture shows a depiction of a man made from the words (Savior, Deliverer, Healer, Protector, Provider, Lover, Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Lawyer, Doctor, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Lamb of God, Prince of Peace, Miracle Worker, Merciful, Faithful, Creator, Master, Redeemer, Everlasting, Helper, Righteous, Strong and Mighty, Refuge, Shield, Strength, My Fortress, My Banner, Shepherd, Rock, and The Light. They all (adlib) make positive comments). Wesley that is beautiful, just lovely.

Aaron, do you like it? WESLEY

AARON
 Yes, I really do. It's so much better than the other pictures. It's actually a great picture for my book I just finished.

HAZEL

The murder mystery one?

AARON

No, I put that aside and starting writing another one. Wesley, do you mind if I use this picture for the cover of my new book.

WESLEY

Not at all.

ROSALYN

So what's the name of the new book? (*Blackout*).

SCENE SEVEN

This scene takes place in Aaron's apartment. The stage is empty, the television is on and the sound of a reporter is heard.

REPORTER

“What Color” is the name of the book and Aaron Williams has done it again. Releasing his fourth book, another best-seller, Aaron writes about the true color of Jesus Christ. I read this book and was not sure of what to expect, but I tell you I enjoyed the book fully and recommend it to anyone, whether you believe in Christ or not. “What Color” is being sold in all bookstores nation wide, hurry and get your copy. I am Justina Walker and this has been “Great Ink on Paper” Book Club review. Samuel and Cassie back to you. *(Blackout)*

THE END