

## WHAT GOT INTO BARRY?

by John Cosper

**GENRE:** Comedy/Light Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A group of office workers living in fear of a temperamental salesman are shocked and curious to discover his attitude has changed overnight.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** The character of Barry should look and appear menacing, unapproachable throughout the skit. That doesn't change until the moment Denise goes to speak with him. Let the audience feel the same surprise when Barry displays his new, better attitude.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 5

**TOPIC:** Christian Living

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 28:5-7

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Easter

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker Services

**CHARACTERS:**

Barry—a mean, surly looking sales man

Marie—a receptionist

Mitch—a sales manager

Clancy and Denise—other sales reps

**PROPS:** Desks, telephones, paperwork, note pads, office equipment

**COSTUMES:** Business formal

**SOUND:** Five wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage; dark, dramatic lights on Barry, if desired

**SETTING:** An office

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## WHAT GOT INTO BARRY? *by John Cospers*

*BARRY is at a desk at far stage left. MARIE is at a desk at far stage right. Her phone rings.*

**MARIE:** Wayland-Yutani, this is Marie... Yes... Uh huh... Uh huh... (*Sits back, a frightened look in her eyes*) I see. May I ask why?

*MITCH enters with some files, stage right. He walks toward MARIE.*

**MARIE:** (*Writing on a notepad*) Uh huh... Uh huh... Yes, of course. We'll pass the word along... Thank you.

*MARIE hangs up.*

**MITCH:** Something wrong?

**MARIE:** Pendleton-Baker. They're leaving us.

**MITCH:** What?

**MARIE:** They found a cheaper vendor. They're dropping their account.

**MITCH:** Whose account were they?

**MARIE:** Who do you think?

*MITCH and MARIE look over at BARRY.*

**MITCH:** Oh no.

**MARIE:** Yes.

**MITCH:** Barry is going to—

**MARIE:** I know.

**MITCH:** Can you wait and tell him when I go to lunch?

**MARIE:** Me tell him? You're the sales manager!

**MITCH:** Marie, last time I gave him bad news he threw a staple at my head!

**MARIE:** Last time I gave him bad news he threw a box of thumbtacks at me. Thumbtacks, Mitch! And that was right before my wedding!

**MITCH:** Keep your voice down!

**MARIE:** You can see the scabs in my wedding photos!

## WHAT GOT INTO BARRY? *by John Cospers*

*CLANCY enters, stage right.*

**CLANCY:** Hey gang, what's new?

**MARIE:** Would you mind giving Barry a message for us?

**CLANCY:** What's the message?

**MARIE:** Pendleton-Baker is dropping us.

**CLANCY:** OH NO!!!!

*CLANCY runs back off stage right.*

**MARIE:** Where's he going?

**MITCH:** Headed for cover. You remember what happened the one time he sold to Barry's customer's customer?

**MARIE:** Was that when he rubbed his face with sand paper and poured rubbing alcohol on it?

**MITCH:** No, that's when he dipped his face in glue and bird seed before wedging him in a window of the accounting office.

**MARIE:** That was him?

**MITCH:** He's still in therapy over that one.

**MARIE:** Some days I wish he didn't work here. I know he's a good sales rep, but he's just so unbalanced!

**MITCH:** I know. And they've wanted to fire him a few times but no one has the guts to do it. They all know about the Bowie knife he keeps in his desk drawer.

*DENISE enters.*

**DENISE:** Hey, Marie, any messages?

**MARIE:** Just this one for Barry.

*DENISE reads the message.*

**DENISE:** Did he get it yet?

**MARIE:** Well, no. Would you mind—

**DENISE:** No, not at all.

## WHAT GOT INTO BARRY? *by John Cospers*

**MITCH:** Really?

**DENISE:** Really.

**MITCH:** Okay. Goodbye then.

**MARIE:** Nice knowing you.

*DENISE walks across the stage.*

**MARIE:** I can't watch this!

*MARIE ducks behind the desk.*

**MITCH:** Hey, save room for me!

*MITCH ducks behind the desk.*

**DENISE:** Hey, Barry.

**BARRY:** Denise.

**DENISE:** 'Fraid I got some bad news.

*DENISE hands BARRY the note.*

**BARRY:** No. Pendleton too?

**DENISE:** Looks like.

**BARRY:** Another one bites the dust, huh?

**DENISE:** It's a tough market, Barry. But we'll get 'em back.

**BARRY:** Yeah.

*DENISE walks back toward MITCH and MARIE. BARRY pulls out a notebook, reads something, then closes it and leaves. All this happens over the following dialogue.*

**DENISE:** You can come out. Coast is clear.

*MITCH and MARIE rise up, wearing flak helmets.*

**MITCH:** Denise, you're alive.

**DENISE:** Yes.

**MITCH:** How?

## WHAT GOT INTO BARRY? *by John Cospers*

**DENISE:** I wish I knew.

**MARIE:** Barry didn't do anything! He didn't even cuss.

**DENISE:** I wish I could tell you how, but something's changed in that guy.

**MITCH:** Since when?

**DENISE:** Since about Easter, I think. One Friday he left here as mean and nasty as ever. The following Monday, whole new Barry. I've never seen anything like it.

**MITCH:** That's impossible. I've known the man for twelve years. I've seen him take classes, do group therapy, try drugs. He's just a mean guy.

**DENISE:** He was a mean guy.

**MARIE:** He nearly beat the pizza delivery boy to death with the toner from the copier when he didn't make it in thirty minutes or less. That's not mean. That's evil.

**DENISE:** I'm telling you, he's changed. He doesn't yell. He doesn't cuss. And he doesn't throw letter openers at people's eyes any more. He opens his notebook, reads something, and goes on with his day.

**MITCH:** What notebook?

**DENISE:** The one he keeps on his desk.

*MITCH sneaks across the stage.*

**MARIE:** Mitch? Where are you doing?

*MITCH grabs the notebook and runs back to MARIE's desk.*

**MARIE:** Put that thing back before you get us all killed!

**MITCH:** If this is the thing that took the mean out of Barry, I wanna know what's in it.

*MITCH opens the notebook.*

**MITCH:** There's nothing in this.

**DENISE:** Wait, turn to the front page.

*MITCH flips to the front.*

**MARIE:** What is it?

## WHAT GOT INTO BARRY? *by John Casper*

**MITCH:** It's a Bible verse. (*Reads*) "The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead.'"

**MARIE:** What does it mean?

**DENISE:** It's the Easter story. The angel is announcing the resurrection of Jesus! Don't you guys go to Sunday School?

**MARIE:** Sure, when I was a kid, but... You really think this is what changed Barry?

**MITCH:** Impossible. Nobody can help that guy. Not counselors, not support groups, not even drugs.

**DENISE:** True, true. But this is no ordinary man. This is Jesus we're talking about.

**MITCH:** Come on, Denise. You really think Jesus changed Barry's life?

**DENISE:** I can't say that for sure. All I know is the day he brought that book in here was the day Barry was a changed man. And if God can change a heart like Barry's there's gotta be something to it.

..... *Lights down.*

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