

CARRY THAT WEIGHT *by John Cospers*

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A woman with a lot of baggage is reluctant to surrender all that she's carrying to Jesus.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Downplay the spiritual aspect of the story. Alyssa is not shocked to see Jesus. She responds as if he were a helpful co-worker.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M, 1F

THEME: Giving our burdens to Christ

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Isaiah 53:5

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Services, Evangelism

CHARACTERS:

ALYSSA—a woman carrying her sins
JESUS

PROPS: Two or three boxes full of papers

COSTUMES: Biblical costume for Jesus

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Unspecified

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Alyssa enters, carrying two or three flimsy boxes stacked high with paper, trash, etc. She is cautious about her steps, keeping an eye out. At about mid-stage, she loses the load and spills it on the stage. She freezes, dumbstruck and frustrated.

ALYSSA: Well that's just great.

Alyssa begins gathering everything up. Jesus enters, behind her. She turns and yelps when she sees him, grabbing her chest.

ALYSSA: You scared me, don't sneak up-- *(recognizes him)* What are you doing here? *(self-consciously, she speeds up the clean up process)* I was just taking some stuff down to storage. Nothing important.

Jesus picks up a piece of paper. Alyssa snatches it.

ALYSSA: Nothing that you would be interested in.

Alyssa gathers things more quickly.

ALYSSA: I wish you would have called before you came by. I could have had all this cleaned up--

Jesus picks up more paper. Alyssa grabs it.

ALYSSA: Will you let me do it?

Jesus reaches for more paper. Alyssa watches him.

ALYSSA: Seriously, I can handle this! I don't need your help!

Jesus looks at the papers in his hands. He looks up at Alyssa.

ALYSSA: Don't give me that hang dog look! I don't need you to lay a guilt trip on me. I have plenty enough guilt, thank you. I know I've made a mess of things. I hid it as long as I could. Then when it started to overflow, I added more on top of it. I've got no one else to blame but myself. I don't need you to remind me that this is all my fault.

Alyssa struggles to pile her boxes back up.

ALYSSA: I don't know why you'd want to bother with me anyway. I'm sure there are plenty of good people with sense enough not to do the things I've done you'd rather be