

FEAR AND RUNNING

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A competitive runner prepares for the big race by running from temptation.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Joey should be played like a typical athlete - until he starts running. He becomes a desperate, terrified man at that point. Rhonda can be smacking some gum and have a Northeastern accent.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M, 2F

TOPIC: Tempting

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 10:13

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker services; Youth ministry

CHARACTERS:

HEATHER - a sports reporter

JOEY - the world's greatest runner

RHONDA - Joey's short, wise-cracking training partner

PROPS: A microphone, a candy bar

COSTUMES: TV reporter clothes for Heather; running clothes for Joey and Rhonda

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired;

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Running track

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Heather is on stage with a microphone standing beside Joey, who is stretching for a run.

HEATHER: I'm here at the site of tomorrow's big race, where world champion sprinter Joey Feetz is going through his final preparations. Joey, there was some concern about your ankle after your last race. How's it feeling?

JOEY: Feels great, Heather. Can't afford to let it slow me down.

HEATHER: Your running style has been described as relentless energy. Do you agree with that?

JOEY: Relentless, yes, but energy? I'm not so sure. If I had to put a label on it, I would describe it as relentless fear.

HEATHER: Fear?

JOEY: That's right, good old fashioned fear.

HEATHER: I never would have guessed fear was a part of your game plan.

JOEY: There's no greater motivator than fear, Heather.

HEATHER: Fear of failure?

JOEY: No, fear of temptation.

HEATHER: Temptation?

JOEY: That's right. I believe in God, and there's not much that I fear any more. But one thing I never, ever want to do is let God down. I'm afraid of failing, of giving into temptation. That's why fear is the number one tool I use in my practice routine.

HEATHER: Can you demonstrate for us how that fear works?

JOEY: Certainly. *(calls off)* Hey, Rhonda?

Rhonda enters. Joey stretches his legs one final time.

JOEY: This is my training partner Rhonda.

HEATHER: Hello, Rhonda.

RHONDA: Yeah, yeah. We gonna do this?

JOEY: Ready when you are.

Rhonda pulls out a candy bar.