

Drama Ministry®

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IN A LITTLE WHILE...

by CHARLIE JONES AND RUTH JONES

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: As a young woman struggles with her daily life, an unexpected letter from her father arrives. In the letter, the dying man affirms his unconditional love for his child, and prays that she find the mirror of that love with God the father.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: There are three ways to play the father's letter. First, we can hear the letter offstage while watching April's reactions. Second, the father could stand in an isolated spotlight and read, which gives the option of keeping lights up on April so both can be viewed. Third, the dictating of the letter can be staged realistically, with the father in a hospital bed. For that staging, you may wish to cast an extra to play the mother, taking down the letter. For most settings, the second option will contain the most theatrical power.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Death, Love, Relationships

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 John 3:1-3

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Bible Study on God's Love, Family Groups

CHARACTERS:

APRIL - A young corporate woman

SHERMAN - Another one of the successful, business execs

FATHER - April's father, dying from cancer

PROPS: Groceries, briefcase, mail and various papers, and a envelope with letter from father

COSTUMES: Contemporary. Father may be dressed in hospital clothing.

SOUND: Three wireless mikes

LIGHTING: General stage, plus a spotlight for father

SETTING: Entryway to April's home; A hospital room

Drama Ministry

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www.DramaMinistry.com
ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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IN A LITTLE WHILE... *by Charlie Jones and Ruth Jones*

APRIL, young woman ENTERS with arms full of groceries, brief case, papers & junk mail. She is a tender flower, who was toughened in the midst of her own desert; no water, little nourishment and hot sun attempting to kill her. As she walks through the door, she accidentally drops the papers & mail.

APRIL: Ugh!!

SHERMAN: *(Offstage)* Hey April -- is that you?

APRIL: *(Yelling)* Yeah. *(To herself, while picking-up papers)* Yeah, it's me. Didn't you hear the trumpets announcing my entrance. *(As she picks up, more papers fall)*

SHERMAN: *(Offstage)* Is that you, April?

APRIL: Yes! Yes, it's me. Would please stop that inane yelling? What if it wasn't me? What if I were a mass murderer? What would you do... keep yelling 'Is that you?' 'til I ran screaming from the house?

SHERMAN ENTERS with Wall Street Journal

SHERMAN: What is wrong with you? I was just saying 'hello.'

APRIL: Sorry, it has been a difficult day.

SHERMAN: Yeah, tell me about it... TotCo dropped two and quarter points. This thing has been real dog since last month...

APRIL: I get to the office, the Brewster account can't wait 'til the thirteenth for their campaign presentation. They need to see something by next week or they go to another agency. Then I find out Carla is sick and probably won't be in for the rest of the week. So I decide to work through lunch on the Brewster campaign, I get a call at 12:40 from Michael Piper who has been waiting for me since 12:00. Carla had it down in her calendar, but it wasn't in mine. I rush over to the restaurant, Piper is mad, has to leave after I'm there only ten minutes. I spend twenty minutes trying to get a taxi back to the office. The afternoon is shot by the time I get back and make some phone calls. Then to top things off... I get a speeding ticket on the way home.

SHERMAN: *(Looking through mail and grocery bags)* Yeah, too bad. Didn't you remember the Half & Half? You know we're out of Half & Half.

APRIL: You have a real great bedside manner don't you? I'm trying to tell you about my day and all you can say is that I didn't bring home the Half & Half. You're so disgusting sometimes. It's times like this I'm glad we aren't married.