

## PROMISES, PROMISES

by RACHEL C. HOYER

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** We all make promises every day, but do we really consider what a promise is?

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** It's important that we establish relationships between the characters immediately since their interactions are so short. If you have extra actors, feel free to add other "students" to the scene with Mrs. Anderson and Mark so the audience gets the idea of a classroom immediately. If you don't have extra actors (or space), the same can be established with just Mrs. Anderson and Mark.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4F, 2M (genders are flexible)

**TOPIC:** God's Promises, Christian Living

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 11:28 - 29; Romans 6:23

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon starter

**CHARACTERS:**

MOTHER - 40s

JASON - teenager

ABBY - age 10 - 12

CHRISTINE - older teen, obviously older than Abby

MRS. ANDERSON - 50s

MARK - a middle school student

**PROPS:** A desk and chair for Mark; a test and pencil for Mark; a diary for Christine; smart phone with ear buds or a gaming controller for Jason

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** Wireless mics if desired

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** There should be three distinct areas of action. They can be delineated by lighting or just placement in separate areas of the stage. Mother/Jason: Jason's room; Abby/Christine: Christine's room; Mrs. Anderson/Mark: school classroom

**Drama Ministry**

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*Lights up on Mother and Jason. Mother is trying to get Jason's attention. He is busy playing a game on his phone or game system. He does not share her concern about the state of his room.*

**MOTHER:** Jason, the Bensons will be here in two hours. Their son, Matt, will be sleeping in your room while they're here. I have asked you at least a thousand times this week to clean your room, and not to wait until the last minute. This room needs to be spotless—and odorless—in less than two hours, young man!

**JASON:** It will be, Mom. I promise!

**MOTHER:** I'm counting on it, Jason.

*JASON and MOTHER FREEZE as lights fade on them and come up on CHRISTINE and ABBY.*

**ABBY:** Come on, Christine. Can't I just look at your diary? Just the outside? I won't read it. I won't even open it!

**CHRISTINE:** *(Finally giving in after ABBY has worn her down)* Okay. You can LOOK at the outside of it. But you are NOT allowed to open it. It's MY diary and NO ONE is allowed to read it but me. *(She goes to get the diary and starts to hand it over to ABBY, who anxiously reaches for it.)* I mean it, Abby. You have to promise me you aren't going to try to open it or read it.

**ABBY:** *(She's touching the diary now, but CHRISTINE still has a firm grip on it.)* Okay! I promise!

**CHRISTINE:** You promise what?

**ABBY:** I PROMISE I won't try to open or read your diary. I just want to look at it.

**CHRISTINE:** Okay. *(She hands over the diary against her better judgment. Then she adds:)* That goes double when I'm not here.

**ABBY:** *(Eagerly looking at the diary)* Okay, okay, okay.

*CHRISTINE and ABBY FREEZE as lights fade on them and come up on MRS. ANDERSON and MARK.*

**MRS. ANDERSON:** Okay, class. Books and papers away, please. You need only a pencil and eraser on your desk. When I hand out your test, keep it face down until I say it's time to begin. *(She moves among imaginary desks, handing out tests. She comes to MARK at his desk. She is genuinely concerned about MARK being prepared for this test.)* Mark, do you think you're ready for this? Did you use the study guide I gave you?

**MARK:** *(He did study, but he's nervous about the test.)* Yes, Mrs. Anderson. I studied all weekend and my mom quizzed me on the way to school this morning. I think I'm ready.

**MRS. ANDERSON:** That's good, Mark. Just take a couple of deep breaths and take it a ques-