

SURPRISED BY GOD *by John Coper*

GENRE: Dramatic monologue

SYNOPSIS: As Jan sits looking through an old photo album, she reminisces about the past.

TIME: 4-5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1F

THEME: Prodigal children; Broken dreams

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 15:11-32, Luke 9:23

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service; Women's Conference

CHARACTERS:

JAN—mother of a prodigal, age 40-60

PROPS: Photo album, rocking chair

COSTUMES: Modern dress

SOUND: One wireless microphone

LIGHTING: General stage lighting or spot light

SETTING: Home

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This sketch comes to life when long pauses, smiles, various facial expressions, speed changes, etc. are used. Slight laughing is appropriate, as well as near tears.

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Lights up. JANE is sitting in chair looking through a photo album.

JAN: I remember the day well. The excitement, the anticipation...the pain. Ugh, the excruciating pain of labor. They say you forget...I don't know! Kind of makes me hurt just thinking about it!

I remember the surprise! We opted not to find out what we were having. Everyday we went back and forth in our minds, dreaming of the joys and the challenges that each sex might bring. We decided on names together, and couldn't wait to permanently affix that to our precious little one. After 35 ½ painful hours of labor, the tension of the room was broken with the best surprise in the world...It's a girl! The doctor announced proudly. We burst into tears, completely overcome with emotion and surprise.

And the surprises didn't stop! We were surprised at how you can still function with such severe sleep deprivation. We were surprised at how this little girl could show up and change every ounce of routine that we had worked so hard to implement. And we were surprised at how strong love can be. We never knew, and never could have imagined...

Long pause, flips through a couple pages smiling and reminiscing at the pictures.

(Small laugh to self, as if remembering) Amy started walking at 8 months. We couldn't believe our eyes. She had just knocked over her little bowl of Nut & Honey Cheerios... chubby fingers and little bowls aren't a good combination! She crawled to the table, pulled herself up, looked over at me, smiled, and let go. Before she even thought, she had taken four or five steps right into my arms. What a surprise! And she hasn't slowed down since...

Flips another page.

Wow. Her 3rd birthday...we were so surprised when she reached out and grabbed her birthday candle before we could stop her. Oh how she cried and cried. I remember scooping her up in my lap and crying too, wishing that I could take away the pain she felt...Dad knew just what to do though...he grabbed her and explained about the magic kiss that only Daddy's can give. As he was explaining it, Amy was so convinced, she had her little chubby finger sticking straight out, waiting for his lips! It worked so well, if I didn't know it was such nonsense, I would have been convinced myself!

Flips several more pages.