

## THE MAN IN THE SUIT

by GEORGE HALITZKA

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A believer is torn between inner doubts and maintaining a godly appearance.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Throughout the script, the character's thoughts are played back from a recording. His pantomimed conversations with PARISHIONERS bear little or no resemblance to his thoughts. The conversations are upbeat and encouraging; the thoughts are despairing. During the normal-print lines, THE MAN IN THE SUIT greets various PARISHIONERS as they walk by him. During the italicized lines, he is left alone, and we hear his heartbeat on the recording, gradually rising in intensity under the lines.

**TIME:** 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2M & a few nonspeaking

**THEME:** Christian Living, Doubt

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 11:28-30; Matthew 23; Luke 7:34

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker Service; Youth Service; Sermon Illustration

**CHARACTERS:**

THE MAN IN THE SUIT  
CASUALLY-DRESSED MAN  
PARISHIONERS (nonspeaking)

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A church

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*Lights up. THE MAN IN THE SUIT is greeting PARISHIONERS as they walk into church on Sunday morning.*

**THE MAN IN THE SUIT:** *(prerecorded thoughts)* Sunday morning poker face. Shake hands, smile and nod, stick to the weather. No tears, not even a frown. Got to look like the man in the suit should.

*“Sir, your son failed a breathalyzer test. We’re releasing him to your custody pending a court date.” Court date . . . custody . . . what’s next, Juvie? Who’s he been hanging around? He’s sixteen, how could he do this to me?*

*Lovely weather. Smile and nod. Family’s great; Josh looking at colleges; grew up too fast. Mary’s still beautiful after twenty years. Got to look like the man in the suit should.*

*I love Mary. I do! But those websites . . . I haven’t felt that with her since Josh was born. I need to stop . . . I swear, I’ll never look again. The magazines go straight in the trash: I mean it this time.*

*Doing all right; nothing God can’t solve. Everything’s coming up roses. God’s peace; Jesus is the rock. Got to look like the man in the suit should.*

*Sometimes I wake up in the morning and hit snooze five times. Thursday I called in sick . . . just couldn’t get out of bed. Never happened to me before. Nothing is the way it used to be. Can’t remember the last time I was happy. I deserve better than this!*

*God is good . . . all the time. Christian clichés. God’s peace, what a blessing. Jesus loves me, this I know. Got to look like the man in the suit should.*

*What if I believe a lie? People wake up everyday and live like there’s no God. How do I know Jesus rose from the dead? How can I have faith in the face of hard evidence? I’ve never seen “God” do anything I couldn’t explain.*

*Better get going. I’ll pray for you; see you after church; enjoy the potluck! Got to look like the man in the suit should.*

*A CASUALLY-DRESSED MAN, who has stopped to greet THE MAN IN THE SUIT, is walking away as THE MAN IN THE SUIT thinks the following line. Meanwhile, the heartbeat rises in intensity and becomes slightly irregular.*

*Put on a happy face. Other people never have doubts like this. If I told somebody, it might make them doubt too. Christians aren’t supposed to be depressed. Got to look like the man in the suit should.*

*The heartbeat continues to rise in volume and intensity. Suddenly, as it crescendos, THE*