

THIS IS EASTER?

by Daphne Dykeman

GENRE: Light Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Three women share their frustration with meeting expectations for the perfect Easter celebration.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Don't let the simplicity of the scene fool you. Just because there are three weary and beleaguered ladies involved, you don't have to compromise on their characterizations. There are lots of ways to portray weariness, and you should encourage your actresses to explore their options. Some of us get irritable when we're exhausted, some get giggly, some get sleepy—the list goes on and on. Be sure that Carol, Trudy, and Jayne are three distinct individuals with unique and believable points of view.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Easter

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Peter 1:3-4

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Easter Service

CHARACTERS:

CAROL

TRUDY

JAYNE

PROPS: Shopping bags full of parcels, box for a portable CD player, box of CDs, box for a remote-control car, table, three chairs, cup of coffee

COSTUMES: Casual dress

SOUND: Three wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Neighborhood coffee shop

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TRUDY comes into the coffee shop carrying several heavily loaded shopping bags. She catches sight of CAROL sitting down to a lonely cup of coffee and staggers over

TRUDY: Hey, Carol. Can I join you?

CAROL: *(Looks up, clearly exhausted)* Of course. Maybe you could help me with some gift ideas.

TRUDY: *(Dropping her parcels and plunking herself down)* You haven't finished your shopping yet?

CAROL: Not even close. I'm on the third page of my list, I'm over budget, and there's no end in sight.

TRUDY: I know what you mean. This Easter shopping is insane.

CAROL: You're telling me. Every year I tell my family, "It's not like Christmas. You shouldn't expect a lot of expensive things."

TRUDY: Have you ever tried the, "When I was your age" speech?

CAROL: You mean, "When I was your age, all I got for Easter was a soft boiled egg and a baby chicken?" They just roll their eyes at that. Then they tell me that their friends are all getting big presents, and they don't know how they'll live if they don't get the same things.

TRUDY: I know. And the kids aren't the only ones under peer pressure. I was talking with my neighbor, and she casually mentioned that she bought her daughter a portable CD player. So of course, what did I come looking for today? *(She pulls a box holding a portable CD player out of a bag.)* And then I had to go to the music store to get some CDs. *(Holds up a bag of CDs)* And then I had to go to the toy store to buy Greg a remote control truck, or else he'd scream that she got more than he did. *(Holds up another bag)* And so on and so on.

CAROL: Yeah, and it's not only pressure from the kids. My husband insists that we invite his parents over for a huge baked ham dinner every year. He wants it just like it was when he was a kid.

TRUDY: My husband goes crazy over the Easter egg hunt. We stay up half the night trying to figure out new places to hide the eggs. The kids have had eight years to practice, and we're running out of ideas.

CAROL: Mark gets way too tricky with his. Last Christmas, I found three eggs buried in the bottom of my flour bag. *(Pause)* The kids still wanted to eat them. *(They laugh as JAYNE comes in, holding her own armful of packages. TRUDY spots her.)*