

A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

by JIM & JANE JEFFRIES

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: Mandy, a nonbeliever, confronts a thief in her apartment who turns out to be Death. She struggles with the suddenness of death, the regrets of her life, and, finally, what lies beyond death.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This sketch approaches the very serious subjects of death and eternity with humor and sensitivity. You'd be doing the script—and your audience—a disservice to treat it too dramatically, but you'd also do them a disservice to treat it flippantly. The subject matter requires sensitivity. The authors have worked hard to include that in the script. Follow their lead and make sure your treatment with acting and directing is sensitive as well so the point gets across without alienating the audience.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Death

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 12:39, 1 Thessalonians 5:2

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS:

MANDY—a non-believer

DEATH—a quirky thief with a sense of humor, at least for awhile

PROPS: Small couch or chair, table and lamp, knick-knacks, electronic planner

COSTUMES: Mandy is dressed in lounge pants, slippers, t-shirt, and a robe. Thief is dressed like a burglar, all in black including a ski mask and gloves.

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage; dim lighting to suggest night

SETTING: Mandy's living room

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
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A THIEF IN THE NIGHT *by Jim & Jane Jeffries*

MANDY: Don't move!

DEATH is startled.

MANDY: I—I've got a gun!

DEATH: *(Grabs his chest)* You really shouldn't sneak up on people that way. You could scare them half to . . . half to . . . well half to me!

MANDY: What? *(Steps back)* Are you drunk?

DEATH: No, but you could say I'm . . . dead to the world.

MANDY: You're some . . . hopped up . . . drug user person, aren't you! Well, I don't have any drugs here, except Pepto-Bismol, and that doesn't count. So leave or I'll... *(Threatens with imaginary gun in pocket)* I'll shoot! *(Trying to sound brave)* Do you feel lucky, punk?

DEATH: You don't have a gun, Mandy.

MANDY: Of course, I have a gun! A BIG gun! A 64 Magnum, like that cop Dirty Harvey.

And . . . hey, how do you know my name is Mandy? Which it isn't, but if it were . . . how would you know? Do I know you?

DEATH: Well you should. I'm quite famous. Everyone is DYING to know me. *(Chuckles to himself and examines a knick-knack)*

MANDY: What?

DEATH: I'm Death.

MANDY: You're dead? Am I having a Sixth Sense kind of experience?

DEATH: No . . . *(Whispers)* I see dead people.

MANDY: I don't understand! Are you some sort of ghost from my past? Are you Sam Roberts? Hey, look, that crash wasn't my fault. That same rule applies whenever you buy a used car from someone: "Let the buyer beware." I didn't know about the brakes, for sure. Like I'm supposed to check for every little thing before I sell a car. You should have taken it—

DEATH: I'm not Sam Roberts. Although he does send his regards and can't wait to get together with you. I said that my name is Death.

MANDY: Death?

DEATH: Death.