

## HEART TROUBLES *by Jim Jett*

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** Tompkins is confronted with his 'personal habits' with pornography becoming public knowledge.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** All characters should be played straight. Tompkins should be 'in control' to amplify the twist at the end.

**TIME:** 4-5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4M, 1F

**THEME:** Sin

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** 1 Corinthians 4:5; Psalm 90:8; Ephesians 5: 11-13

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Starter

**CHARACTERS:**

DOCTOR

TOMPKINS—middle aged business owner recovering from coronary surgery

SUE—Tompkins' wife

BRAD—Tompkins' partner

TONY—IT support guy (off stage voice)

**PROPS:** Chair, phone side table, flowers, get well cards, a bed

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary clothes

**SOUND:** Four wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Private hospital room

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*Lights up.*

*MR. TOMPKINS is in his hospital room sitting in a chair in a robe, recovering from coronary surgery. A doctor talks to him regarding his recovery.*

**DOCTOR:** *(Looking at clipboard)* You were very fortunate, Mr. Tompkins. We were able to bypass all of the blockages. There was some damage, but we believe you will have at least a 90% recovery of your normal heart function. Now it's up to you to take it easy and follow your doctor's directions. You should be able to start returning to your normal routine in a couple of weeks.

**TOMPKINS:** Thanks, Doc. Sounds like you and your team saved my bacon.

**DOCTOR:** *(Seriously)* Bacon is a thing of the past for you Mr. Tompkins.

**TOMPKINS:** Hey doc, lighten up. That was just an expression. Get it?

**DOCTOR:** Well, I have other patients to check on so I'll be going now.

**TOMPKINS:** Thanks again, Doc.

*Phone rings as DOCTOR exits. TOMPKINS answers.*

**TOMPKINS:** Tompkins here. *(Pause)* Hey, Tony, How's my IT guy? Are you keeping my company safe while I'm stuck in here? *(Pause)* Hold on while I put you on speaker. Holding this handset to my ear is pulling on my stitches and I don't want to spring a leak anywhere.

*TOMPKINS presses button on phone and hangs up handset.*

**TOMPKINS:** So Tony, what's cooking with the network today? Normally I don't hear from you unless there's a problem.

**TONY:** Well sir, there is a bit of a problem that I need to discuss with you.

**TOMPKINS:** Go ahead, I'm all ears.

**TONY:** Well sir, in your absence, Brad asked me to go through your computer and see what needed to be done about rerouting your e-mail and active files to other staff to handle. He was hoping I could whip up some sorting filters to deal with the daily traffic flow.