

NO ORDINARY CALL

by ROBYN BERDINO

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A father struggles with the news that his college-age son is gay.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Strong emotions need to be felt in this monologue. The struggle between truth and grace, and hurt and disappointment, need to be felt by those watching. Sufficient pauses are extremely important.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Relationships

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 37, John 13:34

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service, Support Group

CHARACTERS:

Husband - 50ish male

WIFE - 50ish female

PROPS: A telephone, one chair (if desired)

COSTUMES: Modern dress

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General or spotlight

SETTING: A living room setup gives a home-like feel to the sketch. Can be as simple as two chairs and an end table with a phone.

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Lights up; a phone rings. HUSBAND enters, answering it.

HUSBAND: *(Excited)* Hey there! How are you? It seems like it's been forever. *(Covers phone and mouths to his wife that it's Josh).* Hey, just a minute. Let me tell your mom to grab the other phone, so we can all talk. *(She starts to head out to get the other phone)* What? *(Flags her down and motions for her to wait)* Oh, that's fine. I'll put her on in a few minutes. So how's college treating you, son? Not too busy to study, are you? Oh, I'm sorry, going ninety miles a minute here.

Beat.

Sure ... you can tell me anything, you know that.

Getting a little worried and quieter. WIFE, beside him, looking concerned.

Of course ... I do promise I'll try to understand. What is it?

Long pauses in between each response:

What?

What are you saying?

Well, what does that mean?

It must just be a stage you're going through. I mean, it's normal to question life and yourself and just things ...

Pauses, then, frustrated:

I am trying to understand. I think I may just need a little time to think. Time to clear my head and just think. I need to go. I'll talk to you soon. Bye.

Hangs up slowly and, obviously troubled, begins to pace.

WIFE: *(Following him)* Honey, what is it? Is he hurt? What happened? Tell me ...

HUSBAND: No, he's not hurt ... *(Very slowly)* He says he's gay.

WIFE: What?

HUSBAND: *(Almost angry)* Yeah, you heard me right ... gay ... *(Emphasizing each word)* our son is gay.

WIFE: *(Huge pause, trying to deny)* You must have misunderstood.

HUSBAND: *(Cutting in)* What's there to misunderstand?