

THE INCIDENT

by Barbara Nelson

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: An African-American woman and a Caucasian woman, brought together at a church, come face to face with their feelings on race and are forced to choose where to go from there.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This sketch is very short and very simple, thus causing the acting to be somewhat intense. Never let the audience know where the sketch is going. Keep the actors apart. They should never face one another until the very end. The actors approaching one another should be somewhat awkward and overstressed, causing the audience to wonder what "The Incident" really will be...and then BAM! You hit them with the twist "God bless you, Sister," and ultimately the hug, where all walls are broken.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Reconciliation

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Galatians 3:26-29, Romans 12:5

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Bible Study

CHARACTERS: An African-American woman and a Caucasian woman—any age

PROPS: Church pew or two chairs, two Bibles

COSTUMES: Modern church dress

SOUND: 2 wireless mics

LIGHTING: General, possible use of spotlight

SETTING: Church

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Lights up.

BLACK WOMAN: *(Enters stage left)* Our church was fellowshiping with a different church on this particular Sunday...

WHITE WOMAN: *(Enters stage right)* One we'd never been to before.

BLACK WOMAN: It was in an attempt to bring together different races and ethnic groups...

WHITE WOMAN: But we knew what was going to happen before we got there.

BLACK WOMAN: All the white people were going to sit together.

WHITE WOMAN: And all the black people were going to sit together.

BLACK WOMAN: In the same room...

WHITE WOMAN: But miles apart.

BLACK WOMAN: When I got there, the church was crowded...

WHITE WOMAN: There were no seats by the people I usually sit with at my own church...

BLACK WOMAN: So I had to sit way in the back...

WHITE WOMAN: Near people I didn't know.

BLACK WOMAN: And that's where the incident occurred.

WHITE WOMAN: *(Moves toward the pew)* I went to sit down...

BLACK WOMAN: *(Moves toward the pew)* And she went to sit down at the same time.

The two women pause and look at each other a moment.

BLACK WOMAN: Neither one of us said a word...

BOTH WOMEN: But I knew what she was thinking...

BLACK WOMAN: Standing in that church, looking at her face, I remembered...*(To make this piece more meaningful to the actress and to those who will see it, the actress should briefly relate a negative personal experience she's had or a lesson she was taught that has influenced her view on race relations. The words provided here are those that have been used by past actresses in this role and are intended only as a guide.)* All the stories my parents and grandparents had told me about growing up in the South. About Jim Crow and segregation.