

THE NEW FATHER

by Joy L. Mason

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: In this familiar setting, a brand-new father is greeted by a friend in the waiting room of a hospital. The celebration of the birth and the proud plans for the new child dissolve into confessions of fear and insecurity. A thoughtful sketch on the responsibility of parenting.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This script is very simple and straightforward. To keep it from being monotonous (there isn't a lot of action inherent in the script) work with the actor playing Mike to develop that exhausted euphoria new fathers have in the first hours after a baby's birth. If the actor playing Mike does his homework and develops the inner life of the character, this script will take on the depth of feeling it deserves.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Parenting

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 1:24-25

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Service

CHARACTERS:

Mike-Age 30-35; a first-time father
Steve-His friend; noticeably older than Mike

PROPS: 1) Newspaper
2) Chairs
3) Teddy bear

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

SOUND: Two wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The waiting room of a hospital OB ward

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
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Scene opens with MIKE sitting center stage, reading a newspaper. STEVE ENTERS, carrying a teddy bear.

STEVE: Mike! Hey, congratulations! I came as soon as I heard.

MIKE: Thanks, thanks. Yeah, it's pretty amazing.

STEVE: *(Handing MIKE the bear)* Rachel wanted me to bring this for the little guy.

MIKE: Thanks.

STEVE: How's Lydia?

MIKE: She's good — tired. She's resting now; so I thought I'd come out here. It's so unbelievable. If I wasn't so tired, I'd be running around telling absolutely everyone I'm a dad.

STEVE: I know the feeling. How big was he?

MIKE: 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

STEVE: Wow. So, football or hockey player?

MIKE: What do you mean? He'll be both.

STEVE: Oh, I'm sorry. And straight-A student, too, right?

MIKE: Of course. Handsome, strong, polite — he'll make Lydia and me both very proud.

STEVE: *(Laughing)* Amazing how quickly we plan their destiny, isn't it?

MIKE: True, especially since right now he can barely even keep his eyes open.

STEVE: Yes, but they grow up so quickly. It's a good thing you have his life planned out now — you won't have time to think of it later.

MIKE: I can imagine. *(Beat)* Hey, Steve — can I ask you something, father to father?

STEVE: Sure.

MIKE: I know you were probably just as proud as I am.

STEVE: Yes.

MIKE: And just as amazed and happy.

STEVE: Completely.