

THREE NAILS

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A well-meaning handy-man uses the same solution, three nails, for every problem. In the end, three nails turns out to be the answer for much more than an apartment repair for one tenant.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Carl is one of those "wiser than he seems" eccentrics rather than just a senile nut. Make sure this comes off in how you portray him. Keep it light, but bring it to a very nice, touching moment at the end.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M, 3F

THEME: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Isaiah 53:5

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Services; Sermon Illustration

CHARACTERS:

Diane—a college student about to lose her scholarship

Jane—her roommate

Carl—the maintenance man

Tammy—a neighbor

PROPS: A couch, table, TV (expendable), laptop (also expendable), tool box, hammer, nails, phone

COSTUMES: A worn uniform for Carl; college school clothes for the ladies

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A college apartment

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The setting is a college apartment. There's a couch at center facing the audience and a TV down center facing the couch. A table with two chairs is stage left of the couch. A door to the hall is stage left. A door leading to the bedrooms is stage right. JANE is on the couch holding a remote control.

JANE: Hey! Is something wrong with the TV?

DIANE: (off) What?

JANE: I said is something wrong with the TV!

DIANE: (enters) What's the matter with it?

JANE: Take a look. I'm not getting anything.

DIANE: Great. Something else broken in this apartment.

JANE: They still have you on hold?

DIANE: Of course.

JANE: They tell you anything?

DIANE: Nothing yet.

JANE: This is so aggravating. I was all set to watch that movie.

DIANE: We can go down to the student center soon as I get off here.

JANE: That's okay. Carl should be up here soon. I'll ask him about it.

DIANE: Carl? You called Carl about the TV?

JANE: No, I called Carl to look at the couch. But since he's coming—

DIANE: Why did you call Carl?

JANE: Because I'm tired of sitting on a broken couch.

DIANE: I can't believe you called Carl.

JANE: He is the building maintenance supervisor. It's his job to fix things, right?

DIANE: Yes it is, but do me a favor. Let him fix the couch, but don't tell him about the TV.

JANE: Why not?