

Don't Take It As Gospel

By

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This play cannot be performed
in any way without the
permission of the writer

DON'T TAKE IT AS GOSPEL

PLACE: ANYWHERE

TIME: ANYTIME

STYLE: SATIRE

Characters:

- MATTHEW.
Under employed writer
- MARK.
Unemployed writer
- LUKE.
Budding screenwriter... but still, unemployed writer
- JOHN.
A formerly successful but now... unemployed writer.
Homosexual
- MARY MAGDALENE.
Educated and highly successful feminist writer. Sexy
- RICHARD SIMON.
Managing Editor: Bible - New Testament
- ESTHER WYCLIFFE
Managing Director of Wycliffe Publishing.
- HANNAH
Personal Assistant to Richard Simon.
- MARY.
Mother of Jesus. Sarcastic
- JOSEPH.
(Earth) father of Jesus. Cranky
- RUFUS.
Bartender
- JUDAS.
Outcast, but surprisingly talented writer.
- THE STAGE MANAGER.
Confused and timid.

SCENE 4

The Office of Richard Simon

Richard is sitting at his desk flicking through some paperwork.

Hannah enters carrying more treatments for submission.

RICHARD

More?

HANNAH

This is getting crazy. Some guy called Dan Brown keeps calling for you.

RICHARD

Dan who?

HANNAH

Brown.

RICHARD

Never heard of him

HANNAH

And there is still that guy sitting in reception wanting to see you.

RICHARD

Can't he just leave his submission like everybody else?

HANNAH

He says he urgently needs to see you. And he isn't leaving.

RICHARD

What's his name?

HANNAH

Um, Mr Isca... Iscariot. Or something.

RICHARD

(Shocked)

Judas?

HANNAH

I think so.

RICHARD

Judas Iscariot is in my reception?

HANNAH

Yes. I think.

RICHARD

Do you have any idea who that guy is?

HANNAH

No I don't sorry, I haven't got foxtel. Should I tell him to go away?

RICHARD

(Ponders)

Nah. Send him in. This could be fun.

HANNAH

Okay, I'll send him in right away.

Hannah exits

Richard sits in his chair, anticipating his visitor.

RICHARD

(To himself)

Judas Iscariot. The things I'd like to say to that bastard.

Judas Iscariot enters.

He is disheveled looking, with thick beard and raggy clothes. He has sunglasses on.

He gingerly walks towards Richard with a full script in his hand, carefully looking behind him every few seconds.

Richard stands to greet him.

Judas puts his hand out to shake, but Richard spits in his face instead.

RICHARD

I'm sorry... I just always wanted to do that.

JUDAS

It's okay... I get that a lot.

RICHARD

Sit down Mr Iscariot, and tell me what the hell you are doing here.

JUDAS

I came about your ad. For the bible.

RICHARD

What makes you think you think we'd want you to have anything to do with it? You betrayed our Lord.

JUDAS

See that's the thing. I didn't. Well, okay, technically I did, but he asked me to. I mean, Peter denied the bloke three times and people don't spit in his face, do they?

RICHARD

Hardly the same thing.

JUDAS

Isn't it? He just did what Jesus asked him, as did I.

RICHARD

He asked you to?

JUDAS

Of course he did. It was all part of the divine plan. Fact is, me and JC were close mates. I knew him as well as anybody did and I'm a bloody good writer

RICHARD

Well, not anybody...

JUDAS

Okay, apart from Magdalene but she's clearly gonna get her say. C'mon Richard, if I don't get my side of the story out there i could be remembered in history as a... traitor! As a shit bloke, and I'm not.

RICHARD

I think you're being a bit dramatic there Judas.

JUDAS

I don't think I am. I mean you mention Magdalene; she wasn't all virtue and femininity you know, there were plenty of rumours about stuff she got up to in University.

RICHARD

Careful Judas

JUDAS

But how is she going to be remembered? As some Saint, I bet. Not like me... Judas the Traitor!

RICHARD

Don't be stupid, history wont remember you as a traitor Judas; people will get over it, trust me.

JUDAS

I'm not so sure.

Judas hands Richard his script. It is detailed.

JUDAS (cont'd)

Please, read it.

RICHARD

I only need a treatment at this stage.
(Looks at the detailed script)
Geez, what is this, your life story?

JUDAS

To an extent, yes. Please Richard, just read it.

Richard quickly flicks through the pages of the script

RICHARD

Okay Judas, I will read it.

JUDAS

Thank you

RICHARD

But only on one condition?

JUDAS

What?

RICHARD

Get out of my office!

JUDAS

(Excited)

No problem, thank you so much Mr Simon, I really appreciate this chance.

Judas stands and offers his hand to Richard.

Richard stands, goes to raise his hand, but spits in his face again.

RICHARD

Sorry. Old habits.

JUDAS

(A little dejected)

Yeah. Don't mention it.

Judas exits with his tail between his legs.

RICHARD

(Calling out to Hannah)

Hannah! Hannah!

HANNAH

(Off stage)

Yes Mr Simon?

RICHARD

If that wanker ever sets foot in my reception again, have security hang him from the nearest tree.

Hannah comes into the office

HANNAH

Him? Really? He was cute.

RICHARD

(Amused)

You thought he was cute?

HANNAH

Yeah, he had this whole Russell Brand thing happening.

RICHARD

Who?

HANNAH

You don't know who Russell Brand is?

RICHARD

No, I don't watch Glee so I wouldn't have a clue.

BLACKOUT