

Mick, Matt & Ben

An Easter drama in four scenes

SCENE ONE

Narrator: IN JERUSALEM ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO. JUST DAYS AFTER JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED. THREE MEN MEET IN AN OPEN SQUARE. THEY ARE; MICHAEL, MATTHEW AND BENJAMIN (OR MICK, MATT AND BEN).

Mick: Matt.

Matt: Mick

Mick: Ben

Ben: Mick [Matt and Ben do not greet each other.]

Mick: Thanks for coming. Hope you don't mind meeting here but I want it to look like we've just met up by accident.

Ben: Oh yes? These aren't normal times. Everyone's watching everyone else. Probably watching us right now.

Mick: Rubbish! Act normal!

Matt: His normal, or real normal?

Mick: Shut up an listen.

Before reporting back.. to the er full committee... I wanted us to talk about what we can suggest to them... about... you know.

Matt: He's dead! I saw him die and dead men stay dead.

Ben: Easy to say, but it isn't that simple. These are reliable people and they're talking, they say he's alive again.

What's happening? What's going on?

Look there's one now. Don't look he'll see us.

Mick: What's up with him?

Matt: Looks like he's just won something.

ALL WAVE AND SMILE TO PERSON OFF-STAGE.

Ben: That's my point, he looks... happy?

Matt: Ecstatic.

Ben: Yes and he should be miserable. He's just lost his lord and master. What does he know?

Have you seen them? They're all looking like that. Like... like... like a cat that's had some

cream.

We all saw their Jesus die... And how he died! I dreamed about it last night.

Matt: Don't start on about that again. Freak weather happens.

Ben: And the ground shaking? And the sudden darkness? And the way... it felt? Don't look away [grabbing Matt's arm and turning him to face Ben] you were just as scared as I was. I know what you felt, we all felt it.

Matt: Yes well, I'm not feeling it now.

Mick: Shut up both of you. It's action that's needed now. I know what happened. Our leaders stole the body away to put an end to this man's following. But I've got to admit, I don't think it was such a good idea.

Matt: It was a great idea. Stamp it out that's what I say.

Mick: That is what we will do. Matt, find out why they are all looking so happy. Ben, you know people who know people, find out where they have put the body and then when we find it we can shove it right up the noses of these Jesus people. Meet me back here in an hour.

Ben: Look, there's another one!

Mick: Move!

THEY PART. END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE 2

SAME PLACE AS BEFORE. MICK WAITING THEN MATT ARRIVES.

Mick: Well Matt? Why are they so happy? And why are you late? And where is Ben?

BEN ARRIVES.

Ah here his is. So tell us Matt, why are they so happy?

Matt: They say he's alive again. They say to me, "He is risen," all happy like. And..

Mick: Don't be daft! What are they *really* up to?

Matt: Listen. There's more. It's why I was late. I've seen it myself.

Ben: What've you seen?

Matt: They've been carrying dead bodies.

Ben: Bodies!?

Matt: Bodies! Dead bodies! Bodies that had already been buried. They've been carrying them back to their graves. They're having to re-dig the graves to bury them again. Everyone's refusing to do the work for nothing and some of the bodies are left lying on the ground. I've seen them.

Mick: Well who dug them up in the first place?

Matt: Nobody dug them up, that's what I'm saying...

Ben: Now I understand! Ruth was on about this but I thought she was... well.

Ruth says that when Jesus came alive again there was, like, an overflow of the power of life or something and it affected some of the dead too.

THEY LOOK AT HIM AS IF HE IS MAD

Just for a while like. Then they dropped dead again. That must be what you're talking about. And now they have to be buried again.

Mick: Don't be daft. Don't talk such utter rubbish. How can you get up and walk round the block if you're dead? How do you get out of your grave? What if you've already started to rot?

Matt: No these were the fresh ones...

Mick: Enough! Enough! Gives me the creeps. Matt, your job was to find out why they're looking so happy. I want the real reason. Tell me something sensible.

Ben: But the bodies, the dead bodies...?

Mick: Forget about the bodies!

Matt: It's what I said...

Ben: [Muttering but loud enough to be heard] Forget about the bodies?

Matt: It's what I said, they say Jesus is alive again. They say some of them have met with him already and he spoke to them.

The tomb is empty and that huge stone's been rolled away. Who could've done that? It would've taken loads of people. And the guards are gone as well.

Mick: The guards? Don't they fear punishment?

Matt: I would, but they are gone and the tomb is empty. What do we tell the committee?

Mick: I don't know. This is a mess.

They really are burying the dead again you say?

Matt: See for yourself.

Ben: See what? The bodies? The empty tomb? I've seen the empty tomb, we all have. I don't want to see the bodies.

Mick: There are no bodies to see. Matt doesn't believe it do you Matt?

MATT WALKS AWAY

Ben: He's walking away.

Mick: I can see that, do think I'm blind?

Ben: And he's been talking as well.

Mick: Who?

Ben: The blind man.

Mick: Which blind man? Oh you mean the one that Jesus...?

Ben: Bet he's gone to look at the bodies.

Mick: Who? The blind man?

Ben: No, Matt. Bet he's gone to look at the bodies.

Mick: Body, that's it. Who has the body?

Ben: Where are you off to?

Mick: To find a body. Got to find his body?

END OF SCENE 2

SCENE 3

FOLLOWING DAY. SAME MEETING PLACE AS BEFORE. MICK WAITING ALONE WHEN MATT ARRIVES.

Mick: You're late. And where's Ben? You were supposed to get Ben.

Matt: He won't come.

Mick: What do you mean he won't come?

Matt: He won't come! What is it about that that you don't understand?

Mick: Well where is he?

Matt: Look, he's at his home in bed okay?

Mick: Bed!?

Matt: He won't get out of bed.

His wife says that after he left you yesterday he went off talking to the Jesus people, told his wife when he got back. Started to talk rubbish, about the dead bodies... and...

Mick: Not dead bodies again.

Matt: Look where have you been to miss what is going on?

I've heard that our rulers are discussing whether he came back to life on the Sabbath...

Mick: Who?

Matt: Jesus! What's the matter with you? You're falling apart. As I was saying, I've heard that our rulers are discussing whether he came back to life on the Sabbath and if so is it okay for someone to come back to life on a Sabbath.

Mick: They were saying that when Lazarus was raised to life again.

Matt: You told me you didn't believe in that.

Mick: Never mind that now. Go and sort Ben, we need him for his contacts, he knows people who know people.

MICK WALKING AWAY

Bring him here this afternoon. Get him out of his bed.

And find out where that body is.

Matt: Who's body?

Mick: Jesus! Find his body.

END OF SCENE 3

SCENE 4

MICK ALONE OBVIOUSLY WAITING FOR SOMEONE, AND BEN APPROACHES.

Mick: Hi Ben. Er Matt said you weren't well this morning, still in bed. Feeling better now? You don't look better, you look very pale. What's up Ben? I need you well, important things to do you know? But where's Matt? I sent him to get you.

Ben: I'm alright. Got a bit confused that's all. Got things mixed up. Tell you the truth, I started to believe this stuff about the bodies and Jesus alive again but I'm alright again now.

Mick: So there were no dead bodies out of their graves?

Ben: I didn't say that, I just said I was better now.

Mick: But have you found out where the body is?

Ben: What bodies? I don't want to talk about the bodies.

Mick: Not the bodies, I mean *his* body.

Ben: Who's body?

Mick: Jesus's body. I mean *his* body. If it was stolen where is it and who has it? And come to think of it where is Matt? Where is his body?

Ben: He's at his house. I've just come from there.

Mick: Well why isn't he here? He went to get you and bring you here. Now you are here and he's at his home. What's he doing?

Ben: Last I saw, he was crying... and mumbling.

Mick: Crying and mumbling!? Ben, speak to me.

Ben: About what?

Mick: I mean what's the matter with him? What has happened? What's he upset about?

Ben: Oh he isn't upset. He's happy, like... like a cat that's had some cream.

Mick: Like... like a cat... that's... had some cream...? Oh, no!

Ben: Says he asked around where he could find the body.

Mick: What body?

Ben: Jesus's body! He found someone, said she could take him to see it. Says he got there and the body was alive.

Mick: The body was alive!?!...

Ben: Jesus was alive. Says he has been talking to Jesus. Now he's at home... like a cat that's had some cream.

Mick: Oh no, I'm fighting a losing battle here.

Ben: You are. You've lost this one already. He asked me to give you a message.

Mick: I thought he was crying and mumbling.

Ben: He managed to say this one though.

Mick: So what is the message?

Ben: "He is risen"

Mick: Oh!

Ben: Yes, Oh!

I'm going back to see Matt. Want to come?

Mick: Yes, thanks Ben, I'm coming.

VOICES FADE AWAY AS MICK AND BEN ARE TALKING ANIMATEDLY

Mick: You say he's seen him? Talked with him?

Ben: Yes I want to know more about it. Wait till you should see Matt, he's really different, happy like...

Mick: Cream?

Ben: Yes, cream.

Mick: "He is risen?"

Ben: Yes, "He is risen!"

END OF SCENE FOUR

THE END