

# EVERYWOMAN

*by Jon Jory*



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# **EVERYWOMAN**

*A One Act play on morality*

**by Jon Jory**

**EVERYWOMAN***A One Act play on morality***by Jon Jory***Adapted from the anonymously written medieval morality play, "Everyman"*

**SYNOPSIS:** "Before God, shall your bad deeds and good deeds be weighed and judgment passed," Death states. Everywoman replies, "Hey, I'm not ready for that. I just got accepted at Princeton!" Death retorts, "Tough nuggies. Let's go."

Everywoman examines the question of Christian salvation and what each person must do to attain it. Everywoman learns that when you die and are placed before God, all you are left with are your own good deeds.

**CAST OF CHARACTER***(6-8 females, 2-4 either)*

EVERYWOMAN (f) .....	(98 lines)
NARRATOR (m/f) .....	(4 lines)
MARY JANE (f).....	(12 lines)
DEATH (m/f).....	(23 lines)
FRIENDSHIP (f) .....	(20 lines)
MOTHER (f).....	(15 lines)
SISTER (f) .....	(11 lines)
RICHES (m/f) .....	(15 lines)
GOOD DEEDS (f) .....	(20 lines)
KNOWLEDGE (f) .....	(7 lines)
ANGEL (f).....	(1 line)
DOCTOR (m/f).....	(1 line)

**DURATION:** 20 minutes**SET:** Bare stage or some open space of the director's imagination.**COSTUMES:** Inventive in a contemporary style.

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**OPTIONAL DOUBLING**

NARRATOR can double as DOCTOR

FRIENDSHIP can double as KNOWLEDGE

MOTHER can double as ANGEL

SISTER can double as RICHES

**COSTUMES**

EVERYWOMAN – casual attire.

NARRATOR – casual attire (jeans, t-shirt, running shoes.)

MARY JANE – party attire.

DEATH – Goth attire, black robe.

FRIENDSHIP – casual attire.

MOTHER – casual attire.

SISTER – casual attire, jacket

RICHES – fancy attire.

GOOD DEEDS – ragged grey dress.

KNOWLEDGE – casual attire.

ANGEL – angel attire.

DOCTOR – hospital greens, surgical mask

**PROPS**

- quilt
- skateboard
- phone
- Burger King napkin
- Swedish Fish
- backpack
- books

**AT START:** *An empty stage. GOOD DEEDS lays on stage wrapped in a quilt, hidden. NARRATOR, a young woman in casual dress (jeans, t-shirt, running shoes, etc.), skateboards on. She stops and faces the audience.*

**NARRATOR:** Hey. How y'all doin'? I guess I'm the narrator, more or less, something like that... anyway, glad you're here. Brave of you actually because... um... we got good news and bad news. What I mean is, you've alive now but unfortunately that won't always be the case, right? Right. Don't want to bum you out. Enjoy the beginning, but take heed of the ending. That's a saying. Sin's sweet but in the end you weep. That's another saying. Well, anyway, let's get this show on the road. We'll start with Heaven's King announcing a general reckoning for Everywoman. It's okay for you guys to listen, everybody has skin in this game. Okay, relax, turn off your cell phones—here's God.

*MARY JANE enters, she's dressed for a grown-up's party.*

**MARY JANE:** Hi. Ummm. Obviously I'm not... well, you know... I'm Mary Jane Borovsky, you probably know my dad.

**NARRATOR:** Coaches little league? State horseshoes champion?

**MARY JANE:** I just got cast as God because I haven't had a good part in two years.

**NARRATOR:** How about Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*?

**MARY JANE:** I was the understudy.

**NARRATOR:** Oops.

**MARY JANE:** So anyway, I'm God. It's so obviously impossible to play God because... well, it's just obviously impossible which is probably why they gave me the part. Anyway, give me a couple seconds to get into it. (*Does a ten second physical and vocal warm-up. And right out of this warm-up she turns to the audience and says commandingly:*) Listen up! You have not been paying attention people. Bad scene. Money, money, money that's all you think of. Plus all of you—and I mean all of you—have been doing the seven deadly sins. If you don't know what they are, look them up online. Anyway, you are doing them. If not seven then four or five out of the seven. Too many, people! Worse than the beasts, okay?

Particularly gluttony, but I don't want to get into that right now. I'm talking to the women today because, hey, sixty-six percent of all theatregoers are women. So, I'm here to say it's just not happening. See, I hoped that every woman in my glory would make her mansion. And I am sorry to say that is not working out. Thus, I have no choice here. (*Calling offstage.*) Death, come on out!

*DEATH enters, she is Goth.*

**DEATH:** Here I come, almighty. What's the deal?

**MARY JANE:** How are things?

**DEATH:** Pretty much business as usual. Global warming is helping.

**MARY JANE:** That's not me.

**DEATH:** No, no, didn't mean to imply it was.

**MARY JANE:** I want you to go to 251 Oak Street and tell Everywoman she has to do a thing for me.

**DEATH:** What thing is that?

**MARY JANE:** Well, it's a pilgrimage kind of thing. Otherwise it's in hell she'll dwell. You get it?

**DEATH:** I get it.

**MARY JANE:** So you got it?

**DEATH:** I got it.

**MARY JANE:** Good. See you around. (*Exits.*)

**DEATH:** Arrivederci.

*EVERYWOMAN enters—or rather bops on.*

**DEATH:** Hey, Everywoman!?

**EVERYWOMAN:** What's up, dark shadow?

**DEATH:** God's will.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I'm on it.

**DEATH:** Why have you your maker forgot?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Who asks?

**DEATH:** Death, the dark mistress.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Hey, I've been busy.

**DEATH:** Though you have forgotten him, he has not forgotten you.

**EVERYWOMAN:** What's God have in mind?

**DEATH:** A reckoning.

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**EVERYWOMAN:** Seriously?

**DEATH:** Before God, shall your bad deeds and good deeds be weighed and judgment passed.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Hey, I'm not ready for that. I just got accepted at Princeton.

**DEATH:** Tough nuggies. Let's go.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I already paid for the first semester.

**DEATH:** I think you know that's not my problem.

**EVERYWOMAN:** If I go with you now, will I come back?

**DEATH:** Once you're there, there's no more here.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Must I go alone?

**DEATH:** Everybody does.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Scares me.

**DEATH:** Scares everybody.

**EVERYWOMAN:** May I not have companions to soothe my fears?

*DEATH laughs.*

**EVERYWOMAN:** What's so funny?

**DEATH:** There's not many who want a ticket on this train. Girl, your life is but lent to you. When you are gone another shall have it for a while. And then another and another and another ad infinitum.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I just want the college experience, you know. First love, football games, keg parties.

**DEATH:** No can do.

**EVERYWOMAN:** A week. Mom and Dad have a big anniversary party?

**DEATH:** Let's not make this awkward, okay?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Spare me until tomorrow.

**DEATH:** Uncounted are those who have asked that of me. Alas, not. Death is sudden. Go pack. This day is your last. (*Exits.*)

**EVERYWOMAN:** (*Calling after DEATH*) Not alone! Don't make me go alone!

*DEATH laughs offstage.*

**EVERYWOMAN:** How can this day have come so soon? I've barely lived. (*Calling to both sides of the stage.*) Hello? Hello? (*To herself.*) To be alone is to die twice. (*Taking out her phone.*) Maybe if I give Friendship a call. We've played soccer and sold Girl Scout cookies for years. (*Starts to dial and then sees something offstage.*) Wait. There she is. Friendship! Friendship! Over here!

*FRIENDSHIP enters.*

**FRIENDSHIP:** It's you!

**EVERYWOMAN:** It's me.

*Elaborate handshake.*

**FRIENDSHIP:** Girl, I haven't seen you in a dog's age. (*Pulls EVERYWOMAN into a hug.*) Bring it on, Lady Day. (*Looks at EVERYWOMAN at arm's length.*) Oh-oh.

**EVERYWOMAN:** What?

**FRIENDSHIP:** You've been crying, huh?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Yeah.

**FRIENDSHIP:** Well that tear is the last one for sure.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Kleenex?

**FRIENDSHIP:** (*Pulling a napkin out.*) Napkin from Burger King. (*Hands it over.*) You want a Swedish fish?

**EVERYWOMAN:** I want a Swedish fish.

**FRIENDSHIP:** The rule is you get three in an emergency. (*Gives three Swedish Fish.*) What's the deal?

**EVERYWOMAN:** I'm in trouble big time.

**FRIENDSHIP:** We're both in trouble then because I'm with you 'til the seas rise, the earth burns and there are no more sequels to *Game of Thrones*.

**EVERYWOMAN:** (*Pulling her into another hug.*) I am so glad you're here!

**FRIENDSHIP:** Man trouble, dad trouble, drug trouble? (*EVERYWOMAN shakes her head.*) Shingles? (*EVERYWOMAN laughs.*) Luke dumped you? You dumped Luke? Because if you dumped Luke tell him I'm available. (*EVERYWOMAN shakes her head.*) Hey. Anybody messes with you, they're messing with me.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Thanks.

**FRIENDSHIP:** What's the grief, girl?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Never mind.

**FRIENDSHIP:** If you go to hell we'll both get toasted. Come on. I'm the fixer, right? I'll fix it.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I must justify my life before the Lord God.

*A pause.*

**FRIENDSHIP:** You're kidding? (*EVERYWOMAN shakes her head.*)

No. Seriously? You mean like a court date thing?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Yes.

**FRIENDSHIP:** Wow. Like really?

**EVERYWOMAN:** (*Nods.*) Really.

**FRIENDSHIP:** You gotta... go there? (*EVERYWOMAN nods.*) Well... okay. But it's a round trip ticket, right?

**EVERYWOMAN:** One way.

*A pause.*

**FRIENDSHIP:** That can't be. No way. Who told you all this?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Death herself.

**FRIENDSHIP:** For sure?

**EVERYWOMAN:** For sure.

**FRIENDSHIP:** That Goth chick. What's her name?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Flame.

**FRIENDSHIP:** Okay, you're making me a little nervous. The one way ticket thing, I'm not doing that.

**EVERYWOMAN:** But you promised.

**FRIENDSHIP:** I know, I know, it's just... I mean... not yet, you know. I know I'm terrible... I'm a terrible friend and a liar and a coward... I can't.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I get it.

**FRIENDSHIP:** I know you don't. Forgive me. I'm so sorry.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I understand. Goodbye.

**FRIENDSHIP:** (*Hugs EVERYWOMAN.*) Bye. (*Runs offstage.*)

**EVERYWOMAN:** *(After FRIENDSHIP is gone.)* Bye. *(A brief pause.)*

If Friendship would desert me, who will not?

**MOTHER:** *(Offstage.)* Is that you honey?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Mom?

**MOTHER:** *(Offstage.)* Sister and I were shopping. *(Entering with SISTER.)* Well, this is a nice surprise.

**SISTER:** Hey, Sis.

**EVERYWOMAN:** You have no idea how glad I am to see you guys.

**MOTHER:** We didn't know you'd be in town.

**EVERYWOMAN:** You both look wonderful. *(Embraces MOTHER.)*

**MOTHER:** You're so pale. Honey, you're shaking, what's the matter?

**EVERYWOMAN:** I'm scared, Mom.

**SISTER:** Slip on my jacket. *(Helps EVERYWOMAN put the jacket on.)*  
Something happen?

**MOTHER:** Whatever it is you can count on us.

**SISTER:** You look like you've seen a ghost.

**MOTHER:** We're family, we'll take care of it. Really. Tell. We'll fix it.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I must go and give reckoning to the highest power  
of all that I have done.

**SISTER:** *(Pointing up.)* You mean?

**MOTHER:** You didn't dream it?

**EVERYWOMAN:** That high King's Chief Officer said I am called and  
never will I come this way again.

**MOTHER:** What's wanted?

**EVERYWOMAN:** That I must say how I have lived. How and for what  
I have spent my days. What are my sins and ill deeds?

**MOTHER:** Then you have nothing to fear. You are my good girl.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I am far, far from perfect. I have lived for myself and  
not for others.

**SISTER:** Any of us could say that.

**EVERYWOMAN:** But to go before my Lord God alone, how can I face  
that? I have secrets I have kept from you.

**SISTER:** We all have secrets, Sis.

**MOTHER:** We are imperfect souls in an imperfect world. What secrets  
you may have are small ones.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Go with me.

**MOTHER:** Will it not then be our reckoning too?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Only mine. I'm sure.

**SISTER:** But if you do not come this way again, will we?

**EVERYWOMAN:** It is not your reckoning. You are not called. Take me only to the gate. You need not enter.

**SISTER:** But how can you be sure?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Do not forsake me.

**SISTER:** There are things I've done, things I've thought and said.

**MOTHER:** You are both good children. What is there to fear?

**SISTER:** I'll call you later.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Sister...

**SISTER:** I have to go. *(Turns and runs. Then stops and turns back.)* I would do anything for you but this one thing. *(Exits)*

**EVERYWOMAN:** *(Calling after her.)* Sister!

**MOTHER:** There are things you don't know. She is more hidden than you think.

**EVERYWOMAN:** But you will come?

**MOTHER:** You know how I love you. But your father needs me. He can't leave the wheelchair now. I have my marriage vows. You'll be fine. Everyone says you are the sweetest girl they know. I will miss you. I will miss you unbearably.

**EVERYWOMAN:** But...

**MOTHER:** God keep you. You will be always in my prayers. *(Exits.)*

**EVERYWOMAN:** Mom!

*MOTHER is gone.*

**EVERYWOMAN:** Are we all in this moment alone? My mother looked into my eyes and pledged her help... but then... then... and my sister... my sister who knows me to the bone... who held me when I slept and laughed and cried with me. Must I go alone with neither friend nor family to a trial that will take my life? Where then must I turn? What have I loved? Riches certainly. I was raised with the best money could buy or do. Perhaps that could assist me as it always has. *(Cries out to both sides of the stage. First one and then the other.)* Riches? Riches?

**RICHES:** (*Enters chuckling.*) Well, that's a little obvious. Better to just call me Auntie. A rich auntie is a girl's best friend, eh? So what can we do here? Clothes, makeup, a car perhaps? A vacation in Spain? Something educational in the Galapagos Islands? I know what will cheer you up, dearie! A four star dinner in Paris and a comfy evening at the Hotel Ritz.

**EVERYWOMAN:** I need your help.

**RICHES:** Well, I'll let you in on a little secret. Whatever is the problem, money is the answer. Auntie always has at least a thousand in cash. And at the ATM, the sky's the limit.

**EVERYWOMAN:** The Almighty has called me to defend the living of my life or leave it.

*A pause.*

**RICHES:** (*Mulling it over.*) The Almighty?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Yes, ma'am.

**RICHES:** Now are you speaking of the "Almighty" Almighty? Or are you talking about the rapper?

**EVERYWOMAN:** The all-high. Our Lord and Savior.

**RICHES:** That would be expensive.

**EVERYWOMAN:** Salvation cannot be purchased, Auntie, it can only be earned.

**RICHES:** Sweetie, everybody has their price. Sweetie, darlin', honeybunch, you cross your heart we're talking about the Almighty here? Or do you just have yourself in some garden variety trouble?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Go with me, Auntie, and let us try what we can do.

**RICHES:** You want me to go with you to the final judgment?

**EVERYWOMAN:** I fear to go alone.

**RICHES:** Well, let me just take a little look in my appointment book.

Tuesday the third. Here we are. Oh, what a shame. You know I would love to. Absolutely adore it but I have a hair appointment with Jamal and there is only one thing you do not do in this life and that is stand up Jamal, heaven forfend! Baby cakes, you are a straight A student are you not?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Yes, ma'am.

**RICHES:** Have a part time job?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Yes, ma'am.

**RICHES:** Help your momma out around the house?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Yes, ma'am.

**RICHES:** Sweet to your darlin' sister?

**EVERYWOMAN:** Ummmm.

**RICHES:** Well, she's a little snippy anyway. I think you got it all zipped up, cutie!

**EVERYWOMAN:** Please come.

**RICHES:** Sugarcakes, it just isn't Auntie's thing. I'll tell you a little secret. I'm just not too good about parking tickets and I slap nasty store clerks. I do. I slap 'em right upside the head and that straightens them right out, but I wouldn't care to have that generally known. I just think of it as a hobby. And then—oh, I hesitate to bring this up, but cookie, you just don't come by what I've got on what you might call the "up and up," if you follow my drift. As you will find out, my little licorice drop, there's a certain amount of what we might call, working the angles, if you see what I mean? And I wouldn't want to bother the Almighty with my little escapades on your dime.

**EVERYWOMAN:** You mean you're a liar and a cheat?

**RICHES:** Oh, that is so cute! Take off the blinders my pretty. I'm Riches. I've given you everything you wanted since you were knee-high to a grasshopper. I was lent to you for your time here, baby cakes, and when you're gone I'll be lent to another. Just where does it say "riches" will follow you right out of this world?

**EVERYWOMAN:** But I've always loved you, love you more than the Lord above. Go with me.

**RICHES:** You bought a ticket on the wrong horse, sugar-sweet. Riches don't love you back. Now see, you have made me late for Jamal and I will have to bow and scrape and throw myself on his mercy, and I just hate that! (*Starts offstage, turns back.*) I wouldn't go in there looking like that, tootsie. I'd throw on a little something by Vera Wang, six inch heels, and a Rolex watch. Be somebody. (*Exits.*)

**EVERYWOMAN:** (*Wrapping her arms around herself.*) It's gotten so cold. My blood is freezing in my veins.



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