

JERUSALEM P.D.

by Daniel Wray



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jerusalem P.D. may be performed as a dinner theatre featuring a four-course meal. The dramatic action is interspersed with the dining as follows:

Appetizer or bread and beverages

Scene 1

Salad

Scene 2

Main Course

Scene 3

Coffee

Scene 4

Dessert

Scene 5

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Following are character descriptions for all the players. Please feel free to think outside the box when assigning roles based on the makeup of your group. We had more females in our group than traditionally female roles. Teenage girls played the parts of Joe Thursday, Pilate, and Peter very capably.

SERGEANT JOE THURSDAY: He's a cop. He carries a badge. And if you try to give him too many details, he'll tell you he just wants the facts. Basically a goodhearted cop who wants to get to the bottom of things.

OFFICER FRANK CANNON: The typical comedic sidekick cop who finds humor in all things. Also not one to beat around the bush, Frank is serious about the important things, like investigating a stolen body and eating.

MARY MAGDALENE: One of Jesus' followers who is still in shock over seeing him alive again.

PETER: Plagued with guilt over denying an association with Jesus.

THOMAS: A complete skeptic. Just ask him — he'll doubt it.

WINN: Your basic beat cop/soldier. He's torn between wanting to do the right thing and his allegiance to Pilate.

AFTA: Winn's partner.

PILATE: Suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder (Matthew 27:24 says, "He took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd"), he is anxious and fanatical.

STRANGER: A voice of calm and reason in these days of unrest.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This script is a spoof of the old TV series *Dragnet*. The premise is the investigation of the stealing of a body. The dynamic detective duo of Joe Thursday and Frank Cannon is assigned the case. The body of a recently executed criminal is missing, and the man's followers are suspects. The investigation takes some hilarious turns as the duo tries to pin the crime on a number of people, but eventually leads to a poignant conclusion.

This play was written to be a dinner theatre performed by a youth group, but it could just as easily be adapted into a five-scene play with adult performers. Regardless, take advantage of the overly dramatic nature of the *Dragnet* series to play up the atmosphere around the play itself. For example, put up a metal detector at the entrance of your auditorium. The metal detector is easily achieved by using a door frame wrapped in aluminum foil, and it works best if you have a buzzer from a board game or some other sound effect hidden behind one of the "guard's" backs, to target any unsuspecting security breeches. Another fun idea is to set up a fingerprinting station where people can check in before being seated. Random people who are good-natured can be targeted for more intensive, scripted interrogation. Our dinner guests really enjoyed this pre-play banter. As people are being seated, play music from television theme shows (police shows are best) in the background, or better yet, play the *Dragnet* theme over and over. During the dinner portion, the actors participate as servers, staying in character of course. Assign the dinner dishes appropriate names, like Good-Fried-a-fish, flatfoot flatcakes, mystery meat, etc., which are printed in the program. Have fun!

COSTUMES: Many of the characters are in typical biblical garb. Robes and headpieces are the order of the day for most. The Stranger on the road to Emmaus should wear a white robe. Pilate should wear a royal wreath of ivy, and his robe should look a bit more regal. He also wears a surgical mask around his neck and a pair of latex gloves. Winn and Afta should wear tunics with spears and shields. Thursday and Frank wear three-piece suits, fedora hats and trench coats.

PROPS: You will need badges (either toy ones or aluminum foil crafted inside a billfold), so Joe and Frank can flash them once in a while. A white sheet (unfolded) and a pillow case (folded) will work for the grave clothes and headpiece respectively. The spears were fashioned from our shepherds' crooks from the Christmas production, although they are not too tough to make with a mop handle and some duct tape. You'll need goodies throughout the production, and if they are carried in a bag from

your own local grocer, it can add to the comic premise. Frank will need a clipboard for taking notes. For the scene with Pilate, you'll need a basin with water, a towel, a box of tissues, and a bottle of disinfectant. You will also need a couple of fig-covered cheesecakes on a stick for the final scene. We did frozen whipped topping molded around Popsicle sticks with raisins pushed in, but an alternative might be jumbo marshmallows with the raisins inserted. They were actually tasty!

SET: The set requirements are minimal. You will need a door. A portable door on a frame that may be moved around from scene to scene to vary the effect is nice but not necessary. You can decorate as simply or as elaborately as you would like, given that most of the action takes place outdoors. Just make sure whatever you choose is easy to set up and take down during the meal courses between the scenes. Following are the locations by scene:

Scene 1 — Frank and Joe's office (you can place two desks at one side of the stage), and Mary's house.

Scene 2 — The street on the way to Pilate's palace.

Scene 3 — Pilate's palace. You may decorate a chair for his throne. Cover everything with protective paper or plastic.

Scene 4 — A home where the disciples are staying.

Scene 5 — On the road to Emmaus. You will need a sign saying "To Emmaus" with an arrow pointing appropriately. The Stranger's disappearance may be achieved by a sheet above him that unrolls and falls in front of him, to give the illusion that he is actually there and then gone, or you can arrange a sheet of cardboard or plywood that he simply walks behind at the appropriate time. Our Stranger walked behind the curtain in our chancel area.

MUSIC: The optional music referred to in the script is the traditional *Dragnet* "Dum-da-dum-dum" four notes, which may be played either on an Off-stage piano or from a recording over the PA system.

Scene 1

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(Officers FRANK CANNON and JOE THURSDAY are sitting at their desks. JOE rises and addresses the audience in his particular inimitable way.)

JOE: There are a million stories in the naked city. Jerusalem is no exception. The story you are about to hear is true. None of the names have been changed, because the innocent don't need protecting. It's the guilty that we're into nailing, and as you will see, there is no shortage on the guilty. Me? The name's Thursday. Joe Thursday. I wear a badge. *(He opens his wallet to show the badge.)*

My partner, Frank Cannon, and I had been working some long hours trying to process all the paperwork on the 10-96s that we had turned over the Passover holiday. 10-96? That's disturbing the peace — disorderly conduct. We get a lot of that around the holidays. The worst offenders are those who celebrate a little too much and then get onto their donkeys. Some of the things I've seen would turn your stomach. I've got a photo album later if we have time. But on this particular morning, we had pulled an all-nighter, trying to get all the loose ends tied. The call came in around eight in the morning. It was from a lady named Mary Magdalene. I recognized her immediately because we had booked her on a 27-83 just days before. Disturbing the peace at a public execution. But we knew Mary from long before that. She had what you'd call a "checkered past." In all honesty, she had a rap sheet so long, you'd need Cliff Notes to get through it. But that's another story altogether. We decided to head over to her place to get the story. *(They walk to the door of the house.)*

FRANK: *(Knocking on the door)* Hey, Joe? I think we should look into getting a chariot. Walking this whole city is

- 1 really wearing me out.
- 2 **JOE:** Why do you think they call it a beat, Frank?
- 3 **MARY:** *(Opening door and peeking out)* Yes?
- 4 **JOE:** Ma'am, I'm Joe Thursday. This is my partner, Frank
- 5 Cannon. Are you Mary Magdalene?
- 6 **MARY:** Yes.
- 7 **FRANK:** You called our precinct about a 30-89?
- 8 **MARY:** 30-89?
- 9 **JOE:** Yes, ma'am. A stolen body?
- 10 **MARY:** Oh, yes, officers. I didn't call, but one of my friends
- 11 did. Please come in!
- 12 **FRANK:** *(Taking off hat)* If you could fill us in on what exactly
- 13 happened, ma'am?
- 14 **MARY:** Of course. I'm sure you don't remember me, but I was
- 15 at the Crucifixion last Friday, and —
- 16 **JOE:** We remember, ma'am. In the melee, my partner here
- 17 got hit with a live gefilte fish. We issued you a citation
- 18 for disturbing the peace.
- 19 **MARY:** Oh — yes ... I'm sorry about that. I was really upset.
- 20 **FRANK:** Understandable, ma'am. You were saying?
- 21 **MARY:** Yes. Anyway, my friends and I were heading down to
- 22 the grave of the man who was executed last Friday ...
- 23 **JOE:** That would be Jesus of Nazareth, correct?
- 24 **MARY:** That's right. We had just arrived at the tomb when
- 25 we saw that the stone had been rolled away!
- 26 **JOE:** Who was with you?
- 27 **MARY:** My friend Salome, and Mary, the mother of James.
- 28 **FRANK:** And why exactly were you going to his tomb,
- 29 ma'am?
- 30 **MARY:** We had some spices and oils and were going to
- 31 anoint his body.
- 32 **JOE:** And how exactly were you planning on unsealing the
- 33 tomb and bypassing the guards?
- 34 **MARY:** Well, we didn't know there were any guards — after
- 35 all, he was dead. And as far as the tomb was concerned,

1 we were talking about that on the way there. We
2 figured we could get a large branch and, with enough
3 leverage, the three of us could get it to roll.

4 **FRANK:** Ma'am? That stone must have weighed half a ton!

5 **MARY:** We really didn't think it through. But when we got
6 there, it didn't matter. The stone was already rolled
7 away from the tomb entrance!

8 **JOE:** And where were the guards?

9 **MARY:** Like I said — I didn't know there were going to be
10 any, and when we got there, there weren't.

11 **FRANK:** So did you enter the tomb?

12 **MARY:** Well, yes — I thought that maybe someone else had
13 beaten us to the tomb and started their own anointing
14 or something.

15 **JOE:** And?

16 **MARY:** Well, I was the first one to go in, and upon entering,
17 I noticed that the body was gone!

18 **FRANK:** Did you disturb the scene at all, ma'am?

19 **MARY:** *(Picks up unfolded grave clothes.)* Well, I *did* pick up the
20 grave clothes that were lying on the floor of the tomb. I
21 thought maybe someone had just come in and
22 desecrated the grave — maybe some of the local
23 teenage hoods — and that the body would be under the
24 clothes, you know?

25 **JOE:** Go on.

26 **MARY:** Well, the clothes were there, scattered all over the
27 tomb, *(Pause)* except for the headpiece. *(Holds up folded*
28 *headpiece.)* It was folded neatly and placed where he
29 would have been laid. But there was nothing else there.

30 **FRANK:** Then what did you do?

31 **MARY:** Well, I turned to go back outside to tell the others
32 that he was gone ...

33 **JOE:** The other two women didn't follow you in?

34 **MARY:** No. Not until after I had found the empty grave
35 clothes. When we saw the stone removed from the front

1 of the tomb, we were afraid that whoever had moved
2 the stone away might have still been in the tomb.

3 FRANK: So then you came back here to call the police.

4 MARY: Well, (*Hesitantly*) no. I wasn't going to call at all.

5 FRANK: Really? Why not?

6 MARY: Because his body wasn't stolen.

7 FRANK: Let's not go there just yet. So after you discovered
8 the body was missing, you came back here immediately?

9 MARY: Almost immediately.

10 JOE: Almost?

11 MARY: Yes, well, when I came out and told the others that
12 he was gone and that the tomb was empty, Mary and
13 Salome went in to see for themselves. I came out and
14 just started crying as they were inside looking around.
15 I was kind of in shock ...

16 FRANK: And then you came back here and called the police?

17 MARY: (*Pause*) Well, as I was crying, Mary and Salome came
18 out, and all of a sudden there was this blinding light!

19 JOE: Light, ma'am?

20 MARY: Yes! Like a sheet of lightning, but there was no
21 sound! We fell to our knees, and there, on the right side
22 of the tomb, was someone ... or ... something. He told us
23 not to be afraid.

24 FRANK: Did it work?

25 JOE: (*Ignoring FRANK's stupid comment*) Ma'am, could you
26 describe the man?

27 MARY: Well, no. Other than the light that I described.

28 JOE: You didn't get a look at his face?

29 MARY: I'm not sure he even had one.

30 FRANK: Ma'am?

31 MARY: Like I said, this brilliant light was still shining, and
32 it seemed like it was coming from him! We couldn't
33 really look directly at him ...

34 JOE: Uh-huh. Did this ... (*JOE makes quotation marks in the air*
35 *with his fingers*) "light" say anything else?

1 MARY: Yes! He said, “I know you are looking for Jesus the
2 Nazarene who was nailed to the cross. He’s been raised
3 up! You can see for yourself — he’s no longer here! Go
4 tell the disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of
5 you into Galilee. You will see him there, exactly as he
6 said!” (Author’s paraphrase of Mark 16:6-7).

7 JOE: OK, let me get this straight. You come here barely after
8 dawn loaded with spices and oils, you don’t know how
9 you’re going to get the tomb open, but when you get
10 here, the stone has been conveniently rolled away. You
11 go into the tomb, and the body and the guards that were
12 assigned to watch it are all gone. Then a light appears
13 and tells you that this Jesus character has somehow
14 raised himself from the dead, and instead of going to
15 Disneyland, he’s headed to Galilee. Is that about right?

16 MARY: Almost.

17 JOE: OK, sister, what’d I miss?

18 MARY: Well, right after the bright light faded, Mary and
19 Salome went running back toward where our friends
20 were gathered to mourn his death — you know, to tell
21 them about Jesus being gone ...

22 FRANK: You didn’t go with them, ma’am?

23 MARY: Well, I started to but remembered that I had left the
24 spices by the tomb, so I turned to go back after them.
25 That’s when I saw him.

26 FRANK: Him?

27 MARY: Jesus. He was just standing there. He called me by
28 name.

29 JOE: Hold on a minute, ma’am. You’re saying that the man
30 we saw die on Friday was talking with you this morning?

31 MARY: I know it sounds strange ...

32 JOE: No, ma’am. Hearing that Papadokas had baklava on
33 sale for thirty percent off would be strange. I’d classify
34 this as downright unbelievable.

35 MARY: I’m telling you the truth, officer. I wouldn’t believe it

1 either, if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes.
2 **JOE:** Uh-huh. Seems a little convenient that your girlfriends
3 weren't around to corroborate your story.
4 **MARY:** I know. They had already come back here and called
5 you. *(Pause)* They didn't believe it either.
6 **FRANK:** Oh?
7 **MARY:** They tell me they are excited and that they knew he
8 would rise from the dead, but I can tell they don't really
9 know that it happened. And the men are even worse.
10 **FRANK:** So then, after you had the conversation with the
11 deceased, you came back here and called us.
12 **MARY:** That's right.
13 **JOE:** You realize, of course, that you're at the top of the
14 suspect list for the body snatching.
15 **MARY:** What? Why would I want to steal his body?
16 **JOE:** Simple, really. His body disappears, and you and the
17 rest of the Jesus zealots still have a Messiah.
18 **MARY:** That's ridiculous! We would never do that!
19 **FRANK:** Wouldn't you?
20 **MARY:** Of course not! We couldn't!
21 **FRANK:** Couldn't you?
22 **MARY:** I guess we shouldn't have even called you!
23 **FRANK:** Shouldn't you?
24 **MARY:** Now stop it! I didn't have anything to do with Jesus
25 disappearing
26 **FRANK:** Didn't you?
27 **JOE:** Ma'am, we'll be in contact with you. Just don't plan on
28 leaving town in the next few days.
29 **MARY:** Of course not. We have nothing to hide!
30 **FRANK:** Haven't you?
31 **JOE:** That's enough, Frank. *(To MARY)* We'll need those
32 grave clothes as evidence. *(MARY hands them over.)* We'll
33 be in touch, ma'am. *(MARY exits behind door.)*
34 **FRANK:** Well, Joe? What do you think? Seems pretty
35 obvious who's behind this disappearance.

1 place we could think of. We tried the IHOP with no
 2 success. We picked up a bag full of goodies for the road.
 3 Nothing special — a couple of muffins, assorted
 4 pastries, a cruller. We decided that if we couldn't find
 5 the guards on duty at the time of the theft that we
 6 would see if we could get Pilate's side of the story. As
 7 luck would have it, we ran into the guards we were
 8 searching for along the way. They seemed to be quite
 9 agitated, like they had something to hide ... (*WINN and*
 10 *AFTA enter. The following exchange should be done fairly*
 11 *quickly, with each of them shaking hands with the person they*
 12 *are greeting. It should end with FRANK and JOE shaking*
 13 *hands and JOE getting irritated with FRANK.*)

14 **FRANK:** (*Shakes WINN's hand.*) Winn.

15 **WINN:** Cannon.

16 **AFTA:** (*Shakes JOE's hand.*) Thursday.

17 **JOE:** Winn.

18 **FRANK:** (*Shakes AFTA's hand.*) Afta.

19 **AFTA:** Cannon.

20 **FRANK:** (*Shakes JOE's hand.*) Joe.

21 **JOE:** Frank. OK, Frank. Cut it out.

22 **FRANK:** Sorry. You boys want to tell us what happened this
 23 morning?

24 **WINN:** Why? What have you heard?

25 **JOE:** We got the call from Mary Magdalene. Said she and her
 26 sewing circle came upon the tomb of the blasphemer we
 27 buried a couple of days ago, and the body was gone. You
 28 two were on duty, right?

29 **AFTA:** Nope.

30 **WINN:** (*Nudging him with his elbow, then to AFTA, under his*
 31 *breath*) Charlie! (*To the detectives*) Yeah, we was on duty
 32 Thursday.

33 **FRANK:** We're really only concerned about who was on duty
 34 this morning at the time of the theft.

35 **AFTA:** That would be us.

- 1 JOE: You've been on duty for three days?
2 WINN: No sir, we came on duty last night.
3 FRANK: And you were there, Afta?
4 AFTA: No sir, I came on at the same time.
5 JOE: As who?
6 AFTA: Winn.
7 FRANK: Last night.
8 WINN: Right.
9 JOE: We need to know who was on duty at the tomb overnight.
10 AFTA: Winn.
11 JOE: Last night.
12 WINN: I was with him, Afta.
13 FRANK: But who was there before?
14 AFTA: Before what?
15 JOE: Before you were there with him.
16 WINN: And when was this?
17 FRANK: Overnight.
18 AFTA: We already told you we were on duty overnight,
19 Thursday.
20 JOE: I know, but what we need to know is who was on duty
21 *last night*.
22 AFTA: I was.
23 JOE: With anyone?
24 AFTA: Winn.
25 JOE: Last night.
26 AFTA: Yep.
27 JOE: Who?
28 AFTA: Winn.
29 JOE: Last night.
30 AFTA: Right.
31 JOE: Who?
32 AFTA: Winn.
33 JOE: *Last night!*
34 AFTA: *Yes!*
35 JOE: *So who?*

- 1 **AFTA: Winn!**
- 2 **JOE: Last ... you know what? Frank — you ask the**
3 **questions.**
- 4 **FRANK: Right, Joe. Let's try you, Winn. You work last**
5 **night?**
- 6 **WINN: Yes sir, I did.**
- 7 **FRANK: Good. Who was on with you?**
- 8 **WINN: Afta.**
- 9 **FRANK: After you came to work.**
- 10 **WINN: Right.**
- 11 **FRANK: Who?**
- 12 **WINN: Afta.**
- 13 **FRANK: After you came to work.**
- 14 **WINN: Yes, sir.**
- 15 **FRANK: Who worked with you?**
- 16 **WINN: Afta.**
- 17 **FRANK: After you came to ... You know what? Let's do this.**
18 *(Walking over to AFTA) You work last night?*
- 19 **AFTA: Yes, sir.**
- 20 **FRANK: Good. (Walking over to WINN) You work last night?**
- 21 **WINN: Yes, sir.**
- 22 **FRANK: Good. They're all yours, Joe.**
- 23 **JOE: Thanks, Frank. So Afta — what's the story?**
- 24 **AFTA: I, uh ... well ... we were guarding the tomb, and ...**
25 **well, you better ask Winn. (He turns and walks a few feet**
26 *away, his back turned.)*
- 27 **JOE: Huh. If I didn't know better, I'd say he's more uptight**
28 **than a minister at a wine tasting. What's the story, Winn?**
- 29 **WINN: Well, Joe, like he said, we was guarding the tomb,**
30 **when all of a sudden, a bunch of the dead guy's groupies**
31 **showed up.**
- 32 **JOE: You don't say.**
- 33 **WINN: Sure I do. They overpowered us and took the body.**
34 **You know — to make it look like maybe he just**
35 **disappeared.**

- 1 **JOE:** Is that so?
- 2 **WINN:** Yeah, that's right.
- 3 **JOE:** How many of them were there?
- 4 **WINN:** Oh man, let's see. I'm guessing there were like eight
5 of 'em.
- 6 **JOE:** Uh-huh. And what kind of weapons did they use?
- 7 **WINN:** Uh, weapons?
- 8 **JOE:** Yeah, weapons. You and Afta had your standard issue
9 Mark Antony model spears, right?
- 10 **WINN:** Uh, yeah.
- 11 **JOE:** So, what did they use to overpower you with?
- 12 **WINN:** Honestly, Joe, I think they used their bare hands.
- 13 **JOE:** And how many of them did you take down?
- 14 **WINN:** Excuse me?
- 15 **JOE:** With your spears! How many of them were you able to
16 fight off before they overpowered you?
- 17 **WINN:** Oh! Oh, two or three of them — but then they were all
18 over us!
- 19 **JOE:** Is that right, Afta?
- 20 **AFTA:** Whatever he says — that's what happened.
- 21 **JOE:** You guys are pretty lucky then, huh?
- 22 **WINN:** How so, Joe?
- 23 **JOE:** Well, the two of you look pretty good. With four guys
24 on each of you, I'd think you would be pretty beat up —
25 especially since these guys took the two of you. But look
26 at you. You look like you're ready for the temple.
- 27 **WINN:** Well, they uh — they weren't that big. And you know
28 they don't believe in violence for the most part. I think
29 they're pacifiers.
- 30 **FRANK:** Which explains why they were able to jump two
31 well-trained, armed guards, steal the body, and not
32 leave a scratch on either one of you.
- 33 **WINN:** Well ... I don't know ...
- 34 **JOE:** (*Grabbing WINN's spear*) What gives, Winn? There's not a
35 spot of blood on this spear. Not a drop at the crime

1 scene, either.
2 WINN: Maybe I missed.
3 AFTA: Oh come on, Raymond. You know Joe! He ain't gonna
4 buy this story!
5 WINN: Ixnay on the orystay, Charlie!
6 JOE: That's not going to help, Winn. You forget I minored in
7 Pig Latin at the academy. (*Looking skyward*) Now let's
8 see, what was that rule?
9 FRANK: Why don't you tell us what really happened,
10 Charlie?
11 AFTA: I can't. I don't know what happened ...
12 FRANK: You guys fall asleep?
13 AFTA: Of course not! You know us better than that, Frank!
14 JOE: So how come you can't tell us what happened?
15 AFTA: Ask Pilate.
16 WINN: Shut up, Charlie! You're going to get us killed!
17 JOE: Don't worry. We just want the facts. We'll keep your
18 secret.
19 AFTA: (*After a pause*) Well, we went to tell Pilate what
20 happened, and he told us to tell everyone that the
21 disciples came and took the body to make it look like he
22 came back to life ...
23 WINN: Oh, great! We're dead men!
24 FRANK: What really happened?
25 AFTA: Well, we were guarding the tomb, just like we were
26 supposed to be — Winn had just told this really funny
27 joke ...
28 WINN: Oh, yeah! See, this Pharisee walks into a bar with a
29 halibut under his arm ...
30 JOE: That's great, Raymond. Then what happened?
31 WINN: Well, the bartender says, "We don't —
32 JOE: No, Raymond. I mean, at the tomb.
33 AFTA: Well, there was an earthquake!
34 FRANK: When?
35 AFTA: Right before sunrise.

1 **JOE:** I didn't feel anything.
2 **WINN:** That's what Pilate said! But it happened! It lasted
3 forever, it seemed!
4 **FRANK:** Then what?
5 **AFTA:** Well, that's when it got really weird.
6 **JOE:** Like ... ?
7 **AFTA:** Well, it got really bright, like nothing I've ever seen!
8 **FRANK:** And then?
9 **WINN:** Then we noticed the tomb was open and the stone
10 had rolled away. We ran as fast as we could to tell
11 Pilate.
12 **JOE:** And that's it?
13 **AFTA:** What? Isn't that enough?
14 **JOE:** I suppose it will have to be. Come on, Frank. We need
15 to talk to Pilate.
16 **WINN:** What about us?
17 **FRANK:** Don't worry. We'll keep you guys out of it.
18 **AFTA:** Thanks. Come on, Raymond. Let's get some
19 breakfast.
20 **WINN:** OK. (*Starts to exit.*) Hey, Joe?
21 **JOE:** Yeah?
22 **WINN:** You said Pig Latin was your minor? What was your
23 major?
24 **JOE:** Forensic investigation of otherwise unexplainable
25 post-mortem disappearances. (*Optional music*)
26 **WINN:** Wow. Ironic.
27 **JOE:** Ain't it? Have a good breakfast. (*WINN and AFTA exit.*)
28 **FRANK:** So, Joe. What do you think?
29 **JOE:** You feel any earthquake this morning, Frank?
30 **FRANK:** Nope. You?
31 **JOE:** Not a rumble. Something tells me this isn't going to be
32 a simple body snatching. Let's go talk to Pilate.
33 **FRANK:** Right. You want to get some breakfast first, Joe?
34 **JOE:** We got that bag of snacks if we get hungry, Frank.
35 **FRANK:** Yeah, sure, but ... you think that will be enough

1 before lunch, Joe?

2 **JOE:** Yes I do, Frank. Grab the bag of goodies and let's go.

3 **FRANK:** How 'bout we just grab a breakfast burrito or
4 somethi —

5 **JOE:** Just the snacks, Frank. Just the snacks. (*FRANK and*
6 *JOE exit to optional music. The meal continues with the*
7 *clearing of the salad plates and the serving of the main course.*
8 *After some time, when all have their entrees, begin Scene 3.)*

9

10

Scene 3

11

12 (*PILATE is behind a door or Off-stage. JOE and FRANK*
13 *enter.*)

14 **JOE:** (*During JOE's lines, FRANK is pantomiming knocking on the*
15 *door of Pilate's palace. WINN enters and shows them in as JOE*
16 *finishes his lines.*) We headed over to the main office to
17 talk with the big guy. Ever since last week, when they
18 had to execute this Jesus character, he'd been acting
19 kind of funny. Given what we had heard from Winn and
20 Afta, we knew we'd have to pussyfoot around the issue
21 with Pilate. We found him the way we had the last few
22 times we had seen him. In the bathroom. (*Several times*
23 *during the conversation, PILATE should remove his gloves,*
24 *wash his hands, and reglove. FRANK and JOE should touch*
25 *things in the room periodically, which sends PILATE to quickly*
26 *wipe them down to disinfect them. JOE knocks on the door and*
27 *looks at FRANK.*) Hey, Frank — you got jelly donut on
28 your nose.

29 **PILATE:** Who is it?

30 **JOE:** Hey, chief! It's Thursday and Cannon.

31 **PILATE:** (*Opening the door to the bathroom*) Oh, hello,
32 gentlemen. I've been expecting you. (*He should grab a*
33 *towel and begin drying his hands, then immediately put on*
34 *latex gloves.*)

35 **FRANK:** (*Glancing around*) I can see that.

- 1 **PILATE:** *(Looking around as well)* What? Oh, nothing personal.
2 You just can't be too clean, I say. What's on your minds,
3 gentlemen?
- 4 **JOE:** Well, we're here about the 30-89.
- 5 **PILATE:** Oh, of course — the grave robbing. I think we have
6 that one pretty much solved.
- 7 **FRANK:** We ran into Afta and Winn on the way in. *(As he is*
8 *talking, he drops a piece of the donut he is eating on the floor,*
9 *which sends PILATE into a cleaning frenzy. He should pull a*
10 *tissue, pick up the donut piece, and wrap it carefully.)*
- 11 **PILATE:** Winn?
- 12 **JOE:** Just a few minutes ago.
- 13 **PILATE:** What was a few minutes ago?
- 14 **JOE:** Winn.
- 15 **PILATE:** You just said, "Just a few minutes ago."
- 16 **JOE:** Right.
- 17 **PILATE:** So what was just a few minutes ago?
- 18 **JOE:** Winn.
- 19 **PILATE:** Just now!
- 20 **FRANK:** Never mind, you two. What do you mean, the grave
21 robbing is just about solved?
- 22 **PILATE:** Isn't it obvious? The followers of this Jesus came
23 and stole his body.
- 24 **JOE:** Yes, on the surface it would appear that makes sense.
25 But several things don't add up.
- 26 **PILATE:** Like?
- 27 **FRANK:** Like the stone. They couldn't move it.
- 28 **PILATE:** There was a whole bunch of them — maybe two
29 dozen. They could have moved the stone.
- 30 **JOE:** Two dozen! Winn and Afta said there were maybe eight?
- 31 **PILATE:** Oh, did they? Hmmmm. Well, eight of them could
32 have moved it.
- 33 **JOE:** Perhaps. How do you explain the earthquake?
- 34 **PILATE:** What earthquake? I never felt an earthquake —
35 did you?

- 1 **FRANK:** No, but we understand there may have been one.
- 2 **PILATE:** Nope. The disciples stole the body. To make it look
3 like Jesus rose from the dead. That's our story, and if you
4 two know what's good for you, you'll stick to it as well!
- 5 **JOE:** Let me ask you something, chief. Do you really believe
6 that?
- 7 **PILATE:** (*Bumbling around guiltily*) Well ... of course! Of
8 course I do! What other choice do I have?
- 9 **JOE:** What do you mean, chief?
- 10 **PILATE:** Look. If the disciples aren't responsible for the
11 body disappearing, how else could it have disappeared?
12 The only other possibility is ... not possible.
- 13 **FRANK:** You mean that this Jesus character might actually
14 have risen from the dead?
- 15 **PILATE:** *Shhhh!* Don't start spreading rumors like that!
- 16 **JOE:** You think that's actually possible?
- 17 **PILATE:** (*Laughing nervously*) Well, of course not! I mean, that
18 would mean ...
- 19 **FRANK:** That he was really the Messiah that he claimed to
20 be.
- 21 **PILATE:** Exactly! And we know that can't be true, right?
22 Because if that were true, well, that would mean ...
- 23 **JOE:** That you allowed the son of God to be put to death?
- 24 **PILATE:** Right! And I would never have allowed that to
25 happen! (*Still nervously laughing*) So why don't the two of
26 you run along and arrest this man's disciples so we
27 have a little bit of closure to this whole nasty incident,
28 OK?
- 29 **FRANK:** We'll continue our investigation, Pilate. We'll let
30 you know what we find out. But we can't very well make
31 any arrests without some sort of evidence that points to
32 the disciples ...
- 33 **PILATE:** (*Getting more angry and desperate and pushing them*
34 *toward the door*) Well then, find some! I'm not going to
35 live the rest of my life with the guilt of having allowed

1 answers, and I needed them soon.
2 **JOE:** (*Knocking on the door*) You got some baklava on your
3 cheek there, Frank.
4 **THOMAS:** (*Cracking the door*) Yes?
5 **JOE:** Jerusalem P.D., sir. Are Salome and Mary the mother
6 of James in?
7 **THOMAS:** I doubt it.
8 **FRANK:** Either they are or they ain't, Nancy. Which is it?
9 **THOMAS:** They're not.
10 **JOE:** And who might you be, sir?
11 **THOMAS:** I'm Thomas.
12 **FRANK:** You were one of the disciples, right?
13 **THOMAS:** I doubt it.
14 **JOE:** Sure you were.
15 **THOMAS:** Prove it.
16 **FRANK:** Later. Perhaps right now you could help us out
17 with a few things ...
18 **THOMAS:** I doubt it.
19 **JOE:** Have a little faith, sir. May we come in?
20 **THOMAS:** You got some I.D.?
21 **JOE:** Sure.
22 **THOMAS:** (*Before FRANK can even reach for his I.D.*) Show me.
23 **FRANK:** (*Flashing his badge*) You ever been to Missouri?
24 **THOMAS:** Why?
25 **FRANK:** No reason. May we come in now?
26 **THOMAS:** I ... suppose so. (*They enter, and inside is PETER.*
27 *They approach him and nod.*)
28 **JOE:** I recognize you as being there at the Crucifixion as
29 well. It's Peter, right?
30 **PETER:** Yes. I was there.
31 **JOE:** Kind of a different tune than the other night then, eh?
32 **PETER:** What do you mean?
33 **JOE:** I mean, the other night, I asked you if you knew Jesus,
34 and you told me straight up that you didn't.
35 **PETER:** (*Looking ashamed*) I was really confused. Everything

1 was happening so fast.
2 FRANK: Oh?
3 PETER: Yeah. A lot has happened since then.
4 JOE: I'll say. Like you and your buddies deciding to keep
5 your friend's legacy intact by stealing his body?
6 PETER: We would never do that!
7 FRANK: Wouldn't you?
8 JOE: Let's not start that again, Frank.
9 FRANK: Sorry.
10 JOE: (*To PETER*) Why should I believe you? You've lied to us
11 before.
12 PETER: I told you, I was confused!
13 FRANK: So maybe you're confused now.
14 PETER: We had nothing to do with it.
15 JOE: I don't buy it.
16 FRANK: Neither do I.
17 THOMAS: Neither do I.
18 PETER: Thomas! I was with *you* all morning.
19 THOMAS: Oh, yeah. Sorry. Habit.
20 FRANK: So where were you?
21 THOMAS: We stayed here all night, talking about
22 everything that Jesus had told us and how now none of
23 it could be true.
24 JOE: Yeah? How come?
25 PETER: Because if he was God, how could he ...
26 JOE: Excuse me? You thought this Jesus character was
27 really God?
28 PETER: Yes. Of course.
29 FRANK: And now?
30 PETER: Now I *know* he was.
31 JOE: And how about you?
32 THOMAS: Not exactly.
33 JOE: I'm stunned. OK, Mr. Skeptic. Why do you not believe?
34 You think someone stole the body?
35 THOMAS: Don't you?



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