

NOT SO DIFFERENT

by RACHEL C. HOYER

GENRE: Comedy, Monologue

SYNOPSIS: In a moment when the world seems its darkest, Michelle learns a lesson about the peace only God can give.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: In a monologue, the actress needs to make an immediate connection to the audience or they'll tune out. Avoid the temptation to have Michelle stare off into the distance. This monologue is more like a soliloquy, so Michelle is talking directly to the audience, trying to make sense of the world around her.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1F

TOPIC: Christian Living, Fear, Peace, Trust

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 1:33; John 14:27

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

MICHELLE - 40s or 50s

PROPS: None needed

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: General

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NOT SO DIFFERENT *by Rachel C. Hoyer*

Lights up on Michelle.

MICHELLE: So last Saturday, I was leaving the house to go run some errands. No big deal, right? I had to drop off the dry cleaning, pick up some craft stuff Jeremy's teacher needed for his class, and stop by the grocery store. I've run errands like this a million times before and I never thought twice about leaving the house. But for some reason, on Saturday, I couldn't make myself go.

Now don't get me wrong. There are some days when I need to run errands that I just don't want to go because it's rainy or I'm tired or whatever. But that wasn't it. It took me a while to put my finger on it, but then it hit me that I was afraid to leave.

Have you paid attention to the news lately? I mean, I live in a really nice community—good schools, low crime, nice neighborhoods. But last week, a teenager and his grandpa were shot and killed in a community center parking lot about 3 miles from my house. On a Sunday afternoon. And a few days ago, a dad and his son were shot in their car at a gas station. And a lady my neighbor knows had her cell phone and credit card stolen by two guys while she was filling her car with gas—in broad daylight. When she called the police, they took her statement, but told her she was number 16 in a string of recent robberies with the same MO.

I know there's bad stuff happening all over, and I should be grateful that I don't live in a war zone or something, but I'm talking about stuff that's happening right here. Where I live. That stuff is supposed to happen in other places. Not here. And it got me wondering what those people were thinking as they headed out of their houses to run routine errands, some of them never to return. They had no idea they wouldn't be coming home.

And suddenly, I was scared to go run my errands. Scared that I might not return. Scared that I might never see my kids or husband again. Scared that something might happen to me.

So I went and knocked on my son's door to ask if he needed anything else from the store. He said no, and I said, "I love you, Jeremy." And he said, "Yeah. Love you, too, Mom." But I really needed him to know right then how much I loved him, so I gave him a big hug. It kind of freaked him out because I didn't want to let him go. And he laughed and said, "Mom, relax. You're just going to the store. I'll be right here when you get home."

I know he was joking and just trying to get rid of his crazy mother, but that last thing he said really hit me: "I'll be right here when you get home." And you know what? I suddenly had this picture of God as a parent, hugging his kids like I was hugging Jeremy. But it was God saying, "Relax. I put you in the world for the time I have ordained, and I'll be right here when you get home."

And for that moment, my fears evaporated. I mean, I love my life. I love my family. But in