

Drama Ministry®

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RED FLAG

by MOLLY WU

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: While flipping through her vacation pictures, a young mother wrestles with anxiety about her family's safety.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Most of us deal with fears of some sort, so Judy should be played as "real" and as personable as possible to maximize the effect.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1

TOPIC: Fear

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Peter 5:7, Romans 8:28

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS: JUDY

PROPS: A stack of photographs and an envelope from a photo development store (optional)

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: One wireless microphone

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Unspecific

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RED FLAG *by Molly Wu*

Lights up as JUDY enters, a stack of photographs in her hand.

JUDY: I just got our pictures back from last summer. We've got one of those digital cameras that lets you store the pictures—it's as easy as taking the little chip to the mall and getting them printed off, but I always put it off for weeks and weeks. So we get the pictures back and all of us look like strangers in them.

Beat, as she flips through the pictures, a bit distractedly:

Most of these are from our summer vacation. We went to Destin, Florida. First time we've been there since we had kids. Now that Madison and Tyler are old enough to actually play in the water, build sand castles, that kind of thing.

She raises another picture.

Here's us on the beach. Tyler got knocked over by a wave and came up sputtering and crying. Took him an hour before he got back in, and then he'd pretty much just sit in the wet sand and let the water wash up around his legs. Madison was fearless. Jim would carry her on his shoulders and she kept screaming for him to go deeper. Me? I sat on the beach pretending to read a paperback. But I wasn't able to pay attention to it.

Pauses.

They had a flagpole on the beach, and a sign next to it that listed all of these color-coded warning flags.

Green meant everything was okay. Yellow meant there were strong currents, and to swim with caution. Purple meant there was dangerous marine life. One red flag meant there was dangerous weather or tide conditions, and swimming wasn't advised. Two red flags meant no one was allowed in the water.

They had those flag poles set up all along the beach, maybe every fifty yards or so. I couldn't take my eyes off them for some reason. I even took a picture of one of them.

She holds up a picture.

See? One red flag. There was one red flag flying the entire time we were there. "Dangerous weather or tide conditions, and swimming isn't advised." I told Jim the kids should stay out of the water, and he just laughed at me. "It's vacation, hon. We'll be careful" he said, and they were. But I couldn't relax. It's stupid, I know, but I kept finding my eyes going back to that flagpole, waiting for them to raise another red flag—everybody out of the water.