

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

WHAT'S NEXT

by SCOTT COFFMAN

GENRE: Dramatic

SYNOPSIS: A young father is doing everything in his power to persevere through job turmoil, but he is anxious about what's next.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Dan should be center stage in a spotlight when speaking directly to the audience. Nick, Julie, and Stevie are behind Dan, out of the spot, until their dialogue, when they will join Dan in the spot, then go back to where they were. Andrea should be seated at desk stage left throughout. The second spot goes up on the desk for the office flashback. In this scene, Dan sits in a chair across from Andrea's desk.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2M, 2F, 1 child (either gender)

TOPIC: Trust, Surrender, Listening to God, Anxiety

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Psalm 20:1-5, 94:19; John 16:24, James 1:2-5, 4:10; Hebrews 10:32-35

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Service or series on trials, perseverance, endurance or God's definition of success vs. the world's

CHARACTERS:

DAN - A father in his 30s

NICK - Dan's friend, 30s

JULIE - Dan's wife, late 20s to early 40s

STEVIE - Dan and Julie's child, boy or girl, age 5 - 7

ANDREA - Dan's boss, 40+

PROPS: Child's artwork (picture of family), two chairs, one desk, pile of documents/file folders

COSTUMES: business dress for Andrea, otherwise no specific costumes needed

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired

LIGHTING: 2 spots (1 for center stage, 1 for chair/desk stage left)

SETTING: Office in flashback

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Center spot up on Dan, who addresses the audience directly.

DAN: Well, today begins week 12 of my most recent “Between Jobs” status. I’m not panicking . . . yet . . . but I don’t mind telling you I’m more than a little nervous. I’m not sure the family can absorb another six-month stint of unemployment like a year and a half ago. There really wasn’t any good option that time, what with the things going on in the office then . . .

FLASHBACK #1—Nick joins Dan in center spot.

NICK: Hey, Dan! I saw another headline about your former employer.

DAN: Yep, I’m betting you’ll see a lot more of those before it’s all said and done.

NICK: Really?

DAN: Oh yeah. The stuff you’ve been reading in the papers was just the tip of the iceberg. Those consultants they hired? Making up numbers out of thin air.

NICK: No kidding?

DAN: If I’m lyin’, I’m dyin’! I was right in the middle of it. One of them took a stack of files out of my desk one day. I figured it was for some kind of audit or whatever. When I got them back, though, they had all these sticky notes on them saying, “High dollar savings—top priority” or “zero savings,” stuff like that. The thing is, these notes didn’t seem to relate in any way to what we were doing with the cases. So my boss . . . you remember Chris, right?

NICK: Oh sure, the one who married Pat’s cousin from Springfield?

DAN: Yeah, that’s the one. So anyway, Chris gets in this screaming match in the department chair’s office with that one consultant.

NICK: Shut! Up!

DAN: For real, man. I couldn’t hear most of it from where I was, but the gist of it was that Chris was refusing to sign off on the bogus savings report. Basically, he had a choice of getting fired for not cooperating with the consultants or signing his name to something that would likely come out in the press later and get him into even more trouble.

NICK: People go to jail for that stuff, man.

DAN: I know.

NICK: So then, what—you just read the writing on the wall and quit?