

PLAY DAY

by
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Carissa, an attractive young woman, was totally discouraged from yet another failed off-the-record relationship. Sick of rejection, she trudged dolefully towards the wharves to end it all.

As the humiliated young lady turned the corner at a busy intersection, she came within sight of the wharves. A conspicuous posture inviting applications for the cast of a major drama ignited a spark of hope in her soul. She had received public praise from her prominent role in her high school play, and had excelled in her college drama course. "Why not?" she asked herself as she squared her shoulders. "It plainly states. 'No experience necessary.'"

Carissa's interview was brief and to the point. "Did she believe that the Director could transform her into an accomplished actress?"

"I'm sure he can," she replied.

After signing the contract, Carissa was sent home with a transcript of the play. The scripts for her role, which included multiple appearances, were highlighted in transparent yellow. She memorized her lines easily, and presented herself onstage with the other actors on the following Monday morning, as directed.

Work began immediately at 8:00 A.M. Carissa watched in awe as the first participant performed flawlessly. Subsequent actors and actresses performed with varying degrees of skill; some quite well, and others more amateurishly. The Director continually critiqued each participant's work, offering both praise and specific instructions for improvement. Every now and then he would stop the production, rebuke an actor, and direct that his portion be repeated in accord with his instructions.

Carissa's first appearance went poorly. She became flustered, and seemed emotionally disconnected. The Director stopped the works, kindly pointed out her short comings, and had her repeat her part. She messed up badly enough to have to repeat it a second time before the production was allowed to move on.

The young actress received more and more praise and less and less criticism as her skill and confidence increased. By the end of the summer she had developed into an accomplished actress, although she still lost concentration and held up the production on rare occasions. On one of these occasions she received a stern rebuke from the Director for ignoring his instructions.

Finally, one morning while the group was waiting on stage for the day's work to begin, the curtains opened, revealing a huge live audience. Turning to the Director, the awed young lady whispered, "When does the play start?"

"Start? He asked. "Child, the play has been ongoing since shortly after I was crucified. Your role started the day I saved you from death at the wharf."

"You mean these angels saw all my goofs?" the horrified young lady asked.

"Yes," the Lord replied. "Your mistakes were perturbing, but your improvement has brought glory to My name."

"Well done, dear child, and welcome home."

"To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,"

Ephesians 3:10-11

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