

FISH-EYES

By Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman
The Arrest and The Denial

Scene: THE ARREST

Scripture: John 18 Time: 3 minutes

PETER: *(PETER, alone, sees Jesus in trouble and shouts for ANDREW.)*
 Andy! Andrew!

ANDREW: *(Running in)* What is it, what's going on? *(Pulls PETER back)* Let's not
 do anything stupid. Let's watch from here.

PETER: What are all these soldiers doing here? Jesus is there. C'mon, Andy we
 gotta get him!

ANDREW: No we don't.

PETER: What do you mean "no we don't"? Come on! *(ANDREW grabs PETER*
 and holds on.) What are you doing? Let go of me!

ANDREW: Peter, we've got to stay right here.

PETER: Why?

ANDREW: Because he knows.

PETER: Knows what?

ANDREW: It's time.

PETER: Time for what? *(PETER is starting to realize the truth in this.)*

ANDREW: Pete, it's his time.

PETER: *(Watching)* They're taking him. They're taking him. He didn't do
 anything. He just let them take him. You know he could have done
 something here. This is a man who casts out demons, he heals lepers,
 he could have—

ANDREW: He could have. He didn't.

PETER: Well, then we could have done something.

ANDREW: Like what?

PETER: We could have fought.

ANDREW: We would have all been killed.

PETER: Maybe that would have been better.

ANDREW: Better than what?

PETER: Better than watching him led away like a sheep to slaughter.

ANDREW: He knew.

PETER: You keep saying that. He knew. You tell me this. What kind of idiot knows he's gonna be arrested and probably killed and just lets it happen?

ANDREW: Oh you just haven't been listening, have you?

(PETER rushes at ANDREW. There is a physical encounter: a raised fist or a shove, perhaps. Not too much: a little can symbolize a lot. Be sure the actors know what to expect and how to perform the moves without hurting each other. If in doubt consult a fight director.)

PETER: He could have done something. *(Runs out)*

ANDREW: *(Calls after him)* Peter!

Scene: THE DENIAL

Scripture: John 18 Time: 3-4 minutes

(PETER is warming himself by a fire. ANDREW enters, spots him.)

ANDREW: Hey.

PETER: Hey.

ANDREW: What are you doing here?

Purchasing this script grants performance

PETER: I don't know.

ANDREW: Are you all right?

PETER: I don't know.

ANDREW: Well, do you think we should be here? Do you think this is safe?

PETER: Where else do you wanna be right now?

ANDREW: Where is he?

PETER: Second floor.

ANDREW: What do you think they're doing to him.

PETER: How should I know? *(ANDREW draws. PETER is accosted by someone.)*
What? Me? No. I was never with him.

ANDREW: So what are we gonna do now?

PETER: I don't know.

Purchasing this script grants performance

ANDREW: Have you seen anyone else? Any of the others? (*PETER shakes his head.*) See, I haven't either. That's kinda weird, don't you think? Everyone scattered. Just like he said.

PETER: Just like he said.

ANDREW: Is he the only one they arrested?

PETER: So far. I mean, it's just a matter of time, isn't it?

ANDREW: What does that mean?

PETER: It means we've been lucky so far.

ANDREW: I don't think luck has been a big factor in any of this.

PETER: Just draw.

ANDREW: (*To stranger approaching*) How's it goin'?

(*PETER has turned away, so as to not be seen. It doesn't work.*)

PETER: (*Turns*) Listen pal, somebody just asked me that. Do I know him? You mean the guy who claims to be the son of God? The guy who says he's the Messiah? No, I don't know him. I'm just here for the show, like everyone else. Can't wait to see what's gonna happen.

ANDREW: (*Whistles*) Whew. Tough crowd. This reminds me of when I was in Caesarea, addressing the Stalactites. "Good evening everyone, thanks for hanging around. If you're just here for the show, you're in luck! What a show it is! It's the Fisherman Follies with legions of uninvited Roman soldiers and of course the fabulous Galilean Dancing Girls-

Purchasing this script grants performance

PETER: Shut up. Just shut up. I'm just a fisherman. What am I doing here? "Fishers of men". What a joke. Oh and who's gonna be the greatest? That really looks good now, doesn't it? The greatest. The greatest of what?

ANDREW: Maybe this isn't the end.

PETER: You don't think we're at the end?

ANDREW: It LOOKS like the end, but-

PETER: Arrest, humiliation and death aren't the end?

ANDREW: He has this way of turning things around-

PETER: What, do you think they're gonna let him go?

ANDREW: I don't know-

PETER: You think they're gonna free him?

ANDREW: I-things look like they're gonna go one way and then-.

PETER: You think they're gonna say: "Oh sorry, we made a mistake. Have a nice day!" He's dying up there. He's dying and you just stand down here, drawing, "Oh it's time, it's time." *(Turns)* Hey! I said I don't know this man! I wouldn't be caught dead with him. Why don't you just leave me the hell alone!!

(Suddenly PETER and ANDREW turn to hear a sound. PETER realizes what he's done and sinks to his knees, sobbing.) I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

END

Please make the following notation in printed bulletins or other matter related to your performance of the piece: © 1994, 2001, Ted Swartz & Lee Eshleman ("Ted & Lee"). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Purchasing this script grants performance