

GOD IS . . . OUR FRIEND

by Debbie Ciampoli
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CHARACTERS - PEOPLE:

SUSIE
AMY
BELINDA
ROXANNE

CHARACTERS - PUPPETS:

ALLEN
JAMES

PROPS:

PARK SCENE BACKDROP
KPC GIRL'S BEDROOM
BEDROOM FURNITURE
PUPPET STAGE
SEAT SAVED IN FRONT ROW
"NORDY'S" BAG
TWO SETS "LOVE BEADS"
TEEN MAGAZINE
BIBLE
TEDDY BEAR

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LIGHT CUE - UP ON SINGERS

CUE SONG - ROCK THE WORLD

WORSHIP LEADER - Opening Prayer

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, UP ON CENTER STAGE

AMY: *(in park)* HELLO BOYS AND GIRLS, MY NAME IS AMY, AND WELCOME TO ROCK THE WORLD. WE ARE SO EXCITED TO SEE YOU ALL HERE TODAY AND WE'VE GOT SUCH NEAT THINGS WE WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU, ABOUT GOD AND...AND *(Susie enters stage left, very, very sad, looking at the ground - walks right in front of Amy)* EXCUSE ME. *(Susie ignores Amy)* SUSIE, I SAID-**EXCUSE ME!** UH, CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO TALK TO THE KIDS HERE? I THINK THAT IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT RUDE OF YOU TO WALK RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

SUSIE: OH, OH I'M SORRY. I GUESS I WASN'T PAYING VERY MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT I WAS DOING. I WAS SORTA STARING AT THE GROUND.

AMY: BOY, YOU AREN'T KIDDING. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA WALK RIGHT OFF THE EDGE OF THE STAGE. BAM! RIGHT TO THE GROUND. THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A VERY PRETTY SIGHT! BY THE WAY, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE JUST LOST YOUR LAST FRIEND.

SUSIE: *(Bursts loudly into tears)*

AMY: OH MY GOODNESS! WHAT'D I SAY? WHATEVER IT WAS, I'M SORRY!

SUSIE: OH, IT'S NOT YOU. IT'S JUST THAT. . . WELL, I WAS SUPPOSED TO SPEND THE DAY WITH MY BEST FRIEND, PRISCILLA, AND WE WERE GONNA GO TO THE MOVIES AND THE MALL, AND CURL EACH OTHER'S HAIR, BUT WHEN I GOT OVER TO HER HOUSE SHE HAD ALREADY LEFT WITH JOANIE! JOANIE HAD TICKETS TO . . . *(says sarcastically)* MAGIC MOUNTAIN! *(begins crying again, quietly)* SHE NEVER EVEN CALLED ME!

AMY: WHAT A RAT! SUSIE, I HATE TO SAY THIS . . . BUT, YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED!

SUSIE: *(crying loudly now)*

AMY: BUT LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. MAYBE SHE'LL THROW UP ON

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THE BATMAN RIDE! AND BESIDES SHE DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A VERY GOOD "BEST FRIEND" TO ME.

SUSIE: BUT WE WENT EVERYWHERE TOGETHER, AND I TOLD HER EVERYTHING. SHE SAID THAT WE WOULD BE BEST FRIENDS ALWAYS. I WISH I HAD A "FOREVER FRIEND" - SOMEONE WHO WOULD NEVER LEAVE ME, NO MATTER WHAT!

AMY: WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT? WE WERE JUST GETTING READY TO TALK ABOUT WHAT "REAL" FRIENDS ARE, AND HOW GOD IS THE GREATEST FRIEND THAT WE COULD EVER HAVE. AND LOOK, RIGHT THERE IN FRONT IS A SEAT THAT NOBODY IS SITTING IN. I THINK IT'S RESERVED, BUT BOYS AND GIRLS, YOU'LL LET SUSIE SIT THERE IN FRONT WON'T YOU? *(kids respond)* OH GOOD! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T MIND. NOW WE CAN GET STARTED. *(Amy escorts Susie to seat during song)*

LIGHT CUE - UP ON SINGERS

CUE SONG - GOOD BUDDIES

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS

AMY: *(returning to park)* JESUS IS OUR ONE TRUE FRIEND. HE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR US NO MATTER WHAT! OH LOOK, HERE COME TWO OF MY FRIENDS. *(Enter stage right Belinda and Roxanne - snobby & with "valley-girl" accents)* BELINDA, ROXANNE-WHY DON'T YOU COME SAY HI TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS. WE WERE LEARNING TODAY HOW GOD IS OUR FRIEND.

BELINDA: OH, PLEASE-WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT. . . THAT KID STUFF!

ROXANNE: WE'VE SPENT THE WHOLE MORNING SHOPPING AT NORDY'S AND YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ALL OF THE GREAT BUYS THERE.

BELINDA: NOT TO MENTION THAT THAT IS **THE** PLACE TO BE SEEN! YOU'VE GOT TO CHECK OUT THESE TOTALLY COOL LOVE BEADS THAT WE BOUGHT!

ROXANNE: YEAH, AREN'T THEY JUST TO DIE FOR! AND WHAT A BARGAIN. THEY WERE ON SALE FOR A MERE 84 DOLLARS AND 50 CENTS.

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HURRY UP, WE'VE GOT TO GO.

AMY: GO WHERE?

BELINDA: NORDY'S SILLY. IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP THERE WON'T BE ANY LEFT. IT'S A TOTALLY HOT ITEM!

AMY: BUT, I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO GO BUY THEM.

ROXANNE: (*horried*) YOU DON'T? BUT, HOW CAN YOU HANG AROUND US IF YOU DON'T HAVE MATCHING BEADS?

BELINDA: EVERYONE WHO IS ANYONE WILL BE WEARING THEM!

AMY: (*says with hurt feelings*) WELL, THEN I GUESS I'M NO ONE BECAUSE I WON'T BE WEARING THEM. AND I THINK THERE'S MORE TO BEING A FRIEND THAN DRESSING ALIKE OR TALKING ALIKE. A FRIEND LOVES AT **ALL** TIMES, NOT JUST THE GOOD ONES.

ROXANNE: (*says sarcastically*) WHEREVER DID YOU HEAR THAT?

AMY: IN THE BIBLE, PROVERBS 17:17. AND 1ST JOHN 3:16 SAYS "AND THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE IS; JESUS CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US. AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OUR BROTHERS.

BELINDA: (*says sarcastically*) OH, THE BIBLE. WELL, WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN READ THE BIBLE!

ROXANNE: THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S ONLY 3 SHOPPING HOURS LEFT UNTIL NORDY'S CLOSES! SEE YA AROUND SOMETIME.....MAYBE.

BELINDA: TOOTLES! (*Belinda & Roxanne exit stage right*)

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AMY: I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE TWO! I REALLY THOUGHT THEY WERE MY FRIENDS. *(exits stage right, down stairs, across to center aisle during next line)* HOW COULD I HAVE EVEN LIKED THEM? BUT, WELL-NOW I'M ALL ALONE. NO ONE TO TALK TO. NO FRIENDS. I'VE BEEN DUMPED! *(cries loudly and runs down center aisle - during song returns down side aisle past fireplace, up stairs stage left, throws self down on bed, begins looking at teen magazine.*

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON CENTER STAGE , UP ON SINGERS & STAGE LEFT

CUE SONG - FOREVER FRIEND

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, UP ON STAGE RIGHT

ALLEN: *(comes up in puppet stage)* GOSH, AMY SURE SEEMED UPSET. SHE WAS CRYING REALLY HARD AND SHE RAN PAST ME AND WOULDN'T EVEN STOP WHEN I CALLED HER NAME. DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER? *(kids respond)*

SUSIE: *(leaves seat in audience & goes to puppet stage)* I KNOW! I KNOW! SHE GOT DUMPED BY HER "SO-CALLED FRIENDS" ROXANNE AND BELINDA. AND I KNOW JUST HOW SHE FEELS! IT'S HORRIBLE TO FEEL ALL ALONE LIKE NOBODY LIKES YOU.

ALLEN: BUT AMY SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN THAT! SHE HAS JESUS! HE'S THERE FOR US ALWAYS, EVEN WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS!

Amy puts teen magazine aside and picks up Bible to read.

SUSIE: WELL, I DON'T THINK AMY REMEMBERED THAT. SOMETIMES WHEN OUR FEELINGS ARE HURT WE FORGET THAT GOD IS STILL WITH US. I KNOW BECAUSE.....I DID.

ALLEN: WELL, MAYBE WE NEED TO GO LOOK FOR HER AND REMIND HER! YA KNOW SOMETIMES GOD HELPS US BY BRINGING NEW FRIENDS INTO OUR LIVES WHEN WE NEED SOME CHEERING UP!

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SUSIE: BOY, GOD REALLY CARES ABOUT US, DOESN'T HE?

ALLEN: YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT! COME ON, LET'S GO FIND AMY.
(Allen and Susie exit together)

LIGHT CUE - LIGHTS UP CENTER STAGE

During song Amy picks up teddy bear. During 2nd verse makes transition to park.

CUE SONG - SOMEBODY LOVES ME

AMY: I'M SORRY, KIDS. I RAN OUTTA HERE ALL UPSET AND FORGOT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TELLING YOU ABOUT JESUS BEING OUR BEST FRIEND. DO YOU FORGIVE ME? *(kid's respond)* OH, GOOD! I WAS IN MY ROOM CRYIN AND I REMEMBERED THAT MY MOM TOLD ME I SHOULD PRAY WHEN I'M SAD OR I'M LONELY. SO I ASKED GOD TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, AND TO HELP ME NOT TO BE MAD AT ROXANNE AND BELINDA. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? *(kid's respond)* HE DID! I STARTED FEELING BETTER BECAUSE HE PROMISED ME THAT HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE ME OR TURN HIS BACK ON ME NO MATTER WHAT!

Enter Allen and Susie.

SUSIE: OH THERE YOU ARE, AMY. WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

ALLEN: WE WANTED TO REMIND YOU THAT NO MATTER HOW ALONE YOU FEEL, YOU ALWAYS HAVE A FRIEND IN JESUS!

AMY: THANKS GUYS! BUT GOD ALREADY REMINDED ME OF THAT.

ALLEN: *(amazed)* HE DID? HOW'D HE DO THAT?

AMY: *(laughing)* IN HIS WORD! I WAS READING MY BIBLE. HERE, LET ME SHARE IT WITH YOU. *(James comes up in puppet stage)*

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ALLEN: WOW! (*looks at kids*) WHO'S THAT? (*they respond - James*)

JAMES: THAT'S RIGHT! I'M JAMES, SHORT FOR KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE. THE SCRIPTURE THAT I GAVE AMY IS FOUND IN MY PAGES. I WANT EVERYONE TO REPEAT IT AFTER ME. (*Kids respond*)

GREATER LOVE,
HATH NO MAN THAN THIS,
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR HIS FRIENDS.
JOHN 15:13

SUSIE: WOW, THAT'S REALLY NEAT! YA KNOW I'M SO GLAD THAT I CAME TODAY AFTER ALL. I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH. GOD IS MY BEST FRIEND! AND NOW I KNOW THAT I DON'T EVER HAVE TO BE ALONE!

AMY: THAT'S RIGHT. YOU KNOW, I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TEACHING YOU TODAY, BUT I THINK I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LEARNING! THANKS FOR CARING ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT ME WHEN I WAS SAD. YOU'RE MY "REAL" FRIENDS! HEY, WHY DON'T WE SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY TOGETHER?

ALLEN: THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF FUN. COME ON FRIENDS! (*All huddle with arms around each other*)

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON STAGE, UP ON WORSHIP LEADER

WORSHIP LEADER: Closing Prayer

CUE SONG - JESUS LOVES ME (New Version)
