

CROSSING CAROLYN

A One-Act Play

By
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Michael: A man in his late-30s.

Caroyln: A woman in her early-30s.

SETTINGS

Carolyn's Living Room

Makeshift Televangelist Production Studio

TIME

Present.

MICHAEL, in a cheap suit fit for a Televangelist start-up. Pastels. Tight cut. He stands on the middle of a small stage. Behind him are crosses hastily placed and strung about. A cheap hotel podium stands alone on the corner of the stage. It may or may not be stolen. There is a camera in the center that follows him as he moves about the stage. While we don't see it, he faces a small audience that makes up his congregation. There would be no more than 20 people including the crew needed to pull off this live broadcast. MICHAEL will switch between talking to the audience and the camera and at moments, shying away from both to address Carolyn while still aware of their presence.

CAROLYN sits in her living room. Her eyes glued to the TV in front of her (which we don't see). She only averts her gaze during commercial breaks or other opportune moments, but is otherwise encapsulated by MICHAEL. Magazines and newspapers make up most of her decor, covering the ragged couch in the corner of the room next to an open window allowing in fresh sunlight.

MICHAEL

Pastor Michael here coming live from our church in Dallas, Texas. Some may call me Saint Michael, but I'm a sinner just like the rest of you.

(looks deeply into camera)

Just like you. I've lied, taken the lord's name in vain, I've sinned, but today I'm here to save you.

(coming back to the audience)

But not just you. Today we're asking for your help to save the innocent lost souls of the Cayman Islands. God needs your help to save those savages on their white sandy beaches with crystal clear waves and scantily clad women dressed in the tightest bikinis-

(looks stage left)

Sorry about that, folks. \$25,000 into our \$500,000 goal and God is looking for your help!

(taking info from his
earpiece)
My stage hand is telling me we have a caller!

CAROLYN
(shyly)
Hi.

MICHAEL
Hey there, lil' darling. Where are you calling from?

CAROLYN
My living room.

MICHAEL
And where's that at?

CAROLYN
My house.

MICHAEL
(unsure, but moving on)
Hallelujah! A house. God has blessed you!
(beat)
I'm told you have a problem only god can solve.

CAROLYN
Well, I'm a bit embarrassed to say.

MICHAEL
Oh, we're all friends here.

CAROLYN
Really? That's what I'm calling about actually. I try so
hard, but I feel so lonely. Would you be my friend?

MICHAEL
Of course, darling. God wants you to be full of friends and
you've found them here at the Love Island Church. Like Jesus,
every man is an island, and that island can be surrounded by
an ocean of love, where the cocktails are never ending and -
(looking stage left)
What?... Right. Yes. Anyway, knowing you have friends, what
would you care to donate to our cause?

CAROLYN
I don't quite know if I'm ready to donate. If we're friends,
shouldn't you know more about me?

MICHAEL
Sure. What would you like to share?

CAROLYN

I love a good roller coaster.

MICHAEL

The lord wants you to enjoy your life and look at the love you've found in roller coasters.

CAROLYN

No, not roller coasters. I love **A** roller coaster. I'm married to one. His name is Bruce. He's in the backyard.

(CAROLYN stares longingly out of her window towards Bruce.)

MICHAEL

Well, god says love is between a man and a woman, but the lord loves the sinner despite the sins and...

(speaking honestly)

Just, probably don't tell people about that and you'll have friends?

(beat)

Can we count on your donation?

CAROLYN

I like to leave my menstruation blood on chairs.

MICHAEL

(over her)

AND FOR YOUR DONATION, we'll provide you with this free water bottle!

(He holds up the Love Island water bottle to camera.)

Any donation over \$50 gets you this Love Island water bottle...

(a nod to the audience)

And we throw in the salvation for free!

CAROLYN

Wait. Love Island? Like the show?

MICHAEL

Not like the show.

CAROLYN

It just looks like the logo from the show. Are you affiliated with-

MICHAEL

(pointed)

We had the name first and-

CAROLYN

Cause I like that show. Would you want to come over and watch the show with me?

MICHAEL

NOT LIKE THE FUCKING SHOW! GOD DAMN IT!

(beat, looking stage left,
then to camera)

I'm sorry. We're going to go to a quick commercial break and we'll be right back.

(MICHAEL looks stage left for the
cue and-)

MICHAEL

Listen lady. I don't know who you are and what you think you're doing. I'm out here busting my hump for god and-

CAROLYN

This doesn't seem very godly. I've called into these televangelist telethons *many* times before and I've never been spoken to this way.

MICHAEL

(whispering and facing away
from the audience)

Fine. I'll be frank with you. There isn't even a church in Dallas. I rented a studio, hung some Jesus stuff, and figured I'd make a couple bucks to move to the Caymens, ok? Is that ok with you!

CAROLYN

Well, I appreciate your honesty... And I bet god does as well. Don't you feel better getting that weight off your chest?

MICHAEL

(honestly)

Yeah, a bit.

CAROLYN

You've been through quite a roller coaster as Bruce and I would say.

(He doesn't enjoy the line as she
laughs a bit at her own joke.)

MICHAEL

Do me a solid here. Make a donation, we'll make nice and we can go our separate ways.

(looking stage left)
 Back in three. Ok...

(MICHAEL takes a deep breath before
 resuming marketing persona.)

MICHAEL
 Welcome back. We're still on with our friend Carolyn. Let's
 take a look at the board...

(looking over)
 Looks like we're... down five grand?
 (looks stage left)
 Can people take back their donations?
 (under his breath)
 Jesus.

(a bit beaten)
 You know what. God works in mysterious ways, am I right,
 folks?

(trying to pull it together)
 And Carolyn, you wanted to make a donation.

CAROLYN
 Yes! I'd like to donate my cross. I think it will go a long
 way to filling the church with love and be a way for you to
 remember me when you're saving those heathens in the Cayman
 Islands!

MICHAEL
 Bless your soul. Believe me, I can never forget you...
 Never... Ever... Ever.
 (to her)

But we cannot build a church to house the cross without a
 financial donation, so money would really be best.

CAROLYN
 Wasn't it Jesus who fed the masses with only five loaves of
 bread and two fish. You already have twenty thousand dollars
 and now this cross.

MICHAEL
 How about you go to the pawn shop and sell your cross and
 then you can donate those proceeds.

CAROLYN
 But Jesus did his work with no more than god on his side and
 his apostles. Let me join you. I can spread your word and
 you'll have this momento to honor me with.

MICHAEL
 Just go to the fucking store and sell the cross! Why is this
 so bloody difficult?
 (looking stage left)

Oh fuck off, Jerry! You're the idiot who put her on. And now these assholes are pulling their money.

(into camera)

You know what, folks...Fuck you! I'm trying to save people and you're all a bunch of fucking ass-

(The feed cuts out.)

MICHAEL

You cut the feed? Fuck!

(defeated)

Fuck...

(MICHAEL sits on the stage's edge.
He starts to cry in his hands.)

CAROLYN

Seems you have a problem only god can solve.

MICHAEL

God doesn't fucking exist! Honestly, this was my mother's dream and I wanted to honor her with this, but what kind of god would do this to us? To me?

CAROLYN

What about the wanting to move to the Cayman Islands thing?

MICHAEL

I said that so I wouldn't let her down. I'm afraid and alone just like you.

CAROLYN

Maybe god brought us together so neither of us will be alone anymore.

MICHAEL

Fat chance.

CAROLYN

Like you said, God works in mysterious ways.

MICHAEL

(defeated)

Ok, Carolyn.

(looking stage left)

We're coming back? Why? So people can take back more money?

CAROLYN

Have faith.

(MICHAEL tries to pull himself together.)

MICHAEL
(half assed)
And we're back... Still with Carolyn.

CAROLYN
Michael, I'd like to donate money.

MICHAEL
(suprised)
What? Um... I mean, yes! Hallelujah!

CAROLYN
Two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars. To the church of Love Island.

MICHAEL
(stunned)
You can't be serious.

CAROLYN
Yeah. I had a settlement with Disney when Bruce collapsed on me. I don't need the money and it seems you do.

MICHAEL
(giddy)
Fuck yeah! I'm back, baby!
(pulls himself together)
I mean, God Bless You!

CAROLYN
I was thinking maybe I could come with you. You, me, and Bruce. We could be happy-

MICHAEL
(exhilarated)
Fuck off, Carolyn!

(CAROLYN's feed and audio cut out.
MICHAEL turns to camera-)

MICHAEL
Two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars, folks! Two-hundred and fifty on the board. This is what progress looks like!

(MICHAEL fixes his tie and continues to talk, but we can't hear him-)

(END OF PLAY)