

## **DRAMA: THE GREAT ESCAPE**

**Cast: Narrator, Christian, Mother, Father, Stranger (The Preacher), Mr Bendy and Mr Ob Stinate**

**Narrator:**

There was a man called Christian who had a dream. He dreamt he was standing at the garden gate, bent under the weight of a great Knapsack, and in his hand was a Guidebook. As he read the book the colour drained from him and he began to weep quite inconsolably. In his agitation he rushed indoors, seized hold of his mother and shouted....

**Christian:**

We must get out of here; we must; we must!

**Mother:**

Whatever is the matter son and why are you wearing that great sack on your back? Here, let me help you take it off....calm down!

**Narrator:**

Calm down he didn't and later when his father looked in his room to see if he was asleep he found a tossing, moaning heap of a man.

**Father:**

For goodness sake, no wonder you can't sleep. Take that great sack off your back.

**Narrator:**

Unable to hold his feelings and thoughts back any longer Christian blurted out to his bewildered parents that they had to leave home – get away because their city was going to be destroyed. His father looked even more bewildered and his mother tried to give him medication for a fever but nothing would console Christian.

One day as he wandered in a nearby field, still carrying the great sack, a stranger approached him and asked what the matter was.

**Christian:**

I've read this book Sir, and in this book it says I'm going to die.

**Stranger:**

Yes? That's not so remarkable....we all are.

**Christian:**

But you don't understand. It says here that I shall have to account for my life, the kind of man I am and the state of my soul – I'm not ready for that yet.

**Stranger:**

Well, in that case run. Run for your life! Here, take this.

**Narrator:**

The stranger handed Christian a Scroll, which simply read – Run for your life!

**Christian:**

Where? Run where?

**Stranger:**

To the City of Gold of course – haven't you read about it in your Guidebook?

**Narrator:**

Christian admitted rather sheepishly he hadn't, because he'd only read the first chapter, and that had told him about the destruction.

The stranger encouraged him to read on and find out more, telling Christian that pilgrims were setting off every day for the City of Gold, a place of happiness, bliss and everlasting life.

But there was a cautionary note in his voice as he reminded Christian that he wasn't setting out on an easy stroll. There would be difficulties and challenges ahead, but the one thing he could be certain of was that the City of Gold would always be there.

The troubled Christian tries to persuade his family to journey with him but they refuse, so he leaves his home and family and begins what you might describe as an adventure of a lifetime.

*(Hold the Scroll up at this point)* With a warning not to lose the Scroll and a pointer in the right direction, Christian set off running, much to the amazement of various neighbours who were out in their gardens.

Two others actually took to their heels and ran alongside him, asking where he was going and who was chasing him. He found Mr Ob Stinate puffing along on his right and Mr Bendy on his left, both plying him with questions.

Christian panted out the dreadful news about the destruction of the city and how he knew where to head. He felt honour-bound to urge them to come with him.

**Mr Ob Stinate:** *(snorting)*

What? And leave our homes and families and everything dear to us?

**Christian:**

What good is any of that to a dead man?

**Mr Ob Stinate:**

Have you got anything better to offer?

**Christian:**

Yes! PERPETUAL BLISS....SUBLIME HAPPINESS....EVERLASTING LIFE!

**Narrator:**

Mr Ob Stinate could not keep up the pace; he would have to slow down.

**Mr Bendy:**

Sounds good to me, tell me more.

**Narrator:**

So Christian showed Mr Bendy the Guidebook and the Scroll, wildly excited now about the good things in store, rather than dwelling on the fear he had left behind. His excitement was infectious; Mr Bendy's eyes began to shine with the same eagerness. But Mr Ob Stinate was not so quick to change the thinking of a life time.

**Mr Ob Stinate:**

He doesn't know what he is talking about!

I mean to say – has he ever been to this 'Golden City'?

What does he know?

And how far is he going to get with that pack upon his back?

He's pipe-dreaming - it's nonsense!

Me....give up everything I know and love for some hare-brained scheme?

No fear! You take my word, Bendy, Christian is leading you astray. Don't listen to him.

**Narrator:**

Mr Ob Stinate slowed suddenly and stopped, retracing his footsteps towards the City of Destruction. But Mr Bendy was content to go on jogging alongside Christian.

After days of being shunned and lonely, having company lifted Christian's spirits enormously. And if he squinted up his eyes and peered, he could almost persuade himself that he saw the little white wicket gate.

Everything ahead was green and looked good. Christian and Bendy were running at such a pace that they didn't realise, until it was too late, that they were knee deep and staggering in mud from a bog they hadn't noticed.

As they struggled to free themselves, the bog sucked them in, dragging them deeper and down....

*(End of drama)*