

DRAGNET

by Patrick Rainville Dorn



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**CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS
EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

DRAGNET

Parable: Casting of the Net into the Sea

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SYNOPSIS: “And the winner is...?” The lure of an Alaskan cruise prize exposes the shady pasts of several sweepstakes entrants.

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 13:47-50

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 either)

CONNORS (m/f) A contestant who is a swindler.
(13 lines)

FOXWORTHY (m/f) A contestant who is an
 embezzler. *(10 lines)*

LARSON (m/f) A contestant who is a burglar.
(10 lines)

MORALES (m/f) A contestant who is law-
 abiding. *(10 lines)*

BOBBIE/BOB (m/f) The event planner for the FBI.
(20 lines)

DURATION: 10 minutes

SETTING: Event room at a nice hotel.

TIME: Present.

SET

May be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. This work could be performed on an empty stage

COSTUMES

Contemporary clothing, appropriate to each character.

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PROPS

- ☐ Four red plastic party cups
- ☐ Clipboard
- ☐ Pen
- ☐ Four driver's licenses
- ☐ Four letters in envelopes
- ☐ Badge

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Parables are earthly stories intended to reveal a heavenly meaning. They are by nature stories that people could relate to and which would inspire questions and discussion, thus providing the opportunity for revelation of the truth. We have brought these parables into present time where the listener can relate and once again ask questions, which will reveal the true meaning.

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PARABLE: ⁴⁷Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (*Matthew 13:47-50*).



AT START: *CONNORS, FOXWORTHY, LARSON, and MORALES are milling about, socializing.*

CONNORS: (*Looks around.*) Not a bad hotel. Never been here before, and I've traveled. A lot. (*To FOXWORTHY.*) You?

FOXWORTHY: Oh, yes. I've attended financial planning conferences here many times. I'm quite at home in the lap of luxury.

MORALES: I applied for a job here, once. I guess I didn't fit the image they were looking for.

LARSON: Places like this make me nervous. Too many doors. And did you notice? The windows don't open.

ALL look at LARSON.

CONNORS: Still, it's a good venue for announcing the winner of a sweepstakes. It's even better that I'm a finalist.

MORALES: (*Holds up envelope.*) I couldn't believe it when I got the notification letter in the mail.

FOXWORTHY: (*Raises cup.*) May the best man win. Or woman, as the case may be.

MORALES: Imagine. One of us is going to win an Alaskan cruise!

LARSON: Winners and losers. For some reason, I'm always tossed in with the losers. But maybe this will be my ticket to freedom.

CONNORS: It's a round-trip vacation. They bring you back.

BOBBIE: (*Enters with clipboard, pen, and envelopes.*) Good evening, everyone. I trust you're enjoying the food and drinks?

MORALES: Yes, thank you. (*Gestures to cup.*) Caffeine free. Not that I'd be able to sleep tonight anyway, with all the excitement.

FOXWORTHY: The shrimp cocktail could use a little more ice. I'm sure your superiors wouldn't want any of the finalists to experience gastrointestinal distress from consuming putrescent crustaceans.

LARSON: Yeah. Or make us sick.

CONNORS: But we're not really here for the food, are we? It's all about the prize.

BOBBIE: Quite right. I just want to say, my organization has been looking forward to this evening for a long, long time.

CONNORS: Because of the publicity, right?

BOBBIE: Uh, sure.

CONNORS: That's how these schemes work. A company makes a deal with a cruise ship line. They give away one free ticket, both companies get a lot of publicity, and a bunch of suckers get reeled in.

FOXWORTHY: There's nothing wrong with profiting from the exploitation of people's dreams.

MORALES: Sounds kind of shady. (*To BOBBIE.*) This is legal, right?

BOBBIE: Oh, trust me. Everything that's going to happen tonight has been checked over by our attorneys. We don't want anything to go wrong.

LARSON: OK, then. So what's next?

BOBBIE: First, I need to verify that you are who you say you are.

MORALES: Who else would I be?

BOBBIE: With so much on the line, we need to be sure we have the right people. So if you could produce the letters we sent you and some identification, we'll proceed with the awards.

OTHERS produce envelopes and identification. BOBBIE consults clipboard.

BOBBIE: Let's see. Connors?

CONNORS: (*Steps up and hands driver's license to BOBBIE.*) That's me. Most of the time. Ha, ha. That was a joke.

BOBBIE keeps the driver's license.

BOBBIE: This license is expired.

CONNORS: Is it? Huh. Go figure. But you can still tell it's me, right?

BOBBIE: *(Holds license up, compares with CONNORS.)* Oh, it's you all right. *(Consults clipboard.)* Larson?

LARSON: *(Steps up, hands driver's license to BOBBIE.)* Yeah, that's me. It's an out-of-state license. I've been meaning to get it changed. Hey, is this going to take long? Because I've got places to be.

BOBBIE: We'll be here as long as it takes for everyone to get what's coming to them. *(Reads from clipboard.)* Foxworthy?

FOXWORTHY: *(Steps forward and hands BOBBIE driver's license.)* Guilty as charged. It's not my best photograph, I'm afraid. I'm told it makes me look something like a barracuda.

BOBBIE: Really? *(Consults clipboard.)* And Morales.

MORALES: Here. *(Gives BOBBIE his driver's license. Looks at OTHERS.)* This is so exciting!

BOBBIE: Well, that's done. *(Game show host voice.)* Now, for the moment we've all been waiting for. *(Looks at CONNORS, FOXWORTHY, and LARSON.)* Connors, Foxworthy, and Larson, it is my duty to inform you that... you are under arrest.

LARSON: What?

CONNORS: No!

FOXWORTHY: I beg your pardon?

BOBBIE: *(Flashes a badge.)* My name is Agent Kinneret of the FBI, and you are under arrest.

CONNORS, FOXWORTHY, and LARSON spin around.

BOBBIE: As you can see, we have officers at every exit, so there's no point in trying to escape. We've been after you three for a very long time, but you've always been one step ahead of us. Changing locations, using false names, always just out of reach. But not anymore. We used your own greed as bait to lure you in.

LARSON: Caught in a dragnet. And no money for bail.

CONNORS: You've made a mistake. I'm not Connors. I'm someone else. I'm anyone else!

FOXWORTHY: Well played. Well played indeed, Agent Kinneret.



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