

CALLED OR CULLED

by Patrick Rainville Dorn



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS EDUCATIONAL SERIES

CALLED OR CULLED

Parable: The Sheep and the Goats

By Patrick Rainville Dorn

CALLED OR CULLED*Parable: The Sheep and the Goats***By Patrick Rainville Dorn**

SYNOPSIS: At a job interview, Billy boasts incessantly about his ambition, trophies, and karaoke skills, while Eunice shares about organizing a food drive, her family, and singing at the county jail. Guess who got the job?

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 25:31-46.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(1 female, 1 male, 2 either)*

ANGELA/ANGELO (f/m)..... Secretary. *(9 lines)*
 EMANUEL “MANNY” KING (m)..... Interviewer. *(37 lines)*
 EUNICE MERINO (f)..... Applicant. *(26 lines)*
 BILLY/BILLIE (m/f)..... Another applicant. *(33 lines)*

DURATION: 10 minutes.

SETTING: Human Resources Department of Skycastle Enterprises.

TIME: Present Day.

SET

A table and three chairs at center stage.

COSTUMES

All four characters are dressed in professional office wear. Angela could wear a white sweater or have white in her ensemble. Manny could wear a gold tie. Eunice might be in beige or tan, and Billy could wear a loud, colorful tie.

PROPS

- ☐ Two sheets of paper (résumés)
- ☐ Pad of paper
- ☐ Pen

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.

SCRIPTURE: Taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission of Zondervan.

PARABLE: ³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" ⁴⁰The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." ⁴¹Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me." ⁴⁴They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?" ⁴⁵He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." ⁴⁶Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life (*Matthew 25:31-46*).



AT START: *MANNY is seated at the table, facing the audience. He is writing on a pad of paper. There is a chair on the right side of the table, and another on the left.*

ANGELA: (*Enters with two sheets of paper.*) I've rounded up two more applicants for you to interview, sir.

*This perusal script is for reading purposes only.
No performance or photocopy rights are conveyed.*

MANNY: Thank you, Angela.

ANGELA: (*Hands MANNY the sheets of paper.*) Eunice Merino and Billy G. You couldn't find two more dissimilar people. Sometimes it seems like they've already made the decision for you. This should be one of your easiest job interviews yet.

MANNY: None of them are easy, Angela. Especially when I have to send a candidate away.

ANGELA: Some just aren't a good fit for Skycastle Enterprises, sir.

MANNY: I know. But I wish that wasn't true. (*Scans the pages.*)

ANGELA: Shall I send them in, sir?

MANNY: Yes. Thank you, Angela.

ANGELA: My pleasure. (*Exits.*)

EUNICE enters. BILLY enters behind her, pushes past, and walks up to the table, hand extended. MANNY stands.

BILLY: Billy. Billy G. Pleased to meet you.

MANNY shakes BILLY'S hand.

MANNY: Emanuel King Junior.

BILLY: Wow! The boss's son? This job must be a bigger deal than I thought. I'm just the guy you're looking for, Mr. King.

MANNY: I hope so. And call me Manny.

BILLY: Sure thing. (*Slaps MANNY on the back.*) Manny.

MANNY: (*Offers hand to EUNICE.*) And you must be Eunice Merino.

EUNICE: (*Shakes his hand.*) It's an honor, Mr. King.

MANNY: Manny. We're on a first name basis here at Skycastle Enterprises.

EUNICE: (*Smiles.*) Manny.

MANNY: (*Gestures to the empty chairs.*) Won't you both sit down?

BILLY: Sounds good to me. (*Sits in the Stage Right chair.*) I'll just take the place of honor here at your right hand, 'cause I'm a right-hand-man kind of guy.

EUNICE moves toward the chair at left.

MANNY: Actually, if you don't mind, let's switch. Eunice, you come sit at my right hand.

EUNICE: Really? But Billy's already there.

MANNY: He didn't wait to be asked.

BILLY: (*Embarrassed, stands.*) Well, excuuuuse me.

BILLY holds chair for EUNICE, who sits.

BILLY: (*Whispers.*) Round one goes to you. But I'm not walking out of here until I get what's coming to me. Understand?

EUNICE cowers. BILLY saunters over to the chair left of MANNY and makes a big production of sitting.

BILLY: There. Happy now?

MANNY: (*Sits.*) Shall we get started with the interview?

BILLY: Let's do this.

EUNICE: OK.

MANNY: First things first. I have plenty of openings here at Skycastle. There's room for everyone. My purpose today is to find out if you're a good fit. To see if you share our goals and values. If it works out, you can find a permanent home here. I treat my people like family.

EUNICE: Even if our skills and experience aren't up to par?

MANNY: Consider a placement at Skycastle Enterprises a growth opportunity. We meet you where you are, but don't just leave you there.

BILLY: (*Stands, then moves around to Stage Left.*) That sounds great, because I have a lot of ambition. The sky's the limit for a guy like me.

MANNY: With me, you can aim even higher than that.

EUNICE: I'd be happy just to get in on the ground floor. I'm a hard worker. Dependable.

MANNY: (*Holds up paper.*) I can see that.

BILLY: (*Points to the other paper.*) Did you notice all the awards and prizes I won?

MANNY: I did. Impressive. But those don't mean all that much here.

BILLY: You're kidding. Where I come from, awards are a big deal. It means I'm the best. You should see the trophy case I keep at home!

EUNICE: I got a certificate of appreciation once for organizing a canned food drive. It was after that hurricane.

BILLY: A canned food drive?

EUNICE: Well, a lot of people lost everything. I had to do something.

BILLY: I hope you threw in a can opener.

MANNY: What did you do with the certificate?

EUNICE: Oh, it's tucked away somewhere. I didn't buy a picture frame for it. There's no room on my walls.

BILLY: No room on your walls?

EUNICE: I've got photos of my family everywhere. And my pets. You should see the refrigerator. *(Laughs, touches MANNY'S hand.)* Actually, no one can see my refrigerator. It's completely covered with photos and funny little magnets from places I've visited.

BILLY: So your house is cluttered. Full of junk.

EUNICE: *(Takes hand away, holds them in her lap.)* I suppose it is. But they're treasures to me. Reminders.

BILLY: I can just imagine what your office would look like. If you got a job here, that is. Me, I'm tidy. Fastidious. Gotta make a good impression in case I bring a lady friend home, if you catch my meaning.

MANNY: What I'm looking for here is not how much you've accomplished, but what motivated you in the first place.

BILLY: That's easy. I want to be the best, and I want everyone to know it.

EUNICE: I'm afraid I don't understand the question.

BILLY: *(Sits.)* Come on. Get with the program.

MANNY: It's OK, Eunice. You don't need to understand yet. But you will. Let's change the topic. Hobbies?

BILLY: *(Stands, paces.)* Oh, man. I just love karaoke. Once I've had a few drinks and get that mic in my hand, I'm not stepping down for anybody. I go every week. Religiously! The spotlight, the sound of my own voice... it's intoxicating. If this job interview doesn't work out, I'm thinking of going into show business. I'm that good. Lots of people have said so.

MANNY: We do a lot of singing here at Skycastle Enterprises.

EUNICE: I like to sing.

BILLY: You?

EUNICE: Sure. It's fun.

BILLY: Solo? 'Cause that's the real challenge, let me tell you. Standing there alone on the stage, facing a bunch of inebriated hooligans, and winning them over by sheer force of will and natural talent.

EUNICE: Actually, I'm part of a quartet. We sing close harmonies from the golden oldies. You know, The Andrews Sisters and barbershop. Even doo-wop. Sometimes it's really tricky, but when we get it right, it sounds heavenly.

MANNY: I'm sure it does. Where does your group perform?

EUNICE: *(Stands and moves around at Stage Right.)* Oh, all over. There's a nursing home that loves having us come once a month. And a preschool, where the kids get to bang cymbals and tambourines and triangles along with the music. What a racket they make! But everyone has a good time.

BILLY: Be honest. Are you any good?

EUNICE: Oh, I don't know. I hit all the notes I'm supposed to... and then some. *(To MANNY.)* Once we performed at the county jail. I was scared to death! But the inmates clapped their hands, and some of the older ones sang along. I wasn't so scared after a while. *(Embarrassed for talking so much. Sits.)*

BILLY: County lockup? A captive audience.

MANNY and EUNICE don't laugh. BILLY looks around.

BILLY: What? That's funny.

MANNY: *(To EUNICE.)* You do this for free?

EUNICE: Of course. Those kinds of places can't afford real entertainers. It makes them happy, and it makes us happy.

BILLY: *(Sits. To MANNY.)* I don't get paid to sing karaoke either. Does that get me points for community service?

MANNY: I think what you're doing is its own reward.

BILLY: *(Slaps hand on table.)* True. It's a boost to the old ego, that's for sure.

MANNY: I think I've heard enough. Do either of you have any questions for me?

BILLY: When will we know? 'Cause I've got other irons in the fire.

MANNY: My decision will be immediate—and final. *(To EUNICE.)* How about you?

EUNICE: I just want to thank you for taking the time to talk to us personally, Mr. King. Manny. And I liked what you said about family.

MANNY: (*Stands. Calls.*) Angela? Could you come in here, please?

ANGELA: (*Enters.*) Yes, Mr. King?

MANNY: I'd like you to escort Bobby G. out of the building. Permanently.

ANGELA takes BOBBY by the shoulder.

BILLY: Wait, what?

MANNY: (*To EUNICE, extending hand.*) Welcome to Skycastle Enterprises, Eunice.

EUNICE: (*Shakes his hand.*) Thank you! Oh, thank you!

BILLY: You're rejecting me? And accepting her?

ANGELA: Come along, Mr. G. Don't make a scene.

BILLY: (*Pulls away.*) I just want to know: why turn me down and hire a loser like that?

ANGELA: I said, come along.

MANNY: It's all right, Angela. You deserve an answer, Bobby. And you're going to have a long time to think about what I'm about to say. (*To EUNICE.*) Eunice, you don't realize it, but you've been working for me for a long time. The food drive? Singing at the nursing home and preschool and jail? They're all our concerns. Skycastle Enterprises benefited from all that. I benefited from what you did. But even more, because of why you did it.

EUNICE: I didn't know. How could I? It was just the right thing to do.

MANNY: (*To BILLY.*) Billy, I'm sorry, but the bars you sing karaoke at, the work you've done...you did that on your own. For your own profit. You wanted the praise and glory, and you got it. For what it's worth, I had no part in any of that.

BILLY: Why should you have? I did it my way.

MANNY: And so you see why there is no place for you at Skycastle.

BILLY: Fine. Well, don't come back to me begging for a second chance. I'm out of here.

MANNY: Good-bye, Billy.

BILLY: And good riddance. Thanks for nothing.

ANGELA: Let's go.



Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

CALLED OR CULLED

by Patrick Dorn.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 844-841-6387 - Fax 319-368-8011
customerservice@christianpub.com