

FINED

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**

FINED

Parable: The Two Debtors

By Patrick Rainville Dorn

FINED*Parable: The Two Debtors***By Patrick Rainville Dorn**

SYNOPSIS: One library patron owes a 35¢ fine while the other, whose textbooks were damaged in a flood, owes \$350. When the librarian cancels both fines, guess who is more grateful?

BIBLE VERSE: Luke 7:40-43

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(3 either)*

LIBRARIAN (f/m).....Loves people even more than books. *(38 lines)*

MANDY/ANDY (f/m).....Conscientious book borrower. *(14 lines)*

ROSALIE/ROSS (f/m)Owes a huge debt. *(23 lines)*

DURATION: 10 minutes.

SETTING: Front desk at a public library

TIME: Modern day.

PROPS

- ☐ Table
- ☐ Desk or counter
- ☐ computer screen and keyboard (or laptop)
- ☐ single book
- ☐ stack of three books (damaged, if your audience is close enough to tell)
- ☐ two library cards

NOTE: All props can be mimed.

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

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: ⁴⁰Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. ⁴¹“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” ⁴³Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said (*Luke 7:40-43*).



AT START: *LIBRARIAN sits or stands at the desk, looking at the computer screen.*

MANDY: (*Enters carrying a book.*) Good morning.

LIBRARIAN: Nice to see you, Mandy. (*Gestures to MANDY'S book.*)

Did you want to check that out?

MANDY: (*Hands book to LIBRARIAN.*) Yes, please. It's the sequel to the novel I just finished. I hope it's as good as the first one. It's full of love and adventure, and it's set in the olden days. (*Hands LIBRARIAN the book and library card.*) Here's my library card.

LIBRARIAN: I've heard good things about the first one. (*Types.*)

There's quite a long waiting list for it. (*Looks at screen.*) And they've made it into a movie.

MANDY: I know. But I didn't want to see the movie until after I'd read the book. That way I get to imagine it myself first. By the way, I think I've got an overdue charge for that novel.

LIBRARIAN: (*Looks at screen.*) I see that. Do you want to pay your fine today?

MANDY: Sure. See, I needed an extra couple of days to finish it. I tried to renew it online, but the computer said the book was on hold.

LIBRARIAN: That message pops up automatically when someone else is waiting for the book.

MANDY: But I couldn't just turn it in with only a few chapters to go, you know? Then I'd be back at the end of the waiting list, and I just had to find out how the story ended.

LIBRARIAN: So you held onto it until you finished?

MANDY: Yes. I know that meant that the next person in line had to wait longer than they should have. I didn't mean to be inconsiderate, but I just *had* to finish that book! Even so, it was still overdue, and I accept responsibility.

LIBRARIAN: It looks like it was checked in this morning.

MANDY: I asked my dad to drive me over last night so I could put it in the drop-off bin. That way you'd have it first thing.

LIBRARIAN: That was nice of your father to do that for you.

MANDY: He says that of all the things his tax money goes toward, the public library is one of the best.

LIBRARIAN: I'd have to agree with him there.

MANDY: So how much do I owe?

LIBRARIAN: (*Typing.*) It looks like... thirty-five cents. Do you want to pay with cash or credit card?

MANDY: I think I've got that. (*Reaches into pocket.*) Oh, no. I don't. All I've got is a dime. I'm sorry. How about if I pay next time I'm here?

LIBRARIAN: You know what? Just forget it. You're a frequent customer, you're a responsible person, and I understand why you kept the book. I'll just delete the fine.

MANDY: You can do that?

LIBRARIAN: Sure. I'm the librarian. (*Gestures around the room.*) This is my domain. I rule here. It's really not so much.

MANDY: Well, if you're sure.

LIBRARIAN: I'm sure. (*Clicks keyboard.*) It's gone. (*Hands MANDY the book.*) Here's your book. It's due in three weeks.

MANDY: I promise I'll return it before then.

LIBRARIAN: Cross your heart?

MANDY: I'll do my best. Thanks! See ya! (*Exits with book.*)

LIBRARIAN: (*To self.*) I've been waiting three weeks to read that novel. I know what I'm doing tonight!

ROSALIE: (*Enters carrying a stack of damaged books.*) Excuse me.

LIBRARIAN: Yes?

ROSALIE: I've come to turn myself in.

LIBRARIAN: This is a library, not a police station. What's the problem?

ROSALIE: Well... I'm taking night classes so I can become a CNA.

LIBRARIAN: A CNA?

ROSALIE: Certified Nursing Assistant. I've been working in the fast-food industry, and I want to get into healthcare. You know, to help make people get better instead of... well, you know.

LIBRARIAN: And...?

ROSALIE: Well, the workbooks and materials were too expensive. I couldn't afford to buy them and pay the fee for the class. But luckily, I found the textbooks here at the library.

LIBRARIAN: Textbooks are crazy expensive these days. I understand. That's why we have a public library. So people can read books without having to buy them.

ROSALIE: Right. Anyway, my family lives in a basement apartment, and while I was at work, the people above us had their sink overflow. The water dripped down through the ceiling and right onto our kitchen table, where I do my homework.

LIBRARIAN: Oh, no...

ROSALIE: (*Holds up the books, upset.*) The textbooks. They're ruined! All of them. I'm so sorry.

LIBRARIAN: Oh, that's terrible!

ROSALIE: I tried to disinfect the pages and dry them off, but it didn't work.

LIBRARIAN: (*Looks at books.*) Wow. You're right. They're ruined for sure.

ROSALIE: How much will it cost to replace them?

LIBRARIAN: A lot. Let's see. (*Types on the computer.*) Oh, my.

ROSALIE: It's going to be bad, I know it. Just tell me.

LIBRARIAN: Three hundred and fifty dollars.

ROSALIE: (*Tries not to cry.*) OK. That's not quite two weeks' salary. Can I pay you back in installments? If I drop out of the program, I can get extra hours.

LIBRARIAN: Why would you drop out of the program?

ROSALIE: Because I don't have the books I need to finish the class anymore. And the people who come after me won't be able to check them out either. I'm really sorry.

LIBRARIAN: It wasn't your fault.

ROSALIE: Maybe not. But I'm still responsible for them.

LIBRARIAN: I'll tell you what. I can arrange an interlibrary loan for another set of those books. (*Types.*) Do you have your library card?



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

FINED

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