

THE CASE OF THE EMPTY TOMB

by Kent Syverson



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**THE CASE OF THE
EMPTY TOMB
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MASON PERRY

B.J. FETCH HER

SAM SHOVEL

NANCY DREARY

SHERKEY HOMELY

DR. WHAT'S WRONG

PRODUCTION NOTES

SYNOPSIS: *The Case of the Empty Tomb* opens the day after the Resurrection. The Sadducees, who say there is no Resurrection (see Matthew 22:23), have hired attorney Mason Perry to prove that Jesus did not rise from the dead. He hires four other detectives to help him with the case: B.J. Fetch Her, Sam Shovel, Nancy Dreary, and Sherkey Homely along with sidekick Dr What's Wrong. They meet again thirty-nine days later to compare notes. Each detective solves the case by using one of the four theories people use to try to disprove the Resurrection:

- The women went to the wrong tomb.
- It was Judas Iscariot who was crucified, not Jesus.
- Jesus didn't really die, he only passed out.
- The disciples stole the body of Jesus.

1 (MASON PERRY enters, carrying a briefcase.)

2 PERRY: My name is Mason Perry. I'm an attorney. Four
3 days ago a man named Jesus, formerly of Nazareth, was
4 crucified for blasphemy. Early yesterday morning, a
5 series of strange events occurred, and a rumor spread
6 that he had risen from the dead! The Sadducees have
7 hired me to disprove that theory. However, the rumor is
8 spreading at an alarming rate, and I cannot do this job
9 alone. I have hired four detectives to help me.

10 First, there's the star of the hit series, *Stealing, She*
11 *Wrote*, B.J. Fetch Her! (B.J. FETCH HER enters.) Next,
12

1 take a different area. Find out all you can about this so-
 2 called “Resurrection,” then report back to me and we’ll
 3 all compare notes. Together we should be able to come
 4 up with a report that will satisfy the Sadducees.

5 SHOVEL: Just make sure that you include us in the credits!

6 FETCH HER: If you don’t, I will. I’m a writer, you know.

7 PERRY: All right, already! Calm down! I’m an attorney; I
 8 know all about copyright laws. Now, are there any more
 9 questions?

was coming, and the people had to hurry back to their homes to prepare for the Sabbath. Some women wanted to give him a proper burial, but they had to wait until after the Sabbath to do it.

They got up very early in the morning on the third day to prepare the spices for Jesus' body. It was just getting light when they left for the tomb. Now, when you combine the darkness of the hour, their grief and their haste, the answer is obvious — they went to the wrong tomb!

When they arrived, the tomb was open. They claim they saw two angels at the tomb, and one of them said, "He is not here." Those "angels" were really gardeners, and the early morning light gave them an angelic appearance. When the gardener said "He is not here," he meant that Jesus was not buried in that particular tomb. *(The others look at each other, considering this possibility. Then SAM SHOVEL takes Center Stage.)*

1 have Jesus arrested. But Jesus found out about it and
2 planned to have Judas arrested instead!

3 Two distractions took place at the arrest site —
4 presumably orchestrated by Jesus. First, a man
5 wearing only a sheet appeared on the scene. When
6 someone tried to grab him, he grabbed the sheet
7 instead, and the man escaped naked! A streaker will
8 grab anybody's attention!

9 Second, one of the disciples tried to cut off the ear of
10 a servant. Then his ear was supposedly healed. While all
11 this was going on, Jesus took off his cloak and put it on
12 Judas, then escaped, and in the confusion they arrested
13 Judas instead. For some reason, Judas never told
14 anyone who he really was. *(The others ponder this theory.*
15 *Then NANCY DRE*

- 1 hidden opening which allowed enough oxygen in to
 2 revive him. He got up and managed to get out of there on
 3 his own strength! *(The others think this over. SHERKEY*
 4 *HOMELY goes to Center Stage. DR. WHAT'S WRONG joins him.)*
- 5 **HOMELY:** Haven't you overlooked something? One of the
 6 guards stabbed Jesus' side with his spear! Blood and
 7 water came out — that only happens when a person
 8 dies. How could anyone survive that, especially after
 9 six hours on a cross?
- 10 **NANCY:** *(A beat)* Oh, no! I guess I really blew that one! *(She*
 11 *rejoins the others.)*
- 12 **PERRY:** *(Tearing out and folding up the third page of notes)* That
 13 makes three theories we can't use! Sherkey, you're our
 1

1 **HOMELY:** *(To MASON PERRY)* But there is another way to
 2 pull off such an illusion. Before the Crucifixion, Jesus
 3 was constantly seen with his disciples. Now, he's being
 4 seen all alone. That means that "Jesus" is really Thomas
 5 in disguise!

6 After the disciples stole the body of Jesus, Thomas
 7 dressed himself in Jesus' clothes and has been making
 8 those appearances himself! He's seldom seen with the
 9 disciples anymore, so nobody caught on to the ruse
 10 until now. *(The others mull this over.)*

11 **FETCH HER:** <



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