

DAVE!

by Hank Beebe



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.

DAVE!

By Hank Beebe

CAST OF CHARACTERS

DAVE — acting and singing part, voice range Eb-F#, smallish, bright, unlikely hero.

MICHAEL — acting and singing part, voice range C-G, Sheriff Buzz's daughter, attractive, determined.

PREACHER SAM — acting and singing part, voice range A-Eb, politician type.

SHERIFF BUZZ SAUL — acting part, standard macho.

KID GOLIATH — acting part, surly, loud, contemptuous.

MRS. THOMPSON — singing and acting part, town clerk.

MISS CLARK — singing and acting part, town librarian.

TOWNSPEOPLE — singing and acting parts, make up a chorus.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The musical *Dave* can be performed in a theater or church chancel, with simple or no scenery. The script calls for a lectern in the voting scene, and some sort of raised platform would be useful in several of the scenes.

The cast can all dress in simple western garb: the men in hats, boots, plaid shirts and jeans, and the women in dresses and, if available, bonnets. Dave should wear a white hat and carry a guitar. Preacher Sam would look more in character in a dark colored suit. Sheriff Buzz Saul needs to have a holster and gun and a badge; Goliath also needs a holster and gun. In the final scene, Michael wears a wedding gown and carries a bouquet. Keeping with the simplicity of the stage set, only a few props are needed: a lunch basket for Michael, ballots for the voters, floral bowers and funeral pall for procession, and a guitar and a bent horseshoe nail for Dave. Substituting a heavy rubber band for the E-string (bass) of Dave's guitar will allow him to draw the string farther back for heightened dramatic effect in the duel.

Following are the nine songs included in this musical. The words of the songs appear in both the music book and the playbook.

1. "Dave" 2. "Thanks Be to God" 3. "When He Rides Off in the Sunset" 4. "The Right Man for the Job" 5. "Kid Goliath" 6. "Don't Do It!" 7. "Dave's Prayer" 8. "The Duel" 9. "Thanks Be to God" (the wedding)

This play parallels the biblical story of David and Goliath and shares the same theme: that God gives us the strength to do great things when we are in accord with his will. For Bible discussion, the following plot and character parallels might be noted: Dave/David, Michael/Michal, Sheriff Buzz Saul/King Saul, Preacher Sam/The Prophet Samuel, Electing a sheriff/Anointing a king, A deputy/An arm's bearer, The guitar/The harp, The Phil O'Steen gang/The Philistines, Palace Town/Palestine.

1 **OPENING:** The lights dim down to darkness, and the introduction
 2 begins. During the music, the townspeople and sheriff enter
 3 and take up frozen positions typical of those seen in a Western
 4 town at midday. People are in small groups, as if chatting.
 5 Several men are sleeping, two with their backs against one
 6 another. The sheriff is addressing two dance hall girls. Some
 7 women exchange gossip. All are frozen, no one moves or talks.

8 *(Preacher SAM enters from Left.)*

9 **SONG:** "Dave" (SAM and TOWNSPEOPLE)

10 **SAM:** *(Sings)* **Who's the strangest lawman on earth?**
 11 **Who's the youngest testing his worth?**
 12 **Who won't act like lawmen behave?**
 13 **That easy-ridin', Bible-readin',**
 14 **gittar-playin' mæn called Dave.**

15
 16 **Who's the most un-macho of all?**
 17 **As the new deputy to Sheriff Buzz Saul.**
 18 **Who wore a badge before he could**
 19 **shave?**
 20 **That easy-ridin', Bible-readin',**
 21 **gittar-playin' man called Dave.**

22 *(The TOWNSPEOPLE break out of the freeze. They clasp their*
 23 *hands in an imploring attitude, and sing with SAM.)*

24 **SAM & TOWNSPEOPLE:**

25 **Dave!**
 26 **The town needs you, Dave!**
 27 **The situation is grave.**
 28 **The town needs you to save it!**

29 *(TOWNSPEOPLE return to freeze in small groups.)*

30 **SAM:** The name's Sam. *Preacher* Sam. And this is where I live:
 31 **Palace Town, where Dave is the new deputy to Sheriff Buzz**
 32 **Saul. I sort of feel responsible, since I put Dave up to it.**
 33 **Sheriff Saul could *use* a little help these days. A band of**
 34 **outlaws has been taking over all the towns in this county.**
 35 **You may have heard of them: the Phil O'Steen gang.**

1 *(The TOWNSPEOPLE break from freeze, and again clasp their*
 2 *hands imploringly.)*

3 **SAM & TOWNSPEOPLE:**

4 **Dave!**

5 **The town needs you, Dave!**

6 **The situation is grave.**

7 **The town needs you to save it!**

8 *(As before, the TOWNSPEOPLE go back to small groups and*
 9 *freeze. Sheriff BUZZ SAUL comes down front and SAM goes to*
 10 *him.)*

11 **SAM: Hi, Buzz.**

12 **BUZZ: Preacher Sam.**

13 **SAM: Dropped by to see how young Dave is doing.**

14 **BUZZ: As a deputy he's smart, reliable, and does his duty.**

15 **But as a git-tar player . . .**

16 **SAM: I always thought he was pretty good.**

17 **BUZZ: Same old songs all the time! Always how God is gonna**
 18 **save us. How God is going to protect Palace Town from**
 19 **its enemies.**

20 **SAM: Sounds like good music to me.**

21 **BUZZ: Well, if God is going to protect us from the Phil**
 22 **O'Steen gang, he better do more than be sung about by**
 23 **a deputy plunkin' a git-tar with a bent horseshoe nail.**
 24 **They just hired the deadliest gunfighter in the West: Kid**
 25 **Goliath.**

26 **SAM: And you don't think God will save us.**

27 **BUZZ: If he was going to save us, he would have given us Kid**
 28 **Goliath!**

29 **SAM: Well, with Dave at least there are two of you.**

30 **BUZZ: Hah! If Goliath decides he wants to take us on in a**
 31 **git-tar playin' contest, we might have a chance. But if it's**
 32 **six-guns, I see us coming in dead last.**

33 **SAM: Cheer up, Buzz. God may yet give us a hand. See ya.**
 34 *(SAM walks back to Center as BUZZ cleans gun.)*

35

SAM: (*Sings "Dave"*) Who made a mistake, and picked the
wrong man?
Who helped elect Buzz each time
he ran?
Who didn't know how wrong he
could be?
That easy-talkin', full of wisdom,
know-it-all . . . me.

10 Who's now tryin' to make it all right?

11 Who brought Dave in to take up the

12 fight?

13 Who's got to work his way out of a jam?

14 Behind the scenes, operating,

15 politicking, yours truly . . . Sam.

16 *(The TOWNSPEOPLE break from the freeze, clasp hands and*
17 *sing.)*

18 SAM & TOWNSPEOPLE:

19 Dave!
20 The town needs you, Dave!
21 The situation is grave.
22 The town needs you to save it!

24 **SAM:** **Who's the man with this curious**
25 **quirk?**
26 **Just weird enough to make it all work?**
27 **Who's the next sheriff? Whose way**
28 **will I pave?**

29 (By now DAVE is entering through the TOWNSPEOPLE. He
30 wears a guitar on his back, but even in his white hat, he is so
31 unassuming that he is hardly noticed by the TOWNSPEOPLE.
32 They are too intent on their own plight. Finally SAM sees him,
33 puts his arm around him in recognition, and the rest is sung to
34 DAVE.)

1 **SAM & TOWNSPEOPLE:**

2 **You got it,**

3 **Dave!**

4 **The town needs you, Dave!**

5 **The situation is grave!**

6 **The town needs you,**

7 **The town needs you, Dave!**

8 *(During the scene that follows, the TOWNSPEOPLE*
9 *unobtrusively take seats in rows as if they were in church.)*

10 **DAVE: Morning, Preacher Sam. Sheriff, I checked the jail.**
11 **Everything is secure.**

12 **BUZZ: Secure, you say, Dave? I'm afraid that won't be until**
13 **Kid Goliath and his friends are comfortably residing**
14 **there.**

15 **DAVE: Well, that shouldn't take us too long, Sheriff.**

16 **BUZZ: You hear that, Sam? We're going to have those buzzards**
17 **locked up before the weekend's over.**

18 **SAM: Good. Then everybody will be free to come to church.**

19 **BUZZ: Under those circumstances, Sam, I might even come!**
20 *(BUZZ and SAM laugh.)*

21 **BUZZ: Dave, I don't want to squelch your spirit or anything,**
22 **but could you hold down your confidence a little? You**
23 **may just be overestimating what we're capable of.**

24 **DAVE: Oh, I don't think we're all that capable, Sheriff. I just**
25 **don't think we're all that alone.**

26 **SONG: "Thanks Be to God" (DAVE & TOWNSPEOPLE)**

27 **DAVE: (Sings) Thanks be to God, who gives us the**
28 **victory,**

29 **Thanks be to God, who brings us**
30 **success,**

31 **Thanks be to God, who shows us the**
32 **way to life,**

33 **Help us to say to life: Yes!**

34

35

1 **Thanks be to God, who moves us**
 2 **with miracles,**
 3 **Out of the dark, and into the dawn,**
 4 **Thanks be to God, who gives us the**
 5 **will to grow,**
 6 **Gives us the will to go on.**
 7
 8 **Glory to God in the heights, in the**
 9 **depths,**
 10 **And in all that's between them.**
 11 **Praise him with songs, and with**
 12 **words from the heart**
 13 **That will show him we mean them.**
 14
 15 **Thanks be to God,**
 16 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Thanks be to God . . .**
 17 **DAVE:** **Who fills us with wonderment,**
 18 **Under the sea and high in the air**
 19 **Just when I think I'm someone he**
 20 **never sees,**
 21 **I speak his name and he's there!**
 22
 23 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Thanks be to God for the day, for the**
 24 **night,**
 25 **With its stars for a cover.**
 26 **DAVE:** **Thanks be for all of the God-given**
 27 **gifts**
 28 **That I've yet to discover.**
 29
 30 **Thanks be to God,**
 31 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Thanks be to God . . .**
 32 **DAVE:** **Who fills me with confidence,**
 33 **When I'm alone, and troubles arrive,**
 34 **Thanks be to God, who helps me in**
 35 **seeing the glory in being a-live!**

1 **DAVE:** **Thanks be!**

2 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Thanks be!**

3 **DAVE:** **Thanks be!**

4 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Thanks be!**

5 **DAVE:** **Praise be!**

6 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Praise be!**

7 **DAVE:** **Glory!**

8 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Glory!**

9 **DAVE:** **Thanks be!**

10 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Thanks be!**

11 **DAVE:** **Thanks be!**

12 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **Thanks!**

13 **DAVE:** **To God! . . .**

14 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **To God be thanks forever!**

15 **Thanks be to God!**

16 *(Toward the end of the number, the TOWNSPEOPLE begin to*
 17 *fall into the spirit of DAVE'S outpouring, and individually stand*
 18 *up to be counted, so that by the end of the number all the*
 19 *TOWNSPEOPLE are standing around DAVE in a show of*
 20 *support. At the end of the number, during applause, the*
 21 *TOWNSPEOPLE assume frozen attitudes in small groups again.*
 22 *BUZZ finishes cleaning his gun, turns to DAVE.)*

23 **BUZZ:** **Dave, I want to ask you a question. Now, I've been**
 24 **sheriff of Palace Town for nearly ten years.**

25 **DAVE:** **Since I was in grade school.**

26 **BUZZ:** **And during the first nine years my daughter visited**
 27 **me here in the office exactly twice.**

28 **DAVE:** **Not exactly a place a girl might want to pass the time in.**

29 **BUZZ:** **But during the past six weeks she has been down here**
 30 **more days than not. Now, how do you account for that?**

31 **DAVE:** **She likes music.** *(He twangs a loud chord on his guitar.)*

32 **BUZZ:** **That's one way of putting it. Do you find her interesting?**

33 **DAVE:** **I find her name interesting. Why did you call her**
 34 **Michael?**

35 **BUZZ:** **Because I wanted a son, that's why! Michael would**

1 have been good enough for him, so it's good enough for
2 her. Have you been seeing her on the sly?

3 **DAVE:** No.

4 **BUZZ:** Wouldn't do you any good anyway. I've got very high
5 standards for the man that ends up with Michael.

6 **DAVE:** You're having a contest?

7 **BUZZ:** You just leave her alone. I've got enough to worry
8 about with the O'Steen gang without wondering what
9 my daughter is up to.

10 **DAVE:** (*Sings, slowly*)

11 Thanks be to God . . . Who gives us
12 the victory . . .

13 **BUZZ:** You *are* talking about the O'Steen gang, aren't you?

14 **DAVE:** When I'm alone,

15 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** (*Break out of freeze, form around DAVE and*
16 *sing:*)

17 Thanks be to God . . .
18 (*BUZZ exits.*)

19 **DAVE:** And troubles arrive
20 Thanks be to God, who helps me in
21 seeing the
22 Glory in being alive!

23
24 Thanks be!

25 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** Thanks be!

26 **DAVE:** Thanks be!

27 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** Thanks be!

28 **DAVE:** Praise be!

29 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** Praise be!

30 **DAVE:** Glory!

31 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** Glory!

32 **DAVE:** Thanks be!

33 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** Thanks be!

34 **DAVE:** Thanks be!

35 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** Thanks!

- 1 **DAVE:** **To God! . . .**
2 **TOWNSPEOPLE:** **To God be thanks forever!**
3 **Thanks be to God!**
4 *(After the number, TOWNSPEOPLE go back to small groups*
5 *again. MICHAEL, carrying a lunch basket, comes down to*
6 *DAVE.)*
7 **MICHAEL:** **May I come in?**
8 **DAVE:** **Door's open.**
9 **MICHAEL:** **I brought Dad's lunch.**
10 **DAVE:** **You missed him. He went out to get some election**
11 **posters printed up.**
12 **MICHAEL:** **He certainly is all wrought up about getting**
13 **re-elected. I brought you some lunch, too.**
14 **DAVE:** **Thanks.**
15 **MICHAEL:** **Thanks, what?**
16 **DAVE:** **What do you mean, thanks *what*? Thanks, Miss Saul?**
17 **MICHAEL:** **You never say my first name.**
18 **DAVE:** **Doesn't fit you.**
19 **MICHAEL:** **It's the only first name I've got. And I was hoping**
20 **we were on a first name basis . . . Dave.**
21 **DAVE:** **Well, if you say so . . . Mike. *(He winces.)***
22 **MICHAEL:** **There. That doesn't hurt, does it?**
23 **DAVE:** **Only when I laugh.**
24 **MICHAEL:** **You don't think my name is *funny*?!**
25 **DAVE:** **No.**
26 **MICHAEL:** **Well, I do. But I'm stuck with it.**
27 **DAVE:** **Mike . . .**
28 **MICHAEL:** **Yes, Dave?**
29 **DAVE:** **Mike . . .**
30 **MICHAEL:** **Yes, Dave?**
31 **DAVE:** **I'm practicing. Maybe I'll get used to it.**
32 **MICHAEL:** **I like how you say it.**
33 **DAVE:** **I like how you like how I say it.**
34 **MICHAEL:** **Dave and Mike.**
35 **DAVE:** **Sounds like the beginning of a joke.**

1 **MICHAEL:** I hope it's not.
2 **DAVE:** So do I. I have to check the bank and Wells Fargo.
3 Thanks for the lunch.
4 **MICHAEL:** Thanks what?
5 **DAVE:** Thanks . . . Mike. (*DAVE exits Right.*)
6 **SONG:** "When He Rides Off in the Sunset" (MICHAEL)
7 **MICHAEL:** (*Sings*) If this romance seems underfed
8 Let me tell you why,
9 The sheriff has put a price on my head
10 And the price may be too high.
11
12 But we just might work it out
13 Dave and I,
14 For Dave is basically brave
15 And I basically try . . .
16
17 We have made no plans, there are
18 none set,
19 On my calendar there's not a mark,
20 But when he rides off in 'the sunset,
21 I don't intend to be left out in the dark.
22
23 Standards that are set can be unset,
24 And life can be free to unfold.
25 So when he rides off in the sunset,
26 I don't intend to be left out in the cold.
27
28 Sunsets are beautiful,
29 Gold blazing out of the blue,
30 And I intend to have one
31 To ride off into . . .
32
33 You could say my mind is of one set,
34 And I pray to God as my guide,
35 When Dave rides off in the sunset,

1 **That I will ride at his side!**

2 **That I will ride . . .**

3 **At his side . . .**

4 *(After the song, MICHAEL rejoins a group of women Upstage.*

5 *Preacher SAM and BUZZ enter together.)*

6 **SAM:** I tell you, Buzz, if you don't go along with this, you're
7 gonna throw this whole town into a panic. Things are
8 touchy enough as it is.

9 **BUZZ:** Panic or no, I don't want Dave running against me for
10 sheriff. It looks like I don't have the support of my own
11 deputy.

12 **SAM:** But nobody *else* is running for sheriff.

13 **BUZZ:** I can't blame them, what with Kid Goliath about two
14 towns away. I wish *I* could get out of it.

15 **SAM:** Why don't you?

16 **BUZZ:** The town would string me up, deserting my post just
17 when the enemy's about to attack.

18 **SAM:** So what are you going to do about Kid Goliath?

19 **BUZZ:** Deputize a posse.

20 **SAM:** That's just what I'm *talking* about. If it looks like no man
21 in his right mind would touch the sheriff's job with a
22 ten-foot pole, who's gonna come forward when you call
23 for a posse?

24 **BUZZ:** You got a small point.

25 **SAM:** Our only hope is to make it look like there are men
26 here who think Goliath can be taken, men who'll run for
27 sheriff because they feel they have a reasonable chance
28 of living through a term of office.

29 **BUZZ:** But Dave's just a boy.

30 **SAM:** If Dave runs, others may run.

31 **BUZZ:** Then I might lose.

32 **SAM:** You'll lose your posse if you run alone, Buzz.

33 **BUZZ:** It's a sticky one, Sam.

34 **SAM:** I'll speak to Dave. He listened to me about being deputy.
35 Maybe he'll listen about running for sheriff.

- 1 **BUZZ:** If you say so. But I still don't like it.
- 2 **SAM:** You want your posse?
- 3 **BUZZ:** Got to have it.
- 4 **SAM:** Then you can't afford to make the job look impossible.
- 5 **BUZZ:** *(As he exits Right)* I'll think it over.
- 6 **SAM:** *(After him)* It's like you say, Buzz. It's a sticky one. *(BUZZ*
7 *is gone, SAM takes off his hat.)* Lord, take it from an old
8 **preacher: if you'll get Buzz to go along with this little**
9 **scheme of mine, we just might save this old town.**
- 10 **SONG:** "The Right Man for the Job" (SAM, BUZZ, DAVE, and
11 TOWNSPEOPLE)
- 12 **SAM:** *(As caller, sings as others begin a hoedown.)*
13 **Choose your sheriff, make your choice**
14 **You too can have a voice,**
15 **Help us pick the right man for the job.**
16 **Let your "X" mark the spot,**
17 **One's a winner, one is not,**
18 **Help us pick the right man for the job.**
19
20 **Fiddler, play your notes,**
21 **No one fiddles with the votes,**
22 **Help us pick the right man for the job.**
23
24 **ALL:** **The right man, who is the right man?**
25 **Who is the right man for the job?**
26 **The right man, gotta pick the right man,**
27 **Gotta pick the right man for the job.**
28
29 **MRS. THOMPSON:** **We need experience, rising to our**
30 **defense,**
31 **Buzz is the right man for the job.**
32
33 **MISS CLARK:** **Buzz does have the stuff,**
34 **But we've had him long enough,**
35 **Dave is the right man for the job.**

- 1 **SAM:** **I can't read your mind,**
2 **Mark your ballot, and we'll find**
3 **Who is the right man for the job.**
4
- 5 **ALL:** **The right man, who is the right man?**
6 **Who is the right man for the job?**
7 **The right man, gotta pick the right man,**
8 **Gotta pick the right man for the job.**
9 *(BUZZ now stands in front of half of the group. DAVE stands*
10 *in front of the other half. SAM stands in the middle.)*
- 11 **SAM:** **On this side we have champion sheepherder, popular**
12 **deputy, and spirited challenger: Dave! *(Applause from his***
13 *group)* **And on this side we have our sheriff of three**
14 **consecutive terms, *(Unenthusiastically)* and present**
15 **entrenched incumbent: Buzz! *(Applause from BUZZ'S***
16 *group)*
- 17 **SAM:** **All right, men, start talking. And may the best man win!**
18 *(General applause)*
- 19 **DAVE:** **Sam *(SAM goes to DAVE.)* I don't know any speeches.**
- 20 **SAM:** **Say what you feel, Dave.**
- 21 **DAVE:** **What I *really* feel?**
- 22 **SAM:** **That's what you should say.**
- 23 **BUZZ:** *(To crowd)* **My fellow Palace Townians, as your present**
24 **sheriff . . .**
- 25 **DAVE:** *(Sings)* **The Lord is our shepherd . . .**
- 26 **BUZZ:** **I stand on my record.**
- 27 **DAVE:** **We shall not want . . .**
- 28 **BUZZ:** **I've made this town safe for decent people to live in . . .**
- 29 **DAVE:** **He maketh us to lie down in green**
30 **pastures . . .**
- 31 **BUZZ:** **I've sent strangers and misfits packing . . .**
- 32 **DAVE:** **He leadeth us beside the still waters . . .**
- 33 **BUZZ:** **Put freeloaders behind bars . . .**
- 34 **DAVE:** **He restoreth our souls . . .**
- 35 **BUZZ:** **Strung up murderers and robbers, sometimes even**

1 with a trial . . .

2 DAVE: He leadeth us in the paths of

3 righteousness for his name's sake

4 BUZZ: But, now, you take Dave here. I've got nothing against

5 that boy . . .

6 DAVE: Yea, though we walk through the

7 valley of the shadow of death . . .

8 BUZZ: For his age he's doing very well . . .

9 DAVE: We will fear no evil . . .

10 BUZZ: Considering how little experience he's had . . .

11 DAVE: For thou art with us . . .

12 BUZZ: And how few tough situations he's had to face . . .

13 DAVE: Thy rod and thy staff . . .

14 BUZZ: He's progressing very well . . .

15 DAVE: They comfort us . . .

16 BUZZ: I say, "*progressing* very well" . . .

17 DAVE: Thou preparest a table before us . . .

18 BUZZ: But is "*progressing* very well" *enough*?

19 DAVE: In the presence of our enemies . . .

20 BUZZ: When the survival of this town is at stake . . .

21 DAVE: Thou anointest our heads with oil . . .

22 BUZZ: Can we afford to place our lives in the hands of a

23 promising *student*?

24 DAVE: Our cups runneth over . . .

25 BUZZ: With Goliath at the gates!

26 DAVE: Surely goodness and mercy shall

27 follow us . . .

28 BUZZ: And the O'Steen gang moving in for the kill!

29 DAVE: All the days of our lives . . .

30 BUZZ: We need a hard-as-nails, no-nonsense, fierce avenger,

31 and punisher of perverted *iniquity*!

32 DAVE: And we will dwell in the house of the

33 Lord . . .

34 BUZZ: We need *me*!

35 DAVE: Forever!

1 *(General applause)*

2 **ALL:** *(Sing)* **The right man, who is the right man?**
 3 **Who is the right man for the job?**
 4 **The right man, gotta pick the right man,**
 5 **Gotta pick the right . . .**

6
 7 **SAM:** **Choose your sheriff, here they are,**
 8 **Pick the one to wear the star,**
 9 **One's the hero, one's the goat,**
 10 **Step right up and swing the vote.**

11
 12 **ALL:** **The right man, the right man,**
 13 **The right . . . man . . . for . . . the . . .**
 14 **The job . . . the job . . . the job . . . the job**
 15 **. . . the job . . . the job . . . the job!**

16 *(The hoedown ends.)*

17 **SAM:** Well, I guess everybody's pretty well made up their
 18 minds by now. So I'll just collect the votes. *(SAM begins*
 19 *collecting ballots from the TOWNSPEOPLE. MICHAEL goes to*
 20 *DAVE.)*

21 **MICHAEL:** That was a wonderful speech.

22 **DAVE:** It's been wonderful for quite a few thousand years.

23 **MICHAEL:** You were very convincing.

24 **DAVE:** Well, that's one vote at least. All I need is half of the
 25 rest and I win. *(He starts picking idly at his guitar.)*

26 **MICHAEL:** You'd think a candidate for this town's highest
 27 office would be able to afford a proper pick for his guitar.

28 **DAVE:** I used to have a beauty, made out of bone: white with
 29 brown spots. Lost it, though. Started using a bent
 30 horseshoe nail, and I guess I got used to it.

31 **SAM:** *(Going to lectern with ballots.)* The polls are closed! And
 32 I'd like to have Mrs. Thompson, the town clerk, and Miss
 33 Clark, the librarian, to assist me with the counting. *(The*
 34 *two women move to either side of SAM. The others cluster around*
 35 *eagerly.)*

1 **BUZZ:** And to keep it honest!

2 **SAM:** All right, we'll make two separate piles out of the
3 ballots. *(He opens a ballot, hands it to MRS. THOMPSON)*
4 **Uh-hmmm.** *(Opens another, hands it to MRS. THOMPSON)*
5 **Uh-hmmm.** *(Opens another, hands it to MRS. THOMPSON)*
6 **Uh-hmmm.** *(Opens another, hands it to MISS CLARK)* Uh-
7 **hmmm.** *(Now, faster, he opens the rest of the ballots, handing*
8 *them to the women, favoring MRS. THOMPSON at a rate of*
9 *about three to one. Handing MRS. THOMPSON last ballot)*
10 **Uh-hmmm!** Ladies and gentlemen, the outcome is clear.
11 The results are conclusive. The mandate of the people is
12 unmistakable. And Dave . . . I'm afraid you came in
13 second. *(Turns to BUZZ.)* So the winner, and sheriff of
14 Palace Town for another full term is . . . Buzz Saul!
15 *(TOWNSPEOPLE applaud BUZZ. He climbs up onto an Upstage*
16 *platform, as the TOWNSPEOPLE turn Upstage to face him.*
17 *BUZZ waves to them, in slow motion. The applause changes to*
18 *silent slow motion, with clapping hands held overhead.)*

19 **MICHAEL:** *(Going to DAVE)* I'm sorry, Dave.

20 **DAVE:** *(To SAM)* Wasn't even close, was it?

21 **SAM:** Dave, when it came right down to it, the town believed
22 more in the power of guns than in the power of God.

23 **DAVE:** But it says right in the forty-fourth Psalm, "Neither
24 did their own arms save them."

25 **SAM:** Dave, when people are afraid, they do some pretty
26 strange things. *(Sings, slowly.)*
27 I hope we found the right man for
28 the job . . .

29 **SONG:** "Kid Goliath!" *(TOWNSPEOPLE)*
30 *(Ominous music is heard. A small group of TOWNSPEOPLE*
31 *turn and stare out over the heads of the audience.)*

32 **GROUP I:** *(Fearfully)*
33 He's coming! *(Another group turns*
34 *around.)*
35

1 **GROUPS I & II:** (*Fearfully*) **He's coming!** (*Another group turns*
2 *around.*)

3 **GROUPS I, II, & III:** (*Fearfully*) **He's coming! He's coming!** (*The*
4 *others turn around.*)

5 **GROUP I, II, III & IV:** (*Panic stricken*) **He's coming! He's coming!**
6 **He's coming! He's coming!**

7 SAM: *Who's coming?*

8 ALL TOWNSPEOPLE: (*Sing*)

9 Kid Goliath!

10 He's unbeatable! He's unstoppable!

11 Goliath!

12 With a single shot he can drop a bull!

14 GROUP I: I'd like to help you out,

15 And stick around to see the shooting
16 match,

17 **But...**

18 I just remembered a very pressing
19 engagement,

20 My sister's getting chicken pox today,

21 **And I have to go and help her . . .**

22 **Scratch.**

24 ALL: **Kid Goliath!** (*Group I runs Upstage*
25 *and exits.*) **Kid Goliath!**

26 If you would be dead, he's your
27 chummy chum,

28 **Goliath!**

29 Writes his name in lead on your
30 tummy tum.

32 GROUP II: (Males)

33 **I'd like to help you out,**

34 **Because you're gonna need a lot of men,**

35 **But . . .**

1 I just remembered a very pressing
 2 engagement,
 3 I just received the news that I must
 4 go to my uncle's funeral . . .
 5 Again.

7 **ALL:** Kid Goliath! (*Group II runs Upstage and*
 8 *exits.*) Kid Goliath!
 9 Jelly fills your spine where it should
 10 be bone,
 11 Goliath!
 12 Plays your vertebrae like a xylophone.

14 **GROUP III:** (*Females*)
 15 I'd like to help you out,
 16 Before Goliath and his cretins strike,
 17 But . . .
 18 I just remembered today I'm getting
 19 married,
 20 That's where I have to be,
 21 So that now I can see what my
 22 husband . . .
 23 Looks like.

25 **ALL:** Kid Goliath! Kid Goliath!
 26 (*GROUP III runs Upstage and exits. A few men remain, as well*
 27 *as DAVE, MICHAEL, SAM, and BUZZ.*)

28 **BUZZ:** All right, men! The riffraff has left, and now we're
 29 down to responsible citizens. I hereby officially deputize
 30 you all as a posse until the O'Steen problem is resolved.
 31 Dave, pass out the badges! (*One of the men nervously steps*
 32 *forward.*)

33 **MAN:** Buzz, I think there's something that we should tell
 34 you. (*Sings*)

35 We'd like to help you out

1 On something as important as this,
 2 **MEN:** But . . .
 3 I just remembered a very pressing
 4 engagement,
 5 I have a date with the undertaker
 6 That I intend to miss!
 7 Kid Goliath! Kid Goliath!
 8 *(The men run Upstage and exit.)*
 9 **BUZZ, SAM, DAVE, & MICHAEL:**
 10 Kid Goliath! . . .
 11 *(Only BUZZ, SAM, DAVE & MICHAEL remain on stage.)*
 12 **SAM:** Where's your posse now, Buzz?
 13 **BUZZ:** Chicken-livered buzzards! As soon as a little danger
 14 comes, they run out on you!
 15 **SAM:** And *you're* running out of options.
 16 **BUZZ:** Not quite. Maybe I can't deputize a posse, but there's
 17 nothing saying I can't assign this job to a deputy.
 18 **SAM:** You'd have Dave face Goliath *alone*?
 19 **BUZZ:** You voted for him. You ought to be delighted that
 20 he'll be protecting you.
 21 **SAM:** But without a posse!
 22 **BUZZ:** He's handled plenty of wolves out there herdin' sheep.
 23 Maybe he can handle this one. *(Turns to DAVE)* Dave, I
 24 want to talk to you.
 25 **SAM:** Don't listen to him, Dave. *(DAVE leaves MICHAEL, goes*
 26 *over to BUZZ.)*
 27 **BUZZ:** Look, Dave, you take care of this little problem for
 28 me, and I'll make sure you get a raise starting the first
 29 of the week.
 30 **DAVE:** A raise.
 31 **BUZZ:** Right.
 32 **DAVE:** *(Thinking)* How much of a raise?
 33 **SAM:** Forget it, Dave. No amount of money's worth getting
 34 killed over.
 35 **DAVE:** How *much* of a raise?

1 **BUZZ:** *(Stalling)* Well, I have to look at the budget for next
2 quarter . . .

3 **DAVE:** Enough of a raise where a man could support a wife?

4 **MICHAEL:** *(Coming to DAVE)* No, Dave! You'll just get
5 yourself killed.

6 **BUZZ:** I think we can handle that much.

7 **DAVE:** *(Pressing)* Enough of a raise where a man could meet
8 very high standards that go with a wife?

9 **MICHAEL:** No, Dave!

10 **BUZZ:** Well now, Dave, if you're talking about Michael, that's
11 another story.

12 **DAVE:** Well, it's the only story *I'm* interested in, Buzz. I take
13 my chances with Goliath as an adversary, you take your
14 chances with me as a son-in-law.

15 **BUZZ:** *(Thinks a moment.)* If you live. *(Brightens)* I'll *take* that
16 deal, Dave. *(He hands DAVE his gunbelt, starts to leave.)*

17 **SAM:** Buzz, I see what you're doing!

18 **MICHAEL:** Daddy! Don't let him do this!

19 **BUZZ:** *(Turning back to them)* Daughter! If I lose my deputy,
20 it's on *your* head! *(He exits Upstage, as SAM and MICHAEL*
21 *turn to DAVE.)*

22 **SONG:** "Don't Do It!" (SAM, MICHAEL & DAVE)

23 **SAM:** *(Sings)* Don't do it!

24 **MICHAEL:** *(Sings)* Don't do it!

25 **SAM:** It's just a trick of his,
26 That is all there is
27 To it.

28 **MICHAEL:** Don't do it!

29 **SAM:** That's what it has to be,
30 Think about it, he
31 Wants to remove you from future
32 elections.

33 **MICHAEL:** Don't do it!

34 **SAM:** Don't do it!

35

1 **MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**
 2 **I can't let you!**
 3 **SAM:** **I can't let you!**
 4 **MICHAEL:** **Get shot and be no more,**
 5 **Forcing me to for-**
 6 **Get you.**
 7 **SAM:** **I can't let you!**
 8 **MICHAEL:** **It's clear enough to me,**
 9 **Can't you see that he**
 10 **Wants to remove you from all my**
 11 **affections.**
 12 **SAM:** **Don't let him!**
 13 **MICHAEL:** **Forget him!**
 14 **SAM:** **Don't let him!**
 15 **SAM & MICHAEL:**
 16 **Although you believe you'll come**
 17 **back in one piece,**
 18 **There's a strong possibility you won't.**
 19 **The time has now come for this**
 20 **foolishness to cease,**
 21 **And that's why what we say to you is**
 22 **don't,**
 23 **Don't . . .**
 24 **SAM:** **Don't try it!**
 25 **MICHAEL:** **Don't try it!**
 26 **SAM:** **It may be all in vain,**
 27 **What have you to gain**
 28 **By it?**
 29 **MICHAEL:** **If you die, it**
 30 **Is such an awful waste,**
 31 **Everything erased**
 32 **By it.**
 33 **SAM:** **Don't try to become a dead hero,**
 34 **MICHAEL:** **And a dead husband, too!**
 35 **SAM & MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**

1 **DAVE:** **Don't you believe that God wants**
 2 **this town to survive?**
 3 **SAM & MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**
 4 **DAVE:** **Don't you believe he'll help me come**
 5 **out of this alive?**
 6 **SAM & MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**
 7 **DAVE:** **Don't you see no matter what the**
 8 **consequences I've decided to do it!**
 9 **SAM & MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**
 10 **DAVE:** **I'll do it!**
 11 **SAM & MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**
 12 **DAVE:** **I'll do it!**
 13 **SAM & MICHAEL** **Don't do it!**
 14 **DAVE:** **I'll do it, if it's the last thing I do! . . .**
 15 **SAM:** **Don't do it!**
 16 **MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**
 17 **SAM:** **Don't do it!**
 18 **MICHAEL:** **Don't do it!**
 19 **SAM & MICHAEL:** **I'm pleading with you!**
 20 **DAVE:** *(Flatly)* **Sam, take her where it's safe.**
 21 **SAM:** **Not unless you come too, son.**
 22 **DAVE:** *Take her.*
 23 **SAM:** *(Taking MICHAEL'S arm)* **OK! OK! But I'll be back to try**
 24 **to talk a little sense into your head!**
 25 **MICHAEL:** *(Leaving with SAM)* **Please, Dave. (SAM and**
 26 **MICHAEL exit Upstage. DAVE watches them as they go. Then**
 27 **slowly he puts on Buzz's gunbelt.)**
 28 **SONG:** **"Dave's Prayer" (DAVE)**
 29 **DAVE:** **Lord, they think I'm crazy. But I believe you want**
 30 **this town to go on living, that you want me to do**
 31 **something about it. And I believe that when the time**
 32 **comes, you'll show me what to do. Now, if we both can**
 33 **do something about the fact that I'm scared out of my**
 34 **skin, we might have a chance. (Sings:)**
 35



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

DAVE!

by Hank Beebe.

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

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

customerservice@christianpub.com