



# NINEVEH

by  
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## Synopsis

Ann is certain God wants her to be the first woman deacon in her church. When she convinces her pastor to hold an election, her gay son, Daniel, begins to reveal the ugly side of church politics. Can Ann win the election and maintain her faith despite stirring accusations?

NOT FOR PRODUCTION

ANN 50, Female, Stern, worn down yet veracious and determined. There was a time when she was warm and inviting but she's too tired and single minded for pleasantries

DANIEL 28, Male, Unassumingly gay, unconventionally handsome, charismatic. He is the co-worker you would be happy to have on your shift, half Latino

TROY 30, Male, Clean cut, guy next door quality, handsome, athletic build, a muted desperation. He is the guy you see everyday and wonder if he ever has any problems

PASTOR DAVE 55, Male, Warm faced, commanding presence, trustworthy appearance with an unspoken danger. He is very much a pastor/father figure and he is unafraid to strong arm some one

ALMA 35, Female, Tough, no-nonsense attitude, Old School Chola type, talkative and friendly, like a cactus. She is a natural comedian, but you would be probably be afraid of her at first sight. If she were a cashier, one look and you would probably go to a different line, Latina

PLACE & TIME: Bakersfield, California. Today.

## SCENE ONE

In the darkness, a low rumble of thunder rolls in the distance along with the sound of rolling waves, sloshing, not crashing on the shore, but out in the middle of ocean.

Faint flashes of lightening. In the soft flash, a giant animal appears. It's floating. In the flash, we see it's a whale. It's moving, heading somewhere. In one last flash, the whale disappears.

## SCENE TWO

ANN's living/dining room. The front door is at the center of the back wall. A dinette set, a couch and coffee table, and piano are the prominent furniture in the room. A hallway leading to bedrooms offstage. Various religious insignia, crosses, Precious Moments figurines, bibles, are nestled throughout the room.

ANN (55), tired with a muted sense of veracity, sits at the table drinking a Diet Coke. A plate covered in foil sits beside her.

TROY (33), handsome and preppy, sits across the table.

ANN

Are you sure you don't want any coffee, a Coke?

TROY

No, thank you. There was a bit of a stir at the deacon's meeting today. Brother Ralph informed us that he's leaving.

ANN

What?

TROY

He's moving to Washington to be with his son.

ANN

Oh my goodness.

TROY

It was so sudden.

ANN

So his spot is going to be left on the deacon board. Who's going to take it?

TROY

My dad will have to take applications.

ANN pushes the plate towards TROY.

ANN

Are you sure you're not hungry? It's a sandwich.

TROY

That's for Daniel.

ANN

I can make him another one. Eat something.

TROY

I'm fine, Sister Ann.

Beat.

ANN

So, did the situation with Sister Tammy come up?

TROY

It did.

ANN

Good. Did you all discuss the whole story? She missed on Sunday, get this, to go to the beach. Just up and went to the beach on the Lord's day. She has two under ten! What kind of example is that? The younger one doesn't know her Books of the Bible! So I had to...pass along some advice.

TROY

It was discussed.

ANN

You know I started the Calling Ministry because I believe people don't just cry out for help. They do other things to let you know they need help. Physically and spiritually. She's crying out for spiritual help. When someone misses church, there's a shift in priorities happening.

TROY  
I'm sorry, sister.

ANN  
He's taking me off.

TROY  
The Deacon board voted. It wasn't unanimous.

ANN sits back with her arms folded. She looks away.

ANN  
This isn't right.

TROY  
I agree with you.

ANN  
I didn't say anything out of turn. Since when has a rebuke been grounds for reprimand?

TROY  
It should only be temporary.

ANN  
Who's replacing me?

TROY  
Um...Becky.

ANN  
Sister Becky? You're aunt?

TROY  
I don't think she's a good fit.

ANN  
Why her?

TROY  
She offered.

ANN  
Before or after the deacon vote?

TROY shakes his head.

DANIEL (27), heated, flies through the door, holding a bag.

DANIEL

Who parked their dumb ass Prius in front of the driveway?

ANN

Daniel!

TROY

I'm sorry. I should be going.

DANIEL

Troy. Sorry bout that. It's just...the neighbors...tend to do that and...I just got off work so I'm a little...you know.

TROY

It's so good to see you.

DANIEL

Oh, you don't have to go. I parked across the street.

TROY

I should go.

DANIEL

How are you dong?

TROY

I'm fine. Couldn't ask for more.

DANIEL sits down and starts at the sandwich.

DANIEL

Want a sandwich? Mom, make him a sandwich.

TROY

I'm fine, she offered.

ANN sips her Diet Coke.

DANIEL

Mom! I told you not to drink that shit!

ANN

Daniel, your mouth!

DANIEL

Sorry.

ANN

I can drink Coke.

DANIEL

That's diet. The aspartame isn't good for your fibromyalgia.

ANN

He's more militant about my health than his own.

ANN goes into the kitchen.

The men stare at each other.

TROY

Are you still at the bookstore?

DANIEL

Yup. Still at the bookstore.

TROY

That's not what I...

DANIEL stands and starts.

TROY

We should...we should catch up. Soon.

Beat.

DANIEL sighs.

DANIEL

If you want, I sing at Sandrini's downtown on Thursday nights. It's a bar. You know, church for sinners. Stop by if you like. She doesn't know...so...yeah.

DANIEL finds a stack of mail and begins rifling through it as ANN enters with a Coke.

ANN

Coke?

TROY

No, thank you. Are you okay?



ANN  
About-

TROY  
-being taken off-

ANN  
What can I do about it? All I can think is God has a plan.

TROY  
You can be upset.

ANN  
I know, Troy. And I am.

DANIEL perks up.

DANIEL  
What happened?

ANN  
Nothing.

TROY  
She's being taken off the Calling Ministry for a little bit.

DANIEL  
Cause of Tammy? She's always been a trouble maker. I guess when you're one of the biggest tithers in the church, God can overlook some things, right? Troy?

ANN  
Daniel stop.

TROY  
Well. I better be going. We're taking Brother Ralph out for dinner. I'll be seeing you soon.  
God bless you, Sister.

ANN  
God bless you..

TROY walks out the front door.

DANIEL reads a bill from the stack of mail.

DANIEL  
Did you not pay the electricity?

ANN  
My disability check is late.

DANIEL sighs.

DANIEL  
How is the electricity over one fifty? We've barely run the air conditioner this month.

ANN  
It's been a cool May.

DANIEL  
You like the heat.

ANN  
Can you cover it?

DANIEL  
When do you think your check is coming?

ANN  
I called yesterday. They said another week.

DANIEL  
What day?

ANN  
If you can't do it, I can find money somewhere else.

DANIEL  
No. Just. I'll pay it. I'm gonna take a shower.

ANN  
You can't.

DANIEL  
Why?

ANN  
The drain is backed up.

DANIEL  
Mom!