



# NEW CYCLE OF MYSTERY PLAYS

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

by Dawn King

<b>Tony</b>	<b>Ben Crowe</b>
<b>Aleksy</b>	

# **NEW CYCLE OF MYSTERY PLAYS**

## **The Parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders by Dawn King**

**Music                      In: 00:00                      Dur: 1'22"**

**INTRO BY CANON GILES FRASER: 1'16"**

**"The Church was never given some exclusive deal....."**



14 JOE: Who's that?

1 ALEKSY: I'll tell him to go.

2 TONY: No. I'll deal with it.

3 ALEKSY: Is that a good...

**F/X                      TONY STRIDES TO THE FRONT DOOR AND THROWS IT OPEN.**

4 ERIC: Uhm. Hello.

5 TONY: What is it? What d'you want?

6 ERIC: Well, I saw the van so I knew it was you, so... you working on this house, are you?

7 TONY: What do you think?

8 ERIC: What is it, renovation? *(Pause)* Uh. It's just that... uh... me and Nina... That's our place. Number 31. Opposite.

9 TONY: You've got to be joking.

10 ERIC: Uh, no.

11 TONY: You live in that house, with...

12 ERIC: Moved in a few months back. Doing a bit of work on it. Evenings and weekends, when I can. Still a lot to do. Uhm. It's really good to see you. How are you doing?

13 TONY: Great.

14 ERIC: How uh... how's the business?

15 TONY: I nearly went bankrupt.

16 ERIC: I didn't/

17 TONY: I've got work to do.

18 ERIC: Tony, look, I'm sorry, all right? I didn't mean for any of this to/

**F/X                      THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT ON ERIC AS TONY GOES  
BACK INSIDE.**

- 1 JOE:                      Who was that?
- 2 ALEKSY:                Are you ok?
- 3 TONY:                    Sledgehammer.
- 4 ALEKSY:                I'm not giving you a sledgehammer.
- 5 TONY:                    I'm not gonna... This wall needs to come down!
- 6 ALEKSY:                But we haven't checked if it's load bearing yet.
- 7 TONY:                    Course it's not.
- 8 ALEKSY:                But/
- 9 TONY:                    Joe, give me the sledgehammer.

**F/X                      JOE TAKES A MALLET FROM A BAG OF TOOLS AND  
HANDS IT TO TONY.**

- 10 JOE:                    Here ya go.

**F/X                      WITH A THUD, TONY SWINGS THE MALLET INTO THE  
WALL.**

**Cut To:**

**SCENE 2 THE LIVING ROOM**

**F/X ALEKSY AND JOE ARE PICKING UP THE BRICKS FROM THE BROKEN DOWN WALL AND PUTTING THEM IN A WHEELBARROW. TONY PULLING DOWN OLD CABINETS IN THE KITCHEN. SLIGHTLY FUZZILY TUNED RADIO PLAYING GEORGE MICHAEL (LAST CHRISTMAS) ALEKSY SINGING ALONG.**

**Music Last Christmas/George Michael IN: 3'34 Dur:10"**

1 ALEKSY: (*Singing*) Last Christmas, I gave you my heart, and the very next day, you gave it away...

**F/X TONY TURNS THE RADIO OFF. ALEKSY SHOUTS THROUGH TO HIM.**

2 ALEKSY: Hey!

3 TONY: It's not Christmas, it's only just December.

4 ALEKSY: I like that song!

5 TONY: Well I don't!

6 ALEKSY: (*Realising*) Oh. Sorry Tony.

**F/X THEY WORK.**

7 JOE: Aleksey. Who was that guy?

8 ALEKSY: Ssh. (*Softly*) Do you like working for Tony?

9 JOE: Uh. Why?

10 ALEKSY: Do you?

11 JOE: He seemed all right. But now he's gone well moody.

12 ALEKSY: That was Eric.

13 JOE: Who's Eric?

14 ALEKSY: Eric. Tony and Eric Blackman. Like on the van.

15 JOE: Uh...

- 1 ALEKSY: It's his brother!
- 2 JOE: Oh! Who's Nina?
- 3 ALEKSY: Tony's wife. Ex wife.

**F/X** **JOE KNOCKS THE WHEELBARROW OVER. THE BRICKS  
FALL OUT.**

- 4 ALEKSY: Joe!
- 5 JOE: Sorry!

**F/X** **TONY SHOUTS THROUGH FROM THE KITCHEN.**

- 6 TONY: What's going on in there?
- 7 ALEKSY: Nothing. Joe knocked the wheelbarrow over.
- 8 TONY: We don't have time for you two to mess around! Get on with it!
- 9 ALEKSY: Yes boss! *(To Joe)* Come on, I'll help you.

**F/X** **THEY PICK UP THE BRICKS.**

- 10 JOE: *(Amused)* His wife? That is harsh man!
- 11 ALEKSY: And it happened/
- 12 JOE: Last Christmas. Right?
- 13 ALEKSY: If you want to keep working for Tony, you don't ask him about it. Don't mention it, or say anything about Eric to him, at all. Ever.
- 14 JOE: He should go on Jeremy Kyle.
- 15 ALEKSY: Ssh! Joe, do you understand what I'm saying to you?
- 16 JOE: How did he find out she was doing his brother? Did he walk in on them or/

**F/X** **TONY SHOUTS, AS HE WALKS THROUGH FROM THE  
KITCHEN.**

- 1 TONY: Oi! I'm not paying you to chat!
- 2 ALEKSY: Sorry Tony.
- 3 JOE: Sorry.
- 4 TONY: Just get on with it, all right?

**Cut To:**

**SCENE 3            THE CELLAR****F/X                    ALEKSY CALLS UP THE STAIRS.**

- 1 ALEKSY:            Tony!
- 2 TONY:                *(From upstairs)* What?
- 3 ALEKSY:            I found something in the cellar!
- 4 JOE:                 *(Upstairs)* What is it? A body?
- 5 ALEKSY:            Tony?
- 6 TONY:                Yeah, yeah... coming.

**F/X                    TONY COMES DOWN THE STAIRS, GRUMBLING AS HE  
                                 DOES SO.**

- 7 TONY:                You're supposed to be working in the kitchen.
- 8 ALEKSY:            Look.
- 9 TONY:                Huh.
- 10 ALEKSY:            Tony... the living room floor is uneven and some of the doors  
                                 won't close properly. I came down to have a look and I found  
                                 this. Huge crack in the concrete!
- 11 TONY:                They don't want any work done down here.
- 12 ALEKSY:            I think something's wrong in the foundations.
- 13 TONY:                Would have shown up on the survey.
- 14 ALEKSY:            They could have missed it. And there's mould in the roof  
                                 space... some of the bricks are loose. There's a lot more  
                                 needs to be done here than we're doing.
- 15 TONY:                They didn't ask for any work done down here, so we're not  
                                 doing any work down here.

- 16 ALEKSY: But you have to tell them... if they want us to do a proper job on this house we need to sort out all these problems.
- 1 TONY: They're on a budget.
- 2 ALEKSY: So it costs a bit more and is more effort now, but it's better for them in the long run. You should tell them that.
- 3 TONY: I'm not telling them anything.
- 4 ALEKSY: Tony...
- 5 TONY: Are you my partner?
- 6 ALEKSY: I'm sorry?
- 7 TONY: Are you my business partner?
- 8 ALEKSY: No.....
- 9 TONY: You work for me. So come back upstairs, and get the rest of those units ripped out.

**Cut To:**



- 19 TONY: Right, fine. But I want you both here early tomorrow. We're finishing this job early.
- 1 ALEKSY: What d'you mean?
- 2 TONY: I want this house finished by Christmas.
- 3 JOE: That's like, impossible.
- 4 ALEKSY: You told them eight weeks for whole job.
- 5 TONY: It doesn't need to take us that long.
- 6 JOE: Man. We're never gonna do that!
- 7 TONY: Yeah we are, if we work hard, and we all arrive early. Without hangovers. All right, Joe?
- 8 JOE: Whatever. I'm out of here.
- 9 ALEKSY: Bye Joe. Have a wonderful night! Don't forget to show her your triple toe loop!
- 10 JOE: Excuse me?!
- 11 ALEKSY: It's an ice skating jump, with twists!
- 12 JOE: Bye ALEKSY.
- F/X** **JOE LEAVES THE HOUSE. TONY IS TRYING TO GET THE DRILL BIT OUT. HE GRUNTS.**
- 13 TONY: No. It's not coming.
- 14 ALEKSY: What are you going to do?
- 15 TONY: I don't know. Leave it in there.
- 16 ALEKSY: I uh...
- 17 TONY: Don't hover, Aleksy. If you've got something you want to say...
- 18 ALEKSY: We can't finish this job in two weeks.

- 1 TONY: You can see into their kitchen from the upstairs windows of this house. Nina's in there, right now, having a glass of wine, sitting by her Christmas tree, waiting for *him* to come home. Do you think she'll give him a kiss?
- 2 ALEKSY: I know you're... hurt. But... we always do a good job. Always.
- 3 TONY: This time... we're gonna...fill the cracks, paint over the mould, cut every corner we can. And we're gonna do it fast so I can get off this street.

**Cut To:**

**SCENE 5 THE LIVING ROOM – CHRISTMAS EVE**

**F/X RAIN LASHING AT A WINDOW, WIND HOWLING. THE RADIO IS TUNED TO THE NEWS.**

1 NEWSCASTER: ...severe weather warnings have been issued with gale force winds and localised flooding expected in some areas this afternoon and into the evening. Travellers are being warned not to drive unless it's absolutely necessary, which may throw Christmas plans for many across the country into disarray. The tailbacks on the M4/

**F/X RADIO TURNED OFF.**

2 JOE: We have to quit for the day.

3 TONY: It's just water falling out the sky, it won't kill you!

4 JOE: A tree falling on my car will.

5 ALEKSY: I think it would be best if we all went home now, before it gets worse.

6 TONY: We've only got a few bits left, and then we're done.

7 JOE: It's Christmas Eve!

8 TONY: Yeah, and you're getting paid to be here, so stop moaning!

9 JOE: What's wrong with you? Don't you wanna go home or something?

**F/X PAUSE.**

10 JOE: Tony man, I know you're cut up about your wife and stuff...

11 ALEKSY: Joe.

12 TONY: What have you been saying to him?



**F/X**

15 TONY: Last time you said that to me you were telling me you were leaving.

**F/X RAIN LASHES DOWN. ROLLING THUNDER.**

1 NINA: Can I come in? Tony? It's raining!

**F/X A TILE FALLS FROM THE ROOF AND SMASHES.**

2 NINA: Oh!

3 TONY: It's a tile, that's all. The tiles are coming off.

**F/X ANOTHER TILE SMASHES.**

4 NINA: Let me inside!

**F/X HE LETS HER INTO THE HALL.**

5 TONY: Did he send you?

6 NINA: No, but it's him I want to talk to you about.

7 TONY: I'm not interested.

8 NINA: He's in bits about the way things are between the two of you.

9 TONY: Oh is he? Oh no. Poor Eric. He must feel really bad about stealing my wife and leaving me saddled with a business up to its eyeballs in debt!

10 NINA: You threw him out of the company! It was your decision, he didn't want to/

11 TONY: He ruined my marriage and he ruined my life!

12 NINA: No he didn't. Stop feeling sorry for yourself. It's pathetic.

13 TONY: Oh, here we go. I've missed this, I really have!

**F/X THE STORM IS GETTING WORSE. A CREAKING, GROANING SOUND CAN BE HEARD FROM THE ROOF AND WALLS OF THE HOUSE.**

14 ALEKSY: Uh... excuse me? Hello Nina.

15 NINA: Aleksy, how are you?

16 ALEKSY: I'm good. Happy Christmas. Tony...Listen...

**F/X THE ROOF GROANS AGAIN. ANOTHER TILE SMASHES TO THE GROUND OUTSIDE.**

1 ALEKSY: There's something wrong... I'm going out to have a look.

**F/X ALEKSY GOES OUTSIDE, LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN.**

2 NINA: You can't blame Eric for what happened, it wasn't his fault.

3 TONY: Oh, we should have had an open marriage! You, me, my brother.... the postman...

**F/X AN OMINOUS CRACKING SOUND.**

4 ALEKSY: (*Outside*) The roof!

5 NINA: I never cheated on you!

**F/X ALEKSY'S VOICE IS ALMOST LOST IN THE STORM.**

6 ALEKSY: (*Outside*) Tony! Nina!

7 NINA: We got married too quickly, Tony.

8 TONY: I didn't hear you complaining at the time.

9 NINA: And then we were so busy working. When we were together, all we ever did was argue! We let things slide, and when we hit the rough times there was nothing there to keep us together.

10 ALEKSY: (*Outside*) Get out! Quickly!

11 TONY: Eric did this, he came between us, he...

12 NINA: I never cheated on you! I didn't get together with Eric until it was already over between you and me, and you know that!

13 TONY: No... he...

14 NINA: I'd moved out, Tony. It was over.

**F/X** **PAUSE. THUNDER.**

1 TONY: Yeah. Yeah. I know.

**F/X** **A LUMP OF MASONRY FALLS. NINA LETS OUT A  
SHORT SCREAM.**

2 TONY: Get ba...

**F/X** **TERRIBLE CRASHING AND SMASHING AS A CHUNK OF  
ROOF FALLS IN.**

**Cut To:**

**SCENE 6 INT/EXT COLLAPSED BUILDING****F/X NINA COUGHING. RAIN. PATTERNING OF BITS OF  
PLASTER AND RUBBLE STILL FALLING.**

- 1 ERIC: Tony! Tony!
- 2 NINA: He pushed me out of the way, then it all came down. He was standing right there!
- 3 ALEKSY: I'll call an ambulance. Fire brigade, something.

4 ERIC: Tony!

**F/X COUGHING AND SPLUTTERING. RUBBLE BEING  
PUSHED ASIDE.**

- 5 TONY: Nina?
- 6 ERIC: There, there he is!
- 7 ALEKSY: Thank you God!

**F/X THEY PULL TONY OUT OF THE RUBBLE.**

- 8 TONY: Nina, are you all right? Are you hurt?
- 9 NINA: No, are you?
- 10 TONY: Let me up.

**F/X HE STANDS UP.**

11 TONY: I'm all right. Yeah. I'm all right.

**F/X THE RAIN BEGINS TO STOP.**

- 12 NINA: Tony...
- 13 TONY: There was something wrong with the foundation. I knew it. I knew it, but...I ignored it. Until it all came crashing down. I'm sorry.
- 14 NINA: Me too.

