

AUDITION SIDES: ONLY GOD CAN CHANGE ME

Production: Multi-City Tour & 12-Episode Series

Director: Jerry Weekly

SIDE 1: THE FRICTION (FRANK & LEE)

SCENE: The Shepard Living Room. Late evening.

FRANK: Bitter, exhausted, holding a glass.

LEE: Defensive, 17, trying to walk past his father.

FRANK: Clock don't lie, Lee. Even if you do.

LEE: (Stopping) I was at Tony's. We were just... talkin'.

FRANK: Talking? Since when does "talking" smell like cheap exhaust and the street? Look at me when I'm speaking to you.

LEE: (Turning, eyes flashing) I'm lookin', Pop. All I see is a man in a chair waitin' for a reason to be mad. You want me to be a "street thug" so bad just so you can feel right about givin' up on me.

FRANK: Givin' up? I've worked thirty years to keep a roof over your head just so you could walk under it with your head down and your heart cold. You're throwin' it away.

LEE: What am I throwin' away? The bitterness? The "unstable father figure" routine? I'm out there lookin' for a way to be a man, because I sure ain't seein' a map for it in this house.

FRANK: (Standing up, voice low and dangerous) You think the street has a map for you? The street is a dead end, boy. I'm tryin' to save you from becoming the ghost I see in the mirror every morning.

LEE: Then stop lookin' in the mirror and start lookin' at me!

FRANK: Only God can change a heart that's set on fire, Lee. And you're burnin' your own house down.

LEE: (At the door, quiet) Maybe I just want to see if anything's left in the ashes.

SIDE 2: THE HEART (CHARLENE & LISA)

SCENE: The Kitchen. Late afternoon.

CHARLENE: Spiritual powerhouse, struggling with a heart condition.

LISA: Vulnerable, disillusioned, struggling with addiction.

CHARLENE: Don't you pass me by like I'm a ghost in my own house, Lisa.

LISA: (Stopping, back turned) I'm just tired, Mama. Long day at school.

CHARLENE: School ended three hours ago. And the school called. Said you haven't walked through their doors in three days. (Voice softening) Roll up your sleeves, baby.

LISA: (Turning, defensive) Why? It's cold in here. Why you always gotta be interrogatin' me?

CHARLENE: I'm not interrogatin' you. I'm lookin' for my daughter. Because the girl standin' in front of me has eyes I don't recognize. (Charlene winces, hand going to her heart.) Lisa... please. Don't make me fight for your life and my own breath at the same time.

LISA: (Voice breaking) Then stop! Stop fightin'! Maybe I don't want to be found. Maybe it's easier to stay lost than to look at this house and see everything fallin' apart.

CHARLENE: Because you were made for the light, not the shadows. I see what you're chasin', Lisa. That powder, that pill... it's a liar. It promises peace but it only gives you a grave.

LISA: (Crying) At least the grave is quiet! This house is so loud, Mama. I just wanted it to stop.

CHARLENE: (Standing slowly) Then let the Lord hush the storm, not the street. You are a child of the King. And the enemy is terrified of what happens when you finally realize who you are.

SIDE 3: THE TRUTH (AUNT GRACY & FRANK)

SCENE: The Living Room.

AUNT GRACY: Wealthy, church-going, blunt.

FRANK: Defensiveness fueled by wounded pride.

GRACY: You still in that chair, Frank? I swear, if a fire broke out, the house would burn down around you and you'd just ask the flames for a refill.

FRANK: It's my chair, Gracy. In my house. If you don't like the view, the door you walked through still swings both ways.

GRACY: "Your house?" That's funny. I don't remember seeing your name on the light bill I paid last month. Or the grocery receipt for the food Charlene's currently cookin' with. A man who lives off his wife's sister's tithes shouldn't talk so loud about "ownership."

FRANK: (Standing up) I'm a man who's hit a hard patch. I don't need a sermon from a woman who thinks a tithe check is a license to be a judge and a jury.

GRACY: I'm lookin' down my nose because I'm tryin' to see where the man I used to know went! Charlene is dyin' on her feet tryin' to keep this family from sinkin', and you're the anchor pullin' her under.

FRANK: You don't know what it's like. To lose your job, your respect... to have your own kids look at you like you're a ghost.

GRACY: Then stop hauntin' them and start leadin' them! God can use a broken man, Frank, but He can't do much with a stubborn one.

SIDE 4: THE PARTNERSHIP (TONY & FELICIA)

SCENE: A quiet moment together.

TONY: God-fearing, charismatic, affectionate husband.

FELICIA: Strong, bold daughter of Frank/Charlene; counselor.

TONY: You've got that "I'm trying to save the whole world in an eight-hour shift" look on your face again. Drink this.

FELICIA: It was a heavy day at the center, Tony. It's hard to give advice when I'm still praying for the same miracles at my own dinner table.

TONY: (Pulling her close) Hey, look at me. You aren't the Savior, Felicia. You're just the vessel. You pour out what He gives you, but you gotta let Him refill the jar.

FELICIA: I'm just worried about Lisa. And Mama's heart can't take much more. I feel like I'm watching a house burn down and all I have is a glass of water.

TONY: (Warmly) Well, good thing you're married to a man who knows the Head of the Fire Department. Felicia, your family is in a storm, but a storm is just a transition. I read the end of the Book, baby. We win.

SIDE 5: THE MISCHIEF (CHANTEL & JUDY)

SCENE: The front porch steps.

CHANTEL: Smart-mouthed granddaughter, growing in the spirit.

JUDY: Neighborhood kid with "sticky fingers."

CHANTEL: Judy, I know you didn't buy that. Mrs. Green's garden gate was open, and I saw you walkin' out real fast.

JUDY: (Hiding a bag) I don't know what you're talkin' about. I found these. They were... abandoned.

CHANTEL: Abandoned? Those are Mrs. Green's prize-winnin' peaches! My Grandma Charlene says stealin' is a sin. You're gonna have a dark spot on your soul, Judy. A big, peach-colored one.

JUDY: It ain't stealin' if they're hangin' over the fence. That's "public property." Besides, you want a bite or you want to keep preachin'?

CHANTEL: My mama Felicia says if I take a bite, I'm an "accomplice." I can't go to jail on Saturday, I got Bible Drill. Grandma's gonna smell that peach on your breath. She's gonna make us both sit in that living room and recite the Ten Commandments until our tongues fall off.

JUDY: (Freezing) Wait... she really does that?

CHANTEL: Last time Tony caught Lee lyin', Grandma made him stay in the Word for two hours. Lee was cryin' by the time he got to Leviticus.

JUDY: (Handing the bag over) Okay, fine. Take 'em back. Tell her I found 'em on the sidewalk.

Director's Note for All Roles:

Please choose the side that best fits the role you are auditioning for. We are looking for **authenticity**, **vulnerability**, and **stage presence**. Break a leg!