

Jonah and the Whale.

1 The Call

<i>Cast:</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Props: telephone</i>
	<i>Mum</i>	<i>How to lie to God book</i>
	<i>God - Voice through sound system.</i>	<i>Where to hide from God book</i>
		<i>Mixing Bowl and wooden spoon</i>

(Jonah is off stage in bed)

(Mum is bustling around with bowl and spoon)

Mum *Jonah! Hey, Jonah! Will you get up? It's gone 10.*
It's just not good enough! I mean, I've been up for hours. Cooking, cleaning,
doing the washing. I've even been out for the shopping. And where is that
lazy son of mine? Still in bed! Asleep! Tired he says. Well what about me?
I'm tired. I've been up for hours. Never had this trouble with his brothers.
JOHNN!

Jonah (Off stage, sleepily) *I'm just coming. Be there in a minute.*

Mum *Now come on Jonah. I know you haven't moved an inch.*

(Exit mum as the phone starts ringing)

Mum (Off stage) *JOHNN! Jonah! Will you get that please? I'm busy making*
chocolate cake for tea.

Jonah (Enters yawning) *I'm just getting it mum. Bet it's for her though!*
(very sleepily) *Err Hello - Err 89172 - Err... Hello?*

God: (Questioning) *Hello?*

Jonah: *Err yes.. Hello?*

God: *Hello, is that Jonah?*

Jonah *Yes I'm Jonah. Who are you?*

God: *This is God speaking Jonah.*

Jonah: *Pardon?*

God: *This is God Jonah, G O D, God!*

Jonah: *Oh come off it, do you really expect me to believe that? Who is this?*
Matthias? Amos? Is that you? Look, I've just got up and I'm in no mood for
jokes!

God: *This is no joke Jonah, this is God!*

Jonah: *Oh yes and I'm the King of Persia I'm sure.*

God: *Look I'll prove it to you.*

Jonah: *How?*

God: *I'll tell you what you were dreaming about before you woke up.*

Jonah: *Go on then - bet you can't.*

God *Bet I can!*

Jonah *Oh no you can't!*

God: *Oh yes I can!*

Jonah Oh no you can't!

1.1

God Jonah, this is not meant to be a pantomime! I CAN tell you what you were dreaming. You were dreaming about being swallowed by a massive Whale that had been let loose down at the swimming pool.

Jonah: Wow! ... Wow!... That's amazing, but how ... how did you know?

God: What do you mean - How did I know! I'm God aren't I? I KNOW everything!

Jonah: (Very nervously) If.. If.. y .. y .. you are God, what do you want with me? I'm sorry I put that spider under my sisters pillow last night, and I'm even more sorry that I had that terrible row with my Mum, after all she was right from the start, and then I'm really sorry that

God: Oh be quiet... be quiet will you!

Jonah: Oh.

God: Now listen Jonah. I've got a job for you.

Jonah: A job? A job for me, Well it all sounds a bit FISHY to me.

God: Well it's not Jonah, well not yet anyway! That comes later!

Jonah: (Looking very puzzled) What do you mean?

God: (Chuckles to himself) You'll see.

Jonah: What's this job then ... err ... God?

God: Oh yes, I almost forget. I want you to go to a Town called Nineveh. Have you ever heard of it?

Jonah: (Starting to tremble) Heard of it! Nineveh! Who hasn't, it.. it's.. a terrible place, full of wicked people who beat strangers up and steal all their money! No one wants to go to Nineveh!

God: Exactly! That's why I want you to go there.

Jonah: What! To get beaten up and let them steal all my money?

God: No, no, no, to tell them I'm not pleased with them, and if they don't mend their ways they've got a big surprise coming their way.

Jonah: (Pauses) Err... let me get this straight God. You want me to go to Nineveh, (quickly) where they beat up strangers and steal their money. (slower) and tell them that they've got to start behaving themselves or else!

God: Well yes Jonah, that's about the sum of it, OK?

Jonah: My mum would never let me go! It's dangerous! You know how it would worry her! I couldn't do that to mum.

God Jonah! I need you to go to Nineveh. OK?

Jonah (Stretches out to a table and picks up a large book called "How to lie to God" opens it, and speaks as if he is reading) Err... Err.... Oh yes God, I'm thrilled you asked me. I'll do my very best. (Turns over a few pages and then smiles a little) The trouble is God, you know I'd love to go and all that, but, my dog needs me. He's very ill, and he'll die if I'm not here to look after him.

God: Jonah, you haven't got a Dog.

Jonah: Dog? Did I say dog? I'm sorry, I meant, err... frog, yes frog, my pet frog is

God: Jonah you're not reading that book are you?
Jonah: (Hides the book behind him) err.. no God, what book would that be then?
God: I think they call it: "How to lie to God," (Laughs a hearty laugh)
What a joke, as if you could lie to me! (Laughs again)

Jonah: Well God it's been really nice talking to you. I'll just look in my diary to see when I can fit this Nineveh trip in (Picks up diary by phone and flicks through pages) errI've got a few days in August two thousand and fourteen.

God: (Beeping) Two thousand and fourteen! Ha, you'll go tomorrow.

Jonah: TTTT T m m m m m c c c c r r r r r w!

God: Great! That's settled then. Thanks Jonah, Bye. (Click of phone going dead)

Jonah: God, God, God ... (tails away) God, God.

Mum So, who was that then? Anyone interesting?

Jenah Err God.

Mum Who? Bed? Didn't know he was one of your friends. What did he want then? Found you a nice decent job I hope. Time you went out to work.

Jenah No not Bed, God. G-O-D, God!

Mum OOOO! How lovely! Didn't he want to speak to me? I would have loved to speak to him.

Jenah Well no he wanted to speak to me. He has a job for me.

Mum There, I knew it was time you went out to work. So God has found you a nice little job. When do you start?

Jenah Tomorrow.

Mum Gosh that's quick - you'll have to learn to get out of bed earlier! So, where is this job? What will you be doing?

Jenah um. I've got to go to Nineveh and tell them to behave.

Mum WHAT? GO TO NINEVEH! NINEVEH! No Son of mine is going to Nineveh. What would the neighbours think?

Jenah You think I ~~WANT~~ to go to Nineveh? I can't do it mum. It's too hard and scary. What am I going to do?

Mum I don't know Jenah. Oh dear! What a worry. A son of mine being sent to Nineveh. Who would have thought it! Oh Jenah, Jenah! Hey I know. Now let me see. Where is that book? Ah, Here we are. Now just read this Jenah and see if that helps.

Jonah Ah! Now there's an idea! Where would be a good place to hide? (flips through the book)

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(Jonah and mum look at it and then at each other)

Jonah Do you think that's...

Mum Come on lets get you packed up and ready. I'll put that choccsate cake in for you. You might get hungry.

(Mum bustles Jonah off muttering about no son of hers going to Nineveh)

1.3

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