

Second Chance

Written by:  
Larry N. Stromberg  
(C) 2016

January 2, 2017

Prisons Foundation  
Dennis Sobin, Director  
2512 Virginia Ave NW, 58043  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Sobin,

I hope and pray this letter finds you well. Enclosed is my submission for the year to be published on the Prisons Foundation website.

My plays "Second Chance" and "The Dual" I plan to stage here at S.C.I. Graterford this year. At this time my other play "Life Behind the Razor Wire" is being staged and it's been an amazing production.

My film "Spiritual Warfare" is being distributed on-line at: VIMEO.Com-Spiritual Warfare-on demand under my editor's name, Larry Kirschner.

Also a ~~bio~~ biography about my life is going to be released this year. The book is entitled "Death by Incarceration, my name is DG-6379". The author of the book is MJ Maccalupo, Ed.D.

Hopefully the book will help others from making the same mistakes I made that hurt so many.

Thank you so much for publishing my plays and screenplays. Please consider one of my plays for a staging at the Kennedy Center. I plan on supporting the Prisons Foundation for years to come.

God bless you always. Thank you again for everything you've done for me. I'm forever grateful.

Sincerely,  
*Larry N. Stromberg*  
Larry N. Stromberg

Second Chance

Written by:  
Larry N. Stromberg

Setting:  
A small apartment in the inner city.

Characters:

Tony:  
A older spanish man with a gangster attitude.

Jose:  
The son of Tony. A man who spent 15 years in prison. He's looking to live a life of total peace.

Nathan:  
A african american man who was a friend to Jose in prison.

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Hip-pop music is heard in the background as the stage is set-up like a small apartment in the inner-city. After a few moments the music fades away slowly.

That's when two men enter the apartment by stage left. A older man named Tony who is wearing a bandanna around his forehead and has a cigarette in his mouth. He's also wearing a tight T-shirt with the shirts shelves rolled up high to show his biceps. The other man is younger and his name is Jose. He's the son of Tony. Jose is well dressed and is well groomed as he looks around the small apartment in amazement. Tony is truly excited to be with his son.

Tony:

It's home sweet home, Jose!! My boy is home! You made it back home!!

Tony raises his arms high and does a dance in his great joy.

Tony:

Freedom!! It must feel real damn good, Huh? Like being with a women for the first time. Good, huh? Real good.

Tony pats Jose on the back real hard.

Tony:

Real good, right?!

Jose:

Yeah, it does, Pop. It does.

Jose takes a deep breath as his eyes wander around his new home.

Tony:

Well, you're big Daddy knows what you need. You need a women to take care of you. You've been down to damn long and a big booty women will make you feel like a man again. That's right, Jose. I'll have one of my chica's rock your world. Twist your mind. (Laughs) Ha.ha.ha.ha.ha. It will feel like the first time.

Jose slowly walks away from his father and looks intently around the small apartment.

Tony:

Did you hear what I said?

Jose seems to be in a different world. Tony becomes irritated.

Tony:

Hey, Jose! Did you freaking hear me, huh?!

Jose turns to his father.

Jose:

I heard every word you said, Pop.

Tony:

You okay, son?

Jose:  
Im good,Pop. Alright?

Tony:  
It seems like your out in left field or something. You were never like that before,Jose. You always had a focus about you.

Jose:  
I just got out of the joint,Pop. What do you expect,huh? Everything has changed since I been away. The penitentiary changes you,man. I've changed.

Tony:  
Don't tell me prison has turned you out. Don't tell me that. I couldn't handle that. No way,Jose.

Jose looks at his father with a stern look in his eyes.

Jose:  
I don't ride like that,Pop. It's crazy you would think like that. Loco!

Tony:  
The way your acting,it doesn't seem right.

Jose:  
Im just trying to find my place again in this world. That's it. That's all. Believe me,Pop. Im glad to be back home. So damn happy.

Tony smiles with a large grin on his face.

Tony:  
My bad,son. Im sorry I was thinking crazy. Im just trying to help my boy. My son. That's it,man. That's all. (Pause) Im glad your home. Really happy.

Jose:  
Thanks,Pop.

Tony:  
How does it feel to be free at last?

Jose:  
It feels great. Out of sight.

Tony:  
Then you should be smiling,huh? Smile,Jose. Why aren't you smiling?

Jose:  
Everything is so overwhelming. It's hard to smile after doing 15 long years. I was a young man when I was locked up. I became a man behind bars.

Tony:  
I know.

Jose:  
I know you know.

Tony:  
Listen to me,son. Im sorry it went down like that. I curse the day I sent you out on that deal. I made a bad call,man.

Jose:  
I had to kill a man for you,Pop.

Tony:  
In self defense.

Jose:  
I never dined you out,Pop. Never. I kept your name out of it. Those cops wanted you bad. Real bad. I wouldn't give in. I took the wrap.

Tony:  
That's freaking loyalty on your part. That's love.

Jose:  
Yeah,I guess. (Pause) I maxed out that damn sentence.(Pause) Well,at lease I got my education. My GED and a college degree. Even learn a few trades along the way. So,some good came out of all of this. I gained my faith.

Tony:  
That's good. Real good,Jose. You always had a good head on your shoulders. Intelligence. Always smart.

Jose looks around the apartment and has a sad look in his eyes.

Jose:  
Still,the world isn't the same. Mama is gone. The world isn't the same without her. There's a void in my heart,Pop. (Pause) I miss her. She always came up to visit me every week. Then the visits ended when she got sick. Then she was gone.

Tony:  
You're Mama was a good women.

Jose:  
She was the best. She always told me about Jesus.

Tony:  
Yeah,she was a holy-roller.

Jose:  
She lived her faith. Don't you dare put her down for that. Don't go there,Pop. You understand me?

Tony tries to change the conversation.

Tony:  
I won't go there,Jose. Okay?

Jose steps away from his father trying to hold back his inner anger about his mother's death and his father's remarks.

Tony:

You're life now is gonna be much better. Trust me. I'll make sure of it,Jose. I give my word. My vow.

Jose:

I guess, I just need some time to get all caught up in this fast pace world. The digital age,huh?

Tony:

Yeah,I gotta get you a real nice cell phone right away.

Jose:

Right...right.

Tony:

You can do everything on a cell phone. Pay your bills. Lock up your apartment and all. It's cool as hell,huh?

Jose:

Hell is not a cool place,Pop.

Tony:

What's the matter with you? It's just a freaking joke. Okay? You need to lighten up. Relax. Chill out!!

Jose:

You don't understand,Pop. I've been living behind a huge damn wall for years. I slept,went to a bathroom,prayed in a small cell no bigger than a closet day after day. Year after year. Drinking dirty water and worked for pennies.

Tony:

That part of your life is over now. Over for good. Don't worry about nothing. Big Daddy got you covered.

Jose:

You got me covered,huh?

Tony:

You know it! I'm the dream-maker!!

Jose:

You're still crazy,Pops!

Tony spreads his arms wide open and laughs with a loud laugh.

Tony:

That I am!! (Laughs) Ha,ha.ha.ha. Get ready for the time of your life,Jose. (Pause) Hey,your Mama would want you to be happy. You know that,right? (Pause) Right,Jose?

Jose thinks with a smile on his face.

Jose:  
You're right.

Tony:  
I know Im right. Im always right. You're my son. My boy. Don't you worry about nothing. I got you this nice apartment. I got you a nice brand new car. We're gonna get you some real nice clothes and a real nice women to take care of you. You're set up real nice,Jose. Believe me. (Pause) You got the best coming your way. You deserve it.

Jose:  
Pop,you don't have to do all that. Okay?

Tony:  
Stop with the crazy talk,will you,huh? I got plenty of cash for you too. Credit cards and all. Couple of cell phones,you know.... Life is gonna be good for you. You got it all. The world is all yours now. All yours.

Jose:  
I don't want the whole world,Pop. Just a peaceful life to live.

Tony:  
Stop playing with my mind,son. I know you want it all.

Jose:  
My parole agent wants me to have a full-time job.

Tony:  
What you're parole agent don't know won't hurt him or her. You're gonna work for me. We'll create a grand freaking illusion for that nut-job parole agent. He'll never know nothing.

Jose:  
My parole agent is a women,Pop.

Tony:  
Oh yeah,huh?

Tony smiles with another large grin on his face.

Tony:  
You should make your move on her,Jose. That will make everything even better for you. Is she a young one? Is she hot?

Jose:  
She's a very nice person.

Tony:  
Maybe I'll make my moves on her. She'll love me and I'll love her all night long. Im the spanish loving making machine.

Tony does his dance moves again.



Salsa music is heard in the background as Tony dances with some fancy steps.

Tony:  
I still got the moves,huh?

The music stops and Tony stops dancing. He's breathing very heavy as he takes in some air.

Jose:  
You better slow down,Pop. You're not a young man anymore.

Tony takes offense at Jose's remarks.

Tony:  
The hell Im not! I'm gonna live forever!

Jose:  
Nobody lives forever in this life.

Tony:  
Well then,I'm gonna live to be hundred! How's that,huh?

Jose:  
I hope you do,Pop. I really hope you do.

Jose sits down.

Jose:  
Have a seat,Pop. Take it easy,will you?

Tony sits down still breathing heavy.

Tony:  
Yeah,yeah...right.

Jose:  
I have to have a decent place of employment. Parole wants me to have a decent honest job,Pop.

Tony:  
That's no problem. I'll come up with a fake place of employment for you. Hell,she'll never know.

Jose:  
Are you out of your damn mind?

Jose stands up. He's very upset at his Father's comments.

Tony:  
What? What's the matter with you?

Jose:  
I can't lie to my parole agent. That's crazy,man. I'm not going back to prison,Pop. No way in hell am I going back.

Tony:  
I have a job for you. Okay?

Jose:  
Doing what?

Tony:  
Working for me. You'll be my right hand man. I need someone to trust to handle all my affairs. My business. I only trust you, Jose. Just you. You've proved that to me.

Jose:  
I don't know about that, Pop. That sounds like trouble.

Tony:  
There's no trouble. I'll keep your name clean and clear all of the way.

Jose shakes his head in frustration.

Jose:  
Don't play me for a fool, Pop.

Tony:  
I wouldn't do that to you. Don't disrespect like that.

Jose:  
Who's disrespecting who, huh? You want me to get back in the game for you. That's a fact. You want me to sell drugs and guns, man. Pimp out all your girls like freaking slaves. That's what you want me to do.

Tony:  
Don't make it sound so bad.

Jose:  
I killed a man for you. I took a life out of this world for you, Pop. For you!

Tony:  
That's why I trust you, son.

Jose looks at his father and then turns away. That's when Jose and Tony freeze on the stage. Slow angelic music is heard as a African American man comes walking on the stage from stage right. His name is Nathan as he walks up to Jose and looks directly eye to eye with him. The music fades out. Nathan speaks with pure sincerity.

Nathan:  
It's me, Jose. You're brother in Christ. Nathan.

Nathan is a man of compassion. This is man from Jose's past. A memory from Jose's mind.

Nathan:

Hear my voice, Jose. Don't forget what we talked about in the penitentiary, my dear brother. You told me over and over again about your dreams, ambitions and goals for your life. Don't let nothing or nobody bring you back in prison, Jose. You worked hard to better yourself as a human being with education, programs and your faith in the Lord. (Pause) You are a changed man. You are a man of God. Don't become a statistic, my brother. (Pause) Remember, a little leaven ruins the whole lump. (Pause) Make your Mama proud of you. I believe in you, Jose. Believe in yourself. Live a full life, my friend. (Pause) Life is short. Don't waste your second chance.

Nathan then slowly begins to back away. The music begins again.

Nathan:

Do what's right, Jose.

Nathan backs away even more.

Nathan:

God gave you this second chance. It's by his loving grace alone.

Nathan backs away even more very slowly, looking directly at Jose eye to eye.

Nathan:

Live a full life, Jose. God bless you always.

Nathan backs away and exits stage right. The music fades away. Jose looks on in true amazement.

Then Jose and Tony break from the freeze as Nathan is gone in Jose's mind. Jose turns to his father ready to speak again. Tony seems to be full of anxiety.

Tony:

I need you to work for me, son. I'm counting on it. You understand what I'm saying to you, huh?

Jose shakes his head in disarray.

Tony:

You're Daddy loves you. I love you with my whole heart. Bigtime.

Jose starts to walk around the apartment once again.

Jose:

This sure is a nice apartment, Pop. Everything I need is here.

Tony:

That's right, son. I got more coming for you too.

Jose looks even more at the fullness of the apartment.

Tony:

Much more.

Jose looks at his father very closely.

Tony:

I was the one looking out for you all these years you've been down. It was me, your father, right? It was me. Don't forget that.

Jose:

This is true.

Tony:

Your damn right it's true. I made sure you had the best in prison without question. I visited you every week, didn't I?

Jose:

Yes, you did.

Tony:

I put money on your books. Sent you J-pays all the time.

Jose:

I appreciate everything you did for me, Pop.

Tony:

It's my duty as a father, Jose.

Jose:

Okay.

Tony:

What about all the photo's of my girls with real nice booty shots smiling right at you, huh? I know you liked that, right?

Jose doesn't respond.

Tony:

Now these booty girls can be yours, Jose. Tonight. I made sure you had the best, son, because your the best.

Jose:

That's good, Pop.

Tony takes offense at Jose's lack of reponse.

Tony:

You better appreciate me, Jose! I grew up with nothing, man. I had to take to survive. Fight to stay alive. Steal if need be. My parents had nothing in Puerto-Rico! When we moved to America we dreamed to have a better life. So, I took from anyone I could to have a better life for me and my family.

Jose:

But, you had me do your dirty work. Who does that to their child, huh? A selfish human being does.

Tony:

Now, wait a minute here, Jose.

Jose takes a emotional stand to his father.

Jose:

You wait a minute,Pop! I spend 15 years behind bars because of you! For you!

Tony:

Will you stop throwing that in my face. Im trying to make it right now with you,Jose.

Jose:

I killed a young man for you,Pop. I took his life. His everything. A man who had children. A wife. Brothers and sisters. A man who had a mother and father.

Tony:

If you didn't kill him he would have killed you,Jose. You had no choice.

Jose becomes very angry.

Jose:

(Yells)

I shouldn't have been there in the first place! You understand me? I didn't belong there.

Tony:

What's done is done. The past can't be changed.

Jose:

My freedom was taken because of you and now you want me to go back into the game again? You're out of your freaking mind! That's insanity. Im never going back to prison. Not for you or anybody else. Let's get that straight right here and now.

Tony takes offense to Jose's emotional boldness.

Tony:

Don't you get tough with me,boy. Im your father. Don't you ever forget that.

Jose:

Im not going back into the game.

Tony:

The game's in you,Jose. You're just like me. A hungry wolf in heat for more and more.

Jose:

At one time in my life. But,not no more.

Tony:

You can lie to yourself all day if you like.

Jose:  
I don't want any of this. Not this life.

Tony:  
I'm depending on you. Don't do this to me.

Jose:  
I'm a changed man,Pop. I want to live a good life. A peaceful life unto God. That's what I want. Im not asking for much.

Tony becomes very frustrated at his son's rejection.

Tony:  
Who the hell do you think your talking to,huh? I'm your damn father! I'm blood,man. Blood.

Jose steps to his father with sincere boldness.

Jose:  
You have to accept that I don't want this this. Do you understand what Im saying to you,Pop? I don't want it!

Tony:  
You owe me,Jose. You owe me bigtime!

Jose:  
I don't owe you nothing.

Tony:  
Where's your loyalty at? Blood is thicker than water. Family is everything. Everything.

Jose:  
My loyalty is to do the Lord's will in my life. That's where my loyalty belongs to. The one that saved my soul and loved me during my darkest days. When I stood alone. When no one stood by my side. God was there for me.

Anger rises in Tony's facial expressions and in his emotions.

Tony:  
Stop being a damn punk!

Jose:  
You put me in a bad situation where I had to kill a man. What kind of father does that to their son,huh? I'll tell you,Pop. A father who doesn't care about anything but himself. That's who.

Tony:  
I love you,son.

Jose:  
I lost most of my life because of you! I never dimed you out to the police. They tried to get it out of me. But,I never rated you out,Pop.

Tony:

That's because I raised you to never snitch anybody out. You did the right thing, son. I'm proud of you. You're straight up.

Jose becomes even more distressed.

Jose:

I took the whole damn wrap for you. That's true loyalty. Or maybe it's real stupidity, huh? That's how much I love you. I loved you so much, that I would go to prison for you. I would have given my life for you. Taken a bullet to the brain for you.

Tony:

You're a real warrior, Jose. A true soldier.

Jose:

No I'm not.

Tony:

Stop with the nonsense. You're a fighter. You take after me, huh? Hell, I made sure my boys looked out for you in the joint, huh?

Jose:

You did. But, I can take care of myself, Pop.

Tony:

People fear my name. You understand that? You're the son of Tony Ortiz. If they messed with you, than their messing with me. If anybody hurt you in any way, I would cut their hearts out. Cut them down in pieces with the quickness. Damn straight, huh? My word is good as gold. Believe me, Jose.

Jose:

Yeah, everyone knows about you're reputation, Pop.

Tony:

I'm feared and I like it that way. I made sure you were okay in prison, didn't I?

Jose:

Yeah, using blood money.

Tony:

Don't disrespect like that, boy. I worked hard to get what I have.

Jose:

By killing people, huh?

Tony:

It's only business. Nothing personal.

Jose:

Don't you have a conscious, Pop? Nothing brings back those people. Nothing. (Pause) What about their families, huh?

Tony:  
What about them?

Jose:  
Their victims themselves,Pop.

Tony:  
That doesn't concern me.

Jose:  
It does concern you. They live with the extreme pain and loss for the rest of their lives.

Tony looks at his son with disbelief and shakes his head.

Tony:  
What the hell happened to you? You got soft in prison. Weak.  
(Pause) You were never like this,Jose. Those people in the joint made you really sensitive.

Jose:  
That's not it. I got my education. My GED and a college degree. I took many programs dealing with the impact of crime and all the after effects from the victim's side of veiw.

Tony:  
That doesn't mean nothing. That doesn't make you better than me.

Jose:  
Maybe it doesn't. But,Im a better person.

Tony:  
You're not better than me,boy. I got my education from the streets. That's the real freaking world. It's kill or be killed.

Jose:  
I don't want the streets anymore,Pop. Nothing brings back the time I lost. Nothing. Still,I didn't waste my time. The Lord saved my soul and gave me a second chance at life.

Jose points around the apartment.

Jose:  
I don't want any of this no-more.

Tony:  
Stop being soft,Jose. Im gonna make your life better than ever.

Jose:  
No your not.

Tony:  
I am. Life will be better for you.



Jose takes a short moment to respond to his father's remarks.

Jose:

You know, over the years good people from the church of the risen Lord came to visit me once a month. That's the church down the street.

Tony:

I know where it's at. I'm not stupid! I sold drugs in front of that freak-house many times. I'm not stupid, Jose.

Jose:

I didn't say you were.

Tony:

So, those holy freaking rollers brainwashed your mind, huh?

Jose:

No they didn't. They would minister and encourage me.

Tony:

You let them speak bad about me, huh? Bad mouth my name, right?

Jose:

That's not true. They feel sad for you and your wicked ways.

Tony becomes enraged.

Tony:

Screw those people, man!! They don't know me!! They all can go to hell! How dare they judge me like that!! Screw them all!!

Tony paces the cell like a wild animal ready to kill.

Tony:

I see how they look at me every Sunday morning. Like I'm the devil himself. With judgemental eyes!

Jose:

They are good people, Pop.

Tony:

The hell they are! Their freaks!

Jose:

They offered me a church janitor position and a place to live at the church. Maybe I could become a youth minister and help others from making the same mistakes I made. Tell everyone about God's redeeming love and his amazing grace.

Tony:

Your gonna work for me, understand?

Jose:

No I'm not.

Tony:

I'm not taking no for answer. You understand me?

Jose:

Im doing what I want. Not what you want me to do.

Tony:

The hell you are!

Jose:

It's time to live my life,Pop. This is my life.

Jose turns away and starts to walk away from his father.

Tony:

Don't you turn your back on me,Jose!

Jose turns back towards his father.

Jose:

I'll see you around,Pop.

Tony:

Don't do this.

Jose:

I'll be at the church if you need to talk,okay?

Tony:

Don't do this to me.

Jose:

It's not about you. It's about me doing the right thing. Goodbye.

Jose turns away and walks on. Anger rises to a high point in Tony.

Tony:

You're nothing but a damn punk!

Tony rushes at his son and knocks him down to the ground hard.

Tony:

I'll kill you!!!!

Jose hits the ground hard and squirms in pain. Tony stands above his son clinching his fist. Very domineering.

Jose:

(In pain)

Aggggggggggggggggg!

Tony:

You need to know who's the boss here,Jose. I could kill you. I could break you in two. Nobody walks away from me. Nobody.

Jose slowly gets up and looks at his father with intense eyes. Taking his bold stand.

Jose:

So, you could kill me, huh? That's how you feel, right?

Tony doesn't say a word as his fist are still clinched.

Jose:

Is that how you feel, Pop?

Tony:

You know, I don't feel that way. You're my son. You just got me mad as hell.

Jose:

So, when you don't get your way, you use violence and control.

Tony:

That's a lie.

Jose:

You use manipulation.

Tony:

You're out of line with that talk, Jose.

Jose:

You're stinking ways killed my mother.

Tony:

Don't bring your mother into this.

Jose:

You broke her heart in every way. You put me in prison. That's right. You cheated on my mother left and right! You beat her face in! You broke her heart. You killed her.

Tony tries to hold in his emotions.

Tony:

I loved your mother. I loved her.

Jose:

No you didn't. You don't love anybody but yourself. Whatever satisfy's your wants and desires! You're a selfish man, Pop.

There's immense fury in Tony's eyes.

Tony:

You better shut your damn mouth, boy!

Jose:

I looked up to you as a boy. I really did. You were my idol. I wanted to be just like you, Pop. But not no more. Those days are over. Long gone.

Tony becomes very disgusted towards Jose.

Tony:

You're a disgrace to me and my name.

Jose:

I'm following Christ now.

Tony:

A freaking pathway to nowhere. Don't be foolish, boy.

Jose:

I'm not a boy anymore, Pop. The Lord gave me a second chance and I'm taking it.

Tony:

What a dumb-ass you've become.

Jose:

I've changed for the better. I don't want a life of destruction anymore. I want to live a life of peace for the rest of my life.

Tony:

You're no son of mine. My son is dead. You're dead to me.

Jose:

The old me is dead. I'm a new creature. (Pause) I'll be at the church. Come see me there, Pop. We could talk and pray together. Maybe you could find the peace that I have now. The peace that surpasses all understanding.

Tony:

Don't do that to me! Don't preach to me, holyroller!! You damn freak! You make me sick. Damn idiot!

Jose:

I'm sorry you feel that way.

Jose tries not to tear up from his father's harsh words.

Tony:

Sick to my stomach. You're nothing but weak chump to me!

Jose:

Okay, Pop. I'm out of here. You're still my father and I love you. But, I don't want any of this. It's not for me.

Tony:

Get the hell out of my face!! Get out of my life!

Jose backs away looking at his father eye to eye.

Tony:

Don't walk away from everything I have for you!!!

Jose:  
I got everything I need.

Tony:  
Crazy talk.

Jose:  
I'll see you around,Pop. You know where I'll be.

Tony:  
Don't be stupid,Jose. Very foolish.

Jose:  
Goodbye,Pop.

Jose exits the apartment stage left. Tony screams out in anger.

Tony:  
Come back here,Jose!! Get back here now!!

Tony is full of fear of abandonment,regret and disappointment.

Tony:  
Don't do this to me!!! Don't be selfish,son!!

Tony looks around the apartment full of rage.

Tony:  
Damn fool!!!

He kicks a chair hard,knocking it over.

Tony:  
Come back,Jose!! Don't do this to me!!!!!!!

Tony wipes his face full of sweat and stress. He paces the apartment like a wild beast full of anxiety.

Tony:  
(To himself)  
I need to get high,man. Need a shot of herion in my veins,huh?  
Gotta smoke some weed with one of my young girls and bang her  
hard right away. Get my mind off my back-stabber son. Jose is  
my Judas. There's no way in hell I'll go over to that damn  
church. No freaking way,man.

He wipes his face again.

Tony:  
I gotta get high,man.

Tony stops pacing the apartment.

Tony:  
I gotta get it on,man!! Fly high bigtime! I'm bigtime Tony!!!!!!!

Tony pounds on his chest like Tarzan.

Tony:

(Screams out louder)

I don't need anybody,man!! I'm the man! The man with the master plan!!! All me!!

Tony falls to the floor and does a few push-ups. Then gets back up fast,breathing heavy.

Tony:

I don't need anybody,but me!!!!!! Me!!!!!! Jose can go straight to hell.

He paces the apartment in total madness.

Tony:

(Talking to himself even more)

I did everything for that stupid boy. Everything. I don't need him. I never did.

He stops pacing.

Tony:

I'm the man. I'm a beast. That's right. Yeah,that's right.

Tony turns away and exits the apartment yelling loud.

Tony:

I'm the man!!! A warrior!!! A real solider,man!!!!

He exits stage left.

Tony:(O.S.)

I'm the man!!!!!!

Ending song plays.

The end.

L.N.S.

(C) 2016

THE DUAL

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Only a chair is on the empty stage at center stage.

An angelic voice is heard in the background.

Angelic Voice;(V.O.)

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand."

Ephesians 6:11-13

The angelic voice ends.

A lone man walks unto the stage from stage left and takes a seat on the chair at center stage. He takes a deep breath and looks forward with intense eyes as he begins to speak.

Lone Man:

So far, it's been a good day. (Pause) There's been a sense of real peace, harmony and tranquility all around me and in my mind. I feel safe and secured from the warfare all around me in the unseen world. The spiritual realm. The battle that's in the true supernatural and the spiritual warfare that we're all in as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Pause) I must be prayed up and in the word of God everyday. Everyday I live on this earth. "Take unto you, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit; which is the word of God."

The man stands up.

Lone Man:

This is what is needed to fight off all the attacks and the assaults from the evil one and his army of demons. The devil thrives on tormenting me with my past and with unforgiving thoughts towards myself and others who have hurt and betrayed me. With the lust of my eyes. The lust of the flesh and the pride of life.

The man paces back and forth.

Lone Man:

That's why I have the word of God embeded in my heart at all times to battle satan when he comes to condemm and tempt me. When that evil voice whispers in my ear to judge me. Condemming me with my past sins that hurt so many.

The lone man stops at center stage.

Lone Man:

With lustful temptation and evil thoughts that seem to come out of nowhere. Some say this is a voice only in my mind.



The lone man looks forward with intense, hurtful eyes.

Lone Man:

A form of mental illness or just my sub-conscience speaking to me based on my inability to forgive myself and others who have hurt me in the past. But, I know it's only the voice of the devil himself. A all out war. (Pause) That's why I'm grateful for the loving, comforting voice of the Holy Spirit filled with love and true encouragement. The voice of the comforter.

The man sits back down.

Lone Man:

So, there's a dual going on. A war for my soul. The dual between good and evil from within. A fight between light and darkness. Between God and the devil. I know light will always win. Goodness will triumph. God is all powerful. (Pause) Still, the devil wants to destroy my testimony in Christ and the evil one wants to kill me. Kill us all. Satan doesn't want me to help others to know and accept the loving grace of Jesus Christ. To hear that still small voice of the Holy Spirit informing me that I am loved and that I am forgiven. That I am a child of the all powerful, all loving and all knowing, awesome God of the universes. So, I stay still and get to know God on a personal indepth level. (Pause) Satan never gives up. He's relentless and hates the chosen ones of Christ. He's full of contempt and despises me. The devil takes pure pleasure in the dual. Satan enjoys the game. He gets off on it. It becomes exhilarating to him.

That's when the man stands up slowly to the left side and then he cracks his neck. Twists his fingers. Takes deep breaths and then begins to growl. Then he speaks with a very sinister tone in his voice. He speaks to the invisible lone man in the chair.

Evil Voice:

It's me. HMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM! It's so wonderful that you do acknowledge me. This makes me so damn happy. So much joy, huh? (Pause) I know you, my friend. I know all about your sin. Your lust. What you desire most. I know about your shame and about your immense regret. Your anger and rage. I love you, my dear friend. (Laughs) Ha.ha.ha.ha.ha. Don't you love me? HMMMMM? I do enjoy tempting you with what you desire most. I do. Yes. (Laughs) Ha.ha.ha.ha. Yes indeed. You belong to me. Don't you ever forget that. You did my dreadful bidding in your life. Thank you for all the evil rotten things you've done to hurt and destroy so many. You rotten to the core sinner. You can never get rid of me, you damn fool. Never! You destroyed everything you ever loved, you stupid idiot! You are mine. All mine. Now and forever. (Pause) I am God. For I will never leave you, nor forsake you. You belong to me.

The man sits back down in the chair, covering his ears.

Lone Man:

No more. Please, no more.....

The man breaks down in tears.

Lone Man:

Help me, Lord Jesus! I'm not a victim of the devil's scheme no more! I choose to fight with faith! I'm heavy laden. Give me rest and peace. Comfort me, Holy Spirit.

The uncovers his ears and sits up straight.

Lone Man:

My redeemer! My saviour! I call upon thee, Lord God almighty! I want your loving presence!

The man slowly stands up to the right side of the chair. A very peaceful demeanor is seen in the man.

Holy Spirit:

Greater is he that is in you, than he in the world. I'm here, my son. I'm always here. Just call upon me and I will answer you and show great and mighty things which thou knowest not. You are safe in my loving arms. My loving arms of peace, joy, hope, grace and true love that's unfailing.

The Holy Spirit speaks with a Godly tone in his voice.

Holy Spirit:

You are loved. You are forgiven. Redeemed. You are saved and your salvation is secured for everlasting. You are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. And nothing, I mean nothing will be able to separate you from my love. Nothing. The love of God. (Pause) So, fight the good fight of faith. For the just shall live by faith. Rebuke the devil in the name of Jesus Christ and he must flee every time. Say, the Lord rebuke you. But, you know this, for the word of God directs you to this truth, my child. I will lead you into all truth and understanding. (Pause) You are loved, my son. You belong to me. For, I will never leave you, nor forsake you.

The Holy Spirit becomes silent. The man sits back down full of joy.

Lone Man:

Thank you, Lord. Thank you for your love.

He sits thanking God. Then he stands back up fast to the left side with the fury. In madness.

Evil Voice:

Oh, please. Stop with the nonsense, will you, huh? God doesn't love you. He hates you! Look what he did to me!!!!!!!!!!!!!! He's lying to you. You are the scum of the earth. You piece of human trash. You belong to me. Don't get it twisted. I am the god of this world. You are mine. All mine.

He sits back down.....

The man speaks with Godly boldness.

Lone Man:

You are the father of all lies,satan! I am a child of the most high. For there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus! The Lord rebuke you in the name of Jesus Christ! The King of kings! The Lord of lords! Emmanuel! God with us! Be gone,devil in the name of Jesus! My Lord and my saviour!

The man sits there in silence. Harmony. Peace. He takes a deep breath and speaks.

Lone Man:

Yes,the dual is on-going. But,we have the victory in Christ. For God have not given us a spirit of fear,but of power,love and of a sound mind.

The man stands up full of faith.

LoneMan:

We can win the dual with Christ. (Pause) For Jesus Christ is Lord.

The man exits stage left.

The end.

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2017