# DAY 1 SHORTER DRAMA

Characters: jess, Raina, DEWEY, captain

(IMPORTANT: Make sure the plane is not visible before the drama begins!)

(Theme music)

(Scene begins with the sound of an aircraft in trouble [SFX].)

CAPTAIN: (with “radio voice effect”) MAYDAY! MAYDAY! MAYDAY! Victor-Bravo-Sierra, this is AiG Flight #316 with total engine failure! Repeat, we have total engine failure! Attempting forced landing! Our last known position was 50 miles northeast of Tikal heading 1-2-4!

*(The sound of a very rough landing in the jungles of Guatemala is heard. Then the nose of the small jet pushes through the foliage as the plane comes to a stop and smoke [smoke machine] rises. Then jungle sounds [SFX] are heard continually in the background. JESS is the first to exit the plane.)*

JESS: (looks toward heaven and prays) Dear Lord, I know a miracle just happened, because that should have been a lot worse. Thank you for protecting us.

(DEWEY enters holding an Incredible Race clue in one hand and his backpack in the other.)

DEWEY: Well, all I can say is I sure like taking off A LOT more than landing! (as he puts his backpack on, he’s the first to see the ziggurat) What is that?!

JESS: Oh, wow! It’s a ziggurat! (as she proceeds to examine it more closely)

DEWEY: What kinda rat?

JESS: A ziggurat. It’s like a pyramid.

DEWEY: So, it’s not the airport?

JESS: Airport??

DEWEY: Yeah, the clue says I’m supposed to pick up a rental car at the airport.

(As DEWEY exits the stage in search of the airport, RAINA and CAPTAIN enter.)

CAPTAIN: So everyone’s off the plane?

RAINA: Yes, except (then, with emphasis) MYLES BENTLEY III (“The Third”). He’s refusing to leave his seat until he speaks with the president of the airline and the FAA.

CAPTAIN: What??

RAINA: Yeah, he also wants to see your pilot license, your flight school transcript, and a complete maintenance report on the aircraft.

CAPTAIN: Oh, that’s ridiculous! Let me guess…a spoiled rich kid?

RAINA: You got it.

CAPTAIN: Well, he can just sit there! (then notices the ziggurat) Wow! Would you look at that!

(Then JESS approaches RAINA and CAPTAIN as they look at the ziggurat.)

JESS: I guess someone’s been here before us. So, what happened to the plane?

CAPTAIN: Both engines failed. I don’t know why…I’m just glad there was a clearing where we could land.

JESS: So, what do we do now?

(Then DEWEY returns to the stage.)

DEWEY: (to CAPTAIN) Uh…excuse me, Captain, but could you please point me in the direction of the airport? I’m kind of in a hurry.

CAPTAIN: Airport?? What do you mean?

DEWEY: Uh…what do you mean, “what do you mean?” This is RYE-oh duh JANNER-oh, isn’t it?

RAINA: I think he means Rio de Janeiro.

JESS: (with a smile) Ha! This is more like “Rio de Jungle-o!”

(No one laughs.)

JESS: Sorry…that was dumb.

CAPTAIN: (to DEWEY) Let me see your ticket.

(DEWEY hands his boarding pass to CAPTAIN.)

CAPTAIN: Yep…just what I thought. You got on the wrong plane.

DEWEY: What?? That’s impossible!

CAPTAIN: Well, it should be impossible, but it’s not.

DEWEY: So what do I do?

CAPTAIN: Well, under normal circumstances, we’d put you on another flight. But, since we just crash-landed in the jungle, there’s not much we CAN do.

DEWEY: (to JESS and RAINA) Ha! That’s funny. I thought he said, “crash-landed.”

JESS: He did say, “crash-landed.”

DEWEY: CRASH-LANDED?!!!

CAPTAIN: So you thought that was a normal landing?? Haven’t you ever been on an airplane before?

DEWEY: No.

JESS: Wow…so your first ever plane flight crashes in the jungle. That stinks.

RAINA: Okay, you’ve never flown before. So why now? I’m just curious.

DEWEY: Because I’m in this really big race with a bunch of other people. It’s a race around the world and it’s got prizes and everything. It’s really incredible.

JESS: You mean The Incredible Race? You’re in The Incredible Race?? That is so cool!

RAINA: So, how far into it are you?

DEWEY: I just started this morning!

JESS: Oh…that’s a bummer.

RAINA: Yeah…I always feel bad for the ones that get eliminated first.

DEWEY: Well, it’s not gonna be me! I can tell you that right now! So, Captain, how soon until we’re back in the air?

CAPTAIN: Back in the air?? Back in the air?? Well, considering the fact that we don’t have a runway, we’ve got two damaged wings, two flat tires, and two engines that don’t work, I’d say…never.

DEWEY: (surprised) “Never?” Wow, that’s a long time, isn’t it?

CAPTAIN: Yeah…so, until someone rescues us, we’re pretty much stuck here.

DEWEY: Hmm…well, I’m not gonna just sit and wait! That’s for sure!

CAPTAIN: What are you going to do?

DEWEY: I don’t know, but I’ll think of something.

(DEWEY walks away and sits down.)

CAPTAIN: Well… I guess I’ll try one more time to get the radio to work.

(CAPTAIN exits.)

RAINA: I saw you reading a Bible on the flight. So you’re religious?

JESS: Well, I’m a Christian, if that answers your question.

RAINA: Do you ever wonder why God allows bad things to happen? I sure do.

JESS: You mean like crash landing in the jungle?

RAINA: Yeah…and earthquakes and tornadoes and diseases.

JESS: Not anymore.

RAINA: Why not?

JESS: Because the Bible tells us why.

RAINA: It does? What does it say?

JESS: Well…do you remember Adam and Eve? The first man and woman?

RAINA: I might have heard the story, but it’s been a very long time.

JESS: Well, first of all, it’s not just a story. They were real people in a real place. But, anyway, I’ll give you the condensed version. You see, in the beginning, when God created the world, everything was good. There was no death or disease or sadness. Nothing bad ever happened.

RAINA: Really.

JESS: Yep…but it wasn’t like that for long.

RAINA: What changed everything?

JESS: Well…God had put them in a beautiful garden and gave them everything to enjoy except the fruit from one certain tree. Then he warned them not to eat from the tree and told them what would happen if they did.

RAINA: But they ate it anyway?

JESS: You got it! And the rest is history. Because of their disobedience, the whole universe was put under a curse. Sin entered the world and affected everything. And now…just like Adam and Eve, we all disobey God.

RAINA: So that’s why there’s death and disease and earthquakes and tornadoes.

JESS: And why bad things like this happen. But the good news is… God has promised to remove the curse someday…so it won’t always be like this. There will be a happy ending. (she suddenly notices a scorpion by RAINA’s foot) But, speaking of the curse, you should probably move your foot.

RAINA: AAAH!!!

(JESS pretends to chase the scorpion and stomp on it as CAPTAIN returns with a backpack.)

CAPTAIN: What’s wrong?

JESS: Nothing…just a scorpion. Any success with the radio?

CAPTAIN: Nope. And now I’m wondering if my Mayday call went through.

JESS: So what does that mean?

CAPTAIN: It means that no one knows where we are. I’m going to have to go for help. When I was looking for a place to land, I remember a village of some sort showing up on radar about 30 miles due east of here.

RAINA: 30 miles?? That could take you several days in this terrain!

CAPTAIN: I know. That’s why I need to get going. And while I’m gone, it’s very important for you all to stay put. You should have enough food and water for several days and you can sleep in the plane at night.

RAINA: I don’t know…I don’t like the idea of you going alone.

CAPTAIN: It’s okay. I had lots of jungle experiences in the military. (then he starts to walk away) Don’t worry. We’re going to get through this. I know it.

(CAPTAIN exits toward the rear of the auditorium.)

JESS: (PRE-RECORDED) Dear Journal…I have to admit, a wave of fear swept over me as I watched the Captain leave. Here we were stranded in the jungle with very limited supplies and no way to communicate with the outside world. Please God…protect the Captain. And guide him quickly to someone who can help us!

(Theme music)