# DAY 5 SHORTER DRAMA

Characters: JESS, Raina, DEWEY, CAPTAIN

(Theme music)

(As JESS writes in her journal, jungle sounds [SFX] are playing in the background.)

JESS: (offstage, writing in her journal) Dear Journal…It’s been a scary 24 hours since Myles collapsed and Raina hasn’t left his side since it happened. For a long time, it was touch and go as he drifted in and out of consciousness and then became disoriented. But his fever has finally started to come down, so we think the worst is over. Thank you, Lord, for answering our prayers and sparing his life.

*(When the lights come up, DEWEY is sitting on the front of the stage whimpering. Nearby is a large opaque plastic crate. Then JESS enters from backstage.* When DEWEY whimpers, JESS assumes DEWEY is crying because of MYLES’ condition*.)*

JESS: (with concern) Oh…hey, Dewey…are you okay? (she sits down beside him)

DEWEY: (whimpering while trying to talk) Yes…I…I…I’m fi…fine. (then he starts to cry.)

JESS: *(gentle)* There, there… I know just how you feel. In fact, I’ve shed a few tears myself. But don’t worry…he’s gonna be okay. I’m sure of it.

DEWEY: Who’s gonna be okay?

JESS: Well…Myles, of course. What else would you be crying about?

DEWEY: This splinter in my thumb! (as he holds it up)

JESS: Oh, brother. (as she rolls her eyes) Let me see. Wow… that’s a big one. Let me take it out.

DEWEY: (in terror, he quickly pulls his arm back) No! It’ll hurt!

JESS: Oh, c’mon…don’t be a baby.

DEWEY: (apprehensive) Promise you’ll be gentle?

JESS: Of course I will. Now, look the other way. (as she grabs DEWEY’S arm)

(DEWEY turns his head away. Then JESS removes the splinter without DEWEY noticing.)

DEWEY: Okay, I’m ready…go ahead. (as he winces in anticipation)

JESS: I’m already done, silly.

DEWEY: You are?? (as he looks at his thumb, his expression immediately changes) You are! Oh, thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

JESS: You’re welcome.

(Then a soft meow [SFX] is heard.)

JESS: What was that?

DEWEY: Oh, it’s my new kitty. (as he goes over to the crate and looks down inside)

JESS: Kitty?

DEWEY: Come here…look!

(When JESS looks into the crate, another meow [SFX] is heard.)

DEWEY: Isn’t he cute?

JESS: Ha! That’s no kitty. That’s a jaguar cub.

DEWEY: Jaguar cub??

JESS: That’s right. So you better put him back right away because his mamma will be coming. And, believe me, you don’t want to be around when she does.

DEWEY: (scared) Really? Okay.

(DEWEY picks up the crate and walks toward the rear of the auditorium. Then a fierce jaguar growl [SFX] is heard.)

JESS: Oh, that’s his mama, for sure!

(DEWEY screams and turns back toward the stage.)

JESS: No! Don’t bring him back here!

(He screams again and runs full speed toward the rear of the auditorium.)

JESS: Just drop him and get out of there!

(As soon as he gets through the back doors, another fierce jaguar growl [SFX] is heard. Terrified, he screams, sets the crate down, and runs as fast as he can back toward the stage and to the safety of the plane. He passes RAINA as she enters.)

RAINA: What was that all about??

JESS: I think I’ll let him tell you. (pause) So…how are you doing?

RAINA: Much better…now that Myles is out of danger.

JESS: Is he still sleeping?

RAINA: Yes…which is what I need to do (as she yawns).

JESS: That’s for sure. Have you slept at all since he collapsed?

RAINA: No…with his condition, I couldn’t. It was too serious.

JESS: Well…I have to say I was impressed. You seemed to know what you were doing.

RAINA: That’s because I was a nurse for 10 years before I was a flight attendant.

JESS: Really! And God used that to help Myles. That is so amazing!

RAINA: Yeah…and you know what else? God really used YOU to help me.

JESS: What do you mean?

RAINA: Well…while I was sitting with Myles, I had a lot of time to think.

JESS: About what?

RAINA: About my life and about all that you’ve shared with me these past few days…that this world is broken…and I’m broken… and it’s all because of our sin. Before, I always considered myself to be a good person, but you helped me see that I’m not. Just like everyone else, I’ve disobeyed God over and over and over. And I knew that was a problem I couldn’t ignore. It’s like my eyes were opened for the first time.

JESS: I know exactly what you mean. Same thing happened to me. So, did you read those Bible passages I gave you?

RAINA: I did. And they made perfect sense. I believed everything they said about Jesus…that he died for my sins and rose from the dead. And so I prayed and asked God to forgive me and save me.

JESS: (thrilled) Wow, Raina…I can’t even tell you how happy I am right now!

RAINA: Yeah, and what’s strange is my whole perspective has changed. Before, Myles was a giant thorn in my flesh. As you well know, I couldn’t stand to be around him. But now, I don’t feel that way at all.

JESS: Really! That is so cool.

RAINA: I know. I can’t believe it. But I just keep thinking… if God is willing to love me with all my issues, who am I to withhold love from someone else…no matter who it is.

JESS: You’re so right. And there’s a verse that says just that… “if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” Which means Christians should be the kindest, most loving people in the world.

(Then a whistle [SFX] is heard.)

Raina: What was that?

JESS: A whistle. Could it be the Captain??

RAINA: Oh, I hope so!

(Then DEWEY enters.)

DEWEY: Did you call me?

JESS: No, we think it might be the Captain.

(Then the CAPTAIN, all dirty and disheveled and with a black eye and head bandage, enters from behind the plane. When everyone sees him, they cheer.)

CAPTAIN: Sorry it took so long. Is everyone okay?

RAINA: Yes, we’re fine…but what happened to you??

CAPTAIN: Oh, this? It’s nothing. (quickly changes the subject)So, anyway, I’ve got a boat waiting. Believe it or not, there’s a navigable river not far from here.

JESS: C’mon… aren’t you going to tell us what happened?

Dewey: Yeah…you can’t leave us in suspense.

CAPTAIN: All right, well…let’s see…(as he makes up a story and becomes dramatic). Would you believe me if I said I was walking through the jungle minding my own business when suddenly a band of monkeys snatched me up and threw me into a river where I was attacked by a school of piranhas and a 20 ft. crocodile?

(They all give him blank stares.)

CAPTAIN: No? Okay…how about this? One dark and stormy night…

RAINA: Why don’t you just tell us the truth?

CAPTAIN: (reluctantly) Oh, all right…but, you have to promise not to laugh. (pause) Okay…so, after an incredibly grueling 3-day trek through the jungle, with almost no sleep and very little food, you can imagine how relieved I was when I finally made it to the village. It was like coming to an oasis in the desert. And when the people saw me, they came running to greet me. It was amazing…until I tripped on a tree root and face planted into a pole.

JESS: Ouch!

CAPTAIN: Ouch is right…and embarrassing, too.

RAINA: Well, at least you made it. That’s the important thing.

DEWEY: You know, Captain, if it makes you feel any better, I’ve face planted lots of times… into poles and trees and all sorts of things.

CAPTAIN: Really…why am I not surprised?

RAINA: Well, I guess I need to wake Myles.

CAPTAIN: Oh, no…don’t tell me he’s still chaining himself to that seat!

RAINA: Not exactly.

JESS: It’s a long story. We can fill you in later.

CAPTAIN: All right…well, lets grab our things and head out. Nightfall will be here soon.

DEWEY: Whoo-hoo! Incredible Race, here I come!! (as he heads toward the plane)

(DEWEY exits toward the plane.)

RAINA: Wait…I just want to take one last look at this place.

CAPTAIN: (surprised) Really? You’re going to miss it?

RAINA: No…I wouldn’t say I’ll miss it, but it’ll be a special memory. It’s where a new beginning started for me and, well… I’ll always be grateful for what happened here.

JESS: Well said.

RAINA: All right, I’m ready…let’s go.

(Then RAINA and JESS exit toward the plane, followed by the CAPTAIN.)

JESS: (PRE-RECORDED) Dear Journal…so, everything turned out okay…well…almost. I got to Manaus in time to catch the boat to the Amazon interior and Raina continued her career as a flight attendant with a new sense of purpose. She also kept up with Myles and eventually led him to the Lord. Dewey…well, he wasn’t able to get back into The Incredible Race… in fact, he got on the wrong plane again, and…no one knows where he is! *(short pause)* Thank you, Lord. I’ll never forget such an INCREDIBLE adventure!

(Theme music)