

## **THE WALLET**

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However, in order for groups to be able to finance a production, the author leaves it flexible, trusting groups to give him a gift to the best of their ability. A printers copy is available for production.

## **THE WALLET** *A full-length play*

### **CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)**

**GANG MEMBER #1:** not a member of Cobra's gang \*\*\*

**GANG MEMBER #2:** not a member of Cobra's gang \*\*\*

**CLARA:** juvenile delinquent, very tough inner-city girl in early teens \*\*\*

**JOY:** student at a Christian college; secretary of the project and Bill's girlfriend

**OFFICER #1:** an atheist \*\*\*

**BILL:** student at the same college, director of an inner-city missions project

**OFFICER #2:** interested in Christ \*\*\*

**NATE:** inner-city youth, about 16 \*\*\*

**JERRY:** friend of Nate's, about the same age \*\*\*

**JEFF:** college student, leads ministry at 521 building

**KIM:** Nate's older sister, late teens \*\*\*

**MARTHA:** college student, Jeff's girlfriend and Joy's roommate

**JUD:** inner-city youth, age 10-12

**RAY:** Jud's friend about the same age

**JON:** another friend about the same age, very curious

**GROUP:** about 5-15 young people including Jud, Ray, and Jon \*\*\*

**PYTHON:** gang lieutenant (*vicious*)

**COBRA (LARRY):** very accomplished leader of a huge gang

**GANG:** huge inner-city gang, mid-teens to early twenties \*\*\*

**SNAKE EYES:** gang lieutenant (*very vicious and superstitious*)

**BECKY:** college student, Joy's friend, Keith's girlfriend

**KEITH:** college student, close friend of Bill's, major helper and leader in project

**MARY:** college student, Sue's roommate

**ED:** college student, Bill's friend, leads sports program

**CATHY:** college student, Ed's girlfriend

**SUE:** college student, Mary's roommate

**ANNE:** college student, Esther's roommate

**ESTHER:** college student, Anne's roommate

**MILDRED:** single parent, Ray's mother \*\*\*

**CHRIS:** younger inner-city youth (girl or boy), age 5-8 \*\*\*

\*\*\*Double casting possible

The inner-city housing project characters' speech has slang written in with profanity intentionally deleted. Give your actors freedom to get into character with the slang, perhaps concentrating on a particular word or expression but remember - no profanity. If you have any actors who can speak with an accent or dialect that is different than the others, let them use that to add character. Remember, most colleges have students from all over the United States and throughout the world. Just be sure that the meaning is not changed!

## THE WALLET

### **SETTING:**

**TIME** - the present

**PLACE** - a large city in the United States

- inner-city housing project; street scenes and apartment scenes
- Christian college; lounge and dorm scenes

### **ACT I -- Scene 1**

*(IN BLACK, JOY and CLARA are in JOY'S dorm room. JOY is tutoring CLARA. LIGHTS UP C on GANG MEMBERS 1 and 2 standing in conversation on an inner-city street.)*

**GANG MEMBER #1:** I thought our gang was gunna meet right here and git ready ta fight.

**GANG MEMBER #2:** That's the way I took it. Maybe we're the first ones here.

**GANG MEMBER #1:** **I doubt it!** What if we're last? We'd better look 'round some.

**GANG MEMBER #2:** Yeah! They could be usin' silent weapons right now. A rumble was sure in the makin'!

*(SFX a series of five to ten gunshots are heard. Several different types of gunshots would be best. The shots should interrupt GANG MEMBER's last sentence.)*

**GANG MEMBER #1:** We gotta go help!

**GANG MEMBER #2:** Stop and think! It's too late! The cops will be here soon.

**GANG MEMBER #1:** You're right! Come on; follow me. I think I know where our guys will be hidin'.

*(BOTH exit DR.)*

*(LIGHTS UP on JOY and CLARA, looking out a window, in JOY'S dorm room.)*

**CLARA:** It don't sound too good cause when they stop with the silent weapons and start shootin', well, it ain't a pritty sight!

**JOY:** *(concerned)* I hope Bill's okay. It sounded like those gunshots came from the area where he said he was going today.

**CLARA:** That's one of the most dangerous spots over there. The gangs have been gettin' ready to rumble. Don't be worryin' 'bout Bill. The shootin' will bring the cops.

**JOY:** *(tearfully and nervous)* But, what if Bill's already been shot?

**CLARA:** I doubt that. It's prob'ly just the gangs fightin'. *(comforting)* He gunna be okay.

**JOY:** I hope you're right, but he could have been talking to some of the guys just before they started fighting. *(short pause while thinking)* He's been in danger before and God has protected him. I know God is able to do it again!

**CLARA:** Well, I been livin' there my whole life and I know how the gangs fight. I never seen another place to live 'till ya showed me your school and your room. Thanks fer bringin' me ta your room cause I want ta talk ta ya alone.

**JOY:** It's a lot easier to concentrate and. . .*(SFX police sirens from the area of the gunshots, can have a long series and/or a variety of sirens. See production notes.)*

**CLARA:** See, I told ya! Sounds like cops, ambulances and everythin' are there now! Bill be okay.

**JOY:** Whatever happens, I know God's in control. What'd you want to talk to me about?

**CLARA:** When ya first started tutorin' me, and talked to me about Jesus, I just figured ya was gunna quit on me like everyone else has. I don't git why you care 'bout me so much. I just don't git it!

**JOY:** As I have told you, Jesus cares and so do I.

**CLARA:** My life's so messed up! It's hard for me ta believe that anyone really cares or could help me. Do ya really believe that Jesus can help me?

**JOY:** I know He can! If you're serious about it, He can change you and give you a whole new direction. The Bible says in Hebrews 7:25, "Wherefore he is able to save them, to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

**CLARA:** I been watchin' ya fer over a year now while ya been teachin' me. Does that verse ya just told me mean that I can have Jesus the way you do?

**JOY:** *(overjoyed!)* You sure can. Let's sit down and look at some Bible verses. *(They sit at table. JOY picks up Bible.)* The Bible says in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:" The first step is to admit that you are a sinner.

**CLARA:** Ever since my dad left, my mama became a drunk, so I went and joined a girl's gang. They got me doin' drugs, drinkin', and crime. Then I got busted and sent to Juvenile Court. It ain't easy fer a girl like me to change. *(tearfully)* I'm a bad sinner. I'm tired of it all. Can Jesus really help me?

**JOY:** Yes, and I will show you how.

*(LIGHTS OUT.)*