



NEW CYCLE OF MYSTERY PLAYS

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

by Dawn King

Tony	Ben Crowe
Aleksy	Patrick Brennan
Joe	Will Howard
Eric/Newscaster	Paul Stonehouse
Nina	Liza Sadovy

Directed by Jessica Dromgoole

PLEASE BRING HARD-SOLED SHOES TO THE STUDIO
PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR CONTRACTS

Readthrough/ Record:

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NEW CYCLE OF MYSTERY PLAYS

The Parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders by Dawn King

Music In: 00:00 Dur: 1'22"

INTRO BY CANON GILES FRASER: 1'16"

"The Church was never given some exclusive deal....."

SCENE 1 THE LIVING ROOM AT 34 ACER LANE

**F/X TONY (33) ALEKSY (45, POLISH) AND JOE (24) ARE
STARTING WORK.**

1 TONY: What they want down here is a nice open plan family kitchen, so we take this wall down and the fireplace out. And they want another wall moved upstairs to make the kids room bigger. Replace the broken tiles on the roof....

2 ALEKSY: What about this floor?

3 JOE: Yeah, it's like, wonky.

4 TONY: I'll ask them. They've got a new baby on the way and all that-

5 ALEKSY: Ahh!

6 TONY: -so they're on a bit of a budget but I reckon this'll be a really nice place when it's...

**F/X FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE. TONY TRAILS OFF. HE CAN SEE
ERIC WALKING PAST THE WINDOW.**

7 ALEKSY: Tony?

8 TONY: I don't bloody believe this.

F/X A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. PAUSE.

9 JOE: Uh... someone's at the door.

10 ALEKSY: What's wrong?

F/X ANOTHER KNOCK,

11 JOE: Should we like, open the door or something?

F/X ERIC CALLING THROUGH THE DOOR.

12 ERIC: Tony? I know it's you. The van's out the front. Tony?

13 ALEKSY: *(In Polish)* Oh brilliant.

14 JOE: Who's that?

1 ALEKSY: I'll tell him to go.

2 TONY: No. I'll deal with it.

3 ALEKSY: Is that a good...

F/X TONY STRIDES TO THE FRONT DOOR AND THROWS IT OPEN.

4 ERIC: Uhm. Hello.

5 TONY: What is it? What d'you want?

6 ERIC: Well, I saw the van so I knew it was you, so... you working on this house, are you?

7 TONY: What do you think?

8 ERIC: What is it, renovation? *(Pause)* Uh. It's just that... uh... me and Nina... That's our place. Number 31. Opposite.

9 TONY: You've got to be joking.

10 ERIC: Uh, no.

11 TONY: You live in that house, with...

12 ERIC: Moved in a few months back. Doing a bit of work on it. Evenings and weekends, when I can. Still a lot to do. Uhm. It's really good to see you. How are you doing?

13 TONY: Great.

14 ERIC: How uh... how's the business?

15 TONY: I nearly went bankrupt.

16 ERIC: I didn't/

17 TONY: I've got work to do.

18 ERIC: Tony, look, I'm sorry, all right? I didn't mean for any of this to/

F/X THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT ON ERIC AS TONY GOES
BACK INSIDE.

- 1 JOE: Who was that?
- 2 ALEKSY: Are you ok?
- 3 TONY: Sledgehammer.
- 4 ALEKSY: I'm not giving you a sledgehammer.
- 5 TONY: I'm not gonna... This wall needs to come down!
- 6 ALEKSY: But we haven't checked if it's load bearing yet.
- 7 TONY: Course it's not.
- 8 ALEKSY: But/
- 9 TONY: Joe, give me the sledgehammer.

F/X JOE TAKES A MALLET FROM A BAG OF TOOLS AND
HANDS IT TO TONY.

- 10 JOE: Here ya go.

F/X WITH A THUD, TONY SWINGS THE MALLET INTO THE
WALL.

Cut To:

SCENE 2 THE LIVING ROOM

F/X ALEKSY AND JOE ARE PICKING UP THE BRICKS FROM THE BROKEN DOWN WALL AND PUTTING THEM IN A WHEELBARROW. TONY PULLING DOWN OLD CABINETS IN THE KITCHEN. SLIGHTLY FUZZILY TUNED RADIO PLAYING GEORGE MICHAEL (LAST CHRISTMAS) ALEKSY SINGING ALONG.

Music Last Christmas/George Michael IN: 3'34 Dur:10"

1 ALEKSY: (*Singing*) Last Christmas, I gave you my heart, and the very next day, you gave it away...

F/X TONY TURNS THE RADIO OFF. ALEKSY SHOUTS THROUGH TO HIM.

2 ALEKSY: Hey!

3 TONY: It's not Christmas, it's only just December.

4 ALEKSY: I like that song!

5 TONY: Well I don't!

6 ALEKSY: (*Realising*) Oh. Sorry Tony.

F/X THEY WORK.

7 JOE: Aleksy. Who was that guy?

8 ALEKSY: Ssh. (*Softly*) Do you like working for Tony?

9 JOE: Uh. Why?

10 ALEKSY: Do you?

11 JOE: He seemed all right. But now he's gone well moody.

12 ALEKSY: That was Eric.

13 JOE: Who's Eric?

14 ALEKSY: Eric. Tony and Eric Blackman. Like on the van.

15 JOE: Uh...

- 1 ALEKSY: It's his brother!
- 2 JOE: Oh! Who's Nina?
- 3 ALEKSY: Tony's wife. Ex wife.

F/X **JOE KNOCKS THE WHEELBARROW OVER. THE BRICKS
FALL OUT.**

- 4 ALEKSY: Joe!
- 5 JOE: Sorry!

F/X **TONY SHOUTS THROUGH FROM THE KITCHEN.**

- 6 TONY: What's going on in there?
- 7 ALEKSY: Nothing. Joe knocked the wheelbarrow over.
- 8 TONY: We don't have time for you two to mess around! Get on with it!
- 9 ALEKSY: Yes boss! (*To Joe*) Come on, I'll help you.

F/X **THEY PICK UP THE BRICKS.**

- 10 JOE: (*Amused*) His wife? That is harsh man!
- 11 ALEKSY: And it happened/
- 12 JOE: Last Christmas. Right?
- 13 ALEKSY: If you want to keep working for Tony, you don't ask him about it. Don't mention it, or say anything about Eric to him, at all. Ever.
- 14 JOE: He should go on Jeremy Kyle.
- 15 ALEKSY: Ssh! Joe, do you understand what I'm saying to you?
- 16 JOE: How did he find out she was doing his brother? Did he walk in on them or/

F/X **TONY SHOUTS, AS HE WALKS THROUGH FROM THE
KITCHEN.**

- 1 TONY: Oi! I'm not paying you to chat!
- 2 ALEKSY: Sorry Tony.
- 3 JOE: Sorry.
- 4 TONY: Just get on with it, all right?

Cut To:

SCENE 3 THE CELLAR

F/X ALEKSY CALLS UP THE STAIRS.

- 1 ALEKSY: Tony!
- 2 TONY: *(From upstairs)* What?
- 3 ALEKSY: I found something in the cellar!
- 4 JOE: *(Upstairs)* What is it? A body?
- 5 ALEKSY: Tony?
- 6 TONY: Yeah, yeah... coming.

**F/X TONY COMES DOWN THE STAIRS, GRUMBLING AS HE
DOES SO.**

- 7 TONY: You're supposed to be working in the kitchen.
- 8 ALEKSY: Look.
- 9 TONY: Huh.
- 10 ALEKSY: Tony... the living room floor is uneven and some of the doors
won't close properly. I came down to have a look and I found
this. Huge crack in the concrete!
- 11 TONY: They don't want any work done down here.
- 12 ALEKSY: I think something's wrong in the foundations.
- 13 TONY: Would have shown up on the survey.
- 14 ALEKSY: They could have missed it. And there's mould in the roof
space... some of the bricks are loose. There's a lot more
needs to be done here than we're doing.
- 15 TONY: They didn't ask for any work done down here, so we're not
doing any work down here.

- 16 ALEKSY: But you have to tell them... if they want us to do a proper job on this house we need to sort out all these problems.
- 1 TONY: They're on a budget.
- 2 ALEKSY: So it costs a bit more and is more effort now, but it's better for them in the long run. You should tell them that.
- 3 TONY: I'm not telling them anything.
- 4 ALEKSY: Tony...
- 5 TONY: Are you my partner?
- 6 ALEKSY: I'm sorry?
- 7 TONY: Are you my business partner?
- 8 ALEKSY: No.....
- 9 TONY: You work for me. So come back upstairs, and get the rest of those units ripped out.

Cut To:

SCENE 4 THE LIVING ROOM

**F/X A DRILL GOING INTO MASONRY. THERE'S A SUDDEN
SHARP METALLIC PING AS THE DRILL BIT BREAKS.**

- 1 TONY: Oh, great! Just what I bloody...
- 2 JOE: Uh. Tony?
- 3 TONY: The drill bit's broken off in the wall. Look at it!
- 4 ALEKSY: You're putting too much pressure on. Pushing too hard.
- 5 JOE: Tony.

F/X TONY IS RATTLING AROUND IN A TOOL BAG.

- 6 TONY: Where are the bloody locking pliers?
- 7 JOE: Tony, it's half six.
- 8 TONY: So?
- 9 JOE: I've gotta go man. I need to go home and get changed.
- 10 ALEKSY: Joe's got a date.
- 11 JOE: It's not a *date*, we're... just... we're going... ice skating.
- 12 ALEKSY: Ice skating?
- 13 JOE: It was her idea.
- 14 ALEKSY: Ice skating is a date, don't you think Tony?
- 15 TONY: I want the kitchen finished today.
- 16 JOE: But that's loads, that's gonna take hours!
- 17 ALEKSY: Let him go! He's young, he's in love, he needs to go and put
on his aftershave and sequined skating trousers.
- 18 JOE: Shut up!

- 19 TONY: Right, fine. But I want you both here early tomorrow. We're finishing this job early.
- 1 ALEKSY: What d'you mean?
- 2 TONY: I want this house finished by Christmas.
- 3 JOE: That's like, impossible.
- 4 ALEKSY: You told them eight weeks for whole job.
- 5 TONY: It doesn't need to take us that long.
- 6 JOE: Man. We're never gonna do that!
- 7 TONY: Yeah we are, if we work hard, and we all arrive early. Without hangovers. All right, Joe?
- 8 JOE: Whatever. I'm out of here.
- 9 ALEKSY: Bye Joe. Have a wonderful night! Don't forget to show her your triple toe loop!
- 10 JOE: Excuse me?!
- 11 ALEKSY: It's an ice skating jump, with twists!
- 12 JOE: Bye ALEKSY.
- F/X** **JOE LEAVES THE HOUSE. TONY IS TRYING TO GET THE DRILL BIT OUT. HE GRUNTS.**
- 13 TONY: No. It's not coming.
- 14 ALEKSY: What are you going to do?
- 15 TONY: I don't know. Leave it in there.
- 16 ALEKSY: I uh...
- 17 TONY: Don't hover, Aleksy. If you've got something you want to say...
- 18 ALEKSY: We can't finish this job in two weeks.

- 1 TONY: You can see into their kitchen from the upstairs windows of this house. Nina's in there, right now, having a glass of wine, sitting by her Christmas tree, waiting for *him* to come home. Do you think she'll give him a kiss?
- 2 ALEKSY: I know you're... hurt. But... we always do a good job. Always.
- 3 TONY: This time... we're gonna...fill the cracks, paint over the mould, cut every corner we can. And we're gonna do it fast so I can get off this street.

Cut To:

SCENE 5 THE LIVING ROOM – CHRISTMAS EVE

**F/X RAIN LASHING AT A WINDOW, WIND HOWLING. THE
RADIO IS TUNED TO THE NEWS.**

1 NEWSCASTER: ...severe weather warnings have been issued with gale force winds and localised flooding expected in some areas this afternoon and into the evening. Travellers are being warned not to drive unless it's absolutely necessary, which may throw Christmas plans for many across the country into disarray. The tailbacks on the M4/

F/X RADIO TURNED OFF.

2 JOE: We have to quit for the day.

3 TONY: It's just water falling out the sky, it won't kill you!

4 JOE: A tree falling on my car will.

5 ALEKSY: I think it would be best if we all went home now, before it gets worse.

6 TONY: We've only got a few bits left, and then we're done.

7 JOE: It's Christmas Eve!

8 TONY: Yeah, and you're getting paid to be here, so stop moaning!

9 JOE: What's wrong with you? Don't you wanna go home or something?

F/X PAUSE.

10 JOE: Tony man, I know you're cut up about your wife and stuff...

11 ALEKSY: Joe.

12 TONY: What have you been saying to him?

13 JOE: ...and I'm sorry for you but if you think I'm staying here until nine o'clock, *again*, on Christmas Eve, and driving home in a storm, in the dark... you're mental!

1 TONY: All right, you can go.

2 JOE: Oh. Ok. Thanks.

3 TONY: You're fired.

4 JOE: What?

5 ALEKSY: He didn't mean any harm, he's good kid.

6 JOE: Nah, it's all right. I'm going. I'm a human being yeah, not a machine. I'm sick of working like a slave!

7 TONY: You wouldn't know a hard day's work if it bit you on the arse!

8 JOE: Where's my money for today?

F/X **TONY PULLS OUT HIS WALLET AND THRUSTS SOME NOTES AT JOE.**

9 JOE: You know, I've seen your brother Eric walking past outside and he's even uglier than you!

10 ALEKSY: Joe, leave/

11 JOE: She didn't go for him because of his looks. She must have left because you weren't giving her what she needed at home so she had to go somewhere else for/

F/X **TONY LUNGES AT JOE.**

12 TONY: I'll bloody kill you!

13 ALEKSY: Tony, stop!

F/X **ALEKSY HOLDS TONY BACK.**

14 ALEKSY: Get out, go on!

15 JOE: Happy Christmas, psycho!

F/X **JOE STOMPS OFF, OPENING THE DOOR ONTO THE
HOWLING MAELSTROM, AND THEN SLAMMING IT SHUT
BEHIND HIM.**

1 TONY: I'm all right, I'm calm, ok? Let go.

F/X **ALEKSY LETS HIM GO.**

2 ALEKSY: Don't let him wind you up.

3 TONY: You'd better go home and all.

4 ALEKSY: And leave you here, brooding?

5 TONY: Aleksey... *(Pause. He sighs)* I know I've been a nightmare. I
can finish this on my own. Off you go.

6 ALEKSY: Nobody wants to be alone at Christmas.

7 TONY: I'll be right.

8 ALEKSY: Some of my friends are coming to my house tonight for a
meal. And after, we'll go to midnight mass at my church. Why
don't you come too?

9 TONY: I dunno.

10 ALEKSY: If they can't make it because of the storm, I'll have to eat all
the food by myself! Don't make me do that!

11 TONY: Yeah ok. Thanks, I'll come. That'd be nice.

F/X **DOORBELL.**

12 TONY: He forgot his bloody mobile or something?

F/X **HE GOES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT. IT'S RAINING
HARD OUTSIDE.**

13 NINA: Tony.

F/X **LONG PAUSE.**

14 NINA: We need to talk.

15 TONY: Last time you said that to me you were telling me you were leaving.

F/X RAIN LASHES DOWN. ROLLING THUNDER.

1 NINA: Can I come in? Tony? It's raining!

F/X A TILE FALLS FROM THE ROOF AND SMASHES.

2 NINA: Oh!

3 TONY: It's a tile, that's all. The tiles are coming off.

F/X ANOTHER TILE SMASHES.

4 NINA: Let me inside!

F/X HE LETS HER INTO THE HALL.

5 TONY: Did he send you?

6 NINA: No, but it's him I want to talk to you about.

7 TONY: I'm not interested.

8 NINA: He's in bits about the way things are between the two of you.

9 TONY: Oh is he? Oh no. Poor Eric. He must feel really bad about stealing my wife and leaving me saddled with a business up to its eyeballs in debt!

10 NINA: You threw him out of the company! It was your decision, he didn't want to/

11 TONY: He ruined my marriage and he ruined my life!

12 NINA: No he didn't. Stop feeling sorry for yourself. It's pathetic.

13 TONY: Oh, here we go. I've missed this, I really have!

F/X THE STORM IS GETTING WORSE. A CREAKING, GROANING SOUND CAN BE HEARD FROM THE ROOF AND WALLS OF THE HOUSE.

14 ALEKSY: Uh... excuse me? Hello Nina.

15 NINA: Aleksy, how are you?

16 ALEKSY: I'm good. Happy Christmas. Tony...Listen...

**F/X THE ROOF GROANS AGAIN. ANOTHER TILE SMASHES
TO THE GROUND OUTSIDE.**

1 ALEKSY: There's something wrong... I'm going out to have a look.

F/X ALEKSY GOES OUTSIDE, LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN.

2 NINA: You can't blame Eric for what happened, it wasn't his fault.

3 TONY: Oh, we should have had an open marriage! You, me, my
brother.... the postman...

F/X AN OMINOUS CRACKING SOUND.

4 ALEKSY: (*Outside*) The roof!

5 NINA: I never cheated on you!

F/X ALEKSY'S VOICE IS ALMOST LOST IN THE STORM.

6 ALEKSY: (*Outside*) Tony! Nina!

7 NINA: We got married too quickly, Tony.

8 TONY: I didn't hear you complaining at the time.

9 NINA: And then we were so busy working. When we were together,
all we ever did was argue! We let things slide, and when we
hit the rough times there was nothing there to keep us
together.

10 ALEKSY: (*Outside*) Get out! Quickly!

11 TONY: Eric did this, he came between us, he...

12 NINA: I never cheated on you! I didn't get together with Eric until it
was already over between you and me, and you know that!

13 TONY: No... he...

14 NINA: I'd moved out, Tony. It was over.

F/X **PAUSE. THUNDER.**

1 TONY: Yeah. Yeah. I know.

F/X **A LUMP OF MASONRY FALLS. NINA LETS OUT A
SHORT SCREAM.**

2 TONY: Get ba...

F/X **TERRIBLE CRASHING AND SMASHING AS A CHUNK OF
ROOF FALLS IN.**

Cut To:

SCENE 6 INT/EXT COLLAPSED BUILDING

**F/X NINA COUGHING. RAIN. PATTERNING OF BITS OF
PLASTER AND RUBBLE STILL FALLING.**

1 ERIC: Tony! Tony!

2 NINA: He pushed me out of the way, then it all came down. He was standing right there!

3 ALEKSY: I'll call an ambulance. Fire brigade, something.

4 ERIC: Tony!

**F/X COUGHING AND SPLUTTERING. RUBBLE BEING
PUSHED ASIDE.**

5 TONY: Nina?

6 ERIC: There, there he is!

7 ALEKSY: Thank you God!

F/X THEY PULL TONY OUT OF THE RUBBLE.

8 TONY: Nina, are you all right? Are you hurt?

9 NINA: No, are you?

10 TONY: Let me up.

F/X HE STANDS UP.

11 TONY: I'm all right. Yeah. I'm all right.

F/X THE RAIN BEGINS TO STOP.

12 NINA: Tony...

13 TONY: There was something wrong with the foundation. I knew it. I knew it, but...I ignored it. Until it all came crashing down. I'm sorry.

14 NINA: Me too.

F/X **PAUSE.**

- 1 TONY: Look at it. What a mess.
- 2 ALEKSY: What will we say to the owners?
- 3 TONY: I dunno. They'll probably sue me.
- 4 ERIC: Uh. I could help. Put things right. If you want. I mean... the
van still has both our names on it...

F/X **PAUSE.**

- 5 TONY: Ok.

Music **In: 14:22 Dur: 40"**

Closing Credits

EOS: 14:56
DUR: 15:02

THE END.