

# WAITING FOR THE KING

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## CAST

ANGEL

SERGEANT

GOVERNOR

CITIZEN

APOSTLE

INFORMANT

PRIEST

*The use of 'He' in the stage directions is for consistency only. Characters have titles rather than names to enable casting to be gender blind.*

## WAITING FOR THE KING

*(A waiting room, furnished with a desk with an array of telephones and a dozen or so chairs. One of the phones rings. The **ANGEL**, dressed in white, hurries in, carrying a list and six folders. He drops the file on the desk and tries each phone in turn before finding the right one)*

**ANGEL** Yes, yes, I'm ready. Send them in as they arrive.

*(He organises the files. The **SERGEANT** enters. He looks round the room uncertainly. The **ANGEL** looks up and greets him with a welcoming smile)*

**ANGEL** Welcome to judgement day, Sergeant.

**SERGEANT** It's true, then?

**ANGEL** We did tell everyone.

**SERGEANT** I thought it was all a story.

**ANGEL** We said it wasn't.

*(The **ANGEL** ticks the **SERGEANT** off in the file and gives him one of the folders)*

**SERGEANT** What's this?

**ANGEL** Your life.

**SERGEANT** *(Pleased)* A souvenir, like?

**ANGEL** A reminder. There's so much humans misremember. You might want to have a browse while you're waiting for the others.

**SERGEANT** Hang on, isn't this going to be private?

**ANGEL** Nothing can be hidden now.

**SERGEANT** *(In a whisper)* Not even... *(The **ANGEL** shakes his head)* My wife will kill me.

**ANGEL** You're already dead.

**SERGEANT** Oh, yeah. I keep forgetting.

*(The SERGEANT sits down and starts reading his file. The GOVERNOR enters)*

**ANGEL** Welcome to judgement day, Your Excellency.

*(He offers the GOVERNOR his folder)*

**GOVERNOR** I'm expected - good. *(He glares at the SERGEANT, who hurriedly stands to attention. The GOVERNOR nods approvingly)* You may carry on. *(The SERGEANT goes back to his folder. The GOVERNOR turns his attention back to the ANGEL)* The VIP lounge is...?

**ANGEL** There is no VIP lounge.

**GOVERNOR** Oh. You might want to consider that. Also some sort of fast track procedure. This is all a waste of time for people like me. Look at my record.

**ANGEL** Perhaps if you read your folder...

**GOVERNOR** I know what's in it. *(He ticks the items off)* Steady growth, reduced crime, improved infrastructure-

**SERGEANT** *(reading from file)* You're kidding!

**GOVERNOR** What was that?

**SERGEANT** This has to be a wind-up.

**ANGEL** We don't do wind-ups, I'm afraid.

**SERGEANT** But...

**ANGEL** We rather thought it might come as a shock.

**SERGEANT** I was only obeying orders. *(To the GOVERNOR)* You'll tell them that.

**GOVERNOR** What are you talking about?

**SERGEANT** You'd best sit down, sir. Honest, you had.

*(The GOVERNOR does so with ill grace)*

**GOVERNOR** What's this all about then?

**SERGEANT** You know the bloke who said he was the Son of God?

**GOVERNOR** No.

**SERGEANT** Well, you'd best remember quick. He really was the Son of God.

**GOVERNOR** So?

**SERGEANT** You had him crucified.

**GOVERNOR** Me?

**SERGEANT** You gave the order, sir.

**GOVERNOR** Why didn't someone tell me?

**SERGEANT** He told you himself, sir.

**GOVERNOR** Every crank does that.

**SERGEANT** We got the one who was telling the truth.

**GOVERNOR** Oh!

*(He studies his folder intently. His fingers tap away unconsciously as he works out the implications)*

**SERGEANT** What are we going to do?

**GOVERNOR** Do?

**SERGEANT** Yes sir, do.

**GOVERNOR** Perhaps we should compare notes.