

FISH-EYES

By Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman

Scene: "DON'T TELL ANYONE"

Scripture: Matthew 17

Setting: A bedroom.

Props: Sketchbook, clothing to pack/sack or suitcase to pack in

Time: 5-6 minutes

(ANDREW is in the room, sketching. PETER storms in, opens a drawer in the bureau, begins throwing clothes in an old duffle bag.)

ANDREW: Hello.

PETER: Yeah.

ANDREW: What's with you?

PETER: Nothing.

ANDREW: Really?

PETER: Yeah.

ANDREW: What's the matter?

PETER: Nothing.

ANDREW: Yeah, you said. What are you doing?

PETER: I'm packing. I'm done. I'm quitting.

ANDREW: No you're not.

PETER: I'm done. I've had it.

ANDREW: Just like that.

PETER: Just like that.

ANDREW: Peter, what happened to you?

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PETER: Can't talk about it.

ANDREW: What?

PETER: I can't talk about.

ANDREW: What do you mean?

PETER: He told us we can't tell anybody.

ANDREW: He says that all the time. It doesn't include me.

(PETER opens his mouth to say something, shuts it abruptly.)

PETER: I can't tell you.

ANDREW: Yes, you can.

PETER: All right then, I'm not going to tell you.

ANDREW: You weren't trying to walk across a pond or anything were you?

PETER: Very funny.

ANDREW: C'mon Peter, please?

(Pause)

PETER: All right. James, John, and me went with him up the mountain.

ANDREW: Yeah...

PETER: And we get up to the top, *(Sheepishly, haltingly)* and his clothes turn white, and then there was Elijah and Moses.

ANDREW: Moses? The Moses?

PETER: Yes, Moses!

ANDREW: And Elijah?

PETER: Isn't that what I said?

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ANDREW: All these years we've been setting a chair at the table and he shows up on a mountain.

PETER: If you don't want to be serious...

ANDREW: Okay, sorry. So, what did you do?

PETER: I can't tell you.

ANDREW: Peter!

PETER: Promise you won't laugh.

ANDREW: Promise.

PETER: Swear to God?

ANDREW: I can't do that.

PETER: What?

ANDREW: I can't do that.

PETER: What do you mean?

ANDREW: He told us we can't do that.

PETER: Okay, fine. You don't want to hear, fine. *(Turns to continue packing)*

ANDREW: Okay, okay, I promise.

PETER: All right. I said, "This is great, let's build three tents, one for you, one for Elijah, and one for Moses."

(ANDREW just looks at him, after a moment we can see the strain of trying not to laugh, finally he explodes in laughter.)

Sure, go ahead and laugh! What would you have said?

ANDREW: *(Still laughing)* I don't know.

PETER: That's right, you don't know! Nobody knows, nobody knows nothing.

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ANDREW: Anything.

PETER: Whatever!

ANDREW: How did you know it was Moses?

PETER: I don't know, you just ... it was Moses.

ANDREW: What does it mean?

PETER: How should I know? I mean, Moses and Elijah are standing there and all he can say is "see that you don't tell anyone".

ANDREW: That's all he said?

PETER: Yeah, not to tell anyone until the son of man is raised from the dead.

ANDREW: Wait a minute. Raised from the dead? What does that mean?

PETER: Like he's gonna tell me. He doesn't ever really tell us what's going on. Everything has to be this big mystery.

ANDREW: So you're gonna quit.

PETER: Yeah, I mean why did he pick us for this job if we're so thick? It's obvious we don't have what it takes.

ANDREW: What does it take?

PETER: I don't know! Don't tell anyone? Is that some kind of joke? I mean, Andrew, right before our eyes he's just—it was like staring at the sun. He was like, glowing...

ANDREW: He had a glow?

PETER: Can't he just TALK to us? Just tell us what's going on? Noooo. It's "the Son of Man must suffer this and the yeast of the Pharisees that and..."

ANDREW: Peter—

PETER: He says "Follow me", and then doesn't give us any answers...I mean, I don't care if he claims to be the Son of God—

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ANDREW: He does.

PETER: If he says "Oh ye of little faith one more time" I'm gonna just pop him!

ANDREW: Hey! *(Grabs him)*

PETER:

(ANDREW is holding PETER firmly, looking into his eyes.)

ANDREW: Moses and Elijah showed up.

PETER: Yeah?

ANDREW: You saw them. You heard them.

PETER: Yeah?

ANDREW: You don't find that remarkable?

PETER: Well, yeah.

ANDREW: And he walked on the water.

PETER: Yeah.

ANDREW: YOU walked on the water. *(A beat)* Well, off you go. Be sure and write. Need any help with the bags?

(PETER says nothing but begins to unpack his bag. He turns to ANDREW.)

PETER: He had a glow.

END

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