

STUFF: A PLAY

written for St. Luke's Camp

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At rise, there are several cubes on the stage. A lectern is at stage right for the Narrator.

The Narrator approaches the lectern, looks out, smiles at the audience and begins.

NARRATOR

Good morning. Welcome to our play. This play is called, simply, “Stuff.” That's it – STUFF. Stuff is all around us. It is everywhere. Stuff seeps into every part of our lives. For some people, stuff controls them. This can be very dangerous.

The Narrator pauses briefly. Then, very seriously...

I have to warn you right now. What you are about to see can be very troubling. The images that will appear on this stage may be very hard to watch. But I encourage you to hang in there; things do get better. By the end of our play, everything will work out just fine.

Pause.

At least, I hope so.

Eddie enters. He carries lots of “stuff.” He is dressed rather wildly, wears sunglasses, a wild hat and walks with a swagger. Eddie is “full of himself.”

The Narrator speaks to the audience.

I told you the images would be troubling.

Points to Eddie.

That's Eddie. Say something, Eddie.

EDDIE

Yo!

Eddie sits on the stage and begins unpacking his “stuff.”

NARRATOR

Eddie seems to be a man of few words. Is that true, Eddie?

EDDIE

Yup.

NARRATOR

(sighs) And why is that, Eddie?

EDDIE

Busy with my stuff.

NARRATOR

I know this may be difficult, but I want you all to watch very closely. Eddie is unpacking his stuff. He loves that stuff. Watch how he smiles at every little piece of stuff he unpacks.

Eddie smiles broadly.

Hear how he talks to his stuff.

EDDIE

I love you, stuff! You're the best!

NARRATOR

Notice that these are the most words Eddie has spoken since he entered.

EDDIE

Stuff is just great. And it's all mine.

Eddie holds the stuff to his chest, looks up and laughs gleefully.

NARRATOR

I know. I know. But I did warn you. And, I must confess: it get's worse.

Millicent enters. She is dressed to the nines, also wears sunglasses and carries some pretty fancy "stuff."

Oh, no. Millicent.

MILLICENT

Good morning, everyone. Millicent here! Delighted to be here – here with my own lovely possessions. Let me show you.

NARRATOR

This is going to be very difficult for me, but I will do my best.

The Narrator takes a deep breath.

Millicent is so interested in her stuff that she had to show it off at every opportunity. There is her fur coat.

Millicent does a little turn, laughing gleefully, showing off the coat.

There is her jewelry.

Millicent twirls the necklace, shows the rings, laughing all the time.

NARRATOR

Then, there is of course...

MILLICENT

Me!

Millicent sits on the stage, takes out a mirror and admires herself.

NARRATOR

Millicent and Eddie lived very close to each other. They were neighbors. But they rarely spoke to each other. And when they did, they never looked at each other.

EDDIE

Hi.

MILLICENT

Morning.

NARRATOR

They had eyes only for their stuff.

EDDIE and MILLICENT

Look at all this great stuff! I love it!

NARRATOR

But Eddie and Millicent were not alone. They had lots of company. There was Beano (yup, that's his nickname!)

Beano enters. He also wears sunglasses. He carries an iphone or other video game.

Beano had eyes only for his video games. He rarely talked to other people.

And when people tried to talk to him, they got strange answers.

NARRATOR (to Beano)

Good morning, Beano. How are you today?

BEANO

I made it to level five.

NARRATOR

What are your plans for today?

BEANO

Level six.

NARRATOR

What are your plans for tomorrow?

BEANO

Level seven.

Beano sits on the stage and continues to play his video game.

NARRATOR

Beano sat next to his neighbors. But they were hardly ever aware of him. And he didn't take the slightest notice of the others. But he said he had an excuse.

BEANO

I'm busy.

NARRATOR

But every now and then, Eddie, Millicent and Beano seemed to be aware of each other.

NARRATOR

This usually happened when Beano said things like.

BEANO

Level Six! Made it!

Eddie and Millicent look up.

EDDIE

Wassup?

MILLICENT

I seem to have heard something.

After a brief pause, Eddie and Millicent shrug and turn back to their stuff.

NARRATOR

Eddie, Millicent and Beano were very happy with their stuff. They sighed in satisfaction.

They do.

Eddie, Millicent and Beano thought they had it all.

EDDIE, MILLICENT and BEANO

Are you saying we don't have it all?

NARRATOR

Guys, you have a lot to learn. They looked very puzzled.

They do.

NARRATOR

But they really did have a lot to learn. They all said “huh.” Then they all forgot about learning anything and turned back to their stuff. They loved their stuff.

EDDIE, MILLICENT and BEANO

We love our stuff.

NARRATOR

They really did love their stuff. Look at Eddie. I can't believe it. He is hugging his stuff. HUGGING HIS STUFF!

EDDIE

I can't help it. It's so great!

NARRATOR

And look at Millicent. She's dancing with her stuff. She's SINGING with her stuff.

MILLICENT (singing to her stuff)

When I awake in the morning,
The first thing that I must do
Is stretch out while I'm yawning
And reach for my stuff – that's YOU!

Oh, my stuff is great
My stuff is fine
My stuff is absolutely mine.
I see stuff here; I see stuff there
And isn't it divine.

When noontime comes at midday
The sun is shining bright

And it shines even brighter still
When it shines upon my stuff – that's YOU!

Oh, my stuff is great
My stuff is fine
My stuff is absolutely mine.
I see stuff here; I see stuff there
And isn't it divine.

At night when I lay down to sleep
Before the lights go out
I look around one last time
To see my stuff – that's YOU!

Oh, my stuff is great
My stuff is fine
My stuff is absolutely mine.
I see stuff here; I see stuff there
And isn't it divine.

Millicent smiles at her stuff and takes a bow.

NARRATOR

Thank you, Millicent. We can all see that you love your stuff. And Beano...? Well, he just went on playing his... What is that?

BEANO (without looking up)

It's a game.

NARRATOR

But Eddie, Millicent and Beano had something in store for them.

Suspense sound.

NARRATOR

Things were about to get very interesting. Everyone, meet Eddie Two.

EDDIE TWO enters. He has a lot more stuff than EDDIE.

Well, that got Eddie's attention.

EDDIE

Eddie? Did you say Eddie?

NARRATOR

No. I said Eddie Two. You are Eddie. Or, if you prefer, Eddie One.

EDDIE

Oh...I think I'll stick with Eddie.

NARRATOR

Eddie studied Eddie Two very carefully. He observed that Eddie Two didn't look much like him.

EDDIE

No resemblance whatsoever.

NARRATOR

But they actually have a lot in common. Eddie wondered what that could be.

EDDIE

Yeah. What can that be?

NARRATOR

Eddie, it has to do with STUFF. Eddie looked at Eddie Two again. What he saw troubled him deeply. Eddie Two had a lot more stuff.

EDDIE

Look at all that stuff. It isn't fair.

NARRATOR

Eddie was about to do something very inappropriate.

EDDIE

I'm going to take his stuff.

NARRATOR

That's the inappropriate thing he was about to do. But he didn't.

EDDIE

I didn't?

NARRATOR

No. Because coming toward them was an overdressed person who had the fanciest BLING (that's another word for STUFF). Her name was, ready for this – MILLICENT TWO!

MILLICENT

No! I can't believe it. Look at all that...STUFF. I feel weak in the knees.

NARRATOR

And Millicent fainted.

She does.

Everybody was shocked. They froze. But they should have helped Millicent. Hey, guys! Millicent. She needs help.

EDDIE, etc.

Oh, right. Let's help you, Millie...

MILLICENT (reviving)

Oh, thank you. But you should know something...I hate the name "Millie."

NARRATOR

Millicent insisted that everyone call her "Millicent." She made them repeat her name.

MILLICENT

O.k. Everyone, one – two – three...

THE OTHERS

Millicent.

MILLICENT

Thank you.

NARRATOR

But Beano had a question.

BEANO

I have a question.

NARRATOR

Yes, Beano.

BEANO

Where is Beano Two.

NARRATOR

Sorry, Beano. There is no Beano Two. You're the only Beano. But look who's coming.

They all look toward the center aisle.

NARRATOR

They couldn't believe it! They said they couldn't believe it.

EVERYONE

We can't believe it.

NARRATOR

Their mouths dropped open.

They do.

They shook with envy.

They do,

Because coming toward them was none other than...

EVERYONE (pointing)

BIG STUFF!!!

NARRATOR

Yes, it was Big Stuff. Big Stuff had more stuff than anyone else. He had lots of stuff. He had so much stuff he could hardly carry it all.

Big Stuff enters. S/he has lots of stuff indeed. Lots of bling. Lots of boxes and bags stuffed with stuff.

Big Stuff was pretty pleased with himself. After all, he had more stuff than just about everybody.

BIG STUFF

Ahem.

NARRATOR

Sorry. Big Stuff had more stuff than EVERYBODY.

BIG STUFF

That's better.

NARRATOR (rolling her eyes)

Big Stuff thought pretty well of himself.

Big Stuff smiles at the audience and asks for their applause and cheers. He signals for more. Then he bows.

Are you finished?

Big stuff nods at the Narrator.

But not everybody liked Big Stuff. Some people were envious of all the stuff Big Stuff had.

MILLICENT (to Eddie)

Eddie, I don't think it's fair that Big Stuff has more stuff than we do.

EDDIE

You're right, Millicent. What should we do?

BEANO

I think we should take it.

MILLICENT

That's a great idea, Beano. Let's take it!

Millicent, Eddie, Millicent Two, Eddie Two and Beano plan their attack. Then they sneak up on Big Stuff. They all put their hands

out to seize Big Stuff. But just before they grab him, a voice suddenly stops them.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Stop!!!

NARRATOR

That's the voice of Sam the Evangelist.

Sam the Evangelist enters. He hasn't got much stuff. But he does carry a Bible.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

My name is Sam the Evangelist and I think you are all making a big mistake. Think about what you are about to do.

NARRATOR

So Eddie, Millicent, Eddie Two, Millicent Two and Beano all thought.

They all look up and scratch their heads.

When they were done thinking, Millicent spoke for the group.

MILLICENT

We were about to take Big Stuff's stuff. It's not fair that he has more stuff than we do.

The rest agree.

EVERYONE

Yeah. It's not fair.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Seems like I may have some work to do here.

NARRATOR

Sam the Evangelist sat down and opened his Bible. That's when Eddie noticed something very important.

EDDIE

Hey, this guy Sam the Evangelist doesn't have any stuff.

NARRATOR

So they all looked at Sam the Evangelist and laughed.

They do.

But Sam the Evangelist wasn't troubled by this. He went on reading his Bible. Eddie, Millicent, Eddie Two Millicent Two and Beano were curious about this book. They circled around Sam and read over his shoulder. Finally, Eddie reached out and grabbed the Bible. He ran away so that Sam wouldn't catch him. But Sam didn't move. Instead he said...

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Please take the Bible. I want you to have it. Besides, the Bible was given to everybody.

NARRATOR

This surprised and confused everybody.

EDDIE TWO

I'm surprised.

MILLICENT TWO

I'm confused.

NARRATOR

They just didn't get it. They wondered about somebody who had no stuff.

MILLICENT

I don't get it; you don't have any stuff.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

I may not have any stuff. But I have everything.

NARRATOR

Eddie, Millicent and the others were confused by this. They scratched their heads once again. Sam the Evangelist understood their confusion.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

I understand your confusion. But if you will have a seat, I may be able to help you.

NARRATOR

Eddie, Millicent and the others took their seats. Sam the Evangelist took out another Bible. Eddie was confused once again.

EDDIE

Didn't I steal your Bible?

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Yes. But you keep it; I want you to have it.

NARRATOR

Eddie was shocked at this. He even said so.

EDDIE

I'm shocked.

NARRATOR

“Well,” said Sam the Evangelist...

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Well, be prepared for more shocks.

NARRATOR

Sam the Evangelist explained that the shocks he had in mind were called transformation. Eddie, Millicent and the others had never heard this word before. They weren't sure what it meant. But they listened as Sam the Evangelist told the story of the moneychangers in the temple. As he told this story, several moneychangers appeared. They were dressed in ancient clothing. They wore beards and they sat at a long table. There was a great deal of money on the table. Eddie, Millicent, Eddie Two, Millicent Two and Big Stuff all thought that was cool.

EVERYONE

Cool! Look at all that stuff!!

NARRATOR

But Sam the Evangelist explained that the moneychangers were actually in the Temple, which is God's house. God only wants his work done in his house. As you might imagine, God got pretty angry with the moneychangers. Those moneychangers were doing their own business, using God's house for their own selfish purposes. Jesus came into the temple and turned over the table of the moneychangers.

Jesus enters. He turns over the table of the moneychangers. He also sends the moneychangers out of the temple.

JESUS

Out of my house!

The moneychangers exit.

NARRATOR

Millicent was very interested in the money that had fallen on the floor. She started to pick it up.

She does.

MILLICENT

I'm rich.

NARRATOR

But then she looked at it more closely. She was surprised by what she saw.

MILLICENT

This isn't real. It's fake money.

Jesus and the moneychangers return to watch Millicent.

NARRATOR

Sam the Evangelist, Jesus and the moneychangers all began to laugh.

MILLICENT

It's not funny. I love money.

NARRATOR

Sam the Evangelist, Jesus and the moneychangers explained that they performed their little play about the moneychangers in the temple to instruct others about what is really important. Sam the Evangelist asked Big Stuff what was important to him.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

What is important to you?

BIG STUFF

Well DUH! Stuff, of course!!

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Let me see that stuff.

NARRATOR

So Big Stuff handed a big bag of his “stuff” to Sam the Evangelist.

BIG STUFF

Careful. It's important stuff.

NARRATOR

Sam the Evangelist said he was sure it was. But when he unpacked it, everyone seemed surprised. It just didn't seem so valuable at all. Big Stuff was most surprised of all.

BIG STUFF

I thought that was great stuff. It just doesn't look so good anymore. What happened?

SAM THE EVANGELIST

It's called transformation.

NARRATOR

Big Stuff felt himself changing. All of a sudden, he began to understand what the love of God was all about. He began to consider other people. It was a new experience for him. And he realized something about himself.

BIG STUFF

I just don't need all this stuff. I've got something more important.

NARRATOR

When Millicent heard that, she fainted.

She does.

But everyone helped her.

She revives.

MILLICENT

I don't know what came over me.

EVERYONE

It's called transformation.

NARRATOR

And everyone – even Millicent – (well, mostly) came to understand that having everything was a lot more important than having a lot of stuff. Eddie, though, was very sad. He approached Sam the Evangelist.

EDDIE

Sam the Evangelist, I owe you an apology. I took your Bible. Just because I could.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

I meant what I said, Eddie – you keep it. I want you to have it.

EDDIE

Well, thanks. You've taught me a lot. Thank you, Sam the Evangelist.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

You're welcome, Eddie. But what did I teach you?

EDDIE

Well, it's a little embarrassing.

Pause.

It has to do with love.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Yes, it does.

EDDIE

It has to do with a love of God. And love for each other. That's quite a transformation.

NARRATOR

Everybody agreed that it was. Millicent was still a little unsure.

MILLICENT

Just a minute. I mean, we can have everything...But, can't we have some...stuff?

NARRATOR

Sam the Evangelist said it was ok to have some stuff – as long as it didn't get in the way of the love of God or each other. Millicent was pleased.

MILLICENT

I can live with that!

NARRATOR

Sam the Evangelist explained he and his group needed to leave soon.

SAM THE EVANGELIST

Lots of work to do.

NARRATOR

But before they departed for Vermont and New Hampshire, they joined together with their new friends, shared a meal and ended with a song.

Song. Applause. Bows.

CURTAIN