

# ESCAPE FROM DEADVILLE

ST. LUKE'S CAMP, 2010  
Monterey, Massachusetts

Starring the Youth of the Diocese of the Northeast

## Scene

*At the start of the show, there is a stage with boxes, places to sit and a large sign that reads: "Deadville."*

*The Narrator approaches the stage. She looks around, then shrugs. She turns to the audience.*

### NARRATOR

I wonder where the actors are. Hmmm. (she thinks for a moment). Do you suppose they're all dead.

*She chuckles at her joke.*

*From offstage, we hear loud and derisive laughter.*

Quiet! I will let you know when it's time for you to speak. Understand?

### OFFSTAGE VOICES

Yes, Narrator. We'll be good.

*The Narrator crosses to the podium.*

Now then. Here is our play. It's called "Escape from Deadville." It's all about life and death. It is full of conflict, tragedy and misfortune. It's filled with mean people who do terrible things to each other. I know what you're

thinking; this is going to be a lot of fun. And it will be. Besides, it's not all bad; some very good things will happen, too.

*She looks toward the actors.*

Ok, actors. Get ready.

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OFFSTAGE VOICES

We're ready. We've been ready for days.

NARRATOR

Yeah, right. (to the audience) Actors are the same everywhere.

*She points to the stage.*

Our play begins in Deadville. People lived in Deadville.

*Pause. Nothing happens. Then, louder..*

People lived in Deadville!

*Pause. Still nothing. Then, very loud.*

PEOPLE LIVED IN DEADVILLE. Come on guys, you're on.

DEADVILLIAN ONE

What do you expect; we're supposed to be dead.

DEADVILLIAN TWO

Yeah. Dead people move slowly.

DEADVILLIAN THREE

Very slowly. We're Deadvillians.

DEADVILLIANS

Yeah!

*They give each other very slow high fives.*

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*The Deadvillians cross slowly to the stage. They walk in the typical Deadvillian manner, as if they were sleep walking. When they reach the stage, they take their positions. One sits playing a video game. Two or three others are watching television. More play cards listlessly. A few stare blankly into space.*

NARRATOR

There they are. The residents of Deadville. They call themselves Deadvillians.

*The Deadvillians look up and give each other slow and listless high fives.*

DEADVILLIANS

Yeah. We're the Deadvillians.

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians did a lot of things that looked, well, normal. Some of them watched television.

TV D ONE (dully)

This is a great show, isn't it?

TV D TWO (more dully)

Yeah, but didn't we watch it last week?

TV D THREE (extremely dull)

We watched this one seventeen times already.

TV Ds (same)

Yeah. It's great.

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NARRATOR

Of course, because they were human beings, they ate food.

*The Foodie Deadvillians pantomime eating food. They eat hamburgers, drink slurpies and hold up strands of spaghetti.*

FOODIE Ds

I love food. Food is the best.

SLURPIE D

Especially Slurpies. Slurpies are the best.

FOOD D ONE

But Slurpies aren't really food.

SLURPIE D

Are too!

FOODIE D TWO

Well, maybe Slurpies are their own food group.

*Everyone agrees dully.*

FOODIE Ds

Yeah. That could be.

*They nod blankly.*

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians existed in their own world. They never looked at each other and they didn't seem to know anyone was there. They were pretty self-centered. But they did agree on one thing.

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FOODIE D TWO

But one thing we can all agree on...

DEADVILLIANS (except for one)

...food is the meaning of life.

*They all go back to eating, dully of course.*

NARRATOR

But there was one Deadvillians who disagreed. He knew that food was not the meaning of life.

*Video Deadvillian plays a gameboy (or something like it) very intently.*

VIDEO D

Sure, food is important. But VIDEO GAMES...

*Video D suddenly doesn't seem like a Deadvillian. He has lots of energy and enthusiasm.*

..VIDEO GAMES are the meaning of life.

*Then he goes back to playing the video game dully.*

NARRATOR

Things may seem like they were pretty dull, boring and sleepy in Deadville, but the Deadvillians who lived there liked it just fine.

DEADVILLIANS (dully, as usual)  
We like it just fine.

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NARRATOR  
They claimed to be very happy.

DEADVILLIANS  
We claim to be very happy.

NARRATOR  
They proved it by doing a little dance.

***SOUND CUE: dull dance music.***

*The Deadvillians do the dullest dance ever performed. They move only their feet and their heads. Their heads move from side to side listlessly.*

NARRATOR  
They performed their dance in the style Deadvillians always performed their dances. They thought they were fabulous.

DEADVILLIANS  
We're fabulous.

NARRATOR (whispers to audience)  
But they were pretty awful.

*The Deadvillians overhear the Narrator.*

DEADVILLIANS  
Hey! What do you know! I take umbrage at that!

NARRATOR

Anyway, the Deadvillians finished their dance. Finally. They all smiled.

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*They smile forced Deadvillian smiles.*

NARRATOR (cont'd)

And went back to their normal occupations.

*They do: watching television, eating, playing video games.*

The Deadvillians thought they were alive. But they really weren't. They needed help.

*Albie enters down the center aisle. S/he carries a backpack or satchel. Albie seems very happy. In fact, he is the total opposite of the residents of Deadville. Albie whistles or hums a tune.*

Then, one day, a stranger appeared in Deadville. His/Her name was Alban Cuthbert Augustine. That's a pretty difficult name, but it was her name and she was very proud of it.

ALBIE (to the audience)

I'm named after three Anglican saints.

NARRATOR

Alban Cuthbert Augustine had been travelling for a very long time. She was an evangelist and enjoyed spreading the Word of God to those who had never heard it. She thought it was the best thing a person could do.

ALBIE

It makes me happy. And it makes God happy, too.

NARRATOR

One day, she arrived at Deadville. She had never seen anything like it.

ALBIE

This is really weird. I've never seen anything like this.

*Albie crosses onto the stage. The Deadvillians are as still as can be. She walks between the Deadvillians, who are frozen in place.*

*She taps one of the Deadvillians. He rocks back and forth without saying a thing or looking at Albie.*

ALBIE

Hello. Is anybody home?

*She taps another Deadvillian. Same thing happens.*

Hello? Can you hear me?

*The Deadvillians are still frozen solid.*

*Albie turns to the audience.*

What do you think; are they dead or alive. Come on, what do you think?

*Albie requests an answer from the audience. She crosses into the audience.*

Well, I just don't know. (loud voice) ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?

DEADVILLIAN (slow, dull voice)

We're alive.

ALBIE

Well, you sure had me fooled.

NARRATOR

Alban Cuthbert Augustine decided the Deadvillians needed help.

ALBIE

You guys need a lot of help.

DEADVILLIAN ONE

Help? We don't need help. We're perfectly fine. Aren't we, guys?

DEADVILLIANS

We're perfectly fine.

ALBIE

Hmmm...Somehow, I don't think so. And can someone tell me where I am?

*In unison, the Deadvillians point very slowly to the sign that reads, "Deadville."*

Oh, Deadville, huh? Well, that explains a lot.

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians suddenly became very curious.

DEADVILLIAN TWO

We're very curious. Who are you?

ALBIE

Me? My name is Alban Cuthbert Augustine.

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians thought this name was hard to pronounce.

DEADVILLIANS

Alb...Cuth...Aug.

DEADVILLIAN THREE

That's a very hard name.

ALBIE

Yes, I know. But I'm very proud of it. Because it's my name. And also because I was named after three Anglican saints.

NARRATOR

For the first time, the Deadvillians began to show signs of life. They said things like “wow” and “cool.”

DEADVILLIANS

Things like “wow” and “cool.”

ALBIE

Yeah, it's pretty special.

DEADVILLIAN THREE

It sure is WOW. And also COOL. But it's still a hard name.

ALBIE

I know. Alban Cuthbert Augustine is hard for a lot of people to say. That's why some people just call me ACA. Those are my initials.

DEADVILLIANS (trying this on)

ACA.

ALBIE

But my friends call me Albie. You can call me Albie, too. I think we're going

to be friends.

DEADVILLIANS

That's great, (then, a little shyly) - Albie.

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians were beginning to show signs of life, but they were still pretty confused. They all scratched their heads. (they do)

DEADVILLIAN ONE

I'm pretty confused. What's a friend?

DEADVILLIAN TWO

I'm confused, too. What's a saint?

ALBIE (to the audience)

They've got a lot to learn.

*Albie sits down, reaches in her backpack and pulls out a Bible.*

Ok guys, you want to know what friendship is?

DEADVILLIANS

Uh huh.

ALBIE

And do you want to know about the saints?

DEADVILLIANS

Uh huh.

ALBIE

Ok. We'll learn about all that. We are also going to learn about Jesus.

DEADVILLIANS

What? What did you say?

ALBIE

I said: JESUS.

*At the name of Jesus, a profound transformation comes over the Deadvillians.*

***Possible sound cue: mystical music.***

*The Deadvillians look around, they look up, they see each other for the first time.*

NARRATOR

At the name of “Jesus,” strange things started happening to the Deadvillians.

DEADVILLIAN ONE

What's happening to me?

DEADVILLIAN TWO

What's happening to all of us?

DEADVILLIAN THREE

Look at what we've been missing all of our lives.

*The Deadvillians Look at Albie.*

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DEADVILLIANS

Say it again.

ALBIE

Jesus.

*The Deadvillians react in the same way.*

ALBIE (to the audience)

This happens to me all the time.

NARRATOR

Alban Cuthbert Augustine had introduced Jesus to the Deadvillians. They began to change. They started to smile more. They were friendly toward each other and they learned that there were more important things in life than playing video games all the time.

VIDEO DEADVILLIAN

We did?

*The other Deadvillians give him a look.*

Yeah, I guess there are more important things in life.

ALBIE

OK. Do you want to know more about Jesus?

DEADVILLIANS

Yeah. Sure. Can we please!

NARRATOR

Alban Cuthbert Augustine asked the Deadvillians to sit down and listen as

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s/he read stories from the Bible. Albie travelled with a group of evangelists who acted out the stories from the Bible.

ALBIE

Evangelists. We need your help.

NARRATOR

The evangelists, who were actors, approached the Deadvillians. They bowed to the Deadvillians. They bowed to the audience. Then they acted out stories from the Bible.

*Albie explains in pantomime as each scene is acted out.*

First, there was the creation of the world. God created the heaven and the earth.

*Tableau.*

God created Adam and Eve.

*Tableau.*

Adam and Eve had a great place to live.

ADAM AND EVE

Isn't Eden wonderful?

NARRATOR

But they disobeyed God.

*Serpent takes an apple from the tree. Hands it to Eve.*

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EVE

I got it from a friendly serpent.

*Serpent chuckles wickedly.*

Have a taste.

*Adam eats.*

NARRATOR

And God sent them from the Garden of Eden. Their lives were very hard.

EVE

I miss Eden.

ADAM

Me, too.

NARRATORS

The Deadvillians thought that Adam and Eve should have listened to God.

DEADVILLIAN ONE

You should have listened to God.

DEADVILLIANS

Yeah.

ADAM AND EVE

Yeah. We get that all the time.

NARRATOR

The evangelists told all the stories from the Bible. Cain and Abel (tableau).

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Jonah and the Whale (tableau). Abraham and Isaac (tableau).

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians watched transfixed.

DEADVILLIANS

We're transfixed!

DEADVILLIAN SEVENTEEN

What does “transfixed” mean?

DEADVILLIAN ONE

It means transformed.

DEADVILLIAN SEVENTEEN

Oh.

NARRATOR

Then the evangelists told of the prophesies of the coming of Jesus. Here is what Isaiah said.

ISAIAH

A branch shall grow from the root of Jesse.

NARRATOR

Then the evangelists told the story of Jesus. How he was born in Bethlehem (tableau). How he taught in the temple (tableau). How he fed the five thousand (tableau).

*NOTE TO PROPS: CARDS REPRESENTING “2,000” and “3,000” may be given to the actors.*

How he taught the people that the key to the Law was to love each other

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(tableau). How he came to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (tableau). How Pontius Pilate condemned him to death (tableau). How he died on the cross (tableau). And how he was buried and rose again (tableau). And appeared to many (tableau).

DEADVILLIAN ONE

Wow! That's an incredible story.

DEADVILLIANS

It sure is!

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians thanked Albie for her help. They had changed. For the better.

DEADVILLIAN SEVENTEEN

We're transformed.

NARRATOR

They spent more time together. They talked about their love for each other. And they didn't play so many video games.

VIDEO DEADVILLIAN (still playing his video game)

Oh, I forgot. I'm transformed.

DEADVILLIANS

We're all transformed.

NARRATOR

They were indeed. But they had a problem.

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DEADVILLIAN ONE

We have a problem. We need to change the name of our town. Deadville just isn't us.

DEADVILLIAN TWO

Not anymore.

DEADVILLIAN THREE

What do we call ourselves?

NARRATOR

So they huddled.

*Deadvillians huddle and talk it over loudly.*

They came up with the perfect name.

*Deadvillians face the audience.*

DEADVILLIANS (proudly)

AlbanCuthbertAugustineville!

ALBIE

Aw, that's very sweet, guys. But it's a little hard to say.

NARRATOR

The Deadvillians agreed that it was, but they wanted to thank Albie in some way. After all, she had brought the light of Christ to them. And they had come to life.

DEADVILLIAN FIFTY-THREE

Why not call it Albieville?

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NARRATOR

The Deadvillians thought that was a great idea. They changed the name immediately.

*The Deadville sign is changed to "Albieville."*

And ever afterwards, the Deadvillians were known as Albanians.

ALBANIANS

That's us. We're the Albanians.

NARRATOR

And they created a brand new dance.

*The dance has a great deal of life to it.*

*At the end of the dance, the Albanians strike a pose, saying...*

ALBANIANS

TA DAH!!!!

NARRATOR

They were transformed totally.

ALBANIANS (another pose)

YEAH!!!!

NARRATOR

And they went off to become Evangelists, too.

ALBANIANS

Hey, wait for us! We want to be Evangelists, too.

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NARRATOR

Well, that's our play. Everybody escaped from Deadville. They learned that true life, eternal life, comes from God. And everywhere they went, they preached God's word. And they also did their dance.

*All return to the stage.*

*Sound cue. Dance music.*

# CURTAIN CALL

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## CAST

Narrator

Alban Cuthbert Augustine

The Deadvillians

Deadvillian One

Deadvillian Two

Deadvillian Three

Foodie Ds

Slurpie D

Video D

Deadvillian Seventeen

Deadvillian Fifty-three

The Deadville Ensemble

The Evangelists

Adam

Eve

Isaiah

Jesus

The Evangelist Ensemble