

Sunday 4am

by Rod Belt

- Theme: Easter Sunday. What thoughts did Mary Magdalene have on her mind as she went to the tomb? In this monologue Mary gets ready to set off into the darkness and starts to sort through her turmoil of thoughts and feelings. Was she special to Jesus? Was he special to her? Most importantly, what exactly was it that was different about him? And where did he go in his dreams?
- Cast: MARY Mary Magdalene
- Notes: Ideally the stage is in darkness except for a shaft of light – possibly moonlight – that Mary stands in. Mary talks to the audience, but also to the inanimate objects she picks up – her sandals, her cloak, her lamp, and intermittently she pauses to get these things ready, and this creates dramatic pauses in the monologue. When she is putting on sandals note that if she crouches to do it she may not be seen by audience unless you have a proper stage – it may be better if she does it by resting her foot on a stool or ledge.

(MARY hurries onto a darkened stage. She is barefoot. She stops centre stage in a shaft of light, looks all around, then speaks to the audience. She is agitated.)

Why am I going to his tomb? What a stupid question!

(She hurries off stage at the other side then returns carrying a pair of sandals, drops them, then looks up quickly at the audience.)

Yes, I know it's dark. And of course I know his tomb is guarded. But why am I going? You might as well ask, why did I follow him in the first place!

(She looks at the sandals, picks them up and hurries off with them, returning with a different pair.)

That's better! So - why did I follow him? Look, asking that is as pointless as asking the person you most love why they love you! If they say something particular like "because you make me laugh" or "because you have the most beautiful smile" then you will probably think, is that all? What a shallow reason! But if they say something like "I love everything that you are" then you will think, how lazy, couldn't they be bothered to think of a reason? And worst of all, if they say "I can't answer that!" Then you will say, then how do you know you love me? Maybe you don't love me at all!

Not that I'm saying I loved him – well, of course I loved him, but I mean, not in that way! Have you understood nothing? He wasn't that sort of man! He wasn't like anyone else you've met!

(Slaps one of the sandals down in frustration, looks all around again and then starts to put the sandals on.)

Of course I've heard the rumours - there were always rumours. They say I thought I was special to him. Ha! The truth is that there *were* those amongst us who thought they were special to him - most of those were men! But me, no, I never thought I was special.

But *he* was special – even those who opposed him saw it. In the end that is probably why he died – being special is dangerous. I don't think anyone actually understood what set him apart, but that was what I carried in my heart – that belief that there was far more to him than we

could ever know or understand, that he was not like anyone around him.

(All the time she is lacing and unlacing sandals in agitation, but she is becoming more calm, more thoughtful.)

Oh, everyone knew about the miracles, after all there were too many of those to count! And they weren't your common everyday kind of trickster miracles either! These were big, and I mean *big*! But no, it wasn't the miracles that made him different. It wasn't the teaching either – to tell the truth we often didn't understand that, or rather felt that there was a lot more to it than we understood.

So what did make him special? Why did Mary follow him and what will she do now that he's gone? The full script is available for instant download at dramatisdei.com

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