



Written by
Cora Alley

“Bird's Eye View”

Pictorial Scenario

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives within you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price, so then honor God and bring glory to Him in your body."

“A Bird's Eye View” is an abstinence program written for teens and young adults. It is the story of a Jennifer McKenzie, a young woman who loses her virginity on the night of the Junior / Senior Prom at her high school. What results is a crisis that manifests itself both physically, in her Bulimia, and psychologically, in her depression.

Jennifer comes to see Dr. Morris, a comical psychologist who surrounds himself with objects that help him dig out what is bothering his patients.





He brings out a tiny garden trellis with a little bird perched inside. The garden is locked, and the bird is at peace. With great skill and humor, Dr. Morris begins to untangle the web of feelings in Jennifer's heart as he compares her to the bird behind the locked gate.

On the opposite side of the stage, a life-size trellis is set up. It has an enormous lock on it, and a huge key lies on the floor in front of the locked gate. Three mimes, two men and one woman, act out the "memories" of Jennifer's experience (*suggested choreography included in script*). In this first "Mime Scene Memory," Jennifer tells the story of a young man who "stole her heart"...



... then left her when his interest waned.





The action of the play moves back and forth between Jennifer's interview with Dr. Morris and the metaphor of the emotional memory acted out by the mimes. Dr. Morris explains God's plan for men and women with wit, charm, and sensitivity. He laments the fact modern society has taken human sexuality, which God intended to be a miracle in our lives, and "reduced it to something as commonplace as a used car auction."

Finally, Jennifer begins to tell Dr. Morris more and more of what happened at the Prom. The same boy who abandoned her earlier, came back into her life with renewed interest, and literally "swept her off of her feet."

The Mimes act out the "collapse of her world." Her life-sized trellis collapses after the young man opens the lock with the key that the young woman hands him.





In the next portion of his interview with Jennifer, Dr. Morris explains that this little trellis represents a young girl's life. The "lock" represents her virginity. The "key" represents her choice. He goes on to explain that, "No one can take your choice from you."

He encourages her take control of her life by making choices that align with the will of God. God's nature is to forgive those who repent, and he explains that perhaps she should, "Date God for a while."



In this last portion of his session with Jennifer, Dr. Morris warns her not to contract, "spiritual aides," caused by HIV, which in this case stands for, "Holy Immune Virus." He encourages her to be obedient and open to the will of God for her life and to not become "immune" to holiness. Once sin knocks down our "spiritual defenses," we have nothing with which to fight against Satan's destructive plan to destroy our lives. He encourages her to pledge a "second virginity" to God and be determined to live a life of sexual abstinence until marriage.

Jennifer leaves the session encouraged that God still loves her, and that she needs to trust in His forgiveness and also forgive herself.

While making her next appointment, Nurse Bodell tells Jennifer that God will bring her a man who is just perfect for her, but she must trust God to bring him.



Nurse Bodell assures her that "God will give you the desires of your heart," but she makes it clear that we must align our hearts with His priorities. Jennifer imagines what "true love" would be like and hopes that God will bring him soon.



When the young man refuses to take her key in the last mime sequence, he is giving Jennifer her choice back and opting not to take it from her.



This man is a hero, and celebrates the control and dedication to God that so many young men have. He is a stark contrast to the young man who takes her choice from her in the second sequence.

This play works hard not to cast blame on either sex for the abuse of sexuality, but rather it examines God's "big picture," or His "Bird's Eye View" of sex and the relationship between men and women. It is a celebration of the forgiveness we receive at the cross of Jesus Christ. It does not condemn those who have made mistakes sexually either through ignorance or abuse. It encourages young people to vow a "second virginity" if they have lost the first virginity and to "date God for a while," until they are ready to stand against the world's norms for sexual behavior. It encourages people to "build up their defenses against "spiritual AIDS," so that their immunity against the world's morals is not eroded.

**A "Bird's Eye View" is dedicated to
The 1992 ACTS Drama Troupe
(Actors Committed To Service)
From Hope International University
in Fullerton, California**

My special thanks to the members of the ACTS drama troupe from Hope International University in Fullerton, California who originally gave this presentation life in 1992, when it began it's nation-wide ministry tour. Thank you **Kelly Dagley, David Willsey, Derek Morris, Kaylene Carr, Shawn Mitchell, and Brenda Vitali**. Thank you **Jan Vance** for asking me to write this play to help young people understand why God commands us to preserve sex for marriage. My very special thanks also to **Barbara Johnson** for her inspiration of the garden trellis used for the "Garden Enclosed" purity seminars, and to **Tera Johnson** for her inspiration for the first mime sequence. My heartfelt gratitude to you all for being the impetus for "A Bird's Eye View," and to all of you who reach out to restore broken lives with the saving message of Jesus Christ; I thank God for you. I pray for your ministry of reconciliation as we continue to build the body of Christ.

Music & Pantomime Choreography:

"A Bird's Eye View" contains three pantomime routines set to music, which happen on the left side of the stage. The choreography for each of these three pieces is described in great detail. Use your own choreographer and music to create a "picture" of what Jennifer describes as her "emotional memory." An instrumental theme, with changes in tempo and "feeling" to match the changes in the "mood" of the script, is recommended as the background for the reenactment of Jennifer's emotional memory. A classical music piece, or movie a recognizable movie soundtrack works beautifully.

"A Bird's Eye View" Cast:

Dr. Morris:	<i>An eccentric psychologist</i>
Nurse Emma Bodell:	<i>Dr. Morris' grandmotherly assistant</i>
Jennifer:	<i>A high school senior, who gives up her virginity</i>
Mime Woman:	<i>A mime/dancer who represents Jennifer</i>
Mime Man 1:	<i>A mime/dancer who represents the man who uses Jennifer's need for love as a ploy to have sex with her</i>
Mime Man 2:	<i>A mime/dancer who represents the kinds of men who do not ask for premarital sex, but respect a woman's choice and the laws of God</i>