

TRUE LIES

By Rod

This sketch is a 'Godfather 3' to follow 'Family Business' and 'Tough Decisions'. The Pharisees are portrayed as Mafia with Caiaphas as the Godfather.

CAST

<i>Don Caiaphas</i>	<i>The Godfather</i>
<i>Luco</i>	<i>Chief henchman to Caiaphas</i>
<i>Annas</i>	<i>Conciliari to Caiaphas</i>
<i>Luigi</i>	<i>Young mafia man</i>
<i>Chief Guard</i>	<i>Could be dressed as FBI agent [e.g. Black suit, white shirt, black tie + earphone in one ear]</i>
<i>Guard</i>	<i>Assistant to Chief Guard. Something of a buffoon. [e.g. outlandish tie]</i>

Theme to 'Godfather' is being played by pianist. Enter Luco and Don Caiaphas. Caiaphas sits in single chair, centre stage. Luco stands by pianist. Caiaphas clicks his fingers, Luco clicks his fingers, pianist stops playing immediately – very frightened. There is a knock at the door.

Don Caiaphas See who that is Luco.

Luco *[Crossing stage]* Yes, Boss. *[Enter Luigi and Annas]* It is our brothers Annas and Luigi.

Don C Show them in, Luco.

Luco Come on in boys.

Don C Greetings Luigi; greetings Annas, my dear friend.

Annas Greetings, Don Caiaphas, have you heard the news?

Don C The news?

Luigi *[Animated]* It is all over the city: the body of Jesus Nazareni has disappeared.

Annas If you remember, Godfather, it was one of the outlandish claims he made when he was alive: that he would rise from the dead on the third day. His followers are now saying that he has done exactly that.

Don C Yes, Annas, I do remember. But I thought we took steps to ensure that such a thing would never happen. *[Pause, looks at Luigi]* Eh, Luigi?

Luigi *[Looks uncomfortable. Luco moves forward menacingly]* I followed your orders precisely, Godfather. I saw Governor Pilate and persuaded him to seal the tomb and to post a guard. I oversaw the operation myself and told the guard they would be answerable only to you.

Don C Then what went wrong, Luigi? And where is the guard?

Luigi Beats me.

Luco *[Moving threateningly to Luigi]* I think that beating you is not such a bad idea.

Don C *[Strongly]* Luco, don't think. That's not your job. *[Knock at the door]* Go and see who that is.

Luco Yes, Boss. *[Luco goes to door]*

Luigi You must believe me, Don Caiaphas, the tomb was sealed and the guard was in place. I am telling the truth.

Luco *[Entering with the two guards. They look frightened]* Look what I've found, Boss: Luigi's missing guards.

Don C Are these the men?

Luigi Yes! Yes, they are. *[To the guards]* Tell us what happened.

Chief Guard Well, we were standing guard on the tomb, just like you ordered. Then all of a sudden there was an earthquake.

Guard The ground shook. Wobble, wobble.

Chief G And an angel of the Lord appeared, rolled aside the stone and then sat on it.

Guard He was probably tired after moving that heavy stone. It was huge.

Chief G Well, we were terrified, so we started shaking.

Guard Yeah, wobble, wobble.

Chief G And that's it really.

Don C *[Pause. Said slowly]* The story is not true.

Chief G Yes it is. We were there.

Guard It may have been wobble, wobble, wobble rather than wobble, wobble but..

Luco *[Interrupting. Menacing the guards]* If Don Caiaphas says it is not true – it is not true.

Don C Thank you, Luco. What really happened was that you had had a long day. You were feeling sleepy, very sleepy. And while you were asleep, the followers of Jesus came and stole the body.

Guard No, that's not right.

Chief G *[Understanding the situation and seeing a chance to make some money. Digs Guard in ribs]* It might be... I can't quite remember.

Don C Annas, see if you can give them a little something to jog their memories.

Annas *[Producing a bag of money]* Is this the sort of thing you had in mind?

Don C That'll do nicely.

Annas *[Turning to guards and dangling bag of money in front of them]* Let's try it together, shall we boys?

A. & Guards We had had a long day. We were tired. We were feeling sleepy, very sleepy. *[Guard falls asleep and snores. Chief digs him in the ribs to wake him up]* And while we were asleep the followers of Jesus came and stole the body.

Don C Good. I am glad you have remembered what really happened. Now when people ask you, you will be able to tell them the truth.

Guard But I thought you wanted us to tell the story... *[Chief digs him in the ribs]*

Chief But what if Governor Pilate hears that we fell asleep while on duty. He could have us executed. He is a powerful man.

Don C Don't worry about the Governor. He is a mere puppet. We will pull his strings to make sure you are protected. Now off you go. *[Luco and Luigi begin to escort them off]*

Luigi *[To guards]* Make sure you get it right this time. The Governor may be a puppet but Luco and I are for real.

Guard There is just one question I would like to ask.

Annas What's that?

Guard What if Jesus Nazareni does appear alive again? We'll look pretty stupid.
[Everyone except for Guard laughs in an exaggerated way]

Annas Think what you are saying. Dead men don't spring to life again three days later. Even the stupidest state guard knows that. Eh? *[Fixes guard]*

Luco *[Eyeballing Guard]* Eh?

Guard Oh, right. Yes.

Don C *[Rising to command centre stage]* Don't worry my friends. None of us has anything to fear. Take my word for it – we have heard the last of this Jesus Nazareni.

Music resumes. All exit.

THE END