



**drama by george**

George Halitzka • Writer, Director, Educator  
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Visit [www.dramabygeorge.com/scripts](http://www.dramabygeorge.com/scripts) to pay securely with a major credit card. If you have any questions or prefer to pay by check, contact me at [george@dramabygeorge.com](mailto:george@dramabygeorge.com). Thanks for your interest in scripts by George Halitzka!

# The Man in the Suit

*George Halitzka*

(THE MAN IN THE SUIT is greeting PARISHIONERS as they walk into church on Sunday morning. Throughout the drama, his thoughts will be played back from a recording. His pantomimed conversations with PARISHIONERS bear little or no resemblance to his thoughts—the conversations are upbeat and encouraging; the thoughts are those of despair. During the normal-print lines, the background sounds of a church are heard, and THE MAN IN THE SUIT greets people. During the *italicized lines*, he is left alone, and we hear his heartbeat, gradually rising in intensity under the lines.)

THE MAN IN THE SUIT

(prerecorded thoughts)

Sunday morning. Poker face. Stand up straight; shake hands; smile and nod. Stick to the weather--no tears here. Got to look like The Man in the Suit should.

*"Sir, your son failed a breathalyzer test; he's only seventeen. We're releasing him to your custody pending a court date." Court date . . . what's next, juvenile hall? Who's he been hanging around? How could he do this to me?*

Lovely weather. Smile and nod. Family's great; Josh looking at colleges; grew up too fast. Mary's still beautiful after twenty years. Got to look like The Man in the Suit should.

*I love Mary. I do! But those websites . . . with her, I haven't felt like that since Josh was born. I need to stop . . . I swear, I'll never visit one again.*

Doing all right; nothing God can't solve. Everything's coming up roses. God's peace; Jesus is the rock. Got to look like The Man in the Suit should.

*Sometimes I wake up in the morning and hit snooze five times. Thursday I called in sick . . . just couldn't get out of bed. Never happened to me before. Nothing is the way it used to be. Can't remember the last time I was happy. I deserve better than this!*

THE MAN IN THE SUIT (*cont'd*)

God is good . . . all the time. Christian cliches. What a blessing. Jesus loves me, this I know. Got to look like The Man in the Suit should.

*What if I believe a lie? Intelligent people get up everyday and live like there is no God. How do I know Jesus rose from the dead? How can I have faith in the face of hard evidence? I've never seen "God" do anything I couldn't explain.*

Got to go. I'll pray for you; see you after church! Got to look like the man in the suit should.

(A WELL-DRESSED MAN, who has stopped to greet THE MAN IN THE SUIT, is walking away as THE MAN IN THE SUIT thinks the following line. The heartbeat rises in intensity and becomes slightly irregular.)

*Put on a happy face. Other people never have doubts like this. If I told somebody, it might make them doubt too. Christians aren't supposed to be depressed. Got to look like The Man in the Suit should.*

(The heartbeat continues to rise in volume and intensity. Suddenly, as it crescendoes, THE MAN IN THE SUIT falls to the ground. The heartbeat abruptly stops. He cries out, and THE WELL-DRESSED MAN turns around and rushes to his side.)

THE WELL-DRESSED MAN

(spoken live)

Pastor? Pastor, are you all right? Alice, call 9-1-1! The Pastor's hurt!

(We hear THE WELL-DRESSED MAN'S thoughts as he loosens THE MAN IN THE SUIT'S tie, unbuttons his shirt, and tries to slip off his jacket.)

THE WELL-DRESSED MAN

(pre-recorded)

Funny . . . without all this getup, the Pastor looks just like a normal guy.

(Blackout.)

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