

Grace at the XXX Corral

By Jack Hall

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CHARACTERS

Bill- A TV host

Fred- A patron of adult establishments

A cameraman

Jim- A patron of adult establishments

Hank- A city councilman

Sound effects of a busy city street: cars, horns, etc. Bill enters with the cameraman following him. He carries a mic, and he talks to the camera.

BILL: Bill Lively here in the red district for Grace. I'm standing outside the XXX Corral, one of the city's oldest and least reputable establishments, hoping to get a word with one of the regulars. Let me see.

Jim enters, sees the camera, and runs away.

BILL: Sir, could I have a word?

JIM: Oh no! Not again!

BILL: Sir, I just need a moment.

Hank enters.

BILL: Pardon me, sir. Can I have a moment of your time?

HANK: N-n-n-o, not now, thank you.

Hank scampers away.

BILL: Catch you later, Councilman. Oh, here's one.

Fred enters.

BILL: Excuse me, sir, can I have a moment of your time?

FRED: What do you need?

BILL: I'd just like to ask you a few questions about Grace?

FRED: Grace? Good lookin' gal, but not my favorite. You want a good time in there, ask for Angel Marie or Sizzlin' Sal.

BILL: I don't mean a stripper, sir. I mean the gift of Grace.

FRED: Oh I know what you mean. *(wink)*

BILL: Then you've heard all about the grace that comes from believing in Jesus Christ.

FRED: Jesus? What kind of TV show is this?

BILL: Have you heard of the grace of Christ, sir?

FRED: Well, no I haven't.

BILL: Sir, grace is a total pardon of your sins, made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that Jesus took on the sins of the world when he died, making him the perfect and final sacrifice.

FRED: What's that mean?

BILL: It means that those who believe in Jesus will never face eternal death. They can be with God forever.

The tone of the actors shifts from light and humorous and gradually becomes more serious.

FRED: You're kidding, right?

BILL: Nope.

FRED: You know what kind of stuff goes on in this place?

BILL: I do.

FRED: Does He?

BILL: Jesus? Of course he does.

FRED: Aw man. Really?

BILL: Yes.

FRED: Boy. He must love me, huh?

BILL: He does, sir. That's what I'm here to tell you.

FRED: Come on, really?

BILL: Really. Every sin ever committed in that place is paid in full. All you have to do is accept the grace offered to you.

FRED: Get out.

BILL: I mean it.

FRED: Jesus died for my sins, all of them.

BILL: All of them.

FRED: When I look through the dirty magazines?

BILL: He died for that.

FRED: The dirty movies?

BILL: He died for that.

FRED: Peep shows?

BILL: He died for that.

FRED: Really? He... he did?

BILL: I wouldn't lie to you, sir.

FRED: What about lap dances?

BILL: He died for that. For you, and for her.

FRED: You mean those girls in there he...

BILL: He loves them too. And he wants to give them the same grace.

FRED: Are you sure?

BILL: Very sure.

Fred is silent.

BILL: What do you think about that?

FRED: I don't know. I... I've done a lot of bad things. Not just in there, but with girls. And... And... Look, what's this about? I'm used to hearing about what a sinner I am, and that I'm going to Hell. I can take that. But this...

BILL: I know it's hard to believe, but it's the truth. Jesus died for you. For all of us. And there's no sin that he hasn't already paid for. You just have to accept him.

FRED: Then there is a catch. I gotta clean up my act, become a Bible thumper, and Jesus will love me.

BILL: Jesus loves you right now, and he wants to receive you as you are. The truth is there's only one thing that can keep you from receiving his grace. And that's you.

Fade to black.