



A Spiritual Comedy
By John M. Forte Jr.

Half Hour Comedy/Drama By John M. Forte Jr. WGA# 2182821

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LOGLINE: The world of streaming entertainment is a potentially lucrative minefield. Welcome Jenna Marie Abbott and her newfound inheritance of millions of dollars, and the unenviable stipulation that she must use the money to run a Christian streaming platform.

SYNOPSIS: Jenna Marie Abbott has incredible news! Her grandmother, Genevieve Abbot, just left her only grandchild, millions of dollars, but her inheritance comes with one galling stipulation. Jenna must use the money to launch and run a Christian online streaming platform. Complete with funding and managing an eclectic and opinionated group of unique creatives, she has the unenviable task of spiritually “revitalizing the world” through their streaming platform. Jenna would rather watch paint dry, but how can she walk away from her grandmother’s last wish...and millions of dollars? The challenge for Jenna, a talented chef, is to embrace her new situation and allow her to be open to change. Her hesitancy is embellished by her successful restaurant career and indeed her lukewarm response to all religion and spiritual matters. Plus, what on earth does she know about a streaming platform? And to make matters more intimidating how do you revitalize the world? But, oh the money, oh no more struggle and maybe she can help make the world a little bit better. Oh, maybe.

SEASON 1 SUMMATION In the first season Jenna Marie Abbott will reconcile with her estranged parents and deal with the anger issues they have from not being included in the grandmother’s will to a distrust in her newfound faith in God. In fact, the whole family all have issues with God and blame God for things going wrong in their lives. Jenna will start to see the humanity in the Streaming Heaven network crew and see the wisdom of her grandmother’s advice through flashbacks. In future seasons we’ll see a genuine conversion of Jenna.

Episode 1: KICKING AND STREAMING Chef Jenna Abbott, self-proclaimed agnostic, finds out she has inherited a spiritual video content streaming company from her deceased grandmother. She is also willed a ton of money but can only access all of it after she makes a go of the struggling Streaming Heaven company for 5 years. Jenna is quite angry and navigates through the newfound business she is now in charge of but has no desire to helm. The Streaming Heaven existing staff, including a priest, bring to the surface all her suspicions that they all just want her grandmothers’ money.

Episode 2: NOW YOU’RE COOKING? Jenna begrudgingly attends her new workplace trying to find reasons for it to fail. Her various coworkers can barely approach her. She wants to do a cooking show, but the small group has problems with Jenna’s commitment and ability to be a host. And they’re used to making everything on a shoestring budget. So she gets an empty studio as a set to host her new show, without even an oven or a stove top. Can this get any worse for her?

Episode 3: COOK THE BOOKS Prayer, meditation, and spiritual discernment are being tossed about in front of Jenna for each meeting. She gets an idea for an audit of the books hoping to catch the gang in deception. She and the accountant seem to have an interest in each other, there’s only one problem: he is a devout Catholic. She flashbacks to her grandmother’s conversion experience that Jenna could not fathom. He refuses to lie on the audit. Disappointed, Jenna goes back to the drawing board.

Episode 4: I'M GIVING YOU UP FOR LENT Jenna finally summons up the courage to go to her parents. It's a small step toward reconciliation, but there is still so much distrust. She cooks them a meal and shares her passion of eventually opening a restaurant. It's a step. They share their memories of Grandma Genevieve Abbott. Still there is tension amongst them as the night ends. Back at the studio, the Streaming Heaven gang goes over what Lent means to them as Jenna listens.

Episode 5: GOD IS LISTENING Father Mike is preparing to do his monthly show, entitled God is Listening. It's a call-in show with usually the same three people calling in. The show goes on and Jenna is very quiet and starts to listen herself. She watches the others interact. Jenna starts to feel something is amiss in her life. In a flashback we see her grandmother going to Father Mike.

EPISODE 6: RETREAT OR SURRENDER! The gang goes to a beach house to learn how to be a better team for their difficult endeavor of running a successful streaming service. An outsider facilitates the event. We learn a lot about the gang and what makes them tick. And whether Jenna likes it or not, she begins to feel some camaraderie.

EPISODE 7: THANKS FOR GIVING Jenna is planning a Thanksgiving meal for the gang. She decides not to have anything special for her own Thanksgiving and cooks herself a small meal. Thomas goes over her house with a pizza and soon Jenna's parents show up unannounced with some fried chicken. They all actually have a good time! And Thomas subtly defends his faith and nonjudgmental attitude of everyone's reticence to be open about God. But Jenna even steps in and reaffirms that faith is not a bad thing, much to the surprise of her parents.

EPISODE 8: WRAP IT UP Christmas time. Jenna is starting to talk to her parents even more, but still, she is a bit forlorn over having to give up her life's plans on a struggling streaming service. Her parents are away on a trip, and she really has no one to be with during the holidays. Jenna stares at the ceiling and gets a text and soon she starts to cry. We flashback to her grandmother lying in bed deathly ill. The next thing we see is Jenna entering the church and Father Mike smiling broadly.

CHARACTERS:

JENNA MARIE ABBOTT: Jenna is a 30-something chef who has worked in many restaurants. Tough, fragile, loving, hurt by past relationships, she is distrusting. She is constantly searching for answers to the universe but is a self-proclaimed agnostic and isn't really looking to God for answers. She was raised by non-religious parents who are now estranged from her.

THOMAS GILFOYLE: Thomas, 28, is a writer and Biblical scholar with not too much world experience stuck in academia. He is constantly looking for the perfect way to distill the bible into a way that everyone can understand. He has a good heart and a desire to share the gospel, even though it may be through a sophisticated distant expression. He was recruited by Jenna's grandmother to help do research and provide a strong connection to biblical historicity.

BARBARA COLETTI: Barbara, 45, thought she might be called to the religious life but instead stayed in the world as a single layperson to make movies and TV shows. She spent time in Los Angeles but did not feel connected there. Her faith is central to her, and her work calling is to write and make strong films that uplift people. She was recruited for her unique scriptwriting ability.

CLARENCE HARGRAVE: Clarence, 35, African American director of cutting-edge documentaries and compelling indie films that capture the psyche of spiritual yearning. Combative, charming, talented and original. He yearns for this opportunity to be lasting and real, and to offer an ongoing springboard for his creative work. He was recruited for his insight to telling a story no matter what the topic.

FATHER MIKE RIORDAN: Father Mike, 48, is one of those guys. The guy you can talk to about anything, the guy you can bear your heart and soul to, the guy who well, seems a bit too perfect. He's has his problems (who doesn't?) and his faith is astounding but he wants more. Father Mike wants to communicate to the world! For him the message of the Gospel is real and tangible but he so relates to the parables and knows in his heart that a story compels people to change for the best. So Father Mike was recruited for his zeal and commitment to bringing the good news in any form.

GILLETTE and OPAL ABBOTT: Gillette 53, and Opal, 52, estranged parents to Jenna, they had Jenna when they were very young. They run a local bookstore, restaurant. It's an artsy vibe where people hang out, grab a coffee and a bagel and talk. Modern music is being played, open mike nights but as cool and eclectic as Opal and Gillette are, they removed themselves from their only child. Gillette had a huge falling out with his mother over all things her conversion to the Catholic faith in her later years before passing. Her decision to convert confused him and his mother Genevieve removed him from the will. He didn't show up to the funeral, he didn't like that his daughter got all the money, and he certainly doesn't like that his mother was funding a streaming channel of so called "religious import." He thought his mother was taken advantage of by the church for her money.

GENEVIEVE ABBOTT: Genevieve, 83, is deceased and seen in flashbacks. A headstrong matriarch who, after her husband died, continued to run the business of small-time publisher. Successful in some books and not so much in others, she sold the company to a major publisher for a tidy multimillion dollar sum. Smart, sassy, always looking to be better, she converted when she ran into Father Mike on his daily jog. She had no idea he was a priest, but he helped and soon was asking him questions about himself. Then she was shocked to discover his calling and became curious to the faith.