

DIVING FOR PEARLS

By Rod

This sketch is loosely based on Matthew 13 v 45 and the Greenbelt theme of 'Diving for Pearls'. Narrators do all the talking. All other actors are encouraged to mime appropriately to mirror the action. Some suggestions are given but others can be improvised

CAST

Narrator A *Male or female*

Narrator B *Male or female*

Woman

Chorus *Any number. They can take the parts of:*

Man

Driving instructor

Diving instructor

Flipper seller

Aqualung seller

Mask seller

Map seller

Diving judges [all]

Narrator A Once upon a time there was a man who had it all. *[Enter Man]*

Narrator B He was good looking *[He preens himself]* and highly talented *[e.g. plays football]*.

A He liked big cars and fast women.

B Fast cars and big women.

A Yes, he had everything..

B Except a brain. *[Man looks stupid]*

A So we sacked him. *[Man trudges off]*

B And got ourselves instead...

A A woman who had it all. *[Enter woman]*

B She too was good looking *[preens]* and highly talented. *[e.g. plays tennis]*

A She liked fast cars and men with big ...

B *[Interrupting hastily]* .. bank balances.

A She had a beautiful house, beautiful clothes, beautiful jewellery, beautiful children ..

B .. and even a beautiful husband.

A But there was one thing she lacked.

B A perfect pearl to crown her beautiful jewellery.

A She knew that pearls were to be found at the bottom of the sea.

B So she went on a diving course. *[Enter driving instructor. He shakes hands with woman, they stand beside each other as if in a car. She turns ignition and they mime a 'kangaroo' start]* I said a diving course. Not a driving course. *[Exit driving instructor. Enter diving instructor]*

A She learned about swimming underwater. *[Instructor and woman do breast stroke together]*

B She learned about breathing underwater. *[They take deep breaths together]*

A In short, she learned all there was to know about diving, so she was ready to do it herself. *[They shake hands and instructor exits]*

B She bought herself the best possible diving equipment:

A Flippers. *[Someone enters with flippers and helps her on with them]*

B Aqualung and breathing apparatus. *[Someone enters with this and helps her on with it]*

A And a diving mask. *[Someone appears with this and helps her on with it]*

B She bought herself a map which showed her where the pearls were to be found. *[Someone appears with a map. She looks at map upside down points at a part of it and deliberately sets off to walk to stage right. This should be done in an exaggeratedly laborious way as she is burdened by her diving gear. Just as she reaches the side of the stage the person who sold her the map taps her on the shoulder. She turns to face audience. The person points out that she is holding the map upside down, points to the other side of the stage and directs her to go in that direction. She stops centre stage.]*

- A Finally she arrived at her destination and was ready to dive for pearls. *[She prepares to dive. Hands together in front of her]*
- B She made the perfect dive. *[She does a 'pretend' forward dive. Chorus appear at back and hold up 'scores' showing '10' as if being judges in a diving competition]*
- A She began to swim around underwater. She was enjoying herself. *[She mimes swimming around underwater]*
- B But as she began to make her way down to the bottom of the seabed she found it was not as easy as she had thought it would be.
- A It was dark and the water was murky. *[She acts not being able to see]*
- B It was as if she was blind.
- A It took her a long time and her oxygen was running out. *[She begins to struggle for breath]*
- B But finally she saw it! *[Her eyes light up]*
- A That one perfect pearl.
- B The pearl that would make all the difference to her.
- A The pearl of great price.
- B She reached out to take it. *[She reaches out]*
- A But as she did so her oxygen finally gave out completely. *[Desperate look on her face]*
- B She took her last breath. *[One final breath]*
- A And died. *[She 'floats' around as if dead in the water. The chorus come and grab her and carry her gently off stage looking sad. If there are enough chorus members they could carry her off like pallbearers with a coffin – maybe even with a priest or mourners]*
- B And she never did get that one perfect pearl.
- A The pearl of great price.
- B Pity. *[To other narrator]* It's a sad story isn't it?

A Yes it is. Very sad

B What exactly does it mean?

A What does it mean?

B Yes. What is the pearl of great price?

A Jesus likened it to the kingdom of heaven. Seeking knowledge of how to enter the kingdom of heaven is like looking for precious pearls.

B And so the woman is like a person seeking after this knowledge?

A Yes, she knew the pearl was worth getting but she never actually got it. She had all the right advice, the right equipment and the right directions but she took so long about it that she died before she managed it.

B And the same could happen to us in our quest to enter the kingdom of heaven.

A Yes, we could realise it's worth it, receive all the right advice..

B For example at Greenbelt. *[CLEARLY THIS NEEDS TO BE APPLIED TO THE EXACT SITUATION – e.g. `CHURCH`]*

A Yes, and all the right equipment and directions..

B Like from the Bible.

A Yes, but we could take so long making the decision we could miss out completely.

B That would be a shame.

A Yes, it would .

B I hope it doesn't happen to anyone here today.

A Me neither.

THE END