

# The Hearing

*By Brent Holland*

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**DEDICATION**

*For Connie Holland, my mom. She's pretty awesome.*

**STORY OF THE PLAY**

A famous doctor, who is destined to make a world-changing discovery, has been killed in a car accident and two angelic members of the "Representatives of Order" have 48 hours to assemble a group of possible candidates in order to reverse time and save the doctor's life. In order to be saved, three of the candidates must be willing to serve as substitutions, trading their lives for his. What would you do for the greater good? Eight people must quickly decide during a hearing where the "Forces of Chaos" are working against them, and all are adjudicated by the ominous "Judgement." In the end we see that no decision is as simple as it seems.

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(1 w, 12 flexible)*

**MICHAEL:** A proponent of the light, good natured and sincere.

**HANNAH:** A proponent of the light... orderly and succinct.

**JUDGEMENT:** The judge over the proceedings. Impartial and fair.

**CARRION:** A proponent of the darkness. Aggressive and deceitful.

**ATAXIA:** A proponent of the darkness. Seductive and cunning.

**ONE:** Logical, intelligent. A thinker.

**TWO:** Compassionate but lacks confidence.

**THREE:** Opinionated, a mother hen type.

**FOUR:** Calm and peaceful, centered.

**FIVE:** Judgmental and quick to action.

**SIX:** Unsure and nervous.

**SEVEN:** Patient and a good listener.

**EIGHT:** An idealist.

*\* All roles can be flexible except Seven, who is female. Feel free to change names and pronouns to fit your cast.*

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**SET**

There are four small platforms and one large one.

**COSTUMES**

JUDGEMENT is an imposing figure in red.

ATAXIA and CARRION wear black or another matching color.

HANNAH, MICHAEL and CANDIDATES 1-8 are dressed in everyday clothes.

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*(AT RISE: There are four small platforms and one large one. On the large platform sits JUDGEMENT. On two of the smaller platforms are ATAXIA and CARRION. The other two platforms are empty. HANNAH and CANDIDATES 1-7 are onstage. MICHAEL enters, pulling EIGHT into the room.)*

**HANNAH:** *(As MICHAEL rushes in.)* What took you so long?

**MICHAEL:** I looked everywhere and couldn't find anyone. I'm sorry. How long do we have?

**HANNAH:** *(Looking to the big platform and calling out.)* How long until a decision must be rendered?

**JUDGEMENT:** *(In a booming voice.)* The Representatives of Order have thirty-two minutes to submit their substitutions.

**EIGHT:** *(Very confused.)* What's going on here?

**MICHAEL:** *(Soothing.)* I'll answer that soon... I promise.

**HANNAH:** Are you ready?

**MICHAEL:** This is going to have to be quick.

**HANNAH:** And we only have eight.

**MICHAEL:** I spent all night on the streets and there simply weren't any more.

**HANNAH:** I hope it's enough.

**MICHAEL:** *(Reassuring.)* It will be enough.

*(The other CANDIDATES, numbered 1-7, have moved in close.)*

**SEVEN:** Excuse me... I need help.

**MICHAEL:** We're about to get started....

**FIVE:** I can't remember how I got here.

**HANNAH:** That's perfectly normal.

**JUDGEMENT:** Are the Representatives of Order ready to begin the proceedings?

*(EVERYONE goes silent.)*

**MICHAEL:** Yes, Judgement, we are.

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**JUDGEMENT:** Are the Forces of Chaos ready to begin the proceedings?

**ATAXIA:** We are, Judgement.

**ONE:** *(Speaking out of turn.)* Uh... excuse me... we have questions...

**JUDGEMENT:** *(In command.)* You will remain quiet until the case has been fully presented to you.

**ONE:** But...

**JUDGEMENT:** You will remain quiet until the case has been fully presented to you. Please affirm your understanding.

**ONE:** What does he mean by that?

**HANNAH:** Do each of you understand that you are to remain quiet until the case has been fully read to your understanding?

**TWO:** What case?

**FOUR:** What's going on here?

**MICHAEL:** We have no time for this. Please just affirm that you understand.

**FIVE:** Okay. I understand.

**THREE:** So do I.

**EIGHT:** I understand.

**SIX:** Will we get answers if we say "yes"?

**MICHAEL:** Yes, you will.

**SIX:** Then I understand.

*(The OTHERS give their affirmation as well.)*

**JUDGEMENT:** The Representatives of Order have presented eight possible substitutes, is this correct?

**EIGHT:** What does that mean?

*(HANNAH shoots EIGHT a look before answering.)*

**HANNAH:** That is correct, Judgement.

**CARRION:** *(Mocking.)* With only eight, is there really any reason to continue?

**MICHAEL:** We've won with this few before.

**CARRION:** With Eight? *(Scoffing.)* Hardly.

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