The Sticky Note Apostles

The Sticky Note Apostles — Pastor Appreciation Skit for Church

WHAT

Four church members compare notes after a hard week and discover the same handwriting on every encouragement they have been quietly receiving. As they piece it together, they realize their pastor has been leaving small written kindnesses all over town — often in weeks when he has preached a sermon and buried a friend on the same weekend. The skit ends without him on stage. The congregation sees only a cardboard wall of sticky notes the church wrote back during the week leading up to the service.

THEME

The shepherd who carries everyone's weight rarely lets you carry his.

WHO

MARGE — A widow in her sixties; quiet, observant, has been a member for thirty years

DARIUS — A father in his forties; recently came back to church after a hospital stay

LIA — A teenager; new to youth group, defensive, doesn't trust adults easily

PASTOR JEFF — Mid-fifties; never appears on stage; only his handwriting and the cast's stories show him

DEACON RAY — An older man who has been on staff for years and quietly knows the truth

CONGREGATION VOICE — Read by an offstage reader during the closing wall reveal

HOW (STYLE / TONE)

Stage simply: a single fellowship-hall table center stage with four mismatched chairs. A large cardboard wall stage left, mostly empty at the start. Each character produces a sticky note from a pocket, a Bible, a wallet, a phone case. Keep movement small. Let the stillness do the work. The reveal is not loud; it lands when the wall fills.

PROPS

- Fellowship-hall folding table and four mismatched chairs
- A large cardboard wall on a frame, painted neutral
- A stack of empty sticky notes, plus four pre-written ones
- A worn Bible for Marge with a sticky note tucked into Psalm 23
- A hospital wristband for Darius
- A teen's locker mirror prop with a sticky note on the back
- A coffee tray with four cups for the closing beat

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TIME
10 minutes

Scene 1 — After the Service

(Lights up on a fellowship-hall table. Marge sits alone, stirring decaf, looking tired)

NARRATOR: Some Sundays the service ends and the church empties out. And then there are the Sundays where the people who need each other most just sit a little longer.

MARGE (quiet)
Lord. What a week.

(Darius enters with a paper plate. Sits one chair away. They nod)

DARIUS
Mind if I sit? My truck won't start.

MARGE
Sit. I'm not going anywhere either. My ride forgot me.

DARIUS (small laugh)
Big week for being forgotten, then.

MARGE
Oh, child. You have no idea.

Scene 2 — Lia Drops In

(Lia enters in a hoodie, earbuds in. Sits at the far end of the table without looking up)

LIA (flat)
My mom said wait here. So I'm waiting here.

MARGE (gentle)
We don't bite, sweetheart. There's coffee. There's whatever Brenda made today.

LIA
I'm not hungry.

DARIUS
She's not asking. She's offering. There's a difference.

(A long pause. Lia takes out one earbud. Slowly)

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Scene 3 — The First Note

MARGE
I had the strangest week.

DARIUS
Strange how?

MARGE
I went out to my car Tuesday morning. There was a sticky note on the steering wheel. Nobody saw who put it there.

(She reaches into her Bible and pulls out a folded yellow note. Sets it on the table)

MARGE (reading)
Marge — psalm twenty-three is for widows too. Don't skip the part about the table. He set it for you.

DARIUS (quiet)
Wow.

MARGE
I cried in the parking lot. Like a fool. For an hour.

LIA
That's actually... kind of nice.

Scene 4 — The Second Note

DARIUS
Hold on.

(Darius reaches into his wallet. Pulls out a folded sticky note. Sets it next to Marge's)

DARIUS
I had one too. In the hospital. I thought it was from a nurse.

MARGE
Read it.

DARIUS (reading, voice cracking)
Darius — your daughter still believes in you. So do I. So does He. Get well. Come back.

DARIUS
I keep it in my wallet now. Like a permission slip to keep going.

LIA (sitting up)
Wait.

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LIA
Wait, wait, wait.

Scene 5 — Lia's Locker

(Lia pulls a small mirror prop out of her bag. Peels a sticky note off the back. Hands shake a little)

LIA
I found this in my locker on Monday. I thought one of the popular girls was making fun of me.

LIA (reading)
Lia — I heard you sing in the parking lot last Sunday. You are not too loud. You are too quiet for the gift you have been given.

LIA (quieter)
Nobody is supposed to hear me sing in the parking lot.

MARGE
Sweetheart.

LIA
Who would even know my locker number?

Scene 6 — Deacon Ray Walks In

(Deacon Ray enters carrying a coffee tray. He sees the three notes on the table. He stops. He sets the tray down very carefully)

DEACON RAY (soft)
Oh. Oh, you found each other.

MARGE
Ray. You know who's doing this.

(Ray sits. Looks at his hands)

DEACON RAY
I shouldn't say.

DARIUS
Ray.

DEACON RAY (quiet)
He'll be embarrassed if he knows we know.

Scene 7 — The Same Handwriting

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LIA
Look at the handwriting.

(She slides her note next to the others. The three notes line up. Same loops. Same slant)

MARGE (whispering)
It's the same hand.

DARIUS
It's the same person.

DEACON RAY
It's been the same person for fifteen years, Marge.

DEACON RAY
He buries a friend on Saturday. He preaches on Sunday. And on Monday morning he writes notes.

DEACON RAY
Sometimes ten of them. Sometimes thirty.

Scene 8 — How Long

MARGE
How long has Pastor Jeff been doing this?

DEACON RAY (long pause)
Since the first funeral he ever preached. He told me once it kept him from drowning. Writing them is the only way he can carry the weight without it crushing him.

DARIUS
He has three hundred members.

DEACON RAY
I know.

DARIUS
Three hundred members and he writes notes for all of them?

DEACON RAY
Eventually.

DARIUS (quiet)
Lord, have mercy.

Scene 9 — He Buried Mrs. Carlton

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MARGE
He buried Mrs. Carlton on Saturday.

DEACON RAY
Yes.

MARGE
He preached on Sunday.

DEACON RAY
Yes.

MARGE
And then he wrote the note he stuck on my steering wheel on Monday.

DEACON RAY (gentle)
I saw him write it. I was getting coffee. He was at the corner table. He was crying. He didn't know I saw him.

(A long stillness. Lia puts her phone face down on the table)

Scene 10 — Who Carries Him

LIA
Who writes him notes?

(Nobody answers)

LIA (sharper)
I said. Who writes him notes?

DEACON RAY (slowly)
Nobody, sweetheart. Nobody writes him notes.

MARGE (under her breath)
Hebrews. 'Obey them that have the rule over you, for they watch for your souls.' Watch. He's been watching. For all of us.

DARIUS
And nobody is watching for him.

Scene 11 — Lia Stands Up

(Lia stands. Pulls a fresh stack of sticky notes out of her bag)

LIA
Then we write him notes.

MARGE (quiet)

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Now? Tonight?

LIA

All week. Every member. Every kid in youth group. Every old man who falls asleep in the back row. Everyone writes him a note. And we put them on a wall.

DARIUS

And we hand him the wall.

DEACON RAY (eyes shining)

He'll cry. You know that, right?

MARGE

He has earned every tear.

Scene 12 — The Wall Begins

(Marge writes the first note. Sticks it on the cardboard wall)

MARGE (writing)

Pastor Jeff. You sat with me the night Henry died. I never thanked you. I'm thanking you now.

(Darius writes one. Sticks it on the wall)

DARIUS (writing)

You called my hospital room three times. My own brother called once. You are family I didn't know I had.

(Lia writes one. Pauses. Writes another. Sticks both up)

LIA (writing)

I'll sing in the building this Sunday. Not the parking lot. Because you noticed.

Scene 13 — Voices From the House

(Lights warm. Offstage voices begin layering, one at a time, as if other church members are joining)

CONGREGATION VOICE (offstage)

Pastor — you preached my mother's funeral. I've never told you what that meant.

CONGREGATION VOICE (offstage)

Pastor — you helped me get sober. Year three this Tuesday.

CONGREGATION VOICE (offstage)

Pastor — you didn't tell anyone what I told you in your office. Thank you.

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CONGREGATION VOICE (offstage)

Pastor — you baptized my son. He still wears the cross you gave him.

(Each line, a new sticky note appears on the wall, brought by a hand from the wings. The wall fills)

Scene 14 — Final Moment

(All four cast members step away from the wall. The wall is full now. The lights soften on the cast and rest on the wall)

DEACON RAY (to the audience)

He won't see this until later this afternoon. We'll wheel it into his office while he greets in the lobby.

MARGE

He'll close the door.

DARIUS

He'll read every one.

LIA (quiet)

And maybe — maybe for the first time in a long time — somebody will be writing notes to him.

NARRATOR: Some shepherds spend their whole lives carrying the flock. Once in a great while, the flock learns how to carry the shepherd. Not by standing him on a stage. But by quietly handing him a wall.

(Lights down slowly on the wall. Hold three full beats of silence)

END

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