

**“The Crate Escape” Sample Preview #2**  
**Written by Frederick Passmore**

*(Begin Track #6: Church-y Organ.)*

**Cult Leader:** *(Coming over to him and leaning down.)* Yes, my son?

**Jerry:** I'm trapped in this crate. Can you help me get out?

**Cult Leader:** Yes, I can. I have secret knowledge that will enable me to free you.

**Jerry:** Really? Wow... that's great!

**Cult Leader:** I've freed many others from the things that hold them down in this life. All you have to do is devote yourself to my teaching completely.

**Jerry:** Okay... guess it's worth a shot!

**Cult Leader:** Reach forth your hand, my son.

*(Jerry stretches out his hand and the man takes it.)*

**Cult Leader:** *(In a commanding voice.)* You must hear my words, and **only** my words. I am the one true voice of God on the earth today.

**Jerry:** I'm fine with that, if you can help me!

**Cult Leader:** You must pledge all of your worldly possessions to me, to prove your loyalty. You must shed the earthly relationships and physical weights that hold you down.

**Jerry:** Sounds about right. What do I do?

**Cult Leader:** Hand over to me all that you hold dear. Beginning with your money. Turn your back on the world and enter my flock!

*(Jerry hands his wallet out of the window to the man, who takes it with a grin and opens it eagerly.)*

**Jerry:** What now?

**Cult Leader:** *(Pocketing the wallet.)* The first thing that happens when you join the flock is that you get fleeced.

*(Jerry sticks his hand back out to reach for him.)*

**Jerry:** Now will you release me? I'm getting a cramp in here.

**Cult Leader:** *(Sternly.)* You are not ready to be released. You must spend some time in the crate to learn obedience and humility. When I decree you are ready, I will let you out, and not before.

**Jerry:** *(Indignantly.)* Hey, pal, you took my money, now let me out!

**Cult Leader:** This is your first lesson as my disciple. *(Pocketing the wallet and walking off, chuckling to himself.)* So long, sucker!

**Jerry:** I don't believe it! Now I'm in bondage *and* broke! What an idiot I am to fall for all this stuff. *(Calling to a woman passing.)* Help me out, please!

**Woman:** *(Handing him some change.)* Here you go, buy yourself a sandwich.

**Jerry:** *(Looking at the change somewhat indignantly and calling after her.)* Uh... thanks, but I don't *need* a sandwich! I need *freedom*!

**Woman:** *(Tossing her head.)* Hmph! Ingrate. Some people you just can't help!

*(Another man walks past, head held high, and carrying a Bible. Jerry calls out to him.)*

**Jerry:** Sir! Sir! Over here! I need some help!

*(Begin Track #7: Somber, draggy version of "Amazing Grace.")*

**Minister:** *(Squinting at the box.)* Who are you?

**Jerry:** My name is Jerry, and I'm trapped inside this box. Can you help me?

**Minister:** I am a minister of the Lord, of course I can help you.

**Jerry:** A minister? Oh, thank God! Just the man I need.

**Minister:** How did you get into the box in the first place?

**Jerry:** A Mr. Hunter tricked me into getting into this crate. He tempted me into trying it, and now I can't get out!

**Minister:** *(Alarmed.)* Mr. Hunter? If you gave in to temptation, you must expect to be bound. Bondage comes with temptation and sin. It's your own fault that you're in there!

**Jerry:** I know, I realise that now. I need to find a way out! Can you lend me a hand?

**Minister:** I can't help you while you are in your sin, lest I be judged along with you! I must avoid the very appearance of evil. *(He moves away.)* This crate is the judgement of God upon you for loving your sinful lifestyle.

**Jerry:** Okay, I accept that! But won't you help me now?

**Minister:** Help you? I will **not** share in your condemnation by condoning your condition! You defiled sinner! *(He begins to kick the box.)*

**Jerry:** Ow! Hey, cut it out! What are you doing?

**Minister:** *(Continuing to kick and abuse him.)* God hates your kind! You deserve God's righteous wrath for your rebellion against His divine plan! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! *(Smacks the box with his hand and kicks it, then looks up to Heaven with a pious expression.)* I thank you Lord, that I am not like this sinner! *(Goes off stage.)*

*(Soundtrack Note: fade the last track of music if it has not stopped already.)*

**Jerry:** *Good grief! Now I'm bound, broke and bruised! I'm beginning to think there's no hope for me to ever get out of this.*

*(A person comes on wearing a box, with their legs sticking out underneath! Their face is sticking out of a hole in the top of the box. Their arms are sticking out of holes in the side. They are free to walk around, but still in bondage.)*

**(Begin Track #8: Comical music.)**

**Jerry:** Look at that! Somebody else in a box! Hey! Hey, over here!

*(The Box Person looks around, unable to see well because of the box. They finally spot him and trundle over to him, standing beside his box and bending over as much as possible to look at him.)*

**Box Person:** Well, hey there! What's up?

**Jerry:** What's up!? Look at me... I'm trapped here!

**Box Person:** *(Shrugging the box up and down.)* Well... better get used to it!

*(They start to walk away but stop when Jerry protests.)*

**Jerry:** *(Frantic.)* No, wait! Do you know any way to get out of one of these things?

**Box Person:** Duh! Do you think that if I knew how to get out, that I'd be wearing this thing around? It weighs a ton! And hot...! Whew!

**Jerry:** But you get around pretty good in it!

**Box Person:** Well, you get used to it after awhile, and you learn to adapt to it. I was able to cut these holes in it, but that's it.

**Jerry:** *(Despairingly.)* So it's hopeless then...?

**Box Person:** Pretty much. But you want some advice?

**Jerry:** Please!

**Box Person:** Don't fight it so much. Since there's no way out, just make the best of it! *(Script continues...)*