

**“The Crate Escape” Sample Preview #3**  
**Written by Frederick Passmore**

*(Jerry holds the tract in his hand in the window as he looks at it.)*

**Arthur:** Read that first paragraph there.

**(Begin Track #10: soft piano music for "Bible Reading.")**

**Jerry:** *(Reading from the tract.)* "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised..."

**Arthur:** That's Jesus speaking. Read some more... there are other scriptures that will help you.

**Jerry:** *(Reading.)* **"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Say, I like that!**

**Arthur:** See? Jesus came to free men from the bondage to sin. We can't escape on our own, but if we accept Him as Savior, nothing on Earth can hold us down or keep us bound!

**Jerry:** So you're telling me I can just say a few words and the door will pop open like magic?

**Arthur:** No, it's not a magic spell to repeat. It's a life-changing relationship. See, it's like this: you're bound to the box by your human nature, which is sinful. By accepting Christ, you get a new nature. You die to self, and receive a new life. Then the box no longer has a hold on you!

**Jerry:** *(Thoughtfully.)* That makes more sense than anything I've heard so far. I wasn't really sure I could leave the box if the door **was** opened for me. Was the temptation to get in the box the same for you as it was for me?

**Arthur:** I can't really say, but listen: it doesn't matter what bait was used to tempt you in; yours was probably different from mine. But the bondage of the box is the same.

**Jerry:** Okay, I'm convinced. Tell me what to do and I'm outta here!

**Arthur:** Great! See the next page? Read those scriptures and you'll find the key.

**Jerry:** *(Reading.)* "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..."

*(Suddenly Mr. Hunter re-enters as he is reading and walks to the box.)*

*(Soundtrack Note: Fade the last track, soft piano music, if it has not stopped already.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** *(Suspiciously.)* What's going on here?

**Jerry:** Oh, no, he's back! He's going to claim me!

**Arthur:** *(Standing up.)* Keep reading, you can still escape!

**Mr. Hunter:** What's this? *(He snatches the tract out of Jerry's hand and looks at it.)* A Gospel tract? Oh, no, you don't... *(Outraged, he tears the tract into little pieces and tosses it in the air.)* You aren't going to get away **that** easy!

*(He turns to Arthur and advances threateningly toward him.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** And *you*... trying to help my prey escape, are you? There's hell to pay for interfering with my well-laid plans... *(He shoves him back, causing Arthur to fall.)* **Now stay out of my way**, you meddling do-gooder!

*(He turns back to the box and begins to drag or roll it offstage.)*

**Jerry:** *(Screaming.)* Help me, Arthur!!!

*(Arthur jumps back up and takes out another tract, and rushes up to try to place it in Jerry's outstretched hands.)*

**Arthur:** Here, take it!

*Mr. Hunter spins around to face Arthur, and blocks his way repeatedly, like a basketball player trying to stop another from scoring.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** No way, you interfering fool! Back off!

**Arthur:** Never!

**(Begin Track #11: Dramatic "Fight for Freedom/Escape" sequence music...)**

*(Mr. Hunter sees his determination and tackles him, taking him down. As Arthur holds up the tract and tries to get up, Mr. Hunter repeatedly pins him as they wrestle.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** Just because *you* escaped from me once is no advantage! You're not wrestling against simple flesh and blood. I'm much stronger than you, you puny mortal!

**Arthur:** *(Straining against him.)* But you're not stronger than Jesus! And I can do all things through Christ, you monster!

*(Mr. Hunter is knocked off of Arthur as he gains strength, and begins to crawl toward Jerry. Mr. Hunter rolls back onto his knees and grabs Arthur by the waist, holding him back in a terrific struggle.)*

**Arthur:** *(Looking toward Heaven.)* Lord, help Jerry to get your word!

*(As they continue to wrestle, inching toward the box, another person, **Helen**, comes onto the stage and walks toward the box, unseen to either Mr. Hunter or Arthur.)*

**(Soundtrack Note:** *the above entry of Helen coincides with the brief "harp music" sequence that begins on the playing soundtrack.)*

**Helen:** *(Bending to look at Jerry with sympathy.)* Excuse me, young man, may I give you some Good News?

*(She hands Jerry a tract, which he grabs and yanks back into the crate with him!)*

**Jerry:** Thanks, lady! You're an answer to prayer.

*(Helen, observing the conflict, drops to her knees and clasps her hands in silent prayer.)*

*(Suddenly, there is a rumbling sound as the box begins rocking, slowly at first, then more rapidly and harder. Mr. Hunter looks up at the sound in consternation.)*

*(This is heard on the **soundtrack**, as a tympani drum is heard, picking up speed and intensity. Wind and rumbling is heard as it builds...)*

**Mr. Hunter:** *(Groans.)* Oh, no!!! Somebody else got to him!

**Arthur:** *(Pumping a fist into the air from his prone position.)* YES!!

*(Mr. Hunter pushes himself to his feet, leaving Arthur in his haste to stop the process.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** Not again!!

*(With the swelling music, and louder rumblings, the box is violently shaking! Mr. Hunter runs to it and wraps his arms around it, trying to stop it's motion, when there is an **EXPLOSION!** Mr. Hunter is knocked backward to the ground as Jerry breaks out of the top of the box, flexing his muscles as if full of power!)*

**Jerry:** I'm FREE!!!

**(Triumphant music is heard on the soundtrack cut, which then ends.)**

*(Arthur leaps up in joy, and is joined by Helen as they clap and cheer. Mr. Hunter, lying in a prone position, drops his head down into his hands in defeat.)*

**Arthur and Helen:** *(Shouting.)* Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

*(Jerry steps out of the remains of the box and rushes to join them in a hug as they pound him on the back in joy.)*

**Jerry:** *(With tears, to Arthur.)* Thank you for not giving up! *(To Helen.)* And thank you for bringing me the key!

**Arthur:** Some sow and others reap, but we all share the joy!

*(Mr. Hunter climbs to his feet with a roar of renewed hatred, brushing off his clothes.)*

**Mr. Hunter:** *(Snarling.)* Don't think you've escaped my trap for good, you slimeball! I can tempt you back in as easily as I did before!

*(The three stand together to face him. Jerry looks frightened at the threat.) (Script continues...)*