

**THIS PLAY MAY TAKE A 2ND**  
A Short Play

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CAST

RED  
BLUE

Note: The characters can be any age, gender, race, etc.  
You can even name them whatever you feel,  
but for the purposes of this copy, they're named Red and Blue.

RED (*looking at the ground and counting*)  
345, 346, 347, 348 ...

BLUE (*entering*)  
Hey.

RED  
Hey. Thanks for coming. I need your help.

BLUE  
What are you doing?

RED  
I'm counting. I need you to help me count.  
You start over there and I'll continue over here ...

BLUE  
What ... is all this? ...

RED  
Oh, right ... I put nails in the floorboards. I need you to help me count the nails.

BLUE  
Why?

RED  
To make sure we have enough.

BLUE  
Why did you put nails in the floorboards?

RED  
Well, I'm glad you asked.  
You see, yesterday, I came walking in here and I stepped on a nail.

BLUE  
Oh. That must have hurt.

RED  
Like the dickens.

BLUE  
And, how you dealt with that was ...

RED

Well, I put *more* nails down on the ground.

BLUE

More nails?

RED

Of course.  
Okay, get counting.

BLUE

So, let me see if I've got this: You stepped on a nail, and instead of removing said nail, you ...

RED

... Added nails.

BLUE

Doesn't that seem ... *more* dangerous?

RED

No. Because, yesterday there was only *one* nail on the ground. And I couldn't even see it.  
Now there are, literally, thousands of nails on the ground – and they're not just lying there where you can't see them, they are sticking up in a very precarious position– like super out-in-the-open.

BLUE

Yeah, they're all over the place.

RED

See, you can see them, can't you?  
That makes them safer.  
And easier to count.

BLUE

But ... they're still nails that can stab your foot.

RED

No. Because, now, I won't come in here anymore.

BLUE

You're not going to come in this room anymore?

RED

Are you kidding me? – look at all these nails.  
I'm not stupid.

BLUE

But you could have just *not* put more nails down.

RED

How can you say that? This is America – America was built on nails, or have you forgotten?  
Our forefathers all made nails and had nails –

BLUE

– But those were wood nails, they're nothing like these nails.

RED

Yes! These are more dangerous – all the more reason to have more of them.  
More.  
I'm allowed to put as many nails down as I want.  
That's what freedom is, okay?  
Maybe in some communist country like Canada, they're not allowed to have nails,  
that almost anybody can buy at any given moment.  
But here, in the Land of the Free – I can put as many nails down as necessary.

BLUE

It just feels like, if you don't want people to step on a nail, then the thing you  
would *not* do is have more nails.

RED

Do you know how many people step on nails annually? –

BLUE

– No –

RED

– 30,000 people. Every year. The most of any country in the world.  
Number one.

BLUE

So, you acknowledge that stepping on nails is bad.

RED

I do. I sincerely feel so sorry for every person who steps on a nail.  
I pray to our Dear Lord Jesus Christ every day that people would never step on a  
nail again.

BLUE

Yet, 30,000 people still step on nails ...

RED

Now, think about how much higher that would be if there were no nails to step on.

BLUE

...  
... It would be lower. It would be a lot lower.

RED

No it wouldn't – GOD! – why can't you see this?

BLUE

But, people walk through here every day.  
And now, there are nails everywhere.

RED

Exactly! And they won't step on them because they'll see them and then be extra careful.

BLUE

But, what if they accidentally step on a nail?

RED

Why would they do that?

BLUE

It happens.  
I mean ... you did it.

RED

Sure, but I know what I'm doing.  
I'm responsible with my nails. Obviously.  
I grew up with nails.  
My father taught me at a young age to be respectful of nails.

BLUE

So, yesterday I got a splinter ... I guess your solution would be to ...

RED

... Get more splinters.

BLUE

This is fascinating logic.

RED

If you get more splinters, you'll be more careful about splinters.

BLUE

And when teenagers have unprotected sex and get herpes ...

RED

*Everybody* should have herpes.

BLUE

But, what if teenagers just had more condoms? ... like you have more nails.

RED

It doesn't work that way.

If you give kids condoms, they're going to have protected sex with them.

If you give people more nails on the ground, they won't step on them.

It's all about choice. And people have to be responsible for their own actions even if those actions are stepping on thousands of nails I put in the path of their feet.

That is fact.

Let me ask you: Do you want to step on nails?

BLUE

No.

RED

We've had this conversation for five minutes now. The entire time, I've had a pocket full of nails. Do you feel like you might step on one of them?

BLUE

Are you going to put one on the ground?

RED

Of course.

BLUE

Then yes.

RED

BUT, if you merely count them – you'll know where they are and be able to avoid them. See? They'll be out in the open.

BLUE

But what about other people?

RED

Who cares?

You're the only person that's important to me. God spoke to me and He said, "Protect Blue." Now, if you don't count nails with me, you'll be defying the God Almighty Who Protects Us.

BLUE

But, I don't have to lay nails down right?

RED

Of course not. Your choosing to be complacent in my laying of these nails will support me in my obviously logical quest to put as many nails down as possible so people don't step on nails.

It's about Safety, and Freedom, and God, and Children.

This is all about the Children.

They start counting.

END PLAY.