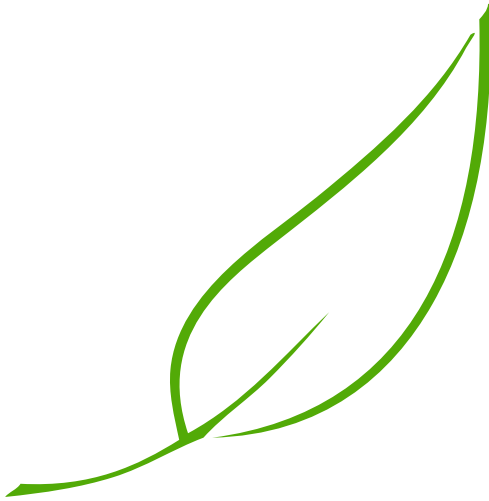


THE RIDE

by Robert L. Crowe



GREEN ROOM PRESS

greenroompress.com

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Green Room Press. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Green Room Press. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Green Room Press. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Green Room Press.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Green Room Press.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Green Room Press.

THE RIDE
by Robert L. Crowe

THE RIDE

by Robert L. Crowe

(two chairs are onstage representing the front seat of a car. Johnson sits in the left seat, driving. Kirkland is in the right seat)

JOHNSON: *(thinking aloud. Kirkland can't hear this)* This isn't turning out as I had hoped. When my boss, Mr. Kirkland, asked me for a ride from work I thought I'd get a chance to make a few brownie points but he hasn't said a word. Oh, a couple of grunts when I asked him a question. How does a man get to be the head of a major corporation without saying anything. It can't be my fault. I talk to a lot of people with no problem. I wonder how I break through the ... wall of silence. What makes him so special that he became head-honcho. He's not that much older than I. You know, I read a book once. About a butler with a wealthy family that went on a cruise on a private boat. The boat crashed on an island and the butler became the leader of his employer and family. When the situation changed, so did the leadership. I'll bet that under different circumstances ...

(they both get out of chairs to play the imaginary scene with the best British accents they can muster)

KIRKLAND: *(as his aide)* But Lieutenant *(spelled correctly is Lieutenant but pronounced. Left-tenant)* Smyth-Johnson, we will never get to the Khyber Pass in time. The enemy is getting closer. We are being pursued by the ruthless Punjab Tiger Stickers.

JOHNSON: We will make it, Corporal. We must. These few brave soldiers are all that remain of the British command. I was sent here to get them out of India and I'm going to do just that.

KIRKLAND: We have heard of your reputation, Lieutenant. You are the bravest leader that the British Empire has to offer. Is it true that you were in the Black Hole of Calcutta?

JOHNSON: I'm afraid so, Kirkland.

KIRKLAND: Was it as terrible as they say?

JOHNSON: I told them that they should paint it a different color. Blokes had no sense of humor. Thought I was a croaker but I escaped by disguising myself as the Rajah of Bombay. Said I was out for a stroll and wandered in accidentally.

KIRKLAND: Blimey! What a show, sir! A bit of courage to do that one!

JOHNSON: Righto. I did meet a chap almost as brave as I. I'm thinking of writing a poem about him. His name was Gunga Din.

KIRKLAND: Well, you're the one we want to lead us, sir. But Leftenant. We are out-numbered 50 to 1. How will we stop the radicals of the Punjab Tiger Stickers? It is not possible.

JOHNSON: Corporal Kirkland! Are you a sniveling coward? We will shoot as many of the chaps as we can, then go to hand-to-hand combat! That's how. Break out the rifles.

KIRKLAND: Sir, I'm sure you know that this rag-tag outfit is all that is left of the Khyber Pistols. We have no rifles.

JOHNSON: Yes. ... just testing you, Corporal. Break out the pistols, hen.

KIRKLAND: Yes, sir. But we have no bullets.

JOHNSON: Hmmm. Well, have the men fix bayonets, then. By jove, Kirkland. Isn't that a rubber tree?

KIRKLAND: You are the expert on the flora of India, sir. I think it is rubber.

JOHNSON: Have the men climb the trees and slice thin strips. Get some sticks. We will make sling-shots and stone the blokes. That will keep them busy while we escape to the Khyber pass.

KIRKLAND: Brilliant, sir. I'm lucky to be serving under you!

JOHNSON: Yes. Yes, you are.
(they return to the chairs)

JOHNSON: *(to himself, aloud)* Not even a small "thank you" for saving his skin. In fact, he still hasn't said anything. He just stares straight ahead, concentrating on something. Looks like he's in a trance, like I'm not even here. Maybe he's thinking how to reward me for giving him a ride. Maybe this is

my chance to ask for a raise. How do I approach it? I know. I could say something really smart about the company, then pop the question.

(they get out of the chairs again)

KIRKLAND: *(excited, with a mousey whine)* Chief Executive Officer Johnson, we have two crisis-ese.

JOHNSON: Give me the most pressing situation first.

KIRKLAND: On the phone. She's from the Securities and Exchange Commission. She didn't like being put on hold. She wants to talk with you about the investigation. Are we in bad trouble?

JOHNSON: What do you fear, Kirkland

KIRKLAND: The SEC is the most powerful agency in America, at least as related to our stock price. They could ... they could ...

JOHNSON: Shut us down.

KIRKLAND: That's pretty serious ...isn't it?

JOHNSON: Kirkland. Pick up the phone and tell the person that I'm too busy to talk and that you'll take a message.

KIRKLAND: *(pause)* OK. *(picks up telephone receiver)* Hello. I'm sorry, Mr. Johnson is too busy right now. May I take a message? *(pause)* The investigation? Oh. Oh, yes. OK. I'll tell him. *(pause)* You're welcome.

KIRKLAND: I see. I didn't understand that you are investigating them. She said please come at your convenience and stay for lunch.

JOHNSON: Yes. One crisis averted. Now what is the other problem?

KIRKLAND: It's much worse. We need your help or the corporation will crumble!

JOHNSON: Stay cool, man. What is it? Speak-up quickly.

KIRKLAND: It's the finances again. It's the cash flow. We don't have enough to pay our bills and terrible things will happen like having our cell phones turned off.

JOHNSON: How much do we need?

KIRKLAND: 20 million by next Friday!



GREEN ROOM PRESS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

RIDE

by Robert L. Crowe.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.
customerservice@greenroompress.com
www.greenroompress.com