

Christmas Gone Worng!

An All-Age Nativity Play



by

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Christmas Gone Worn

Scene 1 – Mary

MC *[In 'Christmas advert' voice]*

Christmas, the most perfect time of year.
A time of peace, joy and understanding
throughout the world.

A time when families never argue, when gravy is
never lumpy, and when Monopoly ends
harmoniously with everyone winning, even
Uncle Albert.

May I welcome you to our Nativity. We start in
the traditional manner, with a reading and a
carol telling the timeless story of our saviour's
birth.

Reading from Luke 1:26-38

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth in
Galilee, to a young woman there. Her name
was Mary. She was engaged to Joseph who
was of David's family line.

The angel went into the house and said to her,
'Greetings Mary. God is pleased with you and is
with you!'

What the angel said troubled Mary. She wondered what this greeting meant.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary. God has blessed you. You will have a baby son. Name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest One. The Lord God will make him king where his father David was king. He will be king for ever.'

Then Mary said to the angel, 'How can this happen? I have no husband.'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Highest One will be over you. So the holy child born to you will be called the Son of God.'

Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant. Let it be as you have said.' Then the angel left her.

Soloist *[formal and traditional]*



Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby,
In a manger for His bed:

[Mary *enters from back, walking up aisle and making a fuss while singer continues]*



Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

- Mary** Hold on! Hold on, just one tinsel-picking minute!
What's all this about?
- MC** What's all what about?
- Mary** *[Indicating singer]* This!
[Indicating Christmas decorations] This!
[Indicating congregation] THIS!
- MC** Ummn, we're celebrating Christmas. You know,
when you had the special baby?
- Mary** When I had the WHAT?
- MC** God's son? Jesus? Ringing any bells?
- Mary** *[Getting cross]*
Huh? What are you on about?

I ain't having no baby. Joseph and me have
only just got engaged. We haven't even set the
wedding day yet.

Don't you go talking about some baby. You'll
get people gossiping, and my Mum will never let
me hear the end of it.

*[Muttering to self – what a load of old cobblers,
having a baby, talking rubbish, I'd get it in the
neck for sure, etc]*
- MC** Can I check, you are Mary, aren't you? From
the carol.
You know, *[Singing]* 🎵 'Mary was the mother
mild ...'
- Mary** *[Hands on hips]* Do I LOOK mild?

MC *[Backing off]* Ummn, No?

Mary And what's this about a cattle shed?

I'm sorry, but when I have a baby, I'm planning on midwives and a nice clean cot with fluffy blankets. And I ain't planning to give the baby a cow pat for a pillow!

MC *[Cautiously]* Do you mind if I say something?

Mary What?

MC Well, it's just that you seem a bit more ... stropky that most Marys.

Mary I'm a teenager, what do you expect? And if there's going to be pregnancy hormones on top of that, well, all I can say is there had better be a LOT of chocolate!

MC Fair enough. I'll order a bulk pack.

Mary You do that.

[Mary exits if playing all characters, otherwise sits on stage to form start of tableau]

Suggested songs

Silent Night

Mary, Did You Know?

Mary's Boy Child

Scene 2 – Joseph

Reading from Luke 2:1-7

About that time, the Roman ruler Augustus made a law that everyone must have their names written in a register.

Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to Bethlehem in Judea. This was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph went to register with Mary because she was engaged to marry him and she was going to have a baby soon.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her baby to be born. This was her first child, a son. There were no guest rooms, so she wrapped him in cloths and laid him in an animal's food box.

Choir *[keeping an eye out for trouble]*



Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down his sweet head

[Joseph enters, making a fuss while choir sings]



The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where he lay

[Choir fades off and stops when Joseph interrupts]



The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the ...

Joseph Oh no, no, no. We're not having any of that. Very bad for my social media presence, that is. Can't be doing with this kind of bad press. I'm on Check-a-Trader, I'll have you know!

MC I'm sorry, you are ...?

Joseph *[Pause, giving MC a 'what planet are you on?' look]*
I'm Joseph. Who were you expecting, King flippin' Herod?

MC No, no, of course you're Joseph. What's the problem, Joe? May I call you Joe?

Joseph What's the problem? What's the problem, you ask? I'll tell you what the problem is. I've got a business to run. Got a wife and kid to support. And this kind of thing *[Indicating choir]* is bad for business. THAT'S what the problem is.

[Choir looks offended]

MC You don't like the choir? But I thought they were rather good.

Joseph Not the choir. It's what they're singing. Makes me look bad.

MC What do you mean?

Joseph Well, listen to the words. 'Away in a manger ...'

MC *[Shrugs]*

Joseph '... No crib for a bed.'

MC *[Shrugs]*

Joseph Well do you think I hadn't made one? Do you think I planned for my kid to spend his first night in some wonky old food box from the back of the stable?

It didn't even have proper dovetail joints. Splinters everywhere, and had they oiled it and carved a little teddy into the headboard like I had done? Oh no. Just a box. That's what my son got.

And one of the legs was longer than the others so it wobbled like Gran after a couple of sherries.

MC *[Helpfully]* I suppose that helped rock the baby to sleep.

Joseph *[Glares]*

MC But no, no, I see how that must be very frustrating. You wanted to provide for your son, but you weren't able to.

Joseph *[Deflated]* No, nor my wife. I mean, what kind of a husband carts his wife halfway across the country when she's about to pop, eh? And then when we got there, I couldn't even get a proper room for her to have the baby in.

That wasn't how I meant it to be. I'm such a failure. I bet God wishes he'd picked a different step-dad for his kid.

MC Now, I'm sure that's not true, Joe. Didn't God send an angel to tell you to marry Mary?

Joseph *[Still looking glum]* Yes, I suppose he did.

MC So there you go. You'll be fine as a dad, I'm sure. And anyway, you're not the only one who messes up in this story. You should see some of the gaffs that other people make!

Joseph *[Agreeing]* Yeah, tell me about it!

[Pause]

No, I mean actually tell me about it. Do the Bible bit.

MC Oh right, yes.

[Joseph exits if playing all characters, otherwise joins tableau]

Suggested songs

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Calypso Carol (See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw)

Like a Candle Flame (God is With Us, Alleluia)