

MARY AND JOSEPH

THE ORIGINAL STAGEPLAY

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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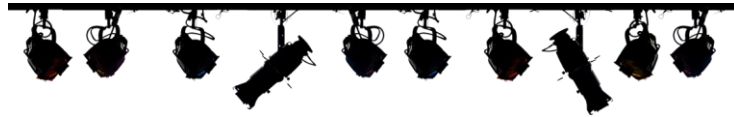
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SAMPLE SCRIPT



VOICE: This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

ANNE: Mary, Mary. Wake up.

SCENE I

LIGHTS UP

Anne is shaking Mary.

ANNE: Wake up, Mary.

Mary jumps from her sleep. She takes a deep breath and wipes her forehead, realizing she was dreaming.

ANNE: You were talking in your sleep again.

MARY: It was the same dream.

ANNE: Maybe God is trying to send you a message.

MARY: It just feels weird mother. Sometimes I can't tell what is real and what isn't.

ANNE: Just be patient, child. Whatever it is will reveal itself in due time.

MARY: Yes, mother.

ANNE: I need you to go down to the cabinet maker. *(hands her some money)* We need a new cabinet for the kitchen.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Joseph is sanding a piece of board.

James, Paul, and Matthew are close by doing other carpenters chores.

Paul walks over to Joseph who is fully concentrated on what he is doing.

PAUL: Hey Joe, you know, me and the boys have been talking and, well, we don't want to come across as rude but, you know ---

JOSEPH: What is it, Paul?

PAUL: We were just wondering why we never see you with a girl.

Pause. Joseph briefly stops sanding but soon continues.

JOSEPH: I have been with women.

PAUL: When?

James and Matthew have come over to join the discussion. Joseph doesn't like to be cornered like this.

JOSEPH: I'm trying to work.

JAMES: It's all you ever do. Take a break man and have a conversation with us.

JOSEPH: I need to finish this.

MATTHEW: That cabinet ain't due for another two weeks.

PAUL: We're all brothers here, Joe. You never talk to us.

JOSEPH: I hate to waste a good day talking.

PAUL: Fine. Then just answer the question, and we'll leave you alone.

Pause.

JOSEPH: I am a God fearing man. I don't like to run around like you guys, okay. I believe in that one special woman for me, and I like to leave that space open for her.

MATTHEW: We don't run around, man. Whatcha talking about?

JOSEPH: I see many different women come here. I doubt if I have ever seen the same face twice.

JAMES: That's just cold, man, but somebody has to take care of the ladies. As it is now, the odds are in our favor; five to one.

JOSEPH: What odds?

JAMES: For every one man there are five women, and I ain't talking about no independent next-generation chick. I mean submissive, your every wish is my command kinda girls you know. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

JOSEPH: I am not interested in that kind of lifestyle.

PAUL: It's why we're here.

JOSEPH: There is a higher purpose for us being here, that's my point. If you surround yourself with too many women, you tend to miss that one special one God has for you.

MATTHEW: Suppose she don't show till you're sixty.

JOSEPH: I'll still be right here waiting.

JAMES: You ain't serious man. That's no way to live your life.

JOSEPH: It's my choice.

PAUL: Okay, bro. We appreciate the fact you took a little time out to talk with us. It felt weird, but it's a start.

MATTHEW: We are glad to know too that you haven't gone the other way.

JOSEPH: Which other way?

MATTHEW: Our point exactly. You're not exposed enough to the real world, man. You need to move out of your comfort zone.

JAMES: You really think God is gonna drop a special woman out of the sky right into your lap? He helps those who help themselves, is all we're saying.

JOSEPH: I really need to finish this, if you guys don't mind.

Pause.

JAMES: Whatever, man.

James walks away and finds something to do. Matthew follows, then Paul.

Joseph appears to be thinking about what they said.

PAUL: He's hopeless.

JAMES: Yeah. Case closed.

Matthew's eyes are somewhere offstage. Paul and James follow his stare as Mary enters.

PAUL: My, my, my, my. I think I'm in heaven, cause I'm seeing an angel.

Mary doesn't appreciate being hit on.

MARY: Can I speak to the one in charge?

PAUL: I'm in charge, Princess.

MATTHEW: Don't listen to him. I'm in charge.

JAMES: They are both lying. I am in charge. What can I do for you?

MARY: You can direct me to who really is in charge.

Pause.

The three points in Joseph's direction whose back is turned. Mary walks over to him.

MARY: Excuse me, sir.

Joseph turns and when his eyes fall on Mary the contents in his hand fall to the ground. The hallelujah chorus plays in his head, drowning out Mary's next words.

Pause.

MARY: Are you in charge?

No response.

The music stops at the wave of Mary's hand.

MARY: Hello. Are you in charge?

Joseph attempt to answer, but the words get stuck in his throat.

PAUL: If I didn't know better, I would think Joseph is awestruck.

JAMES: I think he is.

MARY: Do you guys mind?

MATTHEW: This is a small shop. We have no choice but to stay here and watch a very confident church man make a fool of himself.

MARY: I need to get a buffet made. How much will it cost and how long will it take?

JOSEPH: I can make a buffet. Do you want a small buffet, or a big buffet?

MARY: The measurements are right here (*hands Joseph a piece of paper – Joseph melts when her hands touch his*) Are you okay, sir?

JOSEPH: I am. Why do you ask?

MARY: You are sweating.

JOSEPH: I do that sometimes.

MARY: And you're saying some pretty silly stuff.

JOSEPH: I do that sometimes too.

MARY: My mother needs it done in two weeks. Can you do it?

JOSEPH: I can do it in three days.

Mary hands Joseph some money.

MARY: Okay. I will return in three days.

JOSEPH: Yes. That would be very nice.

Mary smiles at his silliness.

MARY: Can I have a receipt, please?

JOSEPH: Yes, you can have whatever you want, miss.

MARY: Just the receipt thanks.

Joseph quickly writes her a receipt

JOSEPH: Can I have a name for the receipt, please?

MARY: Mary.

JOSEPH: That's a nice name.

MARY: Yeah, half the women in Jerusalem have it.

Joseph extends the receipt to Mary with a smile. He savors the touch of her hand again.

MARY: Three days.

Mary exits.

Joseph looks at his hand.

JOSEPH: I will never wash this hand again.

PAUL: The mighty has fallen.

JOSEPH: What?

PAUL: You have never stuttered talking about your God or defending your faith or chastising us for our wrongs, but you stutter talking to a woman.

JOSEPH: I did not stutter.

PAUL: I have two witnesses that said you did. It can stand in court.

JOSEPH: Whatever.

MATTHEW: With all the outstanding work you have to do, how exactly do you plan on finishing this in three days?

JOSEPH: I can do it. Just work longer hours.

MATTHEW: You already work sixteen hours a day.

JOSEPH: So, I will do twenty-four.

MATTHEW: Just to impress a girl?

Pause.

JOSEPH: Not just any girl ---

Joseph looks longingly offstage in the direction Mary exited.

JOSEPH: --- she's the one.

LIGHTS OUT

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