

NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS

by SCOTT CRAIN

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: As Mary and Joseph settle into their rustic surroundings on the first Christmas Eve, an angel reminds us of that God's timing is always perfect.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: There's plenty of artistic room for the way the Angel is costumed, so long as she's distinctly "other" than the two human characters.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M, 2F

THEME: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:1-7; Galatians 4:4

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon illustration

CHARACTERS:

MARY
JOSEPH
ANGEL

PROPS: A crude manger; bales of hay

COSTUMES: Biblical, though angel can be dressed contemporary

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A stable in Bethlehem

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Lights up as JOSEPH ushers a very pregnant MARY into the stable. One hand is clasped over her eyes, and as he removes it, he gestures grandly:

JOSEPH: Ta-daaaaa!!!!!!

Mary blinks expressionless at the stable. Then, with no hint of distaste, just trying to process this:

MARY: It's...a stable.

JOSEPH: *(with fake grandeur)* No no—though I see how the untrained eye could make that mistake. This, my lady, is the Grand Rustic Suite. Complete with the finest of imported hay, manservants dressed cleverly as donkeys and---

MARY: *(interrupting)* It's...a stable.

JOSEPH: *(finishing, deflated)* ---it's a stable, yeah. *(he sighs heavily)* The census, Mary. Every place is packed. This little town of Bethlehem's about to bust.

MARY: *(smiling)* So am I. *(she raises up on her tiptoes and kisses him on the cheek)* Will you help a pregnant lady to the...master bedroom?

JOSEPH grins sheepishly and then gently guides MARY to a nearby bale of hay.

Does this place come with turndown service?

JOSEPH: Well they certainly turned us down fast enough.

She winces as he helps her sit, but he's rewarded with a smile nonetheless. She takes his face in her hands and holds his eyes.

MARY: It's warm. It's dry. It's perfect.

He sighs and eases onto the hay beside her, wrapping a protective arm around her and cuddling close.

From stage left, an ANGEL enters, her eyes fondly on the oblivious couple, but addressing the audience:

ANGEL: Right now, the place doesn't look like much. But in a few moments, it will serve as the birthplace of a king.

And this night doesn't feel much different than any other. But it's going to be celebrated and remembered for all time.