

A Haunted Christmas

by

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The 4th, 5th, & 6th Graders of All Saints

SCENE 1 - OUTSIDE THE MANSION

MARY enters down the center aisle, looking around anxiously. JOSEPH enters a moment later.

JOSEPH

Mary, I come bearing bad news. The donkey broke down.

MARY

What?

JOSEPH

Our car, the Ford Donkey. The car-burro-ator is broken, so we aren't going anywhere tonight.

THUNDER BOOMS.

JOSEPH

Ahhh!

MARY

Ahhh! (beat) It's okay, it's okay. That was just thunder.

Mary looks up at the giant mansion.

MARY

Is that where we are headed?

JOSEPH

Yep. Bethlehem Mansion. It belonged to my great-great-, many times over, grandfather David.

MARY

Why are we going to a creepy mansion?

JOSEPH

The government wants to count us. I'm still trying to make census of it.

MARY

I hope it's not haunted.

JOSEPH

Don't worry, ghosts don't like the rain. It dampens their spirits.

Mary and Joseph exit stage left into the mansion. HENCHGHOST rises up from behind.

HENCHGHOST

Whooooo dares enter the realm of Herod? I must find out.

Henchghost follows them off stage left into the mansion.

Sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

SCENE 2 - ENTRY HALL

Mary enters stage right.

MARY

It's really dark in here. Do you have a flashlight, Joseph?

She looks around for Joseph. HENCHGHOST enters stage right and watches.

MARY

Joseph? Where are you?

The ANGEL rises above Mary, unnoticed. Mary looks around for a moment, and then sees the Angel.

MARY

Ahh! A ghost!

ANGEL

I am not a ghost. I am an angel.

MARY

Oh, sorry. (beat) Ahh! An angel!

ANGEL

Do not be afraid, Mary. I come bearing good news: you shall give birth to a baby boy. Name him Jesus, for he will save the people from their sins.

MARY

Wow. That's a lot to take in.

While Mary is talking, the Angel leaves.

MARY

I mean, a baby. That's a lot of work. But this is a message from God. I will trust in God and do God's will. Can I- (beat) Angel? Where did you go?

Joseph enters stage left, carrying a flashlight.

JOSEPH

There you are, Mary. I found a flashlight. Are you okay? Did you see a ghost?

MARY

No, an angel. Uh, listen, I've got something to tell you.

*Mary and Joseph exit stage left.
HENCHGHOST walks to center stage.*

HENCHGHOST

Interlopers! Oooo! And they are blessed by God. I must tell Herod immediately! They cannot bring God's light to this place!

Henchghost exits stage right quickly.

SCENE 3 - HEROD'S LAIR

HEROD enters stage left.

HEROD

Mwa ha ha ha! A ha ha ha! Oh, a good evil laugh always wakes me up in the evening.

Henchghost enters stage left, frantic.

HEROD

Ah, my henchghost! What's wrong?

HENCHGHOST

Oooo, your evilness, I come bearing bad news.

HEROD

Oh, goodie! Bears and bad news!

HENCHGHOST

No, not bears. Bad news. Bad bad news, not good bad news. Not the bad that's good for you and bad for the good, but the bad that's good for the good and bad for the, uh, you.

HEROD

You're confusing me.

HENCHGHOST

A couple has entered the mansion. And they are blessed by God. Oooo!

HEROD
Are you sure?

HENCHGHOST
Yes. Oooo!

HEROD
Stop saying "Oooo."

HENCHGHOST
Sorry. (quietly) Oooo.

HEROD
We need to find them. God's light cannot enter
this place.

*A doorbell rings. Herod checks his
watch.*

HEROD
Really? Visitors at this time of night? Come on,
let's see who it is.

Herod and Henchghost exit stage left.

SCENE 4 - SCARECROW FIELDS

*Scarecrows enter and stand with sheep.
Mary and Joseph enter, frightened.*

JOSEPH
Why is there a field inside this mansion?

MARY
I don't know, but it's creepy.

SCARECROW 1
Hello!

MARY
Ahhh! Talking scarecrow!

JOSEPH
Ahhh! Don't take my brain. It's useless and in
terrible shape!

The scarecrows and Mary stare at him.

SCARECROW 2
Are you two alright?

SCARECROW 1

I am terribly sorry I frightened you. We are simple ghost sheep shepherds. Can we offer assistance?

JOSEPH

Ghost... sheep?

MARY

Uh, you can talk?

SCARECROW 2

Of course, we both have doctorates.

SCARECROW 1

We're out standing in our fields.

MARY

We need a place to stay.

SCARECROW 2

(tsk tsk) I have bad news. That's going to be difficult, what with the census and all. Awful busy around.

SCARECROW 1

Very busy. Never seen it so horrendously busy. Most rooms are full.

SCARECROW 2

All the rooms are full! Completely booked up for months. No clue where you could go.

JOSEPH

Please, my wife is going to have a baby.

SCARECROW 1

(Sigh) Maybe... Maybe Nigel's place?

SCARECROW 2

Ah, yes, Nigel Keeper's place. That might work.

SCARECROW 1

I have possible good news. Go down to the main floor, back of the mansion. Look for Mr. Keeper's place. He might have room.

MARY

Thank you. You are both very helpful.

SCARECROW 2

Hay... It's in our jeans.

Mary heads stage left.

JOSEPH

I didn't mean that thing with my brain. It's actually in very good condition. I mean, I've hardly used it-

MARY

Joseph!

JOSEPH

Gotta go! Thanks!

Mary and Joseph exit stage left.

"We Three Kings" instrumental.

SCENE 5 - HEROD'S LAIR

Herod enters stage left. Henchghost enters stage right with the WISE SKELETONS.

HEROD

Hello, esteemed visitors. Welcome to my grand abode. I am Herod, ruler over all!

WISE SKELETON 1

Greetings Herod. We are wise skeleton philosophers. We come from a strange and distant land far to the east: Wisconsin.

HEROD

And there are only three of you?

WISE SKELETON 3

We're a skeleton crew.

WISE SKELETON 2

We come bearing good news! We have seen the star that stopped above your haunted house. We have come seeking the baby King.

HEROD

Are you insulting me?

WISE SKELETON 3

No, sir. Not at all. We seek the new king. The scriptures foretold his birth and how he will bring light into this world of darkness.

HEROD

What?! (beat, cough) I mean, what? Really? Tell me more.

WISE SKELETON 2

The son of God will be born and guide the people in the darkness. No bones about it.

WISE SKELETON 3

That wasn't funny.

WISE SKELETON 2

And you would know funny?

Wise Skeleton 3 points to their upper arm.

WISE SKELETON 3

I know this is humerus.

WISE SKELETON 1

(Sigh) We are following the star to find this child, God's light to the world.

HENCHGHOST

God's light! Herod, we need to stop-

HEROD

I would love to welcome this light into my realm. You have my evil blessing to search my mansion. Simply report back to me when you find the light.

WISE SKELETON 3

Yes, Herod.

HEROD

And no lying!

WISE SKELETON 2

Skeletons can't lie. Everyone can just see right through us.

WISE SKELETON 1

We will tell you when we find the child.

The Wise Skeletons step off to the side.

WISE SKELETON 3

Sounds like he has a bone to pick.

WISE SKELETON 1

I don't trust him.

WISE SKELETON 3

Doesn't he know the golden ghost rule? "Boo unto others as you would have others boo unto you."

WISE SKELETON 1

Let's go!

The Wise Skeletons exit stage right.

HEROD

Find this baby and when you return to me, I will snuff out this light. Forever! Mwa ha ha ha!

Herod and Henchghost exit, stage left.

"We Three Kings" instrumental.

SCENE 6 - NIGEL'S ROOM

Mary and Joseph enter stage right. NIGEL enters stage left, with back turned. Joseph walks over to him.

JOSEPH

Excuse me. Are you Nigel?

Nigel turns around, wearing a hockey mask.

JOSEPH

Ahh!

Nigel takes the mask off.

NIGEL

Oh, sorry about that.

Mary runs over to them.

MARY

Are you okay? I heard you scream.

NIGEL

It's my fault. I was just about to head off to hockey practice.

MARY

Hockey practice?

NIGEL

Oh, yeah, sure, I'm the goalie. I was just making a list of the other players and checking them twice.

JOSEPH

Are you Nigel Keeper?

NIGEL

Yes, I am N. Keeper. How can I help?

JOSEPH

We need a room.

NIGEL

Oh. I've got bad news. My room is full.

MARY

Please, I'm going to have a baby. I don't know what to do.

JOSEPH

We don't need much. Just somewhere warm. Please, help us.

NIGEL

I understand how you feel. Like when I went to the disco. At first I was afraid. I was petrified...

Nigel looks at them, thinking.

NIGEL

I know! I've got a shed out back. It isn't much, but you can use it. Follow me, and don't mind the singing children. They do this every year about this time.

The three exit stage left while the younger children come forward. Scarecrows enter and stand about.

Younger children sing "Away in a Manger."

Scarecrows enter and stand about. Younger children go back to their seats.

SCENE 7 - SCARECROW FIELDS

The Angel enters stage right.

ANGEL

Hark!

SCARECROW 2

Ahh! An angel!

ANGEL

Ahh! A talking scarecrow!

SCARECROW 1

Ahh! Shouting!

ANGEL

Everyone, calm down. I come bearing good news of great joy! Tonight, out in the shed out back, was born a baby.

SCARECROW 1

A baby? Why should we care?

ANGEL

This child is the son of God. He has come to bring light to this world.

SCARECROW 2

And he was born in the shed? You mean Nigel's shed?

SCARECROW 1

That must be Mary's baby!

ANGEL

You will find him between the lawnmower and that old broken watering hose, wrapped in an old seed bag. The light shall guide you to him.

The Angel exits stage right.

SCARECROW 2

Let's go find the baby. Garden party! Lettuce turnip the beet.

SCARECROW 1

Why not? I'm just hanging around here.

The Scarecrows exit stage left.

Sing "The First Noel."

SCENE 8 - NIGEL'S SHED

Mary sits center stage, holding baby Jesus. Nigel and Joseph stand off to either side. The Scarecrows enter stage right.

SCARECROW 2
There he is! Light to the world!

SCARECROW 1
He's so cute!

The scarecrows wave to Mary. She waves back.

The Wise Skeletons enter stage left, carrying presents.

WISE SKELETON 1
There he is!

WISE SKELETON 2
Honored baby, we come with gifts for you.

WISE SKELETON 1
Gold, for your blessings on earth.

WISE SKELETON 2
Frankenstein. Uh, frankincense, for your blessings in heaven.

WISE SKELETON 3
Myrrh, for your sacrifice for our sins.

Sing "Silent Night."

Herod and HENCHGHOST enter down the center aisle.

HEROD
Stop! This is my mansion. You cannot take it from me!

The Angel appears behind the altar, standing tall.

Everyone shines their flashlights at Herod.

HEROD
No! Nooo!

Herod and HENCHGHOST are pushed down the aisle and exit.

ANGEL

I come bearing good news. A child has been born for all of you. A new light shines in this darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it!

All exit, except for Mary and Joseph.

JOSEPH

Now, it is time to go home.

MARY

You fixed the car?

JOSEPH

Uh...