

“The Real Story: A Christmas Comedy”

written by Anna Muhm

Inspired by

“Get it Straight” by Penny Chou

and

with an ending adapted from

“One Night in Bethlehem” by Jill Roman Lord

Reader 1: _____

Each Time I see the manger scene, I try with all my might
To dream about what I might've done if I'd been there that night.
Have YOU ever thought about what you might have done
If you'd been there that magic night, with God's new baby Son?
Let's listen to the tale again, out back behind the inn
And wonder which would be the part where we might just fit in.

pause

There was a baby fast asleep; with a donkey, cows, and sheep;
With angels singing sweetly, and shepherds traveling fleetly
To a humble little place, full of love and joy and grace;
While overhead a shining star, led three wise men from afar.
Here today we show this play; Of how this special magic day
Came to us so long ago; Ready, set, and here we go!

pause

Once upon a time is how our tale starts out
A young girl named Mary is running all about.

all kids come up the aisle singing "Mary had a little lamb" holding books and take their places on the stage facing the congregation.

NO NO NO NO! That is NOT how the tale goes!

Kids: It isn't?

NO! Who can tell the story the right way? Alright, I pick _____

Reader 2: _____

I'll tell it the RIGHT Way!

(Cough)

Mary wasn't in charge of lambs or ewes! She wasn't a shepherd. She was...well I'm not sure what she was exactly, but she wasn't a shepherd. Just a girl who was looking forward to a lot of things in her life. Especially her upcoming wedding to the carpenter Joseph.

Kids "Eww!"

Mary was planning all of the details from the flowers to the food to her dress. But then one day, an angel appeared and told her she needs to make some other plans. The angel's name was Gabe and he said to her, "Hey, you're going to have a baby!"

Flip to the cradle

Kids Sing first verse of "Rock a bye baby" rocking the cradles. Reader 3 moves to microphone.

NO NO NO NO! That's a horrible thing to want a baby to come crashing down like that. Besides, the baby isn't here yet. You're messing up the story! I give up! Someone else come tell the tale!

Reader walks away in frustration.

Reader 3: _____

Let me try! We're getting a bit ahead of ourselves here....Where were we? Oh, yes.

So Mary's going to have a baby. But the thing is that Joseph isn't the baby's father. Confused, and hurt, Joe decides that the best way to handle the situation is to simply cancel the wedding with Mary. But that's when an angel came into the picture. One night as Joe was sleeping blissfully away,

Flip to the Zzzzs

kids sing "are you sleeping Brother John?"

Reader 4 moves to microphone.

NO! That's wrong! First off, the guy's name was JOE not John! Secondly, of course he's sleeping, I just said that! Be quiet and listen.

Kids Snore loudly.

The angel came to him in a dream and told him that Mary's child was the child of the Holy Spirit and to marry her anyway. And to name the baby Jesus. So Joe canceled the cancellation and stayed with Mary.

Reader 4: _____

rushing up

MY Turn! I'll tell the next part!

Flip to the laurel

There was this guy – Augustus. He was the

Kids sing Noble duke of York and move along with it.

Reader places face in hands

That's NOT RIGHT! Augustus wasn't the Duke of York. York wasn't even there yet. Augustus was the Emperor of Rome. Which is like a King. He decided that he needed to know just how many people there were in the Empire - he wanted to count them all. But in order to be counted, you had to go your hometown. So Joe packed up Mary and off they went to Bethlehem.

Flip to town

Kids walk around the sanctuary in the outer aisles, and then return to stage

Congregation sings "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verses 1 and 2

Reader 5 moves to microphone after walking around sanctuary.

Reader 5: : _____

Now in this town, there were a LOT of people. See Joe was a descendant of King David so he and all of the other people who were also descendants of David crowded into this small town. And since this was the days before the internet, phones, or even reservations, getting a room was a first come first serve kind of thing. Whoever got there first, got the room. By the time that Joe and Mary get there...

Flip to no room signs Kids all together "NO ROOM!"

Reader 6 moves to microphone.

You guys finally got it right! There was no room. Not at the Holiday Inn, the Bethlehem Inn, the Super 8, The Royal Augustus, or even the 5 star King David Golf Resort and Spa.

Kids all together "NO ROOM!"

Reader 6: _____

I know this next part! Let me talk!

So Mary and Joe are looking for a place to spend the night. And there's

kids yell – NO ROOM

- yes yes we get the idea. There's no room anywhere. Mary's tired from the journey and Joe is losing hope when finally they came to one last inn. They knocked.

Flip to knock knock All Kids say "knock knock!"

Joe asked if there was a room.

All kids say NO

Joe asked if there was space on the floor.

All kids say NO

Joe asked if there was space in the kitchen.

All kids say NO

Joe looked at Mary, who was pale and looked like something was wrong. "Look, please. You're the last inn in town. We've got to have somewhere to go. My wife is expecting a baby. Like RIGHT NOW!"

Flip to stable; All kids say IT'S SMELLY

Joe said "I don't care!"

All Kids: IT'S GROSS.

Joe said "I don't care!" As long it's warm. And the inn keeper showed them to the stable. And there it was that Mary had her baby. And because there wasn't a crib, they laid the child in a feeding trough called a manger and wrapped him up as best they could.

Congregation Sings "Away in a Manger" kids with motions

Reader 7 moves to microphone.

Reader 7: _____

The Son of God had just been born. It was a BIG deal. So God sent some angels to tell people about it. But the people the angels told weren't the rich ones, the famous ones, the kings and queens. Nope! The angels told some shepherds.

Flip to sheep

Kids sing Baa baa black sheep.

Reader 8 moves to microphone.

NO! That's not right! It wasn't time to shear the sheep. The shepherds were just out in the fields to make sure that sheep didn't wander off. They were counting the sheep and talking about normal stuff, when suddenly they heard a funny sound.

Kids say WHOOSH

Flip to angel

It was some angels. "Don't be afraid! We've got some exciting news for you!" And they told the shepherds where to find the new baby; the Son of God. The shepherds were so excited that they ran off, leaving behind their sheep.

Kids yell HEY!

Reader 8: _____

Now there appeared in the sky a star.

Flip to star;

Kids sing “twinkle twinkle”

You’re wrong again! This star was NOT little. In fact, it was huge. It was so huge that three wise men started to follow it, knowing that it meant something really important. So they followed the star and followed the star.

Flip to bus;

Kids begin The Wheels on the Bus.

Reader 9 moves to microphone.

No No NO! There weren’t any buses back then! The wise men arrived on camels or donkeys or their own two feet.

Now, the stable was getting pretty crowded. There was Mary and Joe, and baby Jesus of course. Then there was the donkey, the cow, and sheep. The shepherds, some angels, and the wise men. But you know what? No one cared.

Reader 9: _____

Rushing forward!

God's greatest gift was here!

Flip to gift!

Kids: What was it?

Baby Jesus! Haven't you been listening?

Kids: What about the poor sheep?

No one cared. The sheep could be found later. They were all so happy that God's son was here.

Kids: But the wise men were far away from home!

No one cared. They could always journey back home. They were all so happy that God's son was here.

Kids: It was smelly!

Reader 10 moves to microphone.

No one cared. The stable was warm. They were all so happy that God's son was here.

Kids: It was gross!

No one cared. Because they were all so happy that God's son was here!

Kids: It was time to eat!

NO! NO! NO! It's wasn't time to eat. Well, it is almost time for US to eat, but that's not the point! You guys don't know how to tell a story. I give up! Is the story over?

Kids: Almost!

Reader 10: _____

Flip to heart

Readers 1 to 9 move up to microphone.

And so now we end our tale of joy.

Joseph, Mary, and a little boy.

The shepherds, and the wise men

The animals have all been

There to see the wonderful birth

Of the greatest Gift on earth.

What would you have done if you'd been there?

Standing in the stable's open air?

Kids put down their props

Reader 1: _____

Would you with Mary have shouted out with joy

Kids Shout "Hurray!" with arms

When you took your first look at her special little boy?

Reader 2: _____

Would you with Joseph have kissed his little head

Kids blow a kiss

And wondered that he was born inside a tiny shed?

Reader 3: _____

Or Would you with the little lamb have done your very best

Kids Shout "BAAAAA!"

To cuddle baby Jesus so he'd keep warm in his rest?

Reader 4: _____

Would you moo with the spotted cow so very loud and clear

Kids Shout "MOOO!"

That it echoed through the hills that Jesus Christ is Here?

Reader 5: _____

Or would you with the donkey have bowed your horsey head

And whispered donkey secrets to the baby in his bed?

Kids whisper

Reader 6: _____

Would you have sung the loudest of all the angels in the sky?

Kids Shout "LA LA LA!"

So all the creatures down below might hear as they pass by?

Reader 7: _____

Would you have been the quickest of all the shepherds on the hill,

Kids run in place

So that you'd be the first to see the baby sleeping still?

Reader 8: _____

Or would you have been the shining star, and therefore been the one

Kids point to stars

To lead the wise men by your light to God's most precious Son?

Reader 9: _____

Would you have been a little town where all our tale took place

Kids Shout "WOW!"

And wondered at the shining glow of Jesus' gentle face?

Reader 10: _____

Although we were not there that night or near the manger stall,

We still can spread the news about God's Greatest Gift of all.

We still can hoot and holler,

Kids Shout: "Hoot and holler"

and sing praises to his name

And shout

All kids: "I Love you Jesus, I'm so very glad you came!"

Congregation sings: Jesus, Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

As the song begins, all performers take a bow and return to their seats.