

IT'S
A
MIRACLE

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE (THE CAST)

Innkeepers at the Traveller's Rest

Isaac

Ruth

Their Children:

Reuben (Solo)

Rachel

Rebekah

Innkeepers at the Bethlehem Towers

Samuel

Leah

Their Children:

Sarah

Saul

Simeon

Mary (Optional Solo)

Joseph

Martha - A Servant

A Roman

Shepherds 1-4 (Sing as a group)

Kings 1-3

Citizens of Bethlehem (9 speaking parts)

Travellers (10 speaking parts)

Angels 1-3 (1 solo)

Customer

Scene One – Outside the Inns

**(A Bethlehem street, with two Inns – the Bethlehem Towers and the Traveller's Rest.
A lively crowd of Citizens, Innkeepers and Children sing:)**

Song One – Long, Long Time

Verse One
(All) We're in winter's icy grip
Can't you feel the nip
Careful that you don't slip
'Cos it's a long, long time till Summer comes
So cold, turns your fingers blue
Maybe catch the flu
Bet your clothes are wet through
And it's a long, long time till Summer comes around.

(Solo) So I dream of a perfect
Blue sky, soaring above
You can always spin a little fantasy
It's easy, try it and you'll see

(All) Loafing, lazing, spend your day imagining,
Sunbathing, lighten up and take a break,
And when you wake you'll find that
Time flies, when you're having fun
Dreaming of the sun
Your imagination
Will fill the long, long time till Summer comes around

Verse Two
Oh no, here it comes again
Sheets of freezing rain
Murder on the chilblains
And it's a long, long time till Summer comes
How much longer can it last
Every breeze a blast
Have you seen the forecast?
Well it's a long, long time till Summer comes around.

So we dream of a sparkling
Blue sea, stretching away
Ice cream, beach scene, drifting on a sunbeam
Each daydream takes you where you want
Seaside, high tide, maybe have a donkey ride
No problem, everything is in your mind
And so you'll find that somehow
Time flies, when you're having fun
Dreaming of the sun
Your imagination
Will fill the long, long time till Summer comes around
Long, long time
(It's a long, long time)
It's a long, long time
(It's a long, long, long, long time) **[sigh]**

(Exit citizens and children. Isaac and Ruth, Samuel and Leah, move to their respective Inns.)

Isaac: Good day to you, neighbour.
Ruth: Cold again, isn't it?
Samuel: Oh, hello. **(To Leah)** What do *they* want?
Leah: Isn't it about time you got your inn repainted? It lowers the tone around here.
Ruth: But a bit of peeling paint adds character, don't you think?
Samuel/Leah: Huh! **(Exit into Bethlehem Towers)**
Ruth: Those two are beginning to get on my nerves.
Isaac: I'm sure there's enough room in this town for the Traveller's Rest *and* The Bethlehem Towers. There's no need for anyone to argue.

(Enter the Children, running and quarrelling loudly.)

Sarah: Give me that! Give it back!
Rachel: No, I won't!
Saul: It's ours, hand it over.
Rebekah: Hang on to it, Rachel!
Reuben: What is it?
Simeon: It's our box of sweets.
Rachel: It's mine, now! You swapped it.
Saul: So? I changed my mind.
Rebekah: They've only left two sweets, look!
Rachel: Quick, eat them!
Sarah: No! No! Not fair.
Saul: You greedy pigs!
Rebekah: **(With mouth full)** You ate all the rest.
Rachel: **(With mouth full)** You wouldn't share!
Simeon: Give us the box, then.
Rebekah: No way!
Sarah: **(Stamping foot)** I want the box!
Reuben: For goodness' sake! Stop it!
Saul: **(Grabs box)** Run! I've got it!

(Exit at run, still shouting, almost bumping into two citizens who enter and cross the stage, talking.)

Citizen 1: Steady on!
Citizen 2: They're the kids from the Traveller's Rest.
Citizen 1: *And* the brats from the Bethlehem Towers.
Citizen 2: They just run wild!
Citizen 1: It's the same everywhere. There's no discipline these days.
Citizen 2: I blame the parents.
Citizen 1: I blame the teachers.

(Exit the Citizens. Enter Ruth, and Isaac, who sit outside the Traveller's Rest. Isaac reads a newspaper. Enter Leah and Samuel with Martha, their servant.)

Leah: Martha! Haven't you finished scrubbing the floors yet?
Martha: I'm doing my best.
Samuel: Get on with it! And you've still got the camel sheds to clean out.
Leah: You just can't get the staff these days.

(A customer enters and walks towards the Traveller's Rest.)

Leah: Oh, can I help you, Sir?
Customer: No, not really. I'm going in here. **(Points to the Traveller's Rest)**
Leah: I wouldn't recommend it.

(They block his way)

Samuel: We run a vastly superior establishment.
Leah: Gourmet food!
Samuel: The finest wines!
Leah: **(Showing leaflets etc)** Check out our discount for group bookings.
Customer: What group? I'm on my own!
Samuel: Luxury accommodation.
Leah: **(Showing guide-book)** Four stars in the Bethlehem Pub Grub Guide – 5BC.
Customer: That's out of date!
Samuel: Don't miss this opportunity to experience outstanding customer service –
Leah: - in a quality leisure environment.
Customer: All right, all right.
Leah/Samuel: **(Each taking an arm)** Do step this way.

(Exit Leah, Samuel and Customer into Bethlehem Towers.)

- Ruth: There goes another customer.
- Isaac: They're certainly very keen. I admire them, really.
- Ruth: That's all very well, my dear, but we've got a business to run, too.
- Isaac: Don't worry, we'll all be busy soon. Have you seen the paper?
- Ruth: No.
- Isaac: They're expecting thousands of visitors in Bethlehem this week, registering for this new tax. It'll be chaos. It says, "Families face long journeys as the latest legislation creates a"
- Ruth: Well, for goodness' sake! We'd better get organised and make up some extra beds. Come on!

(Exit)

Scene Two – On the Road to Bethlehem

(During this scene and song, extra travellers move across the stage/through the hall in small groups, all going the same way. Enter Travellers.)

Traveller 1: Are you sure this is the right way?
Traveller 2: I think we should have taken that left turn back there.
Traveller 3: Trust me. I know my way around these parts.
Traveller 2: I've heard that before.
Traveller 1: Like that time we got stuck in the Jerusalem one-way system.
Traveller 3: Watch it!

(Enter Travellers 4, 5 & 6)

Traveller 4: I think I'm getting blisters.
Traveller 5: Really? You should get some walking boots, like mine.
Traveller 6: It's so cold.
Traveller 5: Bracing, isn't it?
Traveller 4: Who wants to go to Bethlehem, anyway?
Traveller 5: I do! It's a fantastic place.
Traveller 6: The road surface is terrible.
Traveller 4: You could break your ankle in those pot-holes.
Traveller 5: What pot-holes? Aaaargh! **(He/she falls)**

(Enter Mary & Joseph)

Mary: Is it far now, Joseph?
Joseph: I'll just have a look on the map.
Mary: Looks like Bethlehem's going to be busy tonight.

Song Two – Are We Nearly There Yet?

(Travellers, with solo for Mary (or another Traveller))

Chorus: Are we nearly there yet?
Are we nearly there?
Are we nearly there yet?
Are we nearly there?

Dark mountain, starry night
No journey's end in sight
Trudge down this rambling road
Solo: Send me an angel to lighten my load.

(Repeat chorus)

All: Been trav'ling night and day
Still seems so far away
Thank God my spirit is strong

Solo: Send me an angel to help me along.

All: My feet, my legs, my ankles ache
Gets worse each step I take
Yon star keeps beckoning us
Next time we travel, we're taking the bus!

Chorus: Are we nearly there yet?
Are we nearly there?
Are we nearly there yet?
Are we nearly there?

(Repeat chorus, fading as Travellers exit)

Solo: Send me an angel to lighten my load.