

THE TWELVE DAYS OF NATIVITY

by Claire Demmer

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A human look at the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. We all know the story of the birth of Jesus. But with the 2000 years that have passed, the people in the story have become, well, a little less human. But they were all real people with real lives. This nativity play reintroduces their humanity in a funny way, with a few modern touches that hopefully will bring the story of Christmas across to all ages.

Cast:

Singers – as many as you like

Mary

BFF

Joseph

Gabriel

Elizabeth

Announcer

Man in crowd

Woman in crowd

Crowd

Donkey

Innkeeper 1 (Rachel)

Innkeeper 2 (Abraham)

Innkeeper 2 (Hippie)

Eli (Shepherd)

Reuben (Shepherd)

Ben (Shepherd)

Wise man no 1 (Mustafa)

Wise man no 2 (Ahmed)

Wise man no 3 (Amir)

Herod

Guard

Singers:

(To the tune of The 12 days of Christmas)

On the first day of Christmas, the Angel gave to me

An Unplanned Pregnancy. *(Can be substituted for 'God given pregnancy' if you prefer)*

(Mary and BFF are chatting)

Mary:

Yes – it's true. I'm not lying! The Angel Gabriel actually appeared in my bedroom.

BFF:

No!

Mary:

He did. And he told me I was going to have a baby.

BFF:

He told you that? If I was you, I would have had my doubts.

Mary:

You and me both. I mean, how on earth was that going to happen?

BFF:

Well -

Mary:

But I chose to believe him

BFF:

You did?

Mary:

And he was right. I had the best baby boy in the whole world. Literally. But – I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's start from the beginning.

BFF:

I thought you did.

Mary:

Okay, not from the very beginning. Just after that.

BFF:

Okay.

Singers:

On the second day of Christmas, the angel gave to me:

A doubting husband

and an unplanned pregnancy

Joseph:

So, you're telling me the girl I'm engaged to is already pregnant!

Gabriel:

Yes.

Joseph:

(Angrily) Who did this? *(Can be changed to 'Who's the Father?')*

Gabriel:

God.

Joseph:

No, really?

Gabriel:

God

Joseph:

What! You're kidding.

Gabriel:

Do I look like I have a sense of humour?

Joseph:

No. *(reluctantly)* Let me get this straight. You're telling me my fiance is pregnant and God did it?

Gabriel:

Yes. *(to Joseph like he is talking to a child)* Mortals. *(to the audience)*

Joseph:

So, what do you want me to do now?

Gabriel:

Marry her as planned

Joseph:

And the baby?

Gabriel:

Raise him as your own.

Joseph:

And God wants me to do this?

Gabriel:

Yes.

Joseph:

The gossips are going to have a field day with this. *(to the audience)*

Singers:

On the third day of Christmas the angel gave to me

A family visit
A doubting husband
and an unplanned pregnancy

Mary:

Elizabeth!! You're pregnant!

Elizabeth:

Mary!! You're pregnant!!

Mary:

We must have a combined baby shower.

Elizabeth:

Well, yes but *(grabs her belly)* – woah! Sorry that was a big jump. The baby's never done that before. Weird.

Mary:

Are you okay? You're a bit older than me. I mean, we never thought you'd be able – sorry, er, blessed. Sorry - that sounded rude.

Elizabeth:

Well, funny thing - this Angel appeared to me. (*Mary looks at her strangely*) You don't believe me!
I thought of all people, you would be-

Mary:

I do! I do! The same thing happened to me! Hey - do you think it was the same Angel?

Elizabeth:

I have no idea. Only in our family, hey! So – what do think your baby will be – a boy or a girl?

Mary:

I know what my baby will be. What do you think yours will be?

Elizabeth:

A -

Mary:

No! Let's say it together. One, two three -

Mary and Elizabeth:

BOY!!

Singers:

On the fourth day of Christmas the angel gave to me

Paying our taxes
A family visit
A doubting husband
and an unplanned pregnancy

Announcer:

Hear ye! Hear ye!
As you have been conquered by the Roman Empire
The greatest empire in the world
You will now have to give a portion of the money you earn to Rome

Crowd:

What! Why! That's not fair! I can't believe this! Romans – can't live with them!

Announcer:

You will all travel to the town of your tribe to pay this money.

Man in Crowd:

What! We have to travel hundreds of miles as well!!!! There aren't even any decent roads!

Announcer:

About that. Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow. But soon.

Crowd:

Hey! That's not fair! That's my money. Romans!

Woman in crowd:

Why do we have to go there? Why can't we pay online?

Announcer:

The internet hasn't been invented yet. But I'm sure Caesar will invent it soon. After all, we do make the best roads in the world

Man in crowd:

How will we get there?

Announcer:

I've heard donkeys are good at bad roads. And quite affordable.

(Everyone turns as one to look at the donkey)

Donkey:

Great. Just my luck.

Singers:

On the fifth day of Christmas the angel gave to me

Travel to Bethlehem

Paying our taxes

A family visit

A doubting husband

And an unplanned pregnancy

Donkey:

Here we go

Joseph

Let's put all the baggage on the donkey.

(They put a lot of baggage on the donkey's back)

Donkey:

Hey that weighs a ton! What do you have in there? Cement?

Joseph:

(To Mary) You get on as well.

Donkey:

Oh, boy. *(As she gets on)*

Joseph:

You shouldn't walk, you know. That baby you're carrying must be looked after.

Mary:

(Rubs her belly) I know, he's so heavy. *(Gets on and the donkey visibly sags)*

Donkey:

Lady! What is that you're carrying? Triplets?

Joseph:

It's a very long way to Bethlehem. We'd better get going.

Donkey:

Why me? *(In a strangled voice)*

Singers:

On the sixth day of Christmas the angel gave to me:

Hotel booking error

Travel to Bethlehem

Paying our taxes

A family visit

A doubting husband

And an unplanned pregnancy

Innkeeper no 1:

Look. I'm sorry. We don't have a room for you.

Joseph:

But we booked the room before we came.

Innkeeper no 1:

What can I say? That guy over there *(Points at rich guy with sunglasses surrounded by girls)* offered me double.

Joseph:

Who is that guy?

Innkeeper no 1:

He's a tax collector.

Joseph:

I don't like him. And now I really don't want to pay him my taxes.

Innkeeper no 1:

Nobody does. Look I'm sorry, you seem like a nice guy... but with this whole tax thing, I needed a little extra, you understand?

Joseph:

Not really! But we have no choice – we'll have to try somewhere else. But I won't leave you a good review on trip advisor.com

Innkeeper no 1:

Don't be like that! Say - you could always try my cousin Abraham's place. Just up the street.

Joseph:

Okay.

(He walks 1 large step to the right and knocks on the next inn's door)

Innkeeper 2:

(Opens the door) Can't you read the sign?

Joseph:

There's a sign?

Innkeeper no 2:

On the door. *(Taps the sign which says 'GO AWAY, WE'RE FULL)* Say's we're full.

Joseph:

Are you Abraham?

Innkeeper no 2:

Depends who's asking.

Joseph:

Your cousin sent me. Said you might have a room.

Innkeeper no 2:

She did, did she? Sorry, we're really all full. But you could try the hippie down the street. Long as you don't mind kosher vegan food.

Joseph:

At this stage, honestly, we'll take anything. Thanks.

(walks 1 giant step to the side and knocks on the third door)

Innkeeper no 3:

Hey, man.

Joseph:

We're looking for a room. My wife's pregnant and -

Innkeeper no 3:

Look man, normally I would like say, we totally have a room for you, but like now, man with this whole tax thing, we like, really um don't. Sorry man.

Joseph:

But there isn't anywhere else. You're the last one! Please!

Innkeeper no 3:

I might have a little something round the back – but it's going to be a tight squeeze. And the cow definitely won't like it. Not to mention the camel. I just have to warn you – he spits.

Singers:

On the seventh day of Christmas the angel gave to me

Shepherds on the hillside
Hotel booking error
Travel to Bethlehem
Paying our taxes
A family visit
A doubting husband
And an unplanned pregnancy

(The shepherds are real slow witted country bumpkins. They will be funnier if the actors can do local colloquial accents)

Ben:

You know why I like being a shepherd, Eli?

Eli:

No, why do you like being a shepherd, Ben?

Ben:

Peace and quiet.

Reuben:

Yesterday you said it was nice because you didn't have to travel at all.

Ben:

That too! You know why I also like being a shepherd, Eli?

Eli:

Not yet.

Ben:

Because I know you guys. I don't like strangers. Don't do well with them.

Eli:

That's true. There hasn't been stranger in these parts for *(Starts to count on his fingers)* I make it near twenty years.

(Enter Angel Gabriel)

Reuben:

Until now.

Eli and Ben:

What do you mean, NOW!

Gabriel:

Hello, gentlemen.

Ben:

(Screams and hides behind the others) A stranger. You're....a stranger.

Eli:

He don't like strangers.

Gabriel:

Even those that bring good tidings?

Reuben:

Especially those ones. *(Whispers)* Say – what are tidings?

Ben:

No idea. I think it's something to do with the sea. You from the sea?

Gabriel:

Think higher. *(Points at Heaven)*

Ben:

You're an alien?

Eli:

I still don't know what tidings are.

Gabriel:

Let me rephrase that.

Ben:

Re what?

Gabriel:

I bring good news of great joy.

Reuben:

Ye do? Well, why didn't you say so! What's the news?

Gabriel:

A child is born in Bethlehem, who is the son of God. And he will save you from your sins.

Eli:

All of them?

Gabriel:

All of them?

Eli:

Even – *(Hesitates as he thinks of something he's done that's really bad)*

Gabriel:

Even that one.

Eli:

Oh phew.