

Light Has Come

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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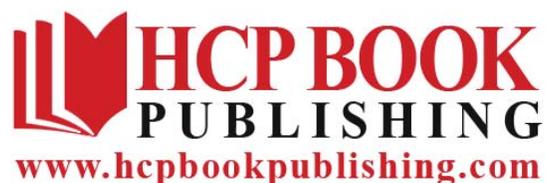


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Characters

Modern Couple: Anna and Adam

0 BC Couple: Esther and Jacob

Voice

Shepard

Setting

The stage is split in half creating two sides (stage left/stage right). Stage left will be set for 0 BC and showing life during the year Jesus was born.

Stage right will show modern times. Two married couples will permanently reside in their respective times/roles/sides. Action/Dialogue will alternate between the two sides. When one side is on “on” their side of the stage will be dark, allowing the audience to fully focus on the acting characters.

During the carol singing, there are two options. Characters can stay in their current positions to sing, or all can come out to the very front of the stage to sing and lead the congregation/audience. If possible, project the lyrics on a screen on the stage. If not, have a bulletin/program with lyrics, so it is easy to follow along. You can either have a piano accompany the carols or find instrumental digital tracks to play.

The Story

Many years ago, prior to Jesus being born into this world, there was a culture of ungodliness that permeated society. While there were few godly people around, still holding on to the promise of a coming Messiah, most were just living out their lives in tradition, rituals and self-approved righteousness. They lived in darkness but could not perceive that truth.

We wish to compare then to now and see that our times are no more different than it was then. As some await the second coming of our Savior into this world, others have given up hope and men live as if there is nothing to look forward to beyond this life. The world is once again seeing dark days as once again traditions and rituals, independent of true righteousness, is readily embraced, and each man lives according to their own thoughts.

But one day, this world will once again witness the entrance of Jesus into this world. Light has indeed come.

Play Details

Length: 45-60 Minutes

Cast: 3 Males, 2 Females, Voice

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary/ Biblical Drama

Special Thanks to Amanda Zeiba for her help with this play. Amanda Zieba is a full-time teacher, a mom/wife always and a writer any minute she can squeeze in. She has written three children's chapter books (Orphan Train Riders Series: Charles' Christmas Gift, Joanna's Journey and Irish Strong William) a YA science fiction novel (Breaking the Surface) and a few plays. She strives to share her passion for words with others in any way possible.

- Playwright Cleveland O. McLeish

THE SCRIPT



Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

Modern – Anna and Adam are driving in a car (created from a painted large box, or crates/chairs formed to represent a vehicle)

The couple is getting situated in the car (buckling seat belts, fiddling with GPS, adjusting mirrors, etc.)

Anna: GPS says we will be arriving in 42 minutes.

Adam: *(sarcastically)* Hooray.

Anna glares at him for a beat.

Anna: Come on Adam, this is the holidays. We should be feeling festive.

Adam: We should, but I don't.

Anna: Do you think you could fake for the sake of our families. I mean, the holidays are a time when we are supposed to be nice to everyone, especially our family.

Adam puts on a fake smile. Anna is not impressed.

Anna: How would they feel if we come in all gloom and doom about Christmas?

Adam: Anna, I think when those rules were made, they hadn't met OUR families.

Anna: Well, I know they can be a little overbearing at times, and loud.

Adam: A little.

Anna: Okay, more than a little.

Adam: I can just hear my aunt now: *(exaggerated high pitched annoying voice)* Oh Adam. Stand up straight. What do you mean you don't want any of my green bean casserole?

Anna: Hey, that was pretty good. What about my grandpa? *(big booming voice)* Amy, Ashley, I mean Anna, yeah, you girl, move away from the TV so I can see the game.

And turn it up while you're there. I can't hear a dang thing with all you hooligans crowding up my house.

They laugh a little and then fall into silence for a bit. Adam focuses on driving. Anna looks out the window.

Anna: I could turn on some Christmas carols. That will brighten our holiday spirits.

Adam: If you want.

Voice: WBCO Radio. Astrologists predict the world is ending in twelve days. Story at 6.

Voice 2: This is Saul Saunders with the daily stock report. Markets drop drastically despite seasonal spending.

Voice: Thanks for joining Cynthia Chats. On our show tonight – cheaters and the lies they tell their spouses.

Anna turns the radio off.

Anna: Okay, maybe no carols. Such a depressing world. I miss the days when all that mattered at Christmas was Christ.

Adam: When was that?

More silence as they continue to drive. Adam looks increasingly tense, muttering about traffic, tailgaters, etc.

Anna: Gosh this traffic is ridiculous.

Adam: You're telling me. It will only get worse, the closer we get to the city.

Anna: Alright, I'm going to use my time to check over the gift list. Make sure I didn't forget anything at home, or worse, forget anyone.

Adam: How much did you spend on all those gifts anyway?

Anna: *(nervously)* It did get to be a lot. More than usual. But, we worked some extra shifts, so it should be alright.

Adam: Why does the present list get so big every year? What does anyone really need?

Anna: Its tradition.

Adam: An expensive one.

Anna: Speaking of extra shifts. Has there been any more news about the rumored layoffs?

Adam: No. I'm not sure if that's a good thing, or a bad thing. I guess we'll just have to wait it out.

Anna: Yeah, nothing you can do really, except pray for the best.

Adam: I agree, but it's hard ya know? Like we aren't already worried enough. The economy is bad, politicians – one is worse than the next, and it seems like the environment is going to collapse at any minute.

Anna: I know. I know. I just don't know what to do about it.

More silence passes while they continue to drive.

Anna: Oh, there it is. The GPS says to take the next exit on the left.

Adam: I'll do my best.

Anna: I'll help. *(Craning back to look out rear windows)* Okay, wait for it --- now, yes, one more lane, hooold it, merge annnd exit.

Adam: Whew.

Anna: You can say that again.

Adam: Whew.

Anna: Alright, just a few more stop lights and the Holiday Inn will be on our right. Oh, goodness, the parking lot looks really full, doesn't it? I hope our reservation went through when I booked it online. I don't know if we'd survive the holidays if we had to stay at my parents' house.

Adam: You can say that again.

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Anna: I don't even want to risk saying it again out loud. Let's go in and check.

Adam: Remember all that bad news we were talking about? It might get worse.

Anna: You know what pastor says.

Adam: Life is difficult.

Anna: So pray hard.

Both: and pray often.

LIGHTS OUT

Scene 2

LIGHTS UP

0 BC - A couple is traveling by foot.

Esther: I saw a sign about an hour ago that said Bethlehem was just a few more miles. We should be there soon.

Jacob: On a normal day, yes, but not today. The census has people piling in from all corners of the world. I've seen swarms of locusts thinner than this crowd.

Esther: It is quite busy. Well, Caesar Augustus is the boss, and if the boss issues a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, then I guess we'd better follow it.

Jacob: It's hard to believe that everyone coming to Bethlehem is a descendant of David.

Esther: Looks like we have a few more relatives than we thought.

Jacob: *(sarcastically)* Very funny, but it could be worse. We could be that couple. Look. They only have one donkey. The woman is riding and the man is pulling the beast along. Can you imagine having to walk all the way?

Esther: Shh. Be nice. They could hear you.

Jacob: I doubt it. They are so far behind.

All characters and congregation sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Jacob: Finally. Arrived at last. Now, we just have to find an inn, which might be harder than we thought.

Esther: There are people everywhere. Some of them aren't even moving. Like that guy, just standing on the corner. What is he saying?

Jacob: I can't hear him, but I can guess. Probably another prophet, telling us all to turn from our evil ways. *(mimicking/mock tone)* The end of the world is coming. Turn away from your false gods.

Esther: Enough, Jacob. *(giggling)*

Jacob: *(continuing in mocking tone)* Renounce evil, save yourselves. The Savior is coming. Can you believe that? If He was coming, He would have been here already.

Esther: I'd like to believe He is still coming. We need one. Just look around this place. So many hungry people. Corrupted rulers, plagues, prophecies of destruction. It's a scary world. Maybe a savior is just the thing to save us.

Jacob: Well, He can show up at any time in my opinion.

Esther: Look. Let's try that Inn over there. *(pointing)*

Jacob: You stay here with the animals. I will go in and check. *(walks off stage)*

Esther stays seated and after a few moments begins looking bored. She checks her nails, whistles a song, and finally pulls out a magazine from the folds of her traveling cloak. Jacob walks out a few moments later.

Jacob: Well, we are in luck, but just barely. We got the last room.

Esther: Ah. Amazing. Now, let's get in before anyone can steal it from us. All these people around make me nervous. I was just reading about all the looting that happened here last month. *(shaking magazine out, pointing to an article)* And have you heard the rumors about King Herod? Everywhere, bad news.

Jacob: Just so long as it doesn't happen to us. Now let's get inside.

LIGHTS OUT