

Miracle Baby

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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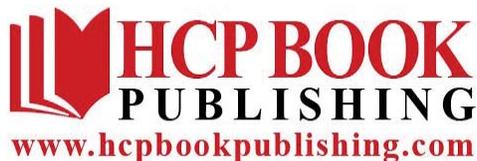


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Characters

JOHN

Melony's husband. He is an atheist, and though he loves his wife, he finds her obsession with God to be ridiculous. He really wants a child and struggles with not being able to become a father.

MELONY

John's wife. She is a devout Christian who trusts in God to fulfill His plan for her life. She wants a child even more than John. But, she also trusts that God works in His own time.

Setting

Melony and John live in an apartment in a large city in the United States of America.

TIME

Modern time, spanning about a year. Two Christmases pass during the time of this play.

ACT I

Scene 1	Bedroom.	Late November.
Scene 2	Bedroom.	The day after Scene 1.
Scene 3	Melony's Daycare.	The same day as Scene 2.
Scene 4	Bedroom.	The same day as Scene 2s & 3.
Scene 5	Bedroom.	February

Act II

Scene 1	Bedroom.	March
Scene 2	Bedroom.	April
Scene 3	Bedroom.	April
Scene 4	Bedroom.	December 24 th
Scene 5	Bedroom.	December 25 th , a little over a year after Act I -Scene 1.

The Story

Spanning a course of two years, a Christian wife on the verge of losing her marriage seeks God for a miracle.

Her husband is an atheist and is confused as to why she embraces her belief in God, but God is about to come through for them, and in the true spirit of Christmas, they will receive the gift of a miracle baby.

In the same way Jesus was born into this earth to save mankind, this miracle baby will save not just a failing marriage, but the soul of an unbeliever.

Play Details

Length: 45-60 Minutes

Cast: 1 Male, 1 Female, A Few Children (optional)

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

THE SCRIPT



ACT I - SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

(John enters stage right and is seen pacing around. There is a door located stage left, and he keeps looking towards it. There is a bed located against the wall)

JOHN: *(Pacing back and forth in front of the bed)* How long does it take? It's not a complicated process. *(He stops pacing and glances at the door, but nothing happens. He continues to pace)* I mean, it's not like it's a blood test or anything. They wouldn't give you a test to take home if it was something complicated. *(He turns toward the door again.)* Melony? Hello?

(A voice is heard from beyond the door at stage left.)

MELONY: Will you just hold your horses? Just sit down and relax or something.

JOHN: Relax? How can I-

MELONY: John. You're making me nervous.

JOHN: Alright, alright. *(He sits down on the bed, and his knees are bouncing up and down. He stands up again, takes a few steps, then returns to the bed.)* How am I supposed to relax? *(He sits down again)*

(Melony enters through the door stage left. She is holding a pregnancy test in her hand)

JOHN: *(Gets up immediately, having just sat down)* So?

MELONY: Will you just calm down? I don't know yet.

JOHN: But you just did the test.

MELONY: It takes a little bit before we get a result. *(She sits on the bed and puts the test in her lap. She motions for John to sit next to her.)*

JOHN: I don't want to sit. *(He paces back and forth in front of Melony)*

MELONY: John.

JOHN: What?

MELONY: Sit.

JOHN: Okay.

(He sits down immediately on the bed next to her, defeated by the authoritative tone in her voice)

MELONY: Good boy. *(She chuckles and nudges John playfully)*

JOHN: I'm just nervous. *(He begins to fidget with the blankets on the bed, pulling them up and bunching them in his fist, then letting them go)*

MELONY: Me too. Will you stop that? *(She puts a hand on John's, ceasing the fidgeting)*

JOHN: Sorry. Do we know yet?

MELONY: Maybe... *(She grabs the test and brings it closer to her face)* There's a result! *(She stands up)*

JOHN: What is it? *(He stands up to join Melony)*

(She looks at him, smiling, but as she looks back at the test, her smile fades quickly. She holds the test out to him, hanging her head)

JOHN: Is that good? *(He takes the test out of Melony's hands and moves a few steps away. He turns around to Melony again)* One line is positive, right?

MELONY: No, John. *(She shakes her head and sits down on the edge of the bed. She looks defeated)* One line is negative. It's negative. We're not pregnant.

JOHN: Are you sure? Maybe you should take one more, just in case.

MELONY: I'm sure. We're not having a baby, at least not yet.

JOHN: What do you mean not yet? *(He turns away from his wife)* We've been trying to have a baby for three years now, and not once have we had even the smallest glimmer of hope. You say not yet, I say not ever.

MELONY: John!

JOHN: Don't scold me. *(He throws the pregnancy test across the room, toward the door at stage left. It lands against the wall and he turns away in disgust)* We've been trying so long, I can't even remember the excitement we first had at the prospect of being parents. It's the same story every time: you think you're pregnant, and take the test, and "ta-da"--- not pregnant. Surprise, surprise.

MELONY: Oh, so it's my fault? *(She stands up, facing her husband)*

JOHN: I didn't say that-

MELONY: You might as well have. *(There is hurt, but also anger, in her voice. She points at him)* You probably think I'm the reason we can't have a baby. Well, I tell you what, Mr. Perfect, you're not all fine and dandy yourself. It's not all on me to have this baby.

JOHN: I'm not trying to say that. I'm just frustrated.

MELONY: And I'm not?

JOHN: *(He sighs. Shaking his head, he moves toward stage left)* You know what? Let's just go to bed. I've got a big day tomorrow, and I don't feel like fighting all night. *(He walks through the door)*

MELONY: Fine. *(She starts folding back the blankets on the bed)*

JOHN: You left the toothpaste cover off. *(He walks back through the door, a toothbrush in his mouth. He is holding a tube of toothpaste in his hand)*

MELONY: Really? You're going to bring that up right now? I thought you said you didn't want to fight.

JOHN: I just think it doesn't take long to put a cover back on a tube of toothpaste. *(He goes back into the bathroom, and comes out a few moments later to get into bed)*

(Melony gets into bed, and John follows shortly after. They roll away from each other)

JOHN: Night.

MELONY: Night.

LIGHTS FADE

ACT I - SCENE 2**LIGHTS UP**

(An alarm clock rings. John reaches out hastily to turn it off, and then sits on the edge of the bed. He stretches, then gets up to go to the bathroom. Melony sits up as he moves to the door at stage left, but she doesn't get out of bed.)

MELONY: Morning. *(She rubs her eyes and yawns. She is groggy with sleep.)*

JOHN: Sure is. *(He doesn't look at her, and continues into the bathroom.)*

MELONY: Well, you don't have to bite my head off. *(She mumbles, but doesn't say it too loud.)* So much for starting off fresh with a new day.

JOHN: What did you say?

MELONY: I said, what do you have going on today? *(She sits on the edge of the bed, but doesn't stand up.)*

JOHN: Big meetings and a lot of paperwork. I'll probably be home late.

MELONY: No surprise there.

JOHN: What are you saying? *(He comes out of the bathroom and leans against the door. He is dressed and ready for work.)*

MELONY: Nothing. *(She stands up and walks toward the bathroom.)*

JOHN: Oh, there's something there. *(He walks away from the door to let Melony pass, but he turns to face her as she enters the bathroom.)* What do you mean by "no surprise." Should I not go to work? Should I just stay home all day?

MELONY: No, that's not what I'm saying. You just work a lot, that's all. Can't you take a few evenings off?

JOHN: Well, I guess since I work so much, maybe it's a good thing we aren't having a baby yet: I apparently wouldn't ever be home.

MELONY: Don't say that. *(She comes back out into the bedroom.)* We both know that's not true. You would make a great father.

JOHN: I know. *(He walks toward Melony, tenderly reaching out. He touches her briefly, but walks away again.)* I just don't understand why it's so hard. If we want a child so much, why don't we have one yet? What did we ever do to deserve this?

MELONY: Don't worry, dear. God will bless us in His own time. He works on His own schedule.

JOHN: Oh, don't give me that. *(He scoffs at her and turns away.)* Please don't get all "Godly" on me. Your God has nothing to do with it.

MELONY: Sometimes He works in ways that we don't understand. *(She is clearly upset, and very defensive.)*

JOHN: God doesn't exist. *(He begins to raise his voice.)*

MELONY: John-

JOHN: It's time you grew up and stop believing in fairy tales. God isn't here. It's just you, and me, and all of our problems. It's time you figured out that there is no such thing as God. *(He storms off stage, exiting stage right.)*

(Melony looks stunned and hurt. She wants to say something but decides it's better to leave it alone: instead, she enters the bathroom to finish getting ready.)

LIGHTS FADE