

The Baby in Christmas

By
Bev DeMello

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This play is dedicated to Duane and Joan.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Ordinary people pull us into their lives as they endure the hectic days before Christmas. A mother is expecting, but the baby's father has left her. Little Jacob is being bullied, while Sara is trying to get through her teen years. Sara's parents are stressed over her attitudes and the holidays. Kathy thinks Christmas is about the gifts, while a homeless man has lost everything.

These characters may have closed minds and hearts, but finally, and reassuringly, all find Christmas joy. While keeping Baby Jesus as the true reason for the season, we see that figuratively we ourselves are babies in having to rediscover His message, needing to be reminded of it firsthand in our own unique ways. A nativity scene and numerous musical suggestions add beauty to the show.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

"The Baby in Christmas" was originally produced by the First Baptist Church of Tallahassee, FL, in December, 2005. It was directed by Bev DeMello; the music director and conductor was Michael Norris; the set design was by Bill Smith; the costume design was by Judy Harlow and Wanda Tillman; the original sound design was by Terry Baker and Dick Durbin; and the stage manager was Lisa Mitchell. The cast, in order of appearance, was as follows:

SARA, ANGEL: Mandy Webb.

JACOB, ELF, BOY SHEPHERD: Sherman Wilhelm.

JACOB'S MOTHER, MARY: Anna Norris.

JUNE: June Dollar.

JOHN, SHEPHERD: Grady Enlow.

KATHY: Michelle Nickens.

HURRICANE VICTIM: Leroy Rasberry.

POLICEMAN/MUSIC DIRECTOR/NARRATOR: Kevin Nickens.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 3 w, 1 teen g, 1 boy, extras.)

JACOB: A nine-year-old boy, plays an elf in his school play and shepherd boy in the church play.

MOTHER: Jacob's pregnant mother, plays Mary in the church play.

SARA: Typical sixteen-year-old girl with adolescent issues, plays the angel in the church play.

JUNE: Sara's mother, makes costumes for the church play.

JOHN: Sara's father, a businessman, plays a shepherd in the church play.

KATHY: June's friend, known as the church gossip.

H.V.: A hurricane victim down on his luck.

POLICEMAN/ NARRATOR/ MUSIC DIRECTOR: Can be played by one actor.

**A hurricane victim was used in this production, but can easily be changed to a homeless person or someone down on his luck, depending on the nature of the community in which the play is being performed.*

SET

The set should not be too elaborate. A round table with different tablecloths can be used to indicate a change in setting. One door frame could be used for all the entrances with two flats on either side. The nativity scene on stage needs to be very simple with some hay and a manger for the shepherds and Mary to kneel by. It can be preset for the show. Typical waiting room type chairs can indicate the hospital scene.

TIME

Without music, this play runs about 40 minutes.

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PROPS

Box (large enough for Jacob to fit inside.)
Kleenex
Backpack
Pencil
Crossword puzzle
Bar stool
Sewing supplies
Costumes for the church play
Cell phone
Briefcase
Shepherd's crook
Coffee cups
Bottle of water
Table-sized manger scene with ceramic Baby Jesus
Soft drinks
Cake
Lighter

Scene 1

OPTIONAL MUSIC: "Angels From the Realms of Glory," "Carol of the Faithful," "Laudate Deo Mundi."

(AT RISE: Outside a school, sometime after the regular class day has ended. A bully has put JACOB in a box. He's dressed in an elf costume, complete with pointed boots, pointed ears, a funny-looking hat and pouch. Because the box has been taped, the little boy is stuck in it and is calling for help. The audience cannot see him. Suddenly, SARA enters and hears his cries. Curious, she stares at the box.)

JACOB: *(Muffled.)* Help! Somebody, please, help me!

SARA: Something wrong?

JACOB: *(Pause.)* Hello? Hello? Help! Get me out of here!

SARA: *(Almost bored.)* You talking to me?

JACOB: Please help. I'm stuck!

SARA: Merry Christmas.

JACOB: It's not Christmas.

SARA: You're in a box, so I'm guessing you're a big Christmas present. A surprise gift, for me. But I'm not supposed to unwrap you until Christmas. Oh, well *(Starts walking.)*

JACOB: *(Calls out.)* I'm no present.

SARA: If you're no present, then what are you?

JACOB: Open me up and see!

(SHE removes the tape and opens the box lid. JACOB climbs out.)

JACOB: Thanks ... *(Brag.)* I'm the Magic Elf.

SARA: Some magic. You can't even escape from a cardboard box.

JACOB: I'm still the Magic Elf.

SARA: Yeah? Where's your fairy dust?

JACOB: *(Pointing.)* In my pouch.

SARA: *(Sarcastic.)* Can you make my parents disappear?

JACOB: Maybe ... for a PlayStation 2.

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SARA: Look, kid, you have no bargaining power. I rescued you.
(*Pointing.*) This stuff yours? So, how about my reward?

JACOB: I have an apple?!

SARA: I need cash.

JACOB: I don't have any money.

SARA: Figures. Guess I did something for nothing, again.

JACOB: How about if I owe you!

SARA: Forget it Who did this to you? (*Holding the cardboard box.*)

JACOB: Somebody bigger than me.

SARA: Everybody's bigger than you are.

JACOB: But not smarter. I can do a magic trick!

SARA: Your nose is bleeding. How about making it disappear?

(*SHE hands HIM a Kleenex from her pocket.*)

JACOB: (*Surprised, worried.*) My nose?

SARA: The blood, stupid. (*Studies him for a moment.*) So, Mr. Elf ... are you going to make sure all the good little children get presents?

JACOB: Maybe What do you want for Christmas?

SARA: To never have to go to school.

JACOB: I mean a present.

SARA: Whatever my parental units choose to give me.

JACOB: I wish I had a baby brother.

SARA: That's a stupid wish. You should only wish for toys. It's safer. Besides, there are too many people on this planet, already. We don't need anymore.

JACOB: There's room for my brother.

SARA: Sure kid.

JACOB: My mom's going to have a baby, and I want it to be a boy.

SARA: Why?

JACOB: So I can play with him. We'll be friends.

SARA: How sweet ... an Elf and his brother, Alf.

JACOB: My mom says a baby brings hope.

SARA: How does she know?

JACOB: Because of Christmas—

SARA: Maybe for you elves.

End of Freeview

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