Mystery of the Missing Magi
(Or...But Wait, There's Myrrh!)

By Brian Sylvia

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
© 2022 by Brian Sylvia

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://95church.com/mystery-of-the-missing-magi

DEDICATION

To John & Dot Sylvia, the most amazing parents a guy could have hoped for. Thank you for making sure that my childhood Christmases were filled with memory-making moments. I miss you both terribly, but am thankful for, and confident of, the eternal hope that we have in Jesus. Oh, and my family still sets up the nativity each Christmas from all those years ago (and there may or may not be a missing magi).

STORY OF THE PLAY

Detective Vic Torious is called to the home of famed archaeologist, Dr. Zeke N. Yeshalfind, who is hosting his annual Christmas dinner party for a few close friends and co-workers. During the party, he suddenly notices that his priceless 15th-century Nativity set is missing one of the magi. He demands that everyone remain there until Detective Vic Torious arrives. It is now Vic Torious' task to discover who "moved" the missing magi. After the suspects have been questioned, the audience will vote for who they think did it. The epilogue, delivered post-intermission, reveals the true culprit. But wait, there are multiple endings for multiple shows! Or you can simply select your favorite conclusion. An optional character, Carmen Geaux, may serve as the mistress of ceremonies for the production.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 5 - 6 w)

DETECTIVE VIC TORIOUS: (M) Detective who always gets to the bottom of it, while taking audience on a pun-derful journey. "True story."

DR. ZEKE N. YESHALFIND: (M) Retired archaeologist and host of the holiday party where his 15th-century Nativity set suddenly is missing one of the three magi.

CLARA FICAYSHUN: (F) Dr. Yeshalfind's loyal secretary who is recently retired, easily confused, and hearing impaired. Very southern.

AARON DETIRES: (M) The archaeologist's chauffeur and mechanic for his limousines.

SUE FLAY: (F) The newly hired cook who has an unknown past.

MARIAN FURMUNNY: (F) The outgoing, mid-30s young lady who has suddenly taken an interest in Dr. Yeshalfind.

JENNA ROSSITY: (F) Worker for a unique non-profit who has been soliciting for funds from Dr. Yeshalfind for the Christmas season.

WARREN PEECE: (M) The very British, longtime friend of Dr. Yeshalfind - or is he?

ROBIN IMBLIND: (F) The bookkeeper who may be getting "creative" with the doctor's finances.

CARMEN GEAUX: (F) Optional. The very Christmasy mistress of ceremonies. She is dressed in an over-the-top Christmas outfit, and leads the audience through the process, even singing a couple of Christmas carols with them.

SETTING

The sitting room in the home of Dr. Zeke N. Yeshalfind, an archaeologist. Set should be somewhat formal but cluttered. The only required prop is an oversized Nativity set with only two wise men present.

Prologue

(AT RISE: CARMEN enters wearing a very over-the-top Christmasy outfit. She delivers her lines directly to the audience.)

CARMEN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Carmen Geaux, your hostess for the evening. Thank you so much for joining us this spectacular, and somewhat alarming, holiday event. In just a little while you will meet a group of, let's just say, interesting individuals. Seven of these individuals all end up being suspects in a crime in Conundrum County. Not much happens in this county, so when it does, it's a big deal, especially during the Christmas season. There's no time like the Christmas holiday season here. The streets are decorated with wreaths and white lights, houses have manger scenes and inflatable snowmen in their front yards, and the sounds of Christmas carols fill the air. In case you can't tell… I just love Christmas!

Speaking of Christmas carols, why don't we get into the spirit of the season by singing one together right now. *(Leads the audience in a carol.)* Yes, Conundrum County is like a trip back in time in December. Well, except for this year. Our tranquil rural county has had a most spine-tingling crime occur. And to think this crime took place in the home of one of Conundrum County's most upstanding citizens, Dr. Zeke N. Yeshalfind, the world-famous archaeologist. Now before you assume too much, I think it's important to let you know that you're about to go on a journey of uncovering evidence. Pay close attention, because later on we'll be asking you to decide who you think is the guilty party. And remember, out of respect for the other amateur sleuths around you, do not, under any circumstances, use your cell phone. The video or audio recording of evidence is not allowed. You are to do all of this from memory. So, from me, Carmen Geaux, and all of us in Conundrum County, welcome to our quaint little piece of the world.

CARMEN: *(Cont'd.)* And please help us get to the bottom of our little problem. Get ready, because the guests of Dr. Zeke N. Yeshalfind are about to make their way out here. Have a good evening, and I'll see you later. Oh, and Merry Christmas.

(LIGHTS shift as VIC enters and CARMEN exits.)

VIC: *(Delivered downstage, mostly directed toward the audience.)* It was December twenty-first, and I was home baking Christmas muffins. Years ago, I worked for a bakery. Unfortunately, I was fired just when I felt like I was on a roll. *(Beat.)* That was the precise moment that I decided to go into crime solving. *(Aside.)* Side note, the confectionary I worked for was a special top-secret bakery. People found out about it on a knead to dough basis. Sadly, that bakery burned down. Now, the business is toast. *(Aside. Matter-of-fact.)* True story. My name is Vic, *(Pause.)* Vic Torious. Indeed, I have quite a reputation in this part of the country as the sleuth who almost always gets to the bottom of the mystery. Yes, I don't like to say it about myself, others say it about me. I hadn't had a legitimate case since I was called to the coffee shop in Mulberry Heights. While I was there, a lady had her coffee cup stolen as she was sitting there. I had to take her to the police station so she could look at *(Pause.)* mug shots. *(Aside. Matter-of-fact.)* True story. And, just like Quasimodo, I always have a hunch. But today was different. I received a call from Dr. Zeke N. Yeshalfind, Conundrum County's famous archaeologist. One of his prized items had been stolen, apparently by a guest at his annual Christmas party.

So here I was four days before Christmas and that call came in. I was summoned to Dr. Yeshalfind's estate. The guests were all asked to remain and were cooperating so far. I wasn't sure what I would encounter. The kind doctor's call was so brief that I failed to ascertain what item was missing. I was hoping this wasn't like when I received an emergency call regarding a balloon thief.

VIC: *(Cont'd.)* The caller made it sound urgent, when in reality the scenario was *(Pause.)* inflated. *(Aside. Matter-of-fact.)* True story. *(Exits.)*

(LIGHTS out.)

Scene 1

(LIGHTS up. VIC walks onto the main stage. There is an oversized Nativity set on the mantle/table upstage center. It has only two magi.)

VIC: Curious. No one is here. I can only hope this isn't like that thief who had stolen the Teflon-coated pans. Prosecutors couldn't make that case stick.

(DOC enters.)

VIC: *(Cont'd.)* I have never personally met Dr. Zeke N. Yeshalfind. I hear he's an old, somewhat cranky, and very *(Turns to see DOC standing there.)* distinguished young gentleman. Dr. Yeshalfind, I presume. *(Smiles.)*
DOC: *(Extends hand to shake.)* You presume correctly. And you must be detective Vic Torious.
VIC: I must because that is who I am.
DOC: *(Confused.)* I'm sorry.
VIC: No need to apologize. *(Looking around.)* The place is a little untidy, but that's to be expected. After all, you were having a party.
DOC: But I called you because something has been stolen.
VIC: *(Oblivious.)* You said on the phone that something had been stolen.
DOC: I called you because of this. *(Points at Nativity.)*
VIC: Not that! It can't be! *(Acting horrified.)* What a horrific scene. And right here in your own living room!
DOC: What seems to have you so terrified?
VIC: *(Matter-of-factly.)* I'm not sure. What exactly is so terrifying about that? *(Points at Nativity.)*

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://95church.com/mystery-of-the-missing-magi

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!