

# Three Nativity Plays for Christmas

*by*  
*Linda Aranda*

## **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 Encore Performance Publishing, LLC. Call 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 Encore Performance Publishing."

PUBLISHED BY

**ENCORE PERFORMANCE PUBLISHING**  
**encoreplay.com**

© 1994 by *Linda Aranda*

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<https://95church.com/three-nativity-plays>

### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

As "The Reluctant Shepherd," ten-year-old Toby invents numerous excuses to keep from participating in the live nativity at his church. Later, standing on the cold hillside under the sparkling stars, Toby and the other shepherds bring the true meaning of Christmas to life for passing motorists. A well used crèche helps bring calm to the chaos as two exuberant children decorate for Christmas without adult supervision. The nativity figures, though scratched and broken, can be used, "One More Time," as a busy working mother and her two quarrelsome children retell the story of Jesus' birth. In "A Homemade Christmas Eve," a recovering cancer patient tries to organize her large, unruly family into a live nativity. Battling her uncertain health and a disagreeable daughter-in-law, Eileen persists in creating a memorable evening in the barn for all involved. Three delightful plays with heartwarming messages for that most wonderful time of the year. Can be produced separately or as an evening of entertainment.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

### **THE RELUCTANT SHEPHERD**

MOTHER: Toby's mother.

TOBY: A boy about 9 or 10.

SHEPHERD 1: Older youth or adult.

SHEPHERD 2: About 12 or 13.

SHEPHERD 3: Older youth or adult.

SHEPHERD: Older youth or adult.

ANGELS: Any number.

### **ONE MORE TIME**

Mother

Chuck-a boy about 12 or 13

Karen-a girl about 8 or 9

### **A HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS EVE**

Eileen-woman about 55

Kristen-woman about 25

Donna-woman about 35

Carol-woman about 35

Amy-girl about 7 or 8

Stephanie-girl about 10 or 12

Jeremy-boy about 10 or 12

Kyle-boy about 7 or 8

Tom-man about 25

Mike-man about 30-35

Ron-man about 25 or 30

David-man about 30-35

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **THE RELUCTANT SHEPHERD**

Costumes; Contemporary dress for Mother and Toby.  
Traditional costumes for shepherds and angels.  
Properties: plate of cookies, magazine for Toby, Christmas cards, pen, thermometer.  
Setting: Scene 1-family room decorated for Christmas.  
Scenes 2 and 3-no special setting except several chairs arranged around room.  
Lighting: In Scene 2, spotlight center stage.  
Playing Time: 10-15 minutes.

Costumes: Contemporary dress.  
Properties: Nativity set, boxes, assorted Christmas decorations, tissue paper, glue.  
Lighting: Spotlight on finished nativity.  
Playing Time: 10-15 minutes.

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary dress, traditional biblical costumes in Scene 6.  
**PROPERTIES:** 2 telephones, easy chair, magazine, 2 end tables, 2 lamps, large bowl, spoon, small bookcase, large table and chairs, books, manger, doll, 3 gifts for kings, lighted star.  
**SETTINGS:** Scenes 1, 2, 4, & 5: left-easy chair, end table with lamp, bookcase behind chair. right-large table or counter, chairs and telephone.  
Scene 3: Small tables on right and left with lamps and telephones.  
Scene 6: Interior of barn, manger  
**LIGHTING:** Scene 6: spotlight shepherds, spotlight kings.  
**SOUND EFFECTS:** telephone ringing, Scene 4-knocking  
**PLAYING TIME:** 15-20 minutes.

## THE RELUCTANT SHEPHERD

### Scene 1

*(AT RISE: Family room decorated for the Christmas season.)*

TOBY: Aw Mom, do I really have to be a shepherd in that dumb thing at church tonight? *(Looks up from magazine.)*

MOTHER: *(Looks up from small table where she is addressing Christmas cards.)* Toby, being a part of the live nativity is not dumb.

TOBY: But Mom, it's outside and it'll be cold. *(Shivers.)*

MOTHER: Stop thinking about yourself. You'll be playing an important part in bringing the story of Christ's birth to hundreds of people.

TOBY: Yeah, sure. All those people driving by in their nice warm cars while I'm standing out there freezing my....

MOTHER: That's enough, Toby, just be sure to wear several layers of clothes. That will keep you warm. *(Looks back down at the cards.)* and wear your insulated boots, too.

TOBY: Aw, Mom, who ever heard of a shepherd wearing insulated boots!

MOTHER: It will be dark, Toby, and no one will notice. Now go find your boots. I have a few more cookies to put in the oven. *(SHE exits.)*

TOBY: Whose dumb idea was this anyway--creating the Christmas story outside so some stupid people can drive by and stare at us. Maybe if I can convince Mom that I don't feel good she won't make me go.

*(TOBY goes to closet, throws boots and coat into his chair. MOTHER enters holding a small plate of cookies.)*

MOTHER: Toby would you like to have a freshly, baked cookie. They're your favorite--peanut butter.

Three Nativity Plays for Christmas

- 6 -

TOBY: I don't think so, Mom. *(Holds stomach.)* I feel a little hot and sick at my stomach right now.

MOTHER: *(Feeling TOBY'S head.)* Don't tell me you're coming down with something. There has been a lot of flu going around. Sit down and I'll get the thermometer.

*(SHE exits. TOBY sits down heavily on a nearby chair. He hangs his head down even when his mother re-enters.)*

MOTHER: *(Continued.)* Here we go. Let's just check your temperature to make sure. *(She shakes thermometer.)* Open wide. *(She puts the thermometer in Toby's mouth and keeps an eye on her watch.)* Okay, time's up. Let's see what we've got here. *(Looks at thermometer.)* Just what I thought--normal. *(Suspiciously.)* What are you trying to pull, Toby?

TOBY: Nothing Mom, honest. I really do feel kind of funny.

MOTHER: You've been worrying so much it has probably upset you stomach a little. *(Sternly.)* Don't forget, people are counting on you to show up.

TOBY: *(Whines.)* But Mom, I'm the only kid who's going to be a shepherd. I won't have anybody to talk to.

MOTHER: This isn't a party, Toby. You and the other shepherds will be standing on the hill behind the church with the sheep. The shepherds play a significant part in the Christmas story. Now get your coat on while I wrap up the cookies.

*(SHE exits. TOBY is putting on his boots, coat and gloves in slow motion. He still isn't finished when she re-enters with the cookies.)*

MOTHER: Did you go to the bathroom? *(Puts down cookies and puts on her own coat.)*

TOBY: Yes, Mom. *(A smile crosses his face.)* Mom, what if I have to go to the bathroom while I'm outside. We'll be there 'three hours.'

MOTHER: You take turns coming inside to get warmed up and go to the bathroom. That's why I'm taking cookies.

## **End of Freeview**

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<https://95church.com/three-nativity-plays>

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!