

WHY MY CHILD

By Gregory Banks

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Gina and Steven Hart are ready to take their newborn son home from the hospital Christmas Eve when a man they think is an orderly takes the infant from their arms. Soon they, and the doctors, nurses, minister and others realize the baby has been kidnapped. As a search swings into force, the distraught, exhausted couple envision the Holy Spirit. In two dramatic inset scenes, the Holy Spirit shows that when parents ask, "Why my child?" as Mary must have questioned the future of baby Jesus, God always has answers. A beautiful ending reaffirms the blessings of the season.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6m, 8w, 1 flex., 3b)

STEVEN and GINA HART: Their baby is kidnapped.

DR. BOWMAN: Gina's physician.

PASTOR: The family's helpful pastor.

NURSE: Feels responsible for baby.

NATHAN and DEANNA BRICE: Couple who has lost their child.

MARY/JOSEPH: Parents of Jesus.

2 ROMAN OFFICERS: Take the innocent boy babies.

SUSANNA, ELIZA, and RACHEL: Mothers of the boy babies.

HOLY SPIRIT: Reaffirms the Harts' faith in God.

Playing Time: 30 minutes.

SET DESIGN

The play opens in Gina Hart's hospital room with her bed and a chair SR and the doorway CS. For Deanna Brice's hospital room, simply move the bed to SL and add a partition or curtain and any medical equipment as IV line, etc. The bed should have the upper half raised so that audience can see the actress' face. Manger scene is placed USL.

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PROPS

Baby doll wrapped in blanket; charts for Dr. Bowman; dismissal papers for Nurse; 3 wrapped baby dolls for women; swords for soldiers; decree for chief soldier.

SOUND EFFECTS

Hospital messages announced over PA system; baby crying; taunts against Jesus in inset scene.

COSTUMES

Gina Hart wears pretty gown and robe; Steven wears casual winter clothes; Doctor wears white jacket over street clothes; Nurse wears uniform; Pastor wears a dark suit; Nathan Brice wears white shirt, dark slacks in first appearance, then hospital orderly clothes with mask and surgical cap to see his wife; Deanna Brice wears hospital gown; Holy Spirit is covered entirely in white, including a hood to hide the face; Mary and Joseph wear Biblical garb; Mothers wear white gowns under their Biblical garb; Romans wear soldier uniforms and carry swords; and Boys from Rama wear angel costumes.

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: A private room of the maternity ward in a local hospital. GINA and STEVEN HART have just given birth to their first son. After many unsuccessful attempts to have a child, God blesses them with the birth of their son two days before Christmas. Gina lies in bed asleep with her head away from Steven who is sitting in the chair laid back watching his wife sleep. Gina softly wakes and rolls over to face Steven with a smile.)

GINA: Hi, honey, how are you?

STEVEN: Oh, I'm fine, but I didn't just go through sixteen hours of labor, either. I think a better question is how are you doing?

GINA: Just a little tired is all. Has the doctor been in yet? She said she'd come back this evening and maybe we'd talk about going home tonight, since it's Christmas Eve.

STEVEN: No, I haven't seen her yet, but I'm sure she'll be by soon.

(DOCTOR BOWMAN enters SL carrying a blanket wrapped baby doll and GINA'S charts.)

DR. BOWMAN: Look, who I found wandering the halls.

(THEY grin and SHE brings the baby over and lays it in Gina's arms. She walks to the end of the bed and opens her patient's chart. Gina is playing and softly talking to her son and Steven stands and leans over as not to miss any of the excitement.)

DR. BOWMAN: Well, as best as I can tell from your chart, you've been doing fine. I see no reason why baby Zackary shouldn't spend his first Christmas at home with his mom and dad.

STEVEN: Are you sure they are ready, doctor?

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DR. BOWMAN: Yes, they're in good shape. Tomorrow morning would be the normal dismissal time anyway and since it is Christmas Eve, I see no problem with your family sharing it together around a warm Christmas fire, tonight.

GINA: Thank you, Doctor. We really appreciate everything you've done.

DOCTOR: It's my pleasure. Not everyone can help bring a life into the world. I have to double check with the nurses station and I'll have someone speak to you when they are ready to prepare you to leave. You each have a Merry Christmas.

(GINA and STEVEN wish HER Merry Christmas as she leaves SL. They both gaze for a few moments at their new SON.)

GINA: Steven, isn't this the most beautiful child you've ever seen?

STEVEN: He sure is, honey. God's been so good to us. *(Pause.)* I'd almost given up hope of ever having a child.

GINA: *(Quiver in HER voice.)* Steven, I don't know if I could have lived through another miscarriage. We've had so many disappointments that another one may have been more than I could bear. I only made it through the other five times with the Lord's help.

STEVEN: *(Clasping HER closest hand with both of HIS hands.)* I know, dear, if God willed we go through it again, it would have to be the same way, with His help; but I'm *(Emphasized.)* SO glad he chose to bless us this time with a beautiful young son. I have you and now I have Zackary. We're a family. *(With pride.)* I couldn't want anything more.

GINA: Yeah, he's the greatest Christmas gift we've ever gotten. *(Pause.)* Look, he's got your little pug nose.

STEVEN: Oh great, not only will he carry on my family name but our most distinctive characteristic, too. At least he's got your eyes; we wouldn't want him to look too much like me, would we?

End of Freeview

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