Email and the Night Visitors

By Scott Icenhower

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Kaylee is not particularly thrilled about having to be part of a living Nativity at her church. Instead of standing outside in the cold, posing with her friends in costumes like a cheap religious Christmas card, she'd rather be with her boyfriend. The others have varying opinions, but all agree that emailing, texting and playing on their cell phones help pass the time between running to positions whenever a car passes. Kaylee just thinks it's all a waste of precious time. But sometimes God chooses crazy things, like this living Nativity, to share His love. So on a night like this, He might let a group of over-costumed kids minister a to lonely mother with a sick child. He might even let a zebra escape from the zoo. In the end, the night gets a little more crazy, and a little more holy, as hearts are changed and lives are healed. Running time: around 30 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The first version of the play premiered at Artistic Motion's Drama Showcase 2016.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
Cast of 10. (2 w, 3 teen girls, 5 teens)

KAYLEE: (Mary) She's the oldest and is dating.
MOM: Kaylee's mother. Loving, practical, and firm handed.
BRITNEY: (Shepherd 1)
***CARRIE:** (Joseph)
***CINDY:** (Wise Man 1)
***MINDY:** (Wise Man 2)
***WENDY:** (Wise Man 3)
SHERRY: (Angel)
***HUNTER:** (Shepherd 2)
MRS. MARTIN: Mid-thirties and mother of sick child.

*Indicates flexible roles.

SET

The set can be as simple as just having a manger in the middle of the stage area, a box behind it for Mary to sit on and a second box for the angel to stand on to achieve some levels. The manger serves as the central position for the "Nativity" structure so the costumed actors have a reference point as they move in and out of the "Nativity."

COSTUMES

Just use the robes, head pieces, and fake beards, etc. associated with an outdoor living Nativity. They are supposed to be cold while they are out there. So they could wear gloves, hats, and coats or just act like they’re freezing.

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(AT RISE: The "living Nativity" in the front yard of a church. KAYLEE, dressed as Mother Mary, arrives at the Nativity with her MOM.)

KAYLEE: There's no one here.
MOM: Somebody's got to be first.
KAYLEE: So you're just going to leave me out here alone?
MOM: No, I'll wait for the others. I want to make sure you do this.
KAYLEE: Oh, so you don't trust me?
MOM: You've given me good reason not to lately.
KAYLEE: One time I stay out a little late with Michael... and now I'm a criminal. I said I was sorry.
MOM: You were supposed to call or text. Your father and I were worried sick.
KAYLEE: You could punish me in other ways. Send me to my room. Take my cell phone for a day. Make me eat Aunt Tilley's meat loaf.
MOM: I love you too much to do that. And you're not being punished. I simply want you to spend more time with other people this Christmas, not just Michael. You should keep your options open.
KAYLEE: There's nothing wrong with Michael.
MOM: I'm not saying there is.
KAYLEE: Dad doesn't like him.
MOM: Well, get used to that. He won't like anybody you bring home. You're daddy's little darling princess.
KAYLEE: Great, I'll dye this black and be a nun.
MOM: And my little drama queen.
KAYLEE: Mom, you're embarrassing me.
MOM: There's no one here. How are you embarrassed?
KAYLEE: This is crazy.
MOM: No it's not.
KAYLEE: Standing in the freezing cold? For what? For who?
MOM: You'd be surprised. Sometimes the craziest things are what the Lord chooses to use.

KAYLEE: Yeah, right.
MOM: Thirty minutes. Make it my Christmas present, or one of them. Come on. Get in the spirit.
KAYLEE: Whatever.
MOM: Thank you. I've got some shopping to do. Dad will expect you back in an hour or so.
KAYLEE: How do I get back?
MOM: Britney's coming. She and her mom can take you home.
KAYLEE: You've thought of everything.
MOM: Behave yourself. You look beautiful. And thank you for my Christmas present.

(SHE starts to kiss KAYLEE when she hears some of the OTHERS laughing as they approach.)

MOM: *(Cont'd.)* Here they come. I don't want to embarrass you. See you back home.

(MOM exits. KAYLEE immediately pulls out her cell phone and starts texting. BRITNEY and HUNTER enter.)

BRITNEY: Hey, Kaylee. Mom said you were coming. I didn't think you'd already be down here.
HUNTER: I thought you hated this stuff.
BRITNEY: Are you texting Michael?
KAYLEE: Yeah, I asked him to come by.
BRITNEY: See if he can bring David.

(CINDY, MINDY and WENDY enter.)

WENDY: Wise Men in the house. We can get this party started.
MINDY: Oh that's right. This is Jesus' first birthday party.
CINDY: And because "magic" comes from the word "Magi," that means Jesus had magicians at his first birthday party.
MINDY: I had a clown at mine when I was eight.

(SHERRY enters.)

End of Freeview

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