

## SCENE 1

GRACE (*with attitude, talking to audience*): OK . . . so here's the deal. My name is Grace and I'm an angel.

HALO (*impressed*): Ooo . . . an angel?

GRACE: Yes, Halo. An angel! Remember? So are you.

HALO: Oh, yeah . . . Ooooh . . . I'm an angel too.

GRACE: And I've asked Nimbus to join us to tell you a story about some shepherds.

HALO: Nimbus? What a great name. Are you an angel too?

NIMBUS: What gave it away? The wings? The halo?

(EVERYONE *laughs*)

HALO: Did you say halo? Wait . . . how did you know my name?

GRACE: I don't think that's what she . . . oh, never mind. Halo . . . meet Nimbus.

NIMBUS: Yes! I am Nimbus! Perhaps you've heard of me . . . Angel! Brighter than lightning, slash, heavenly aura . . . look it up! N-I-M-B-U-S! Nimbus!

HALO: Uh . . . look it up on what?

NIMBUS: Uh . . . on the cloud . . .

(EVERYONE *laughs*)

NIMBUS (*ignoring the question*): So . . . about those shepherds. You see . . . they played a very important role in the Christmas story. In fact, they were the very first ones to hear the news that Jesus was born.

HALO: Oh, wow! How did you know? Were you there?

NIMBUS: Well, funny you should ask . . .

SHEPHERD 1 (*interrupting*): Excuse me . . . how 'bout if I tell the story?

HALO: And who are you?

SHEPHERD 1: I'm just a shepherd.

SHEPHERD 2: That's right . . . he's just a shepherd. Just like me.

(EVERYONE *laughs*)

SHEPHERD 1: And we WERE there!

SHEPHERD 2: We sure were . . . right there . . . that's where we were.

(SHEPHERD 1 *looks frustratingly at SHEPHERD 2*)

(EVERYONE *laughs*)

SHEPHERD 1: Well, the night started out pretty normal. Out there on the hillside, just watching our sheep.

SHEPHERD 2: That's what we were doing . . . just watching our . . .

SHEPHERD 1 (*interrupting*): OK! I think they get it.

(EVERYONE *laughs*)

SHEPHERD 1: I was about to say . . . it was a quiet night.

SHEPHERD 2: Shhhhhh (*with finger over mouth*)

(SHEPHERD 1 *sits him down as if to say "enough"*)

SHEPHERD 1: . . . but everything changed in a hurry. We saw this really really bright light up in the sky and . . . (*hesitates*) and . . . (SHEPHERD 2 *puts on sunglasses*) we were scared!

SHEPHERD 2 (*jumps and blurts out*): Yep, SCARED! We were SOOO SCARED!

SHEPHERD 1: SOOO SCARED is right!

SHEPHERD 2: Uh . . . I think they get it.

(EVERYONE *laughs*)

SHEPHERD 1: Now I may just be a shepherd, but I'll tell you this. I know an angel when I see one.

SHEPHERD 2: And I know a bright light when I see one. (*Lowers and raises sunglasses*)

HALO (*talking to the other angels*): An angel! They're talking about me.

NIMBUS: No, Halo, I do believe they are talking about me. Bright light? Nimbus? Remember? (*Looks at GRACE*) Is she ALWAYS this flighty?

(EVERYONE *laughs*)

SHEPHERD 1: But the angel told us not to be afraid.

SHEPHERD 2: Because we were about to hear some really good news.

GRACE: Yes! The greatest news ever!

(*Music begins*)

HALO (*to GRACE*): So you heard it too?

EVERYONE (*staggering their responses*): Yes Halo! We all heard it.

51

*mp*

Oo.

*mp*

## SCENE 2

HALO: So . . . tell me . . . tell me . . . tell me . . .

GRACE: Tell you what, Halo?

HALO: I've just got to know. What was the good news?

GRACE: Halo! You were there!

HALO: I was? Oh, that's right I remember now . . . I just forgot.

SHEPHERD 2: So, which is it? Do you remember or did you forget?

NIMBUS: Uh . . . am I the only one here in the dark?

*(EVERYONE laughs)*

SHEPHERD 1: Like I said, we saw a bright light. *(NIMBUS raises his hand)* Then an angel appeared.

*(GRACE raises her hand)*

SHEPHERD 2: All we knew was something wasn't right. *(HALO raises her hand)*

GRACE: Well, actually, everything was exactly right. That's what the Good News was. "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you and He is Christ the Lord."

NIMBUS: "This will be a sign to you: You will find a Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

SHEPHERD 1: And then something else happened! It was like the whole sky was filled with angels.

*(Whole cast of ANGELS raise their hands)*

SHEPHERD 2: And they were singing! REALLY LOUD!

(GRACE *turns around to all the angels, and gives them a pitch and leads them singing*)

GRACE: All right. Here we go.

(ANGELS *sing a portion of the "Hallelujah Chorus."*)

SHEPHERD 1: I don't even know if the angels had stopped singing, but we were already off to Bethlehem.

SHEPHERD 2: That's what happened alright . . . just a couple of shepherds, leaving our sheep behind and heading to Bethlehem. But wait! I have a question. The angel said it was in the town of David. How did you know that meant Bethlehem?

SHEPHERD 1 (*sarcastically*): What hillside have you been living on? Everyone knows Bethlehem IS the town of David.

SHEPHERD 2: Well . . . yeah . . . I guess I knew that . . . but with all the commotion . . . I mean it's not every night that you hear an angel sing.

GRACE: Well . . . technically it was a host of angels!

SHEPHERD 2: Or see a light in the sky . . .

NIMBUS: Can you say "Glory of the Lord?"

SHEPHERD 2: Or hear an announcement . . .

GRACE: An announcement? (*With more attitude*) I believe it was a little more than JUST an announcement! It was the greatest news ever and it meant great joy for ALL the people.

SHEPHERD 2 (*looks at SHEPHERD 1*): So even though you knew we were going to Bethlehem, how could you be so sure that we could find the manger with a baby in it?

SHEPHERD 1: Well . . . I just believed that if God went to all that trouble to tell us where to go and what we would find, I was pretty sure that He would lead us to the right place.

SHEPHERD 2: Wow! So you were that sure . . . of everything?

SHEPHERD 1: I wouldn't say everything.

SHEPHERD 2: What weren't you sure of?

SHEPHERD 1: If you really want to know, (*music begins*) I wasn't sure why God chose us to be the first ones to hear the news.

(*During the song, the pieces come together to form the traditional nativity scene and is timed to be fully in place by the end of the song.*)

59

The ones who heard the Good

62

News first uncertain poor shepherds

### SCENE 3

SHEPHERD 2 (*walking towards nativity scene*): Are we there yet? Are we there yet?

SHEPHERD 1: No! We're not there yet . . . but we have to be getting close. Bethlehem just isn't that big a town.

SHEPHERD 2 (*spoken with attitude to the tempo of the song*): "O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie . . ."

(ANGELS *laugh* and SHEPHERD 1 *stares at him as if to say, "Are you serious?"*)

HALO: Shh . . . I see them coming. They're almost here.

(*All the ANGELS form a line or wall to lead the SHEPHERDS to the nativity scene*)

GRACE: Nimbus, maybe you can shine a little light to help them find their way.

(*Music begins*)

NIMBUS: Oh, I've got a feeling they'll find it just fine.

(*As the SHEPHERDS walk past the line of angels, they fall in behind the SHEPHERDS and follow them to the stable. As they arrive, there is no dialogue at all. The SHEPHERDS reverently kneel before the manger while the angels form a circle around them.*)

## SCENE 4

SHEPHERD 1: So, that's the Christmas story . . .

SHEPHERD 2: Yup . . . that's the story alright . . . and just think . . . we were there when it started.

GRACE: Well . . . actually, the story began a long, long time ago.

SHEPHERD 1: You mean there was more?

SHEPHERD 2: That's what she means alright . . . there was . . . wait! More than us?

NIMBUS: Maybe I can shed a little light on the subject. You see . . . from the very beginning, God had a plan. He loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to save His people from their sins.

GRACE: He shared His plan with the prophets of old.

SHEPHERD 2: Well I'm all about some good 'ol profit-sharing. (*Looks at audience, smiles, and winks or nods his head*)

GRACE: God even spoke through angels . . .

HALO: Angels? I wish I could have been there.

EVERYONE: You WERE there! (*EVERYONE laughs*)

HALO: Oh . . . sorry . . . sometimes I forget what I meant to remember. Wait . . . what were we talking about?

SHEPHERD 1: What I was trying to say is, THAT'S the story of Christmas.

SHEPHERD 2: I know a couple of certain poor shepherds who can't wait to tell it.

(*Music begins*)

HALO: A story like is this too good not to tell . . .

GRACE: . . . and tell . . .

NIMBUS: . . . and tell . . .

ENTIRE CAST: . . . AND TELL IT AGAIN!!!