

A script from



“The Shepherds”

by
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- What** Modern take on the story of the angel appearing to the shepherds on the eve of Jesus’ birth. **Themes:** Comedy-Drama, Christmas, Love, Miracles, Shepherds, Bethlehem, Family, Gospel, Discipleship
- Who** **Dan Shepherd:** Father of an unruly clan
Trish Shepherd: Loving-but-stressed clan mom
Nikki: Pre to young teen; On-edge middle-schooler. More anxious and insecure than her family realizes
Colin: (Older teen) Absorbed in his portable game box. Written as male, but may be played by a female (“Colleen”)
The Meemies: The younger Shepherd children—there are at least two, but any number may be used
Ms. Angell: Pronounced "An-JELL". Any age. Written as female, but may be played by a male (Mr. Angell). Witty, compassionate. Knows the Shepherds better than they know themselves
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Casual clothes
Two tables with chairs
Hand-held game system, menus, pocket-sized toys
- Why** Luke 2:15-20; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 9:6
- How** The Shepherds are astonished at what they see and hear—make sure their joy comes through! Find a way for Ms. Angell to slip on and off-stage without being seen by the audience.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

The **Shepherds** enter, their younger children (**Meemies**) running amuck.

Trish: Hey! Hey! C'mon guys! Now, I know you're all goofy-tired, but—

Dan: *(To the rescue)* No grass until the sheep get in their stall!

This is family code. **The Meemies** run and dive into chairs, giggling, acting like sheep.

Meemies: *(Overlapping one another)* Bah! Bah! Bah! Bah!

Dan: OK, so who wants a hamburger?

Meemies: *(More overlapping)* Me! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me!

Nikki: How far to Grandma and Grandpa's?

Trish: 154 miles, Nikki, same as when we got out of the car—

Dan: *(Looks at watch)* 42 seconds ago.

Trish: I'm tired too, but whining won't change—

Nikki: *(Whining)* I'm not whining! And I refuse to sit with the Meemies; they're all sticky and gross!

Colin: Come on, Picky Nikki, you can sit with me.

Nikki: I hate it when you call me that!

Nikki drags herself tragically over to **Colin's** table. **Meemies** squabble over menu, toys, etc.

Trish: *(Wearily)* Dan, honey, tell them a story or something, will you?

Dan: I don't... *(Looks at Trish, sees her pleading eyes. To the kids)* Who wants a Christmas story?

Meemies: Me! Me! Me! Ooooo! Me! Me! Me!

Dan: *(Big breath, trying to sound enthused)* OK, so there was this kid who really, really wanted an air rifle for Christmas.

Nikki: I hate that movie!

Angell: *(Suddenly stepping into view)* Cute, but you can do better than that, Shepherds.

Trish: Whoa! Where did you—how did you know our name?

Angell: I'm Ms. Angell, the Night Manager.

Dan: Here at Whoopees?

Angell: Think bigger, Dan. Lots bigger. Now... (to **Meemies**) Who wants a miracle?

Meemies: Oooo! Me! Me! Me! Me! Me!

Dan: I don't see that on the menu. Is it a special?

Angell: About as special as it gets. (*Stands on chair*) It was nighttime, and the Shepherds were keeping watch over their flock... (*Gestures to **Meemies***)

Meemies: (*Jumping to floor and pretending to graze*) Bah! Bah! Bah! Bah!

Angell: ...who were grazing *silently* nearby. (*Snaps her fingers*)

Meemies immediately become quiet.

Trish: I'll give you a million dollars if you tell me how you did that!

Angell: When an angel appeared. (*Jumps down from chair*) At your service.

*She curtsies, then goes over to **Colin** and touches his game box.*

Colin: (*Looking up*) Whoa! What did...where did all the hearts come from? "Eternal life points?"

Angell: I know the Designer personally.

Angell touches **Colin's** chest. He jerks, as if awakened from a dream, puts his game box away, and goes and sits across from Dan.

Colin: Dad?

Dan: What, Colin?

Colin: I don't know what I want to be, and it's freaking me out. Can we talk about it...soon?

Dan: (*Smiling, caught off guard*) Of course, son.

Angell: (*Gently shuts **Nikki's** gaping mouth for her*) And no more fear for you, sweetie. You're not alone. God loves you so much! (*Touches **Nikki's** heart*) He's going to live right here from now on.

Nikki gasps, rises, hugs **Ms. Angell**, then goes and sits next to **Trish**, putting her head on her shoulder. **Trish** stifles a sob.

Angell: This day the Savior is born in your hearts, Shepherds, and you will never be the same again. That miracle that happened 2,000 years ago? Well, it was so big—*is so big*—that it's still happening! And here's the sign. When you look for Jesus, you'll find him, right here—born anew inside of you. (*Touches Dan's chest*)

Dan: Whoa! Holy—

Trish: Dan!

Dan: No, I mean that literally! He's here! God is *with us*!

Angell: "Emmanuel." He's got other names too. (*Touches Trish's chest*)

Trish: (*Gasps*) Oh, my— Wonderful Counselor! Prince of Peace!

Angell: Yep! (*To the entire family*) Your faith is a baby, Shepherds, just like Jesus was. But if you love him, if you live your life for him, your faith will grow, and you'll soon realize: everything that matters is about him. And anything that isn't? Well, it doesn't really matter. Now, Shepherds...

Angell gestures for family to rise. They do, and then cluster excitedly around her.

Angell: (*Continuing*) Go and make known what you've heard—(*Aside*) avoid the Whoopee burger, by the way—and glorify God for all you've seen and heard. Tell everyone—with your words *and* your lives—and all will marvel at these things!

The **Shepherds** embrace **Angell**, then suddenly pull back. She's gone! They laugh joyfully.

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