

A script from



## “The Wisemans”

by  
Mitch Teemley

- What** In this modern take on the story of the Magi, the Wisemans, a family of seekers, discover the true meaning of Christmas. **Themes:** Comedy-Drama, Christmas, Guidance, Giving, Faith, Love, Wise Men, Magi
- Who** Talia Wiseman – (teen) Christmas is her favorite holiday. Still, she senses that something is missing in her and her family’s lives  
Colleen Wiseman – Loving wife and mother, but also increasingly aware of an unfulfilled sense of longing  
Bill Wiseman – Committed dad whose pride hinders his ability to see that he cannot provide *all* of his family’s needs, even his own.
- When** Present; Christmas
- Wear (Props)** Casual-nice winter clothing: overcoats, gloves, mufflers, etc.  
**Props:** Three large boxes—big enough for a stroller, a crib, and a mobile—plus a few smaller boxes or bags  
**Setting:** May be presented on a bare stage. Or with simple suggestions of a mall at Christmas-time: one or two fake-looking trees, sale signs, canned Christmas music
- Why** Matthew 2:1-1; Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 7:7-8
- How** Talia is at the heart of this piece, drawing out feelings that have been latent in her mother and father.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

*Narration (spoken or on-screen): "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, wise men came from the east..." (Matthew 2:1) Christmas Eve at Middleton Mall.*

The *Wisemans* enter.

**Colleen:** I thought the mall's Holiday Festival of Trees was better than last year.

**Talia:** Really? It always seems the same to me. We should've just bought everything online.

**Colleen:** And missed the—

**Talia:** Phony trees and plastic snow?

**Colleen:** Well, look who's become all jaded! Where did Christmas-is-my-favorite-holiday Talia Wiseman go?

**Bill:** Yeah, elf girl, what about Santa?

**Talia:** Seriously, Dad?

**Bill:** Well, last year—

**Talia:** Last year me and Maya did Santa-selfies because Santa was her Uncle Kevin. This year it's just some rent-a-Claus.

**Bill:** Whoa, when did you suddenly go all moody-broody teenager on us?

**Talia:** I'm not... *(sighs—this has been building up for some time)* The mall's not what I love about Christmas, Dad—you guys are! But even then... Don't you feel it? *(Her emotions growing)* It's like I'm missing something. *We're missing something!* Look, I know this is a stupid time to blow up, but I've been keeping this inside for so long that I just... can't anymore!

**Colleen:** I understand, sweetie. It's true. I've been feeling it too. *(Touching her daughter's hair)* We'll have cocoa and talk when we get home, OK?

*Colleen and Talia embrace. Bill waits awkwardly. They finally break.*

**Bill:** So we meet back here at nine, right? Have wish-lists, will buy!

**Colleen:** *(Putting a finger to his lips)* A little less fake holiday cheer, honey.

**Bill:** Yeah. OK. Boy, what's up with us, huh? *(Changing gears)* Hey, when we get home Max will be back from the soccer party and we can play a game. *(Sudden thought; to Colleen)* Oh, were you going to buy something for the contractor who's putting in our cabinets?

**Colleen:** Joe? Yeah, I thought maybe something small. His wife just had a baby, you know.

**Talia:** *(Perking up)* Really? You guys, this is crazy-bizarre! I dreamed about that last night, over and over again!

**Colleen:** Well, he is a sweet young man.

**Talia:** No, I mean, I only met him once, Mom, and I didn't even know about the baby. But in the dream, I knew! And his wife, she looked right at me and said she had to tell me something!

**Colleen:** Tell you what, sweetie?

**Talia:** I don't know, but it seemed really important.

**Colleen:** Funny, he actually invited us over. *(To Bill)* Did I tell you? Tonight. Imagine that! They're so young—just starting out—and they have almost nothing. But he said they read the Christmas Story aloud every year.

**Bill:** "Twas the night before Christmas—"

**Colleen:** No, honey. The other one. The one in the Bible.

**Talia:** Mom, what if that's what she wanted to tell me? I mean I've never heard the actual—

**Colleen:** It was only a dream, honey.

*The Wisemans stare at one another for a moment, then break away with a nervous laugh.*

**Bill:** OK, shoppers, start your engines!

*All three Wisemans move hesitantly away, each stealing a glance back at the others.*

*Narration (spoken or on-screen): Two and a half hours later...*

*Colleen enters with a huge box, plops it down, her face transformed with delight. Waits a moment. Dials her phone.*

**Colleen:** *(Into her phone)* Hey, done yet? Uh, no, I sort of changed gears.

*Talia enters, beaming, a very large bag in her arms.*

**Colleen:** *(Continuing)* OK, see you in a sec. *(Hangs up. Looks at Talia's bag, then back at Talia)* You look like the cat that ate the canary.

**Talia:** It's a mobile, a *Christmas* mobile! Oh, Mom, it's got a star and angels and a little manger! It's so adorable, I wish I was—

**Colleen:** And would that be for your 17 year old brother or your 46 year old dad?

**Talia:** For the baby, silly! Only I kinda—

**Colleen:** *(Looks at Talia's receipt)* Only you kinda spent every penny you had?

*Bill enters, lugging a huge box. Sets it down. Looks sheepish.*

**Bill:** What? It's a stroller...a really good one. *(Defensively)* Hey, they're going to need one. *(Looks at Colleen's box)* And?

**Colleen:** Crib. I make no excuses! *(Turning to Talia)* Honey, it's the sweetest little baby crib you ever saw!

**Talia:** Oh, Mom, this is it! This is what we're supposed to do! We have to go there!

*Talia and Colleen turn and look at Bill.*

*Beat.*

**Bill:** Well, duh! Obviously we have to take these to them tonight!

**Talia:** Yes!

**Colleen:** But how? I mean, they live way out at the edge of town.

**Bill:** I remember their address! Isn't that amazing? It's like a miracle! I mean, I only heard it once and I remember it! I think. Anyway, the car's got *On-Star* and it'll lead us to them.

**Colleen:** Gee, I haven't heard the Christmas story since I was little.

**Talia:** The *rea*/Christmas story, the one in the Bible?

**Colleen:** Yeah. I think I'd like...I think I *need* to hear it again.

*The Wisemans leave together as "We Three Kings" swells up on the mall loudspeakers.*