

BETHLEHEM



B & B

SCRIPT SAMPLE

Scene 1

Bethlehem town square

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 9) the cast enters and all sit to the sides and in front of the empty stage. Three narrators stand to one side and, as the music finishes, they address the audience.)*

Narrator #1 Welcome to Bethlehem, a town that you have all heard of. And the story we're going to tell is one you should all know too...well, sort of.

Narrator #2 Some characters you might not recognise and one or two things that happen might come as a bit of a surprise, but that's all part of the fun!

Narrator #3 Anyway, our story begins a little over 2000 years ago, when things in Bethlehem were just about to get a bit...how can we put it...crazy!

(A town crier enters, carrying a hand bell and a scroll. S/he rings the bell and unrolls the scroll.)

Town Crier Hear ye! Hear ye! Innkeepers and landlords, gather round! Things in Bethlehem are about to get a bit...how can I put it...crazy!

(All the innkeepers enter and excitedly swamp the town crier. They fire questions along the lines of, "What's happened?" / "What's this about?" / "What do you mean 'crazy?'" / "Tell us more!" The town crier tries to speak, but can't get a word in because of all the questions!)

Town Crier Well, it seems that...there's going to be....you need to....very soon there'll be....*(exasperated)* BE QUIET!

(All fall silent. The town crier hands the scroll to Innkeeper #1.)

Town Crier Here, read this – it's all in there. I'm going for a lie-down!

(The town crier exits. All excitedly swamp Innkeeper #1 who tries to read from the scroll. They fire the same questions at him/her, but s/he can't get a word in!)

Innkeeper #1 Well, it seems that...there's going to be....we need to....very soon there'll be....*(exasperated)* BE QUIET! *(All fall silent)* Thank you. Now, according to this, Bethlehem is about to be flooded with visitors!

- Innkeeper #2** *(snatching the scroll and reading)* They're coming here, to our town, on the orders of the Emperor Augustus, to register their names for a census!
- Innkeeper #3** *(snatching the scroll and reading)* Hundreds of them! In the next few days!
- Innkeeper #4** All willing to pay a lot of money for somewhere to stay, I'll bet!
- Innkeeper #5** Only if the accommodation is up to scratch!
- All Innkeepers** TIME TO GET BUSY!

(As the song's intro plays, the innkeepers fetch brooms, cloths, tools and paint brushes.)

Song **Good As New**

*Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 10 - backing track
Lyrics p15*

(All the innkeepers exit.)

- Narrator #1** So, they all hurried off, keen to make their inns as good as new.
- Narrator #2** Nobody wanted to lose out on a paying guest because a widow was streaky, a wash basin was leaky, or a door was creaky!
- Narrator #3** However, there were ways in which certain innkeepers would make sure that they kept ahead of the competition...as we'll soon discover!

(As the intro music plays (track 11), the stage is made ready for the next scene.)

Scene 2

The 'Bethlehem B&B Bulletin' office

(Fade the music when ready. Three officers sit at a table, reading letters.)

- Narrator #1** Now, you have all heard of Trip Advisor, yes? *(waiting for the audience to respond)* So, have you? Yes, of course you have. And we bet one or two of you have left nasty reviews about places you don't like? *(waiting for the audience to respond)* So, have you? Yes, of course you have!
- Narrator #2** Well, Trip Advisor isn't a new thing. Oh no. 2000 years ago, when people travelled from home, they too liked to leave reviews about the places they stayed at.
- Narrator #3** And when people stayed at inns, guesthouses and bed & breakfasts in Bethlehem, they would send their reviews to the 'BBBB'.
- Narrator #1** The Bethlehem B&B Bulletin. This is their office.
- Officer #1** *(sifting through the pile of letters)* Visitors to our town certainly have a lot to say! Look at all these reviews!

Officer #2 Listen to this one: *(reading a letter)* 'Caesar's Palace Guesthouse is THE best place to stay in Bethlehem! Nowhere else comes close!' They've given it five stars.

Officer #3 *(reading a letter)* Well, here's one that isn't so friendly: 'I will NEVER stay at The Happy Donkey Inn ever again! One lousy room and even lousier service. I'd rather sleep in a stable!' One star – oh dear!

Officer #1 *(writing on a scroll)* Well, I'll just add those latest two to the list of reviews, then it's ready to go public. *(finishing writing and holding up the scroll)* IT'S READY TO GO PUBLIC!

(The town crier enters, takes the scroll and exits. The three officers stand.)

All 3 Officers Lunchtime!

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 12), the stage is cleared.)*

Scene 3

Bethlehem town square

(Fade the music when ready. The town crier enters, carrying the hand bell and the scroll. S/he rings the bell and unrolls the scroll.)

Town Crier Hear ye! Hear ye! The latest BBBB reviews are here! Innkeepers and landlords, gather round to find out what your guests thought of you!

(All the innkeepers enter and excitedly swamp the Town Crier. They fire questions along the lines of, "How many stars do we have?" / "Who's come out on top?" / "Did anyone mention our rats?" The Town Crier tries to speak, but can't get a word in because of all the questions!)

Town Crier Well, lots of people liked....they weren't too happy with....they'd definitely come back to....*(exasperated)* BE QUIET!

(All fall silent. The town crier hands the scroll to Innkeeper #6.)

Town Crier Here, read this – it's all in there. I'm going for a lie-down!

(The town crier exits. All excitedly swamp Innkeeper #6 who tries to read from the scroll. They fire the same questions at him/her, but s/he can't get a word in!)

Innkeeper #6 Well, lots of people liked....they weren't too happy with....they'd definitely come back to....*(exasperated)* BE QUIET! *(All fall silent)* Thank you. Well, as usual, guess which place got all the good reviews....

Innkeeper #7 *(snatching the scroll and reading)* Caesar's Palace Guesthouse! Five stars across the board. Surprise, surprise!

Innkeeper #8 *(snatching the scroll and reading)* While the rest of us were lucky to get one star! It's always the same.

(One innkeeper, Silas and his wife, Sapphira, arrogantly step forward. Silas takes the scroll and gleefully reads it.)

- Silas** 'THE best place to stay in Bethlehem!' Well what do you expect? Caesar's Palace puts all your inns to shame.
- Sapphira** Which is why visitors would rather stay with us than you, any day!
- Narrator #2** Silas and Sapphira, the couple who owned Caesar's Palace Guesthouse, always received rave reviews in the BBBB.
- Narrator #3** It was something they really enjoyed making a song and dance about.....

Song **Our Inn's Better Than Your Inn**

Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 13 - backing track
Lyrics p16

(The other innkeepers exit, leaving Silas and Sapphira looking pleased with themselves.)

- Silas** Haha! Sapphira my dear, rooms at Caesar's Palace Guesthouse will be in great demand when all these visitors arrive in Bethlehem!
- Sapphira** Which means, Silas, we should put our prices up! We'll make a killing! I told you our cunning plan would work!
- (Both exit with a sinister 'mwa-ha-ha!')*
- Narrator #1** You see, Silas and Sapphira had been very sneaky. For months they had been writing fake reviews about all of Bethlehem's inns and sending them to the BBBB, pretending they were from real visitors!
- Narrator #2** All the reviews they wrote for their own inn were full of glowing praise, while the reviews they wrote for the other inns were really nasty!
- Narrator #3** In this way, they would make sure that the visitors soon heading to Bethlehem would all want to stay and spend their money at Caesar's Palace Guesthouse. Silas and Sapphira were cashing-in!

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 14**), the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 4

Mary's house

(Fade the music when ready. Mary sits alone on a stool.)

- Narrator #1** We'll leave Bethlehem for the time being, because our story continues many miles away in the village of Nazareth, where there lived a young woman named Mary.
- Narrator #2** God had been watching Mary and had sent his most important angel, Gabriel, to visit her...

(To the opening bars of the next song, Gabriel enters and stands by Mary. As verse 2 begins, Joseph enters.)

Song **Side By Side**

*Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 15 - backing track
Lyrics p17*

The song contains spoken narration and dialogue, as well as sung lyrics, which tell of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

(As the song finishes, Joseph fetches the donkey. He takes Mary's hand.)

Joseph Come on Mary, it's time to go to Bethlehem. I just hope there's somewhere nice to stay.....

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 16**), Joseph and Mary exit and the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 5

The Happy Donkey Inn

(Fade the music when ready. Samuel and Sarah sit centre stage. They look glum.)

Narrator #3 Back to Bethlehem again, where Samuel and Sarah, landlord and landlady of an inn called The Happy Donkey, were down in the dumps.

Samuel I don't understand, Sarah. I know our inn is small, but everyone who has stayed with us in the past has been comfortable and content.

Sarah Our food is tasty, everything is spotless and we always welcome our guests with a happy smile. Why do we get such rotten reviews?

Samuel I don't know my dear, but it's driving guests away!

Narrator #1 Silas and Sapphira's sneaky tactics were working. If things carried on like this, pretty soon The Happy Donkey Inn would have to close down!

Song **An Innkeeper's Life**

*Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 17 - backing track
Lyrics p18*

*(As the song finishes, Samuel and Sarah exit, heads bowed. As the **intro music** plays (**track 18**), the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

Please note, a shorter, simpler version of this script is included in your production pack. Also, an editable version (MS WORD doc.) is included in the download and CD-ROM formats of this musical. If you buy the book format, the editable version can be emailed to you on request, free-of-charge.