

OPERATION ANGEL UNDERCOVER

by Melanie A. White



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OPERATION Angel Undercover

A Christmas musical for children

by Melanie A. White

CAST OF CHARACTERS

HOST OF ANGELS:

Cecilia, Delphium, Bob, Anastasia, Myron/Myrtle, Ben/Beulah, and Gabriel. They also comprise the angel choir along with any extras.

SHEPHERDS:

Speaking parts may be divided between four or five main shepherds.

STARS:

Chorus of kindergartners through third-graders.
Need eight speakers.

CAMELS:

Need four speakers.

KINGS:

Three kings, may be played by boys or girls.

MARY

JOSEPH

INNKEEPER'S WIFE

Extras may be nonspeaking, but singing, angels, shepherds, stars, or camels.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Props:

A book with a paper cover reading “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Camels” for Camel 1, a clipboard with papers and a pen for Angel Bob, and a small bag of clothes for Mary.

Sound:

Recorded music (about 30 seconds in length) — something majestic, such as the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s *Messiah*, and Off-stage voices to repeat the lines on page 11. (Position a couple people at a microphone backstage.)

Stage design:

A simple background portraying the city of Bethlehem will fit very well for most of the musical. If at all possible, the opening scenes with the Angels and the Stars should have a dark sky background or should look like clouds or sky. This sky scene could be constructed or painted on fabric to cover the Bethlehem scene, and following the departure of the Stars, it could be removed.

Costumes:

Angels: Long white robes, wings, and haloes. Gold accessories, like a gold belt and a personalized halo, will pull the costumes together. (Note on personalized haloes: Each angel’s halo may be “personalized” — a zig-zag halo, or one with flowers woven through, or even a baseball hat under the halo, etc. These characters need to be hip angels, especially during the “Aretha” number.) Angel Bob should wear white overalls.

Stars: Costumes may consist of an oversized black T-shirt sprayed with glitter. Characters need to wear dark clothes under the T-shirt, to maximize the effect of the glitter. Stars should have a halo of gold made from tinsel on their heads.

Camels: Burlap sacks sewn into a big poncho under which the beast may be suitably “stuffed” to look lumpy. Must have darkened bags under the eyes and small, round ears made of brown paper, and wear dark socks on hands.

Kings: Rich velvet or other heavy fabric cloak or long robe. Crowns on head need to be richly decorated, as do the gift boxes carried by each king.

Shepherds: Should wear old-looking robes, tied at the waist. Old bathrobes work if several other long pieces of fabric are draped over shoulders and around waist. Should have a headdress made from a dishtowel secured on head with a cloth band. May go barefoot or wear sandals.

Mary: Blue and white robe/cloak, a white scarf on head, and sandals.

Joseph: Brown robe with a warm cloak and sandals. Needs to hold a long walking stick in his hand.

SONGS

1. "They're No Saints!"
2. "Who But God?"
3. "I Want to Shine for Jesus"
4. "Just a Tiny Baby"
5. "Baa Baa Baa Bay Bay"
6. "King of Kings"
7. "Can We Change the World?"
8. "Follow the Star"
9. "Get to Bethlehem"
10. "I Wish"

- 1 *(Enter HOST OF ANGELS and ANGEL EXTRAS, ready to*
 2 *rehearse their songs.)*
- 3 **CECILIA:** All right, all right, settle down ... Now you all know
 4 the Big Event is at hand. I hope everyone's been
 5 practicing their parts. Let's try our big number from
 6 the top. And Angel Delphium, this is the standard
 7 version, *not* the Aretha Franklin one!
- 8 **DELPHIUM:** Aw, Cecilia ... It's called "soul music"! *(At*
 9 *CECILIA's cue, the ANGEL CHOIR lip-syncs to glorious*
 10 *recorded music which lasts about half a minute.)*
- 11 **CECILIA:** *(Cuing ANGEL CHOIR to cut)* Wonderful! Bravo!
 12 We're as ready as we'll ever be! And not a moment too
 13 soon. We've each got our special jobs for the Big Event,
 14 and that's going to take up the rest of our time ... Let's
 15 see ... Who's in charge of jobs this millennium? *(Pause)*
 16 Oh, It's Angel Bob!
- 17 **BOB:** *(Carries clipboard, wearing overalls, pen tucked behind ear.)*
 18 Yes, now let's see ... What God wanted was a few key
 19 people notified before the Big Event. You all get my
 20 drift? Not the whole world ... that would be too big.
 21 Leave that stuff to Hollywood. The Big Boss wants
 22 select messages. Hmmmm. *(Looks through notes on*
 23 *clipboard.)* Ah, yes ... here's the list. Gabriel, you get
 24 Jospeh. *(GABRIEL looks very pleased and beams.)* And ...
 25 Anastasia, you get the three Kings.
- 26 **ANASTASIA:** Ah, a worthy task. Those kings are so wise and
 27 handsome. I understand this is an undercover
 28 operation — I move the star. Can I pick any star? Can I
 29 do a planet?
- 30 **BOB:** *(Patiently)* No, Anastasia, use the special star. You know
 31 the one. And remember ... undercover operation! Let's
 32 see now ... Myrtle [Myron], you get the shepherds.
- 33 **MYRTLE/MYRON:** *(Outraged and insulted)* Shepherds! Why
 34 does God want to tell shepherds? Are these shepherds
 35 with CNN? Are they connected to the Net? Are they ...
- 36 **BOB:** *(Interrupting quickly)* Whoa, Myrtle [Myron] ... whoa!
 37 Relax. Take a deep breath. Your wings are standing on
 38 edge! I don't know the Big Boss's thinking behind this.

1 His instructions specifically say “shepherds.” They’ll be
2 in sector twelve at the designated time. Trust God.

3 MYRTLE/MYRON: I trust God. I just don’t see ... (*Shakes head*
4 *in resignation.*)

5 BOB: And last ... thanks for waiting so patiently, Beulah
6 [Ben]. You get to lead those camels. Now, remember ...
7 stay several feet away. This is an undercover operation.
8 And camels can be stubborn. Just put the goodness in
9 their hearts and back off! That’ll do the trick.

10 BEULAH/BEN: (*Enthusiastically*) Will do! I’ve dealt with
11 beasts before. My last assignment was on the ark. And
12 boy, were there ever more beasts per square foot!

13 MYRTLE/MYRON: (*Interrupting as if she/he cannot hold her/his*
14 *frustration in any longer.*) I just have to get this off my
15 chest. I just don’t know why God keeps reaching out to
16 these humans.

17 BOB: Well, I see your point. They’re certainly not like us!

18 ANASTASIA: Like us! They’re a disaster waiting to happen!
19 They tend to bungle everything up!

20 BEULAH/BEN: Wonder why God’s going to all this trouble
21 for humans. Why are they so special? I tell you what I
22 think ... they’re no saints!

23

24 SONG: “They’re No Saints”

25

26 ANGELS: (*Singing*)

27 Oh, they’re no saints! And their sins make us faint!

28 But they try and they try, and with God on their side,
29 They climb high to the sky.

30 Oh, they’re no saints! But for them, heaven waits.

31 So they keep reaching up, keep giving more,

32 Though they fall down galore —

33 ’Cause they’re no saints!

34

35 Oh, they’re no saints! And we’ve heard every complaint.

36 Temptations too strong for them, will they ever learn

37 And their home in heaven earn?

38 No, they’re no saints! But in them, God has faith.

1 He keeps promise faithfully,
 2 Even when they cannot see —
 3 (*Spoken solo*) 'Cause, guess what? Big surprise!
 4 (*Sung by all*) Oh, they're no saints!

5
 6 MYRTLE/MYRON: I feel so much better now that I've got
 7 that out of my system.

8 BOB: (*Chuckling*) You know, God sure works in funny ways.
 9 Here's the Big Event of all time about to happen, and
 10 these humans are totally unprepared. The word on the
 11 street is they're waiting for a warrior king from God!
 12 Does the world really need another Genghis Khan?

13 ANASTASIA: Yes, but God is full of surprises! Everyone is
 14 waiting for a grand Messiah ... a majestic Savior.
 15 Nobody is prepared for a baby! Who but God would
 16 send a baby?

17
 18 SONG: "Who But God?"

19
 20 ANGELS: (*Singing*)
 21 Who but God would send a baby
 22 when the world expects a king?
 23 Who but God would choose this special way
 24 to bring his children back to him?
 25 The Almighty has a miraculous plan
 26 working gently in every life.
 27 Yes, who but God has placed all the power of heaven
 28 In a helpless, tiny child?
 29
 30 They seek his sign in the grandest place,
 31 But he works his miracles in the humblest face.
 32 Though mighty strong, God has a gentle touch.
 33 He reaches out to help them know him better,
 34 For he loves them so very much.
 35
 36 Who but God would place his only Son
 37 in humble little Bethlehem?
 38 Who but God would, as a Son of Man,

1 in love conquer sin?
 2 A tiny baby boy, gift of God's own self,
 3 Speaks his love for every child.
 4 For who but God would send this tiny joy
 5 To bring salvation to all mankind?

6
 7 Don't seek his sign in the grandest place,
 8 For he works his miracles in the humblest place.
 9 Though mighty strong, God has a gentle touch,
 10 Reaching out to help us know him better,
 11 For he loves us so very much.

12
 13 **BOB:** Look at the time! Enough chatting — let's get to work.
 14 We'll touch base at the South Pearly Gate — and
 15 remember, undercover operation! (*Exit ANGELS in haste.*
 16 *Enter STARS.*)

17 **STAR 1:** We're so excited! Look — our gases are igniting all
 18 over. We sure are a-twinkling.

19 **STAR 2:** Yes, it's the Big Event! The baby Jesus will be born
 20 soon.

21 **STAR 3:** And we've got to twinkle extra bright.

22 **STAR 4:** I'm so glad we're way up here. We can see
 23 everything!

24 **STAR 5:** And tonight we are so much more than big, flaming
 25 balls of gas! Tonight we're special messengers. So let's
 26 shine for Jesus!

27

28 **SONG: "I Want to Shine for Jesus"**

29

30 **STARS:** (*Singing*)

31 I want to shine for Jesus, I want to shine as bright can be,
 32 For the gentle Lord and Savior is born because of me.
 33 Born to bring salvation, and in heaven make a home for me.
 34 I want to shine for Jesus, shine as bright can be.

35

36 I want to be the light source, with the light of good in me
 37 For the people around, wherever I may be.
 38 And they will know the Father who made you and me

1 To shine with the goodness of love eternally.

2 (*Repeat verse 1*)

3

4 STAR 6: Soon baby Jesus will be born. I wonder what it feels
5 like to be a baby.

6 STAR 7: I've peeked in many windows at night. I see babies
7 having a lot of fun. They get carried around and loved
8 and fed and played with! It must feel like love to be a
9 baby.

10 STAR 8: The baby Jesus is love. Even though he's just a tiny
11 baby, God has great plans for him someday. But first, he
12 has to just be a tiny baby!

13

14 SONG: "Just a Tiny Baby"

15

16 STARS: (*Singing*)

17 When you are just a tiny baby, all you need is love.

18 Your mommy and daddy close to you,

19 All you need is love.

20

21 *Chorus:* For we are made for love,

22 For hugs and smiles and cuddling up tight.

23 God made us for love,

24 Sending us a special baby tonight.

25

26 When you are just a tiny baby, you need a gentle hand.

27 Then one day you grow big and tall.

28 With love, you change all the land. (*Chorus*)

29

30 When you are just a tiny baby, gifts are very fine.

31 Tiny Jesus, gift from God,

32 'Cause love means giving all the time. (*Chorus*)

33

34 (*Exit STARS. Enter SHEPHERDS.*)

35 SHEPHERD 1: (*Continuing ongoing discussion*) Why did you
36 have to get in an argument with Sam? So he says we're
37 lazy ... so what? It's our job to watch over our sheep, and
38 you can't always stand up and watch them ... sometimes

1 you have to lie down! Some people just won't
2 understand that!

3 SHEPHERD 2: Yeah, I know you're right. I just get so angry
4 when people assume they know all about our jobs and
5 our lives! I wish something grand would happen, and
6 we'd be the heroes of the village. Maybe we could kill a
7 big, bad wolf!

8 SHEPHERD 3: This is Bethlehem — nothing grand ever
9 happens here. And you'd better pray there's no big, bad
10 wolf around! Just lie on the ground and watch the
11 sheep like you're supposed to.

12 SHEPHERD 2: Sometimes it's hard to feel special when other
13 people think you're just an ordinary Joe Schmoe ...

14 SHEPHERD 1: (*Indignantly*) Well, who made them God? We're
15 just as wonderful as ... the Emperor Augustus! Just
16 because people say we're lazy and uneducated doesn't
17 change who we are. Who cares what they say? Not me!

18 SHEPHERD 2: Yeah, you're right. And (*Joking*) you're pretty
19 wise for a lazy shepherd! (*In a whiny voice*) It still bugs
20 me that nobody really appreciates us for who we really
21 are inside!

22

23 SONG: "Baa Baa Baa Bay Bay"

24

25 SHEPHERDS: (*Singing*)

26 Only our sheep think we're great!

27 Only our sheep think we're grand.

28 Everyone else thinks we're goofy.

29 Nobody really understands.

30

31 (*In a bleating manner*)

32 Baa-baa-baa bay, bay, bay,

33 Baa-baa-baa bay, bay, bay,

34 Baa-baa-baa bay, bay, bay,

35 (*Sleepily*) Baa baa baa bay, bay, bay.

36

37 (*SHEPHERDS lie on ground and try not to doze. ANGELS appear*
38 *off to side, unnoticed by the SHEPHERDS.*)

1 ANASTASIA: Oh, no! They're unconscious! Are you sure
 2 we're supposed to tell them about the Big Event? They
 3 don't look like they could do anything productive!

4 BOB: God's orders.

5 DELPHIUM: Hey, I have an idea! They could use some real
 6 waking up! Now's our chance to do the Aretha Franklin
 7 version!

8 OTHERS: Yeah!

9

10 SONG: "King of Kings"

11

12 ONE ANGEL: *(Solo)* Listen to the voice of heaven speaking,
 13 Listen to the angels sing.
 14 Listen to the words of hope and comfort,
 15 Let the Good News ring.

16

17 ANGEL CHOIR: Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!
 18 Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!

19

20 ONE ANGEL: *(Spoken)* Hit it!

21

22 ANGEL CHOIR:

23 Chorus: He is the King of Kings! He is the King of Kings!
 24 Bringing the world new salvation,
 25 Promise of hope he brings to all who will follow his way,
 26 Who will hear his call, for
 27 He is the King of Kings! He is the King of Kings!

28

29 God will keep every promise he made,
 30 Just as he always did.

31 Israel waits for the time of a Savior,
 32 See God's reign begin.

33 Born today, One come as God and man,
 34 Born to save us all.

35 Generations forever will sing his praise.

36 Tell all the world in Bethlehem he lays, for ...

37 *(Repeat Chorus)*

38

- 1 SHEPHERD: (*In shock*) I ... I ... I ...
- 2 SHEPHERD 2: (*Flabbergasted*) You saw them too?
- 3 SHEPHERD 3: Do you know what this means? Supernatural
4 creatures just came to tell us that the King of Kings, the
5 Messiah, is born in Bethlehem. Isn't that just the most
6 amazing thing?
- 7 SHEPHERD 2: Well ... are we sure we really saw those
8 creatures? And why are we being told of such grand
9 news? We're nobodies!
- 10 SHEPHERD 1: Yeah, we're nothings ... poor folk ... poor,
11 illiterate folk ... poor, lazy, illiterate folk ...
- 12 SHEPHERD 3: That's enough. You're making us sound bad!
- 13 SHEPHERD 2: What astounding news! This Messiah will
14 change the world! Holy sheep! (*Pauses thoughtfully*) But
15 the angels said we were to tell everyone. People in our
16 village will never believe a word we say.
- 17 SHEPHERD 1: So what's your point?
- 18 SHEPHERD 3: Don't you see? We saw angels, but who will
19 take us seriously?
- 20 SHEPHERD 2: Well, I'm taking them seriously. (*Points to*
21 *heaven.*) We could go back to sleep and pretend none of
22 this happened, but we would be failing God. For some
23 strange reason, he has given us this gift. He has told us,
24 ordinary us, of his great news! We have to tell all of
25 Judea. We are a part of God's plan to change the world.
26 He chose us!
- 27 SHEPHERD 1: The question now is, can we stand up in our
28 village and be strong? Can we change the world?
- 29
- 30 SONG: "Can We Change the World?"
- 31
- 32 SHEPHERDS: (*Singing*)
33 Can we change the world with this message?
34 Can we bring a ray of hope?
35 No, we are not teachers, philosophers, or preachers,
36 We are just illiterate folk.
37 Even as the world waits in darkness.
38 A light has shone so all can see.

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1 Angel voices sang, of Good News they rang.

2 Somehow they chose you and me.

3

4 *Chorus: A baby born in Bethlehem,*

5 **Messiah, Promised One,**

6 **He will shine with heavenly light**

7 **Brighter than the sun.**

8 **The Way, the Truth and Light,**

9 **Come to us in love;**

10 **How long the world has waited for this sign from above.**

11

12 **Yes, we can change the world with this message,**

13 **For it was sent for you and me.**

14 **God so loved the world, he sent his only Son,**

15 **And forevermore his love will set us free!**

16

17 *(Exit SHEPHERDS. Enter HOST OF ANGELS.)*

18 **ANASTASIA: Wowie zowie! I never thought those shepherds**

19 **would've had the courage! They're willing to stand up**

20 **for God.**

21 **BEULAH/BEN: We should have given their sheep the gift of**

22 **speech! The world would believe a talking sheep!**

23 **BOB: Yes, but that wasn't in God's plan! I'm really proud of**

24 **these humans right now. They give me a warm feeling**

25 **that feels just like God's grace. How strange.**

26 **DELPHIUM: Speaking of strange ... did the special star get**

27 **moved?**

28 **ANASTASIA: (Horrified) Oh no! The star! (Exits hastily. All**

29 **ANGELS exit, shaking their heads in disbelief. Enter KINGS**

30 **and CAMELS. All look slightly out of breath and rumped, as**

31 **if they have been running.)**

32 **KING 1: Thank goodness that star has stopped moving. I am**

33 **worn out! We have traveled from our homes in India,**

34 **Tarsis, and Nubia and seen many stars, but I have never**

35 **seen a heavenly body move at such an amazing pace in**

36 **all my years of studying astronomy!**

37 **KING 2: Yes, it certainly must be a sign! We are very close ...**

38 **I feel it.**

SONG: "Follow the Star"

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KINGS: (*Singing*)

A star in the East lights our way to the King of creation.

We travel afar on a journey of faith and of hope.

For God in his heaven has come to deliver the nations.

All the signs are in place, he is calling us on this we know.

Chorus: We follow the star, no matter how long or far,

Feel the Holy One leading our souls.

We will not rest till the end of our journey,

Till we see the Child whose coming the Scriptures foretold!

For ages gone by, we have followed his signs,

followed faithfully,

Never doubting the God who cares for our every need.

For hearts can see much more than eyes when

faith is a-leading,

Yes, God has come down here on earth, this we believe.

KING 3: Do you realize we have traveled over twenty leagues today? I pity our poor beasts of burden over there.

KING 1: Now that you mention them, did you notice that they seemed to know of the star and follow it naturally?

KING 2: What instinct! They may look clumsy and lumpy, but what great intuition! Well, let's make it an early night.

The servants have pitched our royal tents and prepared

a hearty meal. Let us rest. We are not far from the tiny

town of Bethlehem. Maybe there will be more signs

there! (*Exit KINGS. CAMELS slowly and clumsily take*

Center Stage.)

CAMEL 1: King Balthazar and Gaspar and Melchior are wise to camp outside Bethlehem. That little town will be

cramped with travelers! Whew! (*Sighs with tiredness.*)

This is the longest mission I've ever been on. But we're

on the right track!

CAMEL 2: Yes, I saw an angel back there. You know how I'm always on the lookout for creatures with strange things

1 **growing on their backs!**

2 **CAMEL 3: Well, I saw them, too! Dragging that poor star!**

3 **CAMEL 4: Ahhhh ... It's bedtime.**

4 **CAMEL 1: We can't sleep yet. According to our training**
 5 **manual, (*Whips it out.*) The Seven Habits of Highly**
 6 **Effective Camels, we have to restate our mission**
 7 **statement nightly. Let's go!**

8

9 **SONG: "Get to Bethlehem"**

10

11 **CAMELS: (*Singing*)**

12 **Yes, we're so lumpy, yes, we're so bumpy,**

13 **But we're their travel agent, so**

14 **We're never grumpy, on through the desert**

15 **Clump, clump, clumping we go.**

16 **And men may follow a map,**

17 **But our hearts know the way.**

18 **On a mission, our motto we say,**

19 **"Get to Bethlehem by Christmas Day!"**

20

21 **Yes, we're so tired, but we get fired up**

22 **About the journey to come.**

23 **We're not for hire, ours a mission**

24 **For the Lord, and to the end we run.**

25 **Leading the wise men to the babe,**

26 **The Scriptures tell his time has come.**

27 **On a mission, our motto we say,**

28 **"No rest until the journey is done!"**

29

30 *(Exit CAMELS. Loud voices are heard Off-stage, exclaiming,*
 31 *"Go away! No room" and "No room at this inn. Sorry!" Enter*
 32 *JOSEPH and a very tired, bundled-up Mary.)*

33 **JOSEPH: I'm sorry, Mary. I know you must be worn out. I**
 34 **can't believe there isn't a single room anywhere in**
 35 **Bethlehem tonight.**

36 **MARY: It's not your fault, Joseph. Something will turn up.**
 37 **God will provide — you'll see.**

38 **JOSEPH: I'm always amazed by your great faith in the Lord.**



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P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011
customerservice@christianpub.com