

Part One -- Manuscript

The Christmas Doll

Act One

Church Rehearsal

Stage directions:

- The stage is set up on the church platform. The pulpit should be removed.
- Aunt Matilda is in the front of the stage, with her back to the audience. She has a music stand in front of her. On the music stand is her sheet music for the musical. She may hold a baton of some sort.
- Just to the left of Aunt Matilda is a manger, with a doll wrapped in swaddling clothes.
- The children are facing her, the boys on one side, the girls on the other.
- Hannah and Jimmy are on the front row of the children's choir, in the middle, just a few feet apart.
- Mr. Johnson and Tommy Smith are in the back of the auditorium, out of view.
- As the stage lights come on, Aunt Matilda immediately starts the girls singing the opening verse of *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*.
- After the first two lines, as the girls sing "Peace on earth," the boys make faces at the girls. Most of the girls ignore the boys, but Hannah becomes irritated and makes a face back at Jimmy.

Music: The pianist plays the opening verse of *Baby Jesus Was More Than a Christmas Doll*, then slides into the closing line of *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*.

Lights: The auditorium is dark through the musical introduction. Then the stage lights come on as the pianist begins playing the opening line of *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*.

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

(from the hymnbook)

- Girls** Hark, the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark, the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."
- Aunt M** (*Cheerfully*) Good singing, girls.
- Hannah** (*With disgust*) Aunt Matilda, the boys were absolutely disgusting.
- Aunt M** (*Shrugs*) They were? I was so intent on directing you girls that I didn't notice.
- Mr. J** (*Bursts down the aisle toward the platform.*) Hold it right there, Aunt Matilda. Hannah is right. The boys weren't acting like angels.
- Boys** (*All of the boys shrug and say different things.*) No way! Not me! I didn't do nuttin'! It was his fault!
- Aunt M** (*Looking at the boys and shaking her head*) Boys, I am so disappointed.
- Mr. J** (*As he reaches the platform, he proclaims*) Actually, the boys are helping to demonstrate the theme of our Christmas play.
- Children** (*In unison*) What's that?
- Mr. J** (*Flourishes to the back of the auditorium.*) Allow me to introduce our special guest, none other than . . . Space Alien.

Lights: The spotlight shines on Tommy Smith, who is in the Space Alien outfit in the back of the auditorium.

- Tommy** (*He starts to walk in stiffleggedly. One third of the way down the aisle, he pauses, raises his hand, and proclaims*) Greetings, Earthlings! (*Then he resumes walking, stiffleggedly, to the platform.*)
- Jimmy** (*Waves Tommy away.*) Ahhh, that's just Tommy Smith.

Hannah He looks more like a Space Monster.

Children *(Laugh)*

Mr. J Boys and girls, what do you think of when you hear the word "alien"?

A girl Chewbacca!

A boy Jabba the Hut!

Hannah Tommy Smith!

Tommy *(As he walks onto the stage, he shakes his fist at Hannah, who smirks back at him.)*

Lights: The spotlight goes out as Tommy ascends to the platform.

Mr. J Let me tell you who else was an alien -- Jesus.

Children *(In unison)* Jesus!?!

Mr. J Sure. Think about it. Jesus was from outer space -- in fact, from outer, outer space, all the way from Heaven.

Tommy *(In awe)* That's right.

Mr. J Have you children seen those movies where a space alien is transformed before your very eyes into a human?

Children Yeah.

Mr. J That's sort of what happened to Jesus. In Philippians chapter two, it says that Jesus was "in the form of God . . . but . . . was made in the likeness of men". Jesus was an alien, Who came from a far distant world, Who became human, Who dwelt among men. John 1:14 says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us". *(Then he flourishes toward Tommy and sings)* "Hark, the heavenly Alien, Glory to the newborn king."

Aunt M *(She waves her arms in frustration.)* All right! All right! Enough about space aliens. The Christmas story in the Bible focuses on Baby Jesus, not a Space Alien. *(She picks up the baby doll and starts to rock it.)*

Hannah That's right, Aunt Matilda. That baby is a lot cuter than Tommy Smith or any other Space Alien.

Tommy *(He makes a face at Hannah, who smirks back at him.)*

Aunt M Boys and girls, let me make one thing perfectly clear. Not only was Baby Jesus more than a Space Alien, Baby Jesus was more than a Christmas doll.

Stage directions:

- Aunt Matilda holds and rocks the doll baby during the first verse; Mr. Johnson and the children look on attentively during Aunt Matilda's solo.
- During the short interlude between verses one and two, Hannah gently takes the baby doll from Aunt Matilda and begins to sing the second verse; everyone else looks on attentively during Hannah's solo.
- Near the end of Hannah's solo, she turns toward her father and hands the baby to him. He looks surprised, then begins singing; everyone looks on attentively.

Lights: The stage lights stay on throughout the song.

Baby Jesus Was More Than a Christmas Doll

(Track #1 for instrumental version; Track #7 for vocal version)

Aunt M Baby Jesus was more than a Christmas doll,
 More than a newborn in a cattle stall.
He left His home in Glory to give His life for all.
 He was more, so much more than a Christmas doll.

Hannah Baby Jesus was more than a Christmas doll.
 Born King of kings and Lord of all.
He's coming back from Glory when we hear the trumpet call.
 He is more, so much more than a Christmas doll.

Mr. J For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
 And the government shall be upon his shoulder:
And his name shall be called

All Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
 The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

 Wonderful (Wonderful), Counsellor, The mighty God (mighty God),
 The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

More than a Christmas doll!

Lights: All lights out.