

AN OSTRICH IN THE PEAR TREE
By Carol L. Duff & Nathan Duff

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AUDITION -- for 1 m, 1 w

In this scene, Lisa and David plan the Nativity.

DAVID: *(Approaches LISA.)* I talked to Mr. Perkins. He'll deliver the animals this afternoon. Three camels and a few old sheep. He made sure I got the old part.

LISA: *(Stands and hands him the Nativity ad.)* Does the ad look okay? I'm gonna fax it in.

DAVID: Got the price on it? Looks good to me. *(Beat.)* And call it in to the radio stations. Tell them to just follow the star.

LISA: Yeah, well, I'm kind of worried about that, since we're having "Tony lights."

DAVID: I don't care what he does, as long as it works.

LISA: If it's possible to blow up a transformer, I'm sure he'll do it. *(Holds up ad and reads.)* "Experience the true meaning of Christmas. Watch shepherds, angels and wise men as they re-create the story of God's gift to the world." *(Beat.)* God's gift to the world. *(Revising.)* "God's free gift to the world." That's better. *(Writing on ad.)* Free.

DAVID: If we run two hundred cars through here at five dollars each, that's still only one thousand dollars.

LISA: There's something wrong with this.

DAVID: Think we can charge five dollars per person?

LISA: *(Stares at HIM.)* David, what are we doing?

DAVID: What?

LISA: We can't charge people to see a Nativity.

DAVID: We need the money. Bad.

LISA: It's Christmas.

DAVID: Well, I don't think they'd come to see it if this was July.

LISA: I just wrote God's free gift, and here we are charging for it.

DAVID: Everybody else does.
LISA: I don't feel right about it.
DAVID: It's for a good cause. Starving people. Us.
LISA: If we didn't need the money, would we charge?
DAVID: I'll owe Tony for the lighting. And what am I gonna do with all those animals?
LISA: We'll do it for free.
DAVID: *(One sharp whistle.)* Free.

(LISA nods.)

DAVID: *(Cont'd.)* No money. *(Beat, then mutters.)* No food. No electricity. No telephone.
LISA: Business will pick up. *(Beat.)* Or we'll close and try to find a job somewhere. But we can't charge for Christmas.
DAVID: This wasn't my idea.
LISA: It'll be our farewell gift to the community. Show them what Christmas is all about.
DAVID: Could we leave a bucket and a sign saying, Donations are really appreciated?
LISA: David.

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