

## THE GIFTS OF THE ORNAMENTS

By Karen Jones

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### AUDITION -- for 5m, 3w, 3 flex

*In this scene, the Christmas tree ornaments are visited by Gloria, the Shepherd, and a Wiseman.*

*(SFX: Faint baby cry. The ORNAMENTS all freeze. The TOY SOLDIER readies his gun, does an about face and peers off to the side.)*

**SPARKLE:** (*Whispering.*) What was that?

**NUTCRACKER:** Hush, everyone! (*Pauses.*) Private, report please?

**TOY SOLDIER:** It's coming from that table, sir.

**NUTCRACKER:** Table?

**TOY SOLDIER:** Yes, sir. Over there to the right.

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** (*Whispers.*) That's the table I was talking about a while ago.

**NUTCRACKER:** (*To TOY SOLDIER.*) Can you determine the situation?

**TOY SOLDIER:** No, sir. I don't have a clear line of sight.

**NUTCRACKER:** Angel, can you see from your vantage point?

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** Not very well. Let me see if I can turn a little. (*Tries to twist around.*) Ouch... ouch... ouch! Oh, I give up. (*Stops twisting.*) There is some kind of movement going on but most of it is beneath the roof, and I can't see.

**NUTCRACKER:** Roof? You mean there's some sort of building on that table?

**FRED:** Is it one of those Dickens' Villages? There was a display of those at the store where I was bought. If it is, there is no cause for alarm. They are nice enough but totally boring.

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** No, I don't think so. This building is not very decorative at all. In fact, it looks like an old shed.

**CHRISTMAS BEAR:** An old shed? Why would they put an old shed in the midst of this splendor?

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** Now that you mention it, it does look out of place. (*Pauses.*) Wait, something is moving over there. Watch out, they're coming this way.

**TOY SOLDIER:** (*Calls out.*) Halt! Who goes there? (*Points the gun to stage right.*)

(Enter *GLORIA* and the *SHEPHERD*.)

**GLORIA:** (*Softly.*) Can you all hold it down just a bit? You're going to wake the baby.

**GINGERBREAD MAN:** What baby?

**SHEPHERD:** Why, the one in the manger, of course.

**SPARKLE:** What's a manger?

**SHEPHERD:** A manger is a feeding trough for the animals.

**TOY SOLDIER:** And you stuck a baby in it? What kind of people are you?

**NUTCRACKER:** (*Approaches.*) As you were, private. I'll take it from here.

**TOY SOLDIER:** Sir, yes sir! (*Salutes and starts to march around the stage again.*)

**NUTCRACKER:** I'm the Nutcracker, the Captain of Toy Soldiers. And you are?

**GLORIA:** I'm Gloria, the Christmas angel. (*Points to a sash across her chest with the word Gloria written on it.*)

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** Now, wait just a minute. I'm the Christmas angel.

**GLORIA:** The one for the tree maybe. I'm the one from the manger. I keep watch over the baby.

**MOLLY MOPPET:** You keep talking about a baby. What baby?

**GLORIA:** Why, the Christ child, of course.

**GINGERBREAD MAN:** Christ child?

**SHEPHERD:** The Messiah; the One who has been promised.

**SPARKLE:** Promised what?

**SHEPHERD:** Gee, you don't know anything, do you?  
**FRED:** We know enough not to put a baby in a feeding trough.  
**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** Sounds like a case for child protective services if you ask me.  
**GLORIA:** No. It's nothing like that. They really had no choice. There just wasn't any other place.  
**GINGERBREAD MAN:** Just who are "they"?  
**GLORIA:** The baby's parents, Mary and Joseph. They were from out of town and had no place to stay.  
**FRED:** Well, that just sounds like poor planning to me.  
**GLORIA:** No, it's not like that at all. You see, the Messiah was prophesied to be born in Bethlehem, and the couple had to travel a long distance to get there.  
**SHEPHERD:** And by the time they arrived, all the rooms were taken.  
**NUTCRACKER:** Like Fred said, poor planning. If you're going on a trip like that you need to have a contingency plan.  
**GLORIA:** The best laid plans can sometimes go awry. Sometimes you just have to go on faith.  
**SPARKLE:** What's faith?  
**SHEPHERD:** Oh, good grief, this is getting us nowhere. Come on, Gloria, we need to get back to the stable. These characters are completely clueless.  
**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** Now, hold on a minute...

*(The WISEMAN enters from stage right followed by the TOY SOLDIER with his gun.)*

**TOY SOLDIER:** I found another one prowling around, sir.  
**WISEMAN:** I was not prowling around. I was searching for the King.  
**SHEPHERD:** He's in the stable.  
**MOLLY MOPPET:** What? There's a king, too?  
**GLORIA:** The baby is the King.  
**FRED:** Say what? The baby is a king, and you still stuck Him in a manger.

**GINGERBREAD MAN:** This is getting more complicated by the minute.

**CHRISTMAS ANGEL:** Well, it doesn't surprise me. Just look how the humans treat us poor ornaments.

**CHRISTMAS BEAR:** But this baby is one of their own.

**GLORIA:** Well, He is and then again He isn't.

**MOLLY MOPPET:** Say again?

**GLORIA:** He was born to human parents, but He was actually the Son of God. He came to earth to save mankind.

**SPARKLE:** Save them from what?

**SHEPHERD:** (*Exasperated.*) Oh, I give up.

**GLORIA:** Okay, let's back up a little. You see, mankind had sinned and wandered away from God, so He sent down His son to show how much He loved them and bring them back into His fold.

**CHRISTMAS BEAR:** And they stuck Him in a feeding trough. Yep, sounds about like them.

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