

4/5/24

JESUS GOT A GIRLFRIEND

Book and Lyrics by Jim Stevens
Music composed by Ryan C. McNally

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jesus	Jesus Christ
Mary	Mother of Jesus
Joseph	Husband of Mary
Easter	Young Woman
Jude	Temple Bar Owner
Man	All other roles.

VOICE

The Producers would like to give special recognition to the person whose translations from ancient Aramaic to modern day English, made this play possible. Thank you Ms. Rosetta Stone.

Scene

Soon to be Holy Land

Time

29 AD or thereabouts

VOICE

Welcome to Jesus Got a Girlfriend.
During the performance the use of cell phones, audio devices, laptop computers, photography, artwork, parchment reproductions, and cave drawings are strictly prohibited. Please turn off your cell phones so we get the party started.

Prelude

Stage Lights down.

Music up:

Music ends with thunder and flashes of light.

MAN'S VOICE

It is a fact, that in the Bible's New Testament, there is no mention of Jesus, from the time of the Magi coming bearing gifts to his reaching the age of thirty; with the exception of Jesus becoming a carpenter.

(beat)

That said, we begin our story.

Lights up, BARE STAGE

CAST on their knees praying,
Then breaking into dance.

Song: PLEASE GOD

OH GOD PLEASE, PLEASE HEAR OUR PRAYER
WE CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE DISPAIR.
WHERE IS THE SAVIOR YOU PROMISED US?
LIFE'S REALLY LOUSY IN OLD NAZARETH.
TOOK TEN PLAGUES TO CONVINCED THE PHARAOH
TO GRANT US FREEDOM AND LET US GO.
NOW WE'RE STUCK ANSWERING TO ROME.
WHEN ARE WE GETTING A LAND OF OUR OWN?

DEAR GOD, WE'RE DOWN ON OUR KNEES,
BEGGING YOU PLEASE.
SEND US A SAVIOR A S A P!

YOU SAID WE'RE THE CHOSEN FEW,
WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT US TO DO?
FATHER, HAVEN'T WE SUFFERED ENOUGH?
LIFE'S REALLY CRUMMY IN OLD NAZARETH.
OUR LIVES ARE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE,
HELP US GET OUT FROM UNDER YOUR CURSE.
OUR PATIENCE IS WEARING REALLY THIN; SO
START BY ABSOLVING ORIGINAL SIN.

DEAR GOD, WE'RE DOWN ON OUR KNEES.
BEGGING YOU PLEASE.

SEND US A SAVIOR A S A P!

DIVINE ONE, NO MORE DELAYS
WE JEWS CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER DAY.
WE NEED A SAVIOR TO FIX THIS MESS
LIFE'S NO PICNIC IN OLD NAZARETH.
THERE'S RUMORS HEAVEN'S NOW OUT OF REACH,
A BORDER WALL'S UP THAT CAN'T BE BREACHED
DESERVING SOULS NEEDING THEIR REWARDS,
ARE BEING LEFT KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR.

DEAR GOD, WE'RE DOWN ON OUR KNEES,
BEGGING YOU PLEASE.
SEND US A SAVIOR A S A P!

Scene 1

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell Furniture Store,
A Division of Promised Land
Housing Development
Corporation.

AT RISE: Joseph enters carrying a
small stool.

JOSEPH

Jesus, get in here!

JESUS

(Jesus happily enters wearing tool belt and rock, hard-hat.
A spotlight (halo) shines over his head.)
You called, Step-Daddy.

JOSEPH

(Joseph thrusts the stool toward Jesus.)
Jesus, Jesus, look.
(Joseph demonstrates.)
It wobbles like a drunken Pharisee.

JESUS

Those Pharisees have always been a bit shaky.

JOSEPH

(Joseph picks up the stool.)
I've spent years teaching you carpentry and this is the best you
can do?

JESUS

I don't like being a carpenter, Step-Daddy. It's no fun. I'm
always smashing my thumb and getting dust up my nose.
(Jesus sneezes a puff of dust and loses his hat.)

JOSEPH

If it wasn't for carpentry, we'd still be living in that manger,
listening to that drummer kid, Rup-a-bum-bumming day and night.

JESUS

Just because you're a carpenter, doesn't mean I have to be one
too.

JOSEPH

(Joseph fiddles trying to fix the stool.)

I got big plans for you, Jesus. We're going to come out with the Jesus Collection of Fine Furniture. All the joints will be cross fit.

(hands form a cross)

JESUS

I don't want to be a wood butcher. No offense, but carpentry isn't my cup of goat's milk.

(Jesus picks up his hat and plunks himself putting it back on.)

JOSEPH

What is?

JESUS

I don't know.

JOSEPH

Why not?

JESUS

I don't know. There's so much in my life I don't know, I don't know what to think about beside what I don't know.

JOSEPH

You're going on thirty. If you don't want to be a carpenter fine, but you have to start thinking about your future.

(Joseph sits on the stool.)

JESUS

(perks up a bit)

Fisherman? How about tossing out a net for a living?

JOSEPH

Fishermen are a shekel a dozen, Jesus. You can do better than that. You're a smart guy. You got to think out of the sea shell, forge a new path, find a need and fill it.

JESUS

You got any suggestions?

JOSEPH

Become a salesman for the Promised Land Housing Development Company.

JESUS

I'd rather get hit by a falling frog.

(beat)

Maybe I should go back to school.

JOSEPH

You already graduated.

JESUS

I could go to grad school.

JOSEPH

School doesn't go any higher than the third grade. Plus, you got student loans to pay off.

JESUS

How about medicine?

JOSEPH

You heal the sick? You pass out at the sight of blood.

(Joseph falls off the stool.)

JESUS

(Jesus goes into a physical frustration fit.)

Step-Daddy--

JOSEPH

(struggles to get up)

Jesus, have you ever asked yourself what you want?

JESUS

Like for breakfast?

JOSEPH

No, what do you want for your life?

JESUS

I don't know. All I know is there is something out there for me. There's a reason I've been put on this God-forsaken earth. But how am I supposed to find out what it is, hanging around here swinging this dumb hammer?

(Mistakenly hits himself in the head with the hammer.)

I haven't been anywhere, done anything. I'm trapped in this place like I'm on house arrest.

JOSEPH

So hit the sandstone and leave!

(Jesus is bathed in a bright light.)

JOSEPH

What's the matter, Jesus?

JESUS

I think I'm having a revelation.

JOSEPH

You?

JESUS

Song: BREAK FREE

TIME FOR JESUS TO GET OUT
SEE WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.

JOSEPH

Yes!

JESUS

I HAVE TO QUIT THIS HANGING AROUND
AND GET MY ASS OUT OF THIS ONE ASS TOWN.

JOSEPH

Yeah!

JESUS

THE ONLY WAY I'LL FIND MY CALLING
IS TO PUT A STOP TO ALL THIS STALLING
NOTHING'S NOW IN THE WAY FOR ME,
TIME FOR JESUS TO BREAK FREE.

JOSEPH

Right on.

JESUS

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING PUT ON HOLD
TIME TO PACK UP AND HIT THE ROAD
CAN'T WORRY IF I SINK OR SWIM
TIME TO CAST MY FATE TO THE WIND

JOSEPH

You're right. So go, get out of here!

JESUS

Are you going to drive me?

JOSEPH

No.

JESUS

Why not?

JOSEPH

Get your ass on your own ass.

JESUS

(Jesus' mood changes; stops, sits on the stool.)
There's only one problem.

JOSEPH

What?

JESUS

Mumsy will have a leprosy attack if I leave.

(Jesus tries to balance on the stool.)

JOSEPH

You can't let that stop you, Jesus.

JESUS

But if she gets sick--

(has a hard time balancing on the stool)

JOSEPH

So she loses a limb or two? Your mom will get used to crawling around.

JESUS

I don't know, Step-Daddy. Consider all the Jewish guilt I'll have to deal with, if that happened?

(Jesus falls off the stool.)

JOSEPH

You have to stand up for yourself, Jesus. You can't keep letting your mother dangle you from her fingertips like a worthless serpent.

JESUS

(Jesus stumbles to his feet.)
She's been dangling you around for years.

JOSEPH

That's different.

JESUS

How?

JOSEPH

Get married and find out for yourself.

JESUS

Step-Daddy, I don't want to still be living at home when I'm thirty-something. It'll feel like I've been here for a millennium.

JOSEPH

Suck it up kid. This is your life. You gotta go for it.

JESUS

Suggestions, please.

JOSEPH

You're going to sit down with your mother, tell her what you want, what you're going to do, and where you're going to do it. And don't take NO for an answer!

JESUS

You first.

JOSEPH

Me?

JESUS

Soften her up for me and I'll come in and close the deal.

JOSEPH

She won't listen to me.

JESUS

Please.

JOSEPH

Jesus, Jesus

Scene 2

AT RISE: Mary sits in the Sit-a-Spell store, knitting an outfit.
Joseph enters.

JOSEPH

Mary, we have to talk.

MARY

Not another investment scheme.

JOSEPH

(Joseph sits with her on the same side of the table.)
Not this time, Sweet Cheeks, although there's a few opportunities out there that look promising.

MARY

Forget it Joseph. After you blew our windfall, no way. That Magi money was a gift for Jesus, not you.

JOSEPH

Okay, so I was a little before my time with the housing project.

MARY

Nobody wants to live in a desert development named the Promised Land.

JOSEPH

Do you have to keep holding that over my head like a rock?
(Mary puts the yarn over Joseph's neck.)

MARY

That Magi told you it wouldn't work.

JOSEPH

You believe those three wise guys over me? One said he followed a star to find us. It was cloudy that night.

MARY

We could have bought seafront property with the frankincense and furnished the house with the myrrh. We could be living high on the Haifa hog, if it wasn't for your sure-fire investment scheme.

JOSEPH

(Joseph has to keep twisting around as Mary pulls the yarn from his neck.)

That's all waves under the Red Sea now, Little Bugaboo. We have to talk about Jesus.

MARY

Ah, my little Yah-Whee.

JOSEPH

He's twenty-nine, Honeybunch. You got to quit with the nicknames.

MARY

But he's so cute.

JOSEPH

He's got a beard. You can't have a beard and be cute.

MARY

My little Baby Yeah-Zu can do anything.

JOSEPH

Buttercup, Jesus needs to get out in the world, test his metal, see what life is all about. He can't keep hanging around the shop all day. He hates furniture. Doesn't know oak from olives or pine from persimmons.

(Mary yanks the yarn, strangling her husband.)

MARY

No.

JOSEPH

He has to get out of here and find where he fits in the world.
(choking, twisting twice)

MARY

He'll get lost and end up wandering in the desert for forty days and forty nights.

JOSEPH

(Joseph stands, and twists, as the yarn spirals from his neck. Sings as he turns.)

Song: LET THE BOY GO

JESUS IS TIRED OF LIVING AT HOME
HE NEEDS HIS FREEDOM AND ROOM TO ROAM.

MARY

Naw—

JOSEPH

OPEN THE CAGE, UNLOCK THE DOOR
UNTIE THE STRINGS YOU'LL SEE HIM SOAR.

MARY

I'm not buying this.

JOSEPH

QUIT LIVING HIS LIFE AND CALLING HIM CUTE
HE'S GOT TO DISCOVER WHAT HE WANTS TO DO.

MARY, OH MARY, OH CAN'T YOU SEE,
IT'S TIME FOR JESUS TO BREAK FREE.

(Mary cuts the yarn; outfit finished. Joseph sits back next
to Mary.)

MARY

No, bad idea, really bad idea.

JOSEPH

Please!

(Jesus enters.)

JESUS

Why do you always sit on the same side of the table?

JOSEPH

Hell if I know.

MARY

Hello, my little supreme being.

JESUS

Hello, Mumsy.

(Mary hands over the knitted outfit to Jesus.)

JOSEPH

(exiting the table and scene)
Sorry, Jesus. I gave it my best shot.

(Jesus unfurls a set of knitted pajamas, on the back is a cloth door on the seat.)

MARY

Try 'em on.

JESUS

(sits on the floor, trying to find the pj's feet)
Mumsy—

MARY

Jesus, what's all this silliness about you wanting to leave?
Don't you like it here?

JESUS

(Fumbling with the pj's, rolling around to get them on.)
It's not that I don't like it, Mumsy. It's just that it has
become... confining.

(One foot goes into a pj leg and enclosed foot.)

MARY

Confining? What do you mean confining? You have your own room,
get three fish entrees a day, laundry service, and you don't
have to share a cave pot with anyone.

JESUS

(Both feet are in, but not very comfortably.)
It's not enough.

MARY

Did Joseph put you up to this?

JESUS

No.

MARY

Are you sure?

JESUS

Yes.

MARY

Do you have any idea how good you have it, Jesus?

(Jesus struggles to pull the pjs up over his clothes.)

JESUS

Mumsy, ever since I was a little kid—

MARY

(Interrupting)

I gave you everything you wanted growing up.

JESUS

No. You never let me do anything.

MARY

That's not true.

JESUS

I never had a sleepover.

MARY

You did too.

JESUS

Animals don't count.

MARY

You got to go to camp.

JESUS

Carpentry camp with Step-Daddy Joseph. That was a load of laughs.

MARY

The bartering in the temple camp was filled. I put you on the waiting list.

JESUS

(Still struggling getting the pj's up and on)
You don't let me date.

MARY

You're not mature enough.

(A heap of Jesus' clothes forms a big lump at his crotch, as he stands.)

JESUS

Mumsy, I'm rip-roaring, rarin' to go.

MARY

(Hands go over her ears)

I'm pretending I didn't hear that.

JESUS

What's wrong with me and some girl taking in a Hava Negela once in a while?

MARY

No woman is good enough for my boy.

JESUS

Shouldn't that be my decision?

MARY

Trust me, I know women.

JESUS

(Jesus stumbles around.)

It's not fair. You have to be some kind of God around here to get some respect.

(Jesus falls down again.)

MARY

What could be so important all of a sudden?

JESUS

I want more out of my life!

MARY

You sure Joseph didn't have anything to do with this?

JESUS

He may have pointed out a few things.

(Jesus gets his arm into a pj sleeve.)

MARY

What more could you possibly want?

JESUS

I want to see the world.

(The pj's hood covers his eyes.)

MARY

Why?

JESUS

Because it's there.

MARY

It will be there tomorrow, next month, next year. You can wait.

JESUS

But I'm ready to go now.

(Jesus gets his other arm into the sleeve, pulls the rest of the pjs on. The front has a rendition of God with his thunderbolt.)

MARY

I'll know when you're ready and you're not ready yet.

JESUS

Yes, I am.

(Jesus puffs up his chest, takes a deep breath.)

JESUS

Mumsy, my sundial is fading away. If I don't leave soon, I'll spend the rest of my life in my room.

MARY

Jesus, don't be silly.

JESUS

I want to see what I can handle, walk a mile in my own sandals.

MARY

Open your eyes, smell the burning bush, realize how good you got it; then SHUSS!

JESUS

I'm tired of being stuck in Limbo by you telling me 'No, you can't go.'

MARY

Song: GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON

JESUS. HAVE YOU EVER...
CUT YOUR OWN HAIR.
OR HAVE YOU PICKED WHAT TO WEAR
MILKED A LAMB'S TEAT
OR WASHED YOUR OWN FEET?

JESUS

No.

MARY

JESUS HAVE YOU EVER
CLIPPED YOUR OWN NAILS
OR HAVE YOU HOISTED A SAIL
MADE YOUR OWN BED
OR UNLEAVENED BREAD?

JESUS

No, but I can learn, you'll see.

MARY

Just like you learned carpentry?

JESUS

Mumsy, I'm bustin' at the seams.
(the pjs rip)

MARY

MY DARLING JESUS DON'T DESPAIR
ANOTHER YEAR IT WILL STILL BE THERE

JESUS

TAKE YOUR SCHACKLES OFF ME
AND LET ME BREATHE FREE.

MARY

LISTEN TO YOUR MOM
THIS IS NOT THE TIME

JESUS

I AM A GROWN MAN I WILL GET ALONG
I'LL SHOW YOU I CAN.

MARY

FOR YOUR TRAVEL SEASON

JESUS

(screams)
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON NOT TO GO.

MARY

(screams louder)
READ MY LIPS, JESUS. 'CAUSE I SAID NO!

(Jesus throws a physical fit as well as verbal.)

JESUS

There's a lot more to this than just visiting.

MARY

Like what?

JESUS

I have to find out why my past is such a mystery.

(Jesus shakes, he's so upset)

MARY.

Now don't be getting all agitated or you'll wind up constipated.

JESUS

Why can't you tell me the truth? Give me the skinny backed up with proof.

MARY

Okay, give me a question. Ask away.

Song: I WANT TO KNOW

JESUS

Fine.

HERE'S A GOOD START, A PLACE TO BEGIN.
WHY IS MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE HALF WAY FILLED IN?

MARY

Hmmmmmm, excellent question.

JESUS

FOR ALL I KNOW, I WAS ADOPTED
PICKED FROM A LITTER OF THE UNWANTED
MAYBE I WASN'T BORN IN A MANGER,
BUT LEFT AT THE DOOR BY A STRANGER.

MARY

Could we come back to this one later?

JESUS

WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW,
WHO IS MY DAD?
WAS HE A GOOD GUY?
OR MERELY A CAD?

MARY

That's a tough one to explain.

JESUS

WAS I THE PRODUCT OF A ONE NIGHT TRYST?
DOES MY DAD EVEN KNOW I EXIST?
WERE YOU IN LOVE OR WAS IT A FLING?
WHY DIDN'T HE STAY DO THE RIGHT THING?

MARY

I promise, I'll tell you when the times right, when you're better equipped to understand.

JESUS

No. I want to know now.

MARY

(positions her hands on his face)
Jesus, you have to calm down. Let's see a smile replace that frown.

JESUS

(shakes her hands from his face)
What you are doing is forcing me to live a life without meaning.

MARY

Oh, Jesus, cut the drama.

JESUS

How am I going to learn the real me, the man I am destined to be?

MARY

I'd love to tell you right now, but I had to swear to a secrecy vow.

JESUS

I don't believe you.

MARY

Well, that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

JESUS

If you don't tell me what I need to know, I'll find the answers out on my own.

MARY

How about if we continue this after lunch?

JESUS

No.

MARY

We're having Gefilte fish. One of your favorites.

JESUS

I'm not hungry.

(stomps his feet all the way off stage)

MARY

Jesus—

(loud. Beat)

Jesus, get back here.

(louder. Beat)

Jesus, you do what I say,

(loudest. Beat)

Or you won't see another blintz until you turn grey.

(Pause. Jesus returns, a hobo's suitcase on his shoulder.)

MARY

Where are you going?

JESUS

I don't know.

MARY

I promised I'd never let you out of my sight.

JESUS

Then I guess you broke your promise.

(Jesus starts his exit.)

MARY

Trouble's around every corner. Jesus, I'm only trying to warn ya.

JESUS

Goodbye, Mumsy.

(Jesus marches off stage.)

MARY

Jesus, come back. Come back.

(Mary falls into a clump, calls out.)

MARY

Jeeeeesus....

(Joseph enters.)

JOSEPH

Hey, what's going on? Where's Jesus?

MARY

(Runs offstage after Jesus, weeping)
He ran away from home.

(Joseph faces front, smiles, and gives two big thumbs up.)

Scene 3

SETTING: Desert.

AT RISE: Jesus begins his
journey.
Light comes up slowly.

JESUS

(Jesus, with pep in his step, walks along, enjoying the day.)

Song: WORLD'S WAITING FOR ME

THERE'S A NEW WORLD WAITING FOR ME
JUST THE OTHER SIDE OF GAILIEE.

RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS, DESERTS AND SEAS
WAITING FOR JESUS TO COME AND SEE.

JERUSALEM, ROME, EDEN AND THEBES,
THE GARDENS OF GETHSEMENE.

I'LL VISIT SOMEPLACE NEW EVERYDAY.
GET MY KICKS ON THE APPIAN WAY.

EXPAND HORIZONS AND CHANGE MY VIEWS
FINALLY MEET SOMEONE WHO'S NOT A JEW!

(Jesus excitedly moves off stage.)

(Lights down, a few beats, then up. The stage is brighter)

(Jesus, hot and sweaty, fanning himself, pacing slowly, in opposite direction as before.)

JESUS

MAYBE THIS WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL.
MUMSY KNEW BEST AND MADE THE RIGHT CALL.

TRIP HASN'T TURNED OUT THE WAY I INTENDED
ALL I SEE IS DESERT AND MORE SAND.

LIFE AS A VAGABOND IS NO LIFE FOR ME
AFTER ONLY THREE HOURS THAT'S EASY TO SEE.

(MAN, wearing a Bedouin head wrap, and pulling a cart, comes up behind Jesus, who quickly sticks his thumb out to hitch a ride.)

MAN

Sorry, son. All loaded up, but I'll see you later.

(Man passes. Jesus disappointed.)

JESUS

SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A TOUR FOR WHICH I'M MORE SUITED
EIGHT DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS, WITH ALL MEALS INCLUDED.

I'VE MET ONLY SELFISH FOLK ON THE ROAD
NOT ONE HAS OFFERED TO HELP EASE MY LOAD.

NEVER EXPECTED THE PAIN I HAVE GONE THROUGH
(Jesus takes a deep breath, gets a second wind.)
BUT I GOT TO DO WHAT I GOTTA DO.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I WILL SEE
WHAT THE WORLD HAS IN STORE FOR ME.

(Jesus trudges off with new resolve in the opposite
direction.)

(Lights down, a few beats, then up. Stage is as bright as
can be.)

(Jesus, pooped, stumbles along, stops, sits on a rock, and
takes his sandals off.)

JESUS

CORNS ON MY BLISTERS AND BLISTERS ON MY CORNS.
I CAN'T REMEMBER FEELING SO FORELORNED.
(rubs his feet)

SWEATY, GROUDY, I MUST SMELL LIKE A SKUNK,
(smells his armpits)
BODY'S ACHING, MY MIND'S IN A FUNK.
(grabs his skull)
DIRTY ITCHY, WOULD YOU LOOK AT MY HAIR
(picks hair up in his hands)
WHAT I WOULDN'T DO FOR SOME CLEAN UNDERWEAR.
(itches his privates)

(Jesus falls off the rock.)

I FEEL WORTHLESS, DISTRAUGHT AND ALL ALONE
MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE IN AND GO HOME.

(hands together he prays to the heavens)

I PRAY DEAR GOD HELP SAVE MY FATE
TELL ME WHAT TO DO BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

(Jesus drops his head into his hands in defeat.
A thunderclap sounds. Jesus pops up, looks in the distance,
points.)

JESUS

Civilization!

(Jesus hurries off in the direction, but gets a hotfoot
with no sandals on.)

Scene 4

SETTING: Temple Bar and Grill

AT RISE: Easter, young pretty
Barmaid is being hit
on by Jude, the owner.
Customer (MAN) sips at
the bar, wearing a Coolie
hat.

JUDE
Easter, you are lookin' good. How about you and me breakin' a
little bread later?

EASTER
I'm working, remember?

JUDE
After work?

EASTER
I have to wash my hair.

JUDE
You washed your hair last night.

EASTER
It pays to be neat.

JUDE
Come on, Easter. Are we ever going to hook up?

EASTER
I doubt it.

JUDE
Why not?

EASTER
I don't cast my net off the company pier.

JUDE
Easter, you got me all wrong. I'm not a bad sort.

EASTER
Jude, you just want to get into my shorts.

JUDE

Song: JUMP ON MY WAGON

EASTER, IT'S TIME TO JUMP ON MY WAGON.
I'M GOING TO THE TOP AND I'M NOT BRAGGIN'
I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT JUST CANNOT MISS.
OUR LIVES WILL BE NOTHING BUT BLISS.

EASTER

OK, JUDE, TELL ME YOUR PLAN, YOUR BIG IDEA, SCHEME OR FLIM-
FLAM.

JUDE

I'M COMING OUT WITH A BOOK, THE BIBLE PART TWO.
I'LL TAKE AND UPDATE THE OLD STORIES TO NEW.
REBECCA POPS OUT A NEW SET OF TWINS,
THEY COME UP WITH A VACCINE FOR ORIGINAL SIN.

EASTER

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT A BOOK TO SUCCEED, WHEN MOST PEOPLE
CAN'T EVEN READ?

JUDE

THE JEWS ARE CLAMORING FOR A NEW EDITION,
ROMANS AND GREEKS GET THEIR OWN REDITIONS.
IT APPEALS TO KIDS, TEENS, DADS AND MOMS,
IT'LL BE NUMBER ONE WITH AMAZONS.

EASTER

IT WILL TAKE YEARS, THE BIBLE'S SO LONG.

JUDE

(Interrupts)
THERE ARE GHOSTWRITERS ON IT, MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN.

EASTER

IT WON'T SELL, YOU'LL BE CRYING THE BLUES,
THE CRITICS WILL CRUCIFY YOU.

JUDE

THE BIBLE PART TWO WILL BE A SMASH,
I WILL MAKE BUNDLES, BUNDLES OF CASH.
WAY TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE,
MY NAME WILL BE LIT UP IN CANDLES.

EASTER

Sell it someplace else, Jude.

JUDE

I'm telling you Easter, this is the greatest idea since the wheel.

EASTER

(says to the MAN at the bar, now wearing a mortarboard)
What do you think?

MAN

I'm not sure it's up to the level of the wheel.

JUDE

What do you say, Easter? Let's give it a go.

EASTER

(checks the stock)
Why don't you give it a go to get more beer?

(Jude, dejected, trudges off stage.)

EASTER

You look pretty smart. You know anything about men?

MAN

I got a pretty good idea on how they're put together.

EASTER

(She sings directly to her customer.)

Song: MAN OF MY DREAMS

WILL I EVER MEET THE MAN OF MY DREAMS?
WHERE'S THE MAN I'LL ALWAYS ADORE?
THE PICKENS AROUND HERE ARE PRETTY DARN LEAN,
I WANT MY FOREVERMORE.

WHY CAN'T I FIND MY PERFECT MISTER?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?
I DON'T WANT TO END UP A SPINSTER,
DESTINED TO BE THE LAST LEAF ON THE TREE.

I'VE CHANGED MY HAIR AND BOUGHT NEW SHOES,
PAID MORE THAN MY SHARE OF SINGLE'S DUES,
TRIED BOOK CLUBS, GYMS, AND GONE OUT TO DINE,
YET I'VE NOT FOUND ONE TO BE MINE

I DON'T WANT A CAREER. I WANT OUT OF HERE.
TO BE MARRIED AND NOT POURING BEER.
I'VE WORKED ENOUGH FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE,
AND THERE IS NOTHING WRONG BEING A WIFE.

I NEVER WANT ANOTHER BLIND DATE,
A YENTA FIX-UP OR MATCHED ON J-DATE.
MY CLOCK'S TICKING, SO BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE,
PLEASE GOD, HELP FIND MY SOULMATE.

MAN

I'll see what I can do.

(Jude returns, carrying a box labeled Maccabee Brewing.)

JUDE

Changed your mind, Easter?

EASTER

I'm taking my break.

JUDE

Break? What's a break?

(Easter exits. Jude leers at her as she leaves. He says to
the customer, who puts on a Yamaka.)

JUDE

Song: NOTCH ON MY STAFF

MY GOD, THAT EASTER IS SO FRICKEN HOT,
I CAN'T WAIT TO GIVE HER MY BEST SHOT.
OTHER WOMEN CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF MY SHTICK,
BUT WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET IN THIS CHICK?

MAN

I'm not the one to ask.

JUDE

I DRESS FOR SUCCESS WITH MONEY IN MY POCKET,
BETWEEN MY LOINS I GOT A HELL OF A ROCKET.
I ADMIT, I MIGHT BE A LITTLE SLEAZY,
AND KNOWN TO HOOK UP WITH GIRLS THAT ARE EASY.

MAN

Duh

JUDE

BUT ONCE I SET MY SIGHTS ON MY PREY,
I LET NOTHING STAND IN MY WAY.
I GO BALLS OUT, FULL STEAM AHEAD,
AND WON'T QUIT TILL I GET IN HER BED.

MAN

Good luck with that.

JUDE

HEAR WHAT I SAY AND YOU CAN MARK MY WORDS.
I'M ON A MISSION AND WON'T BE DETERRED.
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES, I WON'T VEER FROM MY PATH.
AND I'M NOT GIVING UP UNTIL EASTER'S ANOTHER NOTCH ON MY
STAFF.

MAN

Sounds painful.

(A cock-a-doodle-do rings out from above.)

JUDE

Shut up, bird.

(Easter returns, avoids Jude's smarmy smile, and wipes
down the bar.)

(Jesus, hot, tired and sweaty, enters under a glow.)

JESUS

(sarcastically to the Man)
You the one I saw out on the road?

MAN

(Wearing an Aussie Bushman's hat)
Maybe.

JESUS

If you were, thanks for nothing, Mister.

MAN

I knew you'd make it. I had faith in you.

JESUS

Wish I did.

EASTER

(Easter comes over and stares at the light above Jesus' head.)

Halo?

JESUS

Halo to you too.

EASTER

No. Is that a halo over your head?

(Easter waves her hand through the light, and smiles.)

JESUS

Probably the heat coming out of my head. It's hotter than hell out there.

MAN

Not quite.

(Easter takes Jesus, gently leads him to the 2-stool bar, sits him next to the Man.)

EASTER

Here, sit in my section.

(Jude doesn't appreciate seeing her affection for Jesus.)

JUDE

What'll you have there, buddy?

JESUS

I don't know, I've never been in a bar before.

JUDE

You got some ID?

JESUS

I'm almost thirty.

EASTER

Perfect.

JUDE

No sandals, no ID, no service.

MAN

(now wearing a policeman's hat)
I'll vouch for him.

EASTER
I've never met a guy's whose never been in a bar before.

JESUS
I should get out more often.

JUDE
All right, so what do you want?

(Jesus hesitates.)

JESUS
What do you have?

EASTER
We have wine and beer.

JESUS
(to Easter)
Which do you recommend?

JUDE
(Interrupting)
Both.

JESUS
OK.

EASTER
(Easter pours from two bottles.)
One Arnold Palmer coming up.

JUDE
Where you from, Bub?

JESUS
Nazareth.

JUDE
Never heard of it, sounds like a rock band.

EASTER
Nobody's ever heard of this place either, Jude.

JESUS

Where's here? I've been wandering around, not sure where I am.

EASTER

Mount Sinai.

JESUS

Mount Cy-a-nide?

JUDE

Sinai. We're famous for doing sermons on Saturday.

EASTER

It's our busiest day of the week.

JESUS

Saturday, during the Sabbat?

JUDE

The wives and kids go up the hill, the husbands come in here, and when they meet up later and the wives ask, "Where were you?", all the guys have to say is "Honey, I was in the Temple."

MAN

(Man shows his disgust at Jude's comment, gets up, on his way out says to Jude.)

Booo!

EASTER

(to the man)

Come again, soon.

(Easter puts out her hand to Jesus.)

I'm Easter.

(Jude gives them his evil eye.)

JESUS

(shaking her hand)

Nice to meet you, I'm Jesus.

JUDE

Easter, can I see you for a second?

(pulls Easter away from Jesus)

EASTER

What, Jude? I'm busy.

(Jesus tastes the concoction, Yuck)

JUDE

(pulls her over to him)
There's something about this guy I don't like.

EASTER

So?

JUDE

Something about him isn't Kosher.

EASTER

Not.

JUDE

He's already chased one customer out the door. If he hangs around any longer, they'll be plenty more.

EASTER

Get rid of him, and we won't any customers.

JUDE

I got business out of here now, but when I get back, this guy better be history.

(Jude exits, gives Jesus a dirty look. Easter returns to Jesus.)

JESUS

I bet he's fun at parties.

EASTER

Jesus, mind if I ask you a personal question?

JESUS

Sure. My life's an open book or will be someday.

EASTER

Are you married, engaged, engaged to be engaged, in a serious relationship, dating anyone, in love, in like, or got your eyes on anybody?

JESUS

No.

EASTER

Got an interest in any of those?

JESUS

I don't know. Maybe.

EASTER

What kind of girls do you date?

JESUS

Date? Heck, I've never even been out late.

EASTER

Ah-oh, red flag.
Why not?

JESUS

Let's just say I was tied up.

EASTER

How?

JESUS

Apron strings.

(Easter laughs at Jesus.)

EASTER

Song: BODY AND SOUL

OH JESUS, PLEASE DON'T GET ME WRONG.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO COME ON TOO STRONG.
TO LEAVE A BAD IMPRESSION ON YOU,
BUT I'VE NOT MET SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

JESUS

AND I'VE NEVER MET SOMEONE LIKE YOU
SO NICE, SO WARM, SO CARING SO TRUE.
YOU'RE NOT ONE TO BE OUT ON THE MAKE,
TO KNOW YOU MORE A CHANCE TO TAKE
(I'D LOVE TO GET TO KNOW YOU FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE.)

EASTER

YOUR WHOLE WORLD IS SO PURE AND FAIR
FROM WHAT I'VE KNOWN A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.
WE COULD BE THE VERY BEST OF FRIENDS,
SOMEONE TO COUNT ON TO THE END.

JESUS

I NEED SOMEONE TO HELP ME SEE
WHAT THE WORLD HAS WAITING FOR ME
THERE'S MUCH OF MYSELF I'VE YET TO DISCOVER.
AND THERE IS SO MUCH MORE FOR ME TO UNCOVER.

EASTER

I COULD SURELY BE SOMEONE TO ASSIST,
TO HELP YOU FIND SOME MEANING WITH THIS
AND BE MORE THAN GLAD TO TAKE ON THE ROLE,
I'LL THROW MYSELF IN, BODY AND SOUL.

JESUS

Easter, I'm all yours. What's our first step?

EASTER

Do you have any money?

JESUS

No.

EASTER

Another red flag.
Then first, we need to put food on your table.

JESUS

We could do take out.

EASTER

Not if you don't have any money.

JESUS

Didn't think of that.

EASTER

Then we should start getting you a job. What are you good at?

JESUS

All I've ever been good at is finding what I'm not good at.

EASTER

(chuckles at his answer)
Jesus, you know, you're a funny guy.

JESUS

Do you have to remind me?

EASTER

No, it's a good thing.

JESUS

Why?

EASTER

Because there's a star in your future.

JESUS

Shooting or celestial?

EASTER

Both.

JESUS

I was already born under a star, and look where that's gotten me.

EASTER

Well, get ready to be reborn.

Scene 5

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell Store

AT RISE: Joseph and Mary.

MARY

This is all your fault, Joseph.

JOSEPH

Me? What did I do?

MARY

Filling Jesus' head with all your stories of the road.

JOSEPH

And there are plenty to tell, if I say so, myself.

MARY

Oh, yeah. Joseph, the carpentry stud.

JOSEPH

All the little ladies used to call me Woody.

MARY

We have to find Jesus.

JOSEPH

Why?

MARY

He could be lost, in trouble, in the clutches of thieves, or worse, a city girl.

JOSEPH

Jesus needs to get out and sow some wild olives.

MARY

You have to find him, Joseph.

JOSEPH

Do I look like a lost sheep finder?

MARY

If Jesus gets mixed up with the wrong crowd and doesn't get around to fulfilling his destiny, you, me and the world are in big trouble.

JOSEPH

How could you know that?

MARY

A ghost told me.

JOSEPH

A ghost? Jeesh!

MARY

A holy ghost.

JOSEPH

You got to be kidding me.

MARY

I'm not.

JOSEPH

Why can't you tell me what's really going on?

MARY

I'm sworn to secrecy. Plus, you don't want to know.

JOSEPH

Try me.

MARY

Song: WATCH OUT BELOW

JESUS IS ON EARTH FOR A PURPOSE.
IF HE DOESN'T FULLFILL IT, IT'S GONNA CURSE US.

I KNOW THIS IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND,
BUT IF HE DOESN'T HIT THIRTY, THE SHIT HITS THE FAN.

JOSEPH

Mama's boy, Jesus?

MARY

DROUGHTS IN THE FIELDS, FLOODS IN THE RIVERS,
DESTINED TO BE, ALL IF WE DON'T DELIVER.
HURRICANES AND QUAKES ON THE SAME DAY,
LOCUSTS, ERUPTIONS, WHAT A PRICE WE WILL PAY.

JOSEPH

Where do you come up with this stuff?

MARY

FALLING FROGS FROM THE SKY, THE SUN GOING DARK,
THE PLAGUES WE ONCE HAD, WILL BE A WALK IN THE PARK.

NO FISH IN THE STREAMS, OR BIRDS IN THE SKY,
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE ARE ALL GONNA DIE.

JOSEPH

Sweet-cheeks, what have you been consuming?

MARY

I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT TO HEAR.
BUT YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME AND GET JESUS BACK HERE.

(Joseph goes to Mary)

JOSEPH

THIS IS A BIT HARD TO BELIEVE.
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU GOT A TRICK UP YOUR SLEEVE.

THE WORLD'S IN RUIN, COMING UNDONE,
IF I CAN'T FIND YOUR PRODIGAL SON?

MARY

WISH I HAD SOMEONE ELSE I COULD ASK,
WHO I COULD COUNT ON TO TAKE UP THE TASK.

JOSEPH, YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU CAN.
YOU WILL BE SAVING THE FAMILY OF MAN.

JOSEPH

IF YOU'RE SO SURE OF WHAT YOUR REVEALING,
WHY DON'T YOU AND ME DO A LITTLE DEALIN'?

MARY

What?

JOSEPH

I FIND JESUS AND BRING HIM BACK TO YOUR FOLD,
YOU ZIP YOUR LIP AND PUT YOUR MOTHERING ON HOLD.

MARY

I CAN'T DO THAT, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME.
JESUS STILL NEEDS ME AS HIS LIFELINE.

JOSEPH

I don't buy it.

MARY

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE BARGAINING,
YOU HAVE TO FIND HIM AND QUIT ARGUING.

JOSEPH

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, I'M ALL YOU GOT LEFT.
LET'S SEAL THE DEAL AND FIX THIS MESS.

(Joseph thrusts his hand to her.)

(Mary reluctantly puts her hand out, but crosses her other
fingers behind her back, before shaking.)

(Mary quickly takes her hand back.)

MARY

Now, get out there and find my King of Kings.

Scene 6

SETTING: Temple Bar.

AT RISE: Soapbox/stage on the floor.
MAN, in Gratefull Dead hat is the audience.
Easter takes the stage.
Jude looks on angerly.

EASTER

Gentleman, it is time to put your hands together and give a rousing Temple Bar and Grill welcome to the funniest man this side of Judea. Give it up for Jesus of Nazareth.

(Man applauds. Mary gives up the stage, returns to the bar, where Jude waits.)

JUDE

I thought I told you to give this guy the boot.

(Jesus, wearing an arrow through his head, takes the stage.)

EASTER

I tell you Jude. Jesus is going to be a smash, and I want you to be his agent.

JUDE

That'll happen when Pontius Pilate learns to fly.

JESUS

Ever wonder how a rabbi makes tea? He-brews it.

(silence)

And how does a rabbi make holy water? He boils the hell out of it.

JUDE

His act needs more polishing than a Dead Sea Scroll.

JESUS

A guy went to his rabbi warning him a flood's coming and asked if he knew anyone who made arks? Sure, the rabbi said, I No-ah guy.

JUDE

This guy couldn't get a hyena to laugh.

JESUS

What did the rabbi say after the circumcision? It won't be long now.

JUDE

I've heard funnier lines at funerals.

JESUS

Boy, was it hot today.

EASTER

(calls out)
How hot was it?

JESUS

It was so hot the devil took the day off, the fire ants caught fire, and the bees took off their yellow jackets.

(Not a laugh. Easter rushes to take the stage.)

EASTER

OK, let's hear it for Jesus of Nazareth.

(One clap.)

(Easter pulls Jesus back to the bar.)

JESUS

How'd I do?

JUDE

You broke the first rule of comedy.

JESUS

What's that?

JUDE

You weren't funny.

JESUS

I thought maybe they couldn't understand my Aramaic accent.

JUDE

No, that wasn't it.

JESUS

I failed miserably?

JUDE

That's it.

EASTER

Comedy may not be your thing, Jesus. Can you do magic?

JESUS

What's magic?

JUDE

Making people think you can do the impossible, like perform miracles.

JESUS

I wish.

EASTER

You weren't kidding about being sheltered as a kid, were you?

JESUS

You have no clue.

EASTER

And I thought my mother was over-bearing, when she wouldn't let me attend bar mitzvahs.

JUDE

Where'd you grow up, in a cave?

JESUS

Probably, where I'll end up.

(despondent)

What am I going to do with my life?

EASTER

I'm sorry comedy didn't work out, Jesus. We should take some time and talk.

(drops the bar cloth)

Jude, I'm taking a personal day.

JUDE

There's no such thing as a personal day.

EASTER

Sure there is. It just isn't official yet.

(takes Jesus by the hand)

Come on Jesus, let's take a walk.

(Easter and Jesus exit.)

(Man comes over to the bar.)

MAN

Can I get another Nasher Neer Beer?

JUDE

(pouring)

Another colored water, coming up.

MAN

You have to admit, they do make a nice couple.

JUDE

Song: SOMETHING'S NOT KOSHER

WHAT THE HELL DOES EASTER SEE IN THIS GUY?
CAN'T SHE SEE HE TELLING LIE AFTER LIE?
IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE, THAT I CAN TELL.
THAT GUY'S A LOSER WITH A CAPITAL L.

FELL HOOK LINE AND SINKER. THE MOMENT THEY MET.
HIS RAP'S GOT MORE HOLES THAN A FISHING NET.
HARD TO BELIEVE EASTER COULD BE SO DUMB.
THE GUY'S ONE STEP FROM BEING A BUM.

HE HAS NO MONEY, FUTURE OR JOB.
HOW WILL HE EVER AFFORD TO KEEP HER?
I CAN ONLY HOPE ONCE THEY GET CLOSER,
SHE'LL SEE FOR HERSELF, SOMETHING'S NOT KOSHER.

MAN

Women, can't live with 'em. And in your case, Jude, can't live with 'em.

(Man finishes his drink, exits, passing Joseph walking in.)

MAN

Hey, Joe.

(Joseph gives him a *Do I know you* look before sitting at the bar.)

JUDE

What'll you have there, Bud?

JOSEPH

You got any craft beers?

JUDE

Crafted one this morning, Pale Wailing Wall Ale.

JOSEPH

One of those. Plus, I'll have the wings of a dove, snakeskin chips, challah bread, and shot of Manishevits.

(Jude starts the order, pouring.)

JUDE

Haven't see you before. What are you doing in town?

JOSEPH

Looking for somebody.

JUDE

Who?

JOSEPH

Guy named Jesus.

JUDE

You a bounty hunter?

JOSEPH

Not exactly.

JUDE

Is there a reward for this Jesus fella?

JOSEPH

Big one.
Have you seen him?

JUDE

Dark hair, beard, late twenties, medium height?

JOSEPH

Yeah.

JUDE

No, never saw him before in my life. What did he do?

JOSEPH

Ran away from home.

JUDE

Why?

JOSEPH

Get away from his mother.

JUDE

She that bad?

JOSEPH

Let's just say the thought's crossed my mind a number of times.

JUDE

If I just happen to run into this guy, Jesus, what should I do?

JOSEPH

Get him to Joseph's Sit-a-Spell store in Nazareth.

JUDE

And I get my reward?

JOSEPH

One that will last you a lifetime.

JUDE

As Goliath said to David, 'I'll keep an eye out for ya.'

Scene 7

SETTING: Desert, rock.

AT RISE: Jesus and Easter walk,
Stop, sit, and hang out.
Easter fascinated by the
halo.

EASTER

It's a ring of light.

JESUS

Maybe I should get a job as a night watchman, a street lamp, or
a glow-in-the-dark sign spinner?

EASTER

You're different. You know that Jesus?

JESUS

Don't remind me. All through school I never stopped hearing:
Jesus Freak, Jerky Jesus, the Nerd of Nazareth.

EASTER

Kids can be cruel.

But I think it's good you're a little out there.

JESUS

Why?

EASTER

(picks lice out of his hair)
You're not like all the other single guys around here, only
looking for a bootie call.

JESUS

What's a bootie?

EASTER

Jesus, you are one of a kind.

JESUS

Yes, but I can't help it. If everyone else went left, I'd go
right to see what they're missing.

EASTER

Nothing's the matter with that.

JESUS

I can't understand why people think what they think.

EASTER

Me neither.

JESUS

Like I hear people moaning about what others do wrong, then I see them doing the same stuff, but worse.

EASTER

I hate that.

JESUS

Or why do rich people get all the tax breaks, like inheritance write-offs? It's the poor who need the money.

EASTER

Yeah, let the meek inherit the worth.

JESUS

The thirsty need a drink once in a while too.

EASTER

Blessed are those who can't afford spirits.

JESUS

And the poor of heart.

EASTER

Give them peacemakers.

JESUS

And if I ever build a house, it'll be on rock, not sand.

EASTER

Who'd ever build a house on sand?

JESUS

My step-daddy. He says it's cheaper.

(turns to her)

I got a lot of good ideas, Easter.

EASTER

Then why don't you go out and tell people?

JESUS

Who'd ever listen to me?

EASTER

I can hear you, Jesus. I can hear you.

JESUS

Easter, you're one of the chosen few.

EASTER

(Easter gets next to him, holds his hand in hers.)

Jesus, do you believe in soulmates?

JESUS

What's a soulmate?

EASTER

Song: SOULMATES

SOULMATES THEY SAY
ARE A PERFECT MATCH
LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD,
OR BIRDS OF ONE FEATHER.

JESUS

JUST LIKE SHOES WITH SOX,
SHIPS AND DOCKS,
DOORS AND KNOCKS,
OR BAGELS WITH LOX?

EASTER

SOULMATES THEY SAY
ARE MEANT TO BE AS ONE
IN LOVE AND HARMONY
TILL THE END OF TIME.

JESUS

JUST LIKE MAC AND CHEESE,
FLOWERS AND BEES,
ADAM AND EVE,
THANK YOU AND PLEASE.

EASTER

I SUSPECT WE COULD BE OF THIS ILK,
WE'RE MEANT TO BE LIKE SATIN AND SILK.
THE TWO OF US SHARE SO MANY TRAITS,
WE'RE POSTER COUPLE FOR SOULMATES.

MINE COULD BE YOURS AND YOURS COULD BE MINE,
OUR STARS ARE ALIGNED 'NEATH THE SAME SIGN,
WE COULD EXIST AS ONE AND NOT TWO,
LIVING TOGETHER, HAPPILY, ME AND YOU.

JESUS

JUST LIKE MAC AND CHEESE,
FLOWERS AND BEES?

EASTER

DESTINED TO BE,
FOR ETERNITY.

JESUS

Good answer.

EASTER

Well, what do you say?

JESUS

THIS SOULMATE THING IS NEWS TO ME
IT MAKES ME THINK OF WHAT WE COULD BE.
BUT I AM NOT SURE I AM RIGHT
TO BE THE SOULMATE TO YOUR FLIGHT.

EASTER

Why not?

JESUS

I'VE HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE AS OF LATE
REMEMBER I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A DATE.
WHEN IT COMES TO DESIRE, PASSION AND LOVE,
I'M NOT MUCH WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE.

EASTER

You can learn. I can teach you.

JESUS

YOU'VE GIVEN ME MUCH TO THINK ABOUT
BUT I NEED TIME WITH ALL OF MY DOUBTS.

EASTER

Oh, no. You're not a commitment phobe are you?

JESUS

SO HANG IN THERE, RELAX AND CHILL.

I'LL GET BACK TO YOU, I PROMISE I WILL.

EASTER

Ok, if I have too.

(Jesus makes a pathetic attempt to kiss Easter, ends up as a handshake.)

Scene 8

SETTING: Temple Bar and Grill

AT RISE: Jude waits impatiently.
Easter dances into work.

JUDE

You're late.

EASTER

Who cares? Love is in the air.

JUDE

(tosses her the bar towel)
What's gotten into you?

EASTER

Jesus.

JUDE

In the Biblical sense?

EASTER

Not yet, but I'm working on it.

(Jude rushes over to stop her dance.)

JUDE

What is it with that guy? You treat him like he's some superstar who can walk on water.

EASTER

I wouldn't put it past him.

JUDE

Easter, you have to be careful. He could be some snake oil salesman.

EASTER

He told me he hates snakes.

JUDE

Song: BIG MISTAKE

EASTER, YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE A BIG MISTAKE,

I'M TELLING YOU FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.
PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR HIS CLEVER LIES,
HE'S GOT A PAIR OF SHIFTY EYES.

EASTER

(hands over her ears)

La, la, la, la.

I CAN'T HEAR A WORD YOU'RE SAYING.
SOUND LIKE A DUMB ASS BRAYING.
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL CHANGE MY MIND,
HE IS TRULY ONE OF A KIND.

JUDE

HE'S A MAN WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED,
WORD IS, HE'S ALREADY BEEN BUSTED.
HE'S NOTHING BUT A ONE-TRICK PONY,
LET ME PROTECT YOU FROM THIS PHONY.

EASTER

YOU MAKE HIM OUT TO BE SO SHODDY,
THERE'S NOT A MEAN BONE IN HIS BODY.
YOUR SUPPOSITIONS AND SILLY QUERIES,
ARE NOTHING MORE THAN CONSPIRACY THEORIES.

JUDE

EASTER, HE'S ONLY GOING TO HURT YOU.
AND HE AS NO JOB TO GO TO.
AND WHILE HE'S OUT RAPPIN HIS FABLES,
YOU'LL BE HERE WAITING TABLES.

EASTER

I DON'T CARE IF HE HAS NO DOUGH,
THE GUY WALKS UNDER A HALO.
JESUS IS AS GOOD AS THEY COME,
FARTHEST THING FROM BEING A BUM.

JUDE

TRUST ME I KNOW A CAD WHEN I SEE ONE,
BREAK YOUR HEART BEFORE HE'S DONE.
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, FOR GOD'S SAKE,
DUMP HIS ASS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

EASTER

I FINALLY FOUND MY MISTER RIGHT,
I DREAM OF HIM BOTH DAY AND NIGHT.
HE'S THE FINEST MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, SO LEAVE ME ALONE!

JUDE

Easter, please.

(Sweaty, exhausted Jesus enters.)

EASTER

Jesus, what happened?

JESUS

Job interview.

JUDE

Sweatshop labor?

(Jesus sits. Easter hands him a towel to wipe his face. When finished, Easter holds up the towel and the facial impression of Jesus appears.)

EASTER

(holding up the towel)

Look, it's Turin'd into selfie shroud.

JESUS

I got a tryout as a fisherman.

JUDE

How'd you do?

JESUS

Not so good.

EASTER

Oh, Jesus.

JUDE

Didn't catch anything, huh?

JESUS

I cast my net in the water and in a couple of minutes it was filled with fish.

EASTER

And you didn't get the job?

JESUS

No, the other fishermen said there weren't any fish left for them to catch and banished me from the profession.

JUDE

(takes the towel)
Something's fishy about this story.
(begins his exit)

EASTER

Where are you going with that?

JUDE

The post office.

EASTER

Why?

JUDE

See if it matches any of the drawings on their cave wall.
(Jude exits.)

JESUS

I did it for you, Easter. I wanted to prove I wasn't a failure.

EASTER

That's so sweet.

JESUS

Song: I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU

I TOOK A TRIP TO FIND THE TRUE ME,
INSTEAD I FOUND MY DESTINY.
I HAVE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE,
A FEELING THAT I CAN'T IGNORE.

MEETING YOU HAS BROUGHT A CHANGE OF HEART,
A GIFT FROM HEAVEN, RIGHT FROM THE START.
MY LIFE HAS MADE AN UNCHARTED MOVE,
EASTER, I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU.

EASTER

OH, JESUS, I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER,
YOU HAVE REVEALED MY THOUGHTS TO THE LETTER.
PERISH THE THOUGHT OF LIFE WITHOUT YOU,
JESUS, I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU TOO.

JESUS AND EASTER

(J) YOU ARE THE FLOWER TO MY SPRING,
(E) YOU ARE THE SONG FOR WHICH I SING,
(J) YOU ARE THE YANG TO MY YING,
(BOTH) YOU'RE MY FIRST, MY LAST, MY EVERYTHING.

(E) FINALLY WE HAVE FOUND EACH OTHER,
(J) CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO MEET MY MOTHER,
(E) LOVE IS SUCH A WONDERFUL THING,
(BOTH) TO CARRY US THROUGH WHAT LIFE BRINGS.

(J) OUR LOVE WILL OVERCOME BAD TIMES,
(E) POVERTY SICKNESS AND TERRIBLE RHYMES,
(J) YOU'RE THE PING TO MY PONG, THE DONG TO MY DING,
(BOTH) YOU'RE MY FIRST, YOU'RE MY LAST, MY EVERYTHING.

(Jesus and Easter embrace and kiss passionately.)

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

Scene 1

SETTING: Temple Bar. Morning.

AT RISE: Cock crows. Jude angry.

JUDE

She's late again.

(Joseph saunters in, hungover.)

JOSEPH

I need a little hair on my dog.

(Jude pours him a drink, then pulls out the towel, holds it up.)

JUDE

This him?

JOSEPH

You found him. Where?

JUDE

Catfishing my woman.

JOSEPH

I told him he wouldn't make it as a fisherman. Jesus can't catch a cold. When can I get him?

JUDE

First, there's a little matter of payment.

JOSEPH

You'll get a free, For-Life timeshare in the best house in the Promised Land Housing Development, Resort and Spa.

JUDE

The reviews on the Promised Land average only one star.

JOSEPH

That's fake news.

JUDE

Thirty pieces of silver, that's my price.

JOSEPH

Thirty pieces of silver? That's dirt road robbery.

JUDE

It's the going rate for a standard kidnapping and next day delivery.

JOSEPH

Will you take a check?

JUDE

No.

JOSEPH

You can't expect me to carry that kind of cash in bags sewed under my robe?

JUDE

Borrow it from a friend.

JOSEPH

Sorry, I don't have a pay pal.

Trust me, I'm good for it.

(crosses his heart with his finger)

JUDE

Well, if I have to.

JOSEPH

(Joseph takes out his scroll checkbook and quill, and starts writing.)

You just make sure you deliver the goods.

JUDE

Don't you be worrying about me.

JOSEPH

Hey, Jude, don't let me down.

JUDE

Don't worry. I'll make it better.

Scene 2

SETTING: Desert

AT RISE: Jesus pacing nervously.

JESUS

(calls out)
Easter, I know I'm early, but I can't wait to see you.

JESUS

Song: CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU

YOU'VE TURNED MY WORLD UPSIDE DOWN,
MADE ME LAUGH INSTEAD OF FROWN,
PICKED MY FEET UP OFF THE GROUND,
YOU'RE THE BEST THING I'VE EVER FOUND.

MY DREAM LOVER, MORNING GIRL, MY AFTERNOON DELIGHT.
WE SWING ON THE STARS AND DANCE IN THE MOONLIGHT.
OUR FUTURE'S BRIGHT, IT FEELS SO RIGHT,
BECAUSE WE'RE UPTIGHT, ALL RIGHT, AND OUT OF SIGHT.

EASTER, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU,
YOU MAKE ME FEEL ALIVE AND NEW,
TO BE WITH YOU IS ALL I WANT TO DO,
BECAUSE ALL OF ME LOVES ALL OF YOU.

(Stage left, Jude sneaks out, and as Jesus turns away,
throws a bag over him and wrestles him off stage.)

JESUS

(yells as he's dragged off.)
Hey, who turned off the sunshine?

(A pause. Easter hurries in from stage right. Looks around,
searches.)

EASTER

Jesus, sorry I'm late. Traffic was horrible due to a crucifixion
back-up.

(But there is no Jesus. Easter searches. The *JEOPARDY* theme
plays. She paces, looks, waits. She fears the worst.)

EASTER

Song: JESUS, WHERE ARE YOU?

JESUS, JESUS, WHERE ARE YOU?
I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO OUR DATE.
YOU SAID ONE, AND NOW IT'S PAST TWO,
I NEVER DREAMED THAT YOU'D BE LATE.

I WORRY I SAID SOMETHING WRONG,
AND YOU, TOOK MY WORDS IN A DIFFERENT WAY.
AND SINCE THIS WAIT HAS BEEN SO LONG,
I WORRY THERE'S NOT MORE TO SAY.

I FEEL SO EXPOSED, AND SO DEFENSIVELESS,
BECAUSE I BEAR A PERSONAL CURSE.
AND BEING NERVOUS AND APPREHENSIVE,
I'M ALWAYS MADE TO FEAR THE WORST.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D WANT TO LEAVE
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR SOMETHING RASH.
IF SOMETHING'S WRONG THEN TALK TO ME,
DON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND AND DUMP MY ASS.

Scene 3

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell Store

AT RISE: Man, wearing UPS hat,
stops pulling his cart,
which carries a lumpy
bag.

MAN

(calls out)
Delivery for Joseph the Carpenter.

(Joseph and Mary enter from opposite stage.)

MAN

(pulls out parchment of lading, hands it to Joseph)
Sign here, please.

(Joseph carves his X on the line)

MARY

What did you waste our good money on this time, Joseph?

(Man dumps bag on the ground, it moves.)

MAN

(exiting, to Joseph)
A gift from heaven for the little lady?

(Joseph grins.)

MARY

It's moving. I told you never buy anything that eats.

JOSEPH

For you, Baby-cakes. Just for you.

(Joseph unwraps, Jesus pops out.)

MARY

Jesus!

(Mary jumps for joy.)
My prodigal son has returned.
(Mary smothers him with kisses.)

JOSEPH

And you only have me to thank.
(Joseph takes a bow.)

JESUS

That was you who snatched me?

JOSEPH

Actually, I had to hire out.

JESUS

Why?

JOSEPH

You were harder to find than a golden fleece.

MARY

Jesus you're home.

JESUS

The last thing I wanted was to come home, Mumsey.

MARY

I missed my little Prince of Peace.

JESUS

Mumsey!

MARY

I had to find you.

JESUS

Why?

MARY

I was afraid something awful had befallen you.

JOSEPH

It was me who got you home in one piece.

JESUS

Well, the least you could have done is send me back first class instead of economy.

JOSEPH

(shrugs)

Kids these days. They're never satisfied.

MARY

All that matters is that you're home, where you belong.

(Mary gives him another hug, but Jesus pushes her away.)

JESUS

I did just fine out on the road, Mumsy.

MARY

I'm sure you did Jesus. I'm sure you did.

JESUS

I did good; just like I told you I would.

JOSEPH

Ya know, Jesus. You needed to get away.

JESUS

Then why'd you come out to find me?

JOSEPH

I did it for your mother and now she's going to do something for us.

MARY

Let's not be getting into that now.

(Jesus gets animated.)

JESUS

Song: MY RUDDER TO STEER

FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT WAS MY RUDDER TO STEER,
I WENT TO A BAR HAD MY FIRST BEER.

MARY

THAT'S WELL AND GOOD. YOU HAD A GOOD TIME.

JOSEPH

BUT JESUS NOW IT'S BACK TO THE GRIND.

(Jesus jumps up on the table, above his parents.)

JESUS

THERE'S AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT I'D LIKE TO SHARE.

JOSEPH

What?

JESUS

(Puffs up his chest and says proudly.)

THE TIME HAS COME FOR A CHANGE IN MY LIFE.
I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE A WIFE!

(Mary freaks out. AHHHHHHH!)

MARY

Jesus, you're no way ready to wed.

JOSEPH

NOT LONG AGO YOU WET THE BED.

JESUS

I MET A GIRL AND FOUND MY SOULMATE.

JOSEPH

ON YOUR FIRST DATE?

MARY

IT'S NOTHING SHORT OF BLASPHEMY.

JOSEPH

I'D SAY IT WAS AN EPIPHANY

JESUS

FOR ME, THERE WILL NOT BE ANOTHER.
I FOUND MY SOULMATE, BEST FRIEND AND LOVER.

MARY

YOU ALREADY PUT ONE UP ON THE BOARD?

JOSEPH

WAY TO GO JESUS. SOUNDS LIKE YOU SCORED!

JESUS

MUMSY, JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU MEET HER,
YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH EASTER.

MARY

HOW IS THAT YOU GOT CARRIED AWAY?
IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

JOSEPH

JESUS, YOU HAVE TASTED HONEY.
AND IT DIDN'T COST YOU ANY MONEY.

JESUS

WELL, ACTUALLY WE AGREED 'TIL WE'RE WED
WE WOULD REMAIN PURE AND NOT ROCK THE BED.

(Mary sighs in relief)

JESUS

I HAVE TO GO, RETURN RIGHT AWAY.

JOSEPH

Horny?

MARY

NO, JESUS. YOU HAVE TO STAY.

JESUS

EASTER HAS TO BE WONDERING WHY,
I LEFT WITHOUT SAYING GOOD-BYE.

MARY

WHAT YOU NEED A HOT MEAL, AND BED REST,
SO YOU CAN SEE HER AT YOUR BEST.

(Jesus steps away as if to leave. Mary pulls Joseph.)

MARY

Need a little help here, Joseph.

JOSEPH

ONCE WOMEN FIND OUT THAT YOU'RE A STUD,
YOU'LL HAVE TO FEND THEM OFF WITH A CLUB.

MARY

You're not helping.

JOSEPH

JESUS, THE WORST YOU COULD DO,
IS TO GO BACK THERE SMELLING THE WAY YOU DO.

(Jesus sniffs his pits, Pee-uuu)

(Mary takes Jesus by the hand.)

MARY
AFTER A LONG SOAK IN THE TUB,
IT'S OFF TO BED AND I'LL GIVE YOU A BACK RUB.

JESUS
Rub-a-dub-dub.

(Mary leads Jesus past Joseph.)

JOSEPH
(with thumbs up)
Yo, Studly.

MARY
(Joseph joins leading Jesus off stage. Mary returns.)
MY GOD, THIS HAS BEEN ONE HELL OF A DAY.
I WONDER WHAT IT IS HIS FATHER MIGHT SAY.

Scene 4

SETTING: Temple Bar and Grill

AT RISE: Easter in tears. Jude consoles her.

EASTER

(speaking though her tears)
I can't believe Jesus stood me up.

JUDE

Song: FORGET THE BUM

EASTER, I'M NOT GOING TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO,
BUT I WAS RIGHT ON HOW THIS WOULD UNFOLD.

EASTER

I'VE BEEN DITCHED DUMPED AND DEFLATED,
I'VE NEVER FELT SO HUMILIATED.

JUDE

HE IS NOTHING BUT A TWO-BIT GIGALO,
WHO LEFT YOU LOWER THAN YOUR LOWEST LOW.

EASTER

NO, JESUS AND I CAN'T BE DONE.

JUDE

EASTER, JUST FORGET THAT BUM.

EASTER

MAYBE HE MET A HORRID FATE,
AND THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T SHOW FOR OUR DATE?

JUDE

(Jude opens his arms wide)
WHAT YOU NEED IS A GREAT BIG HUG.
COME INTO MY ARMS, MY LITTLE BUG.

EASTER

(beginning her exit)
NOT NOW JUDE, I NEED TIME TO REFLECT.

JUDE

(as Easter goes offstage)
CAN I AT LEAST GET A RAIN CHECK?

(Jude looks to where she departed, then turns forward.)

JUDE

WITH JESUS TIED UP, AND OUT OF THE PICTURE,
THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO MAKE MY MOVE.
EASTER'S RIPE, THINKING HE DISSED HER,
AND I'VE GOT MUCH THAT I WANT TO PROVE.

I'LL PLAY NICE UNTIL I GAIN HER TRUST,
START WITH A PECK, A SMOOCH AND A HUG.
AND AT THE POINT SHE SUCCOMBS TO LUST,
I'LL JUMP HER LIKE A CHICKEN ON A JUNE BUG.

SHE WILL LIGHT UP LIKE A ROMAN CANDLE,
SHE'LL TUMBLE INTO MY WEB OF ROMANCE.
THE QUESTION IS CAN EASTER
HANDLE THE POWER OF MY SEXUAL AVALANCHE?

THE MUSIC IS CHANGED AND SO HAS THE DANCE,
BARRIERS ARE GONE, THE OBSTACLES DASHED.
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW
I WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH
AND I'M NOT GIVING UP UNTIL
EASTER'S ANOTHER NOTCH ON MY STAFF.

Scene 5

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell store.

AT RISE: Joseph checking out a Centerfold on a scroll. Mary enters confused and depressed. Joseph stashes the scroll.

MARY

This is all your fault, Joseph.

JOSEPH

Me, what did I do?

MARY

Filling his head with running off to visit some pyramids.

JOSEPH

You should be happy the boy's getting some action.

MARY

I agreed to keep Jesus on a very tight leash.

JOSEPH

More like a noose.

(Joseph pretends he's being hanged.)

MARY

This is in no way funny!

JOSEPH

The kid's ready to bust loose.

MARY

I can't let that happen.

JOSEPH

He's chomping at the bit.

MARY

Not until he's thirty, and it's only days before his birthday.

JOSEPH

You'll never hold him back, now.

MARY

We have to convince him to stay.

JOSEPH

No way.

MARY

Time for drastic measures.

JOSEPH

Like what?

MARY

(sheepishly)

Well, after he fell asleep last night, I tied him to a boulder.

JOSEPH

We made a deal. You promised to leave him alone.

MARY

I lied.

Scene 6

SETTING: Temple Bar and Grill

AT RISE: Depressed Easter enters,
sniffing.

(Music up. Easter tries to sing, but stops. Music stops.
Easter tries to compose herself.

Music up. Easter sings one note, but breaks down worse than
before. Music stops.

Easter stumbles broken hearted. Music up. Easter tries one
more time, but can't get a note out. She waves 'enough' at
the music as she heads for the back of the bar, takes a
bottle, swigs, swigs again, then slides down the bar sitting
and swigging).

(Jude enters opposite, but halfway across the stage he's
interrupted. The MAN, wearing a fedora, sings out).

MAN

HEY, JUDE...

JUDE

Who are you?

MAN

Your banker with some bad news.

JUDE

Yeah?

MAN

The check you deposited--

(Easter stops drinking, listens.)

JUDE

Yeah?

MAN

Bounced higher than a High Holy Day.

JUDE

You got to be kidding me.

(Easter listens intently.)

MAN

Thirty pieces of silver is some serious money.

JUDE

So, what do you want me to do?

MAN

Cough up some cash, your accounts past due.

JUDE

I knew that wood butcher was up to no good.

MAN

If anyone should have recognized a crook, you should.

JUDE

Why did this have to happen to me?

MAN

You should have sent Jesus back C.O.D.

JUDE

If you have any other advice, do tell.

MAN

Point your ass to the Sit-a-Spell.

(Jude and Man exit left. Behind the bar, Easter rises, shocked at the news.)

EASTER

Song: I SWEAR I WILL

I'VE BEEN BUSY BEING MISERABLE ME,
CLOSED MY EYES THAT I COULDN'T SEE.
SOMETHING BAD ABOUT TO KICK IN,
MY DARLING JESUS CAUGHT WITHIN.

THE WORDS I HAVE HEARD OF THE STEPS THEY WILL TAKE,
MAKE ME FEAR OF WHAT COULD TAKE PLACE.
ALL'S NOT KOSHER IN OLD NAZARETH,
AND I'LL BE THE ONE TO FIX THIS MESS.

I'LL FIND A WAY TO HELP JESUS OUT
PROTECT HIM FROM THE DANGERS ABOUT
I SWEAR THAT HE WILL SUFFER NO HARM
I'LL BRING HIM BACK INTO MY ARMS.

Scene 7

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell Store

AT RISE: Mary impatiently waits.
Jesus enters, a rope tied
around his waist.
his waist. Joseph follows
carrying an attached big
rock.

JESUS
Mumsy, why am I tied to this rock?

MARY
You knew the rule. Before you go out, you have to tell me where
you're going.

JESUS
That was like years ago.

MARY
You broke it and now you have to suffer the consequence.

JESUS
Which is?

MARY
You're grounded.

JESUS
Grounded? You can't ground me, I'm an adult.

MARY
Live in my house, play by my rules.

(Joseph fumbles, drops the rock on his toe and hops around in
pain.)

MARY
Sit down, Jesus, we have to talk.

JESUS
On the same side of the table?

MARY

Just sit.

JESUS

No.

MARY

Jesus!

JESUS

I want to go and I want to go now. Untie me!

MARY

Would you just be quiet and listen?

JESUS

No. I have to find Easter.

MUMSY

Not until you hear me out.

JESUS

(puts his fingers in his ears)

No.

MARY

Listen!

(pulls his fingers out)

A long time ago, a ghost came to me and asked if I was interested in having a baby.

JESUS

What?

MARY

Yes, I thought it was quite odd, until she told me she was a messenger of God.

(Jesus is totally perplexed)

JESUS

Where do you come up with this stuff?

MARY

A woman was needed, who had to be as pure as the falling rain.

JESUS

(Holds his head with both hands)
I think I'm experiencing a Brain Drain!

MARY

Would you just listen?
She said I'd be in charge until the boy was thirty.

(Joseph still hopping around in pain.)

JESUS

Step-Daddy are you listening to this?

JOSEPH

No, I smashed my toe.

MARY

You have to hear this, Jesus.

JESUS

No. I don't care what you have to say anymore. I finally have a
life of my own, I want to get out there and live it.

MARY

I thought this is what you wanted.

JESUS

Not anymore.

(Jesus twiddles his thumbs, defying his mother.)

MARY

(flustered, she continues anyway)

So, we shook on the deal with a lamb as our witness.

(Jesus starts to whistle.)

Are you listening to me?

JESUS

No, I'm not going to subscribe to your silly twitter.

MARY

You have to hear this, Jesus.

JESUS

OK, fine, then what happened?

MARY

Morning sickness.

JESUS

This is about you throwing up? Ah, gross.

MARY

Hear me out.

JESUS

No. All I care about is going and seeing the woman I love.

MARY

She'll wait.

JESUS

No, I have to go. I need to get to Rent-an-Donkey before it closes.

MARY

Jesus, this is your mother speaking!

JESUS

I'll make you a deal, Mumsy. I'll listen if you untie me.

MARY

I not falling for that old trick.

JESUS

I'm not going to listen until you untie me.
(hands go over his ears)

MARY

(very angry)
All right, I'll cut to the chase and give it to you straight. Your father's not just some worthless loner or run-of the-mill sperm donor.

JESUS

(very loud over here)
Yada, yada, yada. I can't hear you.

MARY

(pulls his hands off his ears)
(screams)

Jesus, I'm trying to tell you, you're the Son of---

(Total commotion. All hell breaks loose as Jude bursts in, and points at Joseph.)

JUDE

You!

(Joseph limps across the stage trying to escape Jude. Man, who's wears an UBER hat, enters and stares at the scene.)

JUDE

(Chasing Joseph)

You're going to rue the day you tried to con a con.

(Strobe lights)

(Silly chase continues. Man always seems to be in the way. Mary's bounced around like a pinball. Ad-lib comments abound. Around and around they go and in the end, (Strobe slows) Jesus gets tangled up in the rope, which goes taut, causing Joseph to trip. Jude jumps on him and holds him down. Strobe ends.)

JUDE

I'll take it out of your hide if I have to.

JOSEPH

What'd I do?

JUDE

Your check wasn't as good as the papyrus it was written on.

JOSEPH

Probably, just a little cash flow problem.

JUDE

I want my money and I want it now.

JOSEPH

(to Mary)

Sweet-ums, you wouldn't happen to have thirty pieces of silver tucked away somewhere?

MARY

(seated, exhausted)

Sorry. Can't help ya there, Joseph.

(Joseph looks to the UBER Man, points as if to say *You?*)

MAN

(shakes his head in the negative)

Drivers are not allowed to carry more than five shekels in cash.

JOSEPH

(to Jude)

Would you consider a lay-away plan?

(Jude is ready to slug Joseph.)

(Easter enters, surprising everyone.)

EASTER

What the heck is going on?

MARY

Who are you?

JESUS

Easter!

JUDE

(eases up on Joseph)

Easter, funny meeting you here.

EASTER

I followed you here, Jude, to get to the bottom of all this.

JESUS

Easter, you're my savior.

EASTER

No Jesus, you're my savior.

JESUS

Whatever.

(Easter heads for Jesus.)

JUDE

(Getting off Joseph)

Easter, you got it all wrong. I came to get Jesus and bring him back into your arms.

EASTER

Yeah, right.

(Easter wraps her arms around the tied-up Jesus, and kisses him passionately.)

MARY

This isn't good.

JOSEPH

Looks like they're doing pretty good to me.

JUDE

(backs off with the Man)
Maybe we should go to Plan B.

MAN

Be a while before anyone invents a Plan B.

(Man exits with Jude.)

(As Jesus and Easter kiss, Joseph spins Jesus around to free him from the rope. As he gets to the final loop, he has to flip Jesus so his head's down and feet are up; but they remain kissing.)

JOSEPH

(to Mary)
He's heels over head in love.

MARY

(tries to unlock the two from their kissing embrace)
That's enough, you two.

(stands them up, but can't break them apart)
Joseph, help. They're stuck like glue.

JOSEPH

You hold her, I'll get him.

(Mary holds Easter, Joseph pulls the rope and the two pop apart.)

JESUS

Easter, you couldn't have come a minute too soon.

EASTER

Oh, Jesus. I've missed you.

(Easter and Jesus re-lip-lock.)

MARY

All right you two, take a breather.

JOSEPH

Why?

MARY

Because it's the cold and flu season.

(The couple comes up for air.)

JESUS

I love you so much.

EASTER

Not as much as I love you.

MARY

Oh, no. This can't happen.

(Easter and Jesus move quickly to the opposite side of the stage, but when the rope tightens, Jesus goes down. Joseph unties the knot, and the kids run offstage.)

MARY

Joseph!

JOSEPH

That was some heavy duty spit they were swapping.

(A pause. Mary sits saddened. Joseph goes to her side, places a hand on her shoulder.)

JOSEPH

AND THEY CALL IT, PUPPY LOVE...

MARY

Now what am I going to do. I'm totally screwed. (beat)
Joseph, this is all your fault.

JOSEPH

Me, what did I do?

Scene 8

SETTING: Outside, Desert

AT RISE: Jesus and Easter in each other's arms.

EASTER

Song: A LIFE WITHOUT YOU

OH JESUS, I THOUGHT WE WERE THROUGH
AND YOU'D FORSAKEN ME.

JESUS

EASTER THAT COULD NEVER BE.

EASTER

I WONDERED WHAT I'D DONE, TO DRIVE YOU AWAY.

JESUS

I WAS TAKEN AWAY, LIKE THE GARBAGE EVERY TUESDAY.

EASTER

I WAS LEFT ALONE, MY HEART TORN IN TWO.

JESUS

I'M SORRY FOR THE PAIN MY ABSENCE DEALT TO YOU.

EASTER

I'D DIM THE MOON AND BLOCK OUT THE SUN.
LIFE WOULD BE SAID AND DONE WITHOUT MY LOVED ONE.

JESUS

MOUNTAINS WOULD FALL AND THE SKIES LOSE THEIR BLUE,
FOR ME TO HAVE THE THOUGHT OF A LIFE WITHOUT YOU.

EASTER

ARE THOSE THOUGHTS SINCERE?

JESUS

OF COURSE MY DEAR.

EASTER

IT MAY SOUND ABSURD,
I'VE WAITED MY WHOLE LIFE TO HEAR THOSE WORDS.

JESUS

I DIDN'T LEAVE YOU THEN,
AND NEVER AGAIN.

EASTER

(They do a Pinky swear.)

JESUS

(as little fingers latch)
YOU HAVE MY WORD AND MY HEART,
THAT WE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE APART.

EASTER

JESUS, I LOVE YOU.
(Hugs him tight)

JESUS

AND I LOVE YOU, TOO.

(They kiss.)

Scene 9

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell

AT RISE: Joseph with a distraught Mary.

JOSEPH

Be nice. You have to give her a chance.

MARY

This is hardly part of the plan.

(Jesus, holding Easter's hand, enters.)

JESUS

Mumsy, I'd like you to meet Easter.

(Mary reluctantly shakes her hand.)

EASTER

So nice to meet you.

JESUS

And this is my step-daddy, Joseph.

(Joseph brushes her hand aside, gives her a bear hug, and won't let go.)

JOSEPH

Great meeting you too, little lady.

(Mary breaks them apart.)

JESUS

I thought we could have a simple, fun, meet and greet.

JOSEPH

For an ice breaker, we could wash each other's feet.

(Joseph gives Easter a *I'll do yours* gesture.
Easter returns a *Creepy* stare.)

MARY

I'm glad you're both here.

EASTER

Mary, I've heard so much about you.

MARY

And I about you.

JESUS

Just like I told you Mumsy, she's the best.

JOSEPH

You got my vote, girl.

MARY

All of you, please sit down. We can do all the pleasantries later, but now, there's much we have to discuss.

(The group, a bit miffed at her comment, sits before her on the same side of the table.)

JESUS

(to Easter)

For some reason this is the way we sit in our family.

(Mary, stands in front of the three, takes a deep breath and begins.)

MARY

Song: ANNOUNCEMENT

I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE,
WHICH CAN NO LONGER WAIT.
IT IS TIME FOR THE TRUTH TO COME OUT,
OF WHAT JESUS' LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.

JESUS

(puts his arm around Easter and holds her close)
I'm so glad we can hear this together.

MARY

I SAID I'D TELL YOU WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT,
BUT THERE IS NO RIGHT TIME IN SIGHT.
I'M SORRY FOR HOLDING THIS BACK FROM YOU,
THE TRUTHS THAT ONLY I KNEW.

JESUS

We're ready, Mumsy.

MARY
BRACE YOURSELF FOR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR,
YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT LOUD AND CLEAR.

JESUS
Go ahead, let my destiny rip.

MARY
JESUS, YOUR FATHER ISN'T A MAN.

JESUS/JOSEPH/EASTER
Huh?

JOSEPH
What is he, a space alien?

EASTER
My boyfriend's part Martian?

JESUS
If he's not a man, what category does that put me in?

MARY
JESUS... YOU'RE THE SAVIOR AND REDEEMER.

JOSEPH
He's a shopper who clips coupons?

JESUS
MUMSY WHAT HAVE YOU BEEIN SMOKING?

MARY
IT'S NOT A JOKE WHAT I'M SAYING IS TRUE

JESUS, YOU'RE THE SON OF GOD!

(Shock all around.)

JESUS
Me?

JOSEPH
Jesus a God? The kid can't screw in a knob.

MARY

I know this sounds crazy, and the proof's a bit hazy, but thirty years ago I conceived God's baby.

EASTER

You're telling us he's the second coming?

JOSEPH

Interesting choice of terms.

JESUS

God knocked you up?

MARY

No.

JESUS

Then tell us was'up.

JOSEPH

Did he take you out to dinner? Promise you the moon? Did you end up getting a room?

EASTER

How many dates did you need before you did the deed?

MARY

It was a virgin birth. There was no penetration.

JESUS

What a revelation.

JOSEPH

Was God at least a good kisser?

EASTER

Does Jesus have any brothers and sisters?

MARY

I KNOW THIS MAY BE A BIT UPSETTING,
AND A HARD PILL TO SWALLOW IN ONLY ONE SETTING.
I'M YOUR MOTHER AND YOU'RE GOD'S ONLY SON,
AND I HAD TO SWEAR NOT TELL ANYONE.

JOSEPH

Certainly explains why you had no problem wearing white at our wedding.

EASTER

So if he's the son of God, could I become God's daughter-in-law?

MARY

I don't know.

JOSEPH

If God's the father and he's the son, would that make me a step-sacred one?

MARY

I doubt it.

JESUS

Oh my God, I'm not feeling well.

(Easter fans a woozy Jesus)

MARY

Would you people please relax and chill. There's more to the story I have to tell.

(takes another big breath)

AFTER YOUR BIRTH A REVELATION DAWNED ON ME,
RAISING YOU WOULD NOT BE EASY.
WORRY RAISED HEAVY ON ME, STRESS WAS HIGH
I WAS RAISING THE SON OF THE BIG GUY.

I FRET AT TIMES WHEN YOU SUCKLED MY BREAST,
OR WOULDN'T CALM DOWN FOR A REST.
ALL I DID WEIGHED ON MY BRAIN,
AND YOU HAVE NO CLUE HOW HARD YOU WERE TO POTTY TRAIN.

THEN YOU WERE WITH ME ALL DAY,
NO DEVINE CHILD CARE CAME MY WAY.
I HELPED YOU LEARN TO CRAWL, WALK AND TALK
TOOK YOU TO SCHOOL,
TAUGHT THE GOLDEN RULE,
PACKED YOUR LUNCH EVERY DAY,
BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE PTA.

AND THEN WHEN YOU BECAME A TEEN,
YOU BECAME DIFFICULT AND MEAN.
FILLED UP WITH ANGER AND DERISION,
YOU BLAMED ME FOR YOUR CIRCUMCISION.

I WAS TOLD IF IT ALL WENT OKAY,
UPON YOUR THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY
GOD WOULD RETURN TO GUIDE YOUR WAY,
NOW IS JUST ONE WEEK FROM TODAY.

JESUS/EASTER/JOSEPH

Okay.

MARY
BUT YOU LEFT TOWN AND YOU MET SOMEONE.
AND THE WORK I DID IS COMING UNDONE.

(The three sits in disbelief.)

JESUS
Mumsy, there's nothing special about me.

JOSEPH
He couldn't even learn carpentry.

JESUS
I have no skills, job or degree.

JOSEPH
He's failed at everything he's tried to be.

JESUS
That certainly doesn't sound very God-like to me.

EASTER
But you do walk under a halo.

JOSEPH
He got his wires crossed, that's why he glows.

MARY
JESUS, GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU.
AND I AM NOT SURE WHAT IT IS YOU WILL DO.
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THAT YOUR PURPOSE,
WILL BE TO RID THE WORLD OF ALL THAT CURSE US.

JESUS
Will I get a choice in the matter?

MARY
Considering it's God, I doubt it.

JESUS

What could God ask that I could ever do?

MARY

ABSOLVE ORIGINAL SIN, ALL THE WARS WE'RE IN,
FIND A HOME FOR US JEWS,
JUST TO NAME A FEW.

JESUS

Talk about a full menu.

MARY

THAT'S JUST THE WAY THAT IT IS
YOU MUST PUT YOUR LIFE ON HOLD
DO THE WORK THAT'S PRESCRIBED TO YOU
SO GOD'S WILL, WILL FULLY UNFOLD

JESUS

This all sounds like a bad parable.

EASTER

But maybe not terrible, because after you do what you have to do,
we'll live happily ever after—

JOSEPH

In a three-bedroom, two privy, Promised Land condo.

MARY

I KNOW THIS IS MUCH FOR YOU TO SOLDIER
BUT THE FATE OF THE WORLD'S ON YOUR SHOULDERS

JESUS

I'm not prepared for this. I haven't moved out of my room yet.

MARY

Jesus, this is your lot, you have to accept it.

JOSEPH

(interrupting Mary)
Didn't God turn Lot into salt?

JESUS

Mumsy, it just doesn't seem real.

EASTER

How do you think I feel?

JESUS

Meshuggeneh.

(Jesus hangs his head in his hands to think this over.)

JOSEPH

Honeybunch, if you're so tight with our savior, think you can ask for a favor?

MARY

What?

JOSEPH

For the next ad campaign I have planned, would you ask God to be the spokesperson for the Promised Land?

(Mary slaps her hand against her forehead)

MARY

Oy vey.

JESUS

I finally discover my destiny and it scares the hell out of me.

(Jesus pauses, looks up at his mother.)

You sure I don't get a vote on this?

(Mary shrugs her shoulders, *Ya got me.*)

JESUS

And what about me and Easter? What if he tells me to leave her?

EASTER

Jesus, I can't bear to live without you.

MARY

I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR YOU,
BUT I DOUBT IF THERE IS MUCH YOU COULD DO.
ONCE GOD IS HERE AND HE OUTLINES HIS PLAN,
YOU WILL BE BUSY SAVING THE FAMILY OF MAN.

JESUS

This isn't fair.

(Jesus goes into the same physical shake he previously displayed.)

MARY

Jesus. You'll have to suck it up and be bold. Accept your fate and do what you're told.

JESUS

Yeah, that's easy for you to say, but I'm the one with dragons to slay.

(Jesus is beside himself with what to do.)

EASTER

Jesus, I can't let anything happen to you.

(Jesus looks to his mother)

MARY

But you got to do, what you got to do.

(Jesus contemplates his dilemma.)

JESUS

It makes no difference what the season. God gave me a mind of my own for a reason.

(Jesus stands, looks to his mother, then his step-father, finally to Easter, who sniffles and tears up. Jesus takes her into his arms.)

I made you a promise and I'm not going to break it.

EASTER

Oh, Jesus.

JESUS

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS GOD HAS TO SAY
IT IS MY LIFE, I WILL LIVE IT MY WAY
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT GOD HAS TO ASK,
IT IS MY LIFE, I'LL CHOOSE MY OWN PATH.

(to Mary)

IF GOD CALLS TRYING TO SPARK CHANGE IN ME,
MUMSY, YOU TELL HIM I'M BUSY!

(Jesus pulls Easter with him and runs off the stage. Mary chases.)

MARY

Jesus, wait!

(Joseph left alone on stage)

JOSEPH

Well, look what's happened to little, old me.

SONG: YEAH ME

I'M A MEMBER OF A VERY EXCLUSIVE CLUB,
WHERE POSSIBILITY WILL OPEN RIGHT UP,
WHO ELSE CAN CLAIM THEY RAISED A LITTLE SHAVER,
WHO WILL SOMEDAY BECOME OUR LORD AND SAVIOR?

ALL THE 'I GOT A HEADACHE'S, 'NOT TONIGHT DEARS',
ALL MY CONSTANT BEGGING, FALLING ON DEAF EARS,
ARE ABOUT TO EXPLODE AND PAY OFF BIG TIME,
WHEN MY PERSONAL TOUR BECOMES A GOLD MINE.

IT'S ALL IN FRONT OF ME,
OPPORTUNITY,
WHICH ONLY I CAN SEIZE.
YEAH, ME!

I'LL ESTABLISH MYSELF AS A UNIQUE BRAND,
THE ULTIMATE STEP-DAD, PERFECT HUSBAND.
SIX NIGHTS A WEEK, MATINEE ON SUNDAY,
I'LL PACK 'EM IN SO TIGHT,
THEY'LL HAVE TO CLAP THIS WAY.

(His hands clap up and down instead of sideways)

TOAST OF THE TIGRESS, ENVY OF EUPHRATES,
THEY'LL COME FROM FAR AND WIDE JUST TO MEET ME.
THE STEP-DAD WHO RAISED THE BABY YEAH-ZU,
I'LL BE THE WORLD'S SECOND MOST POPULAR JEW.

IT'S ALL IN FRONT OF ME,
OPPORTUNITY,
WHICH ONLY I CAN SEIZE.
YEAH, ME!

Scene 10

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell Store

AT RISE: Mary enters, approaches
Easter seated at the
table.

MARY

Got a minute?

EASTER

Sure.

MARY

Time we had a chat.

EASTER

Good because I have a question for you.

EASTER

Easter, there is something I want you to do.

EASTER

Make you a bubble?

MARY

Well, not yet.

(Easter waits for the other sandal to drop.)

MARY

SONG: ALL FAMILIES ARE CRAZY

I KNOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD
HEARING MY STORY.
EVERY FAMILY'S CRAZY IN THEIR OWN WAY.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS OURS HOLDS THE WORLD AT BAY.
SO JESUS NEEDS TO FULFILL GOD'S PLAN

(Mary sits beside her)

EASTER

You're putting this all on me?

MARY

It's for the sake of humanity.

EASTER

That's not kosher.

MARY

But those are the cards you now hold.

EASTER

And you want me to fold?

MARY

Yes.

EASTER

Leave the man who truly loves me?

MARY

Yes.

(Easter crumbles in thought)

MARY

JUST GO AWAY, THE STONES WILL FALL WHERE THEY MAY
IF YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER IS TRUE
THEN JESUS WILL COME BACK TO YOU.

EASTER

I can't.

MARY

I'm sorry you got put in this position.

(Easter puts her head in her hands, sits and ponders.)

EASTER

I'm just a barmaid pushing beer, not one to decide the fate of the world.

(Mary pats Easter on her shoulder, rises to leave.)

MARY

You're a good person, Easter. Think it over and then follow your heart.

(Easter sits perplexed. Mary begins her exit, but stops to ask.)

MARY

Now, what did you want to ask me?

EASTER

If I could start calling you Mumsy?

MARY

Maybe later.

(Mary exits.)

(Easter sits alone, lost in thought.)

EASTER

SONG: SHOULD I STAY, SHOULD I GO

MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME
TO DO WHAT'S BEST,
PUT OTHERS BEFORE
MY OWN INTERESTS.

SHE NEVER MENTIONED
HOW PAINFUL IT COULD BE,
WHEN WHAT I HAVE TO DO
COULD DESTROY ME.

SHOULD I STAY, SHOULD I GO,
NOT EASY TO DECIDE,
AN IMPOSSIBLE CONUNDRUM
FOR A MORTAL SUCH AS I.

A SIMPLE PERSON
A COMPLEX PLAN,
IN LOVE WITH A GOD
NOT WITH A MAN.

IN SEARCHING FOR LOVE
WHO'D EVER THOUGHT
THAT THIS COULD EVER HAPPEN
BE MY LIFE'S LOT?

SHOULD I STAY, SHOULD I GO,
NOT EASY TO DECIDE
AN IMPOSSIBLE CONUNDRUM
FOR A MORTAL SUCH AS I.

STAY WITH MY LOVER

OR STEP ASIDE.
DO WHAT I'M ASKED
OR BE HIS BRIDE?

TOGETHER FOREVER
OR FOREVER APART?
MY DREAMS COME TRUE
OR BREAK MY OWN HEART?

Scene 11

SETTING: Sit-a-Spell

AT RISE: Joseph and Mary

JOSEPH

I can't believe you held all that back from me for thirty years.

MARY

I told you I was sworn to secrecy.

JOSEPH

But I'm your husband. You have to trust me.

MARY

You would have blabbed it all over town.

JOSEPH

What difference would that make? No one listens to me.

MARY

Joseph, loose lips sink arks.

(Jesus rushes into the room frantic.)

JESUS

Easter's gone!

MARY

Now, Jesus, don't get upset. What happened, happened.

(Jesus goes into one of his fits.)

JESUS

You knew?

MARY

Let's say I had an inkling.

JESUS

She left like a thief in the night.

JOSEPH

Jesus, some women don't stay for breakfast. You can't take it personally.

MARY

She thought it over and did what she thought was right.

JESUS

I would have been able to keep her, if I wasn't such a sound sleeper.

JOSEPH

Son, women are like laundry. Once one load is done, up pops another one.

MARY

Jesus, you have to accept that Easter's gone.

JESUS

No, Mumsey, I don't.

MARY

Easter realized she couldn't love you.

JESUS

Why not?

MARY

You're the son of God, not some regular shmoo.

JESUS

That reasoning blows.

MARY

Easter realized you had to correct the sins of Adam and Eve.

JESUS

It's not fair that my life gets ruined because of one apple they decided to share.

JOSEPH

Jesus, you have to look on the bright side.

JESUS

There is no bright side.

MARY

Jesus, heaven's door has been locked for centuries and you're the one who holds the key.

JESUS

If Daddy's so powerful, why doesn't he use his key, I'm sure he's got his own set.

MARY

Because he sent down his son to do the deed.

JESUS

So what would it matter if I did it, while I was married?

MARY

Beats the heck out of me. You should ask him when you finally meet.

JESUS

(angry)

No.

JOSEPH

I'd bet he'd be happy to tell you.

JESUS

(angrier)

No. No one's going to tell me what to do. I'm going to find Easter.

MARY

Jesus, just wait a few days.

(Jesus tries to exit, Mary blocks him.)

JESUS

No.

MARY

If you marry, God will make you get a divorce or annulment.

(Joseph tries to block Jesus' exit.)

JOSEPH

Think of what Easter could get in the settlement.

JESUS

I'm outta here.

(Jesus breaks free.)

MARY

No, Jesus, don't go.

(Jesus runs out yelling.)

JESUS

Hold on, Easter. I'm on my way.

(Mary gives up the chase.)

MARY

Joseph, this is all your fault.

JOSEPH

Me, what did I do?

MARY

You untied the rock.

Scene 12

SETTING: Temple Bar and Grill

AT RISE: Easter is a weeping mess.
Jude is trying to console
her not having much luck.

MAN, wearing an Angels
Baseball hat, enters.

JUDE

Easter, you got to snap out of this.

(Easter tries to speak, but cries even louder.)

We got customers.

MAN

Can I get a Virgin Mary with extra celery?

(Man's ignored.)

JUDE

Jesus is a bum, forget him, move on with your life.

(Easter cries even louder.)

MAN

I'm not sure that tact is working, Jude. How about that Virgin
Mary?

(Jude sits beside her, holds her hand.)

JUDE

Please, Easter, listen to someone who really cares about you.

EASTER

Well, okay.

JUDE

SONG: PUT THE PAST IN THE PAST

YOUR TALE IS OVER
PUT THE PAST IN THE PAST.

YOU'VE READ THE LAST PAGE
THE DIE HAS BEEN CAST.

THE STORY WON'T CHANGE
THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.
TIME TO BEGIN ANEW
AND TAKE A NEW TACT.

LET ME BE THE ONE TO HELP YOU FORGET,
REGAIN SOME RESPECT AND ERASE YOUR REGRET.
JUST LET ME IN AND I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE,
YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE WITH ME AT YOUR SIDE.

PLEASE GIVE ME A CHANCE
YOUR HEART WILL START MENDING.
AND WE'LL CULMINATE
IN A HAPPY ENDING.

MAN

Forget it. I wasn't that thirsty, anyway.

(Man exits.)

(Jude cuddles up and just as Easter lays her head on his
shoulder, Jesus bursts in.)

JESUS

Easter, I'm baaaaack.

EASTER

Jesus!

(Easter jumps up, causing Jude to fall backwards on his butt.)

(Jesus and Easter embrace.)

JESUS

I don't care who I am, or what I am told. It is time to be bold.
And ask the question tearing at my soul.

(gets down on one knee)

Easter, will you marry me?

EASTER

Yes.

(They embrace and kiss their way off the stage.)

(Jude is stunned, disappointed, totally frustrated.)

JUDE

(shakes his fists)

No!

(The cock crows.)

JUDE

You shut up, bird, or you're going on the menu.

Scene 13

SETTING: Temple Bar and Grill,
bedecked in tacky wedding
décor.

AT RISE: Joseph and Mary sit,
waiting.

MARY

I don't want to be here.

JOSEPH

You have to be here. It's your son's wedding. He's taking a big
step in his life.

MARY

The only step he's taking is towards disaster.

JOSEPH

Lighten up, Snookems.

(Jude enters carrying a soapbox, puts it down, sees the pair
seated, facing the pseudo podium.)

JUDE

You still owe me thirty pieces of silver, buddy.

JOSEPH

Should have taken that Promised Land time share when you had the
chance.

(MAN, wearing a Rabbi hat over braids, enters; positions
himself on the soapbox riser, drapes a banner which says
MOZELTOF. He clears his throat.

(The WEDDING MARCH begins.)

(Joseph starts weeping. Mary scoffs at him.)

JOSEPH

I always cry at weddings.

(Jesus enters, waving to Mary and Joseph. From opposite side,
Easter enters, who tries to ignore Jude's hands begging. She

stands across from Jesus in front of the Rabbi, who sings *We've only just begun...* in a Yiddish accent.)

MAN

Welcome. We are gathered here today to join Jesus and Easter in the company of God to become man and wife. If anyone has reason, this couple should not be bound, speak now or forever hold your piece.

(Joseph puts his hand over Mary's mouth. Jude shakes his head in frustration.)

MAN

You may present the rings.

JESUS

You're the yang to my ying, the dong to my ding.

EASTER

You're my first, my last, my everything.

(Jesus and Easter are about to exchange rings.)

MAN

But wait. There's more.

(BOOM, lights flash, thunder sounds, Man/Minister knocked off the podium. Jesus and Easter knocked apart. Stage goes black.)

Lights up.

(MAN has been transformed: long flowing white hair, in a white robe, a thunderbolt in his hand (resembling the God on the pjs). The MAN is GOD.)

MAN/GOD

(in a booming voice)

Jesus—

JESUS

What?

MAN/GOD

It's your Daddy.

JESUS

Where have you been all my life?

MAN/GOD

I've been around.

JESUS

Really?

MAN/GOD

You should try to be a little more observant. By the way, Happy birthday.

JESUS

Thanks, Dad.

EASTER

What a nice surprise.

MAN/GOD

What do you two think you're doing?

JESUS

Getting married.

EASTER

I would have sent you an invitation, but I couldn't find your address in heaven.

(Thunderclap.)

MAN/GOD

Ah, Mary, Mother of God—

MARY

Yes, dear.

MAN/GOD

I specifically said my son would not be taking a bride.

MARY

Ah... Well, this wasn't my fault.

(Mary points at Joseph.)

MAN/GOD

(to Joseph)

This better be good.

JOSEPH

I told Jesus to play the field, but kids these days, God, they don't listen.

(BOOM)

MAN/GOD

I'm calling off the ceremony.

JOSEPH

What?

MARY

Whew!

EASTER

No.

JESUS

Daddy, we're in love.

EASTER

This is my big day.

MAN/GOD

Sorry.

EASTER

You can't call my wedding off.

MAN/GOD

Sure, I can. I'm God.

(Man/God comes down and drapes his arm over Jesus.)

MAN/GOD

Jesus, this will ultimately be your decision, but let me tell you what I have in mind for the rest of your life.

JESUS

Well, I guess it wouldn't hurt to listen.

MAN/GOD

First, from this point on, I'll be in charge.

MARY

Good. I can retire.

MAN/GOD

You'll be going under my wing, where I'll teach you all kinds of new things.

JESUS

I'm going to get good at something?

JOSEPH

Let's hope.

MAN/GOD

SONG: GOD SPEAKS

YOU'LL MULTIPLY FISH AND BREAD,
WAKE LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD,
CALMING STORMS AND RAINS,
ALLEVIATING CHRONIC PAIN.

And curing the lepers--

JOSEPH

He's going to work in a zoo?

MAN/GOD

AND FROM MY LIST OF BEATITUDES,
YOU'LL FIND A NEW ATTITUDE.

MARY

Which he could really use.

MAN/GOD

You'll build a new church on solid rock not sand

JOSEPH

Could it be adjacent to the Promised Land?

MAN/GOD

The whole world will change because of you.

JESUS

Sounds like a lot to put me through.

MAN/GOD

YOU'LL HAVE NEW LESSONS TO TEACH, GOSPELS TO PREACH.
YOUR FLOCK WILL GROW LIKE UNTETHERED SHEEP.
CROWDS WILL GATHER INTO YOUR TENT,
TO HEAR THE MAN WHO'S BEEN HEAVEN SENT.

JUDE

Will I be his agent and get ten percent?

MAN/GOD

I've come up with the perfect name for you-

MARY

God Junior or God Number Two?

MAN/GOD

You will now be known as Jesus Christ.

MARY

That sounds nice.

JOSEPH

How about Joseph for his middle name?

MAN/GOD

And a New Testament will be written to record all that you do.

JUDE

New Testament's a much better title than the Bible Part Two.

(Jesus stands back from his dad.)

JESUS

But Daddy, you haven't mentioned Easter. She's the love of my life.
I can't leave her.

(holds Easter)

You're treating her like she's chopped liver.

MAN/GOD

Jesus, you'll have a lot on your plate. You won't have time to
marry, much less date.

JESUS

You're dumping her on the road, as if she's collateral damage.

EASTER

Jesus, don't worry about me, I'll manage.

JESUS

But I love you.

EASTER

I KNOW YOU MEAN THAT, BUT SEE THIS THROUGH
FOR THIS IS BIGGER THAN ME AND YOU
WITH ALL THE FEATS THAT YOU HAVE TO HANDLE
I'LL BE A PEBBLE IN YOUR SANDAL
MAYBE SOMEDAY IN THIS LIFE OR ANOTHER.
WE'LL ONCE AGAIN FIND EACH OTHER
BUT FOR NOW YOU'LL BE STRETCHED TOO THIN
BUSY ERADICATING ORIGINAL SIN.

JESUS

I'll miss you so much my heart will ache.

EASTER

I promise I'll help you every way I can. For I too, care about the
future of man.

JUDE

Don't worry, little lady. I'll be around to keep you safe and
sound.

EASTER

Thanks, Jude, but I'll pass.

JUDE

Damn.

MAN/GOD

Tell you what Easter—
I'll set aside a day in spring, when flowers bloom and robins sing.
Happiness will be the order of the day, honoring the sacrifices
you made.

EASTER

What will you call it?

MARY

Good Friday.

JOSEPH

No, Fat Tuesday.

MAN/GOD

Son, you'll be the beacon of new-found fame as you change the rules of the game.

JESUS

How?

MAN/GOD

Turning the other cheek, listening to the meek, healing the blind, changing water into wine.

JUDE

I'd like to get in on that.

MAN/GOD

AND YOU WILL CURE THE SICK AND FEED THE POOR,
ALLOW SOULS TO GET THEIR REWARD,
PUT A STOP ALL THE INCESSANT KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR.

JUST KNOW YOU'LL HAVE A BIG CROSS TO BEAR,
BUT PLEASE BE AWARE
THAT WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING,
WILL BE SATAN'S UNDOING.

JESUS

You sure I'm cut out for this?

JOSEPH

Sounds like a lot of pure hit and miss.

MAN/GOD

Jesus, there is no finer man to carry out my plan—

JESUS

Daddy, are you sure I can?

MAN/GOD

I wouldn't be here unless I truly believed in you.

EASTER

We all have faith in you.

MAN/GOD

You'll have apostles to help you along. Disciples and believers singing your songs. And a Last Supper has been scheduled, where you'll all eat on the same side of the table.

JUDE

Can I get the catering gig?

(All gather around Jesus)

JESUS

I set out to discover my destiny and what I found sure surprised me.

MARY

What Jesus?

JESUS

I WAS ON MY OWN, FOUND MY OWN WAY IN THE DARK.
SAW HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES,
WHERE LIFE'S NO WALK IN THE PARK.

JOSEPH

I tried to tell you and make you see, but you wouldn't listen to me.

JESUS

I learned to give away my heart.

EASTER

Oh, Jesus.

JESUS

And how it felt to have it broken apart.

(Weepy Easter gives him a hug.)

JESUS

I LEARNED IT WAS MY BOAT TO STEER,
AND THAT YOU HAVE A TASTE FOR BEER.

JUDE

I can help you out there.

JESUS

I'M GLAD TO BE THE SON AT YOUR SIDE,
(Man/God smiles)
YOUR RIGHT-HAND MAN, KIND OF GUY.

CALL ON ME WHATEVER YOU NEED,
I'LL DO MY BEST IN THOUGHT AND DEED.

(Jesus and Dad hug)

MAN/GOD

But son, are you sure of this mission? It is ultimately your decision.

JESUS

DADDY, I AM READY TO TAKE THE ROLL,
TO HELP AND DO ALL THAT I'M TOLD.
NO MATTER THE TASK THAT I AM ASSIGNED,
I'LL DO MY PART TO FINISH ON TIME.

(Man raises Jesus hand into the air in triumph.)

MAN/GOD

That's my boy.

JESUS

I just hope I don't blow it.

(All cheer.)

MAN/GOD

The survival of humanity can wait. Let's take a little time to celebrate.

(Cheers and applause.)

ALL SING

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.
HAPPY BRIRTHDAY DEAR JESUS,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.

MARY

Jesus, we're all here to help you.

JOSEPH

No matter what we all have to do.

JUDE

Especially you turning that water into booze.

EASTER

Because we all love you.

(The group hugs and breaks apart.)

CAST

SONG: MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

GOD IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN OR JEW,
JESUS WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT WE CHOOSE TO DO,
JOSEPH TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE,
MARY FOR THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.

JUDE THE TASK IS QUITE SIMPLE
M, J, JO HELP OTHERS IN NEED
EASTER STICK TO THE PRINCIPLE
OF DOING MANY GOOD DEEDS
ALL IT'S UP TO EVERYONE
JESUS YES YOU AND ME
ALL TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO BE.

GOD IT DOESN'T MATTER YOUR RACE, CREED OR VIEW
JESUS DO UNTO OTHERS AS THEY WOULD TO YOU
MARY IMAGINE HOW OUR LIVES WOULD IMPROVE
ALL IF WE JOINED HANDS TOGETHER TO SEE IT THROUGH

JESUS JOIN HANDS MAKE THE DECISION,
M, J, JO GET TOGETHER AS ONE,
EASTER DO WHAT'S RIGHT WITHOUT DIVISION
JUDE AND WE'LL GET THINGS DONE.
ALL IT'S UP TO EVERYONE
YES, YOU AND ME
TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO BE
TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO BE
BETTER PLACE TO BE
BETTER PLACE TO BE.

(BOOM, Thunderclap. Lights out.)

The End.

