

A script from



## “Innkeeper’s Dilemma”

Duet Version

by

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**What** This drama covers the Christmas story from the point of view of an innkeeper who is seeking to fill a hole in his spirit. (Themes: Christmas, Holiness, Grace)

**Who** Stuart  
Patron  
Shepherd Boy  
Paperboy  
Wiseman

**When** Biblical times

**Wear  
(Props)** Plate of rolls  
Briefcase  
Mints  
Newspaper

Costuming should be as biblical as necessary for the characters, noting that the second actor should only have to change a piece here and there to make a new character. Wiseman should look something like a Blues Brother (dark suit/white shirt/tie)

**Why** Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12

**How** In order make this a true duet, **Patron, Shepherd, and Wiseman** should all be played by the second actor. Of course, you always have the option of casting out each part. \***Note**- this is the version that is performed on video by Tommy and Eddie and can be viewed at [www.skitguys.com](http://www.skitguys.com).

**Time** Approximately 12-15 minutes; This script is 8 pages long.

Scene 1

*The scene starts with Stuart, the innkeeper, yelling at his wife offstage.*

**Stuart:** (To audience) It has been chaos outside everywhere. You see, Caesar has issued this decree that everyone in the land should be counted. Everyone has come back to their hometowns to register and Bethlehem is packed with people. I've never seen anything like this before! The vendors are out selling like mad; the economy has never seen better days! Quite amazing. I tell you, it would take a miracle to top what I've seen in Bethlehem over these past few weeks. A complete miracle! I couldn't even begin to describe what it would take to top this. (Pause) This is my inn: Bethlehem Bed and Breakfast. We were going to call it the Holiday Inn, but it just didn't have the same ring to it.

There was this couple who came late tonight. They have made a lasting impression on me. The two looked very tired. I was on the front porch with my wife and they came up to us and the girl was on this donkey. She said to me, "Sir, we are very tired. Can you please find a place for us at your inn?" I told them like I told the people before them. I was so sorry but there was just no room here. She looked at me and said, "You don't understand, my husband has been on foot all this time. We've been traveling eighty-five miles and we are very exhausted. Don't you have anything?" Now, please know I'm a businessman first. Always have been! But I couldn't do anything. Bethlehem was packed! So when I say to you I was about to tell them to leave for the second time, don't think me rude.

Then I realized something that I totally passed by. The young girl, she was pregnant. I knew right then I couldn't leave them out in the cold night. I started to think where I could put them. The only place I could think of was the barn. My mother would roll over in her grave if she knew I was thinking of sending someone there. It's full of stench, manure, animals, hay. No place to put two people! But it's all I had. I said to them, "You can have the barn. There's nothing else I can offer. It's yours if you want it." They both smiled at me and said, "Thank you." They started to walk off and the gentleman turned around and said, "God bless you," then looked at his wife, smiled, put his hand on her stomach and said, "because He's about to bless us."

I tell you, there was something different about them. If only you could have seen the way he treated her. The way they treated each other! It was such a sight to see. I've tried to think of a word to describe this couple. The only word that seems to run through my mind is kind of a quirky word. We don't hear the word very

much but it's the only word that seems to fit. The word, "Holy." Yes, that is the only word that can describe what I witnessed. Holy... they were just different.

*Patron enters.*

- Patron:** Describe your rooms to me please.
- Stuart:** Pardon me.
- Patron:** I need a place to sleep, what have you got?
- Stuart:** I have no room here at the inn. Everything is completely full.
- Patron:** You're telling me! This whole census thing. I mean I wasn't going to come at all, but my CPA said I had to so here I am.
- Stuart:** You're out of luck here, sir.
- Patron:** You must have some rooms vacant. I have money, but more importantly I didn't read the sign wrong.
- Stuart:** What sign? I turned off the vacancy sign about an hour ago.
- Patron:** The star. I've been following the star for the past half hour. It's so bright, I swore it meant vacancy. I guess it meant un-vacancy. I mean look at it, it's shining all over your inn. Well, really your barn, but you wouldn't put people in your barn would you?
- Stuart:** No, not even a pregnant woman.
- Patron:** What?
- Stuart:** Nothing, keep talking.
- Patron:** Well, you must have something for me?
- Stuart:** All I can offer you is a cup of coffee.
- Patron:** No, it will keep me up. Believe it or not, I get a little wired with caffeine.
- Stuart:** It's decaffeinated, drink up.
- Patron:** Are you sure? It tastes like regular.
- Stuart:** That's the secret of new Pharaoh's decaffeinated coffee - it tastes like regular but it's decaffeinated.
- Patron:** Mmmm. Good cup o' Joe. I wish I had some...

"The Innkeepers Dilemma: Duet Version"

**Stuart:** Bread? (*Holds a plate of rolls*)

**Patron:** (*Takes a bite of roll*) MAN-NA! It tastes great! Where did you get this?

**Stuart:** Like it do you? Got it at old man Moses' down the street. He has a slew of them if you get hungry in the morning.

**Patron:** It's good, but I could do without the butter. Trying to watch the weight.

**Stuart:** It's not butter. It's a butter substitute.

**Patron:** It tastes like butter.

**Stuart:** It's not, it has half the calories and fat of regular margarine.

**Patron:** I cannot believe it's not butter.

**Stuart:** It's not butter.

**Patron:** Where should I lay my head tonight?

**Stuart:** Let's see, there is a hotel down the street. It's about three, four... it's the sixth motel.

**Patron:** Oh, the motel six? I see it.

**Both:** The one with the lights on.

**Patron:** I'll be going now. Merry Census!

**Stuart:** I'm sorry, what?

**Patron:** Merry Census. I'm working on a new catchphrase. This is going to be one of the biggest days in history! It's setting commerce on its feet; people are making money like never before... Merry Census! I've trademarked it and everything.

**Stuart:** I like it. Merry Census!

**Patron:** (*Walking off*) You owe me a dollar.

**Stuart:** He followed that star. What if it did mean something? What if that star had a purpose? It does seem to be lighting up my barn quite a bit. It's so big, I've truly never seen anything like it before. Alright Stuart, get a hold of yourself. There is nothing special about a star, that's just crazy.

Scene 2

- Shepherd:** CRAZY! CRAZY! This is crazy!
- Stuart:** Pardon me?
- Shepherd:** I know what's going on inside your barn! I've been inside your barn!
- Stuart:** You smell like my barn.
- Shepherd:** That's the sheep dip. I'm a shepherd.
- Stuart:** How did you know about my barn?
- Shepherd:** The star. The star says it all. That and this angel-like thing. There I was minding my own sheep when all of a sudden, urrghh, there was this angel, and I was like ahhhhh! But he said to me, "fear not."  
(*Shepherd stops.*)
- Stuart:** Then what?
- Shepherd:** What?
- Stuart:** After the whole urrghh, ahhh, and fear not?
- Shepherd:** Oh yeah then the angel said, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Then more angles showed up. I still have spots on my eyes. We followed the star here and just as we get here, "pop" there's the baby just like they said.
- Stuart:** How do you know all that?
- Shepherd:** It's etched into my brain. I cannot help but tell everyone. (*Starts to leave*) Oh by the way, they named him Jesus. Gotta go.
- Stuart:** Merry Census!
- Patron:** (*Offstage voice*) You owe me two dollars!

*To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at  
SkitGuys.com!*

**ENDING:**

**Stuart:** (*Aw shucks*) It's nothing.

**Wiseman:** If two of my partners come, I'm in the barn, buh-bye.

**Stuart:** Buh-bye and Merry Census!

**Wiseman:** What's that?

**Stuart:** The census, the biggest register this town has ever seen. It will change history... Merry Census!

**Wiseman:** No, the biggest thing is in that barn...you should call it Merry-Mary-had-the-Christ-child-in-a-barn-after-following-a-star-all-night day. I've got to make that shorter...

*Paperboy enters with newspaper.*

**Paperboy:** (*Carrying papers*) Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Baby born in Bethlehem. King of the cradle. (*Sarcastic to Stuart*) Born in a barn! Sigourney Weaver finds Aliens! (*One more current topic of headline news comes out of Paperboy's mouth before Stuart places his hand over Paperboy's mouth. Paperboy hands Stuart the paper then exits.*)

**Stuart:** It's starting to happen. I guess if God can work through me, he can work through anyone. Soon Bethlehem will be waking up and they will be wanting food in the stomachs and they will rush around in their own little world and they won't realize that a savior just entered the world. What a night. A silent night, yes, even a Holy night. Sleep while you can, child, 'cause your work is just about to begin. My work is about to begin as well. I've got to run this inn. Merry Census! (*Starts off, stops, reconsiders, and turns to audience*) Let's not make this about money and getting things, I don't want to miss this... Merry Christmas.

*Stuart exits. The end.*