

A CHRISTMAS BUS RIDE STORY

by RIKKI SCHWARTZ

GENRE: Comedy/Drama

SYNOPSIS: One stranger (Mary) explains the point of Christmas to a scared and disillusioned stranger in labor with her first child.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: A Christmas Bus Ride Story contains a lot of emotional peaks and troughs, but fortunately the writer has supplied a detailed 'road map' in the stage directions. Feel free to use the stage directions to plot the rises and falls of your characters. Like any road map, stage directions can be ignored if you know of a short cut or a more scenic route, but beware of ignoring the writer's directions for no good reason: the writer is often in the best position to navigate, even though the director is in the driver's seat.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 1:26

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Women's Event, Seeker Service

CHARACTERS:

JENNY—pregnant passenger on a city bus

MARY—passenger next to Jenny on the bus

PROPS: Purse, Barnes & Noble shopping bags

COSTUMES: Casual attire

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Mary is seated in aisle seat at the back of a bus; Jenny approaches her.

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A CHRISTMAS BUS RIDE STORY *by Rikki Schwartz*

Lights up.

JENNY: *(Comes in huffing and puffing and struggling for balance— sees free window seat next to MARY and points to MARY's seat)* Can I sit here?

MARY: Of course. *(Moves over to window seat to free up the aisle seat so that JENNY can sit down)*

JENNY: *(Relieved)* Thanks. Whatever happened to men giving up their seats to pregnant women—that's what I'd like to know.

MARY: Something about political correctness, I think.

JENNY: So I have Gloria Steinem to thank for my swollen ankles?

MARY: *(Laughs)* I'm sure she meant no harm.

JENNY: *(Snort—takes a closer look at MARY's face)* You look very familiar. Have we met?

MARY: I don't think so. I'm Mary.

JENNY: Hi, I'm Jenny. *(Really studying her face)* You look so familiar...are you an actress or something? *(Winces in pain)*

MARY: No. Are you okay?

JENNY: Mmm hmm. Do you ride the bus often?

MARY: When I need to. You?

JENNY: First time. My car broke down...again...and my husband is out of town... again...and apparently has his cell phone turned off...again... so... *(Stops, choked up)*

MARY: It's not so bad—you get used to it.

JENNY: *(Snaps)* I don't want to get used to it.

MARY: Okay.

JENNY: *(Realizes herself)* I'm sorry. I'm just really really really angry right now.

MARY: *(Trying to bring levity to the conversation)* At all buses...or just this one?

JENNY: *(Looking out window impatiently)* Jiminy Cricket—does this thing stop every ten feet? Why does he keep stopping?

MARY: That's why they call them bus stops. Bus slowdowns would be too dangerous for those trying to board, I think.