

CENSUS TIME BLUES

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: An overworked innkeeper and his family struggle to meet the needs of their crowded inn.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Christmas, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:1-7

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service

CHARACTERS:

Elaine
Becca
Fred
Joseph
Mary

COSTUMES: Appropriate to character

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Hotel Lobby

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
www.DramaMinistry.com
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The setting is a small motel lobby. The phone rings. ELAINE runs on to grab it.

ELAINE: Front desk... I'm sorry, ma'am. Please slow down. What happened? What's your room number? 316. Okay. I'll get someone up with a plunger right away... I don't know, ma'am. I'm the only one down here at the moment, and I... I'm terribly sorry, but we're a bit understaffed, this being the Census, and we'll get there as soon as we can. *(Looks at phone)* Gosh, I have Census time!

ELAINE hangs up. BECCA enters.

Becca! Can you do mom a favor? Run a plunger up to 316?

BECCA: Mom, Grandpa Joe is in the bathroom and he won't come out again.

ELAINE: Grandpa Joe has problems, Becca. Just be patient.

BECCA: But Mom! Daniel's supposed to take me out, and I have to do my makeup.

ELAINE: Doesn't Daniel have a family to be with for the Census?

BECCA: They're in Capernaum, but he came back because today's our anniversary.

ELAINE: Anniversary of what?

BECCA: Of you and his parents making us get engaged!

ELAINE: He's going to see you in your makeup-less glory eventually.

BECCA: Not before I'm married!

ELAINE: Then find another mirror!

BECCA: Where? The only one I know of is in the bathroom with Grandpa!

ELAINE: Ask around, Becca, I'm sure some of the other guests have mirrors. And don't forget that plunger.

BECCA: This is so stupid! Daniel's gonna see me and think I'm ugly.

ELAINE: I don't know what to tell you, Becca, except it's the Census and we're all in misery.

BECCA storms off. The phone rings.

Front desk... No, we do not have room service. Who? When? Well, I will have him call you when he gets here... I don't know... I don't know... Yes, Room 215. I got it.