

Born This Day

(in the City of David)

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Gloria Emmerich

CAST OF CHARACTERS

WOMEN:

ANNA (Mary's mother)

CHLOE (Mary's sister)

ELIZABETH

MARY

REUMAH (Innkeeper's wife)

MEN:

GABRIEL

HOMER (Innkeeper)

JOACHIM (Mary's father)

JOSEPH

ZECHARIAH

SONG LIST:

1. A NIGHT OF GLORY (2:48).....Company
2. HEAVEN CAME DOWN (2:43) Mary & Joseph
3. GABRIEL'S GREETING (2:32) Gabriel
4. MARY, WHY? (2:57)Joseph
5. IN GOD'S HANDS (4:40)Joachim, Anna, Joseph, Mary
6. REJOICE, SING OUT MY SOUL (2:26)..... Mary, Elizabeth, Chloe, Anna
7. JOSEPH'S DREAM (2:38)..... Gabriel
8. HEAVEN CAME DOWN (Short Reprise)...(1:30) Mary & Joseph
9. HEAVEN CAME DOWN (Full Reprise)...(2:47)...Joseph/Gabriel & Company
10. A NIGHT OF GLORY FINALE (3:11)Company
11. CURTAIN CALL: REJOICE, SING OUT MY SOUL.....Company

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PROLOGUE: *The village of Bethlehem*

SONG # 1 - A NIGHT OF GLORY Company

HOMER: A tiny village; a lonely stable; no one suspected that God was able.
ALL: Born in a manger in Bethlehem; a star from Heaven shines down upon Him.
 This is a night of glory, a time to praise the new born King.
 So spread the Christmas story, and let us lift our voice on high and sing!

ALL: A chosen couple, Joseph and Mary; barely believing that she would carry,
 A son named Jesus, Immanuel; the best of Heaven on earth to dwell.
 This is a night of glory, a time to praise the new born King.
 So spread the Christmas story, and let us lift our voice on high and sing!_____

(All characters, except REUMAH slowly turn one by one and exit the stage while music plays out to the end. REUMAH is the last to turn and move, making her way back to the bench on her porch.

ACT ONE SC 1: *HOMER & REUMAH (Innkeeper & his wife) on their porch in Bethlehem.*

REUMAH: There is no other word to describe that night. It was holy...pure and simple. And after hearing what that poor young girl had been through...she told me the *whole* story...there was no doubt in my mind that the baby sleeping in a manger in the stable behind our inn was the Son of God. His precious little face shone like the morning star. He was a beautiful baby.

HOMER: *(Enters.)* Are you telling that story again?!

REUMAH: Now, how would I know if these fine people have heard it before?

HOMER: Did you bother to *ask* them?

REUMAH: *(Ignores his question.)* Never mind that, Homer. Besides, I've never met a person yet who minds hearing this story more than once.

HOMER: Well then tell it properly, Reumah, and start at the beginning.

REUMAH: *(Slightly perturbed.)* Do you want to tell this story...?

HOMER: *(Holds up his hands.)* No, no; *you* go ahead. Everyone around knows that nobody tells a story like Reumah. Why, just the other day somebody was raving about a story you'd told and I said, "Yes sir, that's a 'Reumah!'"

REUMAH: *(Gives him a look so he sits.)* Now, where was I...? Oh yes. So, the young girl I was telling you about, her name is Mary. She was a pretty little thing and couldn't have been more than 15 years old. But she was mature for her age, well beyond her years.

HOMER: That's probably why God chose her. And she was good; pure. You could see it in her eyes. How her husband could have doubted her is beyond me!

REUMAH: Homer! Don't be so pompous. You would've reacted just like Joseph if I told you the same thing. And stop jumping ahead in the story.

HOMER: *(Half mumbling to himself and half talking to the audience.)* Like I said, I could see the goodness of God in *her* eyes... *(REUMAH gives him a look.)*...uh...just like I can see it in *your* eyes right now, my love...

REUMAH: *(Perturbed; not believing a word out of his mouth.)* May I go on, please?

HOMER: You usually *do*... *(REUMAH glares at him.)* ...and *so beautifully*, I might add.

REUMAH: Hmmf! *Anyway*, one night when Mary was all alone an angel came to her.

HOMER: Gabriel.

REUMAH: Yes; and he told her to not be afraid because God had chosen her above all other women to be the mother of God's Son.

HOMER: Of course, she immediately told him she wasn't married and had never known a man before.

REUMAH: But Gabriel said God had chosen her for that very reason, to fulfill the scripture that says the Son of God will be born of a virgin. Then he said the Holy Spirit would come upon her and she would conceive and bear a son who would be the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

HOMER: Mary still couldn't believe what he was saying. She kept asking Gabriel if he was sure he'd chosen the right woman. Tell them what he said, Reumah.

REUMAH: He took her by the hand and raised her to her feet and said, "There is nothing impossible with God. He has chosen you above all women."

HOMER: "Nothing is impossible"...I've used that promise a few times for myself!

REUMAH: And to think that God chose *this* village and *our* little stable!

HOMER: *(Touched, he starts to sing.)* "A tiny village, a lonely stable; no one suspected that God was able."

REUMAH: *(stops him.)* And speaking of the stable...would you mind cleaning it out, please? I've asked you *three times* this week and there it sits: filthy, moldy straw in the stalls...the water troughs look like breeding ponds for frogs...it smells so bad a wild camel wouldn't stay in there for one minute!

HOMER: *(Hops to her demands.)* Fresh straw, water troughs, smell...I'm on it, Reumah...I'm on it! *(Exits, with REUMAH still chattering away behind him.)*

REUMAH: How on earth Mary and Joseph stayed in there is *beyond me!* And *poor* baby Jesus! I'm surprised they didn't choke to death in that awful stable! *(Exits.)*

(BLACKOUT)

ACT ONE SC 2: *A garden in Nazareth. After slipping away from JOSEPH and MARY'S betrothal celebration, CHLOE & MARY run onstage holding hands and giggling. MARY'S excited and happy, but a little nervous that she and CHLOE will be seen by someone in the garden.*

CHLOE: *(Skipping and giggling.)* Do you think anybody saw us slip away, Mary?

MARY: *(Looks over her shoulder expecting to be caught any minute.)* Shhhh, Chloe! We can't let anyone see us out here. Are you sure nobody followed us?

CHLOE: (*Slightly perturbed, very sisterly.*) Mary, would you calm down. You are so jittery! Of course, no one followed us... (*Giggles.*) Except maybe Joseph...

MARY: (*Aghast.*) What? You saw him? He's really following us? He said he would come a little later, not right now!

CHLOE: (*Takes MARY by the arm and lovingly strolls along.*) I was just teasing, Mary. He's not following us...yet! Don't be such a worrywart! No one saw us leave, not even Mama or Papa.

MARY: You'd be a worrywart too, if you were me! I've never done this before! Mama would have a fit if she knew!

CHLOE: Mama...? How about Papa? He would chase Joseph down the path with one of Joseph's own hammers! (*Both giggle.*) Honestly, Mary; for a girl who just became engaged you are acting very silly...not at all like a mature young lady who is about to be married! (*Struts around like a proper young lady.*)

MARY: *Chloe!* I'm almost fifteen years old, and I do too know how to be a mature young lady! You're just jealous because I'm engaged!

CHLOE: (*Becomes quiet, sad.*) Mary...you and Joseph aren't going to move away after you're married, are you? I mean...we'll still get to see each other, won't we?

MARY: (*Realizes her sister is serious.*) Oh, Chloe, of course we'll see each other! Joseph won't be taking me away to some strange, foreign land. We'll be staying right here in Nazareth, I'm sure.

CHLOE: You are so blessed, Mary. You get to marry the man of your dreams! And here you are, not quite fifteen! It's just not fair! I'm only a year younger than you are...and you don't see a man chasing after *me*, do you? Oh dear! I could be a spinster, Mary. I'll come to the ripe *old age* of twenty-one and have no husband, no children. I'll just *die* if that happens!

MARY: (*Laughing.*) Chloe, don't be so dramatic! My goodness, you're not an old maid yet! Besides, if you'd start acting more like a *girl*, instead of chasing squirrels and throwing stones like one of the *boys*, you might just discover those *boys* would like you better.

CHLOE: (*Excited.*) I like chasing squirrels and throwing stones in the pond! (*Stops to think, then excited again.*) Which boys? Who? Did one of them say that?

MARY: Calm down! If you start acting all giddy you'll scare them off for sure!

CHLOE: I'll wait until I'm sixteen. If they *still* haven't noticed me then what are *these* for? (*Slaps her legs.*) I'm getting married if I have to chase a man myself!

MARY: (*Giggles.*) I believe you *would*, too...

CHLOE: (*Serious again.*) Promise me we'll still be good friends, Mary.

MARY: Chloe, how could you ever think we wouldn't be? You're my sister! (*Thinks a moment.*) No, I take that back. (*CHLOE gives her a shocked look.*) You are not just my sister, Chloe...next to Joseph you are my dearest, closest friend, and I hope you'll always be there for me to talk to.

CHLOE: Of course I will, Mary! And *you'd* better always be *here* too. I just couldn't bear it if you left Nazareth! (*Sad.*) What would I do without my *dear* sister?

MARY: Please don't cry, Chloe; this is supposed to be a happy day for me! (*Whirls around.*) I'm engaged to Joseph!!

CHLOE: (*Giggles.*) Now, what would Joseph think if he saw you spinning around like a silly little girl!

JOSEPH: (*Enters just as Mary is spinning around.*) He'd think she was the most beautiful, "silly little girl" he'd ever seen!

MARY: (*Both girls jump in surprise. MARY is embarrassed, but CHLOE giggles.*) Joseph! I...I didn't see you there.

JOSEPH: (*Smiles and chuckles.*) I know...

CHLOE: Did anyone see you leaving, Joseph? We snuck away without being noticed!

MARY: Chloe...

CHLOE: Wasn't it fun, Mary? Like we were on a secret mission or special journey!

MARY: (*A little louder.*) Chloe...

CHLOE: (*Starts showing JOSEPH how they got away.*) We just slowly backed away, chatting to people as we went...shaking hands, greeting friends, "Hello, so nice to see you," "Oh, I'm so glad you came," "Are you enjoying yourself?" "Yes, Mary is very happy." Until we were on the edge of the yard...then we just took off running!! (*Giggles.*) It was fun, wasn't it Mary!?

MARY: (*Grabs CHLOE by the arm to stop her.*) Chloe! You can...you know, go now...

CHLOE: *Ohhh!* Yes, that's right. (*Giggles.*) That's why we came out here isn't it, so you could meet with Joseph. Ummm, all right then. Do you want me to just wait over there, or something? (*Points a few feet away.*)

JOSEPH: (*Trying hard not to chuckle.*) I'll see that she gets back safely, Chloe.

MARY: We'll be fine, Chloe. I won't be long, just a few minutes.

CHLOE: (*Reluctant to go.*) Oh, really...? It's no trouble to wait...

JOSEPH: (*Idea.*) Chloe, did I tell you about the young man that helps me at the shop?

CHLOE: (*Perks up.*) No...what about him?

JOSEPH: Well, he was asking me all sorts of questions about you...what you were like, if you knew who he was, did I know you well...

CHLOE: (*Sappy smile.*) Really...?

JOSEPH: In fact, we were just talking before I came out here...

CHLOE: (*Jumps.*) What? He's here...I mean, there? At *MY* house? In *MY* yard?

JOSEPH: I invited him to the celebration. He wondered where you were because he'd seen you earlier but then you just...disappeared...he asked if I'd seen you...

CHLOE: Oh! Oh! Oh! Um....Mary, do you mind if I...

MARY: No, go ahead, Chloe, I'll be fine.

CHLOE: Oh, well then, good, I mean, great... (*Giggles, excited.*) Well, I'll just be going then... (*Turns to run off, then spins around.*) I'll see you later, Mary! (*Then*

spins back and heads off stage...only to stop dead in her tracks and spin round again.) OH! What's his name, Joseph?!

JOSEPH: *(He and MARY exchange looks, trying to suppress a laugh.)* Matthew...

CHLOE: *(Says his name slowly.)* Matthew.....such a strong, manly name! *(Suddenly slaps her legs and grins at MARY.)* I told you these would come in handy some day!! *(Spins round and races offstage, hollering back to them.)* **BYE!!**

MARY: *(Giggles.)* Joseph, did you just make that up?

JOSEPH: *(Grinning after CHLOE.)* What? No! It's true, Mary. *(Laughs.)* He's been pestering me for days with questions about her. He's a very nice young man.

MARY: Oh dear...I hope she doesn't scare him away with her *enthusiasm!*

JOSEPH: *(Takes MARY'S hand.)* Well...my "enthusiasm" didn't scare *you* away!

MARY: *You?!* I thought *I* was the *exuberant* one...I just knew you'd think I was a silly goose!

JOSEPH: Well, I did...

MARY: *(Looks shocked.)* What?

JOSEPH: But, I happen to just *love* silly geese! *(Playfully taps her nose.)*

MARY: Joseph, you're such a tease! *(Hears something rustling; becomes nervous.)* Did you hear that?

JOSEPH: *(Smiles.)* It was just a little mouse scurrying in the grass, Mary.

MARY: Are you sure we should have left the party, Joseph. What if my parents come looking for us?!

JOSEPH: *(He turns her head and looks into her eyes.)* Mary, both of our parents are off in their own little world, celebrating our engagement with family and friends. You know as well as I do that they won't miss either of us...at least not for a few minutes. Besides, we haven't had any time alone for days!

MARY: *(Giggles.)* Hm, I don't think we're supposed to *be* alone until we're married!

JOSEPH: *(Takes her hands; sincere.)* Mary, are you sure this is what you want? I meant what I said before. This needs to be *your* decision too, not just mine or our parents. If you don't want to marry me, I'll understand. I know I'm much older than you, but...well, you know how I feel about you.

MARY: *(Teases.)* Hmm...no, I can't remember...you'll have to tell me again, Joseph.

JOSEPH: *(Smiles.)* You *know* how much I love you, Mary. We've known each other for a long time. I've watched you grow up and blossom into a beautiful young woman. *(MARY looks embarrassed.)* But, most of all, I see your love for God and your obedience to His Law. You're good, and pure, Mary, and you want to serve God. You know how important that is to me.

MARY: *(Shyly turns away to share her heart.)* To serve God is the most important thing in my life, Joseph. And I love Him with all of my heart. But, you must know that I also *love you*, Joseph. I know God has brought us together.

(Turns JOSEPH to look into his eyes.) I *know* how much *older* you are...and

how *young* I am. That doesn't matter to me, Joseph; that's *never* mattered to me. What's *important* is that we're in God's will. I know it's been hard for you, trying to convince my parents to let us marry...

JOSEPH: *(Interrupts.)* It's true what they said, Mary; you *could* do better than to marry a simple carpenter.

MARY: Yes...perhaps I could...but, I thought *you* of all people, would understand.

JOSEPH: *(Confused.)* Understand what?

MARY: *(Takes his hand, squeezing it.)* That I could never do better than to marry the "simple carpenter" I fell in love with. *(Teasing again.)* And how do you know that I haven't always dreamed of being a simple carpenter's wife?

JOSEPH: *(Laughs.)* What? Since when?

MARY: *(Hesitates slightly.)* Well...since you took over your father's shop last year!

JOSEPH: What? Since last spring? You wanted to be my wife even then?!

MARY: *(Giggles, turns, and walks away, staring up at the night sky.)* Hmm... maybe. *(Sees a falling star and gasps.)* Oh! Joseph, did you see it? A falling star!

JOSEPH: *(Goes to her.)* Oh, I missed it; where?

MARY: *(She points.)* There. I just love the night sky, Joseph; don't you? It's so...so amazing and beautiful. When I was a little girl I used to wish I could be up there among the stars. Then I would pray that Heaven would come down so I could live right in the middle of all those twinkling stars: A little heaven on earth! *(Giggles, slightly embarrassed.)* I know...that's silly.

JOSEPH: *(Smiles.)* No it's not, Mary. It really *would* be amazing.

MARY: *(Relaxes, remembering.)* You know, Mama used to tell me that every time you see a falling star, it's an angel coming down to earth on a very important mission; a *special* assignment. *(Giggles.)* I know she was just teasing me, but I *do* believe in angels...that God sometimes sends them to help us. Do you believe that, Joseph?

JOSEPH: *(Smiles.)* Yes, of course I do, Mary. Do you know what else I believe? Any time I'm with you...it's like having a little Heaven on earth.

MARY: I feel the same way, Joseph. And that means right now, tonight... Heaven came down.

SONG # 2 - HEAVEN CAME DOWN Mary & Joseph

MARY: The stars above showing the Father's love,
And twinkling bright, illumine the darkest night.
The moon and stars You've made; all Your handiworks displayed.

BOTH: I am so small compared to the world I see;
And stand in awe to think that You care for me.
I can feel Your love pouring down from Heav'n above.
Tonight Heaven came down. Just now a piece of Heaven came down to the ground.
You made us a little lower than the angels.
Guardians over all the universe, Your handiworks.
Yes, tonight Heaven came down. Father, let us remember Your love pouring down,

MARY: The night that Heaven came down. _____
JOSEPH: The night that Heaven came down. _____
BOTH: Tonight, when Heaven came down; _____ Heaven came down. _____

MARY: (*Teasing.*) Just think, Joseph. We just witnessed an angel coming to earth. We were here on the very night that a piece of Heaven came down! (*Giggles.*) *Maybe*, something wonderful is about to happen...do you think so?
JOSEPH: Now, I *know that's* true! *We're* getting married! And *that's* wonderful!
MARY: (*Giggles.*) Most definitely! It *IS* wonderful! (*They embrace for a moment.*)
JOSEPH: We'd better get back before your papa has the whole village out looking for us.
MARY: (*Coy.*) Chloe said if Papa *knew* he'd chase you with one of your hammers!
JOSEPH: (*Laughs.*) Well, after witnessing Chloe racing after Matthew, it's more likely your papa will be chasing after *HER* with one of my hammers! (*They both laugh.*) Do you want to go first, Mary? I'll follow in a few minutes. We probably shouldn't arrive back at the house at the same time.
MARY: (*Looking up at the stars.*) You go first, Joseph. I want to stay a few minutes longer and gaze at the stars.
JOSEPH: (*Takes her hands and kisses her on the top of the head.*) All right, Mary. (*Smiles.*) Now, don't be star gazing *too* long; promise?
MARY: (*Gives him a big smile.*) I promise, Joseph. I won't be long.
JOSEPH: Come by the shop tomorrow afternoon, and we'll go for a walk, hmmm?
MARY: I'd love to!
JOSEPH: I'll see you then... (*Exits.*)
MARY: All right, Joseph; goodbye. (*Watches him go then looks at the sky, humming their song. Suddenly there's a blinding light. She kneels and covers her face.*)

SONG # 3 GABRIEL'S GREETING **Gabriel solo**

GABRIEL: Greetings and Salutations! Oh Mary, congratulations!
I am an angel, Mary; God sent me here.
My name is Gabriel; no need to fear.
God is with you. Blessed are you among women;
Honored and most highly favored.
Don't be afraid, Mary; anointed one.
For God has chosen you to bear His Son: Our Messiah,
Jesus Christ, the Lord; the Son of God! _____

MARY: (*Visibly shaken.*) Why...why are you saying this to me? You call me blessed and honored...highly favored? I...I don't understand... (*Tries to back away.*)
GABRIEL: You've nothing to fear, Mary. You have been chosen above all women to be the mother of God's son. He shall be the Savior of the world...the Messiah.
MARY: (*Confused.*) But, how can this be? I'm not even *married!* I only just became engaged to Joseph, a carpenter here in Nazareth. But he hasn't...I mean, we've never...I... (*Embarrassed.*) I've never been with a man before.

GABRIEL: That is one of the reasons God has chosen you. Think, Mary. You know the words of the prophet Isaiah: “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and give Him the name Immanuel, Jesus, which means, ‘God is with us.’” The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God will overshadow you. That is why this baby born to you will be completely holy, Mary; He will be the Son of the Most High God.

MARY: *(Still in shock.)* It all sounds so...so...*impossible!*

GABRIEL: Nothing is impossible with God, Mary. Even as we speak, Zechariah and Elizabeth are rejoicing, for they too are expecting a son, a child anointed of

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