

Heaven Came Down

By Gloria Emmerich

CAST OF CHARACTERS (speaking roles):

(In order of appearance)

JOANNAH (JOSEPH'S sister)

MARY

JOSEPH

GABRIEL (Optional)

BERNICE (MARY'S mother)

ASA (MARY'S father)

ELIZABETH

ZECHARIAH

LIST OF SONGS:

ACT ONE:

1. A Night of Glory (3:00 approx) Joseph & Company
2. Heaven Came Down (2:43) Mary & Joseph
3. Mary, Why? (2:57) Joseph
4. In God's Hands (4:40)..... Asa, Bernice, Mary, Joseph

ACT TWO:

5. Rejoice, Sing Out My Soul (2:26)..... Mary, Eliz., Bernice, Joannah
6. Heaven Came Down (Short Reprise) (1:30)..... Mary & Joseph
7. Heaven Came Down (Reprise) (2:47) Mary, Joseph, & Company
8. A Night of Glory Finale (3:00 approx)..... Company

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Heaven Came Down

Prologue

SONG # 1 - A NIGHT OF GLORY Company

JOSEPH: 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!_____

*(As music continues those not in the first scene exit slowly while
MARY and JOANNAH take their place on stage for scene one.*

ACT ONE SC 1: *The village garden in Nazareth. MARY and JOANNAH are talking.*

JOANNAH: I still can't believe you're betrothed to *my brother*, Mary!

MARY: *(Teasing.)* Well, you always said you wished you had a sister, Joanna. Now you'll have *me!*

JOANNAH: *(They both giggle, excited.)* You know how everyone always says, "Don't think of it as losing a brother, but gaining a sister-in-law? Well, *I* prefer the part about *losing* a brother!

MARY: Joanna! Don't let Joseph hear you say that!

JOANNAH: Why not? He'd say the same thing about me if *I* was getting married.

MARY: *(Pretends to be hurt.)* You don't want me for a sister-in-law?

JOANNAH: Oh Mary, we've *always* been like sisters our whole lives. That will never change...will it?

MARY: Jo! Of course not! You're my dearest, closest friend in the whole world. That won't change just because I marry your brother, Joseph. I promise.

JOANNAH: You promise to tell me everything...and that we'll still spend time together?

MARY: Yes, *everything*.

JOANNAH: Well...maybe not *everything*. I don't want to hear about all the mushy stuff with my *brother!*

MARY: *(Giggles and playfully tickles JOANNAH.)* You mean you don't want to hear about Joseph kissing me...?

JOANNAH: *(Giggles at first then stops.)* Ugh! NO!

MARY: *(Still playful, she turns away.)* Oh...all right then. I'll just keep it to myself.

JOANNAH: *(Feigns disinterest, but unable to contain herself she runs to MARY.)* You let Joseph kiss you?! Mary! *Neither* of our parents would be happy about *that!*

MARY: *(Touches her cheek, remembering.)* He just kissed my cheek when he asked me to marry him, Jo! He was so sweet and shy. I could tell he was nervous.

JOANNAH: (*Incredulous.*) Joseph? *Sweet and shy??* He definitely hides it around *me!*

MARY: (*Looks around.*) He said to meet him here after he closed the shop.

JOANNAH: (*Holds up her hand.*) Sorry, Mary. There is *no way* I could stand here and watch *my brother* act sweet and shy; I'll see you later. After you're done talking to Joseph come by the house.

MARY: (*Teasing.*) And I'll be sure to tell you *all* the mushy details then! (*Giggles.*)

JOANNAH: Terrific...can't wait. (*Starts to leave, but turns back and takes MARY'S hand.*) I really am happy for you, Mary. You and Joseph were meant for each other. And don't you *ever* tell him I said that! (*Both giggle. JOANNAH exits.*)

JOSEPH: (*Enters, watches JOANNAH leave; then goes to MARY.*) You seem to be in such a happy mood today, Mary. Any particular reason...?

MARY: (*Smiles, obviously very much in love with him.*) Actually...yes. The other day a man proposed to me. He was really quite handsome and *very* sweet.

JOSEPH: Hmmm, really? And what was your answer when he proposed?

MARY: (*Continues to tease.*) Why, I said yes, of course.

JOSEPH: Well *he* must be the happiest man in *all* of Nazareth...*no!* In *all* of Galilee...*no!* In *all* of Israel! (*Makes a big sweeping motion with his hands.*)

MARY: (*Giggling, she pulls his hands down and holds them.*) Oh Joseph! We'll be the happiest couple in the *whole world*, won't we? I never dreamed I could be this happy. I can hardly believe it's true!

JOSEPH: I'll do everything I can to make *all* your dreams come true, my beloved Mary. We'll have a good life together.

MARY: Yes, Joseph. And I promise to be a good wife to you. I won't be any trouble.

JOSEPH: (*Chuckles.*) Mary, you could *never* be too much trouble for me...*never.*

MARY: (*Teasing again.*) Well, I don't know...I just might turn out to be one of those nagging, aggravating wives we see at the marketplace every day. (*Giggles.*)

JOSEPH: Then I'll have to work extra hard to make you laugh and smile all day long!

MARY: (*Smiles up at him.*) That won't be hard, Joseph; just thinking about you makes me smile.

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...and...well, you *know* how I feel about you.

MARY: (*Teases; speaks softly.*) No, I can't remember...tell me again, Joseph.

JOSEPH: (*Knows she is teasing and smiles in return.*) You know how much I love you, Mary. We've known each other for a long time. I watched you grow up and blossom into a beautiful young woman. (*Embarrassed, MARY looks down at his hands.*) But, most of all, I see your love for God the Father, and your obedience to His Law. You're good, and pure, Mary, and you want only to serve the Lord. You know how important that is to me.

MARY: (*Shyly turns away to share her heart.*) Serving God is the most important thing in my life, Joseph. And I love Him with all of my heart. But, I also *love you*, Joseph. I know God has brought us together. (*Takes his face in her hands and looks into his eyes.*) I *know* how much *older* you are...and how *young* I am. That has *never* mattered to me, Joseph. What matters is that we're in God's will. I know my parents didn't make it easy.

JOSEPH: It was difficult trying to convince them to let me marry you. But, it's true what they said, Mary; you *could* do better than to marry a simple carpenter.

MARY: Yes...perhaps I could...but, you, of all people, should understand.
JOSEPH: (*Confused.*) Understand what?
MARY: (*Takes his hand.*) That I could never do better than to marry the “simple carpenter” I fell in love with. (*Now teasing again.*) And how do you know that I haven’t always dreamed of being a “simple carpenter’s wife?”
JOSEPH: (*Laughs.*) Since when?
MARY: (*Hesitates slightly.*) Since...you took over your father’s shop last year!
JOSEPH: What? Since last spring? You wanted to be my wife then?!
MARY: (*Giggles and walks away, staring up into the night sky.*) Hmmmm...maybe. (*Sees a falling star and gasps.*) Oh! Joseph, did you see it? A falling star!
JOSEPH: (*Goes to her.*) Really, where?
MARY: (*Points.*) There. I just love the night sky, Joseph; don’t you? It’s so amazing and beautiful. When I was little I used to wish I could be up there among the stars. I would pray that Heaven would come down so I could live right in the middle of it all: A little heaven on earth! (*Giggles.*) I know it’s silly.
JOSEPH: (*Smiles.*) No it’s not, Mary. It *would* be amazing.
MARY: (*Remembering.*) Mama used to tell me that every falling star was an angel coming down to earth on a very important mission; a special assignment.
JOSEPH: (*Smiles.*) A “special assignment?”
MARY: (*Giggles.*) 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, I do, Mary. Do you know what else I believe? Any time I’m with you, Mary...it’s like having a little Heaven on earth.
MARY: (*Smiles up at him.*) Yes, Joseph; and that means...right now, tonight...Heaven came down.
JOSEPH: Yes, Mary.

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; the very night that a piece of Heaven came down! (*Giggles.*) *Maybe*, something wonderful is about to happen!
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 go before your papa has the whole village out looking for us.

MARY: (*Stargazing.*) You go ahead, Joseph. I'd like to stay a little longer and gaze at the stars. Besides, I promised Joannah I'd stop by on my way home.

JOSEPH: (*Takes her hand and strokes it.*) All right, Mary. (*Smiles.*) Now, don't be stargazing *too* long; promise?

MARY: (*Gives him a big smile.*) I promise, Joseph.

JOSEPH: Come to the shop tomorrow afternoon, and we'll go for a walk, hmmm?

MARY: I'd love to!

JOSEPH: I'll see you then...

MARY: All right, Joseph...goodbye. (*JOSEPH exits. MARY continues stargazing and humming "Heaven came down." Suddenly, there is a blinding light, and MARY drops to her knees, frightened. A voice [Gabriel] speaks to her.*)

GABRIEL: (*Recorded.*) Greetings, oh highly favored one. (*MARY quakes at the sound of his voice.*) Don't be frightened, Mary. I am the angel Gabriel sent by the Most High God to bring you a message. Congratulations, Mary! You are blessed and honored above all women; for God has chosen you.

MARY: (*Visibly shaken.*) Blessed, honored, highly favored? I...I don't understand... (*She cowers again and tries to back away.*)

GABRIEL: Don't be afraid, 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: (*Stands, confused.*) But, how can this be? I'm not even married! I'm engaged, but...he hasn't...I mean, we've never... (*Shy, embarrassed.*) I've never been with a man before...

GABRIEL: And 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 shall 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.*) This is...*impossible!*

GABRIEL: Nothing is impossible with God, Mary. Even now as we speak, Zechariah and Elizabeth are rejoicing in God, for they too are expecting a son, a child anointed of God who will prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah...the baby *you* now carry in your womb.

MARY: (*Incredulous.*) Aunt Elizabeth...with child? That's wonderful!

GABRIEL: You must go to her, Mary. For the child she now carries lies dormant, awaiting a touch from the Holy Spirit. At the sound of your voice, the baby in her womb will leap for joy in the presence of God's Son. Do not tarry; go to her, Mary. (*The bright angelic light fades.*)

MARY: (*Excited, but nervous.*) But wait! Don't you think I should talk to Joseph? Gabriel...? Gabriel! He's gone! (*Now begins to panic.*) But...how do I tell my parents...and Joseph?! They'll *never* believe me! Oh dear! I've got to tell *someone!* Joannah! She'll believe me! (*Runs offstage.*) Joannah! (*Exits.*)

(BLACKOUT)

ACT ONE SC 2: JOSEPH'S carpenter shop. JOANNAH and MARY wait for his return.

MARY: (*Pacing, wringing her hands.*) Oh Joannah, what will I tell him?

JOANNAH: Mary! You're making me dizzy! Will you please stop pacing! Do you want me to tell Joseph?

MARY: (*Stops pacing.*) Jo; that would be terrible! I have to tell him myself. I just don't know how to start...

JOANNAH: Just tell him like you told me, Mary. *I* believed you.

MARY: I can't do that! I never even stopped to think before I blurted out everything to you. It has to be carefully worded.

JOANNAH: Mary, that's the best way to get it out! Just get it over with quickly.

MARY: Ohhhhh...maybe you should say something to get it started.

JOANNAH: Yes! I can ask him how the business is going...maybe talk about the weather, if he enjoyed his midday meal...

MARY: *JO!* What does any of that have to do with this?? (*She grabs her stomach.*)

JOANNAH: (*Thinking.*) Oh, yes...you're right. Well, maybe *you* should start and I'll fill in the blanks when you start to panic; how's that?

MARY: (*Grabs her head.*) Ohhhh...I never should have told you!

JOANNAH: (*Sympathetic.*) I'm sorry, Mary. I'm only trying to help. And I'm *glad* you told me first. You're my dearest, closest friend and I want to help.

MARY: I'm just afraid you're going to blurt something out before I get a chance to explain everything, Jo.

JOANNAH: I won't! I won't. I promise. (*Sits down.*) I'll just sit here and listen and only speak if you ask me too....cross my heart!

MARY: And not lose your temper...?

JOANNAH: Of course not! Mary, I *am* a 16 year old grown woman...which means I am *not* going to do something so foolish and immature as to lose my temper! It's not like I can't be adult about this. *Really*, Mary.

MARY: All right, all right. Oh, I wish Gabriel would have just told him!

JOSEPH: (*Enters, smiling.*) And who is Gabriel?

JOANNAH: Oh, just some boy I met at the market ...a rather "flighty" fellow. (*Laughs. MARY gives her a look; so she stops, mouths "sorry," and "zips" her lips.*)

JOSEPH: (*Sets tool bag down.*) Sorry I'm late, Mary. I had a chair to drop off at the far end of the village; it took longer than I thought. (*To MARY.*) So, did you see any more angels come down on a "secret mission" last night after I left?

MARY: Uh...well, funny you should mention that...

JOSEPH: You did? That's great, Mary...must be something amazing about to happen!

JOANNAH: I think it already has...

JOSEPH: What...?

MARY: (*Gives JOANNAH a look then turns to JOSEPH.*) Joseph, I need you to listen to me. I wanted to come earlier, but I knew you'd be busy working.

JOSEPH: What is it Mary?

MARY: Before I tell you, you need to promise that you won't interrupt me until I'm finished. This is going to be hard enough as it is...so please don't say anything till I'm done; you promise, Joseph?

JOSEPH: (*Chuckles.*) Yes, Mary; I promise. Now come sit down and tell me.

MARY: No, no...I couldn't sit down right now; I'm too nervous. But... (*Plops JOSEPH down on a bench.*) I think it's a good idea for *you* to sit down.

JOANNAH: Yes! Good idea... (*She and JOSEPH exchange looks.*)

JOSEPH: All right, Mary. I'm sitting...

MARY: Well, after you left last night, I was looking up at the stars and suddenly a blinding light appeared. I could barely keep my eyes open and I dropped to my knees, frightened. I heard a voice, so I looked up and...

JOANNAH: *(Interrupts.)* There was this angel standing there...well, not really standing, sort of floating in the air or maybe he was flying...and he...

MARY: JO!

JOANNAH: Your right, your right..he wasn't flying...

JOSEPH: *(Chuckles.)* An angel? Mary, are you two playing a joke on me because last night we talked about...

MARY: Joseph, you promised!

JOANNAH: Yeah! Can't you be quiet for one minute?! *(JOSEPH and MARY look at her.)*

JOSEPH: *(Turns back to MARY, serious.)* Yes, I did promise, Mary; I'm sorry...go on.

MARY: *(Takes a few steps away as she continues.)* The angel called me by my name; he knew who I was! He said his name was Gabriel...that God had chosen me to be the mother of God's son, and...

JOANNAH: *(Unable to contain herself.)* And that the Holy Spirit would come upon her so she would conceive and bear a son! He's to be called Jesus; the Messiah!

MARY: Jo! *(MARY turns to look at an ashen-faced JOSEPH.)* I'm...I'm with child now, Joseph. I don't know why God has chosen me, but He has, and...

JOANNAH: *(Trying to help, she chuckles.)* I'm sure this all sounds ridiculous and impossible. You must think we just made this up, especially after last night talking about falling stars and angels. But, it's the truth, right Mary?

MARY: *(Seeing JOSEPH non-responsive, she pleads with JOANNAH.)* Joannah, please...

JOANNAH: If you want me to go I will, Mary. Just say the word and I'll leave.

MARY/JOS: *(Pregnant pause before both reply.)* Leave.

JOANNAH: *(Shocked.)* Oh...well, all right. I'll be home if you need me, Mary. *(Slugs JOSEPH'S arm.)* Isn't this great? *(No response.)* Ahem...well then, bye. *(Exits.)*

MARY: *(Exhales, breaking the awkward silence.)* Joseph? *(Touches his shoulder.)*

JOSEPH: *(Reacts at her touch and walks away.)* I can't believe it. You wait until the day after our betrothal to tell me this absurd story about having a baby? How could you do this to me, Mary?! I'm not stupid. There is no way I could possibly be the father...you know that! You've ruined everything! How could we even think of getting married now? Why, Mary...WHY? Everything was going so well. We had such wonderful plans, and in less than one minute you've shattered our hopes and dreams into a thousand pieces by announcing that your...your...pregnant!

MARY: *(Shocked at his harsh response and choice of words.)* Joseph...!

JOSEPH: What?! Does that word shock you, Mary? Well, it shocks ME too! What did you think I'd do? Shout for joy?! Congratulate you?

MARY: I'm *with child*, Joseph. Don't use that word...you make it sound so, so...

JOSEPH: Disgusting? Well that's exactly how it makes me feel, Mary! Oh, and who am I to congratulate? *GABRIEL??*

MARY: No! Gabriel's the angel! I said it was the...

JOSEPH: Never mind! I don't want to know!

MARY: Joseph, I told you! This is God's Son. The angel Gabriel told me...

JOSEPH: Stop it, Mary. I don't appreciate being treated like a fool! The least you could do is tell me the truth, instead of making up this ridiculous story about an angel! Was this Joannah's idea? Did she put you up to this?!

MARY: No! It's the truth! Why won't you believe me? I've never, ever lied to you before; why would I start now? We're already engaged; I didn't need to make this up to trick you into marrying me!

JOSEPH: Well...at least it's not too late...

MARY: Too late...? Too late for what? (*Terrified.*) You...you don't want to marry me now? (*Breaks down weeping and runs back to the stool to sit.*)

JOSEPH: (*Her tears soften him.*) Mary, please don't cry. It'll all work out...somehow.

MARY: That's not why I'm crying, Joseph. I know GOD will work everything out. I'm crying because...because you don't believe me! (*Cries again.*)

JOSEPH: Mary; think about it. This isn't exactly something that you hear every day!

MARY: (*Looks up at him.*) I know, Oh Joseph, I know! I could hardly believe it myself when Gabriel told me. (*She turns JOSEPH'S head so she can look into his eyes.*) I am not lying to you, Joseph.

JOSEPH: (*For a moment he stares into her eyes, then sighs.*) All right, Mary; all right. It's just that...my mind and heart don't agree right now. My mind tells me this must be true...but my heart...(*Turns away.*) ...my heart feels betrayed.

MARY: (*Takes his hand.*) I could never betray you. I love you so much. But this is so much bigger than either of us. This is God's love...God's Son we're talking about. It wasn't *my* choice, it was *God's*. What else could I say but, "Here am I, Lord?"

JOSEPH: (*Stands and begins to pace.*) But why NOW?! God knew we were engaged. Why didn't He wait until AFTER we were married?! How do we face our families, Mary? Once people find out where could we possibly go that you wouldn't be disgraced in that condition?

MARY: I...I don't know; but if He can fill me with His Holy Spirit so that I conceive and bear His Son, then surely He has a plan for me...for *us*! We just have to trust Him, Joseph. (*When he doesn't respond she steps away and continues.*) The angel Gabriel told me to go visit my Aunt Elizabeth in Judea who is also miraculously with child. This is all so unbelievable!

JOSEPH: Well, *that's* something we *can* agree on!

MARY: I...I'm going to tell my parents. They'll be...shocked...as you were, Joseph.

JOSEPH: AM, Mary...I still *am*...

MARY: (*Feeling defeated.*) ...Yes. I...I don't know how long I'll be gone. Perhaps you'll feel better about all of this in time?

JOSEPH: (*Rather doubtful.*) ...Perhaps...

MARY: (*Stifling tears.*) I'll try to send word about how I'm doing...if you like... (*No response.*) Joseph...? (*Unable to bear any more, she runs off sobbing.*)

JOSEPH: (*Almost runs after her, but stops and just calls her name.*) Why, Mary...why?

SONG # 3 - WHY, MARY? Joseph

JOSEPH: Mary, tell me, Mary; why did this happen?
 Our hopes and dreams for tomorrow are gone, replaced with sorrow.
 You've ruined all that mattered; our future now is shattered.
 My heart, once full, has been broken, by the cruel words you have spoken.
 Still, I'll protect you, trying not to reject you.
 Yet, I feel in my heart that this could tear us apart.
 Oh, Mary, tell me, Mary; what, what am I to do now?
 Although you have betrayed me, I'll try to go on somehow.
 But why, tell me, why? I hope and I pray that somehow, some day,
 Our love finds a way...oh, Mary, why? _____

(BLACKOUT)

END