

The Night Shift Before Christmas

Script and Lyrics Created by
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**FLO: THREE JAVAS! UNLEADED! WHISPER IN THEIR EARS
AND KEEP THE COWS IN THE BARN!**

(lights up)

(Flo, a bold, brassy, but very kind waitress, walks briskly across the stage, writing the order on her note pad. She is followed by Lydia, a new waitress on her first night, who is frantically trying to keep up. Cindy, another long-time waitress, comes to Lydia's aid.)

LYDIA: I'm sorry Flo, what did you just say?

CINDY: *(with a smile)* "Javas" are coffees, "unleaded" means decaf, "whisper in their ears" is sweet talk ... you know, "with sugar."

LYDIA: Oh, there's so much to remember! And what is "keep the cows in the barn"?

CINDY: It means "no cream."

LYDIA: How will I ever remember everything?!

CINDY: Stick with me, honey, and you'll pick it up in no time. *(with a flourish)* It's another great night shift at the Falafel House!

(Ben, A new customer, walks in to the restaurant. Flo sees him and walks briskly over to seat him with Lydia trying to keep up.)

BEN: Is this *the* Falafel House? I just heard your jingle.

SONG: "Falafel House"

SONG FALAFEL HOUSE

verse 1

*It doesn't matter if it's day or night
Whenever your hunger strikes
Fa la la la la, Falafel House
Our doors are never locked*

*We're open around the clock
Fa la la la la, Falafel House
Check out the night shift, you won't be lonely
Restrooms are for customers only
Fa la la la la, Falafel House*

verse 2

*Our prices can't be beat
On Tuesday's kids eat free
Fa la la la la, Falafel House
Our menu has everything
Even our manna is gluten free
Fa la la la la, Falafel House
We're all organic, don't be nervous
But no tunic, no service
Fa la la la la, Falafel House*

bridge

*Who would have thought
Who could have dreamed
We provide the sustenance
That Bethlehem needs
Without trans fats, preservatives, or MSG*

tag

*Four hundred years in one location
Just one health code violation
Fa la la la la, Falafel House
Fa la la la la, Falafel House
Fa la la la la, Falafel House*

Scene 1

(Customer is still waiting to be seated at the end of the song.)

LYDIA: That's such a great jingle!

CINDY: I know! Right?

LYDIA: Except, what's a jingle?

FLO: We send the dishwasher guys out to walk around town with aprons full of spoons and they jingle up a storm. When people come to see where the noise is coming from, they sing that song. It's a new thing they call "advertising."

(to Ben) **So, fella, what'll it be? Booth or counter?**

BEN: Booth would be fine, but I have a question.

FLO: **Shoot.**

BEN: **Okay, what's a falafel?**

(Everyone in the restaurant turns with great shock and in unison yells ...)

ALL: **WHAT'S A FALAFEL?**

(The customer jumps a foot in fright.)

BEN: I'm from out of town ... *waaay* out of town ... just asking.

BOB: **A falafel is a little taste of heaven fried up in a ball about** *(making an "o.k." sign with her thumb and finger)* **this big. Around these parts, it's everybody's favorite food!**

BEN: **How is that different from a hushpuppy? And who are you?**

BOB: **Name's Bob. Nice to meet ya!** *(Looking at Flo jokingly...)* **Well... Guess I should get back to work!**

(Marty & Betty Enter in a hurry on their way to the office)

LYDIA: **Wait wait...A what?! Hushpuppy? That's a weird name for a food!**

MARTY: **Sure is. Better lock up your pets where this fella comes from.** *(to Lydia)* **Hey, who are you?**

BETTY: **She's the new waitress, Hon! Her name's Lydia. I told you I was gonna hire a new girl. Thought I'd put her on the night shift so she can just slide right over to day shift.**

(to Lydia) **Okay, Lydia, try to follow me on this! Most of the people who eat at Falafel House are regulars ... in here all the time. Make sure you take care of them.**

(Betty & Marty Exit)

LYDIA: *(slightly intimidated)* **Okay, I'll try. Any here tonight?** *(At that moment, Hala enters, loudly complaining to Flo as she walks past her toward an open booth.)*

MR. HALA: **Oy, this census is going to break my back.**

FLO: **Here's one right now.**

MS. HALA: **We're full to overflowing and everyone wants extra blankets!**

FLO: *(trying to seat Hala)* **Just sit ...**

MR. HALA: **I can't sit down, I'm too worked up.**

FLO: **That's fine, you can stand.**

MR. HALA: **Nothing for me. I think I'll just sit.**

MS. HALA: **Or you can sit.**

MR. HALA: **I'll just have a coffee, thanks.**

FLO: *(aside to Lydia)* **That was Mr & Mrs Hala. They manage the Sabbath Inn. He's a bit stressed out now with the census crowds and all.**

CINDY: *(referring to a group of men and women at a booth)* **Those people over there, they're night shift workers at the Clay Pot Factory down the road.**

LYDIA: **What do they make?**

MO: **Oh, about 30 shekels an hour, but that's before overtime.**

LYDIA: **No I mean, what is made at the Clay Pot Factory?**

MO: **Seriously? They make Clay. Pots. High tech stuff. They use heat from fires to convert clay and water into modern kitchen vessels. Oh! And hi! I'm Mo, Flo's better half (smiling). That kitchen is mine back there.**

BOB: *(poking his head in very obviously with a smile.)* **HA! So he says.....**

LYDIA: **Nice to meet you.**

(Six shepherds enter, talking and chatting with each other. They wear shepherds' clothing and carry shepherds' crooks of different sizes and shapes. They are subdued and quiet.)

SHEPHERDS: **Hi Flo! Hi Mo!** *(General waves and spoken greetings to Flo and Mo. Obviously, they are all regulars at the restaurant.)*

FLO: **Hey! Good to see you all!**

BOB: **Look, the shepherds are baa-a-a-ck.** *(making a sheep sound)*

TAMMY: **Funny, Bob.**

TOMMY: Never heard that before. Betty and Marty in tonite?

FLO: In and out. Marty thinks Christmas lights might bring in some census folks, so he's outside hangin' those now.

(All the shepherds move toward their special table.)

CINDY: This bunch is the night-shift shepherds from the fields east of town. They've been coming here for years.

LYDIA: You must know them well.

FLO: I sure do! Almost like my own kids. *(pointing them out individually, each waves when their name is called)* **That's Skip, Scamp, Biff, Buffy, Tommy and Tammy!**

LYDIA: There sure are a lot of them.

MO: And that's only half of them. They can't all leave the sheep at the same time. The other six are still out abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

CINDY: They'll be in later. *(to Lydia)* **Okay, kid, here's your first table!**

LYDIA: *(very tentatively starts to take their order)* May ... I ... take ... your ... order?

FLO: That's not how ya do it! *(then to the shepherds)* **What'll you have?!**

SKIP: I'll have a glass of chocolate milk and a bowl of shredded wheat.

LYDIA: *(haltingly, to Mo)* Okay ... Mister Mo, may I please have ... one order ... of ...

BOB: *(taking over)* ONE MUDDY MOO AND A BALE OF HAY!

BIFF: Mo, I see you now have manna on the menu. Is it real manna, or that manna substitute stuff?

MO: Well, Biff, you know only God has the original manna recipe, and He hasn't shared it with anybody. But our version is the best manna humanly possible!

(music begins to "What'll You Have?")

FLO: *(to Tommy still looking at his menu)* And you? *(Tommy ignores her)* Hey! Hey, Tommy! WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?!

SONG 2: "What'll You Have?"

SONG WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?

chorus 1

What'll you have?

Order it up

We serve it fresh, deep fried, and well done

You don't have to sit there wishin' you were feasting from our kitchen

Step right up and tell us

What'll you have?

dialog 1

(dialog 1, beginning meas. 18)

FLO: Alright Scamp, you've had enough time. You know this menu like the hills of Judea. What'll you have?

SCAMP: I don't know, Flo. I'm just not feeling like myself tonight.

FLO: So you won't have your usual herdsman's breakfast, extra wheat toast, and a large goat's milk?

SCAMP: Yeah, I think I'll just have two scrambled eggs on toast, please.

BOB: ADAM AND EVE ON A RAFT ... WRECK 'EM!

chorus 2

What'll you have?

Just take a look

Our menu's full of fine cuisine we like to cook

You don't have to sit there wishin' you were feasting from our kitchen

Step right up and tell us

What'll you have?

dialog 2

(dialog 2, beginning meas. 39)

FLO: Who's next?

BIFF & BUFFY: You go ahead.

BIFF & BUFFY: No, you go ahead.

FLO: I'm not getting any younger. Somebody go before the sun comes up.

BUFFY: Well, since Biff uses a pillar of salt with every meal he orders, I think we'll just split something.

FLO: Alright, what'll you have?

BUFFY: I think we'll just split a bowl of tomato soup.

BOB: PHAROAH'S COMIN'! PART THE RED SEA!

bridge

In this little town

Here in Bethlehem

You could shop around

But why not come on in

*You can eat your fill
Of bagels, and knishes
If you can't pay the bill
You can do the dishes*

chorus 3

*What'll you have?
You just have to ask
Yes, there's something on the menu that's not that bad
You don't have to sit there wishin' you were feasting from our kitchen
Step right up and tell us
Just watch out for salmonella
Step right up and tell us
What'll you have?*

Scene 2

(Flo and Lydia walk over to the Shepherds' table.)

BIFF: Marty, is this crazy rumor true? Are you really going to stop being open all night and do away with the night shift?

MARTY: That's right, Biff. Now that the town is full to the gills for the census, and the night travel has died down, I'm closing her down for the night.

TAMMY: But Mo, why?

MO: Just not worth it to stay open all night for a few night owls.

BETTY: Nothing ever happens in this sleepy town in the middle of the night. *(Working on Christmas Decorations inside now)*

SKIP: But Marty *(Marty is standing at the front door going over paperwork and organizing the host stand),* **what will we do then? You know we have to work nights, and this is the only place to eat.**

BETTY: No, there's that new place on the south of town.

TOMMY: You mean *Awful Falafel*? That place is ... well ... *awful*! Just one more piece of horrible news. Should've seen it coming.

FLO: Lydia, meet "Terrible Tommy," the most pessimistic person in the world. Everything is always bad news to Tommy.

TOMMY: I'm not a pessimist, I'm just a realist.

CINDY: *(aside to Lydia)* **Watch this.** *(then to Tommy)* **Hey, I can't believe how good business has been because of the census!**

TOMMY: **Are you kidding me? It's turned the whole city upside down. The streets are crowded, the sheep are stressed out, and anybody who doesn't already have a hotel can just forget it.**

FLO: *(to Lydia)* **See?**

LYDIA: **Why is there a census again?**

BETTY: **Caesar ordered a count of every single person in all of his kingdoms. Everybody has to go back to the city where they were born so we can take a count.**

MARTY: **So Caesar can take more of my money!**

MS HALA: **A couple got into town today and the girl has to be about nine months pregnant! The inn is so crowded, I don't think we are going to have a room for them.**

(Walking away from the table with her order book, Lydia follows Flo.)

LYDIA: **You all must feel so lucky to live in Bethlehem!**

FLO: **Why do you say that?**

LYDIA: **Because the scriptures say that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem!**

(Hala is walking out from what we assume is the restroom.)

MR. HALA: **Ha! A prophet wrote that hundreds of years ago. Seems like that's not likely to happen. I gotta get back to work.**

MS. HALA: **I believe God could send the Messiah whenever He wants. Even tonight!**

MARTY: **Bethlehem? The Messiah? Tonight? In these dark streets? I doubt it. You're dreamin'!**

(music begins to "O Little Town of Bethlehem")

(Hala exits as the song begins.)

SONG O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

intro

O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem

verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem,

How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight.

chorus

Maybe tonight, the King will come

Light of the World, the Holy One

For years we've waited in anticipation

In this little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem

verse 2

How silently, how silently

The wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts

The blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming,

But in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him, still

The dear Christ enters in.

chorus

Maybe tonight, the King will come

Light of the World, the Holy One

For years we've waited in anticipation

In this little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem

chorus

Maybe tonight, the King will come

Light of the World, the Holy One

For years we've waited in anticipation

In this little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem

tag

O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem

Scene 3

(Flo, Cindy and Lydia are busy taking orders, cooking and clearing tables. The Shepherds are all leaving the restaurant.)

BIFF: Alright gang, we'd better head for the hills.

TOMMY: Back to work! We'll ...

FLO: I know, "pay you tomorrow." *(then to herself)* Except, we won't be open tomorrow night.

MARTY: *(overhears Flo)* Flo! It's the right thing to do!

*81 SFX: Bell on Door #1
(Another customer enters.)*

FLO: Can I help you, stranger? You're new here in Bethlehem.

LISA: I'm in for the census. Staying over at the Bethlehem-Western. I ordered the pizza to go?

FLO: What hotel?

LARRY: The Beth-Western.

FLO: Beth-Wethtern?

LISA: Bethlehem. Western. Beth-Western.

FLO: Oh. I don't remember any order to go.

LARRY: Falafel and anchovy pizza?
(Flo looks through her receipts and finds her order.)

FLO: Here it is! I'm so sorry! I forgot to put the order in. We'll make it right now.

LARRY: That's alright. We can wait.

FLO: *(slightly confused)* Sorry, I was distracted.
(She walks over to Mo to drop off the order.)

MO: What's up with you today? You don't usually make mistakes.

FLO: I guess I'm just thinking about that couple who came in here at

the beginning of the shift. They didn't have a penny to their name. And they had no place to stay.

LYDIA: The girl who was going to have a baby?

FLO: That's the one. I'm just worried sick about her.

BOB: At least they're not hungry anymore. Flo threw so much free food on their table, they might not be hungry for a week!

CINDY: Aw, Flo, you're a softie!

FLO: I suppose I am. Tell anybody and I'll break your arm. *(looking out the window)* I just hate to think of them outside in the dark, all alone.

LYDIA: You don't even know them. Why does it bother you so much?

FLO: Our current King Herod and his soldiers rule with an iron fist. I think, one day, when God's Messiah comes, He'll be gentle and caring.

(Eruption of disagreeing opinions from Mo and the customers.)

LISA: Gentle?! Jeremiah said He'll be a conqueror! He will defeat nations and assemble all the scattered people of Judah! He's gonna be a warrior!

MO: Warrior?! Isaiah says He'll be a judge! And He will have the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord!

BEN: I believe He will be a priest, because Isaiah says that righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist!

CINDY: Regardless of what He's going to be *like*, the Messiah will be from here. And He'll be from the line of David and He'll be a King.

LARRY: But is He really going to be born in Bethlehem?

CINDY: Micah says, "But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

BOB: It's been hundreds of years since that was written. Why are you so sure it's still true?

CINDY: Because God promised it. And God always keeps His promises.

(music begins to "You Can Trust a Promise of God")

SONG YOU CAN TRUST A PROMISE OF GOD

verse 1

*Father Abraham has many sons
And from that line Messiah will come
Son of David and all the rest
From Him all nations will be blessed*

chorus

*God always keeps His promise
Each one however big or small
Never once has He forgotten
You can trust a promise of God
God always keeps His promise
Steadfast, He'll always respond
Unchanging, faithful, and honest
You can trust a promise of God
You can trust a promise of God*

verse 2

*Here in our little town of Bethlehem
Will come the ruler of Israel
The One from the days of eternity
Who will rule forever as King of Kings*

chorus

*God always keeps His promise
Each one however big or small
Never once has He forgotten
You can trust a promise of God
God always keeps His promise
Steadfast, He'll always respond
Unchanging, faithful, and honest
You can trust a promise of God
You can trust a promise of God*

bridge

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

chorus

*God always keeps His promise
Each one however big or small*

*Never once has He forgotten
You can trust a promise of God
God always keeps His promise
Steadfast, He'll always respond
Unchanging, faithful, and honest
You can trust a promise of God
You can trust a promise of God*

Scene 4

FLO: *(holding several plates, and looking off in the distance)* **Well, I know one thing for sure. If the Messiah were born right here in Bethlehem, I would drop everything to see Him.**

BOB: **Flo! You're about to drop everything right on top of that poor lady from the Beth-Western.**

FLO: **Oh, my! Very sorry.** *(moving to a table)* **Here's your MLT ... mutton, lettuce and tomato sandwich. Enjoy!**

(At that moment, a bright light beams in from the window of the restaurant, as if the sky outside has lit up as bright as day!)

ALL: *(What is that, wow, etc.)*

MARTY: **What is that?!**

BETTY: **It's as bright as day out there!**

(All run to a window to see what the light is and where it's coming from.)

BEN: **Not sure what it is, but it can't be good.**

FLO: **The lights are coming from over the shepherds' field!**

(Lydia, Mo and Flo run out to the front porch of the restaurant to listen, and just when they get there, the light goes out.)

JOSH: **What in the world?**

FLO: **Or out of this world!**

82 SFX: *Bell on Door #2*

(Halas burst in excitedly.)

MS. HALA: **Did you see that light?**

ALL: *(All in agreement, "we did!" "yes!" etc.)*

MR. HALA: **You know, I'm a little worried about that young couple that is sleeping in my stable. You know, the ones you saw earlier. The young girl who is soon to have a baby?**

MARTY & MO: **You put them in the stable?**

MS. HALA: *(defensively)* **Just sleeping there tonight. You know we're overbooked. But I'm supposed to have a checkout tomorrow. Maybe I should go back and check on them. These bright flashes of light may have frightened them.**

BETTY: **You know, I've been thinking about that sweet young mother-to-be all day.**

MS. HALA: **Mary is her name, and her husband is Joseph. Came all the way from Nazareth.**

BETTY: **That's a long way from home. Hope they can move out of your stable before the little boy or girl shows up.**

MS. HALA: **That reminds me. She said the strangest thing when I asked her if she hoped it would be a boy or a girl.**

FLO: **Really? What did she say?**

MS. HALA: **She just looked at me, smiled, and said, "It's a boy."**

BETTY: **What?**

CINDY: **Maybe she's just ... hoping.**

MS. HALA: **No. She said ... *(Hala looks both ways, then leans in to speak)* she said an *angel* told her that she will give birth to a son. Said it was all part of God's plan!**

(all look at one another bewildered)
(music begins to "God Has a Plan")

(During "God Has a Plan," Mary and Joseph enter from the back or

side and make their way to the Nativity scene where they 'settle in' around the manger. Lights go down on this set as the song ends.)

GOD HAS A PLAN

intro

*God has a plan, God has a plan
Don't be afraid, God has a plan*

verse 1

*The angel Gabriel sent from the Lord
Brought news to Mary
You have found favor with God
The Lord's Son you will carry
It may sound odd to us
But any plan of God's I'll trust*

chorus

*Don't be afraid, God has a plan
It's always perfect just like He is
Don't be afraid, God has a plan
And we can trust it because it's His
Even though many times we can't understand
Don't be afraid, God has a plan*

turnaround

*God has a plan, God has a plan
Don't be afraid, God has a plan*

verse 2

*A journey ahead to a different place
For two tired travelers
No room in the inn, no place to stay
But a stable and manger
It may sound odd to us
But any plan of God's I'll trust*

chorus

*Don't be afraid, God has a plan
It's always perfect just like He is
Don't be afraid, God has a plan
And we can trust it because it's His
Even though many times we can't understand
Don't be afraid, God has a plan*

bridge

*Through it all we're not alone
God's with us, we're never on our own*

chorus

*Don't be afraid, God has a plan
It's always perfect just like He is
Don't be afraid, God has a plan*

*And we can trust it because it's His
Even though many times we can't understand
Don't be afraid, God is with us
Don't be afraid, He'll never leave us
Don't be afraid, God has a plan*

Scene 5

LYDIA: It would be so wonderful if Mary's baby *is* part of God's plan, just like the angel told her.

MO: It would also be so wonderful if Hala could give those kids a proper place to stay!

LISA: And it would be so wonderful if I could get my pizza sometime soon.

FLO: Cindy, Lydia, you may want to start clearing the tables. Owners insist that we're going to close in just a bit.

JOSH: You're really going to do it?

MO: Nothing important ever happens at night. We don't make a dime. It's time we stopped kidding ourselves.

83 SFX: Bell on Door #3

ALL: (A loud noise comes from outside. The shepherds create a ruckus as they run into the restaurant. The shepherds arrive. They are in shock, but excited.)

MARTY: Whoa, whoa, whoa! What's gotten into you, shepherds?! You almost knocked my doors down. This isn't like you! (Then, he realizes this really isn't like them.) This *really* isn't like you!

BIFF: Did you see it?!

BETTY: See what?

TOMMY: The light, Mo! The light!

TAMMY: It was angels!

LYDIA: You saw angels?!

SKIP: Didn't *you*? They were everywhere! And an angel talked to us!

FLO: **Angels? Talked to you?**

TAMMY: **I was *terrified!* At first.**

SCAMP: **They didn't just talk! They praised God! And it was *loud!***

BUFFY: **The angel said, "Do not be afraid."**

TAMMY: **Cause I already was!**

BUFFY: **"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord!"**

MO: **You ... saw ... this? You're joking, right?**

SKIP: **Not joking!**

(music begins to "Good News of Great Joy")

BOB: **Tommy! You're always the guy who gives the bad news! What's the bad news about this?**

TOMMY: **This time, Mo, there's no bad news! This is the best news I've ever heard!**

SONG GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

verse 1

*One night in the hills of Bethlehem
The air was calm and quiet
All of a sudden a host of angels
Lifting their voices, broke the silence, singing*

chorus

*Good news, good news of great joy
Glory, glory to God on high
Jesus, the Savior is born bringing
Peace on earth forevermore, and that's
Good news, good news of great joy*

verse 2

*Do not be afraid the angel said
Then the sky filled with heavenly light
As the thunder of angel voices
Echoed throughout the silent night, singing*

chorus

Good news, good news of great joy

*Glory, glory to God on high
Jesus, the Savior is born bringing
Peace on earth forevermore, and that's
Good news, good news of great joy*

bridge

*Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

chorus

*Good news, good news of great joy
Glory, glory to God on high
Jesus, the Savior is born bringing
Peace on earth forevermore, and that's
Good news, good news of great joy
Good news, good news of great joy
Good news, good news of great joy*

Scene 6

LYDIA: So, my Uncle Simeon was right! The angel told you that the baby born right here, tonight, is the Messiah ... the Savior that God has promised.

Ms. Hala enters.)

84 SFX: *Bell on Door #4*

MR. HALA: (entering in a huff) Alright, you shepherds. What are you up to?

SHEPHERDS: (suddenly innocent ... what? us? etc.)

MR. HALA: Oh, don't act so innocent. I was sound asleep when I heard some commotion in my stable, looked out the window, and saw you guys running down the street skipping and hollering. I could tell you were up to no good, and I followed you straight here.

FLO: Hala, sit down. Take it easy.

MR. HALA: I won't sit down. I want to know what these trouble-makers were doing in my stable!

SCAMP: Well, Mr. Hala, there was this angel ...

MS. HALA: Angel?

SKIP: And he told us that the Savior was born here tonight ...

MR. HALA: Savior?

TAMMY: And that we could find Him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. And sure enough, we found Him, in your stable.

MR. HALA: In ... my ... stable? Uh, I think I have to sit down.

MS. HALA: After all these years of waiting, God has kept His promise! The Messiah, the Savior, has been born here, in the City of David!

BUFFY: "He is Christ the Lord."

TOMMY: "Good news, of great joy."

SCAMP: "For all the people."

FLO: So Mary's baby ...

MR. HALA: In my stable ...

FLO: Is our Messiah, sent from God for us. I have to go see Him!

MO: We've got to clean and lock up first! Look at the time! It's almost time to close.

FLO: Never mind that, Mo. We've got to go!

MS. HALA: I think I need to sit.

(music begins to "Come and See")

FLO: You are sitting, Hala. What you need to do is get up, and come with us to see the baby. Mo, are you coming?

(Mo wrestles with the decision for just a second or two.)

MO: I want to see the Messiah.

BOB: Yeah, let's go!

(They all leave the Falafel House, open and unlocked.)

(During "Come and See," Mary, Joseph and the baby are in the Nativity scene. The shepherds enter and kneel down around the

manger, while the baby sleeps. Mo, Flo, Lydia and the rest of the restaurant customers stand well back and in the shadows as the shepherds bow down to Jesus.)

SONG COME AND SEE

chorus

*Come and see the Baby King born for us
Come and hear, heaven's near, singing glorias
Come and bow the Lord has now come to earth
God, for us, has shown His love, through Jesus' birth*

verse 1

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay*

chorus

*Come and see the Baby King born for us
Come and hear, heaven's near, singing glorias
Come and bow the Lord has now come to earth
God, for us, has shown His love, through Jesus' birth*

bridge

*Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King*

chorus (together w/verse 2)

*Come and see the Baby King born for us
Come and hear, heaven's near, singing glorias
Come and bow the Lord has now come to earth
God, for us, has shown His love, through Jesus' birth*

verse 2 (w/chorus)

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there*

Scene 7

(The entire group walks out of the stable and stops outside the "doorway." Their lives are changed.)

MO: I would never believe I would live to see this day.

FLO: Neither would I.

LYDIA: My uncle Simeon told me that God let him know he wouldn't die until he saw the Messiah. He's so old I knew it would be soon. That's why I'm in Bethlehem—I wanted to see Him.

MS. HALA: In all of the world, we're the only ones who know the Messiah has been born in Bethlehem.

CINDY: You were right, Flo. Sometimes working at night has its benefits.

SKIP: So what do we do now?

TOMMY: We've got to tell everyone we can!

BIFF: They'll never believe us!

BUFFY: How can we speak to so many people?

TOMMY: Don't be so negative! This is the good news we've been waiting for! Let's spread the news!

(Lisa and Josh come running up.)

BOB: Marty! Betty! Mo! Flo! Come quick! A caravan has pulled up in front of the diner. There's a huge line of hungry people waiting to be fed.

JOSH: They saw your "Open 24 Hours" sign!

LISA: Apparently, they're tourists from all over the world.

FLO: I'm afraid there's nothing we can do to help them. It's after midnight and the boss has decided we're not going to be open overnight any more.

MARTY: Flo! Go seat our guests. We may not be able to go out and tell the world about the Messiah arriving; but it sounds like God is bringing some of the world to us!

FLO: You mean?

MARTY: We need to spread the word—and that diner is the place to do it. 24 hours a day! Besides, we can't abandon our customers to *Awful Falafel*.

MO: So we're staying open for the night shift?

MARTY: Absolutely! Who says nothing ever happens on the night shift in Bethlehem?! Falafels on the house—at the Falafel House! *(music begins to "Gloria")* We've got good food, good service, and *good*

news. I think we may need a new jingle.

ALL: (*Cheers, as everyone begins celebrating.*)

SONG GLORIA

verse 1

*Who knew that this night
Would see the birth of the King
Who knew that this night
Would change everything
The wonder of His love
God in flesh now appearing
A Savior for all of us
Come and join the angels singing*

chorus

*Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo*

verse 2

*Who knew that this night
Would bring salvation's plan
Who knew that this night
Would see God come down to man
His glory fills the skies
Heavenly hosts, their voices ringing
Hope for man has now arrived
Come and join the angels singing*

chorus

*Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo*

bridge

*Wonderful Counselor, King of Kings
He's Lord of Lords and Prince of Peace
Born tonight in the city of David
Emmanuel has come to save us*

chorus

*Gloria
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo*

THE NIGHT SHIFT BEFORE CHRISTMAS CURTAIN CALLS

YOU CAN TRUST A PROMISE OF GOD

bridge

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

chorus

*God always keeps His promise
Each one however big or small
Never once has He forgotten
You can trust a promise of God
God always keeps His promise
Steadfast, He'll always respond
Unchanging, faithful, and honest
You can trust a promise of God
You can trust a promise of God*

GLORIA

chorus

*Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo*

bridge

*Wonderful Counselor, King of Kings
He's Lord of Lords and Prince of Peace
Born tonight in the city of David
Emmanuel has come to save us*

chorus

*Gloria
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo
In excelsis Deo*

THE END.