

Cleaning up

A Nativity Drama

A traditional nativity scene needs to be formed before the drama begins. The drama starts in front of the stable scene as if outside of the stable.

Characters

Ruben Scrubbit

Rachel Polish

Props:

Everything for a traditional nativity scene

Ruben and Rachel are dressed as cleaners

Ruben is carrying a broom and dustpan and brush

Rachel is carrying a mop and bucket

(Ruben enters carrying broom and dustpan and brush)

Rub: Oh come on Rachel, will you get a move on. If you go any slower you'll be walking backwards.

(Rachel enters carrying mop and bucket)

Rach: Oh keep your hair on Ruben will you. I'm going as fast as I can.

Rub: Well as fast as you can isn't fast enough Rachel. We've got appointments to get to, clients to keep happy. If we don't get the jobs done we don't get paid, so get a move on!

Rach: (drops her mop and bucket) Well Ruben, I'm not so sure I'm cut out for this job. It's not really me you know. I mean, I'm more socialite than cleaner! I should have people cleaning for me rather than running around Bethlehem with a mop and bucket all day and night!

Rub: Oh Rachel, you say that every day, but you know you don't mean it. You love your job.

Rach: Oh really! Oh really! What is there to love about my job then?

Rub: Well maybe the fact that you work with me Rachael. You know you love me really!

Rach: I'll ignore that Ruben. Do you remember what you said when we started this business?

Rub: Err

Rach: Well let me remind you Ruben Scrubbit! You said Rachel Polish, will you go into business with me? Scrubbit and Polish, high class cleaners for the aristocracy.

Rub: Well err....

Rach: (Wagging her finger at Ruben) High class cleaners for the aristocracy.

Rub: Yes but

Rach: I dreamed of cleaning palaces and fine houses. I imagined mopping marble floors and sweeping soft carpets. I day-dreamed about scrubbing gold taps and beautiful bathrooms. I looked forward to visiting grand houses and palaces fit for a king! That's what I dreamed of Ruben, but what have we been cleaning eh? Every day for the past 2 years?

Rub: Well err....., you have to start somewhere Rachael, you have to start somewhere!

Rach: Look here Ruben, there's somewhere and there's SOMEWHERE! And our somewhere has been stables. Dirty, smelly, flea, rat and lice infested stables. That's all we've cleaned for the past 2 years!

It's hardly Scrubbit and Polish, high class cleaners for the aristocracy is it. It's more like Scrubbit and Polish, rat catchers and muck shovellers for the drunks and crooks of Bethlehem isn't it!

Rub: I know it's not been what we hoped for Rachel, but things will change if we stick at it I know. It may be stables today, but one day we will be cleaning a Kings' palace, we really will.

Rach: Well maybe you're right Ruben, but I'm not so sure how long I can keep cleaning stables. Something's got to change soon or I'll be looking for a new job!

Rub: Oh Rachel, don't say that. Come on, there's just one left today then we'll be finished. You'll feel better tomorrow.

Rach: OK Ruben, where's this one then?

Rub: They said it was just along here somewhere.

Rach: Somewhere along here? What here? In this smelly, foul, dirty, disgusting street?

Rub: (looking around and focussing on stable scene) Err I err I think it must be this one.

Rach: This one?! You can't be serious!

Rub: Well it's what they said – The Stable, the Back Yard, the Shepherd and dog, Slum Street, Bethlehem.

Rach: And you accepted the job? Are you completely mad?

Rub: Well it's money Rachel, it's money, so let's just get on with it and get out of here as quickly as we can.

Rach: If we live to tell the tale Ruben, if we live to tell the tale. Goodness knows what bugs and rats and other creepy crawlies we'll find in there. One bite and we could be dead in 5 minutes!

Rub: Oh come on Rachel, it's not that bad. Let's just get on with it!

Rach: Well you go in first Ruben. I don't want any nasty surprises. I mean, I've had enough of donkeys trying to kick me, or goats trying to eat my jumper, or camels spitting at me, or rats running up my legs. You go in and see what it's like, then I'll follow you in a minute.

Rub: Oh Rachel! You're such a coward, there's nothing to worry about. But wait there if you want to. I'll give you a shout in a minute.

(Ruben enters the stable scene and stares at the characters inside)

Rach: (to audience) : Of course I won't believe him if he says it's nice in there. He never tells the truth. I should know that by now shouldn't I. I mean, Scrubbit and Polish, high-class cleaners for the aristocracy. What an idiot I was to ever believe that in the first place. Huh! He thinks I'm really gullible, but I'll show him, you wait.

Rub: Hey Rachel!

Rach: (Staying outside) Yes Ruben?

Rub: Rach: You'll You'll You'll never believe what is in here.

Rach: Too right Ruben, I will never believe what is in there. At least I'll never believe what you say is in there!

Rub: But Rachel it's amazing!

Rach: Oh yes, I'm sure it is, amazing! Amazingly dirty and horrible and smelly! It's a stable Ruben and there is nothing amazing about stables!

Rub: No Rachel, no! I really mean it, it really is amazing.

Rach: Ruben, do you think I was born yesterday? I'm not falling for that old trick again.

Rub: But Rachel, there are angels!

Rach: Oh pull the other one Ruben. Angels? In a stable? What would angels be doing in a stable?

Rub: Well they might be keeping the kings company! There's at least 3 here, or maybe even a few more.

Rach: (sarcastically) Of course! Why didn't I realise that! Angels and kings in a Bethlehem stable, just what I would have expected!

Rub: But it's true Rachel, it's true.

Rach: Of course it's true Ruben, just like I'm the Queen of Sheba!

Rub: There's a few shepherds as well and they've brought a few lambs with them.

Rach: Well that's hardly amazing Ruben, we often find shepherds in stables, usually drunk and fast asleep!

Rub: There's something else though Rachel, something even more amazing!

Rach: Well let me guess Ruben. Err A pink elephant? A team of Martian Acrobats? The queen of England? A tap-dancing hedgehog? Or is it something even more amazing?

Rub: No Rachel, no! It's a man and a woman and a baby! A beautiful, beautiful baby!

Rach: Well that does it Ruben. I've had enough of your lies and tricks. If you think I'd believe ridiculous stories about angels and kings and shepherds and a man and woman and a baby in a stable then you've got another thing coming. I quit, and I'm off! So clean that dirty, rotten, stinking stable yourself!

Rub: But Rachel!

Rach: But nothing! (She starts to walk off in a huff.

(Sound effect of baby crying)

Rach: (stops and listens, then shakes her head) Huh, just my imagination, all this talk of babies! (Starts to walk off again)

(Sound effect of baby crying)

Rach: (stops) Err That err... that sounded a bit like a like a baby. And It sounded like it was ... like it was ... like it was coming from the the stable! But Ruben can't have been telling the truth. You don't find babies in stables, it's not

(Sound effect of baby crying)

Rach: Ruben?

Rub: Are you still there Rachel? I thought you'd quit?

Rach: But I heard

Rub: I think you heard a baby Rachel. Come on in and see for yourself. You might get to hear the angels sing as well. They sound pretty good.

(Rachel enters the stable and looks around)

Rach: But ... but ... but it's all true.

Rub: Of course it's all true Rachel. All very true! I wouldn't lie to you. I told you that it was amazing.

Rach: (moving to manger) And look at this baby! This beautiful, beautiful baby! It makes me feel all ... all ...

Rub: (joining her at the manger) Me too Rachel. It makes me feel very strange inside.

Rach: You know Ruben, this doesn't feel like any stable I've ever been in before. It's .. it's ... it's sort of special, very special.

Rub: Well, I was thinking just the same Rachel.

Rach: I've dreamed of royal palaces and grand houses, but there's something about this stable that seems even more special than that!

Rub: Well this must be a very special baby you know. I mean, shepherds may be two a penny, but angels and kings don't turn up for any ordinary baby do they.

Rach: You know Ruben, I think I'm going to enjoy cleaning this stable. I think I'm going to enjoy it a lot!

Rub: Me too Rachel. But I think we should come back tomorrow. It's a bit crowded in here right now and the baby has just gone to sleep.

Rach: Ok Ruben, let's leave them to it and come back tomorrow.

(They leave the stable)

Rach: Well Ruben Scrubbit that was amazing.

Rub: Well Rachel Polish, I told you it was, didn't I?

Rach: You know Ruben, I think that is the most special place I have ever been in, and I think you were right.

Rub: Right about what Rachel?

Rach: Right about us Ruben. We are Scrubbit and Polish, high class cleaners for the aristocracy, but I'll never have to clean a grand house or a royal palace you know. All I'll ever have to do is to clean this stable, because this is the most wonderful, beautiful, exciting place in the entire world. And it's all because of that little baby lying in the manger! I don't think we will ever be able to clean for someone more important than him.

Rub: Well come on then Rachel, let's get a good night's sleep so we can clean that stable from top to bottom tomorrow.

(They exit)

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