

A Busy Night.

Characters:

Inn keeper: Dad.

Inn keepers wife: Mum.

Child 1 - daughter: Ch1.

Child 2 - Son: Ch2.

Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels, Wise Men.

Scene.

The stage is divided into 2 areas. Behind is the inside of the Inn. In the foreground is the stable. Simple props can suggest a living area in the Inn. The stable has nothing but a manger in it.

Scene 1: in the Inn.

Ch1: (enters carrying a pile of letters) Dad! Dad! Dad!!! Where are you?!

Dad: (enters Yawning) Oh what is it? Don't shout so loud this time in the morning.

Ch1: This time in the morning? Its eleven o'clock, hardly early! Anyway, the post is here.

(CH 1 Gives Dad the letters)

Dad: You mean you woke me up just for this, the post?! There's never anything in the post worth waking up for, surely you've learnt that if nothing else you little(Goes to swipe Ch1 with letters, they duck out of the way). Oh well lets see(Goes through letters) Advert, advert, bill, bill, nought percent interest rubbish, another letter for your mother from her mother, no doubt going on about how she shouldn't have married me ! and (pauses) Oh ... this looks interesting... (tears open and reads). Dear Inn keeper, I would like you to reserve a room for an important Royal guest. They will be arriving on the evening of 24th December. Please make sure everything is prepared. (Looks shocked and says slowly) A Royal guest A royal guest in my little Inn ... A Royal guest here in ... in (Looks at Ch1), Hey, what date is it?

Ch1: December the 24th.

Dad: (Looks again at letter muttering as he reads it, then out loud) They will be arriving on the evening of December 24th! (Look of panic) December 24th!!!, that's that's to... to....to.... today! We're having a royal guest today, this evening, and ... (Looks around) and look at the state of this place.

Ch1: What do you mean Dad? It's OK!

Dad: OK!! OK!!! you must be joking. It's a .. a ... pig sty. Dust, dirt, rubbish, clutter, worn out paintwork. No, it won't do! We've got lots to do and you and that lazy brother of yours will have to help!

ch1: Oh Dad ... but ...

Dad: No buts ... and no arguing! (struts around) Wife! Wife! Wife! where are you!!

Mum: (enters) Oh what's all this fuss about? You're yelling and hollering like there's no tomorrow. What's the matter?

Dad: Well you're right, there may not be a tomorrow if we don't get this place cleaned up by this evening.

Mum: What are you talking about you daft old fool!

Dad: Me? Me? A daft old fool eh? Well you won't be saying that this evening when our Royal guest arrives.

Mum: Royal guest? What are you talking about? This is an Inn in the back streets of Bethlehem husband. It's damp, it's cold, it smells, we've got fleas and rats ... and ... and this is not the sort of place where you get royal visitors. You're more daft than I thought!

Dad: (Hands her the letter) Well what's this then?

Mum: (reads, muttering interspersed with) reserve a room.... important Royal guest..24th December.... everything prepared. (Looks at Dad) It... It's it's true!! A Ro... Ro.... Royal Visitor here in our little, humble, (looks around and speaks with increasing panic) dirty, untidy, shabby, (holds nose) smelly home! Quick there's lots to do (looks at ch 1) and you and your brother will have to help.

ch1: (Moaning) But Mum...

Mum: No buts. Find the broom and get sweeping, and where's that brother of yours?

Son! Son! Son! Where are you?

(ch1 gets the broom and begins to sweep the floor)

Ch2: (enters) Err....

Mum: Oh there you are. Now get on and help. We've got an important visitor. In fact a Royal visitor this evening and this place is a mess! So you've got to help clean it up!

Ch2: But

Mum: No buts.... get that brush and join your sister.

Ch2: Huh! (gets dustpan and brush and starts sweeping the floor)

Mum: (Looks at Dad who is standing and staring around). And what are you standing there for? There's lots to do! Go and find some clean sheets, and sweep out the bedroom, and go to the shops for more bread, and ask Mrs Smith next door if we can borrow her best china tea set, and really the kitchen could do with a coat of paint!... Come on! Get on with it! (She shoos Dad off stage). Oh dear, Oh dear, there's just far too much to do and so little time to do it in. Oh dear, Oh dear

(Mum exits on opposite side to Dad)

Ch1: What a fuss....

Ch2: What a bore!

Ch1: What a load of rubbish! A royal visitor here, here in smelly old Bethlehem ... It must be some sort of joke, some sort of hoax or something.

Ch2: Probably uncle Reuben, he's always playing tricks.

Ch1: or one of Dad's regulars.

ch2: who ever it is, all this cleaning is going to be just a waste of time.

(They carry on sweeping as Mary and Joseph come from the back of the Church and approach the Inn)

(Joseph knocks loudly)

Ch1: What's that?

Ch2: There's someone at the door.

Ch2: (Shouting) Dad! there's someone at the door.

Dad: (off stage) I'm too busy, you get it. Tell them to go away, or come back tomorrow or something!

Ch1: Typical, (steps off of platform) .

Ch2: Who is it sister?

Ch1: Its a man and a lady. They say they want a bed for the night. They say they're tired and hungry and that the lady is about to have a baby.