

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

**THE SURROUND BIBLE: The True Story of Christmas
CASTING BREAKDOWN
8/27/24**

TITLE: The True Story of Christmas

PRODUCT: Audio/Radio Drama Soundtrack

MEDIA: Radio, Phone App, Digital Download, Streaming

SUMMARY: Instead of Jingle Bells and Santa Claus, we take you back to the true story of how Jesus was born, as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This fascinating dramatized account starts "In the beginning" and incorporates ancient prophecies, startling appearances of angels, and unfolding miracles.

RECORDING SESSION: TBD, September 2024, Los Angeles.

LOCATION: Salami Studios in North Hollywood, CA

We prefer actors who can work as locals, but not required. We'll make exceptions for certain roles to allow for remote recording.

RATE: \$350 for Half Day (up to 4 hours) / \$700 Full Day (up to 8 hours). This includes up to 3 voices per day. Any roles above 3 voices a day pays an additional \$100 per role per day.

NON UNION

USE: Buyout - Global, in perpetuity

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: John Fornof

Submissions due by Sunday September 1.

INSTRUCTIONS

Standard American accent. Please note: We don't want any rigidly religious reads. The Word is living and active--we want these roles to live and breathe, and feel as if we're experiencing these events in real time, in our time. Be true to the moment.

You're welcome to realistically stumble on a line or repeat a word or phrase to make it feel like natural dialogue.

1. Please send us your audio audition on mp3. One role per audio file.

2. Read only for the indicated role (although you're welcome to have someone read with you).

**3. Name the file like this: Character Name – YOUR NAME IN ALL CAPS.
Thank you!**

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

To quickly find sides, search for +ROLE NAME

Example: +MARY

(SIDES ARE BELOW)

MARY, 16-18, has unusual wisdom for her age. She loves God and totally trusts him. She feels and ponders things deeply. When the situation calls for it, she's brave, bold, decisive. And she loves to sing.

JOSEPH, 20's, a righteous and compassionate man, known for his role as the earthly father of Jesus and his faithfulness to God's guidance. A man of honor.

ELIZABETH, 80s, is a righteous and devout woman from the priestly line of Aaron, characterized by her deep faith and patience. She endures a long period of childlessness with grace and humility, rejoicing with profound gratitude when she miraculously conceives in her old age. Her wisdom and strength shine through her unwavering support of her husband Zechariah and her pivotal role in the early life of her son, John.

GABRIEL THE ANGEL, is a devoted and authoritative messenger of God, known for his calm, reassuring presence and unwavering obedience. He exudes confidence and clarity, delivering divine messages with a patient and understanding demeanor. His zeal and passion for fulfilling God's plans make him a pivotal figure in biblical events.

LUKE-STORYTELLER, 50s is known as a beloved physician. He loves God and loves people. Compassionate, intelligent, articulate. He's meticulous, a student of history, and humble, with a strong sense of loyalty. The only non-Jew to write books in the New Testament.

MATTHEW-STORYTELLER (LEVI), late 40s, a former tax official for the government. He's sensitive to this dark shadow on his past and tries to compensate with details and words. Knowledgeable, intelligent, intuitive. Analytical, detail-oriented. Probably the smartest of the bunch (except for Jesus of course).

JOHN-STORYTELLER, 70s, looking back on his life. He runs deep and true, with a heart of love for God and people, and a mind that probes deep and wide.

GOD, Ageless, is Love. Love that's powerful and passionate, yet can be as gentle and kind as a whisper in a waterfall. A strong arm and voice when needed. Faithful and true, kind and generous.

KING HEROD, late 60s, often referred to as Herod the Great, is the ruler of Judea under Roman occupation during the time of Jesus's birth. He's a complex and formidable character, known for his cunning nature, willing to eliminate any threat to his throne. Beneath his stern and authoritative exterior lies a deeply insecure man, haunted by the fear of losing his kingdom.

SIMEON, 80s, devoted to God, lives his life looking up. Even though he is old, when Simeon realizes the Messiah is here, he walks excitedly, in anticipation.

SIDES FOR THE TRUE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Key:

[[]] = Deleted (don't read this)

(()) = Inserted (read this)

+ELIZABETH 80s, is a righteous and devout woman from the priestly line of Aaron, characterized by her deep faith and patience. She endures a long period of childlessness with grace and humility, rejoicing with profound gratitude when she miraculously conceives in her old age. Her wisdom and strength shine through her unwavering support of her husband Zechariah and her pivotal role in the early life of her son, John.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - EARLY EVENING

Mary opens the door and calls in.

MARY
(quietly calling)
Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH
(startled and surprised)

LUKE-STORYTELLER

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

ELIZABETH

(suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit, overwhelmed, overjoyed)

Mary tiptoes in. She's wondering what's going on.

MARY

(quietly)
Elizabeth?!

ELIZABETH

(calls out loudly with joy)
[[42 She called out with a loud voice and said,]]
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
(suddenly overcome)
43 Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

MARY

(quiet wonder)
How did you...?

ELIZABETH

44 For behold, when the voice of your greeting came into my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy!
45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord!"

+GABRIEL THE ANGEL, is a devoted and authoritative messenger of God, known for his calm, reassuring presence and unwavering obedience. He exudes confidence and clarity, delivering divine messages with a patient and understanding demeanor. His zeal and passion for fulfilling God's plans make him a pivotal figure in biblical events.

GABRIEL THE ANGEL

"Rejoice,

MARY
(startled)

Mary turns around. And she's totally shocked to see...an Angel!

GABRIEL THE ANGEL
(reassuring)
"Rejoice, [[you]] highly favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!"

MARY
(overcome, trying to catch her breath)

GABRIEL THE ANGEL
[[30 The angel said to her, "Don't be]]
((Do not be)) afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and shall name him 'Jesus.' 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. [[There will be no end to his Kingdom.]]"
((And of his kingdom, there will be no end.))

MARY
[[34 Mary said to the angel,]]
"How can this be, [[seeing]]
((since)) I am a virgin?"

GABRIEL THE ANGEL
[[35 The angel answered her,]]
"The Holy Spirit will come [[on]]((upon)) you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God. 36 Behold, Elizabeth your relative also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.
[[37 For nothing spoken by God is impossible."[[a]]]

KING HEROD
Where is he to be born? The Christ?

A CHIEF PRIEST TO HEROD, 50s, carries himself with importance, and also carries a parchment.

CHIEF PRIEST TO HEROD
 "In Bethlehem of Judea..."

KING HEROD
(troubled)
Bring them to me. Immediately!

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL
Right away, my lord.

INT. KING HEROD'S PALACE - LATER

The Wise Men stand before Herod.

MATTHEW-STORYTELLER
 7 Then Herod secretly called the wise men, and learned from them exactly what time the star appeared.

KING HEROD
What time did this star appear?

BALTHAZAR
It has been almost a year, O King.

KING HEROD
Then you have my blessing. Go to Bethlehem...
 [[, and said,]]
 "Go and search diligently for the young child. When you have found him, bring me word, so that I also may come and worship him."

+JOHN-STORYTELLER, 70s, looking back on his life. He runs deep and true, with a heart of love for God and people, and a mind that probes deep and wide. Picture him as a storyteller, recounting a story for people who are listening, a story he loves to tell.

JOHN-STORYTELLER
 (feels like "Once upon a
 time")
 1 In the beginning...was the Word.

8 JOHN-STORYTELLER
 and the Word was with God, 8
 (lean in, twinkle in his
 eye)
 9 and the Word was God. 2 [[The 9
 same]]
 ((He)) was in the beginning with
 God.

19 JOHN-STORYTELLER
 6 There came a man, sent from God, 19
 whose name was John.
 7 [[The same]] ((He)) came as a
 witness, that he might testify
 about the light, that all might
 believe through him.

21 JOHN-STORYTELLER
 8 He was not the light, but was 21
 sent that he might testify about
 the light. 9 The true light that
 enlightens everyone...
 (smiles with anticipation)
 was coming into the world.

**+JOSEPH, 20's a righteous and compassionate man, known for
 his role as the earthly father of Jesus and his faithfulness
 to God's guidance. A man of honor.**

INT. JOSEPH'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Joseph just got the news.

JOSEPH
Tell me again?

MARY
You don't believe me, do you?

JOSEPH
I want to believe you.
(sigh)
You understand what I have to do.

MARY
Joseph?!

JOSEPH
Despite...this, I still love you,
Mary.

MARY
(upset)

JOSEPH
(trying to remain calm,
but his heart is
breaking)
For your honor, I will take care of
this matter in private.

Joseph walks out the door.

(SFX: DOOR SHUT)

MARY
(distraught)

INT. JOSEPH'S BED - NIGHT

Joseph has been startled by an angel and an ominous warning.

JOSEPH
(panting in wonder,
catching his breath.
Suddenly, reality hits)

Joseph tries to rouse Mary from her sleep.

JOSEPH
Mary? Mary wake up!

MARY
(startled, waking)
What? What is it?!

JOSEPH
We have to leave!

MARY
Leave?

JOSEPH
Now!

+LUKE-STORYTELLER, 50s is known as a beloved physician. He loves God and loves people. Compassionate, intelligent, articulate.

He's meticulous, a student of history, and humble, with a strong sense of loyalty. The only non-Jew to write books in the New Testament. Picture him as a storyteller, recounting a story for people who are listening, a story he loves to tell.

LUKE-STORYTELLER

40 The child was growing, and
[[was]] becoming strong in spirit,
being filled with wisdom...and the
grace of God was upon him.

LUKE-STORYTELLER

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's
greeting, the baby leaped in her
womb; and Elizabeth was filled with
the Holy Spirit.

LUKE-STORYTELLER

26 Now in the sixth month, the
angel Gabriel was sent from God to
a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
27 to a virgin pledged to be
married to a man whose name was
Joseph, of David's house. The
virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE-STORYTELLER

7 [[She gave birth to]]
((She brought forth)) her firstborn
son. She wrapped him in bands of
cloth, and laid him in a feeding
trough, because there was no room
for them in the inn.

+MARY, 16-18, has unusual wisdom for her age. She loves God and totally trusts him. She feels and ponders things deeply. When the situation calls for it, she's brave, bold, decisive. And she loves to sing.

INT. MARY'S HOME - EVENING

We fly inside with a subtle swoosh as Mary is washing dishes and humming.

MARY

(stops as if she's sensing
something)

GABRIEL THE ANGEL

Rejoice...

MARY

(startled)

Mary turns around. And she's totally shocked to see...an Angel!

GABRIEL THE ANGEL

(reassuring)

"Rejoice, [[you]] highly favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!"

MARY

(overcome, trying to catch her breath)

GABRIEL THE ANGEL

[[30 The angel said to her, "Don't be]]
 ((Do not be)) afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and shall name him 'Jesus.'

MARY

[[34 Mary said to the angel,]]
 "How can this be, [[seeing]]
 ((since)) I am a virgin?"

GABRIEL THE ANGEL

[[35 The angel answered her,]]
 "The Holy Spirit will come [[on]]((upon)) you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

MARY

(overwhelmed, but choosing courage)

[[38 Mary said,]]
 "Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOME - EARLY EVENING

Mary opens the door and calls in.

MARY

(quietly calling)
 Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

43 Why am I so favored, that the
mother of my Lord should come to
me?

MARY

(quiet wonder)
How did you...?

ELIZABETH

44 For behold, when the voice of
your greeting came into my ears,
the baby leaped in my womb for joy!

MARY

(overcome with wonder,
excitement, joy)
[[46 Mary said,]]
My soul magnifies the Lord.
47 My spirit has rejoiced in God my
Savior, 48 for he has looked at the
humble state of his servant.
For behold, from now on, all
generations will call me blessed.
49 For he who is mighty has done
great things for me.
Holy is his name.

INT. JOSEPH'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Joseph just got the news.

JOSEPH

Tell me again?

MARY

You don't believe me, do you?

JOSEPH

I want to believe you.

(sigh)

You understand what I have to do.

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Joseph?!

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Despite...this, I still love you,
Mary.

MARY

(upset)

JOSEPH
*(trying to remain calm,
 but his heart is
 breaking)*
For your honor, I will take care of
 this matter in private.

Joseph walks out the door.

(SFX: DOOR SHUT)

MARY
(distraught)

+MATTHEW-STORYTELLER (LEVI), late 40s, a former tax official for the government. He's sensitive to this dark shadow on his past and tries to compensate with details and words. Knowledgeable, intelligent, intuitive. Analytical, detail-oriented. Probably the smartest of the bunch (except for Jesus of course). Picture him as a storyteller, recounting a story for people who are listening, a story he loves to tell.

MATTHEW-STORYTELLER

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

MATTHEW-STORYTELLER

7 Then Herod secretly called the wise men, and learned from them exactly what time the star appeared.

MATTHEW-STORYTELLER

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

MATTHEW-STORYTELLER

11 They came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

MATTHEW-STORYTELLER

14 He [[Joseph]] arose and took the young child and his mother by night and departed into Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called my son." [[Hosea 11:1]]

+SIMEON, 80s, devoted to God, lives his life looking up. Even though he is old, when Simeon realizes the Messiah is here, he walks excitedly, in anticipation.

INT. TEMPLE - AFTER

Joseph and Mary walk inside the Temple, walking on marble. Joseph carries a pair of turtledoves in a cage. Mary carries Jesus.

Simeon prays to himself as he walks up the steps of the temple.

SIMEON
(talking to himself,
praying)

And he sees!

SIMEON
(gasp in wonder!)

Simeon practically runs to Joseph and Mary.

He stops before them. In awe, in wonder...

SIMEON
Oh! May I?

JOSEPH
Yes.

MARY
Of course!

BABY JESUS
(coos)

Mary gently hands her baby to Simeon.

SIMEON
(overcome with wonder as
he takes the baby and
holds him in his arms)

28 then he received him into his arms, and blessed God, [[and said,]]

SIMEON

[[29 Now you are releasing your servant, Master, according to your word, in peace;]]
 ((29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;))
 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 31 which you have prepared before the face of all peoples;
 32 a light for revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel."

JOSEPH
 (marveling)

MARY
 (marveling)

Simeon carefully hands back the beautiful baby to his mother.

SIMEON
 (blesses the young couple)

LUKE-STORYTELLER

34 and Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary, his mother,

SIMEON
 (quietly and directly to Mary)

Behold, this child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which is spoken against.
 (he sees it, and he's heartbroken for Mary)

35 Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

